



THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC.
STANDARD GUIDELINES PACKET FOR BREED COMMITTEES



Purpose of Standards: *All standards should be clear, concise, quick references for TICA judges and a guideline for breeders. Breeders and judges must “speak the same language”. This packet was developed to help breeders understand how judges interpret standards and to help breed committees in writing standards that are easily read and understood. Even if every breeder in a breed section instantly understands the wording in their breed standard, it fails to accomplish a vital purpose if it is not understood by your judges. Improving a breed standard so it can be quickly, easily and more consistently understood by breeders and judges should be a major goal for every breed section. This package is a tool to help you achieve that goal.*

Attachments:

- *Guidelines for Standards*
- *Format Guidelines*
- *TICA Format for Standards*
- *Standard Terms*
- *Eye Shape Chart*
- *Glossary of Terms*



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GUIDELINES FOR STANDARDS

Standard Terms & Judges: It is VERY important to review all the other breeds standards before deciding if a descriptive term is a good idea for your standard. You may only be familiar with the terms used in your breed's standard. Seeing how other breeds describe a feature common to your breed might provide ideas for wording. Judges are familiar with the terms used in all the standards and tend to relate them to each other.

Examples:

"Plush coat" - a judge thinks British Shorthair

"Fine, silky coat" - a judge thinks Turkish Angora

Standards & Relationships: The descriptive terms used should make sense in the context of how your breed relates to all other breeds. A good example is body length. Judges are required on one of their tests to classify breeds by body type (length) from shortest to longest. The shortest breeds are the Manx/Cymric, Persian, Himy, ESH - all are "Cobby". The longest are Siamese and Maine Coons - described as "Long". The Ragdoll standard also says "Long" but the breed is not as long as Siamese or Maine Coons so a better description might be "Medium long".

Phrases versus Sentence: Use short phrases instead of complete sentences. Instead of "The chest is broad.", say "Broad chest". Instead of "The more richness and depth of color the better.", say "Rich, deep color preferred".

Unnecessary Information: The American Curl standard says Legs "set straight when viewed from front or rear". Per Show Rules, Article 16 any "abnormal positioning of legs while standing" shall be a penalty or DQ depending upon severity. The Korat standard describes Boning as "Medium, Strong". In this context "strong" is not a quality that can be judged. All boning is strong or it would break.

Incorrect Information: The Burmese standard describes the Boning as "Sturdy". Again all boning is strong and sturdy but what weight boning should the breed have - fine, medium, substantial, heavy? Judges need that information. Also per the Glossary of Terms, "Sturdy" is defined as "stocky, solidly built, thick set". That is a definition for torsos not boning weight.

Insufficient Information: The Russian Blue and Munchkin standards describe the Muzzle as "Medium in length". What is the muzzle shape supposed to be - square, rounded, triangle, wedge-shaped? Is the muzzle broad, narrow, pointed, blunt? Is there a muzzle break?

"Moving" Cats: Do not describe how things look when cat is "moving". Examples: "Tail is carried at an angle over the back." "Coat breaks as cat walks." Judges can't walk a cat around to see these things so we can't judge those qualities.

The Parts are Related: A common phrase used for full length tails is "as long as body". Some standards call for a "Medium long" body but a "Long" tail. To a judge, this says the tail should be longer than the body. Be aware of what you are asking for. Be sure it is what you mean.

Simple & Direct is Better: Many descriptions in standards are long and wordy. Try and Say what you have to say in as few words as possible.

A Place for Everything: Leg description from the Birman standard - "The legs are medium in length, heavily boned, well-muscled, and in good proportion to the body." The standard does not list Boning separately. A judge flips to the standard to quickly check the correct Boning and has to hunt for the information. Perhaps a better alternative would be: Legs: Medium length. Boning: Heavy

Musculature: Well muscled. Since all cats must be balanced, "in good proportion to the body" adds no helpful information.

The Purpose of Points: Judges do not "think in points" when judging. We are not mentally "subtracting" points for faults. Points in a standard should be used to emphasize the features that breeders regard as crucial to the "look" of the breed. Points should be a tool that judges can use. In too many standards, the point distribution is no help at all.

