

The Oriental Cat

Critical Analysis of the Breed Standard

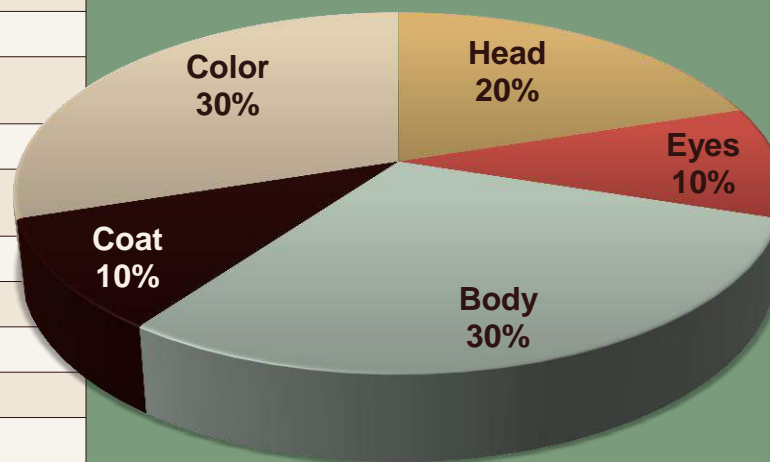
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Oriental Breed Council Secretary
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*All of the cats shown in this presentation are beautiful,
wonderful cats.....
some just fit the CFA Oriental Standard better than others.*



Note that the Oriental is a CAT and not just a set of EARS

Oriental Standard	Point Score
Head (20 points)	
Long, flat profile	6
Wedge, fine muzzle, size	5
Ears	4
Chin	3
Width between eyes	2
Eyes (10 Points)	
Shape, size, slant, and placement	10
Body (30 points)	
Structure and size, including neck	12
Muscle tone	10
Legs and Feet	5
Tail	3
Coat (10 points)	
Color (30 points)	
Coat color	10
Coat pattern	10
Eye color	10

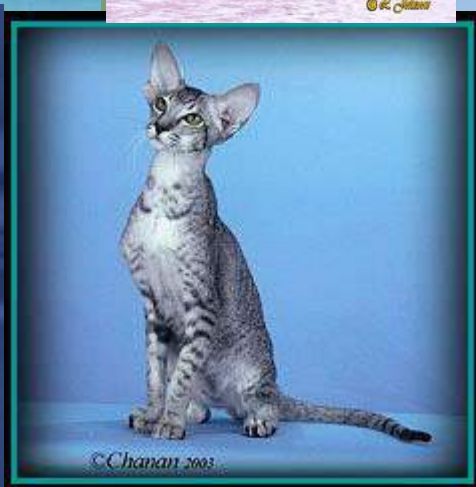


While we all love ears.....

please remember they are only worth 4 points

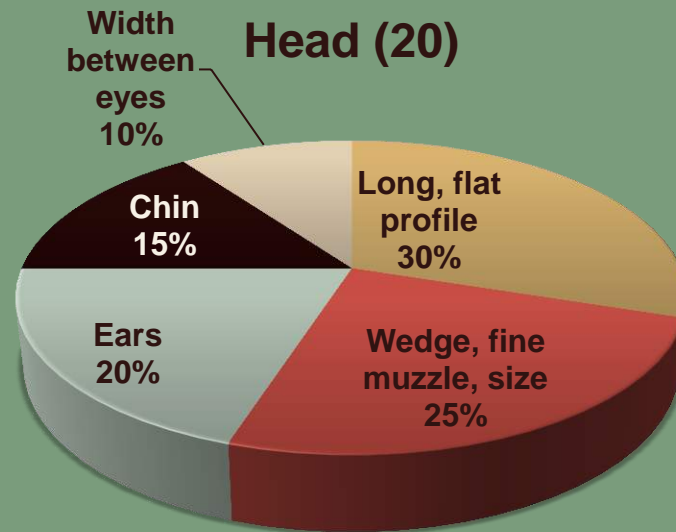
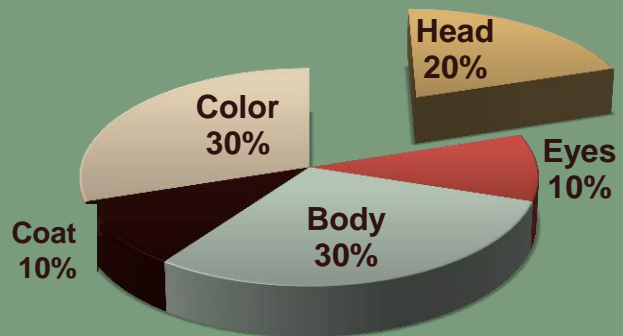
General

