

AMERICAN CURL

The distinctive feature of the breed is the unique curled ear. These ears are firm to the touch, wide at the base, erect and open. The ears are set as much on the side of the head as on the top of the head, and curve back in a smooth arc with rounded tips. American Curl conformation strikes a medium between the extremes of the cobby and the svelte, lengthy types. The American Curl is a well-balanced, medium-sized cat that weighs five to ten pounds and takes two to three years to reach maturity.

Scale of points (see also General Preface)

- Head 15 The head is a medium-sized modified wedge, that is longer than it is wide. The nose is straight, with a slight rise from a point level with the bottom of the eyes to the forehead, with a gentle curve to top of skull. The chin should not appear to be receding. The muzzle break should not be sharp or angular, the muzzle is neither pointed nor square.
Shape - 6; Profile - 6; Size - 3.
- Ears 30 The curl of the ear should describe a minimum 90 degree arc, with greater degrees of curl preferred, so long as the ear points toward the center of the base of the skull. The ear is moderately large with a wide base, curving back in a smooth arc with rounded tips. The ears are erect and set as much on the side of the head as on the top. They face outwards at a slight angle and curve back away from the face towards the center of the base of the skull. The interior furnishings are well-extended, and tufts are desirable.
Degree of curl - 9; Shape - 8; Size - 7; Placement - 5; Furnishings - 1.
NOTE: The cat is able to swivel the ears so that the tips appear to point at each other.
- Eyes 10 The eye is moderately large, approximating the shape of a lemon, giving it an alert, pleasant expression. They are set on a slight slant towards the nose, one eye-width apart. Any color eye is acceptable with blue required in pointed cats. The color should be clear and brilliant.
Shape & size - 6; Placement - 3; Color - 1.
- Body 30 The cat is moderate in shape and weight, neither cobby nor tubular. The length of the body is 1 1/2 times the height at the shoulder. The neck is 1.5th the length from the shoulder to the rump. The hind legs are slightly longer than the front legs; the legs are straight when viewed from either the front or rear. The feet are round. The tail is wide at the base, and tapers. The desirable length should be equal to the body length. When wrapped along the cat's side, the tail should touch the point of the shoulders.
Shape - 7; Size & boning - 7; Musculature - 4; Neck - 2; Legs & feet - 5; Tail - 5.
- Coat & Color 15 The coat is medium long and lies flat. The tail coat is full and plumed. The texture is silky, there is minimal undercoat. All colors and patterns are accepted. white locket, white toes and groin spots are acceptable.
Length - 6; Texture - 7; Color - 2.

PENALIZE: EARS: Low set, mismatched, pinched, donkey ears, vertical or horizontal crimp, ears where interior surface appears to be corrugated. NOSE: Deep nose break. COAT: Heavy undercoat, heavy ruff, coarse texture. LEGS: Bowed or cowhocked.

WITHHOLD WINS Tail faults. Extreme curl in an adult cat, where the tip of the ear touches the back of the ear or head. Any ear lacking firm cartilage from the base to at least 1/3 of its height.

NOTE: Ear tips may be soft. A horizontal crimp appears as an abrupt change of direction without a rounded curve.