

GLOSSARY

A

Adult

A cat, entire or desexed, over the age of nine months.

Agouti

The gene that bands the hairs. An agouti hair is banded with alternate bands of light and dark colouring. In silver varieties, the light colour is silvery white. This formation creates the tabby patterning.

Awn Hairs

The coarse secondary hair or outer hair of a cat's coat.

B

Balance

Describes the physical proportions of a cat's body.

Barring

Lines or stripes on the legs and or tail.

Bi-colour

A cat that has two colours (or three in the case of torties) i.e. white and any other solid (or tortoiseshell) colour.

Blaze

A marking on the centre of a cat's forehead between the eyes extending down the nose.

Blotched

Refer to Classic Tabby.

Bracelet

The ring markings on the legs of tabby cats.

Break

An indentation of the nose between the forehead and the base of the nose.

Breeches

The longer and thicker hair on the back of the upper hind legs.

Breeder

A person who is registered with an appropriate cat alliance that undertakes the task of breeding cats in an ethical and responsible manner for the betterment of the breed.

Brindling

The effect caused when incorrect coloured hairs are interspersed in an otherwise solid coat, e.g. white or lighter coloured hairs in the dark mask of a seal Siamese or lighter hairs in the black pattern of a tabby.

Brush

The tail of a long-haired cat.

Buttons

Darker coloured spots appearing on the belly of Tabby Pattern varieties.

C

Challenge

A certificate awarded by the Judge to a cat winning first place in the Open Class at a show

Classic Tabby

A form of tabby patterning showing large patches of solid colour (also referred to as "blotched" tabby).

Cobby

A short, compact and sturdy body (as seen in Persians).

Colourpoint

A cat that is coloured only at the extremities or points (i.e. mask on the face, ears, legs and tail). The body fur can range from an off-white to beige. This is also called Himalayan pattern. These cats have blue eyes. (eg Siamese)

Companion Exhibit

A Cat or Kitten not conforming to any recognised pedigree breed. All exhibits over 9 months must be desexed.

Cryptorchid

A male cat whose testicles have not descended into the scrotal sack.

Curling

The crimping of fur displayed by the Rex breeds i.e. Cornish rex cats.

D

Dam

A female cat who has produced the cat listed in the pedigree (also known as a queen).

Dilute

A recessive colour, or a paler version of a colour.

Dome

A term describing a rounded forehead or top of head.

Domestic

A non-pedigreed cat.

Dominant

A gene or characteristic that expresses itself or prevails over alternative or recessive characteristics.

Double Coat

A thick coat in which the awn hairs are the same length as the guard hairs.

Down Hairs

The soft, secondary hairs around the ears and the toes.

E

Entire

Refers to a cat that has not been desexed.

Equilateral Triangle

Used to describe the required head shape in certain breeds (i.e. Siamese)

Epistasis

The masking of a phenotype. (see masking)

Exhibit

The term referring to an individual cat/kitten entire or desexed at a cat show.

F**Foreign Type**

A physical characteristic defined by a long, elegant body.

Frill

The hairs around the neck and chest of a long or semi long-haired cat also called a ruff.

G**Genotype**

The hereditary characteristics of an individual cat, whether it can be seen or not.

Ghost-Markings

Faint tabby markings seen in solid-coloured cats particularly on the legs and tail.

Gloves

White glove-like markings on the legs of some cats. (eg. Birmans)

Guard Hairs

The outer layer and the longest of the hairs forming a cats coat.

H**Heterozygous**

A cat possessing two different genes for the one trait, one dominant the other recessive as in colour i.e. a black cat that is capable of producing blue offspring.

Himalayan Pattern

Refer to colourpoint

Homozygous

A cat possessing two similar genes for the same trait i.e. a black cat that will only produce black offspring.

Hot Cream

The colour cream is said to be hot if it is too reddish in tone.

Hybrid

The product of crossing two different breeds.

I**Inhibitor Gene**

The gene that inhibits pigmentation, producing tipped, shaded or smoke colours.

J**Jowls**

The development of the cheek muscles seen in entire male cats.

K**Kink**

A malformation of vertebrae in a cats tail that produces a bend or twist.

Kitten

A juvenile cat under 9 months of age.

L

Litter

The offspring born from a single mating. Alternatively, the product used in a cats toilet tray.

Locket

A white spot or group of hairs on a cats' lower neck or chest.

M

Mackerel Tabby

A type of tabby patterning showing of fine stripes of solid colour.

Magnolia

The colour magnolia is described to be off-white with a faint pinkish or lilac tone.

Marbled Tabby

A type of tabby patterning showing random colour giving the impression of marble.

Markings

Tabby markings such as the 'M' on the forehead, necklaces, bracelets and rings etc.

Mask

A dark area on the face including the nose, whisker pads, chin and around the eyes.

Masking

The masking of a phenotype or feature i.e. the W gene which produces a white cat but masks another colour that can be produced in the cats offspring. Also known as epistasis.

Metacarpus/Metacarpal Pad

The five bones of the front paw located between the toes and the arch: Metacarpus. The small pad located in the middle of the back of the front paw pad above the third joint and below the wrist bone.

Moggie

A colloquial name for a domestic cat.

Monorchid

A male cat with only one descended testicle.

Mutation

A change in genotype having no relation to the animals' ancestry.

Muzzle

The protruding part of a cat's head i.e. the nose, whisker pads and jaws.

N

Nanism

Dwarfism - an animal that is too small

Necklace

The bars - broken or unbroken - appearing on the neck in the tabby varieties, also known as "mayor's chains".

Neuter

A desexed male cat (ie one that is incapable of reproducing).

Nictitating Membrane

The third eyelid or haw, which is a thin fold of skin that flicks in the inner angle of the eye diagonally across the eye under the eyelid. Its function is to lubricate the eye and it is often visible when the cat is ill.

