

CAT FANCY

Exclusive Q&A: Internet Sensation



Grumpy Cat

# CAT FANCY

AUTHORITY ON ALL THINGS CAT  
OCTOBER 2013



NORTH AMERICA'S  
BELOVED BLACK CAT  
**BOMBAY**

Black  
Persian

EASY WAYS  
TO GO

*Green*

QUICK  
Guide to  
Grooming

+Discover  
**Feline  
Fitness  
Centers**

681-CE3 USAAC 081406422 PK093567 P0342  
CEA FOUNDATION 260 E MAIN ST PD BOX 2155 ALLIANCE OH 44601-2423

NOV14  
#BXNDZBKH \*\*\*\*\*CNR-RT LOT\*\*C-087  
#CXY0059343111/0#

CatChannel.com



# Black MAGIC

**THE BOMBAY AND  
THE SOLID PERSIAN  
CHARM CAT LOVERS  
WITH THEIR BEAUTY  
AND PERSONALITIES.**

**H**ALLOWEEN IS FAST approaching, and that means it's time for one of the most famous of all felines to make its appearance: the black cat.

Throughout the ages, black cats have been associated with superstitions and folklore. They have been synonymous with both good and evil, and were even used for worship in ancient Egypt. Some European cultures believed black cats possessed supernatural powers.



ERIC ISSLEEE/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

## BLACK CAT GENETICS

Black cats are among the most common of all cat colors — and with good reason. The gene for black is dominant in cats, meaning that black cats will always pass their color gene along to their offspring. Although the kitten of a black cat might not appear to be black, he carries the black gene.

According to the CFA publication *Understanding the Basic Genetics of Cat Colors*, breeding a black male to a black female results in a 50 percent chance of black kittens and a 50 percent chance of blue kittens. (Blue is a dilute of the black color, and breeding two blue cats results in all blue kittens.)

The male kitten of a black female will always be black or blue, since male kittens inherit their color genes from their mother.

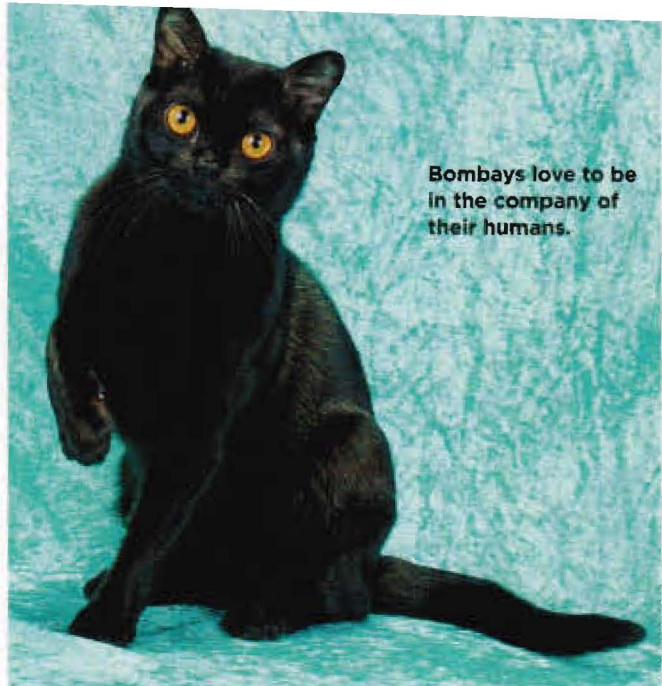
Black is one of the two dominant colors found in cats; the other is red. This means that all cat colors relate to black or red in some way. For instance, when a black cat is bred to either a red- or cream-colored cat, the kittens will be red, cream (the dilute of red), tortoiseshell (the combination of black and red genes) or blue-cream. If a black cat is bred to either a tortoiseshell or a blue-cream, the resulting kittens will be black, blue, red, cream, tortoiseshell or blue-cream.

You can get a black kitten without either parent being black by breeding a blue cat to a tortoiseshell cat. (This will also produce blue, red, tortoiseshell or cream kittens.)



Black is a common coat color.

ESATERINA GARDIK/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Bombays love to be in the company of their humans.

LARRY JOHNSON

Today, black cats are considered good luck in countries like England and Japan, and are well-loved by cat lovers around the world. In fact, in two modern cat breeds, the Bombay and the solid Persian, the black coloration is imperative.

### The Sleek Bombay

The Bombay was born from the sable Burmese and the black American Shorthair. Created in 1953 by Nikki Horner, a breeder in Louisville, Ky., the Bombay was developed by crossing these two breeds together. Horner's goal was to produce a copper-eyed, black shorthaired cat with an exotic appearance. She was inspired by the black leopard of India and wanted to create a domestic breed that possessed that same exotic appearance.

