Tonkinese

Judges’ Workshop
CFA 2017 Annual Meeting
Chicago, Illinois
General

Intermediate in type

Medium in size but balance and proportion of greater importance

Neither cobby nor svelte

Alert active with/good muscular development

Surprisingly heavy

Should not remind one of either a Siamese or a Burmese
Point Allocation

Coat Color (25)
Eye Color (10)
Body (30)
  15 .. Torso
  5 .. Legs and feet
  5 .. Tail
  5 .. Muscle tone
Head (25)
  8 .. Profile
  6 .. Muzzle and chin
  6 .. Ears
  5 .. Eye shape and set
Coat Texture (10)

Largest single item is Coat Color (25)
Body Color – 25 points

Only 2 other breeds have more points on body color than Tonkinese – Abyssinian and Singapura

Mask, ears, feet, and tail all densely marked

Point color merges gently into body color

Mask and ears should be connected by tracings (except kittens)

Allowance to be made for lighter body color in young cats, and for less contrast in older cats

With the dilute colors in particular, development of full body color may take up to 16 months

Cats do darken with age

Allow for range of tones from light to dark for genetic diversity
Color Identification

Paw pads and point color determines the base color (Natural, Champagne, Blue, Platinum)

Body color, shading, and contrast to points determines coat pattern (Full Body, Mink, Point)

Eye color does not define pattern; only body color defines coat pattern

What if you can’t match it up? It may be a “sneither” or “tweener” which is a bad example of any color

“Sneithers” belong in a loving pet home
Color by Pawpads

Blue

Champagne

Platinum

Natural
Body Color – Mink Colors

Rich, even, unmarked/clear color, shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter hue on the underparts

Allowance to be made for lighter body color in young cats

Development of full body color may take up to 16 months, particularly with the dilute colors

Cats darken with age, but there must be a distinct contrast between body color and points
Platinum Mink - Kitten

Platinum Mink - Adult

©Chanan 2003
Champagne Mink


Chan

Chanan
Blue Mink

Natural Mink

Natural Mink

©Chanan 2004
Body Color – Pointed Colors

Should be off white

Any shading is relative to the point color

Overall body color should be in marked contrast to the points
Platinum Point

Champagne Point

Natural Point

Body Color – Solid Colors

May be slightly lighter shade of the point color

Very little contrast between the points and body color

More contrast between the points and body color for the champagne and platinum than for the natural and blue.
Platinum Solid

Natural Solid

Eye Color – 10 points

**Burmese:**
Gold to yellow gold

**European Burmese:**
Yellow to amber

**Tonkinese:**
Points – blue
Minks – aqua
Solids – Green to yellow/green
Depth, clarity, and brilliance of color preferred
Best seen in natural light
The $c_s$ and $c_b$ alleles modify more than just point-to-body contrast – they modify eye pigmentation too.

The less the coat pigment is reduced on the body (i.e., the lower the point-to-body contrast), the less the eye pigment is suppressed.

The less the pigment suppression, the closer the eye color resembles the natural (non-pigment-suppressed) eye color.

Suppressing the eye pigment shifts the natural eye color toward the blue end of the gold->yellow->green->blue spectrum.

The result is that the range of eye color is greatest in the Full Body colors, less in the Minks and least in the Points.
Determining Eye Color

Tonk eye color is difficult to determine because it is a mix of two different physical mechanisms; each responds differently to light sources.

- Green/yellow is created by pigment
- Blue is the absence of pigment which allows for reflected light like the sky.
- Aqua is a mix of pigment and reflected light
Determining Eye Color

• Natural light gives most accurate results
• Cradling the cat and looking at the eyes from above may be helpful
• Aqua is the color most effected by different light sources because of its blend of pigment and reflected light (each responding differently to different light sources)
• The range of eye color is greatest in the Full Body colors, less in the Minks and least in the Points
• Cataracts in humans results in adding a yellow hue
Body

Torso medium in length

Well-developed muscular strength without coarseness

Midpoint between long/svelte and cobby/compact body types

Balance and proportion are more important than size alone

Abdomen should be taut, well-muscled, and firm
Legs Feet and Tail

**Legs:**
Fairly slim, proportionate in length and bone to the body
Hind legs slightly longer than front

**Feet:**
Paws more oval than round. Trim
Five toes in front and four behind.

**Tail:**
Proportionate in length to body
Tapering
Things We’d Like You to Know-
What is Medium?

The word “medium” appears 11 times in the Tonkinese, 5 times in the Burmese and 3 times in the European Burmese standards.

