

CHARTREUX (CHA)



Scale of Points

Head & Ears	30
Eyes	10
Body, Legs & Tail	30
Coat & Colour	30

General Type Standard

The Chartreux is a medium shorthair French breed with a large robust well-proportioned muscular body. It is renowned since antiquity for its hunting prowess and its dense greyish blue slightly woolly coat. They are extremely supple and agile cats, and the qualities of strength, unrivalled intelligence and adaptability, enabled them to survive in the wild for centuries. The Chartreux has a gentle but seldom used voice and is calm and affectionate. The eyes are one of its most endearing features. Males are much larger than females and slower to mature.

After WWI, some French breeders became interested in preserving this ancient breed for posterity. They put together a breed standard based on detailed descriptions by the 18th century naturalists Linnaeus and Buffon. They were careful to utilize only those cats that bred true to that standard. The show cats from the 1930s could be Grand Champions in shows today, which is unusual in the cat fancy, as many breeds have changed significantly in that time.

Head	Broad with rounded contours. The cheeks are full and the jowls, which are larger on males, make it look wider at the base than at the top. The profile has a gently concave curve at eye level with a high forehead and a flat plane between the ears. The nose is straight, broad and moderately long.
Muzzle	Narrow in relation to the overall width of the head, not long nor pointed, with full whisker pads and a firm chin, giving a sweet, smiling expression.
Eyes	Large, round, open and expressive with the outer corner pointing slightly upward, set moderately wide apart with the colour varying from yellow to copper In kittens allowances should be made for maturing eye colour.
Ears	Medium size, set high on the head, broad at the base with slightly rounded tips.
Body	Semi-cobby, sturdy with broad shoulders and a deep chest. Medium length with a strong bone structure and dense powerful musculature. The neck is short, thick and muscular. Females are significantly smaller, but still robust and well-muscled.
Legs	Medium length with strong bone structure and powerful muscles, particularly in males.
Paws	Medium size and oval in shape.
Tail	Medium length, flexible, thicker at the base tapering to a rounded tip.
Coat	A distinctive feature of the breed. Medium-short, dense, slightly woolly in appearance with a 'breaking look' and a resilient undercoat. Silkier, thinner coat is permitted on females and cats under two years of age.
Colour	All uniform shades of greyish blue are acceptable, slate grey nose leather, blue lips and rose-taupe pads. Allowances should be made for ghost barring on kittens and tail rings on cats under two years of age.

Faults: Nose break, snubbed or upturned nose, long or broad muzzle, almond shaped eyes, tipping and any other defect as listed in the preface to the GCCF SOP document.

Withhold all awards for: Green eyes, eyes with a green circle, white locket, and any cat showing three or more of the faults above.