

## LAPERM (Longhair [LPL] / Shorthair [LPS]) (Standard Source: TICA 2008)

### General:

The LaPerm is a naturally occurring mutation producing both long and shorthaired cats. It is medium-sized and curly-coated, with a semi-foreign type body. All colours are acceptable. All parts of the body are in harmony with the size of the cat. There is evidence of surprising weight for size. The cat is alert and seems to be walking high on his legs. Coat texture will be distinctly different than that of any other Rex mutation and will vary within the breed. Whiskers will be very long and curly, ear furnishings and eyebrow hairs may also curl and may grow long enough to curl into eye. The perfect cat will have a moderately soft, but textured coat that will be loose and bouncy, standing away from the body, resembling a "Gypsy Shag". A coat you can run your fingers through to the skin but will appear very curly. The cat will have ringlet type curls at the base of the ears and on the underside of the neck running into the ruff on the longhaired version. The coat should be free of matting, so it should not be too thick and heavy.

**Head:** A modified wedge, slightly rounded, gentle contours. Whisker pads should appear full and rounded. Muzzle slightly broad in proportion to the wedge. In profile nose is straight with gentle convex curve rising from the base of the eye to the top of the eye. Nose broad and straight with moderate length. Forehead should be a flat plane to the top of head, then smooth gentle curve back over top of head flowing down into neck. The brow, cheeks and profile should show gentle contours, with each flowing smoothly into the next. Chin strong and firm and is in a perpendicular line with tip of nose. Neck carried erect and is medium long in proportion to body length.

**Ears:** Placed to continue the modified wedge of the head; slightly flared and cupped; medium to large with furnishings [horizontal] and earmuffs. Lynx-like tufts [vertical] are desired.

**Eyes:** Medium large and expressive. Almond shaped at rest and rounder when alert. Set moderately far apart and slightly slanted to the bottom of the outside ear base.

**Body:** Boning medium, well-muscled.

**Legs and Feet:** Legs medium long to match the body. Forelegs may be slightly shorter than hind legs. Boning is medium. Feet rounded.

**Tail:** In proportion to body. The tail will be thicker at the base and taper toward the tip.

**Coat:** **Longhair:** Medium-long to long; both males and females may have ruff on neck at maturity. Curly or wavy, curl is preferred. The feel to the touch is unique among Rex breeds. It has a springy, textured feel. IT IS NOT WIRY. The feel to the touch in degree of softness may vary among individual cats. The coat should be loose and bouncy and should stand away from the body. A coat you can run your fingers through to the skin. The coat is light and airy enough to part with a breath. The coat will have an almost unkempt appearance (the "Gypsy Shag" look). Longest and tightest curls are in the ruff and base of ear. The coat may vary in length and fullness according to the season and maturity of the cat. The tail is plumed with some curling.

#### **Shorthair:**

Short to approximately medium long. Curly or wavy. The feel to the touch is unique among Rex breeds. It is a textured feel. IT IS NOT WIRY. The feel to the touch in degree of softness may vary among individual cats. A springy coat texture standing away from the body with waves over most of the cat. Does not have a ruff or ringlets and the tail will be like a bottle-brush. At times this coat will part naturally down the middle of the back.

**Remarks:** Allowances should be made for jowls on mature males. A frizzy-type appearance. Lack of ear furnishings and/or lack of, or short, whiskers in kittens.

**Faults:** Lack of, or short whiskers. Lack of ear furnishings (Longhair:).

**Withhold**

**Challenge:** Cobby body, short legs, straight coat.

**Disqualify:** ~

**SCALE OF POINTS**

Head:	<i>including shape (6) chin (5) muzzle (5) nose (2) profile (4) neck (2)</i>	24 points
Ears:		8 points
Eyes:		8 points
Body:	<i>including boning (3); musculature (5); balance</i>	16 points
Legs and Feet:		4 points
Tail:		6 points
Coat:	<i>includes length (8) texture (15)</i>	23 points
Colour:	<i>and pattern (2)</i>	4 points
Condition:	<i>including temperament (3)</i>	7 points
		<hr/>
		100 points

**COLOURS AND PATTERNS RECOGNISED**

**General Description**

**Eye Colour:** All colours allowed regardless of coat colour.

**Coat Colour:** All colours allowed [except amber] including with white; any amount of white is allowed, ie. blaze, locket, white on chest/belly/paws etc.

**Karpati (28):** Can be seen in any colour and along with any other pattern, but shows the most contrast with solid dense colours ie black, chocolate, cinnamon, and red. Dilutes are a delicate and pretty variation ie blue, lilac, fawn, cream.

**Coat Pattern:** All patterns including Karpati allowed.

**Karpati (28):** A unique pattern independent of any other pattern in which the body is roan, (ie solid white hairs are interspersed with normal pigmented hairs throughout a cat's coat). There are a greater number of white hairs present on the points, and shading of undercoat. Mask, ears, tail, and paws are paler. The colour is defined by the colour in the pigmented hairs.

Karpati is a progressive pattern as young kittens may be mainly white to begin with and pigment gradually spreads over the body, quickly at first, but mostly completed by about 7 months old.

**Point restriction patterns:** More white hairs are on the points making them noticeably paler, but not all white. This is more obvious in the dense colours, and more delicate in dilutes. Colour is strongest along the spine and fades out down the legs.

**Shaded patterns:** Pigment lessens in strength down hairs towards the skin, giving an effect similar to the inhibitor gene, but noticeably different, the shading being not white but a paler version of the colour eg red karpati will have pale cream shading, black karpati will have grey/mouse shading. Some hairs remain fully white or fully pigmented to the roots.

The exception is when smoke/silver is present as well, in which case the shading reverts to white, although roan and point restriction is still visible.

Normally there is little pigment on the skin, but ears may show mottling.

**Tabby patterns:** look blurred by the extra white hairs but retain any rufousing.

**Nose Leather:** In accordance with coat colour, outlined in agouti varieties.

**Paw Pads:** In accordance with coat colour.

**Remarks:** For judging purposes varieties are divided into Agouti, Agouti & White, Non-agouti and Non-agouti & White (ie in each group a certificate is awarded).

**Karpati:** Can be seen in any colour and along with any other pattern, but shows the most contrast with solid dense colours ie black, chocolate, cinnamon, and red. Dilutes are a delicate and pretty variation ie blue, lilac, fawn, cream.

There is a seasonal pigment fade in summer from 1 year old onwards, then darkens for winter again. The O gene (red/cream/apricot) is much slower to develop and a tortie will have white patches when young, and often on the points permanently.

Only hair pigment is affected; the quality of the hair does not change, and nose leather and paw pads remain as normal for that colour.

**Faults:** **Karpati:** Roan without point restriction and shading. All three factors must be present. Over restriction of pigment development preventing any visible roan. This is not to be confused with the white spotting gene which causes a definite line.

**Withhold**

**Challenge:** ~

**Disqualify:** ~

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## **BREEDERS NOTES**

*Allowable outcross: Domestic Shorthair/Longhair*

*Note: All curly progeny resulting from such matings will be recognised as La Perm according to hair length. Straight-coated kittens will be registered as La Perm A.O.V. and may be used in the breeding program.*