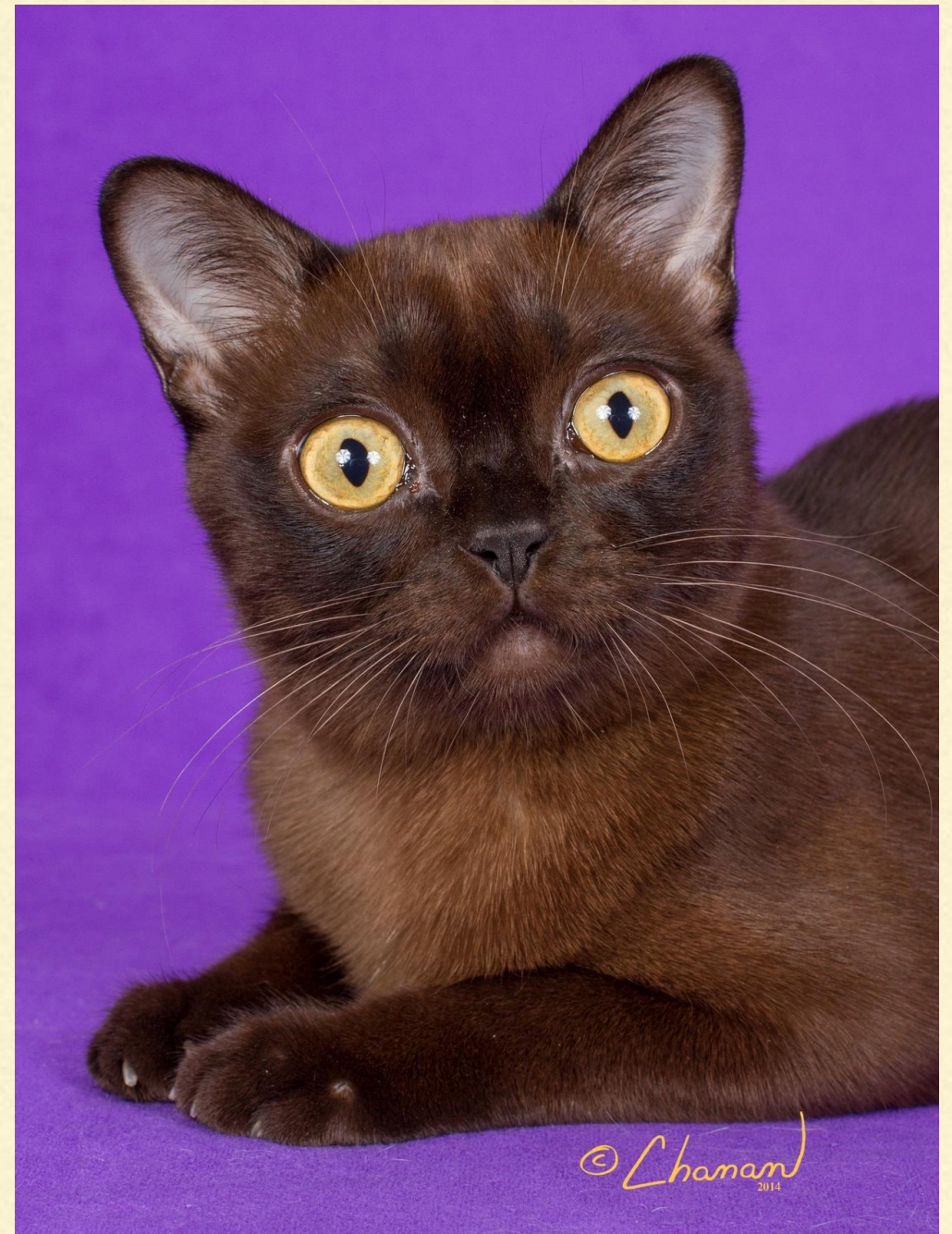


THE BURMESE

A Guide For Evaluation Of The
Burmese Breed
Presented By The Burmese Breed
Council

