

# The RUSSIAN BLUE



...an illustration of the  
CFA standard



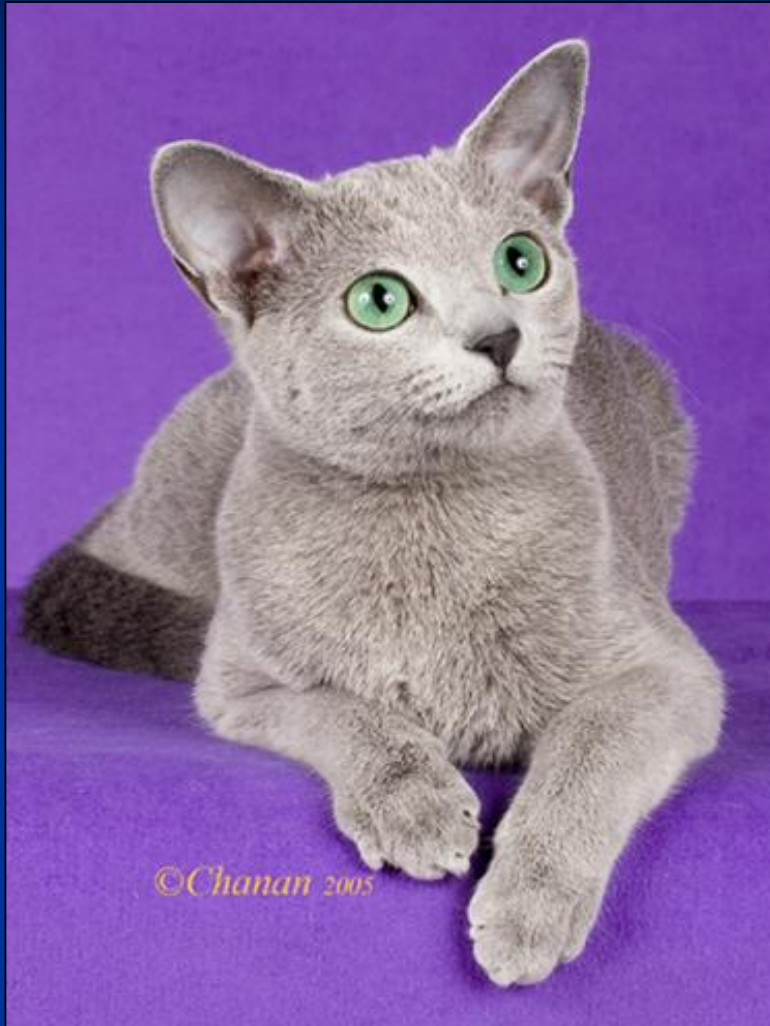
# Preface

The Russian Blue breed standard is regarded as one of the least complex and least changing of all the breed standards. The last change to the standard was made in 1999 to explicitly disqualify any color other than blue.

The breed was briefly out-crossed to blue point Siamese after World War II to increase genetic diversity (as were many other breeds at the time). Even today parents both carrying the point-restricted color gene can produce a pointed Russian Blue (white with blue points). It cannot be registered as an AOV as the breed has no AOV number, so it will not be seen in championship competition. Nor should it be confused with the “other color Russians” recognized in other registries as is the product of hybridization with white random-bred cats.



**GENERAL: the good show specimen has good physical condition, is firm in muscle tone, and alert.**



## POINT SCORE

- HEAD and NECK..... 20
- BODY TYPE..... 20
- EYESHAPE..... 5
- EARS..... 5
- COAT..... 20
- COLOR..... 20
- EYE COLOR.....10

# Head

- **HEAD and NECK..... 20**
- Smooth, medium wedge, neither long and tapering nor short and massive.
- Muzzle is blunt, and part of the total wedge, without exaggerated pinch or whisker break.
- The face is broad across the eyes due to wide eye-set and thick fur.



*Top head rounded,  
muzzle pinched*

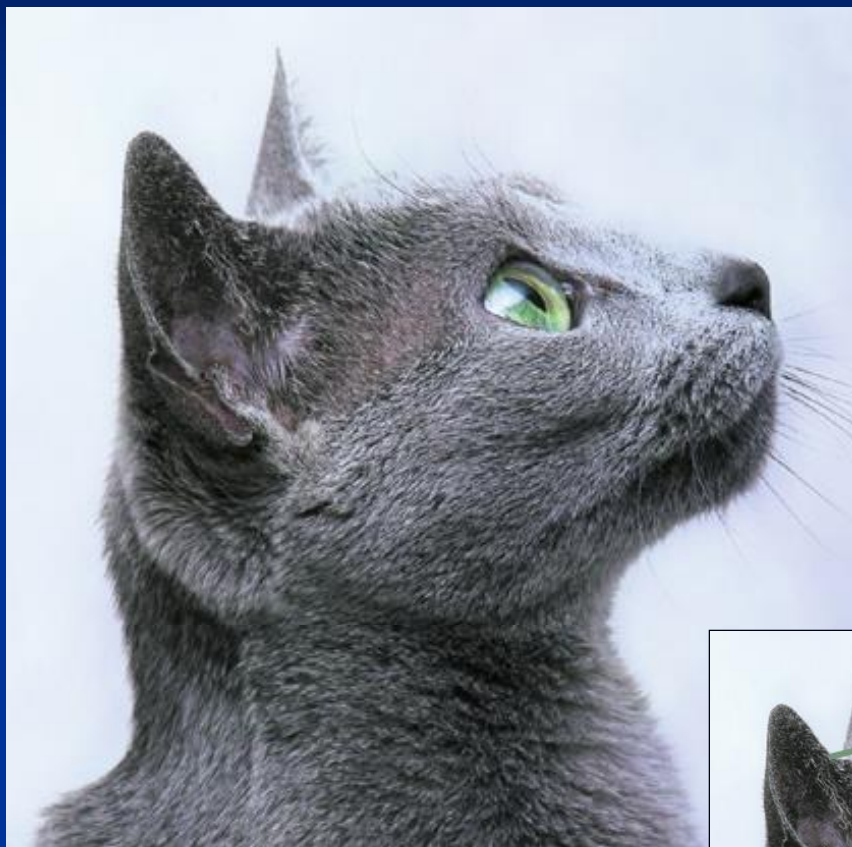


*Head longer, ears too  
erect, muzzle pinched*





# Head (continued)



- Top of skull long and flat in profile, gently descending to slightly above the eyes, and continuing at a slight downward angle in a straight line to the tip of the nose.
- No nose break or stop.
- Length of top-head should be greater than length of nose.
- NOSE: Medium in length.



- CHIN: perpendicular with the end of the nose and with level under-chin.
- Neither receding nor excessively massive.

# Head (continued)

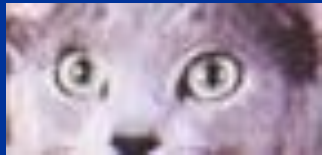
- MUZZLE: smooth, flowing wedge without prominent whisker pads or whisker pinches.



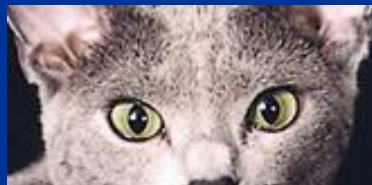
*Above: Muzzles pinched or narrow, don't flow into the wedge*

# Head (continued)

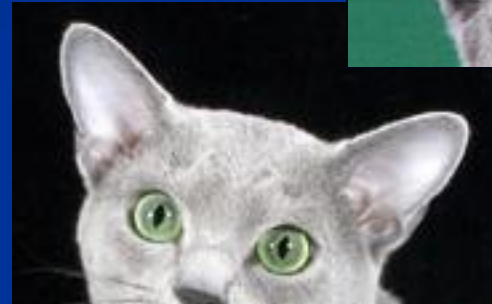
- EYE COLOR.....10
- EYE SHAPE.....5
- EYES: set wide apart.  
Aperture rounded in shape.
- EYE COLOR: vivid green



*Less than desirable eye color*



*Eye shape too pointed*





# Ears

- **EARS.....5**
- EARS: rather large and wide at the base. Tips more pointed than rounded. The skin of the ears is thin and translucent, with little inside furnishing. The outside of the ear is scantily covered with short, very fine hair, with leather showing through. Set far apart, as much on the side as on the top of the head.



*Ears narrow at base,  
don't fit into wedge*

*Ears too high*





# Body

- **BODY TYPE .....20 points**
- Fine boned, long, firm, and muscular; lithe and graceful in outline and carriage without being tubular in appearance.



# Body (continued)

- NECK: long and slender, but appearing short due to thick fur and high placement of shoulder blades.
- LEGS: long and fine boned.
- PAWS: small, slightly rounded. Toes: five in front and four behind.
- TAIL: long, but in proportion to the body. Tapering from a moderately thick base.



<< thick in the chest,  
short, heavy leg boning.

# Coat & Coat Color

- **COAT.....20 points**
- COAT: short, dense, fine, and plush. Double coat stands out from body due to density. It has a distinct soft and silky feel.

This coat is non-resilient, and tracing one's fingers through the coat should leave a mark. (Unlike the plushy non-resilience of the British Shorthair coat).

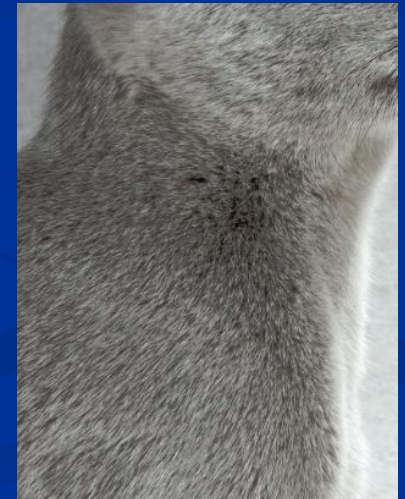




# Coat & Coat Color

- **Coat Color.....20 points**
- Even bright blue throughout. Lighter shades of blue preferred. Guard hairs distinctly silver-tipped giving the cat a silvery sheen or lustrous appearance. A definite contrast should be noted between ground color and tipping. Free from tabby markings.

Note that the Russian Blue coat can be light, but lack distinctive tipping. This is not desirable. It is not enough that the coat be light – it must also have tipping. The guard hair is blue from the root to 1/8 inch or so from the end. The tip is then ideally a bright silver (actually clear). The resulting coat has the appearance of lush velvet catching the light.



# Disqualify

- Kinked or Abnormal tail
- Locket or button
- Incorrect number of toes
- Any color other than blue
- Long coat

# Handling

- Prefer all four feet on the ground (security)
- Will often respond to a kind voice
- Russian Blues have strong feline instincts:
  - Facing another cat while going in/out of the judging cage may be a recipe for difficulties.
  - Hard to bluff—may not let you try more than once to get them out of the judging cage.
- Enjoy a feather or other toys, but may be startled by or fearful of large/noisy teasers.
- Clear the deck...no one wants to see a kitten or cat slip-sliding around on paperwork or flats.



THANK YOU for your interest and attention!

