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The domestic cat, *Felis silvestris familiaris* (or *manculata*), is a relative latecomer among the various domesticated animals associated with humankind. Representations of it won't be found in the cave and rock paintings of prehistoric Africa and Europe, nor does it appear for certain among the domesticated animals of the early Neolithic period in the Middle East. It is in ancient Egypt that the pictorial and inscriptive evidence first comes together to make certain that the domesticated cat is present; and indeed, in Egypt the cat attained a very lofty status, becoming associated with divinity in the personae of the goddess Bastet and in one manifestation of the solar deity.

Small catlike carnivores like *Felis silvestris libyca* proliferated in the North African environment of ancient times. The Sahara has passed through cycles of dry and wet periods within recent geological time (the last 12,000 years), and during the arid periods such large carnivores as lions and leopards could not sustain themselves in that environment. Their niche was occupied by smaller carnivores, including jackals, hyenas, wild dogs, and, among felines, by several possible ancestors of the domestic cat. In the wild state, the small felines like the cat focus their hunting on small animals, birds, reptiles, and occasionally insects. As this group of prey includes rats and mice, such small felines had a natural inclination to associate with humans, especially once humans began the large-scale storage of foods, cereal grains in particular.

Grain storage bins were appealing to small rodents, including rats and mice, and these were included among the regularly hunted prey of the small felines. This may well be how the ancestors of the domestic cat were drawn first to associate with humans. Grain storage on a large scale first appeared among the ancient Egyptians of the late Predynastic era, the Sumerians in Mesopotamia, and the peoples of the Indus Valley and China. All these civilizations produced grains on a large scale (wheat, barley, or rice) and had occasion to store surpluses, for export, or as a reserve against years of famine. It is in those civilizations, then, that the ancestors of the domestic cat likely would appear first. Indeed, at Haçilar and Jericho, sites in what are now southwestern Turkey and northern Israel, respectively, bones of small felines have been found among the remnants of early farming villages of the 6th and 5th millennia B.C.; but whether these bones represent domesticated ancestors of the cat is uncertain. Likewise, bones of catlike felines have been found at Egyptian Predynastic sites (5000-3100 B.C.); but again, lacking pictorial or inscriptive evidence, it is not certain which of the small feline carnivores these remains represent.

It is in Egypt that the pictorial and inscriptive archive for the domestic cat eventually becomes quite well documented. In the language of ancient Egypt,
the word for cat is Ꜯꜰꜰ Ꜯ.deltaTime;Cat, as bailiff, brings bad boy before mouse judge; Oriental Institute limestone ostracón, painted, no. 13951; Deir el-Medinah, Egypt: Dynasty XIX-XX. Oriental Institute photo.

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In the New Kingdom period and later, the domestic cat achieved widespread popularity. Frequently the subject of tomb paintings, it is shown in hunting scenes helping catch marsh birds from its owner’s papyrus skiff, or else sitting or lying down under the chair of the lady of the house. Its position as a cherished pet is well attested. A son of Pharaoh Amenhotep III (1386-1348 B.C.), Prince Thutmose, was so attached to his cat that when she died he had her embalmed and fitted out with a small sarcophagus (now in the Cairo Museum), complete with reliefs showing the cat and funerary texts. She is called “The Osiris, Ta-Mit,” the kitty’s name evidently being simply the feminine form of miw. At the head and foot of the sarcophagus, she is under the protection of Isis and Nephthys, so that just like a human, she was envisioned as gaining eternal life through Osiris. The prince included his own titles and name, so we learn that he was the elder brother of the prince who later became Pharaoh Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten); he was High Priest of Ptah, stationed in Memphis, and also crown prince and royal heir, but evidently predeceased his own father, Amenhotep III.