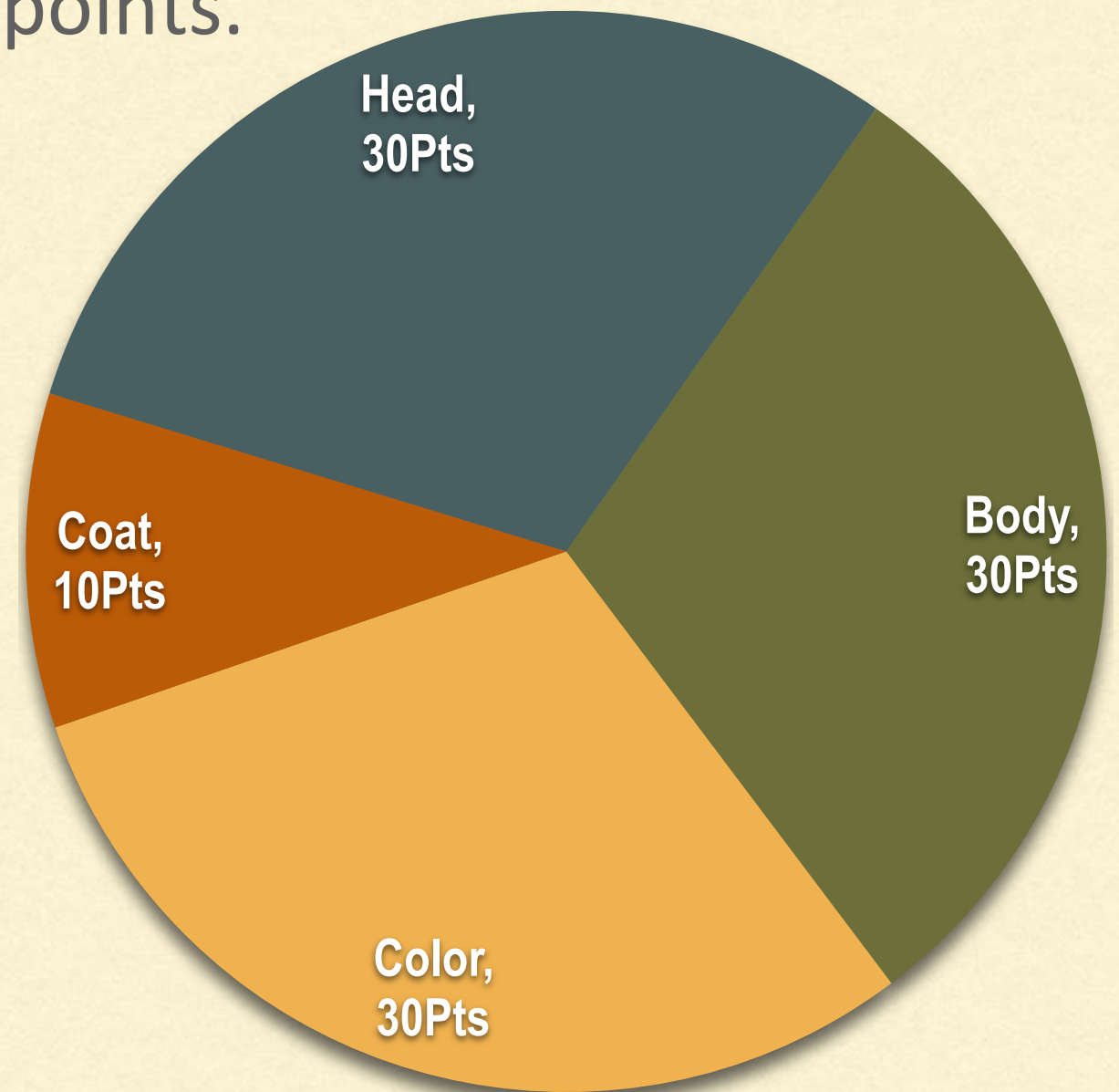


BURMESE

Point Allocation

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

The Head, Body and Color are equally weighted



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General Impression

- The Burmese is a medium size cat.
- Has substantial bone structure and excellent muscle development.
- Carries a surprising amount of weight for its size.
- Has expressive eyes-large, bright and attentive-leading to a sweet look.
- Has a rounded head with a short broad muzzle and a strong chin.
- Has a short, silky close-lying coat
- Is not obese, paunchy, weak or apathetic in appearance.

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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.

Historical note: abnormal tail was moved from disqualify to penalize because breeders felt that a number of good cats were being DQ'ed for having quite minor issues at the tip of the tail. In addition, breeders felt that some judges were excessively palpating the tail. Judges should use discretion in penalizing according to the degree of abnormality .

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Disqualify

- Kinked tail, lockets or spots
- Blue or 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.

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A note about Burmese colors. Every effort has been made to present photos representative of the four Burmese colors. However, due to the nature of the coat colors and the sheen of the close lying coat, some of the pictures may not accurately represent the colors of the cats. Lighting and background colors can have a significant impact on the appearance of colors in pictures.

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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

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Head, Ears & Eyes



This example has a beautiful rounded head with excellent eye set and shape. The ears are the correct size & shape and are well placed on the head. The coat texture is outstanding and on the lighter end of the range of permissible shades of sable.

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Head, Ears & Eyes



This champagne 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. The nose leather is appropriate for the coat color.

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Head, Ears & Eyes



This champagne female has a rounded head. She carries good weight, and her neck and chest are well developed. Her ears are a bit too large causing them to appear too narrow at their base. 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.

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Head, Ears & Eyes



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 in this picture and they are a bit small. The platinum coat is on the light end of the shade range with no signs of barring anywhere on the coat.

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Head, Ears & Eyes



This example has a rounded head, but its ears are set too far on the side. The eyes are not round. Coat color is good, in the middle of the range for champagne.

