Ultimate Siamese Cat Secrets

By Andrej Brummer
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Introduction

Siamese cats have been around for many centuries and are as loved today for their unique features and characteristics as they were back then. Siamese cats have developed into one of the most loved breeds of cats for both showing professionally and for just loving at home as a pet.

As with any animal, proper care, nutrition and medical attention are required to make each cat prone to living a long, healthy and happy life. Pet owners who are looking to purchase or adopt a Siamese cat should know that there are some special considerations to be made when choosing a Siamese. This book will cover the basics of all you need to know about the Siamese breed – from their ancient origins all the way through to their special coat colourings and even what to do in the event of an emergency.

Siamese cats appear today to look much different than their ancient family members. Differentiating between the traditional Siamese cat and the modern Siamese cat is also explained within this book. Many cats that appear to be Siamese actually may not be full-blooded and if you are really set on owning a true Siamese, we will be explaining in detail about the coat colours and points that make up a true Siamese.

As a cat lover, I hope you will enjoy the ultimate insider’s information compiled in this book about the beloved Siamese. Learning the history of this prestigious cat is fascinating and makes today’s Siamese breed incredibly interesting. The tips included in this book will be useful to any cat aficionado and brings to light a deeper understanding of the wonderful personalities and traits endeared to the Siamese cats over many centuries and as they evolved into the breed of cat’s we love today.
Chapter 1: Understanding Siamese Cats

The Siamese breed of cat has gone through some changes in their appearance over the last hundred years. Believed to be native to Siam (modern day Thailand) the” Traditional” Siamese had amazingly bright blue eyes, round heads, normal looking cat ears, and bodies that were fairly large and robust.

During the 1950's and 1960's, breeders began selectively breeding Siamese cats to create the “Modern” Siamese, which has a pointier and much thinner, elongated appearance than the Traditional Siamese. This is the version of the breed you will predominantly find in Cat Shows, although the “traditional” Siamese body type is making a bit of a comeback as a result of its less extreme appearance.

History of the Breed

1700's

The first record of cats with Siamese markings was found on an engraving between 1793 and 1794 by Mr. Pallas. Around the same time period, a book called “Cat-Book Poems” from Siam depicted drawings of cats that included Siamese colours and patterns, these sacred temple cats were named “Witchien Maat” (translates to moon diamond) and all Siamese cats are believed to be descendants of these ancient cats.

1800's

The first record of Siamese cats as an official breed occurred during the late 1800's. The British Consul-General Gould was given a Siamese cat by the Siamese King in 1884 as a farewell gift. This was considered a great honour.
because the cat came from the Siamese cats bred by the royal family in the palace.

Consul-General Gould's sister entered two descendants of the cat into the 17th Crystal Palace Show in October of 1885. They were so extraordinary which their fantastic colouration and personalities that they captured immediate attention, and they became a favourite of the British. The Siamese Cat Fancier's Club was founded in 1902 in England.

1900's

There are no concrete records to prove exactly when Siamese Cats made their first arrival to the United States. The Siamese Cat Society of America was founded in April of 1909.

Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, Siamese cats appeared in a number of cartoon animations and movies, from “Bell, Book and Candle” to “That Darn Cat”, “Lady and the Tramp” and “The Incredible Journey” which helped the breed gain more popularity. During this same time period though, the breeding dwindled to just a handful of breeders in Siam (now Thailand).

Sometime during the 1960's, breeders and judges began favouring the new Modern Siamese and their longer, thinner bodies and more extreme features. Breeders were encouraged to selective breed away from the original, “Traditional” Siamese appearances (called “apple heads” by modern Siamese fanciers) to establish the small, thin and modern Siamese cat that is now the more common type of the breed. The breed standard had been rewritten to reflect the modern Siamese, despite the fact that the lives of the thinner cats are often shorter, and less healthy than the Traditional ancestors.
For breeders who disagreed with the movement to the modern Siamese, they were forced to drop out of cat show rings, and keep their Traditional Siamese for companion purposes only. In the last couple of decades the “traditional” Siamese body type has seen resurgence in popularity and now constitutes a new breed standard called “Thai” cats, which are again seen in Siamese cat shows. For more information on these two drastically different styles of Siamese read bonus book 3 “Siamese Cat Showing”.
1980's to Present

The Modern Siamese cat is so entrenched that many breeders are unaware that there was a history of the traditional breed long before the modern version came about. In fact, many breeders who come into contact with a Traditional Siamese cat simply thought they were of inferior quality or badly bred. Unfortunately often this was true, as the demand for Siamese far exceeded the supply often Siamese would be interbred to meet the outcry of the public this led to “traditional” Siamese-like characteristics and earned the true pedigreed “traditional” Siamese an unfair reputation that is only beginning to recover.

New formations of cat organizations were created to recognize the traditional Siamese, and sponsored shows started to spring up to enable Traditional Siamese breeders opportunity to compete and win prizes, just as the shows that currently recognize only the modern version of the same breeds currently do.

The public has begun to recognize the negative health effects of breeding an animal for appearance purposes, and in Europe, the Traditional Siamese is recognized and the encouraged version again. It is predicted that American breeders will soon follow suit, and that both modern and traditional Siamese cats will be recognized and shown in the ring as the same breed.

Siamese Legends

Many Siamese cats have a kink in their tail – with a number of urban legends to explain its presence! In one story, it is said that Siamese royal families were frightened of losing their rings while they bathed in a stream. The family Siamese cat, being the loyal and intelligent creature that it was, kinked its tail in order to hold the ring of the Princess. Ever since, Siamese cats were born with the tiny kink on the end of their tails in order to hold the rings of the royal
family. Now this trait has been bred out of Siamese cats, but cats still walking the streets of Thailand can be seen with their kinked tails.

Another explanation for the characteristic kinked tail is that a young cat went into the jungle with his wife, to search for a missing royal goblet for a Siamese temple. When they found the goblet, they decided the female cat should stay in the jungle to guard it while the male returned to the temple to inform the priest that they found the treasure. The female cat twisted her tail around the goblet to make sure no one could take it away from her while she waited. Four nights later when the husband cat returned, he discovered a litter of five kittens, and his wife's tail permanently kinked from holding the goblet for so long. Each of the kittens were born with kinks in their tails, as well.

**Behavioural Traits of Siamese Cats**

The Siamese is known as a loving and playful breed. They are affectionate and playful, and really need to have owners who are home often and can give them attention – otherwise you may find them getting into mischief or plotting their escape! Siamese truly are a people oriented breed and said to be the most loving and loyal of cat breeds. They really do need loving attention from their humans, if they do not receive this they can actually get sick. One way to keep Siamese cats from becoming lonely while you're at work, for example, is to have more than one cat in the home or giving them a high perch with a good vantage point over their domain. This gives them someone to play with, something to do and will possibly keep the mischief behaviour in check!

Some Siamese owners compare the cats to dogs. They will greet people who come to the door, and are highly intelligent. Like dogs, Siamese cats can be taught tricks including fetch, or to come when their name is called. Siamese are often considered more like dogs than cats because they interact like dogs; follow you around, come along for walks and play games as long as
you have earned their trust. They can be considered moody though, and may sometimes decide not to perform when asked.

Some Siamese breeders and owners say the breed is intelligent enough to learn complex tricks – but that humans find themselves being trained to the clever Siamese cats' ways!

**Jealousy**

These cats tend to experience jealousy. At times, when a Siamese cat feels jealous, it will throw a tantrum or have a fit of bad behaviour. In an effort to get your attention, the cats may make loud noises. The sound of a Siamese cat has been compared to that of a crying baby. The best way to combat this is to ignore them; they will soon get the picture this behaviour isn’t getting them very far!

When the owner of a Siamese gives attention to someone or another cat, a jealous Siamese will act out. They are very loyal to their caregivers, and if feeling jealous, they might exhibit bad behaviours that the breed is known for - jumping up onto kitchen counters, playing in the toilet bowl, or chewing on shoelaces, for example.

**Correcting Siamese Cat Bad Behaviours**

Many people avoid the breed because of the reputation Siamese have earned for being “bad” cats. This behaviour results from their high intelligence and innate ability to get their own way, if they are trained correctly they will be perfectly behaved, the owner just has to learn to take no nonsense from them. Whereas a dog can be trained with obedience training to develop acceptable manners; Siamese behaviour is actually easier to correct.
To improve the behaviour of a Siamese cat, give them more attention, petting and show them more affection. Most Siamese act out due to loneliness and the additional attention will make them feel more wanted, and therefore they don't feel the need to call attention to themselves.

If your cat has a tendency to jump on the counters or any other area of your home where they are not permitted, you can teach them simply by telling them “no” in a firm voice every time they hop onto that particular area, and push them down. Being intelligent, it will not take many repetitions of this process before the cat learns they are not allowed in this particular area.

