

American Bobtail - UPDATED 2019





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AMERICAN BOBTAIL HISTORY

Although the bobtail cat has been in America for many generations, the true development of the American Bobtail Breed began in the late 1960's, since that time experienced breeders using found feral bobtails from all Regions of the United States including Canada and Alaska have worked together to produce the gorgeous American Bobtails we have today. One of the more intriguing phenomena of the breed is the striking resemblance that cats from thousands of miles apart, with no known common heritage, have born to one another. By selectively breeding these like type cats, breeders have helped Mother Nature to develop the American Bobtail into the big, hearty wild looking bobtail cat seen today.





General Breed Characteristics

- The American Bobtail is a medium- to- large, naturally occurring, bobtailed cat. It is a noticeably athletic animal, well muscled, with the appearance of power. The body is moderately long and substantial, with a rectangular stance.
 - When in motion, the American Bobtail should exhibit a natural rolling gait giving the breed with all of it's combined physical characteristics the likeness of a bobtailed wildcat.
 - This is a slow maturing breed taking 2-3 years to reach full adult type.
 - The American Bobtail should be noted for a distinct wild look with an exceptional disposition and adaptability.
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

- The American Bobtail is a medium to large, naturally occurring, bobtailed cat.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued):



- It is a noticeably athletic animal, well muscled, with the look and feel of power.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)



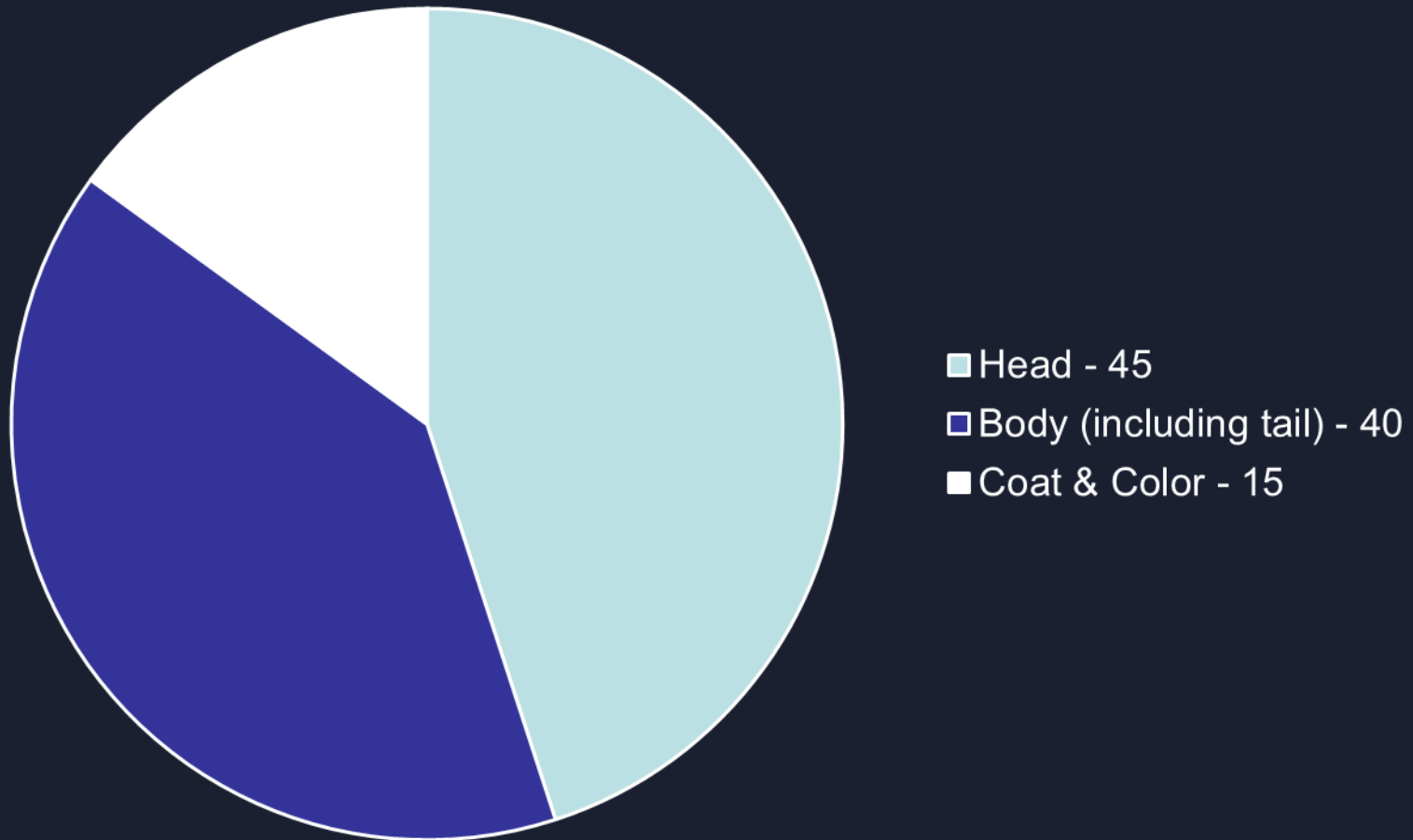
- It possesses a unique natural hunting gaze that combines with the breed's body type and natural bobtail to give the American Bobtail a distinctive wild appearance.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

