

SPHYNX

GENERAL STANDARD

The first impression of the Sphynx is of an apparently hairless cat with wrinkled skin, large ears and eyes and prominent cheekbones. It is medium-sized and muscular, neither small nor dainty, and is quite warm to the touch. Males are generally larger than females.

HEAD: Medium sized, modified wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than it is wide. The skull is slightly rounded with a flat plane in front of the ears. The profile has a slight to moderate stop. The skin is very wrinkled, especially on the head.

EARS: Large, broad at the base and open. Set at a slight angle, neither low-set nor on top of the head. The inside of the ear is totally hairless. A slight amount of hair is allowed on the lower outside edges and on the back of the ears.

EYES: Large and with a rounded aperture the shape of a rounded lemon. Slanting to the outer corner of the ear, with slightly more than the width of an eye between them.

NOSE: Straight, moderately broad, with a slight to moderate stop at the bridge.

CHEEKS: prominent, rounded cheekbones with a distinct whisker break, giving a squared appearance.

JAWS: Strong.

CHIN: Firm, with a level bite, in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.

NECK: Medium length, rounded and well muscled. Powerful, especially in males. It arches slightly from the shoulders to the base of the skull.

BODY: Medium length and size, very hard and muscular, not delicate. Surprising weight for size. The chest is broad and may tend toward being barrel-chested. The abdomen is well rounded, while not fat, giving the appearance of having eaten a large meal. Males may be up to twenty-five percent larger than females, as long as balance is maintained.

TAIL: Whippy, tapering from the body to the tip (rat-tailed). Length in proportion to the body. A lion tail (puff of hair on the tip) is acceptable.

LEGS: Medium-boned, sturdy, firm and muscular, in proportion to the body, with the hind legs slightly longer than the front. Front legs set widely apart.

PAWS: Medium-sized, oval, with long, slender toes. Paw pads are thicker than in other breeds, giving the cat the appearance of walking on air cushions.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and neck	20	
Ears	10	
Eye shape and set	5	35
Body	20	
Tail	5	
Legs and paws	5	30
Skin/down	30	30
Condition	5	5
Total		100

FAULTS / PENALTIES

REFER TO GENERAL LIST OF FAULTS FOR ALL BREEDS, PLUS:

PENALISE:

- Overall small cat.
- Body that is too thin, frail appearing, delicate or fine-boned, too cobby or foreign.
- Lack of wrinkles on the head.
- Straight profile.
- Narrow head.
- Significant amounts of hair above the ankle.

WITHHOLD:

- Any indication of hair anywhere other than extremities.
- Any indication of wavy hair or suggestion of Rex in moult.
- Any evidence of depilating, shaving, plucking or any other means of hair removal.

COAT AND COLOUR

SKIN / DOWN: Appears hairless, but may be covered with very short, fine down and may have a puff of hair on the tip of the tail. Short, soft, fine hair is allowed on the back of the ears, across the bridge of the nose and cheekbones, on the scrotum, feet and tail. Texture is chamois-like. A feeling of resistance may be felt when stroking the skin of some cats. Whiskers are sparse and short.

The skin is very wrinkled in kittens. Adults should retain as many wrinkles as possible, especially on the head, although wrinkling should not be so pronounced that it affects the cat's normal functions.

COLOUR: All colours and patterns recognised.

EYE COLOUR: Ideally to conform to the colour of the down or skin, but green and hazel are acceptable.

NOSE LEATHER AND PAW PADS: To conform to the colour of the body skin.