

## BENGAL

The Bengal cat appears to have walked from the jungle into the show hall. Temperament is dependable, curious, intelligent, interactive and loving. Ancestral models, *Felis catus* and *Prionailurus Bengalensis*, create patterns reminiscent of the wild as well as patterns completely new and unique to both models. The Bengal cat is athletic, sleek, and muscular; medium to large in size, allowance made for smaller females. Characteristics in the appearance of the Bengal cat distinct from those found in other domestic cat breeds given special merit.

### I – BODY/CONFORMATION (33)

(10) BODY – Long and substantial but neither oriental nor foreign. Medium to large.

(5) BONING — Robust, never delicate.

(5) MUSCULATURE — Very muscular especially in the males; one of the most distinguishing features.

(4) NECK – Substantial and muscular, large in proportion to head. Long and in proportion to body.

(2) LEGS – The length is medium, slightly longer in the back than in the front. Boning is large and substantial, never delicate. Very muscular like the body.

(3) FEET – Large, round, with prominent knuckles.

(4) TAIL – Thick, with a rounded tip. Medium in length and a blunt end.

### II – HEAD TYPE (22)

(6) SHAPE – Broad modified wedge with rounded contours. Longer than it is wide. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males.

(2) CHIN – Strong, substantial chin, aligns with the tip of nose in profile.

(2) MUZZLE – Full and broad, with large, prominent whisker pads and high, pronounced cheekbones. Slight muzzle break at the whisker pads followed into sculptured cheek boning.

(2) NOSE – The nose has a very slight concave curve. The nose leather is large and wide, slightly puffed.

(5) EARS – Overall size medium. The height is medium to medium-short ears, allowance for ears appearing larger on kittens up to 12 months. The base is wide in proportion to the height. Rounded tips are desirable. Cup shape in appearance preferred, with a slight forward slant. The placement is set as much on side as top of head, following contour of the face in the frontal view and tipping forward in the profile view. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable but lynx tipping is undesirable.

(5) EYES – Oval 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 independent of coat colour except in the Lynx Points. Special Merit: Richness and depth of colour.

### III – COAT TEXTURE/LENGTH (10)

Short to medium-short in length (allowances made for slightly longer coat in kittens). Two textures are allowed: thick, luxurious and unusually soft OR close lying to the skin and unusually silky smooth.

### IV – COLOUR (10)

The Bengal is accepted in Brown Tabby, Seal Lynx Point Tabby, Seal Sepia Tabby, Seal Mink Tabby, Silver Tabby, Seal Silver Sepia Tabby, Seal Silver Mink Tabby, Seal Silver Lynx Point Tabby. Each of these colours should display good contrast between the ground colour and markings. GLITTER: Comes from a domestic outcross into the first Bengal cats. It is a simple recessive gene giving a 'metallic' look to the hair and a softer texture. While unique to the Bengal cat it is not required.

### V – PATTERN & CONTRAST (25)

Contrast is applicable to all colours (assign 10 points for contrast). Spot colours with ground colour must be extreme, giving distinct pattern and sharp edges. The ground colour has agouti banding, the uniformity of this banding gives clarity to the ground colouring. Pattern that lies deep on the hair shaft gives more contrast.

**SPOTTED PATTERN** – Pattern must be random, horizontal or diagonal; with little or no resemblance to a 'broken' Mackerel or Classic tabby. Rosettes showing two distinct colours or shades are preferable to single spotting, but not required. Paw print, arrowhead, doughnut or semi-circular; clustered or other odd shapes showing patterning distinct from domestic cats. Strong, bold chin strap and horizontal shoulder streaks desirable. Belly must be spotted. White underside and belly highly desired. Special Merit given to unique patterning that strikes the eye as being non-domestic.

**MARbled PATTERN** – Markings, while derived from the Classic tabby gene is combined with the horizontal pull of the non-domestic resulting in a uniquely different pattern with as little "bull's eye" similarity as possible. Pattern shall, instead, be random giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow when the cat is stretched. Vertical striped mackerel influence is undesirable. Preference to be given to cats with three or more shades, i.e. – ground colour, marking, and dark outlining of those markings. Contrast must be extreme, with distinct shapes and sharp edges. Strong, bold chin strap and mascara desirable. Necklaces can be broken or unbroken. Belly must be spotted. White underside and belly highly desired. Special Merit given to unique patterning that strikes the eye as being non-domestic.

## VI – CONDITION & BALANCE

The breed should display firm muscular development.

### TEMPERAMENT

Temperament must be unchallenging. Any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. Cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee or generally complain aloud, but may not threaten to harm. Bengals should be confident, alert, curious and friendly cats.

