

SPHYNX

The most distinctive feature of this cat is its appearance of hairlessness. The Sphynx is of medium size and body conformation with substantial weight for its size. Females are generally smaller than males. The head shape is a modified wedge, with prominent cheekbones and whisker pads giving a squared appearance to the muzzle. The body is warm and soft to the touch, with skin texture akin to soft peach fuzz. The skin is very wrinkled in kittens. The Sphynx is sweet-tempered, lively, intelligent, and amenable to handling.

I – BODY/CONFORMATION (30)

BODY – The shape of the body is distinctive. The medium length body is hard, muscular with a broad, rounded chest and a full round abdomen. The rump is rounded and muscular. The back is slightly arched to the touch. The boning is medium.

(5) **NECK** – The neck is medium in length, rounded and well muscled with a slight arch extending from the shoulders to the base of the skull.

(10) **CHEST** – The chest is broad and may tend towards “barrel chested”.

(10) **ABDOMEN & RUMP** – The abdomen is thick, well rounded, but not fat. The rump is muscular and proportionate to the width of the shoulders.

(5) **LEGS & FEET** – The leg length is in proportion to the body but not fine-boned. The legs are firm and muscular to the feel. Females legs may be more slender than those of the males. The hind legs are slightly longer than the front. The forelegs are straight. The paws are oval with five toes in front and four behind. The toes are long and slender and the paw pads are thicker than in other breeds, giving the appearance of walking on air cushions.

(5) **TAIL** – The tail is whippy, tapering from body to tip. The tail length is to be in proportion to the body. A lion tail (puff of hair on tip) is acceptable.

II – HEAD TYPE (35)

HEAD – The head is slightly longer than it is wide, with prominent cheekbones and a distinct whisker break. The skull is slightly rounded with a flat plane in front of the ears. The profile is gently curved from the tip of the nose to the brow. The eyes are large, rounded lemon in shape, slanting to the outer corner of the ear. There is slightly more than the width of an eye between the eyes. The ears are very large, broad at the base and open with no interior hair. They are upright, neither low set nor on the top of the head.

(5) **SIZE/SHAPE** – The head is medium size. The shape should be a modified wedge with rounded contours, being slightly longer than wide.

(10) **EARS** – The ears are large to very large, broad at the base with tapering lines to a rounded tip. The ears are set at a slight angle on the head, but are not flaring. Upright, neither low set nor on top of head. The interior is totally hairless. Slight amount of hair is allowed on the lower

outside edges and on the back of the ear.

(5) **MUZZLE/CHIN** – Distinct whisker break with prominent, rounded whisker pads. Strong, well developed chin.

(5) **PROFILE** – The profile has a gentle curve with a noticeable slight to moderate stop at the bridge of the nose.

(5) **CHEEKBONES** – Prominent, rounded cheekbones which defines the eyes and forms a curve above the whisker break.

(5) **EYES** – The eyes are large. They are in the shape of a rounded lemon with the pointed end of the lemon slanting to the outer corner of the ear. They are set wide apart.

III – COAT TEXTURE/LENGTH (30)

The appearance of this cat is one of hairlessness. However, short, fine hair may be present on the feet, outer edges of the ears, the tail and scrotum. The bridge of the nose should be coated. The remainder of the body has a covering of peach-like fuzz. This coat/skin texture creates the feeling of resistance when stroking the cat. Wrinkled skin is desirable around the muzzle, between the ears, and around the shoulders. **Kittens may appear more wrinkled.** There are usually no whiskers but if whiskers are present they are short and sparse.

IV – COLOUR (5)

All colours (including eye colour) and patterns accepted. White buttons or lockets are allowed.

OBJECTIONS

OBJECTIONS	DEDUCT
* Excessive hair other than described	5-10
* Delicate or frail appearance.	5-10
* Thin abdomen or rump.	5-10
* Chest that is too narrow.	5-10
* Bowed front legs.	3-5
* Oriental head or body type.	5-10

WITHHOLDS

- * Any indication of normal length hair or significant amounts of wavy hair.
- * Kinked or abnormal tail.
- * Structural abnormalities.
- * Appearance of a bald Devon or Cornish Rex.
- * Evidence of plucking, shaving, clipping or any other means of hair removal.
- * Unable to handle.
- * All grounds for withholding awards as listed in the General Preface.

RECOGNIZED COLOURS

All colours or patterns in any combination are permitted. NOTE: Exposure to sun may intensify colours dramatically. Refer to Colours & Patterns appendix.

BREED ORIGIN: Mutation
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: * Sphynx, American Shorthair, Domestic Shorthair* (Domestic Shorthair allowable until December 31, 2015).
* Effective January 1, 1992, any Sphynx cat that has a Devon Rex or Cornish Rex parent cannot be registered.
SHOWING REQUIREMENTS: F1 cannot be shown.
ALLOWED ANCESTRY: Sphynx, American Shorthair, Domestic Shorthair*, (Devon Rex, Cornish Rex prior to January 1, 1992)
ALLOWED MATINGS: Sphynx, American Shorthair, Domestic Shorthair*

*A Domestic Shorthair is a cat that does not have a purebred cat in its lineage. Additionally, it may not have any noticeable features that could be specific to any pedigreed cat breed.

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