

THE SOMALI

Breed Workshop
June 2013

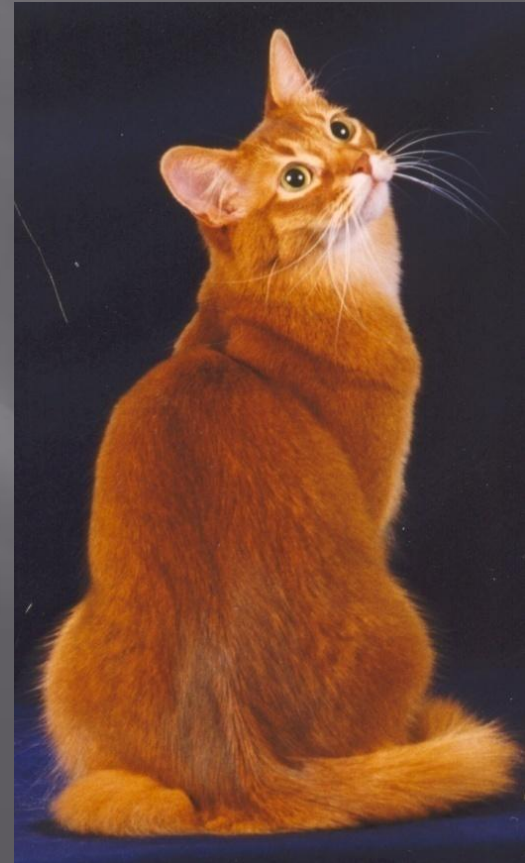
Preface

The Somali is often described as “The Feline Fox”



Preface (continued)

This information is provided to enhance your knowledge of the breed, and we hope, your enjoyment when you have them in front of you!



Preface (continued)



One of the most vital things to remember when looking at a Somali, is that the points allotted to the various aspects of the cat are spread quite evenly over the entire cat.

Preface (continued)

What that means for the judge evaluating a Somali is that the cat is . . .

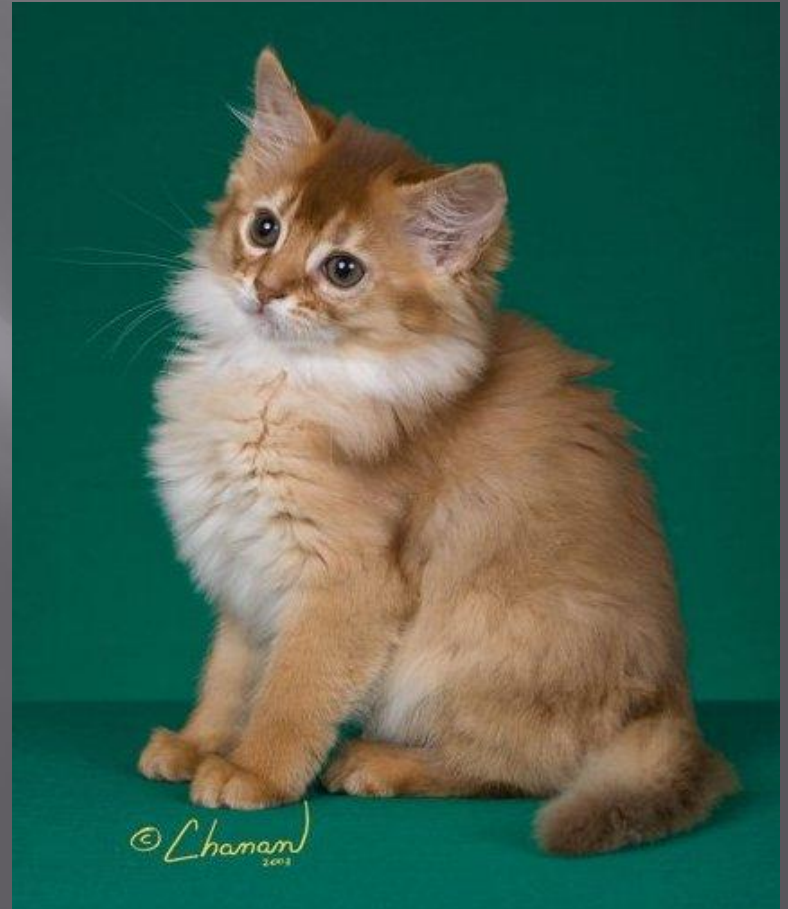
- More than an ear set
- More than an absence of barring
- More than ticking
- More than color
- More than head type
- More than eye shape
- More than coat length
- More than markings
- More than body style
- More than a bushy tail, or any one thing!

