

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.®
2025-26 Show Standards • Penalize & Disqualify Sections

ABYSSINIAN

PENALIZE: off-color pads. Long narrow head, short round head. Barring on legs, dark broken necklace markings, rings on tail. Coldness or grey tones in the coat. White undercoat on blue or fawn Abyssinians. Ears too high or too low that disrupt the smooth lines of the modified wedge.

DISQUALIFY: white locket, or white anywhere other than nostril, chin, and upper throat area. Kinked or abnormal tail. Dark unbroken necklace. Grey undercoat close to the skin extending throughout a major portion of the body. Any black hair on cinnamon Abyssinian. Incorrect number of toes. Any color other than the four accepted colors.

AMERICAN BOBTAIL

PENALIZE: tail too long or too short affecting the balance and appearance of the cat. Tail kinked or knotted out of shape. Tail rigid, fragile or set low. Straight tail not exhibiting a fat pad. Round eyes. Weak chin. Extremely short muzzle or nose break. Cottony coat.

DISQUALIFY: total lack of tail or full-length tail. Delicate bone structure. Incorrect number of toes.

AMERICAN CURL

PENALIZE: **Ears:** low set; abrupt change of direction without smooth curve; pinch, horizontal or vertical crimp; interior surface which appears corrugated. **Body:** tubular or cobby. Excessive size. **Nose:** deep nose break. **Coat:** **Longhair Division:** heavy undercoat; heavy ruff; coarse or cottony texture. **Shorthair Division:** heavy undercoat, coarse texture; dense or plush coats.

DISQUALIFY: extreme curl in adult where tip of ear touches back of ear or head. Ears that are straight, severely mismatched, thick or having inflexible tips. Lack of firm cartilage in base of ear. Tail faults.

AMERICAN SHORTHAIR

PENALIZE: excessive cobbliness or ranginess. Very short tail.

DISQUALIFY: cats showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, sable, lavender, lilac, or point-restricted (i.e. Siamese-type markings). Any appearance of hybridization with any other breed – including long or fluffy fur, nose break, bulging eye set, brow ridge. Kinked or abnormal tail. Locket or button (white spots on colors not specifying same). Incorrect number of toes. Undershot or overshot bite. Tongue persistently protruding. Obesity or emaciation. Any feature so exaggerated as to foster weakness.

AMERICAN WIREHAIR

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.

BALINESE

PENALIZE: lack of pigment in the nose leather and/or paw pads in part, or in total, except as allowed in the color definitions for lynx and tortie points. Crossed eyes. Visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum under normal handling. Soft or mushy body.

DISQUALIFY: any evidence of illness or poor health. Weak hind legs. Mouth breathing due to nasal obstruction or poor occlusion. Malocclusion resulting in either undershot or overshot chin. Emaciation. Visible kink in tail. Eyes other than blue. White toes and/or feet. Incorrect number of toes. Definite double coat (i.e., downy undercoat).

BENGAL

PENALIZE: Kinked or otherwise deformed tail. **Rosetted/Spotted Tabby Pattern** – Rosettes or spots running together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern. **Marble Tabby Pattern** – Circular bull's eye pattern. **Snow Tabby Pattern** – Substantially darker point color as compared to color of body markings.

DISQUALIFY: Clearly visible tail kink or tail deformity. Cow hocking. Crossed eyes. **Rosetted/Spotted Tabby, Marble Tabby, Charcoal**

Tabby, Snow Tabby Patterns – Belly not patterned. Any distinct locket on neck, chest, abdomen, or anywhere else.

BIRMAN

PENALIZE: white that does not run across the front paws in an even line. Lack of white on all front toes. Persian or Siamese type head. Delicate bone structure. White shading on stomach and chest. Lack of laces on one or both back gloves. White beyond the metacarpal (dew) pad. (The metacarpal pad is the highest up little paw pad, located in the middle of the back of the front paw, above the third joint and just below the wrist bones.)

