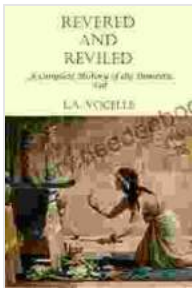


# The Complete History of the Domestic Cat



## Revered and Reviled: A Complete History of the Domestic Cat by L.A. Vocelle

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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The domestic cat (*Felis catus*) is one of the most popular pets in the world. These furry companions have been a part of human history for thousands of years, and their story is filled with fascinating twists and turns.

## Origins of the Cat

The earliest known cat fossils date back to around 34 million years ago. These early cats were small, tree-dwelling animals that resembled modern-day genets and civets. Over time, cats evolved into larger, more muscular animals that were better adapted for hunting on the ground.

The first cats to be domesticated were likely the African wildcat (*Felis lybica*). These cats were first domesticated in the Middle East around 9,000 years ago. Domestication was likely a gradual process, as cats began to scavenge for food around human settlements. Over time, humans began to

tolerate the presence of cats, and eventually, they began to keep them as pets.

### **Cats in Ancient Egypt**

Cats were highly revered in ancient Egypt. They were associated with the goddess Bastet, who was the goddess of protection, fertility, and childbirth. Cats were often mummified and buried with their owners. The ancient Egyptians also believed that cats had the ability to see into the future, and they were often consulted for advice.

### **Cats in the Middle Ages**

Cats were not as popular in the Middle Ages as they were in ancient Egypt. They were often associated with witchcraft and evil, and they were often killed on sight. However, cats did play an important role in keeping rodent populations under control, and they were eventually accepted as a necessary evil.

### **Cats in the Renaissance**

The Renaissance saw a renewed interest in cats. They were once again seen as symbols of good luck and prosperity, and they were often depicted in art and literature. Cats also became popular as pets among the wealthy and powerful.

### **Cats in the Modern World**

Cats are now one of the most popular pets in the world. They are loved for their companionship, their intelligence, and their beauty. Cats have also played an important role in human history, and they continue to be a vital part of our lives today.

## Cat Breeds

There are over 70 recognized breeds of domestic cat. These breeds come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. Some of the most popular cat breeds include:

- Abyssinian
- American Bobtail
- American Curl
- American Shorthair
- Bengal
- Birman
- Bombay
- British Shorthair
- Burmese
- Chartreux
- Cornish Rex
- Devon Rex
- Egyptian Mau
- Exotic Shorthair
- Himalayan
- Japanese Bobtail
- Maine Coon

- Manx
- Norwegian Forest Cat
- Ocicat
- Oriental Shorthair
- Persian
- Ragdoll
- Russian Blue
- Scottish Fold
- Siamese
- Siberian
- Somali
- Sphynx
- Tonkinese

## **Cat Behavior**

Cats are highly intelligent animals with a complex range of behaviors. They are known for their independence and their cleanliness. Cats are also very social animals, and they enjoy spending time with their human companions.

Here are some of the most common cat behaviors:

- **Purring:** Cats purr when they are happy, content, or relaxed. Purring is also used as a way to communicate with other cats.

