

INTRODUCTION

This breeding policy accompanies and supplements the Snowshoe Registration Policy and should be read in conjunction with that document. If there are any queries regarding either document, these should be referred to the Snowshoe BAC.

The aim of the breeding policy is to give advice and guidance to ensure breeders observe what is considered “best practice” in breeding Snowshoe cats. The overriding objective is to conserve and improve the Snowshoe cat, working to meet all aspects of the Standard of Points, which describes the ideal for the breed. Breeders should learn how to understand the breeding value of their Snowshoe cats and how to make decisions in their breeding programmes that are 'best for the breed' in its ongoing development. They should balance the need for selective outcrossing to increase the gene pool and improve stamina and health with the need to breed Snowshoe cats with sufficient preceding generations of Snowshoe to Snowshoe matings to produce consistent type. Co-operation between breeders, within the GCCF and internationally, will ensure that diverse breeding lines are maintained within the breed and that breeders have sufficient options to maintain low inbreeding coefficients.

ORIGINS AND HISTORY

The origins of the Snowshoe can be traced back to the 1960's when Dorothy Hinds-Daugherty, a Philadelphia breeder of Siamese had three kittens with white feet in one of her Siamese litters. She found the contrast of white against the dark points most attractive and decided to develop a new breed.

Although the original mating was repeated, the white feet were not and so she decided to use the Bi colour American shorthair to progress the new breed. Continued breeding eventually produced the white inverted V on the nose in additions to the mitted variety

Interest in the new breed initially grew but then waned and when, in the 1970's, Jim Hoffman and Georgia Kuhner approached the Cat Fancier Federation for information about the breed they were referred to Vicki Olander, the only breeder of Snowshoes left in the USA. Together they updated the standards, revived interest in the breed and the breed was recognised by CFF in 1982.

Snowshoes in the UK

In the early 1980's a British cat breeder and Judge, Pat Turner, was invited to judge at a cat show in Madison Square Gardens, New York. Whilst there, Pat was introduced to the Snowshoe and was very impressed and upon returning home decided to try to replicate the breed. She contacted other breeders and a breeding group was formed. These breeders drew up a breeding programme and the Snowshoes UK club was formed.

The club was affiliated to CA in the UK, a member of FIFE. The Snowshoe was given experimental status and they were eligible for special medal awards at shows. Interest in the new breed grew and waned over the next ten years as it had done in America, until by 1998 Maureen Shackell was the only breeder of Snowshoes left in the UK. It was at this time that Mollie Southall joined Maureen and between them they had five cats to save the breed, a stud, two queens and two female kittens. The club was resurrected and new breeders recruited. Having been unsuccessful in

attempts to import a male kitten for breeding, and being acutely aware of the need to introduce new genes, another breed of similar conformation was needed. The Ragdoll with the bicolour pattern and blue eyes was decided upon. Thus the foundation cats with the required new genes were produced. (From 30th October 2013 no further Ragdoll outcrosses were allowed)

Eventually in 2002 a stud boy was imported from Germany. He carried 100% American bloodlines. Since that time several males and females have been imported, introducing more valuable new lines.

In March 2003 a presentation was made to FIFe for the breed to be recognised. Some forty-five cats were catalogued from twelve different breeders. As a result of this the breed was granted full recognition by FIFe, and could be shown at Championship level from 1st Jan 2004.

Running parallel with this initiative was another to promote the breed with GCCF. Several breeders had put their cats on exhibition at GCCF shows. A breed club had been formed to support this effort and in November 2003 a breed seminar was held to present the cats to members of GCCF Executive Committee, judges and other interested parties. This was very well received and the breeders were urged to apply for preliminary recognition. The application was duly submitted in December 2003 and preliminary recognition was granted to the Snowshoe in February 2004.

The Snowshoe BAC was formed and approved in 2010. On 24th February 2013 the Snowshoe was granted Provisional status and the cats began competing for Intermediate Certificates. Championship Status was finally awarded to the Snowshoe breed by the GCCF Council on 24th October 2013.

GENE POOL

Studies suggest that a breed needs to be founded on over sixty unrelated individuals to provide sufficient genetic diversity and the Snowshoe has a number of outcross lines in the overall gene pool with more planned. Colourpoint Oriental Bicolour and British Colourpoint and white were added to the list of approved outcrosses in February 2013. This diverse gene pool is beneficial for the overall health of the breed. Ongoing allowances for outcrossing will ensure that a steady trickle of new blood guards against the shrinkage that can occur in a closed gene pool.

COLOUR AND PATTERN GENES

The classic pattern Snowshoe incorporates several acceptable patterns, so a number of variations is possible. The preferred show pattern, the mitted pattern and cats with up to one third white. In order to be registered as classic pattern the Snowshoe must have a minimum of four white mittens and a maximum of one third white. These variations are controlled by a wide and varied group of genes.

