

American Wirehair



An American Original

American Wirehair

GENERAL

The American Wirehair is a spontaneous mutation. The coat, which is not only springy, dense, and resilient, is also coarse and hard to the touch. This feature distinguishes the American Wirehair from all other breeds and accounts for 45% of the points in the standard. Characteristics are activity, agility, and keen interest in its surroundings.

American Wirehair

POINTS & SCORE

Coat 45 points!
-(the most of any CFA breed)-

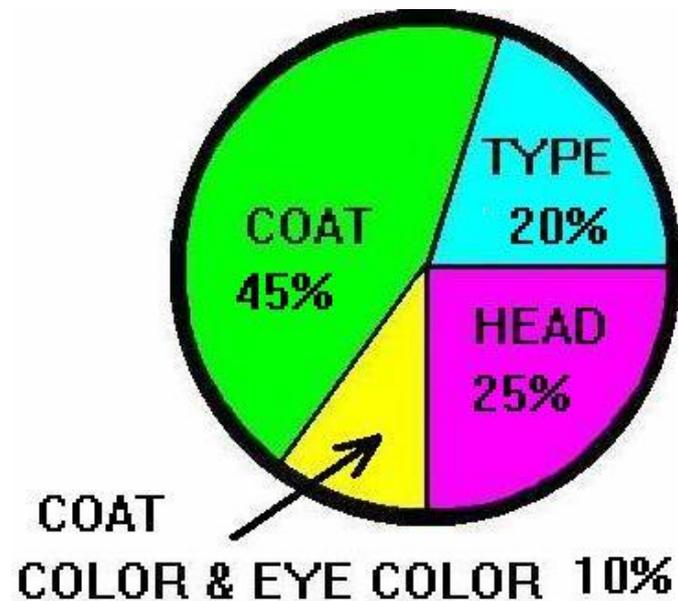
Head 25 points

Type* 20 points

Coat Color and

Eye Color 10 points

*includes body, size,
bone & length of tail



American Wirehair

HEAD - 25 points

(Includes size and shape of eyes, ear shape and set)

In proportion to the body.

Underlying bone structure is round with prominent cheekbones, well developed muzzle and chin.

Note: Slight whisker break.

American Wirehair

HEAD - 25 points

Nose

In profile the nose shows a gentle concave curve. (A deep nose break is a penalty.)

Muzzle

Allowance for jowls in adult males.

Well Developed.

American Wirehair

HEAD - 25 points

Chin

Firm and well developed.

No malocclusion.

Eyes

Aperture has slight upward tilt.

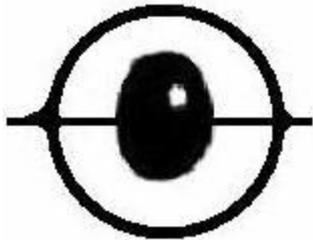
Large, round, bright and clear.

Set well apart.

American Wirehair

HEAD - 25 Points - Eyes

Aperture has a slight upward tilt.



Persian eye -
aperture is round
and straight across



Wirehair eye -
aperture is round but sits
on a bias. All bias eye
sets have a slight upward tilt
with distinct corners.

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HEAD - 25 points



Ears

Medium, slightly rounded tips

Set wide and not unduly open at the base.

American Wirehair

TYPE - 20 points

(Includes shape, size, bone and length of tail.)

Body

Medium to large.

Back level, shoulders and hips same width.

Torso, well rounded and in proportion.

Males larger than females.

Legs

Medium in length and bone, heavily muscled. All four legs should be straight and parallel with paws facing forward.

Paws

Firm, full and rounded with heavy padding.

Toes, five in front, four in back.

American Wirehair

COAT - 45 points

The MOST important part of the AWH that distinguished this breed from all others

Springy, tight, medium in length.

Individual hairs are crimped, hooked, crooked or bent, including hairs within the ears.

American Wirehair

COAT - 45 points

The overall appearance of wiring and the coarseness and resilience of the coat is more important than the crimping of each hair.

The density of the wired coat leads to ringlet formation rather than waves.

That coat, which is very dense, resilient, crimped and coarse, is most desirable, as are curly whiskers. A plus is curly/crimped hair in ears and between the toes.

American Wirehair

COAT AND EYE COLOR - 10 points

The American Wirehair is shown in all recognized colors except pointed.

Evidence of hybridization resulting in colors chocolate, lavender or Himalayan pattern, or these combinations with white are a disqualification.

EYE COLOR

Should reflect intensity and complement the color of the cat.

American Wirehair

PENALIZE

Deep nose break.

DISQUALIFY

Incorrect coat.

Kinked or abnormal tail.

Long or fluffy fur.

Evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, lavender, the Himalayan pattern or these combinations with white.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

There are many differences in coats in the American Wirehair, a good coat should be consistent in density and evenness of wiring. Some coats are thin and sparse, and should be penalized accordingly.

When judging American Wirehairs, look for a cat with good substance and bone, has rounded eyes, with high cheekbones and is shown with a springy, tight, wired coat that is even and has density throughout.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

The American Wirehair coat is the single characteristic that separates the American Wirehair from all other breeds. Just as there is a variety of texture in Persians or Exotics, there is also considerable variation among the American Wirehairs. As this is a dominant mutation, approximately half of the kittens will be wirehaired at birth. The most readily apparent wiring is that of the whiskers and ideally, the entire coat will be wired at birth.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

What is interesting and unusual about this particular mutation is that it has not been reported in any other country to date.

We are truly an American original.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

If the coat appears to be in ringlets, it may be too long and may have waves or straighten with maturity. Some of the tightly wired coats may continue to crimp during the early life of the Wirehair. The degree of coarseness depends upon the coat texture of the sire and dam. To produce the best wiring, both parents must have a hard coat.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

In checking the texture and density of the coat, be gentle, sometimes this coat has a tendency to break.

Evenness of coat is important. The best way to see this is to spread your fingers and place them on the body of the cat, let the coat come up between the fingers; you will get a good idea of how even the coat is and also the density of the coat, along with the “spring” to the overall coat. You may see some sparse areas around the ears & under the throat area, this is very common in whole cats.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

As with any bottom heavy cat, you need to support the entire cat. This means the majority of the weight is below the cat's midsection. This is due to the depth of the flank. In taking the cat to and from the benching cage and the judging table, be sure you give the cat this support. Let the cat stand naturally on the table. You can let the cat stand on its back legs in order to see the head and profile.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

To see the muzzle, face the cat towards the audience and look down at the top of the head, as you should do with any cat that has a muzzle.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

The American Wirehair is a relatively new breed with very few in numbers, keep that in mind when judging American Wirehairs.

- ** We continue to use American Shorthairs (the only allowable outcross) to improve type, quality & health.
- * Our overall population is very small relative to other CFA breeds.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES

The American Wirehair is NOT an American Shorthair with a wired coat. There are distinct differences in type: high cheekbones in the American Wirehair with muzzle described as well developed. In the American Shorthair, the muzzle is squared with a slight whisker pinch. The significant difference in the two breeds is eye shape.

American Wirehair

BREED COUNCIL NOTES



AMERICAN WIREHAIR

EYE SHAPE – Large, rounded, bright and clear. Set well apart. Aperture has slight upward tilt.



AMERICAN SHORTHAIR

EYE SHAPE – Large and wide with upper lid shaped as an almond (cut lengthwise) and lower lid shaped in a fully rounded curve. One eye width apart. Outer corner set slightly higher than inner corner.

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Following is a series of pictures showing roundness of head, width of eyes, eye aperture, ear set, body structure and coat.

American Wirehair



Council Rock Farm Adam of Hi-Fi.
The first American Wirehair.

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Best of Breed GC, BW, RW MERICAT WOOP WOOP OF KYETRAK,
Blue Mackerel Tabby-White American Wirehair Male

American Wirehair



Second Best of Breed GC, RW KMWK EMMALANE, Brown Ticked Tabby-White American Wirehair Female Photo: © Preston Smith Photography

American Wirehair



Third Best of Breed GC, RW MERICAT MACON MEWSIC OF KYETRAK,
Brown Patched Tabby-White American Wirehair Female

American Wirehair



The End