

HIMMY –THE HIMALAYAN CAT

Dr.M.Vasantha B.V.Sc &A.H

Introduction: Affectionate but aloof, Playful but not destructive- the Himalayan is the perfect cat for an orderly household and comfort with indoors. They are not from Himalayas nor are they named after the popular mountain ranges. The long haired hybrid earns its name from the Himalayan rabbit due to a striking resemblance.

Origin of Himalayan cat: It is a hybrid of Siamese and Persian cats. These are colour variant of the Persian and not a separate breed. Harvard University work formally establish a breed with combined Persian and Siamese traits, explicitly for the cat fancy in 1930s and the results were published in in the Journal of Heredity in 1936. This breed is recognised as a separate breed by American cat Fanciers Association and The International cat Association.



Stamp released by Sweden on Mar 18, 1994
Of 4.50 Kr value shows Siamese cat (left)
And Persian cat (right)



Stamp released by USA in 1987 of 22 cents value
shows Persian cat (right).

Appearance: Resembles Persian in type, conformation and coat length and texture. They do not resemble the Siamese in type. Pointed Himalayans have blue eyes like Siamese.



Stamp released by USA in 1987 in theme of Cat lovers of 22 cents value shows Himalayan cat (right)

Characteristics: Brachycephalic (short, round and massive) head, nose stubbed in, ears small and round tipped. Non pointed Himalayans have copper eyes (Silver and Golden Tabby have green coloured eyes). The coat colour comes almost in many colours with mink and sepia being prohibited.

Health: feline Asthma, polycystic kidney disease and urate lithiasis are common

Conclusion: Himalayan cats are popular in TV shows, Facebook and other social media and a fancy cat forever as a companion.