

Abyssinian Breed Standard – Comparison various Associations (USA)

	CFA (USA, worldwide)	TICA (USA, worldwide)	ACFA (USA)	CFF (USA)
General Description	The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian would be a colorful cat with a distinctly ticked coat, medium in size and regal in appearance. The Abyssinian is lithe, hard and muscular, showing eager activity and a lively interest in all surroundings. Well balanced temperamentally and physically with all elements of the cat in proportion.	The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian/Somali is a medium cat, regal in appearance. The Abyssinian/Somali is foreign in type. Males proportionately larger than females, the female being finer boned and usually more active than the male. The Abyssinian/Somali shows firm muscular development and is lithe and panther-like in activity, showing a lively interest in all surroundings. The coat of the Abyssinian/Somali has an iridescent quality. Coat pattern is genetically a form of agouti ticking with even, dark-colored ticking contrasted with lighter bands giving a translucent effect. The Abyssinian/Somali is of sound health and vigor, well-balanced physically and temperamentally gentle and amenable to handling.	The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian is a medium to large cat, regal in appearance. Males are proportionately larger than females. The Abyssinian shows firm muscle tone and is lithe and panther-like in activity showing a lively interest in all surroundings. The coat of the Abyssinian has an iridescent quality reflecting warmth of color giving the impression of a colorful cat. Coat pattern is genetically a form of agouti ticking with even dark colored ticking contrasted with lighter bands of color. The evenness of the ticking and the lighter colored bands give a translucent effect. Although rarely seen today some Abyssinians may exhibit ear tufts, "thumb print" markings on the back of the ears or darker colored hocks. The Abyssinian is of sound health and vigor, physically well balanced, and amenable to handling.	The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian is of a colorful cat with a distinctly ticked coat, medium in size and regal in appearance. The Abyssinian is a foreign short-hair in type. Males may be somewhat larger than females; the females have finer bones and are usually more active than the males. The Abyssinian is a graceful cat that shows eagerness for activity and a lively interest in all surroundings.
Head	<p>Total points for Head: 30; Head description divided into: Muzzle: 6 points Skull: 6 points Ears: 7 points Eye Shape: 6 points Eye Color: 5 points</p> <p>HEAD: A modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes; the brow, cheek, and profile lines all showing a gentle contour. A slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead, which should be of good size, with width between the ears and flowing into the arched neck without a break. MUZZLE: not sharply pointed or square. The chin should be neither receding nor protruding. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males. EARS: alert, large, and moderately pointed; broad, and cupped at base and set as though listening. Hair on ears very short and close lying, preferably tipped with black or dark brown on a ruddy Abyssinian, chocolate-brown on a red Abyssinian, slate blue on the blue Abyssinian, or light cocoa brown on a fawn Abyssinian. EYES: almond shaped, large, brilliant, and expressive. Neither round nor oriental. Eyes accentuated by fine dark line, encircled by light colored area. Eye color: gold or green, the more richness and depth of color the better. Facial markings: dark lines extending from eyes and brows, cheekbone shading, dots and shading on whisker pads are all desirable enhancements. Eyes accentuated by fine dark line, encircled by light colored area.</p>	<p>Total points for Head: 35; Head description divided into: Shape: 10 points Ears: 5 points Eyes: 10 points Muzzle: 5 points Profile: 5 points</p> <p>HEAD: Shape: Modified wedge with rounded contours as viewed from the front. A rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead without evidence of a sharp break. The head should be of ample length in general balance with the rest of the cat and gently curved from the forehead over the skull flowing into an arched neck. Ears: Large, alert, and moderately pointed, broad and cupped at base and arched forward, set as though listening. Hair on ears short and close-lying, preferably tipped in conformity with the color requirements. A "thumb print" marking is desirable on the back of the ear. Eyes: Almond shaped, large, brilliant and expressive. Skull aperture follows almond shape of eyes being neither round nor oriental. Eyes accentuated by darker lid skin, encircled by a light colored area. Above each eye appears a short vertical darker pencil stroke amidst the light area. At the sides of each eye appears a curved darker pencil line as if a continuation of the upper eyelid. Eye Color to be gold, copper, green or hazel, the more richness and depth of color the better. There is no relationship between coat and eye color. Points shall be divided equally between shape and color. Muzzle: The muzzle shall follow gentle contours in conformity with the head as viewed from the front and in profile. Chin shall be full and neither projecting nor receding, having a rounded appearance. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males. The muzzle shall not be sharply pointed and there shall be no evidence of snappiness, foxy appearance or whisker pinch. Profile: Without flat planes, showing gently curved transition between brow, nose and muzzle.</p>	<p>Total points for head: 25 Shape: 15 points Ears: 5 points Eyes: 5 points</p> <p>HEAD: Shape: Modified wedge with rounded contours as viewed from the front. In profile, there shall be no flat planes, but a gentle transition between brow, nose and muzzle. There should be no evidence of a nose break. The head should be of ample length in general balance with the rest of the cat. In profile the skull is to show a gentle curve flowing over the head into an arched neck. The muzzle shall follow gentle contours in conformity with the head as viewed from the front and in profile. The chin shall be full neither projecting nor receding, having a rounded appearance. Adult males may have jowls. The muzzle shall not be sharply pointed and there shall be no evidence of snappiness, foxy appearance or whisker pinch. Ears: Large, alert and moderately pointed, broad and cupped at base, arched forward, set as though listening. Hair on ears short and close lying. Eyes: Almond shaped, large and expressive, neither round nor oriental and the slant is slightly toward the ear. Eyes: accentuated by darker lid skin, encircled by a light colored area. Above each eye appears a short vertical darker pencil stroke amidst the lighter area. At the sides of each eye appears a curved darker pencil line as if a continuation of the upper eye lid. Accepted eye colors: gold, green or hazel.</p>	<p>Total points for head: 40 Head: 20 points Ears: 5 points Eyes: 10 points (shape/color each 5) Facial Markings: 5 points</p> <p>HEAD: The head is a wedge modified by slightly rounded contours when viewed from the front. In profile there are no flat planes, but a gentle rise from the bridge of the nose up to and over the gently curving forehead and skull, flowing into an arched neck. The nose is without a stop or pronounced bump. The muzzle shall follow the gentle contours in conformity with the modified wedge shape as viewed from the front and in profile. The chin shall be full, neither projecting nor receding with a rounded appearance. The muzzle shall not be overly square nor sharply pointed. There shall be no evidence of a foxy look or pinch behind the whiskers. Ears: The ears are large, alert, and moderately pointed; at the base, they are broad and cupped at the base and set forward as though listening. The space between the ears shall be approximately the width of the base of the cupped ear. Hair on the ears is very short and close-lying; tip tufts are preferred. A "thumb print" marking on the back of the ear is desirable. Objection: small or badly set ears. Eye Shape: The eyes are large, almond-shaped, luminous, and expressive; neither round nor oriental, and are slanted slightly towards the ears with the uppermost corner nearly even with the other base of the cupped ear. The eyes are accentuated by a dark lid skin encircled by a lighter area. Objection: small eyes. Eye Color: Eye color is gold, green or hazel; richness and depth are desirable. Objections: pale eye color. Facial markings: Above each eye appears a short vertical pencil stroke amidst the lighter area, and at the side of each eye there is a curved pencil line in continuation of the upper eyelid. Cheekbone shading, dots, and shading on whisker pads are all desirable enhancements.</p>

