The Abyssinian Breed

History of the Abyssinian
HISTORY OF THE ABYSSINIAN

"A sketch of Zula, published in Dr. W. Gordon Stables: Cats, Their Points and Characteristics and Curiosities of Cat Life in 1874."
Cats were the exclusive animal of the goddess Bast, also known as Bastet. Bastet was the goddess of love and war and was believed to appear on earth as a cat, and as a result, the cats were immensely regarded and worshipped in ancient Egypt.

The British Museum has a considerable collection of cat mummies which clearly indicates the important position that the cat held in the land of the Pharaohs.
Mystery of the Abyssinian Cat

In their booklet published in 1951, *Child Of The Gods*, Helen and Sidney Denham, refer to the Abyssinian as a “Child of the Gods” Sidney Denham explains, “It may well be that the religious beliefs of ancient Egypt are forever alive, and in the Abyssinian cat of today we have the reincarnation of a divinity”!
The Gayer-Anderson Cat
British Museum

The Gayer-Anderson cat

Communicating with the gods

Cats were kept as pets in ancient Egypt, but gods could also appear in the form of cats. This bronze figure comes from a temple and probably represents one form of the goddess Bastet. Every year some 700,000 people travelled to Bubastis in northern Egypt for a festival in Bastet’s honour, according to the Greek historian Herodotus.

Thousands of bronze figures of gods, in varying sizes and forms, were dedicated in temples throughout Egypt. The donors of the statues hoped to communicate with the gods. Only the king or someone very wealthy could have afforded to commission an example as fine as this cat, adorned with precious metals.

The scarab beetles on the cat's head and chest symbolise rebirth, while the silver udjat-eye on the pectoral invoked protection and healing.

- Bronze with silver plaque and gold jewelry. Around 600 BC.
- Possibly Saqqara, Egypt
Considered to be the oldest breed of the cat family

Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald in his book ‘Cats’, points out that by viewing Egyptian art, the idea that the Abyssinian may very well existed at that time is prevailing. Egyptian bronzes and paintings of cats in ancient Egyptian emphasize the litheness, elegance, graceful lines, large eyes, rounded contours, long tail with tabby stripes and alert ears which are distinguishing features that are seen in the Abyssinians of today.
There are those who are of the belief that the idea of the Abyssinian being a direct descendant of the sacred cat of Ancient Egypt is only a romantic tale.
Journey from Abyssinia to Egypt

Many believe there was a close link between Abyssinia and Egypt and the potential for the Abyssinian cat to be part of both cultures was very possible. Having the same ruler at times created a connection that allowed both countries to be influenced by one another. In the fourth century, Abyssinia accepted the Coptic Christian faith of Egypt and the head of the Ethiopian church was appointed by the patriarch of the Coptic church in Egypt. Another important fact is that the Nile river allowed for communication and trade. The Blue Nile in Abyssinia’s Lake Tana, joining the White Nile flowing northward towards Egypt.
Others believe that an Abyssinian named Zula was transported by British soldiers from Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) to England at the end of the Abyssinian war in 1868. Many believe Zula to be the foundation of the Abyssinian however, there is no documentation linking Zula to the Abyssinian breed lines.
More recent genetic studies have identified the potential forbearers of the Abyssinian may have come from the coast of the Indian Ocean and parts of Southeast Asia. Leiden Zoological Museum in Holland has on display a ruddy ticked feline taxidermy which was purchased in the mid 1830s, and labeled as Patrie, domestica India. This indicates the possibility that the breed may have been introduced into England from India by colonists or merchants who frequently traveled between England and the Indian subcontinent.
Some others believe that the English developed the Abyssinian by crossing silver and brown tabbies with the British ticked “Bunny” cats.
The first mention of an Abyssinian was in the January 27, 1872 issue, Harper's Weekly where the 3rd prize in the December, 1871 Crystal Palace show was taken by the Abyssinian Cat ("captured in the late Abyssinian War"). This article is accompanied by an illustration of the Abyssinian Cat. The description reads: "Zula, the property of Mrs. Captain Barrett-Lennard. This cat was brought from Abyssinia at the conclusion of the war..."
Sedgemere Bottle & Sedgemere Peaty
Owned/Bred By Sam Woodiwiss