DISQUALIFY: lack of white gloves on any paw. Kinked or abnormal tail. Structural defects or abnormalities. Crossed eyes. Incorrect number of toes. Areas of pure white in the points, if not connected to the gloves and part of or an extension of the gloves. Paw pads are part of the gloves. Areas of white connected to other areas of white by paw pads (of any color) are not cause for disqualification. Discrete areas of point color in the gloves, if not connected to point color of legs (exception, paw pads). White on back legs beyond the hock. Eye color other than blue. White tailtips or chin spots.

BOMBAY

PENALIZE: excessive cobbliness or ranginess.

DISQUALIFY: kinked or abnormal tail. Lockets or spots. Incorrect number of toes. Nose leather or paw pads other than black. Green eyes. Improper bite. Extreme break that interferes with normal breathing and tearing of eyes.

BRITISH SHORTHAIR

PENALIZE: overlong or fluffy coat. Soft coat that lacks resiliency. Rangy body. Foreshortened legs. Weak chin or over prominent chin. Foreshortened head in profile.*

DISQUALIFY: definite nose stop/nose break. Incorrect eye color, green rims in adults. Eyes set on the bias. Any tail defects. Droopy whisker pads. Incorrect number of toes. Locket or button. Improper color or pigment in nose leather and/or paw pads in part or total. Any evidence of illness or poor health. Any evidence of wryness of jaw, poor dentition (arrangement of teeth), or malocclusion; or foreshortened head structure that results in narrowed nares. Evidence of hybridization resulting in cinnamon or fawn, the Himalayan pattern or these combinations with white. Any evidence of the CORIN gene or evidence of DBE (dominant blue eye).*

*The previously listed penalties and disqualifications apply to all British Shorthair cats. Additional penalties and disqualifications are listed under colors.

Red & Cream: Disqualify - heavy tabby markings.

Shaded Golden Pattern: Disqualify - any evidence of the Corin gene as evidenced by white/off-white toes and/or white/off-white on the chest and neck.

Chinchilla Golden Pattern: Disqualify - Any evidence of the Corin gene as evidenced by white/off-white toes and/or white/off-white on the chest and neck.

Classic Tabby Pattern: Penalize - brindling. **Disqualify** - white anywhere.

Mackerel Tabby Pattern: Penalize - brindling. Mackerel pencillings not in evidence on both sides of the cat. **Disqualify** - white anywhere.

Spotted Tabby Pattern: Penalize - solid spine color line, brindling, markings not distinct and separate or spotting not in evidence on both sides of the cat. **Disqualify** - white anywhere.

Tortoiseshell: Penalize - tabby markings in the black, unbroken color on paws. Large solid patches of color. **Disqualify** - white anywhere.

Blue-Cream: Penalize - tabby markings in the blue, unbroken color on paws. Large solid patches of color. **Disqualify** - white anywhere.

Bi-Color: Penalize - brindling or tabby markings.

Calico & Dilute Calico: Penalize - brindling.

BURMESE

PENALIZE: Distinct barring on either the front or rear outer legs. Trace (faint) barring is permitted in kittens and young adults. Elongated muzzle with severe narrowing, resulting in a wedge-shaped head which detracts from the rounded contours of the head. Green eyes. Abnormal tail.

DISQUALIFY: Kinked tail, lockets or spots. Blue eyes. Crossed eyes. Incorrect nose leather or paw pad color. A malocclusion of the jaw that results in a severe underbite or overbite that visually prohibits the described profile and/or malformation that results in protruding teeth or a wry face or jaw. Distinct barring on the torso. Any color other than the four accepted colors of sable, champagne, blue and platinum.

BURMILLA

PENALIZE: Weak chin. Tabby marks in tipping, solid colored hairs, uneven tipping, brown or yellow tinge in coat. On Tipped, any color on the hocks.

DISQUALIFY: Incorrect eye color in adults. Cobby or oriental body. Coat too shaggy in Shorthair or excessive undercoat in Longhair Burmilla.

