

SOMALI

General: The overall impression of the ideal Somali is of a colorful cat with a flowing, distinctly ticked coat, medium in size and regal in appearance. The Somali is a foreign shorthair in type. Males may be somewhat larger than females; the females have finer bones and are usually more active than the males. The Somali is a graceful cat that shows eagerness for activity and a lively interest in all surroundings.

Head 15 The head is a wedge modified by slightly rounded contours when viewed from the front. In profile, there are no flat planes, but a gentle rise from the bridge of the nose up to and over the gently curving forehead and skull, flowing into an arched neck. The nose is without a stop, or pronounced bump. The muzzle shall follow the gentle contours in conformity with the modified wedge shape as viewed from the front and in profile. The chin shall be full, neither projecting nor receding, with a rounded appearance. The muzzle shall not be overly square nor sharply pointed. There shall be no evidence of a foxy look nor pinch behind the whiskers.

Ears 5 The ears are large, alert, and moderately pointed; at the base, they are broad and cupped at the base and set forward as though listening. The space between the ears shall be approximately the width of the base of the cupped ear. Hair on the ears is very short and close-lying; tip tufts are preferred. A "thumb print" marking on the back of the ear is desirable. Objection: small or badly set ears.

Eyes 10 Shape 5: The eyes are large, almond-shaped, luminous, and expressive; neither round nor oriental, and are slanted slightly towards the ears with the uppermost corner nearly even with the outer base of the cupped ear. The eyes are accentuated by a dark lidskin encircled by a lighter area. Objection: small eyes.

Color 5: Eye color is gold, green or hazel; richness and depth are desirable.
Objection: pale eye color.

Body 10 The body is medium long, lithe, and graceful, showing lean, hard musculature without coarseness. The body shall feel solid. The back is slightly arched when the cat is standing. The rib cage is rounded with no evidence of flat sides. The flank is reasonably level without tuckup. The overall balance is more important than size.

Legs 5 The bones of the legs are long, slim and even. The Somali stands well off the ground.

Feet 5 The feet are round or oval, neat and compact. When standing, the cat gives the impression of being on tiptoe.

Tail 5 The tail is fairly long. The bones of the tail are thicker at the base and taper toward the tip. The undercoat gives the tail a full, bushy appearance. Objection: Scanty or whippy tail.

Ticking 10 The ticking shall be distinct and even, with two or more darker colored bands contrasting with an equal number of lighter bands; the extreme outer tip is darker and the color next to the skin is clear and bright. The ticking extends over the saddle, sides, and tail without patching or irregularity. The flanks and shoulders shall have not less than one darker band of ticking. Darker shading along spine and down the top of the tail is allowed if it is fully ticked. Objection: Darker band next to skin in the mature specimen. Penalize: Reverse ticking (outermost tip of hair light instead of dark).

Color 10 The color is warm and glowing. Deeper shades are preferred; however, intensity of ticking shall not be sacrificed for depth of color. Preference shall be given to cats unmarked on the undersides, chest and legs. The tail is without rings. In all colors, the lip, nostril and chin area is lightest in color, being cream or off-white. Lighter color shall be confined to lips, chin and upper throat area. Objection: Bars, rings, tabby markings, necklace(s), pure white on nostril, chin or upper throat. Penalize: Coldness, gray, or sandy tones in color.

Coat 20 The coat is very soft to the touch, extremely fine and silky in texture, but very dense with a downy undercoat. The coat is medium-long except over the shoulders where a slightly shorter coat is allowed. Coat texture - 10; Coat length - 10.

Facial

Markings 5 Above each eye appears a short vertical darker pencil stroke amidst the lighter area, and at the side of each eye there is a curved darker pencil line in continuation of the upper eyelid. Cheekbone shading, dots and shading on whisker pads are all desirable enhancements.

Somalis are slow in maturing. Allowance shall be made up to 18 months of age in judging color, ticking, coat, markings, and lightness on nostrils, chin and upper throat area.

COLOR DESCRIPTIONS

BLUE Warm rosy beige, ticked with soft blue-gray or slate blue. The undersides and inside forelegs are a tint that harmonizes with the main body color and shows no more than a single band of darker color at the tip of the hair; preference shall be given to unmarked rosy beige. Ears and tail are tipped with slate blue. Nose leather: dusty rose. Paw pads: mauve or dusty rose, with slate blue between the toes, and extending slightly beyond paws and up the back of the hind feet.

FAWN Warm, soft pinkish beige, ticked with light mocha. The undersides and inside forelegs are to be a tint that harmonizes with the main body color and shows no more than a single band of darker color at the tip of the hair; preference shall be given to unmarked pinkish beige. Ears and tail are tipped with light mocha. Nose leather: light pink. Paw pads: pink with mocha between the toes, and extending slightly beyond the paws and up the back of the hind feet.

RED Rich, warm glowing red, ticked with chocolate or cinnamon brown. The undersides and inside forelegs are a tint that harmonizes with the main body color, and shows no more than a single band of darker color at the tip of the hair; preference shall be given to unmarked glowing red. Ears and tail are tipped with chocolate brown. Nose leather: rosy pink. Paw pads: rosy pink with chocolate brown between toes, and extending slightly beyond paws and up the back of the hind feet.

RUDDY Glowing orange-brown (burnt sienna), ticked with black or dark brown. The undersides and inside forelegs are a tint to that harmonizes with the main body color, and shows no more than a single band of darker color at the tip of the hair; preference shall be given to unmarked orange-brown. Ears and tail are tipped with black dark brown. Nose leather: tile or brick red. Paw pads: black or dark brown with black or dark brown between toes, and extending slightly beyond paws and up the back of the hind feet. Penalize: off-color or mottled paw pads.

color at
or

Withhold wins: white spotting on body, including lockets and groin spots. Lack of pigmentation on nose leather and/or paw pads.