Preface (continued)



Preface (continued)

One of the most difficult of all breeds to work with; many, many things of nearly equal importance have to come together in the Somali. It is exceedingly difficult to bring all the components, some of which are subtle, together in one cat. Somali breeders are among the most wishful for that all elusive “Velcro cat”!



Preface (continued)



CFA BREED STANDARD



Part I: The Standard



Somali CFA Show Standard

- ▣ Head 25 points
- ▣ Body 25 points
- ▣ Coat 20 points
- ▣ Color 30 points



The overall impression of the Somali is that of a well-proportioned medium to large cat, firm muscular development, lithe, showing an alert, lively interest in all surroundings, with an even disposition and easy to handle. The cat is to give the appearance of activity, sound health, and general vigor.

The Head

25 Points

▣ Skull	6
▣ Muzzle	6
▣ Ears	7
▣ Eye Shape	6
TOTAL	25



***A modified slightly rounded wedge without flat planes.
Forehead should be good width between ears.***

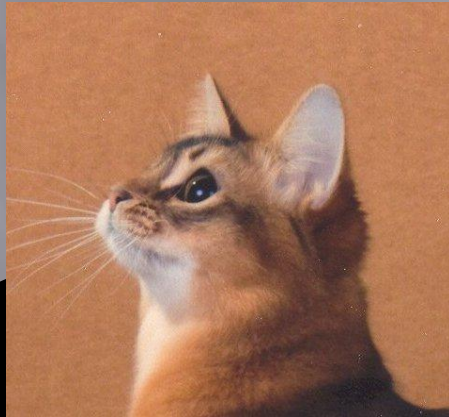
Profiles



Profiles

Profile lines all showing gentle contour, slight rise from bridge of nose to forehead, without flat planes.

Preferred



Less
Desirable



The Skull

- ▣ A modified, slightly rounded wedge
- ▣ No flat planes
- ▣ Gentle contours
- ▣ Slight rise from bridge of nose going towards forehead
- ▣ Nose: neither straight nor showing strong break
- ▣ Forehead broad with gentle contours
- ▣ Smooth continuation from forehead back over the top

The Muzzle

- ▣ Gentle contours
- ▣ Chin full, not weak or overshot
- ▣ Rounded, rather than flat
- ▣ Not too long, or too pointed
- ▣ No whisker pinch
- ▣ Boys will be boys ... jowls will be seen on adult males

The Ears

- ▣ Large and alert
- ▣ Moderately pointed: not too round, nor too pointed
- ▣ Broad, and of good size
- ▣ Well cupped at base
- ▣ Set towards back of head, not too near eyes and brow
- ▣ Horizontal tufts
- ▣ Tufts desirable, though rare

Ears



Too Narrow



Too High



Too Small

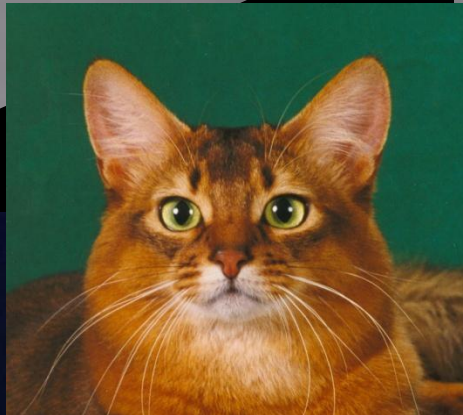


Good Size

Ears

Large, alert, broad, cupped at the base, set toward rear

Preferred



Less
Desirable



The Eyes

- ▣ Almond shaped
- ▣ Large, brilliant, and expressive
- ▣ Dark lid skin, surrounded by light colored goggle
- ▣ Dark vertical “pencil stroke” above each eye
- ▣ Dark horizontal line from outside edge towards ear
- ▣ Can be gold or green

Eyes



Good Almond Shape



Too Biased



Too Round on Top

Eyes

Almond-shaped, large, brilliant, expressive

Preferred



Less
Desirable



The Body

25 Points

▣ Torso	10
▣ Legs & Feet	10
▣ Tail	5
TOTAL	25



Medium long torso, lithe, graceful. Conformation strikes a medium between cobby and svelte lengthy types.