- The ideal Oriental is a svelte cat with long, tapering lines, very lithe but muscular. Excellent physical condition. Eyes clear. Strong and lithe, neither bony nor flabby. Not fat. Because of the longer coat the Longhair Division appears to have softer lines and less extreme type than the Shorthair Division.



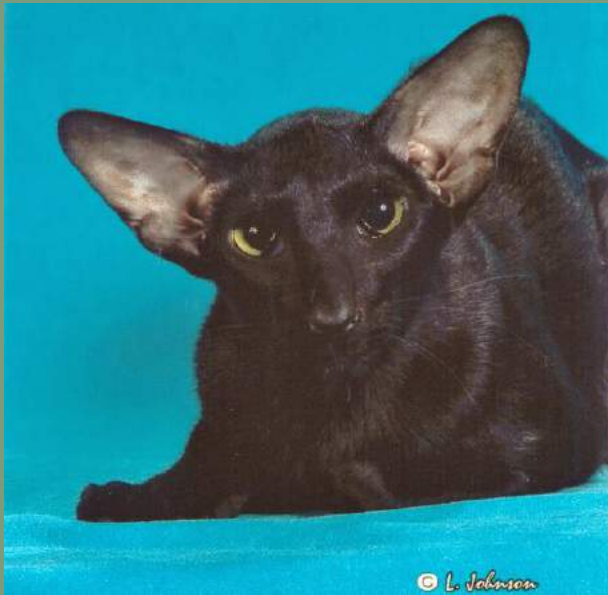
Head (20 points)

<i>feature</i>	<i>points</i>
Long, flat profile	6
Wedge, fine muzzle, size	5
Ears	4
Chin	3
Width between eyes	2



Head: 20 Points

Long tapering wedge, in good proportion to body. The total wedge starts at the nose and flares out in straight lines to the tips of the ears forming a triangle, with no break at the whiskers. No less than the width of an eye between the eyes. When the whiskers (and face hair for the Longhair Division) are smoothed back, the underlying bone structure is apparent. Allowance must be made for jowls in the stud cat.



The wedge can be wide or narrow, as long as the overall look is pleasing and fits the general description for an Oriental cat



Head: 20 points

- HEAD: long tapering wedge, in good proportion to body.
- The total wedge starts at the nose and flares out in straight lines to the tips of the ears forming a triangle, with no break at the whiskers.
- No less than the width of an eye between the eyes.
- When the whiskers are smoothed back, the underlying bone structure is apparent.
- Allowance must be made for jowls in the stud cat.
- MUZZLE: Fine, wedge-shaped



Good spacing between eyes

Profile (6) / Chin (3)



SKULL: flat.

In profile, a long straight line is seen from the top of the head to the tip of the nose.



NOSE: long and straight. A continuation of the forehead with no break.



CHIN and JAW: medium size. Tip of chin lines up with tip of nose in the same vertical plane. Neither receding nor excessively massive.



Ears : 4 points

█ Strikingly large, pointed, wide at the base, continuing the lines of the wedge.



proper ear sets – following the lines of the wedge

We all love ears – however, while insanely low ears can be useful in a breeding program, they are **not** correct in the show ring.

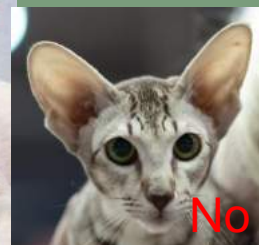
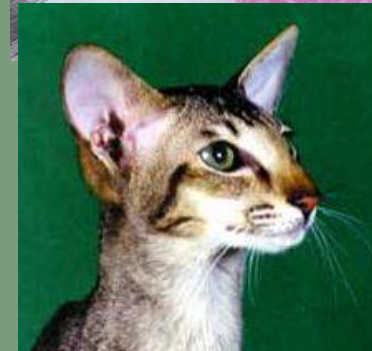
Eyes: 20 points

SHAPE (10)

- almond shaped, medium size.
- Neither protruding nor recessed.
- Slanted towards the nose in harmony with lines of wedge and ears.
- Uncrossed.
- Penalize crossed (hint: WHITE at the outer corner of the eye is a good indication the eyes are crossed.)