**Personality Traits**

Most breeds of cats are very independent, and tend to prefer being on their own rather than constant petting and affection from their owners. Siamese are different, in that they are very people oriented and enjoy human companionship very much and will be content to be around you all day. This is why they are the perfect indoor cat breed. They are very sensitive to their humans and will pick up on tiny changes in your mood.

They are also fond of other pets, and enjoy having another pet for company and as a playmate. Most any type of gentle pet makes a good friend to the Siamese cat, including other breeds of cats, dogs, and ferrets. They will play together and keep each other entertained – as well as provide your family with a great source of entertainment!

Siamese cats are very indulgent with small children which make them a good pet for homes with young families. While some cats may scratch a child when they've had enough, a typical Siamese will just make themselves unavailable when they can no longer tolerate the children. Their temperament also makes the breed excellent companions for the elderly.
Voice and Vocalisations

One of the key features that differentiate Siamese cats from other breeds is their vocalisation tendencies. Compared to other breeds Siamese are very vocal, seemingly using their voices as a communication tool. The amount, tone and frequency of the vocalisations differs from cat to cat but many owners report their Siamese “talking” to them often, especially if they are trying to communicate something specific. There are numerous videos on YouTube of Siamese talking and singing and this is just another characteristic that highlights the uniqueness and intelligence of the breed.

Many Siamese cats are extremely loud and as mentioned, sound a lot like a crying baby. Some of their voices are more harsh, and squeaky, while others have a soft meow. Each individual cat of the breed has its own voice, just as people do, and some may be constant “talkers”, while others only seem to speak up if the situation warrants a good reason! A lot of them enjoy getting into conversation with their owners; actually talking back when they are spoken to, this can make for hours of fun.

Some humans may not be prepared for the vocalizations of the Siamese cat. Those cats that are incredibly talkative may be perceived as whiners that never shut up, which some owners can not tolerate. The loud meowing can be signs of normal Siamese behaviour. In many cases, the cat is calling for attention and playtime. As Siamese loves their human companions excessively and craves attention, many will purr or meow loudly just for that attention. However, some Siamese are predisposed to having anxieties about separation from their owner. If you tend to work long hours and are away for home, your cat may suffer from separation anxiety when you are not home. If the meowing is clearly excessive, it is in your best interest to seek a veterinarian’s advice. Anti-depressants may be necessary to keep your cat calm. Other reasons a cat may be excessively vocal may be due to sexual behaviours, discomfort, medical issues, boredom or aggression.
In rarer cases, a cat that whines excessive, especially during all hours of the night may have a condition called Cognitive Dysfunction, which is similar to Alzheimer’s disease in humans. This condition, which generally occurs in cats 15 years of age and older, is the result of the build up of plaque in the brain. There is no specific test to diagnose this condition and it will be up to your vet to decipher between symptoms and rule out other problems.

Typically, the cure for excessive vocalization that is not the result of a medical condition is an increased playtime routine during daylight hours to prevent issues at night. Provide regular food and toys in addition to lots of human interaction. If a cat because very vocal, do not reward it then by playing or giving food as that only reinforces the behaviour. To interrupt an outburst, you can try spritzing the cat with a water bottle, a vocal “no”, or some other tactic that will disrupt your cat. Never hit or abuse an animal for any reason.

Longevity

Siamese live an average of 15 to 20 years; with many living even longer. The first Siamese cat year is equal to 20 human years, and every year thereafter is equal to 3 human years!

Likes and Dislikes

Siamese cats can be as different as people. Each will have their own personalities and mannerisms. As the owner of a new cat or kitten, it is your duty to pay attention to your cat’s preferences.

Some cats will shy away from being petted, while others may never leave your side. Some may prefer to remain alone, while others will meow in desperation when you are not around. Many Siamese are mischievous, especially when they get bored. Siamese are known to enjoy high places and will often work their way up to the top of the highest shelf. If you don’t want your Siamese on your furniture consider a cat-tree as the highest thing in the
room. This will become a place of rest, exercise, scratching all overlooking your cats’ realm. Your Siamese will also really enjoy being perched on the window sill when you are not home this will become its number one activity when alone.

Siamese cats have often been considered dog-like, in that they are very intelligent animals, capable of learning tricks and behaviours. Many enjoy playing “fetch” with toys and many can follow commands as a dog might. Some cats even enjoy taking walks on a leash, provided the activity was introduced to the cat at a young age.

Siamese cats are known for their love of human companionship. Many crave interaction and attention from their owners. Typically, Siamese get bored easy and they like to be entertained for much of the day. Without the proper amount of stimulation and activity, loud and excessive meows and purring may point out a cat’s boredom or need for attention.

While Siamese cats are known for their dedication and love of their humans, many still can be skittish and have anxieties about different kinds of interactions, especially if they have had prior issues (ie: abuse, starvation, etc…)

**Temperament**

The Siamese breed of cats is known to be very calm. They are just as happy to be chasing a toy as they are to take a snooze on your lap. While they require plenty of interaction, they are not constantly on the move. These cats will adapt well to living in a large home but would also do fine in a smaller apartment.
Chapter 2: Choosing The Right Siamese Cat

Before you decide to bring any cat into your life you need to first sit down and ask yourself a few questions. A trip to a local animal shelter may help you understand why it is important to know for certain if you are ready for the responsibility and commitment of owning a cat. There are millions of cats in United States that are waiting for a home because someone “thought” they were ready for a pet only to discover later that was not the case.

So before you head out in search of the perfect companion ask yourself the following questions:

- **Do you have young children?** Many experts recommend waiting a few years if you have children under the age of six. Cat and kittens are may seem soft and cuddly but they have sharp teeth and claws and may strike back when teased. Younger children may play too rough or inadvertently hurt the cat which could result in serious injury.

- **Do you have patience?** Even the most well adjusted cat will need time to get used to their new surroundings. Are you committed to making this arrangement work and are you able to understand the needs of your new cat and how they communicate these needs? A common misconception is that cats are loners and don't develop close bonds but this is the farthest from the truth. Many cats may seem aloof; in reality they look to you for security and comfort.

- **Who will be responsible for the care of your cat?** Having an animal in your home will require some adjustment for everyone in the household. Be sure everyone is on board before bringing home a pet and determine who will be ultimately responsible for the animals care. If the pet if for your children they may be in “charge” of feeding and cleaning the litter box but an adult has to be willing to ensure these things get done.
• **Who will care for your cat when you are on vacation?** You can probably take an overnight trip without making arrangement for your cat as long as he has access for food, fresh water and his litter box. If you are going out of town or will be gone longer than a day or two you will need to appoint someone who will stop by your house and check on your cat. While the likelihood of something happening to your cat while you are away you cannot predict accidents that may occur.

• **Are you prepared for damage to your home?** When you welcome a new animal into your home you are opening yourself to the possibility that they will exhibit natural tendencies for their species. You will need to be prepared for a cat who may scratch your furniture, mark their territory or knock down your favourite vase. With proper training these natural behaviours can be appropriately redirected however you will not know what you are dealing with until the cat is in your home.

• **Can you handle the financial responsibility?** Beyond adoption or purchase price cats require quality food, kitty litter, grooming, toys and medical care. If you cat gets seriously ill or hurt in an accident will you have the resources to provide necessary veterinary care? Remember not only is it your moral obligation to treat your cat humanely it is your legal obligation. If you do not seek medical treatment and allow your pet to suffer, “not having the money” will not be a sufficient defense for an animal cruelty charge.

**Choosing the Look of your Siamese**

One of the first distinctly recognized breeds of Oriental cat the Siamese cat is easy to spot due to his distinctive colouring and points. Before you begin your search for the perfect Siamese cat for your family you should understand that there are distinct “types” of Siamese Cat.
• The traditional Siamese (Applehead Siamese) is the “original” type representing the cats that were raised and revered by royalty. They are muscular, athletic, with a round head and bright blue eyes. They are considered to be calmer than their modern counterparts.

• The Wedgehead Siamese has a more elongated muzzle and triangular shaped face than the traditional or Applehead Siamese.

• The Modern Siamese has a triangular head and large ears. It differs from the Applehead greatly in body structure. Where the Applehead is has a muscular frame the Modern Siamese has a narrow tubular body with fine bone structure.

The “points” on a Siamese cat can appear in a variety of colours such as seal, lilac, chocolate, and blue. These points refer to the ears, face, paws and tail of the cat to describe areas of differential coloration and also types of colour, such as seal points, meaning the cat has dark grey/brown colours on the face or tail. This results from a genetically inherited colour sensitive enzyme that causes darker fur colour in the cooler part of a Siamese cats body. There are as many variations of colouring as there are cats available however you should know that if you intend on showing your cat there are certain breed characteristics you should look for when purchasing your Siamese. The major, accepted point colourations in regard to Siamese cat showing are: Chocolate, Lilac, Blue and Seal point.

