

BENGAL (BEN)



Scale of Points

Head & Neck	15
Ears	5
Eye Shape & Colour	5
Body	20
Legs & Paws	10
Tail	5
Coat Texture	10
Coat Colour	10
Pattern & Contrast	20

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 & 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 & 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	<p>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, they must be of 2 contrasting colours with a distinct outline not a clouded effect. Rosettes should not be elongated or large and there must be multiple rosettes on either side. Strong, bold chin strap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklet(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks or spots are desirable.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The stomach must be spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens). A white stomach as long as it is spotted, which may extend up to the chest/neck area and down the insides of the legs is very desirable but not essential.</p> <p>The spine line of a darker colour than the base coat, should extend down the back bone but not give an appearance of a thick cape. 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.</p> <p>Spots should not run together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern.</p> <p>There should not be a mixture of rosettes or marbling</p>

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. These are preferred to single spotting but are not essential. The stomach must be spotted. 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.
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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 document.

BROWN (BLACK) SPOTTED (BEN n 24)

BROWN (BLACK) MARBLED (BEN n 22)

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 but should not give the appearance of a full mask**. 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 outlining 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 (BEN n 24 33)

BLUE-EYED SNOW MARBLED (BEN n 22 33)

(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. **It should not give the appearance of a full mask**. 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 (BEN n 24 32)

AOC-EYED SNOW MARBLED (BEN n 22 32)

(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. **It should not give the appearance of a full mask**. 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 (BEN ns 24)

BLACK SILVER MARBLED (BEN ns 22)

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 not extending into a mask**. 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 (BEN ns 24 33)**BLUE-EYED SILVER SNOW MARBLED (BEN ns 22 33)**

(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 **not extending into a mask**. 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 (BEN ns 24 32)**AOC-EYED SILVER SNOW MARBLED (BEN ns 22 32)**

(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.

BLUE SPOTTED BEN a 24 (Preliminary)**BLUE MARBLED BEN a 22 (Preliminary)**

Markings should be pale blue to blue-grey on a pinkish-mushroom ground colour. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably pale pinkish-mushroom, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. White or very light coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in slate-grey and the centre of the nose leather should be dark pink. Paw pads should be mauvish-blue. The tail tip must be dark blue or blue-grey. 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 bluish dusting giving a platinum sheen.

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

BLUE-EYED BLUE SNOW SPOTTED BEN a 24 33 (Preliminary)**BLUE-EYED BLUE SNOW MARBLED BEN a 22 33 (Preliminary)**

(Siamese restriction of coat pattern)

The ground colour should be ivory or cream. The pattern may vary in colour from blue-grey to caramel to 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 dark grey and the centre of the nose leather may be pink to brick red. Paw pads should be blue-grey 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 blue-grey. The overall appearance should be of bluish pearl dusting giving a platinum sheen.

Eye Colour-Blue, deep shades preferred.

AOC-EYED BLUE SNOW SPOTTED BEN a 24 32(Preliminary)**AOC-EYED BLUE SNOW MARBLED BEN a 22 32 (Preliminary)**

(Burmese/Tonkinese restriction of coat colour)

The ground colour should be ivory or cream, with the pattern clearly visible. The pattern may be blue-grey to caramel 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 dark grey and the centre of the nose leather may be pink to brick red. Paw pads should be blue-grey with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be blue-grey. The overall appearance should be of bluish pearl dusting giving a platinum sheen.

Eye Colour-Gold, green or blue-green.

BLUE-EYED BLUE SILVER SNOW SPOTTED BEN as 24 33(Preliminary)**BLUE-EYED BLUE SILVER SNOW MARBLED BEN as 22 33(Preliminary)**

(Siamese restriction of coat pattern)

The ground colour should be ivory to silvery-grey. The pattern may vary in colour from blue-grey to caramel with silvery-white 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 dark grey and the centre of the nose leather may be pink to brick red. Paw pads should be blue-grey 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 blue to blue-grey. The overall appearance should be of bluish pearl/diamond dusting giving a platinum sheen.

Eye Colour-Blue, deep shades preferred.

AOC-EYED BLUE SILVER SNOW SPOTTED BEN as 24 32 (Preliminary)

AOC-EYED BLUE SILVER SNOW MARBLED BEN as 22 32 (Preliminary)

(Burmese/Tonkinese restriction of coat colour)

The ground colour should be ivory to silvery-grey, with the pattern clearly visible. The pattern may be bluegrey to caramelor with silvery-white 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 dark grey and the centre of the nose leather may be pink to brick red. Paw pads should be blue-grey with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be dark blue to blue-grey. The overall appearance should be of bluish pearl/diamond dusting giving a platinum sheen.

Eye Colour-Gold, green or blue-green.