The Snowshoe Cat

Breed Seminar

Presented by the
Snowshoe breed committee
Steven Savant
2008 annual committee
30-31 August 2008
EXHIBITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2008 International Awards
10th Best Alter
Breed Goal

**Particolor Points**

- Ear Set and Size
- Eye Shape and Color
- Tail length
- Moderated semi-foreign body
- Long legs
- Short hair
Breed Program - Goals

A cat with a unique combination of:

Particolor points
Short hair
Modified wedge

Moderated semi-foreign body with long legs, giving the appearance of a runner or jumper rather than a weight lifter.
Ear Set

- Continuation of the modified wedge

- Medium Broad at Base

- Slightly rounded tips.

- In Proportion to the body

Photo by Tetsu Yamazaki
Best Ear Set - Other EAR SET

A continuation of the wedge
Space between the ears

Not a continuation of the wedge
Ears too close together
Common Misconceptions

That pattern is more important than conformation

Fact: Conformation is more important

Fact: Less points are allotted to pattern than are allotted to conformation (head, body, ears, eyes, etc)
Body - Torso

- Semi-foreign, *moderately long but not extreme or oriental.* Proportionately balanced. Males are medium to medium-large in size. Females are proportionately smaller than males, ranging from medium-small to medium size. Example is a male.

Photo by Tetsu Yamazaki
Tail

Tail – Medium at base, *slightly and gradually tapering to the end*, length in proportion to the body

Photo by Tetsu Yamazaki
Body – Legs, Feet, Boning

- Legs – *Of good length, the legs of a runner or jumper;*, medium boning, in proportion with torso.
- Feet – *In proportion to legs and torso. Oval tips.*
- Boning – *Medium.* Consideration for finer boning in smaller females. (Example here is a male.)
Common Misconceptions

- Dark blue eyes are preferred

- Fact: ALL shades of blue are accepted with NO preference towards shade
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- Shape: *Oval to medium oval or rounded oval.*
- Slanted to the base of the ears.
Two distinct, even planes separated by a slight stop or gentle curve at the nose bridge.

Medium width nose with a flat or slight nose bump.
Body - Muscular

- Firm and muscular
- Well-knit
- Powerful
- Not bulky, not delicate
- Surprising heft in proportion to size when lifted. Consideration for lesser heft in females
Modified Wedge & Muzzle
Broad modified wedge; cheekbones set high with gentle contours

Overall shape is nearly as wide as long and resembles an equilateral triangle
Khdg

- Chin – Firm

- Nose – Medium width, not too wide, not too narrow with a flat or slight nose bump. In proportion to the head.

- Neck – In proportion to body.
Proportional to the head with a gentle break; neither extremely broad or extremely broad, square nor pointed.
What is the difference between a bicolor and a mitted Snowshoe?

Any other degree of facial white is a bicolor.
White is limited to paws, back legs, chest and chin. Cat is typically about one quarter white.
A white facial pattern is required

*Various markings of white and pigment may occur*

The cat is typically between one quarter to one half white

*Less white is preferred over high white*
That the inverted V is the preferred pattern

Fact: There is NO preferred pattern – all markings are acceptable and should be judged equally
There is no ‘good’ or ‘bad’ or ‘preferred’ patterning.
All patterns are ‘equal’, in the case of a tie, the determining factor should be the overall appearance rather than a specific feature (i.e., “V”, blaze, muzzle “V”, mustache)
Some white is required on paws. Patches of color in white areas are acceptable. White areas generally occur on legs, thighs, chest and chin.

There should be a definite contrast between point colors and white.

Preference should be given to clarity and contrast, not to hue.

White on the underside of the head, throat, body, belly and uppermost part of the inner thighs commonly occurs and should not be penalized or credited.
Colors normally darken with age

Photo by Helmi

Photo by Tetsu Yamazaki
All pointed colors. *As defined by the TICA uniform color description for pointed cats.*

Points Clearly defined; connected to the ears by tracings except for undeveloped points in kittens and younger cats.

