

Judges Workshop  
Updated 12/15

Presented By:

The CFA LaPerm Breed  
Council



The LaPerm

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# A Brief History

The first LaPerm was born in 1982 in a litter of barn cats. Born completely bald, the kitten grew a thick curly coat by four months of age. Aside from being born different, Linda Koehl, the breed founder, noticed this kitten had a different personality as well. Friendly and affectionate, this kitten was not like her littermates. She became known as "Curly".

At the time, Linda thought Curly was just a strange anomaly. But that bald kitten left her mark, for before she passed over the rainbow bridge, she set the foundation of a breed. Within ten years, Linda's entire farm was comprised of curly coated cats, soon to be named the LaPerm.

# General Appearance

Out of all the breeds with coat mutations, the LaPerm is the “moderate” rex. The LaPerm falls in between the round and cobby body style of the Selkirk Rex, and the long, svelt look of the Cornish Rex. All parts of the body are in harmony with the size of the cat. Females are generally smaller than males, as well as maturing quicker. The LaPerm matures in 2-3 years.



# Head - 34 Points

Second in points only to coat

Modified Wedge with rounded contours





# Head (examples)



← Pointy wedge

Too Round



Strong chin, with a perpendicular line down from the tip of the nose

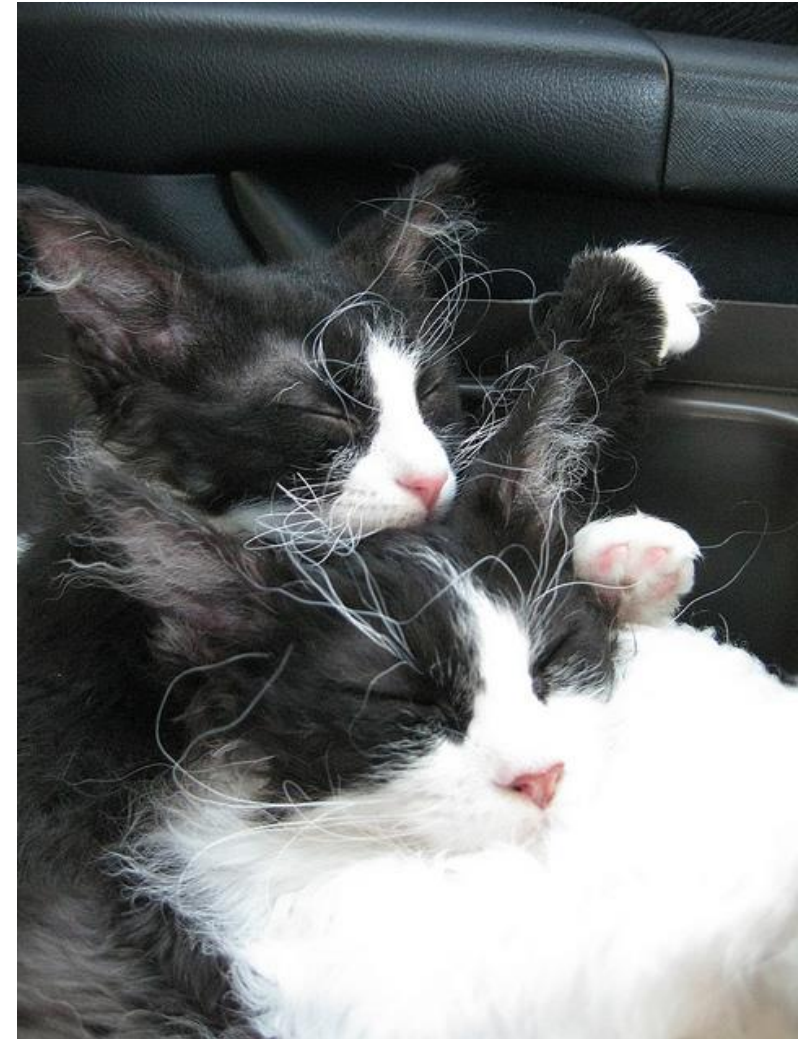


# Weak Chins





Whisker pads are full and rounded  
Long, flexible whiskers



# Profile and Ears

Profile has a slight dip from the bottom of the eye, continues straight to the tip of the nose

Dip must be felt for as it can appear to be straight

Ears continue the modified wedge of the head, lynx tipping preferred on LH but not present on SH



# Correct Ear Set

Notice the ears continue the curve from the chin





# Incorrect Examples

This is a kitten but you can see the ears are too wide and more jug like and large for the head





# Incorrect Examples

Really wide set and small



# Incorrect Examples

Ears too straight up



# Eyes

Both show good eye shape and set



# Incorrect Eye Shape and/or Set

Crossed eyes



Heavy top line





# Body - 25 Points

Moderate in size and relation to the rest of the cat

Medium fine to medium boning

Hips higher than shoulders

Hind legs longer than front

Males larger than females



# Incorrect Body Shapes

Too Chunky and Too Long



# Torso and Neck

Torso is moderately long and muscular

Neck is medium long in length, in proportion to the body

Allowances for thicker necks in males

# Legs, Feet, and Tail

Legs medium long in length, in proportion to the body

Forelegs shorter than hind legs

Rounded feet with medium to medium fine boning

Tail tapers from base to tip, long in proportion to the body

# Coat- 40 points

Texture and length - 20 points

Curl or waviness- 20 points

The LaPerm comes in two coat lengths, Longhair and Shorthair although it can be difficult to tell based on just the body coat. The key to determining which variety is on the ruff and the tail.

