THE CHARTREUX

Chartreux Breed Council, May 2015
Orca Starbuck, Breed Council secretary
A robust cat; very elegant in all respects.

from “Standard Plan of the Chartreux Cat,” 1975
The Chartreux is a natural, historic French breed. It was first described in writing as early as the 16th century, and catalogued by early naturalists Linnaeus and Buffon as one of four breeds known in Europe.

Most lived a harsh existence, as ratters, or as “rooftop cats,” as in this engraving. Their pelts were also traded by furriers that prized their thick, woolly coats.
We do not know how these cats acquired the name “Chartreux.”

Legend says that they were raised by the Carthusian monks as companions, and this theory appears in the entry on the breed in Denis Diderot’s 1758 *Grand Encyclopedia*.

However, there are no records that the monks ever kept cats.
Chartreux kept as companions have been much beloved by their owners. Famous owners of Chartreux have included Charles de Gaulle, Charles Baudelaire, and the novelist Colette.

Colette with cats; she wrote 1933 book *La Chatte* about her Chartreux, Saha

*Magdalone Pinceloup de la Grange* by Jean-Baptiste Perronneau, 1747
Selective breeding began in the 1920s, when sisters Christine and Suzanne Léger moved to Belle-Île in the northwest of France, and were intrigued to find large colonies of blue cats that matched historical descriptions of Chartreux.
Other breeders near Paris formed a club in the 1930s. From early on, they worked with the Léger sisters, exchanging cats to maintain a viable gene pool with consistent type. The first official breed standard was established in 1939.
After the war, it became difficult to find natural Chartreux, and in the 1960s some breeders used British Blues as an outcross. This caused some lines to become very mixed.

From 1970-1977, FIFe even judged the two breeds under the same standard, but breeders protested. Finally the original 1939 standard was restored.
In 1970, Helen Gamon began the first North American breeding program, using Chartreux from the best French lines available. Breeders in the US and Canada continued to import Chartreux with the least influence of British Shorthair, including cats directly from the Léger sisters of Belle-Île. The Chartreux was advanced to CFA championship competition in 1987.
Today's Chartreux remains quite similar to the natural Chartreux from the 1920s, and in turn, the images and descriptions from the 18th century. We continue to protect and preserve this historic breed.
CHARTREUX

Standard
The point allocation in the CFA standard can appear complex because there are a lot of small parts, and unlike some breeds, there is no single part of the cat that dominates the standard.

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|               |               |               |              |
| 6             | 8             | 15            | 10           |
| 4             | 8             | 5             | 5            |
| 5             | 5             | 5             | 5            |
| 5             | 4             |               |              |
Try mentally grouping the parts of the standard into just three areas: head, body, and coat.

Note the emphasis on the head, with more points allocated to the head than in most breeds.

Coat (texture and color together) is equal in value to the body.

Coat texture is much more important than coat color.
Including eye color, the points allocated to the head total 40 points, and can be grouped into four equally important areas.
Note: Ear placement and eye color are very visible parts of the head, strongly affecting how we perceive the cat. Keep in mind that they are only worth 5 points each.
CHARTREUX

The Head

- Head and Neck: 10
- Profile: 10
- Muzzle: 10
- Ears: 10
- Eyes: 10
- Coat color: 10
- Coat quality: 20
- Body, legs, and tail: 30

Score breakdown:
- Head and Neck: 10
- Profile: 10
- Muzzle: 10
- Ears: 10
- Eyes: 10
- Coat color: 10
- Coat quality: 20
- Body, legs, and tail: 30
Head Shape

- Rounded and broad.
- Not a sphere.
- Powerful jaw.
- Full cheeks.
- Mature males have larger jowls.
The female: rounded head, broad at eye level, with full cheeks.
CHARTREUX

The mature male: broad at eye level, with heavy jowls that make the base of the head wider than the top.
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Neck

• Short and heavy set.
Profile

- High, softly contoured forehead.
- Straight nose, medium length and width.
- Slight stop at eye level.
Medium length, straight nose with slight stop.
Thick hair can create “eyebrow” that accentuates stop. Smooth back the hair to feel the underlying profile.
Nose and muzzle point downwards, which allows forehead contour to flow smoothly into straight nose.
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Nose to chin line slants back, due to muzzle angle. Chin is not required to be strong, firm or deep, but should not be so weak as to appear overshot.
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Muzzle/nose should not be rotated upward.

Correct

Incorrect

Note how upward rotation shortens nose, deepens stop.
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Straight nose with slight stop.

