



## Savannah Cats – A Dog Lover’s Feline

At the intersection of dog-lovers and cat-lovers, you’ll find the people who simply adore this exotic “critter”. Savannah cats are

fascinating creatures, as the offspring of a Serval (medium-sized African wild cat) and a domestic kitty. So while they are “all cat” in many of their behaviors and preferences, they have some unique tendencies which make them quite dog-like!

Savannah’s are not as large as their Serval parent, which can grow to three feet long and weigh up to 40 pounds. However, they are quite large for a house cat. They can easily weigh 20 pounds, with some reportedly tipping the scales at 33 pounds! Despite their size, or maybe because of it, they are excellent jumpers. They can easily reach the top of a door or refrigerator in one bound. They have even been known to greet people with a feline head-butt or a great big pounce!

As with most cats, they are very intelligent and even loyal. These cats tend to bond with one person in a home, following them from room to room. Savannahs will “meow” like their domestic parent, in addition to “chirping” like their Serval parent. They also make a loud hissing noise – much more like a snake than a kitty!

Their doggy characteristics come into play in some creative ways. They can be easily trained to walk on a leash and even fetch toys. Surprisingly, they just love to play in the water! To top it off they can actually wag their tails to show they are excited or happy!

These kitties are social creatures, since the Serval is the most social of all wild cats. This is typically encouraged by exposing a Savannah kitten to lots of people and other pets while young. They will enjoy the stimulation and company, and grow up to be quite fond of human interaction.

Laws on owning a Savannah vary from state to state, but most states consider them a new domestic breed of cat. So while we don’t suggest you run out tomorrow and add one to your family (they can cost up to \$22,000!), they are one more beautiful “critter” we can truly appreciate.