

## BREED GUIDE

### GROUP ONE

**Birman:** A cat of mystery and legend, the Birman is a colour-pointed cat with long, silky hair and four, pure-white feet. It is strongly built, elongated and stocky, neither svelte nor cobby. The distinctive head has strong jaws, a firm chin and a medium-length, Roman nose. The blue, almost-round eyes are set well apart, giving a sweet expression to the face.

**Exotic:** This cat has Persian conformation and colour but is short coated. A description of the Persian breed appears below.

**Maine Coon:** Originally a working cat, the Maine Coon is solid, rugged, and can endure a harsh climate. A distinctive characteristic is its smooth, shaggy coat. It should be well-proportioned and balanced in appearance with no part of the cat being exaggerated. Quality should never be sacrificed for size. With an essentially amiable disposition, it has adapted to varied environments.

**Norwegian Forest Cat:** This is a sturdy cat with a distinguishing double coat and easily recognisable body shape. It is the original farm cat of northern Europe and Europeans report that cats of this breed can come head-first down trees. It is a sturdy, slow-maturing breed with a distinguishing double coat and attains full growth at approximately five years of age.

**Persian:** The ideal Persian should present an impression of a heavily boned, well-balanced cat with a sweet expression and soft, round lines. The large, round eyes set wide apart in a large, round head contribute to the overall look and expression. The long, thick coat softens the lines of the cat and accentuates the roundness in appearance.

**Ragdoll:** This is a very laid-back cat. The ideal Ragdoll is a well-balanced cat with no extreme features. It is a medium to large, moderately longhaired, blue-eyed, pointed cat. The point markings may be covered by a range of white overlay patterns. Ragdolls are slow maturing, reaching full coat and colour at about three years of age. The Ragdoll is an affectionate and intelligent cat, giving the impression of graceful movement and subdued power, and is striking in appearance.

**Siberian:** Russia's native forest cat first appeared in recorded history around the year 1000 and hails from the unforgiving climate of Siberia. This is a cat that nature designed to survive. The Siberian is a medium to medium-large, strong, triple-coated cat with surprising weight for its size. The overall appearance should be one of strength, presence and alertness, with a sweet facial expression. The breed is extremely slow to mature taking as long as five years.

**Turkish Van:** This is a natural breed from the rugged, remote and climatically-varied region of the Middle East. The breed is known for its unique, distinctive pattern; the term "van" is used describe white cats with coloured head and tail markings. The Turkish Van is a solidly-built, semi-longhaired breed. This breed takes a full three to five years to reach full maturity and development. Turkish Vans are very intelligent, alert and strong cats and, as such, feel more secure and handle better with all four feet on a solid surface.

### GROUP TWO

**Balinese:** The ideal Balinese is a svelte, dainty cat with long tapering lines. It is very lithe and muscular and in excellent physical condition. The coat is medium-long and silky, slightly longer around the neck, and long on the tail to form a brush or plume. Body, points and eye colour conform in all respects to the comparable Siamese varieties; the only difference is in hair length.

**Foreign White:** This is a man-made, totally-white Siamese with blue eyes and its coat can be either longhair or shorthair. A full description of the Siamese breed appears below.

**Oriental:** With Siamese type, the oriental may be solid colour, tabby, tortoiseshell, or smoke but not displaying "points". It always has green eye colour. The ideal Oriental is a svelte cat with long, tapering lines and is very lithe but muscular. It should be in excellent physical condition, strong, and neither bony nor flabby.

**Oriental Longhair (Javanese):** The Oriental Longhair conforms in all respects to the comparable Oriental Shorthair for type, coat colour, and eye colour. Length and texture of coat are the same as for the Balinese.

**Peterbald:** The Peterbald is an intelligent, medium-sized cat with a sturdy, lean, elongated body that contributes to its graceful movement. An important characteristic of the breed is that it has three distinctive coat types — hairless, flocked or velour, and brushed. Peterbalds originated in Russia in January 1994. They were originally produced by mating an Oriental Shorthair with a Don Hairless (Don Sphynx). The original litter demonstrated that the Don Hairless gene is a

dominant gene, unlike the Sphynx gene. It also demonstrated various unusual coat types, including the distinctive brush coat.

**Siamese:** The ideal Siamese is a medium-sized, svelte, refined cat with long tapering lines. It is very lithe but muscular. Balance and refinement are the essence of the breed, where all parts come together harmoniously with neither too much nor too little consideration given to any one feature. All Siamese cats have blue eyes.

