

## 15. EMS BREED CODING SYSTEM

The FIFe's Easy Mind System (EMS) simplifies and replaces the combination of letters and numbers used to identify cats. Below is the coding as it applies to ACF recognised Breeds/Colours/Patterns.

### 15.1. RECOGNISED BREEDS:

The first part of the EMS code, written in uppercase letters, denotes the breed. **### subject to change pending FIFe approval**

<b>Group 1:</b>		Japanese Bobtail Shorthair	JBT
Aphrodite (longhair)	APL###	Japanese Bobtail Longhair	JBL <sup>241</sup>
Aphrodite (shorthair)	APS###	Korat	KOR
Birman (breed is actually 'Sacred Birman')	SBI	LaPerm Shorthair	LPS
Exotic	EXO	LaPerm Longhair	LPL
Maine Coon	MCO	Lykoi	LYO
Neva Masquerade	NEM	<b>Mandalay</b>	<b>MDY###</b>
Nebelung	NEB	Manx	MAN
Norwegian Forest	NFO	<b>Munchkin (Longhair)</b>	<b>MUL#</b>
Ragdoll	RAG	<b>Munchkin (shorthair)</b>	<b>MUS#</b>
Persian	PER	Ocicat	OCI
Siberian	SIB	<b>Pixiebob (shorthair)</b>	<b>PXS###</b>
Turkish Angora	TUA	<b>Pixiebob (longhair)</b>	<b>PXL###</b>
Turkish Van	TUV	Russian	RUS
		<b>Scottish Fold (shorthair)</b>	<b>SFS###</b>
		<b>Scottish Fold (longhair)</b>	<b>SFL###</b>
		<b>Scottish Shorthair</b>	<b>SCS###</b>
		<b>Scottish Longhair</b>	<b>SCL###</b>
<b>Group 2:</b>		Selkirk Rex (shorthair)	SRS
Balinese	BAL	Selkirk Rex (longhair)	SRL
Foreign White (shorthair)	SIA w 67	Singapura	SIN
Foreign White (longhair)	BAL w 67	Snowshoe	SNO
Oriental (shorthair)	OSH	Somali	SOM
Oriental (longhair)	OLH	Sphynx	SPH
Peterbald	PEB	Tonkinese	TOS
Siamese	SIA	Toyger	TGR <sup>242</sup>
<b>Group 3:</b>			
Abyssinian	ABY		
American Curl (shorthair)	ACS		
American Curl (longhair)	ACL		
American Shorthair	AMS		
Australian Mist	AUM		
Bengal	BEN		
Bombay (Shorthair USA derived)	BOM		
British Shorthair	BSH <sup>240</sup>		
Burmilla Shorthair	BML		
<b>Burmilla Longhair</b>	<b>BML 81###</b>		
<b>Burmese ('American' style)</b>	<b>BUA###</b>		
<b>Burmese ('European' style)</b>	<b>BUR</b>		
Chartreux	CHA		
Cornish Rex	CRX		
Cymric	CYM		
Devon Rex	DRX		
Egyptian Mau	MAU		
European Shorthair	EUR		
German Rex	GRX		

<sup>240</sup> 2016: Amended Code for British Shorthair from BRI to BSH

<sup>241</sup> 2019: Amended Code for Japanese Bobtail Longhair JBT.8I to JBL and added Nebelung and Munchkin

<sup>242</sup> 2018: Added Code for Toyger and Lykoi

## 15.2. RECOGNISED COLOURS:

The second part of the EMS code, which identifies a cat's colour, is always written in lower case letters.

a = blue  
b = chocolate  
c = lilac  
d = red  
e = cream  
f = black tortie **subject to CFA coding for tri- colour [mike JBT].**  
g = blue tortie  
h = chocolate tortie j = lilac tortie  
m = dilute modifier colour (Dm) am = caramel (blue based) cm = caramel (lilac based) pm = caramel (fawn based) **gm = caramel tortie (blue based) jm = caramel tortie (lilac based) rm = caramel tortie (fawn based)** em = apricot (based on cream) ea \*m = apricot (blue based\*) ec \*m = apricot (lilac based) ep \*m = apricot (fawn based)  
n = black  
o = cinnamon  
p = fawn  
q = cinnamon tortoiseshell  
r = fawn tortoiseshell  
s = silver  
t = charcoal<sup>243</sup>  
w = white  
x = any unrecognised colour  
y = golden  
nt = amber (only NFO)<sup>244</sup>  
at = light amber (only NFO)  
ft = amber tortie (only NFO)  
gt = light amber tortie (only NFO)

'n' comes from the French noir, meaning black. Includes full expression Burmilla; seal (in Himalayan patterned cats), brown (in Bengal, Burmese, some Burmilla [n 31] and Tonkinese [n 32]) tawny (in Abyssinian, Somali and Ocicat).

