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Photography disclaimer

The cats pictured in this presentation illustrate specific points within the Japanese Bobtail standard. In some cases the pictures are used to illustrate possible faults. The cats themselves might not have these faults “in the fur,” but the photographer may have captured them in an unflattering pose.

No slight is intended against any of the cats pictured.

An abbreviated history

- The Japanese Bobtail is a natural mutation which existed on the islands of Japan for many centuries
- US Servicemen brought the cats to the US after WWII
- Breeders became interested and in 1968 three Japanese Bobtails were imported to the US for breeding
- In Japan, all body types are found but US breeders selected for refinement
- The original standard was written for an extreme female, so refinement was very important from the beginning
- CFA accepted the Shorthairs for championship in 1976 and the Longhairs for championship in 1993
- While most colors are accepted, the most common colors in the show ring are Mi-Ke tri-colors and bi-colors that are predominantly white

Japanese Bobtail

Medium sized cat

Clean lines and bone structure

Well-muscled

Straight and slender, elegant and not
massive

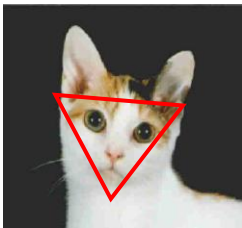
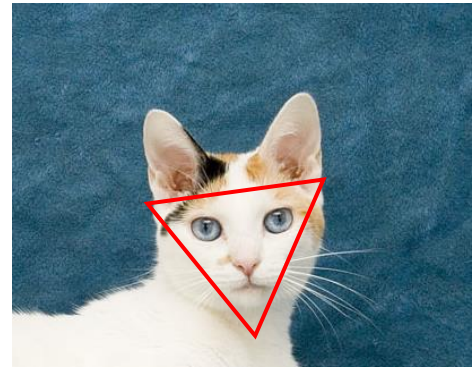
Japanese Bobtail

Distinctive Japanese cast to the face

- unique eye set
- high cheek bones
- long parallel nose

Head

- Almost a perfect equilateral triangle (the triangle does not include the ears)
- Gentle curving lines



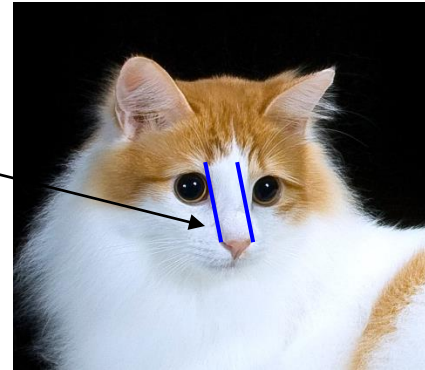
Head

- High cheekbones
- Noticeable whisker break



Head

- Nose long – 2 parallel lines



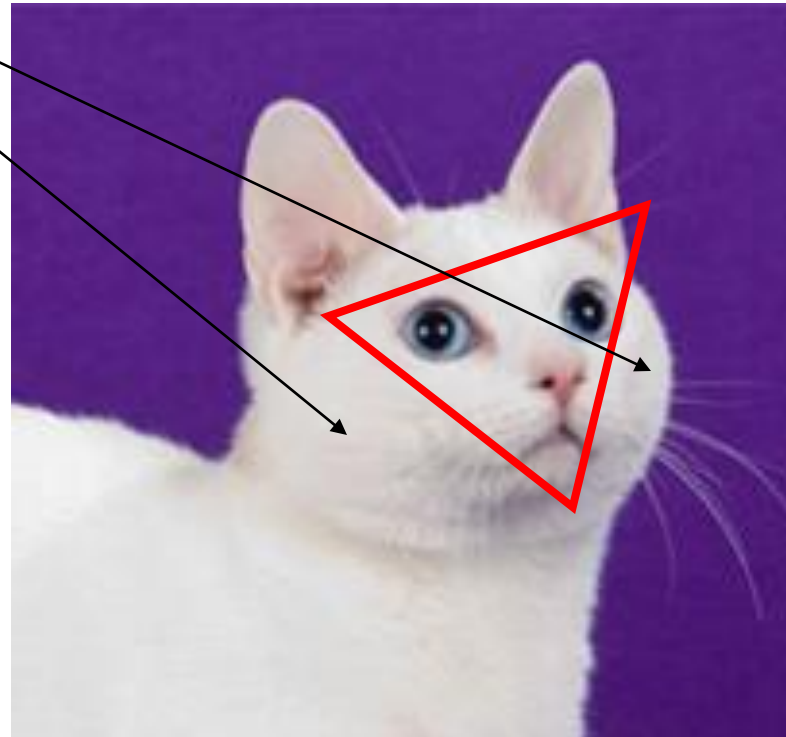
Head

- Gentle dip at or just below eye level



Head

- Allowance made for jowls in stud cats



- Equilateral triangle
- Parallel lines to nose
- Gentle dip to nose
- Whisker break
- Allow for obvious stud jowls



- Equilateral triangle
- Parallel lines to nose
- Gentle dip to nose
- High cheek bones
- Whisker break