CHARTREUX

PENALIZE: severe nose break, snubbed or upturned nose, broad, heavy muzzle, palpable tail defect, eyes too close together giving angry look.

DISQUALIFY: white locket, visible tail kink, green eyes; any signs of lameness in the hindquarters.

COLORPOINT SHORTHAIR

PENALIZE: pigmentation of nose leather and/or paw pads which is not consistent with the cat's particular color description. Palpable and/or visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum.

DISQUALIFY: any evidence of illness or poor health. Weak hind legs. Mouth breathing due to nasal obstruction or poor occlusion. Emaciation. Visible kink. Eyes other than blue. White toes and/or feet, white spots or white marking anywhere on the cat except as appropriate for the tabby pattern on lynx points. Clearly-defined white undercoat in the points. Incorrect number of toes. Malocclusion resulting in either undershot or overshot chin.

CORNISH REX

PENALIZE: sparse coat or bare spots.

DISQUALIFY: kinked or abnormal tail. Incorrect number of toes. Any coarse or guard hairs. Any signs of lameness in the hindquarters. Signs of poor health.

DEVON REX

PENALIZE: Heads that are long and/or narrow, and/or those tapering in the fashion of a "V"; heads with flared ears; heads that are round, or have the appearance of a mixed breed; extremely short muzzle; misaligned bite; small or high set ears; short or bare tail; straight coat; bare patches.

DISQUALIFY: extensive baldness, excessively long, and/or shaggy coat; long hair on the tail; kinked or abnormal tail, incorrect number of toes, crossed eyes, weak hind legs; any evidence of illness or poor health.

EGYPTIAN MAU

PENALIZE: short or round head. Pointed muzzle. Small, round or oriental eyes. Cobby or oriental body. Short or whip tail. If no broken necklaces. Pencillings in spotting pattern on torso. Solid stripes on underside of body instead of "vest button" spots. Lack of any evidence of green in the eye color in cats 8 months or over and amber cast in eye color in cats over the age of 1 year 6 months. Poor condition.

DISQUALIFY: lack of spots. Blue eyes. Lack of green in eye color in cats over the age of 1 year 6 months. Mottled or pink paw pads. Kinked or abnormal tail. Incorrect number of toes. White locket or button distinctive from other acceptable white-colored areas in color sections of standard.

EUROPEAN BURMESE

PENALIZE: pronounced muzzle pinch (top view). Oriental eye shape. Round eyes. Green eyes.

DISQUALIFY: white patches. Noticeable numbers of white hairs. Visible tail kink. Excessive tabby markings.

EXOTIC

DISQUALIFY: locket or button. Kinked or abnormal tail. Incorrect number of toes. Any apparent weakness in the hind quarters. Any apparent deformity of the spine. Deformity of the skull resulting in an asymmetrical face and/or head. Crossed eyes. Break level with or higher than the top of the eyes.*

*The above listed disqualifications apply to all Exotic cats. Additional disqualifications are listed under "Colors."

Chinchilla Silver, Shaded Silver, Blue Chinchilla Silver, Blue Shaded Silver, Chinchilla Golden, Shaded Golden, Blue Chinchilla Golden & Blue Shaded Golden: Disqualify for incorrect eye color, incorrect eye color being copper, yellow, gold, amber, or any color other than green or blue green.

Chocolate Point, Seal Point, Lilac Point, Blue Point, Flame (Red) Point, Cream Point, Tortie Point, Blue-Cream Point, Chocolate-Tortie Point, Lilac-Cream Point, Seal Lynx Point, Blue Lynx Point, Flame (Red) Lynx Point, Cream Lynx Point, Tortie Lynx Point, Blue-Cream Lynx Point, Chocolate Lynx Point, Lilac Lynx Point, Chocolate-Tortie Lynx Point & Lilac-Cream Lynx Point: Disqualify for white toes, eye color other than blue.

HAVANA BROWN

DISQUALIFY: kinked tail, locket or button, incorrect number of toes, any eye color other than green, incorrect color of whiskers, nose leather or paw pads.

