

Megalong Valley Cattery

Ideal for long stays in a serene, rural location
 Custom designed for your cats comfort, care and security
 Competitive all inclusive price, see website for details



Phone (02) 4787 6541 Web www.megalongvalleycattery.com.au



The Siamese

The Royal Cats of Siam – The Siamese is considered the Royal Cat of Siam “There are records of Siamese cats being given away by the palace to foreign visitors,” said Martin Clutterbuck, researcher and author of the book, *Siamese Cats: Legend and Reality*, published by White Lotus Press. There are many legends surrounding Siamese cats and Mr. Clutterbuck has spent much time in Thailand researching the fact from fiction.

When a new King descended to the throne, it was customary that he is given a Siamese cat. This is to symbolize a palace warming. “ In 1927 King Rama the seventh held such a ceremony and we have a picture that shows the ceremony. The cat was a Siamese cat so we have some solid documentary evidence for this,” says Mr. Clutterbuck. It is interesting to note the that the Siamese is considered one of the lucky cats in traditional Siam culture and Seal Point Siamese’s name in Thailand means ‘jewel’ or ‘moon-diamond’.

THE Sacred CATS OF SIAM

By Brad Kollus

The ancient Southeast Asian country of Siam (now Thailand) is home to various cat breeds. Two of them are considered sacred. One the Siamese is well known and very popular in the west. The other the Korat is less known in our country but very popular among the people of Thailand. Both cats hold a special place in the history and culture of the land.

The Korat

The other sacred cat of Siam, and the cat which most people in Thailand view as their national cat is the Korat. The bluish silver Korat is called the ‘Si-Sawat’ in Thailand. According to Mr. Clutterbuck the name of the cat comes from when one of the Kings asked where this beautiful cat came from, and the answer was from Korat, a province in the country so he proclaimed this will be its name.

“One tradition regarding the cat is that in the villages in times of need for rain there is a ceremony where by a cat is put in a carrier which is tied to a pole. The villagers go from door to door as they stop in front of a home. The owners come out and splash some water onto the cat, which is supposed to encourage the rain to come. The Korat is used because it is a cloud colored cat with its bluish silver coloring,” said Ms. Daphne Negus, retired breeder and one of the pioneers of the breed. She was also one of the founders of the Korat Cat Fancy association. The cats may not enjoy the ceremony, but they are not hurt by it. “They still do this ceremony today, in fact they did it two or three years ago when there was a severe drought in Thailand. Because the cat hates water so much it’s kind of a reverse magic,” says Mr. Clutterbuck. During this ceremony, they also sing a ‘Cat Procession Song’ to help bring the rain.



LOOK INSIDE A CATNIP TOY AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE!



MANY OTHER CATNIP PRODUCTS
 Mostly Cotton Filler with Weak Catnip



YEOWWW! CATNIP PRODUCTS
 Filled with 100% Potent Organic Catnip

Ask your vet or pet shop for Yeowww!
 Catnip today! www.petsfirstchoice.com.au



Pets First Choice

The Temple Cats

Buddhist temples exist throughout Thailand and cats have been housed and treated well inside the temples for the important religious work they do. “Sacred Buddhist writings some hundreds of years old were made using leaves which was very tasty to the mice so the cats would the sacred Buddhist scriptures by hunting the mice. In one temple we have a beautiful mural of a cat guarding the Scriptures from being eaten they also have records of the cats protecting drums which are also made of materials the mice would eat, and these drums are very much a part of a Thai temple’s inventory,” said Mr. Clutterbuck. Many of these cats are Siamese. There is even an inscription at one Buddhist temple from the ancient Ayutthaya period mentioning a drum store room where cats were essentially hired to protect the drum skins by old women leaving fish for the cats there.

The Oldest Cat Book in the World

The Cat Book of Poems (Tamra Maew) is the oldest book on cats known to exist. It is essentially the first breed standard book ever written in poetic form and includes instructions on how to care for cats. According to the Fine Arts Department, a division of Thailand's Ministry of Education, the book is to have been produced some time during the Ayudhya Period of History (1350-1767). The book lists 17 lucky cats and their standards and 6 unlucky cats. Besides the Siamese it also includes the copper colored Burmese cats. One Example From an Article by Ianthe Cormak and Daphne Negus translates the different standards of the all the cats as an example for the Siamese Cat it is written:

'The upper part of the mouth, the tail, all four feet, and the ears, all these eight places are black. The eyes are reddish-gold in color. The cat called Wichianmaad has white fur.'



It's All in the Tail

In the *Cat Book of Poems*, it talks about the ideal form of the 17 different forms of cats and one common aspect is that these cats do not have kinked tails. For many of these cats having a kinked tail, knotted or docked makes it unlucky, and having a completely straight tail means it is lucky. However, cats with kinks perfectly at the end of the tail are considered lucky.

getaway guilt-free

Cat Utopia is the healthy retreat for cats who love luxurious holiday care.

We provide nutritious foods, get-well programs & gentle grooming, all in a safe and friendly environment. With 5 types of spacious rooms to choose from, you're sure to come home to a happy, glowing and gorgeous kitty.

Visit our website today and save your guilt for something more pleasurable.



PH 4358 2608

www.catutopia.com.au



CAT UTOPIA
HEALTH RESORT & SPA
Bliss for cats, happiness for humans

The Sacred and Loved

Cats are so sacred in Thailand that killing one is considered equivalent to killing a Monk. This leads many veterinarians to be reluctant to euthanize cats. In addition, People who see cats in their dreams are supposed to give money to others. These facts show how valued cats are in Thailand and the power they have over people.

Many non-cat owners do not think that cats have any value in our history or in our culture and have just become popular within the last century. The sacred cats of Thailand demonstrate that cats have been valued and important to societies around the world for thousands of years. It is our job to educate these people on the significant history cats have played for us.



ua



rogz

catz

Funky, new feline apparel from the world's coolest pet brand.



- Break Away Safety Buckle
- Variable Load SafeLoc Buckle
- Reflective Materials
- Glow In The Dark
- Safety Elastic
- One Collar For All Neck Sizes

www.rogz.com

Rogz is available at leading Pet and Vet stores throughout Australia. Call 07 55313548 or visit the website or your nearest Rogz authorised dealer for further information.