

The Historical Development of the Siberian

The Siberian is a natural cat breed and falls in to the Semi Long Hair category. The Siberian originates from the Taiga which is found throughout the high northern Latitudes, also known as Boreal Forest, as this is the Siberians natural habitat it is considered to be one of three breeds of Forest cats, the other two being the Norwegian and the Maine Coon. The Taiga is the largest forested region on earth, experiencing extremes in its climate from as low as -54 to $+30$ deg C, with these extremes it produced a very adaptable cat with a rich full triple layered very distinctive weatherproof coat in the winter and a shorter less dense coat in the summer.

As the Siberian is the national cat of Russia it has a rich and vibrant history dating back at least a thousand years. They have been found characterized in Russian folk law as protectors living in monasteries with monks. Shop keepers and farmers used to keep Siberians to control vermin and due to their size and heft they made exceptional mousers. However it is said that of all the cat breeds the Siberian is more reminiscent to the Scottish wild cat and other wild cats of northern Europe. (See Fig 1)

Fig 1



Photo by: Ingirogiro

The Russian president Dmitry Medvedev and the former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev keep Siberians and it is rumored that Medvedev's Siberian, Dorofei, once got into a fight with a cat belonging to Mikhail Gorbachev, who was Medvedev's neighbor. Dorofei lost the fight, and was neutered to prevent a repeat incident.

Dorofei was born in 2004 He's a Colour Point Siberian also known as Neva Masquerade which originates from Saint Petersburg, revealing Medvedev's love of his and Putin's home town on the River Neva.

Svetlana Medvedeva bought Dorofei from a breeder in Moscow as a kitten, and took him back to Saint Petersburg. Colour Point Siberians with a good pedigree's can cost up to twenty thousand Russian rubbles, which puts them in high esteem. According to the Russian media, Dorofei is a rather tough character — independent and unwilling to follow protocol. He is also a great fighter, keen to protect his territory and grow it at the expense of his neighbours. (Dorofei fig 2)



Siberians & show time Line

Around 1000 – The first time in recorded history the Siberian cat is mentioned, and listed in Russian stories and Fairy tales and considered protectors of the elderly and favourites to Children.

Circa 1700 – The Siberian cat is one of only three longhaired cats at a cat show in England.

1900's – the first Siberian cat arrived in the USA as a pet from Russia. The first entry into a book "Concerning Cats" by Helen Winslow and quoted: " a remarkable specimen of a genuine Russian cat, a perfect blue of extrrdinary size"

1960 – A Colour Point, a feral cat with a pointed pattern found in St Petersburg along side the Neva River.

1987 – The first Cat show is held in St Petersburg Russian takes place and is the first actual date showing the breed Siberian.

1990 – The first three Siberians to be bred from enter the USA by Elizabeth Terrell and founded the Starpoint line. These cats are: Ofelia, Naina and Kaliostro. Their pedigrees contained "Roman" The Siberian is also registered with the ACFA.

1991 – Jan 5 The "Kotofei" Cat Show 119 Siberians inc 29 Colour Points are shown. Novice classes had 50 Siberians of which 13 were Colour points. Offspring were from Roman (fig3) & Mars (fig4)

1992 – TAIGA Siberian Breed Club Formed. This is the first Siberian Breed Club, formed by Elizabeth Terill for the promotion of the Siberian breed with all registries.

1994 – TICA registers Siberians

1996 – TICA accepts Siberians in to Championship.

1998 – TICA's first Siberian Supreme Grand Champion.

1999 – TICA's first Siberian Supreme Grand Champion Alter.

2000 – The Siberian is now registered with the CFA (Cat Fanciers Association)

2001 – 30/04/01 Siberian is TICA International Cat of the Year "IW, SGC Treskuchiy Sibirskiy Moroz Mur Owner: Dan & Judy Chappetta" (fig5)

2002 – The Siberian Cat Club UK is founded and is going from strength to strength with more breeders, shows & pet members joining each year as the popularity of the breed increases at GCCF, TICA & FIFE shows. Original breeders to import Siberians into the UK in 2002 were Heather Sabine, Sue Bellew, Lorraine Brown, & Caroline Gilyeat.

08/09/04 – The GCCF recognized Siberian Cats for Merits

01/06/09 – Data collated till 2010 by the Siberian cat club of Merited cats for submission to the GCCF for progression to Intermediate stage.

2/03/11 – GCCF criteria was met by the Siberian Cat Club UK and Intermediate status granted.

01/06/11 – Siberians will now been shown in Intermediate classes in GCCF. This is just one step away from full Champion Status!

