

Abyssinian Breed Standard – Comparison various Associations (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa)

	CFSA (South Africa)	NZCF (New Zealand)	GCCA (Australia)	ACF (Australia)
General Description	The Abyssinian is a colourful cat with a distinctly ticked short coat (Somali medium coat). Medium in size, lithe, hard and muscular. Rounded facial outline. Ears set so to appear pricked. Lively and alert with a regal attitude and friendly nature.	The overall impression of the ideal Abyssinian would be a colourful cat with a distinctly ticked coat, medium in size and regal in appearance. The Abyssinian is lithe, hard and muscular, showing eager activity, and a lively interest in all surroundings. Well balanced temperamentally and physically, with all elements of the cat in proportion.	The Abyssinian is a cat of foreign type of medium build, firm, lithe and muscular; never coarse. It is an alert, active cat and when standing it gives an impression of being on tiptoes. The coat is rich, lustrous and distinctly ticked. Males are generally larger than females.	The Abyssinian is a well-balanced cat, with all elements in proportion. It is eager and active, and shows a lively interest in its surroundings.
Head	<p>Total points for head: 25 Head and ears: 15 points Eyes (color/shape): 10 points</p> <p>HEAD: Shape: A modified slightly rounded wedge, without flat planes, of medium proportions. Gently rounded brow. A shallow indentation forming the muzzle is desirable. Firm and well developed chin. Nose: Medium long with very slight nose break. Ears: Medium to large, broad at base. Widely spaced, well cupped and pricked. Thumbprint and ear tufts at tip of ears are not essential. Eyes: Large, almond in shape, set well apart, bright and expressive. Colour: Amber, green or yellow. Neck: Elegantly arched</p>	<p>Total points for head: 30 Muzzle: 6 points Skull: 6 points Ears: 7 points Eye Shape: 6 points Eye Color: 5 points</p> <p>HEAD: Shape: A modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes; brow, cheek and profile lines all showing a gentle contour. A slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead, which should be of good size with width between the ears, and flowing into the arched neck without a break. Muzzle: A firm chin not sharply pointed or square, should be neither receding or protruding. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males. Ears: Alert, comparatively large and moderately pointed; broad and cupped at the base and set wide apart. Hair on the ears short and close lying and preferably tufted. Eyes: Almond shaped, large brilliant and expressive. Eyes accentuated by dark lid skin, encircled by light-coloured area. Colour: Amber, Hazel or Green.</p>	<p>Total points for head: 30 Head shape and neck: 15 points Ears: 5 points Eye shape: 5 points Eye color: 5 points</p> <p>HEAD: Shape: A medium, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes; the brow, cheek and profile lines all showing a gentle contour. There is a slight rise from the bridge of the nose to a broad forehead, with good width between the ears, with a shallow indentation forming the muzzle, which should have no evidence of snipyness or a whisker pinch. In profile, the skull is to show a gentle curve, flowing over the head into an arched neck. The head should have ample length to be in proportion to the rest of the cat. Ears: Relatively large, moderately pointed, broad and cupped at the base, set wide apart and neither too high nor too low. They are tilted slightly forward as though the cat is listening, to give an alert expression, are well furnished, have a thumbprint and are preferably tufted on the tips. Eyes: Almond-shaped, neither round nor oriental, set well apart. They are large, bright and expressive and accentuated by the fine, darker line of the lid encircled by a light coloured area. Eye color: In a range from deep gold, gold, hazel or green, with the more richness and depth of colour the better. Applicable to all coat colours. Nose: Medium in length and moderately broad in proportion with the head. The bridge is to be gently contoured, with no straight lines or flat planes. Cheeks: Gently contoured to follow the line of the head. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males. Jaws: Gently rounded, not sharply pointed, pinched or square. Chin: Firm and rounded. In profile, of good depth and in a vertical line with the tip of the nose. Neck: Medium in length, slightly arched, elegant and well-balanced.</p>	<p>Total points for head: 25 Head and Ears: 15 points Eyes: 10 points</p> <p>HEAD: Shape: Wedge-shaped, of medium proportions, wide at the top; the contours are soft and graceful. In profile the head shows a soft curve, with neither a stop nor a straight nose. Nose medium long. Chin firm and well developed; muzzle not sharply pointed. A shallow indentation forming the muzzle is desirable but a pinch is a fault. The ears are relatively large, set well apart and pricked, broad and cupped at the base. Set as though listening. They are slightly rounded at the tips with a thumb mark; tufts at the tips are desirable. Neck slender. Eyes: Set wide apart, large, brilliant and expressive; almond in shape and outlined with dark colour. Colour amber, green or yellow; pure, intense colour. Nose: A bump on the nose is undesirable.</p>
Body	<p>Total points for body: 15</p> <p>Body: Medium in size and build. Lithe and muscular without coarseness. Legs: Medium length, slender and elegant in proportion to body. Feet: Small and oval with a tiptoe stance. Tail: Fairly long and tapering, broad at base.</p>	<p>Total points for body: 30 Torso: 15 points Legs and feet: 10 points Tail: 5 points</p> <p>Body: Medium long, lithe and graceful, but showing well developed muscular strength without coarseness. Abyssinian conformation strikes a medium between the extremes of the cobby and the svelte, lengthy type. Proportion and general balance more to be desired than mere size. Legs and Feet: Proportionately slim, fine-boned. The Abyssinian stands well off the ground, giving the impression of being on tip toe. Paws small, oval and compact. Tail: Broad at base, fairly long and tapering.</p>	<p>Total points for body: 25 Torso: 15 points Legs and paws: 5 points Tail: 5 points</p> <p>Body: Of medium length, lithe and graceful, but showing well-developed muscular strength without coarseness. The cat is solid to the feel and the rib cage is rounded with no evidence of flat sides. The flanks are reasonably level without tuck-up. Proportion and general balance are to be desired more than mere size. Legs: Deceptively well muscled, relatively long and slim. Feet: Neat, oval and compact. Tail: Thicker at the base, proportionately long and tapering. A whip is undesirable.</p>	<p>Total points of body: 20</p> <p>Body: Medium build, firm, lithe, hard and muscular; body of medium length. Tail fairly long and tapering, broad at base. Legs fine and long, in proportion to the body; feet small and oval. Gives the impression of standing on tiptoe.</p>

