



# Bengal

## General Standard

*The Bengal is a medium to large, sleek, very muscular cat with a thick tail, which is carried low. It has a wild appearance and expressive nocturnal look, enhanced by its wide nose with prominent whisker pads and large, oval almost round eyes in a slightly small head along with a distinctive spotted or marbled tabby coat, which should be thick and luxurious. It should be alert, friendly and affectionate and in excellent physical condition, with a dependable disposition. Males are generally larger than females.*

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Head</b>        | <p>A broad, medium wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than it is wide. The head should be rather small in proportion to the body, but not taken to extremes. The skull behind the ears has a gentle curve which flows into the neck. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males.</p> <p>The curve of the forehead should flow into the bridge of the nose with no break. Bridge of nose extends above the eyes; the line of the bridge extends to the nose tip, making the profile either straight or a very slightly concave curve.</p> <p>The wild appearance is much easier to achieve with a straight profile and the high bridge of the nose.</p> |
| <b>Ears</b>        | Medium to small, rather short with a wide base and rounded tip. They are set as much on the sides as on the top of the head, following the contour of the face in the front view and pointing forward in profile. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable, but ear tufts are undesirable  |
| <b>Eyes</b>        | Oval, but may be slightly almond-shaped. They are large, but not bold and are set wide apart on a slight slant towards the base of the ear. Eye colour as for the individual coat colour range and should harmonise with intensity of coat colour. The more richness and depth of colour the better.  |
| <b>Nose</b>        | Large and broad with a slightly puffed nose leather and may be slightly roman.  |
| <b>Cheeks</b>      | High cheek bones.   |
| <b>Jaws</b>        | Full and broad with prominent whisker pads.   |
| <b>Chin</b>        | Firm. In profile, of good depth and in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.  |
| <b>Neck</b>        | Thick and muscular. Long and in proportion to the body.   |
| <b>Body</b>        | Medium to large, with substantial boning. Long, very muscular and robust, never delicate. A belly pouch is allowable in adults.   |
| <b>Legs</b>        | Of medium length, strong and muscular. The hind legs should be a little longer than the front legs and more robust.   |
| <b>Paws</b>        | Large and rounded.  |
| <b>Tail</b>        | Medium to long, thick and even, slightly tapered at the end with a rounded tip.   |
| <b>Temperament</b> | See List of Faults to Precede All Pedigreed Cat Standards <a href="#">List of Faults</a> .  |

## Scale of Points

|                    |    |            |
|--------------------|----|------------|
| Head & Neck        | 25 |            |
| Ears               | 5  |            |
| Eye Shape & Colour | 5  |            |
| Body               | 15 |            |
| Tail, Legs & Paws  | 10 | <b>60</b>  |
| Coat Texture       | 10 |            |
| Coat Colour        | 10 |            |
| Pattern            | 15 | <b>35</b>  |
| Condition          | 5  | <b>5</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>       |    | <b>100</b> |

## Faults & Penalties

### ALLOWANCES:

- Paw pads not consistent with their colour grouping.
- A belly pouch is allowable in adults as it is a feature of wild cats and does not suggest being overweight.

Refer to general list of faults for all breeds plus:

### Penalise:

- Long, rough or coarse coat.
- Distinctly ticked coat.
- Spots on body running together vertically, forming a mackerel tabby pattern.
- Circular bulls-eye pattern on marbleds.
- Any distinct locket on neck, chest, abdomen or any other area not provided for in the standard.
- Whip tail.
- Any tendency towards oriental fineness of body and/or tail.
- Substantially darker point colour.

### Withhold:

- Belly not patterned.
- Tail tip incorrect colour.
- Challenging exhibit or exhibit unable to be handled.

**COAT TEXTURE:** Short to medium length, closed lying, dense and luxurious, like a pelt, unusually soft to the touch and with a luminous sheen.

## PATTERNS

### SPOTTED

**Spectacles:** Which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks, which should be outlined by an "M" marking on the forehead. A coloured thumbprint (ocelli) is preferred on the back of the ears. A strong, bold chinstrap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklace(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks or spots are desirable. Broken streaks or spots run over the head, on either side of a complex scarab, down the neck and onto the shoulders, where they may break up into rosettes or spots.

**Rosettes:** Are formed by a part circle of spots around a distinctly lighter centre. Arrowhead-shaped spots are preferred. Larger spots may be rosetted. This is preferred to single spotting but is not essential.

**Spots:** Should generally be large, well- formed and distributed at random, or in horizontal alignment. Contrast with the ground colour must be extreme, giving a distinct pattern and a shape outline to the spots. Spots should not run together vertically to form a distinct mackerel tabby pattern.

**Belly:** Must be patterned.

**Legs:** Have broken horizontal lines and/or spots.

**Tail:** Is widely ringed, rosette and/or spotted along its length, with a dark solid-coloured tip.

## MARBLED PATTERN

**Spectacles:** Which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks, which should be outlined by an "M" marking on the forehead. A coloured thumbprint (ocelli) is preferred on the back of the ears. Broken streaks run over the head on either side of a complex scarab marking, down the neck and onto the shoulders. A strong, bold chinstrap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklace(s) and blotchy horizontal streaks are desirable.