A number of standards have 10 points on 2 or 3 features. Assume there are four cats that all fit the standard on the 10 point features. EVERY other feature in the standard has 5 points. Of the four cats let's say that one has great ears, one has perfect eyes, one a fabulous neck and one with lovely feet. Yes, the neck and feet have as many points as the ears and eyes! This point distribution provides NO guidance. The decision among these four cats is now "Judge's Choice". What this point distribution says to a judge is that necks and feet are as important as ears and eyes.



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An excellent example of effective use of points is the Siamese standard. Years ago we started seeing round eyed Siamese in the show hall. The breeders changed the standard to put 12 points on eyes. No other feature in the standard has that many points. We do not judge round eyed Siamese very often any more!

Consider what you are telling the judges when you assign points. A good example is the Norwegian Forest Cat standard. Torso and Boning have 7 points each for a total of 14 points. The coat texture has 20 points. This says a NFC that is a little too light boned and long bodied should be placed over one with a soft, thin coat.

Another factor to consider when assigning points is how important a flaw in a feature is to the "look" of the breed. The Maine Coon standard has 10 points on Tail and 10 points on Ears. A tail that is just a little too short is barely noticeable and certainly does not detract from the "look" of the cat. In contrast, ears can be too small, too wide-set, flared out, have narrow bases (hopefully not all on the SAME cat). Any of these flaws are very obvious. The negative impact on the "look" of the breed is much more significant than a slightly short tail. Looked at this way, Ears should have more points than Tail.



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FORMAT GUIDELINES

Features: A description of every feature listed is not required.

Points: If a feature is described, it must be given points. The TICA Format for Standards shows the minimum to maximum range of points allowed for each of the three major sections. Features must be described separately for easy reference. Features may be combined when assigning points. Suggested combinations are noted in the Format.

Glossary of Terms: Use the terms in the Glossary. Example: Say "Britches". Do not say - "The fur on the back legs". If your breed needs a "new" term, a definition must be submitted for the Glossary. Definitions may not be included in standards. Example: The American Curl penalizes "Vertical crimp and horizontal crimp" in ears. Definitions of those terms were taken out of the standard and added to the Glossary.

Uniform Color Descriptions (UCD): Colors and patterns are in the UCD. They cannot be described again in a standard. Any shadings or color variation that a breed allows which are different from the UCD may be described in a standard.

Standard Terms: A list of commonly used terms is attached. You are not restricted to just these terms. Do consider that these terms are already well understood by judges. "Creating" totally new terms may just create confusion.

Handling: Handling techniques may not be included in a standard.

Condition and Balance:

Condition - All cats being shown must be in excellent physical condition. This includes a clean and well groomed coat, proper weight and muscle tone, clean ears and clear eyes.

Balance - All pedigreed show cats should be balanced. Within the breed type, all features should be in proportion thus contributing to the breed's distinctive look.

Any deficiency in either condition or balance will be penalized by judges in accordance with TICA Show Rules. Comments telling judges to fault cats for condition deficiencies or lack of balance are not necessary. Points may not be assigned for condition or balance.



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TICA FORMAT FOR STANDARDS

TOTAL POINTS MUST ADD UP TO 100

All features must be described separately.

Suggested combinations are for POINTS ONLY, not descriptions.

HEAD:

Total Points: Range - 20 minimum to 40 maximum

Shape: Describe in frontal view not profile.

Ears: Shape/Set/Size. Include furnishings - Light? Heavy? Lynx tips?

Eyes: Include Shape/Set/Size/Color. Relationship to coat color? Include any allowance for kitten eye color.

Muzzle: May combine with Chin. Describe frontal view. Include shape and length.

Chin: May combine with Muzzle. Include depth and width as relates to upper muzzle. Currently more than ten different wordings in standards for the same chin alignment. Please use "aligns with nose". Judges know that is "in profile" and the "end of nose". Term used for softer chins is usually "rounded".

Nose: May combine Chin/Muzzle/Nose. Frontal view of nose leather IF unusual (puffed; wide; low set nostrils)

Profile: Side view of head. Include forehead, any change of direction at bridge of nose and nose profile.

