

The Devon Rex

CFA Judges' Workshop



The Devon Rex

“... a breed of unique appearance...”

“... a characteristic elfin look...”



Ideally, one should be able to immediately distinguish a Devon Rex from afar due to its distinctive **head** type and conformation.

Head : 40 Points



The Devon Rex head is the most distinctive feature of the breed. Though each kind of rexed coat is unique, all rexed coats (Devon Rex, Cornish Rex & Selkirk Rex) are distinguished by a degree of curl. **The Devon head, on the other hand, is totally distinctive.** The importance of the proper Devon head is shown by the assignment of more points to this feature than to any other.

Head point distribution

Head shape and size	12 pts
Ears	12 pts
Profile and chin	6 pts
Muzzle	5 pts
Eyes	<u>5 pts</u>
Total	40 pts

Head Shape and Size – 12 points

- Modified wedge - altered in shape by a series of three narrowing convex curves defined from base of the ear; cheekbones and whisker pads.
- Head is broad especially through the forehead and eyes, but is still slightly longer than broad.
- The Devon Rex should be full cheeked with prominent cheekbones and a pronounced whisker break.
- The forehead should curve back from the nose stop to a flat skull.

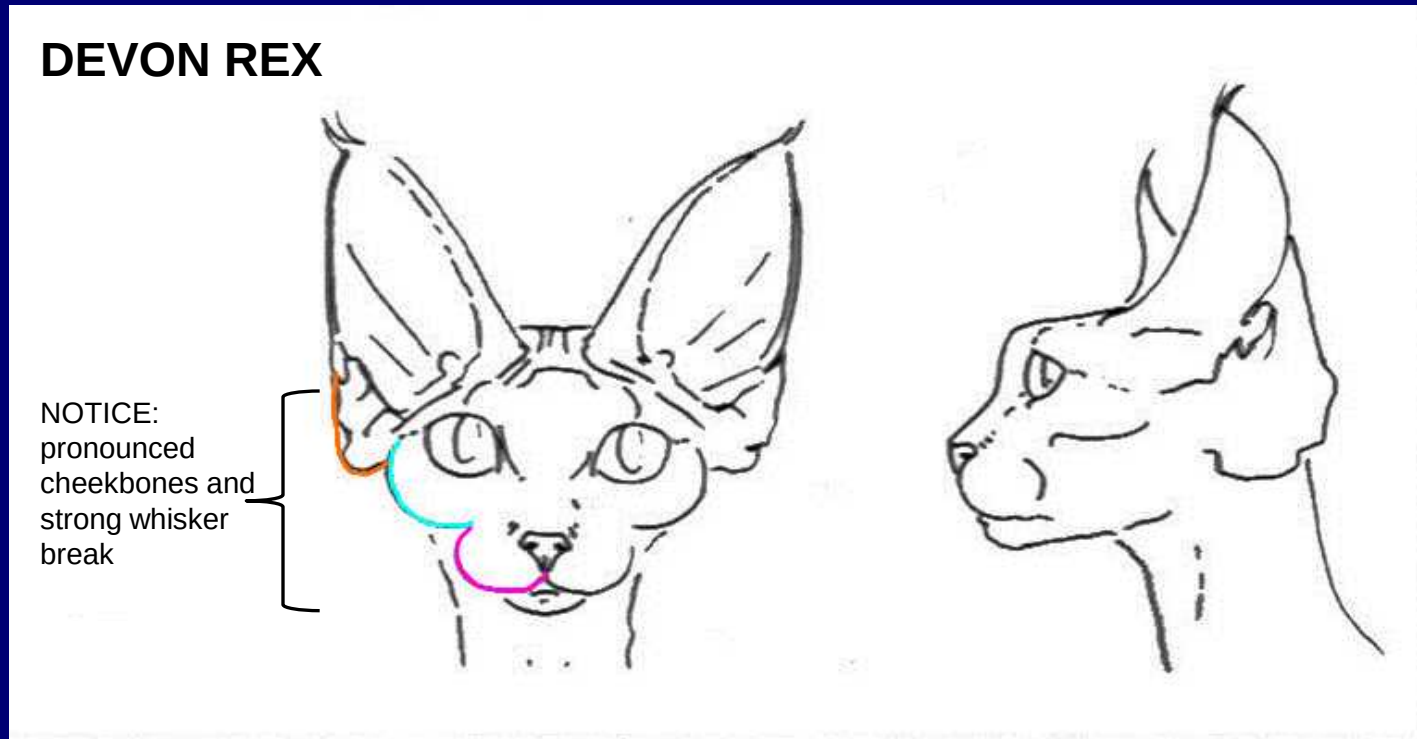


Excellent example of desired head width to length



Excellent view of Devon head showing stop, profile, bells to ears especially

Drawing of the Proper Head



These and other drawings were done by Anita White, one of the North American pioneers of the Devon Rex. They were done in 1980 and remain some of the best representations of the ideal that Devon Rex breeders strive for.

