



Feline Fanciers' Federation Breed Standard BENGAL

Bengal POINT SCORE

Scoring Area	Scores
Head	
(a) Shape & skull structure	5
(b) Ears	5
(c) Eyes	5
(d) Muzzle, Chin	10
(e) Nose & Profile	5
Body structure	
(a) Musculature	5
(b) Boning	5
(c) Legs & Feet	5
(d) Tail	5
Coat Color & Eye Color	15
Coat	10
Coat Pattern	20
Condition	5
Total	100

GENERAL:

The Bengal is a medium to large cat with a sleek, muscular build. Boning is substantial. Hindquarter is slightly higher than shoulders. The tail is thick, with rounded tip, and carried lower than the back. The Bengal's head, expressive nocturnal look, and stunning markings give the breed a wild appearance. The coat is like no other: short, soft, silky to the touch, luxurious, and preferably glittered. Bengals are alert and active, with inquisitive, dependable dispositions. Males are generally larger than females

HEAD

EYES	Shape is round to oval. Large, but not bugged. Set wide apart, with a slight bias toward the base of ear, when oval in shape. Eye color independent of coat color, except in the Lynx Points, where Blue is the only acceptable color. Richness and depth of color is always preferred.
EARS	Medium to small, with a wide base, rounded tips being desirable. Set far apart, following the contours of the face in frontal view, slight tilt



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	forward in profile view. Light, horizontal furnishings acceptable, tufts are undesirable.
HEAD SHAPE & SKULL	Broad, modified wedge with rounded contours, longer than wide, with high cheekbones. Slightly small in proportion to body, not to be taken to extreme. Top of skull flows back into the neck, with visible back skull. No flat planes. Allowance for jowls on mature males.
PROFILE & NOSE	PROFILE: Gently curved forehead to nose bridge. Nose may have a slight concave curve. NOSE: Large and wide, slightly puffed nose leather. Bridge of nose extends above the eyes.
MUZZLE & CHIN	CHIN: Strong, substantial, aligns with tip of nose in profile. MUZZLE: Full and broad, with prominent whisker pads

BODY:

SHAPE & SIZE	NECK: Thick and muscular, long in proportion to the body. BODY: Long and substantial, muscular, particularly the males. Hindquarters slightly higher than shoulders.
BONE	Substantial, never delicate
LEGS & FEET	LEGS: Medium long, slightly longer rear legs. Muscular. PAWS: Large and round, with prominent knuckles.
TAIL	Thick, tapered at the end with rounded tip. Medium in length, in proportion to body.

COAT:

COAT TEXTURE: With qualities unique to the breed, the Bengal coat is short, close lying, soft, silky, luxurious, and ideally glittered. Allowance for slightly longer coat in kittens.

COAT PATTERN:

ROSETTED/SPOTTED TABBY PATTERN:

Rosettes and spots shall be random, with a horizontal flow to their alignment, and a pattern like no other breed. Ground color should be clear, and free of ticking. Contrast with ground color must be extreme, showing distinct pattern with sharp edges. Rosettes are two toned, with dark outlines, and a lighter center. Rosettes can be many different shapes, such as round donut, open donut, pancake, paw print, arrowhead, or clustered, and are preferred to single spotting. Strong, bold chin strap and mascara markings desirable. Backs of ears have a thumbprint. Color on chest



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and belly should be lighter than ground color. Blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks, spotted legs, and spotted, or rosetted tail are desirable. Belly must be spotted. Allowance for spotted pattern without rosettes. These cats are not required to have two tone markings.

MARBLE TABBY PATTERN:

The Marble pattern is full of swirls, with a pattern like no other breed. Ground color should be clear, and free of ticking. Contrast with ground color must be extreme, showing distinct markings with sharp edges. Markings are two toned, having a horizontal or diagonal flow. Side pattern symmetry not required. There should be no resemblance to the Classic Tabby pattern, and a circular pattern or bullseye is undesirable. The more random the pattern, the better. Additional color tones inside the pattern, giving a “stained glass” effect is desirable. Patterned shoulder markings, and multi-toned markings on legs and tail desirable. Rosettes and spots can be present, particularly on the legs. Strong chin strap, mascara markings desirable. Backs of ears have a thumbprint. Color on chest and belly should be lighter than round color. Belly must be patterned. Allow for maturity for “stained glass” or full coloration to appear.

ROSETTED/SPOTTED TABBY AND MARBLE TABBY COLORS:

BROWN (BLACK) TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):

All variations of brown are allowed as the ground color, ranging from buff, tan, honey gold, to orange. Markings may be various shades of tan, brown, and black. There should be extreme contrast between ground color and markings, with distinct shapes, and well defined edges. Markings should be two toned. Lighter color spectacles enhance the eyes. A much lighter to white ground color on the whisker pads, chin, chest, belly, and inner legs, in contrast to the ground color of the flanks and back is desirable. Nose leather: Brick red, outlined in black. Paw pads: From pink, to brick red, with allowances for black or brown. Eye color: Gold to green.

BLACK SILVER TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):

Ground color ranges from clear silver white to pewter gray. Markings are medium gray to jet black, with good contrast to ground color. Minimal to no warm tones present on face, back, and legs. Tarnish is undesirable. Color on chest and belly will be lighter than ground color. Area around eyes, temples, and muzzle are lighter than ground color. Skin pigment around eyes, and lips is black. Nose leather: Brick red, or black. Paw pads: Black. Eye color: Any color other than blue.