The longhair variety will have both a full ruff and a full plumed tail (both with curls)

The shorthair variety will be absent the ruff and will have shorter hair on the tail, often looking like a bottle brush



# The Longhair Coat

Medium long to long, neck ruff at maturity

Free of matting, not too thick or heavy

Tail is plumed with some curling

Springy, light, and airy



# Tails

Some curling





# Full Ruff

Mature full ruff on a female



# Too Much Coat

Too thick, not “light and airy”





# The Shorthair Coat

Short to medium long

Tail is not plumed, but wavy

Springy, light, and airy

Texture is often harder than the longhair coat

Stands away from the body, waves over most of the cat

Parting down the spine is more apparent on shorthair coats



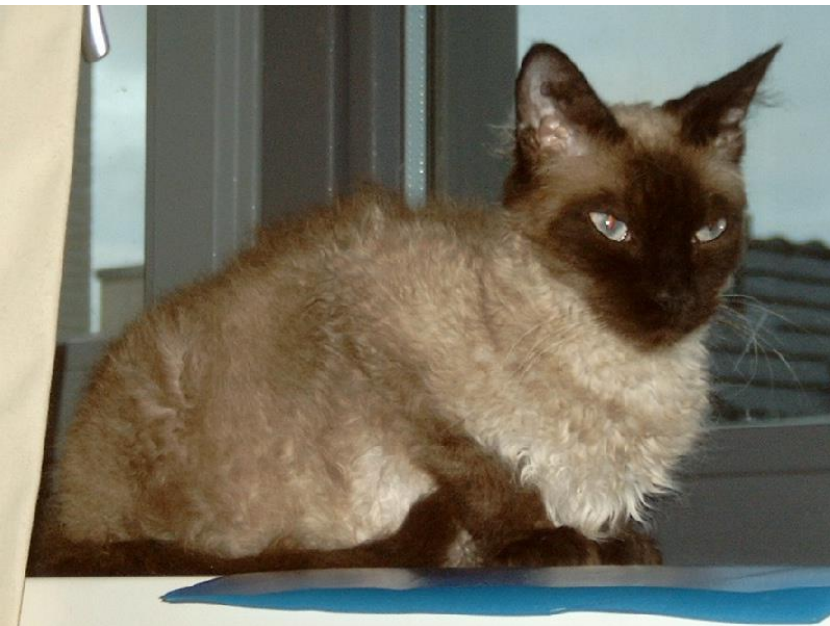
# Tails

Like a bottle brush



# Color and Pattern - 1 Point

- ◆ Any genetically possible color or combination of colors is allowed
- ◆ Eye color is also any genetically possible color
- ◆ No correlation between coat and eye color



# Disqualifications

- ◆ Cobby body
- ◆ Short legs
- ◆ Crossed eyes
- ◆ Incorrect number of toes
- ◆ Visible and non-visible tail faults
- ◆ Straight hair



# Penalize

## ◆ Bare patches

Remember, the LaPerms do have seasonal coat changes, and will go through coat changes as they mature.

There is a difference between no coat and the “light and airy” coat called for in the standard.

# Sparse vs “Light and Airy”



Sparse



Light and Airy

# Handling the LaPerm

Handling should be firm but gentle. LaPerms respond positively to people if they are spoken to.

Once a LaPerm's bite is checked let it stand with all four feet on the table as they will feel more secure and it will be easier to assess their stance and their leg length in proportion to their body length. They should appear to be 'high on their legs' and have a rise to the rear.

Look a LaPerm full on the face to check that the features are correctly balanced with the ears set diagonally to follow the lines of the face. Also check to see if the muzzle is substantial and broad with full prominent whisker pads and a clear whisker break.

# Handling the LaPerm (cont)

Remember that only a shorthaired LaPerm should have a tail like a bottlebrush (with medium short hair of an even length standing out from the tail), while longhaired LaPerms should have a curly plumed tail.

Remember that ear muffs are on the back of the ears, tufts at the tips and ear furnishings inside. Not all LaPerms will have ear tufts.

Run your fingers through the coat both backwards and forwards to check for texture and correct density. Do not only assess the texture along the back, but also feel other parts of the coat, as there will probably be some variation. You may blow into a LaPerm's coat to assess its lightness, but do so gently and from behind, so as not to startle the cat.

Allow for more crispness in the coats of shorthaired LaPerms and younger cats (up to two or three years of age).



# In Closing

The LaPerm Breed Council thanks all of you for attending this workshop.  
Thank you for taking the time and interest in learning more about this wonderful new breed.

Please take the time to look at the cats we have made available for you to handle. Each one has good qualities and some things we would like to change. The perfect LaPerm is still out there waiting to be born.

Thank you again and feel free to ask questions.

Thank you,

The LaPerm Breed Council