The Bombay achieved championship status with the Cat Fanciers' Association in 1976. In 1979, The International Cat Association also granted the Bombay with Championship status. The Bombay is the only CFA- and TICA-recognized breed that comes exclusively in black.

These many years later, the Bombay is still well-known for its shiny black coat and vivid gold eyes. The breed is regarded as an attention-getter because of its sleek "little black panther" look. It's also considered an attention-seeker because these cats bond easily with one person or a full household. "Bombays have the best traits from their two parent breeds," says Iowa breeder Troy Weier. "They are intelligent, athletic, sweet, loyal and cuddly. They do look like mini-panthers, and they enter a room with a swagger and a confidence like no other breed."

The Bombay's high-gloss coat and color make it unique in the cat world. The rich coat has a pitch-black sheen, and is also dense and ultra-plush to the touch. The large eyes range from warm gold to glimmering copper.

Besides being beautiful, the Bombay is an inquisitive and highly social breed that craves attention. "They love being with their people, and if you throw a party, they are right in the middle of it," says Virginia breeder Deborah Curtis. "They are friendly, outgoing and not shy in the least. They bond quickly to their new families and adopt the 'love the one you're with' mentality."

Bombays thrive with owners who bestow a lot of love and affection on them, according to breeders, and they easily return this in kind. They are great companions for children and adults alike, and frequently voice their appreciation. "A number of my Bombays have 'trilling' purrs that start up as soon as you lay your hands on them," says Massachusetts breeder Pam Morrison.

"Our cat, Glimmer, would go from show ring to show ring, purring the entire time. Another cat from the same line loved to sit right beneath my chin and trill a loud purr right into my ear at night."

Bombays can be mischievous too, according to Bombay and Burmese breeder Denise Hall-Vindouro in Pennsylvania. "Bombays are way more nosey and get into far more trouble than my Burmese cats do," she says. "I have to keep both bathroom doors closed because they will grab the toilet paper roll and run it all over my house."

Hall-Vindouro also has to keep the remotes from her television hidden during the day. "I came home a couple of times, and the TV was on," she says. "I thought someone was in my house!"

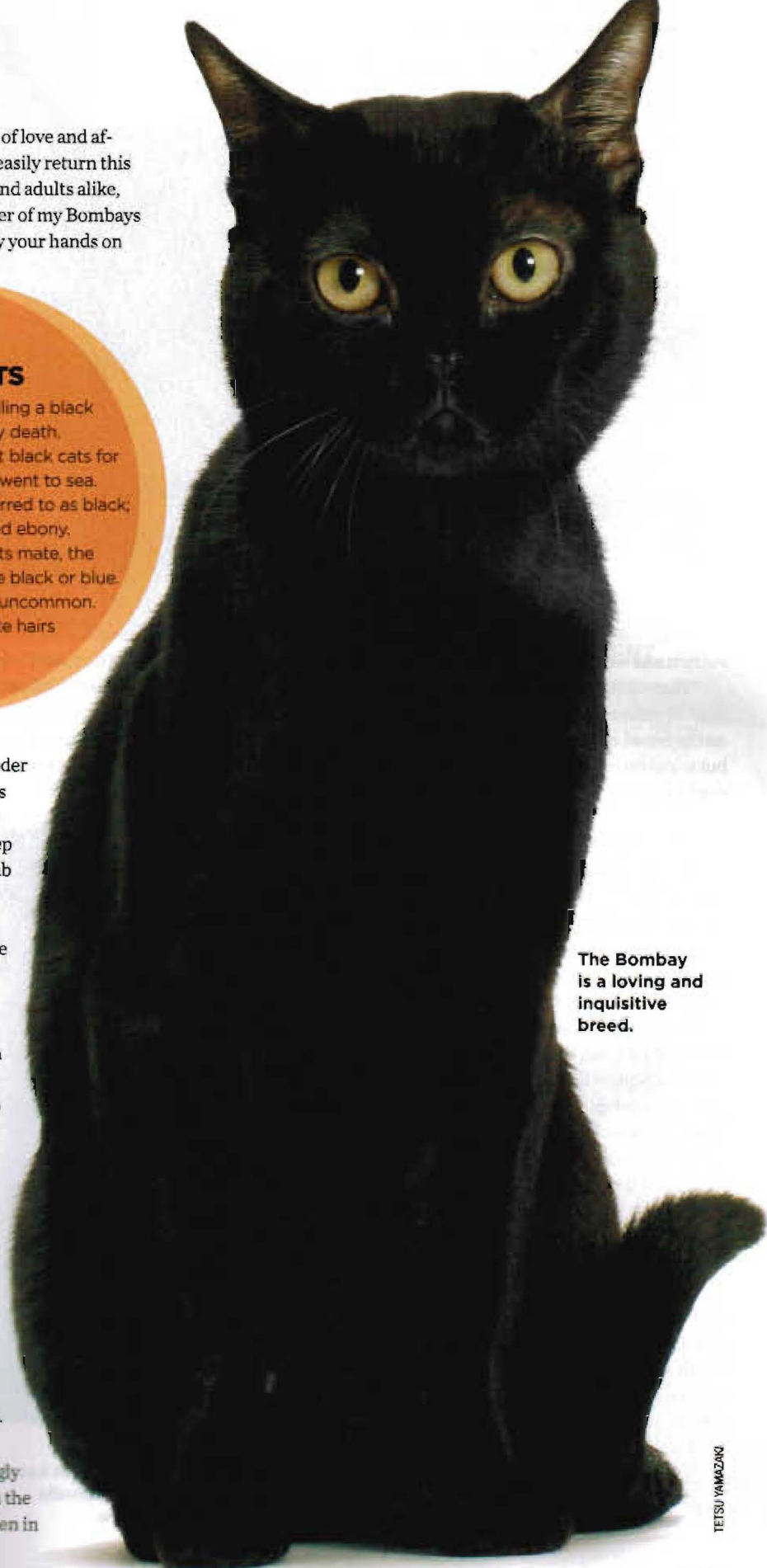
According to Louisiana breeder Wendy Klamm, Bombays are not a noisy breed, but when they have something to say, they aren't shy about communicating it. She also says they love to sleep under the covers. "This is a wonderful trait if you live in the North during the winter, as their hot, little bodies keep you nice and warm," she says.