- The breed's expression is one of intelligence and alertness. Females are generally proportionately smaller than males with type a more important aspect of the breed than size or tail characteristics.



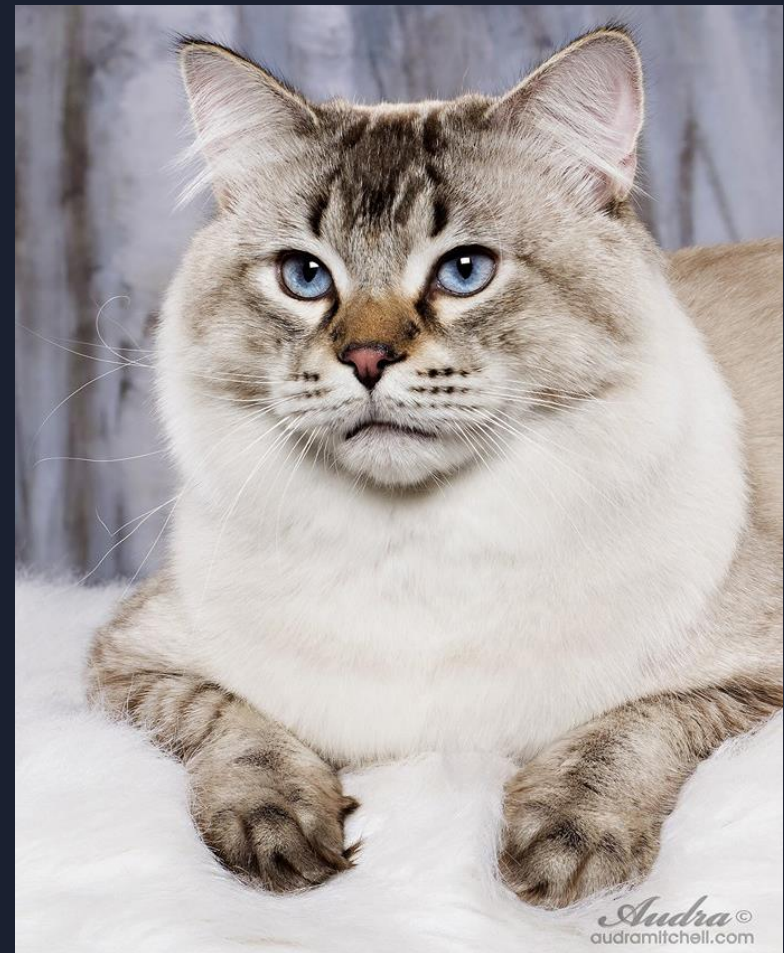
Point Allocations



American Bobtail Head

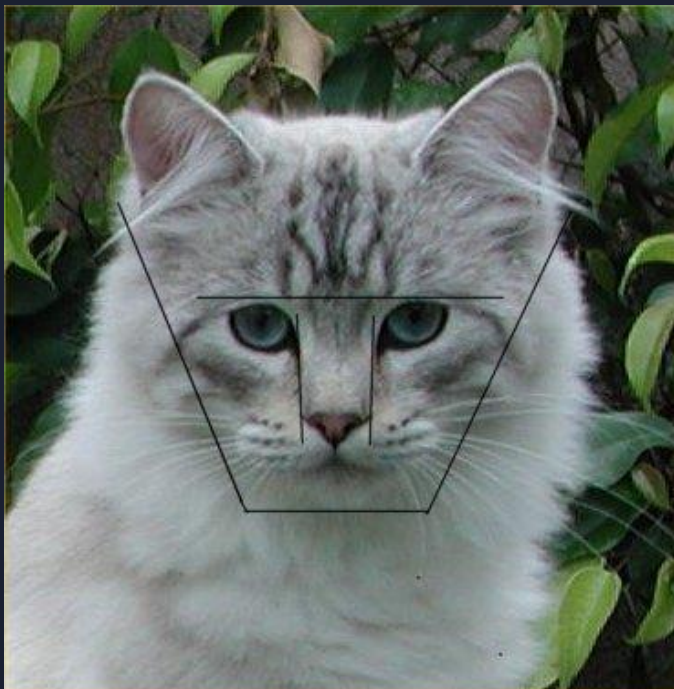
45 Points

- With the majority of the American Bobtail Standard points on the Head and Body of the breed it is important to note that an American Bobtail should look like an American Bobtail whether you can see its tail or not.
- The head and the body of this breed are its most defining feature.
- The tail is an added factor but not the only feature that sets the breed apart from other breeds.



Shape: broad modified wedge without noticeable flat planes or doming, in proportion to the body. Cheekbones are apparent. In profile slightly concave curve between nose and brow with good length between brow & ears. Widening of the head and stud jowls apparent in adult males.

9 Points



Correct Head Type

Excellent eye shape, nose width, ear set and shape, muzzle and whisker break



Incorrect Head Type

Wrong eye shape. No brow or topline to the eye. Incorrect nose width. Ears too large, set and shaped improperly. Muzzle too short. Lack of noticeable whisker break

