

BREED CODE: AMS – AMERICAN SHORTHAIR

GENERAL TYPE STANDARD

The American Shorthair is a true breed of working cat. The conformation should be adapted for this with no part of the anatomy so exaggerated as to foster weakness. The general effect should be that of a strongly built, well balanced, symmetrical cat with conformation indicating power, endurance, and agility.

- Head** Large, with full-cheeked face giving the impression of an oblong just slightly longer than wide. Sweet, open expression. Viewed from the front, head can be divided in two equal parts; from base of ears to middle of eyes and from middle of eyes to chin tip. The forehead: viewed in profile, forehead forms smooth, moderately convex continuous curve flowing over top of head into neck. Viewed from front, there is no dome between ears. Nose is medium in length, same width for entire length. Viewed in profile, gentle concavely curved rise from bridge of nose to forehead. Muzzle is squared, definite jowls in mature males. Jaw should be strong and long enough to successfully grasp prey. Both level and scissors bites considered equally correct. (In level bite, top and bottom front teeth meet evenly. In scissors bite, inside edge of top front teeth touch outside edge of lower front teeth.) Chin firm and well-developed, forming perpendicular line with upper lip. Neck is medium in length, muscular and strong.
- Ears** Medium size, slightly rounded at tips and not unduly open at base. Distance between ears, measured from lower inner corners, twice distance between eyes.
- Eyes** Large and wide with upper lid shaped like half an almond (cut lengthwise) and lower lid shaped in a fully rounded curve. At least the width of one eye between eyes. Outer corners set very slightly higher than inner corners. Bright, clear and alert.
- Body** Medium to large. No sacrifice of quality for the sake of size. Solidly built, powerful, and muscular with well-developed shoulders, chest, and hindquarters. Back broad, straight and level. Viewed in profile, slight slope down from hip bone to base of tail. Viewed from above,

outer lines of body parallel. Body slightly longer than tall. (Height is profile measure from top of shoulder blades to ground. Length is profile measure from tip of breastbone to rear tip of buttocks.) Viewed from side, body can be divided into three equal parts: from tip of breastbone to elbow, from elbow to front of hind leg, and from front of hind leg to rear tip of buttocks.

Legs & Feet

Medium in length and bone, heavily muscled. Viewed from rear, all four legs straight and parallel with paws facing forward. Paws: firm, full and rounded, with heavy pads.

Tail

Medium long, heavy at base, tapering to abrupt blunt end in appearance but with normal tapering final vertebrae. Length of tail is equal to distance from shoulder blades to base of tail.

Coat

Short, thick, even and hard in texture. Regional and seasonal variation in coat thickness allowed. Coat dense enough to protect from moisture, cold, and superficial skin injuries.

Remarks

Females may be less massive in all respects than males and should be rewarded equally if overall balance is correct.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head		30
including size and shape of eyes, ear shape and set, and structure of nose		
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Body		30
including shape, size, bone, and length of tail		
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Coat		15
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Colour		20
Tabby Pattern	10	
Colour	10	
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Condition		5
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TOTAL		100

Faults:

1. Excessive cobbiness or ranginess.
2. Any feature so exaggerated as to foster weakness.
3. Very short tail.

Disqualify:

1. Any colour or pattern showing evidence of hybridization with any other breed.
2. Long or fluffy fur.
3. Deep nose break.
4. Tongue persistently protruding
5. Bulging eye set.
6. Brow ridge.

COLOUR CHARTS

BASE COLOURS

Note: For judging purposes white cats of any eye colour to compete in the same challenge class.

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS	Black	Dense coal black, sound from roots to tip of fur. Free from any tinge of rust on tips or smoke undercoat.	Black.	Brilliant gold.
AMS A	Blue	Blue, lighter shade preferred one level tone from nose to tip of tail. Sound to the roots. A sound darker shade is more acceptable than an unsound lighter shade.	Blue.	Brilliant gold.
AMS D	Red	Deep, rich, clear, brilliant red; without shading, markings, or ticking. Lips and chin the same colour as coat.	Brick red.	Brilliant gold.
AMS G	Cream	One level shade of buff cream without markings. Sound to the roots. Lighter shades preferred.	Pink.	Brilliant gold.
AMS W	White	Pure glistening white.	Pink.	Deep blue or brilliant gold or one blue and one gold eye of equal colour depth.

TORTIE

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS E	Black Tortie	Black with patches of red or softly intermingled areas of red on both body and extremities. Presence of several shades of red acceptable.	Black and/or brick red.	Brilliant gold.
AMS E/A	Blue Tortie	Blue with patches of cream or softly intermingled areas of cream on both body and extremities. Presence of several shades of cream acceptable.	Blue and/or pink.	Brilliant gold.

TABBY

Classic Tabby: Markings to be broad and clearly defined on an agouti background. There is an M on the forehead, two or three spirals on cheeks and an unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye. There are thumb marks on the ears and two unbroken necklaces on the upper chest. Vertical lines over the back of the head extend to the shoulder markings which are in the shape of a butterfly with both upper and lower wings distinctly outlined. Back markings consist of 3 vertical lines down the spine from the butterfly to the tail. The three stripes are separated by the agouti ground colour. Large solid blotches on each flank are encircled by one or more unbroken lines. Markings should be even on each side. A double row of spots (buttons) is to be seen on chest and stomach. The legs are regularly barred and the tail is regularly ringed with a solid coloured tip. The soles of the hind feet are solid coloured.