**Choosing the Right Cat**

For every Siamese cat there is a human match. To find the cat that is right for you it is important to recognize what you wish to gain from having a Siamese cat. Are you looking for a companion animal, or do you intend to breed or show the cat. Your answer will determine how much you will pay for your cat and what you need to look for in your search. Most breeders have 3 Siamese categories; “pet” quality having 1 or more undesirable traits, this usually costs...
a few hundred dollars. The next category up is called “breeder” this cat will be showable but is not that likely to go too far because of less serious physical flaws. The final and most expensive category of Siamese for sale will set you back a few thousand dollars, the “show quality” Siamese is quite rare and difficult to obtain for a first time Siamese owner. It has no traits that would prevent it from becoming a cat show champion.

The key to any pet purchase is finding a reputable breeder. If you are new to the Siamese breed it is very helpful to have support from an experienced Siamese veteran, the best way to go about this is to purchase your cat from a breeder well versed in Siamese, you should always ask if support is given. You can start by conducting research on the internet, ask your veterinarian, contact breed clubs or major cat registration associations for recommendations to ensure you are dealing with a breeder who is interested in producing healthy quality representatives of the Siamese cat breed, this should be your top priority when it comes to selecting a breeder.

You can expect to pay anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars depending on the intended use of your cat, with show quality cats as mentioned above, being the most expensive.

**Selecting Your Cat**

Choosing the right breeder will put you in the best position for bringing home a healthy happy kitten. Look at where the animals are housed? Are they part of the family? Are the living conditions sanitary and safe? If you find a person selling kittens and their main interest is how much you are willing to pay versus discussing with you your intentions with their kitten it is likely they are simply interested in making a profit. Breeders who turn out kitten purely for monetary gain are less likely to have invested the time and effort required to product healthy quality animals.

There are some signs to watch out for when dealing with a potentially bad breeder. Here is a list of some of the red flags that may signal you are dealing with someone who is not as reputable as they would lead you to believe:
• The breeder sells kittens without registration papers or those that sell kittens registered with associations you have never heard about.

• There are many kittens in the breeders possession that have cosmetic issues considered to be faults by Siamese standards, such as fluffy coats or white markings.

• The breeder does not use traditional terms relevant to the Siamese breed when describing the colours of the cats.

• The breeder seems more eager to sell you a cat without asking questions about you, your family, or your overall home environment.

• The breeder allows you to take home a kitten that is under 10 weeks old or sells a kitten that has not yet had their first series of vaccinations.

• The breeder is happy to take your money before a sales contract or health guarantee is completed and signed by both parties.

• If for any reason you do not feel comfortable with the breeder you are speaking to or are concerned about the environment that breeders work in, feel free to walk away from the situation before any contract is signed or money is exchanged.

When dealing with an bad breeder, you may end up having a sick animal on your hands that could in turn infect other pets in your household, pass away young, or cost you large amounts of money in vet bills. Your kitten should be clean, bright eyed, active and playful. If your kitten or other cats in the area show signs of sickness, such as extreme lethargy (cats love to nap but should be easily roused if needed), discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth,
excessive coughing or sneezing or simply an overall unhealthy look you should think twice before bringing that cat home.

*Other signs of illness in a kitten are as follows:*

- Kittens or cats should have a smooth, clean coat. Rough, dry coats may be a sign of nutritional deficiencies. Bald spots or visible wounds are another significant sign of an unhealthy cat.

- Kittens or cats with fleas can present a problem with worms.

- Kittens or cats should have good balance. If they are walking strangely, it may indicate a health problem.

- Kittens with an inner eyelid that is showing can be showing signs of stress.

- Ears should be pink and clean so check for ear mites or signs of ear infections, such as discharge or black, crusty build-up.

- A cat’s nose should be velvety and moist, but not wet.

- The mouth should be pink and clean. If bad breath is present, it may indicate a problem. Check for strong, white teeth.

- Since cats are known to be excellent self-groomers, finding a cat that is not grooming properly may indicate a problem with their mouth or tongue.

- Cat’s back sides should be clean and if not, it may be indicative of a stomach or digestive issue.
**Bringing a Kitten Home**

Kittens are baby cats and similar to preparing your home for a baby you have to prepare your home for a kitten. To start kitten “proofing” your home you should start to look at things from the kitten's point of view. The blinds on your window may seem unsuspecting to you but the cords may become your kittens favorite toy. Unfortunately as curious as kittens are they have no way of knowing what items around your house will cause them harm. It is your job to spot and remove things that can hurt your kitten to prevent unnecessary accidents.

In addition to making your home safe for your newest addition you will want to make sure you have everything you need before kitty comes home. Your shopping list should include the following.

- Food and water dishes
- Litter box and litter
- Food (growing kittens need more fats and proteins, so quality food is a must)
- Safe toys
- Pet Carrier
- Scratching Post

Many experts recommend creating a “safe” room whenever bringing a new kitten or cat home. This place can be separated from the rest of the house and affords the new addition a place to go and get away from it all (kids, cats, dogs, visitors) and adjust to his new environments on their own terms. Not only does the safe room give your kitten a place to explore, play and rest in peace it also serves as a quarantine to keep other pets and or children safe until the kitten has been seen by a vet. You should include scheduling his first checkup in your “to-do” list.
Bringing an Adult Cat Home

Preparing your home for an adult cat does not differ much from bringing home a kitten. The biggest difference will be found in the animals themselves. Kittens require a lot of attention and care to ensure they stay out of trouble and remain safe as they explore. They also have not yet had an opportunity to develop vices or other issues that you may find in an adult cat. Adult cats can make great cats and may require less training than your new kitten however you should be aware and anticipate the fact that older cats come with a longer history. They personality is developed and you will have to give them time and space to adjust to your home and family.

The First Days Together

Make the transition easier by providing your cat or kitten with plenty of love, space, privacy and patience. When bringing a new pet into the house it could take hours, days or weeks before the animal is comfortable. It is sometimes recommended that you bring with your cat something from his previous home, from which he can find comfort. Siamese cats by nature are loving, nurturing, people-oriented animals and should transition easily into your home. All cats come with their own personalities, genetic makeup and history so it is important to use common advice dappled with your own personal observations. What works for one cat or cat family may not work for the next, pay attention to your cat and how they are feeling in your home and go from there.
Chapter 3: Siamese Genetics Explained

Siamese cats are one of the oldest breeds of domesticated cats. They were originally imported from Siam (Thailand). It is a muscular, athletic cat with a round head, and brilliant blue-coloured eyes. The breed is characterized by the striking contrast between point and body colours. All Siamese have a creamy base coat with coloured points on their ears, paws, snouts, tails, lower legs, and scrota for male cats.

Originally, the majority of Siamese cats had seal points, or very dark brown points. Other colours, such as chocolate, blue, and lilac points were considered to be inferior and were not able to show or be bred. Eventually, all shades became acceptable by the breeding associations. As time went by, breeders began to cross-breed to develop other patterns and colours including red points and tortoise-shell points. In the UK, these additional colours are accepted to be true Siamese breeds. In the US, the major cat registry CFA (Cat Fanciers’ Association) still considers only the four original colours to be true Siamese.

Siamese cats have bright blue eyes that are almond-shaped. Their coats are short and lie flat. Original Siamese from Thailand often had kinks in their tails but over the years, this kink is considered now to be a flaw and breeders have worked to eliminate the trait. Interestingly, many of the early Siamese were also cross-eyed due to abnormal wiring of the optic chiasm, which is produced by the same albino enzyme that produces the point colours on the coat. The cross-eyes have also largely been eradicated courtesy of breeders.
By nature, Siamese cats are calm and affectionate cats. They do well in family environments even with small children. In fact, Siamese will often tolerate more from youngsters than they will from adults, even go so far as to control their claws in order to prevent scratching. They enjoy human companionship and are intelligent creatures. Inquisitive, they will often be found right in the middle of what you are doing. Siamese cats are not exceptionally active animals but do enjoy a balanced level of activities and are well-adapted to living in homes or apartments. Typically, they are healthy and can live as long as 20 years, with it not being unheard of for some to live longer.

One interesting trait of Siamese cats is their voice. On occasion, they can be very loud and can be heard as sounding as if in agony when a point is trying to be made. People relate the loud voices to a crying human baby.

**Basic Coat Colour Patterns and Points Explained**

It is the pointing gene that makes the Siamese breed’s colour patterns distinct from that of other cats. On a Siamese cat, the term “point” refers to the areas of the face, ears, paws, and tail when referring to the combination of coat colours. The pointing gene is recessive, meaning that two pointed parents will always have pointed litters. At birth, a Siamese kitten is pure white because the mother’s womb is very warm. The point gene, which is heat sensitive, will determine which parts of the face, tail, paws and wars will develop colour. This is due to a genetic mutation which is responsible for producing the enzymes that is necessary to producing pigment. Because this gene is heat sensitive to temperatures above 98 degrees Fahrenheit, the cells of the root of the hair will produce little if any pigment. Since the neck and body regions of the cat are warmer, they don’t develop any pigment and point colours are limited to the cooler areas like the face, legs, tail, and ears. In some warmer climates, point colours on Siamese cats will not develop until after a cat has matured over a year old. Older cats will have a darker body than kittens and younger cats. Overweight cats may be darker due to the extra fat layers insulating the skin, causing the production of more pigment. Essentially,
anything that affects the temperature of your cat, such as a fever in a sick cat, can alter the colour of its coat.

