The American Shorthair

Presented by
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TICA Allbreed Approved Judge
American Shorthair Breed Group

- The American Shorthair (AS) and the American Wirehair (AW) are natural American breeds of medium to large size with the female being smaller in size. The head and body type are the same in both breeds with the distinguishing feature being the unique coarse crimped coat of the Wirehair. The hard resilient coat of the American Shorthair translates to the dense coat of crimped, coarse hair of the Wirehair.
POINT DISTRIBUTION

- Type: 75 Points (head 40, body 35)
- Coat/Color/Pattern: 15 points
- Other: 10 points (Balance and condition)

- Head is the most distinguishing feature
- Larger in males, smaller in females, but always in balance and proportion to the body.
Head 40 points

- Shape: Broad, medium size, rounded, rounded skull, cheeks well developed in studs.
- Chin: Full, strong chin completes squarish effect of the muzzle
- Muzzle: Medium-short muzzle with squarish appearance.
- Nose: Medium-short
- Profile: With a modified stop
- Neck: In proportion to the body, medium-short, neither too short and tick nor too long and thin.
Head

Ears medium size
- slightly rounded at tips
- not unduly open at base
Distance between ears equals 2x distance between eyes

Squared muzzle
- definite jowls in mature males

Jaws strong & long enough to grasp prey
Head

Female showing correct head size, slightly longer than wide, great development of muzzle, perfect eye shape and lovely ear placement.

Head divided into two equal parts
-- Base of ears to middle of eyes
-- Middle of eyes to chin tip
Head Type comparisons:

**Smooth, moderately convex continuous curve flowing over top of head into neck**

Excellent profile  Shallow set eyes  Weak chin  Nose break (Moderate fault)  Nose too long

Shallow nose curve  Ears too small

**Medium length nose**

Nose too short  Muzzle too short  Forehead too shallow  Flat forehead  *Deep nose break

*Brow ridge  Nose curve too deep, causing

*bulging eye set

**Gentle concavely curved rise from bridge of nose to forehead**

*Overshot bite  *Undershot bite  *Appearance of hybridization (Burmese)

Brow ridge and bulging eye set

**DISQUALIFICATION**
Eyes and Ears

- Ears: Medium size, not too large at base, wide set, rounded at tips. **Penalize long, pointy ears or ears set too close together.** Perfect ear set looks like the tips are set at 10 and 2 with an imaginary flat line from one ear to the next on the top of the skull.

- Eyes: Color and shape are valued equally; rounded, medium to large, wide set, at a slight angle with rounded aperture; eye color to conform with coat color, clarity of eye color desirable. **Penalize: Eye color not completely green in silvers, nor gold in browns**
Body Type
Body Type

Viewed from the side, body is divided in three equal parts:

- **A**: tip of breastbone to elbow
- **B**: elbow to front of hindleg
- **C**: front of hind leg to tip of buttocks
Body Type  35 Points

- Torso: Medium in length, rectangular in shape rather than slender but well-rounded and in proportion, broad chest, especially in males, allowance is to be made for females being proportionally smaller than males.
- Legs: medium in proportion to body, with medium, rounded feet.
- Boning: Medium
- Musculature: Well-knit, firm muscle tone, hard, not soft or flabby
- The body should be well-knit and powerful with well-developed chest and hindquarters
Body: Emphasis on balance and Proportion.

- **Body Penalize:**
  - The body should not be foreshortened and stocky, nor long and sleek (foreign)
  - The tail should NOT be thin, whip-like, too short and thick or carried over the back like a squirrel.
  - The hindquarters should not be weak.
  - No part of the cat should look out of proportion with any other part.

- **An example of the breed (IW) showing excellent balance and proportion for a female.**
Coat/Color/Pattern  15 Points

- Length: (4) Short, even coat
- Texture: (5) Hard Natural protective appearance, lustrous but close lying. (AS)
- Texture: (5) Very Dense, resilient, coarse, with crimped hair. The overall springy appearance is of more importance than the crimping of each hair (AW)
- Color and Pattern: (6) In the colors with pattern, color and pattern are weighted equally. The clarity of markings in patterns is desirable per color descriptions.
Penalize Coat:

- Should not be fine, thin or long, and should not have a fluffy texture.
Other: 10 points

- Balance: While the breed is considered medium to large in size, balance and proportion are to be considered of greater consequence. No part of the cat should look out of balance with any other part. Allowance is to be made for smaller size in females.
- Condition: Weight, coat condition, general appearance of the cat represents good condition.
Withhold All Awards (WW)

- White buttons or lockets in the Solid division;
- Incorrect coat in the American Wirehair.
Putting it all together:

- Some photos of TICA IW’s/RW’s over the past few seasons
Breed History

- Domestic shorthairs have been recognized and have competed in cat shows since the early 1900’s.
- They were one of the original breeds of cats recognized at the inception of TICA in 1979.
Breed History: Ads from the first TICA yearbook 1980

**BOWTYE**
Classic Silver Tabbies
Pet/Show Quality
KITTENS

**Gr. Ch. Bowtye Marks-A-Lot**
Hugh and Olive Vincent

**Gr. Ch. Portrait’s Romeo**
American Shorthair, Silver Tabby Male

Breeder-Owner
Margot Williams

**Gerow American Shorthairs**

“Kissy” and “Missy,” Silver Tabbies
Our First 2 TICA Grands
Gr. Ch. Gerow’s Northern Lights (Kissy)
Best American Shorthair SE Region
2nd Best American Shorthair National
5th Best SH Cat SE Region
7th Best SH Kitten SE Region
and
Gr. Ch. Gerow’s Southern Nights (Missy)
2nd Best American Shorthair SE Region
3rd Best American Shorthair National
8th Best SH Cat SE Region
Silver Tabby, Blue Tabby and
Black Smoke Kittens

Jim and Peggy Carr
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