Mackerel Tabby: Markings to be narrow and clearly defined on an agouti background. There is an M on the forehead, two or three spirals on cheeks and an unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye. There are thumb marks on the ears and two unbroken necklaces on the upper chest. An unbroken line runs from back of head to base of tail. Numerous narrow stripes starting at the spine run down vertically to the stomach separated by the agouti ground colour. Markings should be even on each side. A double row of spots (buttons) is to be seen on chest and stomach. The legs are regularly barred and the tail is regularly ringed with a solid coloured tip. The soles of the hind feet are solid coloured.

Ticked Tabby: Agouti background with head, neck, back and extremities showing pronounced ticking. Colour on stomach and inside of legs to harmonise with ground colour. Body free from any shading (other tabby pattern). There is an M on the forehead, two or three spirals on cheeks and an unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye. A faint spine line is permissible. There are thumb marks on the ears and one or two broken or unbroken necklaces on the upper chest. Legs may or may not be barred and the tail may or may not be ringed but has a solid coloured tip. The soles of the hind feet are solid coloured.

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS F	Brown Tabby	Ground colour brilliant coppery brown. Markings dense black. Lips and chin the same shade as the rings around the eyes. Back of legs black from paw to heel.	Nose Leather: Brick red. Paw Pads: Black or brown.	Brilliant gold.

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS F/A	Blue Tabby	Ground colour, including lips and chin, pale bluish ivory. Markings a very deep blue affording a good contrast with ground colour. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole.	Nose Leather: Old rose. Paw Pads: Rose.	Brilliant gold.
AMS F/D	Red Tabby	Ground colour red. Markings deep rich red. Lips and chin to match the colour around the eyes.	Brick red.	Brilliant gold.
AMS F/G	Cream Tabby	Ground colour, including lips and chin, very pale cream. Markings of buff or cream sufficiently darker than the ground colour to afford good contrast but remaining within the dilute colour range.	Pink.	Brilliant gold.

TORTIE TABBY

An established black, or blue tabby with patches of red and/or cream.

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS F/E	Black Tortie Tabby	Ground colour brilliant coppery brown with classic or mackerel tabby markings of dense black with patches of red and/or cream clearly defined on both body and extremities; a blaze of red and/or cream on face is desirable. Lips and chin the same shade as the rings around the eyes.		Brilliant gold.
AMS F/EA	Blue Tortie Tabby	Ground colour, including lips and chin, pale bluish ivory with classic or mackerel tabby markings of very deep blue affording a good contrast with ground colour. Patches of cream clearly defined on both body and extremities; a blaze of cream on the face is desirable. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole.		Brilliant gold.

SMOKE

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS s	Black Smoke	White undercoat, deeply tipped with black. Cat in repose appears black. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Face and ears black with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted.	Black.	Green, hazel, gold; green preferred.
AMS s/A	Blue Smoke	White undercoat, deeply tipped with black. Cat in repose appears blue. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Face and ears blue with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted.	Blue.	Brilliant gold.
AMS s/D	Red Smoke	White undercoat, deeply tipped with red. Cat in repose appears red. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Face and ears red with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. Rims of eyes: Rose.	Rose.	Brilliant gold.
AMS s/G	Cream Smoke	White undercoat deeply tipped with cream. Cat in repose appears cream. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Face and ears cream with narrow band of white at the base of the hairs next to the skin which may be seen only when fur is parted.		Brilliant gold.

TORTIE SMOKE

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS s/E	Black Tortie Smoke	White undercoat deeply tipped with black with clearly defined, unbrindled patches of red and cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the tortoiseshell. Cat in repose appears tortoiseshell. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Face and ears tortoiseshell pattern with narrow band of white at the base of the hairs next to the skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. White ear tufts. Blaze of red or cream tipping on face is desirable.		Brilliant gold.
AMS s/EA	Blue Tortie Smoke	White undercoat deeply tipped with blue with clearly defined, unbrindled patches of cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the blue tortie. Cat in repose appears blue tortie. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Face and ears blue tortie pattern with narrow band of white at the base of the hairs next to the skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. White ear tufts. Blaze of cream tipping on face is desirable.		Brilliant gold.

SILVER TABBY

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS s/F	Black Silver Tabby	Ground colour, including lips and chin, pale, clear silver. Markings dense black. The silver tabby genetically is a shaded cat expressing the agouti pattern, therefore undercoat should be white.	Nose Leather: Brick red. Paw Pads: Black.	Green to hazel; green preferred.
AMS s/FA	Blue Silver Tabby	Undercoat white, ground colour, including lips and chin, pale, clear bluish silver. Markings sound blue.	Nose Leather: Blue or old rose trimmed with blue. Paw Pads: Blue.	Green or hazel.
AMS s/FD	Red Silver Tabby	Ground colour off-white. Markings red. The red silver tabby genetically is a shaded cat expressing the agouti pattern; therefore, the undercoat should be white.	Rose.	Brilliant gold.
AMS s/FG	Cream Silver Tabby	Undercoat white, ground colour, off white. Markings cream.	Pink.	Brilliant gold.

