

JAPANESE BOBTAIL

The Japanese Bobtail should present the overall impression of a medium sized cat with clean lines and bone structure, well-muscled but straight and slender rather than massive in build. The unique set of the eyes, combined with high cheek bones and a long parallel nose, lend a distinctive Japanese cast to the face, especially in profile, which is quite different from other Oriental breeds. Its short tail should resemble a bunny tail with the hair fanning out to create a pom-pom appearance that effectively camouflages the underlying bone structure of the tail.

Scale of Points

<u>Head</u>	10	Although in repose the head appears long and finely chiseled, it forms an almost perfect equilateral triangle with gentle curving lines, high cheek bones, and a noticeable whisker break. Allowance must be made for stud jowls in the mature male. The muzzle is fairly broad and it should round into the whisker break. It should not be pointed or blunt. The nose is long and well-defined by two (2) parallel lines from tip to brow with a gentle dip at, or just below, the nose level. The ears are large, upright and expressive, set wide apart, tall and pointed. In repose, the ears should give the impression of tilting forward.
<u>Eyes</u>	10	The eyes should be large, oval, wide open and alert. They are set into the skull at a pronounced slant when viewed in profile. The eyeball shows a shallow curvature and should not bulge out beyond the cheek bone or the forehead. Any eye color is acceptable. Eye color should harmonize with coat color, but blue eyes and odd-eyes are acceptable in any color. PENALIZE for round eyes
<u>Body</u>	30	The body size is medium in the female and proportionately larger in the male. <u>GENERAL BALANCE IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.</u> Allowance should be made for underdeveloped body refinement in kittens and young adults. The torso should be long, lean but not tubular, and have well-developed musculature. The lines of the body should be clean and straight with no hint of coarseness nor cobbiness. Muscle tone should be excellent. The legs should be in keeping with the body: long, slender, high, but not fragile in appearance. The hind legs are noticeably longer than the forelegs, but are deeply angulated or bent when the cat is relaxed so that the torso remains nearly level rather than rising in the rear. When standing, the forelegs and shoulders form two (2) continuous straight lines, close together. The paws are oval. There are five (5) digits on the forefoot and four (4) digits on the hindfoot. PENALIZE for cobby or tubular-type body.
<u>Tail</u>	20	The tail and its shape is not only unique to the breed but also the individual cat.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE TAIL OF THE JAPANESE BOBTAIL IS VERY SENSITIVE AND SHOULD BE HANDLED VERY GENTLY. NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE TAIL.

The tail should be clearly visible and is composed of one or more curves, angles, or any combination thereof. The furthest extension of the tail bone from the body should be no more than three (3) inches. The direction in which the tail is carried is irrelevant. It may be flexible or rigid but in shape and arrangement should lend itself to the general appearance of the cat. The hair of the tail appears to be somewhat longer and thicker

than that of the body and grows outward in all directions creating a pom-pom or "bunny-tail" effect. The pom-pom should begin at the base of the spinal column and cover the tail vertebrae.

WITHHOLD FOR: absence of tail; tail extending too far beyond the body; tail lacking a pom-pom or fluffy appearance; "pom-pom" too far forward toward the tip of the tail.

Coat 10 The coat should be medium in length, soft and silky in adults with no noticeable undercoat. Allowances should be made for kitten coats.

Color 20 Any recognized color or combination of colors is acceptable with the exception of the pointed (Siamese) or unpatterned agouti (Abyssinian) pattern. In bi-colors or tri-colors any color may predominate. Any variety of tabby striping or spotting with or without areas of solid (unmarked) color is acceptable. Preference is to be given to bold, dramatic markings and rich and vivid colors.

MI-KE (tri-color/calico) - pronounced (**MEE-KAY**) - means three-fur and is considered a good luck symbol in Japan. Red, black and white, or blue, cream, and white.