**Coat Colours**

There are several distinctive point colours with Siamese cats.

“**Seal points**” mean that the cat has seal-coloured points of dark brown. In the case of the Seal Point Siamese, the cat is born pure black but the pointing gene will cause the coat colours to lighten on certain points of the body to a fawn colour. Their nose and paw pads will be the same colour as the point colours. It is the seal colour that is typically identified as the most recognizable Siamese colour pattern. Some seal point Siamese will have a variation in shades such as appearing to look black and white. In others, the entire body may be dark brown all over and it is hard to discern the contrast between points and the body.

“**Blue points**” refer to cats that have bluish-gray colouring on bluish-white bodies. Their nose and paw pads appear to be a slate colour. As blue points get older, their body colours can get very dark.

“**Chocolate points**” have milk-chocolate coloured points on white or cream-coloured bodies. Their noses and paw pads are a reddish, or cinnamon, pink colour. Chocolate points generally stay lighter the older they get and the contrast between the body and point colours are typically very apparent. Chocolate points might also take longer to develop point colours that others, such as the seal point.
“Lilac points” have pink-gray points on white bodies. Their noses and paw pads are pinkish-lavender in colour. The lilac point Siamese are the lightest of the four traditional Siamese colours and even when older, the coat colours will remain light.

Chocolate, seal, lilac, and blue points are also accepted traditional Siamese colours. There is also a “Red point” classification but it is not accepted as traditional colours by all cat organizations.

**Eye Colour**

Siamese cats have the blue eye colour due to the presence of a partial albinism gene. Siamese cats have little or no pigment in their eyes and the blue colour is actually caused by the reflection of white light on the cat’s retina. This is what is known as Tyndall’s phenomenon.

A Siamese cat will have a blue eye colour that will range from a light, pale china blue to a deep bluish-violet colour. As a Siamese gets older, their eye colour will darken and there is usually a distinction of colour from kittens and adults.

**Desirable Traits of Siamese Cats**

Historically, Siamese cats did not always look as they do today. Traditional Siamese cats were muscular, thick-bodied animals, with round heads. As the breed has continued to develop in the 1950’s and 60’s, breeders had created a more slender cat that had a triangular head and almond-shaped eyes. The cats ears also looked flared. The look continued to gain popularity in some circles and with professional show judges. However, some breeders did not adapt to the new, modern look of the cats and preferred to continue breeding
larger, more muscular, round-headed cats. The difference in preferences by breeders eventually ended the competitions for the Siamese cats. In today’s society, the traditional Siamese cat is rare to find but seem to be making a comeback for pet owners.

While the decision between a traditional Siamese and a modern Siamese is generally a personal preference, it is key to note that the traditional Siamese are indeed purebred cats, descending directly from the original cats of Siam. While you may find a cat in a shelter or for sale by some other medium, it is likely that it is not a traditional Siamese cat, as many traditional Siamese have been interbred with other domestic cats throughout the years. The pointing gene will still create the point patterns on the coat but there may be very little genetic relations to traditional Siamese cats.

*Show Quality Standards*

In general, the Siamese should be of medium size, svelte and refined with long tapering lines. The cat should be lithe but muscular and males should be larger in proportion.

The cat’s head should be a long, tapering wedge and medium in size, proportionate to body weight. The wedge should begin at the nose and flare out into a straight line to the tips of the ears, forming a triangular shape, without breaking at the whiskers. There should be no less that the width of an eye between the cat’s eyes. The bone structure should be apparent when the whiskers are smoothed back.

The skull of the cat should be flat. A long, straight line should be seen from the top of the head to the tip of the nose when standing in profile. There should be no dips in the nose or bulges above the eyes. The cat’s ears should be large and pointed. They should be wide at the base and continue the lines of the wedge. The nose should be long and straight and there should be a continuation of the forehead without a break and the muzzle should be fine and wedge-shaped. The chin and jaw should be of medium size. The tip of
the chin should line up with the tip of the nose, on the same plane. The eyes of the cat should be almond-shaped and of medium sized. They should not stick out or be recessed. They should slant towards the nose in line with the wedge and ears and should be uncrossed.

The body should be medium in size and gracefully long. The abdominal region should be tight. Fine bones and firm muscles make a perfect combination. The shoulders and the hips should continue along in sleek lines with the hips never being wider than the shoulders.

The cat’s legs should be slim and long, with the hind legs higher than the front. The legs need to be within good proportion to the body. The paws should be small and oval and dainty. The toe count should total five in the front and four in the back.

The coat should be fine textured, short, and lie close to the body. It should appear to be glossy with even colour. There must be a definite contrast between the points and the body colour and the colours should be clearly defined and all the same shade. Masks should cover the entire face, including the whisker pads and should be connected to the ears. Masks should not go over the top of the cat’s head and there should be no white hairs in point areas.

Cats can be disqualified if there are signs of illness or bad health. Other factors for disqualification include: mouth breathing caused by nasal blockage, emaciation, eye colours not blue, white toes/feet, visible kinks in tail, weak hind legs, long hair, or an incorrect amount of toes. Cats can be penalized during a show for having off-colour noses or paw pads, soft bodies, or visible protrusions of the cartilage under the sternum.
Chapter 4: Siamese Health Care

Common Ailments for Siamese

In recent history the Siamese cat reached its highest popularity in the 1970's. As with all purebreds they may have some genetic quirks that are specific to the breed. While breeders strive to breed “in” desired qualities it is not uncommon for breed specific problems to arise as well. Overall the Siamese cat is particularly healthy and long lived with very few breed specific illnesses reported. There have been cases of Siamese cats showing susceptibility to upper respiratory diseases as kittens as well as cardiomyopathy and sensitivity to anaesthetics. Current veterinary studies show that the Siamese may develop kidney failure at a younger age than another breed of cat, however they also handle the disease better. This means your Siamese may need to have their diet managed at a younger age if they show signs of kidney failure; their condition does not seem to progress as quickly as it would in other cats. If your Siamese cat eats too quickly he may be more prone to vomiting. This may be the result of the narrower face, which makes it possible for food to be swallowed without much chewing.

Health Care Basics

Feeding- As with other cats your Siamese should have access to dry food and fresh water at all times. Unlike dogs, cats are not prone to drinking a lot of water, so it is important that you either change their water at least twice per day or provide some other form of constantly refreshing water. There are many different points of view when feeding wet food, some cat owners swear by it, others never feed wet food. One benefit of wet food (if your Siamese tolerates it) would be the added access to “water".
**Grooming and Bathing** - Generally Siamese cats have a smooth coat with short, fine hair. While it is not “necessary” to brush your Siamese, both you and your cat can benefit from twice weekly grooming seasons. Not only will it help your cat with shedding (prevent hairballs) but you can enjoy that time bonding with your cat. As a general rule most cats do not enjoy getting a bath and bathing is usually unnecessary unless your cat is unusually dirty due to being outside or other instances.

**Teeth/Dental** - Take a moment when you are grooming your cat to brush his teeth as well. Ideally teeth brushing will be introduced to cats when they are kittens however adult cats can be taught to tolerate having their teeth brushed. Teeth that are not cared for can become diseased which can travel to other parts of the body. Dental care is especially important for the Siamese who has a tendency to have bad teeth.

**Declawing** - As a cat owner you may consider declawing your pet but before you do you should fully understand what is involved with surgical claw removal. Once a common practice declawing is becoming less mainstream as cat owners realize the risks and repercussions. This painful surgery is not simply removing the “nail”, instead the entire front section of the toe is amputated. There are absolutely zero benefits for your cat and many possible problems associated with this procedure.

Scratching is a natural behaviour for cats. There are various reasons for this, including removing dead husks from their claws, marking their territory and stretching their muscles. When you remove the front digit of your cat's toes they are not only unable to exhibit this natural behaviour. Many cats become more prone to biting as they feel they have not other way to defend themselves or mark their territory in other ways that humans find unacceptable.
Considered inhumane in many countries the practice of declawing is opposed by The Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights. Since this procedure is done solely for the convenience of cat owners with no benefits to the cat, potential cat owners should consider if they can live with a cat whose claws are intact. There are many other options available to deal with a cat’s natural tendency to scratch. By providing scratching posts, trimming his nails or using nail caps, you can protect your furniture and skin while allowing your cat the natural benefits of scratching.