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Head, Ears & Eyes



This blue kitten's eyes are an excellent shape. The ears have good size and placement. The coat color is at the lighter end of the blue shade range but will darken with age.

BURMESE

Head, Ears & Eyes

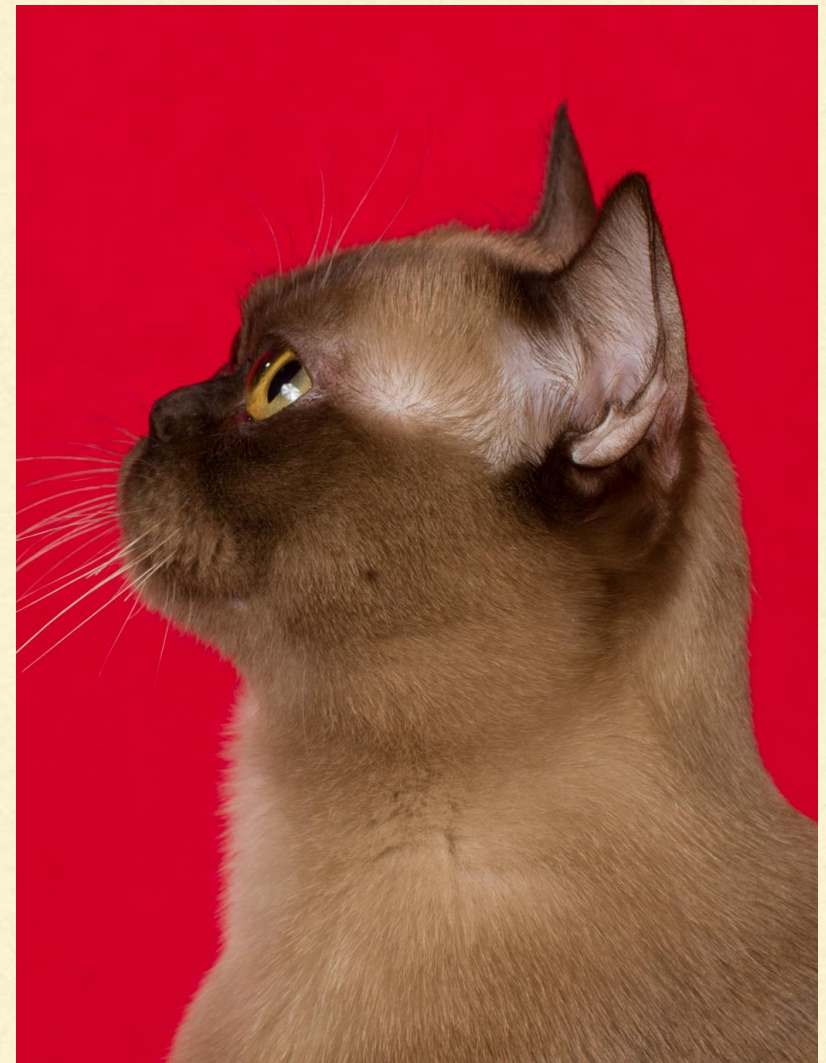


This platinum is at the darker end of the shade range with proper color nose leather. The ear set and size is correct with rounded tips. The eye shape is good, and the eye color is a brilliant yellow-gold.

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Profile

These Burmese Have A Proper Profile.



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.

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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 commonly seen.



Here the top head is rounded but the nose break is not strong. There is a "down nose" also commonly seen. The chin is strong.

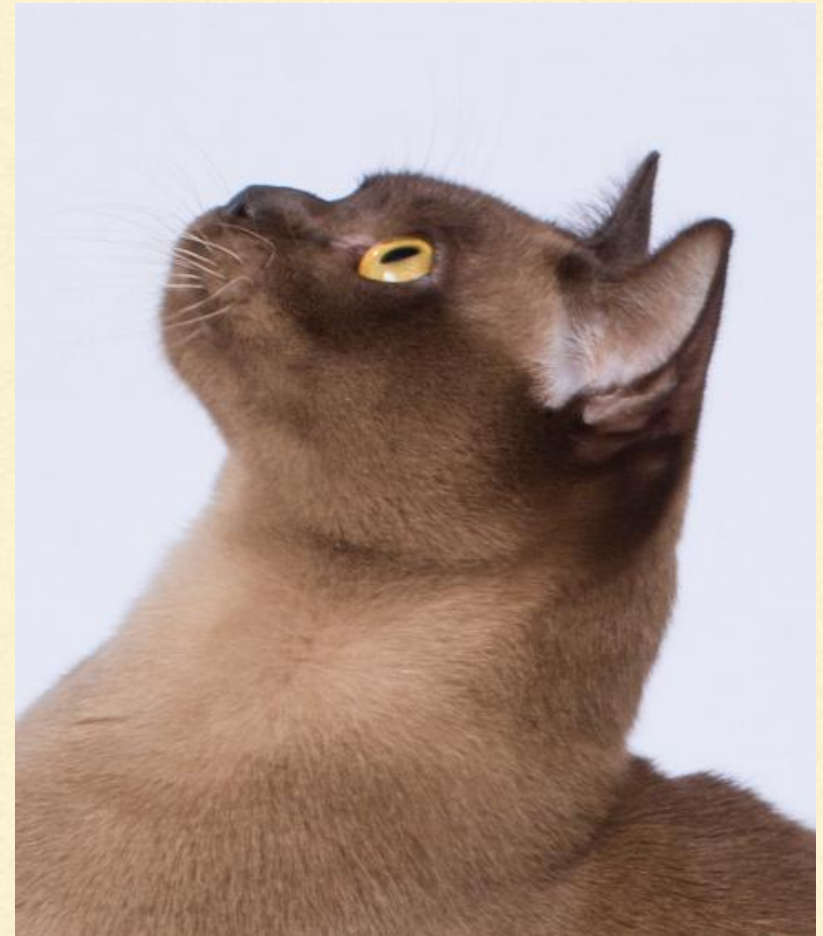
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This Profile is Barely Adequate.