The basic genetic makeup of a homozygous Snowshoe is : a/a (non agouti), B/B (black), cs/cs (pointed) L/L (shorthair) S/s (the heterozygous form of the white spotting factor), with variant pigmentation factors (D/D (dense pigmentation) or d/d depending upon the desired point colours. The variant pigmentation factors will produce the following colours/patterns:

B/B, D/D, S/s - Seal point mitted or Classic pattern

B/B, d/d, S/s - Blue point mitted or Classic pattern

B/B, D/d, S/s - Seal point mitted or Classic pattern carrying the recessive gene

In order to produce additional dilute colours, the following basic factors must be introduced:

b/b, D/D, S/s - Chocolate point mitted or Classic

bl/bl, D/D, S/s - Cinnamon point mitted or Classic

b/b, d/d, S/s - Lilac point mitted or Classic

b1/b1, d/d, S/s - Fawn point mitted or Classic

The dominant gene of the white spotting factor (S/S) produces more white than is desirable (more than two thirds white). This much white would affect the appearance of the Snowshoe, which is a result of the contrast between the dark points and the white spotting pattern.

The mitted pattern is generally limited to paws, belly, chin, and chest with no white facial pattern, however, small moustache(s)' may be within the mitted limits. The white pattern areas are limited to one third of the cats colouring.

The classic pattern includes the same pattern areas as the mitted and generally features a facial pattern, which may be in the shape of an inverted 'V', blaze, partial 'V' or large 'moustache(s)' or any other unique combination of pattern and mask. The white pattern areas generally exceed one third of the cats colouring and is generally limited to two thirds of the cats colouring.

The heterozygous form (S/s) of the white spotting factor produces both mitted and classic patterns. What divides the two patterns, is the propensity of the white spotting factor for producing either mitted or classic patterns. In attempting to produce the perfect' pattern which results in a facial pattern, the spotting factor must have the basic classic pattern propensity. This propensity is what makes it so difficult to produce the perfect pattern so desired.

The bicolour pattern (which cannot be shown) covers from one third (1/3) to two thirds (2/3) of the cats body. This means that in order to get a perfect pattern, it is necessary to introduce the propensity for a classic pattern, and in doing so, the propensity for increased white on the legs and body increases as well.

Snowshoes with no white may not be shown except as pedigree pets, but may be registered as Snowshoes and may be used in a breeding program. If used in a breeding program, they will probably be bred to another Snowshoe with the classic propensity in order to produce mitted or classic pattern cats.

In order to have the best chance of producing a classic pattern Snowshoe it is necessary to consider the mating carefully. A mating of two perfect classic pattern cats (Ss) is genetically likely give a litter where only half the kittens are of the classic pattern and the remaining kittens are likely to be either colourpoint or have more white than is desirable.

The mating of a homogenous, high white (SS) cat to a colourpoint has a higher chance of producing a perfectly marked kitten (Ss). However, breeders are continually striving to "stamp" the classic pattern and by breeding from cats exhibiting the pattern it is hoped that the variabilities of the gene can be reduced.

USE OF DNA TESTING

An increasing number of DNA tests are now available to help cat breeders make decisions. Advice about DNA testing, suitable testing laboratories and interpreting results can be obtained from the Snowshoe BAC. DNA testing is easy to carry out and relatively inexpensive. Langford Veterinary Services offer a discount to members of some breed clubs. Please contact your breed club for more details. <http://www.langfordvets.co.uk/diagnostic-laboratories/diagnostic-laboratories/general-info-breeders>

COLOUR, PATTERN AND HAIR LENGTH

Tests for colour, pattern and hair length genes can be used both to determine the correct colour and pattern to register a kitten under, and to see what colour and pattern genes a cat or kitten carries. Available tests include

Agouti

Black/Chocolate/Cinnamon

Albino Series (Colourpoint, Burmese colour restriction)

Dilute

Hair length

DISEASES

A range of DNA tests for genetic diseases is available; however most of these have been developed for specific breeds. Breeders may consider using the available tests for their Snowshoe cats and any cats to be used for outcrossing, but they should be aware of their limitations.

In light of the historic use of both the Siamese and the British/American Shorthaired cats in the Snowshoe cat it is recommended that Snowshoe cats are tested for PKD and PRA. This is to enable informed decisions to be made when matings are chosen. As the Snowshoe is not affected by these diseases at present, it is advised that only cats tested normal/negative for PRA/PKD are used for breeding. All Siamese outcross cats should be tested for PRA and all British Shorthair cats should be tested for PKD and ideally HCM.

BLOOD TYPING

Both blood type A and blood type B are present in the Snowshoe breed.

The recommended method for blood type testing is the DNA test and the blood test for blood type should not normally be used.

