

Q. I am on your list but I haven't heard from you yet. Have you forgotten me?

A. When I put you on my waiting list, you WILL hear from me. If you haven't heard from me in a while, it is because I have not yet had what you are looking for. But **do not** assume you are never going to hear from me again! So in that vein, if you get a kitten elsewhere, **let me know** so I can take you off the list!

Q. Are your Bengals registered?

A. The Bengals we raise at Coyote Acres Ranch are straightbred Bengal, without registration papers. We produce Bengals as pets, for people to enjoy as such. We do not show cats, and our buyers do not show cats. There are registered breeders who will tell you that unregistered kittens are not pure or are of lesser quality. If you choose to believe that, by all means go to a pedigree breeder and pay three (or more) times as much! My goal is to raise beautiful pet Bengals, and I constantly strive to improve them. We have cats that either exhibit or carry for nearly every color and pattern you can imagine: rosettes and marble; brown, silver, snow (lynx and mink), charcoal, blue, melanistic. Hopefully, in future I will also be producing charcoal snows.

Q. What is the price for your Bengals?

A. The price is \$600 firm. I accept a \$100 non-refundable deposit to hold your kitten. I accept deposits after we figure out which kitten is for you. If you are a breeder (see below), the price is \$750, and I will ensure that you get what I consider to be breeding quality kittens from me.

Q. When can I pick up my kitten(s)?

A. Our kittens leave at 10 to 12 weeks of age.

Q. Will my kitten(s) be vaccinated? Vet-checked? Dewormed?

A. Yes, with **just the first** vaccination done. I am a firm believer in vaccinations, however I have now come around to the idea that we **over-vaccinate** cats in this part of the world. I used to do a shot at 6 weeks and one at 10 weeks, but now I am doing one shot at vet-check time, at 8-10 weeks, and I expect the buyer to get a second shot done by their veterinarian at 12-14 weeks. I no longer believe that passive immunity from the mother has worn off by 6 weeks and I feel 6 weeks is too young for a vaccination. The buyer should have no problem looking after the second shot, and if your vet insists on a third shot, **that is your choice** if you want to go along with it. *****Please Note- if you are an anti-vaxxer and do not want your kittens vaccinated, please move on. Unvaccinated kittens are not an option, this is non-negotiable.***** Kittens are dewormed when they leave for their new homes.

Q. I am/plan to be a breeder. Will you sell me a kitten? Do I have to sign a contract?

A. If you are a breeder, you must say so. (A good breeder has nothing to hide, and if you feel you have to keep it a secret, you probably should not be breeding. Scratch that- there is no probably.) I do not make people sign spay/neuter contracts because I am a realist- I am not going to come after you if you don't spay/neuter. I don't have the time to chase you down. But breeding is a serious business, it is full of joy and laughter and beauty, and it is also fraught with potential sorrow, lots of cleaning, and even more lots of expenses. Are you prepared for emergency vet visits? C-sections? Pyometra? Are you prepared for the possibility of bringing little parasitic visitors into your environment (such as coccidiosis, or giardiasis)? Take it from me, *you have to have nerves of steel and a backbone to match*. So many breeders think, oh it'll be fine; oh that won't happen to me; oh cats are easy to breed. Huh. Cue the laughter.

The main reason why you have to tell me that you are breeding, however, is because of the possibility of breeding carriers of Progressive Retinal Atrophy (which makes cats go blind) or PK-deficiency (which eventually leads to anemia and death). Do I have carriers? I have one female that carries PRA (no males carry it, however), and I have one female that *may* carry PK-def because her sire was a carrier (her mother is not). If you get a breeding kitten from me, and the cat you are breeding to is not tested, you are potentially selling kittens that will ultimately go blind from PRA or die from PK-def. Trust me on this- test or buy elsewhere. It is not up to me to test them, and if I do test for you, that cost will be passed on to you. ***The only way to prevent these tragedies is to tell me you are breeding!!!***

Another note about testing- I do not screen for HCM (Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy). There is no genetic test for HCM in Bengals (and when there is I will be the first to jump on that bandwagon!). Currently all we can do is very expensive cardiac ultrasounds. They are recommended to be done annually. The problem with this kind of screening is that they go from clear, to clear, to clear, to full-blown HCM. So in all those years that the cat was cleared, it was bred. And those kittens are out there in the world. This is what I call shutting the barn door after the horse (or in my case, the sheep) got out. It is going to be impossible for me to keep my kitten price at \$600 if I do thousands of dollars in annual cardiac ultrasounds that essentially don't prevent anything.

