

## WHAT IS A JUNGLE CAT?

The first historical record of the Jungle Cat was found in ancient Egypt, where both the Jungle Cat and the African Wild Cat were used for hunting wild waterfowl. Mummified Jungle Cats have been found in Egyptian tombs, attesting to the high regard in which they were held. Some say that the statues of the goddess Bastet were modeled after Jungle Cats and we can certainly see the resemblance in her long, slender body and large ears!



**Brown Ticked  
Male Jungle Cat**

The name, Chausie, is derived from the Latin name for the Jungle Cat, *Felis chaus*, which occurs widely from the Nile Valley north to Turkey and the Caspian Sea, and eastward through South Asia as far as Vietnam.

Jungle Cat is a generic sounding term, and people sometimes assume it refers to any wild cat whose habitat is jungle or forest. However, the Jungle Cat is a distinct species, with 9 subspecies, and is one of the largest of the small cats (genus *Felis*). In the wild, specimens have been reported weighing up to 40 lb.

The chief habitats of the Jungle Cat are wetlands and river valleys. It preys on rodents and other small animals, but occasionally will eat the young of larger



**Silver Tipped  
Male Jungle Cat**

This cat also flourishes in proximity to humanity, attracted by the rodents, which congregate in irrigated fields. In India, *Felis chaus* has been found nesting in abandoned granaries and houses. Probably because of this flexibility, *Felis chaus* populations are stable and the species is not considered endangered.

*Felis chaus* is closely related to *Felis sylvestris*, which is widely considered to be the ancestor of modern domestic cats, and for this reason it is able to interbreed with domestic cats.



Presenting  
**The Chausie**  
An Overview of the  
*Most Exciting New Breed in*  
*The International*  
**Cat Association**



Channon Studios

Brochure produced  
by the TICA Chausie  
Breed Committee

## DISCOVER THE CHAUSIE

When people get their first glimpse of a Chausie, especially one striding along in sleek, liquid motion, they tend to be immediately struck with its elegant grace and agility. This breed is built for hunting, running and jumping, and exudes the essence of "catness" which makes felines such intriguing companions.

The Chausie, pronounced "Chow-see" is a fully domestic breed derived from the Jungle Cat. It is a statuesque cat: tall, upright, medium to large-framed, and regal in stance with the musculature of an agile hunter. Males are proportionately larger than females. The breed retains a strong resemblance to its wild ancestor, but is good-natured, loyal, intelligent and affectionate, as you would expect in a domestic cat. It is a highly active breed, and loves to play with toys or other cats. It retains this quality into adulthood.



**F-1 Brown Ticked  
Male Chausie**

Chausies come in three colors: brown ticked tabby, solid black and silver-tip, which are a color unique to this breed. The coat is short to medium, dense and relatively coarse. The tail is 3/4 to full length, and the ears are large, mobile, and can be lynx-tipped. The body is long and slender, and the legs are long, with small feet.

## CHAUSIE BREED HISTORY

The first Chausies were Jungle Cat hybrids, and were bred in the late 60's and early 70's. These early hybrids were created to offer those interested in exotic cats a more reasonable alternative to the often ill-fated attempts to make pets out of wild animals. Many different domestic cats were used in the beginning, but at the current time, the only permissible outcrosses are the Abyssinian and the domestic shorthair.

The Chausie was given foundation registry status in The International Cat Association (TICA) in 1995. In February 2001, the breed was advanced to evaluation status, which means that the cats may be evaluated by qualified judges in the showhall. The next steps will be New Breed, and then Championship status, but these changes are most likely several years away.

# Frequently Asked Questions Concerning The Chausie

## **What do I feed my Chausie?**

Chausies do best, like any domestic feline, on a high quality commercial cat food. It is best to check with your breeder, and continue to feed the same diet. Chausies need good food to ensure life-long health and vitality!



**F-1 Brown Ticked Female Chausie**

## **Will my Chausie use the litter box?**

Chausies that have a high percentage of domestic ancestry will use a litter box just like any other house cat. Those Chausies with more wild blood may be less dependable.