COLOR (10)

- Green.
- Pointed or pointed and white - blue.
- White and bi-color - blue, green or odd-eyed (green & blue)
- Penalize: Incorrect eye color



Eye Color (10 Points): Green

Pointed or pointed and white – blue.

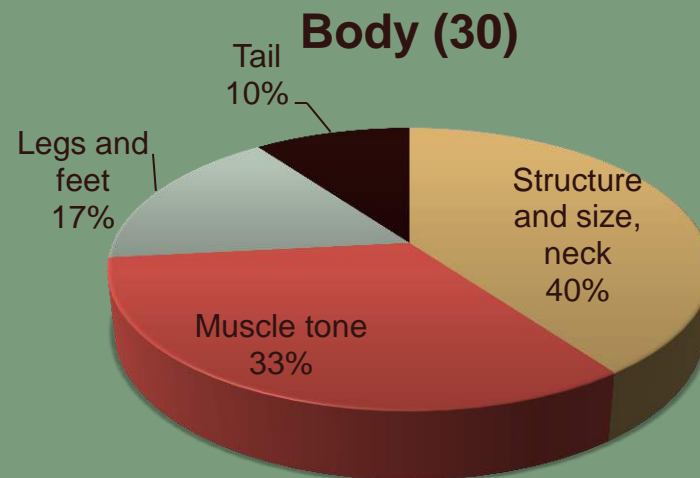
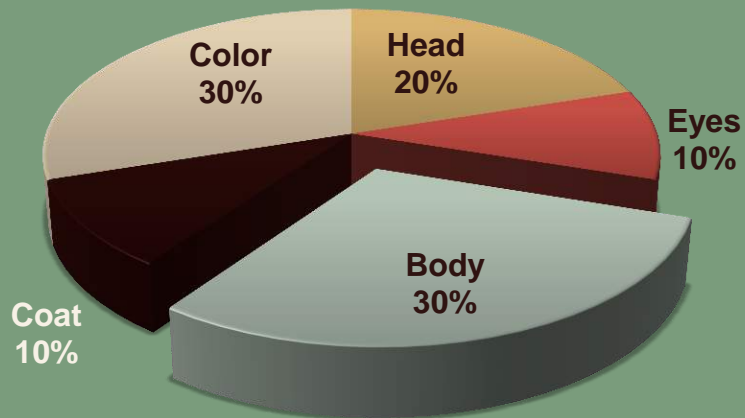
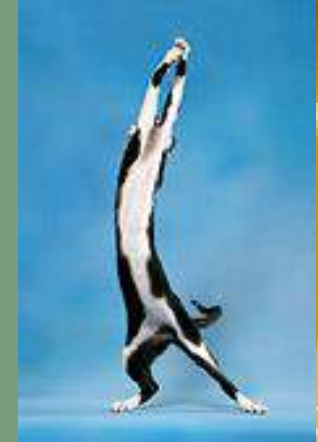
White and bi-color – blue, green or odd-eyed.

Not Gold, Not Copper – penalize for wrong eye color



Body (30 points)

<i>feature</i>	<i>points</i>
Structure and size, including neck	12
Muscle tone	10
Legs and feet	5
Tail	3



Body: 30 points



Long and svelte.

A distinctive combination of fine bones and firm muscles.

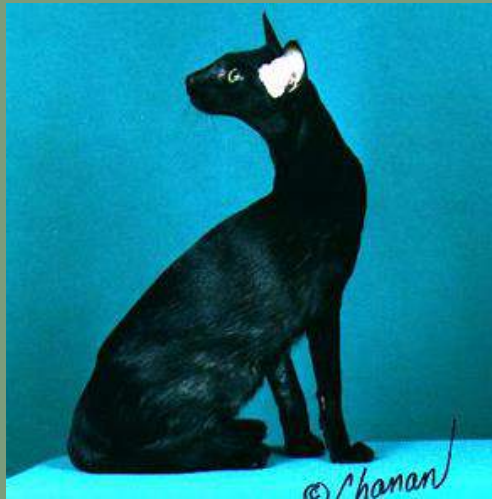
Shoulders and hips continue the same sleek lines of tubular body.