Neck: Length/musculature/thickness. (A maximum of 2 points is recommended)

BODY:

Total Points: Range - 20 minimum to 40 maximum

Torso: Length/Shape/Depth. Back - level or other.

Legs: May combine with Feet. Length/Relationship to body
IE: Forms rectangle, completes square, etc.

Feet: May combine with Legs. Size/Shape/Tufted?

Tail: Length in relation to body. Shape - whippy, thick, etc.

NOTE - All tail lengths are checked by running a hand from shoulders to base of tail and then down the tail to see how the two distances relate (equal, tail shorter, etc)

Boning: May combine Legs/Feet/Boning. State weight - Very fine, fine, medium, substantial, heavy

Musculature: May combine with Torso - Firm, lithe, "like a swimmer", "like a wrestler", etc.

COAT:

Total Points: Range - 20 minimum to 40 maximum

Length: May combine with Texture.

Texture: May combine with Length.

Pattern: May combine with Color. Describe any that are unique. Descriptions already covered by the Uniform Color Description (UCD) should not be repeated.

Color: May combine with Pattern. Category, Divisions, Colors accepted are stated at the beginning of each standard. It is not necessary to repeat. Use to describe any aspects unique to the breed - shadings or color variations allowed.

CATEGORIES:

List or just say "ALL" if all are accepted.

DIVISIONS:

List or just say "ALL" if all are accepted.

COLORS:

List or just say "ALL" if all are accepted.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES:

Required. See Registration Rules, Article 7.



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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

A general overview of the look of the cat. Do NOT use to restate all the features already covered above. Can include a very brief history of the breed. Can include a brief description of the breed's personality.

LOCKETS:

Allowance, Penalize or Withhold (WW) - State which.

ALLOWANCES:

Breed specific color or development differences. EX: Slightly longer coat in kittens; coat color may darken with age; ghost tabby markings on kittens; etc.

PENALIZE:

Do not use this section to state the opposite of feature's description. Use this for serious faults that are currently being seen in the breed to indicate that the cat should not get a final. This will help eliminate the fault in the breed. To allow quick, easy reference, do not list all penalties in one long paragraph. Instead list the feature, then the penalty.

For example:

Eyes: Slanted. Beady.

Profile: Straight. Pronounced bump.

WITHHOLD WINS (WW):

Use this for cosmetic faults that you feel are serious enough to require placing no award, such as incorrect color, incorrect pattern or coat texture, wrong eye color, incorrect coat length, etc. Examples - "Paw pads not all of the same color" (BG), or "Unbroken necklaces and circular leg bracelets" (SG) or "Pigment absent or spotty on nose leather" (TO). Overall lack of merit, poor health and condition are covered by Show Rules, Article 16.7 and do not need to be restated here.

DISQUALIFY (DQ):

Use this for faults of a structural nature such as those defined in Show Rules, Article 16.12. That rule states "judges shall penalize or disqualify, depending upon severity". If any of those structural faults MUST be a DQ for your breed, list it here. Examples - "Any malocclusion".

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS APPLY TO ALL BREEDS OF CATS:

Allow for stud jowls in males
Females proportionately smaller than males
Males proportionately larger than females

THE STATEMENT BELOW MUST BE INCLUDED AT THE END OF EVERY STANDARD:

Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. **In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications:**

a cat that bites (216.9),
a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10),
adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11),
cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a board approved standard (216.12.1),
cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2),
visible or invisible tail faults **if Board approved standard requires disqualification** (216.12.4),
crossed eyes **if Board approved standard requires disqualification** (216.12.5),
total blindness (216.12.6),
markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9),
depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1).

See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.



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STANDARD TERMS

It is not the words in a standard that give each breed its own unique beauty. That beauty comes from the way the parts of the cat are put together. Many different breeds can use the exact same words to describe just one specific feature. A more consistent use of terms in standards does not make any breed less unique. It does enable judges to get a clearer picture of what your particular breed should look like.

