

# black, white & blue



Many of us have heard of the elegant and sophisticated Russian Blue, but what about the Black and White? Breeder Sandra Hipkin of Elenitacats tells us about the rarer colours in the Russian family and celebrates her latest litter

The Russian Blue is well known in the UK, but did you know that you could also enjoy the same beautiful felines in coats of Black or White. The Russian family offers a trio of colours and the rarer Black and White Russians are once again in available in the UK. So what made them so rare compared to the Blue and how do we get them?

## background

The Russian Black now in Britain is from the Russian line developed by Mrs Frances Macleod from her white female Chumvi born in 1961, stated by her to be a white female kitten from a Russian boat and given to her by a friend. The GCCF registered Chumvi as AOV Foreign Type. At that time which is almost fifty years ago the Russian

Blue was going through a bad patch, and outcrossing had wreaked havoc with the Russian coat. Chumvi had an excellent coat, a well respected breeder and judge suggested mating Chumvi to a Russian Blue stud. Mrs Macleod followed a breeding programme always mating to a GCCF registered Russian Blue. Chumvi's first two litters comprised of White or Blue kittens. However the third litter produced a Black kitten which showed that Chumvi was masking black under her white coat. For several litters she produced whites masking black with the occasional black kitten.

## Black, White - and Blue

The Russian Black and Russian White are rare in comparison to the Russian Blue, because although they have been bred and shown in the UK since 1961 it is only the last couple of years that they have become available again. The present Russian Blacks are from a black queen exported from the UK to Holland and her progeny subsequently mated to a Russian White imported from Australia to that country. Present registration means that Russian Black or Russian Whites are recorded on the experimental register and can be shown in Assessment classes and gain merits. Russian Blues born to white or black parents are included on the supplementary register and can be shown at Championship level.

From November 2008 to April 2010 there have been 13 litters from these lines comprising 70 kittens - 21 black, 36 white, and 13 blue. A litter of 5 kittens 4 white and 1 black sired by Russian White stud Catwo Romanov (breeder Jennifer Sedgwick) born in April to Russian Blue queen Grayshus Antonina Tatyana (breeder Joanne Gadd) both owned by Mrs Sandra Hipkin (Elenita Cats) are now the third generation from the imported Russian White queen who brought the Russian Whites and Russian Blacks back to Britain. Romanov has been DNA tested and is masking black when mated to a Russian Blue queen; black white or blue kittens are possible in any litter.

**Left:** Three month old Elenita Kisa - a Blue and adult Russian White below



## touchy-feely

One needs to meet and touch the Russian Black and Russian White to appreciate them as one does with a Russian Blue. There are now breeders working with the Black and White lines in Cornwall, through the Midlands, up North, Wales and Scotland.

You can often see a Russian Blue, Russian Black or Russian White at one of the many Cat shows across the Country usually held on Saturdays, look on the GCCF web-site to find a show near you. Go along and ask if you can touch that silky coat.

### ● Russian Black

The Russian Black is an ebony beauty that is breathtaking to behold. They are a stunning breed and are most prized for their soft luxurious coat and brilliant emerald eyes.

### ● Russian White

The Russian White once seen is never forgotten, with its sparkling ice-white coat, soft and luxurious. White kittens have a dark smudge between the ears, which should fade as they reach adulthood. They also have stunning emerald eyes which contrast with their white coat in adulthood.



### ● Russian Blue

The Russian Blue coat is also dense and plush with a silvery sheen and very soft to the touch. Again they have almond shaped emerald eyes, and prominent whisker pads.



#### Fancy one of these?

Gorgeous, loving, well socialised Russian Blue, Black and White kittens available from Elenita Cats now. Call Sandra Hipkin on 01579 350899 or see her advert in 'Top Cats'.

### General Type Standard

The Russian is a cat of elegant foreign type without the exaggerated elongation of the Oriental. Its high ears, green almond-shaped eyes, angled profile and prominent whisker pads create a distinctive gentle expression which, together with its essential velvety double coat, gives the breed its unique charm.

#### Head

The wedge from tip of nose to eyes is short. The distance from eyes to ears should be equal to or slightly longer than the wedge. The top of the head should appear flat between the ears. The whisker pads are prominent giving a broad end to the head. In profile the forehead should appear straight to the level of the upper edge of the eye. The profile from here to the tip of the nose has such a shallow concave curve that it appears virtually straight. This creates a distinctive angle level with the upper edge

of the eye. There must be no stop, break or nose bump, nor must there be a straight profile from top of head to nose tip. The tip of the chin should line up with the tip of the nose in the same vertical plane. The chin should be strong and deep with a level bite. The back of the head should not fall away. In kittens the top of the head may appear more rounded and the profile angle may not be as well developed.

#### Ears

Large and pointed, wide at the base and set vertically to the head. The ear placement is such that the outer line of the ears continues the line of the upper part of the face, although in mature males with jowls this is less apparent. There should be little inner hair

#### Eyes

Vivid green. Set rather wide apart, almond in shape, not small and deep set. In kittens allowance should be made for eye colour.

#### Body

Long and graceful in outline and carriage. Medium strong bone, well muscled. Cobby or heavy build undesirable. The females may be slightly smaller than the males but should also be well muscled. Long legs. Feet small and oval.

#### Tail

Moderately long and in proportion to the body. Tapering, neither blunt-ended nor whip.

#### Coat

The coat is double with a very dense undercoat: the whole coat is very fine, short and soft with no harsh feel to it, very different in texture from any other breed and the truest criterion of the Russian.

#### Temperament

Temperament of all is very loving, loyal and gentle. They are very graceful, elegant cats, they love to be with people and like to know exactly what is going on around the house. In show circles, judges are looking for an even-tempered cat and any a cat with extreme or aggressive temperament is most undesirable in the breed and should not be encouraged.