Heads that are not equilateral triangles

Too round

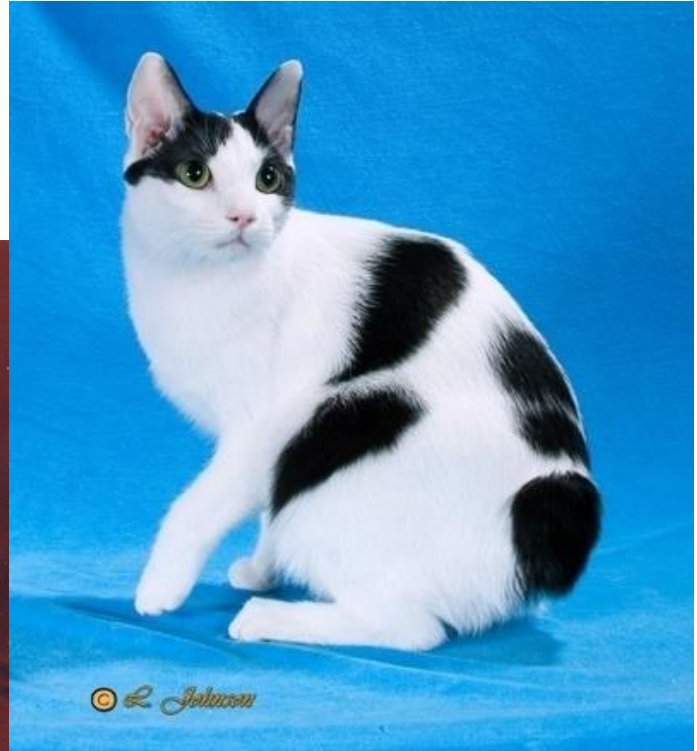


Too square

Ears

- Large, upright and expressive
- Set wide apart
- At right angles to the head
- Tilted forward in repose.

Ears large, upright, set wide apart, at right angles to head, tilted forward in repose



Ears wide apart



Ears too close together



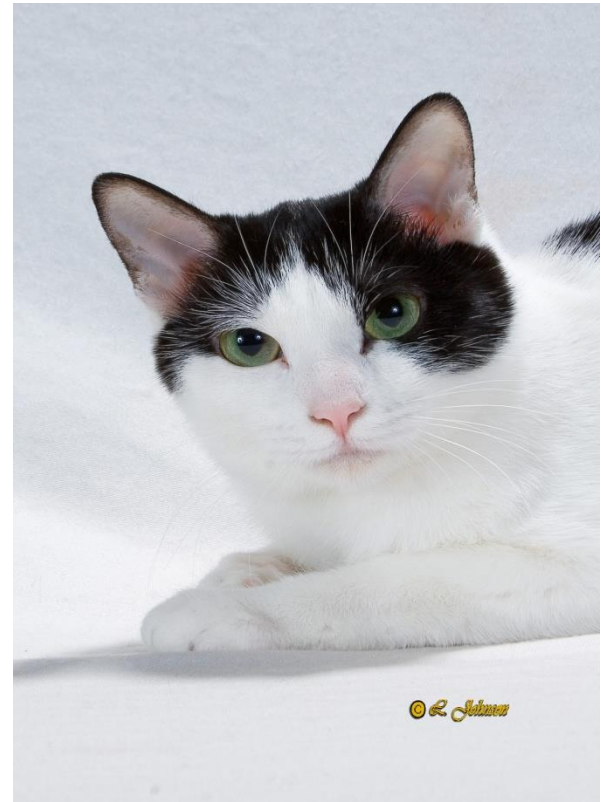
Ears large, upright, and expressive
at right angles to head



Ears are not at right angles



Ears large and upright. Kittens, such as these, might appear to have ears too close together. Their heads will broaden as they mature.



Ears wide apart, but not at right angles to the head

Ears, large, upright, and
at right angles to head



Ears too small and not
at right angles
to the head

Correct ear set - upright and at right angles to head



Incorrect ear set - not upright and not at right angles to the head – too flared

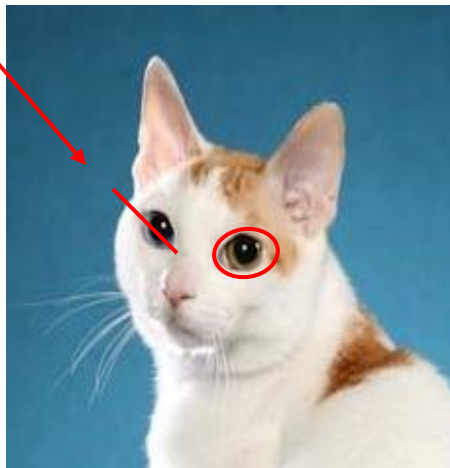
Eyes

- Large, oval
- Wide set and alert
- Set at a pronounced slant when viewed in profile

Eyes oval

Wide eye set

Pronounced slant to eye

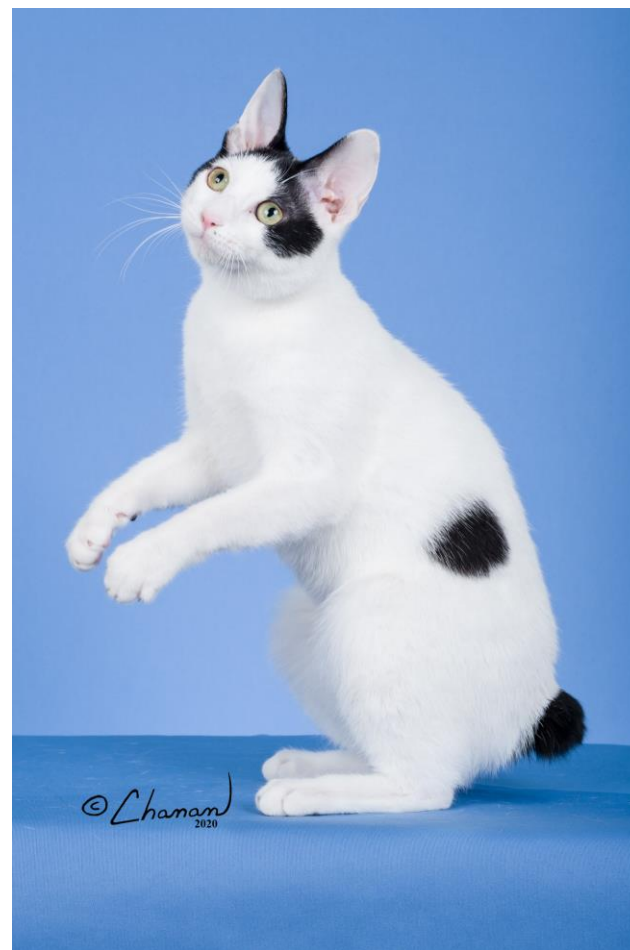


Eyes large, oval, wide, alert
and set at a pronounced slant



Eyes are wide & alert, large & oval





Notice pronounced slant to eyes
giving a nice wrap around look

Eyes too round



Eyes too round



Body

- Medium in Size
- Males larger than females
- Torso long, lean and elegant
- Muscular – not flabby or cobby
- Well balanced

