A Name for the Reunionnaise Cat

Hello. My name's Barry and I'm English. I was born in London, but I moved with my family to Leicester, a city in the East Midlands, and it was there that I went to school.

Growing up both in London and Leicester, our family **owned** a succession of dogs. They were my mother's **pride and joy** and she looked after them, showering them with her considerable love and affection. The dogs in question were almost all **mongrels**, which she either bought cheaply as **puppies** from the local dog's home, or even finding them abandoned in the local park. She had an **uncanny knack** of coming across these dogs or, as I believe, the dogs had an uncanny knack of abandoning themselves as she approached, somehow knowing that, if picked up by my mum their fate would be a life of warmth, regular meals, exercise, and general **wellbeing**.

I mention this because, having married a Réunionnaise girl, I emigrated to Réunion 17 years ago. **Having built** my house it seemed only fitting that we **acquire** a dog to guard it. Lily is a small crossbreed terrier, in other words a mongrel, or, as she is known here on Réunion, a Royal Bourbon.

A Royal Bourbon : what a glorious name to give to the everyday mongrel dog. Mans most faithful friend. The Royal Bourbon, a metissage of canine heritage, tough, resilient, present, mirroring their human masters of this island.

Until recently I also had a cat. He too was of mixed heritage. He was a beautiful animal, **sleek** with huge eyes. And I've been thinking, if the mongrel dog is known as a Royal Bourbon, what name should we give the crossbreed cat ? Indeed, does a name exist already ? Or should we, designate a name ourselves. My own idea would be a Regal Mascareigne, but I would welcome any of your ideas.

Vocabulary

To own – posséder
Pride and joy – La fierté
Mongrel – Chien batard
Puppy – Chiot
Uncanny knack – sixieme sens
Wellbeing – Bien etre
To acquire – acheter
Sleek - lisse, élaçee
Having lived – Ayant habité
Having built - Ayant construit