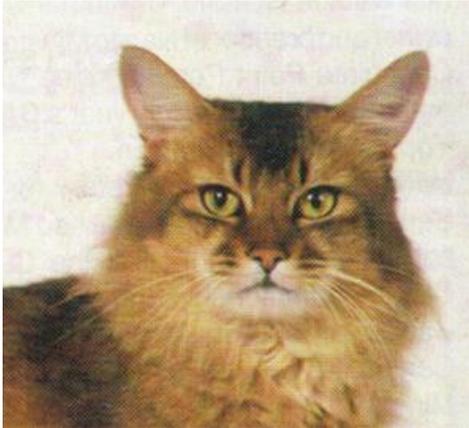


SOMALI HEAD TYPE & EXPRESSION



A Somali head should be broad and curving to a firm wedge set on an elegant neck. It should be moderate with the brow, cheek and profile lines showing gently rounded contours. **A shorter wedge is preferable to a longer, narrower head.**

From the front, a shallow indentation should form the muzzle.

The ears are set wide apart but not low. They are broad at the base, proportionately large, pricked, well-cupped and tufted.

The inner edges are well furnished with long hair, the same colour as the base coat and the tips tufted with hair the same colour as the ticking.

The eyes are large, almond shaped, set obliquely and well apart. They should be expressive and bright. They are accentuated by a dark surround encircled by lighter coloured "spectacles". There are short, dark, "pencil" lines at either edge of the eye, the inner one vertical, the outer one pointing towards the ear. The colour can range from amber, through hazel to green, the richer and deeper the better.

There should be a slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead, which should be high with good width between the ears. **In profile, a slight nose break is essential.** A Somali should have a firm chin and an elegant neck.



A Somali kitten's head can be more difficult to assess as they are still developing.

The ears may appear slightly out of proportion on a baby kitten (they must be large though or else they will be too small when the cat is fully grown!)

The cheeks and muzzle can also broaden with maturity so allowance should be made.

This is a very good example of a 5 month Somali female kitten.



It is vitally important that a Somali should “smile” for you. A good time to assess this is when they are relaxed in the pen rather than out being judged. **A Somali’s muzzle should be generously curved to create that smile.**

A NARROW, PINCHED, SNIPY, FINE OR FOXY MUZZLE IS A VERY SERIOUS FAULT

SCALE OF POINTS

Head	15
Ears	10
Eyes	10

With 35% of the Somali Standard of Points allocated to Head Type it is crucial for judges to recognise the importance of this feature.

WITHHOLDING FAULTS FOR HEAD TYPE

1. Pinched muzzle.
2. Straight profile or a stop.
3. Absence of facial markings.

SHORTHAIRED SOMALIS (63S)

It should be easier to assess the head type of a shorthaired Somali as there is no ruff or extra fur to enhance the impression of a broad skull (that is why it is always good for a judge to smooth back gently the facial fur of a 63L to assess the true breadth and the gently rounded contours of the head).



In this picture of a Usual Shorthaired Somali (63S) you will see at a glance that the ears will appear large – that is because there is no ruff to blur the base of the ear and there will be less furnishing in the ears. Notice the balanced breadth of the head and the gently rounded contours – **on a Somali, no one feature should appear exaggerated** - the whole impression should be one of harmony and balance. A soft, gentle smiling expression is crucial.

As with the 63L, the eyes will be large, almond shaped, in an oblique setting and placed well apart. Admirably illustrated by this attractive 63Sa, the eyes will be expressive and bright. The inquisitive Somali will always have an alert expression unless they are feeling sleepy and then, as they close their eyes and begin to snooze, you will really notice the typical smiling expression that is so endearing.



With their smooth, fine, close-lying coat; their gently rounded, moderate wedges; those bright eyes and playful, affectionate personalities, the shorthaired Somali will make a worthy addition to the show bench!!

SOMALI HEAD TYPE

63L - 63S



Photograph courtesy of The Art of Animals

**Brizlincoat Force Majeure – Best of Variety Semi-Longhair Kitten
GCCF Supreme Show 2009**

“The Somali should be beautifully balanced..... the head to be broad and curving to a firm wedge..... brow, cheek and profile lines showing gently rounded contours.....”