BROW: distinctive, evidenced by a slightly rounded forehead to eye ridge; brow border is fleshy creating and enhancing the top line of the eye



8 Points

Excellent
Brow with
excellent eye
shape, good
length
between brow
and ear,
correct muzzle
and whisker
break, proper
ear set, shape
and size



Excellent Brow. Good length between
brow and ear. Correct nose width,
muzzle and whisker break. Correct
profile exhibiting, slightly concave
curve between nose and brow.

Brow, continued



- Proper Profile, exhibiting a distinctive brow, with the correct topline to the eye and the gentle concave curve between nose and brow
- **NOTE:** The Brow on the American Bobtail takes time to exhibit itself in some individuals, however it should be apparent in cats by the age of one year
- The brow is fleshy and is not evidenced by bone, it is not a structural feature but a fleshing of the brow

American Bobtail Eye - 10 Points



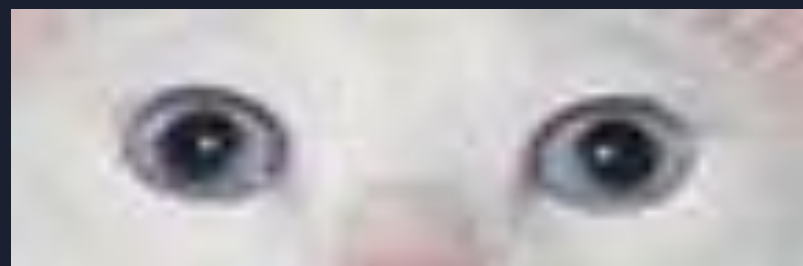
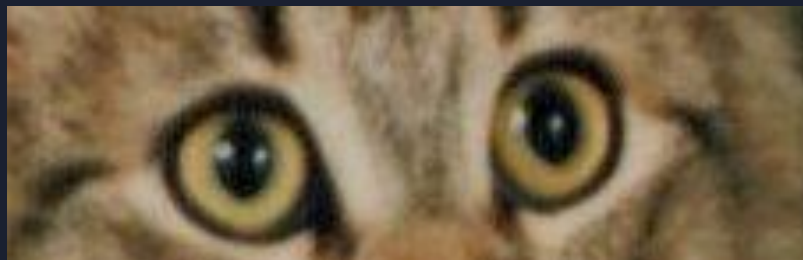
- Eyes - Large. Almost almond in shape. Deep set. Outside corner angled slightly upward towards the outside edge of the ears. Medium-wide apart. Distinctive brow above the eye creates a top line to the eye and produces the breed's natural hunting gaze.

