



2024 BREED COUNCIL POLL

AMERICAN SHORTHAIR

AMERICAN SHORTHAIR BREED COUNCIL SECRETARY BALLOT

For the Term May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2027

Please vote for only one candidate.

- ☐ Carol W. Johnson (Newbury Park, CA)
- ☐ Abstain

The American Wirehair breed is voting on adding a color class to show straight-coated cats produced by American Wirehairs. Since those cats might be considered “lookalikes” of American Shorthairs, the input of American Shorthair breed council members is sought. Another option might be to show Wire Coated cats in a separate division of American Shorthairs. That option will also be on both ballots. You should vote on each (and of course, may vote differently on each).

The following questions are for information only.

1. Would you consider the American Wirehair breed becoming a division of the American Shorthair Breed at some point in the future?

Rationale: The American Wirehair breed is rapidly becoming a rare breed with American Wirehair breeders highly concerned that the breed might be lost. One of the difficulties are that there are too few breeders to allow breeding wire-hair to wire-hair, so an effective breeding program includes outcrossing to the American Shorthair breed (the only allowable outcross). One problem that discourages American Wirehair breeders is that the straight haired kittens from an outcross can't be shown or sold as wire-haired cats. Since the only allowable outcross is to American Shorthair, American Wirehairs are nearly identical to American Shorthairs except for the wire-hair gene. Inclusion of the American Wirehair into the American Shorthair breed may help save it from dying out and would allow breeders to show their straight-haired cats without creating a straight-haired color class very similar to the American Shorthair breed.

The American Wirehair ballot for 2024 is asking for a color class for straight-coated cats to be shown and titled in the American Wirehair breed. This will create somewhat of a “look alike” to

the American Shorthair being shown as another breed, if the proposal passes and is ratified by the CFA Board.

A similar poll regarding becoming a division of the American Shorthair will be on the American Wirehair ballot (see American Wirehair ballot below). Responses will be info/advisory only to the affected Breed Councils, the Breeds & Standards Committee and the CFA Board of Directors.

YES: _____

NO: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

This proposal is advisory to the CFA Board on the question of the American Wirehair proposal to add a color class for straight-coated cats:

2. Are you in favor of the addition of a color class to the American Wirehair breed enabling them to show and title their straight-coated cats?

RATIONALE: The American Wirehair breed is rapidly becoming a rare breed with American Wirehair breeders highly concerned that the breed might be lost. One of the difficulties are that there are too few breeders to allow breeding wire-hair to wire-hair, so an effective breeding program includes outcrossing to the American Shorthair breed (the only allowable outcross). One problem that discourages American Wirehair breeders is that the straight haired kittens from an outcross can't be shown or sold as wire-haired cats. Since the only allowable outcross is to American Shorthair, American Wirehairs are nearly identical to American Shorthairs except for the wire-hair gene. Inclusion of the American Wirehair into the American Shorthair breed may help save it from dying out and would allow breeders to show their straight-haired cats without creating a straight-haired color class very similar to the American Shorthair breed.

The American Wirehair ballot for 2024 is asking for a color class for straight-coated cats to be shown and titled in the American Wirehair breed. This will create somewhat of a "look alike" to the American Shorthair being shown as another breed, if the proposal passes and is ratified by the CFA Board.

YES: _____

NO: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

FOR REFERENCE, below are the proposals on the American Wirehair ballot:

American Wirehair 2024 ballot – For information only. No vote from ASH BC required:

1. PROPOSED: Add a Color Class for straight-coated cats.

American Wirehair Color Class Numbers

~~All Championship~~ Wire Coated Colors.....9900 9901

(Wire-coated cats in All all accepted colors and patterns as defined in the standard (including OWC), Show Standards and Other Wirehair Colors and patterns with the exception of those showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, lavender, the himalayan pattern or these combinations with white, etc.)

Straight Coated Colors.....xxxx xxxx

(Straight-coated cats in all accepted colors and patterns as defined in the standard (including OWC), with the exception of those showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, lavender, the himalayan pattern or these combinations with white, etc.)

AOV.....9998 9999

2. PROPOSED: If the color class addition passes, amend the General Description, COAT Description and PENALIZE as follows, with no change to the Point Score:

GENERAL: the American Wirehair is a spontaneous mutation. The WIRED coat, which is not only springy, dense, and resilient, but also coarse and hard to the touch, distinguishes the American Wirehair from all other breeds. The STRAIGHT coat variation is dense and thick. Characteristics ~~is~~ are activity, agility, and keen interest in its surroundings. The American Wirehair can be shown in either the wired version or in the straight haired (non-wired version) in the appropriate class.

HEAD: in proportion to the body. Underlying bone structure is round with prominent cheekbones and well-developed muzzle and chin. There is a slight whisker break.

NOSE: in profile the nose shows a gentle concave curve.

MUZZLE: well-developed. Allowance for jowls in adult males.

CHIN: firm and well-developed with no malocclusion.

EARS: medium, slightly rounded at tips, set wide and not unduly open at the base.

EYES: large, rounded, bright, and clear. Set well apart. Aperture has slight upward tilt. The color should reflect intensity, and complement the color of the cat.

BODY: medium to large. Back level, shoulders and hips same width, torso well-rounded and in proportion. Males larger than females.

LEGS: medium in length and bone, well-muscled and proportionate to body.

PAWS: firm, full and rounded, with heavy pads. Toes, five in front and four behind.

TAIL: in proportion to body, tapering from the well-rounded rump to a rounded tip, neither blunt nor pointed.

COAT – Wired coat: springy, tight, medium in length. Individual hairs are crimped, hooked, or bent, including hair within the ears. The overall appearance of wiring and the coarseness and resilience of the coat is more important than the crimping of each hair. The density of the wired coat leads to ringlet formation rather than waves. That coat, which is very dense, resilient, crimped, and coarse, is most desirable, as are curly whiskers.

COAT – Straight coat: Coat is dense and thick. Medium in length but straight haired. Some waves and slight crimping may be visible at base of tail and inside ears, along with curly whiskers.

PENALIZE: deep nose break. Close lying coat.

DISQUALIFY: incorrect coat. Kinked or abnormal tail. Long or fluffy fur. Incorrect number of toes. Evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, lavender, the Himalayan pattern, or these combinations with white.

RATIONALE: The standard point allocation stresses to continue to emphasize the coat, wired or straight coated, without differentiating between other aspects of the breed. By giving the straight coated offspring a way to earn titles, improve their status within the breed, there is hope to revitalize the breed.

Ballots must be completed online, or received in CO, by Thursday, December 12, 2024.