

Birman

A cat of mystery and legend, the Birman is a colour pointed cat with a soft, silky medium length coat and four pure white feet. It is strongly built, elongated and stocky, neither svelte nor cobby. The distinctive head has strong jaws and firm chin. There should be good width between the ears, which are medium in size. The blue, almost round eyes are set well apart, giving a sweet expression to the face. Slow to mature, the Birman does not reach full development in colour, growth and coat until its third year.

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| HEAD | Strong, broad and rounded. Forehead sloped back leading to a rounded top head. Full cheeks with a somewhat rounded muzzle. Nose medium in length and slightly Roman in shape (slightly convex). No stop, but a slight dip in profile. The chin is strong, with the lower jaw forming a perpendicular line with the upper lip. |
| EARS | Medium in size and spaced well apart; set as much to the side as the top of the head and almost as wide at base as tall. Modified to a rounded tip. |
| EYES | Almost round, but not bold and set wide apart. |
| BODY | Long and sturdy, back level. Females may be proportionately smaller than males. Heavy boning, firm and muscular, low on legs. |
| LEGS | Medium in length, strongly boned and well muscled. |
| PAWS | Large, round and firm. |
| TAIL | Tail: Wider at the base, tapering to a rounded tip. Medium in length, fully plumed. |
| COAT | Medium to medium long in length and silken in texture, not as dense as the Persian coat and with little undercoat. Fur sometimes slightly curly on stomach. Although a ruff is desirable, seasonal changes to be considered when judging coat length. |
| EYE COLOUR | Blue in colour, the deeper the blue the better |
| COAT COLOUR | As for individual colour standards. The Birman coat has a golden glow, which is a faint golden beige cast on the back and sides. This is somewhat deeper in seal points and may be absent in kittens and dilute colours. Mask complete and (except in kittens) connecting to the ears by tracings. Due to seasonal and hormonal changes, some allowances should be made for darker body shading in mature adults, especially entire cats, as long as contrast between points and body colour is not lost. |
| PAW PAD COLOUR | Pink, but may have dark spot(s) - relevant to point colour. |
| GLOVES & GAUNTLETS | <u>Front Paws</u> Pure white symmetrical gloves ending in an even line across paw, and not passing beyond the angle formed by paw and leg when standing. <u>Back Paws</u> Pure white gloves covering the entire paw; gauntlets tapering halfway to $\frac{3}{4}$ up the back of the foot. Higher or lower gauntlets acceptable but they should not be beyond the hock. Symmetry of gloves and gauntlets is desirable. <u>Note:</u> Although symmetry of the gloves and gauntlets are desirable, faultlessly gloved cats are a rare exception and the Birman is to be judged in all its parts, as well as the gloves. |

SCALE OF POINTS

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|----------------------|------------|
| Head and ears | 20 |
| Eyes | 5 |
| Body | 20 |
| Tail | 10 |
| Coat Colour | 10 |
| Point Colour | 5 |
| Gloves | 5 |
| Gauntlets | 5 |
| Coat texture | 10 |
| Condition | 5 |
| Temperament | 5 |
| | 100 |

Faults

- Persian or Siamese head type.
- Delicate bone structure.
- Coloured toes.
- Grossly asymmetric / uneven foot markings
- White beyond the metacarpal pad - the highest up little paw pad located in the middle of the back of the front paw, above the third joint and just below the wrist bones - including "runners" or streaks of white running up the front legs beyond this pad.
- Any defects as listed in the Relevant to All Breed Section.

Withhold major awards for:

- Complete lack of white gloves on any paw.
- Complete lack of gauntlets on one or both back paws.
- Area or spot of pure white in the points. (Note: Since the paw pads may be pink and / or coloured, an area of white on the front feet that is attached to a large pad which is itself coloured, should not be viewed as a spot.)
- Area of point colour in the gloves or gauntlets.
- White on back legs extending beyond the hock.
- White spots particularly on the chin or tail.

Birman Coat Colours:

Pointed colours

Note: Please see DETAILED COLOUR AND PATTERN DESCRIPTIONS document for more information

NOTE:

Seal, Seal Tortoiseshell, Seal Tabby Birmans: Shading, if present will be golden on back.

Although a ringed tail is desirable in a tabby point, a solid-top tailed ringed on the underside is also acceptable. Markings in kittens are less defined.

When assessing point colour in a Birman, it must be remembered that due to the length of the fur on the cat, Birman point colour (especially on the tail and legs) are not as intense as that of the Siamese.

Allowable Outcrosses: None

Standard amended: January 2001/ January 2019