First Pair to gain fame in England were Bottle & Peaty. (Center & Right .. A Manx to Left) The first Abyssinian registrations occurred in 1896, and the stud book of the National Cat Club reveals that Sedgemere Bottle, born in 1892, and Sedgemere Peaty, born in 1894, were registered by Mr. Sam Woodiwiss.
Largest Abyssinian Catteries in England

- Woodrooffe Cattery: Major Sydney Woodiwiss
- Croham Cattery: Mrs. Clare Basnett

The foundation of the American Abyssinian as we know it came from these two catteries. During the Second World War, catteries struggled and became small due to the food shortages and the fear of being bombed. It is documented that only twelve Abyssinians survived World War Two, although there were imported Abyssinians already in the US. Through it all, the Abyssinian lines were able to move forward.
Aluminum II was born on September 2, 1907, and was acquired by Miss J.R. Cathcart of the United States. Miss Cathcart also obtained another cat, a female named Salt. According to Mrs. Zanetti (Zanetti, Dennis, and Hantzmon, 1906) Aluminum II and Salt were the first imports to the United States.

### Aluminium II (GBR-USA)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed:</th>
<th>Abyssinian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Color:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Born:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reg.#</td>
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<td>Bred by:</td>
<td>Mrs C. Carew-Cox</td>
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<td>Owned by:</td>
<td>Miss J.R. Cathcart</td>
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<th>Parents</th>
<th>Grandparents</th>
<th>Great-Grandparents</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALUMINIUM SILVER NCC 4463 15/07/1905</td>
<td>RAS KASAR 23 NCC 4501 30/03/1900</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TINKER</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown Dam</td>
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Ras Dashan: Son of Aluminium II & Linga

Note the Color: 23 - Ruddy color.
Sire was a silver & the Dam was a ruddy (23)

**RAS DASHAN**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Owned by</td>
<td>Mrs. C. Carew-Cox</td>
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From 1920 until 1934 no trace of Abyssinians could be found in the US. Miss Mary Hantzmon of Washington DC, acquired Ena, a ruddy female and since there were no males available, in 1937 she imported a male stud from England named Ras Seyum.

WOODROOFFE ENA OF NEWTON (GBR-USA)

Breed: Abyssinian
Color: 23
Sex: F
Born: 26/05/1933
Reg.# GCCF 022740 v 19
Bred by: Major E. Sydney Woodiwiss
Owned by: Mrs Virginia R. Cobb

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<td>WOODROOFFE RASTUS 23 GCCF 015010 31/05/1927</td>
<td>EMPRESS ZAUDITU 23 GCCF 009994 17/07/1924</td>
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August 2017 Aby Breed Seminar
Ras Seyum was known to be the most impressive Abyssinian to date. He was considered quite handsome, very well ticked, with an intense reddish brown color; lovely body and faultless head type.

Breed: Abyssinian
Color: 23 +
Sex: M
Born: 21/09/1935
Reg.# GCCF 026485
Bred by: Major E. Sydney Woodiwiss
Owned by: Mrs H. Earl Nack

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<td>QUEEN OF SHEBA 23</td>
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<td>IMPORTED SOUTH AFRICAN WILD CAT</td>
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<td>RAS ISIS 23 GCCF 012077 29/04/1926</td>
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<td>QUEEN OF SHEBA 23</td>
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<td>Unknown Sire</td>
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A color picture of Ras Seyum appeared in the November 1938 Issue of National Geographic Magazine. At that time he was considered The Best Abyssinian in Great Britain. Many were disappointed that he was imported to the United States.
Original Abyssinian Cat Club of Great Britain

- The first cat registry was the National Cat Club, established in 1887 in England.
- The first Abyssinian Club was founded in 1929 primarily to promote the pure breeding of the Abyssinian Cat. This club was also one of the first members of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF)
1889 Abyssinian Breed Standard Great Britain

Head (10 Points)
Small, broad across the eyes, rather long than short, nose medium length, all well-formed

Eyes (15 Points)
Orange-yellow, slightly tinged with green, large, round, full, and bright

Nose and Feet (10 Points)
Nose dark red, edged with black; tips and cushions of feet black, also the back of the hind-legs

Fur (15 Points)
Soft, rather woolly hair, yet soft, silky, lustrous, and glossy, short, smooth, even, and dense

Ears (10 Points)
The usual size of the ordinary English cat, but a little more rounded, with not much hair in the interior, black at the apex