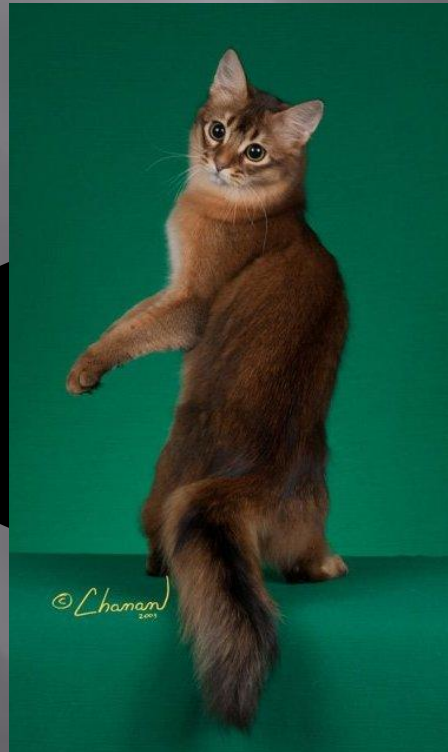
The Torso

- ▣ Medium long
- ▣ Lithe, graceful, good muscle tone (not soft)
- ▣ Rounded rib cage
- ▣ Back slightly arched, as if preparing to spring
- ▣ Flank level
- ▣ Neither cobby nor oriental, but striking a mid-point

The Torso

- ▣ A medium long, lithe and graceful torso, showing well-developed muscular strength

Preferred



The Legs and Feet

10 Points

- ▣ Legs in proportion to the body
- ▣ Feet oval and compact
- ▣ Nimble and quick
- ▣ Five toes in front, four toes in back

Legs

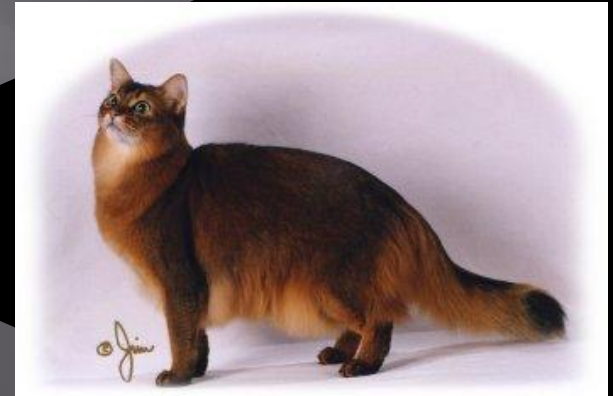


Legs

In proportion to torso. Feet oval and compact. When standing, gives the impression of being nimble and quick.



