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Who Are We?

SiameseCatSpot.com was started by two long-time cat lovers who have shared our home, both individually and together, with many delightful cats through the years.

Then one day at a local Humane Society adoption day, we fell in love at first sight with a playful and unbelievably cute Siamese whose foster had been calling him Gizmo. We brought him home and before long it was clear what a little fireball of mischievous energy he was. We named him Gremlin because it just seemed like we had to, like it was already his real name.

Though we both have had a lot of experience with cats, Gremlin was our first Meezer. We were charmed and fascinated by his many behaviors and tendencies that were unlike any other kitty either of us had known before. We started learning everything we could about Siamese Cats and discovered what a unique and delightful breed they are – as well as how varied!

We now know that Siamese Cats, while definitely all cat, are also definitely their own special kind of kitty in more ways than just looks. We also now know that Siamese Cats come in lots of shapes, sizes, and colors. And we've been delighted
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to find that people who share their lives with Siamese are a warm, kind, and engaging group who love love love their kitties as much as we love ours!

That's why we started our Facebook page (fb/welovesiamesecats) and the SiameseCatSpot.com website. And that's why we wrote this short book. Because we want to connect with you, our fellow lovers of Siamese Cats and share with the world what a joy Meezers are.

Thanks for visiting the site and for downloading this guide. We’d love to hear from you, so feel free to shoot us a message through the contact page (which you can find the link to at the bottom of any page on SiameseCatSpot.com), or to leave us a comment anywhere on the site.

Now let's get to talking about Siamese Cats!
The “We Are Siames” Myth

To be fair, it's easy to understand why so many people think Siamese Cats are mean, even though nothing could be further from the truth!

In the first place, almost everyone has seen the famous Disney movie “Lady and the Tramp”, in which the two Siamese Cats are depicted as devious, calculating, and mean-spirited. That depiction works for the story, but if “Lady and the Tramp” is the only exposure someone has ever had to this delightful breed, they would have the wrong impression.

In the second place, many Meezers are shy around anyone who is not one of their people. This can make them seem aloof, but they really aren't! In fact, the opposite is true – as anyone who has ever shared their life with a Siamese Cat can attest to.

The truth is that Siamese cats are loyal and affectionate. In fact, they will usually follow their people all around the house, demanding to be included in everything. So if you have or are planning to get a Meezer, you should understand that they
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don't like to be left alone. Plan on giving them lots of attention and maybe even a companion or two.

Trust me, it'll be worth every minute! The love, affection, and loyalty they give back will warm your heart and make you glad you shared your home with a Siamese!

ARE SIAMESE CATS 'DOGS OF THE CAT WORLD'?

What Does That Mean?

Okay, so Siamese Cats aren't really like dogs, exactly. The truth is that Meezers are all cat. So why would anyone call them “dogs of the cat world”?

Good question.

The answer is that Siamese do have some behaviors that you won't see in most cats. And some of these are more commonly associated with dogs, hence the description. What are some examples?

First and probably most famously, a lot of Siamese cats will fetch. Seems unbelievable, I know, but it's true! A great choice is something small and fuzzy,
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like a wadded up pipe cleaner. Try it out and you'll be pleasantly surprised!

Another example is something I've already mentioned: how affectionate and people oriented Siamese cats are. Your Siamese will want to be involved in just about everything you do. He or she will follow you all around the house, want to sit in your lap, and cuddle up close when you lie down for a nap or bed.

Another dog-like trait is that Siamese cats will eat just about anything, especially if they think you consider it food! (Fortunately, UNLIKE dogs they won't eat cat poop!) This is unlike a lot of other breeds of cat who are famous for being finicky. As a matter of fact, it's important to keep a close eye on your Siamese to make sure they don't get into anything they shouldn't.

Siamese cats can be taught to walk on a leash! We know of course that there's some question about whether or not this is humane. The answer depends on how you do it and what your point of view is. Our own view is that giving your kitty a chance to get outside with you in a way that keeps them safe can be rewarding for your cat, as well as a bonding experience for both of you. Just remember that it's important to break your cat in slowly, and it's better to use a body harness than a collar to attach the leash to. If you'd like some tips on how to humanely get your kitty to let you walk her on the leash, please contact us!
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WHAT IS WOOL SUCKING?

Eating Things That Are Not Food

We already talked about how Siamese cats will often eat just about anything, not unlike a lot of dogs. But you should know that this does not apply to just food! Many Meezers demonstrate what is called 'Pica', which means eating, chewing, or sucking on things that are not generally considered food. This behavior is genetic.

