



# A GUIDE TO THE EMS SYSTEM\*

The EMS codes were introduced by FIFE as an easy method of writing a visual description of a cat that could be used for all breeds, all colours and all patterns without too much complication. EMS stands for “Easy Mind System” and that is exactly what it is! With EMS codes, many cats can be described with just four characters, the majority will only require six or seven and even the longest description would only require about a dozen at the most.

## THE CODES FOR BREEDS

The first part of the EMS code denotes the cat’s breed and will be made up of three upper case letters so that BUR would be Burmese; MCO Maine Coon; SIA Siamese etc. If the breed comes in both short-haired and long-haired varieties, the last letter of the code will be S or L to denote the different coat lengths (LPL = LaPerm Longhair; OSH = Oriental Shorthair etc.).

## COAT COLOURS AND MODIFIERS

A lower case letter indicates the cat’s colour so that “a” is blue; “d” is red etc. Other lower case letters may be added to indicate silver, golden or whether there is a dilute modifier such as caramel or apricot or, in the case of Norwegian Forest Cats, amber. An “x” may be used to indicate a colour that is not recognised.

## NUMERICAL CODES

Numbers are used to give information that is specific to some cats. The numerical codes indicate whether a cat has white; tipping or shading; a tabby pattern; a particular colour restriction; an eye colour that affects its breed class or, in the case of Manx, a particular tail code.

## MISCELLANEOUS

The code “v” may be written at the end of a cat’s description to indicate a variant. So, a Persian black bi-colour is coded PER n 03 whereas a black bi-colour Exotic Longhair would be PER n 03 v. The code “non” is also used in FIFE after a breed code to indicate preliminary status.

## SOME EXAMPLES OF GCCF BREEDS AND THEIR EMS CODES



Chinchilla = PER ns 12



Snowshoe = SNO n 05



British Blue = BRI a



GCCF Bombay = ASS n



Lilac Pt. Birman = SBI c



Brown Marble Bengal = BEN n 22



Silver Shaded Oriental LH  
= OLH ns 11



Black tortie & white HP  
= DSH f 09



Brown Burmese = BUR n

**\*Transferring to the EMS system is for discussion and voting at the June Council Meeting 2013**