Are all blue-eyed white cats deaf ?

Have you ever looked closely at a postage stamp with a white cat and looked at the colour of its eyes ?

Have you ever heard the saying that white cats with blue eyes are deaf ?

Do you know the answer ?

- 5% of the general cat population is white; and of these about 28% have 1 or 2 blue eyes.
- 70% of white cats, that have 1 or 2 blue eyes, are deaf in at least 1 ear.
- of those with 1 blue eye, 35% were deaf
- If a white cat with 1 blue eye is deaf, it is more likely to be deaf in the ear on the same side as the blue eye!

The total number of white cats with blue eyes account for only ¾ to 2% of the total cat population.

Deaf white cats with 1 or 2 blue eyes account for only ¼ 1.5 % of the total cat population.

What do all these cat statistics really mean?

Well… if there are 1,000 cats in the general cat population:

- 50 of them would be white
  - of these 50, 14 would have 1 or 2 blue eyes
    - of these 14, 10 would be deaf

so the answer is... *not all blue-eyed white cats are deaf.*