*Nose leather and paw pads may be point color, flesh tone or mottled.*

Body color a lighter shade of point color. *A range of hues within each color class.* Subtle shading to point color on back, shoulders and hips; toning to a lighter shade near chest and stomach. *Dilute colors, especially blue points, root color may be darker or lighter than end hairs.*
Although the Snowshoe comes in all colors, lilac, chocolate and other dilute colors are rare.
Length – **Short** to medium - short

Texture -

*Smooth to the touch*

*Coat lies moderately close to body*

*Seasonal and geographical changes to be considered.*
Top health condition, with a clean, well-groomed coat and body
No indication of fat or emaciation
A belly flap commonly occurs and should not be penalized or credited

Photo by Tetsu Yamazaki
Excellence in one aspect does not offset deficiency in another

- Well-balanced, with all parts in good proportion to each other; no one part more extreme than the other

- Proper proportions and balance are more important than exact size
Stomachs need to be white
Paw Pads – must be pink or point color

- **Fact:** Paw pads may be either point color, pink or a mix of point color and pink

  No point color allowed in the white

- **Fact:** Point color in the white is not penalized
Kitten color – contrast should be clear

- **Fact:** Kittens do not have the contrast of an adult cat, it can take up to 2 years for full color to develop
Penalties

- No white on all four paws
- Plush, wooly or double undercoat
- Long hair
- Eye color other than blue
- Bulky or cobby torso, frail or dainty torso, extreme torso length
- Thin, whip-like tail
The earliest documented evidence of the Snowshoe Breed is this Japanese Print

Throughout history, Siamese have occasionally thrown white-mitted babies, indicating the presence of the recessive white-spotting factor.
The current Snowshoe breed originated in the 1960s in the state of Pennsylvania when three mitted kittens were born from a classic Seal Point Siamese.

The breeder liked the look and decided that the pattern could be repeated by breeding to a Particolor shorthair.
Prior to 1994, all Snowshoe breed standards contained the statement that ‘color and pattern shall be of equal importance to type and build’ and required an inverted ‘V’ face with strict pattern limits.

In 1993 a proposal was submitted and approved by The International Cat Association (TICA) to remove this statement, and the inverted ‘V’ and strict pattern limits from the breed standard.

The new standard became effective in 1994 at the same time that the Snowshoe was granted championship status by TICA.
From 1994 through 1996, interest peaked and Snowshoes were exhibited in TICA in various parts of the USA.

The worth of the new TICA standard was proven when a Snowshoe received regional awards in the top twenty in 1995 and in the top ten in 1996.

Snowshoe web site, developed in 1997 (http://sncats.tripod.com/)
Snowshoe cat email group established 1999 (Snowshoecats/yahoo groups)
TICA Standard changes to continue to stress conformation (2001)
Interest in exhibition increased
Snowshoe Rescue Network established 2001 (http://snrescue.tripod.com/)
Snowshoe cat calendar published for 2002
Snowshoe cat calendar published annually for 2002 and 2003

Improvements to the Snowshoe web site.

Improved standard effective May 2003.

Established the Snowshoe Cat Lovers club to replace the Snowshoe Breed Club.

Developed a web site for the rescue network.

Seminars: Albuquerque, NM; Beaumont, TX (September 2002 and 2003)
Snowshoe cat calendar published for 2005
Calendar for Snowshoe Cat Rescue Network
Developed Reputable Breeder standards and Code of Ethics for Snowshoe breeders.
Established The International Snowshoe Cat Association (TISCA) for breeders.
Developed a list of known Snowshoe breeders.
Returned bi-color and mitted to different classes
Seminars: Allentown PA (February 2004), Houston TX (March 2004).
Snowshoe cat calendars published for 2006 thru 2008
Calendar for Snowshoe Cat Rescue Network (2006 thru 2008)
Updated Seminar (2008)
1995 - Alter in the top 20 in SW region
1996 - Alter in the top 10 in SW region (First Supreme Grand Champion Alter)
2002 - Kitten in the top 20 in GL region
2003 - Kitten in the top 20 in GL region
- Cat in the top 20 in GL region
- Cat in the top 20 in MA region
2003 - First Supreme Grand Champion (MA)

