

## **BREED CODE: BEN - BENGAL**

### **GENERAL TYPE STANDARD**

The goal of the Bengal breeding program is to create a domestic cat which has physical features distinctive to the small forest-dwelling wildcats, and with the loving, dependable temperament of the domestic cat. Keeping this goal in mind, judges shall give special merit to those characteristics in the appearance of the Bengal which are distinct from those found in other domestic cat breeds. The Bengal cat is an athletic animal, alert to its surroundings; a friendly, curious, confident cat with strength, agility, balance and grace. It is a medium to large cat which exhibits a very muscular and solid build. Its wide nose with prominent whisker pads and large oval, almost round eyes in a slightly small head enhance the wild appearance and expressive nocturnal look. Its very slight, to nearly straight, concave profile and relatively short ears with wide base and rounded tips add to the Bengal's distinctive and unique appearance. A thick, low-set, medium-length tail adds balance to the cat.

#### **Head**

In shape a broad modified wedge with rounded contours. Longer than it is wide. Somewhat small in proportion to body, but not to be taken to extreme. The skull behind the ears makes a gentle curve and flows into the neck. Allowance to be made for jowls in adult males. Overall look of the head should be as distinct from the domestic cat as possible. A strong chin, aligning with tip of nose in profile. Muzzle is full and broad, with large, prominent whisker pads and high, pronounced cheekbones. Slight muzzle break at the whisker pads. Nose large and wide; slightly puffed nose leather. In profile the curve of the forehead should flow into the bridge of the nose with no break. Bridge of nose extends above the eyes; the line of the bridge extends to the nose tip, making a very slight, to nearly straight, concave curve. Neck long, substantial, muscular but in proportion to the head and body.

#### **Ears**

Medium to small, relatively short, with wide base and rounded tops. Set as much on side as top of head, following the contour of the face in the frontal view, and pointing forward in the profile view. Light horizontal furnishings acceptable; but lynx tipping undesirable.

#### **Eyes**

Oval, almost round. Large, but not bold. Set wide apart, back into face, and on slight bias toward base of ear. Eye colour independent

of coat colour except in the Snow Bengals. The more richness and depth of colour the better.

- Body** Torso is long and substantial, not oriental or foreign. Medium to large. Boning to be sturdy, firm; never delicate. Very muscular, especially in the males, one of the most distinguishing features.
- Legs and Paws** Legs medium in length, slightly longer in the back than in the front. Large, round, feet with prominent knuckles.
- Tail** Medium length, thick, tapered at end with rounded tip.
- Coat** The short, dense coat has a uniquely soft and silky feel. Lack of glitter will not militate against an exhibit of outstanding type.
- Pattern Types** Spotted and Marbled.

## PATTERNS

### Spotted

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

### Marbled

Markings, while derived from the classic tabby gene, should be uniquely different with as little 'bull's-eye' similarity as possible. Pattern should, instead, be random, giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow when the cat is stretched. Vertical striped mackerel influence is undesirable. Preference should be given to cats with three or more shades; i.e., ground colour, markings, and dark outlining of those markings. Contrast must be extreme, with distinct shapes and sharp edges. Belly must be patterned.

## SNOW BENGAL

A Snow Bengal may have any one of the three expressions of temperature sensitive colour restriction:

- Sepia:**                      **Eye Colour:** Gold.  
                                     **Ground Colour:** Light to medium brown.  
                                     **Markings:** Charcoal to dark shades of brown.  
                                     **Pointing:** Point and body contrast may be almost totally lacking.
- Mink:**                        **Eye Colour:** Green to blue-green.  
                                     **Ground Colour:** Cream to pale brown.  
                                     **Markings:** Dark to light shades of brown.  
                                     **Pointing:** Points may be darker than body colour.
- Pointed:**                    **Eye Colour:** Blue.  
                                     **Ground Colour:** Ivory to cream.  
                                     **Markings:** Charcoal, to dark or light brown.  
                                     **Pointing:** Dark points contrasting with a pale body acceptable.

## SCALE OF POINTS

<b>Head</b>	<b><u>25</u></b>
Ears	<b>5</b>
Eye Shape & Colour	<b>5</b>
<b>Body</b>	<b><u>15</u></b>
Legs & Paws	<b>10</b>
Tail	<b>5</b>
<b>Coat</b>	
Texture	<b>10</b>
Pattern	<b><u>15</u></b>
Colour	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## ALLOWANCES, FAULTS, PENALTIES, ETC

### Allowances

1. Smaller size, in balanced proportion, of females.
2. Slightly longer coat in kittens.
3. Jowls in adult males.
4. Eyes slightly almond shaped.
5. Mousy undercoat.

### **Faults**

1. Long, rough or coarse coat.
2. Distinctly ticked coat.
3. Whip tail.

### **Withhold Challenge Certificate or First Place in Kitten Classes for:**

1. Tail tip or paw pads incorrect colour.
2. Stomach not spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens).
3. Spots on body running together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern on spotted cats; circular bulls-eye pattern on marbled cats.
4. White patches or spots other than ocelli.

## COLOUR CHARTS

### SPOTTED

Refer to the General Type Standard for a description of patterns.

