

OJOS AZULES BREED GROUP (OA/OJ)

The **Ojos Azules (OA)** is a moderate shorthair breed. The **Ojos Azules Longhair (OJ)** has medium-long hair with moderate density and a silky texture.

HEAD	35 points
Shape	5
Ears	5
Eyes ..	10
Chin and Muzzle	5
Nose and Profile	5
Neck	5
BODY	30 points
Torso	10
Legs/Feet	10
Tail	5
Boning/Musculature	5
COAT/COLOR/PATTERN	25 points
Coat	10
Color/Pattern	15
OTHER	10 points
Balance	5
Condition	5

CATEGORY: All.

DIVISION: All.

COLOR: All. Preference is given to colors and patterns which would not be expected to have blue eyes in the absence of the Ojos trait. Pointed cats and those in the 'any color with white' divisions must exhibit the characteristic white tail tip, as these colors may have blue eyes for reasons unrelated to the unique Ojos gene. Solid white is discouraged for breeding and exhibition since it may be difficult to distinguish a white Ojos from the usual blue-eyed white.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: Domestic longhair/shorthair, not a member of a recognized breed.

HEAD:

Shape: Equilateral triangle from the outer ear base to the tip of the muzzle, with a whisker break caused by prominent cheekbones. Neither large nor small in proportion to the torso; carried gracefully on an arched and supple neck of moderate length.

Ears: Medium size, slightly rounded at the tips, and are set relatively high with the distance between the ears being slightly less than their width at the base.

Eyes: Should be the dominant feature of the face. Shape is a nearly round almond, as large as possible without protruding, set slightly obliquely and separated by just slightly more than the width of one eye. Eye color should be clear blue or blue-grey, not turquoise or lavender. In odd-eyes, the second eye may be gold, copper, or green. A deeper eye color is preferred.

Chin: Neither prominent nor receding; should fill out the bottom of the muzzle inconspicuously.

Muzzle: Square.

Profile: Top skull should be gently rounded and there is a slight nose break.

BODY:

Torso: Should appear well-proportioned, with the cat standing about the same height at the shoulders as the body length from shoulders to rump; neither rangy and leggy nor cobby and short-coupled. A cross-section of the body should be oval, not slab-sided or round. The cat should appear supple and graceful rather than powerful or delicate.

Legs: Hind legs should be moderately angulated and slightly longer than the forelegs, so that the top line rises gently from shoulders to hindquarters.

Feet: Small, consistent with the medium to fine bone and moderate musculature throughout.

Tail: Tapering, in proportion to the body. The patterning of hair follicles may make the tip appear wider when viewed from the side than when viewed from above in some specimens.

COAT:

Length/Texture:

(OA) The moderate shorthair coat is soft, fine, and silky in texture, shiny and clean. All hair types are present. The undercoat is not unusually prominent, but may be more noticeable in colors such as the dilutes, which often have a finer coat texture.

Length/Texture:

(OJ) The longhair coat is medium long with moderate density and a silky texture. A moderate ruff may be present but is not required. The tail has a full plume. The britches may have a shaggy appearance.

COLOR AND PATTERN: All colors and patterns of all divisions are permitted, however, any cat being shown for championship must be blue or odd-eyed.

The general color descriptions apply, however, because of the unique action of the Ojos gene, cats will often show characteristic white patches on the most peripheral portions of the body, including the tip of the tail, face, muzzle, and toes of the hind feet.

White limited to these areas on a solid, for example, is not considered a fault but rather is simply a manifestation of the Ojos trait and as such should not result in transfer to the 'any color with white' divisions. In general, lesser degrees of white are to be preferred.

Distinct lockets or belly spots are considered a fault and do not appear to be a characteristic expression of the Ojos trait.

The pointed colors must exhibit peripheral white patches, preferably including the tail tip, to identify the cat as being a true Ojos.

Those cats in the 'any color with white' divisions (resulting from interaction between the Ojos gene and traditional white spotting) will always have a white tail tip, which may involve the majority of the tail. They must have four white feet. Otherwise, the 'any color with white' patterns will be similar to the general descriptions for cats with white.

Solid white is strongly discouraged as it may be impossible to identify the Ojos trait in the presence of dominant white.

Tortoiseshell Ojos will often exhibit larger patches of color on the head and neck than on the body.

This is due to the action of the Ojos gene and is not considered a fault.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Ojos Azules cat should impress one immediately with its sweet and appealing expression and its large and lovely blue or odd eyes. A cat of medium size, it is medium to fine-boned and of moderate type, *neither* cobby nor rangy, nor noticeably oriental. The cat should appear supple and graceful, balanced and proportionate in all parts. It should be

alert and amiable. Males should not show exaggerated masculinity, nor females extreme delicacy. The word "pretty" should come to mind when looking at either sex.

ALLOWANCES: Peripheral white patches in solids, tabbies, torties, and silvers, providing the markings are confined to tail tip, muzzle, and feet. The white in these divisions must not extend up onto the legs or involve the chest or abdomen.

PENALIZE: Rangy or cobby. Snippy muzzle. Short tail. Eyes pale, white, small, or oriental. Distinct lockets on the chest or abdomen. Excessive plushness. Oversize or overweight. Poor condition. Fearfulness or ill temper.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS (WW): Neither eye blue. Lack of white tail tip in pointed cats and those in the 'any color with white' divisions, or intermediate colors.