2004 - Supreme Grand Champion (MA)

2005 - Supreme Grand Champion Alter (MA)
  - Supreme Grand Champion (MA)
• 2004 - Top 20 Regional (MA)

• 2005 Regional Awards (MA)
  • Champion - 3rd Best Regional
  • Kitten - 21st Best Regional
  • Alter - 13th Best Regional

• 2007 Regional Awards (MA)
  • Champion – 19th Best Regional
  • Alter - 19th Best Regional
2008 Regional Awards
- Champion – 15th Best Regional (MA)
- Alter – Best Alter Regional (MA)
- Alter - 16th Best Regional (MA)
Improvements to a standard presentation to support seminars.

Promote interest in breeding for health, personality, and conformation.

Expand and improve our web sites.

Promote the TICA reputable breeder program.

Publish a newsletter (schedule pending).

Provide educational material on genetics and breeding for new breeders.

Promote participation in TISCA reputable breeder program.
Expand the number of annual seminars.
Promote interest in the breed program.
Promote interest in exhibiting in TICA.
Develop breeding guidelines for new breeders (Snowshoe specific).
Develop exhibition guidelines for new exhibitors (Snowshoe specific).
Continue and improve seminar slides.
Continue to improve the current standard (terminology).
Txhw1rqv
dqg#
Dqvz huv
Frequently Asked Question (FAQs)

Q – What is the primary difference between the Snowshoe and other breeds?

A – The combination of particolor pointed colors, short hair, modified wedge and semi-foreign conformation.
Snowshoe Breed Seminar

Presented by
Margot Scott and
Mark Coleman

Christmas City
Cat Club

Allentown, PA

February 21, 2004
What is a Snowshoe?

A Snowshoe is a cat with a unique combination of:

- Particolor Points
- Short Hair
- Modified wedge
- Moderated semi-foreign body with long legs, giving the appearance of a runner or a jumper rather than a weight lifter.
Origin

- The current Snowshoe breed originated in the 1960s in the state of Pennsylvania when 3 mitted kittens were born from a classic Seal Point Siamese.
- The breeder liked the look and decided that the pattern could be repeated by breeding to a bicolor shorthair.
History

- Prior to 1994, all Snowshoe breed standards contained the statement that “color and pattern shall be equal importance of type and build” and required an inverted “V” face with strict pattern limits.
- In 1993 a proposal was submitted and approved by The International Cat Association (TICA) to remove this statement and the inverted “V” and strict pattern limits from the breed standard.
- The new standard became effective in 1994 at the same time the Snowshoe was granted championship status by TICA.
From 1994 through 1996, interest peaked and Snowshoes were exhibited in TICA in various parts of the USA.

The worth of the new TICA standard was proven when a Snowshoe received regional awards in the top 20 in 1995 and in the top 10 in 1996.

Snowshoe web site, developed in 1997.

Snowshoe cat email group established 1999.

TICA standard changes to continue to stress confirmation (2001).