Colour (20 Points)
A rich, dun brown, ticked with black and orange, or darker on lighter colours, having a dark or black line along the back extending to the end of the tail, and slightly annulated with black or dark colour. As few other marks as possible. Inside of fore-legs and belly to be orange-brown. No white

Size and Condition (10 Points)
Large; coat glossy and smooth, fitting close to the body; eyes bright and clear

Carriage and Appearance (10 Points)
Graceful, lithe, elegant, alert and quick in all its movements, head carried up, tail trailing, in walk undulating

N.B. - The Abyssinian Silver Gray, or Chinchilla, is the same in all points, with the exception of the ground color being silver instead of brown. This is a new and beautiful variety.
In the USA, the 1899 Chicago Cat Club was formed, followed by the Beresford Cat Club (named after noted British breeder Lady Marcus Beresford). In 1906, the American Cat Association became the main registry and in 1908 this became the Cat Fanciers' Association Inc. (CFA).

There is evidence to believe that the first “recorded” Abyssinians that were shown in America were Silver in color. They were shown in Boston, Massachusetts in 1909 and were owned by Miss Jane Cathcart of Oradell, New Jersey.

The reason why it is believed that they were silver is by the very nature of their names; Champion Aluminum and Salt. In 1920, Boston Cat Club had a classification for Abyssinians.
Abyssinians in the USA

Since 1937 when Woodroffe Ena and Ras Seyum arrived from England, so began the Abyssinian reign in the United States. Even though the Abyssinian had been seen in previous cat shows, many consider this to be the true beginning.

In the late 1930’s Mr. Charles Johnson of Philadelphia acquired two imported kittens. Mrs. Blanche Warren of California imported several Abyssinians as well. In the 1940’s Dr. and Mrs. Fairchild of California also bred the Abyssinian and became well known for promoting the breed.
Abyssinians were one of the original breeds that was accepted in TICA at its inception on June 22nd of 1979. TICA's first show was "A Midsummer Night's Dream" held at Fort Lewis, near Tacoma, Washington, on July 28, 1979.
Abyssinian Colour Standards:

23 - Usual Abyssinian
Overall Appearance: Rich Golden brown ticked with black
Base Hair: Ruddy orange or apricot
Ticking Colour: Black
Nose Leather: Brick red
Pads: Black

23a - Sorrel Abyssinian
Overall Appearance: Lustrous copper ticked with chocolate
Base Hair: Bright apricot
Ticking Colour: Chocolate
Nose Leather: Pink
Pads: Pink.

23b - Chocolate Abyssinian
Overall Appearance: Rich copper brown ticked with dark chocolate
Base Hair: Rich apricot
Ticking Colour: Dark chocolate
Nose Leather: Pinky-chocolate
Pads: Chocolate

23c - Blue Abyssinian
Overall Appearance: Soft warm blue ticked with deeper blue-grey
Base Hair: Pinkish mushroom
Ticking Colour: Blue-grey
Nose Leather: Dark pink
Pads: Mauvish-blue.

23d - Lilac Abyssinian
Overall Appearance: Warm (pinkish) dove grey ticked with deeper dove grey
Base Hair: Pinkish-cream
Ticking Colour: pinkish-dove grey
Nose Leather: Mauvish-pink
Pads: Mauvish-pink

23e - Fawn Abyssinian
Overall Appearance: Warm fawn ticked with deeper fawn
Base Hair: Fawny cream
Ticking Colour: Fawn
Nose Leather: Pink
Pads: Pink
Ruddy (Usual) & Red (Cinnamon)

Breeding in England focused on the development of the ticked (Agouti) coat, and over time the undesirable tabby marking were bred out. Records indicate that Abyssinians first bred in England were of a Silver or Yellow ticking color, as evidenced by Abyssinians pedigrees of Aluminium and Gold Tick in the early 1900’s. Breeding became focused on bringing out a warmer color, hence the Sorrel (red) and Ruddy (usual) of today.
In 1968 a blue Abyssinian kitten, Fairlie Mehesso, bred by Mrs. Stock, appeared at the West of England and South Wales Cat Society's show at Cirencester. The blue Abyssinians are produced by combining the diluting gene with a ruddy. Many believe that the diluting gene may have been present in the Abyssinian all along and that the gene was “hidden”. An Abyssinian male, Raby Ashanto, who was born in 1942, carried this gene because interbreeding with his descendents produced some of the earliest blues. Though the blue was present since 1968, the 1980’s is where we start to see them become more prevalent.
The first Abyssinian to be proven to carry the blue gene was probably the English male Raby Ashanto, born in 1942. Almost all of today’s blue and fawn Abyssinians can be traced back to him. The fawn is a dilute version of the Cinnamon appearing as a dark cream and copper, oat warm rose-beige, ticked with light cocoa brown, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest, with blush beige undercoat. Tail tipped with light cocoa brown. The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the main color.
Silver Abyssinians - 1900’s

