



Adult Birman Cat

Birman cats are intelligent, curious and playful. You should also know they can be predisposed to the following ailments. Examinations twice a year and routine diagnostics to catch problems early, when they are easiest to treat, are recommended for the life of your cat.

Periodontal Disease

Description

Birman cats are prone to dental disease and gingivitis (inflammation of the gums).

Early Detection

Recommended: Regular comprehensive examination including dental examination and routine dental cleaning.

Why Needed

Dental disease can cause:

- Severe pain and discomfort, often leading to anorexia and weight loss
- Loss of teeth and bone
- Spread of infection to other body areas
- Potential for heart and kidney disease

Ophthalmic Diseases

Description

Multiple types of ophthalmic (eye) diseases have been identified in the Birman cat. These diseases include corneal dermoid (congenital cyst on the cornea), corneal sequestration (“corneal black spot”) and cataracts (clouding of the lens of the eye).

Early Detection

Recommended: Regular ophthalmic (eye) examination (including fundic examinations of the interior of the eye) and regular neurologic examination.

Why Needed

These ophthalmic diseases can contribute to:

- Chronic corneal irritation
- Corneal pain

Spongiform Degeneration/ Distal Polyneuropathy

Description

Spongiform degeneration is a neurologic disease that causes a slow progressive degeneration of the brain and spinal cord. In the Birman cat, this can become obvious as early as 7 weeks of age. Distal polyneuropathy is an unrelated neurologic disease that can cause degeneration of nerves outside the spinal cord causing weakness and falling.

Early Detection

Recommended: Regular ophthalmic (eye) examination (including fundic examinations of the interior of the eye) and regular neurologic examination.

Why Needed

Neurologic diseases can cause:

- Progressive vision loss and blindness
- Neurologic dysfunction (ataxia [a form of cerebral palsy], seizures, unsteady gait, weakness and dullness)

Hemophilia B

Description

This is a hereditary bleeding disorder caused by a lack of blood clotting factor IX. Without enough factor IX, the blood cannot clot properly to control bleeding.

Early Detection

Recommended: Regular physical examination and preemptive testing for factor IX, especially prior to surgery.

Why Needed

Hemophilia A can cause bleeding.

Optimum Wellness Plans® and Birman Cats Included in the Active Prevention Plan

- Comprehensive physical examinations
- Ophthalmic (eye) examination (including fundic examination of the interior of the eye)
- Annual urinalysis and bloodwork to check blood glucose levels, liver and kidney function
- Annual dental cleaning

Plus the
preventive care
in each plan and
15% off on nearly
all products and
services

Consult your Banfield medical team for the best plan level for your individual pet.

For other breed handouts go to banfield.com/catbreeds.