We thank Anita for her vision and skill.

Ears – 12 points

- Ears are **large and very low set**. Outside line of ear at bottom extends beyond line of the wedge (often referred to as the “jug” or “jug handle”) and is another unique feature of the Devon.
- The ears should **NOT** flare as in the Siamese but should extend almost vertically from the base and form a rounded tip.
- Viewed from the back or sides the ears show a distinctive “bell” or “cupping” shape due to the large size and low set.

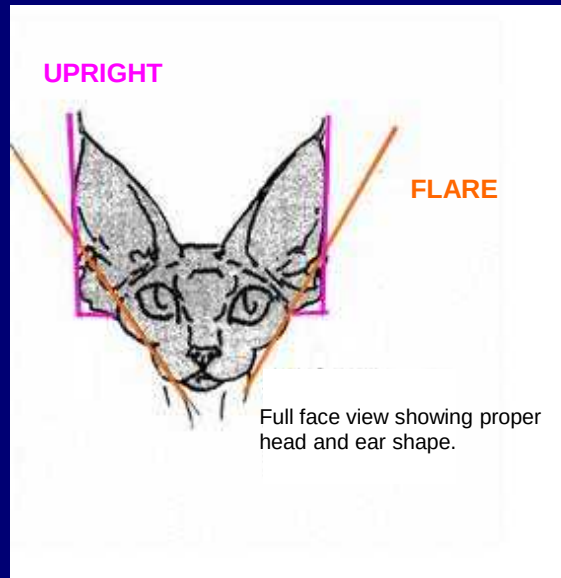


Excellent ear set, size and shape on this kitten



Back view of ears showing bells that extend well back from head

Ears (continued)



Drawing by Anita White

Drawing showing difference between upright Devon ears and flared ears



Lacks jug handles



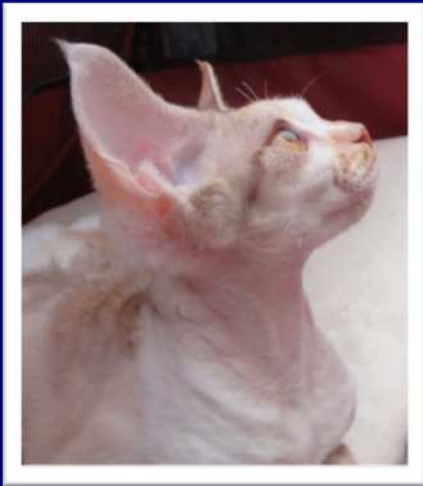
Excellent ear shape, placement and size on this young male kitten.



Too much flare to the ears

Profile and Chin – 6 points

- In profile, the Devon Rex has a strong nose stop which should be felt and not just visualized. It should not be so strong as to be a 90 degree angle but it needs to have a definite change in direction (less than 135 degree angle).
- Chin should line up straight with the nose in profile and be neither undershot nor overshot.



Outstanding profile showing a strongly marked stop, the curve from the stop to the forehead and the flat skull. Also shows good depth of muzzle, and very nice chin