Well developed muscular strength without coarseness – no inclination toward flabbiness or cobbliness



Balance of Upmost Importance



Balance of Upmost Importance

The tail should be aesthetically pleasing with the entire cat which is part of good balance

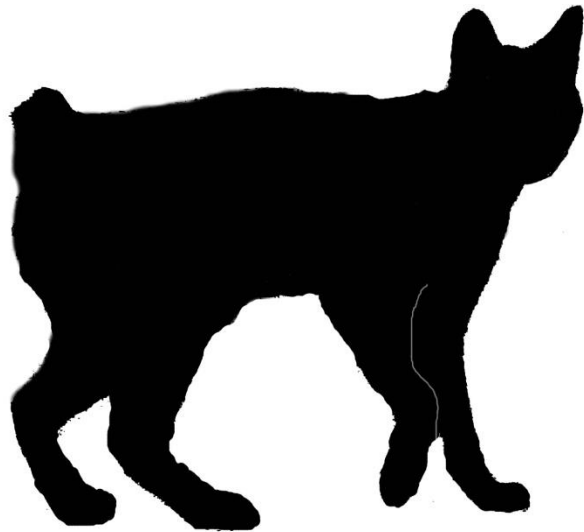


A unique cat ...

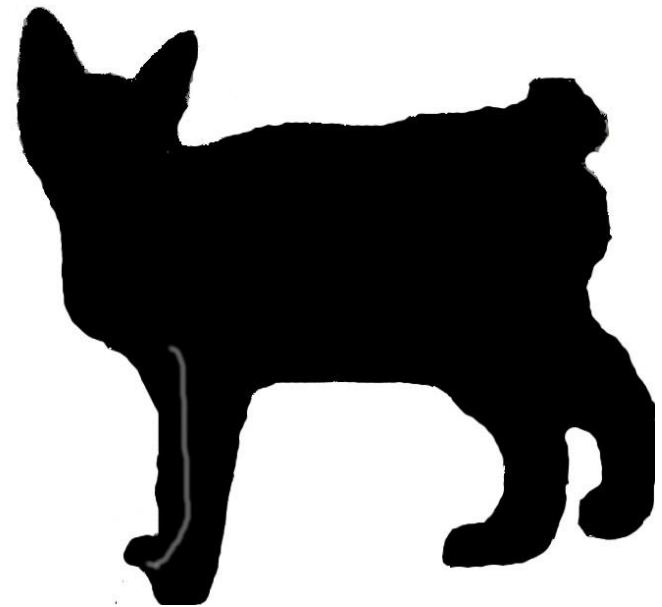
“The Japanese Bobtail has an illusion that cannot be duplicated. The personality, not to mention the beautiful and wonderful unique type, has been for years the pride and joy of this beguiling breed of cat. As is in any breed, you can literally take pictures of National Winning Japanese Bobtails and see major differences, but the overall essence of the cats is paramount to fulfilling the unique type we associate with the Japanese Bobtail.”

Douglas Myers

... unique in silhouette



The Japanese Bobtails' unique features make it possible to be recognized from afar in silhouette.

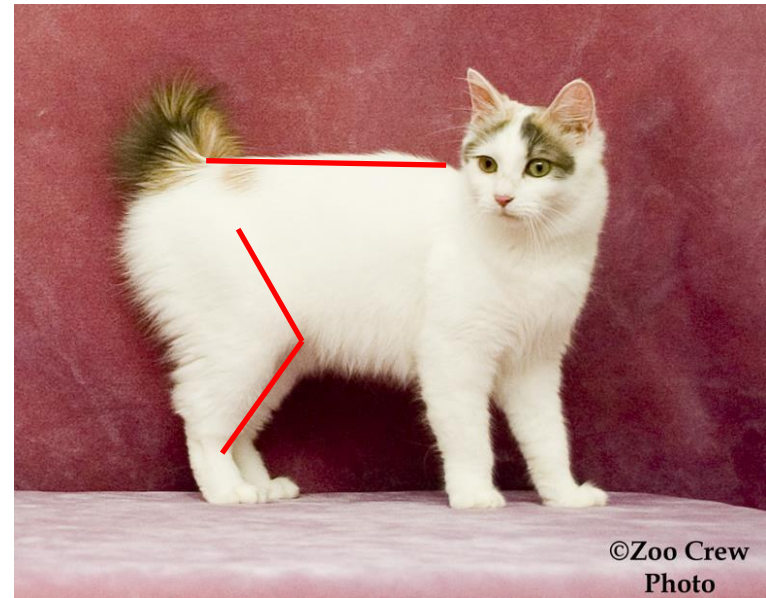
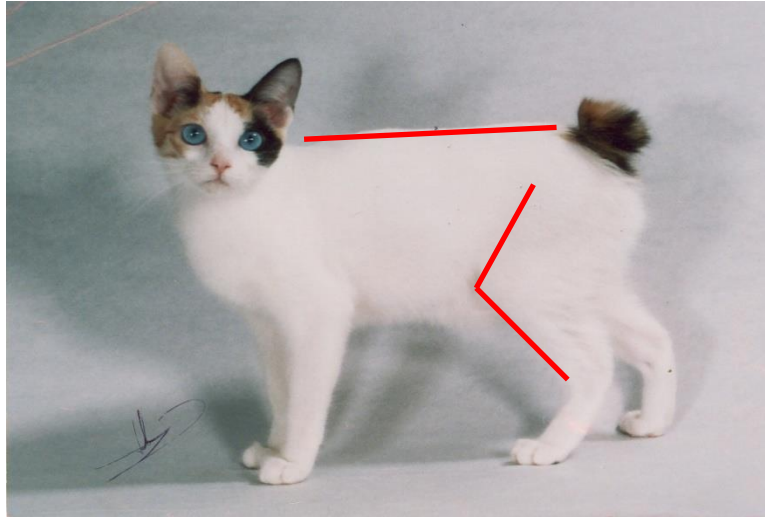


