



FIFe - Fédération Internationale Féline  
A leading cat fanciers society

# SELKIRK REX

## Longhair/Shorthair

*The Selkirk has a whole world that wants to be discovered: charming, playful, and well-balanced, it's also gorgeous with its rich curly coat and funny curly whiskers.*

*It's still a fairly rare breed, but it immediately captivates those who discover it and is increasingly popular thanks to its extremely sweet, intelligent, curious nature and adaptability to family life.*



### History

In 1987 Jeri Newman, a Persian breeder, adopted a kitten from a stray cat that she named Miss DePesto (aka Pest) with curly fur and whiskers.

At 14 months old, Pest was crossed with Jeri's Persian, CH PhotoFinish of Deekay. On July 4, 1988, she gave birth to six kittens: three were distinctly curly and three were straight. This means that this kitten's gene was a new dominant mutation, resulting in both long-haired and short-haired Selkirk Rex.

Fascinated by the beauty and friendliness of these kittens, Jeri had this breed recognized and gave it the name Selkirk (in honor of her stepfather) and added Rex (like the other curly-haired breeds). Since then this breed has spread throughout the world although it remains quite rare.





## Appearance

It is a medium-large sized cat, with a round head and well balanced, substantial, rectangular body structure. It has large, rounded, open eyes, with a sweet, intriguing expression. The coat, which can be medium long or short, is entirely covered with soft, plush and dense curls and is due to a dominant mutation. Both Longhair and Shorthair Selkirk Rexes can be either heterozygous or homozygous for this mutation, or they can be straight haired if the specific gene is absent.

There are some differences between the two types of Selkirks, which breeders are trying to mitigate: heterozygous cats are preferred as show cats because they have smaller ears, a rounder head, and a more uniformly curly coat, as required by the breed standard. However, homozygous cats, sometimes born hairless, often grow up with an extraordinarily long and very curly coat.



## Character

The Selkirk is, first and foremost, as some have defined it, a "cheerful" cat that loves living in close contact with its human family, pampered and loved. It is a playful but balanced cat, and among the other Selkirk's qualities, in addition to the undoubted beauty of its soft curls, is a very adaptable character to family life, easily integrating with other cats, dogs or other animals. It also tolerates travel, trips and holidays as long as it is not denied human company.

## 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/>