JAPANESE BOBTAIL

PENALIZE: short round head, cobby build, excessively heavy bone.

DISQUALIFY: tail bone absent or tail bone extending more than 3 inches from the body. Tail lacking in pom-pom or fluffy appearance. Delayed bobtail effect (i.e., the pom-pom being preceded by an inch or two of normal tail with close-lying hair rather than appearing to commence at the base of the spine).

KHAO MANEE

PENALIZE: Fully round eyes with no indication of an Asian slant. Small or dull looking eyes. Short, blunt muzzle or long, pointed muzzle. Straight profile. Narrow upper head or narrow space between the ears; small ears, very large pointed ears, or ears set low or high (significantly above or below 11 and 1 o'clock). Overly cobby or overly foreign body.

DISQUALIFY: Visible tail kink from base of the tail to two-thirds of the tail. Incorrect number of toes. Crossed eyes. Any color but white.

KORAT

DISQUALIFY: visible kink. Incorrect number of toes. White spot or locket. Any color but silver-tipped blue.

LaPERM

PENALIZE: bare patches, sparse coat in mature specimens.

DISQUALIFY: cobby body, short legs, crossed eyes, incorrect number of toes, visible and non-visible tail faults, straight hair.

LYKOI

PENALIZE: Less than 30% of body covered in guard hairs.

DISQUALIFY: Any evidence of illness or poor health. Visible tail kink. Aggressive behavior endangering the judge.

MAINE COON CAT

PENALIZE: a coat that is short or overall even. All colors and patterns with white which do not have the required areas of white (bib, belly, four white paws).

DISQUALIFY: delicate bone structure. Undershot chin, i.e. the front teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed. Crossed eyes. Kinked tail (change of direction) or abnormal tail. Incorrect number of toes. White buttons, white lockets, or white spots. Cats showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, lavender, or the Himalayan pattern.

MANX

TRANSFER TO AOV: definite, visible tail joint.

PENALIZE: on the Longhair Manx, coat that lacks density, has a cottony texture or is of one overall length.

DISQUALIFY: evidence of poor physical condition; incorrect number of toes; evidence of hybridization; evidence of weakness in the hindquarters; in profile, pronounced stop or nose break.

NORWEGIAN FOREST CAT

DISQUALIFY: severe break in nose, square muzzle, whisker pinch, long rectangular body, cobby body, incorrect number of toes, crossed eyes, kinked or abnormal tail, delicate bone structure, malocclusion resulting in either undershot or overshot chin, cats showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, sable, lavender, lilac, cinnamon, fawn, or point-restricted (Himalayan-type markings) or these colors with white.

OCICAT

DISQUALIFY: white locket or spotting, or white anywhere other than around eyes, nostrils, chin, and upper throat (except white agouti ground in silvered colors). Kinked or otherwise deformed tail. Blue eyes. Incorrect number of toes. Long hair. Due to the spotted patched tabby (torbie) cats resulting from the sex-linked O gene, no reds, creams, or tobies are allowed. Very rufous cinnamons and fawns may resemble red or cream, but never produce female tobies.

ORIENTAL

PENALIZE: crossed eyes. Incorrect eye color. Palpable and/or visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum.

DISQUALIFY: any evidence of illness or poor health. Weak hind legs. Mouth breathing due to nasal obstruction or poor occlusion. Emaciation. Visible kink in tail. Miniaturization. Lockets and buttons. Incorrect number of toes. Longhair Division: definite double coat (i.e. downy undercoat). The following 8 colors: seal point, seal smoke point, chocolate point, chocolate smoke point, blue point, blue smoke point, lilac point, lilac smoke point.

POINTED AND WHITE: PENALIZE: lack of inverted "V"; less than one-third white. **DISQUALIFY:** no white on face.

VAN POINTED AND WHITE: PENALIZE: less than two-thirds white. **DISQUALIFY:** no white on face

PERSIAN

TRANSFER TO AOV: colors not accepted for championship status.

