

BALINESE

The ideal Balinese is a svelte, graceful, refined cat of medium size with long tapering lines. It must be in excellent physical condition: very strong, lithe and muscular. While the breed is considered medium in size, balance and proportion are to be considered of great consequence than size. The cat should “fit together”; if it is extreme in one part, all parts should be extreme to retain balance. It is generally accepted that the breed originated as a spontaneous mutation of the Siamese cat, therefore coat length is the only difference between the Siamese and Balinese. The most distinctive feature of the Balinese is luxurious tail plume.

Scale of Points (see also General Preface)

<u>Head & Ears</u>	15	<p>The head shall be a long tapering wedge of medium size in proportion to the body. The wedge is created by straight lines extending from the nose to the tips of the ears, forming a triangle, with no break at the whiskers. When the whiskers and face-hair are smooth back, the underlying bone structure is apparent. There shall be no less than the width of an eye between the eyes. Allowance must be made for stud jowls in the stud cats. The desirable profile may be seen as a long, flat, straight line extending from the top of the head to the tip of the nose OR, as two flat planes with a very slight change in angle midway over the eyes. There should be no bulge over the eyes, or no dip in the nose. The nose should be long and straight, with no break. The tip of the nose lines up with the tip of the chin in the same vertical plane. Extra-long whiskers are characteristic and are an asset to the very expressive face.</p> <p>The ears must be strikingly large, pointed, wide at the base, and well-pricked forward. There must be the width of an ear between the ears. The ears are set so as to be in a continuing line with the wedge, neither too high nor too flared.</p>
<u>Eyes</u>	5	<p>The eyes shall be deep, vivid blue, almond-shaped, of medium size, set in an Oriental slant toward the nose so that the projection of a line from the inner eye corner through the outer eye corner would extend to the center of the base of the ear.</p>
<u>Body</u>	10	<p>The body shall be of medium-size. It is long and tubular, hard and muscular, giving the sensation of solid weight without excessive bulk. The shoulders continue the same sleek lines of the body. Hips are never wider than the shoulders, and there is no flaring of the lower ribs. The neck is slender, long, and elegant. The overall body structure is finely boned and well-muscled, such as a gymnast. Males, in general, are proportionately larger than females.</p>
<u>Tail</u>	5	<p>The bone structure of the tail shall be long and thin, tapering to a fine point, adding to the overall appearance of length. Tail hair spreads out like a plume.</p>
<u>Legs & Feet</u>	5	<p>The legs shall be long, slim, fine-boned and firmly muscled in proportion to the overall size of the cat. The hind legs are higher than the front legs. Feet are small and dainty, oval in shape.</p>
<u>Coat</u>	25	<p>Long, fine, soft and silky without a downy undercoat. Because the Balinese has a single coat in contrast to the double coat of other longhairs, the hair lies close to the body, flowing naturally toward the rear. Thus, it does not detract from the long, slim lines of the basic body structure. Hair should be rather short and silky-looking around the “ankles”, and not spread out around the feet, as small-appearing feet are desirable. Tail hair (the longer the better) should spread out like an uncurled ostrich feather (but thicker of coarse).</p>

<u>Body Color</u>	10	Even color on the body with subtle shading (when allowed) to be in the color of the points. Allowance is to be made for darker body shading in older cats; however, definite contrast between body color and points must exist. Lack of leg and tail barring is desirable except in lynx points.
<u>Point Color</u>	15	Mask, ears, legs, feet and tail – dense and clearly defined. All points must be of the same shade (tail be slightly lighter, due to long hair). Mask is connected to ears by tracings, but should not extend over the top of the head. Long, light hairs on the back will spread over the base of the tail, and should not be considered a fault. As coat length tends to disguise tail markings in lynx points and tortie points, the tail should be held by the tip, shaken and viewed from the rear. There is a range of color within each color class. Emphasis is to be on clarity of point color: points to be clearly defined and matching, and good point body-contrast. (Example: There should be NO preference given to a deep slate blue point over a pastel blue point on the basis of point color alone.)
<u>Condition & Balance</u>	10	Excellent physical condition: muscular, strong and lithe, neither flabby, bony nor fat. Eyes are clear and bright. Expression is alert and intelligent. The temperament should be typically happy and affectionate, neither restless nor shy. They are very sensitive to their treatment, respond greatly to affection, and should be easy to handle.
<u>Allow For</u>		Dip above the eyes (growth ridge) in kittens and young adults to 18 months. Ghost barring of the tail and legs in kittens and young adults. Incomplete mask in kittens.
<u>Penalize</u>		Any evidence of poor condition. Belly and/or flank spots. Receding or excessively massive chin.
<u>Withhold Wins</u>		Evidence of illness, poor health and/or emaciation. Palpable and/or visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum. Lack of pigment in the nose leather and/or paw pads. Any tail fault. Crossed eyes. White toes and/or feet, or patches of white in the points. Any evidence of weak legs and/or splay feet. Definite double coat (i.e., downy undercoat).