**Spaying and Neutering**- Companion cats should be spayed or neutered when they reach the appropriate age to do so. If you have any doubt as to why all companion cats should be spayed or neutered take a look at your local shelter at all the cats already in need of a home. Beside the obvious overpopulation issue, “intact” pets will display behaviour that is not desirable in a household pet. Spraying, calling, constant attempts to get out of the house, violence and other behaviours are driven by sex hormones. There is no about of training that will stop this behaviour. By having your cat spayed or neutered these hormones are significantly reduced making the need to “behave” inappropriate non-existent.

**Vaccinations**

Vaccinations are required to protect your Siamese from potentially fatal infections. Kittens should receive their first round of shots at 8-0 weeks of age, followed by a second shot at about 12 weeks. Kittens should be kept away from other cats and remain indoors for at least 10 days to insure maximum protection.
Adult cats require regular boosters usually one every 1-3 years. Your veterinarian will schedule your cats vaccinations based on the individual cat and risks of disease in your area.

The vaccinations for cats and kittens include:

**FVRCP: (FVR = Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis)**
These cat vaccines are given as a combination vaccination which covers numerous diseases at the same time, including FVR which is a nasty upper respiratory infection that is airborne and highly contagious among cats. It causes sneezing and coughing with discharge from the eyes and nose. Infected cats will also suffer a loss of appetite and a perhaps a fever. Young kittens and senior cats are more susceptible to this infection and can even need hospitalization in order to recover.

*The other conditions covered in the FVRCP vaccine are:*

- **Calicivirus:** Another type upper respiratory infection with symptoms similar to feline viral rhinotracheitis. These infections account for nearly 95% of all upper respiratory infections in cats. The disease is spread to other cats through direct contact with an infected cat or objects, such as a food or water dish, or toy.

- **Panleukopenia:** This is also known as “feline distemper”. It is highly contagious and can be fatal among cats. It is comparable to the parvovirus in dogs. Symptoms will include vomiting and diarrhea, weakness, dehydration, tremors, and loss of coordination. A low white blood cell count is also possible. Cats with feline distemper need to be hospitalized in intensive care and the death rate for this condition is high.
**Feline Leukemia:** This virus is highly contagious among cats. It is contracted through the saliva, urine, tears, and milk. Many cats will inherit the disease through fighting or as a nursing kitten. Cat who have been exposed may carry the disease without symptoms for year and continue to spread the disease to other cats. This virus suppresses the cat’s immune system, causing severe anemia, and cancer. Symptoms can include: fever, weight loss, and anemia. There is no cure for Feline Leukemia. The symptoms can be treated but the cat will always carry the virus. Tests can be conducted to detect this disease and infected cats can lead long, healthy lives.

**Feline AIDS:** As humans are susceptible to the AIDS virus, so are cats. AIDS is an immunodeficiency virus. Fighting wounds are the most common way for the disease to be spread among cats. Humans can not contract AIDS from their cats. Symptoms include: chronic infections, weight loss, diarrhea and vomiting, pale mucous membranes, and a chronic fever.

**Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP):** This virus is highly contagious for cats and is spread through contact with urine, feces, and saliva. Two forms of FIP exist, the wet form and the dry form. A cat diagnosed with the wet form may develop an enlarged abdomen due to fluid build up. Other symptoms include: anorexia, depression, weight loss, and dehydration. The dry form shows similar symptoms but is accompanied by lesions on the eyes. FIP can be difficult to diagnose and cats who contract this virus rarely survive.

**Rabies:** This vaccination is still the most common of all cat vaccines given to felines. Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system and is always fatal. There is no known cure for rabies. A cat’s brain tissue must be examined to test for rabies. Wild animals such as raccoons,
skunks, bats, and foxes carry rabies but dogs and cats can be carriers. Symptoms include behavior change, difficulty swallowing, hyper-salivation, depression, stupor, and paralysis of the hind end. The disease is spread through the saliva of infected animals and can be transmitted through a bite or an open wound. Vaccinated pets that are exposed to rabies should be re-vaccinated and observed for a 90 day period. Pets not vaccinated who have been exposed should be kept isolated for six months or be put to sleep.

**Internal parasites**

Kittens should be treated against roundworms at 4-6 weeks and then regularly every 2-3 weeks until they are 4 months old. As you cat gets older he should be treated for roundworms and tapesworms every 2-6 months (depending on how much he hunts). Check with your veterinarian for the best schedule for your cat. Pets who do not receive proper protection from internal parasites can get very sick and develop other health issues which make keeping your cat free of parasites very important.

**External parasites**

Fleas, ticks and mites are the most common external parasites. Even clean cats can pick up fleas which makes it important to check for fleas while grooming. In most cases traditional flea treatment will work however use caution when using these products with kittens. Treating your cat is not enough, in most cases fleas can infest your home and other pets, so the entire area will require treatment.

Ear mites are common in cats and dogs. Like fleas ear mites will travel from pet to pet so it is imperative any pet with ear mites is treated.
quickly. If you cat has a brown, gray or black discharge in his ear, accompanied by intense scratching or shaking of the head he probably has ear mites. Left untreated ear mites can lead to infections or deafness. There are over the counter ear drops that you can purchase to treat ear mites. If this is unsuccessful, contact your vet for further treatment options.

**Minor illnesses and problems**

Like humans and other animals Siamese cats will occasionally find themselves sick. Common minor illnesses include:

- **Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)**- Similar to a human cold, cats may have to shake off this virus on their own. If your cats “cold” seems to worsen or come with other symptoms seek advice from your veterinarian to ensure his cold is nothing more as sometimes URI's can signify other problems.

- **Urinary Tract Infections**- A common problem in all domesticated pets especially cats and dogs. Since cats are very tolerant of pain the first symptom of a UTI may be litter box problems. It is common for small stones to form in the urinary tract which may cause pain when your cat tried to urinate. For this reason he or she may associate the pain with the litter box and begin “going” elsewhere. This condition can become serious in male cats if they become completely blocked. Cats with a UTI should be seen by a veterinarian and immediately if they are unable to urinate.
Major illnesses and problems

Every cat owner should be educated on major illnesses and problems that our feline companions may contract.

- **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)** - is an infectious, fatal disease found in cats similar to HIV in humans. Cats with FIV will have a weakened immune system and are susceptible to infections and diseases that would not affect a healthy cat. There is currently no cure for FIV and vaccines to prevent infection are controversial. Cats that have FIV may live many years with the disease and in most cases the first sign of the illness is due to the cat succumbing to another sickness. The main risk factors for cats contracting FIV include the length of time spent outside (contact with other cats), age and gender.

- **Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)** - Another infectious disease, FeLV is a viral disease that can eventually be fatal for infected cats. FeLV is a virus not a cancer. The most common source of infection is cat-to-cat transfer. This can occur through sharing food and water dishes, litter boxes or biting. An infected mother can also transmit the disease to her kittens. Symptoms include but are not limited to: mild fever, swollen lymph nodes, anemia, blood in stool, change in appetite and jaundice. While there is no cure, FeLV can be managed with antibiotics, blood transfusions, chemotherapy and immunomodulatory drugs.

- **Toxoplasmosis** - Infecting almost any warm-blooded animal. Toxoplasmosis can be very serious in humans, especially pregnant woman. For this reason pregnant woman should not handle cat litter and feces. Cats are the primary “hosts” of
toxoplasmosis and are the only mammals where it is passed through the feces. Symptoms in cats are nonspecific, usually fever, loss of appetite and depression. The disease is more common in animals with a weakened immune system. Toxoplasmosis can be treated with an antibiotic however very young or sick animals may not recover even with treatment.

Disease prevention

The best way to keep your cat safe and free of disease is by making sure he is up to date on all vaccines. If you allow your cat outdoors understand he may be more susceptible to infectious diseases. For the same reason you should use extreme caution when introducing new cats into the household. All animals should be tested for infectious diseases.
Chapter 5: Optimal Siamese Cat Nutrition and Grooming

An Optimal Siamese Diet

Cats are carnivores by nature. Meat should be the main ingredient in any food you feed to your cat, and it's extremely important that Siamese cats get the proper nutrition in the protein of meat.

When you purchase inexpensive, grocery store brand cat foods, the ingredients are mostly fillers. These will cause your cat to vomit and will not provide enough nutrients for the optimal health of the cat.

Premium cat food is more densely packed with nutrients and satisfies your cat with smaller servings. Premium cat food contains less fillers than store brand, and when your Siamese cats eat premium food, less waste is passed. Better nutrition means a healthier cat - and a healthier cat means less trips to the vet.

Feed your Siamese cat proper food such as dry kibble according to their age, and weight, as indicated on the product packaging.