To judges all the breeds relate to one another. It is not unusual for breeders to be "Breed Blind". They see and know their breed but don't understand how it fits into the big picture of ALL breeds. Thus, without meaning to, breeders will use a word or phrase in their breed standard that paints the wrong picture in a judge's mind.

There are expressions that paint a very clear picture in the US which may have no meaning overseas. The British standard used to say "chipmunk cheeks"; an expression that needs no explanation in the US. However if another country does not have chipmunks, it is meaningless there. Breeds are international so be careful.

These terms can be used in any standard. Beside each are examples of breeds that currently use these terms CORRECTLY in their standards. Some standards use slightly different terms. The Siamese standard describes ears as "strikingly large" not "very large". That is close enough to paint the correct picture in a judge's mind.

Reviewing the standards to compile this information revealed two major problems -

- 1) Inadequate descriptions of muzzle size, shape, length.
- 2) Most profile descriptions do not include the forehead, change of direction at bridge of nose AND nose.

HEAD

SHAPE:

Round - PS, HI, ESH
 Rounded - ASH, BU, CX, EM, MX
 Oval - CR
 Triangle:
 Longer than wide - SI
 Equilateral - NFC
 Modified Wedge:
 Flat planes - RB
 Rounded contours - AB, BG
 Broad - BB, MC
 Heart - KT
 Inverted Pear - PB

PROFILE:

Straight - NFC, SI
 Two-Planed - RB, TA
 Convex curve (Roman) - CR

Forehead:

Flat - BI, KT, RB
 Sloped back - BI
 Sloping - CU
 Gently Curving - AB, MC
 Slightly rounded - PB, RD, CX, PB
 Moderately rounded - MX
 Rounded - ASH, BU
 Domed

Bridge of Nose:

Gentle rise - OC, EM
 Gentle dip - JB, MX
 Slight dip - TV

Gentle curve - MC, RD, SF
 Slight curve - PB
 Gentle stop - TO
 Slight stop - CX, KT, SG, SX
 Modified stop - ASH
 Definite stop - HB
 Strong stop - DR
 Nose break - BU
 Definate break - PS, HI, ESH
Nose:
 Straight - RD
 Slightly convex - PB, SB, TO
 Nose bump - PB
 End turns down - KT

MUZZLE:

Shape:

Rounded - AC, BSH, BU, SB, SX
 Square - MC, SR
 Almost square - HB, OC
 Tapered - SV

Length:

Short - BSH, BU, DR, SR, SB
 Medium Short - ASH, SG
 Medium - BI, CX, EM
 Long - CU

EAR SIZE:

Small - PS, HI, ESH, SF
 Small to Medium - CX, BSH, BG
 Medium - ASH, BU, MX, PB, RD
 Medium to medium large - EM
 Medium Large - SB
 Moderately large to large - TV

Large - AB, CR, JB, MC, RB
 Very large - SI, SX

BODY

TORSO: (See UCD for Definitions)

Cobby - PS, MX
 Semi-Cobby - KT
 Semi-Foreign - MK, OC, SV, SN
 Foreign - RB
 Oriental - SI
 Medium - SB
 Medium-long - NFC
 Long - MC
 Substantial - MC, NFC, PB, RD, SB

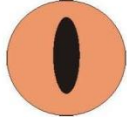
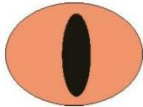
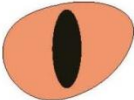


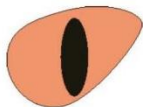





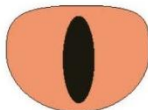

BONING:

Very fine - CR
 Fine - RB, CX, SI, SG
 Medium - ASH, KT, EM, SF, SX, TV
 Substantial - BS, MC, NF, RD, SB
 Heavy - PS, BB, PB

LEGS:

Short - PS, HI, ESH
 Medium - MC, EM, LP, SB
 Long - JB, RB, SI
 Very long - SV

EYE SHAPE CHART

 <p><i>Round</i></p>	 <p><i>Almost Round (Rounded)</i></p>	
 <p><i>Oval</i></p>	 <p><i>Large Oval</i></p>	 <p><i>Almost Oval</i></p>
 <p><i>Almond</i></p>	 <p><i>Large Almond</i></p>	 <p><i>Almost Almond</i></p>
 <p><i>Lemon</i></p>	 <p><i>Peach Pit</i></p>	 <p><i>Walnut</i></p>
 <p><i>Hooded</i></p>	 <p><i>Soft Triangle</i></p>	



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AWN HAIRS: The coarser of the two types of secondary hairs having thickened tips.