Most painted depictions of cats in the New Kingdom show them with brown tabby markings, in various attitudes and modes of behavior familiar to anyone owning a domestic cat. More and more in this period, the domestic cat was identified with Bastet, and it even entered into literature and humor. On one papyrus, cats are shown acting as servants at a mouse-king’s court. They carry baby mice wrapped in swaddling clothes and serve their mouse masters in various ways.
Another satirical and humorous papyrus in Turin, Italy, shows cats defending a fortress under attack by a pharaoh-mouse in a chariot drawn by dogs. In another scene on this papyrus, and on another in the British Museum, cats act as shepherds herding a flock of geese. At the Oriental Institute in Chicago, a limestone ostracon (fig. 2) shows a cat acting as bailiff who brings a miserable boy into court before a mouse acting as judge. All of this suggests that the cat had secured for itself a familiar and comfortable niche in the milieu of ancient Egypt.

In the Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom periods the domestic cat became more firmly associated with the feline deity, Bastet, mistress of Bubastis. Bastet was originally a lioness, with a cult center also at Heliopolis, where she was “daughter of Atum,” and at times she was identified with Tefnut. The existence of other feline deities, such as Sekhmet (figs. 3, 4) of Memphis, and Pakhet of the Beni Hasan area in Middle Egypt, gave her entrance to cults in those areas, when she was identified with the resident felines. Both Pyramid Texts and a Middle Kingdom hymn associate Bastet with the crown and make her a protectress of the king and of the Two Lands (Egypt). Clearly, the ferocity of the lioness was stressed in Bastet in these aspects. In the New Kingdom, Pharaoh Ramesses IV (1151-1145 B.C.) forbade the hunting of lions on the various feast days of Bastet. These associations reinforced the image of Bastet as an aspect of Sekhmet, and she was even thought to have given birth to a lion deity, Miyisis, or Mahes, who became a warrior god, guardian of pharaoh and of sacred sites (fig. 5), and the one who mauls the foes of pharaoh (fig. 6).

Bastet, though, had another nature, as shown by a text that calls her “ferocious as Sekhmet, and as peaceful as the domestic cat.” In these two guises she typifies the ability of Egyptian deities to be manifest in differing aspects, something seen in almost all the references to deities discussed here. The magnificent bronze figure of Bastet in the Field Museum’s collection (no. 31642) well illustrates these dual aspects (fig. 8). Majestically seated on a throne, she has the head of a lioness, but in her right hand she holds an instrument called a sistrum, and texts on the throne identify her as Bastet. The sistrum is associated with music-making, more in keeping with the character of Hathor (fig. 9), goddess of love, music, dance, and festivity.

Increasingly, in the Post-New Kingdom era (1080-664 B.C.), Bastet came to be associated with the domestic cat rather than the lioness. A major boost to her popularity came in Dynasty XXII-XXIII (945-712 B.C.), when pharaohs of Libyan ancestry made Bubastis, home of her principle shrine, their royal city. Large temples to Bastet were built, and she became a national ranking deity. Perhaps it was in this period that commenced the feasts and pilgrimages, replete with feasting, dancing, and merry-making, that were mentioned by Herodotus, the Greek historian, who visited Egypt in 448 B.C. It was also in this period that vast numbers of small and medium-sized bronze images of Bastet, shown either as a female human with a cat’s head, sometimes with kittens standing before her or held in a basket, or simply shown as a cat, were produced as votive gifts to the goddess (figs. 9 and 10). These have been found in areas with shrines devoted to Bastet and often are inscribed with prayers. The presence of kittens stressed another aspect of Bastet, that of protectress of family and children. That indeed was the environment in which the domestic cat was often found.
By the Late Period (664-332 B.C.) and the subsequent Ptolemaic Era (332-30 B.C.), the sanctity of Bastet was extended to cover all domestic cats. This is demonstrated in the now-growing practice of mummmifying and burying all dead cats in cemeteries attached to the various shrines associated with Bastet. Vast numbers of cats were thusly interred, at Bubastis, at Memphis (where recently the enormous cemetery adjacent to Baster's shrine has been discovered intact with thousands of mummmified cats), and at Beni Hasan (whence large numbers of mummmified cats were extracted in the 19th century). Most of the Field Museum's mummmified cats (fig. 11) probably came from the Beni Hasan cemetery. Yet, so numerous were the cat mummies that all but the finest were unwrapped summarily. Their linen bandages were exported to the United States during the American Civil War (1861-65) to a New England factory that turned them into linen-based paper. The cat mummies were shipped to England, where, pulverized, they were used as plant fertilizer!