Incorrect, rotated upward. Strong stop. Short nose.
Straight nose with slight stop.

Incorrect, rotated upward. Strong stop. Short nose.
Muzzle

- Comparatively small, narrow, tapered. Slight pads.
Correct narrow muzzle relative to head.  Incorrect broad muzzle relative to head.
Correct narrow muzzle with slight pads.

Incorrect broad muzzle, heavy pads, whisker pinch.
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These two cats have relatively short, round faces that are very appealing. It can be tempting for both breeders and judges to select short faces like this.

Which cats are probably not Chartreux? How can you tell?
Answer: These cats are not Chartreux. Besides the ears, you will note broader muzzles, shorter and more upturned noses, and a more pronounced dip or stop at eye level.
A sweet smile can be impish. Knowing. Regal. Benevolent. Flirtatious. Amused. Coy. Enigmatic, a Mona Lisa smile. What is our 18\textsuperscript{th} century Chartreux smiling about?
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Ears

- Medium height / width
- Set high on the head
- Very erect posture
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Medium height / width, set high, very erect posture.
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Ears too small.

Medium in height and width.
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Set high on the head

Very erect posture
Breeders may prefer slightly different styles and shapes. All of these cats have medium sized, high set, very erect ears.
Some cats have nicely placed high set ears that angle out slightly. This is often seen in males as the head matures. It is not ideal, but acceptable.

All of the above males produced kittens with excellent ears.
Incorrect low / wide set ears.
This male is pictured as a kitten and an adult.
His ear set is not a result of maturity.
Eyes

• Rounded and open; alert and expressive.
Rounded and open eyes.
Chartreux eyes are rounded and open, but have corners and are set at an angle.
Together with rounded contours, the corners and angled set create a very expressive eye.
Eye shape changing with mood and excitement.  
Note rounded contour of lower lid.
Correct eyes. Note wide, open bone structure.

Incorrect almond eye. Note high cheek bones compressing eye shape.
Correct eyes.
Note prominent set, at front of face.

Incorrect small, almond shaped eyes.
Note deep set.
Eye Color

- Range is copper to gold
- Clear, deep, brilliant orange is preferred

The standard specifies a range of colors. Emphasis should be placed on color clarity and intensity, rather than shade.
Note: In some older cats, especially females that have had several litters, eye color can weaken considerably. Even the most brilliant orange or copper eyes might become almost colorless or develop greenish tones.
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Body

- Body, legs, and tail: 30
- Head shape: 10
- Profile muzzle: 10
- Ears: 10
- Eyes: 10
- Coat color: 20
- Coat quality: 20
Body overview

**Shape and size**: 8 points
- Medium-long body
- Robust physique
- Broad shoulders
- Deep chest
- Females medium
- Males large

**Legs and feet**: 8 points
- Legs comparatively short
- Straight and sturdy
- Feet round, medium size
- Feet may appear small

**Tail**: 4 points
- Moderate length
- Heavy base, oval tip
- Lively and flexible

**Boning**: 5 points
- Strong boning
- Legs comparatively fine

**Musculature**: 5 points
- Solid, dense
Size

- Females medium; males large.

Males may be twice the size of females, and much more massive and broad, especially in the head, neck and chest. Females are medium sized and more refined. This is not an “allowance” for the female; it is specified in the standard. *Vive la différence!*
Body Shape

- Medium-long
- Robust physique

The medium-long, heavy body of the Chartreux is primitive in type, not cobby.
Legs and Feet

Contrast between legs and body is a distinctive characteristic.

- Legs comparatively short and fine-boned
- Feet round, medium in size
- May appear almost dainty compared to body mass
Legs are comparatively fine boned, relative to the body mass. In large, massive or mature cats, upper part of leg may be very sturdy and muscular, with legs tapering towards medium feet.
Legs are comparatively short, relative to the medium-long, deep body. The standard does not require short legs.
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Good proportions
Rectangular appearance

Long legs, body too short
Square appearance

Extreme proportions due to overweight, not desirable

Legs too long, may occur in adolescent “lanky” phase
• Broad shoulders
• Deep chest

Chartreux often sit or stand with the relatively small front feet close together, giving the front of the cat a somewhat triangular shape. Look for breadth at the shoulders and upper part of the chest.
Adult males with broad shoulders and deep chests; both are very handsome. The male on right has a more square lower chest, with legs set apart. This is equally correct, not required by the standard.
Both sexes broaden in the head, neck and chest as they reach full maturity, but this is most dramatic in the males.