Mr. H.C. Brooke, an early British Abyssinian breeders opposed the silver color and, in order "to get back the warmth of body color," used a cat he described as a "self red" in breeding program. In the beginning, Abyssinians were, indeed, silver cats accompanied by remnants of tabby markings. At a time when silver and brown tabbies were truly popular in England, breeders tried to produce a totally distinctive cat. They introduced a little red to warm up the coat as Mr. Brooke did, and they bred out the tabby markings.
Silvers

- Since the early 1900’s silver Abyssinians have been popular in the USA when two silver Abyssinians, Aluminum & Salt were imported from a British breeder. The silver gene is an inhibiting gene and makes the undercoat of an Abyssinian a silvery-white color.

- In 2001, TICA accepted all four silver colors into their championship division. In June of 2001, in Ft. Worth, TX, Sterlingsilver Daylily became the first blue silver female Abyssinian champion in the nation. Pictured here is Sterlingsilver Sir Christopher, a blue silver Abyssinian male.
The first chocolate & lilac Abyssinian kittens were imported from the UK in early 2000. It is believed that all of today's chocolate and lilac Abyssinians are descended from a chocolate Abyssinian named Arboreal Chocolate Katrina who was produced from this outcross. According to TICA’s existing standard, the colors were accepted along with the ruddy, sorrel, blue and fawn. This was due to the addition of “eumelinistic “ in the standards.
Chocolate & Lilac

The kittens pictured below were the first of the lilac and chocolate colors to hold a championship title in TICA in the US. The kittens were owned by Bruce Alexy, Alexy Abyssinians, Greensboro, NC.

CH Abychat Lilac Ambassador
Lilac Abyssinian
Sire: Abychat Kubla Khan, Ruddy Abyssinian
Dam: Abychat Mamamia, Lilac Abyssinian

CH Abychat Chocolat
Chocolate Abyssinian
Sire: Abychat Kubla Khan, Ruddy Abyssinian
Dam: Abychat Mamamia, Lilac Abyssinian
2003 TICA's Best Chocolate Abyssinian
Abyssinian Today

Over the centuries, the Abyssinian has developed into one of America’s favorite breeds. Aloof, mysterious, regal, lithe & graceful; known for their rather large ears and lustrous almond eyes. Their devotion and affection make them an ideal companion.
Famous Abyssinians

• Cinnamon, the first cat to have its entire genome published.

• Punkin, an Abyssinian cat belonging to radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh.

• Jackpot, an episode of “CSI” (season 4, episode 7) features a blue Abyssinian named Isis as a significant clue.

• Jake, The Cat From Outer Space (a 1970s Disney movie) Jake's role was played by the brother and sister Abyssinian cats Rumpler and Amber.
“All cats are smart, some of course are smarter than others and some are outstanding in intelligence, but for downright ability to outsmart a person every time, I give you the Abyssinian”.

Mrs. Fairchild, 1945
Interpretation of TICA Abyssinian Standard

General Description

• Coat, ticking, dramatic facial marking, like that of a cougar.
• Deep, intense color with apparent four to six colored bands of color
• Good resilient coat; medium in length, not too tight. Too tight of a coat will not allow for the bands of ticking that is essential to the breed.
• Total clarity in the coat; no visible barring on neck and legs (including inside of legs)
• Ears are large but in proportion to the head; set as if listening.
• Ears should not be too low on the head like an oriental but not straight up; there should be an in between the two extremes.
• The head, including the ears should form a nice trapezoid.
• Muzzle should have depth; not be too long but yet not to short
• Gentle rounded curves; all transitions should be smooth
• Eyes are almond shaped, not round.
• Body should be medium in length, not tubular; nor oriental in shape
• Rib cage should have some depth
• Tail, legs and body should form a square.
• Gentle curves; elegant musculature; Dancer like form
• OVERALL BALANCE
The interpretation of the Abyssinian over the years has become misconstrued by both breeders and judges and the ideal Abyssinian has become vague. The TICA standard is presently being reviewed by the current TICA breed committee with the intent to review, clarify and propose better defined descriptions of the Abyssinian so that a more precise guideline can be utilized. One of the areas being reviewed is the ears as the description is too ambiguous and needs to have a more specific representation.