Legs

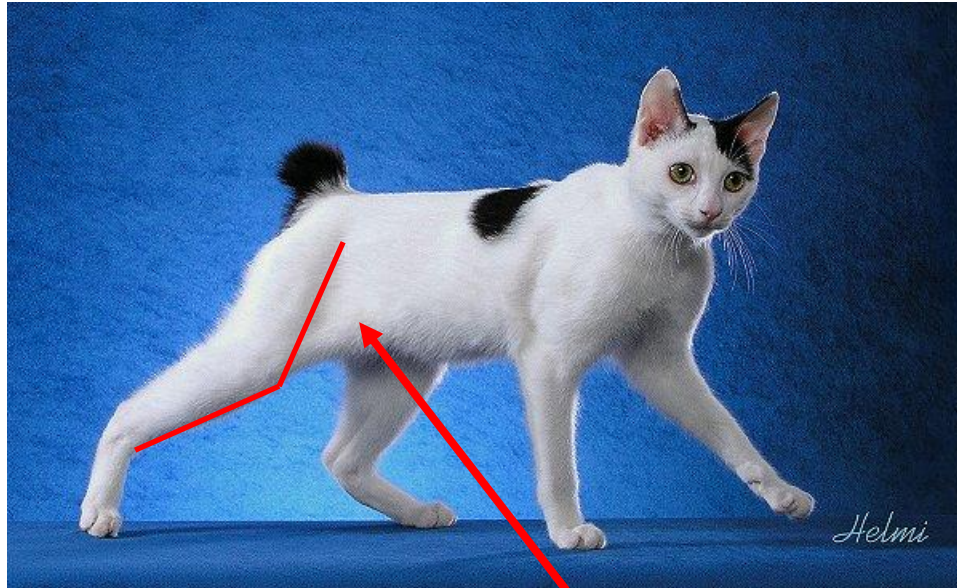
- Legs long, slender, and high
- Hind legs noticeably longer than the forelegs
- Hind legs deeply angulated to bend when the cat is standing relaxed
- Back nearly level



Legs long, slender, and high



Notice the deep leg angulation
and level back

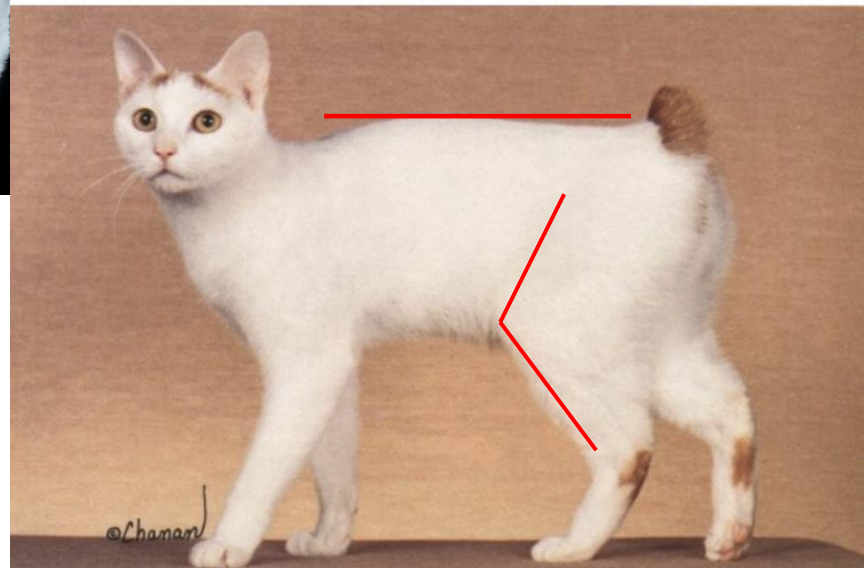
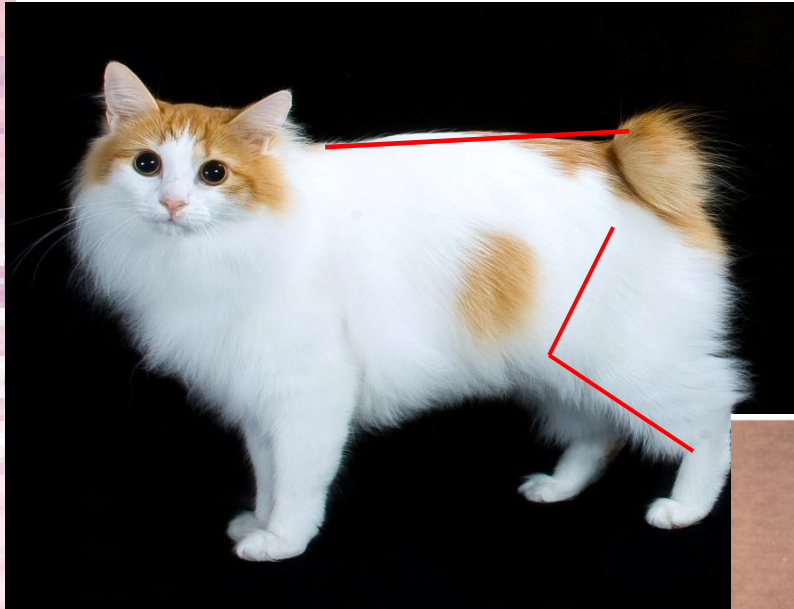


Showing the deep angulation in the rear legs even though this cat is standing tall on the rear legs.