## GROUP THREE

**Abyssinian:** Allegedly the cat of the Pharaohs, the Abyssinian is slim and muscular. The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian is of a colourful cat with a distinctly ticked coat, medium in size, and regal in appearance. The Abyssinian is lithe, hard and muscular, showing eager activity and a lively interest in all surroundings. The cat should be well balanced temperamentally and physically, with all elements of the cat in proportion.

**American Curl:** The distinctive feature of the American Curl is its attractive, uniquely-curved-back ears. The original American Curl, a longhaired female named Shulamith, was first noted in Southern California in 1981. Selective breeding began in 1983. American Curlys are elegant, well balanced, moderately muscled and slender. They are alert and active with gentle, even dispositions.

**American Shorthair:** This is a true breed of working cat. The conformation should be adapted for this with no part of the anatomy so exaggerated as to foster weakness. The general effect should be that of a strongly built, well-balanced, symmetrical cat with conformation indicating power, endurance, and agility. American Shorthairs come in many colours, and both longhair and shorthair, but the tabby and silver tabby colours are striking.

**Australian Bombay:** The Australian Bombay cat is a medium sized, elegant cat, heavier and more muscular than it looks with a friendly relaxed nature and even-tempered. Distinguishing features are the painted on glossy black coat and the striking contrast of gold to copper eyes

**Australian Mist:** Developed in Australia, this is the only "Aussie breed". The Mist is a well-balanced cat of moderate type, with no tendency to extremes in any of its characteristics. Mists come in two patterns, spotted and marbled, and in a variety of colours.

**Bengal:** Developed in the United States, the goal of the Bengal breeding program was to create a domestic cat that has the distinctive physical features of the small, forest-dwelling, wild cats, but with the loving, dependable temperament of the domestic cat. The Bengal cat has a basic, "feral" appearance and is sleek and very muscular.

**British Shorthair:** The British Shorthair is compact, well-balanced and powerful with a broad chest. The head is round with good width between the ears, round cheeks, and large, round and well-opened eyes. The coat is short and very dense. This breed takes a full three to five years to reach full maturity and development. They come in many colours and patterns.

**Burmese:** The overall impression of the ideal Burmese is a cat of medium size with substantial bone structure, good muscular development, and a surprising weight for its size. This, together with a rounded head, expressive eyes and a sweet expression presents a distinctive cat that is comparable to no other breed. Burmese come in a range of colours from cream to brown to tortoiseshell.

**Burmilla:** This is a manmade breed originating in the United Kingdom where a Chinchilla male, Jemari Sanquist, met up with a lilac Burmese female, Bambino Lilac Faberge, thus producing the first litter of Burmillas. The aim of the Burmilla program was to produce a shorthair cat of Burmese type, with the sparkling silver coat, the lambent green eyes, and the "make-up" (eye- and nose-liner) of the Chinchilla.

**Cornish Rex:** This cat is distinguished from all other breeds by its extremely soft, wavy coat and racy type. It is surprisingly heavy and warm to the touch. All contours of the Cornish Rex are gently curved. By nature, the Cornish Rex is intelligent, alert, and generally likes to be handled. Any colour or pattern is allowed.

**Cymric:** This is a longhaired Manx. A description of the Manx breed can be found below.

**Devon Rex:** Known as the "E.T." cat, it is a breed of unique appearance. Its large eyes, short muzzle, prominent cheekbones, and huge, lowset ears create a characteristic elfin look. The Devon Rex is well covered with soft, wavy fur of a distinctive texture, as the mutation that causes its wavy coat is cultivated in no other breed. The Devon is alert and active and shows a lively interest in its surroundings.

**Egyptian Mau:** This is the only natural, domesticated breed of spotted cat. The Mau's impression should be one of an active, colourful cat of medium size with well-developed muscles. It has perfect physical condition with an alert appearance and is well balanced physically and temperamentally.

**Japanese Bobtail:** The Japanese Bobtail should be a medium-sized, well-muscled, straight and slender cat. The unique set of its eyes, combined with high cheek bones and a long parallel nose, lends a distinctive Japanese cast to the face, especially in profile, quite different from the other oriental breeds. Its short tail should resemble a bunny tail with the hair fanning out to create a pom-pom appearance that effectively camouflages the underlying bone structure of the tail. Overall balance, elegance and refinement are the essence of the Japanese Bobtail breed.

**Korat:** the Korat is a rare cat even in Thailand, its country of origin, and because of its fine disposition, is greatly loved by the Thai people who regard it as a “good luck” cat. Its general appearance is of a silver-blue cat with a heavy silver sheen, medium-sized, hard-bodied, and muscular. This cat is all smooth curves with luminous eyes.