Onwards – Siberians need to be shown in Intermediate classes with the GCCF and all Intermediate wins and Judge reports need to be submitted to the Siberian Cat club UK to progress the breed to full Champion status! Hopefully 2012 will be that year with your help.

Note!

The above information has been collated from the following web sites and Siberian Breeders:

www.siberian-cat-club.co.uk

www.siberian-cat-breeder.com

www.sibirskiy.com

<http://pawpeds.com/>

Fig 3, Roman



Fig 4, IC Mars



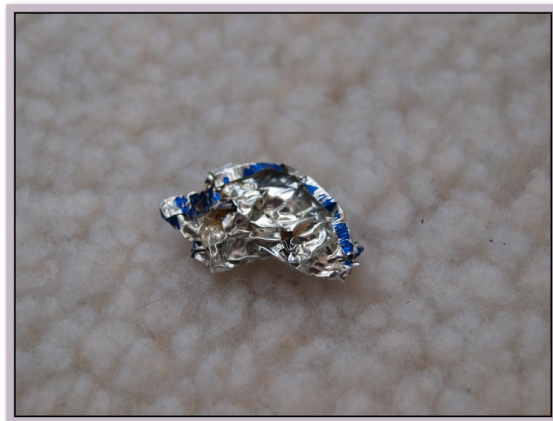
Fig 5



Photo by Helmi Flick

2001 IW SGC Treskuchiy Sibirskiy Moroz Mur

WATCH OUT THERE'S A 'SIB' ABOUT!



If it sparkles, glitters or shines, watch out! Our beautiful Siberian girl Pushka, aka Baby Girl, seems to be a bit of a Magpie. She stole an aluminium foil milk bottle top from the drainer a few days ago and was playing with it and carrying it about in her mouth, then promptly swallowed it! At first we didn't believe she had, and proceeded to move all the furniture in a desperate but unsuccessful bid to find it.

We took her to the Vet and after an x-ray it was confirmed that the offending object was in her tummy. Pushka is now making a full recovery complete with a 'Pink Fashion Bonnet' after a laparotomy with gastrotomy to remove it. Thank goodness for insurance! We have now confiscated anything that shines, glitters or sparkles that she may eat!

Our Vet said they had heard that cats will sometimes eat foreign objects but had never quite believed it – they do now!

During the short time Pushka has been with us, she has had a few traumatic times, She was spayed in January, and by the next morning she had pulled out her stitches. Back to the Vet and staples this time – we were told no way would she get these out! They obviously underestimated her determination, as by morning they were out! So another trip to the Vet, more staples, but home complete with bonnet and vest for 14 days!!

Pushka, who was 2 years old on 20 April, came to live with us last November, following the loss of our much loved Tabitha at 19½ years. When she arrived, Pushka was very shy and timid, but has now settled into her new home and surroundings, with most evenings being spent with one or the other of us on the floor with a torch looking for her lost toys under the sofa, chair or cabinet etc., with lots of verbal instructions from Pushka.

Despite all these setbacks Pushka is becoming more affectionate, trusting and confident and her character continues to develop. She is a very much-loved addition to our family.

So a word of warning – be careful what you leave lying about if you have a Siberian, (or is ours just unusual?) you may get more than you bargained for!

Happy Siberianing!!!
Siberian Pet owner 22 April 2011.

Scams Warning!

WARNING!

In the current world economic crisis Scammers have taken to advertising on free pet sales web sites, and are selling so called pedigree Siberian kittens very cheap. Do not approach these people and go only to registered breeders with GCCF, TICA or FIFE. Cat clubs have a list of registered breeders throughout the U.K, so check out their web sites.

We have also noticed people selling very young (8 weeks) unvaccinated, unregistered kittens for cheap on these sites, these kittens and are far to young to be re-homed and you are opening your selves up to problems.

Some Siberian breeders have even had their web sites blatantly copied and re-adapted under another names, later to find that the sites are being run in China. There are NO kittens for sale; the kitten/cat photos have been stolen off various breeders' sites throughout the UK and abroad. When you contact these people by email they encourage you to part with a deposit up to £100 or more, you will never see this money again or any kitten/cat!

Breeders, to help reduce the chance of Photo or web site theft you can watermark your photographs with your prefix etc, this cannot be removed and hopefully the scammer will move away from your site. See below for an example using Visual Watermark software:



www.visualwatermark.com

Show News



Mentobe Matilda (Tilly)

GCCF Semi long Hair Cat Club 19/3/11

Awarded Merit in her open & Best Assessment in Show!

GCCF Northern Birman Cat Club 16/4/11

Awarded Merit in her open & Best Siberian in Show!

Siberian Sub Editor: Susie & Mark Harris
Mentobe.Siberians@blueyonder.co.uk

