

BREED CODE: BEN – BENGAL

GENERAL TYPE STANDARD

The Bengal should be alert, friendly and affectionate and in excellent physical condition with a dependable temperament. Its wild appearance is enhanced by a distinctive spotted or marbled tabby coat which should be thick and luxurious. The Bengal is a large, sleek, very muscular cat with a thick tail which is carried low. The female is smaller than the male.

Head: Broad medium wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than it is wide, with high cheek bones. The head should be rather small in proportion to the body but not taken to extremes. The profile has a gentle curve from the forehead to the bridge of the nose. The nose is large and broad with a puffed nose leather and may be slightly Roman or straight. The muzzle should be full and broad with a strong chin and pronounced whisker pads created by the widely set canine teeth. The neck should be thick, muscular and in proportion to the body. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males.

Ears: Medium to small, rather short with a wide base and rounded tips. Set as much on the sides as on the top of the head, following the contour of the face in the front view and pointing forward in profile. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable but ear tufts are undesirable.

Eyes: Oval, may be slightly almond shaped, large but not bold. Set on a slight slant toward the base of the ear.

Body: Large and robust with a broad chest. Very muscular but long and sleek with the hindquarters slightly higher than the shoulders.

Legs and Paws: Legs of medium length, strong and muscular. The hind legs should be a little longer than the front and be more robust. The paws should be large and rounded.

Tail: Medium length, thick and even, with a rounded tip.

Coat: Short to medium in length, very dense, luxurious and unusually soft to the touch. Allowance should be made for a slightly longer coat in kittens.

Pattern Types: Leopard Spotted and Marble Patterned.

LEOPARD SPOTTED

The spectacles which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks which may be outlined by an “M” marking on the forehead. Broken streaks or spots run over the head, on either side of a complex scarab marking, down the neck and onto the shoulders where they may break up into rosettes. Rosettes are formed by a part circle of spots around a distinctly lighter centre. Arrowhead shaped spots are preferred. Larger spots may be rosetted. This is preferred to single spotting but is not essential. Strong, bold chin strap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklet(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks or spots are desirable. Spots generally should be large, well formed and distributed at random, or in horizontal alignment. Contrast with the ground colour must be extreme, giving a distinct pattern and a sharp outline to the spots. The stomach must be spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens). The legs may show broken horizontal lines and/or spots. The tails should have rings, streaks and/or spots along it’s length, with a solid dark coloured tip. Spots should not run together vertically forming a distinct mackerel tabby pattern.

MARBLE PATTERNED

The spectacles which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks which may be outlined by an “M” marking on the forehead. Broken streaks run over the head on either side of a complex scarab marking, down the neck and onto the shoulders. Strong bold chin strap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklet(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks are desirable. There should be a distinct pattern with large swirled patches or streaks, clearly defined but not symmetrical, giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow. Contrast must be extreme with distinct shapes and sharp outlines. The stomach must be spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens). The legs may show broken horizontal lines and/or spots. The tail should be ringed, marbled and/or spotted along it’s length, with a solid dark coloured tip. The marble markings should have as little similarity to the classic tabby markings as possible. A vertical striped mackerel tabby tendency is also undesirable. Preference should be given to marbled cats with three or more shades, i.e. ground colour, markings and dark outlining of these markings.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head	10
Ears	5
Eye Shape & Colour	5
Body	20
Legs & paws	10
Tail	5
Coat Texture	10
Coat Colour	10
Pattern	25
TOTAL	100

Faults:

1. Long, rough or coarse coat.
2. Distinctly ticked coat.
3. Whip tail.

Withhold Challenge Certificate or First Place in Kitten Classes for:

1. Tail tip or paw pads incorrect colour.
2. Stomach not spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens).
3. Body spots running together vertically forming solid stripes of distinctly mackerel type pattern.
4. White patches or spots other than ocelli.