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Body	<p>Total points for Body: 30 Torso: 15 points Legs and feet: 10 points Tail: 5 points</p> <p>Body: Medium long, lithe and graceful, but showing well developed muscular strength without coarseness. Abyssinian conformation strikes a medium between the extremes of the cobby and the svelte lengthy type. Proportion and general balance more to be desired than mere size. Legs and Feet: proportionately slim, fine boned. The Abyssinian stands well off the ground giving the impression of being on tip toe. Paws small, oval, and compact. Toes: five in front and four behind. Tail: thick at base, fairly long and tapering.</p>	<p>Total points for Body: 35 Torso: 10 points Legs and feet: 10 points Tail: 5 points Boning: 5 points Musculature: 5 points</p> <p>Torso: Medium long, lithe and graceful, showing well developed muscular strength without coarseness and is solid to the feel. The rib cage is rounded with no evidence of flat sides. The back is slightly arched giving the appearance of a cat about to spring. The flank shall be reasonably level without tuckup. Proportion and general balance to be desired more than mere size. Legs: Proportionately slim, long and well-muscled. The Abyssinian/Somali stands well off the ground. Feet: Oval and compact. When standing, giving the impression of being on tip toe. Tail: Long and tapering. Musculature: Well-developed muscular strength without coarseness and solid to the feel.</p>	<p>Total points for Body: 30</p> <p>Body: Medium length, lithe and graceful, showing well developed muscular strength without coarseness. The cat is solid to the feel, and the rib cage is rounded with no evidence of flat sides. The back is slightly arched giving the appearance of a cat about to spring. The flank shall be reasonable level without a tuck-up. Conformation strikes a medium between extremes of cobby and svelte lengthy type. Proportion and general balance to be desired more than mere size. Legs: Muscular without coarseness. The Abyssinian stands well off the ground and the length of the leg should be in proportion with the length of the body. Feet: Oval and compact. When stroked the cat gives the impression of standing on tip toe. Five toes in front and four in back. Tail: Thick at the base, long and tapering.</p>	<p>Total points for Body: 25 Body: 10 points Legs: 5 points Feet: 5 points Tail: 5 points</p> <p>Body: The body is medium-long, lithe, and graceful, showing lean, hard, musculature, without coarseness. The body shall feel solid. The back is slightly arched when the cat is standing. The rib cage is rounded with no evidence of flat sides. The flank is reasonably level without tuckup. The overall balance is more important than size. Legs: The bones of the legs are long, slim and even. The Abyssinian stands well off the ground. Feet: The feet are round or oval, neat and compact. When standing, the cat gives the impression of being on tiptoe. Tail: The tail is thick at the base, fairly long and tapering. Objection: Scanty or whippy tail.</p>
Coat (Texture/Color/Ticking)	<p>Total points for Coat: 40 Texture: 10 points Color: 15 points Ticking: 15 points</p> <p>Coat: soft, silky, fine in texture, but dense and resilient to the touch with a lustrous sheen. Medium in length but long enough to accommodate two or three dark bands of ticking. Coat color: warm and glowing Ticking: distinct and even, with dark colored bands contrasting with lighter colored bands on the hair shafts. Undercoat color clear and bright to the skin. Deeper color shades desired, however intensity of ticking not to be sacrificed for depth of color. Darker shading along spine allowed if fully ticked. Preference given to cats UNMARKED on the undersides, chest, and legs; tail without rings.</p>	<p>Total points for Coat: 30 Texture: 10 points Color: 10 points Ticking: 10 points</p> <p>Coat length: Coat resilient to the touch with a lustrous sheen, fine in texture. Medium length, long enough to accommodate four to six alternating light and dark colored bands. The coat lies fairly close to the body; however, the undercoat should be adequate enough to avoid any evidence of slickness. Woolliness undesirable. Coat is longest at the spine, gradually shortening over the saddle, flank, legs and head. Coat pattern: Coat pattern is genetically a form of agouti ticking with even, dark-colored ticking contrasted with lighter bands giving a translucent effect. Coat color: The colors of the Abyssinian/Somali in the Tabby Division should reflect warmth of color, giving the impression of a colorful cat. The more rufousing and depth of color the better. Deeper shades/tones preferred. Darker shading along spine allowed. White or offwhite to be confined only to the upper throat area, lips and around nostrils. Preference to be given to a good, even ticking.