



Abyssinian

General Standard

The Abyssinian is a cat of foreign type of medium build, firm, lithe and muscular; never coarse. It is an alert, active cat and when standing it gives an impression of being on tiptoes. The coat is rich, lustrous and distinctly ticked. Males are generally larger than females.

Head	A medium, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes; the brow, cheek and profile lines all showing a gentle contour. There is a slight rise from the bridge of the nose to a broad forehead, with good width between the ears, with a shallow indentation forming the muzzle, which should have no evidence of snipiness or a whisker pinch. In profile, the skull is to show a gentle curve, flowing over the head into an arched neck. The head should have ample length to be in proportion to the rest of the cat.
Ears	Relatively large, moderately pointed, broad and cupped at the base, set wide apart and neither too high nor too low. They are tilted slightly forward as though the cat is listening, to give an alert expression, are well furnished, have a thumbprint and are preferably tufted on the tips.
Eyes	Almond-shaped, neither round nor oriental, set well apart. They are large, bright and expressive and accentuated by the fine, darker line of the lid encircled by a light-coloured area.
Nose	Medium in length and moderately broad in proportion with the head. The bridge is to be gently contoured, with no straight lines or flat planes.
Cheeks	Gently contoured to follow the line of the head. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males.
Jaws	Gently rounded, not sharply pointed, pinched or square.
Chin	Firm and rounded. In profile, of good depth and in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.
Neck	Medium in length, slightly arched, elegant and well-balanced
Body	Of medium length, lithe and graceful, but showing well-developed muscular strength without coarseness. The cat is solid to the feel and the rib cage is rounded with no evidence of flat sides. The flanks are reasonably level without tuck-up. Proportion and general balance are to be desired more than mere size.
Legs	Deceptively well-muscled, relatively long and slim.
Paws	Neat, oval and compact.
Tail	Thicker at the base, proportionately long and tapering. A whip is undesirable.

Scale of Points

Head & Neck	15	
Ears	5	
Eye Shape	5	25
Body	15	
Legs & Paws	5	
Tail	5	25
Coat Texture & Length	10	
Condition	5	15
Eye Colour	5	
Coat Colour	15	
Coat Ticking & Clarity	15	35
Total		100

Faults & Penalties

Refer to general list of faults for all breeds plus:

Penalise:

- Should not be Oriental in type.
- Insufficient or incorrect ticking.
- Cold or grey tones in the coat of non-silver varieties.
- Rufous tones in Silvers.
- Too strong a broken necklace.
- Belly spots on adults.
- Incorrect coat texture.
- Lack of pigmentation around the eyes.
- Odd or incorrect paw pad colour.
- Whisker pinch.

Withhold:

- Distinct bars or rings on legs or tail.
- Unbroken necklace.
- White anywhere other than under chin, near nostrils or upper throat, except in Silvers. This includes lockets.
- Incorrect undercoat colour over a major part of the body.

Coat & Colour

Coat Length & Texture	Short, but long enough to accommodate two or three bands of ticking. Fine and close, resilient to the touch and with a lustrous sheen.
Coat Colour & Pattern	<p>Pattern: Ticking is to be distinct and even, with dark coloured bands contrasting with lighter coloured bands on the hair shafts. The undercoat is clear to the roots and complements the surface colour, with no coldness or grey tones. Any spinal shading is to be of the deeper colour. Preference is given to cats unmarked on the undersides, chest and legs. Darker hair colour should extend from between the toes to well up the back of the hind legs, preferably to the hocks, also showing as a solid tip at the extreme end of the tail. The tail is without rings.</p> <p>There is an "M" on the head between the eyes and ears. Pencillings extend from the eyes and brows and there is cheekbone shading, with dots and shading on whisker pads.</p> <p>Colour: Deeper colour shades are preferred; however, intensity of ticking is not to be sacrificed for depth of colour. Hair tips are to be the darkest colour. The colour around the nostrils, under the chin and upper throat is to be lighter, but of a tint to harmonise with the belly, chest and forelegs. In the Silver group, high grade silver is most desirable.</p>
Eye Rims & Nose Leather	Appropriate to and specified in individual coat colours. Eye rims are to have a line of darker colour around them.
Paw pads	Appropriate to and specified in individual coat colours.
Eye Colour	In a range from deep gold, gold, hazel or green, with the more richness and depth of colour the better. Applicable to all coat colours.

