



Bengal

General Standard

The Bengal is a medium to large, sleek, very muscular cat with a thick tail, which is carried low. It has a wild appearance and expressive nocturnal look, enhanced by its wide nose with prominent whisker pads and large, oval almost round eyes in a slightly small head along with a distinctive spotted or marbled tabby coat, which should be thick and luxurious. It should be alert, friendly and affectionate and in excellent physical condition, with a dependable disposition. Males are generally larger than females.

Head	<p>A broad, medium wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than it is wide. The head should be rather small in proportion to the body, but not taken to extremes. The skull behind the ears has a gentle curve which flows into the neck. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males.</p> <p>The curve of the forehead should flow into the bridge of the nose with no break. Bridge of nose extends above the eyes; the line of the bridge extends to the nose tip, making the profile either straight or a very slightly concave curve.</p> <p>The wild appearance is much easier to achieve with a straight profile and the high bridge of the nose.</p>
Ears	Medium to small, rather short with a wide base and rounded tip. They are set as much on the sides as on the top of the head, following the contour of the face in the front view and pointing forward in profile. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable, but ear tufts are undesirable
Eyes	Oval, but may be slightly almond-shaped. They are large, but not bold and are set wide apart on a slight slant towards the base of the ear. Eye colour as for the individual coat colour range and should harmonise with intensity of coat colour. The more richness and depth of colour the better.
Nose	Large and broad with a slightly puffed nose leather and may be slightly roman.
Cheeks	High cheek bones.
Jaws	Full and broad with prominent whisker pads.
Chin	Firm. In profile, of good depth and in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.
Neck	Thick and muscular. Long and in proportion to the body.
Body	Medium to large, with substantial boning. Long, very muscular and robust, never delicate. A belly pouch is allowable in adults.
Legs	Of medium length, strong and muscular. The hind legs should be a little longer than the front legs and more robust.
Paws	Large and rounded.
Tail	Medium to long, thick and even, slightly tapered at the end with a rounded tip.
Temperament	Temperament must be unchallenging. Any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. Cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee or generally complain aloud, but may not threaten to harm. Bengals should be confident, alert, curious and friendly cats.

Scale of Points

Head & Neck	25	
Ears	5	
Eye Shape & Colour	5	
Body	15	
Tail, Legs & Paws	10	60
Coat Texture	10	
Coat Colour	10	
Pattern	15	35
Condition	5	5
Total		100

Faults & Penalties

ALLOWANCE:

Paw pads not consistent with their colour grouping. A belly pouch is allowable in adults as it is a feature of wild cats and does not suggest being overweight.

Refer to general list of faults for all breeds plus:

Penalise:

- **Long, rough or coarse coat.**
- **Distinctly ticked coat.**
- **Spots on body running together vertically, forming a mackerel tabby pattern.**
- **Circular bulls-eye pattern on marbleds.**
- **Any distinct locket on neck, chest, abdomen or any other area not provided for in the standard.**
- **Whip tail.**
- **Any tendency towards oriental fineness of body and/or tail.**
- **Substantially darker point colour.**

Withhold:

- **Belly not patterned.**
- **Tail tip incorrect colour.**
- **Challenging exhibit or exhibit unable to be handled.**

COAT TEXTURE: Short to medium length, closed lying, dense and luxurious, like a pelt, unusually soft to the touch and with a luminous sheen.

PATTERNS

SPOTTED

Spectacles: Which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks, which should be outlined by an "M" marking on the forehead. A coloured thumbprint (ocelli) is preferred on the back of the ears. A strong, bold chinstrap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklace(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks or spots are desirable. Broken streaks or spots run over the head, on either side of a complex scarab, down the neck and onto the shoulders, where they may break up into rosettes or spots.

Rosettes: Are formed by a part circle of spots around a distinctly lighter centre. Arrowhead-shaped spots are preferred. Larger spots may be rosetted. This is preferred to single spotting but is not essential.

Spots: Should generally be large, well- formed and distributed at random, or in horizontal alignment. Contrast with the ground colour must be extreme, giving a distinct pattern and a shape outline to the spots. Spots should not run together vertically to form a distinct mackerel tabby pattern.

Belly: Must be patterned.

back is desirable. Colour on chest and belly should be lighter than ground colour. Charcoals can be Spotted, or Marble Pattern.

CHARCOAL TABBY COLOURS

BROWN (BLACK)CHARCOAL TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble): Same as Brown (Black) Tabby except the Charcoal brown colours are cold browns, with no warm gold, or amber tones and with the addition of Mask, Goggles and Cape.

BLUE CHARCOAL TABBY: Same as blue with the addition of mask, goggles and cape.

BLACK SILVER CHARCOAL TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble): Same as Black Silver Tabby with the addition of Mask, Goggles and Cape.

Eye colour: Gold, green or hazel, with deep shades preferred and should harmonise with intensity of coat colour.

Eye rims and lips: Black or to harmonise with coat colour.

Nose leather: Outlined in black, with the centre of the nose leather in shades ranging from pink to brick red, to harmonise with coat colour.

Paw Pads: Black or to harmonise with coat colour.

BLUE SILVER CHARCOAL TABBY Same as Blue silver with the addition of mask, goggles and cape.

Notes

None.

Breeding Notes

Allowable Outcross Standard Updates

No allowable outcross.

March 2023 – Standard reformatted. This reformatted standard includes all previous updates and amendments.

For information on previous standard updates and amendments, please see the Register of Breed Standards Updates on the CCCA website or contact the CCCA Secretary.

19 November 2023 – Inclusion of silver standard as not included in the March reformatting.

19 November 2023 - "Foundation" section removed as this was not approved for inclusion in the reformatted standard.