Level back and deep leg angulation



Level back and leg angulation





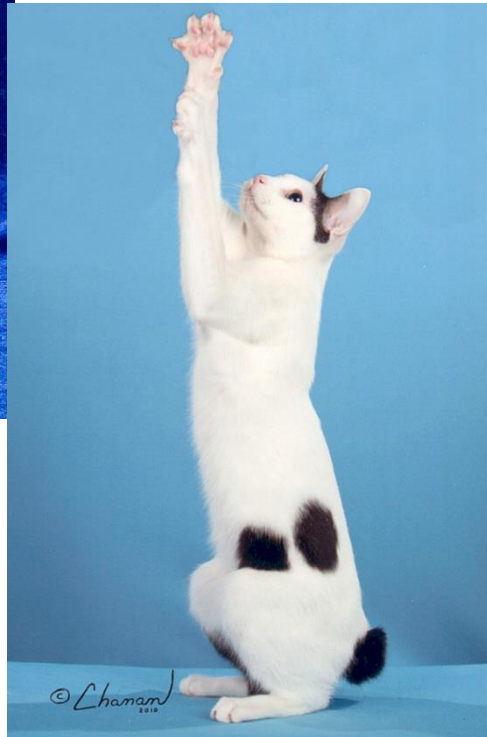
Legs long, slender and high, back level, good leg angulation

Deep leg angulation produces strongly muscled hind legs



Bobtails can stand on their hind legs for a long period of time

....



... and some even walk across the judging table!

Back not level



© L. Johnson

Legs too short!



Tail

- Tail is unique to each individual cat
- Tail must be clearly visible
- The furthest extension of the tail bone from the body should be no longer than three inches.

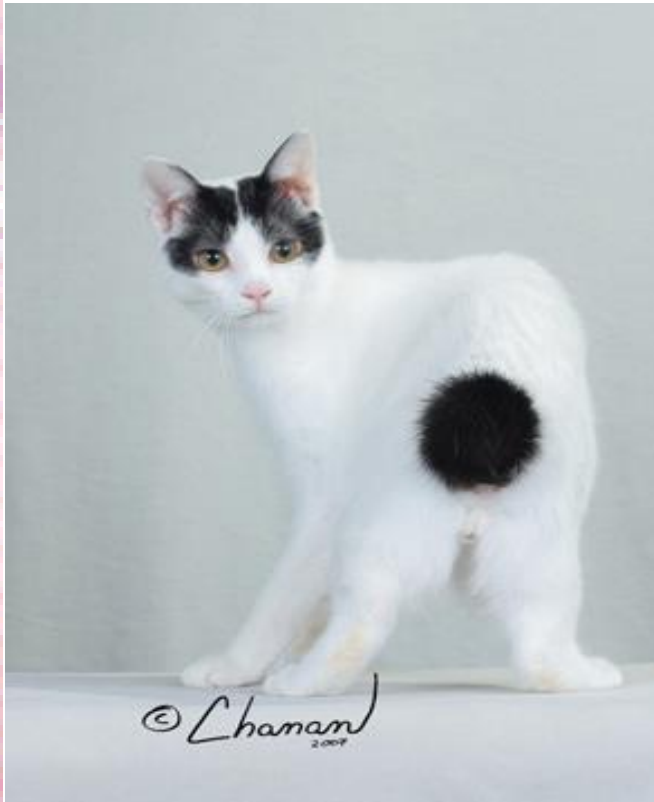
Tail

- The tail may be flexible or rigid
- The direction in which the tail is carried is not important
- Tail size and shape harmonizes with the rest of the cat

Tail

- Tail is composed of one or more curves, angles or kinks or any combination thereof. These can be felt but might not be visible since they are covered by fur.
- Tail can assume any shape
- There are any number of tail shapes: shaving brush, hook, corkscrew, left or right turn, straight up or down – all are acceptable, no one type is preferred.

The short tail should fan out to create a pom-pom appearance which effectively camouflages the underlying bone structure of the tail.



Pom-pom tails (Longhairs)



Pom-pom tails (Shorthairs)