BARRING: Tabby-striped markings.

BELLY SPOT: See LOCKET.

BRAIDED: Irregularly fluid linear markings that are interwoven and branching, as the stripes on a tiger. Characteristic of some tabby markings found on the Toyger.

BREAK: An indentation of the nose at about eye level or between the eyes.

BRINDLE: (Brindles, brindling) A blending of two colors, as in many tortoiseshell cats. The scattered "wrong" colored hairs in a coat.

BRITCHES: Longer hair on the back of the legs in semi-longhair breeds. See pantaloons.

BRUSH COAT: May either be a full dense coat with short, slightly wiry curly hairs, or sparsely scattered short, slightly wiry curly hairs covering the entire body.

COAT COMPOSITION: There are three main types of hair that make up the normal coat: 1) guard hairs, 2) bristle or awn hairs, and 3) down or wool hairs.

COBBY: Having a short, compact body, with broad shoulders and rump. Usually goes along with a short tail and a large, rounded head, as in the Persian, Himalayan, Exotic Shorthair, or Manx/Cymric.

COMPACT: Closely or neatly packed together opposite of rangy.

CONCAVE: Curve shaped like the inside arc of a circle.

CONDITION: Referring to the state of being of the cat, i.e., health, both mental and physical. Proper weight, overall health and grooming are considerations.

CONFORMATION: The particular form of a cat, made up of the size and shape of a breed. Also called type.

CONTRAST: The visibly noticeable difference in color and value between two coat colors on a cat.

CONVEX: Curve shaped like the outside arc of a circle.

COWHOCKING: Condition in which a cat has back legs which are not parallel, the hocks are very close together.

CRISP: Firm, not soft or limp. Refers to British Shorthair coat texture.

CROUP: The area between the point of the hip bone and the base of the tail.

CUPPED: A deep ear.

CURLED EARS: The ears curve up and back, away from the face. The distinctive feature of the American Curl (Ac/-).

DENSE COAT: Heavy undercoat, thick, hairs are crowded together.

DEPTH OF FLANK: Determined by viewing the flank from top to bottom; the area between the rib cage and the thigh. The Manx/Cymric will have greater depth of flank; the Cornish Rex will have minimal depth of flank.

DOMED: Hemispherical or rounded.

DOMESTIC LONGHAIR/SHORTHAIRES:

Any cat belonging to *Felis domesticus* not registered as a recognized breed.



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DONKEY EARS: Upright large ears set close together.

DOUBLE COAT: Having a thick undercoat with another top coat of longer hairs. The awn hairs may be the same length as the guard hairs (Russian Blues, for example) or there may be longer guard hairs (as in the Manx).

DOWN HAIRS: Soft, crimped, secondary hairs.

EAR MUFFS: Longer fur on the lower back side of the ear in Devon Rex, also known as ear tufts.

POM POM TAIL: Effect created by knotted/fused vertebrae and fur of the Japanese Bobtail.

FLANK: The part between the ribs and thigh at either side of the body.

FLARED: Spread out.

FOLDED EARS: The ears fold downward toward the face. This is a dominant gene affecting the cartilage.

FOREIGN TYPE: Modified wedge or wedge shaped head, large ears, oval or almond shaped eyes, long body with legs in proportion to body length, slim, fine boned, long and tapering tail. Elegant. Greater depth of flank than in Oriental type. The Abyssinian and Russian Blue are examples of Foreign type.

FORESHORTENED: Shorter than normal; usually due to the fusion of vertebrae of the spine in the lumbar and spinal area of the cat (back and tail). This is sometimes seen and felt in Scottish Folds where flexibility is reduced and thickness is increased.

FROSTED: Suggestion of light ends to the hair shaft, which give a frosted or silvered appearance; also used in reference to reverse ticking.

