



Norwegian Forest Cat

General Standard

The Norwegian Forest Cat originated as a wild cat in the forests of Norway thousands of years ago. It is a sturdy, powerful cat with a triangular head, almond eyes, large, longish body and a double coat. Full maturity can take up to five years. Males are generally considerably larger than females.

Head	Wedge-shaped. Equilateral triangle, with all sides of equal length as measured from the outside of the base of the ear to the point of the chin. In profile, the straight line formed from the nose leather to the centre of the forehead, changes angle slightly, curves over the top of the skull and flows smoothly into the neck, without any irregularity. A long, straight line also extends from the brow ridge to the tip of the nose.
Ears	Medium to large, pointed on the top. Broad and open at the base, set as much on the side of the head as on the top. Alert, with the cup of the ear pointing a little sideways. The outsides of the ears follow the lines from the side of the head down to the chin. The ears are heavily furnished. Lynx tips are desirable but not required.
Eyes	Large, almond-shaped, well-opened and expressive, set at a slight angle with the outer corner higher than the inner corner.
Nose	Straight from the brow ridge to the tip of the nose without a break in the line. Not tapering. Nose leather not to be small.
Cheeks	May appear to be outside the line of the wedge due to the longer coat and to the development of jowls in males.
Jaws	Forms part of the straight line extending from the muzzle toward the base of ear without pronounced whisker pads and without pinch. Some allowance should be made for slight whisker pads or a slight pinch in kittens.
Chin	Firm, deep and in line with the tip of the nose. Gently rounded in profile.
Neck	Short and heavily muscled. Not in proportion to body length.
Body	Solidly muscled and well-balanced, moderate in length, substantial bone structure, with powerful appearance showing a broad chest and considerable girth without being fat. Flank has great depth. Back straight. Males should be large and imposing. Females are generally smaller and more refined.
Legs	Medium and in proportion to the body. Hind legs longer than front legs, making the rump higher than the shoulders. Thighs are heavily muscled, lower part of the legs substantial. When viewed from the rear, back legs are straight.
Paws	Large, round, strong and firm, with heavy tufting between the toes.
Tail	Long, bushy and broader at the base. Should reach at least to the shoulder blades, but preferably to the neck. Guard hairs desirable.
Condition	Excellent muscular condition is required. Any indication that the cat is not in good physical condition or has not had proper grooming should be penalised.

Scale of Points

Head (incl. muzzle, ears, eyes, chin and profile)	35	
Body (incl. legs, feet, bone, and length of tail)	35	
Coat (incl. length, texture and colour)	20	
Eye Colour	5	
Condition	5	
Total		100

Faults & Penalties

Refer to general list of faults for all breeds plus:

Penalise:

- **Small or finely-built cats.**
- **Round or square head.**
- **High, erect and/or small ears.**
- **Small or round eyes.**
- **Small nose leather.**
- **Short legs.**
- **Flabbiness or obesity.**

Withhold:

- **Dip or break in nose in profile.**
- **Square muzzle.**
- **Whisker pinch.**
- **Long rectangular body.**
- **Cobby body.**

Coat & Colour

Coat Length & Texture	Distinguishing double coat, consisting of a dense undercoat, covered by long, glossy and smooth water-resistant guard hairs hanging down the sides, which may be slow to develop in kittens. Ideally, the bib consists of three separate sections – short collar at neck, side muttonchops and frontal ruff, although this may not develop in the warmer climates of Australia. Allowance should be made for this, especially in warmer areas. Britches are full on the hind legs. The coat may be fuller in the winter than summer because the dense undercoat has its full development in winter. Softer coats are permitted in shaded, solid and bi-colour cats. Type and quality of coat is of primary importance; colour and pattern being secondary
Coat Colour & Pattern	Any recognized coat colour or recognized combination of coat colour except chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, fawn, caramel and apricot. Amber/Light Amber colour, unique to the Norwegian Forest Cat is recognized. Any recognized pattern except the Himalayan 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. Note: Buttons and lockets are allowable on any colour and/or pattern.
Eye Colour	Shades of green, green-gold, gold, orange or copper. Blue-eyes or odd-eyes are also allowed for white or bicour (including vans) patterned cats
Nose Leather	Plain or mottled, to tone with the coat colour in the nose area.
Paw Pads	Plain or mottled, to tone with the coat colour in the nose area.

Coat Colours

Amber

Coat colour	Apricot to cinnamon. As the cats grow older, the original dark colour brightens until, as adults, the cats show an apricot/cinnamon-like colour.
Nose leather	Dark, seal to light brown.
Eye rims	Dark, seal to light brown.
Paw pads	Dark, seal to light brown (in adults).
Remarks	The amber colours are very characteristic and show natural colour changes during growth. The cats are born black and have dark paw pads and nose leathers which stay dark in adults. Kittens show strong ghost markings.

Light Amber

Coat colour	Pale beige. As the cats grow older, the original blue colour brightens until, as adults, the cats show a pinkish-beige to fawn-like colour.
Nose leather	Dark, blue-grey.
Eye rims	Dark, blue-grey.
Paw pads	Dark, blue-grey (in adults).
Remarks	The light-amber colours are very characteristic and show natural colour changes during growth. The cats are born blue and have fairly dark paw pads and nose leathers which stay fairly dark in adults. Kittens show strong ghost markings.

Breeding Notes

Allowable Outcross

None

Notes

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

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.