Selkirk Rex
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With thanks to Valerie Cashman for photos and artwork!
Selkirk Rex

This presentation dedicated to the memory of

Oaktree Socrates
**Selkirk Rex**

- A medium to large cat with heavy boning that gives the cat surprising weight and an impression of power.
- The Selkirk Rex is an active cat with a sweet and endearing personality.
Selkirk Rex

Overall balance is more important than any one feature
HEAD: 33 Points

- Skull: 11 points
  - Round
  - Broad
  - Full-cheeked in both males and females
  - Round underlying bone structure with no flat planes

Selkirk Rex
The overall impression should be round, rather than oval. The head should be smooth in all directions.
Selkirk Rex

- Skull should be rounded in all directions
  - Front to back
  - Side to side
- No indentation above the eyebrow ridge leading to the rounded top head
- Forehead should not flatten between eyebrows and top head
When feeling the skull for the profile, there should be a smooth flow from the stop at eye level to the top of the head between the ears.

A flat forehead may feel smooth but disrupts the smooth look of the top head.
Selkirk Rex

HEAD: 33 Points

- Muzzle and Chin - 11 points
  - Muzzle is medium width
  - Underlying bone structure is rounded
  - Well-padded whiskers pads give impression of squareness
  - Length is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the width.
**HEAD:** 33 Points

- **Muzzle and Chin - 11 points**
  - Muzzle clearly visible beyond the curve of the cheek
  - Tip of chin lines up with tip of nose and upper lip in same vertical plane
  - Nose stop
  - Nose has downward slant with convex curve and set below eye line
  - Chin is firm and well-developed
  - Balanced in proportion to rest of head
• Muzzle length is half the width.
• Muzzle creases are frowned upon.
**HEAD:** 33 Points

- Ears and Eyes – 11 points
  - Ears - Medium in size
  - Ears - Broad at base
  - Ears - Tapering
  - Ears - Set well apart
Selkirk Rex

HEAD: 33 Points

- Ears and Eyes – 11 points
  - Ears - Should fit into, without distorting, the rounded contour of the head
  - Ears - Furnishings, if present, are curly.
**HEAD:** 33 Points

- Ears and Eyes – 11 points
  - Eyes - Large
  - Eyes - Rounded
  - Eyes - Set well apart
  - Eyes - Should not appear almond or oval-shaped

Selkirk Rex
HEAD: 33 Points
Round eyes. Outside corner of eyes set slightly higher than inner corner.
HEAD: 33 Points

- Nice roundness of top of head.
- Good profile
- Excellent convex curve to the nose and good nose length. It must not resemble a Persian nose and the curve separates it from a British Shorthair nose.
- Nice cheek roundness
- Roundness of the skull continues over the top to neck

Round, broad and full-cheeked in both males and females. The underlying bone structure is round, with no flat planes.
The nose should curve downwards a bit more and not be straight. It should start below the eye line.

It must not resemble a Persian nose and a convex curve separates it from a British Shorthair nose.

The nose has a downward slant with a convex curve and is set below the eye line with a gentle stop. In profile, there is a slight indentation in the nose, but not a definite break or stop.

- **CHEEKS**: Broad, full and well rounded.
- **JAWS**: Medium width; the length being equal to half the width. The underlying bone structure is rounded with well-padded whisker pads to give the impression of squareness. The profile shows a short muzzle, clearly visible beyond the curve of the cheek.

Check the roundness of the skull from back to front and between the ears.

Nice top of head.

Nice cheek roundness

Better nose and forehead but needs more chin
Ears furnished with good width between them.

Square shaped muzzle set square.

Full round face

Dense curly coat

Good boning

Round eyes; set horizontal with a slight bias towards the ears

Nose starts below eyes so not to look Persian

Full round whisker pads

Square shaped muzzle set square.

Good depth of chin

GC BW RW - Cream & White Van

(This Selkirk is sitting slightly on an angle)
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- Good width between ears.
- Round, full face.
- Big Round eyes
- Eye set horizontal when viewed from the front.
- Prominent squared muzzle with full well-padded round whisker pads, (you can also imagine a circle around the muzzle from eye level to chin).
- Chin firm of good depth.
- Distance from top of nose leather to top lip about the same as the distance from the lip to the bottom of the chin.

**JAWS**: Medium width; the length being equal to half the width. The underlying bone structure is rounded with well-padded whisker pads to give the impression of squareness.
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HEAD: 33 Points

- Good head type
  - Round head
  - Round eyes
  - Medium-size ears
  - Distinct muzzle
  - Strong chin
  - Square-appearing muzzle
  - Good width between eyes
HEAD: 33 Points

Good head type – Profile
- Round top head
- Muzzle visible beyond curve of cheek
- Tip of chin in line with upper lip and tip of nose
- Nose stop
- Downward slant with convex curve to nose
- Nose set below eye line
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**BODY:** 33 points
- Torso - 15 points
  - Medium to large
  - Well balanced
  - More rectangular than square but not long
- Back is straight with slight rise to hindquarters
- Shoulders and hips should appear to be the same width
BODY: 33 points
Medium to large cat with heavy boning and an impression of power. Torso - medium to large and well balanced. The substantial muscular torso is more rectangular than square. Females are less massive than males.
Selkirk Rex