Eye Clarifications

- The American Bobtail standard calls for a very breed-specific eye and brow, for a total of 18 points.
- The eye may lose its shape while playing with toys as the cat will look up and widen its eye with this type of stimulus. It is best to try and view the eye shape in a natural state. It is very important to the overall wild appearance of the face, including its natural hunting gaze, that the eye is the correct shape.



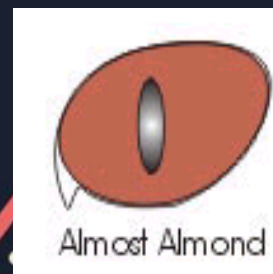
Incorrect Eye Shape



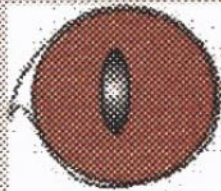
Correct Eye Shape



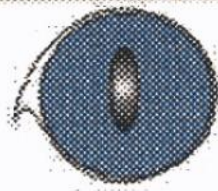
The eye and the brow of the American Bobtail are unique to the breed and are synonymous with one another.



Basic Eye Shapes



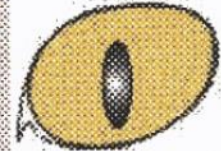
Round



Almost Round



Almost Oval



Oval



Large Oval



Almost Almond



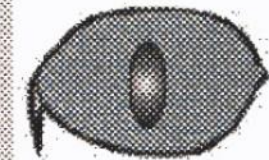
Almond



Large Almond



Lemon



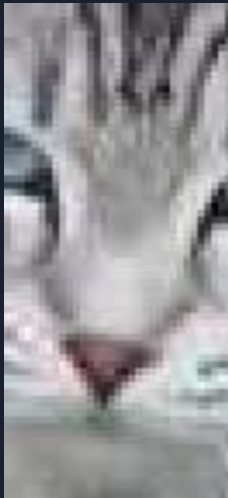
Peach pit



Walnut

American Bobtail Nose: 5 Points

Incorrect Nose



Nose - wide, being equally as wide from the inside corner of the eye through the length of the nose into a large nose leather.

Correct Nose



The **Nose** is of great importance to the overall wild appearance of the face, it must be equally wide from the inside corner of the eye all the way through its length into a broad nose leather, any pinching, tapering or narrowing drastically affects the face and wild appearance of the head.

Muzzle/Chin: 8 Points

Muzzle/Chin - Observable whisker break above a well defined broad medium length muzzle. Fleshy whisker pads. Chin strong and wide in line with the nose.



Nice ear set, Good width of nose, correct eye shape, nice whisker break above a well balanced muzzle and chin, with slight doming of the head.

Muzzle/Chin (continued)



Nice width of muzzle, but lacking noticeable whisker break, Ears too large and set low and forward, slightly pinched nose bridge and leather, Correct eye shape and set.

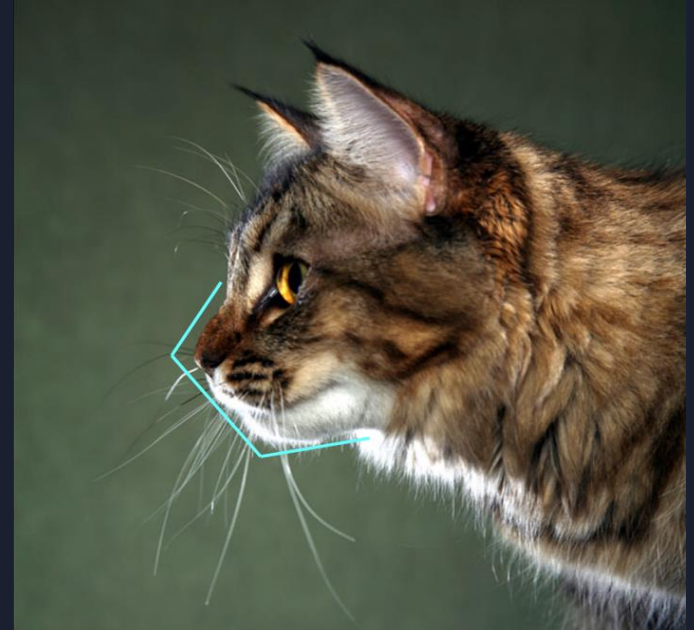


Excellent muzzle and chin, fleshy whisker pads, Correct ear set, good width of nose and large nose leather.