Stories from the Ptolemaic era recount how highly cats were regarded in Egypt. According to Herodotus, if a house caught fire, the inhabitants rushed in to save the cats, or ringed it to keep the cats out. Diodorus Siculus recounts that at Alexandria, when a visiting Roman dignitary accidently killed a cat in 60-59 B.C., an outraged mob gathered and lynched him.

If not earlier, then certainly in the Late Period, domesticated cats spread beyond Egypt to surrounding Mediterranean lands. Roman period mosaics and murals depict the cat. The use of cats aboard ships to keep rats under control no doubt helped Egyptian cats to spread abroad. So, many European, and by extension American cats may have some genes derived from the mju of ancient Egypt. Indeed, cat fanciers identify one breed, the Abyssinian, as descended directly from the cats of ancient Egypt. More certainly, the current

8. Left: Bastet enthroned, with lioness or panther head, bronze; cat. 31642, perhaps Dynasty XXVI; neg. 108334. Dave Walsten photo.
Bastet as a cat, bronze with gold, silver, and copper details; cat. 30286; perhaps Dynasty XXVI; neg. 111081. Photo by Ron Testa and Diane Alexander White.
fascination with the domestic cat mirrors that of ancient Egypt.

The tameability of small felines makes it difficult to assess the question of who first domesticated the cat. Was it in one locale or in several, for small felines fill an ecological niche worldwide? Egyptian paintings and reliefs of the New Kingdom Period show us cats on board ships, and Egyptian ships were plying the Mediterranean and Red Seas from the Old Kingdom period (fig. 12) and probably earlier. The bones and statuette found at Hacilar and Jericho might argue for multiple domestication places, but the bones found in Predynastic Egyptian sites, and the presence of Felis libyca on the prehistoric Sahara make certain that Egypt was one of the domestication sites also. The Abyssinian breed derives from Felis libyca, and it is found in modern Egypt alongside more common varieties. In the Ptolemaic Period and later (after 118 B.C.), Egyptian ships sailed to India and the Far East for trade; did the miw accompany them on those voyages? Probably, but there are again small felines indigenous to the Far East that may have been independently domesticated.

Certainly, in Egypt proper domestic cats never lost their popularity. Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic Egypt all document their presence, and today they occur in every Egyptian city, town, and village. No doubt the continued presence of mice, rats, and serpents, and the cat's ability to tackle them all, assured its place even after the worship of Bastet waned with the spread of Christianity.
12. Egyptian ships arriving from Syria, wall relief, limestone; causeway of Unas Pyramid complex, Saqqara, Egypt, Dynasty V. F. J. Yurco photo.

Footnotes


5. Ibid, including the feminine form, Ta-Mit, "Kitty" used as a personal name for a woman in Dynasty XI, see too Neville Langton, "Cats in Egypt," The Antiquarian Quarterly, no. 3 (September, 1925) 69, and Paul Remcke, "A Cat in Bronze," Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin 46, no. 6 (June, 1975) 8-13.


7. The feline is identified, in fact, as Mafdet, see Lurker, Manfred, The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Egypt (London: Thames and Hudson, 1980), p. 78, and figure at lower left. Opinions vary as to whether the domestic cat is involved here.

8. Besides Langton's article and the Wörterbuch citation (notes 4 and 5 above), see William C. Hayes, The Scepter of Egypt, Vol I (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1956), pp. 223-224, and fig. 140 (lower right); see too Jacques and Rosalind Janssen, Egyptian Household Animals, p. 16 (referring to an Xth Dynasty representation of a tomcat crouching under a chair, on a stele in the Petrie Museum, University College, London).


10. See notes 6 and 7, above.


15. Ibid, 89-90.


17. The Egyptians themselves called this miw 3 "Great (Tom) Cat," see for instance, Lise Manniche, City of the Dead: Thebes in Egypt (London: British Museum Publications, 1967), p. 64, fig. 51; Hornung, Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt, p. 120, fig. 12.