Coat Colours

Solid Group

Tawny (Ruddy)

Coat Colour	Glowing, warm, rich tawny brown, with a paler orange-brown undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with black/dark brown. Deeper shades preferred.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Tint to harmonise with the main body colour. Preference given to clear, unmarked orange-brown.
	Tipped with black.
Nose Leather	Brick red.
Paw Pads	Black or brown.

Blue

Coat Colour	Soft blue, with an oatmeal undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with deeper blue.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Tint to harmonise with the main body colour. Preference given to clear, unmarked, warm oatmeal with pinkish tone.
Tail	Tipped with deeper blue.
Nose Leather	Mauve-pink rimmed with blue.
Paw Pads	Mauve-blue.

Cinnamon (Sorrel)

Coat Colour	Glowing, warm, rich cinnamon-red, with a paler cinnamon-apricot undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with bright tan brown. Deeper shades preferred.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Tint to harmonise with the main body colour. Preference given to clear, unmarked deep apricot.
Tail	Tipped with bright tan brown.
Nose Leather	Rose pink.
Paw Pads	Pink.

Fawn

Coat Colour	Warm rose beige, with a pale pinkish buff undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with light cocoa brown.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Tint to harmonise with the main body colour. Preference given to unmarked blush beige.
Tail	Tipped with light cocoa brown.
Nose Leather	Rose-beige.
Paw Pads	Rose-beige.

Chocolate

Coat Colour	Rich chocolate brown, with a paler chocolate undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with deep chocolate brown. Deeper shades preferred.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Tint to harmonise with the main body colour. Preference given to clear, unmarked paler chocolate.
Tail	Tipped with deep chocolate brown.
Nose Leather	Chocolate-pink.
Paw Pads	Chocolate-pink.

Lilac

Coat Colour	Pale dusty lilac, with a pale oatmeal undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with deeper lilac.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Tint to harmonise with the main body colour. Preference given to clear, unmarked warm oatmeal.
Tail	Tipped with deeper lilac.
Nose Leather	Lilac-pink.
Paw Pads	Lilac-pink.

Group Silver

Black Silver

Coat Colour	Sparkling white, with a white undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with black.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Sparkling white. Preference given to clear, unmarked white.
Tail	Tipped with black.
Nose Leather	Black or brick-red.
Paw Pads	Black or brown.

Blue Silver

Coat Colour	Sparkling white, with a white undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with blue.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Preference given to clear, unmarked white.
Tail	Tipped with blue.
Nose Leather	Blue or mauve-pink.
Paw Pads	Mauve-blue.

Cinnamon (Sorrel) Silver

Coat Colour	Sparkling white, with a white undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with bright tan brown.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Sparkling white. Preference given to clear, unmarked white.
Tail	Tipped with bright tan brown.
Nose Leather	Pink.
Paw Pads	Pink.

Fawn Silver

Coat Colour	Sparkling white, with a white undercoat, ticked with light cocoa brown.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Sparkling white. Preference given to clear, unmarked white.
Tail	Tipped with cocoa brown.
Nose Leather	Rose-beige.
Paw Pads	Rose-beige.

Chocolate Silver

Coat Colour	Sparkling white, with a white undercoat clear to the roots, ticked with deep chocolate brown.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Sparkling white. Preference given to clear, unmarked white.
Tail	Tipped with deep chocolate brown.
Nose Leather	Chocolate-pink.
Paw Pads	Deep pink.

Lilac Silver

Coat Colour	Sparkling white, with a white undercoat, ticked with dusty lilac.
Belly and inside of forelegs	Sparkling white. Preference given to clear, unmarked white.
Tail	Tipped with dusty lilac.
Nose Leather	Lilac-pink.
Paw Pads	Lilac-pink.

Breeding Notes

Allowable Outcross

None

Notes

No allowable outcrosses offspring from Abyssinian/Somali matings are not to be used in Abyssinian breeding program. The shorthaired progeny from Abyssinian/Somali matings will be recognised as Abyssinian for the purpose of showing only. These progenies shall have their registration certificates annotated “var” and may also be used in Somali breeding program

Standard Updates

March 2023 – Standard reformatted. This reformatted standard includes all previous updates and amendments.

For information on previous standard updates and amendments, please see the Register of Breed Standards Updates on the CCCA website or contact the CCCA Secretary.

19 November 2023 - “Foundation” section removed as this was not approved for inclusion in the reformatted standard.