Muzzle/Chin (continued)



Muzzle lacking noticeable whisker break, head shape too narrow, ears too large set too high on head, eye round.



Excellent head type, great muzzle/chin, correct eye shape, brow and ear set.

The muzzle and chin of the American Bobtail are very important to the overall appearance of the cat, the jaw should be powerful in appearance but the chin should never be exaggerated or jutting .

Ears: 5 Points



Ears too small, too pointed, eye round, muzzle short, head domed, sweet expression

Ears - Medium. Wide at base with slightly rounded tips, wide-set, upright with a slight outward tilt. Ear tipping and furnishings highly desirable. Lighter colored thumbprints on the back of the ears desirable on all tabbies including lynx points.



Ears too large, set too high, eye round, head domed, nose break

Ears: 5 Points (Continued)

9 weeks



NOTE: It is very important to note that American Bobtail kittens and young adults ears may appear larger than standard, because of the slow maturation of the breed, kittens and young adults often do not grow into their ears for a period of time. Correct ear size should be apparent by 12 months of age.

4 Months



7 Months



1 Year



American Bobtail Body: 40 Points

- **BODY:** moderately long and substantial with a rectangular stance. Chest full and broad. Slightly higher in hips with prominent shoulder blades. Hips substantial almost as wide as chest. Deep flank. Muscular and athletic in appearance. Allowance should be made for slow maturation.



Body Shape: 15 Points

BODY: moderately long and substantial with a rectangular stance. Chest full and broad. Slightly higher in hips with prominent shoulder blades. Hips substantial almost as wide as chest. Deep flank. Muscular and athletic in appearance. Allowance should be made for slow maturation.



Body Shape: 15 Points

Neck: 5 Points

- American Bobtails are deceptively heavy cats with a brawny strong body, they exhibit excellent width of chest and hips. They have a deep flank and are very muscular and athletic both in appearance and feel.



Legs & Feet: 5 Points



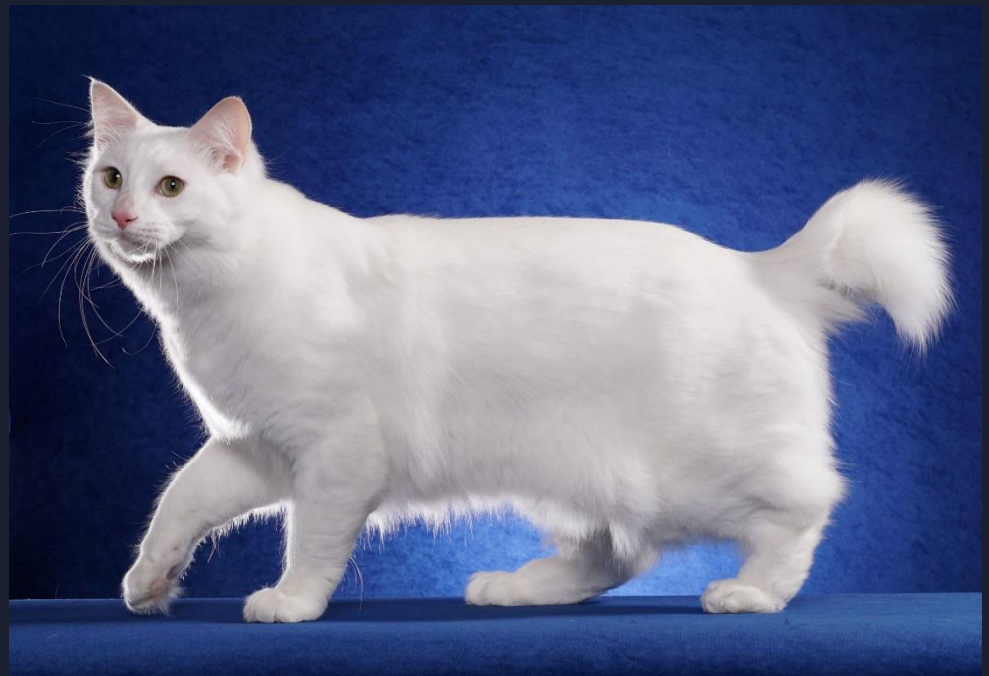
- Boning should be substantial and length of leg should be of good length, balancing and enhancing the cats rectangular stance.



