

Bengal

The Bengal should be alert, friendly and affectionate with a dependable temperament. The luxurious coat is a distinct feature of the breed. The overall look of the head should be as distinctly different from the domestic cat as possible. Bengals take at least two years to mature.

HEAD	A broad medium wedge, with rounded contours; longer than it is wide, with high cheekbones. Rather small in proportion to the body, but not taken to extremes. The curve of the forehead should flow into the bridge of the nose with no break. The line of the bridge extends to the nose tip, making a very slight to nearly straight concave curve. The nose is large and broad. The muzzle should be full and broad with a strong chin and large, pronounced whisker pads.
EARS	Medium to small in size; the smaller ear preferred; wide at base with rounded tips; set as much on the side as on the top of the head. The ears follow the contour of the face in the front view and tilt forward in profile. Inner ear may be slightly tufted.
EYES	Oval, almost round, large but not bold. Set wide apart and with a slight slant towards the base of the ear.
NECK	Long, substantial, muscular and in proportion to head and body.
BODY	Medium to large in size. Long and substantial. Neither oriental nor foreign. Very muscular in mature males. Allowances to be made for females being less muscular and smaller.
LEGS	Medium length, strong and muscular. Hind legs are a little longer than the front legs.
PAWS	Rounded.
TAIL	Medium length, thick with a rounded tip.
COAT	Short to medium in length; very dense, luxurious and unusually soft to the touch. Coat may be glittered or not glittered with neither type to be given preference.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and ears	15
Eyes shape, set and colour	5
Body, legs, tail and paws	30
Coat Colour and texture	25
Pattern	15
Condition	5
Temperament	5
	100

FAULTS

Long, rough or coarse coat.
Whippy tail.
Barely visible pattern.
Belly not spotted.
Tail tip not dark.
Penalise mackerel tabby pattern on spotted cats.
Any distinct locket anywhere on the body.
Any defects listed in Relevant to All Breeds Section.

Bengal Coat Colours

Brown Tabby (BEN 05 Tr / Ts)

Coat:	All variations are allowed in both Leopard spotted and Marble Bengals; rich warm shades of brown, with pattern ranging from chocolate to black. Three colours in the coat is desirable in Marbles. An overall appearance of gold dusting is desirable. A gray base coat should not be penalised. Tail tip to be black.
Ears:	There may be a light coloured spot on the back of each ear, known as an ocelli
Eye colour:	Gold, green or hazel
Eye Rims & Lips:	Outlined in black.
Nose Leather:	Brick red, outlined in black
Pads:	Black.

Blue eyed snows (BEN 05 TbPt Tr/ TpTs)

Coat:	Ground colour ivory to cream. Colour of pattern may vary from charcoal to dark or light brown. Tail tip dark to match colour of pattern. Overall appearance of pearl dusting (glitter) desirable.
Ears:	There may be a light coloured spot on the back of each ear, known as an ocelli.
Eye colour:	Blue
Eye Rims & Lips:	Outlined in the appropriate dark colour
Nose Leather:	Brick red, outlined with the appropriate dark colour.
Pads:	Dark brown. May have rosy overtones

Sepia / Mink (BEN 05 SeTr/SeTs)

Coat:	Ground colour ivory, cream or light tan. Pattern may be various shades of chocolate to seal brown and should be clearly visible. Ivory cream spectacles around eyes, and ivory cream whisker pads and chin are desirable. Tail tip chocolate to seal brown. There should be little or no difference between point colour and body markings in adults.
Ears:	There may be light coloured spots on the back of each ear, known as an ocelli.
Eye colour:	Gold to green to blue- green
Eye Rims & Lips:	Outlined with the appropriate dark colour.
Nose Leather:	Brick red; outlined with the appropriate dark colour.
Pads:	Dark brown. May have rosy overtones.

Blue Tabby (BEN06Tr/Ts)

Coat	Ground colour is pale blue grey to slate blue grey, with markings being medium blue to darker blue. There should be good contrast between ground colour and markings. Warm fawn tones can be present on face, back, and legs. Underside and chest will be lighter
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Eye colour:	in colour than ground colour found elsewhere. Area around eyes, temples, and muzzle are lighter than ground colour. Pigment around eyes and lips is dark blue.
Nose leather:	Any colour other than blue.
Paw pads:	Old rose, outlined in dark blue. Allowances to be made for kittens with blue nose leather. Blue to purplish blue.

