



Sphynx

General Standard

The first impression of the Sphynx is of an apparently hairless cat with wrinkled skin, large ears and eyes and prominent cheekbones. It is medium-sized and muscular, neither small nor dainty, and is quite warm to the touch. Males are generally larger than females.

Head	Medium sized, modified wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than it is wide. The skull is slightly rounded with a flat plane in front of the ears. The profile has a slight to moderate stop. The skin is very wrinkled, especially on the head.
Ears	Large, broad at the base and open. Set at a slight angle, neither low-set nor on top of the head. The inside of the ear is totally hairless. A slight amount of hair is allowed on the lower outside edges and on the back of the ears.
Eyes	Large and with a rounded aperture the shape of a rounded lemon. Slanting to the outer corner of the ear, with slightly more than the width of an eye between them.
Nose	Straight, moderately broad, with a slight moderate change of direction at the bridge, some degree of fuzz on the bridge of the nose.
Cheeks	Prominent, rounded cheekbones with a distinct whisker break, giving a squared appearance.
Jaws	Strong.
Chin	Firm, with a level bite, in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.
Neck	Medium length rounded and well-muscled. Powerful, especially in males. It arches slightly from the shoulders to the base of the skull.
Body	Medium length and size, very hard and muscular, not delicate. Surprising weight for size. The chest is broad and may tend toward being barrel-chested. The abdomen is well rounded, while not fat, giving the appearance of having eaten a large meal. Males may be up to twenty-five percent larger than females, as long as balance is maintained.
Tail	Whippy, tapering from the body to the tip (rat-tailed). Length in proportion to the body. A lion tail (puff of hair on the tip) is acceptable.
Legs	Medium-boned, sturdy, firm and muscular, in proportion to the body, with the hind legs slightly longer than the front. Front legs set widely apart.
Paws	Medium-sized, oval, with long, slender toes. Paw pads are thicker than in other breeds, giving the cat the appearance of walking on air cushions.

Scale of Points

Head & neck	20	
Ears	10	
Eye shape & set	5	35
Body	20	
Tail	5	
Legs & paws	5	30
Skin/down	30	30
Condition	5	5
Total		100

Faults & Penalties

Refer to general list of faults for all breeds plus:

Penalise:

- Overall small cat.
- Body that is too thin, frail appearing, delicate or fine-boned; too cobby or foreign.
- Lack of wrinkles on the head.
- Straight profile.
- Narrow head.
- Significant amounts of hair above the ankle.

Withhold:

- Any indication of hair anywhere other than extremities.
- Any indication of wavy hair or suggestion of Rex in moult.
- Any evidence of depilating, shaving, plucking or any other means of hair removal.

Coat & Colour

Skin/down	Appears hairless, but may be covered with very short, fine down and may have a puff of hair on the tip of the tail. Short, soft, fine hair is allowed on the back of the ears, across the bridge of the nose and cheekbones, on the scrotum, feet and tail. Texture is chamois-like. A feeling of resistance may be felt when stroking the skin of some cats. Whiskers are sparse and short. The skin is very wrinkled in kittens. Adults should retain as many wrinkles as possible, especially on the head, although wrinkling should not be so pronounced that it affects the cat's normal functions.
Colour	All colours and patterns recognised.
Eye colour	Ideally to conform to the colour of the down or skin, but green and hazel are acceptable.
Nose leather & paw pads	To conform to the colour of the body skin.

Breeding Notes

Allowable Outcross

None

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.

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.

19 November 2023 – Inclusion of Karpati pattern.

10 February 2024 – Karpati pattern deleted as not ratified.

24 February 2025 – Note regarding blue eyes.