

Know Thy Cat

‘The Series’



Savannah Cats
A Guide to a Understanding Your Exotic
Feline for a Lifelong Friendship

BY ANGELA DEVILLE



Introduction

Savannah cats are unlike any other feline companion. Born from a cross between a domestic cat and an African serval, they embody the wild elegance of their ancestors while offering the loyalty and intelligence of a household pet. From their striking spotted coats and long, graceful legs to their dog-like personalities, Savannahs captivate everyone who meets them.

But with their beauty comes a unique set of needs and challenges that every potential or current owner must understand. Savannah cats are not your typical lap cats; they are highly intelligent, require ample stimulation, and thrive in environments that honor both their domestic and wild roots.

This e-book was created to guide you through the wild world of Savannah cats.

“To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom, and to know thy cat is the beginning of a lifelong friendship”

About Me



Hi, I'm Angela - a commercial helicopter pilot, flight instructor, entrepreneur, and long-time caretaker of exotic felines. After building a successful career in aviation and luxury beauty consulting, I began to feel a shift. My soul pulled me toward something more instinctual: a life dedicated to protecting exotic cats and wild animals that too often suffer in silence or captivity.

I believe in fierce femininity, unapologetic purpose, and the sacred connection between humans and animals. My mission isn't just about rescue, it is about rebirth, healing, and returning to the wild parts of ourselves.

In the e-book, I will be sharing my knowledge and expertise, giving you the confidence to truly understand, care for, and build a lifelong bond with your Savannah cat, one of the most extraordinary companions in the world.

Angela



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01 The Origins of Savannah Cats

Savannah Cats trace their lineage to a bold and beautiful cross between the African Serval and a domestic housecat. The African Serval is known for its large ears, spotted coat, and incredible leaping ability. These traits would later define the Savannah breed.

The first recorded Savannah cat was born on April 7, 1986, when breeder Judy Frank successfully paired a male African Serval with a Siamese cat. The hybrid kitten was named Savannah, which became the namesake for the entire breed.

In 2001, The International Cat Association (TICA) officially accepted the Savannah cat as a registered breed, making it one of the newest and most exotic additions to the domestic cat world.



Understanding Generations (F_I-F₇)

Not all Savannah cats are the same. One of the most unique aspects of the breed is its generation classification, which reflects how close a particular cat is to its African Serval ancestor. These classifications, F₁ - F₇, help caretakers understand a Savannah cat's size, personality, and care needs. The "F" stands for filial, which measures how many generations a cat is removed from its wild Serval parent.

An F₁ Savannah cat has a serval parent and a domestic parent (50% African Serval). An F₂ Savannah cat has a serval grandparent (25% serval). Each additional generation dilutes the serval lineage while retaining the distinctive Savannah look and personality.



What to Expect with each Generation (filial level / F_I - F₇)

F₁

A large cat with wild instincts, high energy, great intelligence. They bond deeply, but may be more cautious.

F₂

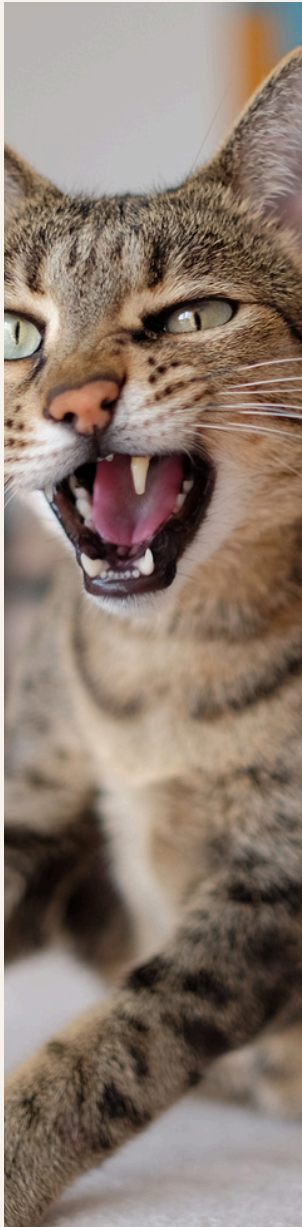
Similar to an F₁, but slightly smaller, with high energy and intelligence.

F₃₊

F₃-F₇ have the wild look, but with more predictable domestic behaviors. Very active and curious.

02

Temperament and Behavior



Savannah Cats and other domestic hybrids exhibit the wild behaviors of their ancestors and require much more attention and care than domestic cats.

Savannah cats are wildly intelligent and curious, often compared to dogs for their ability to learn tricks, walk on a leash, and even play fetch. Their sharp minds make them natural problem solvers, but this also means they can quickly figure out how to open doors, cabinets, and even windows if left unchecked.

These cats thrive on activity and need plenty of room to run, jump, and climb. Savannahs are known for their incredible leaping ability, sometimes reaching heights of over 8 feet during play and while exploring their surroundings. These cats are the opposite of couch potatoes and need a household that honors and respects their natural instincts and athletic ability.