BLUE TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):



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Ground color is pale blue gray to slate blue gray, with markings being medium blue to darker blue. There should be good contrast between ground color and markings. Warm fawn tones can be present on face, back, and legs. Underside and chest will be lighter in color than ground color found elsewhere. Area around eyes, temples, and muzzle are lighter than ground color. Pigment around eyes, and lips is dark blue. Nose leather: Rose, outlined in dark blue. Paw pads: Aubergine/purple. Eye color: Any color other than blue.

BLUE SILVER TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):

Ground color is light blue silver. Markings are blue gray. Underside and chest will be glacial white to bluish silver. Area around eyes, temples, and muzzle is silvery white. Pigment around eyes and lips is slate gray. Nose leather: Rose, outlined in slate gray. Paw pads: Blue/gray. Eye color: Gold, green, hazel.

CHARCOAL TABBY PATTERN:

There should be definite contrast between ground color and markings, with distinct shapes, and clearly defined edges. Pattern should have a horizontal flow. Preference will be given to very dark markings, with clear outlines, and well contrasted to the ground color. There must be white, or nearly white spectacles or “goggles” encircling the eyes. A dark mask runs all the way from the nose bridge to the nose, and connects from the mascara lines all the way to the nose bridge. A wide, dark, “cape” running down the length of the back is desirable. Color on chest and belly should be lighter than ground color. Kittens are sometimes rosetted, adults are usually spotted. Charcoals can be Spotted, or Marble Pattern

AOV PATTERNS:

MELANISTIC PATTERN: The term “Melanistic”, when describing a hybrid cat, is a Solid, but not in the sense of a Solid in a non-hybrid breed. In the Bengal cat, the Melanistic shows ghost tabby markings. They can be either Rosetted/Spotted, Marble or Snow. The Pattern is more visible in kittens. As adults, most appear more solid

AOV COLORS

The following colors, come in the Rosetted/Spotted, and Marble Patterns:

CHOCOLATE TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):

Ground color is a rich caramel, with underside and chest being a warm nougat color, lighter than ground color. Markings are chocolate to dark chocolate. Color around the eyes, temples, and



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muzzle is lighter than ground color. Skin pigment around eyes, nose, and lips is dark chocolate. Nose leather: Burnt rose. Paw pads: Chocolate, warm rose, or salmon pink. Eye color: Any color other than blue.

CINNAMON TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):

Ground color is a warm honey, with underside and chest being lighter than ground color. Markings are a rich cinnamon brown. Color around eyes, temples, and muzzle is lighter than ground color. Skin pigment around eyes, nose, and lips is pinkish tan. Nose leather: Pinkish tan. Paw pads: Pinkish tan. Eye color: Any color other than blue.

LILAC TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):

Ground color is pale, frosty, lavender-pink, with underside and chest being lighter than ground color. Markings are dark lavender. Color around eyes, temples, and muzzle are lighter and brighter than ground color. Skin pigment around eyes, nose, and lips is pinkish tan. Nose leather: Pink. Paw pads: Lavender pink. Eye color: Any color other than blue.

FAWN TABBY (Rosetted/Spotted, Marble):

Ground color is pale ivory, with underside and chest being lighter than ground color. Markings are pinkish beige to taupe. Color around eyes, temples, and muzzle is lighter than ground color. Skin pigment around eyes, nose, and lips is dusty rose. Nose leather: Dusty rose, with no blue or lavender tones. Paw pads: Dusty rose, with no blue or lavender tones. Eye color: Any color other than blue.

AOV COAT LENGTH

LONGHAIR BENGAL (CASHMERE):

The Longhair Bengal can come in any described color/pattern combination. Coat is semi long haired, with a fine texture, and luxurious, not cottony or wooly. The coat should create an all over harmonious impression with the longer parts flowing gently into the shorter ones. Long hair sticking out on any part of the body is undesirable. Coat shall lay close to the body. Silky coat and satin glitter are desirable, but not required. Pattern shall be clearly visible, with a horizontal flow to its alignment. Hair around head and neck may be slightly longer. A slightly fuller coat on the back of neck is accepted, but not required. A corona of hair around the head, extremely thick, full coat on back of neck, or a ruff, is undesirable. Ears shall not be tufted, but slight ear tips are allowed. Strong ear tufts, spoiling the rounded impression of the ear are not desirable. Tail shall be slightly longer haired creating a plumed impression.



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CONDITION:

Condition includes grooming, health condition, weight, coat texture, clean.

PENALIZE:

- ❖ Rosetted/Spotted Tabby Pattern – Rosettes or spots running together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern.
- ❖ Marble Tabby Pattern – Circular bull's eye pattern.
- ❖ Snow Tabby Pattern – Substantially darker point color as compared to color of body markings.

DISQUALIFY:

- ❖ Rosetted/Spotted Tabby, Marble Tabby, Charcoal Tabby, Snow Tabby Patterns - Belly not patterned.
- ❖ Any distinct locket on neck, chest, abdomen, or anywhere else.
- ❖ Kinked, or otherwise deformed tail.
- ❖ Cow hocking.
- ❖ Crossed eyes

BENGAL CODE AND NUMBERS

Color	Male Color Class	Female Color Class
Pedigreed	PBGLM	PBGLF
Supernova	SBGLM	SBGLF

Bengal allowable outcross breeds: None