



# American Shorthair

## General Standard

*The American Shorthair is a true breed of working cat. The conformation should be adapted for this with no part of the anatomy so exaggerated as to foster weakness. The general effect should be that of a strongly built, well balanced, symmetrical cat with conformation indicating power, endurance, and agility.*

<b>Head</b>	Large, with full-cheeked face giving the impression of an oblong just slightly longer than wide. Sweet, open expression. Viewed from front, head can be divided in two equal parts; from base of ears to middle of eyes and from middle of eyes to chin tip. The forehead, when viewed in profile, forms a smooth, moderately convex continuous curve flowing over top of head into neck. Viewed from front, there is no dome between ears.
<b>Ears</b>	Medium size, slightly rounded at tips and not unduly open at base. Distance between ears, measured from lower inner corners, twice distance between eyes.
<b>Eyes</b>	Large and wide with upper lid shaped like half an almond (cut lengthwise) and lower lid shaped in a fully rounded curve. At least width of one eye between eyes. Outer corners set very slightly higher than inner corners. Bright, clear and alert.
<b>Nose</b>	Medium length, same width for entire length. Viewed in profile, gentle concavely curved rise from bridge of nose to forehead.
<b>Jaw</b>	Strong and long enough to successfully grasp prey. Both level and scissors bites considered equally correct. (In level bite, top and bottom front teeth meet evenly. In scissors bite, inside edge of top front teeth touch outside edge of lower front teeth.)
<b>Muzzle</b>	Squared. Definite jowls in mature males.
<b>Chin</b>	Firm and well-developed, forming perpendicular line with upper lip.
<b>Neck</b>	Medium in length, muscular and strong.
<b>Size</b>	Medium to large. No sacrifice of quality for the sake of size. Females may be less massive in all respects than males and should be rewarded equally if overall balance is correct.
<b>Proportions</b>	Slightly longer than tall. (Height is profile measure from top of shoulder blades to ground. Length is profile measure from tip of breastbone to rear tip of buttocks.) Viewed from side, body can be divided into three equal parts: from tip of breastbone to elbow, from elbow to front of hind leg, and from front of hind leg to rear tip of buttocks. Length of tail is equal to distance from shoulder blades to base of tail.
<b>Body</b>	Solidly built, powerful, and muscular with well-developed shoulders, chest, and hindquarters. Back broad, straight and level. Viewed in profile, slight slope down from hip bone to base of tail. Viewed from above, outer lines of body parallel.
<b>Legs</b>	Medium in length and bone, heavily muscled. Viewed from rear, all four legs straight and parallel with paws facing forward.
<b>Paws</b>	Firm, full and rounded, with heavy pads. Toes: Five in front and four behind.
<b>Tail</b>	Medium long, heavy at base, tapering to abrupt blunt end in appearance but with normal tapering final vertebrae.

## Scale Of Points

Head (including size and shape of eyes, ear shape, and set and structure of nose).	30	
Body (including shape, size, bone, and length of tail).	30	
Coat	15	
Colour (Tabby pattern = 10 points; Colour =10 points)	20	
Eye Colour	5	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

## Faults & Penalties

Refer to general list of faults for all breeds plus:

### Penalise:

- Excessive cobbiness or ranginess.
- Very short tail.

### Disqualify:

- Cats showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the colours chocolate, sable, lavender, lilac, or point-restricted (i.e. Siamese markings).
- Any appearance of hybridization with any other breed – including long or fluffy fur, deep nose break, bulging eye set, brow ridge.
- Kinked or abnormal tail.
- Locket or button (white spots on colours not specifying same).
- Incorrect number of toes.
- Undershot or overshot bite.
- Tongue persistently protruding.
- Obesity or emaciation.
- Any feature so exaggerated as to foster weakness.

