

# RUSSIAN BLUE

The truest criteria distinguishing the Russian Blue from all other breeds is its soft, lustrous, bright blue, double coat. Gentle, refined and shy, it is playful in manner. Its voice, if any, is soft and sweet. It is slow in maturing and allowances to be made when judging eye colour and coat density in adolescent.

## I – BODY/CONFORMATION (15)

(5) BODY – Fine boned, long firm and muscular; lithe and graceful in outline and carriage without being tubular in appearance. Heavier in repose due to a supple skin and thick coat.

(5) LEGS & FEET – Long and fine-boned with small, neat and well rounded feet.

(5) TAIL – Long and in proportion to body. Thick at base and tapering.

## II – HEAD TYPE (25)

(10) FULL FACE – Medium wedge. Muzzle is blunt and forms part of total wedge without exaggerated pinch or whisker break. Face is broad across eyes due to wide eye set and thick fur at side of head.

(5) PROFILE – Top of skull flat and long, gently descending to slightly below eyes and continuing at a downward angle in a straight line to tip of nose. No nose break or stop. High forehead.

(5) EARS – Rather large and wide at base. Tips are more pointed than rounded. Skin on ears is thin and translucent with little inside furnishings. Outside of ear scantily covered with short, very fine hair, with leather showing through. Set far apart as much on the side of the head as on the top of head.

(5) EYE SHAPE & SET – Almost round but oval enough to show slight oriental slant. Set at least 1 1/2 eye widths apart.

## III – COAT TEXTURE/LENGTH (25)

Double coat. Short, dense, fine and plush-like. It stands out from body due to thick undercoat (this may be felt best by stroking the head).

## IV – COLOUR (30)

(20) COAT COLOUR – Even bright blue throughout. Lighter shades preferred. Guard hairs distinctly silver-tipped giving a silvery sheen or lustrous appearance. Nose leather slate grey. Paw pads lavender pink or mauve.

(10) EYE COLOUR – Emerald green. Deep, even and brilliant. Kittens and adolescents have yellow eyes but by age of four months a green ring must be around each pupil.

## V – CONDITION & BALANCE (5)

Alert. Musculature to be firm and well toned. Proper proportions and balance are more important than exact size.

### OBJECTIONS

	DEDUCT
* Exaggerated pinch or whisker break.	1-3
* Nose break or stop.	1-3
* Dull eyes.	1-3
* Lustreless coat.	1-3

### WITHHOLDS

- \* Lack of green eyes at two years of age.
- \* Nose break or stop.
- \* Lack of undercoat.
- \* All grounds for withholding awards as listed in the General Preface.

## RECOGNIZED COLOUR

Blue

BREED ORIGIN:	Natural
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:	No Foundation Allowed.
SHOWING REQUIREMENTS:	No Foundation Allowed.
ALLOWED ANCESTRY:	Russian Blue
ALLOWED MATINGS:	Russian Blue

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# GENERAL PREFACE

The following shall apply to all breeds or as indicated:

## WITHHOLD AWARDS FOR:

1. More or fewer than five toes on each front paw and four toes on each back paw (Pixie-Bobs are exempt from this rule). Splayed toes are an objection.
2. White lockets, buttons or toes on any cat, except where part of the natural colour / pattern OR unless otherwise specified in the breed standard.
3. Any deformity or disfigurement — hereditary, congenital or acquired.
4. Entries which do not meet correct markings as stated. Entries must be properly and distinctly marked in accordance with the standard for all cats of the tabby variety.
5. A cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (i.e., the presence of powder, or chalk remaining in the coat after normal grooming, the use of tints, colour rinses or other artificial colouring concealment media, sanding or shaving, or knowledge of cosmetic surgery).
6. Any cat not amenable to handling by the judge, its owner or agent. All domestic breeds of cats covered in the standards are expected to be gentle and amenable to handling. Cats should be well-balanced physically and temperamentally.
7. Kinks, visible or invisible. Kink is defined as rigid deflection in the line of the tail, visible or otherwise. Small, invisible bumps shall be considered a fault.
8. Wrong eye colour (unless otherwise specified).
9. Crossed eyes in any breed.
10. Maloccluded jaws.
11. Monorchidism (absence of one testicle) or Cryptorchidism (absence of both testicles) are grounds for withholding awards.
12. Any entry that scores less than 90 points.

## KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING:

1. weak, receding, or protruding chin is to be considered a serious fault. Deductions can be made for chin, profile and balance.
2. Allowance is to be made for stud jowls in males. Usually, males are proportionally larger than females.
3. Allowance is to be made for seasonal variations in coat.
4. Allowance is to be made for faint tabby markings, except where part of the normal colour pattern.
5. Allowance is to be made for undeveloped eye colour and undeveloped coat colour in kittens and young cats.

6. A 'blaze' — two colours on the face divided down the nose— is desirable (all other factors being equal) on the numerous tortoiseshell-like colours and patterns (i.e., tortoiseshell, lilac-cream, champagne-tortie, seal tortie point, etc.)
7. The greenish-yellow eye colour, generally referred to as 'hazel' (not brown) is allowed where stated.
8. Excellence in one aspect of the standard shall not offset deficiency in another. Inasmuch as the standard specifically describes the various parts of the cat's appearance, all judges shall conduct their work in accordance with these specifications.
9. All entries should possess the appropriate weight, condition and balance for its respective breed. Balance is the overall physical picture of the cat. The cat must 'fit together' and any one particular quality must not be emphasized. Judges shall not penalize any fault by a greater amount than the cat would have earned if perfect in that detail.
10. Judges shall penalize for bad condition indicating illness or poor care.
11. Natural lighting should be used wherever possible. Allowances are to be made for (harsh) artificial lighting which may distort eye and coat colour.