A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA

Presentation conducted by the TICA NF Section Members

TICA Annual – Arlington, TX
August 2008
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA

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Breed History in TICA

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A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA

Breed History

The Norwegian Forest Cat is also known as Norsk Skogkatt. The word “Skogkatt” first appeared in Norwegian fairytales in 1841. “Norsk” is Norway, “Skog” means forest and “katt” means cat. The Skogkatt is a natural breed cat.

It is not known how long the Skogkatt has been in Norway. It is assumed they are descendants of shorthaired cats brought in from England by the Vikings and longhaired brought by the Crusaders.

The first time a Skogkatt was shown was in 1938. A Forest Cat Club was started in Norway around 1935, but WWII interrupted any advancement of the Skogkatt as a recognized breed.

In 1973, Pans Truls and Pippi Skoggpus were just two Skogkatt’s from somewhere outside Oslo.
After the war, Carl-Frederik Nordane, past president of the Norwegian Cat Association took up the cause to get the Norsk Skogkatt listed as a recognized breed.

In 1977, Nordane traveled to Paris where he made a presentation of the Skogkatt to the FIFe General Assembly. Due to Norway’s quarantine laws, the presentation was given by slides of Pans Truls and Pippi Skoggpus.

The cats so impressed the FIFe officials that FIFe conferred championship status upon the breed.

The Norsk Skogkatt was officially recognized by FIFe on November 25, 1977

FIFe = Fédération Internationale Féline
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Breed History in TICA

Two years after the breed was recognized in FIFe, the first breeding pair was imported to the United States. Sheila R. Gira-Windom was the proud new owner of Mjavo's Sala Palmer of Mycoon and Pan's Tigris of Mycoon.

This first litter of Norwegian Forest Cat kittens was born in cattery Mycoon on March 21, 1981.

In August 1984, TICA became the first North American registry to grant champion status to the Norwegian Forest Cat.

The current NF Breed Standard has been in effect since 2001.
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – General Description

The following excerpt is taken from a breeder’s letter from Norway, reprinted from Skogkatt Newsletter, Winter 1980-1981:

“..we who have worked with this breed from the very beginning are so very fond of the cat’s natural abilities that we first of all, want a healthy, strong cat with all it’s natural instincts and it is a blessing for us that a cat can stay out proposing for the weeks without being near a comb and return without a lump in his coat...,a cat that never lets a fox or hawk take it by surprise, a cat that gladly goes for a swim if there is a fish out there that he wants.”
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – General Description

The Norwegian Forest Cat has evolved through the centuries as a product of its own environment. They had to feed, defend, and protect themselves from the elements of the forests. Only the cats that were good hunters and fast to escape from predators survived.

Norwegian Forest Cats that survived their first winter had the correct, semi long, water-repellent coat and were well proportioned, strong and intelligent. These no nonsense traits carry into the show ring.

The Norwegian Forest Cat is an intelligent, alert breed that is not fond of over-handling. A Norwegian Forest Cat is big and built strong. Their hind legs are higher than their front legs, in proportion with their body. They are muscular and heavily boned.

Their heads are triangular with all three sides equal when measured between the outer base of each ear and from these points to the chin. The profile is long and straight with no break or stop and displays a strong chin.
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – General Description

Their eyes are expressive, large, wide almond-shaped, and set on an oblique tilt. Their ears are large, open and set in line with the triangular shape of the head. They may be well tufted and have lynx tips. Their tails are long, flowing and carried high. The length of the Forest Cat is semi-long, which means that it should not be as long as a Persian coat. The Norwegian Forest Cat is known for its dense, rich fur with a woolly undercoat covered by long, coarse guard hairs. The coat is warm and water-repellent.

A fully coated cat has a full ruff and britches. In the summer, the coat is short. The coat feels dense, especially on tabbies. Solid, bicolor and tricolor cats often have a softer coat. The males are large and imposing, often weighing 12-15 pounds or more. The females can be considerably smaller. The Norwegian Forest Cat is a slow growing breed and can take up to 5 years to fully mature.
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Head

HEAD  40 Points

Shape  8
Eyes  8
Ears  8
Chin  4
Muzzle  4
Profile  8
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Head

**Norwegian Forest Cat**

**Guided Tour**

**HEAD**

**Shape:** Triangular, where all sides are equally long when measured from the outer base of the ears to the chin and between the outer base of the ears; good height when seen in profile; forehead is sloped back.
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Head

Norwegian Forest Cat Guided Tour

HEAD

Eyes: Large, almond shaped, set obliquely. Alert expression. All eye colors are permitted. Odd-eyes and blue eyes are permitted only in white and with-white cats.
Ears: Large, wide at the base, arched forward as if listening; slightly rounded tips that appear pointed when lynx tips are present. Lynx tips and furnishings that extend beyond the outer edge of each ear are desirable. The outer edge of the ear should follow the line of the head down to the chin.
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Head

**Guided Tour**

**HEAD**

**Muzzle:** Following the line of the triangular head, with no evidence of pinch or snappiness.
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Head

Norwegian Forest Cat

Guided Tour

HEAD

**Chin:** Firm; in vertical alignment with the nose and upper lip

**Profile:** Long, straight profile from tip of nose to brow without break in line, i.e., no stop
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution

BODY

35 Points

- Torso: 7
- Legs: 7
- Tail: 7
- Boning: 7
- Musculature: 7
Norwegian Forest Cat

**Guided Tour**

**BODY**

**Torso:** Medium long and substantial

**Legs:** In proportion to the body length, with hind legs higher than fore legs

**Feet:** Large, round, well tufted
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Body

Norwegian Forest Cat

Guided Tour

BODY

Tail: Long and bushy. Should be at least as long as the body
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Body

**Norwegian Forest Cat**

**Guided Tour**

**BODY**

- **Boning:** Substantial
- **Musculature:** Strongly built and sturdy

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A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Coha & Color

COAT & COLOR 25 Points

Length 5
Texture 20
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Coat & Color

Norwegian Forest Cat

Guided Tour

COAT AND COLOR:

Length: Semi-long

Texture: The dense, wooly undercoat is covered by a smooth, water repellent upper coat which consists of long, coarse and glossy hair covering the back and the sides. A fully coated cat has a full ruff and britches.