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.



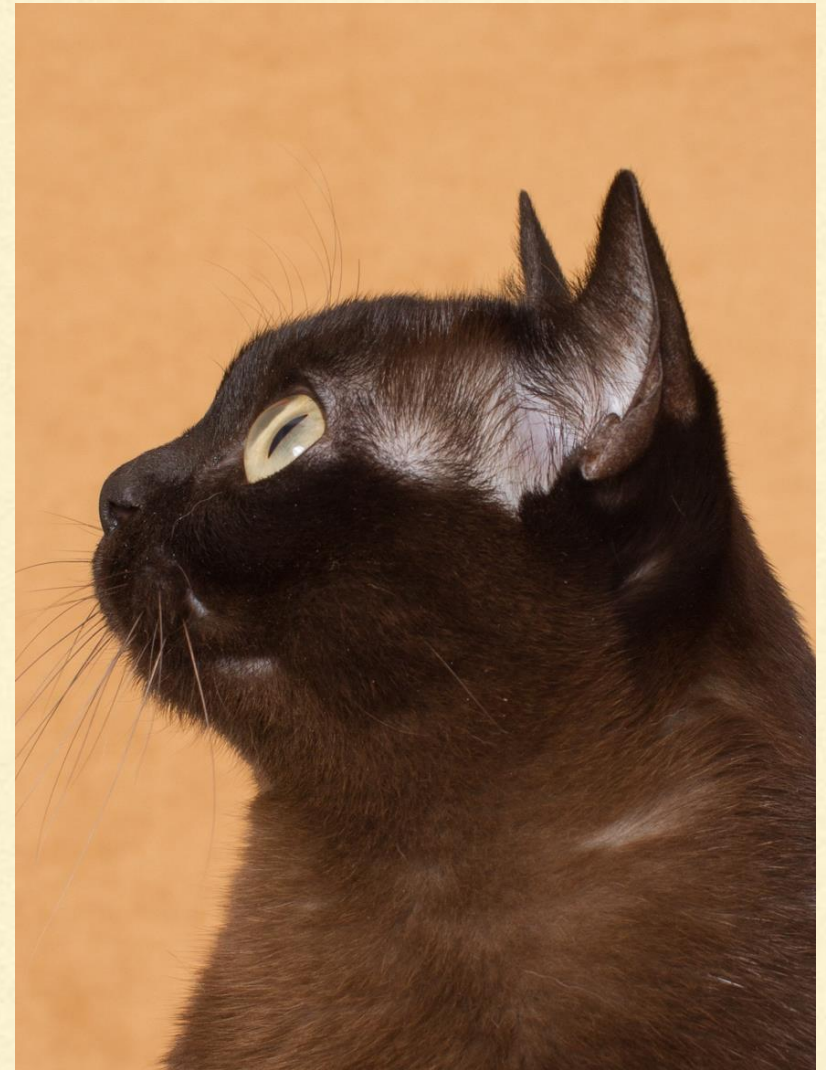
Here the nose break is good, but the top head is almost flat, and the muzzle is too long. The eye color is very good.

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These Burmese Have An Inadequate Profile.



This example has an excellent nose break and roundness of the head, but the chin is weak, and the neck is too thick. There is a roll of skin under the chin that causes poor delineation of the head.



This example has a poor nose break, a less rounded top head and a weak chin. There is good neck development, and the ears do tilt slightly forward.

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Body, Legs, Feet and Tail - 30 points

- Torso - 15 points
- Muscle tone - 5 points
- Legs and feet - 5 points
- Tail - 5 points

BURMESE

Body, Legs, Feet and Tail



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. This example has beautiful sable coat which appears short, close lying and has a beautiful sheen.

