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British Shorthair

Adult Height: Medium-Large
Adult Weight: 3.2kg-7.7kg
Exercise per day: Medium
Shed Amount: Medium



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British Shorthairs gained popularity in the UK during the Victorian era and are still one of the most popular cat breeds today. With their dense, plush coats and teddy bear looks, as well as their usually calm temperaments and loving natures, British Shorthairs are a well-admired breed that thrive on time spent with people and (enjoy being a part of a family) (<http://www.petsathome.com/shopping/pets/pet-talk/choosing-a-pet-which-pet-is-right-for-your-lifestyle-home>). While they're likely to form strong bonds with all members of the household, they're suited to both families and as companion pets too. If you choose to welcome a British Shorthair into your home, you're sure to find out just how devoted this cat breed can be.



How big do British Shorthairs grow?

British Shorthairs are medium to large sized cats. Females are typically smaller, although there is no specific breed recommendation for how large they could grow to when adult. Don't forget that Shorthairs are slow to mature and may not reach their full size until five years old.

How heavy do British Shorthairs get?

They can weigh between 3.2kg and 7.7kg when fully grown. Females typically weigh between 3.2kg to 5.4kg and males from 4.7kg to 7.7kg. You will likely notice that while their bodies are compact, they are quite a muscular cat and their weight will usually reflect this.



How long do British Shorthairs live?

British Shorthairs can live between 14 and 20 years.

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climbers to help keep them active

Space required

This cat breed is usually best kept indoors, making it important to make sure that you have adequate space to keep them happy and healthy. They'll need plenty of room in your house or apartment to play and exercise.

How much exercise do British Shorthairs need?

With their relaxed temperaments and calm natures, it may come as no surprise that British Shorthairs can tend to be a little lazy. Despite this, they still need plenty of exercise to keep them in good condition and to prevent weight gain. It will usually be best to [schedule regular](#)

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Do British Shorthairs shed?

Yes, British Shorthairs do shed, and you may notice some [extra shedding](#) [seasonally](#). They have dense coats, which will likely need weekly grooming to remove loose fur – you'll need to give some extra attention during periods of more heavy shedding.

Common health issues for British Shorthairs

Like all cats, British Shorthairs can be susceptible to certain health conditions – some of which could be hereditary. These can include:

- Kidney problems:** Although much rarer in the breed today, Shorthairs have been known to suffer from Polycystic Kidney Disease. Responsible breeders should undertake DNA testing to prevent this condition developing in their lines, so it will be a good idea to speak to your breeder in detail about the health of their litters.
- Heart problems:** Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy affects the heart muscle and can be very serious.
- Blood disorders:** Although uncommon, British Shorthairs can be affected by Haemophilia B, which means that blood is unable to clot properly – resulting in excessive bleeding.



Doing your research before you bring your British Shorthair home is one of the best ways to prevent health concerns becoming a bigger problem in the future.

Whether you choose to rescue or bring a kitten home from a breeder, it will be important to find out as much as you can about your new cat's genetic health before you welcome them home. Of course, regular visits to the vet will help to spot any health concerns early too.

British Shorthair nutrition requirements

It is usually best to choose a specially formulated cat food that has all the nutrients they need to stay healthy. Cats typically need a protein-rich diet, along with healthy fats, vitamins and minerals. They don't usually need as many carbohydrates. Always avoid feeding your British Shorthair food meant for humans, dogs or other pets.

British Shorthairs don't have too many unusual requirements when it comes to their food, although it will be important to remember that they are a slow to mature breed. That means that you may need to feed them kitten food until they're at least one year old, as they will likely need a higher-calorie food while they're still growing. Your breeder or vet will be able to advise on what is best for your cat. Otherwise, choose a food that's suited to their age, lifestyle and health needs.

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Are British Shorthairs good with other pets?

A cat's relationship depends on positive experiences with other pets from a young age. The key to a happy pet household will be to make introductions slowly and over time. Once properly introduced and socialised, your pets should be able to live in harmony together.

It's worth bearing in mind that British Shorthairs may not be as happy to have a strange cat in the home. While usually perfectly happy with a cat they have known from kittenhood, they may be less inclined to be friends with a cat they don't know.

Do British Shorthairs run away a lot?

British Shorthairs don't usually run away for no reason. They are very people orientated and form strong bonds with their owners, making them less likely to roam too far from home. However, it will be a good idea to supervise your British Shorthair when they go outside. Their trusting natures could lead to misadventure when they head outdoors.

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