

A more controversial mutation gave rise to the SPHYNX, or Hairless Cat, which first appeared in Canada in 1966 and was subsequently established by crossing with American Shorthairs. Apparently naked at first glance, the Sphynx does possess a thin, down-like coat, notably on the extremities of the body.

There is considerable opposition to the breeding of this bizarre variety, and neither the CFA nor the GCCF recognize the Sphynx, although some smaller American associations accept them. Despite their rather grotesque appearance, however, if these cats are kept warm, they do not appear to present any significant problems with regard to care.

