



Hairless "Minskin" cat breed is a cross between the Sphinx and Munchkin breeds.

He Created A New Kind Of Cat

Paul McSorley is so crazy about cats he started his own breed. He calls them Minskins.

To produce the nearly hairless Minskins, the Provincetown, Mass. cat breeder crossed a Sphinx with a Munchkin. Sphinx cats carry a dominant gene for hairlessness with only a light fuzz over most of their torsos. Munchkins are small cats with a Dachshund-like look. They carry the recessive gene for short legs.

Most new breeds come from a natural mutation that a breeder recognizes and breeds back to create a breed. McSorley developed his concept first and then crossbred the two foundation breeds.

"In the first generation, all the kittens carried the dominant hairless gene, while half carried the short-legged gene," explains McSorley. "Breeding them back to either foundation breed will produce about 25 percent Minskins."

It is the third generation that will breed true to the standard with all offspring both short-legged and hairless. The standard doesn't demand rebreeding to the foundation breed. Allowable outcrosses are Sphinx/Munchkin crosses and short hair breeds. What counts is that the cat demonstrates both genes.

McSorley is in the process of seeking recognition from the International Cat Association (TICA). The Munchkin breed was only recognized in 1995 and then only after what McSorley describes as a "cat fight". He hopes this effort will go smoother.

"I'm intrigued by their unique differences



"Minskins" have short legs and are covered with light fuzz.

and the art of selective breeding," he says.

By promoting his breed standard, McSorley hopes to avoid problems with sky high prices. He recalls that some early Munchkin breeders tried to cash in on their limited numbers.

He expects that a Minskin sold for breeding might go for \$1,500 to \$2,500 (comparable pricing to the foundation breeds). However, he is not planning to sell kittens.

"I would sooner place an animal in an established breeding program in exchange for a kitten back in the future," he says. "I am not marketing the cats for sale as much as for expanding the breed."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul McSorley, TRT Cattery, 9 Center Street, Provincetown, Mass. 02657 (ph 508 487-6955; website: www.minskin.com).

One Horse PTO Power

Ammon Weaver figures why crank an ice cream maker when you can let a horse do it. Not only does the horse maintain consistent power, but he doesn't expect to eat any of the finished product.

Weaver runs a metal forming company and, in his spare time, makes horse-powered treadmills. So far, he has built nine, and they are all spoken for.

"We're starting another batch of ten," says Weaver. "Using them for ice cream making has been the most popular, but we use ours on a washing machine."

While the treadmill with its pto gearbox can be connected to any mechanical drive, Weaver also makes a hydraulic motor that runs off the pto. He has used that to power other equipment.

"Horses are easy to train to the treadmill," says Ammon. "In about 10 to 15 minutes, the horse has it all figured out."

The horse is led onto the inclined treadmill, and a bar is placed behind the animal. Once the treadmill is put in gear, if the horse doesn't walk forward, the treadmill belt will slide him back into the bar. This starts him forward.

"Once a horse gets used to it, he doesn't



Horse-powered treadmill drives a pto shaft that can be used to perform a variety of jobs.

even need the bar across his backside," reports Ammon. "It is just like climbing a constant grade."

Ammon's treadmills have an adjustable grade ramp. He says he gets about one horsepower from a light work horse, but he is planning to build a twin one for twice the power.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ammon Weaver, Athens Enterprises, 1821 Matherly Road, Liberty, Ky. 42539 (ph 606 787-8474).

Woman Finds Success As Champion Tractor Puller

European men competing in pro stock tractor pulling know they're pulling against the best when Johanna Herlevi shows up. She's a customer service rep for Finnish tractor maker Valtra and a champion tractor puller. Her tractor is named Doris.

"My dad named her," explains Herlevi. "In Finnish, it is comparable to 'sweet girl' or 'chick.'"

Herlevi got involved in pulling through her dad, a champion puller himself. When his team began building a pro stock class tractor in 1998, the team boss suggested that she be the driver. It took the 20-year-old only a few minutes to accept the offer.

Today she competes against not only her dad, but also her brother. All three compete with Valtra 200 plus hp tractors. Modified for competition, the SisuDiesel 634 DS engine can generate well over 1,800 hp at 6,500 rpm's with a single turbocharger.

In six years of competition, she has become a top contender in the class. She was European Championship Gold winner in 1998, Silver winner in 2001 and Bronze winner in 2002. Her brother took Gold this past year, and her father placed fourth.

"It's a family affair," says Herlevi. "As we all drive in pro stock class, sometimes we get a little competitive, but still most of it is in fun. We don't take it so seriously that we can't support and help each other."

Herlevi's dad and brother built her tractor as well as their own. Now that she lives three hours from home, they handle all the tuning and mechanical upkeep, but at competitions, she does what is needed.

While she was the only female puller when she started, three other women pulled in the European Championship this past year. She encourages females to consider trying it, especially if there is a tractor puller in the family.

"It is largely a male hobby, so everybody likes when there are females around," reports Herlevi.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Johanna Herlevi, Valtra Inc., FIN-44200 Suolahti (ph 358(0)20 4550886; email: johanna.herlevi@valtra.com; website: http://tractorpulling.valtra.com/frameset.htm).



Johanna Herlevi competes in pro stock tractor pulls in Europe where she's a top contender in her class. By day she's a customer service rep for Finnish tractor maker Valtra.



The 20-year-old Herlevi competes against not only her dad, but also her brother. All three compete with Valtra 200 plus hp tractors. Modified for competition, the SisuDiesel 634 DS engine can generate well over 1,800 hp at 6,500 rpm's with a single turbocharger.



Here the pto powers an ice cream maker. Weaver also makes a hydraulic motor that runs off the pto. He has used that to power other equipment.