

BRITISH Shorthair Standard of Excellence

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The British cat is compact, well balanced and powerful, showing good depth of body, a full broad chest, short strong legs, paws round and firm, tail thick at base with rounded tip. The head is round with good width between small ears, round cheeks, firm chin, large round and well-opened eyes and a short broad nose. The coat is short and dense. The British is a muscular cat with an alert appearance and in perfect physical condition.

Head	Round face with full cheeks and good breadth of skull with round underlying bone structure, set on a short thick neck.
Nose	Short, broad and straight. In profile, a rounded forehead should lead to a short straight nose with a nose break, which is neither too pronounced nor too shallow.
Chin	A strong, firm and deep chin is essential. Any deviation from this to be considered a fault. The bite MUST be level, the tip of the chin to line up with the tip of the nose in the same vertical plane.
Ears	Small, rounded at the tips. Set far apart fitting into (without distorting) the rounded contour of the head. External ear to be well covered with fur. Internal furnishings not to be excessive.
Eyes	Large, round and well opened. Set wide apart with no tendency to oriental shape. No squint.
Body	Cobby type with short level back. Low on legs with broad deep chest. Equally massive across the shoulders and the rump. Medium to large, but not rangy.
Legs & Paws	Round and firm. Toes carried close, five on each forefoot (including dew claw) and four on each back foot.
Tail	Should be thick and of medium length, thicker at the base with rounded tip.
Coat	Must be short, dense and crisp. A soft and/or over-long and fluffy coat is incorrect.

Faults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-long, soft or fluffy coats. Fluffy tail. • Weak chin. • Pronounced whisker pads. • White hairs. • Ghost tabby markings (in kittens).
Withhold First Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaw, mouth and tail deformities, and any other anatomical abnormality. • Over-long or fluffy coat in adults. • Pronounced nose stop, flat face or snub nose. • Unsound coat colour. • Heavy tabby markings.

SCALE OF POINTS:

Total	100 points
Head, Ears & Eyes	30
Body, Legs, Paws & Tail	35
Coat: Texture, Length & Colour	35

RECOGNISED COLOURS

All Traditional Solids, Tabbies, Smokes, Silvers, Silver Tabbies and Himalayan Pointed.
(except Cinnamon & Fawn)

All Traditional Bi-colours, Harlequins and Vans. (except Cinnamon & Fawn)

Allowable Outcrosses: None.