Pattern: Not applicable/irrelevant

Color: Traditional Category--All Divisions are recognized, all colors are recognized, including all colors with white. Any amount of white is allowed anywhere on the cat.
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Points Distribution/Coat & Color
Buttons, spots and lockets allowed in all colors

Length of coat and density of undercoat vary with the seasons

Under no circumstances should a cat be penalized for having a semi-long coat

Coat is evaluated primarily on texture and quality

Allow for size differences between males and females

Very slow maturing of this breed should be taken into account

Mature males may have broader heads
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – Penalize

Too small and finely built cats

Round or square head; profile with a break (stop)

Round eyes

Ears too small or narrow at the base

Legs that are too short, thin – not in proportion to the body or cow hocked

Short tail

Cobby or extremely long body

Dry or silky texture on coat
Siberian

The Siberian is a medium-large cat with the overall appearance of excellent physical condition, strength and power, modified by a sweet facial expression. The general impression of the body is one of circles and roundness. Siberians are slow to mature, taking as long as 5 years to reach full maturity. Females are considerably smaller than males, and allowances should be made when comparing females and young cats to the standard. Size is secondary to type.

**Head Shape:** Modified wedge with rounded contours. Muzzle is short and rounded with a slight curvature. The chin is well-rounded and in line with the nose.

**Ears:** Medium-large, rounded and tilted slightly forward. Set one to one and a half ear widths apart. Lynx tipping allowable.

**Eyes:** Large, almost round.

**Body Shape:** Medium in length, well-muscled “barrel-shaped”. Back arched slightly higher than the shoulders.

**Tail:** Medium length, wide at the base, shorter than the length of the body.

**Coat:** Moderately long triple coat. Shorter and thicker over shoulder blades and lower chest.

**Maturity:** As long as five years to reach full maturity.

RW, SGC Jasper Ridge It Aint Me Babe “Dylan”

Male Siberian
Brown Mackerel Tabby with White
Breeder / Owner: Andrea Allen
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA

Comparison of the Natural Breeds: Norwegian Forest Cat, Maine Coon, Siberian

Maine Coon
The Maine Coon is America's native longhaired cat. The breed, with its essentially amiable disposition, developed through a natural selection process where only the fittest survived. It should always be remembered that the Maine Coon developed basically as a "working cat" able to fend for itself in rough, woody terrain and under extreme climatic conditions. The Maine Coon is a large breed with big ears, broad chest, substantial boning, a long, hard muscled, rectangular body and a long flowing tail. Good muscle tone and density give the cat the appearance of power.

Ears: Large, wide at the base, set high on the head, no more than one ear's width apart. Moderately pointed at the tips. Lynx tips are preferable.
Eyes: Large, slightly oval.
Body Shape: Large, long, rectangular, substantial. Level back. Broad chest.
Tail: Long, wide at the base. Should be at least as long as the body.
Coat: Uneven, shorter on the shoulders. Long, full shaggy belly fur and breeches. Frontal ruff is more developed with age.
Maturity: Three to five years to reach full maturity
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Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – How to Handle

TICA 2000-02 Standard: How To Handle

Gently pull profile back

check for triangular head

check angles of profile

use teaser
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Overview of the NFC Breed Standard – How to Handle

TICA 2000-02 Standard: How To Handle

- rump carry
- check tail
- four on the floor
- finger tip examination
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Some TICA NF Statistics – as of June 27, 2008

Current Breed Section Membership: 110 Members

2008-2009 Breed Section Members by Region

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A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Some TICA NF Statistics – as of June 27, 2008

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A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
TICA Breed Section Member Benefits

www.forestcats.org
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
TICA Breed Section Member Benefits - Website Overview

What can I find at www.forestcats.org?

- Breed Standard
- Breed Pamphlet – download and print option
- List of NFC Breed Section Member websites
- Breed Presentation Material
- How to join our Yahoo! Discussion Group
- NFC Events Calendar
- Much More……!
A Presentation of the Norwegian Forest Cat in TICA
Breed Committee Members 2006 -2008

Breed Chair:
Melissa Alexander, Into Wishin’ - Massachusetts USA

Barbara Midura, Ouijakatz - Texas USA

Linda Stebner, Epona - Pennsylvania USA

Cheryl Sarges, Winterfyre – Arizona USA

Karen & Rob Fleming, Quinsigamond Cats, Massachusetts USA

Lorraine Forsyth, Sakkats - Alberta, Canada
Various pieces of information and slides were used from the 2001 TICA NF Breed Committee for Judges and Breeders presentation. *(Created by the 2001 TICA NF Committee: Linda Krall/Chair, Patti Andrews, Louise Clair, Ro Finn and Linda Stebner)*

Data and statistics on the NF in TICA provided by the TICA Executive Office

Photos courtesy of:
Drakborgen’s Cattery
Epona
ForestKatz Cattery
Into Wishin’ NFC
Mycoon Cattery
Norja
Ouijakatz Cattery
Quinsigamond Cats

*Presentation prepared by Melissa Alexander ~ July 2008*