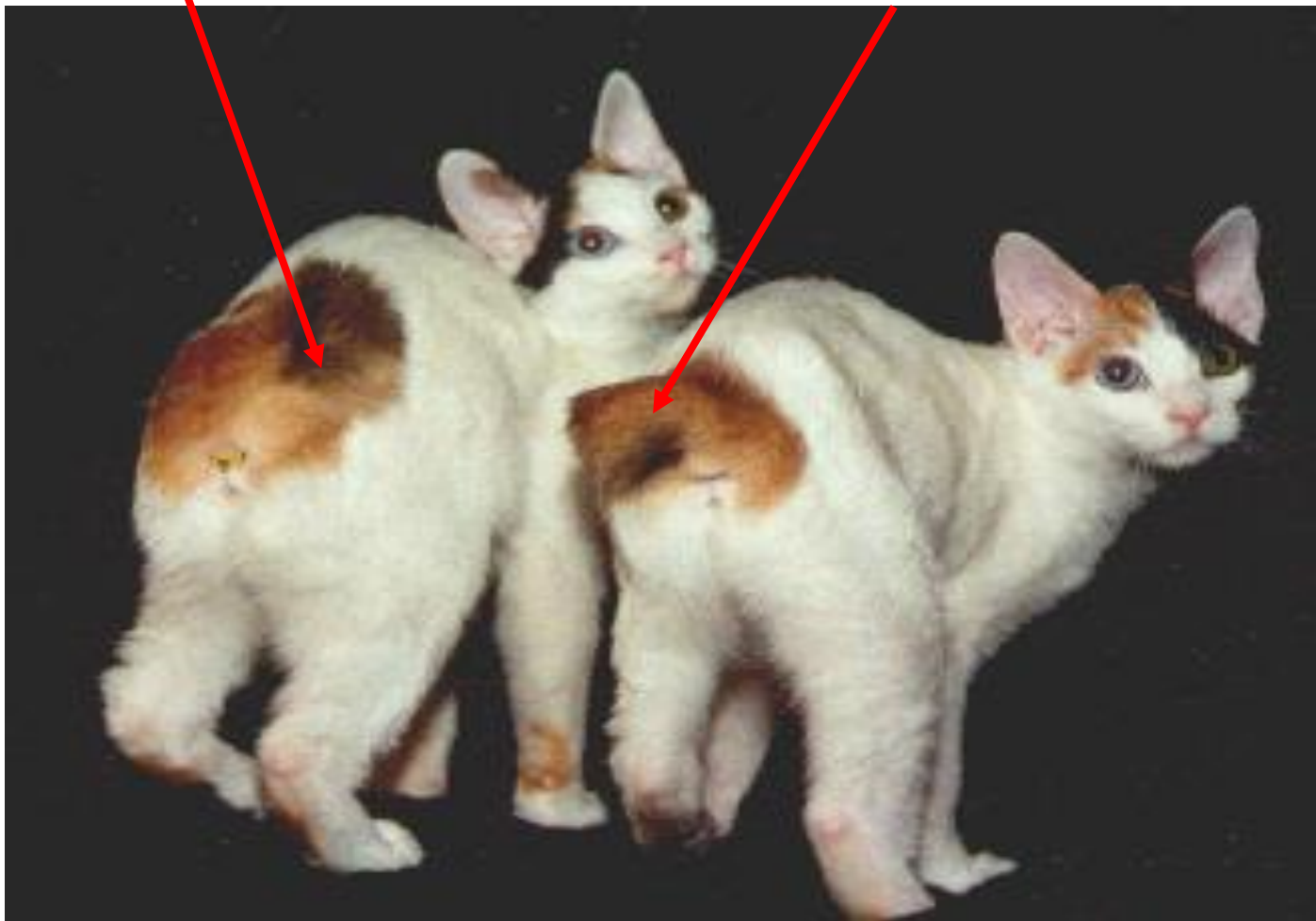


Pom-pom tail



Hook tail

Right turn and left turn tails



Straight appearing tail

Kinks and curves can be felt



Shaving brush tail



The tail end of acceptable tails



Disqualify

- All Japanese Bobtail disqualifications relate to the tail
- Tail bone absent or extending too far beyond body
- Tail lacking in pom-pom or fluffy appearance
- Delayed bobtail effect - i.e., the pom-pom being preceded by an inch or two of normal tail with close-lying hair rather than appearing to commence at the base of the tail

Disqualify

Tail is longer than 3 inches



Note: While this Mi-Ke import was never shown, she is a DM



Disqualify
Tail lacking in pom-pom or fluffy appearance



Disqualify

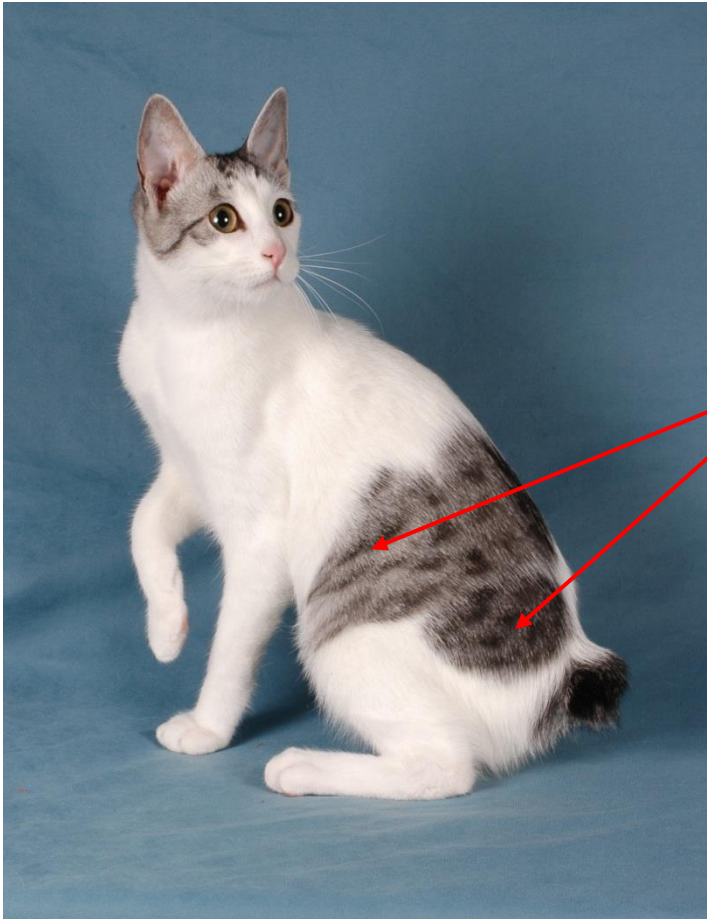
Delayed bobtail effect – pom-pom preceded by normal tail



