

## SPHYNX [SPH] (Standard Source: TICA 1999 & 2021)

### General

The Sphynx appears to be a hairless cat, although it is not truly hairless. The skin should have the texture of chamois. It may be covered with very fine down which is almost imperceptible to both the eye and the touch. On the ears, muzzle, tail, feet and scrotum, short, soft, fine hair is allowed. Lack of coat makes the cat quite warm to the touch. The skin is very wrinkled, especially in kittens. The Sphynx is very hard and muscular, having a medium bone structure; it is not a delicate cat.

**Head:** Medium sized, modified wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than wide. Skull is slightly rounded with a rather flat forehead and prominent cheekbones. Strong rounded muzzle with distinct whisker break and firm chin. In profile slight to moderate change of direction at the bridge of the nose. Some degree of fuzz on bridge of nose. The neck is medium, well-muscled and rounded, arching from the shoulders to the base of the skull. The neck is powerful, especially in males.

**Ears:** Very Large. Broad at base and open with no interior hair. Set upright, neither low set nor on top of the head. Slight amount of hair allowed on lower outside edges and on the back of the ear.

**Eyes:** Large, rounded lemon in shape, slanting to the outer corner of the ear. Slightly more than an eye width between eyes.

**Body:** Medium in size, medium to medium long in length. The chest is broad, may tend toward barrel chested. Abdomen is well-rounded, having the appearance of having eaten a large meal, but not fat. Medium boning. Hard and muscular, not delicate.

**Legs and Feet:** Length in proportion with body. Hind legs slightly longer than front. Front legs widely set. Firm and muscular. Feet medium in size, oval shape with long, slender toes. Paw pads are thicker than in other breeds, giving the cat the appearance of walking on "air cushions". The toes are very long, slender and prominent.

**Tail:** Whippy, tapering from body to tip (rat-tailed). Length in proportion to the body. A lion tail (puff of hair on the tip of the tail) is acceptable.

**Coat:** Appears hairless. May be covered with short, fine down. Skin has chamois-like texture. A feeling of resistance may be felt when stroking the skin of some cats. The skin is very wrinkled in kittens. Adults should retain as many wrinkles as possible, especially on the head, although wrinkling should not be so pronounced that it affects the cat's normal functions.

**Remarks:** Males may be up to 25% larger than females so long as proper proportions are maintained. Whiskers and eyebrows may be present, either whole or broken, or may be totally absent.

**Faults:** Overall small cat. Body that is too thin, frail appearing or delicate or fine-boned; too cobby or foreign. Lack of wrinkles on the head. Straight profile, narrow head. Significant amounts of hair above the ankle.

### Withhold

**Challenge:** Any indication of wavy hair or suggestion of the Devon Rex, or Cornish Rex in moult any evidence of depilating, plucking, shaving or clipping or any other means of hair removal.

**Disqualify:** ~

### SCALE OF POINTS

Head:	<i>includes shape &amp; size (5) muzzle &amp; chin (5) cheekbones (5) profile (5) neck (5)</i>	25 points
Ears:		5 points
Eyes:		10 points
Body:	<i>including chest (10) abdomen (10)</i>	20 points
Legs and Feet:		5 points
Tail:		5 points
Coat:	<i>including skim</i>	30 points
Colour:		~ points
Condition:		~ points

**100 points**

## COLOURS AND PATTERNS RECOGNISED

### General Description

<b>Eye Colour:</b>	Any colour including green or hazel acceptable.
<b>Coat Colour:</b>	All colours allowed [except amber] including with white; any amount of white is allowed, ie. blaze, locket, white on chest/belly/paws etc.
<b>Coat Pattern:</b>	All patterns allowed.
<b>Nose Leather:</b>	In accordance with coat colour, outlined in agouti varieties.
<b>Paw Pads:</b>	In accordance with coat colour.
<b>Remarks:</b>	For judging purposes varieties are divided into Agouti, Agouti & White, Non- agouti and Non-agouti & White (ie in each group a certificate is awarded).
<b>Faults:</b>	~
<b>Withhold</b>	
<b>Challenge:</b>	~
<b>Disqualify:</b>	~

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### BREEDERS NOTES

*Allowable Outcross: None*