

SNOWSHOE

GENERAL STANDARD

The Snowshoe is a medium-sized, shorthaired semi-foreign cat with origins in the 1960's. Its head resembles an equilateral triangle overlaid with a modified wedge, giving the impression of gentle rounding. Its moderately long body is strong, muscular and in excellent physical condition. The smooth, single coat is a striking combination of the himalayan and white spotting patterns. The Snowshoe has a friendly disposition and soft voice. Males are generally larger than females. Balance and proportion of all component parts are more important than size.

HEAD: A broad, modified wedge with high cheekbones and gentle contours. Overall shape is nearly as wide as long and resembles an equilateral triangle. Jowls in mature males are acceptable, though when the whiskers are smoothed back the underlying bone structure must be evident. Size is in proportion to the rest of the cat.

In profile, there are two distinct, even planes, separated by a gentle curve at the bridge of the nose.

EARS: Medium large with slightly rounded tips, medium-broad at the base. They continue the line of the modified wedge.

EYES: Oval or oval to slightly round, with greater length than width. Not protruding. Slanting upwards to the base of the ears.

NOSE: Medium width, neither too wide nor too narrow. Either straight below the curve or with a slight nose bump. In proportion to the head.

CHEEKS: High cheek bones with gentle contours.

JAWS: In proportion to the head, with a gentle whisker break. Not extremely broad, square or pointed.

CHIN: Firm. In profile, of good depth and in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.

NECK: Medium length and thickness, neither too long and fine nor too short and thick. In proportion to the head and body.

BODY: Semi-foreign. Moderately long, but neither delicate and oriental nor cobby. No extremes. Proportionally well-balanced overall, well-built, powerful and agile. Firm and well-muscled. Well-knit, powerful but not bulky. Surprising weight for size, proportionally less in females.

Males are medium to medium-large, females are proportionately smaller, ranging from medium to medium-small.

LEGS: Of good length, well-muscled, with medium boning and in proportion to the body.

PAWS: Medium size, oval, in proportion to the legs and body.

TAIL: Medium at the base, tapering slightly and gradually towards the tip. Length in proportion to the body.

CONDITION: In top condition, with a clean, well-groomed coat and body. No indication of fat or

emaciation. A belly flap commonly occurs and should be neither penalized nor rewarded.

BALANCE: Well-balanced, with all component parts in proportion with each other. Proper proportion and balance are more important than size. Excellence in one aspect does not offset deficiency in another.

TEMPERAMENT: Temperament must be unchallenging. Any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. Cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee or generally complain aloud, but may not threaten to harm. Snowshoes should be confident, alert, curious and friendly cats.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and neck	20	
Ears	5	
Eye shape and colour	5	
Body	20	
Tail, legs and paws	10	60

Coat texture and length	10	
Coat colour	10	
Pattern	10	30
Balance	5	
Condition	5	<u>10</u>
Total		100

FAULTS / PENALTIES

FAULTS AS FOR THE GENERAL LIST OF FAULTS FOR ALL BREEDS, PLUS:

ALLOWANCE:

- Ghost barring in kittens and in young adults up to two years of age
- Darker coat colour in older cats
- Locket
- Belly flap
- Lack of full colour in cats less than two years of age
- Finer boning in those females that are smaller

PENALISE:

- No white on all four paws
- Plush, woolly or double undercoat
- Long hair
- Eye colour other than blue
- Bulky or cobby body
- Frail or dainty body
- Extreme body length
- Thin, whip-like tail

COAT AND COLOUR

COAT TEXTURE: Short to medium-short length. Smooth to the touch. Density permits the coat to be moderately close-lying. Seasonal and geographic conditions to be considered.

COAT PATTERNS: Mitted and bi-colour. Some white is required on the paws. Patches of colour in white areas are acceptable. Overall appearance predominates over shape and detail of white and point areas.

There should be a definite contrast between point colours and white. Preference should be given to clarity and contrast, not to colour shades. However, white areas should be sparkling white.

White on the underside of the head, throat, body, belly and uppermost part of inner thighs commonly occurs and should be neither penalized nor rewarded.

MITTED -White is limited to paws, back legs, chest and chin. The cat is typically about one quarter white.

BI-COLOUR -A white facial pattern is required with a centred inverted “V” on the face preferred. Various markings of white and colour may occur. White areas generally occur on legs, thighs, chest and chin. The cat is typically between a quarter and half white. Less white is preferred over large amounts of white.

Note: Pointed [i.e. no white] and van patterned progeny from the breeding programme will be individually registrable as part of the Snowshoe Population for BREEDING PURPOSES ONLY. i.e. They cannot be shown except as part of a litter.

COAT COLOUR:

All recognized Siamese colours.

Point colour - clearly defined, connected to the ears by tracings except for undeveloped points in kittens and younger adults. Some white in point colour around pattern areas is acceptable.

Nose leather and paw pads may be point colour, pink or mottled.

Body colour - a light shade of the point colour. There is a range of shades of colour within each colour. There is subtle colour shading towards the point colour on the back, shoulders and hips, toning to a lighter shade near the chest and stomach.

In dilute colours, especially Blue Points, colour near the skin may be darker or lighter than at the end of the hair fibres.

EYE COLOUR: Blue, the deeper the better.

ALLOWABLE OUTCROSSES: Siamese, and selected Domestic within an approved and monitored experimental breeding licence.