

Toybob

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The Toybob is a breed developed primarily in the Rostov and Ural Regions of Russia some thirty-five years ago. In 2008, it was accepted as 'experimental' in *The International Cat Association (TICA)*, with the breed recognised in all colours and patterns. In 2017, *TICA* advanced the breed from 'experimental' to 'registration only' and earlier this year they promoted the breed to 'preliminary new breed'. Also, in 2017, the Toybob gained its first Championship status outside its native Russia when it was accepted in the *World Cat Federation (WCF)* and in 2018, it gained its first Championship status within North America in the *Cat Fanciers Federation (CFF)*. By February of this year it became breed number 45 in *The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA)* and was now accepted right across the USA and parts of Europe.



Seal Mink Female
Lisa Stasiuk
Singamabob Cattery

The Toybob is a small, strong, sturdy breed of cat with a distinctive bobbed and kinked tail, it traces its origins back to a pair of seal pointed cats. In 1983, Elena Krasnichenko adopted a stray from outside her home in the Rostov Region of Russia; Krasnichenko said the cat looked like an old-style Siamese, except for its short-kinked tail. In 1985, Krasnichenko's mother picked up another stray and brought it home, this time a seal-point female kitten also with the unusual curled bobbed tail.

It was not until 1988 that the first offspring were produced when Krasnichenko's two adopted seal point cats produced a small bobbed-tail male kitten she named 'Kutciy'; this male became the father of the Toybob breed. In 1989, Krasnichenko attended a cat show in Rostov, Russia with Kutciy, now an adult, but due to his small size, he was mistaken for a kitten.

The breed was originally shown in its native land as the 'Skif-Thai-Don' or the 'Skif-Thai-Toy-Don' and registered with a couple of Russian associations under that name. In 1994, Russian WCF Judge and author Dr. Olga S. Mironova renamed them the 'Toybob'.



Seal Mink Male
Tracy Baker
Minijedi Cattery

During the late nineties, a Russian breeder from Ural, Alexis Abramchuk of Si-Savat cattery, added domestic cats to the lineage to widen the genepool and add diversity to the breed, however, this did not help and by the early 2000s, the Toybob had become extremely rare.

Another Ural breeder, Natalia Fedyaeva of Little Angel cattery, revived the breed by adding domestic cats of similar phenotype found locally in her region and other similarly phenotyped breeds. She called the offspring 'Scyth-Toy-Bob' to differentiate from the Skif-Thai-Don line and begins to exhibit them in the WCF in the '*unrecognized breed*' category. In 2004, the Toybob cats from these Ural-based catteries were imported into the USA.

In 2014, veterinarian Dr. Anna Gromova began working with TICA-based Toybob catteries and together they formed the '*International Toybob Cat Club*' (ITCC). The ITCC focuses on breed promotion, mentoring new breeders and advancing the breed's recognition throughout cat associations worldwide.



*Seal Point male with kitten
Giselle Guerriero
Wonderlandkitty Cattery*

The Toybob's most distinctive feature is its kinked/bobbed tail, this does not affect its agility or health. When the breed was first recognised by TICA, speculation arose as to its possible relations to other bobtail breeds like the Manx or Japanese Bobtail. In 2016, Dr. Leslie A. Lyons conducted DNA tests to find out if there were any connections to these other bobtail breeds. The results were most welcome showing that there was no Manx gene and no other direct bobtail relation to the Toybob; they were an entirely new and distinct bobtail mutation.

Due to the harsh conditions the breed originated from and the inclusion of the domestic outcrosses, its overall health is rather robust with great genetic diversity; the Toybob enjoys good health. The breed has no known health or genetic problems and is known to live well past 15 years.

Although naturally small, the Toybob is compact and solid – there is a real emphasis in the standard on strength, they are bred in both shorthair and semi-longhair varieties and come in a wide range of colours, although pointed colours (particularly the seal point) is the most common, and perhaps known as, the traditional Toybob. The tail is bobbed with kinks and curves in any combination, but can also be straight; a minimum length of 2.5 cm (1 inch) with a minimum of two vertebrae to the maximum length down to the hock, the tail cannot be stretched. The standard calls for the last bone to taper off and not be blunt – this would stop any temptation to crop a tail! There are Toybob breeders all over the world from its native Russia and the USA, to Canada, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, England and Slovenia.



*Tabby kitten
Margo Hill
Singville Cattery*

Sources:

Giselle (Gigi) Guerriero (breeder of male with kittens in heading)

The International Toybob Cat Club: <https://toybob.org/>

The Cat Fanciers Association: www.cfa.org

Pictures of Cats: <https://pictures-of-cats.org/toybob-cat.html>

The International Cat Association: <https://tica.org>