**Markings:** Are uniquely different from the classic gene, with as little "bulls-eye" similarity as possible. Instead, the pattern is random, with large, swirled patches or streaks, clearly defined but not symmetrical, giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow when the cat is stretched. Vertical, striped mackerel influence is also undesirable.

**Belly:** Must be patterned.

**Legs:** Have broken horizontal lines

**Tail:** Is widely ringed and/or marbled along its length, with a dark solid-coloured tip.

In the marbled pattern, preference should be given to cats with three or more shades i.e. ground colour, markings and dark outlining of those markings. Contrast must be extreme, with distinct shapes and sharp edges.

## Coat Colours

### Brown

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Markings</b>          | May be virtually black or various shades of brown or tan. The preferred ground colour ranges from light tan, orange, golden, yellow or greyish brown, with the pattern clearly visible, <u>with a high degree of rufousing</u> . Light spectacles encircling the eyes and a very light shade of the ground colour on the whisker pads, chin, chest, belly and inner legs (in contrast with the ground colour of the flanks and back) is desirable. The tip of the tail equals the darkest shades of the markings. Sorrel or Golden colours are included in the brown range. The Leopard is brown with black spotting. The overall appearance should be of gold dusting, called glitter, which is most desirable. A grey base coat should not be penalised. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Gold, green or hazel, with deep shades preferred and should harmonise with intensity of coat colour.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Black or to harmonise with coat colour.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Outlined in black, with the centre of the nose leather in shades ranging from pink to brick red, to harmonise with coat colour   |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Black or to harmonise with coat colour.  |

### Blue tabby

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour is pale blue gray to slate blue gray. Markings medium blue to darker blue. There should be good contrast between ground colour and markings. Warm fawn tones can be present on face, back, and legs. Underside and chest lighter in colour than ground colour found elsewhere. Area around eyes, temples, and muzzle are lighter than ground colour |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Spotted/marbled - any colour except blue.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue   |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Rose, outlined in dark blue.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Dark purple with pinkish tone.  |

### Blue sepia tabby

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour can range from medium tan to medium blue, with colour on chest and belly lighter. Markings may be various shades of darker blue with warm fawn overtones and be clearly visible. The point colour should not be significantly darker than the body markings. Colour around the eyes, temples, and muzzle is lighter. Tail tip dark slate blue. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Green gold.  |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue.   |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Pink to brick red.   |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Slate blue.  |

### Blue mink tabby

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour can range from ivory to rich cream, with colour on chest and belly lighter. Markings may vary from medium blue to dark slate blue and be clearly visible. The point colour should not be significantly darker than the body markings. Colour around the eyes, temples, and muzzle is lighter. Tail tip dark slate blue. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Aqua (varies from blue-green to turquoise).   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Pink to brick red.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Slate blue.   |

### Blue tabby point

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour can range from ivory to cream, with colour on chest and belly being lighter. Markings may vary from light blue to dark slate blue and be clearly visible. Points vary from warm blue to slate blue. Markings are distinct and separated by lighter ground colour. Colour around the eyes, temples, and muzzle is light. The point colour should not be significantly darker than the body markings. Ears blue with lighter thumb print in centre. Tail tip dark slate blue. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Blue.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Pink to brick red.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Slate blue.   |

### Blue silver tabby

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour is light blue silver with blue-grey markings. Tail tip blue. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Spotted/marbled – gold to green.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue.   |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Rose to dark grey.   |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Blue/grey.   |

### Blue silver sepia tabby

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour is cream to light brown, or silvery blue with warm fawn undertones. Markings may be various shades of blue-grey to chocolate, with warm fawn overtones. Undersides and chest will be lighter than background colour. Pigment around the eyes, temple, and muzzle is cream to fawn in colour. Blue silver hues are most detectable on face, legs, back of ears and tail. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Green gold.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Pink to brick red.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Blue-grey with rose tones.  |

## Blue silver mink tabby

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour is cream to silvery blue. Markings may be various shades of blue-grey to caramel. Underside and chest will range in colour from white to cream. Pigment around the eyes, temple and muzzle is light cream in colour. Blue silver hues are most detectable on face, legs, back of ears and tail. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Aqua (varies from blue-green to turquoise).   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Pink to brick red.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Blue-grey with rose tones.  |

## Blue silver tabby point

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Ground colour is ivory to light silver grey. Markings may be various shades of blue grey to light caramel. Underside and chest will range in colour from silvery white to light cream. Pigment around the eyes, temple, and muzzle is silvery white. Silvery blue-grey hues are most detectable on face, legs, back of ears and tail. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Blue.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Dark blue.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Pink to brick red.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Blue-grey with rose tones.  |