DNA testing is less intrusive for the cat and provides more detailed information as it can give the following results:

Type A (homozygous for dominant A)

Type Ab (heterozygous, i.e. carrying the gene for B)

Type B (homozygous for recessive B)

Type AB (Rare third blood group)

The blood test to determine blood type is the less favourable option of the two because it is more intrusive for the cat and it cannot differentiate between the homozygous and heterozygous forms of Type A blood. Only the DNA test can show if an A type cat carries B or not.

Blood type incompatibility can result in a condition called Neonatal Isoerythrolysis (NI), which results in fading kittens with symptoms such as weakness, jaundice, dark-coloured urine and tissue death, particularly at the extremities, such as the tail. The condition is frequently fatal for the kittens. NI can occur when a B type female is mated to an A type male. Such matings should not be undertaken without a very good reason and resulting kittens should be prevented from suckling for a suitable period after birth and provided with formula during this period.

NI occurs because kittens whose blood type is incompatible with their mother's can absorb antibodies against their own red blood cells from their mother's milk for several hours after birth. NI can be avoided by only mating together cats of compatible blood types. Experienced breeders with a good reason for carrying out a mating between cats of incompatible blood types can avoid NI by preventing the kittens from suckling during the critical period after birth; during these hours supplementary feeding with kitten formula is required to prevent hunger, distress and dehydration.

SNOWSHOE TYPE

The Snowshoe is a medium cat of foreign type, first bred in the USA. The Snowshoe combines the heftiness of its Shorthair ancestors with the length of its Siamese ancestors. It should be well balanced, neither too large nor too small. It should be firm, muscular, deceptively powerful and agile. A long cat, which has the appearance of a runner, rather than a weightlifter. The unusual combination of points, the white pattern and the moderate body build set the Snowshoe apart from all other breeds. They possess a sparkling personality, are human orientated and most affectionate. The ideal type of the Snowshoe is fully described in the standard of points. Good type is of great importance when selecting for breeding of Snowshoe cats.

THE SNOWSHOE COAT

The coat is medium-short with no noticeable undercoat. Smooth, glossy and close lying. Texture resilient. It should be noted that the body colour could take up to two years to fully develop. Also the body colour may darken further in winter with cats that have access to the outside, they may also become heavier.

BREEDING FOR COLOUR AND PATTERN

Good health, type and coat should always take precedence in breeding decisions.

BREEDING SYSTEM

Listed above are the main genes that help define the Snowshoe cat through the expression of pattern, colour and coat, but of course there are a large number of other genes that together create the distinctive physical shape and conformation, which is the essence of Snowshoe breed type. In order to ensure the maintenance of the good Snowshoe breed type already achieved, while allowing scope to further improve aspects of type, coat, pattern and colour, to meet the ideal described in the Standard, breeders need to have a clear, definite and well understood breeding system. This means the development and management of a breeding programme in which certain cats are affirmatively selected to be bred to others, for predetermined reasons. Equally important, it also means that breeders allow no matings until they have given careful consideration to the outcome. The Snowshoe is a moderate cat and the intention is that it remains such. Extremes of type are undesirable and it is intended that the Snowshoe will always be able to live a “normal” cat life, jumping, running, climbing and giving birth naturally.

It is recommended that no queen should be mated before they are 10 months old unless on the advice of a Veterinary Surgeon.

In particular three key rules must be followed:

Health must be the overriding consideration in any Snowshoe breeding programme.

The good and bad features of the individual cats should be assessed and weighed against each other before any mating.

When planning a breeding programme, breeders must realise that doubling of the good traits in a cat also results in doubling the defects; the breeding of cats with similar faults should be avoided at all costs otherwise there is a danger of fixation.

The prime motive is to perpetuate the Snowshoe as a recognisable breed; to improve the quality of the breed as measured against the Standard; and also to gain success on the show bench.

The skill in breeding lies in the choice of the individual cats and how these cats may be mated with each other and selection of the very best of the resulting kittens carried on into the next generation.

Selection

The phenotype of the individual cat (which is any observable characteristic) is made up of a large number of genetic characteristics of varying expression. The ideal Snowshoe is one in which the expression of each of these characteristics is just right in the eyes of the breeder, this means that an intermediate expression will be required for some characteristics, but a more extreme expression required for others. Selective breeding controls this expression. However, selection by itself is not very efficient in eliminating heterozygous genotypes, which is what the cat may carry, the

genetic constitution of an individual (the producers of variation and diversity), it is one of the tools available, but has its limitations.

Inbreeding

Inbreeding is an inclusive term covering many different breeding combinations and degrees of relationship, including the more distant, less intense. It is consistently more efficient in eliminating heterozygous (varying and diverse) genotypes and increasing homozygous (same) genotype, thereby ensuring a greater likelihood those kittens will closely resemble their parents. Used here, the term does not mean close, purposeful, inbreeding of closely related cats (brother/sister, father daughter), but rather the moderate form that results from the mating of not too distantly related (but not directly related) cats (first cousins, half brother/half sister, second cousins, etc). Some in-breeding is essential to stabilise conformation around a definite type. Inbreeding is the act of mating individuals of various degrees of kinship, and if continued it produces ever increasing homogeneity in the offspring.

