

BENGAL
(Breed 76)

General Type Standard

The Bengal should be alert, friendly and affectionate and in excellent physical condition with a dependable temperament. The Bengal's wild appearance is enhanced by its distinctive spotted or marbled tabby coat which should be thick and luxurious. The Bengal is a large to medium cat, sleek and muscular with a thick tail which is carried low. The females may be smaller than the males.

Head and Neck - Broad medium wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than it is wide with high cheek bones. The head should be rather small in proportion to the body but not taken to extremes. The profile has a gentle curve from the forehead to the bridge of the nose. The line of the bridge of the nose extends to the nose leather making a very slight concave curve. The nose is large and broad with a slightly puffed nose leather. The muzzle should be full and broad with a rounded, strong chin and pronounced whisker pads created by the widely-set canine teeth. The neck should be thick, muscular and in proportion to the body. Allowance should be made for jowls on adult males.

Ears - Medium to small, rather short with a wide base and rounded tips. Set as much on the side as on the top of the head, following the contour of the face in the front view and pointing forward in profile. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable but ear tufts are undesirable.

Eyes – Almost round, oval preferred, large but not bold. Set on a slight slant toward the base of the ear.

Body - Long, sleek and muscular. Large to medium and robust with the hindquarters slightly higher than the shoulders, showing depth of flank.

Legs and Paws - Legs of medium length, strong and muscular. The hind legs should be a little longer than the front and be more robust. The paws should be large and rounded.

Tail - Medium length, thick and even, with a rounded tip; may be tapered towards the end.

Coat - Short to medium in length, very dense, luxurious and unusually soft to the touch. Allowances should be made for a slightly longer coat in kittens.

Spotted Pattern - The spectacles which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks which may be outlined by an 'M' marking on the forehead. Broken streaks or spots run over the head on either side of a complex scarab marking, down the neck and onto the shoulders where they may break up into rosettes. Rosettes are formed by a part circle of spots around a distinctly lighter centre. Strong, bold chin strap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklet(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks or spots are desirable. Spots may vary in size and shape but should be generally large, well formed and distributed at random, or in horizontal alignment. Contrast with the ground colour should be well defined giving a distinct pattern and a sharp outline to the spots. Rosettes and arrowhead-shaped spots are desirable. These are preferred to single spotting but are not essential. The stomach must be spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens). The legs may show broken horizontal lines and/or spots. The tail should have rings, streaks and/or spots along its length, with a solid dark-coloured tip. Spots should not run together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern.

Marbled Pattern - The spectacles which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks which may be outlined by an 'M' marking on the forehead. Broken streaks run over the head on either side of a complex scarab marking, down the neck and onto the shoulders. Strong, bold chin strap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklet(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks are desirable. There should be a distinct pattern with swirled patches or streaks, clearly defined but not symmetrical, giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow. Contrast should be well defined with distinct shapes and sharp outlines. The stomach must be spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens). The legs may show broken horizontal lines and/or spots. The tail may be ringed, marbled and/or spotted along its length, with a solid dark-coloured tip. The marbled markings should have as little similarity to the classic tabby as possible. A vertical striped mackerel tabby tendency is also undesirable.

BROWN (BLACK) SPOTTED (76 30)

BROWN (BLACK) MARBLED (76 20)

All variations are allowed in Bengals but a high degree of rufus colour yielding a yellow, buff, golden or orange ground colour is preferred. Markings may be black or various shades of brown. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Alternatively, the chest, underside and inner legs may be pale in contrast to the ground colour of the flanks and back. White or very light coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red. Paw pads and tail tip must be black. Preference should be given to marbled cats with three or more shades; that is ground colour, markings and dark outlinings of these markings. The overall appearance should be of gold dusting. A grey base coat should not be penalised.

Eye-Colour - Gold, green or hazel, deep shades preferred.