- Allowances should be made for slow maturation as the breed gradually matures over a period of 3 years.

Tail:15 Points

- **Tail** - is short, being half-length or less than that of the average cat. The tail is flexible and expressive and may be straight, slightly curved or slightly kinked or have bumps along the length of the tail. Tail set in line with the top line of the hip. Tail to be broad at base, strong and substantial to the touch, never fragile. Straighter tails should exhibit a fat pad at the end of the tail.



Tail, Continued

- Length - Must be long enough to be clearly visible above the back when alert, not to extend past a stretched hind hock in length.

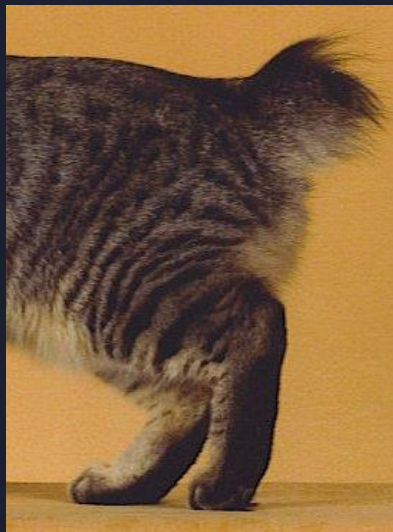


Tail Clarification Updated 2018

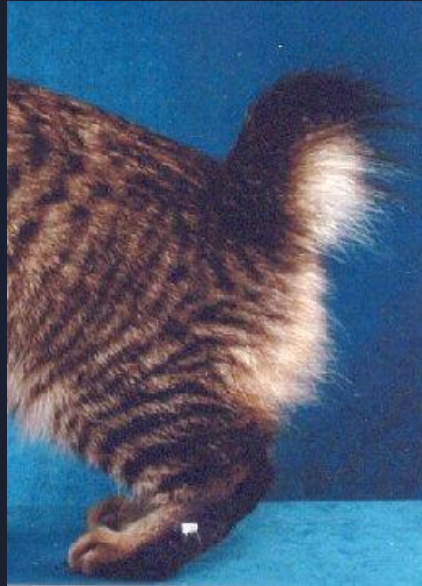
- The American Bobtail breed standard allows for a broad spectrum of lengths to be considered standard and no one length is preferable.
- It is important to note that the bobtail mutation gene is not a gene that can be controlled by breeders and approximately half of all kittens born are fully tailed making them ineligible for competition. Through the history of this breed, breeders have been unable to produce consistent tail length or tail type. No two are alike.



Acceptable tails



Acceptable tails



Tail Handling

Tail Handling: An American Bobtails tail should never be fragile; the tail should be handled gently but not with concern. If a bobtail has tucked its tail a good scratch and or tickle on the back at the croup of the tail will usually get it upright. The tail should never be pried on a cat with a tucked tail.

When judging the tail try not to over handle as too much handling can upset the cat.



Coat & Color

Texture & Density 10 Points

Longhair Division: length-medium-long, slightly shaggy. Tapering to slightly longer hair on ruff, britches, belly and tail; ruff-slight, mutton chops desirable; texture-non-matting, resilient; density-double coat. Undercoat present, not extremely dense; miscellaneous-seasonal variations of coat should be recognized. Coat may be softer in texture in dilute colors, lynx points and silvers. Undercoat may be mouse gray in tabbies.



Coat & Color

Texture & Density 10 Points

- **COAT: Shorthair Division:**
length-medium, semi-dense;
texture non- matting, resilient
with slight loft; density-double
coat, hard topcoat with a soft,
downy undercoat;
miscellaneous-seasonal
variations of coat should be
recognized. Coat may be
softer in texture in dilute colors,
lynx points and silvers.
Undercoat may be mouse gray
in tabbies.