You can supplement the store bought cat food with table scraps as an occasional treat, but it's not a good idea for a Siamese cat to be fed table scraps as their only source of food. Siamese cats can enjoy your leftover meat, fish and vegetables. Like people, cats have different preferences and you may find your Siamese loves green beans while another won't touch any vegetables!
Nutrients for a Healthy Cat

Cats need the proper nourishment for health. These nutrients include proteins, carbohydrates, lipids and micronutrients such as vitamins, minerals and water. The types of nutrients needed by cats are the same for humans and other mammals, including dogs. The metabolism of a cat is very different than that of dogs and humans. Cats have dietary requirements which are specific to felines. Cats are meat eaters and they must have meat to maintain good health. Cats can not follow a vegetarian diet. Those that do can become very sick because a vegetarian diet lacks certain amino acids that are only found in meat. Taurine is one of those essential amino acids that cats need and can not be found in plants. A Taurine-deficiency will cause blindness and heart problems in cats. Cats also need meat protein to maintain good vision and functioning of the heart.

Cats also require more lipids (fat) than dogs. Kittens should be fed a diet of more than 30% animal fat. Animal fats are much more saturated than plant fats and proper nutrients for cats require much higher animal protein and animal fat in their diets.

If you are feeding a commercial cat food it is unlikely that vitamins are necessary since they are designed to contain all of the vitamins and minerals that a Siamese cat (or any breed) should require.

If you wish to give supplements to your cat, anyway, many veterinarians recommend using Poly-Vi-Sol (tm) or similar human pediatric vitamins, and to give about 1cc, or 1/4th of a teaspoonful, per day.

Most veterinarians will only recommend supplements or vitamins for Siamese cats in an effort to treat specific conditions – rather than as a daily supplement.
Amount and Frequency of Feeding

Most breeders recommend a high-quality dry food which is primarily protein from meat sources, which can be purchased from the pet store. Most cats can eat whenever they like without becoming overweight. Middle-aged cats (around 10 years or so for the Siamese breed) are most likely to have weight problems, which can usually be controlled by switching to a lower-calorie food.

Kittens and younger cats require more food to support their growth than mature Siamese. If you have a kitten or young cat you should feed more freely and frequently throughout the day. At this stage, it is better to provide an excess of food than not enough. Your kitten will be very active and burning a lot of calories until it matures and calms down a bit.

When your cat is about one year of age, you should feed them twice a day (unless your veterinarian provides a different feeding schedule). The older the cat is, the less active it tends to become and will require fewer calories to maintain optimum weight and health. If you have a pregnant female Siamese, allow the cat as much food as it wants during the second half of the pregnancy, and if your female is lactating, do the same.
Grooming your Siamese

Traditional Siamese require very little grooming by the owner because the cat is able to keep itself clean and well-groomed. Since most cats enjoy the sensation of being brushed or combed, you might wish to brush your cat anyway as it is a good way to remove excess fur and keep it from ending up on your clothes or your furniture! Use a medium-hard brush.

You will also want to clear any ear wax, dust or debris seen in its ears with a cotton ball.

Some breeders recommend bathing your Siamese cat every other week, while others say they don’t require much bathing at all because they keep themselves very well groomed. Seek the advice of your veterinarian if you are unsure how often your cat requires a bath.

Siamese cats do not shed excessively, but as all animals with hair, they do have loose hairs that need to be removed to keep from decorating your floors and furniture. If your cat doesn't seem to enjoy the brush or comb; try wetting your hands and running them over the cat. The loose hair will stick to your hands and you can wash it off.

Keep the Siamese eyes clear by wiping the eyes with a small, damp cloth. To keep your cat calm as you do this, pet the cat with one hand and clean the eyes with the other.

The Siamese nails can become dangerous for the cat, because this breed is unable to fully retract their claws like other breeds of cats can. On the Siamese, a small portion of the nail is exposed at all times – if it gets too long, it can be caught on furniture or other objects, and be ripped out painfully. Use a set of human nail clippers to carefully trim the nail. Look on the back of each nail to find the vein, and trim the nail without clipping too near that vein.
Exercise requirements

All cats, including Siamese, have short bursts of high intensity, energy levels. Ideally, you'll make sure your cat receives two 10 minute play periods per day. Get a variety of cat toys to keep it interesting and encourage play, but you'll probably find your Siamese cat looks forward to play time and doesn't need anything specific to play with to encourage movement; a rolled up pair of socks or a ball can offer enough encouragement.

If you or the cat begin to get bored with your play routine, try getting a kids fishing pole and attaching a feather or lightweight object to the end of the line. Cast it out toward your cat and then reel it in quickly. Let the cat catch it once in awhile, and have him chase it the rest of the time for exercise.
Chapter 6: Siamese Cat First Aid

First Aid Basics

Pet emergencies can occur at any time and it is in the best interest of both you and your Siamese to be prepared for what may come. When you are prepared for a medical emergency, you are less likely to panic and make the wrong decisions. Being prepared starts with a medical aid emergency kit. You can use any time of box, preferably one your Siamese can not easily get into. Prepping your emergency kit is simple. Each kit should include:

- Cotton balls
- Gauze pads and tape
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Large towel
- Rubber gloves
- Silver nitrate
- Oral syringes
- White, waterproof medical tape
- Ice pack
- Thermometers
- Eye wash/saline
- Pediolyte
- Meat-flavoured baby food
- Any doctor-prescribed medications for allergies, etc...

This medical kit can be kept safely at home and should be checked occasionally for supply levels and expiration dates. If you plan on traveling, make sure to have the kit well-supplied and be sure to include a card taped inside the box that contains your name, address, and contact phone number,
as well as the name and number of your veterinarian. You can keep copies of
your pet’s medical records, vital information (breed, age, name, and other
relevant information), as well as a current photo of your Siamese. If you plan
to leave your cat with someone for a period of time, be sure to explain the
contents of the emergency kit so they too will be prepared if a situation should
arise.

First Aid Skills

In the event your pet has suffered an accident or injury, it is important you know how to treat them until you are
able to visit the vet’s office. While it is good practice to obtain professional advice of a vet before administering
most first aid actions. Improper application of home care methods may do more damage than the original
injury. If your Siamese cat has additional special needs, be sure to first consult with your vet as to how to handle these situations in an emergency.

Here are some basic tips to help you with many common emergency situations that require first-aid at home before a trip to the vet can be made:

- Since cats groom themselves with their tongues, it can be difficult to apply skin creams and ointments in places they can reach. Inquire with your vet how to best handle such applications.

- In the cases where certain poisons are swallowed, vomiting may be induced. Never use a finger at the back of the throat to induce vomiting. Encouraging vomiting should only be done on the advice of your veterinarian. Keep in mind that any oily or caustic substances such as acid and base chemicals should not be brought back up by vomiting.

- Dirty cuts and skin burns can be flushed gently with sterile saline warmed to body-temperature. You should then gently cover the area
with a non-stick wound dressing for transport to the vet’s office. In general, an alert cat will not allow you to thoroughly clean a wound and veterinarian intervention is strongly recommended.

- Vomiting may be induced to help clear certain swallowed poisons. Contact your veterinarian for advice and dosage for induction of home vomiting. Oily substances or caustic substances such as acid and base chemicals should not be brought up. Never use a finger at the back of the throat to induce vomiting.

- Taking a cat’s temperature can be difficult and you need to be sure that your cat is restrained properly to avoid injury or damage to the thermometer. You may need a second person to help you take a cat’s temperature since most cats have no tolerance for such an action. Thermometers should never be used in the mouth. The ear thermometers used on human children also are not very accurate. There are veterinary ear thermometers but they are very expensive. Flexible, digital thermometers work faster and are much safer. Leave the thermometer in the rectum only long enough to hear the beep, usually a minute or two. An inch and a half insertion is recommended and it is important to lubricate the end of the thermometer before insertion.

- If your cat is suffering from heat stroke, a cold water bath is suitable for first aid cooling. Do not place your cat in ice water because this will drop body temperature too fast and too far, and can be dangerous to your cat.
• If handling bite wounds from another animal, be sure to wear rubber gloves to help protect you from potential rabies exposure.

• If bandages are necessary, be sure they are not applied too tightly or left on too long. You can unknowingly cut off adequate circulation to the wounded area, causing tissue damage, which may not be able to be fixed.

• Muzzling a cat may be useful in some situations but not all the time. A muzzle should only be used for very short periods of time to help protect the cat from injury. Be sure to remove it when you are on the way to the vet’s office. A cat that has discharge coming from the nose or any other nasal breathing problem should never be muzzled as breathing will be made difficult. Cats that have very short faces should not be muzzled at home because these cats have conformation changes in the back of the nose and throat that may interfere with breathing. Short-faced cats may also be impossible to muzzle anyway. Also, never muzzle a weak, disabled, old, or obese cat, nor should you muzzle young kittens. If your cat has an allergic reaction to a bee sting or other situation, never use a muzzle or you can inhibit breathing.

• Siamese that suffer from breathing difficulties or serious health problems should be handled and transported with the utmost gentleness. Even minor stressors can lead to worsening conditions and injury or even death, especially with cats that are respiratory distress. Be sure you do not hold your cat too tightly or wrap it in a towel that is too tight. You can have a serious impact on the cat’s breathing abilities without realizing it.
• If your cat is unconscious, never give food or water. Since they can not
swallow, the food or water may end up in the lungs instead of the
stomach, causing respiratory distress.

