

# NORWEGIAN FOREST CAT

The Norwegian Forest Cat is a sturdy, strongly built cat of Scandinavian origin. It is a natural breed and has evolved from domesticated cats that lived in the wild. The coat provides evidence of these origins; a semi-long coat, that has a woolly undercoat, covered by smooth, water repellent guard hairs. Its head is distinctive, shaped like an equilateral triangle. The Norwegian Forest Cat is slow to mature and does not reach its full growth until approximately five years of age.

## I – BODY/CONFORMATION (30)

**(10) BODY** – The body is of moderate length, heavily boned, with a powerful appearance showing a full chest and considerable girth without being fat. Males should be large and imposing; females proportionately smaller. It should be noted that this breed is not fully mature until five years of age. The flank (fleshy areas of the side between the ribs and the hips) has great depth causing considerable depth to the body when viewed from the side.

**(10) LEGS & FEET** – Legs are medium in length with the hind legs longer than the front legs making the rump higher than the shoulders. The thighs are heavily muscled with substantial lower legs. When viewed from the rear, the back legs are straight. The front feet appear to “toe out”. The feet are large, round firm and well-tufted.

**(10) TAIL** – Long and flowing. The desirable length should be equal to the body from the base of the tail to the shoulders.

## II – HEAD TYPE (30)

**(10) SHAPE & PROPORTION** – Triangular shaped. Leaning toward, but not quite approaching an equilateral triangle (all three sides equal in length) from the outer base of the ears to the tip of the chin. The overall appearance should be as long as it is broad. The frontal skull is flat. The neck is medium to short with heavy musculature, not in proportion to the body.

**(5) NOSE & PROFILE** – The nose is medium to long, straight from the top of the forehead to the tip of the nose with no break.

**(3) MUZZLE** – The muzzle follows the line of the triangular head with no evidence of pinch or snippiness.

**(2) CHIN** – Chin shall be firm with no malocclusions and shall be gently rounded in profile.

**(5) EARS** – The ears are medium to large, slightly rounded at the tip and set so that the lower edge follows the line of the head down to the chin, arched forward, as if listening. The ears are heavily tufted. Tip tufts are desirable but their absence should not be considered a fault.

**(5) EYES** – Large, almond-shaped and expressive, set at a slight angle with the outer corner slightly higher than the inner corner. It should be noted that between the ages of 6 months to a year, the cat goes through a stage of development where the eyes appear almost round; this should change at the time of the first birthday.

## III – COAT TEXTURE/LENGTH (20)

The Norwegian Forest Cat has a distinguishing double coat. When pressed down with the fingertips, an impression should be left in the coat. The outer coat is long and smooth, soft and not dry, with water repellent guard hairs covering the undercoat. The undercoat should be dense and feel heavy. The ruff consists of three separate sections; short back of the ruff, side mutton chops and a full frontal bib. Allowance should be made for less ruff and britches in younger cats under two years of age. The britches are

full on the hind legs and the coat is uneven. Solid colours, tortoiseshell and bi colours have a smoother, softer coat than tabbies, with a less dense undercoat. It should be noted that it takes about two years of age for coat to come in completely on colours other than tabbies. The season of the year should be considered when judging these cats as the overall coat is shorted and the mutton chops and breast collar are lacking or are much shorter in the summer; during hot weather, the tail, ear and toe tufts distinguish the cat as longhair. Maturity (approximately two years for judging purpose) must also be considered when judging these cats for coat. Cat living in temperate climates exhibit coats which are softer and shorter than those spending time in cooler climates.

## IV – COLOUR (10)

All colours and combinations of colours are acceptable with or without white with the exception of the pointed pattern and self-chocolate and self-lilac colours. In the tabby group, white or off white is allowable on the breast, chin and stomach. White buttons, spots and lockets are allowable in all colours. **EYE COLOUR:** Green-gold eye color is the preferred colour although shades of green and gold are accepted. **White cats or cats with white may be copper eyed, blue eyed, or odd eyed in addition to shades of green and gold.**

## V – CONDITION & BALANCE (10)

The appearance of an alert, healthy, firm, muscular, well developed and well proportioned cat is essential. Good muscle tone is necessary with on evidence of obesity or emaciation. Lack of good condition is evidenced by dullness in the eyes and the lack of coat lustre. The cat should be well-balanced physically and temperamentally, gentle & amenable to handling.

## OBJECTIONS

	<b>DEDUCT</b>
* Short legs.	1-3
* Cobby body.	1-3
* Extremely long body.	1-3
* Nose with a break.	2-4
* Round or square head.	3-5
* Small eyes in mature cats.	1-3
* Dry coat.	3-5
* Matted fur.	3-5
* Short tail.	2-4
* Delicate bone structure.	4-6

## WITHHOLDS

- \* All grounds for withholding awards listed in the General Preface.

## RECOGNIZED COLOURS

Refer to Colours & Patterns appendix for a complete list.

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BREED ORIGIN:	Natural
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:	No Foundation Allowed
SHOWING REQUIREMENTS:	No Foundation Allowed
ALLOWED ANCESTRY:	Norwegian Forest Cat
ALLOWED MATINGS:	Norwegian Forest Cat

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