



# American Curl

The distinctive feature of the American Curl is their attractive, uniquely curled ears. The original American Curl, a longhaired female, was first noted in Southern California in 1981. Selective breeding began in 1983. Curls are well balanced, moderately muscled, slender rather than massive in build. Females weigh 2,5 to 4 kg, males weigh 3,5 to 5 kg. Proper proportion and balance are more important than size. Allowance is to be made for normal male characteristics. They are alert, active, with gentle, even dispositions.

**HEAD:** A modified wedge without flat planes, slightly longer than wide, medium in size and in proportion to the body. The nose is straight and moderate in length with a slight rise from bottom of eyes to forehead, gentle curve to top of head, flowing into neck, without a break. The muzzle is rounded with gentle transitions. No pronounced whisker break. Chin firm. Chin, upper lip and nose fall in a perpendicular line.

**EARS:** Moderately large, wide at base and open, curving back in a smooth arc when viewed from front and rear. Set erect, equally on top and on the side of head. A minimum of 90-degree arc of curl, not to exceed 180 degrees. Firm cartilage from ear base to at least 1/3 of height. Tips rounded and flexible. Furnishings desirable. Lines following curve of ear through tips beyond 90 and up to 180 degrees may intersect at a point farther up on skull, but not beyond top of skull.

**Note:** when Curls are alert with ears swiveled towards the front, the lines following the curve of ear through tips should point to center of base of skull.

**EYES:** Moderately large, walnut shape; oval on top and round on bottom. Set wide apart with a slightly slanting set.

**NECK:** Medium in length

**BODY:** Medium in size, moderately long; the length one and a half times the height at the shoulder. Fairly muscular feel to the body. Females may be smaller.

**LEGS:** Medium in length and in proportion to body, set straight when viewed from front or rear. Medium boning, neither fine nor heavy.

**PAWS:** Round and medium in size.

**TAIL:** Equal to body length. Flexible, wide at base and tapering.

**COAT:**

**Short hair:** Coat short, soft, silky, close-lying and resilient and without a plush dense feel. Minimal undercoat.

**Medium Hair:** Semi-long, fine, silky, close-lying with minimal undercoat. Plumed tail.

**EYE COLOUR:** Eyes clear and brilliant. Eye colour has no relation to coat colour.

**COAT COLOUR:** All coat colours and patterns accepted.

## FAULTS

**Withhold major award depending on the severity of the fault:**

- Low set ears.
- Abrupt change of direction of curl without a smooth curve.
- A pinch in the ear.
- Horizontal or vertical crimp in the ear.
- Interior surface of the ear that appears, corrugated.
- Pronounced nose break.
- Tubular or cobby body.
- Too large in size.
- Shorthairs: Heavy undercoat, coarse texture; dense or plush coats.
- Medium hairs: Heavy undercoat; coarse or cottony texture. Heavy ruff.
- Any defects as listed in the Relevant to All Breeds Section

**Disqualify:**

- Extreme curl in adult where tip of ear touches back of ear or head.
- Straight or severely mismatched ears.
- Thick or calcified ears.
- Lack of firm cartilage at base of ear.
- Tail faults.

**Allowable outcross breeds:**

Domestic longhair or shorthair.

**Amended:** January 2012

## SCALE OF POINTS

<b>Head</b>	Shape and size	<b>8</b>
	Profile	<b>6</b>
	Muzzle	<b>4</b>
	Chin	<b>2</b>
<b>Ears</b>	Degree of curl	<b>10</b>
	Shape and size	<b>10</b>
	Placement	<b>8</b>
	Furnishings	<b>2</b>
<b>Eyes</b>	Shape and size	<b>6</b>
	Placement	<b>4</b>
<b>Body</b>	Torso and neck	<b>5</b>
	Size and boning	<b>5</b>
	Legs and feet	<b>5</b>
	Tail length	<b>5</b>
<b>Coat</b>	Silky texture	<b>4</b>
	Minimal undercoat	<b>4</b>
	Body coat length	<b>2</b>
<b>Temperament</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Condition</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>