

NORWEGIAN FOREST CAT

Standard of Excellence

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A large, longhaired Norwegian breed. In its homeland it has been known as the Norsk Skaukatt or Norsk Skogkatt.

Norse mythology tells of a cat so large that the thunder god Thor could not lift it off the ground. Freya, the goddess of love and fertility is said to have ridden in a chariot drawn by two such cats. A large, powerfully built cat with muscles which may not be fully developed until the cat is nearly five years old. The head is unique among the semi-longhaired breeds as its shape forms an equilateral triangle with tufted ears set so that their outer edges are in line with the lines of the face. Seen from the side, the nose is straight. The chin is strong but the muzzle is gently rounded rather than being square. The coat is long, with a full ruff, tufted ears and a bushy tail. The front legs are slightly shorter than the hind legs. The long outer coat is glossy and water-resistant, while the thick undercoat adds protection against the cold. The winter coat is even thicker than the summer one. Inevitably, this means a heavy moult once a year.

Head	Shape	Triangular, where all sides are equal. Long, straight profile without break in line (no stop).
	Chin	Firm.
Ears	Shape	With good width at base, with lynx-like tufts and long hair out of ears.
	Placement	High and open, so that the outer lines of the ears follow the line of the head down to the chin.
Eyes	Shape	Large, well opened, slightly oblique.
	Expression	Alert expression.
	Colour	All colours permitted, regardless of coat colour.
Body	Structure	Long, strongly built. Solid bone structure.
Legs		High on legs; hind legs higher than the front legs.
Tail		Long and bushy; should reach to the neck.
Coat	Structure	Semi-long. A smooth, water repellent upper coat covers the woolly undercoat. This glossy hair covers the back and the sides. A fully coated cat has a shirtfront, a full frill and knickerbockers.
	Colour	All colours are permitted, including all colours with white, except pointed patterns and chocolate and lilac, cinnamon and fawn. Any amount of white is allowed, i.e. a white blaze, white locket, white chest, white on the belly, white on the paws, etc.

Faults	General	Too small and finely built cats.
	Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round or square head. • Profile with a break (stop).
	Ears	Small ears.
	Legs	Short legs.
	Tail	Short tail.
	Coat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry coat. • Knotted with lumps.

SCALE OF POINTS

Total		100 points
Head	General shape, nose, profile, jaw and teeth, chin.	20
Ears	Shape and placement.	10
Eyes	Shape.	5
Body	Shape, size, bone structure. Length and height of legs.	25
Tail	Length and shape.	10
Coat	Quality and texture. Length.	25
Condition		5

RECOGNISED COLOURS:

All Traditional Solids, Tabbies, Smokes, Silver Tabbies, and related Parti-Colours.
No evidence of hybridisation.
No pointed series, chocolate or lilac series, or cinnamon and fawn series.

ALLOWABLE OUTCROSSES:

None.