**ABYSSINIAN BREED GROUP (AB/SO)**

**HEAD** ........................................... 35 points
Shape ........................................ 10
Ears ........................................ 5
Eyes ........................................ 10
Muzzle ....................................... 5
Profile ....................................... 5

**BODY** ........................................... 35 points
Torso ........................................ 10
Legs and Feet ................................ 10
Tail ........................................... 5
Boning ......................................... 5
Musculature .................................. 5

**COAT/COLOR/PATTERN** ......................... 30 points
Texture ....................................... 10
Pattern (Ticking) ......................... 10
Color .......................................... 10

**EARS** ........................................... 5

**EYES** ........................................... 10

**MUZZLE** ........................................ 5

**PROFILE** ........................................ 5

**PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES**: None.

**CATEGORY**: Traditional.

**DIVISIONS**: Tabby and Silver/Smoke.

**COLORS**: Limited to eumelanic colors and agouti pattern only.

**GENERAL**: The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian/Somali is a medium cat, regal in appearance. The Abyssinian/Somali is foreign in type. Males proportionately larger than females, the female being lighter in weight. The Abyssinian/Somali is of sound health and vigor, well-balanced physically and temperamentally gentle and amenable to handling. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult male whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a board approved standard (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.

**HEAD**: Modified wedge with rounded contours as viewed from the front. A rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead without evidence of a sharp break. The head should be of ample length in general balance with the rest of the cat and gently curved from the forehead over the skull flowing into an arched neck.

**Ears**: Large, alert, and moderately pointed, broad and cupped at base and arched forward, set as though listening. Hair on ears short and close-lying, preferably tipped in conformity with the color requirements. A "thumb print" marking is desirable on the back of the ear.

**Eyes**: almond shaped, large, brilliant and expressive. Skull aperture follows almond shape of eyes being neither round nor oval. Eyes accentuated by darker lid skin, encircled by a light colored area. Above each eye appears a short vertical darker pencil stroke amidst the light area. At the sides of each eye appears a curved darker pencil line as if a continuation of the upper eyelid. Eye Color to be gold, copper, green or hazel, the more richness and depth of color the better. There is no relationship between coat and eye color. Points shall be divided equally between shape and color.

**COAT/COLOR/PATTERN**:

**LENGTH (AB)**: Coat resilient to the touch with a lustrous sheen, fine in texture. Medium length, long enough to accommodate four to six alternating light and dark colored bands. The coat lies fairly close to the body; however, the undercoat should be adequate enough to avoid any evidence of slickness. Wooliness undesirable. Coat is longest at the spine, gradually shortening over the saddle, flank, legs and head.

**LENGTH (SO)**: The coat, very soft to the touch, is extremely fine-textured and double-coated. Semi-long length, except over shoulders where a slightly shorter length is permitted. The more dense the coat the better. Preference is to be given to a cat with ruff and breeches.

**PATTERN**: Coat pattern is genetically a form of agouti ticking with even, dark-colored ticking contrasted with lighter bands giving a translucent effect.

**TABBY DIVISION**: The colors of the Abyssinian/Somali in the Tabby Division should reflect warmth of color, giving the impression of a colorful cat. The more rufousing and depth of color the better. Deeper shades/tones preferred. Darker shading along spine allowed. White or off-white to be confined only to the upper throat area, lips and around nostrils. Preference to be given to a good, even ticking.

**SILVER/SMOKE DIVISION**: In the Silver Division, only the undercoat color will be different from the Tabby Division, with the six colors of ticking being the same in both divisions. In all Silver varieties, the desirable undercoat color is to be icy white, with ticking appropriate to the particular color, giving an overall sparkling silver effect. The orange-brown/sorrel/cream bands within the ticking of the Traditional Tabby Division colors are replaced with white, with the band adjacent to the skin being the lightest. Yellow or brown pigmentation on the chest, belly, under tail, or inside of legs is not desirable, although minor patches of rufousing are not to be considered a fault if the overall impression is of silver. Some rufousing may be present in the areas of ticking, especially along the spine, and the rufous polygenes may have a small effect on the silver undercolor as well, although lack of rufousing is more desirable.

**GENERAL**: Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm.