Scientific Translation Date: 15, March, 2020

Fourth Stage – Morning Classes Time: 11:30 & 12:15

Lecturer: Farah A. Abo Al-Timen

**Cats in Ancient Egypt**

Cats in ancient Egypt were embodied in religious practices of [ancient Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) as well as in their social life. Several [Ancient Egyptian deities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_deities) were depicted and sculptured with cat-like heads, representing justice, fertility and power.

**Cats of the Pharaohs**

The ancient Egyptians mummified an abundance of cats during the Late Period (664 - 332 BC). The overlapping morphology and sizes of developing wildcats and domestic cats confounds the identity of mummified cat species. Genetic analyses should support mummy identification and was conducted on two long bones and a mandible of three cats that were mummified by the ancient Egyptians.

The significance of cats to the ancient Egyptians is richly manifested in their ubiquity in tomb art and statuary, and as manifestation of the goddess of beauty, or certain aspects of the sun god. Animal mummification was a long-standing tradition in Egypt, reaching its zenith during the Late Period (664 - 332 BC), and continuing through the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods (332 B.C. – AD 395).

Animal mummies in Egypt can be divided into four categories: pets, revered gods, food offerings and ritual offerings. Hence, the majority of mummies found in Egypt and in museum collections are of the votive type.