FIFe – Fédération Internationale Féline
A leading cat fanciers society

Burmese

The Burmese is a medium sized cat of oriental origin, i.e. from Thailand and Burma (Myanmar) and is one of the breeds described in the old Thai Manuscript, the Smud Khoi. His original name is Thong Daeng and is still bred in Thailand today.

History

The first cat that is known to come to the West in 1930 was named Wong Mau and was in fact not a Burmese as we know it, but a Burmese/Siamese hybrid, called Tonkinese in most catfancy organizations.

Wong Mau was found in the streets of Rangoon, Burma by a certain doctor Joseph C. Thompson from San Francisco, who was actually a Siamese breeder. He took Wong Mau back to the States with him and mated her to several Siamese studs and the darkest kittens from these matings were selected for further breeding, and were later acknowledged by the CFA (Cat Fanciers Association) as a new breed, the Burmese.

From the USA the breed was exported to England and later to continental Europe and Australia.

Temperament

As a "cousin" of the Siamese, Oriental Shorthair, Korat and Thai, the Burmese have similar outgoing personalities.
They can be very talkative, social and playful, and tend to be very loyal to their owners.
The phrase "once a Burmese, always a Burmese" is used by many people who have had the privilege of owning a Burmese cat.
Burmese love the company of other Burmese, but get along with housecats or other (oriental) breeds as well. Even dogs! But, as some individuals can be quite dominant, it is advised to plan a friend for your Burmese carefully.

Colours

The FIFe Burmese is recognized in 10 colour varieties: brown, blue, chocolate, lilac, red and cream and the respective torties. There should be no white hair in their coat. The torties show a pattern that is more patchy than in other breeds, due to the $c^b c^b$ colourpoint pattern which is characteristic for the Burmese breed.
A Burmese can surprise you when you lift them up, they are heavier than one would expect.
They can live up to be 15-20 years if well looked after, and remain playful even at older age.
In other words: a perfect companion for people looking for a lively cat!

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/