CFA Judges’ Education 2018

Martha Auspitz~Abyssinian BCS

Abyssinian

T

Fawn

Ruddy

Blue

Red
What is the overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian?

- A colorful cat with a distinctly ticked coat, medium in size and regal in appearance
- Lithe, hard and muscular, showing eager activity and a lively interest in all surroundings
- Well balanced physically and temperamentally with all elements of the cat in proportion
Allocation of the points

- HEAD: 25
- BODY: 30
- COAT: 10
- COLOR: 35
HEAD ~ 25 points

- Muzzle – 6 pts
- Skull – 6 pts
- Ears – 7 pts
- Eye Shape – 6 pts
BODY ~ 30 points

- Torso – 15 pts
- Legs/Feet – 10 pts
- Tail – 5 pts
COAT ~ 10 points

- Texture – 10 pts

- See Slide 25
COLOR ~ 35 points

- Color – 15 pts
- Ticking – 15 pts
- Eye color – 5 pts
- See Slides 26 & 27
HEAD

• Modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes

• The brow, cheek and profile show a gentle contour

• A slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead with width between the ears flowing into an arched neck
HEAD
HEAD - PROFILE
MUZZLE

- Not sharply pointed, nor is it square
- Chin should be in alignment – not protruding nor receding

Watch to make sure that the chin aligns correctly, and that there is no whisker pinch
MUZZLE
EARS

- Alert, Large and Moderately Pointed
- Broad and cupped at the Base
- Set as though listening
- Hair on ear is short and close lying – preferably tipped with black on a ruddy Abyssinian, chocolate-brown on a red Abyssinian, slate blue on the blue Abyssinian, or light cocoa brown on a fawn Abyssinian.
EARS
EYES

- Almond shaped and large
- Brilliant and expressive
- Neither round, nor oriental
- Accentuated by a fine dark line, encircled by light colored area
EYES
BODY

• Medium long

• Lithe and graceful

• Well developed muscular strength

• The body should not be coarse
BODY

• The Body should strike a happy medium between the extremes of the cobby and svelte body types

• Proportion and balance are more desired than mere size
LEGGS AND FEET

• Proportionately slim and fine boned

• Standing well off the ground – giving the impression of standing on tip toes

• Paws are small, oval and compact

• Toes: 5 on front feet/4 on back feet
LEGS AND FEET
TAIL

- Thick at the Base
- Fairly Long
- Tapering
TAIL
Overall Balance of the Abyssinian
COAT

- Soft, Silky, and Fine in Texture
- Dense and resilient to the touch with a lustrous sheen
- Medium in Length, but long enough to accommodate 2-3 dark bands of ticking
ABYSSINIAN COLOR:

- Coat color: warm and glowing

Note, on any of the four Aby colors, the undercoat color on the back and sides should match the color on the chest and belly.
Distinct and even – with dark (tail tip color) colored bands contrasting with undercoat colored bands on the hair shaft.

Undercoat clear to the skin

Deeper color shades desired. Intensity of ticking not to be sacrificed for depth of color

Spine line allowed if fully ticked

Preference given to cats that are UNMARKED on the undersides, chest, legs and tail without rings
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: Facial Markings

- Dark lines extending from the eyes and brows
- Cheekbone shading
- Dots and shading on whisker pads
- These are all desirable enhancements
- Eyes are accentuated by a fine dark line
- Eyes encircled by light colored area
Eye Color: gold or green – the more richness and depth of color the better
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: RUDDY

- Ruddy Brown (burnt Sienna), ticked with black, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest with an orange-brown undercoat color
- Tail tipped in black
- Nose Leather: Tile Red
- Paw Pads: Black or Brown with black between the toes
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: RUDDY
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: RED

- Cinnamon gene (not sex-linked orange gene)
- Rich, warm glowing red, ticked with chocolate-brown the extreme outer tip to be darkest, with red - orange undercoat
- Tail tipped in chocolate-brown
- Nose Leather: Rosy Pink
- Paw Pads: Pink with chocolate-brown between the toes
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: RED
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: BLUE

- Result of the Dilution gene
- Warm beige, ticked with slate blue, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest, with a blush beige undercoat
- Tail tipped in slate Blue
- Nose Leather: Old Rose
- Paw Pads: Mauve with slate blue between the toes
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: BLUE
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: FAWN

- Result of the Dilution gene
- Warm rose-beige, ticked with light cocoa brown, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest
- Tail tipped in light cocoa brown
- Nose Leather: Salmon
- Paw Pads: Pink with light cocoa brown between the toes
ABYSSINIAN COLOR: FAWN
PENALIZE:

- Off-color paw pads
- Long narrow head
- Short round head
- Barring on legs
- Dark broken necklace marking
- Rings on the tail
- Coldness or grey tones in the coat
- White undercoat on the Blues and Fawns
PENALIZE:
DISQUALIFY:

- White locket or white anywhere other than nostril, chin and upper throat area
- Kinked or abnormal tail
- Dark unbroken necklace
- Grey undercoat close to the skin extending throughout a major portion of the body
- Any Black hair on a Red Abyssinian
- Incorrect number of toes
- Any color other than the four accepted colors
DISQUALIFY:
SOME FINAL THOUGHTS!

- Our Reds are not sex linked, therefore you will not see Tortie and Bluecream Abyssinians.
- Red is the result of one mutation to the Black (B) gene b¹ – light brown phase (cinnamon).
- There is no AOV class, as a result Silvers, Chocolates and Lilacs are ineligible for registration and exhibition.
SOME FINAL THOUGHTS!

- Remember Abyssinians are fast, if you let go, don’t take your eyes off the cat.

- Abyssinians are very active and interact very well with feathers and toys.

- Do not pin down the Abyssinian onto the table.

- It is now known that the $T^a$ gene is an epistatic gene and not an allele to $T$ and $t^b$.
Special thanks to Sandi Lewis for her help with the photos for this Power Point presentation

Also, special thanks to all the photographers who contributed photos to this presentation
I ❤️ ABYSSINIAN CATS

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