Blue Silver Tabby (BEN06ShTr/Ts)

Coat:	Ground colour is light blue silver with blue grey markings. Tail tip blue.
Eye colour:	Gold to green.
Nose leather:	Old rose, outlined in dark blue. Allowances to be made for kittens with blue nose leather.
Paw pads:	Blue.

Blue Snow (BEN 06 TpTr/ TpTs)

Coat:	Ground colour ivory to cream. Colour of pattern may vary from light blue to dark slate blue. Tail tip blue. Overall appearance of pearl dusting (glitter) desirable. There may be a light-coloured spot on the back of each ear, known as an ocelli.
Eye colour:	Blue
Eye Rims & Lips:	Outlined in dark blue.
Nose Leather:	Old rose outlined with dark blue.
Paw Pads:	Blue.

Blue Sepia / Mink (BEN 06 SeTr/SeTs)

Coat:	Ground colour ivory, or rich cream. Pattern may be various shades of medium blue to dark slate blue, and should be clearly visible. Ivory cream spectacles around eyes, and ivory cream whisker pads and chin are desirable. Tail tip dark blue. There should be little or no difference between point colour and body markings in adults. Overall appearance of pearl dusting (glitter) desirable. There may be light-coloured spots on the back of each ear, known as an ocelli.
Eye colour:	Gold to green to blue- green
Eye Rims & Lips:	Outlined with dark blue.
Nose Leather:	Old rose, outlined with dark blue.
Pads:	Blue.

Charcoal Bengals

The Charcoal effect can be combined with **all** Bengal patterns and colours (e.g., Spotted and Marble Tabby, Sepia, Mink and Snow).

Charcoal should show definite contrast between ground colour and markings with distinct shapes, and clearly defined edges. Pattern should have a horizontal flow. Preference to be given to very dark spotted or marble markings, with clear outlines, and well contrasted to the cold ground colour with very little to no roufousing without warm gold, or amber tones. Charcoal is grey toned rather than warm brown toned.

There must be white, or nearly white spectacles encircling the eyes. A dark mask runs all the way from the nose bridge to the nose, and connects from the mascara lines all the way to the nose bridge. A wide, dark, "cape" running down the length of the back is desirable. Masks should be black and not brownish. Colour on chest and belly should be lighter than ground colour. The striped tail is dark brown/black or greyish black with a black tip.

Note: *Sepia, Mink and Snow kittens are born light and the mask is likely to develop before the cape. Allowances should be made for slower mask and cape development in Sepia, Mink and Snow kittens.*

Bengal Patterns

Leopard Spotted Pattern (Pattern Code: Ts)

Head: Head barred with an "M" on forehead. Dark pencilling to run from outside corners of the eyes. Light spectacles around eyes. At least one other unbroken line on cheeks. Lines on head to run on either side of scarab and down back of neck to break into spots on shoulders.

Body: Spots shall be random or aligned horizontally. Rosettes showing two distinct colours or shades, such as paw print shaped, arrowhead shaped, donut or half donut shaped or clustered are preferred to single spotting, but not required. Contrast between pattern and ground colour must be clear. Blotchy, horizontal shoulder streaks, spotted legs and spotted or rosetted tail are desirable. Strong bold chinstrap desirable. Contrast between pattern and ground colour must be extreme, giving distinct pattern and sharp edges. Virtually white undersides and belly desirable. Belly must be spotted.

Legs: May be barred and/or spotted. Darker gauntlets on hind feet.

Tail: Ringed, streaked and / or spotted, ending in a dark tip.

Undesirable: Vertical Stripes

Marble Pattern (Pattern Code: Tr)

Head: Head barred with an "M" on forehead. Dark pencilling to run from outside corners of the eyes. Light spectacles around eyes. At least one other unbroken line on cheeks. Lines on head to run on either side of scarab and down back of neck to break into pattern on shoulders.

Body: A distinct pattern of large swirled patches and blotches or horizontal streaks. Rosettes may appear on shoulder and rear quarters. Three or more shades are desirable. Contrast between pattern and ground colour must be extreme, giving distinct pattern and sharp edges. Virtually white undersides and belly desirable. Necklace/s may be broken or unbroken. Belly to be spotted.

Legs: May be barred and/or spotted. Darker gauntlets on hind feet.

Tail: Ringed, marbled and/or spotted, ending in a dark tip.

Undesirable: Typical classic pattern.

Allowable outcross breeds: None

Standard Amended: 2001/ 2024