

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	40 points
Shape.....	6
Ears.....	20
Eyes	5
Chin.....	2
Muzzle.....	2
Profile.....	5
BODY	30 points
Torso.....	10
Legs/Feet	5
Tail	5
Boning/Musculature.....	10
COAT/COLOR/PATTERN	20 points
Length.....	5
Texture.....	10
Pattern/Color	5
OTHER	10 points
Balance.....	10

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 wide.

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-curved 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 toward the front, lines following through the curve of the ears should point to the center of the base of the skull.

Eyes: Walnut in shape. Moderately large in proportion to head. Set on a slight angle between the base of the ear and the tip of the nose, one eye-width apart. Color clear and brilliant with no relation to coat color, except that blue eyes are required on all pointed cats.

Chin: Firm, in line with nose and upper lip.

Muzzle: Neither pointed nor square.

Profile: Nose straight. Slight rise from bottom of eyes to brow line. Slight curve from brow to top of head, flowing into neck without a break.

BODY:

Torso: Rectangular, length to be approximately 1-1/2 times the height at the shoulders.

Legs: Length medium in proportion to body; set straight when viewed from front or rear.

Feet: Medium and rounded.

Tail: Flexible, wide at base and tapering; equal to body length.

Boning/Musculature: Medium, neither fine-boned nor heavy-boned. Moderate strength and tone.

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:

Length (AC): Short with tail coat same length as body coat.

Length (ACL): Semi-long with tail coat full and plumed.

Texture (AC): Soft, silky, laying flat, resilient without a plush dense feel. Minimal undercoat.

Texture (ACL): Fine, silky, laying flat. Minimal undercoat.

Pattern: Well-defined, clear pattern. Sound color.

OTHER:

Balance (AC): Proportionate in all physical aspects with a graceful, slender appearance. The combination of the long body, legs and tail, with neck, head and ears, should look like they fit together and give an impression of gentle motion.

Balance (ACL): Proportionate in all physical aspects with a graceful, slender appearance. The combination of the long body, legs and tail, with neck, head and ears should look like they fit together and given an impression of gentle flowing motion.

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 jawing. 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 plush 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.