Interest in exhibition increased.
History

- Snowshoe rescue network established in 2001.
- Improvements to the Snowshoe web site.
- Improved standard effective May 2003.
- Established the Snowshoe Cat Lovers club to replace the Snowshoe Breed Club.
- Developed a web site for the rescue network.
- Seminars: Albuquerque, NM; Beaumont, TX (September 2002 and 2003).
History

- Developed Reputable Breeder standards for Snowshoe breeders.
- Established The International Snowshoe Cat Association (TISCA) for breeders.
- Developed a list of known Snowshoe breeders.
Accomplishments

- 1995 – Alter in the top 20 in SW region
- 1996 – Alter in the top 10 in SW region
  - First Supreme Grand Champion Alter
- 2002 – Kitten in the top 20 in GL region
- 2003 – Kitten in the top 20 in GL region
  - Cat in the top 20 in GL region
  - Cat in the top 20 in MA region
  - First Supreme Grand Champion
  - Second Supreme Grand Champion
Works in Progress

- Development of a standard presentation to support seminars.
- Promote interest in breeding for health, personality, and conformation.
- Expand and improve our web sites.
- Promote the TICA reputable breeder program.
- Publish a newsletter (schedule pending).
- Provide educational material on genetics and breeding for new breeders.
- Promote participation in TISCA reputable breeder program.
- Separate bi-color and mitted to different classes.
Future Plans

- Expand the number of annual seminars.
- Promote interest in the breed program.
- Promote interest in exhibiting in TICA.
- Develop breeding guidelines for new breeders (Snowshoe specific).
- Develop exhibition guidelines for new exhibitors (Snowshoe specific).
- Continue and improve seminar slides.
- Continue to improve the current standard (terminology).
And Now…

• The Snowshoe Standard
Eyes

- Oval to medium oval or rounded oval with greater length than width
- Slanted to the base of the ears
- Any shade of blue
Eyes
Head

- Broad modified wedge; cheekbones set with high gentle contours.
- Overall shape is nearly as wide as it is long and resembles an equilateral triangle.
- Chin - Firm.
- Nose - Medium width: not too wide, not too narrow, with a flat or slight nose bump, in proportion with the head.
- Neck - In proportion to the body.
- Muzzle – Proportional to the head with a gentle break; neither extremely broad or square nor pointed.
Head
Ear Set

- Medium broad at base, continuation of the modified wedge.
- Slightly rounded at tips.
- In proportion to the body.
Ear Set

Adult Cats

Kittens
Ear Set
Profile

- Two distinct, even planes separated by a slight stop or a gentle curve at the nose bridge.
- Medium width nose with a flat or slight nose bump.
Profile
Semi-foreign, moderately long, but not extreme or oriental. Proportionally balanced. Males are medium to medium-large. Females are proportionally smaller than males, ranging from medium-small to medium size.
Body

- Legs - of good length, the legs of a runner or jumper; medium boning, in proportion with the body.
- Feet - in proportion to the legs and torso. Oval tips.
- Boning - Medium. Consideration for finer boning in smaller females.
Body
Tail

- Medium at base, slightly and gradually tapering to the end, length in proportion to the body.
Coat

- Length - short to medium-short.
- Texture - smooth to the touch, moderately close lying. Density permits the coat to lie moderately close. Seasonal and geographical changes to be considered.
Coat
Color

- All pointed colors as defined by the TICA uniform color description for pointed cats. Points clearly defined, connected to the ears by tracings except for undeveloped points in kittens and younger cats.
- Nose leather and paw pads may be point color, flesh toned or mottled.
- Body a lighter shade of the point color. A range of hues within each color class. Subtle shading to point color on back, shoulders and hips; toning to a lighter shade near the chest and stomach. In dilute colors, especially blue points, root colors may be darker or lighter than end hairs.
Color - Blue Point

Example of a Lilac Point
Color - Seal Point
Patterns

- Some white is required on paws. Patches of color in white areas are acceptable.
- Overall appearance predominates shape and detail of point and white areas.
- There should be a definite contrast between point colors and white.
- Preference should be given to clarity and contrast, not to hue. However, white areas should be sparkling white.
- White on the underside of the head, throat, body, belly and uppermost part of the inner thighs commonly occurs and should not be penalized or credited.
Patterns - Mitted

- White is limited to paws, back legs, chest, and chin. Cat is typically about one quarter white.
Patterns - Bicolor

