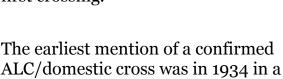The History of the Bengal Cat Breed

This is a F3 Bengal cat. The foundation cat being a cross between a Asian Lepord cat (ALC) and a domestic short hair: referred to as generation F1. F4 crosses are considered tempermentally gentle.
This particular cat being shown had a rare and desired feature from his Lepord Cat ancestor: a thick padded nose. A feature usually lost with the first crossing.

The earliest mention of a confirmed ALC/domestic cross was in 1934 in a Belgian scientific journal. In 1946, a Jean Mill (née Sugden) submitted a term paper for her genetics class at UC Davis on the subject of cross breeding cats. The 1960s was a period when many well known breeders produced ALC/domestic crosses, but records indicate that none of them took it past the F2 stage.
During this period there was an epidemic of feline leukemia virus and it became known that many wild cats seemed to have a natural immunity to the disease. Around this time, Jean Mill (née Sugden) began to renew her breeding efforts.
..I deliberately crossed leopard cats with domestic cats for several important reasons. At that time, wild cats were being exploited for the fur market. Nursing female leopard cats defending their nests were shot for their pelts, and the cubs were shipped off to pet stores worldwide. Unsuspecting cat lovers bought them, unaware of the danger, their unpleasant elimination habits and the unsuitability of keeping wild cats as pets. Most of the wild kittens from this era ended up in zoos or escaped onto city streets. I hoped that by putting a leopard coat on a domestic cat, the pet trade could be safely satisfied. If fashionable women could be dissuaded from wearing furs that look like friends' pets, the diminished demand would result in less poaching of wild species.
She contacted Dr. Willard Centerwall in Riverside who had produced a number of F1s using domestic tabbies at Loma Linda University for his Centerwall project into Feline Leukemia.

A link to small wild cats

http://www.nitewindes.com/ALCinfo.html

Pasadena Adjacent Research and Development - December 17, 2010 at 5:02 pm e