Hips never wider than shoulders. Abdomen tight.

Males may be somewhat larger than females.



Neck: long and slender.



Muscle Tone (10)

■ A distinctive combination of fine bone and firm muscles



Legs and Feet (5)

- Legs: long and slim. Hind legs higher than front. In good proportion to body.
- Paws: dainty, small, and oval. Toes: five in front and four behind.



DISQUALIFY:

- *Weak hind legs.*
- *Incorrect number of toes.*



Tail (3)

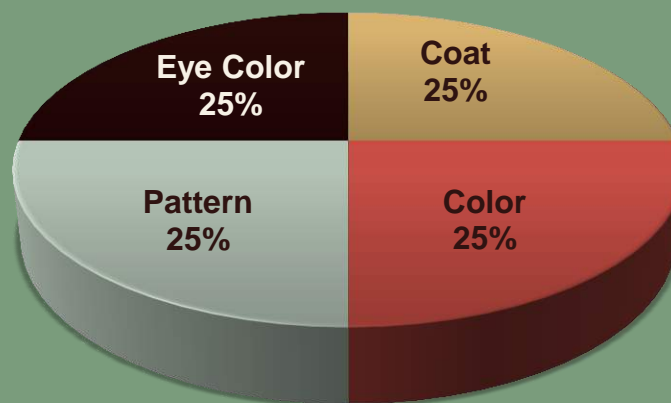
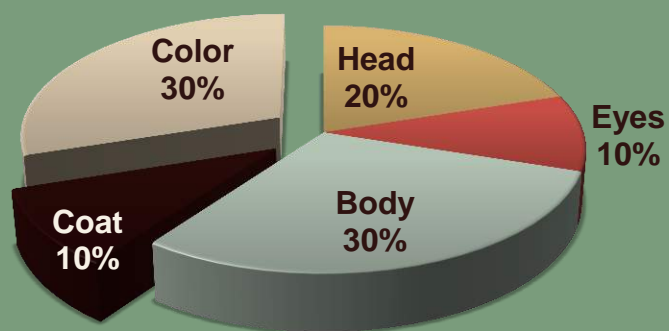
- Long, thin at the base, and tapered to a fine point.
- Longhair Division: tail hair spreads out like a plume.
- DISQUALIFY - Visible kink in tail



Coat and Color (40 points)

<i>feature</i>	<i>points</i>
Coat	10
Color	10
Pattern	10
Eye Color	10

Coat and Color



Coat : 10 points

- SHORTHAIR DIVISION: short, fine textured, glossy or satin-like, lying close to body.
- LONGHAIR DIVISION: medium length, fine, silky, without downy undercoat, lying close to the body, the coat may appear shorter than it is. Hair is longest on the tail.

Coat **Color**: 20 points



■ The Oriental's reason for being is the coat color whether it is solid, shaded, smoke, parti-color, bi-color, pointed, or tabby patterned.

■ Our breed is all about color! Please enjoy examining a cat of unusual color, and feel free to question the given color description.

Solid

- The full coat color score (20) should be used to assess the quality and the correctness of the color.
- All solid colors should have color that is sound from the roots to the tip of the fur.
- The color should be one level tone from the nose to the tip of the tail, without shading, markings or ticking.

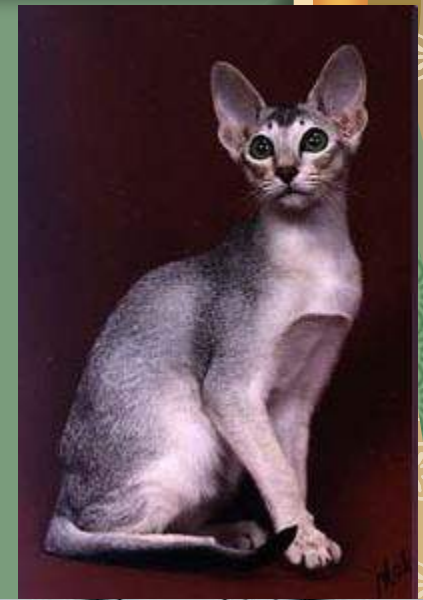


Shaded

☞ The shaded Oriental has a white, ivory to pale honey or apricot undercoat, with a mantel of colored tipping shading down from the sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to a color consistent with the undercoat on the chin, chest underside and under the tail. Legs to be same tone as the face.

