

[article](#)
[discussion](#)
[edit this page](#)
[history](#)


navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)

search

interaction

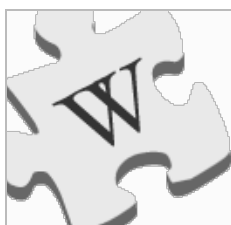
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact Wikipedia](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Help](#)

toolbox

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

languages

- [Català](#)
- [Deutsch](#)
- [Español](#)
- [Français](#)
- [Frysk](#)
- [Gaelg](#)
- [Gàidhlig](#)
- [Hrvatski](#)
- [עברית](#)
- [Magyar](#)
- [Nederlands](#)
- [日本語](#)
- [Polski](#)
- [Română](#)
- [Simple English](#)
- [Slovenčina](#)
- [Српски / Srpski](#)
- [Suomi](#)
- [Svenska](#)
- [Українська](#)
- [中文](#)



Wikipedia is there when you need it — now it needs you.

[\[Collapse\]](#)

 \$5,934,289

Our Goal: \$6 million

[Donate Now »](#)
[Learn More...](#)

Manx (cat)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Manx (Kayt Manninagh or Stubbin in [Manx](#)) is a [breed](#) of [cat](#) with a naturally occurring [mutation](#) of the [spine](#). This mutation shortens the tail, resulting in a range of tail lengths from normal to tailless. Many Manx have a small 'stub' of a [tail](#), but Manx cats are best known as being entirely tailless; the distinguishing characteristic of the breed and a [cat body type genetic mutation](#). The Manx are said to be skilled hunters, known to take down larger prey even when they are young. It is not uncommon to find a Manx with a [squirrel](#) or an [opossum](#) which are much larger than itself. They are often sought by farmers with rodent problems.

Contents [hide]

- [Origin](#)
- [Appearance](#)
 - [2.1 Tail length](#)
 - [2.2 Coat](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Cultural references](#)
- [Famous and fictional Manx cats](#)
- [See also](#)
- [References](#)
- [External links](#)

Manx
 <div>Manx</div>
Country of origin
Isle of Man (Crown dependency)
Breed standard
CFA : standard
TICA : standard
AACE : standard
ACFA : standard
CCA : standard



Origin

[\[edit\]](#)

The [Manx](#) breed originated before the 1700s on the [Isle of Man](#) (hence the name), where they are common. They are called *stubbin* in the [Manx language](#). Tail-less cats were common on the island as long as three hundred years ago. The tail-lessness arises from a genetic mutation that became common on the island (an example of the [Founder effect](#)).

Folk beliefs claim the Manx Cats came from the Spanish Armada; a ship foundered on Spanish Rock on the coast of the Isle of Man. According to legend, the cats on the ship swam ashore and became an established breed. Legend has it that the cats originally went onboard the Spanish ship in the Far East.

The Manx tail-less gene is dominant and highly [penetrant](#); kittens from Manx parents are generally born without any tail. Having two copies of the gene is semi-lethal and kittens are usually spontaneously [aborted](#) before birth.^{[1][2]} This means that tail-less cats can carry only one copy of the gene. Because of the danger of having two copies of the tail-less gene, breeders have to be careful about breeding two tail-less Manxes together.^[3] Problems can be avoided by breeding tail-less cats with tailed ones and this breeding practice is responsible for the decreasing occurrence of spinal problems in recent years.

There are various legends that seek to explain why the Manx has no tail. In one of them, [Noah](#) closed the door of the [ark](#) when it began to rain and accidentally cut off the Manx's tail, who'd been playing and almost got left behind.^[4] Another legend claims that the Manx is the [offspring](#) of a cat and a [rabbit](#) which is why it has no tail and rather long hind legs. In addition, they move with more of a hop than a stride, like a rabbit. This legend was further reinforced by the [Cabbit](#) myth. Recent postcards on the [Isle of Man](#) depict a cartoon scene of a cat's tail being run over and removed by a [motorbike](#), because [motorbike racing is popular on the Island](#).

Populations of tail-less cats also exist in a few other places in Europe. The population on the isolated [Danish](#) peninsula ^[5]

(former island) of [Reersø](#) in the [Great Belt](#) may be due to cats of Manx origin being [shipwrecked](#) on the island.

Appearance

[[edit](#)]

The hind legs of a Manx are longer than the front legs, creating a continuous arch from shoulders to rump giving the cat a rounded appearance.

Tail length

[[edit](#)]



A week old female Manx kitten. Note the stumpy tail.

Manx kittens are classified according to [tail](#) length:

- Dimple rumpy or rumpy - no tail whatsoever
- Riser or rumpy riser - stub of [cartilage](#) or several [vertebrae](#) under the fur, most noticeable when kitten is happy and raising its 'tail'
- Stumpy - partial tail, more than a 'riser' but less than 'tailed' (in rare cases kittens are born with kinked tails because of incomplete growth of the tail during [development](#))
- Tailed or longy - complete or near complete tail

-Tail length is random throughout litter.

