



Ocination Ares
Silver Spotted Male
B/O: Francine Hicks

Ocicat Breed Seminar

*Seminar Prepared by: Francine M. Hicks This publication in its entirety is the sole property of Ocination Cattery.
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General Information and Breed History

This magnificent spotted cat never fails to steal the show, not to mention the hearts of those fortunate enough to own them.

The ideal Ocicat is a large, active animal with an athletic appearance. It is very solid and well muscled and has a short, tight coat with a satin sheen that shows off muscles and spots to their best advantage.

The first Ocicat occurred quite by accident. In 1964, Virginia Daly was working to develop an Aby-pointed Siamese. Her plan was to cross the Abyssinian with the Siamese and breed the best back to the Siamese. The ivory kitten with the golden spots was a surprise! Mrs. Daly's daughter named the breed the Ocicat because of its resemblance to the ocelot. When Dr. Clyde Keeler expressed his desire to see a domestic cat that would mimic some of the vanishing wild species, the breeding was repeated to produce more Ocicats. They went one step further by introducing the American shorthair for substance and its Silver gene.

Feline enthusiasts have always been awed by the spotted cats of the wild. Never before was there such an effort to breed an entirely domestic cat that can offer the spotted beauty of the wild cats while maintaining the lovely, predictable disposition of the domestic cat. With so many wild spotted cats disappearing as their native habitats are destroyed and invaded, it is increasingly important that this man-made breed can satisfy people who want something "exotic". So many wild spotted cats have suffered abuse and destruction. Perhaps the Ocicat will do its part in preventing the poaching and importation of the endangered wild cats.

While the Ocicat looks wild, its temperament is anything but ferocious. It is a lot like a dog in that it is absolutely devoted to its people. The Ocicat is not a demanding, clinging-vine type, but is confident as well as dedicated to its owners. Most Ocicats are also quite extroverted around strangers, not at all bashful about checking out the possibilities for a few play-mates.

Ocicats are quite bright and easily trained. Many will fetch, walk on a leash, respond to voice commands and readily adapt to household rules. Because of their adaptability, they are a joy to work with and easily get used to traveling. Their sociable nature may make them less suited than other breeds to being left alone for long periods of time, but it does make them a good choice for a household already blessed with other cats or dogs.

Though Ocicats fill the need for the exotic, they are easy to keep and require no special care. Their short coats need only the occasional bathing and grooming. They are not prone to any particular health problems and their broad genetic background gives them vigor and vitality.

There has been tremendous controversy about the genetics of inheritance associated with the spotted pattern. In the earlier days of the cat fancy, all patterned cats were believed to display one of the three tabby patterns: ticked, mackerel or classic. The spotted pattern of the Ocicat is notably different from other spotted breeds or varieties. While some believe this comes from a different gene, there is no conclusive evidence and it might be that selective breeding is responsible for the Ocicat's lovely pattern.

OCICAT BREED STANDARD

HEAD	25
Shape	5
Muzzle	10
Eyes	5
Ears	5
BODY	35
Size	10
Torso	10
Legs/Feet	10
Tail	5
COAT/COLOR/PATTERN	40
Texture	5
Coat Color	5
Contrast	10
Pattern	20

CATEGORIES: Traditional

DIVISIONS: Tabby and Silver/Smoke

COLORS: Spotted pattern ONLY, eumelanistic colors ONLY.

HEAD

Shape: Modified wedge, with slight curve from muzzle to cheek. In pleasing proportion to body.

Profile: Visible but gentle rise from bridge of nose to brow.

Muzzle: Well-defined, suggestion of squareness; in profile shows good length, no suggestion of snippiness. Jaws firm with proper bite.

Chin: Strong.

Ears: Moderately large. Set so as to corner the head. Lynx tips are a bonus when present.

Eyes: Large almond shaped. Angled slightly upward toward the ears with more than the length of an eye apart. All eye colors except blue allowed. No relationship between coat and eye color.

Neck: Arched

BODY

Torso: Moderate, semi-foreign, with some depth to chest, ribs slightly sprung. Back level to slightly higher in rear. Reasonably level flank.

Boning: Moderate

Musculature: Substantial, yet with athletic appearance.

Tail: Slight taper, medium slim, fairly long with dark tip.

Legs: Medium long, in good proportion to body, Good substance and well-muscled.

Feet: Oval, compact and in proportion to legs.

COAT

Length: Long enough to carry several bands of ticking.

Texture: Fine, Thick, tight, close-lying.