DISQUALIFY: locket or button. Kinked or abnormal tail. Incorrect number of toes. Any apparent weakness in the hind quarters. Any apparent deformity of the spine. Deformity of the skull resulting in an asymmetrical face and/or head. Nose that is visibly set to one side of the vertical centerline of the face. Crossed eyes. Nose leather that is above the top line of a fully opened eye.*

*The above listed disqualifications apply to all Persian cats. Additional disqualifications are listed under "Colors."

Chinchilla Silver, Shaded Silver, Blue Chinchilla Silver, Blue Shaded Silver, Chinchilla Golden, Shaded Golden, Blue Chinchilla Golden, Blue Shaded Golden: Disqualify for incorrect eye color, incorrect eye color being copper, yellow, gold, amber, or any color other than green or blue-green.

Chocolate Point, Seal Point, Lilac Point, Blue Point, Flame (Red) Point, Cream Point, Tortie Point, Blue-Cream Point, Chocolate-Tortie Point, Lilac-Cream Point, Seal Lynx Point, Blue Lynx Point, Flame (Red) Lynx Point, Cream Lynx Point, Tortie Lynx Point, Blue-Cream Lynx Point, Chocolate Lynx Point, Lilac Lynx Point, Chocolate-Tortie Lynx Point & Lilac-Cream Lynx Point: Disqualify - white toes, eye color other than blue.

Shaded and Smoke Division: Penalize: agouti characteristics such as barring and nose liner.

Himalayan Division: Disqualify: white toes, eye color other than blue.

RAGAMUFFIN

PENALIZE: extreme cranial doming, nose break, Roman nose, small ears, pointed ears, cobby body, short tail, cottony undercoat.

DISQUALIFY: poor health or condition, crossed eyes, tail kink or fault, polydactyl or pointed colors. Short hair on the body and/or tail, giving the impression of a short-haired cat.

RAGDOLL

PENALIZE: coat: thick undercoat, standing off from the body. **Eyes:** small or round. **Eye color:** very pale blue; or blue so dark as to appear black. **Nose:** roman nose. **Body:** cobby body low on legs. Short tail; non-directional lump on tail.

DISQUALIFY: nose: any break. **Color:** body and point color other than those listed; eyes other than blue. **Various:** directional kink in tail. Crossed eyes. Extra toes.

(The above penalties and disqualifications apply to all Ragdolls. Additional penalties and disqualifications are listed under each pattern description.)

Bi-Color Pattern: Penalize - "V" extends beyond outer edges of eyes, or excessively asymmetrical. White marking on ears. **Disqualify:** "V" absent or has dark spotting. Extensive dark area on any leg.

Van Pattern: Penalize - more than twenty percent color on body. **Disqualify:** total absence of point color on head or tail.

Colorpoint Pattern: Disqualify - presence of any locket or white spot anywhere on cat's body.

Mitted Pattern: Disqualify - absence of white chin.

RUSSIAN BLUE

DISQUALIFY: kinked or abnormal tail. Locket or button. Incorrect number of toes. Any color other than blue. Long coat.

SCOTTISH FOLD

PENALIZE: brow ridge.

DISQUALIFY: kinked tail. Tail that is foreshortened. Tail that is lacking in flexibility due to abnormally thick vertebrae. Splayed toes, incorrect number of toes. Any evidence of illness or poor health. Palpable nose break.

SELKIRK REX

PENALIZE: Excessive cobbliness or sleek oriental appearance.

DISQUALIFY: Extreme nose break, lack of visible muzzle, malocclusion, tail kinks, crossed eyes, obvious physical deformities, including polydactyl feet, no evidence of curl.

SIAMESE

PENALIZE: improper (i.e., off-color or spotted) nose leather or paw pads. Soft or mushy body. Visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum under normal handling.