COLOUR CHARTS

LEOPARD SPOTTED

Key:

Eye Rims, Lips & Nose Leather	<i>Eye</i>
Whisker Pads & Chin	<i>Whisker</i>
Chest, Underside & Inner Legs	<i>Chest</i>
Paw Pads & Tail Tip	<i>Paw</i>

NO:	Colour	Ground Colour	Markings	Ears	Eye Colour	Notes
BEN	Brown	All variations allowed, but a high degree of rufous colour yielding a yellow, buff, golden or orange ground colour preferred. The overall appearance should be of gold dusting. A grey base coat should not be penalised.	Black or various shades of brown.	A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears, these are preferred.	Gold, green or hazel – deep shades preferred.	<p>Eye: Outlined in black with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p>Whisker: A very pale shade of the ground colour</p> <p>Chest: Pale in contrast to the ground colour of the flanks and back.</p> <p>Paw: Black</p>

LEOPARD SPOTTED SNOW

NOTE: In all “Snows” the colour may be darker on the points than on the body. Clearly visible points are considered a fault.

Key:

Eye Rims, Lips & Nose Leather	<i>Eye</i>
Spectacles, Whisker Pads & Chin	<i>Whisker</i>
Chest, Underside & Inner Legs	<i>Chest</i>
Paw Pads & Tail Tip	<i>Paw</i>

NO:	Colour	Ground Colour	Markings	Ears	Eye Colour	Notes
BEN /1	Snow Spotted	Ivory through to medium brown, with pattern clearly visible. The overall appearance should be of pearl dusting.	Charcoal or dark shades of brown through to light brown, dependent on ground colour.	A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears, these are preferred.	Green to blue-green, or blue or gold.	<p>Eye: Outlined in black with centre of nose leather red.</p> <p>Whisker: Light coloured.</p> <p>Paw: Brown with rosy undertones.</p> <p>Tail Tip: Charcoal or dark brown</p>

Reference:

Eye Colour: Blue
 Ground Colour: Ivory to cream.
 Markings: Charcoal, to dark or light brown.

Eye Colour: Gold
 Ground Colour: Light to medium brown
 Markings: Charcoal to dark shades of brown.

Eye Colour: Green to blue-green
 Ground Colour: Cream to pale brown
 Markings: Dark to light shades of brown.

MARBLE PATTERNED

Key

Eye Rims, Lips & Nose Leather	<i>Eye</i>
Spectacles, Whisker Pads & Chin	<i>Whisker</i>
Chest, Underside & Inner Legs	<i>Chest</i>
Paw Pads & Tail Tip	<i>Paw</i>

NO:	Colour	Ground Colour	Markings	Ears	Eye Colour	Notes
BEN F	Brown Marble	All variations allowed, but a high degree of rufous colour yielding a yellow, buff, golden or orange ground colour preferred. The overall appearance should be of gold dusting. A grey base coat should not be penalised.	Black or various shades of brown.	A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears, these are preferred.	Gold, green or hazel – deep shades preferred.	<p>Eye: Outlined in black with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p>Whisker: A very pale shade of the ground colour.</p> <p>Chest: Pale in contrast to the ground colour of the flanks and back.</p> <p>Paw: Black</p>

MARBLE PATTERNED SNOW

NOTE: In all “Snows” the colour may be darker on the points than on the body. Clearly visible points are considered a fault.

Key

Eye Rims, Lips & Nose Leather	<i>Eye</i>
Spectacles, Whisker Pads & Chin	<i>Whisker</i>
Chest, Underside & Inner Legs	<i>Chest</i>
Paw Pads & Tail Tip	<i>Paw</i>

NO:	Colour	Ground Colour	Markings	Ears	Eye Colour	Notes
BENF/ 1	Snow Marble	Ivory through to medium brown, with pattern clearly visible. The overall appearance should be of pearl dusting.	Charcoal or dark shades of brown through to light brown, dependent on ground colour.	A light coloured spot, known as ocelli, may be present on the back of the ears, these are preferred.	Blue, green to blue-green, or gold.	<p>Eye: Outlined in black with centre of nose leather brick red.</p> <p>Whisker: Light coloured.</p> <p>Paws: Brown with rosy undertones</p> <p>Tail Tip: Charcoal or dark brown.</p>

Reference:

Eye Colour: Blue
 Ground Colour: Ivory to cream.
 Markings: Charcoal, to dark or light brown.

Eye Colour: Gold
 Ground Colour: Light to medium brown
 Markings: Charcoal to dark shades of brown

Eye Colour: Green to blue-green
 Ground Colour: Cream to pale brown
 Markings: Dark to light shades of brown.