BURMESE

Body, Legs, Feet and Tail



This example has a good body. The back is level, and the tail is straight. This is also an example of a good sable coat which appears short, closely lying and has a beautiful sheen. Head type and eye color are very good. The pale lines visible on the front leg are breaks in the coat, not markings.

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Body, Legs, Feet and Tail



This example is somewhat long in the body and the legs are a bit long as well but there is good general balance. Although acceptable this is not preferred.

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Coat - 10 points

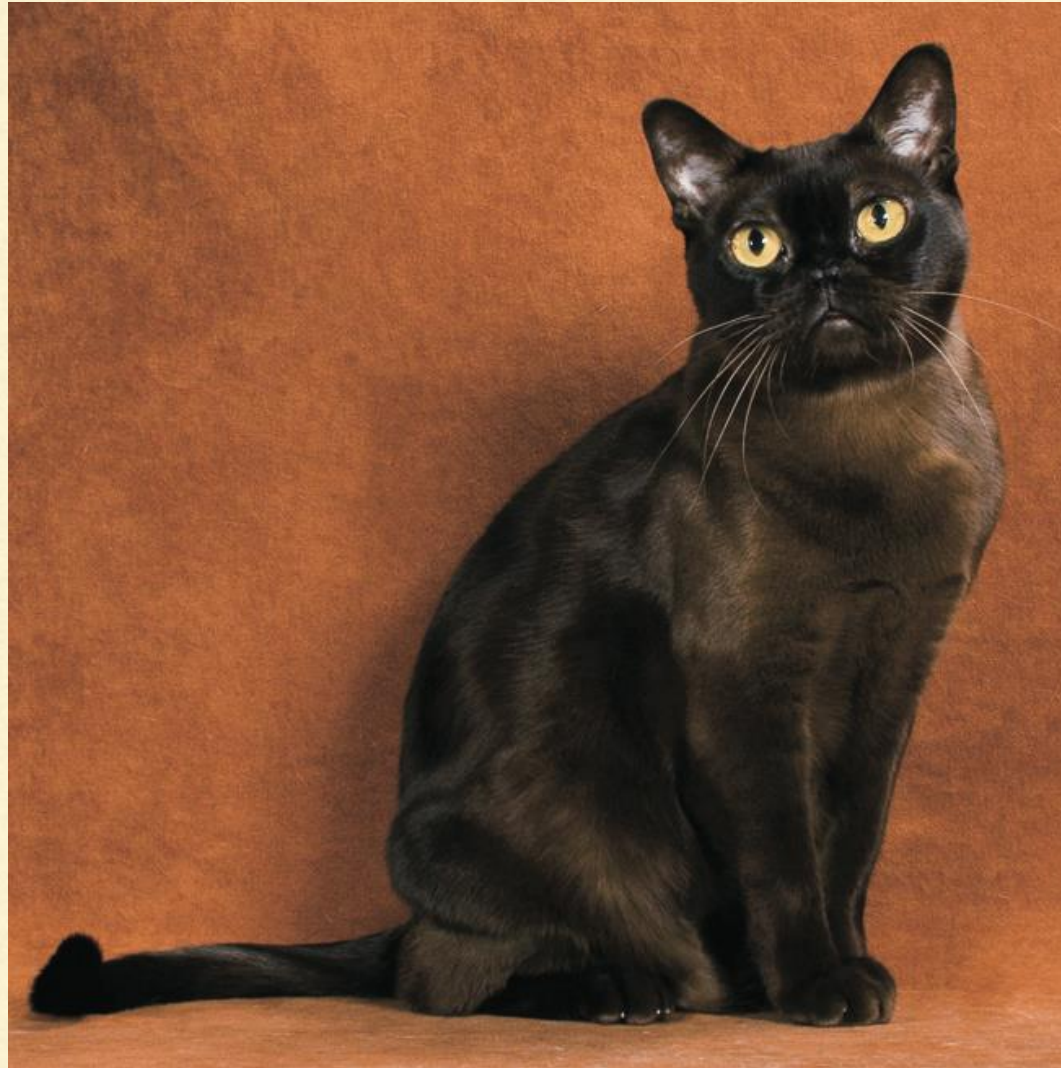
- Short - 4 points
- Texture - 4 points
- Close lying - 2 points

Comment

- While the coat of the Burmese only has 10 points allocated to it, it remains an important part of what makes the breed: Burmese are known for their short, close-lying coats with a silky texture and noticeable sheen. Some allowance should be given to kittens as their coats will generally improve with age.

