

SOKOKE
(GEMS BREED SOK)

General Type Standard

The Sokoke is a sleek, slender, naturally athletic, muscular cat, with a medium frame, dressed in a close lying short, ticked modified classic tabby coat. The appearance of the coat has been described as 'looking like tree bark'. Even when relaxed, the slightly longer hind legs give the appearance of being 'at the ready'.

Head – A modified wedge, appearing small in relation to the body. The top of the head should be almost flat in profile, and the length of the head should be slightly longer than the width at the temples. The cheek bones should be high and well defined. The nose is broad with a relatively abrupt end to the tip. The profile shows a softly curved bridge with a straight nose of medium length. The whisker pads are well defined and not pinched. There may be more definition to the rear of the whisker pads, giving the frontal view a smooth look with gently rounded contours. The chin should be strong & broad, in line with the tip of the nose in profile.

Ears – Medium to moderately large. Broad at the base, upright with tips slightly rounded. Tufts on the tips are desirable, but not required. Set fairly high, with a distance of one ear's breadth in between preferred.

Eyes – Moderately large, set wide apart, slightly slanted towards the base of the ears. Slightly almond in shape. Brilliant and expressive. The colour is according to coat colour as detailed below.

Body – Medium long, slender, lithe and graceful, with well-developed chest, level back and rounded rib cage. A fine to medium boning gives a slender yet sturdy look to the body. Well-developed musculature especially pronounced in the neck and shoulders. The neck is slender, medium to slightly long in length, yet strong & muscular. These cats look fine and delicate, but, when lifted should be surprisingly solid and give the feel of strength. Males can be significantly larger than females.

Legs and Feet – The legs are long and slender with medium or fine boning. Hind legs well angled and muscular and longer than the front legs. The position of the hind legs gives a "tip-toe" gait that is very characteristic of the breed, but even when standing at ease, the back remains level. The feet are oval and medium to small in size, to balance with the overall size of the cat.

Tail – Medium to long, and with a firm, muscular feel. Tapers, whip-like to a narrow pointed tip.

Coat – Hair is very short, close-lying and glossy, but not silky. There is little or no undercoat.

Pattern description for all currently recognised Sokoke colours including Snow:

Modified classic tabby. The pattern should be muted by ticking throughout the pattern areas.

This ticking, along with the modifications of the pattern are hallmarks of the Sokoke breed.

The Sokoke pattern differs from the standard classic pattern in the following manner: at least one necklace is required (broken allowable); the shoulder butterfly may be broken, just a blotch or not obvious; the oysters should be broken, and the forehead "M" may be broken, but must be visible.

Head Markings

Forehead barred with characteristic 'M' and frown marks. A complex 'scarab' design is seen on the top of the head, behind which lines extend backward between the ears and continue down the back of the neck. The cheeks are barred with lines leading backwards from the eyes towards the ears. The eyes are outlined by spectacles. The whisker pads are spotted.

Body Markings

The back shows a central spine line which may be broken, together with lines on either side of this. The shoulders show a butterfly design. The flanks show clearly defined oysters with a central broken spot. The underside of the body shows spots on the tummy.

Leg Markings – The front legs are barred and do not necessarily match. Haunches and upper hind legs are barred, but the lower leg may show no barring. The front and hind paws are coloured underneath, with the colour extending to the haunches on the hind legs.

Tail Markings – The tail is heavily banded and has a dark tip.

SCALE OF POINTS

Type (50)	
Head including muzzle and Neck.....	10
Ears	5
Eye Shape and Set	5
Eye colour.....	5
Body	15
Legs and Paws.....	5
Tail.....	5
Coat, Colour and Pattern (50)	
Pattern.....	25
Coat Colour	5
Coat texture and Length.....	15
Coat condition.....	5
	Total <u>100</u>

Withhold all Awards for:

1. Aggressive temperament

Withhold Certificates or first Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:

1. Cobby body
2. Head type too round or too oriental
3. Short thick neck
4. Nose showing stop (small bumps should not be penalised)
5. Incorrect eye colour
6. Lack of tabby markings
7. Weak ticking on pattern
8. Any white locket
9. Three or more faults from the list below
10. Any defect as listed in the preface to this SOP booklet.

Faults:

The presence of any of these faults should be taken into account when judging a Sokoke; however, one or two faults in an otherwise excellent cat should not be heavily penalised.

1. Small ears
2. Ears set not upright
3. Eye shape too round
4. Small eyes
5. Muzzle square or pointed
6. Weak chin
7. Heavy boning – lacking in elegance
8. Short tail
9. No 'M' evident to forehead. This may be broken but must be discernible
10. No necklaces. They may be broken, but at least one must be discernible.

Colour description

Recognised colours are SOK n 22 (Sokoke), and SOK n ~~22~~**21** 33 (Snow Sokoke). Any Self or Dilute cats are non-recognised Variants as follows :

Black Self Sokoke Variant SOK nv
Blue Sokoke Variant SOK a 22v
Blue Snow Sokoke Variant SOK a ~~22~~**21** 33v
Blue Self Sokoke Variant SOK av

SOKOKE (SOK n 22)

Coat Colour/Pattern

~~Warm bronze~~ **The** ground colour across the head, shoulders, outer legs, back and tail, **should be mid to light bronze (warmth of tone preferred)**. Underside of body & legs fades to a paler tone. All markings dark brown/black showing good contrast against the ground colour. Back of ears bronze, tipped in a warm tawny brown colour. Upper throat area, chin and around nostrils, may be a paler bronze/ivory. Nose, lips and eyes outlined in dark brown with bridge of nose brown. Nose leather brick red. Paw pads black or dark brown. Underneath the paws and heels is black or dark brown.

Eye Colour – Amber to light green.

SNOW SOKOKE (SOK n ~~22~~ **21** 33)

Coat Colour/Pattern

The coat shows the modified classic tabby pattern, as for the standard Sokoke. The pattern is more evident on the head, legs and tail, but is still discernible throughout the body. The ground colour across the head, shoulders, outer legs, back and tail is an ivory tone. Underside of body & legs fades to a paler tone. All markings mid brown showing good contrast against the ground colour. Back of ears bronze, tipped in a warm tawny brown colour. Upper throat area, chin and around nostrils, may be a very pale ivory tone. Nose, lips and eyes outlined in dark brown with bridge of nose brown. Nose leather pinkish brown. Paw pads pinkish brown. Underneath the paws and heels is mid brown.

Eye Colour – Blue. The blue is much paler than the Siamese eye colour. A pale blue should not be penalised, but the colour must be definitely blue rather than showing any yellow or amber tone.

There are 2 changes as follows (with rationales) :

1. Change of the codes for Snows to show 21 for the Tabby pattern instead of 22. This should never have been 22 as you can't have that with 33. The system has already been updated, so this is just to bring the SOP in line.
2. Change to the wording of the ground colour for the standard Sokoke. This is to reflect what breeders see, and to ensure that judges treat the colours appropriately.