

BENGAL [BEN] (Standard Source: TICA 1996 / CCCA 2019 Charcoal)

General

The goal of the Bengal breeding program is to create a domestic cat which has the physical features distinctive to the small forest-dwelling wild cats, but with the loving dependable temperament of the domestic cat. Keeping this goal in mind, judges shall give special merit to those characteristics in the appearance of the Bengal which are distinct from those found in other domestic cat breeds.

A Bengal cat is an athletic animal, alert to its surroundings; a friendly, curious, confident cat with strength, agility, balance and grace. It is a medium to large cat which exhibits a very muscular and solid build. Its wide nose with prominent whisker pads and large oval, almost round eyes in a slightly small head enhance the wild appearance and expressive nocturnal look. It's very slight, to nearly straight, concave profile and relatively short ears with wide base and rounded tips add to the Bengal's distinctive and unique appearance. The short, dense coat has a uniquely soft and silky feel. The coat may be glittered or not glittered, with neither type to be given preference. A thick, low-set, medium-length tail adds balance to the cat.

Head:	Broad modified wedge with rounded contours. Longer than it is wide. Slightly small in proportion to body, but not to be taken to extreme. The skull behind the ears makes a gentle curve and flows into the neck. Overall look of the head should be as distinct from the domestic cat as possible. Muzzle is full and broad, with large, prominent whisker pads and high, pronounced cheekbones. Slight muzzle break at the whisker pads. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males. In profile curve of the forehead should flow into the bridge of the nose with no break. Bridge of nose extends above the eyes; the line of the bridge extends to the nose tip, making a very slight, to nearly straight, concave curve. Nose is large and wide; slightly puffed nose leather. Chin is strong, aligns with tip of nose in profile. Nose is long, substantial, muscular; in proportion to the head and body.
Ears:	Medium to small, relatively short, with wide base and rounded tops. Set as much on side as top of head, following the contour of the face in the frontal view, and pointing forward in the profile view. Light horizontal furnishings acceptable, but lynx-like tufts [vertical] are undesirable.
Eyes:	Oval, almost round, allowance for slight almond shape. Large, but not bugged. Set wide apart, back into face, and on slight bias toward base of ear. The more richness and depth of colour the better. Both eyes to be of the same colour.
Body:	Long and substantial, not oriental or foreign. Medium to large (but not quite as large as the largest domestic breed). Boning is sturdy, firm; never delicate. Very muscular, especially in the males, one of the most distinguishing features. Allowance for smaller size, in balanced proportion of females.
Legs and Feet:	Medium length, slightly longer in the back than in the front. Feet large, round, with prominent knuckles.
Tail:	Medium length, thick, tapered at end with rounded tip.
Coat:	Short to medium length. Allowance for slightly longer coat in kittens. Dense and luxurious, close lying, unusually soft and silky to the touch.
Remarks:	~
Faults:	~
Withhold	
Challenge:	~
Disqualify	~

SCALE OF POINTS

Head	10 points
Ears	10 points
Eyes	5 points
Neck	5 points
Body	10 points
Legs	5 points
Feet	5 points
Coat	10 points
Colour	10 points
Pattern	30 points
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	100 points

COLOURS AND PATTERNS RECOGNISED

General Description

Eye Colour: The more richness and depth of colour the better. Both eyes to be of the same colour.
Brown Tabby & Black Silver Tabby (spotted/marbled): any colour except blue or aqua.
Seal Sepia Tabby and Seal Silver Sepia Tabby: gold to green.
Seal Mink Tabby and Seal Silver Mink Tabby: blue-green (aqua).
Seal Tabby Point and Seal Silver Tabby Point: blue.
Brown Charcoal Tabby and Black Silver Charcoal Tabby: gold, green or hazel with deep shades preferred and should harmonise with intensity of coat colour.

Coat Colour: Only as listed below.

Coat Pattern: Tabby pattern comes as spotted, marbled and charcoal only.

Spotted (24) Spots shall be random or aligned horizontally. Rosettes formed by a part-circle of spots around a distinctly redder centre are preferable to single spotting, but not required. Contrast with ground colour must be extreme, giving distinct pattern and sharp edges. Strong, bold chin strap and mascara markings desirable. Blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks desirable. Belly must be spotted.

Marbled (22) Markings, while derived from the classic tabby gene, shall be uniquely different with as little "bulls-eye" similarity as possible. Pattern shall, instead, be random giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow when the cat is stretched. Vertical striped mackerel influence is also undesirable. Preference should be given to cats with three or more shades; i.e., ground colour, markings, and dark outlining of those markings. Contrast must be extreme, with distinct shapes and sharp edges. Belly must be spotted.

Charcoal (35) Markings: Definite contrast between ground colour and markings, with distinct shapes, and clearly defined edges. Pattern to have a horizontal flow. Preference is given to very dark markings, with clear outlines, and well contrasted on the ground colour. There must be white, or nearly white spectacles or "goggles" encircling the eyes. A dark mask runs all the way from the nose bridge to the nose and connects from the mascara lines all the way to the nose bridge. A wide, dark, "cape" running down the length of the back is desirable. Colour on chest and belly should be lighter than ground colour. Charcoals can be Spotted, or Marble Pattern.