BURMESE

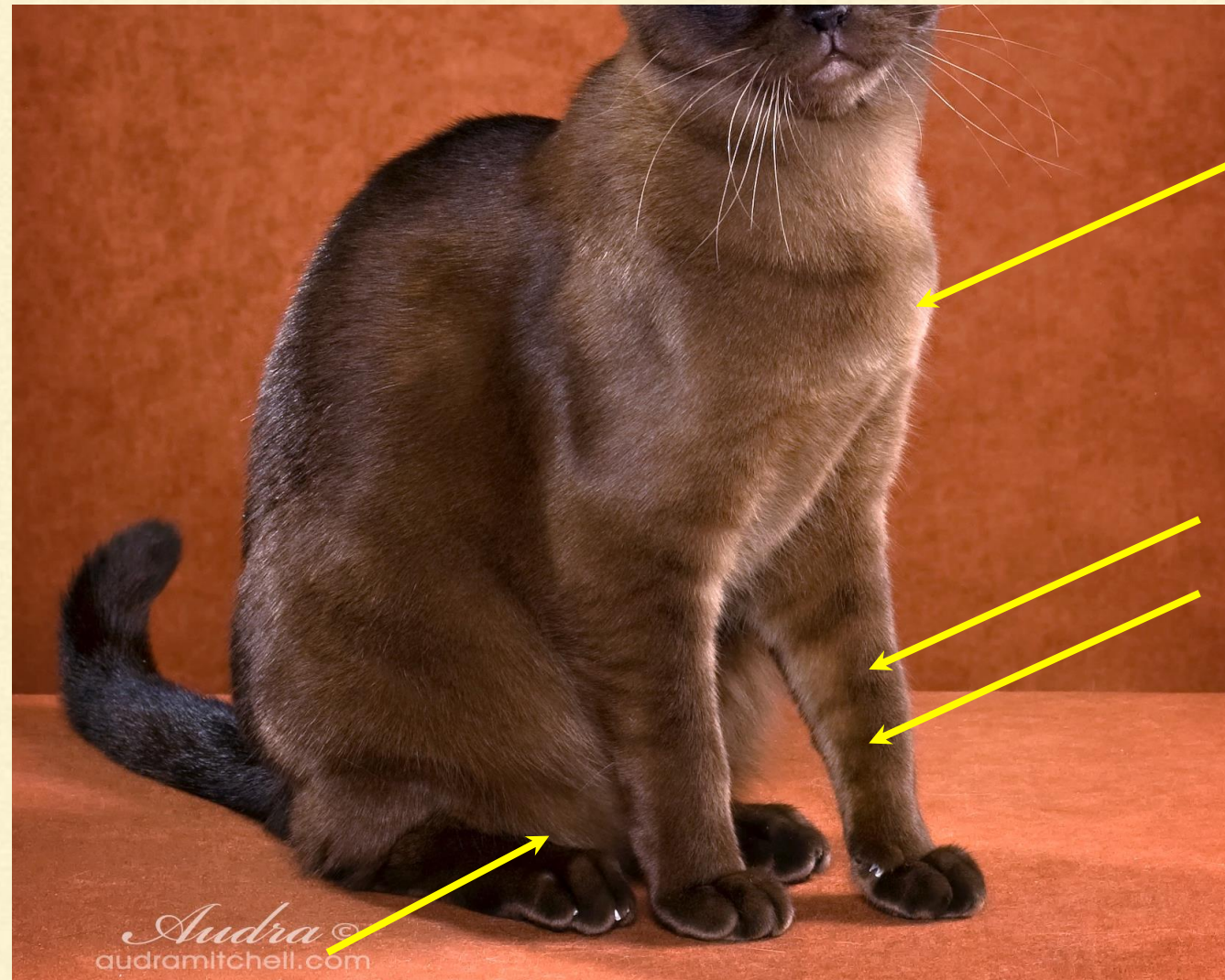
The Coat



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 the head type, including the ears, is excellent and the eye color is a bright yellow.

BURMESE

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.

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The Coat



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 but can be more an issue of poor grooming.

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Color - 30 points

- Body color - 25 points
 - Body color has the single greatest number of points.
 - Burmese color is characterized as solid but actually has a temperature dependence. Lighter shades may exhibit darker mask and tail.
 - The 4 colors, Sable, Champagne, Blue and Platinum must be distinct in their appearance. Each color has a range of shades. There is no preference for one color over another-all are equally acceptable.
 - A mature coat will be the same color to the root, clear of markings and even other than slight lightening towards the underparts.

Sable

- Mature specimens have a rich dark brown color ranging from coffee bean to dark cocoa.
- The underside of the cat will be somewhat lighter in color except in very mature specimens. There is no sharp delineation of color shading.
- Kittens may be lighter in color and may show faint signs of barring.
- The sheen of the coat is most obvious in the sable colors.
- The nose leather and paw pads should be dark brown in color.

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The sable coat should be glossy and close lying.
The eye shape, size and color are excellent
And 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.

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These two mature sable girls exhibit excellent dark sable color with sheen and little to no shading to the underparts.



These two sable girls demonstrate the range of shades available in the sable color. Eye color is excellent showing yellow to gold range.

