



A Guide to Physical Characteristics of Cats



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Non Pedigreed Cat Breeds



Domestic Short Hair



Domestic Medium Hair



Domestic Long Hair

Body Types



Cobby – short body, broad, heavy boned and low on legs (usually low activity)



Intermediate – Neither short bodied nor long bodied (usually medium activity)



Oriental – long, lean and tubular (usually high activity)

Head Shapes



Round head shape



Rectangle head shape



Wedge head shape

Solid Colors



Black: jet black, (Ebony in some breeds)



Blue: blue-gray; the dilute of black



Brown: dark brown, called Sable/Seal in Burmese or Siamese



Chocolate / Chestnut: medium-dark brown



Cinnamon: milk-chocolate / light brown



Cream: buff (dilute of red) faint Tabby markings



Fawn: "hotter" version of cream



Lavender / Lilac / Frost: warm blue-brown, or pinkish frosty gray (dilute of chocolate)



Red: ginger colored, faint Tabby markings



Seal: very dark brown



White: blue, green, orange or gold, or odd eyed varieties (one blue and one green or gold), also green-eyed whites. White cats with blue eyes are more likely to be deaf than a white cat with gold or green eyes.

Tabby Patterns

All Tabbies have thin pencil lines on the face, significant marking around the eyes and the classic Tabby “M” on the forehead. Individual hairs are striped with alternate light and dark bands called “agouti”.



Classic Tabby: The "blotched" tabby pattern with dark stripes down length of back and dark swirls (bull's-eye) on sides of the body.



Mackerel Tabby: Vertical unbroken thin lines instead of swirls. Narrow spine lines and "necklaces". The stripes should not break up into spots.



Marble Tabby: Modified version of classic tabby with swirled, clouding effect.



Patched Tabby: Tabby pattern overlaid on a Tortie background e.g. deep red markings on red patched areas and black markings on brown patched areas.



Spotted Tabby: Vertical bars of color are broken up into spots on the body. Stripes on leg, tail, and face. Spots should be round, rather than elongated and often vertically aligned. Spine lines should be broken into spots.



Leopard Tabby: Modified version of Spotted Tabby. Round spots, colored to root of hair, ideally the spots are randomly placed, not vertically aligned. Found in hybrid cats (e.g. Bengal) where the spotted pattern differs from the spotted tabby.



Ticked Tabby: Ticked pattern with ticked body, tabby barring on face, legs and tail, at least one necklace, darker dorsal region, pale lower parts.

Tabby Colors



Blue Tabby: cream/ivory-blue base, slate blue markings



Brown Tabby: coppery-brown base, black markings



Chocolate / Chestnut Tabby: cream base, milk-chocolate brown markings



Cameo / Red Silver Tabby: cream base, pale red markings



Caramel Tabby: cream base, biscuit-color markings



Cinnamon Tabby: pale brown base, cinnamon markings



Cream Tabby: pale cream base, fawn markings



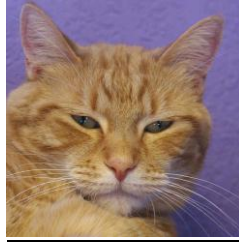
Fawn Tabby: pale pink-beige base, lilac markings



Golden Tabby: tabby on golden undercoat (chinchilla/shaded)



Lavender / Lilac Tabby: milky cream base, frosty gray markings



Red Tabby: pale red base, deep red markings



Silver Tabby – silver base with black markings
- mutation that removes the appearance of yellowish-tan pigmentation

**Piebald (white with any other color or pattern)
and Tortoiseshell Patterns/Colors**



Bicolor– one to two thirds white with patches of color on the head and torso



Harlequin – mostly white with several large patches of color



Tuxedo – black and white with white paws, chest and belly (may have some white on the face as well)



Van – almost all white with patches of color only on the head and tail



Calico – orange and black with patches of white



Dilute Calico – blue and cream patches



Tortoiseshell – black and red mottled pattern



Dilute Tortoiseshell – blue and cream mottled pattern



Torbie – Tortie with Tabby pattern



Button – Colored cat with one or more white belly spots



Mitted – white on paws

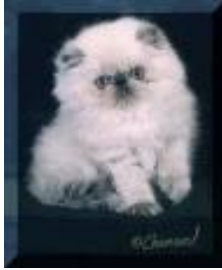


Locket – small spots of white on the chest of an otherwise colored cat

Pointed Cats

Pointed cats have darker points (face, paws, and tail) with a lighter color on the body.

Pointed cats always have blue eyes.



Colorpoint – unpatterned or solid points



Tortie Point – Tortie patterns on points



Lynx Point – striped patterns on points



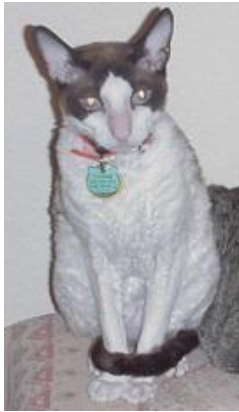
Tortie Lynx Point – striped and Tortie patterns on points

Distinguishing Pointed Colors

Kittens are born creamy white with pink paw pads, noses and ears. Point color gradually develops over the first few weeks. Colors may not be fully developed until 1 year.

Blue Point or Lilac Point? – Check the nose leather and paw pads. A Blue Point has slate gray, a Lilac Point has lavender pink.

Blue Point or Blue/Cream Point? – Check the paw pads and nose leather. If the color is a mottled blue and pink, the cat is a Blue/Cream Point, not a Blue Point.



Seal Point or Chocolate Point? – Check the nose leather and paw pads. A Chocolate Point has cinnamon pink, the Seal Point has seal-brown.

Seal Point or Tortie Point? – Check the nose leather and paw pads. If they are mottled seal brown and flesh/pink, the cat is a Tortie Point, not a Seal Point.

Smoke / Shaded



Chinchillas – shaded cats in which the majority of the base of hair is light with 1/8 of the tip colored.



Shaded – much of the base of the hair is light with 1/4 of the tip colored



Smoke – half way up from the base is light with half of the tip colored



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