

SIBERIAN (SIB)



Scale of Points

Head – including general shape and balance, profile, muzzle & chin	15
Cheeks – cheekbones are the determining factor in head type	10
Eyes	5
Ears	5
Body – including overall shape, size, substance, boning, legs, paws and tail length	35
Coat – including undercoat, topcoat, ruff, breeches and coat texture and quality	25
Overall condition	5

General Type Standard

The Siberian Cat is a medium to large semi-longhaired cat, solid with “heft” rather than rangy. The most important features are head type and coat quality. **THE OVERALL IMPRESSION SHOULD BE OF A CAT WITH SUBSTANCE AND ROUNDED CONTOURS.** Larger animals are preferred, though females will be somewhat smaller than males, **BUT OVERALL TYPE IS THE OVERRIDING FACTOR.** The Siberian has a very distinctive weatherproof coat unique to the breed and as the breed originated as a natural outdoor cat in Russia, the overall appearance of the Siberian Cat should reflect this natural heritage. The Siberian matures slowly; full development of the cat can take four to five years. The cat should have an alert expression, be in good general condition and well presented. A cat should not be penalised if apparently wrongly colour registered, as there are no points for colour.

Head	The head should be in good proportion to the body. It should form a short, broad wedge with rounded contours, with a slightly rounded muzzle and chin. The forehead should show gentle rounding. The profile line should show a slight concave curve at the bridge with a nose of a harmonious length. The nose should be of uniform width when viewed from the front. The whisker pads should be moderately well developed and form a gentle, rounded line with the chin. The muzzle should be broad and rounded but with no squareness present. The chin should be slightly rounded, neither receding nor prominent when viewed in profile
-------------	--

Cheekbones	The cheekbones are the determining factor in the head type of a Siberian. The direction of the cheekbone arch extends to the outer ear base. The cheekbones should be low set, very broad and connected by a gentle, rounded line to the whisker pads and chin, which produces the desired impression.
Ears	Ears of medium size, rounded at the tip, set wide apart, the width of an ear or more between the ears. A cat with higher ear set but a broad rounded head is to be preferred to a cat with wide set ears but a narrow head. Ears should be well furnished.
Eyes	Large, slightly oval shaped, but with a rounded lower line, set slightly oblique and wide apart. Any shade is allowed except that blue and odd eyed colours are allowed in white and van patterned Siberians and only blue allowed in Colourpointed Siberians. The colour should be clear and bright as an indication of good health.
Body	The body is rectangular in format but not too long. The cat should be medium to large, well muscled and heavily built with a broad chest. The neck should be short and substantial.
Legs & Feet	The legs should be in proportion to the body, of medium length with substantial bone structure and strength. The legs should be felt to estimate bone structure. Paws large, with toes carried close, rounded and with well-developed tufts. A medium sized female with balanced bone structure and proportions should be preferred to a giant male whose legs are too long.
Tail	The tail should be broad at the base, of proportionate length and slightly tapering towards the tip. It should reach the shoulder blade. The tail should be well furnished.
Coat	The texture and structure of the coat are important features of the breed. However, allowance should be made for kittens that may have softer fur, and for the seasonal moult. The coat is of medium length, with a very dense undercoat that is soft, fine and somewhat “springy”, covered by a coarser, more substantial topcoat. The fur over the shoulders is shorter. The hair is firm to the touch and waterproof. The smoothly flowing guard hairs should cover the back, flanks and upper side of the tail. The underside of the body and the breeches have only undercoat. The undercoat is shorter than the covering topcoat, it should be dense and plentiful. It may be lighter in the summer but should still be present. One should feel the definite resilience of the dense undercoat when a hand is placed on the coat. A longer, plentiful ruff is preferred.
Coat Colour & Pattern	The Siberian is recognised in a wide variety of colours and patterns including Colourpointed. The Colourpointed Siberian is registered by the GCCF as a Siberian with Colourpointed colour distribution. Tabby Siberians may have Classic, Mackerel or Spotted Tabby patterns and may also be Shaded. Brown Tabbies have a wide range of variation in density of colour ranging from dark cold tones to warmer honey brown as well as the dilute form of Blue Tabby. Black and Blue Silver Tabbies are also seen in the accepted Tabby patterns. The Red Series Tabbies include Red, Cream, Black Tortie and Blue Tortie Tabbies in the accepted Tabby patterns and the corresponding Silver varieties. Zolotoy (Russian for Golden) Tabby Siberians are also seen in Classic, Mackerel and Spotted Tabby patterns mainly in Black and Blue varieties.

	A wide range of solid colours is seen within the breed including Black, Blue, Red, Cream, Black Tortie and Blue Tortie and the corresponding Smoke varieties. The Siberian is also seen in Solid White with four permitted eye colours, Blue, Green, Gold and Odd-Eyed. Any eye colour is allowed on the Tabby, Solid and Smoke Siberians and Odd Eyes are accepted in Tabby and Solid Siberians. Colourpointed Siberians may be Seal, Blue, Red, Cream, Seal Tortie and Blue Tortie with either Solid or Tabby points. The Tabby pattern is not specified for Colourpointed Siberians. The colour range also extends into the base colours with Silver. For example, Seal Silver Tabby Point and Seal Smoke Point. Allowances should be made for Colourpointed Siberians with tummy spots and shading. The eye colour of Colourpointed Siberians is always Blue although the intensity of Blue may be paler on some cats. It is generally less intense than in other Colourpointed breeds. Any amount of White is allowed on all patterns and colours including the Colourpointed varieties Note 1: The only non-permitted Tabby pattern is Ticked Tabby. Note 2: The non-permitted colours within the Siberian breed are Chocolate, Cinnamon and Caramel and the associated dilute colours of Lilac, Fawn and Apricot. These colours are not accepted in any pattern combination (Solid, Bi-colour, Tri-colour, Tabby or Colourpointed). Burmese and Tonkinese Colour Restrictions are also not permitted.
--	--

Withhold Certificates or First Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:

1. Narrow, high cheekbones.
2. Slight or delicate build, with fine legs and/or oval paws.
3. Straight profile, definite stop or tapering nose.
4. Long, triangular or narrow, oval head. *
5. Tail not in proportion to the body.
6. Soft, silky of Persian type coat. *
7. Protuding, round or small eyes.
8. Squareness to the muzzle
9. Overly large ears *
10. Overly small ears
11. Ears that show a forward tilt in set
12. Any defect as listed in the preface to this SOP document.

* Judges to exercise their discretion with kittens in respect of (4) and (6) and (9).