

Munchkin

The Munchkins distinctive short legs developed from an autosomal dominant gene mutation, which has occurred several times in the domestic cat. Munchkins are a medium sized cat exhibiting shortening of the long bones. Mild bowing will occur in the forelegs. The long bones palpated for judging are the radius, ulna and humerus on the forelegs and femur, fibula and tibia on the hind legs. The cat often stands higher in the back but is nearly level at rest. The spine and pelvis are unaffected and similar in form and flexibility to that seen in other domestic cats. When slight pressure is placed over hips cat feels solid and doesn't buckle. The breed has been established from spontaneously occurring domestic cat lines and should have the general look of the domestic cat. Munchkins are outgoing and respond well to being handled.

HEAD	Medium in size and in proportion to the body. A moderate modified wedge with rounded contours. The top of the head is slightly rounded between the ears with a flat forehead above eye ridges. Nose medium in length with a slight dip and a gentle rise from bridge of nose to flattened forehead. Medium whisker pads with a slight break. Chin firm.
EARS	Moderately large, triangular in shape and flared at base with rounded tips. Set as much on the side as on top of the head. Ears pricked. Well furnished.
EYES	Medium in size, full oval in shape with a slightly slanting aperture and set. Set wide apart, giving an open, alert expression.
NECK	Firmly muscled and blending smoothly into the shoulders. Of sufficient length to provide over-all balance to the cat
BODY	Head, neck, torso, and tail all in proportion on a well-muscled medium built cat. When viewed from the top, shoulders and hips are of nearly equal width. The length from the point of the shoulder to the base of the tail is approximately 40% more than the height measured at the point of the shoulder. (This is a breeder guideline; not an absolute.) A slight rise from the shoulder to the rump is acceptable. Excessive dip behind the shoulder is a withholding fault. Shoulders firmly placed on a strong well-developed chest without an excessively prominent sternum. Shoulder blades may appear higher, but should not be prominent. Hips strong and firm, similar in width to the shoulder. May be broader in females. Females smaller and less muscular than males.
LEGS	<p>Short, well muscled and with medium boning. (Breeder guideline: leg length from floor to deepest part of chest should not be over ½ the entire height of the cat at the point of the shoulder.)</p> <p>Upper and lower forelegs equal in length. Elbows appear to be higher on the body than on other cats because of shorter legs. Legs should lie close to rib cage and not bow out excessively. Musculature over forearms may be well developed. This gives the forelegs a unique feel. On some well-muscled cats the illusion of slight bowing may actually be due to the solid muscle development of the triceps and biceps. Care must be taken not to confuse extreme muscling with actual bowing of the humerus, radius and ulna. Bowing should be gaged from the inside of the forearms. Slight bowing is allowable, especially in larger males.</p> <p>Hind legs: Thigh and lower leg approximately equal in length, moderately angulated at the knee and hock when at rest. When stretching, will be longer than the front legs. The legs should appear straight from behind.</p>
PAWS	Round and medium in size. Squarely placed and not pointing excessively in or outward.
TAIL	Length in proportion to the body and tapering to a rounded tip. Set high and carried erects when in motion.

COAT**Short hair:**

Medium in length and moderately dense. Lustrous with a natural protective appearance.

Longhair:

Semi- longhair, moderately dense and silky. Shaggy trousers and ruff slightly longer than the body fur. Tail a flowing full plume. An all-weather coat.

COAT COLOUR

All colours and patterns acceptable. White lockets or buttons are permitted.

EYE COLOUR

No relationship between coat and eye colour.

SCALE OF POINTS

Type:	Head	10
	Ears	5
	Eyes	5
	Neck	5
	Body	25
	Legs and paws	25
	Tail	5
Coat:		10
Condition		5
Temperament		5
		100

FAULTS

Fine boning.

Soft muscle tone.

Sway back or cow hock.

Protruding or excessively prominent sternum.

Excessive bowing of legs.

Foreign or Siamese/Oriental body and/or head type'.

Excessive cobbiness, or Persian type head.

Appearance of being a recognized breed with short legs.

Withhold major awards for:

- Excessive dip behind shoulders (lordosis), pectus.
- Round head, dished profile, extreme nose break.
- Any defects as listed in the Relevant to All Breeds Section.

Allowable Outcross Breeds

- Any domestic longhair or short hair not a member of a recognized breed.
- Any registered breed.

Note: Long legged offspring of Munchkins may be used in a breeding programme, but must be shown in the domestic classes.

Standard Amended: 2020/ 2024