

The Smiling Chartreux

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Background:

The Chartreux descends from France and is not recognized by the GCCF in the UK because it is too similar to a blue/grey coated British shorthair.

Despite being a rare breed, the Chartreux is mentioned and represented in many forms of art. In 1558, it is referenced in a poem entitled *Vers Français sur la mort d'un petit chat* by Joachim du Bellay. It's also depicted in 1747 by Jean-Baptiste Perronneau, who painted the *Magdaleine Pinceloup de la Grange*.

The breed was in the movie Stuart Little in 1999, as Smokey the alley cat.

Cat Facts:

- The Chartreux is large and muscular with short legs but fast reflexes.
- His eyes are rounded and the outer corners have a slight curve. The color ranges between orange and copper.
- The coat of a Chartreux is blue and grey and is actually water-resistant, resulting in a "sheepskin" feel to it.
- The Chartreux appears to be smiling all the time, we like to think he is.

What is the Chartreux like?

Chartreux are very similar to mimes. They are very quiet, and rarely speak. However, they are very intelligent and observant. Some can even learn to toggle a radio on and off, or open door latches.

These cats are extremely playful and doglike because they love to play fetch. They're also very good with children.

Chartreux cats are affectionate, non-aggressive, and

love to follow the leader.

Health:

These cats are generally very healthy but can be prone to [polycystic kidney disease](#) and struvite stones in the urinary tract.

Takeaway Points:

- Chartreux are extraordinary hunters.
- Because of their sheep like coat, this breed requires combing and not brushing to keep everything under control, just a couple strokes daily should do the trick.
- Surprisingly enough, these cats love to travel and explore new places just as much as you do!

If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian - they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.