Preferred



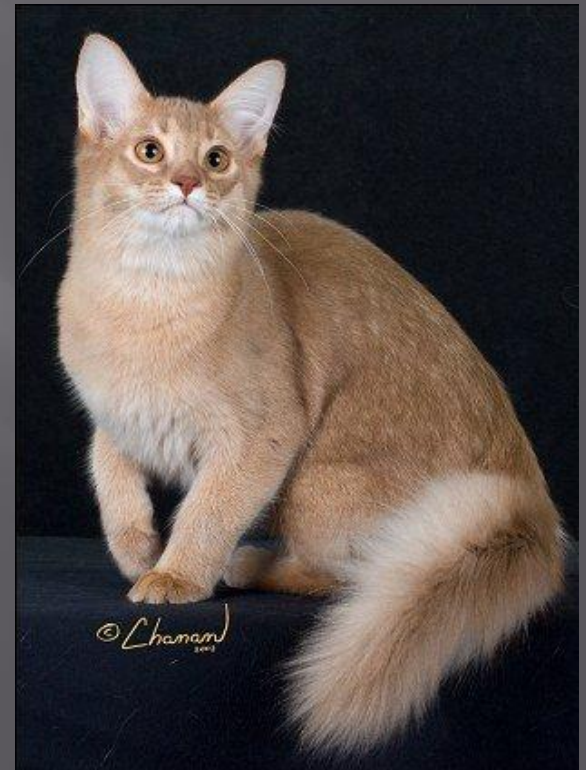
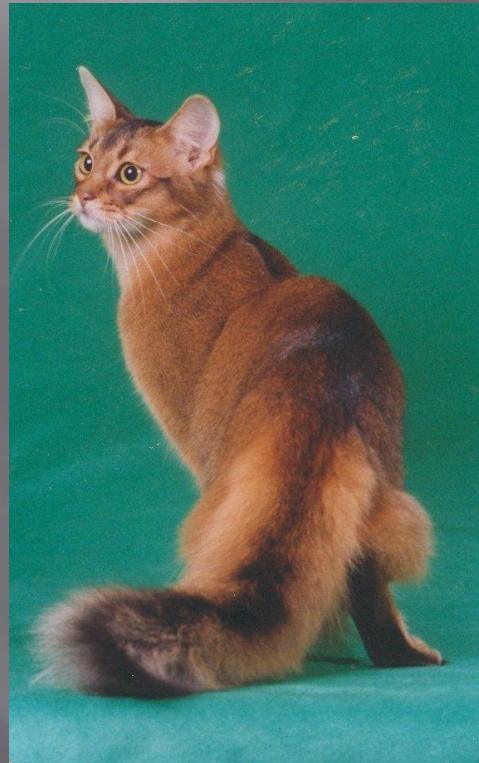
Less
Desirable

The Tail

- ▣ Full brush
- ▣ Thick at base, tapering towards tip
- ▣ Length in balance with body

Tail

- ▣ Having a full brush, thick at the base, and slightly tapering. Length in balance with torso.



The Coat

20 Points

▣ Texture	10
▣ Length	10
TOTAL	20



Very soft to the touch, extremely fine and double coated; medium length except over the shoulders. Ruff and breeches preferred.

The Coat

- ▣ Soft texture
- ▣ Fine and double coated
- ▣ The more dense the better
- ▣ Medium length, usually shorter over shoulders
- ▣ Full coated appearance, preference to ruff and breeches – however, not to the extreme of appearing to have a “Maine Coon” coat

Coat



Color 30 Points

▣ Color	10
▣ Markings	5
▣ Ticking	10
▣ Eye Color	5
TOTAL	30

Colors

Coat Color: Warm and glowing

Ticking: Distinct and even, with dark colored bands contrasting with lighter colored bands on the hair shafts. Undercoat color clear and bright to the skin. Deeper color shades desired, however, intensity of ticking not be sacrificed for depth of color. Darker shading along spine continuing through tip of tail. Darker shading up the hocks, also shading allowed at the point of the elbow.

Preference given to cats UNMARKED on the undersides, chest, and legs; tail without rings.

Colors (continued)

Eye Color: Gold or green, the more richness and depth of color the better.

Facial Markings: Dark lines extending from eyes and brows, cheekbone shading, dots and shading on whisker pads are all desirable enhancements. Eyes accentuated by fine dark line, encircled by light colored area.