## Sepia

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Are medium to light sepia. The preferred ground colour ranges from ivory, cream or light tan, with clearly visible pattern, often with a high degree of rufousing. A thumbprint (ocelli) is preferred on the back of the ears. Light spectacles encircling the eyes and a very light shade of ground colour on the whisker pads, chin, chest, belly and inner legs (in contrast with the ground colour of the flanks and back) is desirable. The tip of the tail equals the darkest shades of the markings. The overall appearance should be of gold dusting, called glitter, which is most desirable. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Green to gold, with deeper shades preferred and should harmonise with the intensity of coat colour.  |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Brown or paler shades to harmonise with coat colour.   |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Outlined in brown, with the centre of the nose leather ranging from rosy tones to brick red, or to harmonise with coat colour.   |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Seal with slightly rosy tones, or to harmonise with coat colour.   |

## Mink

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Are medium to light sepia. The preferred ground colour ranges from ivory, cream or light tan, with clearly visible pattern, often with a high degree of rufousing. A thumbprint (ocelli) is preferred on the back of the ears. Light spectacles encircling the eyes and a very light shade of ground colour on the whisker pads, chin, chest, belly and inner legs (in contrast with the ground colour of the flanks and back) is desirable. The tip of the tail equals the darkest shades of the markings. The overall appearance should be of gold dusting, called glitter, which is most desirable. A grey base coat should not be penalized. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Aqua or blue-green, with deeper shades preferred and should harmonise with the intensity of coat colour.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Brown or paler shades to harmonise with coat colour.   |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Outlined in brown, with the centre of the nose leather in shades ranging from pink to brick red, to harmonise with coat colour.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Seal with slightly rosy tones, or to harmonise with coat colour.   |

## Tabby point

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Markings</b>          | May be in a range from dark seal to light brown. The preferred ground colour ranges from medium to light brown, cream, ivory, to almost white, harmonising with the colour of the markings. A coloured thumbprint (ocelli) is preferred on the back of the ears. Light spectacles encircling the eye a virtually white ground colour on the whisker pads, chin, chest, belly and inner legs (in contrast with the ground colour of the flanks and back) is desirable. The tip of the tail equals the darkest shades of the markings. There should be little difference between the colour of the body markings and of any points. The overall appearance should have a paler equivalent effect of glitter like pearl dusting, called crystal, which is most desirable. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Blue, with deeper shades preferred and should harmonise with the intensity of coat colour.   |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Brown or paler shades, to harmonise with coat colour.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Outlined in brown, with the centre of the nose leather in shades ranging from rosy tones to brick red, or to harmonise with coat colour.   |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Seal with slightly rosy tones, to harmonise with coat colour.  |

## Silver

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Markings</b>          | Regardless of pattern, the markings are superimposed over a silver agouti ground colour. The degree of silver varies with extreme contrast between the markings and the ground colour being the ideal. Although not preferred, the colour of the hair tips is commonly a little darker and/or a little colder than in the non-silver series equivalents. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Same as equivalent non-silver colour.  |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Same as equivalent non-silver colour.  |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Same as equivalent non-silver colour.  |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Same as equivalent non-silver colour.  |

*Recognised silver colours are brown, blue, sepia, mink and tabby point.*

## CHARCOAL

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Markings</b>          | There should be definite contrast between ground colour and markings, with distinct shapes, and clearly defined edges. Pattern should have a horizontal flow. Preference is given to very dark markings, with clear outlines, and well contrasted on the ground colour. There must be white, or nearly white spectacles or “goggles” encircling the eyes. A dark mask runs all the way from the nose bridge to the nose and connects from the mascara lines all the way to the nose bridge. A wide, dark, “cape” running down the length of the back is desirable. Colour on chest and belly should be lighter than ground colour. Charcoals can be Spotted, or Marble Pattern. |
| <b>Eye Colour</b>        | Gold, green or hazel, with deep shades preferred and should harmonise with intensity of coat colour.  |
| <b>Eye rims and lips</b> | Black or to harmonise with coat colour.   |
| <b>Nose leather</b>      | Outlined in black, with the centre of the nose leather in shades ranging from pink to brick red, to harmonise with coat colour.   |
| <b>Paw pads</b>          | Black or to harmonise with coat colour.   |

## CHARCOAL TABBY COLOURS

**BROWN (BLACK) CHARCOAL TABBY** (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble): Same as Brown (Black) Tabby except the Charcoal brown colours are cold browns, with no warm gold, or amber tones and with the addition of Mask, Goggles and Cape.

**BLACK SILVER CHARCOAL TABBY** (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble): Same as Black Silver Tabby with the addition of Mask, Goggles and Cape.

**BLUE CHARCOAL TABBY** Same as blue tabby with the addition of mask, goggles, and cape.

**BLUE SILVER CHARCOAL TABBY** Same as blue silver tabby with the addition of mask, goggles, and cape.

## Breeding Notes

### ***Allowable Outcross***

No allowable outcross.

### ***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 – Inclusion of silver standard as not included in the March reformatting.

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

30 November 2024 – Removal of Temperament description as Temperament is now item k in the List of Faults to Precede All Pedigreed Cat Standards.

1 December 2024 – Recognition of blue.

1 December 2024 – Include colour descriptor for all presently accepted pattern (colour) for charcoal.