

# Black fur, hearts of gold 🐱



**S**ome people say they're unlucky. Others complain their fur is "boring" or they don't look good in photographs. We couldn't disagree more! Here's why **black cats** are actually pretty *pawsome*.

**They have good genes.** Scientists have researched the genes that determine cats' colours, and made some interesting discoveries. It turns out that the genetic "mutations" that make cats black may also make them more resistant to disease!

**Each one is unique.** Think black cats are all the same? Think again! There are actually 22 different breeds of cat that can be born with black fur. The "truest" black cat is the Bombay. This breed always has short, solid black hair and copper-coloured eyes. Regardless of breed, though, the most special thing about each black cat is their personality!



**They take great photos – in the right light.** Dark-furred felines may be more difficult to photograph than their multi-coloured counterparts, but there's nothing quite like a beautiful snap of a black cat! Take a picture of your black cat inside, asleep on a dark blanket, and you risk her looking like no more than a blob. But wait for your kitty to sit in **bright natural light**, on a **colourful background**, with **eyes wide open** – and click! – picture *purrfection*.

**We're lucky to have them.** Cats were worshipped in ancient Egypt. But they were feared by Europeans in the Middle Ages who believed they aided witchcraft (or were even witches in disguise!). It seems black cats have always been the subject of superstitions. Here in Canada, some people still believe a black cat crossing your path brings bad luck. In many other cultures, black cats are actually considered good omens.



## Black Cat Contest

Win a copy of *Cat Champions: Caring for our Feline Friends* by award-winning author Rob Laidlaw! All you have to do is tell us three tips to take great photos of black cats! Email [kids@spca.bc.ca](mailto:kids@spca.bc.ca) with the subject line "Black Cat Contest." Please include your full name, age and address. Contest is open to kids 13 and under until November 15, 2017.



**Adopt from the SPCA!**

Check out all the black cats (and dogs) available to adopt at [spca.bc.ca/adopt](http://spca.bc.ca/adopt). Your family might get lucky and find the *purrfect* super sweet furry black cat!