

SOMALI – GENERAL TYPE STANDARD – A GUIDE

A Somali is a beautifully balanced cat of medium build & foreign type. The head should be broad and curving, forming a moderate wedge. The body firm, lithe and muscular of medium length & the tail fairly long and tapering. Everything should be in proportion, giving a well-balanced appearance. The expression should be alert and smiling. The cat should be in excellent physical condition and a good weight for its size. **COLOUR IS VERY IMPORTANT!** What is your overall impression of the colour (look at the SOP!)? Are the Dominant Colours rich and vibrant? Is the ticking clearly defined? Are the Dilute Colours soft and warm ? Are the silvers clear ? Is there contrast between the ticking and the base coat? Remember! Chocolate Somalis are dark (Bourneville rather than Dairy Milk!). Can you see the red in the Torties? The Somali for size, colour, coat texture and pattern is unique in the SLH Section.

Head – Moderate wedge with gentle curving contours? High forehead, width between the ears. Shallow indentation forms the muzzle. Rounded muzzle to give the desired “smile”. Slight nose break essential. Firm chin. Elegant neck.

Ears – Set wide apart but not low. Broad at base, large, pricked, well cupped and tufted. Inner edge well furnished.

Eyes – Large, almond shaped, set oblique and well apart, expressive and bright. Dark surround encircled by lighter “spectacles”. Short pencil lines at either edge. Inner vertical, outer one pointing towards the ear.

Silvers – Tarnishing is a fault on Silver Somalis. Minor patches are not to be over penalised – is the overall impression silver ? If the tarnishing is substantial, then withhold certificates or first prizes in kittens.

Check on Usual Somalis- if there are grey roots over a large area of the body you must penalise, be reasonable if it is seasonal where the new coat is growing through and with kittens.

Ticking is the essence of a Somali. Mention the colour of the base hair & then comment whether there is well defined (or not) ticking in the correct colour.

Dilute shades need to be inspected carefully and some show halls with “iffy” lighting make it difficult! Darker shading along the back and the top of the tail is desirable. The tip of the tail must be the same colour as the ticking. This can be a problem with Reds though.

Coat – Soft and fine, dense but lying flat along the spine. Medium long but shorter over the shoulders. Give preference, given equal type, to a Somali with a ruff and full breeches but make allowances in kittens.

Check for white lockets !!! (no awards)
Necklaces should be broken - if complete, then give no award!
But remember! The break need not be at the centre front !



Long legs. Oval paws and tufts between toes. Tail long, well furnished, broad at the base tapering slightly with a full brush. Length to balance with the body.

PLEASE REMEMBER - A Somali coat is very soft and fine, compared to other breeds in the Section. In humid conditions, even the best prepared Somali can have fur that separates in the “bikini” area and armpits in a very short space of time - certainly during a morning’s judging!!

Check if there is any barring on the inside of the legs – mention if there is and withhold if severe.
Check the Somali has “heels” the same colour as the ticking – these may not extend to the hock on Silvers but are a very important feature of the breed.