

# Bengal Cat: Breed Profile & Buyer Guide

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## Overview

**Breed Name:** Bengal

**Origin:** USA (hybrid of domestic cats and the Asian leopard cat)

**Size:** Medium to large

**Weight:** 8–15+ lbs

**Lifespan:** 12–16 years

**Coat:** Short, dense, luxurious

**Color/Pattern:** Spotted or marbled in variety of colors like brown, snow, charcoal or silver

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## Bengal Traits at a Glance

Trait	Description
Temperament	Intelligent, active, confident, affectionate (on their terms)
Energy Level	Very high – Bengals need daily play and stimulation
Vocalization	Talkative – they use a range of sounds to communicate
Trainability	Highly trainable – can learn tricks, walk on leash, use puzzle toys
Social Needs	Thrive on interaction – with people and/or other pets
Shedding	Low to moderate
Hypoallergenic	Not officially, but some allergy sufferers tolerate Bengals better
Good with Kids	Generally yes, if socialized properly
Good with Pets	Often yes, especially other active pets; early introductions are key

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## Personality & Behavior

Bengals are not typical lap cats – they are more like small wild explorers in a domestic body.

### What Makes Bengals Special:

- Wild Looks: Leopard-like markings and athletic build
- Curious Nature: They explore everything, often opening doors and drawers
- Water Lovers: Many Bengals enjoy water; some even swim!
- High Intelligence: Require mental stimulation with puzzle toys, climbing structures, training sessions
- Loyal Companions: Form strong bonds with their humans, often choosing “their person”

### Things to Know Before Buying:

- Not for Lazy Households – they demand time and enrichment
  - May Be Territorial with timid or passive cats
  - Can Be Noisy – not the best fit if you prefer a quiet home
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## Care Requirements

### Grooming:

- Weekly brushing
- Regular nail trimming and dental care
- Bathing every 3 to 4 months

### Diet:

- High-protein diet recommended
- Many owners choose raw or high-quality wet and dry food

### Environment:

- Vertical space is essential (cat trees, shelves, climbing walls)
  - Rotate enrichment toys, use puzzle feeders
  - Safe outdoor enclosures if possible or on a harness and leash (***DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BENGAL OUTDOORS UNSUPERVISED OR WITHOUT A LEASH/HARNESS***)
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## **Ideal Homes for a Bengal**

Bengals thrive in homes with:


- Active households
  - Experienced cat owners (or well-prepared first-timers)
  - Other active pets
  - Access to safe outdoor areas or large indoor play spaces
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## **Health Considerations**

Bengals are generally healthy but may be prone to:

- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)
- Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)
- Luxating Patella
- PK Deficiency

 **Always buy from a reputable breeder who health-tests breeding pairs**

 **Please note: Even though breeding pairs and kittens can be tested, this does not guarantee they will never develop health issues in the future. Responsible ownership means being prepared for possible medical needs throughout your Bengal's life.**

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## Buyer Checklist

Before purchasing a Bengal kitten, ensure:

- Breeder is TICA/CFA registered
  - Kittens are vet-checked, vaccinated, and dewormed
  - Kittens are raised in-home and socialized with people
  - You have the time and budget for an active, high-needs breed
  - You're ready for a 15+ year commitment
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## Final Thoughts

Bengals are exotic, smart, and endlessly entertaining companions – but they're not a low-maintenance breed. Think of them as the **“border collies” of the cat world**: gorgeous, loyal, clever, but needing a job to do.

For the right owner, a Bengal is an unforgettable addition to the family.

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## Buyer Acknowledgment

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the Bengal Cat Buyer Guide above. I acknowledge the responsibilities of owning a Bengal cat and agree to provide proper care, enrichment, and veterinary attention.

**Buyer Signature & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Breeder Signature & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_