One way you might see this is when your Siamese plays with his or her toys. If you have a feather wand (or wave, as they're sometimes called), your Siamese will probably eat the feathers. It may seem strange, but it's true!

Likewise, if you have other pets in your home, your Meezer might eat their furballs! Now personally, I don't understand how they can get them down, but the determined Siamese will find a way.

And an interesting example is what is sometimes referred to as “wool sucking”. What this means is that your kitty may want to suck on string, plastic bags, blankets, or any of a range of other things.
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As a general rule, Pica or 'wool sucking' is not harmful to your kitty. However, it can be as they may try to actually eat rather than just suck, and this can lead to choking, intestinal blockage, or poisoning. Look up the difference between pica and wool sucking. Manhattan pets?

So, while it's usually nothing to worry about, if your Siamese does this, it's a good idea to keep an eye out just in case. Just know that the tendency is perfectly normal for a Siamese cat.

Siamese Cats Are Chatterboxes!

Your Siamese Will Be Very Vocal

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Siam_blue_point.jpg

It's true. Siamese cats love to talk. They want to tell you all about it – what they think, how they feel, what you're doing right or wrong, and so forth. Meezers are little Chatty Cathies!

This tendency goes along with the fact that Siamese cats are so attached and loyal to their people. And it may be another reason that people call them “dogs of the cat world”.

So, if you're used to the idea that cats are aloof and not very interactive, you'll
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find your Meezer's tendency to talk so much to be unusual and refreshing. Don't get me wrong; I'm not putting down other cats! I'm just saying that, once you get used to it, having such a conversational kitty will be a joy for you!

And maybe you already know that many Siamese have very distinctive voices. In fact, the characteristic Siamese mow is one of the reasons people call them Meezers. And since Siamese Cats can also be strong-willed (some might even say stubborn ;-), it makes sense that they would feel the need to comment!
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meow_of_a_Siamese_cat_-_freemaster2.wav

SIAMESE CATS ARE BORN WHITE

Their Color Changes Through Time

The famous pointed coat pattern of the Siamese cat is the result of a genetic mutation that makes the cat a partial albino. It is temperature-sensitive, so only the cooler fur on the extremities – face, ears, legs, and tail – can produce darker pigments. The cat's core body is hotter and produces less pigment, leaving the fur a lighter color.

Newborn Siamese kittens are pure white because they are warm from being
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inside the mother cat. The points won't show up until approximately 10 days, and by four weeks the color points will be more obvious.

External temperatures, such as summer versus winter and indoor versus outdoor, also have an effect. A cat exposed to colder temperatures will be darker. Similarly, a fatter cat will be darker, as fat makes the skin cooler.

Seal point kittens start showing their points first, which makes sense because this is the darkest of the Siamese types. On the other hand, lilac points are very light grey and will take the longest time to develop. But ALL Siamese cats will continue to darken as they age. The same cat at 3, 4, 7, and even 15 years of age will look quite different!

A SEAL POINT IS REALLY A BLACK CAT

It Comes Back to that Same Genetic Mutation!

It is commonly said that, genetically, a seal point Siamese is a black cat. Both cats do have the same genetic code for black pigment. BUT there is a very important difference!

A Siamese does not exhibit full black color because it
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has the temperature sensitive mutation that means it is a partial albino. Though the brown points turn darker over time, even turning black, and the body will turn a tan color, the seal point Siamese will never become solid black.

On the other hand, A black cat WITHOUT this mutation exhibits full color. This is why it's not uncommon in stray/feral cat colonies to see mixed litters of black and seal point kittens.

Incidentally, the mutation that produces the point pattern also turns a Siamese cat's eyes blue. When cats' eyes produce full color, they turn green or gold. The Siamese cat cannot produce all of the pigment necessary for full color, so his eyes stay blue!

There Are Actually Two Types Of Siamese Cat

All About Appleheads and Wedgeheads

When you think "Siamese cat", what image pops into your head? Well, depending on where you live and your experience with this breed, your image may be quite different from someone else's! Siamese cats are part of the Oriental group and are actually classified into two main types: Traditional and Modern. There are devotees to both types, and as might be expected with such passion there can be some infighting and contradictory claims! But what is most important is that all involved love this breed.
A Traditional Siamese is longer and leaner than a domestic shorthair, yet still somewhat stocky with a round "apple" head. This characteristic has earned them the name of "Applehead." Some say that this was the original look before modern breeding began in earnest, but others say that this look was in fact achieved by out-crossing to non-oriental cats. This was the type that was popular up until the 1980s.

