

SNOWSHOE

The Snowshoe is a medium-to-large cat that combines the heftiness of its American Shorthair ancestors and the length of its Oriental ancestors. It is a well-balanced cat overall and is very muscular. The unique combination of the Himalayan pattern and Irish white spotting sets the Snowshoe apart from other breeds. When the white pattern is symmetrically marked against the dark points, the cat is most striking.

Scale of Points (see also General Preface)

- Head 15 Modified wedge shape, nearly an equilateral triangle. Width from tip of ear to tip of ear should be almost equal to length from tip of ear to tip of nose. The line from the outer base of the ear to the nose should be straight, with no muzzle pinch. Cheekbones high. Nose of good length in proportion to the rest of the head, rising slightly at the bridge, thus giving the appearance of two distinct planes. Forehead should be a flat plane. No less than the width of an eye between eyes; When whiskers are smoothed back, the underlying bone structure is apparent Head medium in size, in good proportion to the body. **Objections:** extreme head or muzzle length, rounded or 'apple-head' appearance.
- Ears 10 Large, alert, and pointed, broad at the base. Set forward from the outside of the head, giving a continuing line from the head to the ears.
- Eye Shape 3 Large, oval, slanted towards the nose in harmony with the lines of the wedge.
Objections: small or severely slanted eyes; round eyes.
- Eye Color 3 Bright, sparkling blue. Should stand out against the contrasting colors of the points.
Objections: pale eye color.
Withhold wins: eye color other than blue
- Body Type 15 Medium to large. Females slightly smaller than males, but should not be frail or dainty in appearance. The body should be medium-boned, well-muscled, powerful, and heavily built Long, but not too extreme. Neck, medium length, in proportion to the head and body. **Objections:** long, slender neck; body of extreme length, sleek, dainty or small in appearance.
- Legs & Feet 5 Solid, with good length in proportion to the body. Feet, medium in size, of a short, oval shape.
Objections: fine boning, extreme length.
- Tail 5 Thick at the base, tapering slightly and gradually to the end. Length, medium to long (when brought down along the hind leg, it should reach the tip of the foot or when brought along the side of the body, should reach the shoulder). It should be in proportion to the overall size of the cat
Objections: thin or whip-like tail.
- Body Color 10 Even, with subtle shading allowed on shoulders, back and hips, shading to a lighter color near the chest and belly, which may be white. White bib on chest and neck area is common, but less white on these areas is preferred. Allowances should be made for darker color in older cats as they generally darken with age, but there must be a definite contrast between body color and points. Kittens generally lighter in color.
Objections: uneven body color or shading; dark spots on belly; hip spots.
- Point Color 10 Mask, tail, ears, and legs: dense and clearly defined. All of the same shade. Mask covers entire face except for white pattern areas, and is connected to the ears by tracings. Often takes on the appearance of an eye mask, as if the cat were the Lone Ranger.
Objections: complete hood; ticking or stray white hairs in the points.

Color & Pattern 20 Preferred white pattern: White muzzle in shape of short, inverted "V" extending to nose bridge; white boots on front legs which extend to cat's ankles; white boots on back legs extend to just below the hocks; white on all four legs to be even, i.e., both front legs of same height, both back legs of same height. Solid white. **Nose** may be either white, point color, or combination of the two. **Paw pads:** pink, point color, or combination of the two.

Other accepted, but not preferred, patterns. On head: white chin only, blaze only, or with white chin, broken white on muzzle. On front legs, white may be as low as toes only or as high as knee. On back legs, white may be as low as ankle, as high as top of hock.

Objection: point color within white pattern on feet

WITHHOLD WINS: lack of white on muzzle/chin area; lack of white on legs or feet as described above; boots above or below prescribed points; white on any part of the body other than those areas described above, including the tip of the tail. Point/body color other than Seal or Blue.

Coat 5 Medium coarse, short, glossy, lying close to the body.

Objections: double or plush coat.

WITHHOLD WINS: long coat

Condition 5 Hard and muscular, with no indication of fat or emaciation. An appearance of good health and vitality. When lifted, cat should have "heft".

Balance 5 Medium-sized cat, should not be too small or too large. Overall appearance of a well-balanced cat. While being a long cat it should not be svelte, but should give the appearance of great power and activity as well as agility.

For greater clarity of both type and pattern for the Snowshoe, the pictorial descriptions are to be considered part of the standard.

COLOR DESCRIPTIONS

BLUE POINT Points: deep blue. Body: bluish-white, cold in tone, shading gradually to white on chest and stomach. **Nose leather & paw pads:** slate, pink, or a combination. White pattern areas to be a clear, sparkling white.

SEAL POINT Points: deep seal brown. Body: even pale fawn to cream, warm in tone, shading gradually into lighter color on the chest and stomach. **Nose leather & paw pads:** deep brown or black, pink, or a combination of seal and pink. White pattern areas to be a clear, sparkling white.