

BURMESE

GENERAL STANDARD

The Burmese is an elegant, muscular cat of medium size, of distinctive foreign type, resembling neither Siamese nor British build. Ear set, eye shape and brow line combine to form the distinctive Burmese frown. It has a coat that looks and feels like satin. Males are generally larger than females.

The Burmese is an outgoing, sociable cat, lively and alert.

HEAD: Slightly rounded on top, with good width between the ears, having wide cheekbones and tapering to a short, blunt wedge. The head is a balanced wedge and is not to be too short or rounded. A muzzle pinch is a bad fault.

EARS: Medium size, broad at the base with slightly rounded tips, set well apart. The outer line of the ear continues the shape of the upper part of the face, though this may be less obvious in mature males, who develop fullness of cheek. In profile, the ears have a slight forward tilt.

EYES: Large and set well apart. The top line of the eyes is a straight line, which is slanted down toward the nose; the lower line being rounded. Either round or oriental eyes are a fault.

NOSE: Moderately short and of even width. In profile, a distinct break is essential. A Roman nose or bump on the end of the nose are faults.

CHEEKS: Well rounded, with good width when viewed front-on.

JAWS: Wide at the hinge, strong and gently rounded.

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

NECK: Of medium length and in proportion to the body.

BODY: Of medium length and size, feeling hard and muscular and heavier than its appearance indicates. The chest is strong and rounded in profile. The back is straight from shoulder to rump, though the rump is a little higher.

LEGS: Strong but not heavily boned and in proportion to the body. The hind legs are slightly longer than the forelegs.

PAWS: Neat and oval.

TAIL: Straight and of medium length, not heavy at the base, tapering only slightly to a rounded tip, without bone defect.

CONDITION: Well muscled, with good weight and size.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and neck	20	
Ears	5	
Eye shape and set	10	35
Body	15	
Legs and paws	5	
Tail	5	25
Coat texture and length	10	
Coat colour/pattern	15	
Eye colour	10	35
Condition	5	5
Total		100

FAULTS / PENALTIES

REFER TO GENERAL LIST OF FAULTS FOR ALL BREEDS, PLUS:

PENALISE:

- Short, round head.
- Flat skull.
- Flared ears.
- Incorrect eye shape.
- Green rim in eye colour.
- Heavy barring on kittens or barring other than on the legs of kittens.

WITHHOLD:

- Siamese or British type.
- Muzzle pinch.
- Barring in adults.
- A noticeable number of white hairs or a white patch in solid colours.
- Green, orange or copper eyes.
- Obvious lack of good health in body or coat condition.

COLOUR

COAT LENGTH AND TEXTURE: Coat is short, fine, satin-like in texture and lying close to the body. The glossy coat is a distinctive feature of the Burmese and is indicative of good health.

COAT COLOUR: In all colours, the under-parts will be slightly lighter than the back. Only in kittens should any allowance be made for faint tabby barring on the legs. Overall, kittens are considerably lighter in colour than adults. Evenness of colour is desirable. The presence of a few white hairs may be overlooked in an otherwise excellent exhibit, but a noticeable number of white hairs or a white patch is a serious fault, as is any tabby barring in adults.

Breeders should note that tabby markings in kittens are likely to remain into adulthood.

EYE COLOUR: Any shade of yellow, golden yellow preferred. The deeper the better.

SOLID COLOURS

BROWN (GENETIC BLACK)

Coat colour: In maturity, the adult is rich, warm, brown, shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter shade on the under-parts. Apart from this and slightly darker ears, there should be no shading or marking of any kind. Very dark colouring bordering on black is incorrect.

Nose leather: Rich brown.
Paw pads: Brown.

BLUE

Coat colour: Soft, warm, blue-grey, slightly darker on the ears and back and shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter shade on the under-parts. There should be a distinct silver sheen on the rounded areas such as the ears, face and feet.

Nose leather: Blue.
Paw pads: Blue.

CHOCOLATE

Coat colour: Overall is a warm, milk chocolate, slightly darker on the ears and back and shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter shade on the under-parts. Evenness of colour is most desirable. Dark or cold tones are undesirable.

Nose leather: Warm chocolate.
Paw pads: Chocolate brown, with a pinkish tone allowable. Kittens have paler nose leather and paw pads.

LILAC

Coat colour: Overall is a pale, pinkish, dove-grey, slightly darker on the ears and back and shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter shade on the under-parts. There should be a distinct silver sheen on the rounded areas such as the ears, face and feet. Cold tones are undesirable.

Nose leather: Lavender pink.
Paw pads: Lavender pink.
Kittens have paler nose leather and paw pads.

RED

Coat colour: Tangerine, slightly darker on the ears and back and shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter shade on the under-parts. Slight markings may be found on the face. Small indeterminate markings elsewhere, except on the sides and belly, are permissible in an otherwise excellent specimen.

Nose leather: Pink. Some freckling may be allowed.
Paw pads: Pink.

CREAM

Coat colour: Rich cream, slightly darker on the ears and back and shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter shade on the under-parts. Slight markings may be found on the face. Small indeterminate markings elsewhere, except on the sides and belly, are permissible in an otherwise excellent specimen. There may be a powdering effect on the rounded areas such as the ears and face.

Nose leather: Pink. Some freckling may be allowed.
Paw pads: Pink.

TORTOISESHELLS

Colours are intermingled and/or patched and distribution of colour is immaterial. In dilutes, paler shades are preferred, though all shades are allowed.

BROWN TORTOISESHELL

Coat colour: Rich, warm brown and varying shades of red and/or cream intermingled and/or patched.

Nose leather: Seal brown or pink, plain or blotched.
Paw pads: Seal brown or pink, plain or blotched.

BLUE TORTOISESHELL

Coat colour: Warm blue-grey and varying shades of cream intermingled and/or patched.

Nose leather: Blue or pink, plain or blotched.
Paw pads: Blue or pink, plain or blotched.

CHOCOLATE TORTOISESHELL

Coat colour: Warm, milk chocolate, and varying shades of red and/or cream intermingled and/or patched.

Nose leather: Chocolate or pink, plain or blotched.
Paw pads: Chocolate or pink, plain or blotched.

LILAC TORTOISESHELL

Coat colour: Soft, warm, pinkish grey and varying shades of cream intermingled and/or patched.

Nose leather: Lavender pink or pink, plain or blotched.
Paw pads: Lavender pink or pink, plain or blotched.

BREEDING NOTES

Allowable outcrosses
American Burmese as part of an approved experimental breeding programme
Genetically proven Burmese from an approved Mandalay program
As breeding partners for the Burmilla and Tonkinese breed in approved breeding programs