

Ragdoll Breed Description

IMPORTANT: Ragdolls are **strictly an indoor cat**, and should only be allowed outside supervised, in an enclosure or on a leash. Ragdolls are not “fighter” cats therefore won’t defend themselves. They view any on-comer as a loving entity.

The Ragdoll is a breed of cat best known for its distinctively docile, affectionate, relaxed, floppy nature, sweet, placid temperament, and a high intelligence. An unusually large, muscular, semi-long-haired cat with a soft and silky coat the texture of rabbit fur, it has striking blue eyes and a distinctive color point coat. Its name derives from the cat's tendency to go completely limp and relaxed, conforming to the shape of the space made available to it, like a ragdoll would. With a friendly, easy-going temperament and seemingly little fear, the Ragdoll is only suitable for indoor living. They have no instinct to defend themselves against attack.

Ragdolls appear to have no "fight or flight" response and have been reported on occasion to approach fast-moving cars and vicious dogs, with very unfortunate results. This tendency explains further why these cats should remain exclusively as indoor cats, only going outdoors for short periods of time with the owner's supervision.

The Ragdoll is one of the largest domesticated breeds of cat, with a large frame, a sturdy rather squarish body, and relatively short legs. **Full-grown females can weigh between eight and fifteen pounds, with the males being substantially larger: from twelve to over twenty pounds!** The same genes that produce the vivid blue eyes are also responsible for the lovely point coloration. **The breed has a plush coat that is comprised mainly of long guard hair and not much undercoat, so there is little shedding and matting, making the grooming care of these cats simple and easy.**

"Pointed" coat coloration means that the extremities are darker than the rest of the torso, like the Siamese. There are three different patterns for the point coloring of Ragdolls. "Color point," with the points on face, ears, tail, and legs being dark, with a light torso, is one. "Mitted" cats have points that are darker than the torso, but front feet with white "mittens" and back legs white to their hocks, with a white blaze between the eyes, a white "belly stripe," and a white chin.

Bicolored cats have points, but they are obscured on all four legs by white that goes up to the knee or chest in front, and to the top of the back legs. They also have an inverted "V" on the face, with a white abdomen, and sometimes with white patches on the back.

There are six predominant colors of Ragdoll: seal (with brown points), blue (with gray points), flame (with orange points), and pastel shades of the same colors, producing chocolate, lilac, and cream points. There is also the “tortie point” – a blending of any two of these colors, and always female – and the “lynx point,” with the classic striping of a

tabby only appearing on the points. Like Siamese, all Ragdoll kittens are born white, and gradually darken to develop their early color at 8-10 weeks of age, **and their full color at 3-4 years.**

These cats are very beautiful, with a coat that is luxurious to touch, and a temperament that is very soothing. As they are placid in temperament, they make great companions for owners who may be less active, such as older folks. They are known for getting along beautifully with other pets, and are great cats for households with children, as they almost never scratch, and are so relaxed that they can endure the rigors of being handled by small children.

Ragdolls will follow you around, greet you at the door, watch TV with you, and take an interest in any activity you are performing, without being irritating and intrusive, as some breeds can be. "Personality plus" is how to characterize the Ragdoll.

Having had cats all my life I think everyone should experience the joy of owning a Ragdoll at least once in their life. They are here to adore us and for us to adore them. They can be easily trained to come when called, fetch, walk on a leash, and follow hand signals. They like everything and everyone and are happy to be introduced to guests. Possibly the best breed for children and the elderly, since they are slow-paced, non-aggressive, and sweet-tempered. They rarely use their claws, thus are "soft-pawed." Because of their soft paws they should never be de-clawed.

Content to just enjoy your company, the Ragdoll is a very easy breed to maintain. Once-a-week brushing is adequate, a process the cats often relish. They are not prone to any genetic diseases, and the only health tendency of any concern is that they are somewhat likely to develop allergies. They have super-sensitive noses and can react badly to strong scents like pot-pourris, avoid using plug-ins especially at their level.

Ragdolls are quiet cats, unlike many other breeds such as the very vocal [Siamese](#) and [Bengal](#). They will let their needs be known at mealtimes, but they never make a lot of noise. They love to snuggle and sleep with you but usually do not disturb you in your sleep.

With an average lifespan of **fifteen to eighteen years**, the Ragdoll makes a marvelous addition to any household that wants a beautiful, relaxed, and loving feline companion. However, **a word to the wise: Ragdolls are "like potato chips" – it is hard to have just one!**