Over the years there have been a variety of Abyssinians shown that typically follow the written standard. Unfortunately there have abys in recent years shown in the show hall that do not portray the Abyssinian illustrated in the TICA standards. For example, oriental type Abyssinians with extremely low ears, slanted or rounded eyes, tubular bodies, straight (ski slope) profiles or squared muzzles. Little or no bands of ticking due to the fact of a short, tight coat. Along with this, extremely low white below the chin as well as quite pronounced, obvious barring. Sadly, this “type” of Abyssinian has not only been seen but has been winning.
An Abyssinian should not be oriental in type in any way. The head should be a modified wedge with rounded contours with a muzzle following gently contours and a profile without any flat planes. There should be no pinch in the muzzle, “foxy” look or be square at the end. Eyes should be almond in shape; not slanted or round. Ears should be large, alert and set forward in a 45 degree angle, as if listening. They should be in balance with the head. They should not be too large, flared or have the look of “fly away ears”. The body should be medium long, definitely not long and tubular. The aby should be elegant, graceful and muscular. Tail should be long and tapering, not whippy. The legs should be svelte, long and muscular but not fine boned. The coat should be medium in length, resilient and fine in texture. The coat should neither be tight or too short. The coat needs to have enough length to show the four to six bands of color. Too short of a coat will neither be resilient or show enough ticking. No barring is allowed. Very important: An Abyssinian should be well balanced!
The Abyssinian Breed

Contributors:
Marylou Anderson, Jean Hannum, Resa Bauer-DeMeyer, Brenda Russo

Presentation: Brenda Russo, TICA Breed Committee Chair
Jean Hannum, TICA Breed Committee
General Description

- Alert & Active
- Medium-sized
- Well-muscled
- “Mini Cougar”
- Iridescent ticked coat
- Graceful
- Radiant, Regal
- Feral appearing but gentle & playful
Breed Standard

• The breed standard outlines the esthetic ideal toward which breeders strive to achieve.
Breed Standard

Point Breakdown in the Standard

❖ Head - 35
❖ Body - 35
❖ Coat/color/pattern - 30

100 points = 100%
Breed Standard

Head - 35 Total Points

Shape 10
Ears 5
Eye Shape 5
Eye Color 5
Muzzle 5
Profile 5
Breed Standard

• **Shape** (10 points)
  – Modified wedge with rounded contours
  – Not extreme or excessive
  – Rise from bridge of nose to forehead without evidence of a break
  – Gently curved forehead over the skull flowing into an arched neck
  – Roundness between the ears (not domed)
Head Shape
Head Shape

The Abyssinian should have no sharp edges; everything must be curved, softened and rounded. The basic shape under the contours must be a modified wedge. A trapezoid with an oval transposition on top.

The Top of the Head must also be slightly curved – **not flat** and **not domed**.
Shape

Curved transition from the forehead over the skull flowing into an arched neck

Insert picture
Good Chin

Strong, not protruding or receding
The Chin - viewed from the front

The chin can be viewed as an oval or almond in shape.
Breed Standard

• **Ears** (5 points)
  – Large
  – Alert
  – Moderately pointed
  – Cupped at base & arched forward as if listening
  – May be able to discern a thumbprint marking on the back depending on color
Ears

• The Standard does not address ear placement, but if it gives the appearance of an Oriental, it is not preferable.
EARS
Ears
EARS

Ears are only 5 points on the Aby Standard, and yet they are an important part of the look. The ear must have a wide base and be cupped. The ear in profile should be tipped slightly forward - “as though listening.”

The ear set viewed head on is not described in the Aby standard. This is something that the breeders need to agree on and add to the standard. However, in keeping with the modified wedge, I like the outside edge of the ear to follow the wedge and neither be too high (above the line of the wedge) nor too low (below the line of the wedge.)
The line of the modified wedge follows from the chin to just under the cheek bone to catch the outside border of the ear.
Ears “set as though listening…”

Ears are arched forward and set as though listening.
Aby ears seem to grow smaller as the kitten grows into adulthood.