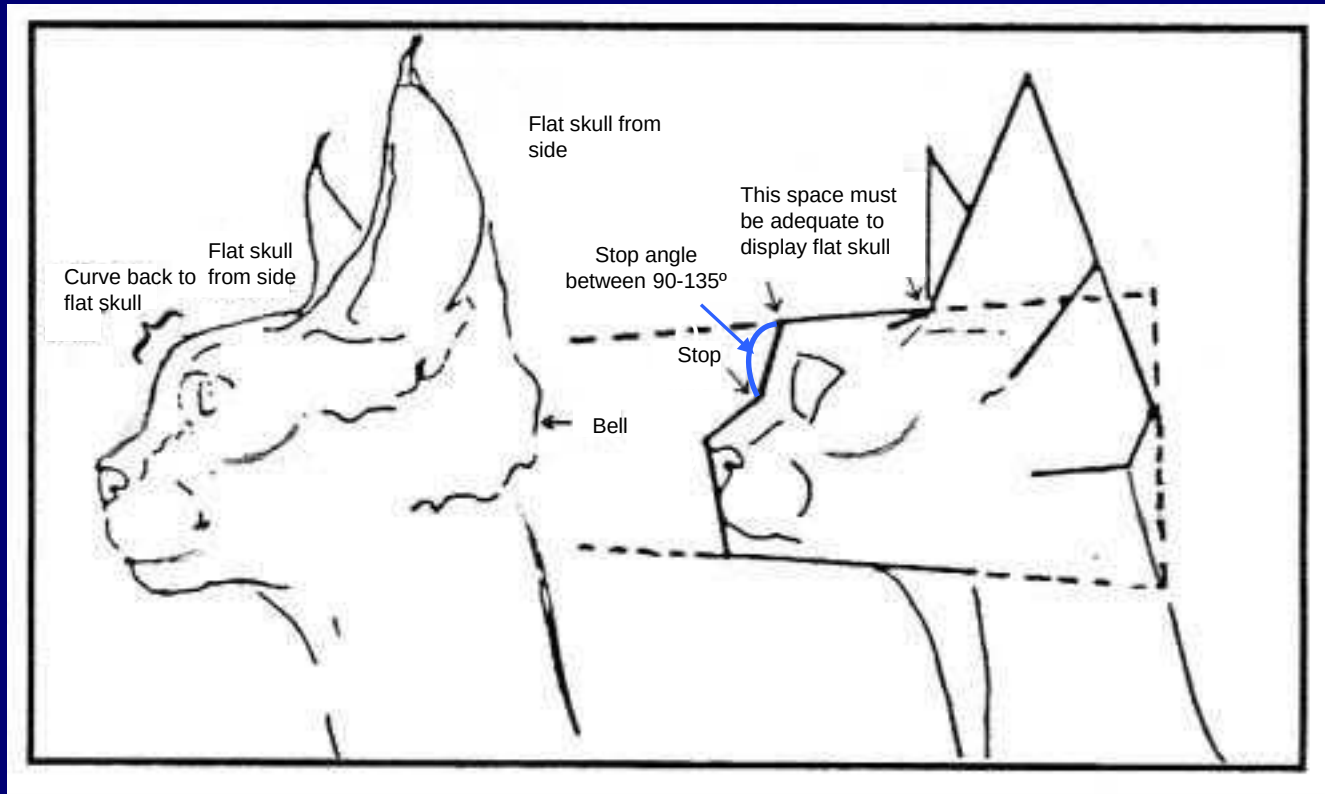


Close up showing excellent example of how chin should line up



Example of weak chin

Drawing of Devon Profile and Chin



Profile & chin key points:

Drawing by Anita White

- 1) Chin in line with nose
- 2) Strongly marked stop between 90°- 135°
- 3) Forehead curves gently from stop to flat top skull.
- 4) Forehead should not protrude.

Muzzle – 5 points

- Muzzle should be short and well-developed.
- Whisker pads should be prominent.



Excellent muzzle showing shortness and full development



Muzzle not as well developed

Eyes – 5 points

- The eyes should be large and wide-set, oval in shape and sloping toward the outer edge of the ears.



Very nice eye size and shape showing the oval shape, wide set, open expression



Eyes too round.

Overall Impression of Devon Rex Head

All of the components of the head must work together without one being emphasized over the others in order to provide the proper pixie look / elfin expression. For example, a too strongly marked stop can give a harsh expression.



Very nice overall look to the head showing the elfin expression



Overall well balanced black Devon with excellent head features

Coat: 30 Points

Though some other breeds share the quality of curliness in their coats, the Devon coat has a distinctive look from other rexed cats. Three factors are equally important as evidenced by an equal number of points in the standard for each:

- **Density (10 points):** The Devon should be well covered with fur, though the back, sides, legs, tail will be more dense than the neck, top of the head, chest and abdomen.
- **Texture/Length (10 points):** Soft and full bodied; Devons are short haired cats, so shagginess is not desired and should be penalized.
- **Waviness (10 points):** The wave should be rippled and very evident when smoothed with the hand. Much looser wave than on a Cornish Rex. Straight coat/lack of wave should be penalized.



