



Sphynx breed has short fine down that can hardly be seen or felt.

## "THERE'S ONLY ABOUT 600 IN THE WORLD" Hairless "Sphynx" Cats

One of the more unusual cat breeds you'll ever see is the "Sphynx", a hairless breed that's gaining in popularity.

"The first question people often ask is if they're really born that way," says Sherry Jordan, International Sphynx Breeders & Fanciers Association, Pinetop, Ariz. "As far as I know there are only about 600 hairless cats in the world."

The Sphynx has soft warm skin covered with a very short fine down that can hardly be seen or felt. They have the most hair on the bridge of the nose, backs of the ears, outsides of the feet, and tail. There's virtually no shedding. Kittens are born with loose, wrinkled skin that almost seems too big for them. Most of the wrinkles eventually disappear although the ones on the face remain. Most Sphynx have no whiskers, or very short, stubby whiskers. The cats come in various colors depending on skin pigmentation.

According to Jordan, hairless cats appeared at least 100 years ago in France, and some authorities believe the Mexican Aztecs also had hairless cats. However, none were ever bred consistently. A few hairless cats were reported in North America in the early 1900's, but no line became estab-

lished until the 1970's when two hairless kittens were born in Toronto, Ontario and two others in Brainerd, Minnesota. Those cats became the foundation for the breed.

Sphynx cats love people and love to cuddle. They feel warm to the touch since there's no coat to insulate their body heat. They're strictly an indoor cat because they can't tolerate weather that's too cold or hot. They'll sunburn even in the nicest weather. A comfortable temperature for the cat is about 70 degrees. Sweaters aren't recommended as the material may cause skin irritation if left on too long. Because there's no coat the cat's body has to work extra hard to generate extra heat, resulting in a high metabolism and the need for more food and more frequent feedings than other breeds.

The International Sphynx Breeders & Fanciers Association publishes a quarterly newsletter. A subscription and membership fee is \$10.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sherry Jordan, International Sphynx Breeders & Fanciers Association, HC66, Box 70035, Pinetop, Ariz. 85935 (ph 602 367-5511).

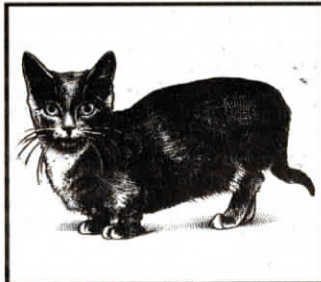
## Short-Legged "Munchkin" Cats

The Munchkin is another newly recognized cat breed that's been gaining attention. It looks like a dachshund, with short, stubby legs in front that are only about half as long as a normal cat's.

There's a lot of controversy within the cat world about the breed. Some cat fanciers say the Munchkin's truncated legs are a deformity and that it's wrong to breed for the trait. But Munchkin lovers say the cat isn't crippled, just different, and can run, chase mice, and shred upholstery with the best of them.

No one knows how many Munchkins exist today. There are about 300 known animals in the U.S.

"Interest in Munchkins has skyrocketed," says Paul McSorley, founding member of The International Munchkin Society, Quincy, Mass. "In no way does being dwarf-like hamper their ability or quality of life. They bound about like ferrets and can run fast and corner swiftly. The only thing they can't do that a longlegged cat can do is jump up high."



The only thing short-legged Munchkin cats can't do is jump up high.

There are at least 30 Munchkin breeders in the U.S. McSorley breeds Munchkins. They sell for \$1,200.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul McSorley, The International Munchkin Society, Box 0424, Quincy, Ma. 02269 (ph 617 925-8575).



Bridge is just wide enough to drive garden tractors, mowers - and trikes - over.

## Bridge Built Out Of Old Trailer House Frame

A few years back Donald and Donna Bickel, Ridgeville, Ind., built a picnic shelter in a patch of woods that's on the other side of a creek from their house. They had an old house trailer frame on hand and decided to use it to make a 53-ft. long arched bridge across the creek.

"It's only 5 ft. wide so it's not wide enough to drive a vehicle over but we can drive garden tractors and riding mowers over it," says Donald.

He cut 7 ft. off the 60-ft. trailer and cut 2-in. wide notches about 7 ft. apart on the underside of the frame so it could be bent up into an arch, with a flat section in the middle. After cutting each notch he used a come-along to pull the frame tight, then welded it back together. He also welded an 11-in. sq., 3/8-in. thick steel plate onto each side of the welds for reinforcement. The trailer frame was originally 8 ft. wide. To make it narrower he cut out everything between the frame's two steel I-beams, then moved them closer together and welded angle iron back in to brace them. He welded 1/8-in. thick diamond plate steel on top of the frame to make the floor and used 1 1/2-in. sq. steel tubing to make hand rails.



Arched bridge across creek is 53-ft. long.

"We built it next to our workshop and then towed it to the creek on the original trailer house wheels," says Bickel. "Once we got to the creek we chained one end of the bridge to a tree on the other side of the creek. Then we slowly winched the bridge over the creek using wooden planks that we put down on both banks. Both ends of the bridge are supported by railroad ties that rest on piles of rocks."

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## One-Man Hydraulic Sausage Press

You may have seen your share of sausage presses, but you've probably never seen one like Tim Brodt made.

The Zehner, Sask., printer is able to make sausage singlehandedly because his press operates hydraulically.

"You don't need someone else around to hand crank the press," he explains. "That was the whole point, I wanted to make sausage by myself. What's more, it keeps your hands free so you always get the right amount of meat in the casings."

The two main working parts of Brodt's press come off of junked farm implements. A hydraulic cylinder with 8-in. stroke is from an old swather. A hydraulic pump from an old Massey 92 combine is powered by a 1/2 hp electric motor.

The press itself, which mounts on a counter top in Brodt's garage, is an old-style fruit press with 2 gal. capacity.

Brodt had a 5-in. dia. cast iron press plate made to bolt on the bottom end of the cylinder, which mounts in a bracket on the wall above the press. The electric motor and pump mount in a cupboard underneath the press. The cylinder has a spring-loaded return to bring it back to open position when pressure is released.



Brodt used swather and combine parts to make sausage press.

"I've made 500 or 600 lbs of sausage with it since I built it a year ago," Brodt says. "Everything works great, except I need to reinforce the mounting bracket because pressing drier meat tends to bend it."

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