Adult ears can be the same size as a kitten’s ears, but on the kitten - the ears look larger because the head is smaller. Aby kitten ears can never be too large.
Breed Standard

- **Eyes** (Shape 5 points / Color 5 points)
  - Large
  - Almond-shaped
  - Brilliant & expressive
  - Eye color: gold, copper, green or hazel
  - Richness of color rewarded
  - No relation to coat color
  - Accented by ring of dark coloration on eyelids (eyeliner) surrounded by lighter colored area.
Aby Eyes: ALMOND *not* Round

Vivid facial markings highlight the dramatic look of well-shaped almond eyes. Also should not look oriental.
Eyes
Eye Color:

Eye color to be “gold, copper, green or hazel.” Green eyes are seen in both the rufused and non-rufused/Silver Abys.
Breed Standard

• **Muzzle** (5 points)
  – Rounded contours
  – Full chin
  – Perpendicular with nose
  – **No** pointiness, snippiness, foxiness
  – **No** whisker pinch
  – **Not** squared like the ASH
The Muzzle:

No evidence of snappiness, foxy appearance or whisker pinch

5 points
Muzzle
Breed Standard

• Profile
  – Gentle curved transition between brow, nose and muzzle.
  – **No** flat planes
The Aby profile:

No flat planes…
Gently curving…
Curved transition between brow, nose and muzzle…
Profile
Breed Standard

Body - 35 Total Points

Torso  10
Legs/Feet  10
Tail  5
Boning  5
Musculature  5
Breed Standard

- **Torso** (10 points)
  - Medium long – Foreign-type
  - Lithe & graceful balanced with the muscular strength of a fine-motor skilled athlete
  - Solid
  - Curved rib cage (not round)
  - Slight arch to back (more noticeable sitting)
  - Level flank
  - Proportion & balance preferred over size
Torso: It’s Hip to be square...

- Medium long
- Lithe and graceful
- Curved (oval) rib cage
- Back - slightly arched
- No tuck-up - almost level
- Balanced

Balance in the Abyssinian means that the tail, legs and back should come close to being equal in length very much like a square.
Legs, Feet and Boning

- Proportionately slim
- Long
- Well-muscled
- Solid to the Feet
- Feet Oval and on “tippy-toes”

15 points
The Tail

“Long and tapering” - in balance with the rest of the cat.

I would be hard pressed to find an Aby with a tail that was too long.
Torso

• Happy medium between the extremes of cobby and the svelte long Oriental.
Torso
Breed Standard

• **Legs/Feet** (10 pts)
  – Slim, not refined
  – Long
  – Well-muscled
  – Oval & compact feet – appear as if standing on “tippy-toe”.
Breed Standard

• Tail
  – Long
  – Medium at base and tapering
  – Not thin or whippy
Breed Standard

• **Musculature**
  – Well-developed strength without looking gross or coarse
  – Solidly built
  – Skin is minimally loose to allow for stretch jumping & climbing
Breed Standard

Coat/Color/Pattern

30 Total Points

Texture 10
Pattern 10
Color 10
Breed Standard

• Abyssinian
  – Resilient – “snap back”
  – Lustrous sheen
  – Fine texture – soft
  – Medium length – long enough to accommodate 4-6 bands of ticking
  – Lies fairly close to body but without slickness
  – Longest along the spine line
Breed Standard

• Color
  – Tabby Division
    • Warmth, rufousing, intensity
    • White only from very upper throat, chin to around nostrils & lips
    • Preference to good even ticking
    • Intensity of color should not diminish the ability to see the ticking
    • Ticking should not be sacrificed for depth of color
Breed Standard

• Color/Ticking
Breed Standard

Traditional Category

1. Tabby Division
2. Silver/Smoke Division

Colors limited to the eumelanistic colors & agouti pattern only.
(Homozygous ticked tabby Ta/Ta)
Championship Divisions-Colors

Traditional Category

1. Tabby Division
2. Silver/Smoke Division

Colors limited to the Eumelanistic colors & Agouti pattern only.
(Homozygous ticked tabby)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tabby Colors</th>
<th>Silver/Smoke Colors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy</td>
<td>Black Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate</td>
<td>Chocolate Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinnamon</td>
<td>Cinnamon Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Blue Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilac</td>
<td>Lilac Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fawn</td>
<td>Fawn Silver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Color

10 pts

“The colors of the Abyssinian in the Tabby Division should reflect warmth of color, giving the impression of a colorful cat.