## Coat Colours

<b>Coat Length &amp; Texture</b>	Short, thick, even and hard in texture. Regional and seasonal variation in coat thickness allowed. Coat dense enough to protect from moisture, cold, and superficial skin injuries.
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### White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Pure glistening white.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	<b>Blue-eyed:</b> Deep blue <b>Orange-eyed:</b> Brilliant gold. <b>Odd-eyed:</b> One blue and one gold eye with equal colour depth.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Pink

### Black

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Dense coal black, sound from roots to tip of fur. Free from any tinge of rust on tips or smoke undercoat.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Black.

### Blue

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Blue, lighter shade preferred, one level tone from nose to tip of tail. Sound to the roots. A sound darker shade is more acceptable than an unsound lighter shade.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Blue.

### Red

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Deep, rich, clear, brilliant red; without shading, markings, or ticking. Lips and chin the same colour as coat.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Brick red.

### Cream

<b>Coat Colour</b>	One level shade of buff cream without markings. Sound to the roots. Lighter shades preferred.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Pink.

### Chinchilla Silver

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head, and tail sufficiently tipped with black to give the characteristic sparkling silver appearance. Legs may be slightly shaded with tipping. Chin and ear tufts, stomach and chest, pure white. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with black.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Brick red.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Black.

### Shaded Silver

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Undercoat white with a mantle of black tipping shading down from sides, face, and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach, and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as the face. The general effect to be much darker than a chinchilla. Rims of eyes, lips, and nose outlined with black.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Brick red.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Black.

### Shell Cameo

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Red Chinchilla): Undercoat white, the coat on back, flanks, head, and tail to be sufficiently tipped with red to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. Face and legs may be very slightly shaded with tipping. Chin, ear tufts, stomach, and chest white.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant Gold.
<b>Rims of Eyes</b>	Rose.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Rose.

### Shaded Cameo

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Red Shaded): undercoat white with a mantle of red tipping shading down the sides, face, and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach, and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as face. The general effect to be much redder than the shell cameo.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant Gold.
<b>Rims of Eyes</b>	Rose.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Rose.

### Black Smoke

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White undercoat, deeply tipped with black. Cat in repose appears black. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Points and mask black with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant Gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Black.

### Blue Smoke

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White undercoat, deeply tipped with blue. Cat in repose appears blue. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Points and mask blue, with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant Gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Blue.

### Cameo Smoke

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Red Smoke): white undercoat, deeply tipped with red. Cat in repose appears red. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Points and mask red with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Rims of Eyes</b>	Rose.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Rose.

### Tortoiseshell Smoke

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White undercoat deeply tipped with black with clearly defined, unbrindled patches of red and cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the tortoiseshell. Cat in repose appears tortoiseshell. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Face and ears tortoiseshell pattern with narrow band of white at the base of the hairs next to the skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. White ear tufts. Blaze of red or cream tipping on face is desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant Gold.

### Blue Chinchilla Silver

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks and tail sufficiently tipped with blue to give the characteristic sparkling silver appearance. Legs may be slightly shaded with tipping. Chin and ear tufts, stomach and chest, pure white. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with blue.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Old rose.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Blue or old rose.

### Blue Shaded Silver

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Undercoat white with a mantle of blue tipping shading down from sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as the face. The general effect to be much darker than a blue chinchilla. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with blue.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Old rose.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Blue or old rose.

### Cream Shell Cameo

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Cream Chinchilla): undercoat white, the coat on back, flanks, head and tail to be sufficiently tipped with cream to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. Face and legs may be very slightly shaded with tipping. Chin, ear tufts, stomach and legs white.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Rims of Eyes.</b>	Pink.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Pink.

### Cream Shaded Cameo

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Cream Shaded): undercoat white with a mantle of cream tipping shading down the sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach, and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as face. The general effect to be much more cream than the cream shell cameo.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Rims of Eyes.</b>	Pink.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Pink.

### Blue-cream Smoke

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White undercoat deeply tipped with blue with clearly defined, unbrindled patches of cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the blue cream. Cat in repose appears blue cream. In motion, the white is clearly apparent. Face and ears blue cream pattern with narrow band at the base of the hairs next to the skin which may be seen only when the fur is parted. White ear tufts. Blaze of cream tipping on face is desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Blue Silver Tabby

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Pewter Tabby): undercoat white, ground colour, including lips and chin, pale, clear bluish silver. Markings sound blue.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or hazel.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Blue or old rose trimmed with blue.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Blue.