GLITTER: The natural deep glow, shine or sparkle created by a clear layer or bubbles within the hair shaft which reflects light readily. Often seen in Bengals and Toygers.

GLOVES: Referring to the white on the front feet, not extending up the leg.

GHOST MARKINGS: Faint tabby markings seen in some self(solid) colored cats, especially when young. These markings are not penalized in young kittens and are often allowed in young cats. Check individual Standards.

GROIN SPOT: See LOCKET.

GROUND COLOR: 1) The area of color on the lower part of the hair shaft; also the agouti area between the markings in the tabby patterns. 2) the color over which or through which pattern or tabby markings are visible.

GUARD HAIRS: Long coarser hairs forming the outer coat; the longer outer hairs.

GYPSY SHAG: Loose and bouncy hair of different lengths (layered). Appearance of permanent losing it's tight curl. Semi long hair loosely curled at varying lengths, rather than all one length, as in the LaPerm. In comparison a Selkirk would have a tight "Afro", Devon and Cornish would appear "Marcelled", or finger-waved.

HAIRLESSNESS: Relative absence of noticeable coat. Hairlessness is not usually absolute in the cat; there may be hair on the points of a Sphynx and the body is often covered with a down similar to suede.

HOCK: The joint of the hind leg corresponding to the ankle in man. The joint between the knee and the top of the foot.

HOOD: Mask (color) extending to the base of the ear forming a hood of color; i.e., no contrast on head.

HORIZONTAL CRIMP: Excessive width of both edges of the base of the ear distinguished by the ear continuing beyond a vertical curved ridge that one would have expected to be the natural outer edges of the ear, giving the ear a splayed appearance. A horizontal ridge of cartilage is also visible in the center of the ear above the canal (as in the AC ear).

LACES: Linear patterns of white extending up from the feet, especially the back feet.



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LOCKET: An undesirable small spot of white usually found in the neck, groin, or armpit areas, and sometimes found on the toes or paws, the result of a white spotting gene believed to be different from the dominant white spotting gene (S/-).

LONG AND SUBSTANTIAL: Denoting the type of some breeds, use to indicate longer length of body that is not accompanied by foreign type.

MASK: Darker color covers the face, including whisker pads and may be connected to the ears by tracings.

MITTED PATTERN: A predominantly colored cat with white limited to paws, back legs, belly chest, and chin in most specimens. Cat is about 1/4 white. White does not extend beyond the wrist joint on the front feet.

MUTTON CHOPS: Downward growth direction of hair below ears and on cheek area, giving the impression of "mutton chop" whiskers on a man.

MUZZLE BREAK: See Whisker Break.

NECKLACE: Distinct tabby markings in the neck area. May be broken or unbroken.

OCCIPUT: The prominent, back part of the head or skull.

OCELLUS (pl. ocelli): Light colored horizontal bar on back of ear encircled by a band of another (darker) color; often referred to as "night eyes". A desirable trait in the American Bobtail and the Savannah.

ODD-EYED: A cat with one blue eye and one copper, yellow, orange or green eye.

ORIENTAL TYPE: Long, triangular head with large ears; almond or oval eyes; long, lean tubular body; long, fine-boned legs; long whip tail. There is minimal to no depth of flank. The Siamese is an example of Oriental type.

OVERSHOT: The upper jaw protrudes in front of the lower jaw.

PANTALOONS: See britches.

PATCHING: Clearly defined patches of color in the coat, as seen in torties, particolored (color/pattern plus white).

POINTS: The extremities of a cat's body: the mask, ears, tail and feet.

POINT COLOR: Darker color limited to the mask, ears, feet and the tail, i.e., the extremities of the cat's body.

PUG: Short as in pug nose.

RANGY: Rather long torso with legs of a length to accommodate the body length.

RECEDING NOSE: Lying further back than the chin.

RESILIENT: The fur springs back to its original position after it is stroked backwards.

REVERSED TICKING: Outermost tip of banded hair is light instead of dark.