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Champagne

- This Burmese color shows a wide range of shades from pale golden tan to dark honey gold with preference given to lighter shades.
- All Burmese darken with age. This is most apparent in the lighter colors such as champagne and platinum. So, when comparing shades of champagne judges should be very aware of the age of the cat.
- Temperature dependent darker mask and tail will usually be more evident in the lighter shades. Lighter underparts usually distinguish the darker shades.
- The nose leather should be a light warm brown. The paw pads should be a warm pinkish tan to mauve.

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These photos are of the same cat at age 8 months and 3 years demonstrating darkening with age. The darker shade may be seen in younger cats as well. Although lighter shades are preferred in champagnes judges should consider the age of the cat in evaluating the shade. 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.

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This three-year-old male champagne shows excellent evenness of color. For his age he is still a very light shade.



This champagne female of about the same age shows how much darker some cats get with age. She is still identifiable as champagne due to her lighter underparts.

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These two kittens exhibit minimal pointing and show the light end of the color range for champagne as is often seen on younger specimens. There is faint barring on the tail of the kitten on the left which is acceptable in a kitten. Eye size and color are excellent. The ears are correctly placed.

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While some pointing is common in champagne cats the example to the right has a mask, ears and feet that are too dark to be acceptable.



The example to the left has very pale color but too much contrast between body and mask.

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This champagne has a lot of contrast between mask and body color but feet and tail color are good. This is acceptable but not preferred.



This picture shows the correct pinkish tan paw pad color.

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Blue

- Mature specimens should be a medium blue color with fawn undertones. In photographs they may look more brown than blue.
- The underside of the cat may be somewhat lighter in color with no distinct division 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.
- Blue cats whose coat has a cold color cast (a lack of fawn undertones) are undesirable.
- The nose leather is slate gray and the paw pads range from dusky purple to pinkish tan.

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This example is on the dark end of the range of blue color in the Burmese breed. The fawn undertones are especially visible in the chest. This color of blue is not found in other breeds. This example has good ear set and size. The eye color is a bit weak

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Here is an example of a medium blue. This cat has cooler shading, exhibiting less fawn but is within range.

The ears and eyes are very good, and the neck and body are well developed. The coat is close lying and glossy.

BURMESE



This blue male is a medium shade with clear brown cast. Sheen is clearly visible.

BURMESE



This blue girl is a lovely pale shade and also shows the warm undertones. She shows evenness of color with mask and tail matching the body.

BURMESE



It is difficult to demonstrate in pictures how to tell a dark platinum from a pale blue. On the judging stand with proper lighting the distinction is more obvious. The pale pinkish tones on the chest and underside suggest this cat as a platinum but it is actually a blue. For the most part blues have less of the lighter underparts than platinums.

BURMESE



Here are examples of nose leather and paw pad color on blue Burmese

BURMESE

● 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 no sharp demarcation 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.
- Nose leather is pale brick to purple grey. Paw pads are pink to mauve.
- Platinum cats whose coat color lacks warmth are undesirable.
- There should be no question if the specimen is blue or platinum, sable or champagne.

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Platinum color typically darkens with age. These photos are of the same cat at age 7 months and 4 years. The fawn undertones are more apparent in the kitten photo but are present in the adult.

The eye shape and color are outstanding but differences in lighting give them different shades. 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.

BURMESE

This mature example has held excellent coat color. The fawn undertones are readily apparent and there is minimal darkening of the tail and ears.

The eye color, shape and placement are excellent as is the ear placement and size.



This younger example's coat color is very pale. The fawn undertones are apparent, especially on the legs. The eye color is excellent. The ear placement and size are correct.

