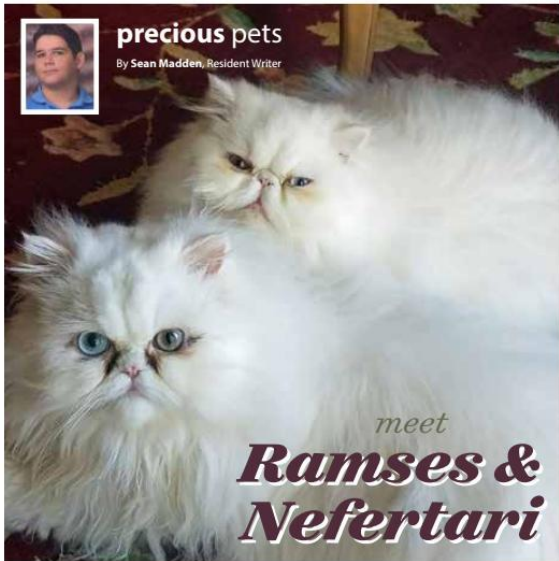




precious pets

By Sean Madden, Resident Writer



meet Ramses & Nefertari



Nefertari



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Several minor local celebrities have called Tortoise Island home, for example, Winchester the Celebrity Hound, Patches the Wonderdog, and our former resident Grumpy Stumpy. However, not many residents are aware that we actually have Egyptian royalty currently living right here in Tortoise Island. While such a statement may be a slight exaggeration, that doesn't mean there isn't some truth behind it. Our two Egyptian royals are Ramses and Nefertari Martinez, who have taken up residence with the Martinez family on Loggerhead Island Drive. It just so happens that these two are not people, but fluffy white lumps of cuddly goodness.

Ramses and Nefertari are two Persian cats born in May 2018 who live with their human parents, Miriam and Pedro Martinez, along with their two feline housemates, Ibby and Penelope. After their previous pair of Persians passed away, the Martinez family sought out a new pair and came home with the two bundles of joy. They named the boy Ramses and the girl Nefertari, names inspired while watching a series about the Biblical prophet Moses. These names belonged to two members of Moses' adoptive family and were pharaoh and queen of Egypt.

The two Persians are very unique members of the Martinez family. Both cats have heterochromia, a condition where their eyes are different colors from each other, or "odd eyes." They both love spending time with the family and the other cats, but they also are very active and love to play. While Nefertari is the more relaxed of the two, Ramses will jump around while playing with toys, or stand on his hind legs for several seconds to look out the window.



Nefertari



Ramses



Nefertari



Ramses



Ramses

"Watching them play is very enjoyable because they will jump over each other, basically leap-frogging each other," Miriam Martinez said. "If there's a lizard that gets in the house, they will chase after it. If the lizards are smart and feel the cat is after them, they sometimes act paralyzed, and as long as they don't move, they know their life can be saved."

In ancient Egypt, cats were revered and even worshipped, and were even

believed to have magical powers. The Martinez family members are big fans of cats, also, and to say they are "cat people" is an understatement. "I think God outdid himself when he made cats. I think they're the most beautiful creatures on earth," Martinez explained. "I like holding them and talking to them, and I do the answering for them. They have opinions about everything happening in the household."

Above all, Ramses and Nefertari are wonderful additions to the Martinez family and they make an enormous impression on everyone they meet. When they're not running around the room or chasing the other cats, the two Persians enjoy cuddling with family. While they may not be royalty as their names suggest, Ramses and Nefertari certainly will leave behind a royal legacy in their adoptive family, which is why they are this month's Tortoise Island pets of the month.



If you would like to have your pet featured in an upcoming issue, send e-mail to michelemadden@bellsouth.net.

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