SOMALI

LONGHAIR AND SHORTHAIR ARE JUDGED AS SEPARATE BREEDS.

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 snippiness, 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)

LONGHAIR

(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.

SHORTHAIR

(10) TEXTURE – The Somali SHORTHAIR coat is soft, dense, with moderate resilience to the touch with a lustrous sheen.

(15) LENGTH – The Somali SHORTHAIR coat is medium in length and long enough to accommodate four or six alternating light and dark coloured bands.The coat is longest at the spine, gradually shortening over the saddle, flank, legs and head.

IV – COLOUR (25)

(10) COLOUR – The colour has a radiant, warm, and glowing character. Darker shading along the spine is allowed. The regions compromising 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 trail 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, No AOV
ALLOWED MATINGS:	Somali (LH & SH), Abyssinian, No AOV

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Refer to General Preface at the end of this document for disqualifications and objections not listed here.

COLOURS
BLUE
FAWN
RUDDY
SORREL

BLUE

Coat: Warm, soft blue-grey.

Undersides: Body, chest and inside of the legs are to be a warm cream to beige which harmonizes with the undercoat colour. Darker shading along the spine is allowed, if fully ticked. Tail is tipped with slate blue and is without rings.

Ticking: Various shades of slate blue. Outer tip to be darkest with a warm undercoat.

Ears: Tipped with slate blue.

Nose Leather: Dark pink.

Paw Pads: Mauve, with slate blue between pads extending slightly beyond the pads.

Eye Colour: Gold, green, hazel or copper.

Objections: Incorrect nose leather.

Withhold Awards: Incorrect paw pad colour.

FAWN

Coat: Warm, pinkish buff with powdered effect.

Undersides: Body, chest and inside of legs to be a pale oatmeal. Spine shading to be a darker shade of body colour. Tail is tipped with a deep shade of pinkish buff.

Ticking: Ticking is deeper shade of pinkish buff. Preference is to be given to good even ticking. Ticking is slow to develop and could take two years.

Ears: Tipped with deeper shade of pinkish buff.

Nose Leather: Pink-mauve.

Paw Pads: Pink-mauve with a deep pinkish buff between the toes extending slightly beyond paws.

Eye Colour: Gold, green, hazel or copper.

Objections: Incorrect nose leather.

Withhold Awards: Incorrect paw pad colour.

RUDDY

Coat: Rich orange brown.

Undersides: Body, chest and inside of legs are clear, even, orange-brown. Deeper, warmer shades are preferred.

Ticking: Dark brown or black.

Ears: Tipped with black.

Nose Leather: Brick red outlined by a narrow black line.

Paw Pads: Black or dark brown. Hair between the toes and up the back of the calf is black.

Eye Colour: Gold, green, hazel or copper.

Objections: Incorrect nose leather. Pale brown paw pads.

Withhold Awards: Incorrect paw pad colour.

SORREL (Cinnamon)

Coat: Warm sorrel-red to rich cinnamon.

Undersides: Body, chest and inside of the legs are a warm peach to apricot colour. Deeper, warmer shades are preferred.

Ticking: Chocolate brown.

Ears: Tipped with chocolate brown.

Nose Leather: Salmon pink.

Paw Pads: Salmon pink. Hair between the toes and up the back of the calf is chocolate brown.

Eye Colour: Gold, green, hazel or copper.

Objections: Incorrect nose leather.

Withhold Awards: Incorrect paw pad colour. Black hairs.

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Refer to Breed Standard and General Preface for disqualifications and objections not listed here.

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.

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.
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, stiches removed, etc.; must be disqualified (N.F.A. – No Further Awards).