BURMESE

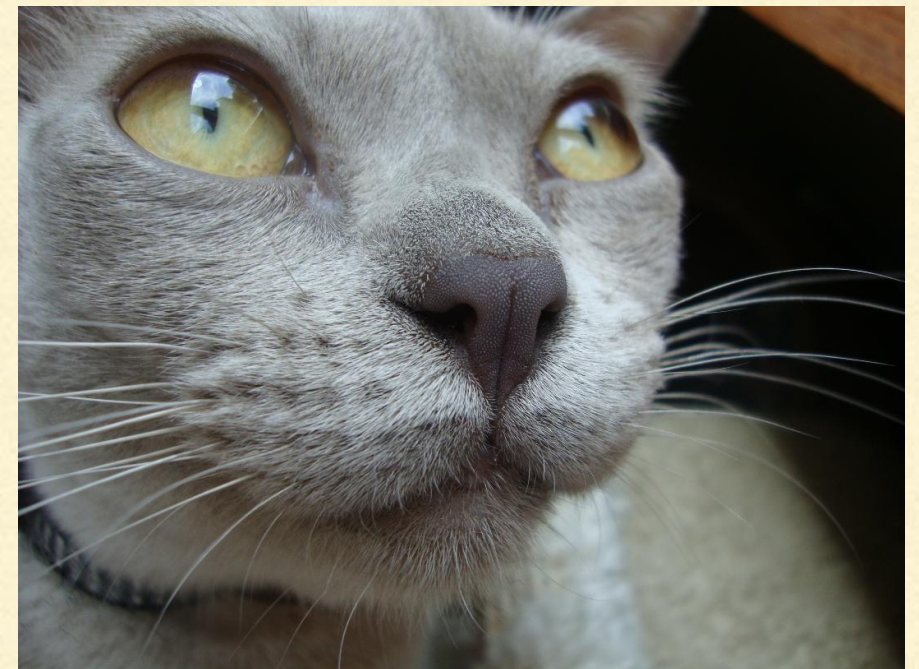


This is a lovely platinum male as a kitten and a mature adult. Eye shape and color are excellent.

BURMESE



Some
examples of
platinum nose
leather and
paw pads.



BURMESE

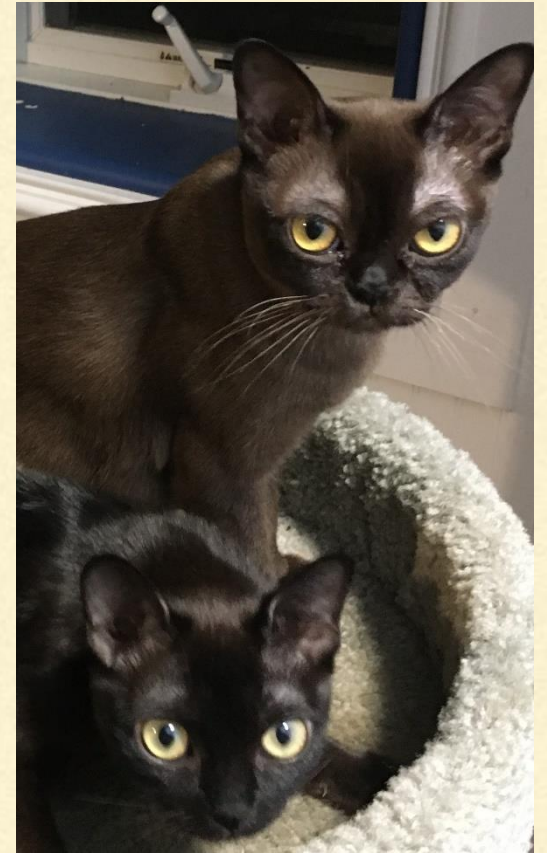
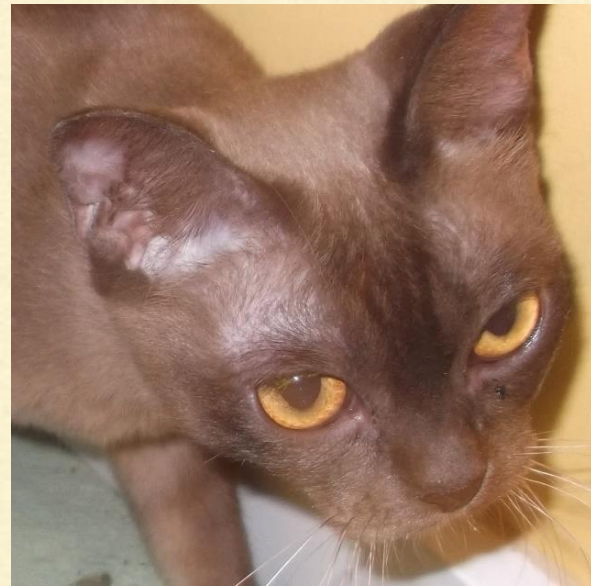
Eye color - 5 points

- Should range from yellow to gold.
- A deep and brilliant color is preferred. Pale eye color is acceptable.
- Penalize green eye color.
- Disqualify blue eye color.

BURMESE

Eye Color Examples

All of these cats exhibit excellent depth of color



BURMESE

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 through out their adult life. As they are athletic an invitation to the scratching post may lead to a Burmese at the top of the pole.
- 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.
- Assess weight vs size as you carry them from cage to table. Place the cat four square on the table to evaluate balance and proportion.

BURMESE

- Evaluate coat and color by examining the legs and body for barring and the chest and underparts for white spots. Besides lockets on the lower neck, you may find white spots on the chest between the front legs and also on the lower abdomen.
- Ruffle the coat back a bit over the shoulders and sides to check length of coat and depth of color.
- Examine the head from all angles to assess roundness of head, amount of break, length of muzzle, size shape and set of eyes and ears.
- Inserting your hand between the front legs will enable you to evaluate breadth of chest.

BURMESE



**Thank you
for your kind
attention**

BURMESE

All photos © by their respective photographers.

Original presentation prepared by Art Graafmans, Burmese
breed council secretary, 2017.

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