The ideal [show](#) Manx is the rumpy; the stumpy and tailed Manx do not qualify to be shown. In the past, kittens with stumpy or full tails have been [docked](#) at birth as a preventative measure due to some partial tails being very prone to a form of [arthritis](#) that causes the cat severe pain. ^[4]

Coat

[[edit](#)]

Manx cats exhibit two [coat lengths](#). The short-haired Manx has a double coat with a thick, short under-layer and a longer, coarse outer-layer with [guard hairs](#). The long-haired Manx, known to some cat registries as the [Cymric](#), has a silky-textured double coat of medium length, with britches, belly and neck ruff, tufts of fur between the toes and full ear furnishings. [The Cat Fanciers' Association](#) (CFA) considers the Cymric to be a variety of Manx and judges it in the short-hair division, while [The International Cat Association](#) (TICA) judges it in the long-hair division. Short- or long-haired, all Manx have a thick double-layered coat.



Short-hair stubby Manx

Health

[[edit](#)]



Another rumpy or possibly rumpy-riser Manx

"Manx Syndrome" is a [colloquial](#) name given to the condition which results when the mutant tailless gene shortens the spine too much. It can seriously damage the [spinal cord](#) and the [nerves](#) causing [spina bifida](#) as well as problems with the [bowels](#), [bladder](#), and [digestion](#). Some only live for 3 years; the oldest recorded was 5. In one study it was shown to affect about 20% of Manx cats, but almost all of those cases were rumpies, which exhibit the most extreme [phenotype](#).^[2] Actual occurrences of this are rare in modern examples of the breed due to informed breeding practices.^[6] Most pedigreed cats are not placed until four months of age (to make sure that they are properly socialised) and this gives adequate time for any health problems to be identified.^[citation needed] Renowned feline expert Roger Tabor has stated that "Only the fact that the Manx is a historic breed stops us being as critical of this

dangerous gene as of other more recent selected abnormalities."^[7]

The Manx breed, in spite of the absence of tail, has no problems with balance.

Cultural references

[[edit](#)]

- The Isle of Man has adopted the Manx cat as a symbol of its native origins. On the Isle of Man, Manx cats appear on the 1988 "cat" crown ^[1] and stamps.



A stumpy white female

[[edit](#)]

Famous and fictional Manx cats

Manx kitten. Note the long hind legs.

- The famous [ASL-speaking gorilla, Koko](#), has chosen three separate Manx ([All Ball](#), [Lipstick](#) and [Smokey](#)) as pets.
- [Stimpy](#) from [The Ren and Stimpy Show](#). [Stimpson "Stimpy" J. Cat](#) is a fat, tailless, red and white [cat](#) with a blue nose, purple eyelids, and flat feet.
- [Gordon](#) from [Catscratch](#)
- [Mac Manc McManx](#) - a recurring guest character in the daily comic strip [Get Fuzzy](#).

See also

[[edit](#)]

- [All Ball](#)
- [Cabbit](#)

References

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ [Table of various cat genes](#)
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} Robinson, R (1993). "Expressivity of the Manx gene in cats". *Journal of heredity* 84 (3): 170–2. [PMID 8228170](#) .
- ↑ Vella, Carolyn; Lorraine Shelton; John McGonagle; Terry Stanglein (1999). *Robinson's Genetics for Cat Breeders and Veterinarians*. [Butterworth-Heinemann](#). ISBN 0-7506-4069-3.
- ↑ ^{*a*} ^{*b*} Manx FAQ from Cat Fancier's Mailing List
- ↑ [homepage of the peninsula of Reersø](#)
- ↑ [Manx medical facts](#)
- ↑ [Twisty Cats And The Ethics Of Breeding For Deformity](#)

External links

[[edit](#)]

- [Manx Syndrome Myth and Truth](#)
- [Manx Cats Information](#)
- [The Manx Breed Council](#)

v • d • e	Domestic cat	[hide]
Felinology	History · Ancient Egypt · Anatomy	
Genetics	Coat genetics · Body genetics · Selective breeding	
Health	Anesthesia · Diet · Vaccination · Feline viral rhinotracheitis · Feline calicivirus · Feline panleukopenia · Feline leukemia virus · Feline immunodeficiency virus · Feline infectious peritonitis · Rabies · Ringworm · Flea · Heartworm · Roundworm · Tick · Toxoplasmosis · Feline acne · Cat skin disorders · Feline asthma · Feline Hepatic Lipidosis · Feline lower urinary tract disease · Neutering · Declawing	
Behavior	Senses · Kneading · Righting reflex · Body language · Catfight · Communication · Intelligence · Purr · Play and toys · Catnip	
Human-cat interaction	Feral cat · Black cat · Cat show · Ship's cat · High-rise syndrome · Animal hoarding · Cat meat	
Registries	Cat Fanciers' Association · Fédération Internationale Féline · Governing Council of the Cat Fancy · The International Cat Association	
Breeds	Abyssinian · American Curl · Balinese · British Shorthair · Bengal · Birman · Bombay · Burmese · California Spangled · Chartreux · Cornish Rex · Devon Rex · Don Sphynx · Egyptian Mau · Exotic Shorthair · Himalayan · Japanese Bobtail · Javanese · Korat · Maine Coon · Manx · Munchkin · Norwegian Forest Cat · Ocicat · Oriental Shorthair · Persian · Peterbald · Ragdoll · Ragamuffin · Russian Blue · Savannah · Scottish Fold · Siamese · Siberian · Singapura · Somali · Sphynx · Tonkinese · Turkish Angora · Turkish Van	
	Category · Portal	

Categories: [Cat breeds](#) | [Fauna of the Isle of Man](#)



This page was last modified on 22 December 2008, at 20:03. All text is available under the terms of the [GNU Free Documentation License](#). (See [Copyrights](#) for details.)



Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity.