THE BURMESE

A Guide For Evaluation Of The Burmese Breed
Presented By The Burmese Breed Council June 2017
Art Graafmans, Breed Council Secretary
BURMESE

Point Allocation

- Head, Ears and Eyes - 30 points.
- Body, Legs, Feet and Tail - 30 points.
- Coat - 10 points.
- Color - 30 points.

Note that the Head, Body and Color are equally weighted.
General Impression

- The Burmese is a Medium Size Cat.
- Has Substantial Bone Structure.
- Has Excellent Muscle Development
- Carries a Surprising Amount of Weight For Its Size.
- Has Expressive Eyes - Large, bright and Attentive.
- Has a Rounded Head.
- Has a Sweet Look.
- Is Not Obese, Paunchy, Weak or Apathetic in Appearance.
Penalize

- Distinct barring on either the front or rear outer legs. Faint barring allowed in kittens and young adults.
- Elongated muzzle with severe narrowing leading to a wedge shaped head.
- Green eyes.
- Abnormal tail.

Note that abnormal tail was moved from disqualify to penalize. The breeders felt that a number of good cats where being DQ’d for having quite minor issues at the tip of the tail. The breeders felt these cats should not be DQ’d and leave it to the judge to penalize in proportion to the degree of the abnormality. It was also an attempt to stop the excessive palpation of the tail at the judging table.
Disqualify

- Kinked tail, lockets or spots
- Blue eyes
- Crossed eyes
- Incorrect nose leather or paw pad color
- Malocclusion of the jaw resulting in a severe underbite or overbite that visually prohibits the described profile and/or malformation that results in protruding teeth or a wry face or jaw
- Distinct barring on torso.
- Any color other than the accepted four colors of sable, champagne, blue and platinum.
BURMESE

Head, Ears and Eyes - 30 points

- Roundness of head - 7 points
- Breadth between eyes and full face - 6 points
- Proper profile including chin - 6 points
- Ear set, placement and size - 6 points
- Eye placement and shape - 5 points
This example has a beautiful rounded head with excellent eye set and shape. The ear are the correct size & shape and are well placed on the head. Note that the coat texture is outstanding and on the lighter end of the darkness range. The eye color is somewhat washed out.
This breed winner has a nicely rounded head with outstanding eye shape and placement. The neck and chest are well developed and the eye color is good. The ears are toward the small end of the range. Their shape and placement are excellent.
This female has a rounded head. She carries good weight and her neck and chest are well developed. Her eyes are a bit small and slightly too close together. Her eye color is washed out. Her ears are a bit too large causing them to appear too narrow at their base. Note there is a light spot below her chin which is not a locket, but rather due to a greater temperature sensitivity of the coat that also causes her to have a somewhat darker mask and tail.
This kitten’s ears are too large. Their placement is fine but they are not correctly proportioned to the head. The eye color is good but their shape isn’t quite rounded and they are a bit small. The platinum coat is on the light end of the range but is expected to darken some with age. There are no signs of barring anywhere on the coat.
This example has a rounded head but its ears are set too far on the side. The eye shape appears incorrect due to hooded eyebrows and gives the impression of a grumpy rather than sweet look. The eye color is washed out.
This blue kitten’s eyes are too small for its head and set slightly too close together. The kitten appears to be slightly wall eyed as well. The ears are placed correctly but are on the large end of the range. Note that the kitten does have good neck and chest development and the legs are well proportioned to the body.
This example has a pinched and somewhat long muzzle and the nose break is weak. The ear set and size is correct with rounded tips. The eye shape is good and the eye color is a brilliant yellow-gold.
There is a good visible nose break. The head is nicely rounded. The ears tilt slightly forward as desired. The head sits on a well developed neck. Both cats have excellent eye color.
These Burmese Have An Adequate Profile.

This example has an excellent nose break, roundness of the head and proper chin. There is a depression in the nose profile that is not desirable.