### OBJECTIONS

#### DEDUCT

- \* Spots on body running together vertically forming a mackerel pattern. 2-7
- \* Circular bull's eye pattern on marbles. 2-7
- \* Pointed tail tip. 1-3
- \* Substantially darker point colour 1-3  
(as compared to colour of body markings)  
on Seal Lynx Point, Seal Silver Lynx Point,  
Seal Sepia, Seal Silver Sepia,  
Seal Mink, or Seal Silver Mink.  
Do not penalize for mousy undercoat  
on cats without silver undercoat.

### WITHHOLDS

- \* Belly not spotted.
- \* Paw pads not consistent with their colour group description.
- \* 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 Colours & Patterns list.

BREED ORIGIN: Hybrid

REG. REQUIREMENTS:

\* A F1 resulting from a Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus Bengalensis*) crossed to a domestic cat, born prior to December 31, 1995. No allowable out-crossing to another domestic breed effective December 31, 1995.

\* A F1 resulting from a Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus Bengalensis*) crossed to a SBT Bengal or any Bengal Hybrid ALC lineage.

\* F2, F3 or SBT resulting from a SBT Bengal or Bengal Hybrid crossed to a domestic cat, born prior to December 31, 1995. No allowable out-crossing to another domestic breed, effective January 1, 2000.

\* A F2, F3 or SBT resulting from a SBT Bengal or any Bengal Hybrid crossed to a SBT Bengal or any Bengal Hybrid from ALC lineage.

SHOWING REQUIREMENTS:

\* F4 from Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus Bengalensis*).

\* F1 from allowed domestic out-crosses (born prior to January 1, 2000).

ALLOWED ANCESTRY:

\* Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus Bengalensis*), Abyssinian, Balinese, Bengal (SH & LH), British Shorthair, Bombay, Burmese, Colourpoint Shorthair, Egyptian Mau, Exotic Shorthair, Himalayan, Persian, Siamese, Somali (LH & SH), Indian Mau and domestic shorthair until January 1, 2000.

\* Bengal from ALC lineage only after January 1, 2000.

ALLOWED MATINGS:

Bengal & Bengal hybrids resulting from ALC lineage.

## BENGAL — BG

### MALE

BROWN MARBLE .....	BG025IXX3
BROWN SPOTTED .....	BG025GXX3
SEAL LYNX POINT MARBLE .....	BG026PIX3
SEAL LYNX POINT SPOTTED .....	BG026PGX3
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> LYNX POINT MARBLE .....	<b>BG115PIX3</b>
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> LYNX POINT SPOTTED .....	<b>BG115PGX3</b>
SEAL MINK MARBLE .....	BG026UIX3
SEAL MINK SPOTTED .....	BG026UGX3
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> MINK MARBLE .....	<b>BG115UIX3</b>
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> MINK SPOTTED .....	<b>BG115UGX3</b>
SEAL SEPIA MARBLE .....	BG026TIX3
SEAL SEPIA SPOTTED .....	BG026TGX3
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> SEPIA MARBLE .....	<b>BG115TIX3</b>
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> SEPIA SPOTTED .....	<b>BG115TGX3</b>
SILVER MARBLE .....	BG021IXX3
SILVER SPOTTED .....	BG021GXX3

### FEMALE

BROWN MARBLE .....	BG025IXX4
BROWN SPOTTED .....	BG025GXX4
SEAL LYNX POINT MARBLE .....	BG026PIX4
SEAL LYNX POINT SPOTTED .....	BG026PGX4
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> LYNX POINT MARBLE .....	<b>BG115PIX4</b>
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> LYNX POINT SPOTTED .....	<b>BG115PGX4</b>
SEAL MINK MARBLE .....	BG026UIX4
SEAL MINK SPOTTED .....	BG026UGX4
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> MINK MARBLE .....	<b>BG115UIX4</b>
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> MINK SPOTTED .....	<b>BG115UGX4</b>
SEAL SEPIA MARBLE .....	BG026TIX4
SEAL SEPIA SPOTTED .....	BG026TGX4
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> SEPIA MARBLE .....	<b>BG115TIX4</b>
<b>SEAL SILVER</b> SEPIA SPOTTED .....	<b>BG115TGX4</b>
SILVER MARBLE .....	BG021IXX4
SILVER SPOTTED .....	BG021GXX4

NOTE: The colour codes used previously for the Seal Silver Lynx point(026PY, 026PZ), Seal Silver Mink (026UY, 026UZ), and Seal Silver Sepia (026TY, 026TZ) tabbies has been discontinued. **The NEW colour code for Seal Silver is 115 replacing the previously required classification codes Y & Z.**