</p>	<p>Total points for Coat: 40 Texture: 10 points Color: 10 points Ticking: 20 points</p> <p>Coat texture: Dense and resilient to the touch, has a lustrous sheen and is fine in texture. When thumbed backward it should snap back into place. The coat lies fairly close to the body, however the undercoat should be adequate enough to avoid any evidence of slickness. The coat is longest at the spine, gradually shortening over the saddle, flank, legs and head. Coat length: Medium but long enough to accommodate at least four alternating light and dark colored bands. Coat pattern: Outer parts of the body covered by shortened hair shall have not less than one band of ticking. Darker shadings along spine allowed if fully ticked. The underside of the body, chest and inside legs to be evenly shaded to harmonize with the main color without ticking, barring, necklaces or belly marks. Deeper and brighter tones are preferred. White or off-white to be confined only to the upper throat area, lips and around nostrils. Tail to be tipped in same color as ticking without rings. Kittens may exhibit uneven ticking.</p>	<p>Total points for Coat: 35 Texture: 10 points Color: 10 points Ticking: 15 points</p> <p>Coat general: Abyssinians are slow in maturing. Allowance shall be made up to 18 months of age in judging color, ticking, coat, markings, and lightness on nostrils, chin and upper throat area. Coat: The coat lies fairly close to the body, and is soft, silky and fine in texture, but dense and Resilient to the touch with a lustrous sheen. It is medium in length, but is long enough to accommodate Two or more darker bands of ticking which, combined with the warmth of color, gives and iridescent Effect. When brushed backward, the ideal coat springs back into place. Penalize: Coarse, thin or long coat. Ticking: The ticking shall be distinct and even, with two or more darker colored bands contrasting with an equal number of lighter bands; the extreme outer tip is darker and the color next to the skin is clear and bright. The ticking extends over the saddle, sides, and tail without patching or irregularity. The flanks and shoulders shall have not less than one darker band of ticking. Darker shading along the spine and down the top of the tail is allowed if it is fully ticked. Coat color: The color is warm and glowing. Deeper shades are preferred; however, intensity of ticking shall not be sacrificed for depth of color. Preference shall be given to cats unmarked on the undersides, chest and legs. The tail is without rings. In all colors, the lip, nostril and chin area is lightest in color, being cream or off-white. Lighter color shall be confined to lips, chin and upper throat area. Objection: Bars, rings, tabby markings, necklace(s), pure white on nostril, chin or upper throat. Penalize: Coldness, gray, or sandy tones in color.</p>

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Penalize	off-color pads. Long narrow head, short round head. Barring on legs, dark broken necklace markings, rings on tail. Coldness or grey tones in the coat. White undercoat on blue or fawn Abyssinians	Color faults: Cold, gray or sandy tone to coat color in ruddies, chocolates, or cinnamons or gray hair next to skin with absence of correct undercoat color. Distinct broken necklaces, leg bars, mottling or speckling in unticked areas (underside of body, chest and inside legs), tabby stripes or bars. Slick coat or excessive plushness. Wrong color or patching in pads. Ticking and Pattern Faults: Unevenness of ticking over body, lack of desired markings on head and tail. Condition: Flabbiness of body, lack of coat luster, eye color, evidence of illness, emaciation and lack of muscle tone are faults and points shall be deducted.	Coat: Slick coat. Excessive plushness. Wooliness in coat. Color: Mouse coat over a large area of the body (black or gray hair next to the skin with the absence of correct undercoat color). Mottling or speckling in unticked areas [underside of body, chest and inside legs]. Pattern: Uneven ticking. Broken necklaces. Tabby stripes or bars. Lack of desired markings on head or tail. Condition: Flabbiness of body. Lack of coat luster. Evidence of illness. Emaciation and lack of muscle tone.	
Disqualify (or withhold of award)	white locket, or white anywhere other than nostril, chin, and upper throat area. Kinked or abnormal tail. Dark unbroken necklace. Grey undercoat close to the skin extending throughout a major portion of the body. Any black hair on red Abyssinian.	Unbroken necklace. Reversed ticking (outermost tip of hair light instead of dark). In the Tabby division, white locket or white anywhere on the body other than around nostril, chin and upper throat areas.	White locket or white anywhere on the body other than around nostrils, chin and upper throat area. Kinked or abnormal tail. Unbroken necklace. Incorrect number of toes or deformed feet. Reversed ticking (outermost tip of hair light instead of dark). Wrong color or patching on paw pads. Wrong coat color for requirements. Wrong eye color.	white spotting on body, including lockets and groin spots. Lack of pigmentation on nose leather and/or paw pads.
Condition (Points)	0 Points	0 Points	5 Points	0 Points
Overall Balance (Points)				