

AUSTRALIAN MIST

(Breed 85)

(Preliminary)

The Australian Mist is a well-balanced cat of moderate foreign type, with no tendency to extremes in any of its characteristics. Both males and females have well sculpted facial features creating an open generous expression. The males are usually slightly larger than females, with more developed facial characteristics and musculature. Full muscle development, desired coat texture and eye colour are normally not achieved until 2 years of age.

Head - The head is wedge-shaped, broad and moderately short with gently rounded contours from both side to side and front to back. The curve at the back of the skull flows smoothly into a well-defined neck of medium length and in proportion to the body. Allowance should be made for jowls in entire males.

Cheeks - Rounded and of good breadth and in proportion to the breadth of the skull. The junction of the nose, cheeks and inner corner of the eyes form a definite depression on either side of the bridge of the nose.

Jaws / Foreface - Jaws are broad at the jaw-hinge and taper to a blunt muzzle. Nose leather and chin are flanked by well-defined whisker-pads such that the nose leather, chin and whisker pads give the impression of a four-leaf clover when viewed from the front. The desired balanced open, generous expression is achieved when the whisker-pads and jaw area of the foreface approaches the same breadth as the width between the outer corners of the eyes.

Nose/Profile - Nose is broad, moderately short and of uniform width. In profile there should be a concave curve below the line of the eyes and a convex curve above that line flowing into the curve of the forehead, the two parts of the curve being of equal length. No distinct nose break.

Chin - Level with the upper jaw such that the chin forms a vertical line from the nose leather to the bottom of the chin; firm and of sufficient breadth when viewed from the front to complement the nose leather.

Ears - Moderately large, wide at the base with rounded tips and tilted slightly forward; spaced well apart such that the outer edges of the ears continue the line of the wedge flowing up from the cheeks, and with rounded top of head of generous proportion between.

Eyes - Large and lustrous, the upper lid is gently curved the lower lid is a fuller more generous curve, set wide apart and slightly obliquely to give a soft, open gentle expression. Desired colour delicate shades of green from chartreuse through to aquamarine. In kittens the colour develops from various shades of gold, generally with a green outline, therefore allowances must be made for age and development.

Body - Medium to large in length and size, feeling substantial and muscular and heavier than it appears; chest broad and round. The back has a broad arc over a rounded rump, which is distinct from the more obvious curve over the shoulder blades and flowing into the well-defined neck.

Legs & Paws - Legs are slender yet proportionally strong, hind legs slightly higher than forelegs. Paws are neat and oval in shape.

Tail - Long and thick with minimal taper to a rounded tip, well furred and should balance the body, reaching to the shoulder when curled gently around the side of the body.

Coat Texture - Short to medium in length, texture is dense and resilient with some degree of undercoat, the overall feel being plush, 'moss' like with some resistance and should display a glossy shine indicative of good health and condition.

Coat Pattern - The pattern of the Australian Mist is distinct and a key feature of the breed. The "misted" effect is caused by agouti invasion of the overlying darker pattern and has been deliberately selected for to give the overall impression of a pattern softened at the edges and merging slightly into the agouti ground. All markings are delicate, though distinct from the paler agouti ground, which provides a misted background.

Spotted - An unbroken line runs back from the corner of the eye to meet a broken line running from the corner of the mouth. Markings on the forehead form an intricate letter "M" with complex scarab behind it and extending into lines over the back of the head and down the neck. Several broken or unbroken necklaces on the upper chest and neck. Spine lines may be broken or unbroken. Markings on the body are formed of symmetrical spots of any size or shape covering the sides, flanks and under-parts. Elongated spots or bars on the legs. Tail is evenly ringed with a solid tip of the pattern colour. Paws may be spotted on top, undersides of paws and hocks are of the pattern colour.

Marbled - The marbling consists of symmetrically placed patches of the darker pattern colour, broken internally with blotches of lighter colours, on a pale ground. Margins between ground colour and patches may be uneven, but should be clearly delineated. Ground colour has uneven margins along the spine. Head shows dark lines from the corner of the eye, below the eye and below the jaw to meet mid-cheek below the ear. Markings on the forehead form an "M" shape with a coronet, the central apex of which reaches to between the ears. From the coronet, four parallel lines run over the top of the head and down the neck. The body shows marbled pattern on shoulders, sides and flanks, the flow of the pattern is horizontal, not vertical. Dark spine-line from the mid-point of the rib-cage to the base of the tail bordered by two bands of lighter colour. Belly spotted with a least two rows of rather heavy elliptical spots. Chest shows a series of broken or unbroken necklaces which extend from the shoulder pattern. Irregular shaped banding on the upper legs, incomplete smaller bands and spots on lower legs and feet. Underside of paws and hocks in darker pattern colour. Broad bands of dark pattern colour along tail.

Coat Colour - In all cases the overall colour should be rich and warm, paler on the under-parts of the body and with darker rufus tones on nose, cheeks and ears present even in the pale colours. Chocolate, Lilac, Cinnamon (Gold) and Fawn (Peach) coloured kittens are very much paler than adults, with the rufus tones dominating the body markings. Full colour develops in an adult cat of approximately 2 years old.

Brown - (Genotype AA BB/Bb/Bb¹ c^bc^b DD/Dd)
Seal brown markings against a warm pale beige agouti ground.

Nose Leather: Brick red outlined in brown

Paw-pads: Brown

Blue - (Genotype AA BB/Bb/Bb¹ c^bc^b dd)
Bluish-grey markings against a warm oatmeal to pale mushroom agouti ground

Nose Leather: Pink outlined in blue

Paw-pads: Blue

Chocolate - (Genotype AA bb/bb¹ c^bc^b DD/Dd)
Warm milk chocolate markings against a warm pale beige agouti ground

Nose Leather: Pinkish-brick outlined in chocolate

Paw-pads: Chocolate

Lilac - (Genotype AA bb/bb¹ c^bc^b dd)

Dove grey markings against a delicate pale pinkish mushroom agouti ground

Nose Leather: Pale pink outlined in dove grey

Paw-pads: Dusty pink

Cinnamon (Gold) - (Genotype AA b¹b¹ c^bc^b DD/Dd)

Rich golden cinnamon markings against a warm very pale cinnamon agouti ground

Nose Leather: Pinkish brick outlined in bronze

Paw-pads: Pink

Fawn (Peach) - (Genotype AA b¹b¹ c^bc^b dd)

Pinkish fawn markings against a warm pale mushroom agouti ground

Nose Leather: Pale pink outlined in salmon pink

Paw-pads: Pink

Condition - Cats should feel firm and muscular and of good weight for size.

Temperament - The Australian Mist is an even tempered cat, any tendency to aggression should be penalised.

Withholding Certificates and First Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:

1. Small or fine boned adults
2. Body that is too cobby or oriental in shape
3. Small or close set eyes
4. Round or oriental shaped eyes
5. Shallow or long skull
6. Small or upright ears
7. Whippy tail
8. Lack of weight, poor muscle tone and/or condition
9. White toes or white marks/spots anywhere not in colour description
10. Blue, Amber or Orange eye-colour
11. Incorrect tabby pattern, colour or ground colour
12. Coat which is woolly or single/thin with no resilience or too long
13. Any defect as listed in the preface to this SOP booklet
14. Extremely aggressive behaviour

Faults:

1. Pinched muzzle in adults
2. Slight bony excrescence at end of tail
3. Distinct bump on nose or definite Roman nose