Code	Colour	Ground Colour & Markings	Ears & Eye Colour	Other
BEN	Brown Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> All variations allowed, but a high degree of rufous colour yielding a yellow, buff, golden or orange ground colour preferred. A grey base coat should not be penalised.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Black or various shades of brown.</p>	<p><b>Ears:</b> A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears. These are preferred.</p> <p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Gold, green or hazel. Deep shades preferred.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in black with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p><b>Whisker Pads &amp; Chin:</b> A very pale shade of the ground colour</p> <p><b>Chest, Underside &amp; Inner Legs:</b> Pale in contrast to the ground colour of the flanks and back.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Black</p>
BEN s	Black Silver Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> Ground colour is pure silver-white in all areas including chin.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Pattern is dense black. The ideal is for extreme contrast and clarity between ground colour and pattern colour.</p>	<p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Gold, hazel, green.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in black with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Black or seal brown. Black hair extends well up the back of the hind legs.</p> <p><b>Fault:</b> Brown tinge to coat.</p>

## SPOTTED SNOW

Refer to the General Type Standard for a description of patterns.

Refer to the General Type Standard for specifics of colours in sepia, mink, and pointed Snow Bengals.

Code	Colour	Ground Colour & Markings	Ears & Eye Colour	Other
BEN /1	Snow Seal Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> Ivory through to medium brown, with pattern clearly visible.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Charcoal or dark shades of brown through to light brown, dependent on ground colour.</p>	<p><b>Ears:</b> A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears. These are preferred.</p> <p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Refer to the General Type Standard for Snow Bengal.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in charcoal or dark brown with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p><b>Whisker Pads &amp; Chin:</b> Light coloured.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Paw pads brown with rosy undertones. Tail tip charcoal or dark brown.</p>
BEN s/1	Snow Seal Silver Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> Body colour ranging from ivory to tan shading to a lighter colour on body and chest.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Pattern and points can vary in colour from buff, tan, light brown, bitter chocolate, seal brown, to dark seal brown.</p> <p>Point colour should be separated by silvery ground colour with ivory or cream spectacles, whisker pads and chin.</p>	<p><b>Ears:</b> Cold brown with lighter thumbprint in the centre</p> <p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Refer to the General Type Standard for Snow Bengal.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in dark brown, with centre of nose leather brick red or dark brown.</p> <p><b>Whisker Pads &amp; Chin:</b> Ivory or cream.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Paw pads dark brown with rosy undertones allowed. Tail tip dark seal brown with underside of base of tail silvery white.</p>

## MARbled PATTERNED

Refer to the General Type Standard for a description of patterns.

Code	Colour	Ground Colour & Markings	Ears & Eye Colour	Other
BEN F	Brown Marbled Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> All variations allowed, but a high degree of rufous colour yielding a yellow, buff, golden or orange ground colour preferred. A grey base coat should not be penalised.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Black or various shades of brown.</p>	<p><b>Ears:</b> A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears. These are preferred.</p> <p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Gold, green or hazel. Deep shades preferred.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in black with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p><b>Whisker Pads &amp; Chin:</b> A very pale shade of the ground colour</p> <p><b>Chest, Underside &amp; Inner Legs:</b> Pale in contrast to the ground colour of the flanks and back.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Black</p>
BEN s/F	Black Silver Marbled Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> Ground colour is pure silver-white in all areas including chin.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Pattern is dense black. The ideal is for extreme contrast and clarity between ground colour and pattern colour.</p>	<p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Gold, hazel, green.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in black with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Black or seal brown. Black hair extends well up the back of the hind legs.</p> <p><b>Fault:</b> Brown tinge to coat.</p>

## MARbled SNOW

Refer to the General Type Standard for a description of patterns.

Refer to the General Type Standard for specifics of colours in sepia, mink, and pointed Snow Bengals.

Code	Colour	Ground Colour & Markings	Ears & Eye Colour	Other
BEN F/1	Snow Seal Marbled Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> Ivory through to medium brown, with pattern clearly visible.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Charcoal or dark shades of brown through to light brown, dependent on ground colour.</p>	<p><b>Ears:</b> A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears. These are preferred.</p> <p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Refer to the General Type Standard for Snow Bengal.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in charcoal or dark brown with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p><b>Whisker Pads &amp; Chin:</b> Light coloured.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Paw pads brown with rosy undertones. Tail tip charcoal or dark brown.</p>
BEN sF/1	Snow Seal Silver Marbled Tabby	<p><b>Ground Colour:</b> Body colour ranging from ivory to tan shading to a lighter colour on body and chest.</p> <p><b>Markings:</b> Pattern and points can vary in colour from buff, tan, light brown, bitter chocolate, seal brown, to dark seal brown.</p> <p>Point colour should be separated by silvery ground colour with ivory or cream spectacles, whisker pads and chin.</p>	<p><b>Ears:</b> Cold brown with lighter thumbprint in the centre</p> <p><b>Eye Colour:</b> Refer to the General Type Standard for Snow Bengal.</p>	<p><b>Eye Rims, Lips &amp; Nose Leather:</b> Outlined in dark brown, with centre of nose leather brick red or dark brown.</p> <p><b>Whisker Pads &amp; Chin:</b> Ivory or cream.</p> <p><b>Paw Pads &amp; Tail Tip:</b> Paw pads dark brown with rosy undertones allowed. Tail tip dark seal brown with underside of base of tail silvery white.</p>