The Burmese standard uses it to describe overall size, ear size, body size, tail length and shade of blue in the coat.
The European Burmese standard uses it to describe ear size, body length and tail length.
The Tonkinese uses standard uses it to describe overall size, ear size, body length, coat length and shades of brown in the coat.

In defense of “medium”, it is not exact but comparative.
It helps define a range when it is inappropriate to place exact constraints on a feature.
Coat – 10 points

**Burmese:**
Short; Close lying
Fine
Glossy
Satin Texture

**European Burmese:**
Short; Close lying
Fine
Satin Texture

**Tonkinese:**
Medium Short; Close lying
Fine
Soft/Silky
Lustrous Sheen
HEAD
Profile/Nose Break – 8 points

**Burmese:**
Visible nose break

**European Burmese:**
Visible nose stop

**Tonkinese:**
Slight stop at eye level
HEAD
Profile – 8 points

**Burmese:**
Rounded without flat planes

**European Burmese:**
Top slightly rounded

**Tonkinese:**
Slight convex curve to the forehead
HEAD
Profile/Cheekbones – 8 points

- **Burmese:**
  <not defined>

- **European Burmese:**
  Wide

- **Tonkinese:**
  High gently planed
HEAD
Muzzle and Chin – 6 points

MUZZLE

Burmese:
Well-developed short muzzle
Rounded contours

European Burmese:
Short blunt wedge

Tonkinese:
Modified slightly rounded wedge
Blunt, as long as it is wide
Slight whisker break
HEAD
Muzzle and Chin – 6 points

**CHIN**

**Burmese:**
Firmly rounded

**European Burmese:**
Strong

**Tonkinese:**
Tip of the chin lines with the tip of the nose
HEAD

Ears – 6 points

**Burmese:**
Well apart and tilted slightly forward
Broad at the base
Rounded tips

**European Burmese:**
Well apart and tilted slightly forward
Broad at the base
Slightly rounded tips

**Tonkinese:**
As much on the side of the head as on top
Broad at the base
Oval tips
HEAD

Eye Shape and Size – 5 points

**Burmese:**
- Large
- Far apart
- Rounded aperture
- Gold to yellow gold

**European Burmese:**
- Large
- Alert; Set well apart
- Top line slightly curved, with an oriental slant toward the nose
- Lower line rounded
- Yellow to amber

**Tonkinese:**
- Proportionate in size to the face
- Open almond shape
- Slanted along the cheekbones toward the outer edge of the ear
BODY
Torso

**Burmese:**
- Medium size
- Muscular in development
- Compact appearance
- Ample rounded chest
- Level back from shoulder to tail

**European Burmese:**
- Medium in length and size
- Hard and muscular
- Heavier than it looks
- Strong chest rounded in profile
- Straight back from shoulder to rump

**Tonkinese:**
- Medium length
- Well developed muscular strength without coarseness
- Confirmation s/b midpoint between extremes of long svelte and cobby compact body types
- Taut abdomen, well muscled, firm
BODY
Torso
# BODY

## Feet and Legs – 5 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feet</th>
<th>Legs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Burmese:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Burmese:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Well proportioned to body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>European Burmese:</strong></td>
<td><strong>European Burmese:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small and oval</td>
<td>Rather slender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In proportion to body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hind legs slightly longer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tonkinese:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tonkinese:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More oval than round</td>
<td>Fairly slim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proportionate in length and bone to the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hind legs slightly longer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BODY
Tail – 5 points

**Burmese:**
Straight
Medium length

**European Burmese:**
Tapering
Medium length
Rounded tip
Not wilde at base

**Tonkinese:**
Tapering
Proportionate in length to body
BODY
Muscle Tone – 5 points

**Burmese:**
Good muscular development
Surprising weight for its size

**European Burmese:**
Hard and muscular
Heavier than they look

**Tonkinese:**
Good muscular development
Surprisingly heavy
Breeder Concerns

Uneven coat colors

“Sneithers”
Our Questions for Judges

Are there any clarifications you would like to see in our Breed Standard?
How do you feel about separate color classes for Pointed Tonks?
What questions do you have for us?