

A NEW CLUB FOR YOU AND YOUR CAT — SEE PAGE 4!

MARCH/APRIL 1992 \$2.50

CAT COMPANION

From

Friskies

America's Leading
Source of Cat Food Products

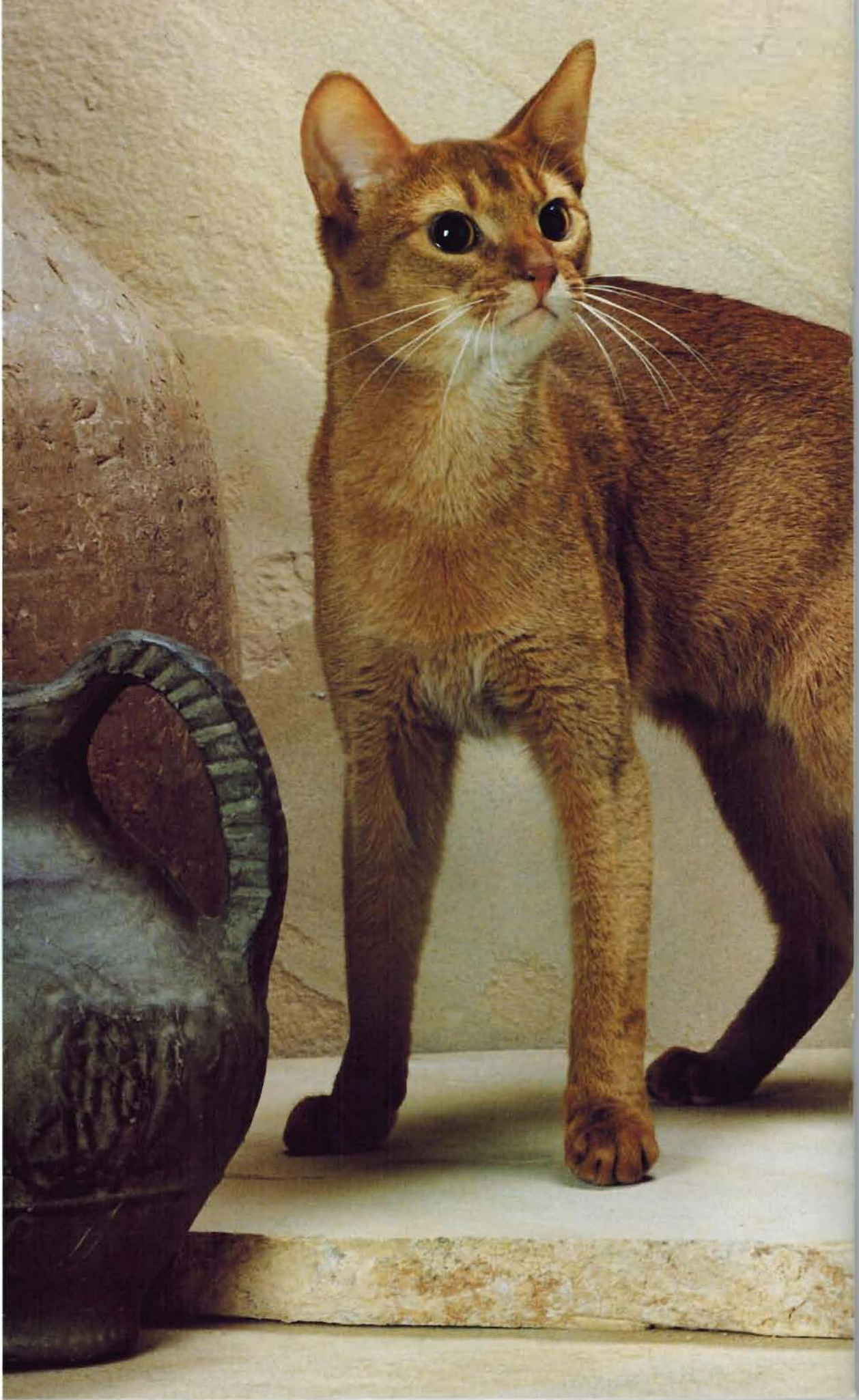
GULF WAR “VETS”


SOAP STAR
SHARES “ALL
MY KITTENS”

