

# Cats and People

The cat was the last animal to be domesticated. First came the dog as hunter, then horse as transportation, and cattle and pigs as workers and sources of food.

Cats decided to make friends with people not for affection, but because they couldn't resist all the tasty mice that roamed the granaries of Egypt!

The oldest known evidence of a domesticated cat was found in an Egyptian tomb dating back 4,500 years. Egyptians considered the cat the most sacred of all animals. In 1890 archaeologists uncovered over 300,000 cat mummies in Egypt. The cats were still enclosed in their cases of engraved wood or wrapped in rich bandages of various colours.

While cats were revered for thousands of years, in the Middle Ages they went through a period of unpopularity because they were considered evil and linked to witchcraft. So many cats were destroyed they nearly became extinct.

The cat's popularity began to return in the 18th century as society became more knowledgeable about the intelligence of cats.

Today, cats are among the most popular pets. Each cat has his own character and personality, some more intelligent than others, some more affectionate, some more timid or placid.

Most cats like to be made a fuss of so long as they choose their own time. A cat may be waiting at the door for you when you come home. He will walk round and round your legs purring loudly and making a great fuss of you. The next minute he may see something of interest in the next room and be gone. That is how a cat is, affectionate one moment and off on his own business the next. And that's what we love about cats!