Coat point distribution

Density	10 pts
Texture/length	10 pts
Waviness	<u>10 pts</u>
Total	30 pts

Coat Examples

Good coat



Too long/shaggy (kitten)



Too long/shaggy (8 yrs. old)



Kitten coat returning after molt



Bare patches



Too straight



Body: 25 points

- The Devon Rex body should be hard and muscular, yet lithe and of medium length. Proper allowance should be given to males which will usually be larger than females so long as good proportions are maintained.
- The chest should be well developed and broad even though the overall appearance of the cat is slender and medium-boned.
- Though the front legs are not themselves bowed, the breadth of the chest can make them appear to be so when viewed frontally. This creates what is often called a “bulldog stance” and is the **ONLY** way that the Devon should be said to have a bulldog look.



Proper body type showing proper torso, broad chest, good length to legs and stance, long slender tail



Excellent example of bulldog stance on this kitten



Another good view of the proper body type.

Body point distribution

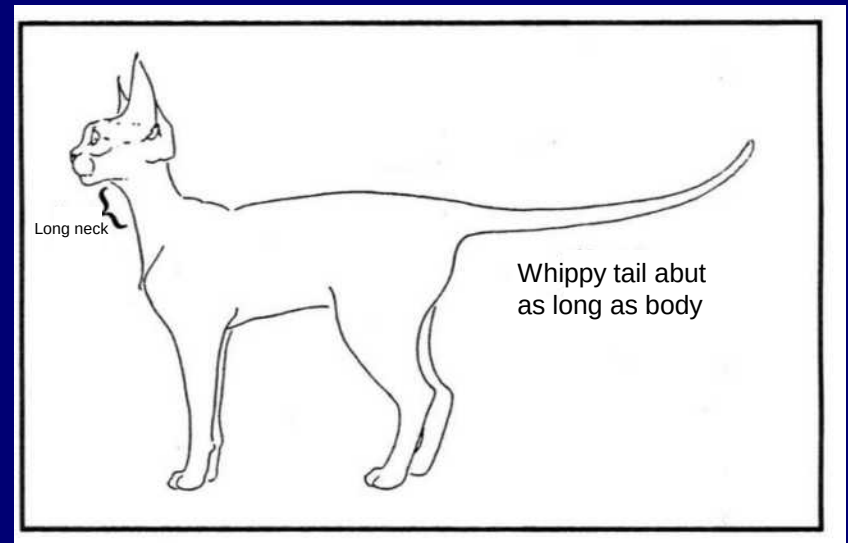
Torso & tail	10 pts
Legs & Paws	10 pts
Neck	<u>5 pts</u>
Total	25 pts

Torso and Tail – 10 points

- The Devon Rex body should be hard and muscular, yet lithe and of medium length. However, size isn't a critical element and proper allowance should be given to males which will usually be larger than females so long as good proportions are maintained.
- Tail should be long, slim and tapering. A length almost as long as the body of the cat is appropriate.



Coat is light on this cat, but this helps to show the proper body style as compared to the drawing on the right



Drawing by Anita White

Legs and Paws – 10 points

- Legs should be long and slim.
- Paws should be oval and small.
- The Devon should stand high on its legs with the hind legs slightly longer than the front.



Good example of legs showing
back legs longer than front.

Neck – 5 points

- Neck is an important feature in the Devon as the proper shape and size helps to provide an ideal setting for the unique head. Neck should be of medium length and slender.



Good example of neck in this adult



Neck is slender and medium giving proper setting for the head

Color: 5 points

The Devon Rex can come in a wide variety of colors and patterns true to their origins from a mutation in the domestic cat population in England and from other breeds used in the early establishment of the breed. In fact, the Devon Rex standard allows for any genetically possible color or pattern or combinations of the same to be accepted as a Devon Rex color.