COLOR: Each hair should carry several bands of color. All colors should be clear. The color is usually lighter around the eyes, on the chin and lower jaw: with the darkest color on the tip of the tail. Clarity of contrast is preferred. Distinctive markings should be clearly seen from any angle. Those on the face, legs and tail may be darker than those on the torso. Ground color may be darker on the saddle and lighter on the underside, chin and lower jaw. Pale colors will show less contrast than darker ones.

PATTERN: There is an intricate tabby "M" on the forehead, with markings extending up over the head between the ears, breaking

into small spots on the lower neck and shoulders. Mascara markings are found around the eyes and on cheeks. Rows of round spots run along the spine from shoulder blades to tail. The tail has horizontal brush strokes down the top, ideally alternating with spots, and a dark tip. Spots are scattered across the shoulders and hindquarters, extending as far as possible down the legs. There are broken bracelets on the lower legs and broken necklaces at the throat, the more broken the better. Large, Well-scattered, thumbprint-shaped spots appear on the sides of the torso, with a subtle suggestion of a classic tabby pattern; a spot circled by spots in place of the bull's eye. The belly is also well-spotted. The eyes are rimmed with the darkest coat color and surrounded by the lightest color.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Ocicat is a large, well-spotted cat of moderate type. It displays the look of an athletic animal, well-muscled and solid, graceful and lithe, yet with a fullness of body and chest. It is alert to its surroundings and shows great vitality. The Ocicat is bred in many colors. Each hair, except on the tip of the tail, has several bands of color. Where these bands fall together a thumb print spot is formed, darker spots on a lighter background. Within the markings, hairs are tipped with a darker color, while hairs in the ground color are tipped with a lighter color. All colors should be clear. The color is usually lighter around the eyes, on the chin and lower jaw; with the darkest color on the tip of the tail. Contrast is scored separately. Distinctive markings should be clearly seen from any angle. Those on the face, legs and tail may be darker than those on the torso. Ground color may be darker on the saddle and light on the underside, chin and lower jaw. This powerful, athletic-yet-graceful spotted cat is particularly noted for its wild appearance. Preference is to be given to the athletic, powerful and lithe.

ALLOWANCES: Stud jowls in adult males. Pale colors will show less contrast than darker ones.

PENALIZE: Elongated spots following a mackerel pattern.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS: White locket or spotting, or white anywhere other than around eyes, nostrils, chin, and upper throat. Any cat displaying phaeomelanistic color.

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 aback 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), and 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. approved standard), and, at the discretion of the judge, tail faults (visible or invisible) and/or crossed eyes shall be disqualified from championship competition. Please refer to the Show Rules for more details about disqualifications and penalties that apply to all breeds.



Head—Modified wedge, slight curve from muzzle to cheek. Ears cornered to head, eyes set more than the length of an eye apart. (Chocolate Silver Spotted)



Eyes—Large almond shaped. Angled slightly upward toward ears with more than a eye length apart. (Silver Spotted)



Profile—Visible but gentle rise from bridge of nose to brow.

(Silver Spotted)



Ears—Moderately large. Set so as to corner the head. Lynx tips are a bonus. (Chocolate Silver Spotted)



Moderate torso—semi foreign with some depth to chest. Boning—moderate. Musculature substantial yet with athletic appearance. Legs medium long in good proportion to body. Feet—Oval and compact. (Silver Spotted)



Male oicats can be quite a bit larger than females. (Cinnamon Spotted Male and Silver Spotted Female)



Pattern—Intricate tabby “M” on the forehead, with markings extending up over the head between the ears, breaking into small spots on the lower neck and shoulders. Mascara markings are found around the eyes and on the cheeks. Rows of round spots run along the spine from shoulder blades to tail. The tail has horizontal brush strokes down the top ideally alternating with spots and a dark tip. Spots are scattered across the shoulders and hind-quarters extending as far as possible down the legs. Broken bracelets and necklaces. Well-scattered spots with subtle suggestion of a classic tabby pattern; a spot circled by spots in place of the bulls eye. Belly is well spotted. Eyes are rimmed with darkest coat color and surrounded by the lightest color. (Photo on right is Blue Spotted, other two are Silver Spotted)



Contrast—Clarity of Contrast is preferred. Distinctive markings should be clearly seen from any angle. Pale colors show less contrast.

Silver is foreground has much better contrast than other silver.



Fawn Spotted



Chocolate Spotted



Blue Spotted



Lavender Spotted