

Animal Scene



STOP MASS animal EXTINCTION

FOSTER FAILURES

HOGS for HUGS

ANCIENT AND ALL SMILES

FEBRUARY 2019
MANILA BULLETIN
 ISSN 165-024-40
 P 120

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February 2019
Volume 18 • Number 12



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THE S at in by of

By YVETTE TAN
Photos By JEFFREY C. LIM

One of the world's oldest breeds is also one of the friendliest.



BREED STANDARD

(FROM THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB)

TEMPERAMENT:
Adaptable, Friendly, Gentle

HEIGHT:
21-23.5 inches (male),
19-21 inches (female)

WEIGHT:
45-65 pounds (male), 3
5-50 pounds (female)

EYES: black or brown,
almond-shaped

EARS: triangular, erect,
covered in fur; can have
brownish tint (bisuit) around
the tips

TAIL: long, curled over the
back and lying to one side
when alert, may be dropped
when at ease

COAT: dense double layer;
white (sometimes with a hint
of silver) topcoat consists of
long, straight guard hairs;
undercoat is made up of short,
soft fur; sheds a lot; needs
frequent grooming

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
12-15 years

GROUP:
Working Group

ASIDE FROM THEIR SMILE, A FEATURE THAT SAMOYEDS ARE KNOWN FOR ARE THEIR TAILS, WHICH CURL OVER THE BACK, FALLING ONLY WHEN THEY ARE RELAXED.

GENE TALK

Fire and Ivory Burmese pythons carry co-dominant genes. But what does this mean?

The Fire or Ivory gene is a dominant gene that expresses itself in one way if the snake possesses one copy (in this case, it results in a Fire Burmese python) and another way if the snake has a matched pair (a pure white Ivory Burmese python).



**LACKING
PIGMENT**

So, what makes the Fire and Ivory Burmese pythons unique? For starters, the Fire Burmese python is also known as the Hypo Burmese python. "Hypo, short for hypomelanistic, means that the animal has decreased black or brown melanin," Melvin explains. Melanin is a dark pigment that is also present in human skin. "The people who discovered this mutation gave them the name Hypo Burmese python because of their lightness of color and lack of melanin."

On the other hand, the Ivory Burmese python is completely white. "Every hobbyist . . . would be stunned to see a

huge white snake for the first time," says Melvin. "Of course, the Ivory stands out against the Hypo. The first time I saw Fire and Ivory pythons was in 2005, somewhere in Asia. At that point I had no idea if the lightness of the Fire python and the White Burmese python genes were inheritable. After a couple of years, a friend of mine managed to get an Ivory Burmese python, and bred it with an Albino Burmese python. This produced 100 percent Hypos. Afterward, he also managed to breed with another Ivory python, and this produced 100 Ivory Burmese pythons. So, that [proved] that these snakes carry co-dominant genes."

Preview



COMING IN
MARCH

THE **XOLOITZCUINTLI**

How hairless
is this “hairless”
dog? Find out
in the next issue!

For Pet's Sake

A YEAR IN **NEW** LIFE for **BELOVED** PETS

By **RAMON FRANCISCO**

We saw them in malls, parks, streets, plazas – stuffed reindeer, panda bears, lions, tigers – fake or real, dressed in holiday style, as props for the selfies of kids and millennials. But what matters most is how we love and care for our beloved pets.

Amid the noise and cheer least New Year's Eve, law enforcers were on the prowl for “pet nappers” for the food table.

Recently, a checkpoint sentry seized a wild animal destined for restaurants offering exotic, spicy dishes.

In spite of this incident, a resident in the south was arrested for bashing in the skull of a puppy. Police caught the suspect who was charged with violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

Pet welfare groups were quick to respond by stepping up the campaign against animal cruelty. With the help of law enforcers and concerned citizens, pets can now be assured that people indeed took good care of them. Wait, there's more: Rabies is rising and animal welfare groups are up to the task. A new year, a new life for pets.

