

AMERICAN CURL (**Longhair**[ACL] **Shorthair**[ACS]) (Standard Source: TICA 2012)

General:

The distinctive feature of the American Curl breed is their unique, attractive curled ears. American Curls are a well-balanced, moderately muscled, medium built cat. They are alert and active with gentle, even dispositions and come in either short or longhair.

Head: Modified wedge without flat planes; approximately 1-1/2 times longer than wide. Profile shows straight nose with gentle rise from bridge of nose to forehead which then flows into arched neck without a break. Muzzle rounded with gentle transition; no whisker break. Firm chin, in line with nose and upper lip.

Ears: The overall appearance of the ear should be one that is aesthetically pleasing to view. Minimum 90 degree arc of curl. Firm cartilage from ear base to at least one-third of height of ear. Wide at base and open; curving back in an arc when viewed from the front, side or rear. The surface of the curved portion of the ear should be smooth. Tips rounded and flexible. Moderately large in proportion to head. Erect, set equally on top and side of head. Furnishings [horizontal] are desirable.

NOTE: When alert ears are swivelled toward the front, lines following through the curve of the ears should point to the centre of the base of the skull.

Eyes: Walnut in shape; oval on top and rounded on bottom. Moderately large in proportion to head. Set on a slight angle between the base of the ear and the tip of the nose, one eye-width apart.

Body: Rectangular, length to be approximately 1-1/2 times the height at the shoulders. Medium, neither fine-boned nor heavy-boned. Moderate strength and tone. Balance/proper proportion is more important than overall size.

Legs and Feet: Legs medium in proportion to body. Set straight when viewed from front or rear. Feet are medium and rounded.

Tail: Flexible, wide at base and tapering; equal to body length.

Coat: **Longhair:** Fine, silky, laying flat. Semi-long with tail coat full and plumed. Minimal undercoat.

Shorthair: Soft, silky, lying flat, resilient without a plush dense feel. Short with tail coat same length as body coat. Minimal undercoat.

For colour and patterns recognised refer to the descriptions below.

Remarks: Allow for stud jowls in males and for proportionately larger size in males.

Faults: Body: Excessive size without proper conformation.

Coat: Heavy undercoat/heavy ruff. Coarse, cottony or fluffy coat texture. Dense or plush coat.

Ears: Vertical/horizontal crimps. Depressions or ripples on the surface of the curled portion of the ears. Low set ears. Abrupt change of direction rather than a smooth curve.

NOTE: Vertical and horizontal crimp are two opposite and undesirable extremes affecting the base of the curled ear. The former causing the base to appear too narrow, the latter causing the base to appear too wide.

Withhold

Challenge: ~

Disqualify: Tail faults of any kind. Straight or severely mismatched ears. Lack of firm cartilage in base of ear. Extreme curl in an adult cat where the tip of the ear touches the back of the head or the ear itself. Ear tips that are not flexible. Ears in which the lower portion of the ear is abnormally flattened, has compressed ridges of cartilage and does not have a normal, visible ear cavity.

STANDARD OF POINTS

Head	<i>shape (6) chin (2) muzzle (2) profile (5)</i>	15 points
Ears:		20 points
Eyes:		5 points
Body:	<i>torso (10) boning/musculature (10)</i>	20 points
Legs and Feet:		5 points
Tail:		5 points
Coat:	<i>length (5) texture (10)</i>	15 points
Colour:	<i>and pattern</i>	5 points
Condition:	<i>balance (10)</i>	10 points

100 points

COLOURS AND PATTERNS RECOGNISED

General Description

Eye Colour: Clear and brilliant with no relation to coat colour, except that blue eyes are required on all pointed cats.

Coat Colour: All colours allowed [except amber] including with white; any amount of white is allowed, ie. blaze, locket, white on chest/belly/paws etc. Well-defined, sound colour preferred.

Coat Pattern: All patterns allowed. Well-defined, clear pattern preferred.

Nose Leather: In accordance with coat colour, outlined in agouti varieties.

Paw Pads: In accordance with coat colour.

Remarks: For judging purposes varieties are divided into Agouti, Agouti & White, Non-agouti and Non-agouti & White (ie in each group a certificate is awarded).

Faults: ~

Withhold

Challenge: ~

Disqualify: ~

BREEDERS NOTES

Allowable outcross: Domestic longhair/shorthair, not a member of a recognised breed.