



FIFe - Fédération Internationale Féline
A leading cat fanciers society

British Longhair-Shorthair

The British is one of the world's oldest and most popular cat breeds. Although originally known for its "blue" coat, it is now recognized in many other colors, patterns, and a longhair variety. By the late 19th century, the British Shorthair's gentle and affectionate nature had made it a popular household pet.



Tessa.co
PHOTOGRAPHY

History

The British breed originated in Great Britain, where it was first shown in 1871.

In the early 1900s, the breed was extensively used for breeding and to help establish other breed standards. After World War II, the breed was nearly extinct. Originally a shorthair cat, its popular blue color led to crossbreeding with Russian and Chartreux cats. In the 1900s, it was also crossed with Persians, which provided the genetic basis for the British Longhair variety.

This longhair version was used in British Shorthair breeding for decades until breeders decided to develop it as a separate breed, the British Longhair, which the FIFe recognized in 2017.





Appearance

The British Shorthair or Longhair is a medium-to-large, powerful cat with a broad chest, massive neck, and strong hips. It has a cobby body, short, muscular legs, and a heavy, well-built frame.

The head is large and round, with a rounded top, cheeks, forehead, and ear tips. Its large, round eyes have an open expression.

The coat, which comes in many colors and patterns, is short, dense, and plush with a unique crisp feel.

Eye color varies from deep copper to intense green, depending on the coat color.

Temperament

Known for their calm and affectionate nature, British are gentle, easy-going cats that get along well with children and other pets. They are not very vocal but show contentment through purring.

These independent cats can be left alone for longer periods compared to other breeds, but still enjoy attention and will often seek out their owners for cuddles or a nap.



FIFe Breed Councils

Breed Councils provide a voice for individuals with an interest in a breed, within the FIFe structure. You can join a Breed Council if you are Member of a National FIFe Member.

Check the relevant info and the list of Breed Councils at this link:

<https://fifeweb.org/cats/breed-councils/>