BLUE-EYED SNOW SPOTTED (76b 30)

BLUE-EYED SNOW MARBLED (76b 20) (Provisional)

(Siamese restriction of coat pattern).

The ground colour should be ivory to cream. The pattern may vary in colour from charcoal to dark or light brown with light coloured spectacles, whisker pads and chin. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each

ear. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red. Paw pads should be brown with rosy undertones. The colour may be darker on the points than on the body; as little contrast as possible is preferred. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. The overall appearance should be of pearl dusting.

Eye Colour – Blue, deep shades preferred.

AOC-EYED SNOW SPOTTED (76a 30)

AOC-EYED SNOW MARBLED (76a 20) (Provisional)

(Burmese/Tonkinese restriction of coat colour).

The ground colour should be ivory to tan with the pattern clearly visible. The pattern may be charcoal or shades of brown with light coloured spectacles, whisker pads and chin. There may be a light coloured “thumb print” on the back of each ear. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red. Paw pads should be dark brown with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. The overall appearance should be of pearl dusting.

Eye Colour - Gold, green or blue-green.

BLACK SILVER SPOTTED (76 30s) (Preliminary)

BLACK SILVER MARBLED (76 20s) (Preliminary)

Markings should be black on a silvery-white ground colour showing extreme contrast. The base of the hair should be glacial white. There may be a light coloured “thumb print” on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably silvery-white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Silvery-white coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red although a black nose leather is acceptable. Paw pads and tail tip must be black. There should be little or no tarnish (brown pigmentation) present in the coat colour. The overall appearance should be of diamond dusting but this is not essential.

Eye Colour-Gold, green or hazel, deep shades preferred.

BLUE-EYED SILVER SNOW SPOTTED (76b 30s) (Preliminary)

BLUE-EYED SILVER SNOW MARBLED (76b 20s) (Preliminary)

(Siamese restriction of coat pattern)

Markings may vary from charcoal or shades of brown on a silvery-white ground colour showing good contrast. The base of the hair should be glacial white. There may be a light coloured “thumb print” on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably silvery-white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Silvery-white coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red although a black nose leather is acceptable. Paw pads should be brown with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. The colour may be darker on the points than on the body; as little contrast as possible between the points and the body is preferred. There should be little or no tarnish (brown pigmentation) present in the coat colour. The overall appearance should be of diamond dusting but this is not essential.

Eye Colour-Blue, deep shades preferred.

AOC-EYED SILVER SNOW SPOTTED (76a 30s) (Preliminary)

AOC-EYED SILVER SNOW MARBLED (76a 20s) (Preliminary)

(Burmese/Tonkinese restriction of coat colour)

Markings may vary from charcoal to shades of brown on a silvery-white ground colour with the pattern clearly visible. The base of the hair should be glacial white. There may be a light coloured “thumb print” on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably silvery-white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Silvery-white coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red although a black nose leather is acceptable. Paw pads should be brown with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. There should be little or no tarnish (brown pigmentation) present in the coat colour. The overall appearance should be of diamond dusting but this is not essential.

Eye Colour-Gold, green or blue-green.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and Neck	15
Ears.....	5
Eye Shape and Colour.....	5
Body	20
Legs and Paws	10
Tail	5
Coat Texture.....	10
Coat Colour	10
Pattern and Contrast.....	20
	Total 100
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Withhold All Awards for:

1. Aggressive behaviour.

Withhold Certificates or First Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:

1. Long, rough or coarse coat
2. Distinctly ticked coat
3. Tail tip not the required colour
4. Whip tail
5. Stomach not spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens and Blue-Eyed Silver Snow)
6. Incorrect paw pad colour
7. Oriental head type, e.g. straight profile, large flared ears
8. Burmese head type, e.g. distinct nose break or 'stop'
9. Cobby or Abyssinian, Burmese or Oriental body type
10. White patches or spots other than those referred to in the Colour descriptions
11. Any defect as listed in the preface to this SOP booklet.