Bombays don't shun association with other cats or even with dogs, according to Klamm. "They do have a tendency to believe that their rightful place is at the top of the hierarchy, and seem to be able to convince the other inhabitants of the home of this with very few, if any, altercations," she says. "I have two Miniature Australian Shepherds, and they get along quite well with the Bombays — but they know the Bombays are boss!"

The Bombay is a medium-sized but surprisingly heavy cat because of its muscular body. Although the Bombay has a substantial frame, it is graceful when in

### FUN FACTS ABOUT BLACK CATS

- ▶ In ancient Egypt, killing a black cat was punishable by death.
- ▶ Fisherman's wives kept black cats for luck when their husbands went to sea.
- ▶ In TICA, the color is referred to as black; in CFA, it's usually called ebony.
- ▶ When two black cats mate, the resulting kittens will either be black or blue.
- ▶ Pure black cats are uncommon. Most have a few white hairs on their body.



The Bombay is a loving and inquisitive breed.

TETSU YAMAZAKI

The color of a black Persian kitten's coat darkens over time.



COURTESY OF SUSAN YOUNGMAN/VICTORIAN GARDENS CATTERY

motion and elegant to watch as it moves around a room.

"There is something just a little bit mysterious about the Bombay," Morrison says. "The way they walk is reminiscent of a panther on the prowl, or perhaps it's the beauty of their all-knowing gaze, but to me each Bombay is not only an adoring pet, but a beautiful work of art."

### The Stunning Black Persian

One of the most glorious-looking of the black cats is the black Persian. Black is one of several recognized solid colors in the Persian breed, and often sought after by breeders. "Black Persians have achieved numerous national and regional awards within CFA, so they are highly valued by breeders and judges," says North Carolina breeder Jeanne O'Donnell.

Persians first came to the attention of the western world in the 1800s when European diplomats returned from the Middle East with longhaired kittens in their possession. The cats were given names that described where they were from. Along with cats from Turkey and even Russia, cats from Persia (now Iran) were among the kittens brought to live in England and other parts of continental Europe. They quickly became popular for their exotic looks.

By the 1900s, Persians were being imported to the United States from England, and the breed quickly became popular in North America. At the time, only solid-colored Persians were recognized, and pure black cats were among them.

The black Persian is an exquisite cat for the eye to behold, according to O'Donnell, featuring a stunning color contrast between its coat and its rich copper eye color. "The black Persian's large round eyes and small ears on a round head and cobby body give you the feeling you are looking at a spectacular owl with black feathers," she adds.

Black Persian kittens start out a lighter color, which darkens as they age.

"I love the black Persian coat color and how it changes," says South Carolina breeder Susan Youngman. "Our little 5-week-old girl has the most gorgeous face with wonderful markings in a different shade of black."

Youngman notes that the copper eyes of the black Persian are what stand out the most about this cat. "You can really focus on the cat's face because of the solid black coloring," she says.

