CAT DNA

Felix

Randy

On the outside, Felix simply looked like your typical kitten. But inside, were there different breeds all mixed into his background? His mom decided to find out after adopting him from the Connecticut Humane Society by using a cat DNA test.

Yes, you can test a cat's DNA and learn lots about them! With an adult's help, you'll learn what breeds make them who they are (a breed is a group of animals with a certain look to them), and what health conditions they may be more likely to get in the future.

There are 85.8 million owned cats in the U.S., and 90% of them are mixed breed. The different breeds can make them look a certain way (very fluffy or even hairless, spots or stripes, tiny ears or big ears), and give them particular personality traits (like being very vocal, or being very social and wanting to be held). And when cats are multiple breeds all in one, you get a mix of these different characteristics.

Turns out Felix was part Russian Blue, Maine Coon (which may be giving him his large size), Ragdoll (another hefty cat breed), Siberian, and American Shorthair (like the American Shorthair, Felix is not a lap cat but always wants to be near his owners).

It's interesting to find out what breeds make your cats who they are, but the DNA tests also complete a health report. It indicates if your cat is more likely to develop health conditions, like kidney disease, heart problems, eye issues, or other illnesses. And that can give you an idea of what to monitor in your pets as they age. Always talk to your veterinarian about health concerns you have for your pet.

You can test your cats' DNA at home with a simple kit!

HOW MANY BREEDS OF CATS ARE THERE?

See bottom left for correct answer

Chirpy

Sylvester

WHAT BREEDS can you name?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Continue your list on a separate piece of paper if needed

Answer: 46

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