

# The Tonkinese

**Burmese  
European Burmese  
Tonkinese**

**Judges' Workshop  
at the  
CFA 2003 Annual Meeting  
St Louis, Missouri  
June 19, 2003**



# What a Tonkinese is Not

“A good Tonkinese  
should remind one of  
neither a Siamese or a  
Burmese”

While true, this is not particularly helpful when  
attempting to describe exactly what a good Tonkinese  
*should* look like.

# Things You Already Know - Point Allocation

## Head (25)

Profile - 8

Muzzle and Chin - 6

Ears - 6

Eye shape and set - 5

## Body (30)

Torso - 15

Legs and Feet - 5

Tail - 5

Muscle Tone - 5

## Color (35)

Body Color - 25

Eye Color - 10

## Coat (10)



# Things You Already Know - Head and Muzzle

## Head:

Modified slightly rounded wedge

Somewhat longer than it is wide

High gently planed cheekbones

Slight convex curve to the forehead

## Muzzle:

Blunt, as long as it is wide

Slight whisker break, gently curved, following the lines of the wedge

Slight stop at eye level

Tip of chin lines with tip of nose in the same vertical plane

Gentle rise from the tip of the nose to the stop

Gentle contour with a slight rise from the nose stop to the forehead

# Things You Already Know- Ears and Eyes

## **Ears:**

Alert, medium in size

Oval tips, broad at the base

Set as much on the sides of the head as on the top

Hair on the ears very short and close-lying

Leather may show through

## **Eyes:**

Open almond shape

Slanted along the cheekbones toward outer edge of the ear

Proportionate in size to the face

# Things You Already Know- Body

Torso medium in length

Well-developed muscular strength without coarseness

Midpoint between long/svelte and cobby/compact body types

Balance and proportion are more important than size alone

Abdomen should be taut, well-muscled, and firm





# Things You Already Know - Legs Feet and Tail

## **Legs:**

Fairly slim, proportionate in length and bone to the body  
Hind legs slightly longer than front

## **Feet:**

Paws more oval than round. Trim  
Five toes in front and four behind.

## **Tail:**

Proportionate in length to body  
Tapering

# Things You Already Know - Point Color

Mask, ears, feet, and tail all densely marked

Point color merges gently into body color

Mask and ears should be connected by tracings  
(except kittens)





# Things You Already Know - Eye Color

Depth, clarity, and brilliance of color preferred

**Full body colors:**

Green to yellow/green

**Mink colors:**

Aqua

**Pointed colors:**

Blue.

# Things You Already Know - Body Color - Full Body Colors

Slightly lighter shade of the point color

Very little contrast between the points and body color

More contrast between the points and body color for the champagne and platinum than for the natural and blue.

# Things You Already Know - Body Color - Mink Colors

Rich, even, unmarked color, shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter hue on the underparts

Allowance to be made for lighter body color in young cats

Development of full body color may take up to 16 months, particularly with the dilute colors

Cats darken with age, but there must be a distinct contrast between body color and points



# Things You Already Know - Body Color - Pointed Colors

Should be off white

Any shading is relative to the point color

Overall body color should be in marked contrast to the points

# Things You Might Not Know - Colors

OK, you probably do know this, but since the Full Body and Pointed patterns are new, here is the Tonkinese color matrix

		Coat Pattern		
		Full Body	Mink	Point
Base Color	Blue	Blue	Blue Mink	Blue Point
	Champagne	Champagne	Champagne Mink	Champagne Point
	Natural	Natural	Natural Mink	Natural Point
	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum Mink	Platinum Point



# Things You Might Not Know - Color Pattern Ratios

When breeding Tonkinese, there are six possible pattern combinations of the sire and dam.

The following ratios are well known and have been accepted by Tonkinese breeders.

- Mink to Mink breeding produces 25% Full Body, 50% Mink, 25% Pointed
- Mink to Full Body breeding produces 50% Full Body, 50% Mink
- Mink to Pointed breeding produces 50% Mink, 50% Pointed
- Full Body to Pointed breeding produces 100% Mink
- Full Body to Full Body breeding produces 100% Full Body
- Pointed to Pointed breeding produces 100% Pointed



# Things We'd Like You to Know- What does "Full Body" mean?

In the Beginning, they were "solids". This worked well, but is technically incorrect. European Burmese, Burmese and Full Body Tonkinese are all of the pointed  $c_b c_b$  genotype.

