



# BENGAL

The Bengal cat appears to have walked from the jungle into our lives. Temperament is dependable, curious, intelligent, interactive and loving. Ancestral models, *Felis silvestris catus* and *Prionailurus bengalensis*, create patterns reminiscent of the wild as well as patterns completely new and unique to both models. The Bengal cat is athletic, sleek, and muscular; medium to large in size, allowance made for smaller females.

## I – BODY/CONFORMATION (30)

(10) BODY - Long and substantial but neither oriental nor foreign. Medium to large.

(5) BONING - Robust, never delicate.

(5) MUSCULATURE - Very muscular especially in the males; one of the most distinguishing features.

(3) NECK - Substantial and muscular, large in proportion to head. Long and in proportion to body.

(2) LEGS - The length is medium, slightly longer in the back than in the front. Boning is large and substantial, never delicate. Very muscular like the body.

(2) FEET - Large, round, with prominent knuckles.

(3) TAIL - Thick, with a rounded tip. Medium in length and a blunt end.

## II – HEAD (20)

(5) SHAPE - Broad modified wedge with rounded contours. Longer than it is wide. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males.

(2) CHIN - Strong, substantial chin, aligns with the tip of nose in profile.

(2) MUZZLE - Full and broad, with large, prominent whisker pads and high, pronounced cheekbones. Slight muzzle pinch.

(2) NOSE - The nose has a very slight concave curve. The nose leather is large and wide, slightly puffed.

(5) EARS - Overall size medium. The height is medium to medium-short ears, allowance for ears appearing larger on kittens up to 12 months. The base is wide in proportion to the height. Rounded tips are desirable. Cup shape in appearance preferred, with a slight forward slant. The placement is set as much on side as top of head, following contour of the face in the frontal view and tipping forward in the profile view. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable but lynx tipping is undesirable.

(4) EYES - Oval acceptable, but round eyes are more desirable. Large but not bugged. Set wide apart, back into face, on a slight bias toward base of ear. Eye colour independent of coat colour except in the pointed cats. Looking for richness and depth in eye colour.

## III – COAT TEXTURE/LENGTH (10)

Short to medium-short in length (allowances made for slightly longer coat in kittens). Two textures are allowed: thick, luxurious and unusually soft OR close lying to the skin and unusually silky smooth.

## IV – COLOUR (10)

Each of colours should display good contrast between the ground

colour and markings. GLITTER: Comes from a domestic outcross into the first Bengal cats. It is a simple recessive gene giving a 'metallic' look to the hair and a softer texture. While unique to the Bengal cat it is not required, but most desirable.

## V – PATTERN & CONTRAST (25)

(10) CONTRAST - Contrast is applicable to all colours. Spot colours with ground colour must be extreme, giving distinct pattern and sharp edges. The ground colour has agouti banding, the uniformity of this banding gives clarity to the ground colouring. Pattern that lies deep on the hair shaft gives more contrast.

### (15) PATTERN

SPOTTED PATTERN - Pattern must be random, horizontal or diagonal; with little or no resemblance to a 'broken' Mackerel or Classic tabby. Rosettes showing two distinct colours or shades are preferable to single spotting, but not required. Paw print, arrowhead, doughnut or semi-circular; clustered or other odd shapes showing patterning distinct from domestic cats. Strong, bold chin strap and horizontal shoulder streaks desirable. Belly must be spotted. White underside and belly highly desired. Special Merit given to unique patterning that strikes the eye as being non-domestic.

MARbled PATTERN - Markings, while derived from the Classic tabby gene is combined with the horizontal pull of the non-domestic resulting in a uniquely different pattern with as little "bull's eye" similarity as possible. Pattern shall, instead, be random giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow when the cat is stretched. Vertical striped mackerel influence is undesirable. Preference to be given to cats with three or more shades, i.e. - ground colour, marking, and dark outlining of those markings. Contrast must be extreme, with distinct shapes and sharp edges. Strong, bold chin strap and mascara desirable. Necklaces can be broken or unbroken. Belly must be spotted. White underside and belly highly desired. Special Merit given to unique patterning that strikes the eye as being non-domestic.

## VI – CONDITION & BALANCE (5)

The breed should display firm muscular development.

## 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. Bengals should be confident, alert, curious and friendly cats.

## OBJECTIONS

Spots on body running together vertically forming a mackerel pattern.

Circular bull's eye pattern on marbles

Pointed tail tip

Substantially darker point colour in pointed cats

(Do not penalize for mousy undercoat on cats without silver undercoat).

## DEDUCT

2-7

2-7

1-3

1-3

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## WITHHOLDS

- Belly not spotted
- Paw pads not consistent with their colour group description
- Paw pads not entirely the same colour
- Incorrect colour on tail tip
- All grounds for withholding awards as listed in the General Preface.

## RECOGNIZED COLOURS

Refer to Colours and Patterns appendix for complete list.

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**BREED ORIGIN:** Hybrid

**REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:** A F1 resulting from a Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) crossed to a domestic cat, born prior to December 31, 1995. No allowable out-crossing to another domestic breed effective December 31, 1995.

A F1 resulting from a Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) crossed to a SBT Bengal or any Bengal Hybrid ALC lineage.

F2, F3 or SBT resulting from a SBT Bengal or Bengal Hybrid crossed to a domestic cat, born prior to December 31, 1995. No allowable out-crossing to another domestic breed, effective January 1, 2000.

AF2, F3 or SBT resulting from a SBT Bengal or any Bengal Hybrid crossed to a SBT Bengal or any Bengal Hybrid from ALC lineage.

**SHOWING REQUIREMENTS:** F4 from Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*).

F1 from allowed domestic outcrosses (born prior to January 1, 2000).

**ALLOWED ANCESTRY:** Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Abyssinian, Balinese, Bengal, British Shorthair, Bombay, Burmese, Egyptian Mau, Exotic, Persian, Oriental, Siamese, Somali, Indian Mau and Domestic Shorthair until January 1, 2000.

Bengal from ALC lineage only after January 1, 2000.

**ALLOWED MATINGS:** Bengal and Bengal hybrids resulting from ALC lineage.