There are four color classes that Devon Rex are judged in:

- Solid
- Tabby
- Bi-Color
- Other Devon Rex Colors

Solid Colors Class

- White (blue eyed, odd eyed, gold eyed, any other eye color)
- Blue
- Cream
- Lavender
- Fawn
- Black
- Red
- Chocolate
- Cinnamon



Tabby Color Class

Devons are recognized in four tabby patterns:

- Classic tabby
- Mackerel tabby
- Spotted tabby
- Ticked tabby



Silver Mackerel Tabby



Brown Patched Mackerel Tabby



Chocolate Silver Patched Tabby

Bi-Color Color Class

This class basically contains any color/combination of color and tabby pattern with white. It includes:

- Calico
- Tortoiseshell and white
- Van pattern (color on extremities plus one or two small body spots).



Other Devon Rex Color Class

- Most common color registered in this class is tortoiseshell but it also includes those non-tabby patterned colors which are influenced by the degree of color on the hair shaft such as shaded, smoke, shell, chinchilla (e.g., lavender silver, black smoke, shaded silver, etc.)
- Pointed pattern, sepia pattern, and mink pattern are also in this color class.



Chocolate tortie shaded Devon



Torti smoke Devon

Things to Consider

- **Head** - The unique appearance of the Devon Rex head is what defines the breed.
- **Coat** - Equal point allocation to coat in three separate areas: density, texture/length and waviness.
- **Body** - Should be hard and muscular, yet lithe and of medium length. Males will usually be larger than females.
- **Color** - While standardization of color names is a desirable goal, possible Devon colors can not always be as simply described as in some other breeds.

Overview of the Standard

Ideal Devon Rex

- 3 convex curves set on a modified wedge head
- Large ears, very low set, very wide at base
- Base of ear lobes beyond line of wedge
- Full-cheeked, prominent whisker pads
- Strongly marked nose stop
- Forehead curves back to flat skull
- Short muzzle; chin lines up vertically with nose
- Large eyes, wide set, oval
- Body lithe, muscular and of medium length
- Chest is broad, yet boning and legs are medium-fine
- Coat is rexed but the wave is loose lying; soft and distinctive texture

Penalize

- Narrow, long, tapering in the fashion of a “V”, or round head
- Extremely short muzzle
- Misaligned bite
- Small / high set / flared ears
- Short or bare tail
- Straight coat
- Bare patches

Disqualify

- Kinked or abnormal tail, long hair on the tail
- Extensive baldness
- Excessively long, and/or shaggy coat.
- Incorrect number of toes; crossed eyes; weak hind legs

The Devon Rex Point Score

Head: 40 points

- Size and Shape (12)
- Ears (12)
- Profile and Chin (6)
- Muzzle (5)
- Eyes (5)

Coat: 30 points

- Density (10)
- Texture / Length (10)
- Waviness (10)

Body: 25 points

- Torso and Tail (10)
- Legs and Paws (10)
- Neck (5)

Color: 5 points

Standard reflects overall balance but the head does receive more points than any other feature. Color not as important in Devons as in some other breeds.

Devon Breeders' Input

- **Don't forget about the boys!** Standard tends to favor the females; as long as good proportions are maintained the larger size of males should not be viewed as any less appropriate to the standard than the smaller size of females.
- **Don't confuse coat density with coverage.** No extra "credit" needs to be given for denser coat on areas of the body that the standard allows to be more lightly covered, e.g. top of head, neck, chest, abdomen.
- **Remember the even distribution of points for coat in three areas: density, texture/length, and waviness.** Lighter coat can be equal to a very dense coat assuming coverage is equal and the overall effect is pleasing.
- **Handling:** Devons like all four feet securely on the table and will resist being controlled by a hand under their bellies or on their back. Control is best achieved by a few fingers placed between the shoulder blades permitting the Devon to stand relatively freely. Give the Devon a chance to survey his surroundings and check things out before introducing a toy otherwise he will likely choose to ignore it - and you.

References and Acknowledgments

Websites:

www.devonrexbreedclub.com Website of the Devon Rex Breed Club.

http://planetdevon.com/anita_white Planet Devon website illustrating the Anita White 1980 Drawings of the correct and incorrect Devon head and body.

Gary Amundson, the original 2001 Devon Rex Power Point Judges Workshop presentation.

Gerri Logan and Ann Gibney, The Devon Rex Handbook: A Discussion of the Standard of Perfection, rev. ed May 2002, further rev. ed May 2004.

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Updated September 2022 – Linda Peterson, Carolyn Jimenez, and Kristin Nowell

THE END