Preferred

Even Ticking



Dark hocks



Penalize

Heavy broken necklaces



Leg barring



Disqualify

- ▣ White locket or groin spot



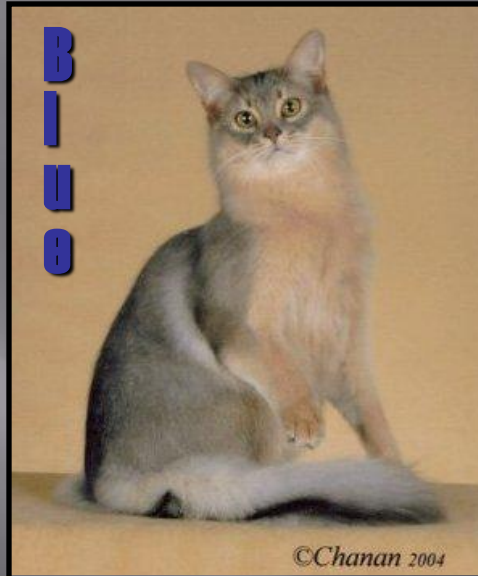
- ▣ Any skeletal abnormality.
- ▣ Wrong color paw pads or nose leather.
- ▣ Any other colors than the four accepted colors.
- ▣ Unbroken necklace.
- ▣ Incorrect number of toes.
- ▣ Kinks in tail.

Colors

Ruddy



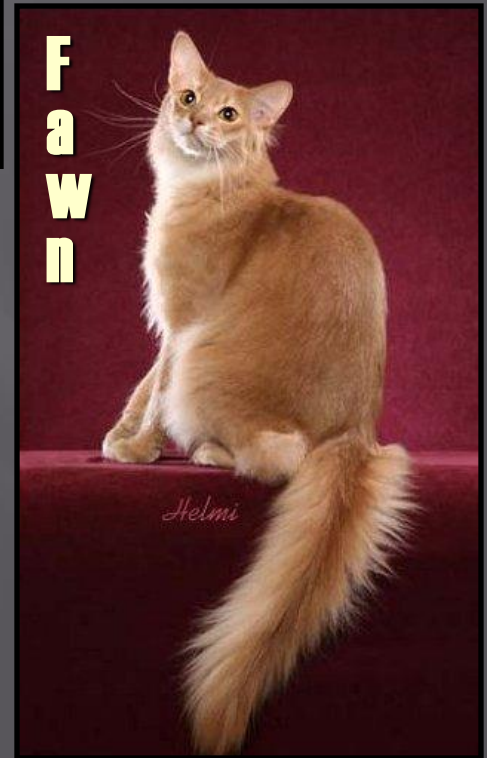
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Red



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Ruddy

Ground color burnt-sienna, ticked with various shades of darker brown or black; the extreme outer tip to be the darkest. Tail tipped with black. The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the ground color. Nose leather: tile red. Paw pads: black or dark brown, with black between toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.



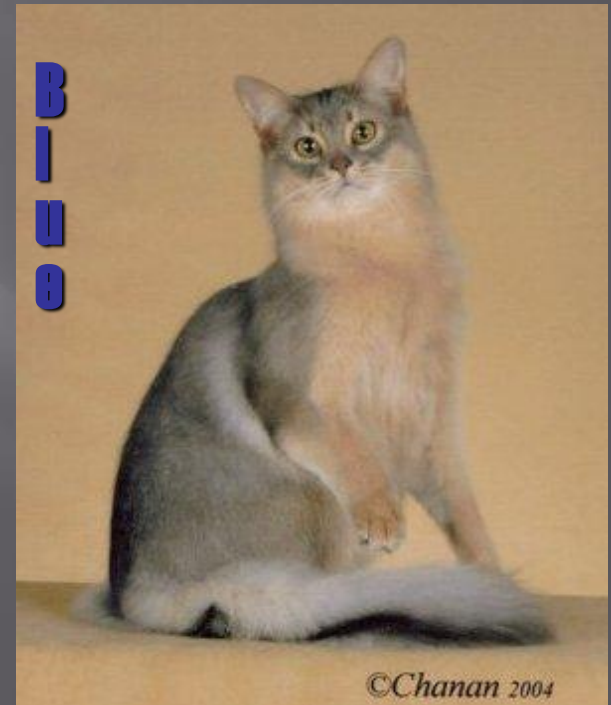
Red

Ground color rich, warm glowing red, ticked with chocolate-brown, the extreme outer tip to be darkest. Tail tipped with chocolate-brown. The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the ground color. Nose leather: rosy pink. Paw pads: pink, with chocolate-brown between toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.