It is important to monitor the percentage intensity of inbreeding for any mating – use this consideration as a key part of the decision making process when considering any mating, and remember: **“The more intense the in breeding, the more careful must be the selection”**. **“Loss of innate genetic variability must not be too great”**.

The overall approach should be one of balance and moderation in the degree of inbreeding coupled with consistent selective breeding with a clear objective in mind – i.e. improvement of key aspect and/or the elimination of weak traits or defective genes.

Breeding systems and practices need to operate so as to ensure the Snowshoe gene pool contains enough variation to give scope to continue improving the breed and avoid the danger of either fixing type too quickly (before the ideal of the standard is reached) or deleterious genes being expressed and fixed in the breed. Breeders need to use acceptable levels of inbreeding to gain sufficient homogeneity to fix recognisable Snowshoe type, but with sufficient variation to both enable improvement, and maintain health and vigour, avoiding fixation of defective genes or unwanted traits (and to ensure the elimination of anomalies).

The golden rule is that health is paramount and must be constantly and consistently monitored.

Any evidence of weakness or the emergence of lack of vigour must be dealt with immediately through modification of the breeding system. No cat with any evidence of health problems or lack of vigour should be used for breeding.

Breeders should also be aware that research has shown that highly inbred animals are less likely to be show winners. Although a certain level of acceptable inbreeding can help to fix desirable traits, inbreeding depression can cause asymmetries and weaknesses that can be damaging to a cat's potential show success.

INBREEDING DEPRESSION

A breed, breeding line or individual can suffer from inbreeding depression when inbreeding co-efficients are raised to high levels and a loss of heterozygosity results. Inbreeding depression can result in a general loss of vigour, even if the animals in question are not suffering from specific recessive genetic diseases. A small gene pool can result in inbreeding depression in a breed. A popular and numerous breed with a small gene pool has a low 'effective population size', regardless of the numerical size of the breeds population. A popular breed with a small effective population size can be compared to an over inflated balloon.

Inbreeding depression can compromise a cat's immune system and make it less able to resist disease. A group of genes called the Major Histocompatibility Complex, or MHC plays an important role in the immune system. The way in which the genes in the MHC are inherited means that it is particularly vulnerable to inbreeding depression and a loss of genetic diversity in the MHC can impact on the health of the cat.

Inbreeding depression can manifest in different ways depending on the particular make-up of the gene pool in question. Few cases of inbreeding depression will manifest all of the signs. Although these are problems, which can occur, in any random-bred cat, a combination of some of these signs could well indicate a problem with inbreeding depression. A Snowshoe breeder who is worried about inbreeding levels in their lines should consider introducing Snowshoe cats from different lines or out crossing to approved breeds.

Signs of inbreeding depression include slow growth rate, small adult body size, small litter size, reduced fertility, increased kitten mortality, increased prevalence of allergies, reduced ability to fight infections, physical asymmetries, especially facial, an increase in congenital abnormalities, increased prevalence of cancers, increased incidence of genetic disease, and reduced life expectancy.

Acceptable levels for Co-efficients of Inbreeding;

0 to 10 % = Low

10 to 20 % = Fair

20 to 25% = Acceptable

25 to 40% = High. Only to be undertaken by experienced breeders for specific reasons.

40%+ = Not advised

BREEDING GUIDELINES

The majority of matings are most likely to be between Snowshoe x Snowshoe

Matings of Snowshoe x Approved Out cross breeds

Breeders should ensure, to the best of their knowledge, that any Snowshoe cats or Snowshoe Variants from which they breed are of sound temperament, free from any hereditary defects, (including those listed in the GCCF Standard of Points), and conform as closely as possible to the Standard of Points, (excluding the coat description where variants are concerned).

All cats used for outcrossing should be thoroughly researched, of sound temperament and free from any hereditary defects. Blood type of cats used for outcrossing should be ascertained where appropriate to avoid blood type incompatibility. DNA testing should be used where appropriate to ensure that cats used are free from testable genetic diseases. Pedigrees should be investigated as much as is feasible to ensure that cats used do not descend from ancestors with hereditary diseases for which no DNA test is yet available. It is recommended that any Siamese/Oriental cats used to outcross to the Snowshoe are tested for PRA and only cats with a normal result are used. It is recommended that any British Shorthaired cats used to outcross to the Snowshoe are DNA tested for PKD and only normal cats are used.

Kittens resulting from matings with any type of cat/breed not listed in the breeding policy cannot be used in any Snowshoe breeding programme and should be placed on the non-active register.

