



# BENGAL

The Bengal cat seems to have come straight out of the jungle. Its temperament is sociable, curious, intelligent, interactive and loving.

The hybridization between *Felis catus* (specifically an American Shorthair) and *Prionailurus bengalensis* has created an entirely new unique pattern that is reminiscent of the wild look. The Bengal is athletic, elegant and muscular. Medium to large in size, considering the females are smaller.

## I - BODY/CONFORMATION (30)

(10) BODY - Long and powerful. Medium to large.

(5) OSSATURE - Strong, never delicate.

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

(3) NECK - Substantial and muscular, of medium size, in proportion to head and body.

(2) LEGS - Medium length, slightly longer in the back than in the front. The bone structure is strong and substantial, never delicate. Very muscular like the body.

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

(3) TAIL - Thick, should be of medium length with a rounded tip.

## II - HEAD (20)

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

(2) CHIN - Strong and substantial chin, aligned with the tip of the 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 medium. Size is medium to small, allowance for ears appearing larger on kittens up to 12 months of age. The base is wide in proportion to the height. Rounded tips are desirable. Curved appearance is preferred, with a slight forward slant. The placement is set as much on side as top of head, following contour of the face in frontal view and tipping forward in the profile view. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable in the ears but lynx tipping is undesirable.

(4) EYES - Ovals 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 should be according to coat colour. Looking for richness and depth in eye colour.

## III - COAT / LENGTH (10)

Short to medium-short length (allowances made for slightly longer coat in kittens). A short, thick, luxurious coat that lies close to the body and is exceptionally silky is preferable. The texture should be silky and soft to the touch, and should not be rough.

## IV - COLOUR (8)

All colours should be vivid and rich, with no ticking. The background colour should be light.

## V - METALLIC ("GLITTER") REFLECTION OF THE COAT (2)

The coat should have a "metallic" appearance, commonly called "glitter", resembling gold or silver dust (depending on the colour of the coat), and a silkier, softer texture. This characteristic must be maintained in the breed.

## VI - PATTERNS AND CONTRAST (25)

(10) CONTRAST - Contrast is applicable to all colours. Colours of the rosettes applied to the background colour should be extreme, giving a distinct pattern and sharp contrasts. Please note however that the intensity of contrast will vary depending on the colour and/or coat pattern, especially for Seal point, Charcoal, Blue and Cinnamon colours and patterns where the contrast will not be as strong, not as extreme as for brown or silver. The background colour has agouti banding, the uniformity of these bandings gives clarity to the coloration of the background.

(15) PATTERNS -

SPOTTED PATTERN - Pattern must be random, horizontal or diagonal, with little or no resemblance to a "broken" Mackerel or Classic tabby. Also, the pattern is not necessarily symmetrical on both sides of the cat. Rosettes showing two distinct colours or shades are far preferable to a single spotting, but not required. Paw print, arrowhead, doughnut or semi-circular, clustered or other odd shapes showing patterning distinct of domestic cats (without pedigree). The contrast of the rosettes must be extreme, with distinct shapes and sharp contours. Strong, bold and horizontal strap under the chin, on the chest and on the shoulders are desirable. Necklaces can be broken or unbroken. The belly must be spotted. White underside and belly preferred. Special merit given to unique patterning with a wild look that strikes the eye.

MARbled - Markings while derived from the Classic tabby gene is combined with the horizontal pull of *Prionailurus bengalensis*, resulting in a uniquely different pattern with as little "bull's eye" similarity as possible. The pattern shall be, instead, random giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow when the cat is stretched. Vertical striped mackerel influence is undesirable. Preference should be given to cats with three or more shades, i.e. the ground colour, marking, and dark outlining of those markings. The contrast of the pattern must be extreme, with distinct shapes and sharp contours. Necklaces can be broken or unbroken. The belly must be spotted. White underside and belly preferred. Special merit given to unique patterning with a wild look that strikes the eye.

## VII - BALANCE AND BALANCE (5)

The breed should display firm muscular development.



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## OBJECTIONS

## DEDUCT

Spots on body running together vertically forming a mackerel pattern	2-7
Circular bull's eye pattern on marbled pattern	2-7
Pointed tail tip	1-3
Substantially darker point colour in pointed cats	1-3
Presence of Ticking	3-5
(Do not penalize for grey undercoat on cats without silver undercoat)	

## WITHHOLDS

- Unspotted belly
- Paw pads not consistent with their colour group.
- 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 the Colours and Patterns appendix for complete list.

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**ORIGINE OF THE BREED:** Hybrid

**REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT:** An F1 resulting from a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) crossed with a domestic cat, born before December 31, 1995. No crossing allowed to another domestic breed as of December 31, 1995.

An F1 resulting from a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) crossed to a Bengal F4 or any Bengal hybrid HP line.

F2, F3 or F4 resulting from a Bengal or Bengal F4 hybrid crossed with a domestic cat, born before December 31, 1995. No crossing authorized towards another domestic breed, as from January 1st, 2000.

F2, F3 or F4 resulting from a Bengal F4 or Bengal Hybrid crossed to a Bengal F4 or Bengal Hybrid from the HP leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) lineage.

**SHOW REQUIREMENT:** F4 of the leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*).

F1 among the authorized domestic crosses (born before January 1st, 2000).

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

**MATING ALLOWED:** Bengal