

SOMALI **Standard of Excellence**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The overall impression of the ideal Somali would be a colourful cat with a distinctly ticked coat, medium in size and regal in appearance. The Somali is lithe hard and muscular, showing eager activity, and a lively interest in all surroundings, well balanced temperamentally and physically, with all elements of the cat in proportion.

Head	A modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes; brow, cheek and profile lines all showing a gentle contour. A slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead, which should be of good size, with width between the ears and flowing into the arched neck without a break.
Muzzle	A firm chin not sharply pointed or square, should be neither receding nor protruding. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males.
Ears	Alert, comparatively large and moderately pointed, broad and cupped at the base and set wide apart. Hair on the ears, short and close lying and preferably tufted.
Eyes	Almond shaped (neither round nor oriental), large brilliant and expressive. Eyes accentuated by dark lid skin, encircled by light-coloured area. Colour - Amber, Hazel or Green.
Body	Medium long, lithe and graceful, but showing well developed muscular Strength without coarseness. Somali conformation strikes a medium between The extremes of the cobby and the svelte, lengthy type. Proportion and General balance more to be desired than mere size.
Legs & Feet	Proportionately slim, medium-fine boned. The Somali stands well off the ground, giving the impression of being on tiptoe. Paws small, oval and compact.
Tail	A full brush, broad at the base, fairly long and tapering, and well furnished.
Coat	<p>The texture is very soft to the touch, extremely fine and double coated with at least two or three bands of ticking on each hair. The coat is of medium length, except over the shoulders, where a shorter length is permitted. Preference is given to those cats with well developed ruff and breeches giving a full coated appearance to the cat. The Somali is extremely slow to show mature ticking and allowance should be made for kittens and young cats less than 2 years of age. It should be noted that ticking is not so apparent in Somali length coats in comparison with ticking in Abyssinians.</p> <p>The underside of the body, chest and innersides of the legs uniformly coloured with the ground colour, harmonizing with the upper parts of the body, without any ticking, bars, necklaces or markings on stomach or belly. Darker shading along the spine line. White or off-white only above the lips, beside the nostrils and down the chin permitted as long as it does not extend to the chest. The tips of the ears are in the same colour as the ticking. The back of the hind feet is dark, hair tufts between the toes are in the same colour as the ticking. The colour of the tail is an extension of the darker shading along the spine and ends in a solid dark tip, coloured with the colour of the ticking, without any rings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair tips to be darkest, with the undercoat clear to the roots.

Necklace	If present, must be broken.
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Undesirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-colour pads. • Long narrow or short round head. • Barring on legs. • Rings on tail. • Coldness or grey tone in the coat, - allowances made for around the elbows.
Withhold First Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White locket, or white anywhere other than nostril, chin and upper throat area. • Unbroken necklace. • Grey undercoat close to skin, extending throughout a major portion of the body. • A visibly kinked tail.

SCALE OF POINTS

Total	100 points
Head, incl. Muzzle, Skull, Ears, & Eyes (shape, set & colour)	25
Body, incl. Torso, Legs, Feet & Tail	30
Coat – Colour & Texture	25
Coat - Ticking	20

RUDDY

Coat	Rich golden brown, ticked with black or dark brown, with apricot-brown undercoat.
Belly & Inside of Legs	Ruddy orange or rich apricot.
Nose Leather	Brick Red.
Pads	Black or brown, with black between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

SORREL (CINNAMON)

Coat	Rich copper-red, distinctly ticked with chocolate brown, with apricot undercoat.
Belly & Inside of Legs	Clear apricot.
Nose Leather	Rose pink.
Pads	Pink, with chocolate brown between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

BLUE

Coat	Soft blue, ticked with deeper blue, with pale cream or oatmeal undercoat.
Belly & Inside of Legs	Oatmeal.
Nose Leather	Dark pink.
Pads	Mauve-blue, with deep blue between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

FAWN

Coat	Warm fawn with powdered effect, ticked with a deeper shade of the same colour, with pale fawn undercoat.
Belly & Inside of Legs	Clear pale fawn.
Nose Leather	Pink or pinkish-tan.
Pads	Pink or pinkish-tan, with a deeper shade of fawn between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

SILVER SOMALIS

In all silver varieties, the undercoat is to be white, with ticking appropriate to the particular variety. The combination of silvery white undercoat and appropriately coloured ticking will give an overall appearance as described below. **Any yellow pigmentation anywhere on the body is undesirable.**

BLACK SILVER

Coat	Clear silver, ticked with black.
Nose Leather	Brick red.
Pads	Black, with black between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

SORREL (CINNAMON) SILVER

Coat	Clear silver, ticked with warm chocolate brown.
Nose Leather	Pink.
Pads	Pink, with copper red between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

BLUE SILVER

Coat	Clear silver, ticked with blue.
Nose Leather	Dark pink.
Pads	Mauvish-blue, with blue between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

FAWN SILVER

Coat	Clear silver, ticked with warm fawn with powdered effect.
Nose Leather	Pink or pinkish-tan.
Pads	Pink or pinkish-tan, with a deeper shade of fawn between the toes and extending up the back of the hind legs.

RECOGNISED COLOURS:

Ruddy (Usual), Sorrel (Cinnamon), Blue, Fawn.

Black Silver, Sorrel Silver, Blue Silver, Fawn Silver.

ALLOWABLE OUTCROSSES:

Abyssinian only. (all progeny registered as Somali Variants).