The American Shorthair

Prepared for the Breeders Seminar
Tokyo, Japan -- March, 2013
American Shorthair
Point Allotment

**Type**
60%

**Color**
25%

**Coat**
15%

TYPE (60%)
Head...........30
Body..........30

COLOR (25%)
Eye color.....5
Coat color..20
(Tabby split 10/10)

COAT (15%)
Well-Proportioned American Shorthair
Head

Large
Head

Full cheeked face, slightly longer than wide
Head
Sweet, open expression
Head

Large

Full cheeked face, slightly longer than wide

Sweet, open expression

Head divided into two equal parts
  -- Base of ears to middle of eyes
  -- Middle of eyes to chin tip
Head - eyes

- Large and wide with upper lid shaped like half an almond and lower lid shaped in a fully rounded curve

- At least the width of one eye between eyes

- Outer corners set very slightly higher than inner corners
BODY
powerful & well-developed

Viewed from the side, body is divided in three equal parts

A - tip of breastbone to elbow
B - elbow to front of hindleg
C - front of hind leg to tip of buttocks
LEGS, PAWS & TAIL

• LEGS
  -- Medium in length & bone
  -- Heavily muscled
  -- Viewed from rear, all four legs straight and parallel with paws facing forward

• PAWS
  -- Firm, full & rounded with heavy pads
  -- Toes: five in front, four behind

• TAIL
  -- Medium length
  -- Heavy at base
  -- Tapering to abrupt blunt end in appearance, but with normal tapering final vertebrae
Head - ears & muzzle

Ears medium size
- slightly rounded at tips
- not unduly open at base
Distance between ears equals 2x distance between eyes

Squared muzzle
- definite jowls in mature males

Jaws strong & long enough to grasp prey
HEAD - Ear Size & Set

Medium size, slightly rounded at tips
Set not well defined in standard -- symmetry is key
Head - profile

Smooth, moderately convex continuous curve flowing over top of head into neck

Medium length nose

Gentle concavely curved rise from bridge of nose to forehead

Excellent profile
Shallow set eyes
Weak chin
Nose break (Moderate fault)
Nose too long

Nose too short
Muzzle too short
Forehead too shallow
Flat forehead
*Deep nose break
Nose curve too deep, causing *bulging eye set

Forehead too shallow
Flat forehead
*Deep nose break
Nose curve too deep, causing *bulging eye set

*Brow ridge

*Overshot bite
*Undershot bite
*Appearance of hybridization (Burmese)
Brow ridge and bulging eye set

DISQUALIFICATION
**HEAD - Profile**

*Too Straight*  
*Shallow*  
*Acceptable*

**Gentle**, concavely curved rise from bridge of nose to forehead  
**Exaggerated**, abrupt change of direction is incorrect

Correct, moderate curve from bridge of nose to forehead
COAT

• Short
• Thick
• Even and hard in texture
• Regional and seasonal variation in thickness allowed
• Coat dense enough to protect from moisture, cold and superficial skin injuries
COLOR IS ALSO IMPORTANT

25% of total points

• **Eye Color**  5
• **Color**  20
  -- Tabby Pattern  10
  -- Color  10

Over 41 color classes currently recognized
### ASH Color/Pattern Ratios

registrations during calendar year shown
(number in parentheses is adjusted total number of registrations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>1996</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid Colors</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaded/Smoke</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tabby</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>853</td>
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<td>Parti-Color</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Bi-Color</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>AOV</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>809 (TBA)</strong></td>
<td><strong>712 (1,109)</strong></td>
<td><strong>846 (1365)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,032 (2061)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Tabbies continue to dominate with over 70% of the total

The popularity of Bi-Colors continues to increase
Solid Colors

- Registrations declined by 9.7% since the 60’s
- 3.8% of today’s registrations
Parti-colors

Tortoiseshell

Blue Cream

Less than 1% of current registrations
Shaded Silver  
Shell Cameo  
Shaded Silver  
Black Smoke  
Shaded Silver  
Shaded Tortie

4.6% of current registrations

ALL REQUIRE WHITE UNDERCOAT
the “And Whites”

- Blue Tabby & White
- Black & White
- Blue & White

- Black & White
- Calico
- Silver Tabby & White

Gaining in popularity; 16.4% today
The Tabbies – nearly 75% of registrations

- Red Tabby
- Brown Tabby
- Brown Patched Tabby
- Silver Tabby
- Silver Mackerel Tabby
- Cameo Tabby

Markings dense & clearly defined
2014 Changes to Patterns and Colors

- Ticked Tabby pattern
- Blue Silver Tabby
- Cream Cameo Tabby
- Shaded Silver and White
- Chinchilla Silver and White
- Shaded Calico and White
- Dilute Shaded Calico and White
- Blue Shaded Silver and White
More Tabbies

Points are divided: 10 for color & 10 for pattern
PENALIZE

- Excessive cobbiness or ranginess
- Very short tail
DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Any appearance of hybridization
  - Long or fluffy fur
  - Deep nose break
  - Bulging eye set
  - Brow ridge
  - Hybridized colors
    - chocolate, sable, lavender, lilac, or point restricted pattern (i.e., Siamese-type markings)
DISQUALIFICATIONS (continued)

• Undershot or overshot bite
• Kinked or abnormal tail
• Locket or button
• Incorrect number of toes
• Tongue persistently protruding
• Obesity or emaciation
DISQUALIFICATIONS
(continued)

• *Any* feature so exaggerated as to foster weakness
DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

• BODY
  - Balance & proportion of hunting, working animal

• HEAD
  - Large
  - Oblong face, with square muzzle
  - Medium length nose, same width for entire length
  - Gentle concave curve from bridge of nose to forehead
  - Moderate convexly curved forehead

• EARS
  - Medium size
  - Inner corner in line with middle of the eye

• TAIL
  - Medium length, tapering to abrupt end in appearance

• EYES
  - Large, wide set with unique shape
We have come a long way! The future of the ASH is bright as long as we, and the judges who evaluate our cats, continue to adhere to the moderate standard that has served our breed so well over 100 years.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to:

Carolyn Lyons and Gayle Hand, members of the 1997 committee, who worked with me to craft the original slideshow on which this presentation is based. Carolyn also designed the attractive “All-American” slide background template.

Valerie Edwards, Mary McIntyre and Mary Jo Mersol-Barg for permitting us to use and modify material previously published in the American Connection or prepared for a previous judges workshop; and to all the members of the National American Shorthair club who provided materials, suggestions or help in some way.

I am especially grateful to Chanon (Richard Katris) for his extremely generous contribution of the magnificent photo images that have been integrated throughout this presentation. Copyrights for those images is retained by Mr. Katris and Chanon Photography.