• If your Siamese suffers from a seizure, it will not swallow its tongue. Do
not place your fingers in a cat’s mouth during a seizure, as you can
suffer a bit. Instead, place your cat on the ground, on top of a soft
blanket or pillow. Keep tabs on the length of the seizure and write down
the time so you can report it back to your vet. If a seizure does not
seem to stop after a period of time, take your cat to the vet or animal
hospital immediately.

• In the event your cat is not breathing or you do not feel a heartbeat,
CPR can be used. First, place your ear on the cat’s chest where the
elbow hits the rib cage on the left side. Cats have a normal heart rate
of 180 beats a minute, nearly triple the time in humans. Discuss CPR
for your cat with your vet in order to be prepared to handle such an
emergency.

• When you must transport your injured or sick cat for medical care, you
should prepare a cat carrier with a soft pillow or blanket. If you are
transporting a cat that is unconscious, make
sure you try to keep the cat’s head a bit
lower than the chest and abdominal area to
keep the blood flowing to the brain. This
position will also prevent any stomach fluid
from draining from the mouth since an
unconscious cat will have difficulty
swallowing.
External Wounds

If your Siamese suffers from an external injury or wound at home, you can use the following tips to help you make your cat more comfortable and prevent additional injury before making a trip to your veterinarian.

- When you are handling an injury that may be painful or sore to your cat, be careful to take precautions against injury to yourself such as bites or scratches. You can gently wrap your cat in a large, soft towel, leaving only the affected area exposed. This will allow you to handle the cat easier so you can tend to the wound without additional stress to the cat or injury to yourself.

- If a cut or scrape is afflicting your cat, you can apply topical treatments to the area but keep in mind your cat will likely lick the area if it is within its reach so check with your vet as to the safety of different topical treatments.

- When you are dealing with an external wound, be sure to wear gloves during treatment. Don’t put any soaps, peroxide, alcohol, or ointments inside of the wound. These treatments can be painful and cause additional damage to the tissue and skin. Instead, use a diluted and sterile, saline solution warmed to body temperature to clean the wound.

- If your cat has a bee sting, splinter or tick, use tweezers to remove gently. Be sure to remove the entire item by grasping at the base next to the skin.

- If your cat suffers from a chemical burns or if you suspect your cat has come into contact with poisonous materials, wear protective gloves, eye covers, and clothes. Use warm water immediately to rinse your cat’s skin and remove the toxin from the fur. Save any of the containers or bottles so you can accurately provide poison information to your veterinarian.

- Larger wounds will likely require stitches from your veterinarian and a prompt visit to your vet is necessary. Stop any bleeding by applying an emergency support bandage. Make sure the bandage is larger than the wound area since the bandage will likely not stay in place. Do not wrap
the bandage too tightly, as it can cut off circulation, cause swelling, or additional damage to the wound.

- Light hemorrhaging, as can happen when a nail is cut too short, can be controlled by applying gentle, firm pressure to the area. Count to 60 slowly, and the bleeding should stop.

- Tourniquets should not be applied without professional assistance and should not be left on for long periods of time. Apply a tourniquet only on the advice of a veterinarian and only in a severe bleeding emergency. If a tourniquet is too tight or left on too long a tourniquet can result in the loss of toes, feet or the tail.

- When a limb is broken causing the bone to show, a soft, loose cover of sterile bandage material and splint can be gently applied to stabilize the area for transportation. Your Siamese may not allow it but you can try. If there is a break or dislocation, minimize movement to help prevent further soft. Do not attempt to set the bone back in place on your own.

**Internal Problems**

If your cat is suffering from internal injuries or bleeding, they may experience some of the following symptoms: bleeding from nose, mouth, rectum; coughing blood; blood in urine; pale gums; collapse; rapid or weak pulse.

- Be sure your cat is not dehydrated. You can tell by pulling on the skin on its back and notice if it stays in the same pulled shape after you let it go. If the skin does not spring back into place, your cat is dehydrated and may need IV fluids so seek medical attention.

- If your cat has been injured or you suspect there is internal injury, be sure to keep your Siamese as warm and quiet as possible and seek vet assistance.
• If there is a sharp object piercing deep into the body, you should not remove the object. You could subject your cat to extensive hemorrhaging internally if a deep blood vessel has been torn.

• If your cat has been hit by a car, even if there are no outward signs of injury, get him to a vet or animal hospital immediately. While your cat may show no signs of injury at first, an accident such as that can be fatal.

• As with a car injury, if your cat has been in a fight with another cat or animal, be sure to have them vet checked as soon as possible. Even seemingly minor cat fights can lead to death if internal injuries are not assessed and infections prevented.

• If your cat falls from a high area make sure you have him checked out by your vet. A hard fall not only can injury your Siamese severely, it can also cause a cat to go into shock.

• Shock in a cat can produce a weak pulse, breathing difficulties, and nervousness. Shock can happen after a cat has been very frightened or following a serious industry. Keep a cat in shock warm and seek medical attention immediately.

Environmental Hazards to Cats

Because all cats are curious, it is important that your home is safeguarded against potential hazards that can inadvertently cause serious or fatal injury to your pet. There are many things that can be dangerous but here we will cover some of the more common dangers.
Ingestible Poisons

_Antifreeze_ - One of the most attractive ingestible poisons to a cat can be found in your garage. Antifreeze is sweet-tasting and many pets will be inclined to drink if available. Ethylene glycol is one of the most dangerous but common form of antifreeze and even the smallest amount can be fatal to your pet. To keep your cat safe, make sure you always clean up any spills immediately and be on alert for leaks in your car’s radiator. Keep antifreeze containers sealed tight and locked away in an area which the cat does not have access. Keep cats away from the area if you are working on your car. You can elect to use propylene glycol antifreeze as it is less toxic. In the event your Siamese does get exposed to antifreeze, you must contact your vet immediately and you can also access the ASPCA’s Animal Poison Control Center at 888-4ANI-HELP.

_Potpourri_ – Many cat owners will use simmering potpourri to fragrance their home. This common household item can be dangerous to your cat. Cats can either become ill from ingesting the potpourri or by coming into contact with the product by touch. If a cat ingests the potpourri, the essential or natural oils will cause vomiting, diarrhea, sick stomach, fatigue, and even liver damage. If the potpourri contains cationic detergents, ingestion can burn the flesh of the mouth and tongue and can cause severe pain if contact is made with the eyes or skin. Skin contact will result in red colour and extreme pain. As cats are prone to clean the afflicted areas with their tongues, ingestion can be even more severe. If your cat has been exposed to potpourri, you might see signs of drooling, not eating, tongue ulcers, and depressive actions. If you believe there has been skin contact, bath the cat immediately with baby shampoo or mild dishwashing solution.

Be very cautious when handling a cat in pain, as injury can occur to both you and your pet. If ingestion is suspected due to licking the fur, offer milk or water. Keep your eye on your can for a few hours and check the body and the tongue for burns, redness, or ulcers. If any symptoms continue, take your cat to the veterinarian as soon as possible for treatment. Provided appropriate
steps are taken, most cats will recover in a few days with proper nutrition and
doctor-provided pain medications. Some cats with tongue burns may refuse
dry food so make a point to offer soft, canned food for several days.

**Ice Melt** – Rock salt and other products used to melt snow and ice can cause
damage to the mouth and internally. Store ice melt in an airtight container and
make sure your cat does not venture outside when ice melt is thrown down.

**Plants** – There is a large variety of plants that can be poisonous to your Siamese. Because many cats like to
dig around in the plant pot or pick at the leaves, it is important that you know which plants to keep away from
your home. While the list of dangerous plants is long,
lilies (*tiger lilies, Easter lilies, day lilies, rubrum, and Japanese show lily*) are one plant in particular that is
more dangerous to cats than the others. Only after a few hours of ingestion
of the plant can make your cat appear lethargic and lose their appetite. As the
symptoms progress, kidney damage and failure can result within 36-72 if
proper treatment is not administered in proper time.

For other plants, all or part of the plant can be dangerous to cats, including
leaves, bark, seeds, roots, and berries. A list of poisonous cats is listed below.
Be sure to check your home, inside and out, for these types and ensure your
cat does not have access to them. Keep in mind that Siamese cats in
particular love high places so don’t just think you can put plants “up out of the
way”.