**BODY:** 33 Points

- Legs and Feet - 13 points
  - Legs: medium to long. Substantial boning
  - Feet: Large, round and firm
  - Toes: five in front, four behind
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**BODY:** 33 Points

- Tail - 5 points
  - Medium length
  - Proportionate to body
  - Heavy at base
  - Neither blunt nor pointed at tip
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Good body type

- Balanced
- Medium to large
- More rectangular than square
- Legs medium to long, substantial boning
- Tail proportionate to body

Helmi Flick Photographer
**COAT:** 33 Points

- **Coat length:** Shorthair
  - Obvious differences seen on tail and ruff
  - On shorthairs, tail hair and ruff same length (1-2") as the coat
  - On shorthairs, tail hair is plush and lies compactly around the tail
**Selkirk Rex**

**COAT:** 33 Points

- **Shorthair**
  - **Curl**
    - Random, unstructured coat
    - Arranged in loose, individual curls
    - Curls appear to be in “clumps” rather than as an all-over wave.
    - Curl varies by length, sex and age, but entire coat should show effect of rex gene
    - Curl more evident around neck, on the tail and on the belly
    - Allowance should be made for less curl on younger adults and kittens
**COAT:** 33 Points

- **Shorthair**
  - Density
    - Dense
    - Full
  - No bald or thinly covered areas
  - Coat stands out from the body
  - Should not appear flat or close-lying
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COAT: 33 Points

- Shorthair
  - Texture
    - Soft
    - Full
    - Obviously curly
    - Plushy
**COAT: 33 Points**

- **Coat length:** Longhair
  - Obvious differences seen on tail and ruff
  - On longhairs, tail hair and ruff appear longer than body coat
  - On longhairs, tail curls are plumy and stand out away from the tail
**COAT:**

- Longhair
  - Texture
    - Soft
    - Full
    - Obviously curly
    - Does not appear as plush as shorthair but should not appear thin

33 Points  Selkirk Rex
**COAT:**

- **Longhair**
  - **Density**
    - Dense
    - Full
    - No bald or thinly covered areas
  - Coat may stand out from the body but may appear and feel less than plush but is not close-lying

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33 Points
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**COAT:** 33 Points

- Longhair
  - Curl
    - Random, unstructured coat
    - Arranged in loose, individual curls
    - Curls appear to be in “clumps” or “ringlets” rather than as an all-over wave.
    - Curl varies by length, sex and age, but entire coat should show effect of rex gene
    - Curl more evident around neck, on the tail and on the belly
    - Allowance should be made for less curl on younger adults and kittens
COLOR: 1 Point

- Including Eye Color
  - Any genetically possible color or combination of colors is allowed including, as of 5/1/2018, cinnamon and fawn in solid, shaded, smoke, tabby and pointed pattern.
  - Any eye color is acceptable
HANDLING

- Selkirks prefer to have all feet on the table
- Because they are a big cat, they do not like to be held in the air or at arms length - need to be supported
- Coat should be felt by running fingers through the coat
- Coat should NOT be felt by running hands down the back – the coat will flatten out and lose curl
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HANDLING

- To check belly fur, front end can be raised up
- Some males are sensitive to having back continually stroked
- Selkirks are gentle, affectionate cats, but can be alarmed by strange noises/places
- They would rather hide than fight, but will react quickly if frightened
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PENALIZE

- Excessive cobbniness
- Sleek Oriental appearance
Selkirk Rex

**DISQUALIFY**

- Extreme nose break
- Lack of visible muzzle
- Malocclusion
- Tail kinks
- Crossed eyes
- Obvious physical deformities including polydactyl feet
- No evidence of curl
Selkirk Rex

This is the end of the breed description.

A brief history of the breed follows.
• Miss DePesto of NoFace (Pest) was born in a litter of six
• She was the only kitten with a strange coat
• Her mother was a stray that was living in an animal shelter in Sheridan, Montana
• At a young age, she went to live with Jeri Newman
• She was not the most attractive of cats so Jeri created a standard not based on the original cat

Pest at the age of 3 years
• At the age of 10 months Pest was bred to Ch Photo Finish of Deekay, a Persian Jeri had been using for her Persian breeding program.

• In that first litter was a longhair (proving that Pest carried longhair) and a straighthaired.
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• Also in her first litter was a black and white curly cat – proving that the curl was dominant – that was named NoFace Oscar Kowalski.

• Oscar is the start of the line that occurs in almost all Selkirks.
The following year, Pest was bred to her son, Oscar, and in that litter was a cream point, proving that Pest carried pointed colors and dilute.

Because of the many colors available with outcrosses and with Pest herself, all colors/patterns are allowed in Selkirks

Oscar and son, a cream point male
In her next litter, again bred to Oscar, were three kittens that turned out to be homozygous - which means they do not carry the straighthair gene and will only produce curly kittens - proving that this curly gene was a complete dominant and the first complete dominant coat-modification gene in CFA.

(L to R) Three homozygous, one straighthair
Effective May 1992, Selkirk Rex were accepted for Registration status (and showing in Miscellaneous status) in CFA.
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Effective May 1998, Selkirk Rex were advanced to Provisional Status in CFA
Effective May, 2000, Selkirks were advanced to Championship Status.

Grand Champion, Breed Winner, Pamacs Winnie The Blue became the first Selkirk Rex to Grand, on July 30, 2000