Color and Pattern 5 Points

- **COLORS and PATTERNS:**
any genetically possible color or combination of colors is allowed. Preference shall be given to colors and patterns that enhance the natural wild appearance of the breed. Intense rufousing is desirable in all tabbies, including silvers, with no penalty for lack thereof. Body patterns are highly desirable in lynx points and smokes.



Miscellaneous Color Descriptions

BUTTONS and LOCKETS:

allowable on any color and/or pattern. Cats with buttons and/or lockets shall be judged as their basic color with no penalty for such locket and/or button.

EYE COLOR: all eye colors acceptable, eye color can be copper, gold, yellow or green; blue in bi-color/van, colorpoint, lynx point or odd-eyed white cats.






Additional Standard Remarks

DEVELOPMENTAL CHANGES: allowances should be made for slower development in achieving adult body type as this breed gradually matures over a period of three years.

PENALIZE: tail too long or too short affecting the balance and appearance of the cat. Tail kinked or knotted out of shape. Tail rigid, fragile or set low. Straight tail not exhibiting a fat pad. Round eyes. Weak chin. Extremely short muzzle or nose break. Cottony coat.

DISQUALIFY: total lack of tail or full-length tail. Delicate bone structure. Incorrect number of toes.



Rufousing

- The American Bobtail has very interesting color and pattern features. Intense rufousing is desirable in all tabbies including Silvers. Known as tarnishing in breeds carrying for silver we highly desire the unique coloration which adds to the breeds wild appearance. The rufousing in our brown tabbies has been described as Carmel, Sienna, or Burnished.



Rufousing & Pattern Examples

Hot Chocolate Spotted Tabby LH



Rufousing & Pattern Pictures

Hot Chocolate Ticked Tabby SH



Rufousing & Pattern Pictures

Highly Rufused Brown Spotted Tabby LH



Rufousing & Pattern Pictures

Chocolate Silver, Chocolate Spotted, Chocolate Silver Spotted

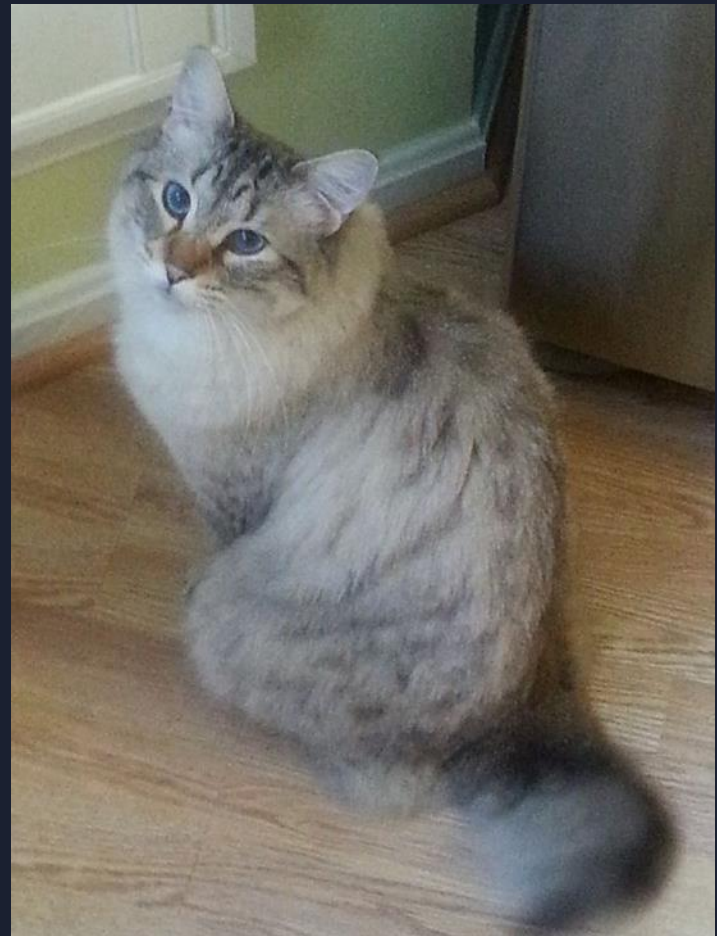


Patterned Lynx Points

Our body patterned lynx points are often born with full pattern, not white as most pointed cats and are not to be confused with the cb/cs color of Mink. Their eye color is bright blue and not aqua.