## 15.3. RECOGNISED PATTERNS

The third part of the EMS code, which identifies a cat's pattern, is also written in lower case letters.

01 = van  
02 = harlequin (not an ACF pattern) 03 = bicolour  
04 = mitted (only applicable to Ragdoll **and Snowshoe###**)  
05 = snowshoe (only applicable to Snowshoe)  
09 = unspecified amount of white (eg: locket)  
11 = shaded  
12 = tipped (shell)  
21 = unspecified tabby pattern  
22 = classic (blotched) tabby  
23 = mackerel tabby  
24 = spotted tabby  
25 = ticked tabby  
**28 = Karpati**  
31 = Burmese pattern (cbcb)  
32 = Mink (FIFe 'Tonkinese') pattern (cbcs)  
33 = Himalayan (pointed) pattern  
**34 = Roan (amelanistic hair) only applicable to Lykoi**

Note: 32 Tonkinese: In ACF, we recognise Tonkinese the breed, whereas FIFe does not and uses the breed's name to indicate the mink pattern in the breeds in which it occurs.

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<sup>243</sup> 2020: Amended: Code for Charcoal (Bengal) from "35" to "t"

<sup>244</sup> FiFe recognise Amber under "t" but do not distinguish the colours

#### 15.4. RECOGNISED EYE COLOURS

The next element of the EMS code is a numerical designation for eye colour, which must be used with breeds that are judged in separate classes according to eye colour.

61 = blue eyed

62 = orange eyed

63 = odd eyed

64 = green

65 = Burmese eye colour

66 = Mink (Tonkinese cbc) eye colour

67 = Siamese eye colour

#### 15.5. BREED SPECIFIC CODES

These codes have been developed for breeds that have particular characteristics:

##### Tail Codes

Codes that apply to only the Manx and its longhaired counterpart, the Cymric to indicate the amount of tail.

51 = rumpy (no tail)

52 = rumpy riser (*a tiny rise in the bone at the end of the spine*)

53 = stumpy (*a rudimentary tail not longer than 3-4 cm [1.2 to 1.6 inches]*)

54 = longie (*a regular or near regular tail these cats are used for breeding but may not be shown*)

##### Ear Codes:

Codes that designate the ear type

The American Curl in both short and longhaired versions which although having a “curled ear” may produce straight eared offspring.

71 = straight ears

72 = curled ears

**NOTE:** The ear code is not applied to the Scottish Fold in both short and long-haired versions which may also produce straight eared offspring although it has a folded ear itself as ACF recognises the straight eared variety as a separate breed Scottish Shorthair/Longhair.

##### Coat Codes:

81 = LH (only applicable to PEB, *BML ##*)

82 = SH (only applicable to PEB)

83 = Brush (only applicable to PEB)

84 = Straight (only applicable to LPS/LPL & *SRS/SRL##*)

##### Toe code:

*91 = Polydactyl (Pixiebob only) ##*

*## subject to change, pending FIFe approval*

## 16. EMS USER GUIDE

As applicable to ACF recognised Breeds colours patterns. A grey background in the text is used to highlight examples.

**General principles and restrictions** Please note the following general principles and restrictions:

- An asterisk [\*] stands for any information according to the EMS System.
- Individual EMS codes will always be separated from each other by a space unless indicated otherwise.
- Individual EMS codes are always shown in ascending order.
- If a breed is limited to only one specific occurrence of a trait, the code for this trait is never used in that full EMS code.

### Breeds

The names of the breeds are always indicated in three capital letters.

PER

BSH

### Non-recognised breeds (non)

If the cat belongs to a non-recognised breed, always put 'non' after the breed code.

AMW non (eg American Wirehair)

### Non-recognised varieties (x)

If the cat belongs to a non-recognised variety, write an 'x' before the colour code.