This example has an excellent nose break, roundness of the head but the chin is a bit weak. This cat has a well developed neck and excellent eye color.
This Profile is Barely Adequate.

This example has excellent roundness of the head. The nose break is visible but less pronounced. The chin is slightly weak but acceptable. The eye color is very good.

This Profile is Inadequate.

Here the nose break is good but the top head is almost flat and the muzzle is too long. Note the eye color is very good.
These Burmese Have An Inadequate Profile.

Here the top head is rounded but the muzzle is too long and the nose break is inadequate. It also has a “down” nose that many breeders don’t like. The ears do not tilt forward as required. The chin is fairly good.

This example has a poor nose break, a less rounded top head and a weak chin. The muzzle is on the long end of the range. There is good neck development and the ears do tilt slightly forward.
BURMESE

Body, Legs, Feet and Tail - 30 points

- Torso - 15 points
- Muscle tone - 5 points
- Legs and feet - 5 points
- Tail - 5 points
This example has an excellent body. The cat has a compact appearance, the legs are well proportioned to the body which exhibits good muscle tone. The back is level and the tail is straight and medium in length. Note that this example has beautiful sable coat which appears short, close lying and has a beautiful sheen.
This example has a good body. The cat a bit less compact in appearance, the legs are a bit longer. He exhibits a leaner build typical of an intact male. The back is level and the tail is straight but is thinner and longer in length. Note that this is also an example of a beautiful sable coat which appears short, close lying and has a beautiful sheen. Head type is very good.
This example is too long in the body and the legs are too long as well. Note that the ears are too large and the tips are somewhat pointed rather than rounded as called for in the standard.
BURMESE

Coat - 10 points

• Short - 4 points
• Texture - 4 points
• Close lying - 2 points

Comment

• While the coat of the Burmese only has 10 points allocated to it, it remains an important part of what makes the breed unique. The short close lying coat with a silky texture is unique to but a few breeds.
• Watch for cats with a wooly coat, especially in platinum cats. Some allowance should be given to kittens as their coat will generally improve with age.
The Coat

This beautiful example exhibits the correct close lying coat with a fine texture reminiscent of silk. Note the bright sheen to the coat as well. Also note that the head type, including the ears, is excellent and the eye color is a bright yellow.
The Coat

This example is an adult sable Burmese exhibiting noticeable barring on its front legs, both the inside and outside areas. It also has a visible necklace. These markings can be overlooked in kittens and young adults but should be penalized dependent on the degree in the mature adult.
This example is an adult with a wooly coat that does not lay close to the body. This is not what you would expect of a Burmese.
BURMESE

Color - 30 points

- Body color - 25 points
  - Body color has the single greatest number of points assigned to it.
  - Burmese color is characterized as solid but actually has a temperature dependence. Less than mink and much less than pointed but more than black.
  - The 4 colors, Sable, Champagne, Blue and Platinum must be distinct in their appearance. There should be no question as to which color the cat is.
- Penalize distinct barring on the legs. Faint barring is allowed on kittens and young adults. Also check for necklaces on the neck.
Sable

- Mature specimens have a rich, warm sable brown color.
- The underside of the cat may be somewhat lighter in color with a gradual gradation of color.
- Kittens may be lighter in color and may show faint signs of barring.
- There are no other signs of shading, barring or other markings.
- There is a range of darkness to the color from strong black coffee to a dark brown.
- The nose leather and paw pads should be brown in color.
- There should be no question if the specimen is sable or champagne.
The Sable coat should be glossy and close lying. Note the eye shape size and color are excellent. The ears size and placement are correct.

This younger example has a somewhat lighter coat with slight signs of necklaces which should disappear with age.
Champagne

- Mature specimens have a warm honey beige color.
- The underside of the cat may be somewhat lighter in color with a gradual gradation of color.
- There are no other signs of shading, barring or other markings.
- There is a range of darkness to the color from a warm light beige to a light brown.
- Watch for Champagne cats whose coat color has a taupe cast.
- Of the 4 Burmese colors, Champagne is affected most by temperature sensitivity. Masking of the face and darkening of the tail is not uncommon but should be selected against.
- The nose leather should be a light warm brown. The paw pads should be a warm pinkish tan.
- There should be no question if the specimen is champagne or sable.
Champagne color typically darkens with age. These photos are of the same cat at age 8 months and 3 years. She was intact at 8 months and a spay at 3 years.

