

Is my cat / kitten a Russian Blue / Black / White / Tabby?

I get asked this question very often in fact if the truth be told ... most people simply inform me that they have a Russian "just like" mine. When I ask them where they got their kitten / cat from I am told ... the SPCA, the local shelter or that they "just found" him/her.

It is in every ones nature to try to categorise their beloved pet, to have him or her belong to a certain breed but the reality is unless your cat or kitten came from a reputable breeder and has the pedigree certificate to PROVE that he or she is indeed a Russian the chances are more than likely 0% that he or she is a pure bred or even part bred Russian cat, this does not make him or her any less valuable or beautiful to you.

Firstly there are only three people in South Africa with entire male Russian cats. I can assure you that none of us permit our cats to free roam to enable your kitten to receive any Russian genes via a domestic queen.

I myself spay and neuter all my kittens before they leave home so no, not even a kitten of mine could ever accidentally produce off spring.

You may then wonder if perhaps your kitty could possibly be a Russian that accidentally got lost. Have him or her scanned for a micro-chip. All my kittens are sent to their new homes micro-chipped. If some thing does come up, well then you can re-unite the lost cat with his or her terribly stressed legal owners.

The fact is the Russian does share some features with certain random bred domestic cats. They are a natural breed that came from domestic cats in Russia but for over 100 years now they have been refined and developed to have specific genes and features that can be reproduced generation after generation. This is the most important fact ... the Russian breeds genetic ability to consistently reproduce exactly. The amount of time, effort and indeed money that generations of Russian breeders have put into this breed really should not be insulted. This is where you may receive a very rude response from a Russian breeder, and I must apologise for this, however it is indeed an insult to presume a random bred cat has this amount of work and effort behind it.

So just because your kitten or cat is solid Grey / Black / White or even the very rare for a Russian - Spotted Blue Tabby in colour and has green eyes, simply just does not make him or her a pure bred Russian.

Even though he or she is not a Russian ... every cat is beautiful and special, your love for your baby is all that matters.

Features that are very important to a pure bred South African Russian:

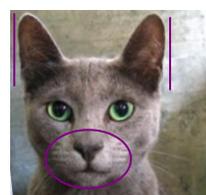
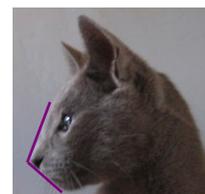
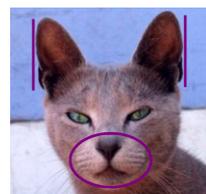
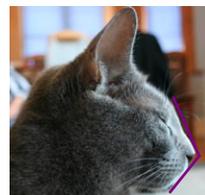
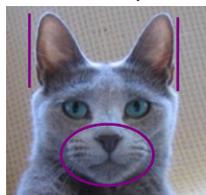
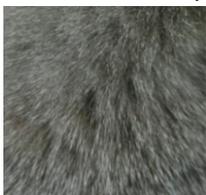
Solid *Blue coat that has silver tips:

Upright ears & full whiskerpads

Emerald eyes - almond shaped

Straight profile flat head & firm chin

Elegant lean, tall build in proportion



* Using the Blue as an example as they are the most common.

Black, White & Blue Spotted Tabby Russians are incredibly rare world wide.

So the chances of your domestic pet having any of the Russian colour genes is even more un-likely.

Written by Leanne Hewitt