Breeders shall ensure that any Snowshoe cats or Snowshoe Variants from which they breed shall be registered with the GCCF in accordance with the Rules in force at the time. It is recommended that the progeny from any matings that are not required for Snowshoe breeding, should be placed on the Non-Active Register, and sold with a neutering agreement as pets or to be shown in the pedigree pet cat classes.

It is important that breeders are transparent about the generation status of the cats they have bred. Only cats of fourth generation and higher are considered to be full Snowshoes (whether or not they can be shown). Cats should not be advertised and sold as full Snowshoes unless they are fourth generation or higher, lower generations of cats should be described as Snowshoe crosses or cats of Snowshoe type. Third or lower generation cats are extremely unlikely to demonstrate the type, coat and eye colour of the full Snowshoe and to refer to them as Snowshoes does harm to the perception of the breed. Breeders should also be aware that suggesting a low generation (1st to 3rd) cat is a Snowshoe may cause issues if a purchaser was to contact Trading Standards.

The Health of the Queen

It is recommended that no female cat is mated before they reach 10 months of age. The Snowshoe can be a precocious breed and queens can call early and hard. It is not unusual for a Snowshoe to call from 5 months of age, especially if they have Siamese blood not too far back in their pedigree, this can clearly take a toll on the health of the queen. Breeders should consult with their Vet regarding the health of each individual queen, but a general guideline is that a queen should not carry more than three litters in two years. The health of the queen must always be paramount, if a queen's constant calling, or your Vet's advise mean mating more frequently than this, then serious consideration should be given to the queen's suitability for a breeding programme and spaying her should be considered.

Cats, which have been approved for use in outcrossing, are:

Siamese

Colourpoint Oriental Bicolour

British (excluding silver or smoke)

British Colourpoint and white

Non Pedigree domestic SH cats of similar colouring and build to the Snowshoe may be used in some circumstance but will only be accepted in the 4th generation of pedigrees.

All other breeds are listed as non-approved.

When undertaking an outcross mating, the breeder's primary objective should be to expand the Snowshoe gene pool, so they should plan how the offspring could be used for breeding in order to retain the new blood gained.

Breeders should be aware that the type of the cats on the approved outcross list is not the same as ideal Snowshoe type and therefore the first generation kittens from an outcross mating may have intermediate type. Breeding cats with ancestors with differing type yields more variability and less consistency in the type of the kittens and this affect can last for two or three generations.

Breeders should choose cats for outcrossing which have type suitable for breeding in a Snowshoe breeding programme. The best cats to use for outcrossing may not be the best examples of their own breed and breeders would be wise to avoid choosing to use a cat based on it's show success. The differences in type of the approved breeds mean that the type of their progeny may be very variable, but good Snowshoe type should return with successive generations.

Breeders should understand that developing an outcross line requires a commitment to selecting those kittens with the most desirable features for future breeding. Careful consideration should be given to the good and poor features of a Snowshoe cat when deciding which outcross to use. The breeder should aim to offset the poor features by the choice of outcross.

GENETIC ANOMALIES

The problem of the genetic anomaly is something of which all breeders should be aware – this is not to suggest that such anomalies are common but the cat must be expected to have its quota of defects just as are found in other animals.

The GCCF Standard List of Withholding Faults for all breeds includes the following.

Tail tip faults

A fixed deviation, (kink), of the spine or tail at any point. Small bony excrescences need not debar the cat from being placed, but should be taken into consideration.

Tail faults can occur at any point along the tail but are most common at the tip. Although some mild tail tip faults can be difficult to detect in kittens, Snowshoes with tail faults should not normally be used for breeding.

Tail tip faults are thought to be a dominant trait with variable expression and indeed the expression is so variable that some cats with very mild faults may go unidentified. However, if the trait is dominant then a kitten with a tail tip fault will have at least one parent with it too.

Squints

Colourpoint cats can be more prone to squints (strabismus) or eye tremors (nystagmus). Snowshoe cats with these traits should not normally be bred from because the propensity towards displaying these traits is thought to be hereditary. Some cats may only show signs of nystagmus when stressed, such as during visits to veterinary surgeons or cat shows.

Bites

Incorrect bites are occasionally seen in Snowshoe cats; although they are not widespread in the breed. Breeders should monitor their cats and kittens regularly and carefully to ensure that any Snowshoe cats with this anomaly are not bred from.

Umbilical Hernia

A bulge or soft swelling at the navel (umbilicus) caused by protrusion of abdominal contents through the navel.

Inguinal Hernia

A bulge or soft swelling in the groin area caused by protrusion of abdominal contents through the inguinal canal. (This is less common and more difficult to detect than an umbilical hernia.)

