

CHEETOH (Provisional Standard) Standard of Excellence

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The goal of the Cheetoh breeding program is to create a cat with an extraordinary wild look and an extremely docile and gentle nature. The Cheetoh incorporates the distinctive characteristics of both the Ocicat and the Bengal, but with its own unique attributes, including extremely large size, unsurpassed gentleness of character and a wild look that otherwise can only be found in the jungle.

The Cheetoh is a very muscular cat this is athletic, graceful and lithe. This cat displays the stalking, low-shouldered walk that is common both in the Ocicat and the wild jungle cats, but is not typically exhibited in other domestic cats. The spotted and/or rosetted appearance with the large almond eyes and moderately large ears, enhances this distinctive wild look.

The sleek and shiny coat of the Cheetoh is another of its distinguishing attributes. The fur is very short and thick, yet soft and velvety and is quite similar in nature to the fur of the jungle cats. The coat must be spotted or rosetted, with the exception of the black marmalade colour, and maybe glittered or not glittered, no preference to either. Allowance is to be made for kittens with longer fur.

The Cheetoh, though demonstrating a very fierce appearance is at all times an incredibly social and loving cat, never aloof or showing any tendencies towards aggressive or standoffish behaviour. The males exhibit definite maternal characteristics towards kittens and younger cats, never being hostile or antagonistic, a mannerism exclusive to the Ocicat and rarely seen in other feline breeds. The gentle and mild-mannered temperament is a dependable character trait of the Cheetoh. This cat is also extremely intelligent and curious, often demonstrating an un-feline sense of humour.

The Cheetoh is significantly larger than the average Ocicat or Bengal, with weights ranging from 15 to 28 pounds for the males and up to 15 pounds for the females. In appearance, the Cheetoh will have six distinct coat colours and all six, with the exception of the black marmalade, are spotted and/or rosetted.

Head	Shape	Broad modified wedge with curve from muzzle to cheek. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males. Overall look is very similar to that of a Cougar.
	Profile	Slight, smooth visible rise from bridge of nose to brow. dip or no dip.
	Muzzle	Full and broad and somewhat long but well defined. Moderate degree of muzzle break at whisker pads. Strong jaw with no over or under bite.
	Chin	Strong chin in proportion to muzzle.
	Ears	Moderate to large, with wide base. Lynx yips are desirable. Light eyes or bars across the backs of the ears are also desirable.
	Eyes	Large almond, slightly rounded in shape, set wide apart. All eye colours allowed with no relationship between coat and eye colour except in the lynx point snow colour where the eyes are a deep vivid blue.

	Neck	Arched and muscular. In proportion to head and body.
	Nose	Large and wide.
Body	Torso	Large and muscular, with depth to chest. Back level to slightly higher in rear. Allowance should be given for smaller size in females, in balanced proportion.
	Boning	Moderate to strong.
	Musculature	Very muscular with an athletic appearance, especially in the males. Allowance to be made for slighter musculature of the female.
	Tail	Medium length, thick with rounded end. Some tapering allowable, but not desirable.
	Legs	Medium long, can be slightly longer in back than in front. Well muscled and athletic.
	Paws	Large and round with prominent knuckles. Allowance should be made for females with smaller size..
Coat	Length	Very short and sleek.
	Texture	Thick and close-lying; tight; and velvety to the touch.
	Pattern	<p>There is an intricate tabby "M" or "U" on the forehead, with distinctive mascara markings and/or spots around the eyes and on the cheeks. Spots and/or elongated spots and markings extend up over the head between the ears, flowing down the neck and onto the shoulders. There can be random or distinct patterns flowing over the shoulders and onto the sides.</p> <p>Large thumbprint sized spots and/or rosettes appear on the sides of the torso, with smaller markings slowing down the shoulders and hind quarters. All patterns of spots and/or rosettes allowed.</p> <p>There are broken bracelets on the throat and neck and lower legs. Spots which extend down legs to the paws are desirable.</p> <p>Distinctive spots covering the main part of the body, can be random or aligned. Rosettes showing two distinct colour shades are desirable. Markings or spots allowed on legs, tail and face an may be darker than on the body. Patterns appearing on the shoulders and down the back are a bonus. These patterns can appear as a cape on younger kittens. Clarity of contrast preferred.</p> <p>Ground colour is lighter on the belly and the underside of the chin and lower jaw. Bold facial markings are desired. Belly must be spotted on all colours. Silver colours may have some bronze tarnishing on face an lower legs.</p>

Penalise		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small size. • Lack of desirable muscle tone • Poor bone structure. • Blurred or indistinct coat markings.
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SCALE OF POINTS

Total		100 points
Head	Shape 5 Ears 6 Eyes 4 Muzzle 10 Nose 5	30
Body	Torso 5 Size 10 Legs/Feet 5 Tail 5 Musculature 5	30
Coat	Texture 5 Pattern 20 Colour 15	40

RECOGNISED COLOURS

Brown/Black Spotted Tabby (Sienna Undercoat).

Brown/Black Spotted Tabby (Gold/Tan undercoat).

Smoke/Blue Spotted Silver/Ivory.

