## **BREED** THAI

**GENERAL** The ideal cat of this breed is a medium to slightly large, pointed cat of foreign type, descended from and resembling the indigenous pointed cats of Thailand. The Thai is intended to be both the living equivalent of the original "Wichien-maat" of ancient Siam and the "marten-faced" Siamese of early 20th century America and Europe. It cannot be stated enough that the Thai should not be extreme in any way, but its appearance and personality should reflect its Thailand heritage. The Thai is not, and should not resemble, a native Western breed. The breed began in the 1950s when breeders scattered around the world chose to breed, or sometimes unwittingly continued to breed, Siamese of the moderate, early 20th century type. In the 1980s, the first breed clubs dedicated to these cats were established in the United States and Europe. In 2001, breeders began importing indigenous pointed cats from Thailand in a conscious effort to expand and preserve a healthy gene pool for the Thai breed as well as to preserve the genes of Southeast Asia's native race of cats while they are still distinct from Western cats. The trademark of the Thai breed is the unique head shape, a laterally rounded upper head from which projects a distinctly wedge-shaped muzzle. In keeping with the Thai's roots in tropical Thailand, another important feature is the breed's very short coat, first clearly described in the West by Harrison Weir in 1889. The Thai is a well balanced cat without any extremes, in harmony in appearance and character.

HEAD	SHAPE	Modified wedge, medium width with rounded cheeks and tapering muzzle. Head is longer than wide, but not extreme or narrow. Cheekbones curve inward to where the muzzle begins.Muzzle is wedge-shaped, but rounded on the end like a tapering garden spade. Forehead is flat and long.
	EYES	Medium to slightly large, a very full almond shape, not oriental. Set slightly more than an eye width apart. A line from inner corner through outer corner of eye meets outer base of ear. Eye Color: Blue ONLY. Deep blue shades preferred. Brilliance and luminosity are more important than depth of color.
	EARS	Medium in size to slightly large, wide at the base, oval tips. Tip of ears point outward at an angle slightly closer to the top than side of the head (35 degrees from vertical). Allow for very light furnishings.
	PROFILE	Nearly straight, but with a slight downhill slope starting just above the eyes and ending just below the eyes. In profile, nose may be straight or slightly convex.

NECK	Medium length, neither thin nor overly muscular.
NOSE	Straight or slightly convex.
CHIN	Neither weak nor too prominent, aligned vertically with the nose.
MUZZLE	Medium to slightly long. Wedge-shaped: like a tapering garden spade with a rounded end. Little or no , whisker break. Medium- boned.
TORSO	Moderately long, lithe and graceful like a small panther. Well toned, but neither tubular nor compact. High enough on legs for desired foreign type. Underbelly is mostly level and parallel tothe ground and firm. However, a slight amount of loose skin on the underbelly below the flank is permissible.
FEET	Oval shape, medium size in proportion to cat.
LEGS	Medium length, graceful in form, but not coarse.
TAIL	As long as the torso, tapering gradually to the tip.
BONING	Medium. Graceful. Neither refined nor coarse.
MUSCULATURE	Firm, but lithe, not meaty or dense. When picked up, cat weighs about as much as, or slightly more than, one would predict visually.

BODY

COAT COLOR PATTERN	TEXTURE	Fine, glossy and smooth. Slight undercoat.
	LENGTH	Very short to short.
	COLOR PATTERN	Point Color: Appropriate for color class, dense and even. Mask, ears, feet and tail should match in color. Body Color: Preferably a very pale off-white. Evenness of the body color and contrast with the points are more important than extreme whiteness. A deeper body color is allowed on older cats.
	COLOR VARIETIES	Siamese points are recognized in all pointed colors without white. The description of colors is listed in the general list of colors.
PENALIZE		Genuinely round eyes. Extreme oriental eyes. Blunt or pointy muzzle. Narrow upper head. Small or very large ears, or ears set low (closer to the side of the head than the top). Compact body or distinctly tubular body. Whippy tail. Excess undercoat (plush coat). Ghost markings in non-agouti adult cats.
DISQUALIFY		Visible tail fault. Eyes other than blue. Crossed eyes. Visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum (xiphoid process). Any changes of type suggesting hybridization by foreign breeds.