- A white facial pattern is normal.
- Various markings of white and pigment may occur.
- White areas generally occur on legs, thighs, chest and chin, but not penalized or credited.
- The cat is typically between one quarter white to one half white.
- Less white is preferred over high white.
- There is no “good” or “bad” or “preferred” patterning.
- All patterns are “equal” and in case of a tie, the determining factor should be the overall appearance rather than a specific feature.
Patterns - Bicolor
Balance

- Well-balanced, with all parts in good proportion to each other. No one part should be more extreme than the other.
- Proper proportions and balance are more important than size.
- Excellence in aspect does not offset deficiency in another.
Balance
Vertigo Ten

Proud Papa

Proud Mama
Watusi + Belle =

Proud Papa

Proud Mama
Tenny + Briar Rose =

Proud Papa

Proud Mama
Common Misconceptions

- Inverted V – still think it is the preferred pattern – is getting better, need to remember any markings are acceptable
- Dark blue eyes are preferred – any shade of blue is accepted, no preference towards shade
- Stomachs need to be white – white can be on the stomachs, but it is not credited or faulted
- Paw Pads – can be pink or point color
- Kitten color – kittens do not have the contrast that adults have, it can take up to 2 years for full color to come in
Common Misconceptions
Pet Shoes

- Hi-whites (more than 50% white)
- Solid (no white)
- No Harlequins
Condition

- Top health condition, with a clean, well-groomed coat and body.
- No indication of fat or emaciation.
- A belly flap commonly occurs and should not be penalized or credited.
Penalties

- No white on all four paws.
- Plush, wooly or double undercoat.
- Long hair.
- Eye color other than blue.
- Bulky or cobby torso, frail or dainty torso, extreme torso length
- Thin, whip like tail.
Personality

- Loving, personable, nosey, vocal at times, curious
Personality

And yes I am a boy.
Personality
Personality
Credits

- Photo Credits:
  - Jim Childs
  - Helmi
  - Proud Snowshoe owners:
    - Lisa Haug, Julia Munde, Lisa Stenta, Margot Scott, Shauna McAllister, Linda Gagnon
The Snowshoe Cat

Breed Seminar

Presented by

(Snowshoe breed committee)

Sponsoring judge

Cat club - Date
Breed Goal

Particolor Points
- Short hair
- Modified semi-foreign body
- Long legs
- Ear Set
**Breed Program - Goals**

A cat with a *unique combination of*:

- Particolored points
- Short hair
- Modified wedge
  - Moderated semi-foreign body with *long legs*, giving the appearance of a *runner or jumper* rather than a weight lifter.
Ear Set

- Continuation of the modified wedge
- Medium Broad at Base
- Slightly rounded tips.
- In Proportion to the body

Photo by Tetsu Yamazaki
GOOD Ear Set - BAD EAR SET

A continuation of the wedge
Space between the ears

Not a continuation of the wedge
Ears too close together
Common Misconceptions

That pattern is more important than conformation

Fact: Conformation is more important

Fact: Less points are allotted to pattern than are allotted to conformation (head, body, ears, eyes, etc)
Body - Torso

- Semi-foreign, *moderately long but not extreme or oriental*. Proportionately balanced. Males are medium to medium-large in size. Females are proportionately smaller than males, ranging from medium-small to medium size. Example is a female.

Tail – Medium at base, *slightly and gradually tapering to the end*, length in proportion to the body.

Photo by Tetsu Yamazaki
Body – Legs, Feet, Boning

- Legs – *Of good length, the legs of a runner or jumper;* medium boning, in proportion with torso.
- Feet – *In proportion to legs and torso.* Oval tips.
- Boning – *Medium.* Consideration for finer boning in smaller females. (Example here is a male.)

Photo by Jim Brown
Common Misconceptions

- Dark blue eyes are preferred

- Fact: ALL shades of blue are accepted with NO preference towards shade