Black Spotted Silver.

Black/Brown Marble Tabby. (Black Marmalade)

Lynx Pointed Snow

Other colours including Chocolate Spotted Silver, Cinnamon Spotted Silver and Cinnamon Spotted Ivory, Black Spots on Black undercoat, Chocolate spots on Chocolate undercoat, are allowed.

NO DILUTES except BLUE are allowed and will not be registered as Cheetoh.

ALLOWABLE OUTCROSSES:

Oicat to Bengal for first filial cross.

As per schedule approved by the Board of Directors.

BROWN/BLACK SPOTTED TABBY (SIENNA)

General	Includes variations of Sorrel, Tawny, Golden, Hot Rufus and Mahogany. A light ruddy ground colour is preferred.
Markings	Shades of Black, Sable or Tan. Light coloured markings encircling the eyes and white ground colour on the whisker pads, chin, chest, belly and inside the legs is desirable. Black or Sable coloured markings and/or spots around the eyes and on the face are a bonus.
Nose	Dark Brick Red.
Eye Colour	Bronze or Gold, Copper, Green, Brown or Hazel.
Paw Pads	Black.
Tail Tip	Black.

BROWN/BLACK SPOTTED TABBY (GOLD/TAN)

General	The underlying coat colour is a very light Golden Tan or Tan with Silver highlights. The coat can also be ticked very slightly with a mixture of black, white and shades of grey.
Markings	Spots and/or rosettes are Sable Brown or Black in colour and are scattered over the shoulders, back, sides and haunches. Large spots and rosettes are desirable. Black markings or spots on the face and around the eyes are a bonus.
Nose	Dark Brick Red.
Eye Colour	Bronze or Gold, Copper, Green, Brown or Hazel.
Paw Pads	Black.
Tail Tip	Black.

SMOKE/BLUE SPOTTED SILVER OR IVORY

General	The overall colour is one of Silver/Ivory or in some cases a mixture of greys. I.e. With Black, white and varying shades of grey mixed together.
Markings	Spots and/or rosettes are distinct. Light coloured or white bars across the back of the ears are desirable. Light coloured markings encircle the eyes. Black markings and/or spots around the eyes and on the face are a bonus.
Nose	Red hued, outlined in black.
Eye Colour	Bronze or Gold, Copper, Green, Brown or Hazel.
Paw Pads	Black.
Tail Tip	Black.

BLACK SPOTTED SILVER

General	The overall colour is a cool sparkling silver overlaid with intense black markings, spots and rosettes. Some ticking allowed, but the degree of contrast should be intense.
Markings	Black markings and/or spots on the face are desirable. White bars across the backs of the ears are desirable. Gold frost or glitter can appear across the shoulders and back. Rust coloured tarnishing on legs, face, head and nose is allowed.
Nose	Red hued outlined in black.
Eye Colour	Bronze or Gold, Copper, Green, Brown or Hazel.
Paw Pads	Black.
Tail Tip	Black.

LYNX POINTED SNOW

General	The body is a Snow White or Ivory with grey, black or sable shading on back and rump permitted. Extremities can be various shades of buff, light grey, sable or black.
Markings	Gold, buff, sepia or mink coloured spots and/or rosettes cover the entire body, including the belly. Spots on legs are a bonus. The tail is black ringed with a black tip. The face has Sable or Black coloured markings and/or spots. Ears are a light grey or buff, with Sable or Black tip and Lynx Pointed. White bars across the backs of the ears are a bonus.
Nose	Black with lighter reddish centre.
Eye Colour	Deep bright blue.
Paw Pads	Black.
Tail Tip	Black.

BLACK/BROWN MARBLE TABBY

General	This is a colour that is both Bengal and Ocicat in origin.
Markings	Markings are definite patterns of swirls, circles, rosettes, spots etc. Colours include Black, Sable or Ivory underground, Ivory or White belly that is spotted with above noted colours. Markings that are very similar on each side, legs and hips are highly desirable. A definite pattern appears down the back in contrasting colours to the underground. Tail and legs are similarly patterned as the body. White bars across the backs of the ears are a bonus.
Nose	Red hued outlined with Black or Sable.
Eye Colour	Bronze or Gold, Copper, Green, Brown or Hazel.
Paw Pads	Black with reddish overtone.
Tail Tip	Black.

CHOCOLATE or CARMEL SPOTTED SILVER (IVORY)

General	The underlying coat colour is very light ivory or silver with overtones of sienna for the cinnamon spotted colours.
Markings	Spots and/or rosettes are sable brown or cinnamon in colour and are scattered over the shoulders, back, sides and haunches. Large spots or rosettes are desirable. Darker markings and/or spots on face and around eyes are a bonus. Light coloured "spectacles" around eyes are desirable.
Nose	Dark Brick Red.
Eye Colour	Bronze or Gold, Copper, Green, Brown or Hazel.
Paw Pads	Brick or Pink for Cinnamon Spotted or Chocolate for Chocolate spotted.
Tail Tip	Brick or Pink for Cinnamon Spotted or Chocolate for Chocolate spotted.