

## SOMALI [SOM] (Standard Source: FIFe 1987)

### General

The Somali is the longhaired version of the Abyssinian. The Somali is a well-balanced cat, with all elements in proportion. It is eager and active, and shows a lively interest in its surroundings.

**Head** Wedge-shaped, of medium proportions, wide at the top; the contours are soft and graceful. In profile the head shows a soft curve, with neither a stop nor a straight nose. Nose medium long. Chin firm and well developed; muzzle not sharply pointed. A shallow indentation forming the muzzle is desirable. Neck slender.

**Ears:** Relatively large, set well apart and pricked, broad and cupped at the base. Set as though listening. They are slightly rounded at the tips with a thumb mark; tufts at the tips are desirable.

**Eyes:** Set wide apart, large, brilliant and expressive; almond in shape and outlined with dark colour.

**Body** Medium build, firm, lithe, hard and muscular; body of medium length.

**Legs and Feet:** Legs fine and long, in proportion to the body; feet small and oval. Gives the impression of standing on tiptoe.

**Tail:** Fairly long and tapering, broad at base. Well furnished.

**Coat:** Texture very soft to the touch, extremely fine and very dense; the denser the better. Of medium length except on the shoulders where it can be a little shorter. Preference is given to a cat with ruff and breeches.

*For colours and patterns recognised refer to descriptions below.*

**Remarks:** A bump on the nose is undesirable.

**Faults:** Small or pointed ears. Round eyes. Cobby appearance. Too deep a nose break. Muzzle pinch.

### Withhold

**Challenge:** Siamese type. Round head. Whip tail.

**Disqualify:** ~

### SCALE OF POINTS

Head:	<i>including ears</i>	15 points
Ears:		~ points
Eyes:	<i>shape and colour</i>	10 points
Body:	<i>including tail and legs</i>	20 points
Legs and Feet:		~ points
Tail:		~ points
Coat:	<i>including texture (10) &amp; length (15)</i>	25 points
Colour:	<i>including coat (15) &amp; ticking (10)</i>	25 points
Condition:		5 points

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**100 points**

## COLOURS AND PATTERNS RECOGNISED

### General Description

**Eye Colour:** Amber, green or yellow; pure, intense colour.

**Coat Colour:** Tawny (Ruddy) (*SOM n*), Cinnamon (Sorrel) (*SOM o*), Blue (*SOM a*), Fawn (Beige-Fawn) (*SOM p*), Black Silver (*SOM ns*), Cinnamon Silver (*SOM os*), Blue Silver (*SOM as*), Fawn Silver (*SOM ps*).

### Coat Pattern:

**Ticked:** Base colour, with head, neck, back and extremities showing pronounced ticking. Ticking consists of 2 or 3 bands of colour on each hair ending with dark tip. Colour on stomach and inside of legs to harmonise with base colour. Any shading along spine line should be of a shade matching the ticking. Soles of hind feet and tip of tail in solid colour.

### Silver Ticked:

As for Ticked except: Base colour is pure silver-white for all recognised colours.

**Remarks:** The development of ticking is slow in the Somali; allowance should be made for this in kittens and young adults. The true coat is not developed until the age of 2 years.

**Faults:** Unclear eye colour. Ghost marking on legs, stomach and chest. Too much marking on face. Absence of outline around eyes. Cold or sandy colour; lack of ticking in parts of the coat; black at the base of the coat. All Silvers: Any rufism/tarnishing in silver areas. Distinct rufous patches of brown or cream.

### Withhold

**Challenge:** White locket. White extending onto the neck. Unbroken necklace. Grey or light undercoat. Bars on the forelegs, marks on the stomach. Incorrect colour of nose leather and paw pads.

**Disqualify:** ~

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## BREEDERS NOTES

*Allowable outcross: Abyssinian*