The black Persian has a gentle, quiet nature, just like Persians of other colors, according to O'Donnell. "Persians are typically very docile and affectionate, while

maintaining a playfulness in a manner that showcases their beauty," she says. "Watching their coats floating up and



ERIC ISSLEE/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

**SEE A SELKIRK REX KITTEN BEING JUDGED AND CHECK OUT OUR BLACK CAT POWER PAGE AT [CATCHANNEL.COM/EXCLUSIVES](http://CATCHANNEL.COM/EXCLUSIVES)**

The Persian has a sweet, gentle nature.

PRESTON SMITH



The long, luxurious coat is the hallmark of the Persian.

down while you are carrying them or seeing them jump for a toy that is flying past them is poetry in motion."

O'Donnell notes that the activity level and playfulness of each Persian varies from pedigree to pedigree and cat to cat. "I have had two black Persians in one litter who went on to develop very different personalities," she says. "One was distant but allowed you to pet her. The other would seek out your attention, gladly sit on your lap and offer unsolicited kisses."

Youngman says that Persians are the most sought-after breed because of their personality. "They are loving, attentive and want to be around you or near you or on your lap," she says. "Our pet parents write in regularly about their kittens' personalities. Each kitten's personality is unique, but there are definite similarities."

Youngman points out that genetics plays a big part when determining a cat's personality. "Up to our most recent litter, we had not really seen a difference between the black Persian personality and that of the other colorations," she says. "However, Pansy and Willie's current litter of two black Persians have a unique personality different from that of their littermates, who are three seal-point Himalayans. Even the weaning of these babies is different from the seals."

Although Persians of all colors are stunning cats, something about a black coat on a Persian makes it extra special. 🐾

*Audrey Pavia is an award-winning freelance writer specializing in animal subjects. She is a member of the Cat Writers' Association and lives in Norco, Calif., with four domestic shorthairs.*



## World's Best Pet Vacuums for a Clean and Healthy Home!

*Easily removes pet hair and absorbs odors!*



MADE IN GERMANY

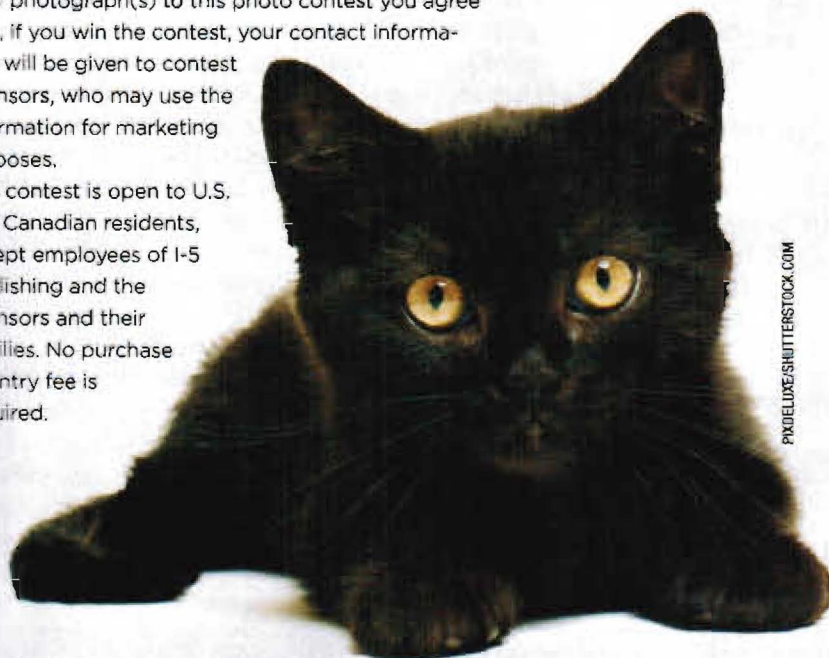
www.sebo.us

800-334-6614

### DO YOU HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE OF BEING OWNED BY A BLACK CAT?

Enter our Black Cat contest and tell us about your black beauty. Winners' photos and stories will appear in the January 2014 issue of CAT FANCY and on [CatChannel.com](http://CatChannel.com).

- Send quality prints or high-resolution images on a CD along with a short paragraph about your black beauty (around 50 words) to CAT FANCY, 3 Burroughs, Irvine, CA 92618, or email entries to [letters@catfancy.com](mailto:letters@catfancy.com) [subject: Black Cat Contest].
- Include your cat's name and age, along with your name, address, daytime phone number and email address.
- Entries must be postmarked by **October 4, 2013**.
- Entries become the property of I-5 Publishing. The company cannot confirm receipt or return entries and may use them for any purpose. By submitting your photograph(s) to this photo contest you agree that, if you win the contest, your contact information will be given to contest sponsors, who may use the information for marketing purposes.
- This contest is open to U.S. and Canadian residents, except employees of I-5 Publishing and the sponsors and their families. No purchase or entry fee is required.



PINDELUXE/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM