



# American Curl

## General Standard

*The distinctive feature of the American Curl is their attractive, uniquely curled-back ears. Curls are elegant, well balanced, moderately muscled, slender rather than massive in build. Males are larger than females. Proper proportion and balance are more important than size. Allowance is to be made for normal male characteristics. They are alert, active, with gentle, even dispositions.*

<b>Head</b>	<p><b>Shape:</b> modified wedge without flat planes, moderately longer than wide, smooth transitions.</p> <p><b>Profile:</b> nose moderate in length and straight, slight rise from bottom of eyes to forehead, gentle curve to top of head, flowing into neck, without a break. Size: medium in proportion to body.</p> <p><b>Muzzle:</b> rounded with gentle transition, no pronounced whisker break. Chin firm, in line with nose and upper lip.</p>
<b>Ears</b>	<p><b>Degree:</b> minimum 90 degree arc of curl, not to exceed 180 degrees. Firm cartilage from ear base to at least 1/3 of height.</p> <p><b>Shape:</b> wide at base and open, curving back in smooth arc when viewed from front and rear. Tips rounded and flexible.</p> <p><b>Size:</b> moderately large.</p> <p><b>Placement:</b> erect, set equally on top and side of head.</p> <p><b>Furnishings:</b> desirable.</p> <p><b>Note 1:</b> when Curls are alert with ears swiveled toward front, lines following curve of ear through tips should point to center of base of skull. (Lines following curve of ear through tips beyond 90 and up to 180 degrees may intersect at a point farther up on skull, but not beyond top of skull.</p> <p><b>Note 2:</b> Vertical and horizontal crimp are two opposite and undesirable extremes affecting the base of the curled ear. The former causing the base to appear too narrow, the latter causing the base to appear too wide.</p>
<b>Eyes</b>	<p><b>Shape:</b> walnut, oval on top and round on bottom.</p> <p><b>Placement:</b> set on slight angle between base of ear and tip of nose one eye width apart. Size: moderately large.</p> <p><b>Colour:</b> clear, brilliant, no relation to coat color except blue eyes required in colourpoint class.</p>
<b>Nose</b>	Moderate in length and straight, slight rise from bottom of eyes to forehead, gentle curve to top of head, flowing into neck, without a break.
<b>Chin</b>	Firm, in line with nose and upper lip.
<b>Neck</b>	Medium.
<b>Body</b>	Torso is a semi-foreign rectangle, length one and one half times height at shoulder, medium depth of chest and flank. Size is intermediate, with allowances for larger males. Musculature <u>is to be moderate in strength and tone and flexible.</u>
<b>Legs</b>	Length medium in proportion to body, set straight when viewed from front or rear. Medium boning, neither fine nor heavy.
<b>Paws</b>	Medium and rounded.
<b>Tail</b>	Flexible, wide at base, tapering; equal to body length.

## Scale of Points

Head (incl. muzzle, chin and profile).	20	
Ears (degree of curl, shape, size, placement, furnishings).	30	
Body (incl. legs, feet, bone, and length of tail).	25	
Coat (incl. length, texture and colour).	15	
Eyes – shape, set and colour.	10	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

## Faults & Penalties

Refer to general list of faults for all breeds plus:

### Penalise:

- Low set ears.
- Abrupt change of direction without smooth curve.
- Pinch, horizontal or vertical crimp to the ears.
- Interior surface which appears corrugated.
- Tubular or cobby body.
- Excessive size.
- Deep nose break.
- L/H: Heavy undercoat, heavy ruff, coarse or cottony texture.
- S/H: Heavy undercoat coarse or texture, dense or plush coats.

### Withhold:

- Extreme curl in an adult cat where the tip of the ear touches the back of the head or the ear itself.
- Ear tips that are not flexible.
- Ears in which the lower portion of the ear is abnormally flattened, has compressed ridges of cartilage and does not have a normal, visible ear cavity.
- Lack of firm cartilage in base of ear.
- Tail faults.

## Coat & Colour

<b>Length &amp; Texture</b>	<p><b>LONGHAIR:</b>  <b>Texture:</b> fine, silky, laying flat. undercoat: minimal. <b>Coat length:</b> semi-long. <b>Tail coat:</b> full and plumed.</p> <p><b>SHORTHAIR:</b>  <b>Texture:</b> soft, silky, laying flat, resilient without a plush dense feel. undercoat: minimal. <b>Coat length:</b> short. <b>Tail coat:</b> same length as body coat.</p>
<b>Coat &amp; Pattern</b>	<p>Any recognised coat colour or recognised combination of coat colour except cinnamon, fawn, caramel and apricot. Any recognised pattern. The colour and pattern should be clear and distinct. In the case of the classic, mackerel and spotted patterns, tabbies should be well marked and even.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Buttons and lockets are allowable on any colour and/or pattern.</i></p>
<b>Eye Colour</b>	<p>Shades of green, green-gold, gold, orange or copper. Blue-eyes or odd-eyes are also allowed for white or bi-colour (including vans) patterned cats and blue eyes required for pointed cats.</p>
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	<p>Plain or mottled, to tone with the coat colour in the nose area.</p>

## Breeding Notes

### ***Allowable Outcross***

Allowable Outcross -- Domestic Cat.

### ***Notes***

Pointed varieties have blue eyes. Blue eyes or odd eyes are only allowed for white cats or cats with white in van, bi-colour or unspecified amount of white.

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### **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.

24 February 2025 – Note regarding blue eyes.