“Patterned”

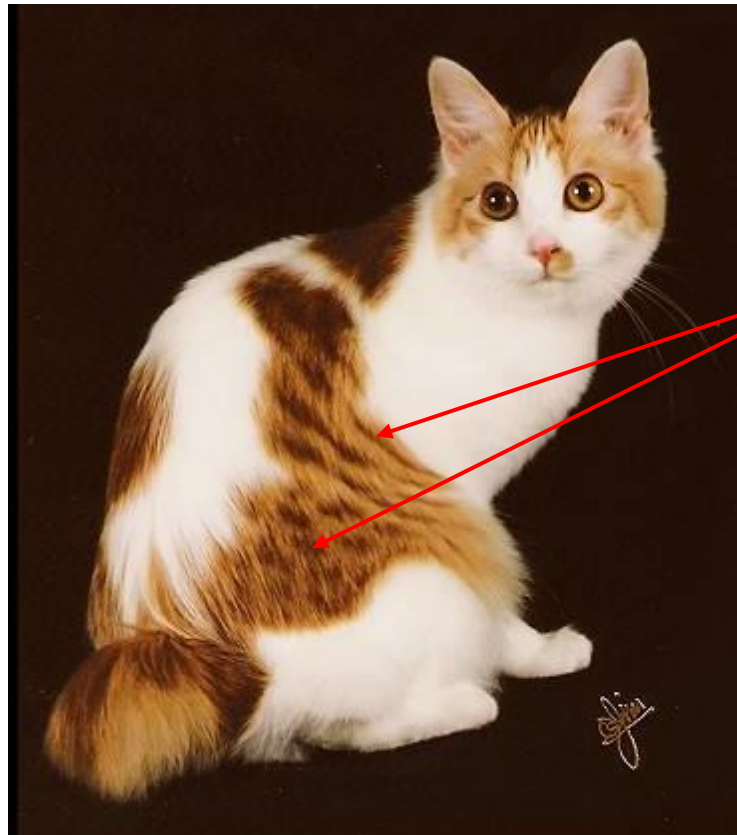
- The term “patterned” may be used if a specific tabby pattern cannot be determined, or in cats which may have a combination of traditional tabby patterns.

“Patterned” tabbies multiple tabby patterns on one cat



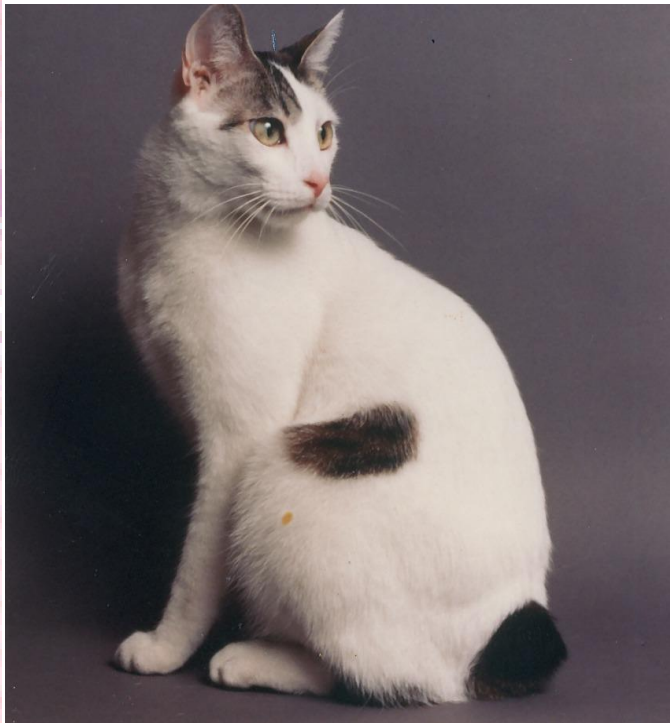
Today this cat would be registered as a silver patterned tabby and white. Note two different tabby patterns - both mackerel tabby and spotted tabby areas.

“Patterned” tabbies multiple tabby patterns on one cat



Today this cat would be registered as a red patterned tabby and white. Note two different tabby patterns - both mackerel tabby and spotted tabby areas.

“Patterned” tabbies
unable to determine specific tabby pattern



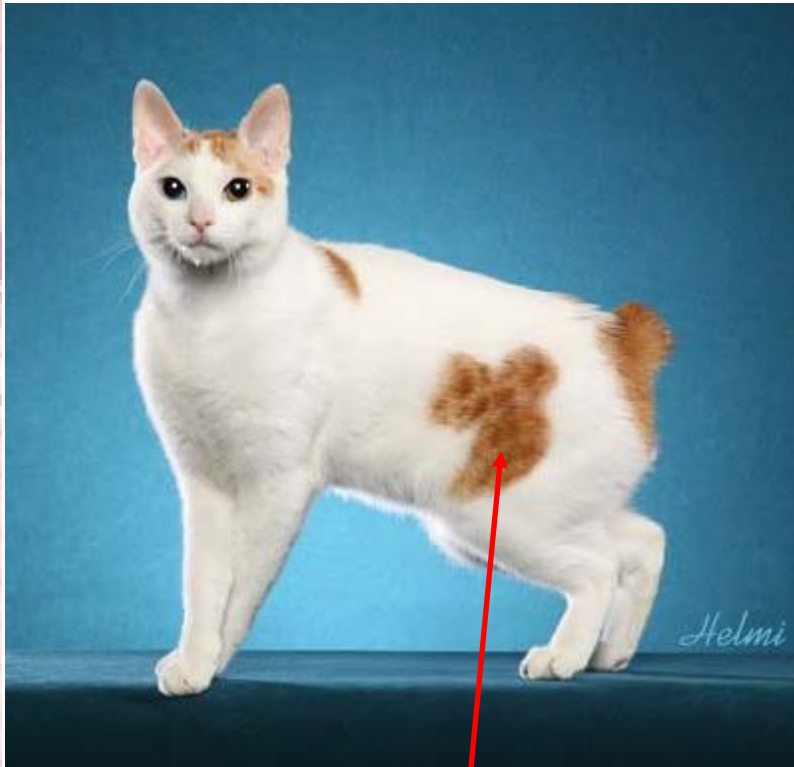
Spotted or classic???