MCO x am

### Colours (a, b, c, etc.)

The colour codes are always indicated in lower case letters BSH a

NFO nt

Note: the codes for amber (\*t) are only applicable to NFO. If the cat's breed is limited to only one colour and the cat doesn't show any pattern, don't use any colour code. BOM (and not BOM n)

### Silver (s) / golden (y)

If the cat shows silver or golden, it will always have a lower case 's' or 'y', which is, [except in the case of amber (\*t)], not separated by a space from its main colour code.

PER \*s

BSH \*y

The code for silver or for golden may not be used for hairless breeds (SPH & PEB), regardless of the cat's genotype.

The code for dilute modifier is not separated by a space from its main colour code.

### Amount of White (01-09)

If the cat shows an amount of white, write the code for that amount of white.

PER \*01 BSH \*03

Code 04 is only applicable to RAG

Code 05 is only applicable to SNO  
If the cat's breed is limited to only one kind of white spotting, do not use any code.

TUV \* (and not TUV \* 01)

### Tabby Patterns (11, 12, 21-25)

If the cat is agouti, the code for the pattern code must be indicated.

PER \*11

BSH \*22

If the cat's breed is limited to only one pattern, do not use any additional code for pattern

ABY n (and not ABY n 25)

Exception is

OCI \* 24

If the cat's breed is limited to only one colour/pattern, do not use any additional code for colour nor for pattern.

SIN (and not SIN n 25)

The tabby pattern for cats with an amount of white 03 or 09 must be identifiable (22-25) and the code 21 may not be used.

PER \* 03 22 (and not PER \* 03 21)

CRX \* 09 24 (and not CRX \* 03 21)

Since it is often hard to determine the kind of tabby pattern, code 21 must always be used in case of:

- Tabby pointed or hairless breeds  
RAG \* 04 21 (and not RAG \*04 22)  
SPH \* 03 21 (and not SPH \*03 24)
- Tabby cats with the amount of white 01, including tabby TUV

PER \* 01 21 (and not PER \*01 22)

TUV \*21 (and not TUV \* 23)

The codes of 11, 12, & 22 to 25 may not be used here, regardless of the cat's genotype or phenotype.

### Pointed patterns (31-33)

If the cat is pointed, you must use the appropriate code

PER \* 33 SPH \* 32

If the cat's breed is limited to only one pointed variety, do not use any code for pointed

BUR \* (and not BUR \* 31)

SIA \* (and not SIA \* 33)

### Tail (51-54)

These codes are only applicable to MAN and CYM. Code 54 is a *non-*

*recognised variety for showing* for MAN/CYM. MAN x \* 54

### Eye Colour (61-67)

The code for eye colour must be used if:

- The cat is white (w); or
- The cat is non-pointed; and has an amount of white (01)

PER \* 01 63

TUV \* 62

The code for eye colour also must be used for EXO, PER or BSH if;

- The cat is a silver tabby (\*\*s 2\*) and
- Its variety is not limited to one eye colour.

PER \* s 22 62, PER \* s 22 64

BSH \* 03 24 62,

BSH \* s 03 24 64

The code for eye colour is *never* used if:

- The cats' breed is ABY, BEN, BML, OCI or SOM; or
- The cat's breed is limited to only one eye colour.

BUR \* (and not BUR \* 65) RUS

(and not RUS \* 64) The

exception is:

SIA/BAL w 67 (and not SIA/BAL w)

- The cat's variety is limited to only one eye colour.

PER \* 03 (and not PER \* 03 62 BSH a (and not BSH a 62

MAU ns 24 (and not MAU ns 24 64)

- The cat's breed EUR or its breed is judged in groups, *always except* for white (w) and non-pointed van (01) varieties

MCO n (and not MCO n 62)

NFO ns 22 (and not NFO ns 22 62)

- The exception is PEB (all coat types judged together).

### Ears (71-72)

These codes are applicable to ACS/ACL

Code 71 is for *non-recognised variety for showing* for ACS/ACL.

ACS x \* 71

### Coat Structure (81-84)

These codes for coat structure are only applicable to BML, JBT, SIA w 67, (81), PEB (81-83) LPS/LPL and SRS/SRL (84).

BML \* 81 PEB \* 82, PER \* 83, LPS \* 84

### Toe code (91)

This code is only applicable to *Polydactyl/PXS/PXL*. PXS \* 91