### Blue Silver Patched Tabby

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Pewter Patched Tabby): undercoat white, ground colour, including lips and chin, pale, clear bluish silver with classic or mackerel tabby markings of deep blue with patches of cream clearly defined on both body and extremities. A blaze of cream on the face is desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or hazel.

### Cream Cameo Tabby

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Dilute Cameo): Undercoat white, ground colour off white. Markings cream.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Pink

### Smoke & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Including vans): White with unbrindled portions which have a white undercoat deeply tipped in colour (black, blue, red, cream, tortoiseshell, cameo). The cat in repose appears white and black (white & blue, white & red etc.), in motion the white undercoat may be apparent. As a preferred minimum, the cat should have white feet, legs, undersides, chest and muzzle. An inverted "V" blaze is desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or hazel.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Blue or old rose trimmed with blue.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Blue.

### Black Smoke & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of black smoke.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Blue Smoke & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of blue smoke.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Tortoiseshell Smoke & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of tortoiseshell smoke.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Shell Cameo & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of shell cameo.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Shaded Cameo & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of shaded cameo.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant Gold.

### Smoke Cameo & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of smoke cameo.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant Gold.

## Tabby Patterns

### CLASSIC TABBY PATTERN:

Markings dense, clearly defined, and broad. Legs evenly barred with bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail evenly ringed. Several unbroken necklaces on neck and upper chest, the more the better. Frown marks on forehead form an intricate letter "M." Unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye. Swirls on cheeks. Vertical lines over back of head extend to shoulder markings which are in the shape of a butterfly with both upper and lower wings distinctly outlined and marked with dots inside outline. Back markings consist of a vertical line down the spine from butterfly to tail with a vertical stripe paralleling it on each side, the three stripes well separated by stripes of the ground colour. Large solid blotch on each side to be encircled by one or more unbroken rings. Side markings should be the same on both sides. Double vertical rows of buttons on chest and stomach. Hocks: to be the same colour as markings.

### MACKEREL TABBY PATTERN:

Markings dense, clearly defined, and all narrow pencillings. Legs evenly barred with narrow bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail barred. Necklaces on neck and chest distinct, like so many chains. Head barred with an "M" on the forehead. Unbroken lines running back from the eyes. Lines running down the head to meet the shoulders. Spine lines run together to form a narrow saddle. Narrow pencillings run around body. Hocks: to be the same colour as markings.

### PATCHED TABBY PATTERN:

A patched tabby (torbie) is an established silver, brown, or blue tabby with patches of red and/or cream.

### BROWN PATCHED TABBY:

Ground colour brilliant coppery brown with classic or mackerel tabby markings of dense black with patches of red and/or cream clearly defined on both body and extremities; a blaze of red and/or cream on face is desirable.

**Lips and chin:** The same shade as the rings around the eyes.

**Eye colour:** Brilliant gold.

### Blue Patched Tabby

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Ground colour, including lips and chin, pale bluish ivory with classic or mackerel tabby markings of very deep blue affording a good contrast with ground colour. Patches of cream clearly defined on both body and extremities; a blaze of cream on the face is desirable. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Silver Patched Tabby

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Undercoat white, ground colour, including lips and chin, pale silver with classic or mackerel tabby markings of dense black with patches of red and/or cream clearly defined on both body and extremities. A blaze of red and/or cream on the face is desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold, green or hazel.

### Silver Tabby – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Ground colour, including lips and chin, pale, clear silver. Markings dense black. The silver tabby genetically is a shaded cat expressing the agouti pattern, therefore the undercoat should be white.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or hazel, green preferred.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Brick red.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Black.

### Red Tabby – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Ground colour red. Markings deep rich red. Lips and chin to match the colour around the eyes.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Brick red.