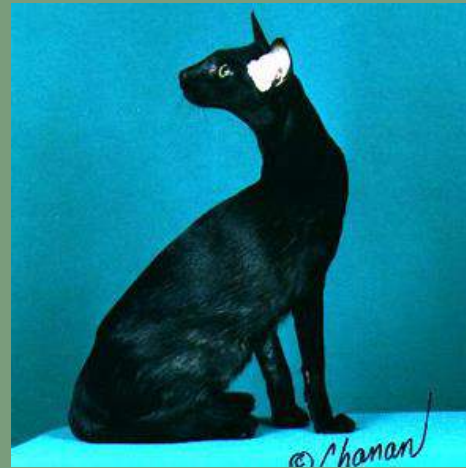
☞ Silvers have white undercoat.

☞ Goldens have same shaded pattern, but without silver.



Smoke

- Cat in repose appears solid in color.
- In motion the color is clearly apparent.
- Extremities are solid in color, and have a narrow band of white at the base of hairs next to the skin which may be seen only when the fur is parted.



Parti-color

- A solid* cat with patches of red or softly intermingled areas of red on both body and extremities
- Presence of several shades of red acceptable;
- *dilute colors exhibit cream instead of red.
- Nose leather and paw pads: may be mottled with pink.



Tabby

- The quality of the pattern is essential\
- The pattern should match the description and be well defined.
- The pattern should be viewed while the cat is in a natural standing position.
- The remaining ten points are allotted to the correctness of the color, it matches the color description.

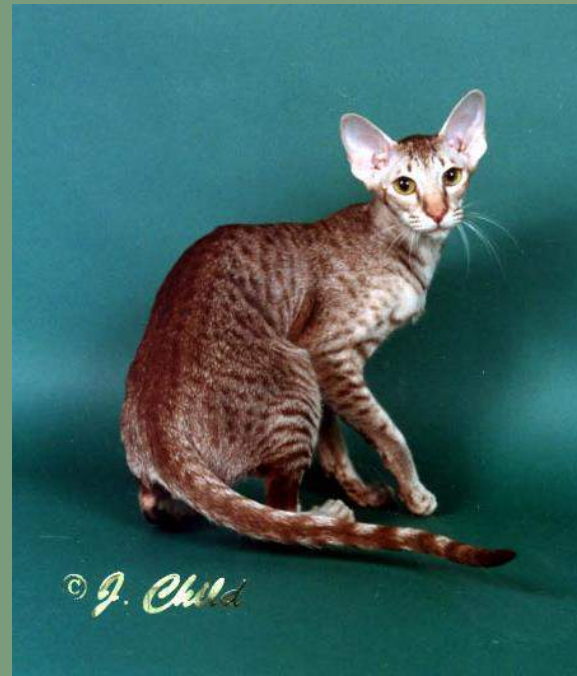
Ticked tabby

- Body hairs to be ticked with various shades of marking color and ground color.
- Body when viewed from top to be free from noticeable spots, stripes, or blotches, except for darker dorsal shading.
- Lighter underside may show tabby markings.
- Face, legs, and tail must show distinct tabby striping.
- Cat must have at least one distinct necklace.



Spotted tabby

- Markings on the body to be spotted.
- May vary in size and shape with preference given to round, evenly distributed spots.
- Body spots may subtly suggest a mackerel or classic pattern but may not be connected and preference given to spots in a random pattern.
- A dorsal stripe runs the length of the body to the tip of the tail.
- The stripe is ideally composed of spots.
- The markings on the face and forehead shall be typically tabby markings.
- Underside of the body to have “vest buttons.”
- Legs and tail are barred.
- On the upper chest there are one or more broken necklaces.