Testicular Defects

Cryptorchid a male with testicles, which have not descended into the scrotal sack

Unilateral Cryptorchid a male with two testicles; one descended into the scrotal sack, the other undescended

Monorchid a male having only one testicle

BREED NUMBERING

Classic pattern Snowshoe

Seal Point 83w SNO n 05
 Blue Point 83aw SNO a 05
 Chocolate Point 83bw SNO b 05
 Lilac Point 83cw SNO c 05
 Red Point 83dw SNO d 05
 Cream Point 83 fw SNO e 05

Apricot Point 83 fnw SNO em 05
 Cinnamon Point 83kw SNO o 05
 Caramel Point 83nw SNO m 05
 Fawn Point 83rw SNO p 05
 Seal Tortie Point 83ew SNO f 05
 Blue-Cream Tortie Point 83gw SNO g 05
 Chocolate Tortie Point 83hw SNO h 05
 Lilac-Cream Point 83jw SNO j 05
 Cinnamon Tortie Point 83mw SNO q 05
 Caramel Tortie Point 83pw SNO k 05
 Fawn Tortie Point 83yw SNO r 05
 Seal Tabby Point 83tw SNO n 21 05
 Blue Tabby Point 83atw SNO a 21 05
 Chocolate Tabby Point 83btw SNO b 21 05
 Lilac Tabby Point 83ctw SNO c 21 05
 Red Tabby Point 83dtw SNO d 21 05
 Cream Tabby Point 83ftw SNO e 21 05
 Apricot Tabby Point 83 fntw SNO em 21 05
 Cinnamon Tabby Point 83ktw SNO o 21 05
 Caramel Tabby Point 83ntw SNO m 21 05
 Fawn Tabby Point 83rtw SNO p 21 05
 Seal Tortie Tabby Point 83etw SNO f 21 05
 Blue Tortie Tabby Point 83gatw SNO g 21 05
 Chocolate Tortie Tabby Point 83htw SNO h 21 05
 Lilac Tortie Tabby Point 83jtw SNO j 21 05
 Cinnamon Tortie Tabby Point 83mtw SNO q 21 05
 Caramel Tortie Tabby Point 83ptw SNO k 21 05
 Fawn Tortie Tabby Point 83ytw SNO p 21 05

Colourpoint Snowshoe (no white)

Seal point Snowshoe 83 - XSH n 33 (SNO)
 Blue Point 83a - XSH a 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Point 83b - XSH b 33 (SNO)
 Lilac Point 83c - XSH c 33 (SNO)
 Red Point 83d - XSH d 33 (SNO)
 Cream Point 83f - XSH e 33 (SNO)
 Apricot Point 83fn - XSH em 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Point 83k - XSH o 33 (SNO)
 Caramel Point 83n - XSH m 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Point 83r - XSH p 33 (SNO)
 Seal Tortie Point 83e - XSH f 33 (SNO)
 Blue-Cream Tortie Point 83g - XSH g 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Tortie Point 83h - XSH h 33 (SNO)
 Lilac-Cream Point 83j - XSH j 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Tortie Point 83m - XSH q 33 (SNO)
 Caramel Tortie Point 83p - XSH k 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Tortie Point 83y - XSH r 33 (SNO)
 Seal Tabby Point 83t - XSH n 21 33 (SNO)
 Blue Tabby Point 83at - XSH a 21 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Tabby Point 83bt - XSH b 21 33 (SNO)
 Lilac Tabby Point 83ct - XSH c 21 33 (SNO)
 Red Tabby Point 83dt - XSH d 21 33 (SNO)
 Cream Tabby Point 83ft - XSH e 21 33 (SNO)
 Apricot Tabby Point 83 fnt - XSH em 21 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Tabby Point 83kt - XSH o 21 33 (SNO)

Caramel Tabby Point 83nt - XSH m 21 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Tabby Point 83rt - XSH p 21 33 (SNO)
 Seal Tortie Tabby Point 83et - XSH f 21 33 (SNO)
 Blue Tortie Tabby Point 83gat - XSH g 21 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Tortie Tabby Point 83ht - XSH h 21 33 (SNO)
 Lilac Tortie Tabby Point 83jt - XSH j 21 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Tortie Tabby Point 83mt - XSH q 21 33 (SNO)
 Caramel Tortie Tabby Point 83pt - XSH k 21 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Tortie Tabby Point 83yt - XSH p 21 33 (SNO)

High white (Harlequin) Snowshoe (more than 1/3rd white)

