

# BREED BENGAL/ BENGAL LONGHAIR

**GENERAL** Bengal is a medium to large cat renowned for its richly colored, highly contrasted coat of vivid spots or distinctive marbling. Originally developed from crosses between the domestic cats and the Asian Leopard Cat, the Bengal is the only domestic cat that can have rosettes like the markings on Leopards, Jaguars and Ocelots. Today's domestic Bengal cat comes only from breeding Bengals to other Bengals and requires no specialized care. Since their beginnings in 1986, the Bengal's regal beauty and alluring charm have quickly made it one of the most popular breeds. Employing scientific insights and a cooperative spirit, Bengal breeders continue to develop these stunning cats with careful selection for temperament, health and beauty.

## HEAD

### SHAPE

Broad modified wedge with rounded contours. Longer than it is wide. Slightly small in proportion to body, but not to be taken to extreme. The skull behind the ears makes a gentle curve and flows into the neck. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males. Feathering behind the ears and into ruff, giving a frontal effect of roundness framing the head is desirable. A mane is acceptable but not required. Overall look of the head should be as distinct from the domestic cat as possible.

### EYES

Oval, almost round. Large, but not bugged. Set wide apart, back into face, and on slight bias toward base of ear. Eye color independent of coat color except in the lynx points. The more richness and depth of color the better.

### EARS

Medium to small, relatively short, with wide base and rounded tops. Set as much on side as top of head, following the contour of the face in the front view, and pointing forward in the profile view.

**BG:** Light horizontal furnishings acceptable. Lynx tipping undesirable.

**BGL:** Horizontal furnishings are acceptable. Lynx tipping is permissible.

### PROFILE

Curve of the forehead should flow into the bridge of the nose with no break. Bridge of nose extends above the eyes; the line of the bridge extends to the nose tip, making a very slight, to nearly straight, concave curve.

	<b>MUZZLE/CHIN</b>	Muzzle is full and broad, with large prominent whisker pads and high, pronounced cheekbones. Slight muzzle break at the whisker pads. Strong chin, aligns with tip of nose in profile.
	<b>NECK</b>	Long substantial, muscular; in proportion to the head and body.
<b>BODY</b>	<b>TORSO</b>	Long and substantial, not oriental or foreign. Medium to large (but not quite as large as the largest domestic breed).
	<b>LEGS</b>	Medium length, slightly longer in the back than in the front.  <b>BGL:</b> Britches should be medium to short.
	<b>FEET</b>	Large, round, with prominent knuckles.  <b>BGL:</b> Toe hair is acceptable.
	<b>TAIL</b>	Medium length, thick, tapered at the end with a rounded tip.  <b>BGL:</b> The tail hair should be long and voluminous. Allowance for shorter tail hair in kittens.
	<b>MUSCULATURE</b>	Very muscular, especially in the males, one of the most distinguishing features.
<b>COAT COLOR PATTERN</b>	<b>TEXTURE</b>	Unusually soft and silky to the touch. Dense and luxurious (like a pelt).
	<b>LENGTH</b>	<b>BG:</b> Short to medium. Allowance for slightly longer coat in kittens. <b>BGL:</b> Medium to long in length lying close to the body, with furnishings. Allowance for slightly shorter coat in kittens.
	<b>PATTERN</b>	Spotted, Marbled, Charcoal Spotted, Charcoal Marbled ONLY.
	<b>COLOR VARIETIES</b>	Brown Tabby, Seal Sepia Tabby, Seal Mink Tabby, Seal Lynx Point, Black Silver Tabby, Seal Silver Sepia Tabby, Seal Silver Mink Tabby, Seal Silver Lynx Point. And all the color above with Charcoal

## **PENALIZE**

Spots on body running together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern on spotted cats.

Any distinct locket on the neck, chest, abdomen or any other area.

Circular bulls-eye pattern on marbled cats.

Substantially darker point color (as compared to color of body markings) in Seal Sepia, Seal Mink, or Seal Lynx Point cats EXCEPT in the case of any Charcoal Sepia, Charcoal Mink or Charcoal Lynx Point cats.

## **DISQUALIFY**

Belly not patterned.

Crossed eyes.

Blindness.

Depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself.

Any sign of definite challenge temperament.

Visible or invisible tail faults.

Incorrect number of toes.

**SCORE**

**Head**  
40 points

- Shape 6
- Ears 6
- Eyes 6
- Chin 6
- Muzzle 6
- Nose 3
- Profile 5
- Neck 2

**Body**  
31 points

- Torso 8
- Legs and feet 3
- Tail 4
- Boning 8
- Musculature 8

**Coat/Color/Pattern**  
19 points

- Texture 8
- Pattern 5
- Length 3
- Color 3

**Others**  
10 points

- Condition 3
- Grooming 1
- Balance 2
- Temperament 4

**OUTCROSS**

None

