

GCCF REGISTRATION POLICY FOR BURMESE CATS

Approved 27th June 2026

The Burmese is a non-agouti cat of Burmese Colour Restriction in the following ten recognised colours: Brown, Blue, Chocolate, Lilac, Red, Cream, Brown Tortie, Blue Tortie, Chocolate Tortie and Lilac Tortie.

When breeding Burmese every effort should be made to select healthy cats to breed from, free from any hereditary diseases. The genetic diversity of the Burmese genepool within UK is limited and shrinking, and would benefit from the introduction of new and diverse genes via the importation of new blood-lines from abroad.

BURMESE IMPORTED FROM ANOTHER REGISTRY

All Burmese imported onto the GCCF register from other registries, including foundation Burmese must be microchipped and must have been DNA tested to show they are clear of all the following genetic anomalies. A Veterinary Certificate of the test results is required*:

Hypokalaemic Polymyopathy
Burmese Head Defect (Burmese Congenital Craniofacial defect)
Burmese GM2 Gangliosidosis

They must also be DNA tested to show they do not carry the Cinnamon colour gene or the Long-hair gene.

*Cats must be micro-chipped for identification purposes with the swabs taken and sent for testing by a Vet for the Veterinary Certificate to be valid for the Active Register.

DNA testing services are available from www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services.index.php and www.langfordvets.co.uk (all five tests).

To be registered on the Full Register imported Burmese must have within the preceding five generations only Burmese of the ten GCCF recognised colours.

PERMITTED OUTCROSSES

Foundation Burmese

(Cats of Burmese type imported from South East Asia. DNA tested as cb/cb and clear of the white spotting gene)
Korat

(The permitted ancestors of Korats are GCCF Thai, Foundation Korats and the unknown ancestors of Foundation Korats. These ancestors are acceptable in the pedigrees of Korats used for outcrossing but are not permitted as primary outcrosses for Burmese.) Korats used as an outcross MUST have a GCCF record of proven clear of Korat atherosclerosis and have tested negative for hypokalaemic polymyopathy.

FULL REGISTER

Burmese (colours - BURn, BURa, BURb, BURc, BURd, BURe, BURf, BURg, BURh, BURj) which have within the preceding five generations only Burmese (colours BURn, BURa, BURb, BURc, BURd, BURe, BURf, BURg, BURh, BURj).

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER

a. Burmese (colours - BURn, BURa, BURb, BURc, BURd, BURe, BURf, BURg, BURh, BURj) which have within the preceding three generations only Burmese (colours BURn, BURa, BURb, BURc, BURd, BURe, BURf, BURg, BURh, BURj) and only Burmese, Burmese Variant, Korat, Foundation Burmese and the unknown ancestors of Foundation Burmese in the fourth and fifth generations.

b. See "Reference Register, e)" below for exceptions.

REFERENCE REGISTER

- a.** Cats of Burmese appearance produced from matings to other recognised breeds whose Registration Policies permit Burmese as an outcross breed shall be registered as directed by the Registration Policy for the other breed, but with no reference to Burmese type, and shall not be permitted in the pedigrees of Burmese.
- b.** All other cats of Burmese appearance which have in their pedigrees within the preceding five generations any cats, other than Burmese, Korats, Foundation Burmese and the unknown ancestors of Foundation Burmese shall be registered on the Reference Register as "no recognised breed" and with no progression.
- c.** Full colour offspring from outcross matings to Korat or full colour kittens in subsequent generations shall be registered on the reference register as Burmese Variants (BUR v). (Note: DNA evidence is required to demonstrate that any subsequent active registered progeny has two copies of the Burmese gene (cb) before they can be registered as Burmese. Cats not tested for two copies of the Burmese gene (cb) will be registered as BUR 32 v on the non-active register.
- d.** Offspring with Tonkinese colour restriction from outcross matings to Korat or kittens with Tonkinese colour restriction in subsequent generations shall be registered on the reference register as Burmese Variants (BUR 32 v). (Note: DNA evidence is required to demonstrate that any subsequent progeny has two copies of the Burmese gene (cb) before they can be on the active register as Burmese.) Cats not tested for two copies of the Burmese gene (cb) will be registered as BUR 32 v on the non-active register.
- e.** First generation Burmese with Burmese Variant, Korat, Foundation Burmese and the unknown ancestors of Foundation Burmese appearing within the first, second or third generations of their pedigrees shall be registered on the reference register.
- f.** Second and subsequent generations of Burmese with Burmese Variant, Korat, Foundation Burmese and the unknown ancestors of Foundation Burmese appearing within the second or third generations of their pedigrees shall be registered on the reference register.

An application may be made for cats in (f) above to be transferred to the supplementary register if considered to be of a satisfactory breed phenotype by three Burmese Full Judges when shown as an adult in 'exhibition with critique classes' at GCCF shows. This will enable them to be shown in competition in breed and higher certificate classes. (see GCCF Rules Section 1:12cii & 17a)

HYPOKALAEMIC POLYMYOPATHY TESTING SCHEME

The Burmese BAC requires that all Burmese to be used for breeding are DNA tested clear of Hypokalaemia Polymyopathy ("Burmese Hypokalaemia"; HK). A kitten/cat need not be tested if it can be deemed normal by DNA testing in previous generations*

Testing Method

Cats must be micro-chipped for identification purposes with the swabs both taken and sent for testing by a Vet for the Veterinary Certificate to be potentially valid for the Active Register.

A. ACTIVE REGISTER

Burmese cats may be registered on the Active Register, at the breeder's request, only if one or more of the following conditions apply:

They have themselves been tested normal for HK. The test certificate should be supplied with the registration application.

or

Both parents have been tested normal as in A1

They can be deemed normal because of the results of the testing, as in A1, of cats on every pedigree line in previous generations. Pedigree line in this case refers to both parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great-grandparents, 16 great-great-grandparents and so on, or any combination of the same which is inclusive of both the sire's and dam's ancestors.

Note: 3 applies when the ancestors are recorded on the GCCF computer.

Imports onto the register must comply with all the requirements stated earlier in this policy in the section titled BURMESE IMPORTED FROM ANOTHER REGISTRY

B. GENETIC REGISTER

Burmese cats which have been genetically tested as carriers of HK or who were born before 1.1.23 but are untested shall be registered on the Genetic Register (and Active Register), or on the Non-Active Register, if so requested by the breeder. Cats of carrier or unknown HK status may only be mated to cats that are proven clear of HK (ie comply with A1, A2 or A3 above). Offspring of cats registered on the Genetic Register may only be registered on the Active Register without the Genetic Register over-stamp if they have themselves been genetically tested as normal for HK. All other offspring of cats registered on the Genetic Register (and Active Register) shall be registered on the Genetic Register (and Active Register), or on the Non- Active Register if so requested by the breeder.

Any Burmese cat which has inherited two copies of the HK recessive gene (i.e. is suffering from Hypokalaemia Polymyopathy) must not be bred from.

Failure to comply with the mating requirement (where both parents are carriers and/or of unknown status) will mean progeny will be registered as non-active with their registration paperwork over-stamped 'at risk of hypokalaemia'.