Patterned Lynx Point Pictures



Patterned Lynx Point Pictures



Seal Lynx Point SH

Seal Lynx Point LH



Additional Breed Pictures

Highly Rufoused Brown Spotted Tabby LH



Additional Breed Pictures

Highly Rufoused Brown Spotted Tabby LH



Additional Breed Pictures

Highly Rufoused Silver Tabbies



Additional Breed Pictures

Gold Eyed White LH



Additional Breed Pictures

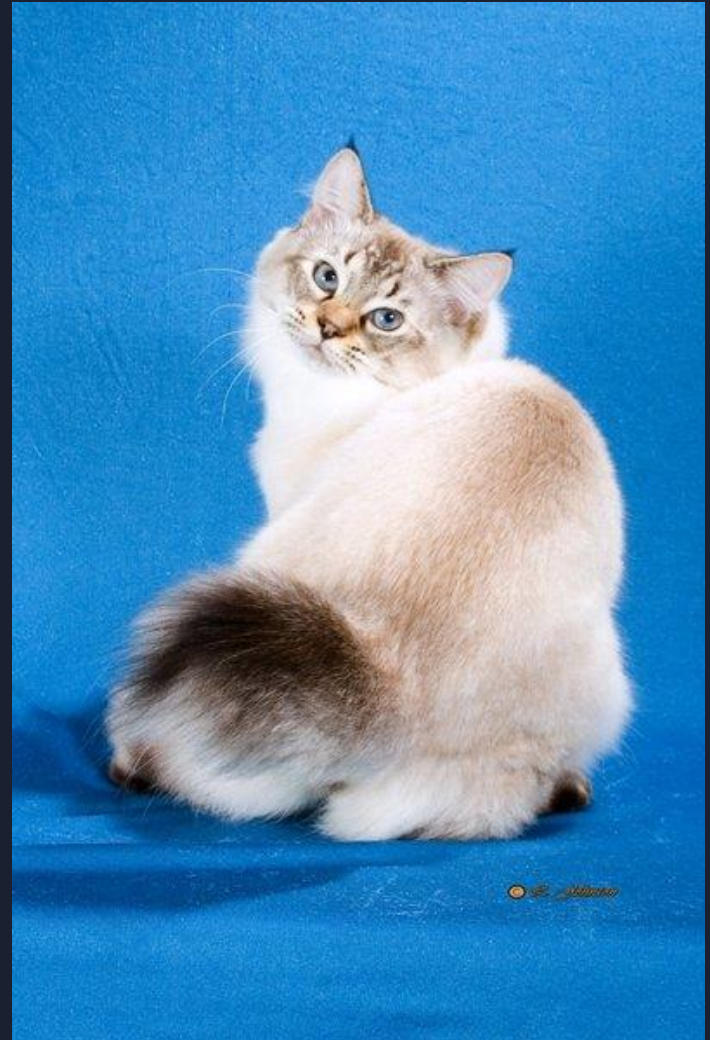
Seal Mink Ticked and Seal Mink Classic Tabbies



Additional Breed Pictures




Additional Breed Pictures






Handling & Fine Details

- The American Bobtail is a heavy cat and can be deceptive as to their athleticism and speed. They are extremely powerful and are tremendous jumpers. They are normally a relatively calm cat, but one hand on them at all times is a good rule of thumb.
 - They need to be well supported when being carried due to their size. Please do not “pin” the cat to the judging table, try and keep all four feet on the table, this gives them an added sense of security. Do not launch back into the cage.
 - American Bobtails do not like to be lifted, swung in the air, or stretched. The breed is too substantial for this type of handling.
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Handling & Fine Details

- When removing or returning American Bobtails from their judging cages, please try to face them away from other cats cages as they can be a very territorial breed.
 - When returning American Bobtails to the cage, do not allow them to jump off of you to get back into the cage. They have very powerful back legs. Again, do not launch.
 - They also tend to like toys that are of a more natural type, i.e. feathers, fur, dragon flies, bugs etc. Try dragging toys across the judging table for best effect.
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The End!