

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

It is important to consult the individual breed standard for breed-specific disqualifications. The following list applies to all breeds unless otherwise indicated.

WITHHOLD AWARDS (W/A) 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 disqualification.
 2. White lockets, buttons, or toes on any cat, except where part of the natural colour or pattern, or unless otherwise specified in the breed standard.
 3. Any entry that is declawed. Clear nail-tip covers are allowed.
 4. Any deformity or disfigurement — hereditary, congenital, or acquired. Household Pet entries are exempt from this disqualification.
 5. A cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (e.g., the presence of powder or chalk residue in the coat after normal grooming; the use of tints, colour rinses, or other artificial colouring concealment media; sanding or shaving).
 5. An entry, without provocation, attacks a judge or other person within the ring area, the entry shall be deemed vicious and disqualified (D.V. Disqualified, Vicious).
 6. Kinks, visible or invisible. Kink is defined as a rigid deflection of the tail line, whether visible or not. Small, invisible bumps or calcium deposits shall be considered a fault. Refer to individual breed standards for exceptions to this rule.
 7. Wrong eye colour (unless otherwise specified in a breed's standard).
 8. Crossed eyes in any breed. Household Pet entries are exempt from this disqualification.
 9. Maloccluded jaws.
 10. Monorchidism (the absence of one testicle) or cryptorchidism (the absence of both testicles) is grounds for withholding awards in the Championship (whole adult) or Miscellaneous (whole adult) classes.
 11. Any entry that scores less than 90 points.
6. Excellence in one aspect of the standard shall not offset a deficiency in another. Because the standard specifically describes the various parts of the cat's appearance, all judges shall conduct their judging in accordance with these specifications.
 7. All entries should possess the appropriate weight, condition, and balance for their breed. Balance is the overall physical picture of the cat. The cat must 'fit together', and no single quality **should** be emphasized. Judges shall not penalize any fault by more than the cat would have earned if perfect in that detail.
 8. Judges shall penalize or disqualify N.F.A (No Further Award) for poor condition, indicating illness or poor care.
 9. If an entry has fleas, fungus, ear mites, etc., the judge shall N.F.A. the entry and notify the Show Manager.
 10. An obviously pregnant or lactating queen will be disqualified as N.F.A. (No Further Awards).
 11. Natural lighting should be used wherever possible. Allowances should be made for harsh artificial lighting, which may distort eye and coat colour.
 12. An entry presented in the judging ring showing noticeable effects of a sedative (e.g., third eyelids visible, overly glassy eyes, inability to stand or sit, lack of coordination or muscle control) shall not receive an award. The judge will record N.F.A (No Further Award) in their judge's book.
 13. Any cat too nervous or intractable to handle by the judge or the owner / agent must be disqualified (D.U.H. – Disqualified, Unable to Handle).
 14. A judge may disqualify any entry whose owner / agent draws specific attention to himself or his entry when benching the cat in the judging ring or at any time during judging. Judges shall enter D.L.E. (Disqualified, Lack of Etiquette) in their books.
 15. When an entry's colour or pattern has been misclassified, the entry shall be transferred to its correct class with the owner's permission.
 16. Cats recovering from recent surgery (or injury) where the incision (or wound) has not completely healed, stitches removed, etc.; must be disqualified (N.F.A. – No Further Awards).

FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

1. A weak, receding, or protruding chin is considered a serious fault. Deductions can be made for chin, profile, and balance.
2. Allowance should 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 should be made for faint tabby markings in kittens and young cats, except when they are part of the normal colour pattern.
5. Allowance should be made for undeveloped eye colour and undeveloped coat colour in kittens and young cats.

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