Mackerel tabby

- Markings dense, clearly defined, and all narrow pencillings.
- Legs evenly barred with narrow bracelets coming up to meet the body markings.
- Tail barred.
- Necklaces on neck and chest distinct, like so many chains.
- Head barred with an “M” on the forehead.
- Unbroken lines running back from the eyes.
- Lines running down the head to meet the shoulders.
- Spine lines run together to form a narrow saddle.
- Narrow pencillings run around body.



Classic tabby

- ❏ Markings dense, clearly defined, and broad.
- ❏ Legs evenly barred with bracelets coming up to meet the body markings.
- ❏ Tail evenly ringed.
- ❏ Several unbroken necklaces on neck and upper chest, the more the better.
- ❏ Frown marks on forehead form an intricate letter "M."
- ❏ Unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye.
- ❏ Swirls on cheeks.
- ❏ Vertical lines over back of head extend to shoulder markings which are in the shape of a butterfly with both upper and lower wings distinctly outlined and marked with dots inside outline.
- ❏ Back markings consist of a vertical line down the spine from butterfly to tail with a vertical stripe paralleling it on each side, the three stripes well separated by stripes of the ground color.
- ❏ Large solid blotch on each side to be encircled by one or more unbroken rings.
- ❏ Side markings should be the same on both sides.
- ❏ Double vertical rows of buttons on chest and stomach.



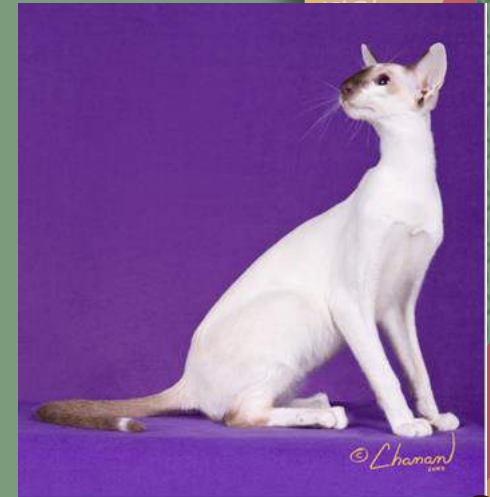
Patched tabby

- A patched tabby is an established Classic, Mackerel, Spotted or Ticked Tabby in blue*, chestnut, cinnamon, ebony, fawn* or lavender*, or any of these colors in silver, with patches of red or softly intermingled areas of red on both body and extremities
- Presence of several shades of red acceptable
- *dilute colors exhibit cream instead of red
- **Nose leather and paw pads:** same as non-patched tabbies, may be mottled with pink.
- Tabby pattern should be visible in both the red and non-red portions of the coat.



Bicolor

- Bi-colors should conform to the established colors and patterns for parti-colors, shadeds, smokes, solids and tabbies with the addition of white.
- Calicos should be a white cat with unbrindled patches of blue*, chestnut, cinnamon, ebony, lavender* or fawn* with patches of red or softly intermingled areas of red (presence of several shades of red acceptable; *dilute colors exhibit cream instead of red).



Bicolor

Van pattern color should be confined to the extremities, except that one or two small patches on the body are allowable.

As a preferred minimum, all bi-colors should have white feet, legs, underside, chest and muzzle.

Less than this minimum should be penalized proportionally.

Nose leather and paw pads conform to the established standards.



Van patterned Orientals



Bicolor – Pointed and White

- Should appear to the eye as a bi-color.
- Colors should conform to the established Oriental colors and patterns with the addition of white overlaid with the pointed color restriction.
- Thus, the non-white parts of the cat vary from the intense expression of color on the points to a paler manifestation of that color on the body (darkening with age is allowed, and may be more pronounced than in non bi-color pointed cats).
- In younger cats, especially the paler base colors, the contrast is subtle but distinct, and will increase with age.
- The face and the body should exhibit substantial white (a minimum of one-third is preferred).
- On the body, the white will show most commonly on the legs, chest, undersides, shoulders, and various spots on the body.
- There must be some white on the face, with substantial white (a minimum of one-third, or enough to indicate an inverted “V”) being preferred.
- Small spots of color are allowed within the white, both on the face and on the body.
- Eye color:** blue.
- PENALIZE:** lack of inverted “V”; less than one-third white.
- DISQUALIFY:** no white on face.