But for the ultimate in sleek, elongated cats, the Modern Siamese wins the prize! The head is shaped like a pointed triangle, or "Wedgehead," with very large ears and almond-shaped eyes. Bodies are extremely elongated, as are legs and tails. Adding to the sleek look is the short, close lying fur coat. This look became popular in the 1980s, and is still the breed standard today.

No matter the type, the Siamese breed is one of the most loved worldwide and definitely worth learning more about! We think the variety makes these cats just that much more special.
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**SIAMESE CATS COME IN MANY FLAVORS**

*Seal Point and Much Much More*

No matter the body type, the first thing that pops into everyone's head when they think "Siamese Cat" is that famous dark pointed fur coat pattern! This refers to the color of the darker fur on the points--face, ears, legs, and tail--that contrasts with lighter body fur.

The four main point colors are seal, blue, chocolate, and lilac. These were the original colors found in the breed, with seal point being genetically the most dominant and, therefore, most common. They have very dark brown, nearly black, points.

A blue point Siamese is most closely related to the seal point; the black points have been genetically diluted to blue-grey.

Chocolate points are a lighter, pinky brown that resembles milk chocolate, and lilac points are diluted chocolates that become pink-grey (in the same way blues
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are diluted seals).

There are other, newer point colors. Flame (or red) points and tortoiseshell (tortie) points were introduced into the breed in the UK during the 1930s by crossing Siamese cats with red tabby and tortoiseshell British Shorthairs.

Lynx (or tabby) points get their distinctive look from crosses between Siamese and tabbies. These cats have striped points from their tabby heritage!

Because of the initial mixing of breeds necessary to achieve the new colors, some cat fancy associations do not technically recognize these cats as Siamese while others do. But that's something most of us don't need to worry about!

CROSSED EYES AND KINKED TAILS?
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The breed standard has changed

Two characteristics that are often associated with Siamese cats are crossed eyes and kinked tails. These have mostly been bred out as they are considered faults, but you still see them occasionally.

Siamese cat eyes become crossed when the center of the retinas are not aligned through the optic nerves in the normal way. Siamese cats eyes point forward, so in order to compensate and see things properly they turn their eyes inward. This makes them cross eyed. This will start to happen at around 12 weeks old, and over time the muscles become fixed and the cross eyed look becomes permanent.

A kinked tail poses no health problems, though it might have a small effect on a cat's balance. Though it has been increasingly bred out, some breeders are tolerant of this trait as long as the kink cannot be seen and can only be felt by running the fingers down the length of the tail. This trait used to be so common, however, that legends were created to explain it.

In one of the most famous legends, the Siamese cat is a Ring Bearer! Pic of my ringstand

"There was once a Siamese Princess who was frightened of losing her rings while she bathed in a stream. Looking around for somewhere convenient to place her jewelry, she noticed that her favorite cat had crooked his tail for her benefit. Ever since that time all Siamese cats have been born with a tiny kink at the end of their tails to hold the Princess' rings."
Siamese cats have made their way around the world

The domestic cat is the most popular pet in the world. Approximately 30% of households in the United States, Canada, and the UK own pet cats. And among these, the Siamese is by far one of the oldest and most popular breeds.

Originating in Siam (Thailand), this is one of several breeds of cats from Southeast Asia described and illustrated in the "Tamra Maew" manuscripts (Cat Poems). These are estimated to have been written some time between 1300 and 1757. Legend has it that Siamese cats kept away evil spirits and brought good luck to their owners, and thus were often seen around temples and in royal households.

Siamese cats made their way west in the late 1800s, when U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes received "Siam" as a gift from the American Consul in Bangkok in 1878. Six years later, the British Consul-General in Bangkok, Edward Blencowe Gould, brought the breeding pair Pho and Mia back to the U.K. as a
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gift for his sister, Lilian Jane Veley. Veley went on to co-found the Siamese Cat Club in 1901.

The Siamese breed gained in popularity throughout the 20th century, with emphasis and favorability towards a slender, elongated look. Many celebrities have owned Siamese cats, including Vivien Leigh, Laurence Olivier, Cary Grant, James Dean, and Paul Newman.

Siamese cats have also starred in their own movies and books: Pyewhacket in *Bell Book and Candle*, Tao in *The Incredible Journey*, Sagwa the *Chinese Siamese Cat*, and Koko and Yum Yum in Lilan Jackson Braun's Cat Who series are just a few!

I hope this has helped you understand the charming and delightful Siamese Cat a little better. For more, please visit us at the [SiameseCatSpot.com](http://SiameseCatSpot.com) and [fb/welovesiamesecats](http://fb/welovesiamesecats)! We always welcome our fellow kitty lovers!

Dr. Tamara Roush
Thanks For Stopping By!

Love, Gremlin