Breed History

Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
“Lykoi”, which in Greek, roughly translates to “wolf”, is a breed derived from a naturally occurring mutation found in the feral cat population.

The breed was named in 2010 by Patti Thomas, who found the 1st documented mutations in Virginia, USA.

Genetic and health testing was done on the mutations to ensure no disease or disorder was the cause of hair loss. This included tests for infectious diseases, Sphynx/Devon genes, DNA test for genetic diseases, color and blood type as well as skin biopsies and echocardiograms. They were found to be healthy and the hair pattern was not from any disease or disorder.
Original Mother of Mutants:
Eve Havah

Vet exams & tests confirmed there was no dermatology issue.

DNA tests confirmed coat was not a result of Devon Rex allele (re) and the Sphynx (hr) gene encoding on Keratin 71 (KRT71)

Given to Patti Thomas, a Sphynx breeder, on September 4, 2010 due to concern about unusual coat.

Woflie Silver Lining (Male)
Ray of Home (Female)

Born July 4, 2010

Photos Credit: Patti Thomas, Katitudz Lykoi
Background Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
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The first intentionally bred litter of “Lykoi” was done in 2011 between the natural mutations found in Virginia and an additional pair found in Tennessee, USA.

It was determined that the “Lykoi” was indeed a natural mutation.

Through further breedings, it was determined that the “Lykoi” was a recessive trait.
Scientific Research On The Lykoi Cat

Clinical and Histological Description of Lykoi Cat Hair and Skin
by Dr. Leslie Lyons, Feline & Comparative Genetics, University of Missouri

The dramatic hair coat phenotype of the Lykoi cat was researched at the University of Missouri by Dr. Leslie Lyons and her team in 2016. Their goals were to:

- Provide a clinical and histological description of the Lykoi cat skin, hair follicle, hair shaft, hair follicle density, and pilosebaceous components
- Examine Lykoi cat skin dermatoscopically
- Compare Lykoi histological finding to domestic shorthair (DSH) cats.
- Determine how the new traits of interest affect that cat's health
- Determine if the novel traits discovered could support new breed development
- Determine if the novel traits discovered could be used as biological models.

Lykoi Hair and Skin Components Studied:

- Hair Coat
- Skin
- Vibrissae
- Claws
- Teeth
- Hair Shafts
- Hair Follicle Density
- Pilosebaceous Components
Principle Findings:

Lykoi hair follicles are developed in a way which prevent the undercoat from being maintained in the same manner as other cats. Consequently, they molt and can go completely bald some of the time, only to re-grow a new coat.

#1 - Lykoi have fewer hair follicles than a normal coated cat.
#2 - Lykoi have fewer in a hair follicle unit than a normal coated cat.
#3 - Secondary hair follicles were fewer in number in Lykoi cats.
#4 - There is a higher number of Lymphocytes (white blood cells/immunity) in the hair follicles of Lykoi cats.
The Lykoi is a partially hairless breed of cat with a coat that is unique to them.

A combination of distinct traits set the Lykoi apart from all other breeds:

1) Roaning; an amelanistic color pattern of intermixed white and colored guard hairs. The pattern is found in other animals, such as horses, but has not been noted in any other breed of cat.
2) A lack of undercoat.
3) Sparse hair on legs, feet and face mask.

The large, bright, walnut shaped eyes combined with these distinct traits, give the “Lykoi” a werewolf-like appearance.
**Category:** Shorthair  

**Classification:** Mutation  

**Allowable outcross breeds:** Domestic shorthair  

**Number of generations needed for pedigree:** 2  

**AOV:** Any Lykoi that is NOT one of the following patterns: solid (including white), solid sepia, solid mink or solid pointed.  

**Breed Notes:** Due to the limited gene pool, any cat naturally born to have the sparse hairless and intermixed amelanistic (roan) hair may be registered if approved by three CFA AB Judges and Breed Council Chair. These cats can be shown if they meet the breed standard.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEAD</strong></td>
<td>Total 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muzzle/Chin/Nose</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Size/Shape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ears</td>
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<td><strong>BODY</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legs/Feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tail</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COAT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Color/Roaning</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mask</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Background Photo Credit: foxnews.com (Reuters)
Well-Developed Muzzle

Muzzle is medium in length; fleshy, gently rounded hairless whisker pads with a definite whisker break. Muzzle ends with a well-developed chin.

Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Chin - 5 Points

Well-Developed Chin
Muzzle ends with a well-developed chin, aligned vertically with nose; full but neither projecting or receding.

