

RUSSIAN BLUE
and other colour Russian Shorthairs
General Type Standard

The Russian is a medium to large cat of elegant foreign type without the exaggerated elongation of the oriental. Its high set ears, green almond shaped eyes, angled profile and prominent whisker pads create a distinctive gentle expression which, together with its velvety double coat, gives the breed its unique charm.

HEAD: The wedge from the tip of the nose to upper edge of the eyes is short. The distance from the eyes to the ears should be equal to or slightly longer than the wedge. The top of the head should appear flat between the ears. The muzzle should be broad with prominent whisker pads. There should be no whisker pinch or break. In profile the forehead should appear straight to the level of the upper edge of the eye. This creates the distinctive angle that should be level with the upper edge of the eye. The profile from here to the tip of the nose has such a shallow concave curve that it appears virtually straight. There must be no stop, break or nose bump, nor should the nose be completely straight from the point of the angle to the nose tip. The tip of chin should line up with the tip of the nose on the same vertical plane. The chin should be strong and deep with a level bite. The back of the head should not fall away. In kittens the top of the head may appear more rounded and the angle may not be as well developed.

EARS: Large and pointed, wide at the base and set vertically to the head with at least the width of an ear base between them. The ear placement is such that the outer line of the ears continues the line of the upper part of the face; although in mature males with jowls this will be less apparent. There should be little inside hair.

EYES: Vivid green set rather wide apart, almond in shape with a slight upward slant, neither too large, too full or too small nor excessively deep set. In kittens allowances should be made for maturing eye colour.

BODY: Medium to large sized but long and graceful in outline and carriage. Medium strong bone, well-muscled. Cobby or heavy build is undesirable. Females may be slightly smaller than the males but should also be well muscled

LEGS AND FEET: Long legs. Small oval shaped paws.

TAIL: Moderately long and in proportion to the body. Tapering, neither blunt-ended nor whip.

COAT: It is double coat with a very dense undercoat and stands away from the body; the whole coat is soft with no harsh feel to it, very different from any other breed and the truest criterion of the Russian although coat texture may vary according to colour.

CONDITION and TEMPERAMENT: In the Russian the condition and temperament of the cat are important considerations. We are looking for an even tempered cat and it is hoped that judges will distinguish between a balanced but temporarily upset or frightened cat and a cat with an extreme or aggressive temperament. The latter is most undesirable in the breed and should not be encouraged.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and ears	25
Eyes	15
Body, legs and tail	20
Coat	30
Colour	10
TOTAL	100

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS FOR: extreme aggressive temperament

WITHHOLD CERTIFICATES OR FIRST PRIZES IN KITTEN OPEN CLASSES:

1. Flat coat that shows lack of undercoat.
2. Oriental type
3. Cobby or British type
4. White anywhere in blues or blacks.
5. Any colour other than white anywhere on Russian White adults apart from the head smudge in cats up to 12 months.
6. Incorrect eye colour in adults
7. Weak chin and/or uneven bite
8. Any cat showing at least three or more of the Faults listed in the faults section.
9. Any defect as listed in the preface to the GCCF SOP booklet

FAULTS:

1. Small ears
2. Incorrect ear set
3. Round eyes
4. Very small or very deep set eyes.
5. Lack of an angle in the profile of adults (this can be hidden by the fur, so you may need to feel for it with your thumb)
6. Over straight profile
7. Whisker pinch or break
8. Lack of prominent whisker pads
9. Lack of silver sheen in Russian Blues
10. Heavily ghost marked coats in adults
11. Colour faults - see relevant colour description

COLOUR DESCRIPTIONS

RUSSIAN BLUE (RUS a) (16a)

Colour: Clear blue and even throughout with a distinct silvery sheen. In coats showing the correct silvery sheen there is usually an absence of pigment at the tips of the hair shaft.

It is the light passing through these translucent tips that create the effect of a silvery appearance to the coat. This effect is often at its most evident in the mask and paws. It can appear similar to tipping on the body and care should be taken to ascertain whether it really is tipping or not. Medium blue is preferred. The coat must be blue to the roots, which may be lighter in tone. The hairs must show no evidence of banding or silver tipping in adults although there may be absence of pigment at the tip. In maturity the coat should be free from tabby markings and/or shading, although ghost markings may show in kittens.

Faults: Banding and/or white tipping in adults.

Nose leather and paw pads: Nose leather should be blue. Paw pads should be blue but not necessarily as deep a blue as the nose leather. Pinkish lavender pads are acceptable.

RUSSIAN BLACK – (RUS n) (16a 15)

Colour: Jet black with a high, glossy shine and sound to the roots. The coat must be black to the roots, which may be lighter in tone. Slight rusty tinge allowable in kittens. but not in adults.

NB: The Russian Black may have a firm, silky textured coat.

Faults: Very pale undercoat in adults.

Nose leather and paws: black.

RUSSIAN WHITE - (RUS w 64) (16a 14c)

Colour: Pure white with no yellow tinge, in certain lights the coat will appear to “sparkle”. Dark marks on the head permissible on kittens. White kittens often have a coloured cap on the head, this is normal and disappears with the growth of the first adult coat around 12 months of age and should not be penalised.

NB: The Russian White may have a firm, harsher textured coat.

Faults: Yellow tinge that detracts from whiteness of the coat.

Nose leather and paw pads: Pink

Standard of points as agreed at the GCCF full Council meeting on 22 October 2014