

Brawny and Beautiful

**AFFECTIONATE
AND SOCIAL, THE
PIXIEBOB WINS
FANS WITH ITS WILD
LOOKS AND SWEET
DISPOSITION.**

The Pixiebob has the look of a wild bobcat but the loving personality of a domestic cat.

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laid-back, getting along well with all members of the household. "They are in tune with your moods and act accordingly," Fedewa explains. "If you're sad, they'll rub up against you as if to say, 'It will be OK.' If you're angry, they'll stay away. They're even better with children than I am!"

Because the Pixiebob enjoys the company of children, Fedewa recommends it as a welcome addition to almost any home. She tells potential owners that the cat needs regular attention, noting that the breed is ideal for "one who respects an intelligent animal [and] wants a companion, a friend."

Bobcat Beginnings?

It was this friendly personality combined with wild good looks that first intrigued Carol Ann Brewer, long considered the pioneer of the Pixiebob breed. In 1985, Brewer adopted a male polydactyl cat from a litter of kittens born to a female who had escaped a fight with a small wild bobcat. The kitten bore a striking resemblance to a bobcat, though no proof existed that the mother had mated with the wild animal.

A few years later, Brewer obtained another kitten born through the same

The Pixiebob is devoted to its family, making it a very loyal companion.



TETSU YAMAZAKI

fabled circumstances. The cat's size, appearance and tail length all evoked a wild appearance, yet the cat's personality remained thoroughly domestic. The combination led Brewer to start a breeding program. Her efforts led to acceptance in The International Cat Association in 1994, eventually leading to championship status for the 1998 show season.

According to TICA's website, an ideal Pixiebob has either long or short hair characterized by a "woolly" texture and a brown spotted tabby pattern. A medium to large cat with males weighing 12 to 17 pounds, the Pixiebob has hind legs that are slightly longer than the front legs to support a muscular, substantial body. The shape of the cat's face resembles that of a wild bobcat, with a thick chin and heavy brow. Heavily hooded eyes — which can be gold, brown or green — are surrounded by white or cream bands.

The Pixiebob's distinguishing characteristic — its bobbed tail — should be at least 2 inches long and can be as long as the hock (the joint on the back legs). While it can have kinks or knots, the tail should be flexible and able to move naturally. Yet another unique trait is the Pixiebob's polydactylism; this is the only breed in the cat fancy allowed to have more than five toes on its front paws and four toes on its back paws (though it cannot have more than seven on a single paw).

Welcome Home

If the Pixiebob's wild good looks aren't enough to turn heads, the breed's unique vocalizations may gather some attention. Though typically a quiet breed, the Pixiebob frequently communicates with chirps, trills or chuffs instead of classic feline meows. "Pixiebobs have very quiet speaking voices but have very loud motors," Fedewa says, noting that her cats seem to speak up only to communicate messages such as "Welcome home" or "What's for dinner?"

With such a sweet greeting waiting, it's no wonder cat lovers choose to come home to a Pixiebob. The friendly, inquisitive, loyal cat makes an ideal companion. As Fedewa says, they prefer to "be with you, near you, on you." 🐾

Stacy N. Hackett writes frequently about cats and other pets. She has a special affection for the Cornish Rex breed and any cat with red tabby markings.



GINA CIOLLI-5 STUDIO



THE FIRST WORD Shari Fedewa uses to describe the Pixiebob is “confident.” Some of her cats

enjoy rides in the car, sit patiently for baths, fearlessly greet guests at the door — they even tolerate the hair dryer. “I had a Pixiebob [who] after being given a bath, sat on my shoulder cleaning his paw while the dryer went, ‘weeeee,’” explains the breeder from Winter Park, Fla. “He didn’t bat an eye.”

In fact, Fedewa compares the confidence of the Pixiebob to that of the family dog, noting that the cat enjoys many activities typically thought of as “doglike.” “They are intelligent and obedient, which is usually not in the same sentence as ‘cat,’” she says. “They can be trained to walk on a leash and have been known to play fetch and hide-and-seek.”

Another word that accurately describes the Pixiebob is “interactive,” as noted by the breed’s preference for games that involve human participation. The intelligent cat also can be trained to obey commands, Fedewa says. “I heard of a Pixiebob that purred when told to!”

Perhaps the Pixiebob purrs so readily because of its affection for its human family members. Breeders say the cat is mellow and



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