Seal point Harlequin Snowshoe 83 31v XSH n 02 33 (SNO)
 Blue Point 83a 31v XSH a 02 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Point 83b 31v XSH b 02 33 (SNO)
 Lilac Point 83c 31v XSH c 02 33 (SNO)
 Red Point 83d 31v XSH d 02 33 (SNO)
 Cream Point 83f 31v XSH e 02 33 (SNO)
 Apricot Point 83fn 31v XSH em 02 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Point 83k 31v XSH o 02 33 (SNO)
 Caramel Point 83n 31v XSH m 02 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Point 83r 31v XSH p 02 33 (SNO)
 Seal Tortie Point 83e 31v XSH f 02 33 (SNO)
 Blue-Cream Tortie Point 83g 31v XSH g 02 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Tortie Point 83h 31v XSH h 02 33 (SNO)
 Lilac-Cream Point 83j 31v XSH j 02 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Tortie Point 83m 31v XSH q 02 33 (SNO)
 Caramel Tortie Point 83p 31v XSH k 02 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Tortie Point 83y 31v XSH r 02 33 (SNO)
 Seal Tabby Point 83t 31v XSH n 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Blue Tabby Point 83at 31v XSH a 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Tabby Point 83bt 31v XSH b 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Lilac Tabby Point 83ct 31v XSH c 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Red Tabby Point 83dt 31v XSH d 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Cream Tabby Point 83ft 31v XSH e 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Apricot Tabby Point 83fnt 31v XSH em 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Tabby Point 83kt 31v XSH o 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Caramel Tabby Point 83nt 31v XSH m 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Tabby Point 83rt 31v XSH p 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Seal Tortie Tabby Point 83et 31v XSH f 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Blue Tortie Tabby Point 83gat 31v XSH g 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Chocolate Tortie Tabby Point 83ht 31v XSH h 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Lilac Tortie Tabby Point 83jt 31v XSH j 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Cinnamon Tortie Tabby Point 83mt 31v XSH q 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Caramel Tortie Tabby Point 83pt 31v XSH k 21 02 33 (SNO)
 Fawn Tortie Tabby Point 83yt 31v XSH p 21 02 33 (SNO)

Variant Breed Numbers

Longhair Snowshoe with white (for cats without white remove the number 05)

Seal point Longhaired Snowshoe 83Lv – XLH n 33 05 <SNO>
 Blue Point 83aLv – XLH a 33 05 <SNO>
 Chocolate Point 83bLv – XLH b 33 05 <SNO>
 Lilac Point 83cLv – XLH c 33 05 <SNO>
 Red Point 83dLv – XLH d 33 05 <SNO>

Cream Point 83fLv – XLH e 33 05 <SNO>
 Apricot Point 83fnLv – XLH em 33 05 <SNO>
 Cinnamon Point 83kLv – XLH o 33 05 <SNO>
 Caramel Point 83nLv – XLH m 33 05 <SNO>
 Fawn Point 83rLv – XLH p 33 05 <SNO>
 Seal Tortie Point 83eLv – XLH f 33 05 <SNO>
 Blue-Cream Tortie Point 83gLv – XLH g 33 05 <SNO>
 Chocolate Tortie Point 83hLv – XLH h 33 05 <SNO>
 Lilac-Cream Point 83jLv – XLH j 33 05 <SNO>
 Cinnamon Tortie Point 83mLv – XLH q 33 05 <SNO>
 Caramel Tortie Point 83pLv – XLH k 33 05 <SNO>
 Fawn Tortie Point 83yLv – XLH r 33 05 <SNO>
 Seal Tabby Point 83tLv – XLH n 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Blue Tabby Point 83atLv - XLH a 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Chocolate Tabby Point 83btLv - XLH b 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Lilac Tabby Point 83ctLv - XLH c 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Red Tabby Point 83dtLv - XLH d 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Cream Tabby Point 83ftLv - XLH e 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Apricot Tabby Point 83 fntLv - XLH em 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Cinnamon Tabby Point 83ktLv - XLH o 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Caramel Tabby Point 83ntLv - XLH m 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Fawn Tabby Point 83rtLv - XLH p 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Seal Tortie Tabby Point 83etLv - XLH f 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Blue Tortie Tabby Point 83gatLv - XLH g 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Chocolate Tortie Tabby Point 83htLv - XLH h 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Lilac Tortie Tabby Point 83jtLv - XLH j 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Cinnamon Tortie Tabby Point 83mtLv - XLH q 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Caramel Tortie Tabby Point 83ptLv - XLH k 21 33 05 <SNO>
 Fawn Tortie Tabby Point 83ytLv - XLH p 21 33 05 <SNO>

A full explanation of the GCCF EMS codes used can be found here -
<http://www.gccfcats.org/pdf/CouncilMeetings/Feb13/EMSGuide.pdf>

An explanation of GCCF EMS codes as they are applied to Snowshoes can be found here –

EMS codes as they apply to the Snowshoe

The old breed numbers that we have used (83w or 83v usually) are being replaced by EMS codes. These are sometimes called GEMS (GCCF EMS codes). These replace the breed numbers only, the registers and description of your kittens remain the same.

Snowshoes follow the same patterns as all other cats – so it is easier now to work out what any cat is from the breed number alone. We also have the benefit as breeders of more accurately describing the cat, not just colour and white but now the amount of white can be described.

