AMERICAN CURL BREED GROUP (AC/ACL)

The American Curl (AC) is a slender, elegant, well-balanced shorthair cat, semi-foreign in type. The American Curl Longhair (ACL) is a slender, elegant, well-balanced longhair cat, semi-foreign in type.

HEAD
- Shape: 40 points
  - 6
- Ears: 20 points
  - 5
- Eyes: 5 points
  - 2
- Chin: 2 points
  - 5
- Muzzle: 5 points
  - 5

BODY
- Torso: 30 points
  - 10
- Legs/Feet: 5 points
  - 10
- Tail: 5 points
  - 5
- Boning/Musculation: 10 points

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN
- Length: 20 points
  - 5
- Texture: 5 points
  - 10
- Pattern/Color: 5 points
  - 5

OTHER
- Balance: 10 points

CATEGORIES: All
DIVISIONS: All
COLORS: All
PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: Domestic longhair/shorthair, not a member of a recognized breed.

HEAD:
- Shape: Modified wedge without flat planes; approximately 1-1/2 times longer than wider.
- Ears: Minimum 90-degree arc of curl not to exceed 180 degrees. Firm cartilage from ear base to at least one-third of height of ear. Wide at base and open; curving back in a smooth curve, following an open circular line. Cartilage should be smooth to the touch, hardly thicker than a normal non-curled ear. Tips rounded and flexible. Moderately large in proportion to head. Erect, set equally on top and side of head. Furnishings are desirable. Aesthetically pleasing to view from every angle. NOTE: When American Curls are alert with their ears swiveled forward, as if to 'close' their ear canal opening. Note: This creates a stronger VERTICAL line of cartilage, sometimes interfering with ear curvature. Depressions or ripples on the surface of the curled portion of the ears. Low set ears. Abrupt change of direction rather than a smooth curve. Nose: Deep nose break.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The distinctive feature of the American Curl is their attractive, large, uniquely curled-back ears, crowning the stylish modified wedge shaped head, emphasized by their elegant semi-foreign body structure (AC), enhanced by their semi-long coat, balanced by a plumed tail (ACL). This spontaneous ear mutation in the domestic cat population of the United States, was first identified on a petite, semi-longhaired female named Shulamith, located in Southern California, in 1981. The American Curl Breed Standard is written with preference for the smaller female, allowances made for male jowling. American Curls are well balanced, moderately muscled, rather than large in structure. Females weight 5-8 pounds (2.2-3.6 kilo), males weight 7-10 pounds (3.1-4.5 kilo). Because of their domestic origin, American Curls are accepted in all colors and patterns. They are intelligent, alert and active with gentle, even dispositions, developing strong bonds with their humans.

ALLOWANCES: Allow for stud jowls in adult males. Allow for buttons and lockets.

PENALIZE:
- Body: Excessive size.
- Coat: Heavy undercoat/heavy ruff. Coarse, cottony or fluffy coat texture. Dense or plump coat.
- Ears: Horizontal Crimp (see Glossary for description). Vertical Crimp, when outer edge of ear, near jaw, appears to have been folded forward, as if to 'close' ear canal opening. Note: This creates a stronger VERTICAL line of cartilage, sometimes interfering with ear curvature. Depressions or ripples on the surface of the curled portion of the ears. Low set ears. Abrupt change of direction rather than a smooth curve. Nose: Deep nose break.

DISQUALIFY (DQ):
- Tail faults of any kind. Straight or severely mismatched ears. Lack of firm cartilage in base of ear. Extreme curl in an adult cat where the tip of the ear touches the back of the head or the ear itself. Ear tips that are not flexible. Ears in which the lower portion of the ear is abnormally flattened, has compressed ridges of cartilage and does not have a normal, visible ear cavity.

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. 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 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 (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (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.