## **Are Chausies good with children?**

This depends on the age and personality of the child. No cat enjoys rough handling or teasing, & Chausies are no exception. If your child is old enough to understand and respect the cat's need for space and privacy, and to handle it gently, a Chausie might fit in your household, but in general, very young or inexperienced children should not be left unattended with any cat.



**F-1 Silver Tipped Female Chausie**

## **Are Chausies aggressive?**

Chausie are assertive rather than aggressive. They want human attention, food treats, etc. & will definitely let you know. However, you should not see any signs of true aggression, such as unprovoked attacks, threats or destructive actions. They are highly active and intelligent cats, and can get into mischief if bored, so they need lots of toys and perhaps a feline companion to play with.

## **Can Chausies be trained?**

One of the pleasures of owning such an intelligent cat is that it CAN be trained, if you start young, and are consistent with it. Chausies have been trained to walk on a leash and to play fetch. Use your imagination as to what other tricks they could be trained to do!



Feline Fotos by Helmi

**F-2 Black Male Chausie**

## **What about declawing?**

All cats have a natural instinct to scratch, which serves the purpose of keeping their claws in good trim. With house cats, it is necessary to teach them to use a scratching post or cat tree. If possible, they should be kept in areas where they can scratch and carefully supervised when let into areas where scratching is off limits. After a while, they learn to make the distinction. If you are conscientious about teaching your kitten, you shouldn't need to declaw it. Many breeders strongly discourage the declawing of their kittens, and you should discuss this possibility with them before you take a kitten home.



Larry Johnson

**F-2 Brown Ticked Female Chausie**

## **How should a healthy kitten behave?**

When you select your Chausie, you should look for a kitten that is clean, friendly and interested in its surroundings. Be very gentle and don't frighten the kitten -- any cat may hiss, scratch or bite when scared. Your kitten may be shy when first brought home, but if you give it time, it will approach you and bond with you readily.



**F-3 Brown Ticked Female Chausie**

## **When are Chausies most active?**

Like most felines, Chausies are most active in the evening hours. As kittens, this will be very apparent in sneak attacks on toes beneath blankets! However, as the kitten becomes accustomed to your household and your schedule, it will adjust accordingly. Chausies do not sleep as much as other felines, and are pretty much ready to play any time!

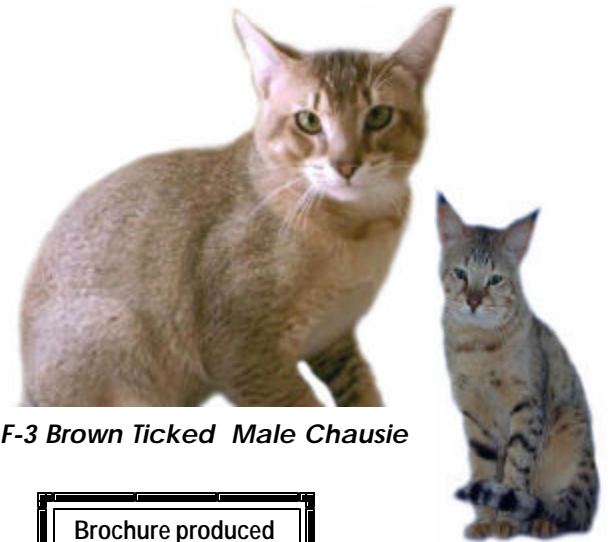


Pets by Lisa

**F-3 Brown Ticked Male Chausie kitten**

## **What about breeding?**

Chausie females are fertile from the start, but males are usually not fertile until the fourth or fifth generation removed from the wild ancestor. However, they still produce male hormones and will act like a domestic tom. For this reason, unless you are willing to invest the time and money to become a serious breeder, your Chausie would be better served by early neutering or spaying.



**F-3 Brown Ticked Male Chausie**

**F-4 Brown Ticked Male Chausie**

Brochure produced  
by the TICA Chausie  
Breed Committee