18. Manniche, City of the Dead, p. 36, fig. 28 (where the cat paws its owner in a manner familiar to all cat owners); also James G.H. Egyptian Painting in the British Museum (London: British Museum, 1965), p. 27, fig. 25.

19. For instance, Jacques and Rosalind Janssen, Egyptian Household Animals, p. 15, fig. 8.

20. Corteggiani, Jean-Pierre. The Art of the Pharaohs at the Cairo Museum (Paris: Hachette Blue Guides, 1986), no. 58, pp. 99-100, pl. 100. Amenhotep III's family may have been cat lovers, see Desroches-Noblecourt, Christiane, Tutankhamen: Life and Death of a Pharaoh (New York: New York Graphic Society, 1963), p. 118, fig. 59, where the prince's mother, Queen Ti, is shown sitting with a cat underneath her chair.


22. Ibid, pp. 30-31, pl. XI, x + 11, XIII, and XIV.


34. Recently cats surpassed dogs as the most widely kept pet in the United States; see Margarita Fichner, "Life with a cat," Chicago Tribune 143, no. 21 (Jan. 21, 1990) Sect. 15, p. 15.
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felinelike animals are represented on Early Dynastic (ca. 3100-2770 B.C.) objects. The problem lies in that these depictions are not labelled miw, or are so fragmentary that establishing just what feline is involved is difficult. Add to this situation the fact that the ancient Egyptians venerated a variety of felines ranging from lionesses to leopards and panthers, as well as smaller felines, and the complexity of the evidence becomes understandable.

With the coming of the Middle Kingdom period, the mystery begins to clear up. In this period, as seen above, inscriptions certainly refer to the miw, and the pictorial references make it certain that the domestic cat is present beyond doubt.* Once attested, the cat speedily made itself well adjusted to Egyptian culture. Besides becoming a cherished pet, it was a relentless mouser, helping to protect granaries and other food storehouses; and further, its daring in challenging serpents won for it much additional veneration.

The ancient Egyptians recognized divinity in many aspects,** and various felines found themselves included in this development. Very early in pharaonic history, one such feline was recognized by the name Mafdet. *" She is represented on a vase fragment, on a mud jar-sealing, and on the royal kinglist known as the
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5. Miyisis, or Mahes, son of Bastet, bronze figures: cats. 30282 (left) and 30283: Late Period: negs. 8067, 8069.

Another satirical and humorous papyrus in Turin, Italy, shows cats defending a fortress under attack by a pharaoh-mouse in a chariot drawn by dogs. "In another scene on this papyrus, and on another in the British Museum, cats act as shepherds herding a flock of geese." At the Oriental Institute in Chicago, a limestone ostracon (fig. 2) shows a cat acting as bailiff who brings a miscreant boy into court before a mouse acting as judge. All of this suggests that the cat had secured for itself a familiar and comfortable niche in the milieu of ancient Egypt.

In the Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom periods the domestic cat became more firmly associated with the feline deity, Bastet, mistress of Bubastis. Bastet was originally a lioness, with a cult center also at Heliopolis, where she was "daughter of Atum," and at times she was identified with Tefnut. The existence of other feline deities, such as Sekhmet (figs. 3, 4) of Memphis, and Pakhet of the Beni Hasan area in Middle Egypt, gave her entrance to cults in those areas, when she was identified with the resident felines. Both Pyramid Texts and a Middle Kingdom hymn associate
Bastet with the crown and make her a protectress of the king and of the Two Lands (Egypt). Clearly, the ferocity of the lioness was stressed in Bastet in these aspects. In the New Kingdom, Pharaoh Ramesses IV (1151-1145 B.C.) forbade the hunting of lions on the various feast days of Bastet. These associations reinforced the image of Bastet as an aspect of Sekhmet, and she was even thought to have given birth to a lion deity, Miyisis, or Mahes, who became a warrior god, guardian of pharaoh and of sacred sites (fig. 5), and the one who mauls the foes of pharaoh (fig. 6).