DISQUALIFY: any evidence of illness or poor health. Weak hind legs. Mouth breathing due to nasal obstruction or poor occlusion. Emaciation. Visible kink. Eyes other than blue. White toes and/or feet. Incorrect number of toes. Malocclusion resulting in either undershot or overshot chin. Longhair.

SIBERIAN

PENALIZE: straight profile, narrow or fox-like muzzle, long tail, delicate boning, non-muscular, long body, almond-shaped eyes, and very long legs or very short legs; an adult with a long body or without good body weight.

DISQUALIFY: kinked tail, incorrect number of toes, crossed eyes. Evidence of illness, poor health, emaciation.

SINGAPURA

PENALIZE: coldness or gray tones in the coat, gray undercoat next to the skin, barring on outer front legs, necklaces, non-visible tail faults, lack of nose liner.

DISQUALIFY: white spotting, barring on tail, top of the head unticked, unbroken necklaces or leg bracelets. Very small eyes or ears. Visible tail faults. Blue eyes. Any color other than sepia agouti (dark brown ticking on an old ivory undercoat).

SOMALI

PENALIZE: color faults – cold grey or sandy tone to coat color; mottling or speckling on unticked areas. Pattern faults – necklaces, leg bars, tabby stripes, or bars on body; lack of desired markings on head and tail. Black roots on body.

DISQUALIFY: white locket or groin spot or white anywhere on body other than on the upper throat, chin and nostril area. Any skeletal abnormality. Wrong color paw pads or nose leather. Any other colors than the four accepted colors. Unbroken necklace. Incorrect number of toes. Kinks in tail.

SPHYNX

PENALIZE: hair other than described. Delicate or frail appearance. Thin abdomen, thin rump, or narrow chest. Bowed front legs. Should not resemble the Devon Rex, Cornish Rex or Oriental body type. Excessive wrinkles that distort the appearance of the head and/or eye structure and shape. Head shapes that are wider than long.

DISQUALIFY: kinked or abnormal tail. Structural abnormalities. Aggressive behavior endangering the judge. The appearance of any form of structural abnormalities, including, but not limited to, curled ears, folded ears, any form of shortened tail length and/or tail structural change, short legs (achondroplasia), polydactyly.

TONKINESE

PENALIZE: extreme ranginess or cobbiness. Definite nose break. Round eyes.

DISQUALIFY: yellow eyes in mink colors. White locket or button. Crossed eyes. Tail faults.

TOYBOB

PENALIZE: Oversized cat. Narrow head. Small eyes. Eyes set too close. Narrow muzzle. Weak chin. Ears too large. Longer necks in adults. Delicate boning. Elongated body. Short tight close-lying coat. Tufts on ears of Longhaired Toybob.

DISQUALIFY: Crossed eyes. Docked tail. Complete absence of tail or tail past the hock (without stretching). Rapid oscillation of eyes. Dominant Blue Eye (DBE) gene: blue eye color in cats other than pointed, solid white, calico, bi-color or van coat patterns. Disproportionately short legs to the cat's overall body balance. Extra toes. Evidence of wild ancestry, including glitter. Undernourished or frail appearance.

TURKISH ANGORA

PENALIZE: extremes such as obviously oversized, coarse appearance, with a broad chest or hips, or verging on miniaturization. Noticable and palpable curvature in profile. (Kittens may have a growth bump on the forehead or end of nose without penalty.)

DISQUALIFY: cobby body type; crossed eyes; incorrect number of toes; stop or break in profile; malocclusion resulting in either over or undershot chin. Color or patterns indicating hybridization, such as chocolate, lilac, point pattern, and all these colors and patterns with white; directional kink of the tail.

TURKISH VAN

PENALIZE: any evidence toward extremes (i.e. short cobbiness or svelte, fine-boning); greater than 20% white in the tail, flat profile.

DISQUALIFY: total absence of color in the area from eye level up to the back of the head or tail; definite nose break; genetic/skeletal defects such as flattened ribcage, kinked or abnormal tail, incorrect number of toes, crossed eyes. Color in excess of 15% of the entire body (excluding the head and tail color).