THAI (TH)

HEAD .............................. 40 points
Shape .............................. 15
Profile and nose ...................... 5
Eyes ................................ 4
Ears .................................. 7
Muzzle and chin ......................... 7
Neck .................................. 2

BODY .................................. 40 points
Torso .................................. 15
Legs and feet .......................... 8
Tail ...................................... 5
Boning .................................. 8
Musculature .............................. 4

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN .......... 20 points
Texture and length ...................... 15
Color .................................... 5

CATEGORY: Pointed
DIVISIONS: Solid, Tabby, and Tortie.
COLORS: All.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSS: Siamese

Muzzle: Medium to slightly long. Wedge-shaped: like a tapering garden spade with a rounded end. Little or no whisker break. Medium-boned.

Chin: Neither weak nor too prominent, aligned vertically with the nose.

Neck: Medium length, neither thin nor overly muscular.

BODY:

Torso: Moderately long, lithe and graceful like a small panther. Well toned, but neither tubular nor compact. High enough on legs for desired foreign type. Underbelly is mostly level and parallel to the ground and firm. However, a slight amount of loose skin on the underbelly below the flank is permissible.

Legs: Medium length, graceful in form, but not coarse.

Feet: Oval shape; medium size in proportion to cat.

Tail: As long as the torso, tapering gradually to the tip.


Musculature: Firm, but lithe, not meaty or dense. When picked up, cat weighs about as much as, or slightly more than, one would predict visually.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The ideal cat of this breed is a medium to slightly large, pointed cat of foreign type, descended from and resembling the indigenous pointed cats of Thailand. The Thai is intended to be both the living equivalent of the original “Wichien-maat” of ancient Siam and the “marten-faced” Siamese of early 20th century America and Europe. It cannot be stated enough that the Thai should not be extreme in any way, but its appearance and personality should reflect its Thai heritage. The Thai is not, and should not resemble, a native Western breed. The breed began in the 1950s when breeders scattered around the world chose to breed, or sometimes unwittingly continued to breed, Siamese of the moderate, early 20th century type. In the 1980s, the first breed clubs dedicated to these cats were established in the United States and Europe. In 2001, breeders began importing indigenous pointed cats from Thailand in a conscious effort to expand and preserve a healthy gene pool for the Thai breed as well as to preserve the genes of Southeast Asia’s native race of cats while they are still distinct from Western cats. The trademark of the Thai breed is the unique head shape, a laterally rounded upper head from which projects a distinctly wedge-shaped muzzle. In keeping with the Thai’s roots in tropical Thailand, another important feature is the breed’s very short coat, first clearly described in the West by Harrison Weir in 1889. The Thai is a well balanced cat without any extremes, in harmony in appearance and character.

ALLOWANCE: Incomplete point color and mask in kittens and young adults up to 12 months. Slight tabby markings on the body of lynx points as long as there is a good contrast to the points. Darker body shading in older cats as long as there is still a definite contrast between body and points. Stud jowls in males. Females tend to be smaller, slightly finer boned, and less muscular than males.

PENALIZE: Genuinely round eyes. Extreme oriental eyes. Blunt or pointy muzzle. Narrow upper head. Small ears, very large ears, or ears set low (closer to the side of the head than the top). Compact body or distinctly tubular body. Whippy tail. Excess undercoat (plush coat). Ghost markings in non-agouti adult cats.


Revised 05/01/2010

Thai Breed Standard, 05/01/2010

Revised 05/01/2010

Thai Breed Standard, 05/01/2010