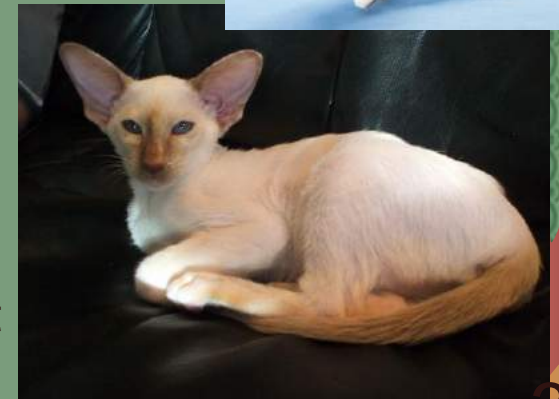
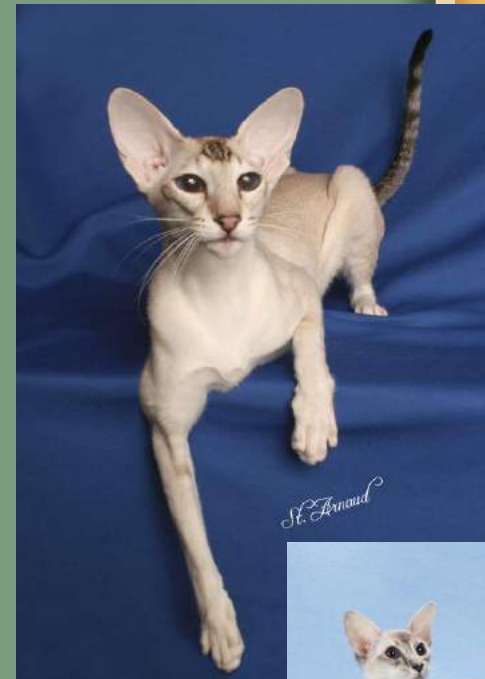
Bicolor – Van Point and White

- Should appear to the eye as a van patterned cat.
- The face and body should be predominantly white with coloration confined to the extremities: head, tail and legs.
- One or two small patches of body shading are allowable.
- Because the van pointed and white is predominantly white, the white on the face will most likely extend beyond any white “V” blaze, but a minimum of white on the face would be one-third of the mask.
- Any point restricted color or body color would be as described in the pointed and white description.
- Eye color:** blue.
- PENALIZE:** less than two-thirds white.
- DISQUALIFY:** no white on face.



Pointed

- Body: subtle shading is permissible, but clear color is preferable. Allowance should be made for darker color in older cats as pointed Orientals generally darken with age, but there must be definite contrast between body color and points.
- Points: mask, ears, feet, legs, and tail dense and clearly defined. All of the same shade.
- Mask covers entire face including whisker pads and is connected to ears by tracings. Mask should not extend over the top of the head.
- No white hairs in points
- Disqualify: There are eight pointed colors that are not allowed to be shown: Seal point, seal smoke point, blue point, blue smoke point, chocolate point, chocolate smoke point, lilac point, or lilac smoke point



Penalize & Disqualify

PENALIZE:

- ✗ Crossed eyes.
- ✗ Incorrect eye color.
- ✗ Palpable and/or visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum.

DISQUALIFY

- ✗ Any evidence of illness or poor health.
- ✗ Weak hind legs.
- ✗ Mouth breathing due to nasal obstruction or poor occlusion.
- ✗ Emaciation.
- ✗ Visible kink in tail.
- ✗ Miniaturization.
- ✗ Lockets and buttons.
- ✗ Incorrect number of toes.
- ✗ Longhair Division: definite double coat (i.e. downy undercoat).
- ✗ Eight disallowed pointed colors.

Handling the Oriental

- ❏ Please try to make every cat look its very best in the ring, even if you do not like the cat's type. Remember, the cat you are handling is likely somebody's beloved pet too.
- ❏ A "half-stretch" is very unflattering to all slinkies.
- ❏ Stretching may be horizontally, vertically, or allow the cat to show itself off on a scratching pole.



Thank you

🌿 Thank you for your time and attention.



Thank you!

