

Texte d'opinion Opinion piece

The imperfect

by: Caroline Gamache, Director of Legislative Affairs Isle Man Cat Breeder, Tuath Cattery (manxcats.ca)

Twitter: @CarolineGamach1

Have you always wanted a purebred cat, but you think it's beyond your means? Read the following carefully.

Being a breeder of purebred cats is much more than breeding cats. Above all, it is to try to contribute to the breed that we are breeding.

A breeder plans marriages based on their goals, for example, a cat with mommy's nose and daddy's ears. We try to reproduce the best of the best to obtain the perfect cat... which does not exist. It is therefore an endless task that breeders start over with each litter to approach the ideal of their breed.

The desired kitten is not always produced at the time of these marriages. The kittens that are the fruits of these litters are then sold as sterilized pets and are offered to loving families for their greatest happiness.

However, there is another category of cats/kittens, the imperfect. Imperfects are cats/kittens that are born with one or more physical characteristics that are unwanted in the breed or species.

There are two categories of imperfect.

The first is for cats/kittens that have undesirable physical characteristics in their breed. It can be a cat with an eye color that doesn't match the color of the coat, unwanted coat color, or even a purebred cat, usually without a tail, that has one!

The second category is that of cats that have a physical defect. Whether they were born with cross-eyed, one finger missing from one paw, or deaf, these cats are purebred in their own right and it's not because they don't have all the characteristic attributes of their breed that they make less good companion cats, on the contrary.

They have the character and temperament of their breed, as well as the vast majority of physical characteristics. They usually do not require any special care and the vast majority of these cats/kittens leave their cattery with a full guarantee, like all other siblings, but at a fraction of the usual selling price.

Too often, families looking for a purebred cat miss out on a great cat.

An imperfect cat may be a way for you to introduce yourself to the breed of your dreams which seems inaccessible to you at the moment.

Never hesitate to ask breeders if they have such a cat or leave your information for them to contact you if one of these cats is eventually available. The cat of your dream breed may be more affordable than you think.