

All About Cats
Cat Tales Galore
History, Personality, Daily Life
Health, Habits, and Much More
Narrated by Freddy the Cat

Tygo Lee

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Note from the author:

This 2019 ebook is a revised third edition of the previously published second edition (2018) and the first edition (2017) of the same name.

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Prologue

Hi! I'm Freddy the Cat. Nice to meet ya!

Tygo Lee is a good friend of mine, and he loves us cats a lot!

He asked me if I could write a book about my own species for cat lovers to enjoy. He said I could include whatever information and details I wanted to. Well, I was excited about the opportunity, so I accepted!

I chose around 50 topics that I thought might be interesting and explained them in my own way, hoping that most of the stuff I noted is more or less correct. Keep in mind please that it's been a long time since my kitty school days, so I tried to remember these things the best I could and dictated to Tygo what I considered to be important.

Thus, what follows is my personal account of us cats. It's how I see us, and if I did okay, maybe you'll understand your furry friends a little better after having a relaxing read.

Hey, this was fun!

Here we go: *All About Cats*

Yours truly,
Freddy the Cat

Cat Tale 01: *Felis silvestris catus*

That's me! Actually, that's us! You know, *cats*!

Hi, I'm Freddy the Cat. It's nice to meet you! I'll be your tour guide throughout this book and I'm proud to be introducing you to my species in general and offering you a lot of cool details about us. It should be pretty exciting exploring the wonderful world of us kitties, don't you think? Ready or not, here we go!

They tell me this *Felis silvestris catus* designation is a Latin-based term that humans use in their taxonomical classification systems to refer to the beautiful, cuddly, meowing creatures found living on this planet that so many people lovingly know as *felines*. I don't why they have this obsession with using Latin, which I understand that they refer to as a *dead* language. Well, dead is dead, so I say why mess around with its much-desired eternal rest!

Anyway, this *Felis silvestris catus* could be translated as "domestic cat" or "housecat." That's much simpler to deal with, wouldn't you agree? And it makes sense since we like to hang out in *houses* and we are fully into the *domesticated* lounge-on-the-couch, sleep-on-the-bed, and patrol-the-kitchen scene. Cool, huh!

The generally accepted what's-up-with-us basics are that we're small, furry, carnivorous mammals that are especially appreciated for our getting along really well with humans. We're also known for our super expert hunting skills of spiders, mice, lizards, cockroaches, and other bothersome pests that invade the household territories.

"Small," they say? Well, that's a relative term. As long as you don't use it disrespectfully, I'm okay with that.

"Furry?" Without a doubt. You should see the luxurious coat I wear around for everybody to see!

Carnivorous mammals? Yeah, we like *meat*. A lot! Beef and maybe pork are acceptable if prepared properly. Chicken is paw licking delicious. And more than anything, if you got any fish in the house, that would be the most recommendable and tasty of all.

By the way, someone told me once that fish is not meat but rather it's... fish. Say what? Well, who cares. Call it what you want, but for this kitty, it's fish, fish, and more fish. And don't be worrying about whether it fits in the carnivorous classification or not. Just pop open one of those little, round cans of the cut-up, savory swimming things and I'll be meowing my thanks to you in delight!

As for the "hunter of pests" part, we've got that situation under control at all times. It's natural for us to be on the lookout for those crawling or climbing creatures, either using them as movable playthings or simply going for the kill once and for all. In other words, you can feel safe from unwanted invasions or bothersome visits when you've got a Freddy the Cat hanging out around the house. We're on guard duty 24/7, and that's a 365, okay!

Cat Tale 02: An Ancient Mau

How about if I fill you in on some neat stuff about us kitties that I learned in my feline history classes during my schooling days? You can take notes if you'd like and pass on this valuable information to your children, as I'll do with mine when yours truly settles down for family life at some point in the future. But no rush on that last part since I'm still enjoying my frisky freedom of bachelorhood at the moment! Anyway...

There are researchers who think that my species was first domesticated in Egypt— our original sacred territories— around 2,000 B.C. ("Before the modern Cat era"). Wow, that's probably a really long time ago, huh?

Some archeologists even go on to say that dogs had been domesticated thousands of years before us due to their helping out the humans with the hunting activities. Us cats, being more independent and aristocratic

creatures, took more time making friends with the ancient Egyptians and thus for them to allow us to go into their houses.

There you have it— aristocratic cats from the very beginning of time. Yeah, we got the noble blood in us. No surprise there!

Now that I might have your full attention, I'll tell you a little more.

Our tale starts out with the Egyptian Mau, which at times was referred to as Miu or Mii, or something to do with “he or she who mews.” Pretty logical kind of name, huh?

I might've been called Freddy the Mau or Freddy the Miu in one of my past nine lives that they say that we get to enjoy, don't you think?

Even more interesting, at least a part of our genealogical line maybe goes back around 3,000 years to some African Wild Cat— *Felis silvestris catus*. Yeah, it's that Latin expression again. Anyway, now you know why so many of us kitties have been named Felix or Sylvester. I told ya that this history stuff was valuable information, so that's why we're starting out with a few details here.

Cat Tale 03: Part of the Pantheon

The story gets even more historical! In my Ancient Feline History and Cat Mythology class, my teacher told me that the earliest known remains of a cat in Egypt were dated to sometime before 4,000 B.C. In one archeological site in particular, they uncovered more than 300,000 *mummified* cats all wrapped up and hanging out in the same place. *Spooky!*

And get this. It's been suggested that the status of the cat was so high in Ancient Egypt that our death frequently caused great suffering among our Egyptian families. That brings a tear to my eyes. Thus, we were commonly given the option of a full embalming ceremony and many times were buried right next to our caretakers in some of the most exclusive cemeteries along the Nile River.

In brief, I'd say that we've been a very special kind of creature from time immemorial, which means forever! I realize that this marvelous era is long past, but you can still worship us all you want, okay? A little heartfelt appreciation goes a long way to get some heavy-duty bonding going on between our two species.

How about another example that will give you an idea about how much we were respected?

It seems that in those B.C. times, killing a feline was considered to be a major crime and that in some cases, even an *unintentional*, life-ending incident for a cat caused by some careless human resulted in the maximum penalty— death to the offender! That's some serious kind of protection and admiration that we're rarely offered nowadays, wouldn't you say?

The reason why cats were considered such sacred beings, and quite deservedly so, is due in part at least to our being associated with Bast. You see, the people in the ancient Egyptian territories had a religion that was centered on the worship of animals, and we felines were very appropriately included in their honorable pantheon. As it should be, of course. Who would question something like that?