**LaPerm:** This cat is a naturally-occurring mutation that produces both long- and shorthair varieties with a curly coat resembling a “Gypsy Shag”. The hair is soft and bouncy with ringlet-type curls at the base of the ears and underside of the neck. It is medium-sized and of moderate type. There is evidence of surprising weight for size. The cat is alert and seems to be walking tall on its feet. This breed matures in two to three years, with the females maturing sooner than the males.

**Manx:** The overall impression of the Manx cat is that of roundness — a round head with firm, round muzzle and prominent cheeks. This cat has a broad chest; substantial, short front legs, a short back that arches from shoulders to a round rump without a tail. The Manx should be alert, clear-eyed, with a glistening, well-groomed coat. They should be surprisingly heavy when lifted. Manx may be slow to mature.

**Ocicat:** The Ocicat is a medium to large, well-spotted, tabby cat that displays the look of an athletic animal. It is well-muscled and solid, graceful and lithe. It is alert to its surroundings and shows great vitality. There are 12 accepted Ocicat colours with all specimens possessing darker spots that appear in deep contrast to a lighter background. This powerful, athletic, yet graceful, spotted cat is particularly noted for its “wild” appearance.

**Pixiebob:** Originating in the north-western United States, the Pixiebob is a muscular cat bred to resemble the wild Coastal Red Bobcat found in the coastal mountains of the area. These intelligent cats replicate the look of the wild bobcat but have the loving personality of the domestic cat. Often called dogs in disguise the Pixiebob can be taught to walk on a leash. Cats of this breed have a distinctive “bobbed” tail.

**Russian:** Little is known about the origin of the Russian. However, stories and legends abound. Many believe the Russian is a natural breed originating from the Archangel Isles in northern Russia. It is a gentle, affectionate cat easily distinguished from other breeds. One of the most outstanding features is a short, dense coat of an even, bright blue colour with each hair dipped in silver. This silver tipping gives the Russian a silvery sheen and lustrous appearance that can best be appreciated in natural light.

**Scottish Fold:** The Scottish Fold cat occurred as a spontaneous mutation in farm cats in Scotland. The breed has been established by crossing to British Shorthair and domestic cats in Scotland and England. All *bona fide* Scottish Fold cats trace their pedigree to Susie, the first fold-ear cat discovered by the founders of the breed, William and Mary Ross. Scottish Folds are hardy cats, much like their barnyard ancestors. Their disposition matches their sweet expression. They have tiny voices and are not extremely vocal. They adore human companionship and display this in their own quiet way.

**Scottish Fold Longhair:** This breed is identical in appearance to Scottish Folds but with a longer coat.

### **Scottish Shorthair**

### **Scottish Longhair**

**Selkirk Rex:** The Selkirk Rex is a medium to large cat with solid muscle tone and substantial boning. Its curly coat is very dense but overall should feel soft and plush. The coat comes in two lengths, short and semi-long. The head is round and broad with a rectangular muzzle with large round eyes and medium sized ears. The Selkirk comes in many colours and patterns and is an alert cat with a laid back personality. They are friendly and affectionate, with a sweet endearing disposition and make wonderful family pets.

**Singapura:** The appearance is of an alert healthy, small- to medium-sized, muscular-bodied cat with noticeably large eyes and ears in proportion to its head. The Singapura's disposition is that of a “pesky people cat” — an extroverted, curious, playful but non-destructive cat that insists on helping you with everything. They are very intelligent and interactive with people and remain so, even into old age.

**Somali:** This is a semi-longhaired Abyssinian and the overall impression of the Somali is that of a well-proportioned, medium to large cat with firm muscular development. It is lithe, showing an alert, lively interest in all surroundings, with an even disposition, and is easy to handle.

**Sphynx:** The most distinctive feature of this cat is its appearance of hairlessness. The Sphynx is of medium size and body conformation with surprising weight for its size. The body feels warm and soft to the touch, with a skin texture akin to either a soft peach or a smooth nectarine. The Sphynx is sweet-tempered, lively, and amenable to handling.

**Tonkinese:** This is a man-made breed that was developed by mating a Siamese to a Burmese. The ideal Tonkinese is intermediate in type, neither cobby nor svelte. The Tonkinese should give the overall impression of an alert, active cat with good muscular development. The cat should be surprisingly heavy. Some Tonkinese have a distinctive “mink” pattern in their coats and turquoise eyes.

## **COMPANIONS**

Companions Cats: These come in an assortment of colours and shapes and, as there is no set standard by which they can be judged, the judge assesses on the basis of overall condition, well-being, personality, temperament, and the appeal of markings.