**The joys of owning an ‘alien’ cat**Any cat is an excellent pet to have if you want a pet that can be loving and attention-seeking. The purring sound they make when they’re happy is also very relaxing. They can also keep you warm with their furry bodies in cold mornings. Some cats have been known to comfort people when they are sick or injured. Cats do not create an unpleasant smell in the house the way dogs do, and they don’t bark every time someone walks past your house. Their soft fur is pleasing to touch, and it makes them popular with children. They also help to get rid of mice and rats that may destroy crops, make nests in houses or chew through electrical wires. It is very comforting to have a pet that becomes glad when you come home after school or work. Cats are much easier to have in houses than dogs.

Devon Rex cats have short, soft, curly (rexed - the curl in their fur) hair, with a texture almost like cotton. They have big heads and large, unusual, slightly rounded ears set low at the sides of their heads. Because Devon Rex cats have no ‘guard hairs’ (those would be the longest, roughest hairs in a mammal’s fur), their coats are thin and light. People that are usually allergic to cats are less affected by them.

Devon Rex cats are delightful and very people-oriented. They are loyal companions, and they'll often follow their favourite person from room to room.

*If you own a cat, keep the following rules in mind:*

* Feed it cat food at least once a day. Make sure it can also get fresh water every day.
* Learn to pick up a cat properly and safely.
* Don't buy a new cat if you already have a cat. The two cats might start to fight.
* Remove ticks and fleas from the cat to prevent spreading of parasites and disease. Certain infectious diseases can be spread to humans but pose a minimal risk to humans.
* Ticks can be removed with a pair of tweezers.
* If you have small pets, keep them in safe places where the cat can't reach them.
* If you have young children in the house, teach them how to handle cats properly and gently.
* Give it attention by scratching or fondling it only if the cat is in a good mood.
* Leave the cat alone if it is aggressive and wants to bite and scratch.
* Always take a cat to the vet in a basket or carry cage where it is safe. Never take the cat in a cardboard box as it can escape and if terrified can claw its way out.

**Bibliography**