REXED: 1) Appearing to be without guard hairs, the hair is wavy. Two recessive rex genes appear in the Cat Fancy: the Cornish (r/r), Devon (re/re). 2) Any cat with curly hair regardless of mode or inheritance or types of hair affected, for example the Selkirk (Sr/-).

ROCKER of a CRADLE: When viewed from the back, the ears of a MX/CY are set as to resemble the rockers of a baby's cradle or a wide U-shape.

ROSETTES: A variation of the tabby pattern whereby doughnut or floral shapes instead of spots are formed.

RUFOUS: Refers to a reddening of the coat color, especially the ground color in brown tabbies. May be a polygene or the result of the action of a group of polygenes. Considered desirable in the Golden. The rufous factor changes the drab beige 'yellow' band of



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the wild tabby to a brilliant apricot; it changes the drab orange to a brilliant, rich red. The Ruddy Abyssinian is a rufoused black agouti tabby.

SEMI-COBBY: Less extreme than cobby, not short coupled like the Manx, not long like the Siamese. The British Shorthair and American Shorthair are examples.

SEMI-FOREIGN: More than semi-cobby and less than foreign. Long lines, medium boning, modified wedge. The Havana and Egyptian Mau are examples.

SLAB FLANKS: The area between the rib cage and the thigh that is flat rather than rounded, giving the appearance of length and slimness. In the Persian Breed Group, which should have rounded flanks, slab flanks are a penalty.

SMALL: Comparatively less in size, diminutive.

SNUB: Short and turned up.

SPLAYED: Spreading outward, broad and flat.

STACKED: Standing with weight evenly distributed on all four feet.

STOP: A change in direction, the short incline between the forepart of the skull and the muzzle. Concave curve occurring in the nose at eye or just below eye level; may be very slight or pronounced.

STURDY: Stocky, solidly built, thick set.

TAPER: A gradual decrease in thickness or width of an elongated object. To make or become gradually narrower toward one end. To become gradually smaller.

TEXTURE: The composition of structure of a substance. The tactile appearance of the coat resulting from the arrangement of the hair.

THIRD JOINT: Equivalent to where the fingers are attached to the hand in man.

TICKED: Three or four separate bands of color on each hair shaft, as on the Abyssinian.

TIPPING: Having colored ends of the hairs, with a different color on the lower portion of the hair shaft. In silvers the degree of tipping can decide whether a cat is classified as a chinchilla, shaded or smoke.

TORSO: The trunk of the body.

TRIPLE COAT: The awn, down and guard hairs are all the same length.

TUBULAR: Cylindrical, shaped like a tube. Having the same circumference at any point along its length.

TUCK UP: Curved spine creates the drawing in of the flank, as in a Greyhound or the Cornish Rex, the opposite of increased depth of flank as in the Manx..

TUFTS: Clusters of hair growing close together as between the toes or behind the ears.

TYPE: Conformation, the general form, structure.

UNDERCOAT: A true undercoat is the woolly or down hairs, under the longer guard hairs.

UNDERCOLOR: The part of the hair shaft closest to the skin, in a smoke, the non-pigmented portion of the hair shaft, in tabbies, the ground color.

UNDERSHOT: The lower jaw protrudes out in front of the upper jaw.



THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC.

STANDARD GUIDELINES PACKET FOR BREED COMMITTEES



VERTICAL CRIMP: Beginning at the base of the ear and continuing along some or all of its height, the outer edge of the ear bends or rolls vertically in toward the center of the ear giving the outer edge of the ear a pinched or crimped aspect (as in the AC ear).

WALNUT: Having a rounded shape of a walnut; a slightly flattened circle; not quite an oval. Used to describe eye shape.

WEDGE: (As viewed from the top of front) is created by straight lines from outer ear bases along sides of muzzle, without a break in the jaw line at the whiskers. Skull to be flat and the straight nose a continuation of the forehead.

WHIPPY: Referring to the tail, long, tapering, giving the effect of slenderness and length.

WHISKER BREAK: Change of direction between the muzzle and the cheekbones.

WITHERS: The highest part of the back between the shoulder blades.

WRY MOUTH: Abnormally twisted or bent to one side. The lower jaw is aligned to the side of the upper jaw. This is the worst of all bite problems.