



The Egyptian Mau Rescue Organisation (EMRO)

EMRO is a registered animal welfare charity dedicated to rescuing and re-homing believed descendants of the sacred cat of ancient Egypt. The Egyptian Mau is recognized internationally, and their ancestry goes back 3,500 years. A Mau cat is the only naturally occurring small spotted cat and a highly respected animal. It was an offence in Pharonic times to hurt or to kill a cat. Cats were mourned when they died and many have been found mummified in tombs.

Unfortunately, the life of the Egyptian Mau cat is very different today, as the local culture generally perceives these beautiful spotted cats as undesirable pests. Due to this as well as disease and poisoning, it is feared that the lineage of these ancient cats may become lost.



The EMRO concept began in December, 2003 when a Canadian, Mrs. Gloria Lauris, visited Cairo with her Egyptian-Canadian husband, Dr. Ismail Elkholy. Seeing the deplorable conditions in which the Mau street cats were living, she vowed to help them. Interest arose from several international Egyptian Mau catteries, and support for the Maus in Egypt sprang up from individuals in North America, Britain and Australasia. A property

with some land was acquired in Sakkara, with the hope of creating a future Mau sanctuary for feral Maus.

EMRO works in Cairo as an adoption agency to help place Egyptian Mau cats into new homes, locally and internationally. Operating officially for just over a year (NGO #6196, Aug. 23, 2005), EMRO currently has about 50 Maus and Mau mixes for adoption at their HQ and via their website. EMRO has an active sponsorship program where individuals from all over the world can sponsor a Mau for \$15 US a month to help with its food and medicine, and in return will get periodic updates on their sponsored cat, as well as recognition on the website. EMRO has a small staff of animal workers, office workers and volunteers, with a veterinarian visiting at least weekly.

Several initiatives are underway such as EMRO assisting the University of California, USA on a feline genetics study comparing the DNA of the local Maus with pedigreed Maus worldwide, as well as to DNA of cat mummies of ancient Egypt, in an attempt to determine the genetic linkage of these ancient street cats. In addition, EMRO hopes to develop and open the Sakkara sanctuary to feral Maus, sufficient funds and donations allowing.



Cat boarding is also available at HQ for any cat pet owners travelling or needing temporary shelter for their cats. Anyone wishing to re-home their Egyptian Mau cat can approach EMRO for inclusion

on their website for free, although space in the shelter is currently limited to cat intake, except for Mau kittens or emergency Mau situations.

EMRO has received local and international media exposure and it is hoped this will help place more cats in loving homes and help raise global awareness of the native Egyptian Maus' plight.



There are many ways one may help these cats or become involved: for instance through donations of time, money, expertise or supplies; through adoption, sponsorship or fostering; and if one travels, through

international pet escorting (we urgently need many volunteer pet escorts especially to America, Germany and even Finland).

For more details please contact EMRO at (202) 507-6946, or (202) 010-654-4707 (mobile: English or Arabic). Or check out their website at www.emaurescue.org, or email: info@emaurescue.org. Office hours are usually 10-5 Sunday through Thursday, with other times by appointment.