

BENGAL [BEN] (Standard Source: TICA 1996)

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. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males. Overall look of the head should be as distinct from the domestic cat as possible.
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.
Nose	Large and wide; slightly puffed nose leather.
Muzzle	Full and broad, with large, prominent whisker pads and high, pronounced cheekbones. Slight muzzle break at the whisker pads.
Chin	Strong, aligns with tip of nose in profile.
Neck	Long, substantial, muscular; in proportion to the head and body.
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.
Body	Long and substantial, not oriental or foreign. Medium to large (but not quite as large as the largest domestic breed). Allowance for smaller size, in balanced proportion, offemales'
Legs	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.
Boning	Sturdy, firm; never delicate.
Musculature:	Very muscular, especially in the males, one of the most distinguishing features.
COAT	
Length	Short to medium. Allowance for slightly longer coat in kittens. Dense and luxurious, close lying, unusually soft and silky to the touch.
Penalise	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. Do not penalise for mousy undercoat.
Withhold All Awards	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.

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

100 points

PATTERNS

The Spotted Pattern (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.

The Marbled Pattern (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.

RECOGNIZED COLOURS/PATTERNS

Brown Spotted Tabby, Brown Marbled Tabby only.
Seal Sepia Spotted Tabby, Seal Sepia Marbled Tabby only.
Seal Mink Spotted Tabby, Seal Mink Marbled Tabby only.
Seal Tabby Point (spotted or marbled) only.
Black Silver Tabby, Seal Silver Sepia, Seal Silver Mink,
Seal Silver Tabby Point.

COLOURS

Brown Tabby (BEN n 22/24)

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. Rims of eyes, lips, and nose should be outlined with black, and centre of nose should be brick red. Paw pads and tail tip must be black.

Eye colour: Any colour except blue or aqua.

Seal Sepia Tabby (BEN n 22/24 31)

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. Paw pads should be dark brown with rosy undertones allowed. Tail tip should be bitter chocolate.

Eye colour: Gold, to green.

Seal Mink Tabby (BEN n 22/24 32)

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. Paw pads should be dark brown with rosy undertones allowed. Tail tip should be dark seal sepia/mink.

Eye colour: Blue-green (aqua).

Seal Tabby Point (BEN n 22/24 33)

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. Paw pads seal brown. Tail tip must be dark seal brown.

Eye colour: Blue.

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.

Faults: Any rufism/tarnishing in silver areas.

Black Silver Tabby (BEN ns 22/24)

Ground colour is pure silver-white, pattern in dense black; refer to general description for patterns. Nose leather brick red, outlined in black. Paw pads black or seal brown. Black hair extends well up the back of the hind legs.

Eye colour: Gold, green.

Seal Silver Sepia Tabby (BEN ns 22/24 31)

Ground colour is pure silver-white. Pattern cold brown. Tail tip dark brownish black. Paw pads dark brown. Nose leather brick outlined in dark brown or solid dark brown.

Eye colour: Gold to green.

Seal Silver Mink Tabby (BEN ns 22/24 32)

Ground colour is pure silver-white. Pattern ranging from cold bitter chocolate to brown. Tail tip dark brownish black. Paw pads dark brown. Nose leather brick outlined in dark brown or solid dark brown.

Eye Colour: Blue-green (aqua).

Seal Silver Tabby Point (BEN ns 22/24 33)

Ground colour is pure silver-white. Pattern seal brown to brownish black. Paw pads dark brown to brownish black. Nose leather brick outlined in dark brown or solid dark brown.

Eye colour: Blue.

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