

## 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 but a pinch is a fault. 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:** ~

**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>length (15) and texture (10)</i>	25 points
Colour:	<i>coat (15) 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, Blue, Cinnamon, Fawn.  
Black Silver, Blue Silver, Cinnamon Silver, Fawn Silver.

*Refer to Abyssinian standard for colour descriptions.*

### 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 the 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. 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*