

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.
2. Variants which have a difference in phenotype (e.g. type, coat length, coat texture, pattern or colour) from either parent breed or any other recognised breed.

GCCF policy 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 or a breeder group 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 GCCF Board and assessed on its merits as with any new breed. If successful progression will follow the process outlined in the GCCF Rules Section 1, 38 – 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 is provided so that cats can be exhibited without competing and breeders can receive written and/or verbal feedback on variants, which provide valuable information to help them to make informed decisions in their breeding programmes.

Breed	Variant	Progression route
Category 1		
Asian	Burmese C R in Burmese colours	into Burmese Open
British Longhair	Shorthair	into British Shorthair Open (or register as BSH)
Oriental SH	Colourpoint from silver pedigree	into Siamese Open

Variants which have progressed under this policy

Exotic	Longhair	shown in Persian Open
Balinese	Shorthair	shown in Siamese Open
Oriental Bicolour	No white spotting	shown in Siamese, Balinese, OLH or OSH Open
Oriental L H	Shorthair	shown in Oriental Open (or Siamese Open if colourpoint)
Oriental L H	Colourpoint	shown in Balinese Open

Category 2a

Bengal	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (Cashmere)
Chartreux	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (Benedictine)
Khao Manee	Non white	apply for breed recognition (Maew Boran group)
Tonkinese	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (Tibetan)
Manx	Longhair	apply for breed recognition (Cymric) or new variety as Longhaired Manx
Nebelung	Shorthair	apply for breed recognition (Nebelung Shorthair)

Variants which have progressed under this policy

Bengal	Mackerel Tabby	breed recognition granted (Toyger)
British	Longhair	breed recognition granted (British Longhair)
Somali	Shorthair	breed recognition granted (Somali Shorthair)

Category 2b

Asian	Burmese C R in Non Burmese colours	into Asian Self Open
Egyptian Mau	Black	apply for new colour
Manx	Tailed & Stumpie	apply for new variety
Ocicat	Colourpoint	apply for new variety
Sokoke	Blue, Colourpoint	apply for new colour, variety
Toyger	Colourpoint	apply for new variety

Variants which have progressed under this policy

Tonkinese	Siamese C P	recognition granted as new variety
	Burmese C R	recognition granted as new variety
Bengal	Blue series	recognition granted as new varieties
Thai	Lilac Point	recognition granted as new colour

Category 2c

Australian Mist	Ticked and/or full colour	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
Birman	Non-mitted and/or Full colour	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
Cornish Rex	Straight coat	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
Devon Rex	Straight coat	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
LaPerm	Straight coat	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
Ocicat	Ticked	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
RagaMuffin	Shorthaired and/or colourpointed	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
Selkirk	Straight coat	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
Snowshoe	No white	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class
Sphynx	Full coat	Can be shown in 'Exhibition With Critique' class

Note: Any registered cat can be shown in Exhibition With Critique classes, regardless of register, including, but not limited to, variants.

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

Australian Mist	Non-agouti
Chartreux	Colourpoint
Cornish Rex	Long Hair
Devon Rex	Long Hair
Snowshoe	Long Hair
Egyptian Mau	Dilute
Ocicat	Non-agouti
Singapura	Non-agouti
Sokoke	Non-agouti
Sphynx	Devon Rex type coat
Suffolk	Colourpoint
Toyger	Non-agouti, Long Hair