

PETERBALD

GENERAL STANDARD

The Peterbald originated in Russia in the 1980's from a cross between a Donskoy and an Oriental Shorthair. The primary feature is the lack of coat, though it may have down or even a brush coat. It is a medium-sized cat, elegant and, beautifully balanced, with head, ears and neck carried on a long, svelte, well-muscled body, supported on slender legs, with feet and tail in proportion. The head and profile should be wedge-shaped, neither round nor pointed. The expression is alert and intelligent. Males are generally larger than females.

HEAD: Tapering wedge that is medium in size and in proportion to the body. The wedge starts at the muzzle and flares out in straight lines a little higher than the line of the ears, an almost equilateral triangle being the ideal. The top of the skull is slightly convex, forehead flat (this is the area between ear base and top of eye opening) with no break at the whiskers. The muzzle is moderately broad and slightly blunt rather than fine and pointed. When the whiskers are smoothed back, the underlying straight bone structure is apparent. Allowance is made for jowls in stud males.

In profile, the straight line formed from the nose leather to the centre of the forehead changes angle slightly and curves over the top of the skull, flowing smoothly into the neck, without any irregularity.

EARS: Large and wide at the base, flared, with good width between just below the line of the wedge, especially the flange at the base of the ears.

NOTE: *In kittens, the ears may appear to be oversized and fall outside the line of the wedge. Allowance may be made for this.*

EYES: Oriental in shape, with no less than the width of an eye between them. They are medium in size, slanting slightly downward towards the nose, in harmony with the lines of the wedge, ears and head size. They are neither protruding nor recessed and there must be no permanent squint.

NOSE: Long, straight and of even width, with no dip or rise.

CHEEKS: In line with the wedge, neither protruding nor too narrow.

JAWS: The muzzle is moderately broad and slightly blunt rather than fine and pointed.

CHIN: Firm, completing the line of the wedge. In profile, it is of good depth and in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.

NECK: Long and slender, in proportion to the body; being one of the features which gives elegance to these cats.

BODY: Medium in size, long, svelte and elegant, with fine bones and firm muscles. The abdomen is tight, the body tubular, with the shoulder and hips continuing the sleek, straight lines of the body. The rib cage is oval when viewed from the front.

TAIL: Long, whip-like, tapering from the base to the tip, in proportion to the body, and without kink.

LEGS: Long, slim and elegant, in proportion to the body. The hind legs are slightly longer than the front legs.

PAWS: Small and oval with long toes.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and neck	30	
Ears	5	
Eye shape, size, set and colour	5	40
Body	25	
Tail, legs and paws	10	35
Skin quality/coat texture	20	20
Condition	5	5
Total		100

FAULTS / PENALTIES

FAULTS AS FOR THE GENERAL LIST OF FAULTS FOR ALL BREEDS and for the relevant SIAMESE/ORIENTAL LISTS, PLUS:

PENALISE:

- Missing wrinkles on head
- Extremely fine bone structure
- Forelegs bowed or not straight
- Curved profile
- Weak chin
- Muzzle break
- Heavy, rounded body

WITHHOLD:

- Longhaired cats
- Full or normal coat

DISQUALIFY:

- Any sign of any means of artificial hair removal
- Visible tail fault
- Crossed eyes
- White toe or toes.

SKIN/COAT AND COLOUR

SKIN: The hairless Peterbald has soft, warm, elastic skin that may range from "sticky" to having a texture akin to suede or peach skin or feeling like silk.

Wrinkles – the skin is soft and supple. There are numerous wrinkles on the head, concentrated mainly around the muzzle, between the ears and around the shoulders, with fewer wrinkles on the body.

COAT: The Peterbald skin/coat is the single most important feature of the breed.

The dominant gene which produces the lack of hair in Peterbalds may manifest in several ways. A Peterbald may have a single coat or a combination of coat types. Generally, if there is more than one coat type, the body has one type and the extremities or points have another.

There are three Peterbald coat textures: hairless, flock and brush.

The **hairless** Peterbald generally appears hairless. It has soft, warm, elastic skin that may range from “sticky” to having a texture akin to suede or peach skin or feeling like silk. The hairlessness can range from being 100% hairless to having short, fine down which appears truly hairless when viewed from a distance. When inspected closely, there are clearly visible hairs. Coat that is retained on the extremities is short, close-lying and downy. Hairless can be divided into **ultra, silken and velour bald**.

Hairless is the preferred texture/amount of coat.

The **flock coat** has residual flock hair with no more than 2 mm length on the whole body.

The **brush coat** ranges from a sparse, wiry coat of irregular texture in which the skin is seen through the coat, to a dense, wiry, short, wavy or kinky brush coat.

Brush coat ranges from 5mm or longer in length and should in no way feel or look like a normal coat when closely inspected. A cat with heavy brush coat will not lose its coat.

A **normal** coat can occur, but all awards are to be withheld for such a coat.

A Peterbald may be born with or without coat. Those born bald may be 100% hairless or may have barely discernible fine residual hair at the base of the ears, on the muzzle, feet, lower legs and tail that feels like velvet. This fine hair should be gone by two years of age.

Except in those Peterbalds that are born completely hairless with no whiskers or eyebrows, the Peterbald coat changes or evolves with age.

For those born with coat, that become hairless, loss of coat begins at the top of the head or nape of the neck and continues down the body to the tail. Short, fine down may be retained on the extremities.

COAT COLOUR

All coat colours and coat patterns recognized in Siamese and Orientals are allowed.

ALLOWANCE: Locketts.

EYE COLOUR: Green. Blue in pointed varieties. Bright, intense, even tones.

ALLOWABLE OUTCROSSES:
Siamese and Oriental Shorthair.