

THERE ARE OVER 50 CAT BREEDS. WHAT BREED MAKES THE BEST PET?

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**By Dean Erickson**

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How to choose the perfect cat breed for you is easy if you do your research first.

Cats are the world's most popular pets. They are independent but at the same time make for great company. They have minimal maintenance needs but they satisfy any pet owner's need to cuddle.

There are many different domestic cat breeds, but less than one percent of all cats have pedigrees or are pure breeds. All in all there are about 70-odd breeds. The rest of the cats fall into two main groups: domestic longhair and domestic shorthair. Cats that have a long slender build, almond-shaped eyes and sleek fur are often characterized as Oriental.

For potential cat owners there are many breeds to choose from ranging from a pure cat breed to your standard non-purebred breed, often called an alley-cat.

Exotic cat breeds include the Bengal (a relatively new breed; a cross between the Asian Leopard Cat and the domestic shorthair), Scottish Fold (its ears are folded forward and down), Egyptian Mau (resembles ancient Egyptian cats) and the California Spangled Cat. The most popular longhair variety is the Persian. In fact, Persians are probably the most well-known of all cat breeds, probably because of its long coat. Potential buyers should know that their coat demands a daily program of grooming. But they'll make up for that with their gentle temperament.

The most popular shorthair variety is the Siamese. The Siamese has blue eyes and colored ears, face, tail and paws in contrast to the rest of the body. This breed has a long and slender body.

How to choose the breed you want?

Although all kittens and cats can have very different personalities, breed specific characteristics can aid in making your decision. Attending a cat show is an excellent way to get a real life idea of what you

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may expect and to find out what you are really looking for.

Consider the length of the coat, the size of the adult cat, what some of the breed traits are. Does this breed of cat generally need a lot of grooming, are they a family oriented breed or do they bond better with one person? Is the breed more active as an adult or more of a lap cat?

Every different breed of cat has its own personal needs, but generally they are flexible and can be accommodated in various homes and apartments and don't mind being left alone. That's what makes cat the all-time favorite pet for people with demanding lifestyles and long work hours.

Dean Erickson. Journalist, and web site builder Dean Erickson lives in Texas. He is the owner and co-editor of [cat-breeds-directory.com](http://cat-breeds-directory.com) on which you will find a longer, more detailed version of this

article.

## **A FEW TIPS ON FINDING THE BEST PET RABBIT BREED FOR YOU.**

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### **A FEW TIPS ON FINDING THE BEST PET RABBIT BREED FOR YOU. by Dean Erickson**

Read up on rabbit breeds before you choose the best rabbit for you and your family.

Rabbits are popular pets. Children especially find them adorable. Of course, our culture sees rabbits as both pets and as food. Rabbits are raised for their meat and wild rabbits are hunted for sport. But despite the pet or prey paradox rabbits are always popular pet choices. They are naturally seen as cute, and are aloof, almost cat-like in their character. As pets rabbits are usually kept in a cage but some owners do allow the go free in their enclosed residence.

There are several different types of rabbit breeds. The breed of domestic rabbit we tend to have as a pet is the European breed of rabbit. There are breeds of large rabbits, breeds of dwarf rabbits and middle-sized breeds. particularly popular breeds are the Angora rabbit breed and the Rex rabbit breed.

There are two easy ways to think about breeds of pet rabbits.

1. According to rabbit breed size.

Rabbits come in these breed sizes: giant, large, medium, small and dwarf. Some breeds are available in one or more sizes. Typical giant breeds include the Flemish Giant, the Giant Angora and the Giant Chinchilla. The Giant Angora, for example, weighs around 10 pounds and over, while the Dwarf Hotot weighs up to two-and-a-half pounds. The Angora breed, an ancient breed originating in Turkey and known for its exquisite coat, also comes in a large and medium-sized breed, called the French Angora and the English Angora, respectively.

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### 2. According to rabbit breed grooming requirements.

Rabbits have different grooming demands depending on their coats. The longer the coat the more time you'll have to commit to grooming your pet. Obviously the Angora rabbit breed is the most difficult to take care of. Giant Angoras, for example, have very long fur and really should be brushed every day. The Rex rabbit breed has also been bred for its velvety coat, but is not as high demand as the Angora. The Mini Rex breed has a plush coat, but it is short so it is relatively easy to care for. American Chinchillas are also easy to care for. Their coat is short and really only needs a weekly grooming.

To learn more about rabbit breeds use an Internet search engine to bring up websites dedicated to information about rabbit breeds. There you'll also find pictures of rabbit breeds and lots of information on all the different breeds of rabbit. Websites such as Petpeoplesplace.com offer detailed descriptions of each breed, such as size, physical attributes and personality, as well as tips on grooming.

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