Chin is receding.

Photos Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Proper Profile

A concave curve from brow to bridge.

Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Proper Head

The head is a modified wedge with rounded contours from nose to cheeks to ears. Slightly rounded forehead. Slightly longer than wide.

Forehead is flat, head is square and short.

Photos Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Proper Ears

Tall, open at the base, rounded tips and set high on the head, vertical and erect.

Ears are too far apart and point off to the side.

Photos Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
**Proper Eyes**

Large, walnut shaped, slanting upward with an open expression. Hairless rims desirable.

Eyes are too round.

Photos Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Proper Structure, Musculature, Legs, Feet & Tail

Conformation strikes a medium between slightly slendered, semi-foreign and the elegance of the foreign body type. Proportion and larger balance allowed in males. Neck is medium length; either thin nor overly muscular. The coat is rough in appearance but soft and silky to the touch.

Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Lykois rarely keep the same coat all year. There are different stages based on hormones, weather, etc. The coat also depends on the bloodlines and the individual cat. However, some Lykois do tend to keep the same coat all year long.

Due to the nature of the gene, Lykois are unable to grow a full undercoat at any time. They do shed, and while some families with allergies have no issue with the breed, Lykois are not hypoallergenic.
Solid Colors

Only solid colors are acceptable for competition.

Breed Colors

Black / Blue

Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com

Background Photo Credit: foxnews.com (Reuters)
Roaning Variation

ROANING: A unique coloration in which solid white hairs are thickly interspersed with normal pigmented hair through a cat's coat.

The amount of roaning can vary depending on cat, color and phase in molt cycle. The accepted range of colored hair percentage is 30 to 70%, with 50% being ideal.

Roaning in Blue Coat vs Roaning in Black Coat

Background Photo Credit: foxnews.com (Reuters)
Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Ancestry entitles it to Championship or Premiership competition, but coat color does not conform to the accepted show standard.
Roaning Variation

The white hairs of roaning, will comprise 30-70% of the coat on a black cat.

Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Background Photo Credit: foxnews.com (Reuters)
Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Proper Coat

The accepted range of colored hair percentage is 30 to 70%, with 50% being ideal. Hairless Mask present and coat is neither too full or too sparse.

Coat is too sparse.

Photos Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
Background Photo Credit: foxnews.com (Reuters)
Hairless Mask

The face exhibits a hairless mask connecting the nose, muzzle, eyes and ears giving the classic werewolf appearance.

Lacks proper mask.

Photo Credit: Brittney Gobble, Lykoicats.com
**Energetic**
Very active, curious cat and enjoy interaction. Lykoi will stalk their toys, other pets, and even people. They raise up on their hind legs, posing there before they pounce. They, like many dogs, love playing chase and many will eagerly learn to fetch with their favorite human.

**Affectionate**
Prefers hunting over cuddling yet insists on attention. The Lykoi are very loyal and tend to bond well with people and other pets; especially other Lykoi. They are cautious at first but once they are assured that the new people or pets are safe, they will quickly warm up to them.

**Inquisitive & Intelligent**
Lykoi are the first to scope out their environment. They make cautious observations then take control of their surroundings. They learn their name and will come when called. Because of their strong prey drive, intelligence, and protective nature, people say the werewolf-look also defines their personality.

Photos Credit: Theresa Fouche
"When I first met Quill, his shining eyes were what held my attention most. Like golden full moons. He was timid initially, but not aggressive in any way, and studied me closely as I chatted with his owner.

It only took a few minutes for his curious nature to get the best of him and he ventured closer to me. I was then quite shocked at how soft his sparse hair was. I had expected him to feel coarse and bristly, but his hair was silky and lovely. He continued to take in his surroundings visually; preferring to stay close to his owner. This being unlike many cats who would be venturing around the room smelling and examining every inch.

Karma was the next Lykoi that I had the pleasure of meeting. In the hospital, she behaved very similar to Quill. Quiet, cautious and observant with the silkiest coat. However I then had the luxury of visiting her in her home. While she still had an underlying air of caution, she was eager to begin playing, but on her own terms. Overall, my first impression of the Lykoi is that they are wonderfully silky cats who are curiously observant, playful but mysterious, and prefer to do things on their own terms."
“Bastian”
Blue Roan Male – 5 Months
“Houdini”
Black Roan Male – 8 Months
“Strange”  
Black Roan Female – 1 Year
“Lobo”
Black Roan Male – 10 Months