Affectionate but Independent

While deeply bonded to their humans, Savannah cats tend to express affection on their own terms. They are social and enjoy interacting with other pets when properly introduced. They often prefer living with another active cat or dog companion.



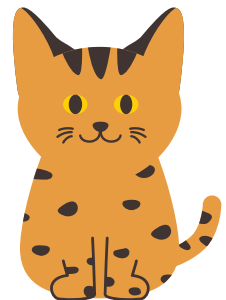
Communication Style

Known for their distinctive vocalizations, Savannah chirp, hiss, and meow in ways that sound almost wild. They communicate through body language, which can consist of tail flicks, ear rotations, and pounces.



Emotional Sensitivity

Savannahs are highly sensitive to their environment and the emotions of their owners. Changes in routine, new people, or a lack of attention can lead to stress behaviors. Consistency, patience, and positive reinforcement help them feel secure and loved. They are best in a home where they are not left alone all day.



Make sure that you have the time, flexibility, and proper living situation to create a home that allows your Savannah cat to play and exercise.



03

Daily Care & Enrichment

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Standard domestic cat care is not nearly enough to keep Savannah cats happy and healthy. It is important to offer daily enrichment activities and plenty of playtime.

Diet and Nutrition

Savannah cats thrive in environments that challenge their minds and bodies. Their wild heritage makes them more active and more intelligent than most domestic breeds. This means that standard cat care is not enough to keep them happy and healthy.

These cats benefit from high protein, grain free diet similar to what their serval ancestors would eat in the wild. Many caretakers opt for raw diets of chicken, fish and whole prey. Premium wet food is not optimal but may be ok for higher generations (F3-F7).

Exercise and Mental Stimulation

Savannahs must have daily high energy play sessions in order to stay physically fit and mentally stimulated. Interactive toys, laser pointers, feather wands, and fetch games are favorites. Toys should be switched out weekly to prevent boredom. Climbing structures and tall cat trees are essential to satisfy their natural instinct to jump.

Without mental challenges, Savannahs can become bored and destructive. Many owners choose to build outdoor enclosures for them to explore safely.

Some Important Tips

- ✓ Make sure you choose toys that are safe and monitor playtime closely. It is common for them to chew and potentially swallow smaller toys, which can lead to intestinal blockage.
- ✓ Sometimes the best games can be ones that you create yourself with household items. They love to hunt for sticks and strings, especially if hidden under a blanket or rug. This is where the iconic pounce comes in.
- ✓ Day old chicks are a fantastic and nutritious treat for all Savannah cats. I have never met one who does not love these. It keeps them tied to their wild roots and can be an opportunity for bonding time.



Leash training is a fantastic way to bond with your Savannah cat and give them the opportunity to explore the outdoors safely. It is important to start slowly and with a harness that secures the cat. They are highly flexible and great escape artists. A dog harness will always be best, but check for fit.

If you plan to take your cat on outdoor adventures, I also recommend purchasing a tracking collar or other device. Fi collars are my favorite for the lower generations (as they are quite big). Tractive also makes one. At the very least, get an AirTag that can be attached to their collar, but keep in mind that these don't always work in rural or remote areas.

Leash training may seem like a daunting task, but as long as you go about it slowly and safely, you can establish a routine and understand the cat's inclinations. The first step is to get them accustomed to wearing the harness. Start inside the home and make sure you lavish them with treats, praise, lots of love and playtime so they will associate the harness with a positive experience. Go slow and make it fun!

“

I cannot stress enough that these cats are not your standard domestic housecat. Their needs are much more demanding and complex. It is something that every potential owner must consider. The absolute worst thing you can do is to bring one into your house only to rehome them later. They typically bond with one human and rehoming is extremely traumatic and sometimes fatal.

- ANGELA DEVILLE



Additional Resources



Tracking Collars

Fi Smart Collar www.tryfi.com

Tractive Smart Collar www.tractive.com

Harnesses and Leads

Chai's Choice - Best Dog Harness with Quick Release www.chaischoice.com

Frozen Day Old Chicks

Layne Laboratories - 1 Day Frozen Chicks
www.LayneLabs.com

Vitamin Supplements

Platinum Performance Feline

www.platinumperformance.com

WildTrax www.wildtraxsupply.com

Primal-Cal www.freshplusoasis.com

Living with a Savannah Cat

Savannah cats are more than just exotic companions; they are a living connection to the wild, a reminder of nature's beauty and intelligence. Every Savannah cat deserves not only admiration for its striking appearance but also respect for its instincts and individuality.



If this e-book has inspired you to learn more, adopt responsibly, or support ethical breeding and rescue efforts, I invite you to join the mission. Together, we can:
EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, and PROTECT

[JOIN THE MISSION](#)

Your journey with a Savannah cat can change not just your life, but theirs and the future of hybrid cats across the world.

Stay Connected and Support the Cause



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