

SIBERIAN

Standard of Excellence

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Siberian is a medium to medium-large, strong cat that hails from a very unforgiving climate ... Siberia. They first appeared in recorded history around the year 1000. Oral tradition suggests the Siberian started to migrate towards the herders of animals where they were provided with warmth from a campfire and a few pieces of food scraps, and where their ability to bond to humans became a genetically ingrained survival trait, which buffered them from the harsh winter climate.

The Siberian is Russia's native cat. The overall appearance should be one of strength and force with an excellent physical condition and alertness, with a sweet facial expression. The breed is extremely slow to mature taking as long as 5 years. Adult males are usually larger than the females and allowances should be made for a size differential between males, females and young juveniles. Type takes preference over size. The general impression is one of roundness and circles, rather than the rectangles and triangles of similar breeds.

Head	Shape	The head is a modified wedge of medium to medium-large size, but in proportion to the body, with rounded contours, broader at the skull and narrowing slightly to a full slightly rounded but moderately short muzzle, with noticeable whisker pads. Female muzzles tend to be more delicate than that of the males. The cheekbones are neither high set or prominent but apparent. There should be a good distance between the ears and eyes.
	Muzzle	The muzzle is short in length, full and rounded. There is a slight muzzle curvature, but transition between the side of the head and the muzzle is gentle and inconspicuous.
	Profile	In profile the top of the head is almost flat, with a slight nose curvature of a gentle slope from the forehead to the nose and a slight convex curvature before the tip when viewed in profile. There should be a slight doming between the ears and an almost flat area on the forehead.
	Neck	Rounded, substantial and well muscled.
	Ears	The ears are medium, wide at the base and set as much on the sides of the head as on the top; minimum position is 1 to 1 ½ ear widths apart. In the larger more mature cats, there may be a wider distance between the ears. The tips are rounded and the ear tilts forward. Lynx tipping is preferred. Hair over the back of the ears is short and thin; from the middle of the ear, the furnishings become longer and cover the base completely. The inner ear has an abundance of ear tufts. In juveniles and young kittens only, the ears may appear to be medium-large and closer together with usually no more than one ear width apart.
	Eyes	Moderately large, rounded, wide set. If not held fully open the eye will appear to have the outer corner slightly angled toward the lower base of the ear. Acceptable eye color may cover the entire green, blue-green, gold, hazel or copper spectrum. Blue or odd-eyed allowed in white or '& white' cats. In the color point class the eyes are blue.

Body	Torso	The body is medium in length and well muscled, with the back appearing to be arched slightly higher than the shoulders, with a barrel-shaped body, and a firm belly giving the sensation of solid weight.
	Legs & Paws	Fur on the front legs thick, short to medium in length. Fur on hind legs medium to long, thick and feather like. Legs are thick and dense and medium in length. The feet are big and round and toe tufts are desirable.
	Tail	The tail is medium, somewhat shorter than the length of the body, wide at the base, tapering slightly to a blunt tip without thickening or kinks, evenly and thickly furnished.
	Boning	Substantial.
	Musculature	Substantial , powerful.
Coat	Length	Moderately long to longhaired with a triple coat which is plush. The hair on the shoulder blades and lower part of the chest being thick and slightly shorter. There should be a ruff setting off the head, though allowances should be made for juvenile cats. There is a tight undercoat (in mature cats), thicker in cold weather. Allow for warm climate coats. The hair may thicken to curls on the belly and britches, but a wavy coat is not characteristic. The skin may have a bluish cast. Clear strong colors and patterns desirable, but are secondary to type.
	Texture	Coat texture may vary with the colour.
	Pattern	Clear patterns are desirable, but second to type.
	Colour	All traditional and pointed colours and combinations are accepted with or without white. White or off-white allowed on chin, breast and stomach of tabbies. Strong colours are desirable, but secondary to type.
Balance		Well proportioned.
Condition		Excellent health in good overall condition.
Temperament		Must be unchallenging.
Allowances		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because the Siberian is a slow maturing breed, coat and physical structure should be taken into consideration when judging young kittens and young adults. • Buttons, spots or locketts.
Penalise		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight profile • Narrow muzzle • Long tail • Delicate boning • Non-muscular • Long body • Almond-shaped eyes • Very long legs

SCALE OF POINTS

Total		100 points
Head	Shape 12 Ears 5 Eyes 5 Chin 3 Muzzle 10 Profile 3 Neck 2 Nose 5	40
Body	Torso 10 Legs 5 Paws 3 Tail 5 Boning 6 Musculature 6	35
Coat & Colour	Length 5 Texture 5 Pattern 3 Colour 2	15
Other	Balance 5 Condition 3 Temperament 2	10

RECOGNISED COLOURS

All Traditional Solids, Tabbies, Silvers, Silver Tabbies and related Parti-colours.
 All Traditional Himalayan Colours (Neva Masquerade)

ALLOWABLE OUTCROSSES:

None.