

Breed Portrait of the BURMESE Cat



Master Grand Champion Kanika's Pale Moon Echo

Dr. Joseph Thompson of San Francisco, CA acquired a walnut-brown female cat, Wong Mau, from Burma in the early 1930s. Through selective breeding to Siamese, the Burmese breed was established.

Burmese come in four colors: Sable (a warm brown) is the most common; followed by Champagne (a warm honey-beige); Platinum (a pale, silvery gray with fawn undertones); and Blue (a medium gray with warm buff undertones).

There are two types of Burmese cats ... traditional and contemporary...Burmese cats bred using traditional lines have a slightly more elongated muzzle and somewhat less of a nose 'break' than contemporary Burmese, whose head is very round and muzzle extremely short, with a very pronounced nose 'break'. A knowledgeable breeder can detail specifics for you.

A Burmese cat is of medium size but supports a surprising weight, good muscular development and substantial bone structure. Their coats are silky and short and they are described as 'bricks wrapped in silk'. Other than the constantly-asked-for pet, they require little grooming; however, love a good brushing once or twice a week.

The most captivating features of Burmese are their large, expressive, soulful gold eyes and their sweet 'innocent' expression, which gives this beautiful cat a distinctive look. They use these endearing traits as their most persuasive weapon in masking their awesome power to hypnotize their owners into lifelong love affairs, through which they effortlessly rule their families!

The charming personality of the Burmese cat covers the entire spectrum...they are very lively...always looking for the next game or mischievous adventure...they are intensely people-oriented, shadowing their 2-legged companions in a desire to give and receive affection. They insist on participating and 'helping' with all activities their people are involved in and will usually

greet visitors at the door. Typically, the females tend to request center stage and take an active role in ruling the household; while the males prefer to supervise from the lap position and are more laid-back and less opinionated. If encouraged, many Burmese converse with their humans using soft, sweet voices. They can be very stubborn, pretending that they cannot possibly comprehend what 'no' means and will continue to try to find ways of doing what they want to do; usually ganging up, if there are other Burmese companions, to accomplish their goal! ...and when they get tired, they want nothing more than to sit on a warm lap for a well deserved nap!



Master Grand Champion Kanika's Beijing

Burmese cats love to be warm and usually will crawl under the covers with their people at the end of the day, exhausted from their escapades. Because of their playfulness and need for companionship, a Burmese should never be an only cat. They are much happier with 'friends' to frolic and cuddle with!

WARNING: If you do not want a cat in your face constantly, do NOT get a Burmese! However, if you want to be entertained, have a constant companion and receive unsurpassed love, a Burmese is the cat for you!...and Burmese cats can be addictive...you may find you cannot have just one!

Burmese should never be let outdoors, as they are entirely too trusting and have little, if any, survival instinct.

A Burmese should be purchased only from a reputable breeder. It is wise to visit the breeder's home to observe how the kittens are raised. They should be energetic, curious and easily handled.

They should appear healthy, as should all the cats in the breeder's home. Check for clear eyes/noses, clean ears and healthy-looking coats. A breeder should guarantee the health of a kitten or cat for a reasonable length of time, provide registration papers (usually after the kitten has been altered), discuss care and be available to answer questions. A good breeder will not allow the kitten to go to a new home before 12 to 16 weeks of age. At this point, kittens should have had basic inoculations and developed the physical and social stability to adjust to a new environment. You will probably be asked to sign an 'adoption contract', which states what the breeder is responsible for, as well as what the breeder expects from you...the new owner of their beloved kitten/cat. You will be asked not to let the cat out-of-doors...You will be asked not to declaw the cat...You will not be allowed to breed the cat (unless prior arrangements have been made). If a breeder offers you an older kitten or adult cat, don't hesitate; they can be a welcome addition to a home where are needed upon arrival! (well...as good as they can manage anyway...don't forget, they are Burmese!)

CFF Show Standard “*Burmese*”

The overall impression of the ideal Burmese is that of a compact, muscular, satin-coated cat of rich solid color and sturdy boning structure, with surprising weight for its size. Its cobby body, inquisitive, big-eyed, sweet-faced expression and bear-like walk make it a unique breed.

10 pts - Head, Skull & Stop: Stop should be moderate and well-defined, but never indented or to be abrupt. More apparent than real, due to large eye set. Overall head is full without flat planes, whether viewed from front or side. Broad between ears. Tapering toward muzzle, top is arched but rounded.

5 pts - Muzzle: Should be moderately short, broad, well-developed. Muzzle 2/3's length of skull. Bite should be even. Chin in line with nose, but not to be over-emphasized.

5 pts - Ears: Medium in size, tilting forward with slightly rounded tips, broad at base.

10 pts - Eyes & Expression: The eyes are large, round in aperture, at least an eye's diameter apart. Color ranging from deep yellow to gold; the greater the depth and brilliance the better. The big-eyed look is what helps to give the Burmese its sweet-faced look.

10 pts - Body/Overall Appearance: Medium in size, compact, muscular, with sturdy boning. Structure broad and short coupled, heavy flanks and level back, giving a well-rounded appearance with surprising weight for its size.

10 pts - Chest & Neck: Chest to have good breadth in proportion to size of cat. Well-developed. Neck should be short, thick and muscular, set well onto a broad set of shoulders with a slight arch.

10 pts - Legs & Feet: Legs set wide, sturdy and proportionately short with solid round feet. Claws may be partially non-retractable. To have a bear-like stance and walk.

5 pts - Tail: Short but within proportion to rest of body. Thick with a blunt end.

20 pts - Coat: Coat fine, short, close-lying and glossy.

5 pts - Condition: Hard and muscular with no evidence of obesity, paunchiness, weakness nor apathy.

10 pts - Color: Slight shading on face & ears not to be penalized. More prominent on the Blue and Champagne. Allowance is to be made for faint striping on kittens.

Withhold: Definite leg gauntlets or barring. Any white spots, patches or lockets. does not mean the peppering of a few white hairs around the neck or shoulder area due to age or breeding.

Penalize: An under or over-shot jaw. Green in the eye color. A break that is too extreme, heading toward an Exotic look; nor not enough, giving way toward the Tonkinese look. Muzzle too broad, giving a bulldog appearance; or too narrow, giving wedge effect. Tail long and whip-like in appearance.

CAT FANCIERS' FEDERATION, INC.

...originated in 1919, with the objective of:

- Registering of pedigreed cats, household pets and catteries.
- Informing the general public, breeders and exhibitors regarding the various breeds of cats and the health and welfare of all cats.
- Licensing of CFF-sanctioned cat shows.
- Maintenance/updating of standards of perfection for each feline breed.
- Maintenance/updating of show rules, Constitution and By-Laws that govern the Federation.
- Celebrating the achievement of the highest award winning cats in the Federation and their owners through the annual Awards Banquet each September.

CFF publishes a quarterly newsletter detailing activities and general interest items. The CFF Yearbook is published annually, which highlights the Top 20 National/Regional Winners for Cats, Kittens, Alters and Household Pets, as well as National/Regional Breed/Color wins and Title achievements.

One of the avenues that CFF chooses to obtain funds needed to support educational efforts and our ability to continue our commitment to promote the health and well-being of all cats as companion animals is by having shows.

By entering a CFF-sponsored cat show, you are supporting that effort. Both pedigreed cats and household pets are welcome at CFF shows. Pedigreed cats are registered to document their parentage. Household Pets are registered so that they can win National or Regional titles and awards from CFF.

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