Bastet, though, had another nature, as shown by a text that calls her "ferocious as Sekhmet, and as peaceful as the domestic cat." In these two guises she typifies the ability of Egyptian deities to be manifest in differing aspects, something seen in almost all the references to deities discussed here. The magnificent bronze figure of Bastet in the Field Museum's collection (no. 31642) well illustrates these dual aspects (fig. 8). Majestically seated on a throne, she has the head of a lioness, but in her right hand she holds an instrument called a sistrum, and texts on the throne identify her as Bastet. The sistrum is associated with music-making, more in keeping with the character of Hathor (fig. 9), goddess of love, music, dance, and festivity.

Increasingly, in the Post-New Kingdom era (1080-
664 B.C.), Bastet came to be associated with the domestic cat rather than the lioness. A major boost to her popularity came in Dynasty XXII-XXIII (945-712 B.C.), when pharaohs of Libyan ancestry made Bubastis, home of her principle shrine, their royal city. Large temples to Bastet were built, and she became a national ranking deity. Perhaps it was in this period that commenced the feasts and pilgrimages, replete with feasting, dancing, and merry-making, that were mentioned by Herodotus, the Greek historian, who visited Egypt in 448 B.C. It was also in this period that vast numbers of small and medium-sized bronze images of Bastet, shown either as a female human with a cat's head, sometimes with kittens standing before her or held in a basket, or simply shown as a cat, were produced as votive gifts to the goddess (figs. 9 and 10). These have been found in areas with shrines devoted to Bastet and often are inscribed with prayers. The presence of kittens stressed another aspect of Bastet, that of protectress of family and children. That indeed was the environment in which the domestic cat was often found.

6. Miyisis as a lion, mauls foes of pharaoh; wall relief, sandstone; Temple of Kom Ombo, Egypt: Roman Period. F. J. Yurco photo.
By the Late Period (664-332 B.C.) and the subsequent Ptolemaic Era (332-30 B.C.), the sanctity of Bastet was extended to cover all domestic cats. This is demonstrated in the now-growing practice of mum-mifying and burying all dead cats in cemeteries attached to the various shrines associated with Bastet. Vast numbers of cats were thusly interred, at Bubastis, at Memphis (where recently the enormous cemetery adjacent to Bastet's shrine has been discovered intact with thousands of mummmified cats), and at Beni Hasan (whence large numbers of mummmified cats were extracted in the 19th century).” Most of the Field Museum's mummmified cats (fig. 11 ) probably came from the Beni Hasan cemetery. Yet, so numerous were the cat mummmies that all but the finest were unwrapped summarily. Their linen bandages were exported to the United States during the American Civil War (1861-65) to a New England factory that turned them into linen-based paper.” The cat mummmies were shipped to England, where, pulverized, they were used as plant fertilizer!

Stories from the Ptolemaic era recount how highly cats were regarded in Egypt. According to Herodotus, if a house caught fire, the inhabitants rushed in to save the cats, or ringed it to keep the cats out.” Diodorus
Siculus recounts that at Alexandria, when a visiting Roman dignitary accidently killed a cat in 60-59 B.C., an outraged mob gathered and lynched him."

If not earlier, then certainly in the Late Period, domesticated cats spread beyond Egypt to surrounding Mediterranean lands. Roman period mosaics and murals depict the cat. The use of cats aboard ships to keep rats under control no doubt helped Egyptian cats to spread abroad. So, many European, and by extension American cats may have some genes derived from the miv of ancient Egypt. Indeed, cat fanciers identify one breed, the Abyssinian, as descended directly from the cats of ancient Egypt. More certainly, the current

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8. Lett: Bastet enthroned, with
lioness or panther head, bronze: cat.

31642: perhaps Dynasty XXVI: neg.

108334 Dave Walsten photo.

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9. Bastet as a cat, bronze with gold, silver, and copper details: cat. 30286; perhaps Dynasty XXVI; neg. 111081. Photo by Ron Testa and 21

Diane Alexander White.