A BREED THAT
HAS YOU
SEEING RED



THE ABYSSINIAN

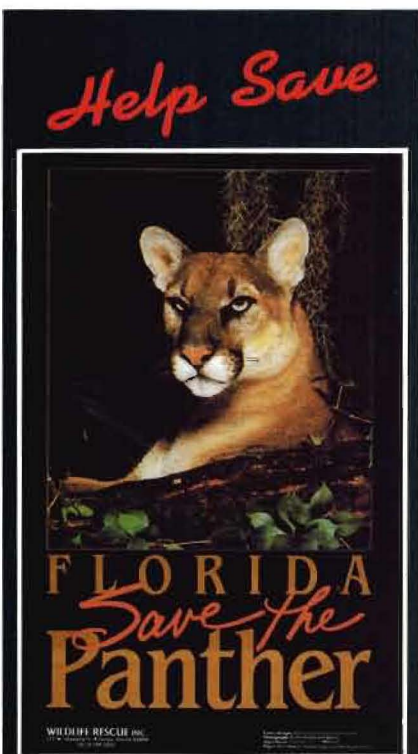




*Queen Elizabeth
or King Tut?
This breed's his-
tory is as colorful
as its coat.*

BY JULIA KAILING

If you're seeking a feline friend to keep you company through your every task, entertain your party guests and keep up with active youngsters, an Abyssinian may be the cat for you. The Abyssinian is one of the most popular breeds of cats, often forming the largest class of short-haired cats at competitions.



The Florida Panther. They were hunted to the brink of extinction until receiving legal protection in 1958. Now continued destruction of their habitat **Endangers** the survival of the 30-50 still remaining.

YOU CAN HELP! Bring this Panther into your home. He is a captive born Florida Panther and is reproduced on a high quality full color Lithograph Print. All Proceeds Enable Wildlife Rescue to Continue their Florida Panther Education Program.

Your donations make a difference!

This Panther is Available for a Live Visit to Your Organization

- Lg Poster 22x32 Donation \$25
- Sm Poster 12x18 Donation \$10
- Greeting Card (12) Donation \$ 5
- Sweat Shirt Donation \$25
- T-Shirt Donation \$15

Poster image silk screened on white shirt

Sizes S M L XL XXL

Postage & Handling \$3.00

TOTAL DONATION \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

MC/Visa # _____ Exp. _____

Send Checks, Money Orders, or MC/VISA to:

Wildlife Rescue Inc.
 Dept. N
 127 West Hiawatha Street
 Tampa, Florida 33604
 1-800-741-0341

Abyssinians demand freedom to accommodate their behavior, which can be quite literally “off-the-wall.” Tales have been told of Abyssinians jumping off of walls, assaulting invisible enemies, jumping into nearby favorite laps, nestling for a moment and then springing off the walls again.

Monica Zehnder, a breeder of both Abyssinians and Russian Blues, chuckles when relating that the reason she chose to breed Abyssinians 10 years ago was she felt they would be able to keep pace with her lively son, who was 6 years old at the time. While Abyssinians are willing and cooperative show cats, they also are fabulous pets, Zehnder says. Abyssinians have been known to co-exist peacefully with canine members of a family — and have even won over “dog people.”

EGYPTIAN OR ENGLISH DESCENT?

When discussing the history of this breed, one is likely to encounter some debate. Many cat enthusiasts maintain that the Abyssinian is a direct descendant of the sacred cat of Egypt. There is a strong resemblance between the Abyssinians of today and the famous felines portrayed in archaic paintings and sculptures of the past. There is some evidence that they may be linked genetically.

The history of the Abyssinian in America, however, has its beginnings in England. The first Abyssinian exhibited at a show in England allegedly was brought back from Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) at the end of the Abyssinian War in 1868. Unfortunately, there are no written records of this voyage, and many British breeders maintain that Abyssinians actually were created by crossing silver and brown tabbies with native British “bunny” ticked cats (so named because their fur resembles that of a rabbit). The first Abyssinians to journey to our great

land of freedom landed on American shores in 1909. Active breeding, however, didn’t develop until the 1930s.

GUIDELINES

The ideal Abyssinian is a colorful cat with an eager and energetic interest in its surroundings. Physically, a champion Abyssinian fulfills Cat Fanciers’ Association (CFA) standards by fitting the following description: The head is a modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes; brow, cheek and profile lines are gently contoured; there is a slight rise from the bridge of the nose to a good-sized forehead, with width between the ears; the muzzle is not sharply pointed or square; the chin is neither receding nor protruding; the ears are alert, large and moderately pointed, and are cupped at the base and set as though listening; the eyes are almond-shaped, large, brilliant and expressive, and the color is best described as deep green or gold; the Abyssinian stands well off the ground, giving the impression of being on tiptoe; there are five toes in front and four in back, and the paws are small, oval and compact; the tail is thick at the base, fairly long and tapering; and the coat is soft and smooth, fine in texture, but thick and resilient with a lustrous gleam.