Nodosity

A slight deformation or thickening of vertebra at the end of a cats tale.

Nose Leather

The smooth area of skin around the cats nostrils.

O**Odd-Eyed**

A cat with eyes of different colours i.e. one blue and one gold as seen in Persian White.

Oligodactyli

A cat having too few toes

Open

Classes in which all cats nine months and over may compete, without restriction or qualification regardless of status (ie. Champions, Grand Champions, Great Grand Champions, compete.)

Oriental

A physical characteristic or body type as seen in Siamese.

Outcross

To breed a registered cat to another registered cat of a different breed resulting in a hybrid breed. Usually to enlarge a gene pool for the betterment of a breed, subject to the registering body's guidelines.

Out of Coat

A term used to describe a long-haired cat after moulting or shedding.

Owner

The person or persons listed in the Cat Control register of cats as owning the cat.

Overshot

When the upper jaw extends over the lower jaw.

P**Pattern**

The colour distributions and markings on a cat's coat.

Paw pads

The padded, underneath area of the cat's feet.

Pedigree

A document or certificate produced that includes the cats name, date of birth, parentage and breeder and subsequently the cat's owner. It is a legal document endorsed and certified by the Cat Control Body and is the property of the cat.

Penciling

Sometimes used to describe the fine markings and lines on the face of a tabby.

Phenotype

The external appearance of the cat, i.e. what it looks like.

Pinch

A break in the appearance of the muzzle.

Points

The points include the mask on the face, the ears, the legs and the tail. The colour of these points is of a darker shade than the body colour and a clear contrast is seen between the point colour and that of the body. The contrast varies in distinction according to the type of point, i.e. in the Burmese varieties the contrast is so indistinct as to be barely noticeable, whereas in the Siamese it is extremely clearly marked.

Polydactyly

A malformation in which a cat has more toes on each foot than is normally seen.

Prefix

The cattery name owned by the breeder which is included in the name of a pedigree cat.

Pricked

This term is used to describe the ears of a cat when it is listening or alert and can be a feature of some breeds i.e. Abyssinians.

Progeny

The descendants or offspring of particular cats.

Q**Quick**

The sensitive area around the claw of a cat.

Queen

A female cat that is used in a breeding program.

R**Recessive**

A term used to describe a gene which is usually masked by a dominant gene.

Registration

The act of officially recording the personal details of an individual cat or litter with a Cat Control Body by the breeder.

Rings

Darker coloured bands of hair on legs and tail of tabby cats.

Roman Nose

A profile that displays a downward curve of the nose (as seen in Birman.)

Ruff

The frill or thick hair that extends around the neck and down the chest and front legs of long-haired cats.

S**Schedule of Breed Codes EMS**

Easy Mind System. The list of codes (letters and numbers) that is used to identify breed/colour/pattern/hair length of each cat.

Self

A term used to describe a solid coloured cat.

Sire

The male parent of a cat.

Smoke

When the hair shaft is 50-80% coloured with the remainder of the hair being silver.

Spine Line

The darker shading of the tabby pattern along the spine in tabby varieties.

Spotted Tabby

A type of tabby patterning showing clearly defined spots of colour.

Spraying

The action of a male cat urinating on objects to mark his territory or space.

Squint

A 'cross-eyed' look when the eyes of the cat are misaligned.

Standard of Points

A detailed description of each breed providing a means of distinguishing criteria used by judges and breeders to achieve the perfect breed.

Sternum

A long flat bone in the centre of the chest where the rib bones converge, also known as the breast bone.

Stop

A distinct indentation between the forehead and the base of the nose.

Stud

An entire male cat used for breeding (sometimes referred to as a 'Tom' cat).

T**Tabby Pattern**

Refers to any of the tabby patterns. The agouti gene must be present for a full expression of a tabby pattern.

Thumbprint

A roundish mark resembling a thumb print in shape) found on the outside of the upper ear in tabbies; the colour of the mark shows the base colour of the cats' coat.

Ticking

The term used to describe the bands of colour which appear on each individual hair shaft, e.g. Abyssinian, Somalis, Oriental Ticked Tabbies.

Tipping

The solid, darker colour which appears on the ends of each hair, the main shaft of which is of a lighter colour, usually in the silver varieties smoke, silver shaded and silver shell.

Tortie Tabby

A female tortoiseshell cat that has tabby markings also.

Tortoiseshell (also called Tortie)

A mixture of red and black or blue and cream in female cats. Sometimes occurs in male cats.

Triangle

Used to describe the required head shape in certain breeds (ie. Siamese)

Tri-Colour

When the cat's coat contains three distinct colours (ie. Japanese Bobtail)

Tufts

The small clusters of hair present at the end of some cat's ears.

U**Undercoat**

The down hairs or finest hairs closest to the cat's skin.

Umbilical Hernia

A lump on the belly in the region where the umbilical cord was attached (navel or "belly button") which is caused by a weakness in the abdominal wall, which allows part of the intestine to protrude.

Undershot

When the lower jaw extends beyond the upper jaw.

V**Van Pattern**

A white cat with colour patches confined to the head and tail. Patches of colour on the face is preferably broken by a white blaze. Colour may extend up the rump. The most extreme form of the 'white spotting' gene.

W**Wedge**

Used to describe the head shape and profile required in some breeds.

Whip Tail

A type of long and slender, flexible tail required in some breeds i.e. Siamese, and Orientals.

Whisker Pad

The fleshy part of the upper lip on either side of the nose.

White-Spotting Gene

The gene responsible for white in colour patterns.

X**Xiphisternum**

The lowest and smallest of the three divisions of the breastbone, so-called because it is shaped like a sword.

Y**Z**