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22


fascination with the domestic cat mirrors that of
The tameability of small felines makes it difficult
to assess the question of who first domesticated the cat.
Was it in one locale or in several, for small felines fill an
ecological niche worldwide? Egyptian paintings and re-
liefs of the New Kingdom Period show us cats on board
ships, and Egyptian ships were plying the Mediterra-
nean and Red Seas from the Old Kingdom period (fig.
12) and probably earlier. The bones and statuette
found at Hacilar and Jericho might argue for multiple
domestication places, but the bones found in Predynas-
tic Egyptian sites, and the presence of Felis libyca on the
prehistoric Sahara make certain that Egypt was one of
the domestication sites also. The Abyssinian breed de-
rives from Felis libyca, and it is found in modern Egypt
alongside more common varieties. In the Ptolemaic
Period and later (after 118 B.C.), Egyptian ships sailed
to India and the Far East for trade; did the miw accom-
pany them on those voyages? Probably, but there are
again small felines indigenous to the Far East that may
have been independently domesticated.

Certainly, in Egypt proper domestic cats never
lost their popularity. Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic
Egypt all document their presence, and today they
occur in every Egyptian city, town, and village. No
doubt the continued presence of mice, rats, and ser-
pents, and the cat's ability to tackle them all, assured
its place even after the worship of Bastet waned with
the spread of Christianity. FM

12. Egyptian ships arriving from

Syria, wall relief, limestone;

causeway of Unas Pyramid complex.

Saqqara, Egypt: Dynasty V.

F. J. Yurco photo.

Footnotes

1. Banks, Kimball M. Climates. Cultures, and Cattle: The
Holocene Archaeology of the Eastern Sahara (Dallas: Dept. of
Anthropology, Southern Methodist Univ., 1984), pp. 16, 51 (table
111:1), 119, 164 (table V:9), and 232-233.


5. Ibid, including the feminine form, Ta-Mit. "Kitty" used as a personal name for a woman in Dynasty XI; see too Neville Langton, "Cats in Egypt," The Antiquarian Quarterly, no. 3 (September, 1925) 69; and Paul Remecki, "A Cat in Bronze," Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin 46. no. 6 (June, 1975) 8-13.

nos. 7 and 10, pi. VII, nos. 7 and 10.

7. The feline is identified, in fact, as Mafdet; see Lurker, Manfred. The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Egypt (London: Thames and Hudson, 1980), p. 78, and figure at lower left. Opinions vary about whether the domestic cat is involved here.

8. Besides Langton's article and the Worterbuch citation (notes 4 and 5 above), see William C. Hayes. The Scepter of Egypt. Vol I (New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1953), pp. 223-224, and fig. 140 (lower right); see too Jacques and Rosalind Janssen, Egyptian Household Animals, p. 16 (referring to an XIth Dynasty representation of a tomcat crouching under a chair, on a stela in the Petrie Museum, University College, London).


10. See notes 6 and 7 above.


15. Ibid, 89-90.


17. The Egyptians themselves called him miw ‘3 "Great (Tom) Cat," see for instance, Lise Manniche. Cry of the Dead.- Thebes in Egypt (London: British Museum Publications, 1987), p. 64, fig. 51; Hornung, Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt, p. 120, fig. 12.

18. Manniche, Cry of the Dead, p. 36, fig. 28 (where the cat paws its owner in a manner familiar to all cat owners); also James, T.G.H. Egyptian Painting in the British Museum (London: British Museum, 1985), p. 27 fig. 25.

19. For instance, Jacques and Rosalind Janssen, Egyptian Household Animals, p. 15, fig. 8.

p. 118, fig. 59, where the prince's mother, Queen Tiy, is shown sitting with a cat underneath her chair.


22. Ibid. pp. 30-31, pi. XI, X-I-11; XIII, and XIV.


26. Ibid.

27.

28.

29.

and 112


35. Recently cats surpassed dogs as the most widely kept pet in the United States; see Margaria Fichtner, "Life with a cat," Chicago Tribune 43. no. 2 (Jan. 21, 1990) Sect. 15, p. 15.


Lurker, The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Egypt, pp. 59