Remarks: Do not penalise for mousy undercoat.

Faults: Spots on body running together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern, circular bulls-eye pattern on marbleds, substantially darker point colour (as compared to colour of body markings) on Tabby Points, Seal Sepia or Seal Mink.
Silver Series: Any rufism/tarnishing in silver areas.

Withhold

Challenge: Belly not spotted. Paw pads not consistent with their colour group description, or paw pads not all the same colour. Any distinct locket on the neck, chest, abdomen or any other area not provided for in the standard.

Disqualify: ~

RECOGNIZED COLOURS/PATTERNS

SPOTTED AND MARBLE

BROWN TABBY (*BEN n 22/24*)

Coat: All variations are allowed; however, a high degree of rufism yielding a yellow, buff, tan, golden, or orange ground colour is preferred. Markings may be virtually black, brown, tan, or various shades of chocolate or cinnamon. Light spectacles encircling the eyes, and a virtually white ground colour on the whisker pads, chin, chest, belly, and inner legs (in contrast to the ground colour of the flanks and back) is desirable. Tail tip black.

Eye rims, lips: Black

Nose leather: Brick red outlined with black.

Paw pads: Black.

SEAL SEPIA TABBY (*BEN n 22/24 31*)

Coat: Ground colour should be ivory, cream, or light tan with pattern clearly visible. Pattern may be various shades of sable brown to bitter chocolate. Ivory cream spectacles encircling the eyes, and ivory cream whisker pads and chin are desirable. There should be very little or no difference between the colour of the body markings and the point colour. Tail tip should be bitter chocolate.

Eye rims, lips: Sable brown

Nose leather: Ranging from rosy tones to brick red outlined with brown.

Paw pads: Dark brown with rosy undertones allowed.

SEAL MINK TABBY (*BEN n 22/24 32*)

Coat: Ground colour should be ivory, cream, or light tan with pattern clearly visible. Pattern may be various shades of sable brown to bitter chocolate. Ivory cream spectacles encircling the eyes, and ivory cream whisker pads and chin are desirable. There should be very little or no difference between the colour of the body markings and the point colour. Tail tip should be dark seal sepia/mink.

Eye rims, lips: Sable brown

Nose leather: Ranging from rosy tones to brick red outlined with brown.

Paw pads: Dark brown with rosy undertones allowed.

SEAL TABBY POINT (*BEN n 22/24 33*)

Coat: Ground colour should be ivory to cream. Pattern can vary in colour from dark seal brown, light brown, tan, or buff, with the light spectacles, whisker pads, and chin. There should be little difference between colour of body markings and point colour. Tail tip must be dark seal brown.

Eye rims, lips: Seal brown

Nose leather: Ranging from rosy tones to brick red outlined with brown.

Paw pads: Seal brown.

SILVER SERIES

Ground colour to be pure silver-white with black/seal ticking. Thumbprints on ears, ear rims, spectacles, whisker pads, chin and underside of base of tail silver-white. The tabby pattern colours will be colder and duller than in the corresponding non-silver colour.

BLACK SILVER TABBY (*BEN ns 22/24*)

Coat: Ground colour is pure silver-white, pattern in dense black.

Eye rims, lips: Black

Nose leather: Brick red outlined in black.

Paw pads: Black or seal brown. Black hair extends well up the back of the hind legs.

SEAL SILVER SEPIA TABBY (*BEN ns 22/24 31*)

Coat: Ground colour is pure silver-white. Pattern cold brown. Tail tip dark brownish black.

Nose leather: Brick red outlined in dark brown or solid dark brown.

Paw pads: Dark brown.

SEAL SILVER MINK TABBY (*BEN ns 22/24 32*)

Coat: Ground colour is pure silver-white. Pattern ranging from cold bitter chocolate to brown. Tail tip dark brownish black.

Nose leather: Pink to brick red outlined in dark brown or solid dark brown.

Paw pads: Dark brown.

SEAL SILVER TABBY POINT (*BEN ns 22/24 33*)

Coat: Ground colour is pure silver-white. Pattern seal brown to brownish black.

Nose leather: Pink to brick red outlined in dark brown or solid dark brown.

Paw pads: Dark brown to brownish black.

CHARCOAL SERIES (SPOTTED & MARBLE):

BROWN (BLACK) CHARCOAL TABBY (*BEN n 22/24 35*)

Same as Brown (Black) Tabby except the Charcoal brown colours are cold browns, with no warm gold, or amber tones and with the addition of Mask, Goggles, and Cape.

Eye rims and lips: Black or to harmonise with coat colour.

Nose leather: Shades ranging from pink to brick red, to harmonise with coat colour outlined with black.

Paw Pads: Black or to harmonise with coat colour.

BLACK SILVER CHARCOAL TABBY: (*BEN ns 22/24 35*)

Same as Black Silver Tabby with the addition of Mask, Goggles and Cape.

Eye rims and lips: Black or to harmonise with coat colour.

Nose leather: Shades ranging from pink to brick red, to harmonise with coat colour, outlined with black.

Paw Pads: Black or to harmonise with coat colour.

ANY OTHER COLOUR:

Any other colours other than those listed above are classed as Any Other Colour (AOC) and cannot be awarded a challenge.

BREEDERS NOTES

Allowable outcross: none