Young adult males with good structure.  Mature male.
Young adult females with good structure. Note how their broad shoulders strongly contrast with refined legs and feet.

Incorrect front: narrow build, shallow chest, long legs, large feet.
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Tail

• Moderate length;
• Heavy at base, tapering to oval tip.
• Lively and flexible.
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Coat

- Coat color: 10
- Coat quality (texture and length): 20
- Body, legs and tail: 30
- Head shape: 10
- Profile muzzle: 10
- Ears: 10
- Eyes: 10

Profile:
- Muzzle: 10
- Ears: 10
- Eyes: 10
Texture / Length

- Medium-short
- Slightly woolly
- Breaks like sheepskin
- Resilient undercoat; longer, protective topcoat.
Texture of the coat is more important than how much coat there is, or how much the coat appears to break.

Correct coat should feel substantial, not light and fluffy, with a perceptible difference between dense, woolly undercoat and slightly longer, protective top coat.
• Degree of woolliness depends on age, sex and habitat, mature males exhibiting the heaviest coats.
• Silkier, thinner coat permitted on females and cats under two years.
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Young female with soft, silky coat

Male with well-developed woolly coat texture
Fully developed woolly coat texture in a mature cat over 5 years old (also, typical behavior of the mature adult)
Longhaired kittens are occasionally seen in Chartreux litters.

We do not want to see this promoted or perpetuated.

Long hair is a fault, like a tail kink. These cats can be cute pets, but should not be used in a breeding program.

Long hair is not historically correct for the Chartreux. It was probably introduced by a few isolated outcrosses that are known to have had Persian heritage.
Coat Color

- Any shade of blue-gray from ash to slate; tips lightly brushed with silver.
- Emphasis on clarity and uniformity rather than shade.
- Preferred tone is a bright, unblemished blue with an overall iridescent sheen.
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Ash blue.

Emphasis on color clarity and uniformity rather than shade.
Slate blue.

Emphasis on color clarity and uniformity rather than shade.
Bright blue with excellent clarity and uniformity.
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- Nose leather slate gray
- Lips blue
- Paw pads rose-taupe
Allowance made for ghost barring in kittens and tail rings in juveniles under two years of age.
Growth and development

Bone growth in the Chartreux continues for about 15 months. Most young adults seen in the show hall are still growing. Development continues until about 3-4 years for females, and 4-5 years for males.
The rate and pattern of development can vary greatly. These are both 5 month old males. The kitten on the left is already much more mature in head, body and coat. Both development rates are normal.
Male pictured as a kitten, adolescent, and young adult. He will continue to mature until he is 4-5 years of age.
Female pictured at different ages, showing awkward adolescent stage and development of head, body and coat – particularly coat texture.
Penalize

- Snubbed or upturned nose, nose break
- Broad, heavy muzzle
- Palpable tail defect
- Eyes too close together giving angry look

Closed-set eyes

Broad, heavy muzzle

Nose break

Snubbed nose
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The standard penalizes faults in the nose and muzzle because these features are important to distinguish the Chartreux from other breeds.

Chartreux nose and muzzle when seen from the front.

Penalize **snubbed** or **upturned** nose.

Penalize **broad**, **heavy** muzzle.
Disqualify

- White locket
- Green eyes
- Visible tail kink
- Any signs of lameness in the hindquarters
CHARTREUX

Any questions?

- Head: 40
  - Head shape: 10
  - Profile muzzle: 10
  - Ears: 10
  - Eyes: 10
- Body, legs, and tail: 30
- Coat color: 10
- Coat quality (texture and length): 20

Coat color:
- Grey: 10
- Blue: 10
- Yellow: 10
- White: 10

Profile:
- Triangular: 10
- Square: 10

Ears:
- Large: 10
- Small: 10

Muzzle:
- Wide: 10
- Narrow: 10
We owe our North American Chartreux bloodlines to the dedicated efforts of more than 100 breeders since 1970.