In a move to become more technically correct, the term "solid" was dropped from the Tonkinese standard in 2000. For example, we used Natural Point, Natural Mink and Natural to describe our darkest color.

We are still looking for the ideal word to describe the phrase "low contrast between the body and the points" to add to our standard.

In the interim, the terms "Full Body", "Full", "Shadowed" and even "Solid" have been used.

# Things We'd Like You to Know- What Color is it, you say?

Color Identification Made Easy (well, maybe not *that* easy)

Paw pads and point color determines the base color (Natural, Champagne, Blue, Platinum)

Body color, shading, and contrast to points determines coat pattern (Full Body, Mink, Point)

Use eye color to see if it's appropriate for the coat pattern

What if you can't match it up? It may be a "tweener", a bad example of any color

"Tweeners" belong in a loving pet home



# Things We'd Like You to Know- Something about Eye Color

The  $c_s$  and  $c_b$  alleles modify more than just point-to-body contrast - they modify eye pigmentation too

The less the coat pigment is reduced on the body (i.e., the lower the point-to-body contrast), the less the eye pigment is suppressed

The less the pigment suppression, the closer the eye color resembles the natural (non-pigment-suppressed) eye color

Suppressing the eye pigment shifts the natural eye color toward the blue end of the gold->yellow->green->blue spectrum

The result is that the range of eye color is greatest in the Full Body colors, less in the Minks and least in the Points



# Things We'd Like You to Know- What *is* Medium, anyway?

The word "medium" appears 11 times in the Tonkinese, 5 times in the Burmese and 3 times in the European Burmese standards

The Burmese standard uses it to describe overall size, ear size, body size, tail length and shade of blue in the coat

The European Burmese standard uses it to describe ear size, body length and tail length

The Tonkinese standard uses it to describe overall size, ear size, body length, coat length and shades of brown in the coat

In defense of "medium", it is not exact but comparative

It helps define a range when it is inappropriate to place exact constraints on a feature

# Let's Compare- Nose Break

## Burmese:

Visible nose break

## European Burmese:

Visible nose break

## Tonkinese:

Slight stop at eye level

# Let's Compare- Head

## Burmese:

Rounded without flat planes

## European Burmese:

Top slightly rounded

## Tonkinese:

Slight convex curve to the forehead



# Let's Compare- Muzzle

## Burmese:

Well-developed short muzzle

## European Burmese:

Short blunt wedge

## Tonkinese:

Modified slightly rounded wedge

Blunt, as long as it is wide

# Let's Compare- Cheekbones

## Burmese:

<not defined>

## European Burmese:

Wide

## Tonkinese:

High gently planed

# Let's Compare- Eye Shape, Size and Color

## Burmese:

Large

Rounded aperture

Yellow to gold

## European Burmese:

Large

Top line slightly curved, with an oriental slant toward the nose

Lower line rounded

Yellow to amber

## Tonkinese:

Proportionate in size to the face

Open almond shape

Slanted along the cheekbones toward the outer edge of the ear

Green to yellow/green (Full Body colors only)



# Let's Compare- Chin

## Burmese:

Firmly rounded

## European Burmese:

Strong

## Tonkinese:

Tip of the chin lines with the tip of the nose

# Let's Compare- Ears

## Burmese:

Well apart and tilted slightly forward

Broad at the base

Rounded tips

## European Burmese:

Well apart and tilted slightly forward

Broad at the base

Slightly rounded tips

## Tonkinese:

As much on the side of the head as on top

Broad at the base

Oval tips

# Let's Compare- Feet

## Burmese:

Round

## European Burmese:

Small and oval

## Tonkinese:

More oval than round



# Let's Compare- Tail

## Burmese:

Straight

Medium length

## European Burmese:

Tapering

Medium length

Rounded tip

## Tonkinese:

Tapering

proportionate in length to body

# Vive la Difference!

## Comparison Summary

	Burmese	European Burmese	Tonkinese
Nose	Different	Identical	Identical
Head	Different	Similar	Similar
Muzzle	Different	Similar	Similar
Cheekbones	--	Different	Different
Eye size	Identical	Identical	Different
Eye shape	Different	Similar	Similar
Eye color	Different	Different	Different
Eye placement	Different	Similar	Similar
Chin	Similar	Similar	Different
Ear shape	Different	Different	Different
Ear placement	Identical	Identical	Different
Feet	Different	Similar	Similar
Tail shape	Different	Similar	Similar
Tail length	Similar	Similar	Different