

Donskoy Cat Profile-History, Appearance & Temperament

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[About](#) [History](#) [Appearance](#) [Temperament](#) [Care](#)

At a glance:

- **Origin:** Russia
- **Lifespan:** 12-14 years
- **Eyes:** Hazel, green, yellow, blue
- **Energy:** Medium
- **Temperament:** Playful, outgoing, curious, loving
- **Weight:** Males 4.5-5.5 kg (9.9 – 12.1 lbs), females 4.5 – 5 kg (9.9 – 11 lbs)
- **Colours:** All colours and patterns
- **Grooming:** Weekly bath
- **Other names:** Don Sphynx, Dons, Russian Hairless

About:

The Donsky is a hairless breed originating in Russia in 1987. They come in four coat types from completely bald to a full coat which is wavy or wiry in texture.

This is an extremely sociable and intelligent breed of cat. They are playful, inquisitive and loyal. They thrive on human company.

History:



Also known as the Don Sphynx, Russian Hairless or the Don Hairless, the Donskoy is a breed arising from a natural mutation.

In 1987, Elena Kovaleva rescued a blue tortoiseshell kitten. The kitten, named Varvara, began to lose her fur around four months of age. She was treated for fungal and skin mite infections, however despite this, her coat didn't grow back.

A year later she mated with the neighbouring tom and produced a litter of kittens. One kitten was given to a friend of Elena's, Irina Nemykina. The kitten, named Chita began to lose her fur around four months of age, as had occurred with her mother. Another mating with a local tom produced four male kittens, this time developing a *velour* coat.

These cats went on to become the founding stock of the Donskoy, outcrossing with European Shorthairs to increase the gene pool.

In 1997 the Peterbald breed arose by mating a Donskoy to an Oriental.

The gene responsible is different to that of the Canadian Sphynx. The hairlessness in the Sphynx is recessive, meaning both parents must pass a copy onto the offspring in order for them to inherit the trait. However, the gene for the Donskoy is dominant and only one copy is required for the offspring to be hairless.

The World Cat Federation recognised the Donskoy in 1997 and TICA accepted them in 2005.

Appearance:



The Donskoy is a medium cat with a muscular build, they are stockier than the Canadian Sphynx with heavier boning. They have a long and stocky body, with strong legs leading to webbed toes, the tail is thin and tapers to a fine point.

The large ears sit on top of a wedge-shaped head and almond shaped eyes.

The coat comes in four types:

1. Completely hairless (called rubber or sticky bald): Kittens are born bald and stay that way.
2. Flocked: Appears hairless but has a chamois-like coat, this may fall out in some cats by the time they have reached two years old.
3. Velour: Born with a velvet coat, however, there is a bald patch on the head which is called a monk's cap. Hair falls out although some may remain on the face, legs and tail.
4. Brush: Born with a thick coat of wavy, soft, bristly or wiry hair which remains although there may be bald patches on the head.

The Donskoy comes in all colours, patterns and eye colours.

Temperament:

The Donskoy is an extremely affectionate breed of cat, they love nothing more than spending time with their human companions and don't do well if left for long periods of time on their own.

They are playful, energetic, extremely intelligent and get along with people and other pets. Gentle in nature, they make an exceptional family pet.

Care:

An annual health check with a veterinarian is important, going to twice a year from seven years of age.

While little brushing is needed, the Donskoy will need to be regularly bathed as they sweat through their skin and produce more sebum. A daily wipe over and a weekly bath in a suitable pet shampoo will remove these excess oils and sweat.

All cats should have their teeth cleaned regularly with a pet toothbrush and toothpaste or raw chicken necks and cubes of steak.

Routine parasite control to treat fleas and intestinal worms, even for indoor cats. The frequency varies on the type of medication you are giving.

Due to their lack of coat, the Donskoy should be indoors only and provided with a warm environment in the cooler months.