**Acadia**  Eva & Glenn Veprek  **Beanerie**  Michelle Jockers  
**Ajolie**  Dru Milligan & Jolie Stratton  **Belleisle**  Penny Rice  
**Ami**  Bill & Pauly Schumacher  **Bellereve**  Larry and Brennie Brackett  
**Amoureuse**  Don & Luci Koizumi  **Bergeebleu** cattery  
**Aneise**  Jessie Strike-McLeodland  **Biboux** cattery  
**Ange Bleue**  Barbara Witten  **Bienaimebleu**  Lynda Kaczmarski  
**Arista**  Genevieve Scudder  **Bijou Bleu**  Denis & Roxane Hettinger  
**Ashmanor**  Debbie Rexelle  **Blandings**  John & Linda Dolan  
**Azurhills**  Marilyn Lidner  **Blaukatzen**  Jerry Auerbach  
**Backcountry**  Mary Rathbun  **Bleujeanne**  Jeanne Johnson  
**Bas-Bleu**  Erika Stuart & Jonathan  **Bleuidoie**  Jaye Clark  
**Bleukitears**  Valerie Griffiths  
**Bienaimebleu**  Lynda Kaczmarski  **Bijou Bleu**  Denis & Roxane Hettinger  
**Ashmanor**  Debbie Rexelle  **Blandings**  John & Linda Dolan  
**Azurhills**  Marilyn Lidner  **Blaukatzen**  Jerry Auerbach  
**Backcountry**  Mary Rathbun  **Bleuidoie**  Jaye Clark  
**Bleukitears**  Valerie Griffiths
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Bleumime  Bob & Sally Walden
Blue Topaz  Bob & Jean Novak
Bluebijou  Carol & Doug Menzel
Bluetreasure  Yasuko Tabata
Bo-Wood  Ottie Wood
Cabaret  Pauly Evans
Capitolcats  LeAnn Harner
Carchet  Carole McFadden
Carignan  Susan Raisbeck
Carthusian  Jill Rasmussen & Roy Horine
Cestbonvin  Pam Sharp
Champetz  Rich Ketz
Chanson Bleu  Judy Belden
Charleval  Sandi & Harlee Patrick
Charmeuse  Bill & Susan Lee
Chartres  Chuck Murphy
Chateaubleu  Fred Andrews
Chatelaine  Elaine Boyle
Chatton  Sue Herhold-Helmke
Chazy  Joan Steffen
Cherokee Trails  Bea Latham
Ciara  Lindajean Grillo
Clervaux  Christine Fuge
Colette  Travis Black
Colorfield  cattery
Columbleu  Sherrie Zabriskie
Dahozho  Jean Kelley
Del Sogno Blu  Katia Pocci
Dressed in Blue  Jose & Claudia Link
Fiorire  Kiyoko Kobayashi
Forever-Moor  Barbara Moore
Fourth Paw  Pat Klein
Foxykats  Kathy Black
Frenchcon  Roy Horine
Galazur  Pat Gallaway
Gallois  Doug Welsh
Gamonal  Helen Gamon
Gato Azul  Christine Rosenfield
Gordonstoun  Artie & Anne Boyle
Grandbois  Nancy Dionne
Gwynedd mews  Joyce Gusky
Houseofblues  Dennis Giannoni & Maria Yaneza
Idlemaine  Pat Idleman
Jacquelinjil  Jill Rasmussen
Janvier  Mary Ann Sweeters
Jewllz  Karen Godwin
Jouvencebleu  Monte & Robin Phillips
Katmanbleu  Hank & Lisa Tanner
Katoklix  Marcus & Gena Click
LeBeauYeux  Kay Kimble
LeCompagnon  Dave Hadley
Les Plushes  Akiko Ishimura
Longview  Mary Super
Lutece  Orca Starbuck
Luxueux  Dawn Varney
Mabuhay  Carla Bizzell
Maison DuKat  Mark & Linda Humpage
Mercimono  Yoko Kobayashi
Minoux  Donna & Jennifer Salyer
Misty Vale  cattery
Moranimals  Jamie Moran
Moumoune  Andrea Hawkins
Neufchatel  cattery
Nounoursbleu  Lenore Scallan
Quatrepaws  Dick & Shelly Irwin
Re Desiderio  Nicoletta Magno
Rivierebleue  Patti & Dave Schwartz
Rumtumtugger  Bob & Karen Wilson
Sai-Ban  cattery
Sandfire  Ken and Donna Ray
Sheenahs  Shirley Rosenberg
Sinaye  Denise & Jerry Williams
Soleillevant  Tamaki Nishida
Sourirbleu  Gina Wiley Lehman

Steppenbleu  Stephanie Pendleton
Tellacats  Suzanne Tell
Tiarableu  Debbi Jo Smith
Treu Bleux  Richard Bressler
Valleyvideo  David & Alexis MacPherson
Velure  Kitty Kisrow
Vincent  Pierre Vincent
Webefrench  Jean Rostonski
Win-Cal  John Burch
Helen Berryman
Ken & Claire Stevens
Ruth Brady