The more color, the more rufusing - the better!! The “hotter” the undercoat color and the more intense the color of the color bands - the better. A dyed (“intent to deceive”) will not demonstrate the various “tones” in rufusing - the entire coat will show the same tone. In addition, a well colored (rufused) Abyssinian will enhance the ticking of the cat. Intense color should NEVER overcome the darker bands of ticking.

The colors of the Abyssinian in the Silver Division

The Silver Abyssinian ideally reflects NO warmth of color! The less rufusing – the better (Tarnishing). The exact opposite of the rufused Aby.
Penalize:

- **Color faults:** Mouse (grey) down coat, broken necklaces, leg bars, uneven color in non-ticked areas, tabby stripes or bars, slick coat, plushy coat, incorrect paw pad color

- **Ticking/Pattern faults:** Uneven ticking, lack of desired markings on head

- **Condition:** Lack of condition, flabbiness of body (muscle tone), lack of coat luster, eye color, evidence of illness, emaciation and lack of muscle tone.
Ruddy kitten demonstrating coat/color issues

- Low white
- Smudges or ghost marks
- Ghost marks on the leg
“Mouse” or grey down undercoat is found next to the skin and most often found on the neck, elbows and outside rear legs.
Broken necklace
Withhold All Awards - Disqualify

• Unbroken necklace
• Reversed ticking
• White locket
# Colors

## Traditional Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Colors</th>
<th>Dilute Colors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruddy</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate</td>
<td>Lilac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinnamon</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Silver Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silver Full Colors</th>
<th>Silver Dilute Colors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Silver</td>
<td>Blue Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chocolate Silver</td>
<td>Lilac Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cinnamon Silver</td>
<td>Fawn Silver</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cinnamon Mom kittens with Ruddy and Blue

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*August 2017* Aby Breed Seminar
Colors - Ruddy

• Ruddy (traditional/usual)
  – Rich brown with black ticking, apricot undercolor, brick red nose leather and black paw pads
Colors

• Cinnamon
  (previously sorrel/red but not sex-linked)
  – Coppery red with chocolate ticking, pink nose leather and pink paw pads.

August 2017

Aby Breed Seminar
Colors

• Blue
  – Warm blue-grey with steel blue ticking
  – Dark pink nose leather
  – Mauve pink paw pads
Colors - Blue
Colors - Fawn

– Warm rose beige w/ pale cocoa ticking
– Pinkish salmon nose leather
– Pink paw pads
Colors

• Silver
  – Not a new color
  – Seen back in the 1900s
  – Icy white closest to the skin followed by ticking of the appropriate eumelanistic color.
  – Lack of rufousing is more desirable
Breed Standard

• Color
  – Silver Division
    • Icy white coat color closest to the skin accompanied by eumelanistic color ticking
    • Minor patches of rufousing are not considered a fault if the overall impression is that of a silver cat
    • Some rufousing may be seen along the spine & in areas of ticking – lack of rufousing is preferred
Colors – Black Silver
Colors – Cinnamon Silver
Penalties
Clarity
Penalties

• Color & Pattern Faults
  – “Mouse Coat” - Cold or gray coloration next to the skin
  – Distinct broken necklaces
  – Leg barring
  – Chest splotches, stripes or barring
  – Uneven ticking
Penalties

• Condition
  – Flabbiness of body
  – Lack of coat luster
  – Emaciation / lack of muscle

  – Other: Pale eye color, round eyes
Withholds

• Unbroken necklace
• Reverse ticking – lacks the final dark tipping that is most easily seen in the absence of the dark spine line
• White locket or white anywhere other than upper throat, chin, around nostrils & lips
Judging Techniques

• Feather – the toy of choice, but rabbit fur teasers can compete. Actually anything will do!
• Use the teaser to help you see them without manhandling too much
• Feet on the table
• Firm handling but not restrictive or they will fight to get away
• Allow to climb the sisel poles
• They are to be interactive with the environment – but they may not pay attention to you with all that goes on in the showhall.
Conclusion

As with any breed, the more educated and familiar you become with the breed, the more subtleties you will begin to notice.