

## TONKINESE BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Guidelines for Exhibitors of the Tonkinese Cat

The TBAC offer this guide to enhance and clarify details contained in the Standard of Points. The aims are:-

1. To preserve the Tonkinese at its best today.
2. To prevent modification of the breed by the award of prestigious Certificates to inferior cats.
3. To minimise misunderstanding of the breed.

**In Tonkinese the 'type' takes precedence over colour; but in all cases, Certificates and 1<sup>st</sup> Places should be withheld if the expression of the Tonkinese coat-pattern is wrong .**

**HEAD and EARS:** When viewed from the front, a good Tonkinese head, including ears, gives the overall impression of an equal-sided triangle, this impression also indicates the correct ear-set and size in proportion to the head. Ears that are set slightly vertical to the head, close set, or have pointed tips are undesirable. The whisker pinch shouldn't be so extreme that it makes the muzzle prominent. The top of the head (i.e. the skull between the ears) should be gently rounded, not flat. There should be no sharp angles or exaggerated curves. Heavy jowls in a mature male are acceptable. *See Diagrams*

**EYES:** Round, oriental or bold eyes are undesirable. It should be emphasised that the colour is any shade of bluish-green or greenish-blue. In kittens the developing colour may be 'muddy', which is acceptable, but in mature cats a yellow ring is not acceptable and should be penalised. Lighting conditions *may* affect the appearance of the eye colour but judges can only assess the eye colour as they see it on the day.

**BODY:** Female Tonkinese are usually smaller than males. Neuters may be heavier than entire cats but should retain good muscle-tone. Fine, small or notably long cats depart from the desired standard ("Medium to long, well balanced, firm and muscular.") and you should expect this to be penalised.

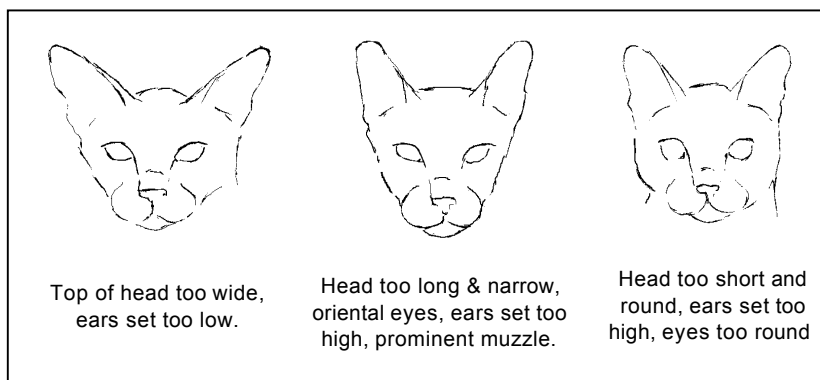
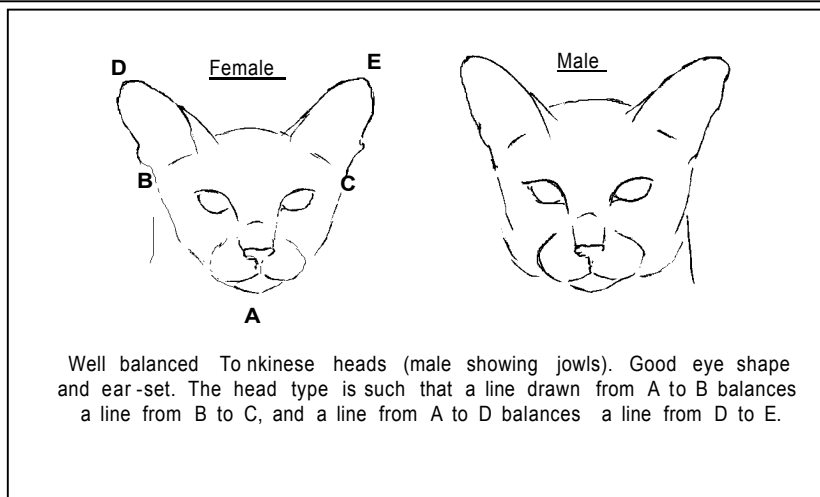
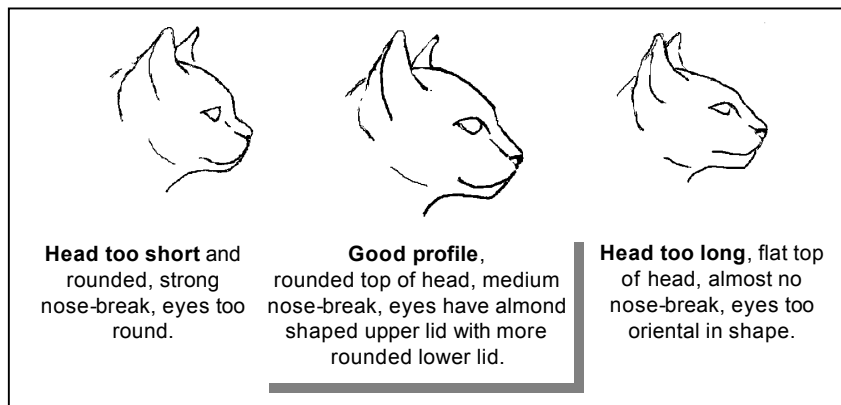
**TAIL:** The tail should be of medium length and gently tapering. It is not necessary for the tail to reach the shoulders, but when extended it should appear to balance the length of the body.