TORTIE SILVER TABBY

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS s/FE	Black Silver Tortie Tabby	Undercoat white, ground colour, including lips and chin, pale silver with classic, mackerel or ticked tabby markings of dense black with patches of red and/or cream clearly defined on both body and extremities. A blaze of red and/or cream on the face is desirable.		Brilliant gold, green or hazel.
AMS s/FEA	Blue Silver Tortie Tabby	Undercoat white, ground colour, including lips and chin, pale bluish silver with classic, mackerel or ticked tabby markings of deep blue with patches of cream or softly intermingled areas on both body and extremities. A blaze of cream on the face is desirable.		Green or hazel.

SHADED SILVER

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS s/P	Black Shaded Silver	Undercoat white with a mantle of black tipping shading down from sides, face, and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach, and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as the face. The general effect to be much darker than a chinchilla. Rims of eyes, lips, and nose outlined with black.	Nose Leather: Brick red. Paw Pads: Black.	Green.
AMS s/PA	Blue Shaded Silver	Undercoat white with a mantle of blue tipping shading down from sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as the face. The general effect to be much darker than a blue chinchilla. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with blue.	Nose Leather: Old rose. Paw Pads: Old rose or blue.	Green.
AMS s/PD	Red Shaded Silver	Undercoat white with a mantle of red tipping shading down the sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach, and under the tail. Legs to be same tone as face. The general effect to be much redder than the red tipped.	Rose.	Brilliant gold.

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS s/PG	Cream Shaded Silver	Undercoat white with a mantle of cream tipping shading down the sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach, and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as face. The general effect to be much more cream than the cream tipped.	Pink.	Brilliant gold.

TORTIE SHADED SILVER

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS s/PE	Black Tortie Shaded Silver	Mantle of black tipping and clearly defined patches of red and cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the tortoiseshell. Blaze of red or cream tipping on face is desirable.		Green or brilliant gold.
AMS s/PEA	Blue Tortie Shaded Silver	Undercoat white. Mantle of blue tipping and clearly defined patches of cream tipped hairs as in the pattern of the blue cream. Blaze of cream tipping on face is desirable.		Green or brilliant gold.

TIPPED

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS P	Black Tipped	Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head, and tail sufficiently tipped with black to give the characteristic sparkling silver appearance. Legs may be slightly shaded with tipping. Chin and ear tufts, stomach and chest, pure white. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with black.	Nose Leather: Brick red. Paw Pads: Black.	Green.
AMS P/A	Blue Tipped	Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head, and tail sufficiently tipped with blue to give the characteristic sparkling silver appearance. Legs may be slightly shaded with tipping. Chin and ear tufts, stomach and chest, pure white. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with blue.	Nose Leather: Old rose. Paw Pads: Blue or old rose.	Green.
AMS P/D	Red Tipped	Undercoat white, the coat on back, flanks, head, and tail to be sufficiently tipped with red to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. Face and legs may be very slightly shaded with tipping. Chin, ear tufts, stomach, and chest white. Rims of eyes; rose.	Rose.	Brilliant gold.
AMS P/G	Cream Tipped	Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head, and tail sufficiently tipped with cream to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. Legs may be very slightly shaded with tipping. Chin and ear tufts, stomach and legs white.	Pink.	Brilliant gold.

TORTIE TIPPED

Code:	Colour	Coat	Nose Leather & Paw Pads	Eye Colour
AMS P/E	Black Tortie Tipped	Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head and tail sufficiently tipped with black and well-defined patches of red and/or cream as in the pattern of the black tortie to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. The cat is in appearance a black tipped silver with patches of red tipping. Blaze of cream or red tipping desirable.		Green or brilliant gold.
AMS P/EA	Blue Tortie Tipped	Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head and tail sufficiently tipped with blue and well-defined patches of cream as in the pattern of the blue tortie to give the characteristic sparkling appearance. The cat is in appearance a blue tipped silver with patches of cream tipping. Blaze of cream tipping desirable.		Green or brilliant gold.

BICOLOUR

White cat with portions of colour including on extremities. As a preferred minimum the cat should have white on the feet, legs, underside and chest (approximately 1/3rd of body). White on face desirable.

Recognised in all American Shorthair colours and patterns with breed codes formed by the addition of /W at the end of code, e.g., AMS A/W (blue bicolour) or AMS sFD/W (red silver tabby bicolour).

VAN

White cat with colour confined to the extremities head, tail and legs. One or two small coloured patches on body allowable.

Note: Cats having more than two small body spots should be shown in the regular bicolour class.

Recognised in all American Shorthair colours and patterns with breed codes formed by the addition of /WW at the end of code, e.g., AMS D/WW (red van) or AMS sPEA/WW (blue tortie shaded silver van).