RagaMuffin

Judges Workshop

2012
RagaMuffin Overview

- Overall impression is one of sweetness and robust health.
- Large expressive eyes, which contribute greatly to the overall sweet look.
- Large cat with substantial bone and full bodies, muscular and heavy, with a tendency towards a fatty pad in the lower abdomen.
- Females are considerably smaller than males.
- The cat should have overall balance. Quality and conformation should be given preference over size.
- Ragamuffins should be friendly and affectionate.
Ragamuffin History

- Foundation cats developed in 1960’s by Ann Baker in Riverside, California, using non-pedigree cats. The distinguishing characteristics of these cats were their exceptionally docile nature, sweet temperaments, large size, “mushiness” and easy care coats.

- Ms. Baker was entrepreneurial and franchised her breeders. She required all breeders to register their cats in her association and abide by strict rules. Over the years, she became increasingly difficult to work with and her cattery was an embarrassment to those working with her. Ultimately, there appeared no other choice than to leave her breeding program and seek mainstream registry.

- In 1993, a group of breeders left Ann Baker’s registry with their cats, honoring their contracts that they would not use any names she used for her breeding cats, and sought registry in ACFA. The name RagaMuffin was selected, as the cats original gene pool developed from the street cats of Riverside, thus they were truly RagaMuffins, endearing little urchins. Even though some breeders did not care for the name- it became official when ACFA extended registration at their semi-annual meeting in St. Louis.

- The RagaMuffin was accepted for championship in UFO in 1995, ACFA in 1999, AACE in 1999 and CFF in 2002. Overseas the RagaMuffin was accepted into WCF in 2009 and also in GCCF the same year.

- CFA granted championship status to the RagaMuffin in 2011, also in St. Louis.
Ideal RagaMuffin

- Head………45 Points
  - Shape (10)
  - Profile (5)
  - Muzzle (5)
  - Sweet Expression (5)
  - Ears (5)
  - Eyes (15)

- Body and Tail…30 Points
  - Body (20)
  - Legs/Feet (5)
  - Tail (5)

- Coat…………..20 Points

- Color…………..5 Points
Head – 45 Points

Overall Shape – 10 Points

- Broad, modified wedge with a rounded appearance.
- Forehead is moderately rounded.
- Chin is firmly rounded, reflecting a proper bite.
- Cheeks are full.
- Neck is short, heavy and strong, particularly in older males. Allowance is made for jowliness in mature adult males.
- Ears are medium in size, set as much on the side of the head as on the top of the head with slight flaring, tilted slightly forward. Ears are rounded with moderate furnishings, in pleasing proportion to the head.
- Overall impressions should be of roundness – without flat planes.
Profile – 5 points

- Obvious nose dip, giving the impression of a scoop rather than a break.
- Strong curves/scoops are acceptable/desirable. Only penalize at the point in which the scoop in no longer continuously smooth and flowing, causing a sharp change in direction. There should not be an obvious stop.
- You should feel the profile of the cat. Some cats profiles are deceiving, in that they may appear to have a scoop in the profile, but as the profile is felt, you will find the cat actually has a straight profile. (and flat forehead)
Muzzle – 5 Points

- Muzzle is rounded.
- Muzzle is slightly shorter than moderate in length. (short)
- Muzzle tends to be broad.
- There is a puffiness to the whisker pads, which results in the overall “sweet look” of the RagaMuffin.
Sweet Expression – 5 Points

The overall impression should be one of sweetness.
Ears – 5 points

- Medium in Size.
- Set as much on the side of the head as on the top of the head, with a slight flaring.
- Tilted slightly forward.
- Ears are rounded with moderate furnishings.
- In pleasing proportion to the head.
Eyes – 15 Points

- Large, walnut shaped
- Expressive
- Moderately wide set
- A slight oriental slant is acceptable.
- All eye colors are allowed, including odd-eyed. Exception: mink pattern/colors must be aqua and sepia patterns/colors must be yellow/gold to green.
- The eyes contribute greatly to the characteristic sweet look!
When assessing eyes from a judging cage, and using a teaser, eyes are best viewed from eye level and not from above. Viewing from above causes the eye to appear rounder.
Head(wedge) long, lacks roundness
Left, long wedge, no roundness, 
No distinctness to the muzzle, 
Or puffiness to whisker pads.

Right, shorter head, better 
Defined muzzle.
Body & Tail – 30 Points

Body – 20 Points

- Rectangular
- Broad chest and broad shoulders
- Moderately heavy muscling in the hindquarters
- Hindquarters equally as broad as the shoulders
- There should be a fatty pad in the lower abdomen.
- These cats are fully fleshed, especially when mature and altered.
- The cat should have overall balance in body size, shape and distribution of weight.
- Quality and conformation is given preference over size.
Legs & Feet – 5 Points

- Heavily boned
- Medium in length
- Back legs slightly longer than the front legs, yet in proportion to the body.
- Paws large and round, able to support the weight of the cat without splaying.
- Tufts beneath and between the paws.
- Allowance is made for finer boning in females.

Mature, heavy cats are most comfortable being supported when moved from the cage to the judges table. It is best not to ‘stretch’ these cats. Full weighted, mature cats prefer to not be held up in the air.
Tail – 5 Points

- Long, in proportion to the body.
- Fully furred, similar in look to a plume or bottlebrush.
- Medium at the base with a slight taper.
Coat – 20 Points

- Fur is medium to medium-long.
- Texture is soft, dense and silky.
- Texture will vary slightly with color.
- Fur length is to be slightly longer around the neck and outer edges of face, resulting in the appearance of a ruff, and increasing in length from top of head down through shoulder blades and back, with the coat on the sides and stomach being medium to medium-long.
- Fur on the hind legs is medium to medium-long and thick with the appearance of a wispy frill on the hindquarters.
Color – 5 Points

- Every color and pattern is allowable with or without white, except pointed colors.
- Any amount of white is allowed, e.g. white spots on paws, back, chest or belly; a blaze, a locket, etc.
- The degree of symmetry whether in the pattern of the white spotting is of no importance.
- Nose leather and paw paws are accepted in all colors and in any color combination, not necessarily related to coat color. Colors listed in the color descriptions are preferred, not required.

The RagaMuffin is shown in one color class:
All RagaMuffin Colors..........................................................9800 9801
(Longhair Specialty Ring)
Solid Colors
Bi-colors
Shaded Colors
Smoke Colors
Tabby Colors/Patterns
Parti Colors/Calico
Mink Colors/Patterns
Sepia Colors/Patterns
Pointed Colors are not shown (Ragdoll/Birman colors)
Allowances

- Shorter fur on the legs for cats with medium coat.
- Seasonal change in coat length and texture.
- Smaller size in females and cats under four years of age.
- Short ruff on whole cats.

Preferences

- Affectionate nature.
- Deep, bright eye color.

Penalize

- Extreme cranial doming.
- Nose break.
- Roman nose.
- Small or pointed ears.
- Cobby body.
- Short tail.
- Cottony undercoat.

Disqualify

- Poor health or condition.
- Crossed eyes.
- Tail kink.
- Polydactyl.
- Pointed colors.
- Short hair on the body and/or tail, giving the impression of a short-haired cat.
Best RagaMuffin in Premiership
GP, RW Ragtime Cats Dazzling Autumn
17th Best Cat in Premiership, Southern Region
Best RagaMuffin Kitten
GC Kaerik
Canterbury Nougat
Best RagaMuffin Cat

GC, BW Ragtime Cats
Minky’s QT Pie
Thank You!