**TONKINESE COAT-PATTERN and COLOURS:** A clear Tonkinese coat-pattern expression is preferred; it is sufficiently described in the Tonkinese SOP. In mature cats, especially browns and blues, the coat darkens over the back and shoulders to the extent that the coat-pattern may not easily be seen - but the colour should still lighten over the throat, chest, lower shoulders and toward a lighter belly. The colour may lighten toward the roots. Certain colours and colour-patterns warrant additional comment: -

1. **'SELF' COLOURS** - On the body, ghost-marking/barring in developing kittens is undesirable; in mature cats it should be penalised. On the points, faint tabby markings on red, cream and apricot cats are acceptable but not desirable; in other colours you should expect tabby marking on a mature cat to be penalised.
2. **TORTOISESHELL** - On the body, ghost-marking/barring in developing kittens is undesirable; in mature cats it should be penalised. On the points of mature cats, faint tabby markings (on the red, cream and apricot areas only) are acceptable but not desirable. In some cats, notably in the darker colours, the mottling may obscure the Tonkinese coat-pattern, so Tortoiseshells are best viewed from a short distance to see full the colour-flow over the length of the cat. Careful attention should be given to the cat's type, particularly the head as the mottling may distort the appearance. The distribution of colour in Tonkinese tortoiseshells is immaterial so the body colour may not merge evenly with the darker points.
3. **TABBY** - The variety of tabby-pattern (ticked, mackerel, spotted or classic) is immaterial but the markings on the points should be clearly defined. The absence of clear head markings, leg bars or tail-rings should be penalised. Tabby Tonkinese may or may not have necklet/s (broken or unbroken). The colour of a dilute tabby (blue, lilac, caramel, cream and apricot) is usually lighter than its 'self' colour counter-part. It should be noted that Tabby markings may be slow to develop in kittens.
4. **CHOCOLATE & LILAC** - In Tonkinese the chocolate and lilac colours behave differently from other colours. The body colour may be so reduced that it presents some contrast with the points, this should not be penalised unless the body colour is almost white and the eye-colour is clear blue, but a warm body colour is preferred. The chocolate colour ranges from a warm rich chocolate to a very dark chocolate, warm tones are preferred.
5. **CARAMEL & APRICOT** - A brownish tinge to the base colour should be evident (caramel may be blue or lilac based, apricot is cream based) but it may be less noticeable on the points. In Tonkinese, the typical metallic sheen may not be evident until maturity.

**TEMPERAMENT:** The Tonkinese should be a confident and even-tempered cat. On the day of the show, many circumstances may affect an otherwise good-tempered cat but you should expect an aggressive demeanour to be penalised.

**CONDITION & VETERINARY DEFECTS:** The coat-texture and muscle-tone of a mature entire male may suffer in comparison with other Tonkinese, but all exhibits should be clean, healthy and well presented. Cats clearly in unclean or poor condition should be penalised. Clarification of the Veterinary Defects is listed in 'Guide to the Defects listed in the GCCF Standard of Points'.



*All diagrams are the copyright of Mrs L Vousden, October 2003*