

SOMALI

HEAD	25 points
Shape	(6)
Muzzle	(6)
Ears	(7)
Eyes - Shape	(6)
BODY/TAIL	25 points
Torso	(10)
Legs/Feet	(10)
Tail	(5)
COAT	20 points
Texture	(10)
Length	(10)
COLOR	30 points
Color	(10)
Markings	(5)
Ticking	(10)
Eye Color	(5)

General: The Somali is a well proportioned, medium to large cat, with firm, muscular development, and a lithe appearance. It shows an alert, lively interest in its surroundings has an even disposition and easy to handle. The cat appears active, healthy and vigorous.

Head:

Shape: The basic head shape is a modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes. The brow, cheek and profile lines all show a gentle contour. In profile, the head shows a slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead.

Muzzle: The muzzle has gentle contours in conformity with the skull as viewed from the front profile. The muzzle is not sharply pointed and there is no evidence of snippiness, foxiness or whisker pinch. The chin is full; neither undershot nor overshot, and has a rounded appearance.

Ears: The ears are large, alert moderately pointed, broad and cupped at the base. The ears are set on a line toward the rear of the skull. The inner ear has horizontal tufts that reach nearly to the other side of the ear; tufts are desirable.

Eyes: The eyes are almond shaped, large, brilliant and expressive. The skull aperture is neither round nor oriental. Eyes are accented by dark lid skin, encircled by a light colored area. Above each eye is a short dark vertical "pencil" stroke and another dark "pencil" line continues from the upper lid toward the ear.

Body and Tail:

Body: The torso is medium long, lithe and graceful, showing well developed muscular strength. The rib cage is rounded and the back is slightly arched giving the appearance of a cat about to spring. The flank is level without a tuck-up. Conformation strikes a medium between extremes of cobby and svelte lengthy types.

Legs: The legs are in proportion to torso.

Feet: The feet are oval and compact. When standing the Somali gives the impression of being nimble and quick. There are five toes in front and four in back.

Tail: The tail has a full brush, thick at the base and slightly tapering. The length of the tail is in balance with the torso.

Coat:

Very soft to the touch, extremely fine textured and double coated. The denser the coat, the better.

Length: The coat length is medium except over the shoulders where a slightly shorter length is permitted. Preference is to be given to a cat with ruff and breeches, giving a full-coated appearance to the cat.

Color:

Coat Color: Ticking on all colors is distinct and even with dark color bands contrasting with lighter color bands on hair shafts. The undercoat color is clear and bright to the skin. Deeper color shades are desirable, but intensity of ticking is not to be sacrificed for depth of color. Color Markings show darker shading along spine which continues through to the tip of the tail. The underside of the body and inside of legs and chest are an even tone harmonizing with the top coat, without ticking, barring, necklaces or belly marks. Darker shade on hocks goes from foot up to knee. Darker shading is allowed at the point of the elbow. Dark lines extending from eyes and brows, cheekbone shading, dots and shading on whisker pads are desirable enhancements. Eyes are surrounded by fine dark lines which are in turn surrounded by light colored areas. The eyes can be green or gold; the deeper and richer the color, the better. Desirable white should appear only on upper throat, chin and nostrils. The tail ends with the darkest color at the tip. There should be a complete absence of rings on the tail. Preference is given to cats unmarked on the underside, chest and legs. Ears are tipped with the darkest color.

Ruddy – The ground color is an orange-brown (ruddy) color ticked with darker brown or black, the extreme outer tip is the darkest. The tail is tipped with black. The underside of the body and inside of legs and chest are an even ruddy tint harmonizing with the top coat; without ticking, barring, necklaces or belly marks. The nose leather is tile red; paw pads are black or dark brown, with black between toes extending slightly beyond the paws.

Red – The ground color is a warm, glowing red, ticked with chocolate-brown. Ticking begins at skin with red tone alternating with chocolate-brown. The ears and tail are tipped with chocolate-brown, the extreme outer tip is the darkest. The underside of the body and inside of legs and chest are an even tint harmonizing with the top coat; without ticking, barring, necklaces or belly marks. Nose leather is a rosy pink. Paw pads are pink, with chocolate-brown between toes extending slightly beyond paws.

Blue – The ground color is a warm beige, ticked with slate blue, the extreme outer tips are the darkest. The tail is tipped with slate blue. The underside of the body and inside of legs and chest are an even tint harmonizing with the top coat. Nose leather is a dusty rose. Paw pads are mauve with slate blue between the toes and extending slightly beyond paws.

Fawn – The ground color is a warm rose-beige, ticked with light cocoa brown; the extreme outer tips are the darkest. The tail is tipped with light cocoa brown. The underside of the body and inside of legs and chest are an even tint harmonizing with the top coat; without ticking, barring, necklaces or belly marks. The nose leather is salmon colored. The paw pads are a pink with light cocoa brown between the toes and extending slightly beyond the paws.

PENALIZE the following color faults: 1) cold gray or sandy tone to coat color, 2) mottling or speckling on unticked areas and 3) reversed ticking [deep black roots].

Penalize the following pattern faults: 1) necklaces, 2) leg bars, 3) tabby stripes or bars on body and 4) lack of desired markings on head and tail.

WITHHOLD for the following faults: 1) white locket or groin spot, or white anywhere on the body other than nostrils, chin and upper throat, 2) any skeletal abnormality, 3) wrong color on paw pads or nose leather, 4) any other colors than the four accepted colors, 5) an unbroken necklace, 6) incorrect number of toes and 7) kinks in the tail.