“Patterned” tabbies – too much white to determine specific tabby pattern



Obvious tabby patterns
will still be registered with appropriate pattern



Red spotted tabby and white



Red mackerel tabby and white

- Colorpoint and colorpoint with white patterns are recognized for championship competition. The colors associated with the colorpoint pattern are now woven throughout the color descriptions.
- AOV class is still in place for ticked tabby cats.

Judging Japanese Bobtails



Judging

- Encourage the Japanese Bobtail to show off its body by using the post on the judging table. This natural stretch is the best stretch.



Judging

- Do not restrain the Japanese Bobtail on the table. Allow the Bobtail to show itself off naturally.
- Bobtails will play with the judges without trying to leave the table



Judging

- Most Japanese Bobtails are very quick and smart and love toys



Judging

- Check for an almost equilateral triangular head
- Ears at right angles to the head
- Eye shape and set



Judging

- Look at leg angulation from the front of the rear legs
- Rear legs should be longer than the front legs
- The deep angulation allows back to remain level



Judging

- Check for overall balance
- Check for proper coat
 - Medium (shorthair)
 - Medium-long to long (longhair)
 - Soft and silky – no noticeable undercoat



Handling the Bobtail's Tail During Judging

Excerpts from CFA Judges Newsletter

By: Allen Scruggs & Douglas Myers



Handling the Bobtail's Tail

- The tail of the Japanese Bobtail is one of the things that distinguishes it from all other breeds.
- It is clearly the tail that first gets many judges' attention.
- Absolutely the most important thing to remember is to be very gentle with the tail.

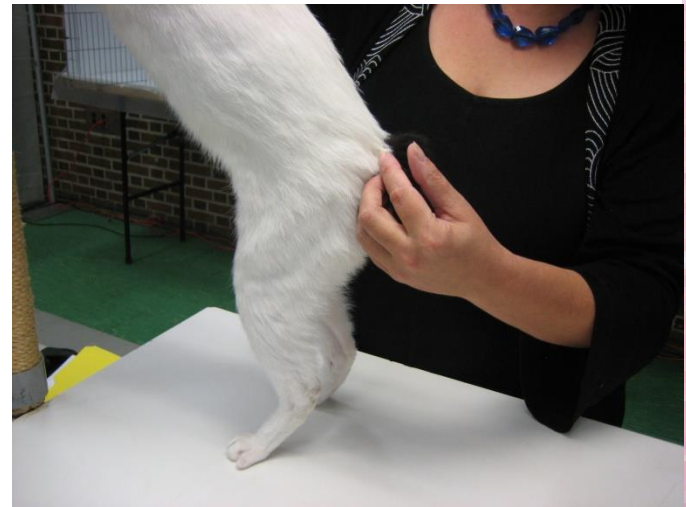


Handling the Bobtail's Tail

- The tail can be flexible, fused, or both. Part or parts of the tail may be fused together. That rigidity, along with the shortness, makes the tail super sensitive.
- Some Bobtails, especially those who are shy or reserved tend to tuck or hide their tails.
- *Remember: The furthest extension of the tail bone from the body can be no longer than 3 inches from the body or the cat is to be disqualified.*

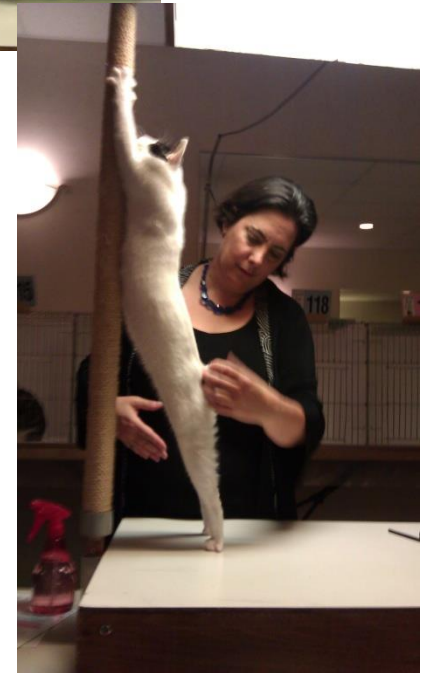
Handling the Bobtail's Tail

- There is no need to manually “finger” or manipulate the tail. Trying to move the tail can be painful to the cat. Also, not all tails move.
- Simply look at the tail and feel its overall shape gently, without grasping or attempting to make it move.
- By scratching the base of the tail you can often get a cat to relax and wiggle its tail, if movable.



Handling the Bobtail's Tail

- You should see hair fluffing or fanning out from the tail in any direction which is what is meant when we say pom-pom effect. This pom-pom appearance effectively camouflages the underlying bone structure of the tail.
- To judge the tail, run the open palm of your hand down the back of the cat to its tail. When your hand has reached the tail, you can cup your hand gently around the tail and feel the underlying structure.



THE END