### Brown Tabby – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Ground colour brilliant coppery brown. Markings dense black. Lips and chin the same shade as the rings around the eyes. Back of legs black from paw to heel.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Brick red.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Black or brown.

### Blue Tabby – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Ground colour, including lips and chin, pale bluish ivory. Markings a very deep blue affording a good contrast with ground colour. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather</b>	Old rose.
<b>Paw Pads</b>	Rose.

### Cream Tabby – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Ground colour, including lips and chin, very pale cream. Markings of buff or cream sufficiently darker than the ground colour to afford good contrast but remaining within the dilute colour range.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Pink.

### Cameo Tabby – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Ground colour off- white. Markings red. The cameo tabby genetically is a shaded cat expressing the agouti pattern, therefore the undercoat should be white.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Rose.



### Tabby & White

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Including vans)*: White with coloured portions, the coloured portions conform to the currently established tabby classes; mackerel and classic. As a preferred minimum, the cat should have white feet, legs, undersides, chest and muzzle. An inverted "V" blaze is desirable.
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### Silver Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of silver tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold, green or hazel.

### Silver Patched Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of silver patched tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold, green or hazel.

### Cameo Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of cameo tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Brown Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of brown tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant.

### Brown Patched Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of brown patched tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Blue Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of blue tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Blue Patched Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of blue patched tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Red Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of red tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Cream Tabby & White – Classic or Mackerel

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with portions of cream tabby.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Tortoiseshell

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Black with patches of red or softly intermingled areas of red on both body and extremities. Presence of several shades of red acceptable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Black and/or brick red.

### Chinchilla Shaded Tortoiseshell

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Shell tortoiseshell): Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head and tail sufficiently tipped with black and well-defined patches of red and/or cream as in the pattern of the tortoiseshell to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. The cat is in appearance a chinchilla silver with patches of red tipping. Blaze of cream or red tipping desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or brilliant gold.

### Shaded Tortoiseshell

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Undercoat white. Mantle of black tipping and clearly defined patches of red and cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the tortoiseshell. Blaze of red or cream tipping on face is desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or brilliant gold.

### Dilute Chinchilla Shaded Tortoiseshell

<b>Coat Colour</b>	(Dilute Shell Tortoiseshell): undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head and tail sufficiently tipped with blue and well- defined patches of cream as in the pattern of the blue cream to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. The cat is, in appearance, a dilute chinchilla silver with patches of cream tipping. Blaze of cream tipping desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or brilliant gold.

### Dilute Shaded Tortoiseshell

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Undercoat white. Mantle of blue tipping and clearly defined patches of cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the blue cream. Blaze of cream tipping on face is desirable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Green or brilliant gold.

### Calico

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with distinct patches of black and red. White predominant on underparts. Tabby markings are allowed in the red patches.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Dilute Calico

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with distinct patches of blue and cream. Tabby markings are allowed in the cream patches.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Blue-cream

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Blue with patches of cream or softly intermingled areas of cream on both body and extremities. Presence of several shades of cream acceptable.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.
<b>Nose Leather / Paw Pads</b>	Blue and/or pink.

### Bi-Colour

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White with unbrindled portions of black, white with unbrindled portions of blue, white with unbrindled portions of red, or white with unbrindled portions of cream.
<b>Eye Colour</b>	Brilliant gold.

### Van Bi-Colour

<b>Coat Colour</b>	Black and white, red and white, blue and white, or cream and white. White cat with colour confined to the extremities; head, tail, and legs. One or two small coloured patches on body allowable.
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### Van Calico

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White cat with unbrindled patches of black and red confined to the extremities; head, tail and legs. One or two small coloured patches on body allowable.
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### Van Dilute Calico

<b>Coat Colour</b>	White cat with unbrindled patches of blue and cream confined to the extremities; head, tail, and legs. One or two small coloured patches on body allowable.
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**NOTE:** \*VAN is the term for a cat who is white with the additional coloured portions confined to the head, tail and legs. One or two small portions of colour on the body are allowable.

## Breeding Notes

### **Allowable Outcross**

None

### **Notes**

None

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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.