

## THAI (TH)

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CATEGORY: Pointed

DIVISIONS: Solid, tabby, tortie

COLORS: All

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: Siamese.

### HEAD:

Shape: Modified wedge, medium width. Head is longer than wide, but not extreme or narrow. Upper head is laterally rounded; muzzle is wedge-shaped.

Forehead: Flat and long.

Profile/Nose: Nearly straight, but with a gentle convex curve just above the eyes and a very slight, gradual concave curve just below the eyes.

Eyes: Medium to slightly large, a very full almond shape, not oriental. Set slightly more than an eye width apart. A line from inner corner through outer corner of eye meets outer

base of ear.

Eye Color: Blue. Deep blue shades preferred. Brilliance and luminosity are more important than depth of color.

Ears: Medium in size to slightly large, wide at the base, oval tips. The inner base of the ear is set above the center of the nearest eye. The ears point outward at an angle slightly closer to the top than side of the head (35 degrees from vertical). Allow for very light furnishings.

Muzzle: Medium long. Wedge-shaped: little or no muzzle break, with straight sides that taper to the nose. End of muzzle is slightly laterally rounded and medium-boned.

Chin: Neither weak nor too prominent, aligned vertically with the nose.

Neck: Medium length, neither thin nor overly muscular.

## **BODY:**

Torso: Slightly to moderately long, lithe and graceful like a small panther. Well toned, but neither tubular nor compact. Underbelly is mostly level and parallel to the ground and firm. However, a slight amount of loose skin on the underbelly below the flank is permissible.

Legs: Medium length, graceful in form, but not coarse.

Feet: Oval shape; medium size in proportion to cat.

Tail: As long as the torso, tapering gradually to the tip.

Boning: Medium. Graceful. Neither refined nor coarse.

Musculature: Firm, but lithe, not meaty or dense. When picked up, cat weighs about as much as, or slightly more than, one would predict visually.

## **COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:**

Texture: Silky; very little undercoat. Not a "painted on" coat, but definitely close-lying.

Length: Very short to short.

Body Color: Preferably a very pale off-white that is imbued with a faint trace of the point color of the cat. Evenness of the body color and contrast with the points are more important than extreme whiteness.

Point Color: Appropriate for color class, dense and even. Mask, ears, feet and tail should match in color.

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The ideal cat of this breed is a medium to slightly large, pointed cat of foreign type,

descended from and resembling the indigenous pointed cats of Thailand. The Thai is intended to be both the living equivalent of the original “Wichien-maat” of ancient Siam and the “marten-faced” Siamese of early 20th century America and Europe.

It cannot be stated enough that the Thai should not be extreme in any way, but its appearance and personality should reflect its Thailand heritage. The Thai is not, and should not resemble, a native Western breed.

The breed began in the 1950s when breeders scattered around the world chose to breed, or sometimes unwittingly continued to breed, Siamese of the moderate, early 20th century type. In the 1980s, the first breed clubs dedicated to these cats were established in the United States and Europe. In 2001, breeders began importing indigenous pointed cats from Thailand in a conscious effort to expand and preserve a healthy gene pool for the Thai breed as well as to preserve the genes of Southeast Asia’s native race of cats while they are still distinct from Western cats.

The trademark of the Thai breed is the unique head shape, a laterally rounded upper head from which projects a distinctly wedge-shaped muzzle. In keeping with the Thai’s roots in tropical Thailand, another important feature is the breed’s very short coat, first clearly described in the West by Harrison Weir in 1889.

The Thai is a well balanced cat without any extremes, in harmony in appearance and character.

#### **ALLOWANCE:**

Incomplete point color and mask in kittens and young adults up to 12 months. Slight tabby markings on the body of lynx points as long as there is a good contrast to the points. Darker body shading in older cats as long as there is still a definite contrast between body and points. Stud jowls in males.

#### **PENALIZE:**

Genuinely round eyes. Extreme oriental eyes. Blunt or pointy muzzle. Narrow upper head. Small ears, very large ears, or ears set low (closer to the side of the head than the top). Compact body or distinctly tubular body. Whippy tail. Excess undercoat (plush coat).

Ghost markings in non-agouti adult cats.

**WITHHOLD WINS (WW):**

Roman profile. Pronounced stop. Pronounced convex forehead. Distinct ear tufts. Fluffy fur with dense undercoat (“teddy bear” coat). Cobby body. Obesity. White lockets and buttons; white toes and feet (including paw pads); patches of white in the points. Eye color other than blue.

**DISQUALIFICATION:**

Visible tail fault. Crossed eyes. Visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum (xiphoid process).