

Year of the Tiger (Or Tiger Cat?)

By MARCI JARVIS, catmews1@yahoo.com

Åland, an autonomous region of Finland, issued a different "take" on Year of the Tiger with four domestic cats inscribed as "Tiger Cats," not to be confused with the wild Tiger Cat. The domestic cat shares some similar traits with the Tiger, Tiger Cat and other wild feline species.



Domestic tiger cats (on the rug and reaching for a toy) have the orange color and stripes similar to the tiger. Resembling the wild *Tigrina* or *Oncilla*, called *Gato Tigre* or Tiger Cat in Spanish, the center cat has rosettes and some stripes on an orangey background.

Full-size Year of the Tiger souvenir sheet issued in October 2021, the first issue of the 2022 Lunar New Year.



DIFFERENCE: Average weight varies among cats. Domestic cats average about 8-15 lbs. Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) can weigh from 300- 600 lbs.

Domestic cats and tigers share 95.6% similar DNA.



All cats are similar in the first six classification categories.

Classification	Cat	Tigrina	Tiger
Kingdom	Animalia	yes	yes
Phylum	Chordata	yes	yes
Class	Animalia	yes	yes
Order	Carnivore	yes	yes
Suborder	Feliformia	yes	yes
Family	Felidae	yes	yes
	Cat	Tigrina	Tiger
Subfamily	Felinae	Felinae	Pantherinae
Genus	Felis	Leopardus	Panthera
Species	<i>Felis catus</i>	<i>L. tigrinus</i>	<i>P. tigris</i>



The wild Tiger Cat, *Tigrina* or *Oncilla* (*Leopardus tigrinus*), weigh about 4-6 lbs.

Inscribed "*Felis tigrina*," a former classification.

Tiger or Tiger Cat?



Christmas Island 2022

A beckoning (domestic) tiger cat is on this "red envelope" that could hold money given to children during the Lunar New Year.

Domestic tiger cats were paired with a tiger in 1998 for Year of the Tiger.



New Zealand Year of the Tiger gutter pair

The front and reverse side are reduced 50%