**Poisonous Plants List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Almond (Pits of)</th>
<th>Asparagus Fern</th>
<th>Beargrass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aloe Vera</td>
<td>Autumn Crocus</td>
<td>Beech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alocasia</td>
<td>Avocado (fruit and pit)</td>
<td>Belladonna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaryllis</td>
<td>Azalea</td>
<td>Bird of Paradise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple (seeds)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bittersweet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple Leaf Croton</td>
<td>Baby's Breath</td>
<td>Black-eyed Susan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apricot (Pits of)</td>
<td>Baneberry</td>
<td>Black Locust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrowgrass</td>
<td>Bayonet</td>
<td>Bleeding Heart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bloodroot
Bluebonnet
Box
Boxwood
Branching Ivy
Buckeyes
Buddist Pine
 Burning Bush
Buttercup
Cactus, Candelabra
Caladium
Calla Lily
Castor Bean
Charming
Dieffenbachia
Cherry (pits, seeds & wilting leaves)
Cherry, most wild varieties
Cherry, ground
Cherry, Laurel
Chinaberry
Chinese Evergreen
Christmas Rose
Chrysanthemum
Cineria
Clematis
Cordatum
Coriaria
Cornflower
Corn Plant
Cornstalk Plant
Croton
Corydalis
Crocus, Autumn
Crown of Thorns
Cuban Laurel
Cutleaf Philodendron
Cycads
Cyclamen
Daffodil
Daphne
Datura
Deadly Nightshade
Death Camas
Devil's Ivy
Delphinium
Decentrea
Dieffenbachia
Dracaena Palm
Dragon Tree
Dumb Cane
Easter Lily *
Eggplant
Elaine
Elderberry
Elephant Ear
Emerald Feather
English Ivy
Eucalyptus
Euonymus
Evergreen
Ferns
Fiddle-leaf fig
Florida Beauty
Flax
Four O'Clock
Foxglove
Fruit Salad Plant
Geranium
German Ivy
Giant Dumb Cane
Glacier Ivy Golden
Chain
Gold Dieffenbachia
Gold Dust Dracaena
Golden Glow
Golden Pothos
Gopher Purge
Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy
Heartland
Philodendron
Hellebore
Hemlock, Poison
Hemlock, Water
Henbane
Holly
Honeysuckle
Horsebeans
Horsebrush
Horse Chestnuts
Hurricane Plant
Hyacinth
Hydrangea
Indian Rubber Plant
Indian Tobacco
Iris
Iris Ivy
Jack in the Pulpit
Janet Craig
Dracaena
Japanese Show Lily *
Java Beans
Jessamine
Jerusalem Cherry
Jimson Weed
Jonquil
Jungle Trumpets
Kalanchoe
Lacy Tree
Philodendron
Lantana
Larkspur
Laurel
Lily
Lily Spider
Lily of the Valley
Locoweed
Lupine
Madagascar Dragon Tree
Marble Queen
Marigold
Marijuana
Mescal Bean
Mexican Breadfruit
Miniature Croton
Mistletoe
Mock Orange
Monkshood
Moonseed
Morning Glory
Mother-in Law's Tongue
Morning Glory
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Poisonous Parts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Laurel</td>
<td>Pothos</td>
<td>Striped Dracaena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushrooms</td>
<td>Precatory Bean</td>
<td>Sweetheart Ivy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcissus</td>
<td>Primrose</td>
<td>Sweetpea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needlepoint Ivy</td>
<td>Privet, Common</td>
<td>Swiss Cheese plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephytis</td>
<td>Red Emerald</td>
<td>Tansy Mustard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightshade</td>
<td>Red Princess</td>
<td>Taro Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oleander</td>
<td>Red-Margined</td>
<td>Tiger Lily *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>Dracaena</td>
<td>Tobacco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriental Lily *</td>
<td>Rhododendron</td>
<td>Tomato Plant (green fruit, stem and leaves)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Lily</td>
<td>Rosemary Pea</td>
<td>Tree Philodendron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peach (pits and wilting leaves)</td>
<td>Rubber Plant</td>
<td>Tropic Snow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pencil Cactus</td>
<td>Saddle Leaf</td>
<td>Dieffenbachia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peony</td>
<td>Philodendron</td>
<td>Tulip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periwinkle</td>
<td>Sago Palm</td>
<td>Tung Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philodendron</td>
<td>Satin Pothos</td>
<td>Virginia Creeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pimpernel</td>
<td>Schefflera</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumosa Fern</td>
<td>Scotch Broom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poinciana</td>
<td>Silver Pothos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poinsettia (low toxicity)</td>
<td>Skunk Cabbage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison Hemlock</td>
<td>Snowdrops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison Ivy</td>
<td>Snow on the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison Oak</td>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pokeweed</td>
<td>Spotted Dumb Cane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy</td>
<td>Staggerweed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato</td>
<td>Star of Bethlehem</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>String of Pearls</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your cat should eat any plant that could be dangerous, be sure to get your cat to the vet as soon as possible for treatment and bring along the plant to make it much easier to identify what your cat ingested.

### Skin Contact/Inhalant Poisons

**Flea Products** – These necessary evils can be dangerous and deadly to your Siamese. While a flea infestation can be a major issue for a cat owner, misuse of flea prevention products can be deadly to a feline. While using flea products is a necessity, it is of utmost importance that you read and follow the label on any shampoos, powders,
sprays, spot treatments, or pills that are used on your cat. There are also some other considerations to make regarding flea products.

- Never use flea products on young kittens, pregnant mothers, sick, or elderly cats without the consultation of your veterinarian. These cats can instead be combed with a flea comb and placed in a small container of soapy water.

- Don’t assume products labeled as “natural” really are natural or safer than other products. Even those considered natural can still be dangerous to cats if used incorrectly.

- Always be sure you keep flea products away from the eyes, inner ears, and genitalia of the cat. Serious irritation to the skin and tissues can occur, making it painful for your cat.

- Home foggers and sprays should only be used when your cats are out of the home. Be sure all food and water bowls are removed as well. The product must be allowed to completely dry and air out before returning cats inside the house. The strong fumes of the insecticides can harm your cats eyes and breathing.

- Don’t use products with organophosphates or permethrin on your cats because the can be harmful, even in small concentrations. Some of the flea products containing these ingredients are okay for dogs but not cats and can cause seizures, breathing problems, drooling, and even death.

- If using a new flea product for the first time, watch your Siamese to be sure there is no changes in behaviour or coordination.
Food Dangers
There are several food items that can be dangerous for your cat including:

- Chocolate (semi-sweet, milk, and baker’s)
- Coffee
- Onions/onion powder
- Alcohol
- Salt
- Yeast dough
- Moldy foods

Miscellaneous Dangers

Medications kept in the house need to be stored in closed containers in cabinets, out of reach of the cat. It is also important to remember the safety of your cat during family gatherings at your home, especially during the holidays. Christmas presents many dangers if your cat is not carefully watched. For instance, electrical cords that can be chewed by a cat can cause electrocution and a fire in your home. Batteries can be chewed or ingested and cause problems in the gastrointestinal tract. Plastic or glass ornaments can be chewed and swallowed and cut the lining of the stomach and the tissues of the gastrointestinal tract. Ribbons and tinsel can be eaten and damage the intestines.

Tips for Medicating Your Cat

When you have to give your cat medication for injuries, illness, health maintenance, or allergies it can be difficult to say the least. Cats can often be frightened and cause injuries to you if restrained.
Here are some quick tips for helping your Siamese get the medication they need:

**Oral Medications**

If you have to give your cat oral medication via pills or liquids, you may find they are very uncooperative. Even if you think you succeeded, the cat may very well leave the room and spit out the medication. Here are some tricks to try with your Siamese.

Rinse down a pill with cool water. Since cats do not effectively move pills down their esophagus, the pills can get stuck and can cause problems for the cat.

Try coating a pill in butter to make it easier to slide down the throat. The buttery taste may be an incentive for the cat to take and swallow the pill. Peanut butter is also common but can stick to the roof of the cat’s mouth.

If your cat has a tendency to run, wrap him in a bath towel and have another person give the pill or liquid while you hold the cat.

Grab the upper jaw of the cat on each side of the canine teeth. Grab it firmly but don’t squeeze too hard. Steady pressure will keep the cats mouth open while you use your finger to pull down on the small front teeth of the lower jaw area to open the mouth. Place the pill in the back of the throat and hold the head steady until you see her swallow. Do not hold the cat’s head too high or too tight waiting for a swallow.

**Ear Medications**

When having to administer ear medications, be sure you don’t pinch your cat’s ear, because that region is very sensitive. Insert the medication carefully, trying not to touch the inside of the ear with the medicine dispenser. Your
Siamese will shake their heads when the medicine enters the canal so be aware of what will happen to your furniture or carpet when the cat shakes.

**Cream Medications**

Since cats will groom their fur, you may need to use a funnel-shaped collar over the head to keep your cat from grooming a wounded area that requires a bandage or cream application.

**Injections**

If your cat requires an injection, such as insulin, you should first learn how to administer the injection from a medical professional. Always warm fluids to room temperature before injecting. Use a fresh, sterile needle each time.

During any medical treatment, you can try to offer your cat a treat to make the experience less traumatic. Also, heap lots of praise on your cat during the procedure, as cats will respond best to praise and typically ignores punishment. Cats will tend to remember bad experiences and avoid them in the future, making it more difficult to administer medication in the future.