The code is made up as follows –

SNO – the description of the breed (so SIA is used for Siamese BSH for British Shorthairs). We also used XSH which is the code for Reference Register cats, so colourpoints, high white or early generation cats.

n - the colour code. This is always in lower case and includes codes for torties but not tabbies.

21 – *only if the cat is a tabby. If the cat is not a tabby then the code is missed out completely.*

05 – the pattern code. We use this to describe the amount of white our classic pattern is 05.

So a seal point 4th generation (and higher) Snowshoe with classic pattern – (The minimum amount of white allowed for the classic pattern is 4 white mittens and the maximum amount of white allowed is 1/3rd) would be 83w or as EMS code **SNO n 05**. A blue point show pattern cat would be 83aw or as EMS it will be **SNO a 05**.

A seal point 4th generation colourpoint Snowshoe (no white) will be 83v or now **XSH n 33 (SNO)** their colour will be written Seal Pointed Snowshoe Variant (no white) and they will be on the reference register – can't be shown but can be bred from if active registered.

The colour codes are the letters in lower case and can be found on the EMS guide. The most common are shown below –

n = seal point

a = blue point

b = chocolate point

c = lilac point

d = red point

f = seal tortie point

g = blue tortie point

We only use one code for the tabby pattern (in addition to the colour code), that is 21 and comes after the colour.

The pattern codes we are likely to use are 05 – classic pattern, 01 – van pattern, 02 harlequin pattern and 03 – bicolour pattern (more than 1/3rd white).

We may also be able to use 09 – minimal white/white spotting gene for cats with very low white, fewer than 4 white mittens or just a locket for example, but the Registration Policy will need to be amended to recognise this.

The complicated bit!

As breeders, we are likely to come across kittens that are not classic pattern or may be early generation outcross kittens, the registration for these is a little more complicated but stay with me. The following is only applicable to cats which we are registering on the reference register, so that is the key to keep in mind. If the cat has too much white (more than a third white) or too little white (none or less than 4 mittens) then the cat will be on the reference register (can be bred from but not shown). Likewise if the cat is less than 4th generation they will be on the reference register.

All cats on the reference register will start with the EMS code XSH or XLH depending if they are short or longhaired. A Snowshoe on the reference register will also have the code SNO in brackets to show that they look like a Snowshoe and the code 33 to show that they are colourpointed.

So a blue colourpoint Snowshoe will be **XSH a 33 (SNO)**.

A high white seal point Snowshoe would be **XSH n 02 33 (SNO)**.

A first generation classic pattern chocolate tortie Snowshoe would be **XSH h 05 33 (SNO)**.

The even more complicated bit!!

Sometimes kittens are born that do not fit the breed standard and so cannot be shown or bred from, for example longhaired kittens. These are registered on the Reference Register – not for progression. The codes for these will use the same pattern as the other Reference Register cats above, but the difference is that the SNO part will be within the symbols <> not ().

So a longhaired classic pattern seal point Snowshoe would be XLH n 05 33 <SNO> and would not be able to be shown or bred from.

Disclaimer

Some of the above has not been fully implemented so may be changed at a later date. Also, changes in the Snowshoe Registration Policy may make this information obsolete or incorrect.

BAC RECOMMENDATIONS

The BAC recommends that breeders regularly re-read this breeding policy, as well as the general GCCF Breeding Policy, the Snowshoe Registration Policy and the Snowshoe Standard of Points.

All of the above should be circulated to new members of all the clubs catering for the breed and updates should be published in the clubs newsletter or magazine.

Breeders will be encouraged to take advantage of any relevant official scheme, which may be devised by the BAC to test the soundness of the Snowshoe breed.

It is recommended where the colour of a cat is in question a DNA test, (where such a test exists), be arranged.

Snowshoe breeders are encouraged to work closely with other like-minded breeders to improve the Snowshoe breed whilst maintaining a diverse gene pool.

The BAC would also advise breeders that by importing a Snowshoe from another registry there is a possibility that the pedigree may be the result of a non-GCCF approved outcrossing programme. If you are considering doing this then contact the Snowshoe BAC for advice and guidance.

The BAC further recommends that any breeder wishing to import any Snowshoe onto the GCCF register (either from overseas or from another registry within the UK), obtains a copy of the pedigree and forwards this to the BAC and the GCCF office for checking before agreeing to purchase the cat/kitten if they are in any doubt about whether it complies with the current registration policy.

Please note that any cat or kitten found to not confirm to the GCCF Snowshoe Registration policy may, together with any registered progeny, be transferred to the GCCF Reference Register with no progression.

Breeders are urged to observe the GCCF Code of Ethics and the recommendations of the GCCF, and the advice of their own veterinary surgeons regarding cat welfare, the importance of neutering, health, inoculations etc.

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