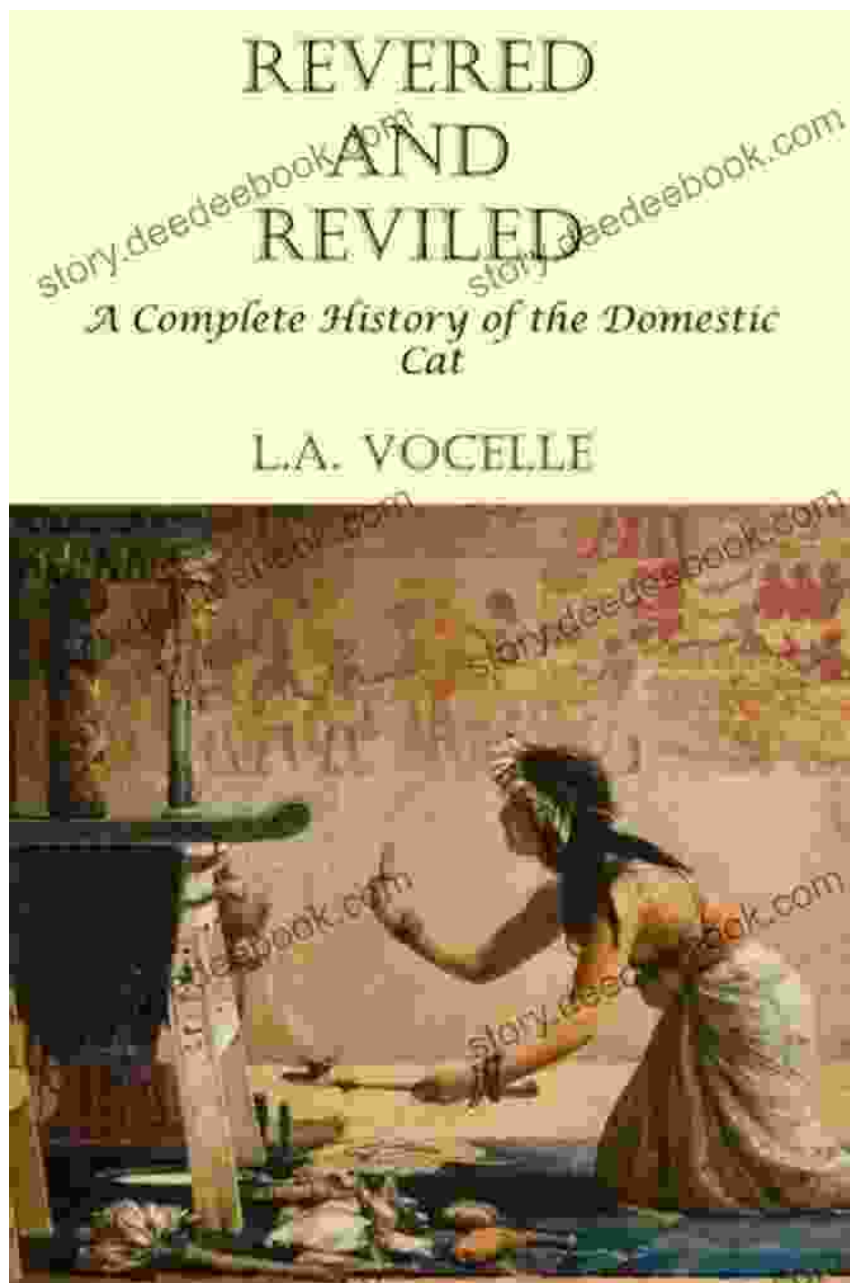
- **Meowing:** Cats meow to communicate with humans. They may meow when they are hungry, thirsty, or want attention.
- **Rubbing:** Cats rub against people and objects to mark their territory. They also rub against people to show affection.
- **Kneading:** Cats knead with their paws when they are happy or relaxed. Kneading is also a way to show affection.
- **Licking:** Cats lick themselves to groom themselves. They also lick people and objects to show affection.
- **Biting:** Cats bite for a variety of reasons, including play, aggression, or fear.
- **Scratching:** Cats scratch to mark their territory, to sharpen their claws, or to stretch their muscles.

## Cat Mythology

Cats have been featured in mythology and folklore around the world for centuries. In ancient Egypt, cats were associated with the goddess Bastet, who was the goddess of protection, fertility, and childbirth. In Norse mythology, cats were associated with the goddess Freya, who was the goddess of love, beauty, and fertility. In Celtic mythology, cats were associated with the goddess Brigid, who was the goddess of poetry, healing, and smithcraft.

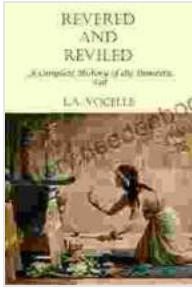
Cats have also been featured in many fairy tales and children's stories. In the fairy tale "Cinderella," the fairy godmother transforms a pumpkin into a carriage with the help of a mouse and a cat. In the children's story "Puss in Boots," a cat helps a poor miller's son win the hand of a princess.

The domestic cat is a truly remarkable animal. They have been a part of human history for thousands of years, and they continue to be a vital part of our lives today. From their origins in the wild to their role as beloved companions, the story of the domestic cat is a fascinating one.

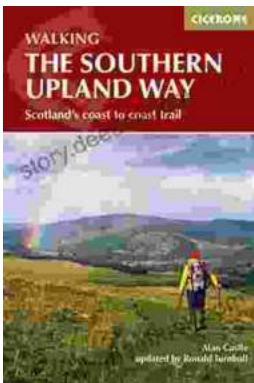


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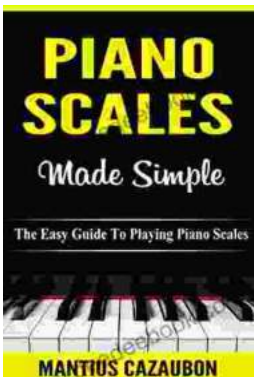


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