Q. Do you do pre-sale spay/neuter?

A. Short answer- no. That is up to you. Why do we expect you to spay or neuter your Bengal? A lot of people assume that breeders are just bossy and want to protect our sales. Maybe that is true of some breeders, but that is not my motivation. Firstly, breeding is not something to be taken lightly, and it is not something you should ever do impulsively or "accidentally". If you haven't done it before, let me assure you, you have no idea what you are getting yourself into. You have to be absolutely dedicated to it or you should not do it at all. But more importantly, the main reason I expect my babies to ultimately be sterilized (at the age of about 6 months, ideally) is because when you purchase one of my Bengal kittens, I expect you ***to commit to that cat for its lifetime***. Period. If you opt to keep your cat intact, you will likely eventually find them scent-marking in your home. **Breeders who tell you they do not do this are not being truthful with you**. If you do find your cat is scent-marking, and then get it sterilized, it may stop. But it may not. After that, if you decide you cannot tolerate it, you are likely to try to re-home the cat. You have two options- tell the truth, in which case no one is likely to want the cat, or lie. The next

owner will likely do the same thing. This sets the cat up for a lifetime of re-homing, and eventually ending up in a shelter or rescue, or being a barn cat somewhere. THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANT FOR MY BENGALS. If you cannot commit to the lifetime of the cat, then do not even contact me. **A pet is for life.**

Bottom line- Sorry for the caps but- **IF I SAY YOU SHOULD SPAY OR NEUTER AT 6 MONTHS, THEN IT IS NOT LIKELY YOU ARE GOING TO WANT ME TO KEEP YOUR KITTEN TO 6 MONTHS! AND IF I DID DO IT, HOW COULD I POSSIBLY SELL THEM FOR \$600?*****

Q. I have never had a Bengal before? Are they just like any other cats?

If you have not had a Bengal before, you should do your homework and seriously research the breed before you commit to purchasing a kitten. Bengals are not for everyone, particularly if you want a low-energy, low-maintenance breed (which the Bengal is not). However, several recent unfortunate incidents of what is known in marketing as "showrooming" have dampened my enthusiasm for lengthy phone calls from people who want to ask me questions. If you plan to purchase your Bengal(s) from another breeder, **please call them, not another breeder you have no intention of buying from.** If you wish to go on my waiting list, or you see a kitten on this website that you are interested in, please call! But if you are buying elsewhere, for heaven's sake, question the breeder you are purchasing from. Is it up to me to market somebody else's kittens? If they will not help you or answer your questions- maybe you should rethink that purchase. All breeders should provide support, and all breeders should be helping you figure out if the breed is right for you. Finally, if you call me and then you look elsewhere, don't wait a week and call me **again**, if you are looking elsewhere **again.** *(Yes, that really happened.)*

Q. Can my Bengal be left alone all day?

A. Short answer- not likely. So, yet another special note: this time, about pairs. I do not encourage people to buy kittens in pairs just to make my life easier. If you are getting one kitten, and you have another cat, or a cat-loving dog, or there is at least somebody home most of the time, a single Bengal is just fine. But if you are a busy family with no other pets, and everyone is gone to work and school all day five days a week, I promise you, **your Bengal will be bored and lonely.** Bored and lonely Bengals get into trouble, and it is not their fault!!!! And I can't even count how many of my buyers come back for a second kitten. Please, if you are going to have a bored and lonely kitty on your hands, at least consider a pair!

Q. Are your Bengals raised with dogs?

A. No, but they are a breed known to be great with dogs, so **as long as you know your dog is good with cats**, just introduce them slowly and it will be a match made in heaven.

Q. Do you ship kittens? A. No.