COATS OF MANY COLORS

Abyssinians are accepted for CFA championship competition in three colors: ruddy, red and blue.

A ruddy Abyssinian has a coat of ruddy brown, ticked with darker shades of brown or black. The tail and ears are tipped in black, and the undersides and insides of the legs are unmarked burnt sienna. The nose leather is tile red, and the paw pads are black or brown with black between the toes.

Lurr's Garlock (right), is a 6-month-old ruddy Abyssinian and our cover cat.

Ch. Amasis Nucleated Red of Mattenai (shown below and on pages 22 & 23)

is a 1-year-old red male Abyssinian owned by Janet Wheeler of Mattenai in Inglewood, Calif.



THE ABYSSINIAN

Continued from page 24

The coat of a red Abyssinian is a warm, glowing copper color, ticked with chocolate brown. The ears and tail are ticked with the same brown, and the undersides of the cat are a deep apricot. Both the nose leather and the paw pads are pink with the chocolate color between the toes.

Blue Abyssinians are a warm, soft blue-gray and are ticked with shades

of slate-blue. The tips of the ears and tail are the same slate-blue color. The undersides and insides of the legs are pale cream or oatmeal color. The nose leather is dark pink, and the paw pads are mauve with blue between the toes.

A fourth color, fawn, is accepted only for CFA registration and, at this time, is not qualified for champion status.

RAISING KITTENS

As breeding cats, Abyssinians are not as prolific as most other feline breeds. The litters usually average just three kittens. The kittens vary from dark orange with black patches to almost all black. Some don't develop full ticking for six months, prompting some to liken them to wine or cheese — they improve with age.

Zehnder compares the kittens from her cats' litters to children of a family: They have the same parents and environment, but they all display distinct personalities from a very young age. The babies are strong and vigorous, embarking on climbing adventures as early as 4 weeks of age. The mothers are loving and protective, and the fathers are gentle with the babies, playing with them and babysitting when "Mom" has to leave.

Zehnder says Abyssinians are generally healthy animals, but they do have a tendency to get gingivitis and there are rare cases of progressive retinal atrophy. She's also careful when breeding to avoid producing cats prone to kidney disease.

ATTENTION, ATTENTION

No matter what color, there are some Abyssinian qualities that remain the same. Abyssinians love action, people and exercise. They are the only cats that wake up each morning with "to-do" lists. Despite their wild, sometimes outlandish behavior, Abyssinians are sensitive cats who must be treated with kindness and consideration to reach their inner cores of devotion.

As popular and flashy show cats or fun and friendly pets, Abyssinians are not content to sit back and watch the show. They insist on being busy participants. They worship the sun, will play fetch and don't seem to mind water.

It makes no difference if an Abyssinian is contending for a competitive title or frolicking in the family room at home, he is bound to win the hearts of all. ■

For more information on the Abyssinian, Zehnder recommends the book *This is the Abyssinian* by Kate Fahler. Or write to:

Breed Profiles — The Abyssinian Cat Fanciers' Association
1309 Allaire Avenue
Ocean, N.J. 07712

IT'S A BIRD!
IT'S A SQUIRREL!
IT'S

VIDEO CATNIP

Yes, now the highest rated program in cat TV history can be yours! It's Video Catnip, the full-length feature starring birds, squirrels, chipmunks, all your feline's favorites.

Your cat will watch in fascination as they frolic in the great outdoors, just beyond paw's reach on your own TV set. Great fun for the whole family!



Video Catnip is perfect entertainment for the household cat or for your outdoor cat on a rainy day.

And makes a fabulous gift for your cat-loving friends. Rated "M" for

Mouthwatering (not recommended for kittens under four months).

To order your Video Catnip today, just scratch out the coupon. Or call Pet-AVision toll-free at 1-800-TABBY-TV.

Yes! My cat and I could use a good meow!

Please send us _____ copies of Video Catnip at \$19.95 each (ppd.)

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Please send check or money order to:

Pet AVision, Inc.

P.O. Box 222

Lyndon Center, VT 05850

MasterCard/Visa orders please call

1-800-TABBY-TV

(Dealer inquiries invited)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery

Total \$ _____