

# SOMALI

**LONGHAIRS AND SHORTHAIRES ARE JUDGED AS SEPARATE BREEDS. JUDGES ARE TO USE THE ABYSSINIAN STANDARD WHEN JUDGING SHORTHAIR SOMALIS, WHILE MAKING ALLOWANCES FOR A SLIGHTLY DENSER AND LONGER COAT.**

The overall impression of the ideal Somali is that of a longhaired Abyssinian. Somalis are well proportioned, medium cats with firm muscular development. In addition, they are lithe. Somalis display and alert, lively interest in their surroundings. Somalis have an even disposition and should be easy to handle. When standing, the Somali gives the impression of being nimble and quick.

## I – BODY/CONFORMATION (25)

(15) **TORSO** – The torso is medium in length, lithe, graceful and displays well developed muscular strength. The rib cage is rounded and the back is gently arched. The flank is level with no tuck-up. The overall body conformation strikes a medium between the extremes of cobby and svelte.

(5) **LEGS & FEET** – The legs are in proportion with the torso. The feet are oval and compact.

(5) **TAIL** – The tail is thick at the base and tapers slightly. It has a full brush. Its length is in balance with the torso.

## II – HEAD TYPE (20)

(5) **SKULL** – The skull is modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes. The brow, cheek and profile “lines” all display a gentle contour. There is a slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead (which should be a good size). The width between the ears flows into the arched neck without a break.

(5) **MUZZLE** – The muzzle follows the gentle contours which conform with the skull when viewed from the front profile. The chin is full and is neither undershot, or overshot. The chin has a rounded appearance. The muzzle should not be sharply pointed and there should not be any evidence of snappiness, foxiness or a whisker pinch.

(5) **EARS** – The large, alert ears are moderately pointed, broad and cupped at the base. Ears are set on a line towards the rear of the skull. The inner ear is furnished. Ear tufts are desirable.

(5) **EYE SHAPE** – The eyes are almond shape, large, brilliant and expressive. The skull aperture is neither round nor Oriental. The eyes are accentuated by dark lid skin which is encircled by a more lightly pigmented area. Above the eye is a short, dark, vertical “pencil stroke”. A dark pencil line continues from the upper lip towards each ear.

## III – COAT TEXTURE/LENGTH (25)

**LONGHAIRS**

(10) **TEXTURE** – The Somali coat is very soft to the touch. It is extremely fine textured and double coated. The more dense the coat, the better.

(15) **LENGTH** – The Somali coat is medium in length except over the shoulder region where a shorter coat is permitted. Preference in this trait is to be given to cats with breeches and ruff which give the cat the appearance of a full coat.

## IV – COLOUR (25)

(10) **COLOUR** – The colour has a radiant, warm, and glowing character. Darker shading along the spine is allowed. The regions comprising the underside of the body, the inside of the legs, and chest lack ticking, barring, necklaces and belly

marks. The upper throat, lips and nostril regions are white to off white in colour. The darker shadings present along the spine continue along the tail and terminate at the tip of the tail. There is a complete absence of rings on the tail.

(10) **TICKING** – Ticking should be distributed proportionately throughout the length of hair. Preference in this trait is given for prominence (contrast) of ticking. Hairs must be ticked with 4 to 6 bands of alternating light and dark colour. In all colours, the lighter tones originate next to the skin.

**NOTE:** Somalis are extremely slow in showing mature ticking, and evenness and depth of coat colour. Allowance should be made for kittens and young adults. As the ticking develops, regions of gray next to the skin are not to be penalized. In immature cats, colour will be richest in the spinal, chest and belly regions.

(5) **EYE COLOUR** – Eye colour is gold, green, hazel or copper. The more richness, depth and evenness of colour, the better.

## V – CONDITION & BALANCE (5)

Somalis give the appearance of activity, alertness, sound health and general vigor.

## OBJECTIONS

	DEDUCT
* Lack of facial markings.	1-3
* Mottling or speckling on unticked areas.	1-3
* Cold, grey or sandy tones in coat colour of mature cats.	1-3
* Necklaces, leg bars, tabby stripes or bars on the body.	1-3

**NOTE:** Allowances to be made for slight barring, light necklaces, shoulder markings and dark roots in kittens and young adults.

## WITHHOLDS

- \* Wrong colour of nose leather or paw pads.
- \* Unbroken necklaces.
- \* White locket(s), white groin spot(s) or white anywhere on the body except in the upper throat, chin and nostril regions.

## RECOGNIZED COLOURS

Ruddy, Sorrel, Blue, Fawn

BREED ORIGIN:	Mutation
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:	F1 allowed
SHOWING REQUIREMENTS:	F1 allowed
ALLOWED ANCESTRY:	Somali (LH & SH), Abyssinian
ALLOWED MATINGS:	Somali (LH & SH), Abyssinian

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