Note that the eye shape is excellent, eye color is good, the ear set is excellent and the ear size is near the center of the range. She has a well-developed neck as an adult.
While some pointing is more common with champagne cats, this example’s mask, ears and feet are too dark to be acceptable. Note the profile, head shape and eye color are good.

This kitten exhibits minimal pointing and shows the light end of the acceptable color range for champagne. Note there is faint barring on the tail which is acceptable in a kitten. Eye set, size and color are excellent. The ears are correctly placed.
You should never have to question which color a Burmese is. Note each example does have very good eye color.
Blue

- Mature specimens should be a medium blue color with fawn undertones.
- The underside of the cat may be somewhat lighter in color with a gradual gradation of color.
- There are no other signs of shading, barring or other markings.
- A range of darkness to the color is acceptable so long as it is distinctively blue, has a warm color cast and is even.
- Watch for Blue cats whose coat has a cold color cast (a lack of fawn undertones).
- The nose leather is slate gray and the paw pads range from slate gray to a warm pinkish blue.
- There should be no question if the specimen is blue, platinum or sable.
This example is on the dark end of the range of blue color in the Burmese breed. Notice the fawn undertones especially in the chest. This color of blue is not found in other breeds. Note this example has good ear set and size. The eye color is a bit weak.
Here is a lighter example of blue. Notice this cat has cooler shading, exhibiting less fawn but is within range. Note that the ears and eyes are very good and the neck and body are well developed. The coat is close lying and glossy.
Is this cat blue or platinum?
You should never have to question which color a Burmese is.
Note this example does have good ear set and size.
The eye color and shape are good.
**Platinum**

- Mature specimens have a pale silvery gray color with pale fawn undertones.
- The underside of the cat may be somewhat lighter in color with a gradual gradation of color.
- There are no other signs of shading, barring or other markings.
- There is a range of darkness to the color from a medium pale gray to a light pale gray but should always have a warm cast.
- Watch for platinum cats whose coat color lacks warmth.
- There should be no question if the specimen is blue, platinum or almost white.
Platinum color typically darkens with age. These photos are of the same cat at age 7 months and 4 years. She was intact at 7 months and a spay at 4 years. The fawn undertones are more apparent in the kitten photo but are present in the adult.

Note that the eye shape and color are outstanding, the ear set is excellent and the ear size is toward the small end of the range. She has a well-developed neck even as a kitten.
This mature example has held excellent coat color. The fawn undertones are readily apparent and there is minimal darkening of the tail and ears. Note that the eye color, shape and placement are excellent as is the ear placement and size.

This younger examples coat color is almost too light. The fawn undertones are not readily apparent. Note that the eye color is excellent. The ear placement and size are correct.
Eye color - 5 points

- Should range from yellow to gold.
- A deep and brilliant color is preferred. Pale eye color is not preferred but is acceptable.
- Near copper eye color is acceptable. No need to penalize.
- Penalize green eye color.
- Disqualify blue eye color.
Eye Color Examples

- Good Brilliant Yellow
- Excellent Brilliant Gold
- Acceptable Near Copper
- Washed Out
- Green - Penalize
Handling

- Burmese as a breed are generally very sweet and nonaggressive.
- Burmese and females in particular can be foul mouthed, complaining loudly but it’s all talk!
- Please take time to play with the Burmese. Most retain their kitten like sense of play though out their adult life.
- Most Burmese like to be cuddled. Feel free to hold them on their back like a baby. This is an excellent way to see their eye color and shape.
Just finished the program. I’m heading to Disneyland!