Coat (Texture/ Color/ Ticking)	<p>Total points for Coat: 45</p> <p>Coat: Short, fine and close lying. Resilient to the touch with a lustrous sheen. Ticked with 2 or 3 bands of dark colour. Underside of body, chest and inside of legs without ticking.</p>	<p>Total points for Coat: 40</p> <p>Texture: 10 points Color: 15 points Ticking: 15 Points</p> <p>Coat: Soft, silky, fine in texture but dense and resilient to the touch, with a lustrous sheen. Short to medium in length but long enough to accommodate two or three bands of ticking. Necklace, if present, must be broken.</p>	<p>Total points for Coat: 40</p> <p>Texture: 10 points Color: 15 points Ticking: 15 points</p> <p>Coat length and texture: Short, but long enough to accommodate two or three bands of ticking. Fine and close, resilient to the touch and with a lustrous sheen.</p> <p>Coat pattern: Ticking is to be distinct and even, with dark coloured bands contrasting with lighter coloured bands on the hair shafts. The undercoat is clear to the roots and complements the surface colour, with no coldness or grey tones. Any spinal shading is to be of the deeper colour. Preference is given to cats unmarked on the undersides, chest and legs. Darker hair colour should extend from between the toes to well up the back of the hind legs, preferably to the hocks, also showing as a solid tip at the extreme end of the tail. The tail is without rings. There is an "M" on the head between the eyes and ears. Pencillings extend from the eyes and brows and there is cheekbone shading, with dots and shading on whisker pads.</p> <p>Coat color: Deeper colour shades are preferred, however intensity of ticking is not to be sacrificed for depth of colour. Hair tips are to be the darkest colour. The colour around the nostrils, under the chin and upper throat is to be lighter, but of a tint to harmonise with the belly, chest and forelegs. In all colours other than Silver, white in these places is a fault. In the Silver group, high grade silver is most desirable. EYE RIMS AND NOSE LEATHER: Appropriate to and specified in individual coat colours. Eye rims are to have a line of darker colour around them. PAW PADS: Appropriate to and specified in individual coat colours.</p>	<p>Total points for Coat: 50</p> <p>Texture: 10 points Color: 25 points Ticking: 15 points</p> <p>Coat texture: Fine, but resilient to the touch, with a lustrous sheen. Medium short; long enough to accommodate two or three bands of ticking.</p> <p>Ticking: 2 or 3 bands of colour on each hair with dark tips.</p>
Penalize	<p>Bars on legs, body and tail. Grey undercoat. Cobby appearance. Oriental type.</p>	<p>Off-colour pads. Long narrow head, short round head. Barring on legs, rings on tail. Coldness or grey tone in the coat, with allowances made for around the elbows.</p>	<p>Should not be of oriental type Insufficient or incorrect ticking; Cold or grey tones in the coat of non-silver varieties; Rufous tones in silvers; Too strong a broken necklage; Belly spots on adults; Incorrect coat texture; Lack of pigmentation around the eyes; Odd or incorrect paw pad color; Whisker pinch</p>	<p>ghost marking on legs, stomach and chest; too much marking on face; absence of outline around eyes; small or pointed ears; round eyes; unclear eye colour; cobby appearance; too deep a nose break.</p>
Disqualify (or withhold of award)	<p>White locket, or white extending beyond necklaces or above nostrils. Unbroken necklaces. Bars on all four legs. Reversed ticking in major portion of coat. Lack of ticking on parts of coat where desired. Grey undercoat extending throughout a major portion of the body.</p>	<p>White locket, or white anywhere other than nostrils, chin and upper throat area. Unbroken necklace. Grey undercoat close to skin extending throughout a major portion of the body. Kinked or abnormal tail.</p>	<p>Distinct bars or rings on legs and tail; Unbroken necklace; White anywhere other than under chin, near nostril or upper throat; Incorrect undercoat color over a major part of the body</p>	<p>Withhold Challenge for white locket, white extending onto the neck or above the nostrils, unbroken necklace, grey or light undercoat, lack of ticking, bars on the fore legs, marks on the stomach, Siamese type, round head, whip tail.</p>
Condition (Points)	<p>5 Points</p>	<p>0 points</p>	<p>5 points</p>	<p>5 points</p>
Overall Balance (Points)	<p>10 Points</p>			