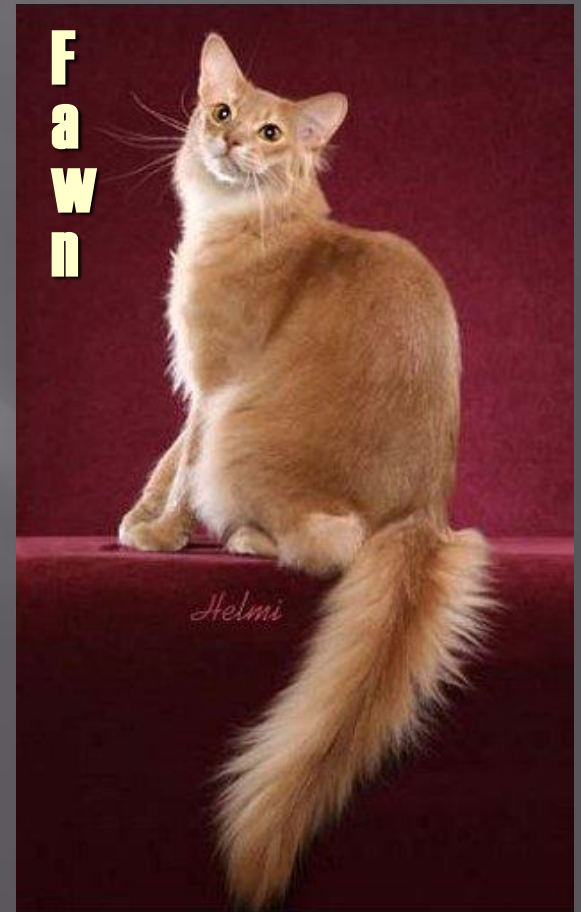
Blue

Ground color ivory-oatmeal, ticked with various shades of slate blue, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest. Tail tipped with slate blue. The underside and inside of legs to be a warm blush-beige/apricot to harmonize with the ground color. Nose leather: old rose. Paw pads: mauve, with slate blue between toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.



Fawn

Ground color warm rose-beige, ticked with light cocoa-brown, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest. Tail tipped with light cocoa-brown. The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the ground color. Nose leather: salmon. Paw pads: pink with light cocoa-brown between the toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.



Somali Color Class Numbers

- ▣ The following information is for reference purposes only and not an official part of the CFA Show Standard

<i>Ruddy</i>	1380	1381
<i>Red</i>	1382	1383
<i>Blue</i>	1384	1385
<i>Fawn</i>	1386	1387
<i>AOV</i>	1398	1399

Somali allowable outcross breeds: Abyssinian

PART II: ON THE TABLE - HOW TO HANDLE A SOMALI



Handling Tips

- ❑ Somali breeders often train their cats to stretch. It is a beautiful way to show off the coat and style of the breed. As you bring them to the table, stretching them will allow you to feel the muscle tone, weight and condition of the cat.



Handling Tips (continued)

- ▣ If you do not feel comfortable carrying a Somali like this, place one hand under the front of the cat behind the front legs and bring the other hand over the back and under the body, again in front of the back legs. This may not result in a stretch, but it assures that both the front and the back of the cat are supported and not hanging loose.



In The Ring--Getting The Somali On To The Judging Table

- ▣ Bring the Somali out of the judging cage tail first.
- ▣ Use firm support.
- ▣ Do not tightly contain a Somali!
- ▣ Stretch the Somali on the way to the table.

Never Box a Somali on The Table



Do's

- ▣ Once on the judging table, let the Somali pose.
- ▣ Run your hand down their back, let them stand tall!
- ▣ Use toys to look for barring, etc.



Don'ts

- ❑ Don't push a Somali down on to the table.
- ❑ Some Somalis prefer to keep "all four on the floor".
- ❑ Never, never, never crank a Somali's head back!





The End



Thank You

- ▣ It has been an honor for the Somali Breed Council to present this special breed to you. Somalis have come a long way since we were established as a breed separate from our parent breed, the Abyssinian. The work of a breeder is never done; we continue in our quest for the perfect Somali!



