

RUSSIAN BLUE

HEAD	30 Points
Shape	(10)
Ears	(5)
Eyes - Shape	(5)
- Color	(10)
BODY/TAIL	15 Points
Shape/Size	(5)
Legs/Feet	(5)
Tail	(5)
COAT TEXTURE	25 Points
COLOR	20 Points
CONDITION/ BALANCE	10 Points

General: The Russian Blue cat is distinct from all other breeds. The truest criterion is its soft, lustrous, bright blue double coat. Handling a Russian Blue feels like running a silk scarf through your hands. Gentle and shy, often playful in manner, its voice (if any) is soft and sweet. They prefer gentle but firm handling and are easily startled.

Head:

Shape/Size: Forehead high, top of skull flat and narrow, smoothly curving into back of neck. Face broad, at eye level looks broader due to thick fur at side of head. Medium length straight nose looks upturned from almost any view except profile due to light reflection. Neck is long but does not appear so in repose, due, again, to thick fur. **Ears:** Rather large, almost as wide at base as they are tall and set far apart as much into side as top of head. Ears look pointed as hair tufts finish off where slightly rounded tips stop. Inside furnishings cover approximately one-half of the otherwise bare, translucent ear area. Outside of ears completely covered with short, fine hair. **Eyes:** Shape/Set – Almost round, just oval enough to show oriental slant. Set one eye width or more apart. Color – As vividly green as possible at maturity. Russian Blue kitten eyes change rapidly through yellow to green. By four months a green ring should appear around pupil. Cats whose eyes are not completely vivid green should be penalized the amount determined by the quantity and vividness of green as well as by the age of the cat. No green in eyes = full penalty.

Body and Tail:

Body: Fine boned, long, svelte and graceful. Appears heavier in repose due to supple skin and lie of thick coat. Muscular in the manner of a swimmer rather than a wrestler, allowing males to be proportionately larger than females. **Legs/Feet:** Long, fine boned legs with small, neat, well-rounded feet. Cat appears to stand and walk on tiptoes. **Tail:** Straight, rather long, tapering from rather thick base.

Coat:

Short, dense, fine and plush. Lies out from body due to thick undercoat. May best be felt by stroking toward the head.

Color:

Even, bright blue throughout with lighter, lavender color preferred. Guard hairs silver tipped giving coat lustrous appearance. No white. Ghost tabby markings permitted on kittens. Nose leather is charcoal gray, body skin is pale blue and pads are rosy flesh pink.

Condition/Balance:

Should be physically and temperamentally a well-balanced Russian Blue cat. Gentle and amenable to handling.

PENALIZE: Ghost tabby markings on adults,

WITHHOLD: Eyes any color but green in adults or lacking at least a green ring in kittens. White locket or belly spot(s).