

ABYSSINIAN

HEAD	20 points
Shape	(10)
Ears	(5)
Eyes	(5)
BODY/TAIL	20 points
COAT	20 points
COLOR	15 points
TICKING	20 points
CONDITION	5 points

General: The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian is a medium to large cat, regal in appearance. The Abyssinian shows firm muscle tone and is lithe and panther-like in activity showing a lively interest in all surroundings. The Abyssinian is an agouti ticked tabby where the usual tabby pattern has been replaced by agouti ticking (alternating dark/light bands of the same width). The even ticking with the warm color of the lighter bands gives an iridescent quality to the coat leaving an impression of a colorful cat. Although rarely seen today, yet still very desirable, some Abyssinians may exhibit ear tufts, "thumb print" markings on the back of the ears or darker colored hocks. The Abyssinian is of sound health and vigor, physically well balanced, and amenable to handling.

Head:

Shape: Modified wedge with rounded contours as viewed from the front. In profile, there shall be no flat planes, but a gentle transition between brow, nose and muzzle. There should be no evidence of a nose break. The head should be of ample length in general balance with the rest of the cat. In profile the skull is to show a gentle curve flowing over the head into an arched neck. The muzzle shall follow gentle contours in conformity with the head as viewed from the front and in profile. The chin shall be full neither projecting nor receding, having a rounded appearance. Adult males may have jowls. The muzzle shall not be sharply pointed or square and there shall be no evidence of snippiness, foxy appearance or whisker pinch. **Ears:** Large, alert and moderately pointed, broad and cupped at base, arched forward, set as though listening. Ear set should follow the line of the jaw being neither excessively horizontal or vertical. Hair on ears short and close lying. **Eyes:** Large and expressive. Eye aperture almond shaped, neither round nor oriental with the slant slightly toward the ear.

Body and Tail:

Body: Medium length, lithe and graceful, showing well developed muscular strength without coarseness. The cat is solid to the feel, and the rib cage is rounded with no evidence of flat sides. The back is slightly arched giving the appearance of a cat about to spring. The flank shall be reasonable level without a tuck-up. Conformation strikes a medium between extremes of cobby and svelte lengthy type. Proportion and general balance to be desired more than mere size. Males are proportionately larger than females. **Legs:** Muscular without coarseness. The Abyssinian stands well off the ground and the length of the leg should be in proportion with the length of the body. **Feet:** Oval and compact. When stroked the cat gives the impression of standing on tip toe. Five toes in front and four in back. **Tail:** Thick at the base, long and tapering.

Coat:

Texture: Dense and resilient to the touch with a lustrous sheen and fine in texture. When thumbed backward it should snap back into place. The coat lies fairly close to the body, however the undercoat should be thick enough to prevent any evidence of a tight or oriental coat. **Length:** Medium but long enough to accommodate at least four alternating light and dark colored bands. Coat will be slightly longer over spine than the flanks.

Color:

Coat Color - The undercoat color is clear and bright to the skin; the lighter band in the ticking as well as the chest, stomach, legs and underside of tail should be warm and vibrant. The more intense color is preferred. Preference given to cats with these areas free of barring and spotting or rings. intensity of ticking is not to be sacrificed for depth of undercoat color. **Tail** to be tipped in same color as ticking without rings. **Facial Markings:** Eyes accentuated by darker lid skin, encircled by a light colored area. Eyes are surrounded by fine dark lines which are in turn surrounded by light colored areas. **Eye Color** - accepted eye colors are gold, green, and hazel; the more richness and depth of color the better.

Ruddy - Orange-brown (burnt sienna), ticked with two or three bands of either black or dark brown, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest with orange-brown to the skin. Paw pads: Black or brown with black between toes and extending slightly beyond paws. Nose leather: Brick red.

Red - Warm red ticked with two or three bands of chocolate brown, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest, with warm apricot to the skin. Paw pads: Pink with chocolate brown between toes extending slightly beyond paws. Nose leather: Rosy pink.

Blue - Warm rosy beige, ticked with two or three bands of soft blue-gray to steel blue, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest with a light cocoa or milk chocolate to rosy beige color to the skin. Paw pads: Mauve with steel blue between the toes and extending slightly beyond paws. Nose leather: Dusty rose.

Fawn - A warm dusty cream, ticked with two or three bands of lilac fawn, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest with a pale cream to the skin. Paw pads: Dusty pink with lilac fawn between the toes and extending slightly beyond paws. Nose leather: Dusty pink.

Pattern:

Outer parts of the body covered by shortened hair shall have not less than one band of ticking. Darker shadings along spine allowed if fully ticked. The underside of the body, chest and inside legs to be evenly shaded to harmonize with the main color without ticking, barring, necklaces or belly marks. Deeper and brighter tones are preferred. White or off-white to be confined only to the upper throat area, lips and around nostrils. Kittens may exhibit uneven ticking.

PENALIZE:

Coat: Slick coat. Excessively plush coat. Wooliness in coat.

Color: Mouse coat over a large area of the body (black or gray hair next to the skin with the absence of correct undercoat color. Mottling or speckling in unticked areas [underside of body, chest and inside legs]. Patching on paw pads

Pattern: Uneven ticking. Broken necklaces. Tabby stripes or bars. Lack of desired markings on head or tail.

Condition: Flabbiness of body. Lack of coat luster. Evidence of illness. Emaciation and lack of muscle tone.

WITHHOLD:

White locket or white anywhere on the body other than around nostrils, chin and upper throat area. Kinked or abnormal tail. Unbroken necklace. Incorrect number of toes or deformed feet. Reversed ticking (outermost tip of hair light instead of dark). Wrong color on paw pads. Wrong coat color for requirements. Wrong eye color.