

GCCF Policy on Variants in Recognised Breeds

Variants occur with certain breeds (listed below) as a result either of permitted out-crosses allowed under the registration policy, or the occasional expression of recessive gene(s) carried with the breed's existing gene-pool.

Variants fall into two groups/categories for the purpose of this policy:

1. Variants which are exactly similar in phenotype to another existing recognised breed, but which do not necessarily have the same genotype as that breed, e.g. Asian variant, Exotic variant.
2. Variants which have a phenotype (type, coat length or texture, or colour restriction) which is different from either parent breed or any other recognised breed, e.g. Somali variant, British variant.

GCCF policy now states:

For Category 1 - if the BAC wishes to progress the variant to full championship status it should apply for inclusion in the open class(es) of the existing breed to which it is exactly similar (in phenotype).

For Category 2a – if the BAC wishes to progress the variant to full championship status it should apply for recognition as a separate new breed if they want to progress for the purposes of showing. Such applications will be examined by the Executive Committee and assessed on its merits as with any new breed. If successful progression will follow the process outlined in Section 1 Rules 41-51

For Category 2b – if the BAC wishes to progress the variant to full championship status it should apply for recognition as a new colour or variety of the appropriate existing parent breed.

For Category 2c - for variants which lack the essential defining feature of their breed, for example straight coated variants from Rex breeds, or Snowshoes lacking white spotting, an exhibition class with a written critique provided by the open class judge for the breed in question could be provided so that cats can be exhibited without competing and breeders can receive written feedback on variants, which could provide valuable information to help them to make informed decisions in their breeding programmes.

<i>Breed</i>	<i>Variant</i>	<i>Progression route</i>
<u>Category 1</u>		
Asian	Burmese C R	into Burmese Open
Exotic	Longhair	into Persian Open
Balinese	Longhair carrier	into Siamese Open

Oriental Bicolour	No white spotting	into Siamese, Balinese, OLH or OSH Open
Oriental L H	Shorthair	into Oriental Open (or Siamese Open if colourpoint)
Oriental L H	Colourpoint	into Balinese Open
Oriental SH	Colourpoint from silver pedigree	into Siamese Open

Category 2a

Bengal	Longhair	apply for breed recognition
Bengal	Mackerel Tabby	apply for breed recognition
British	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (British Longhair)
Russian	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (Nebelung)
Somali	Shorthair	apply for breed recognition (Somali Shorthair)
Tonkinese	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (Tibetan)
Manx	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (Cymric) or new variety as Longhaired Manx

Category 2b

Bengal	Blue	apply for new colour
Bengal	Blue Snow	apply for new colour
Egyptian Mau	Black	apply for new colour
Manx	Tailed & Stumpie	apply for new variety
Ocicat	Colourpoint	apply for new variety
Thai	Lilac Point	apply for new colour
Tonkinese	Siamese C R	apply for new variety
	Burmese C R	apply for new variety

Category 2c

Cornish Rex	Straight coat	Allow 'Exhibition with Critique Only' class
Devon Rex	Straight coat	Allow 'Exhibition with Critique Only' class
LaPerm	Straight coat	Allow 'Exhibition with Critique Only' class
Ocicat	Ticked	Allow 'Exhibition with Critique Only' class
Selkirk	Straight coat	Allow 'Exhibition with Critique Only' class
Snowshoe	No white	Allow 'Exhibition with Critique Only' class
Sphynx	Full coat	Allow 'Exhibition with Critique Only' class

Examples of Breed Variants for which BACs could recommend DNA screening to reduce or eliminate incidence of genes causing variant phenotypes;

Bengal	Long Hair (or see above section 2a)
Cornish Rex	Long Hair
Devon Rex	Long Hair
Snowshoe	Long Hair
Egyptian Mau	Dilute
Ocicat	Non-agouti
Russian	Colourpoint