Somali

**HEAD (25)**
- Skull ........................................ 6
- Muzzle .................................... 6
- Ears ......................................... 7
- Eye shape .................................. 6

**BODY (25)**
- Torso .................................... 10
- Legs and feet ......................... 10
- Tail ........................................ 5

**COAT (20)**
- Texture .................................. 10
- Length .................................... 10

**COLOR (30)**
- Color ................................... 10
- Markings .................................. 5
- Ticking ................................... 10
- Eye color ................................ 5

**GENERAL:**
- The overall impression of the Somali is that of a well
- proportioned medium to large cat, firm muscular development,
- lithe, showing an alert, lively interest in all surroundings, with
- an even disposition and easy to handle. The cat is to give
- the appearance of activity, sound health, and general vigor.

**HEAD:**
- A modified, slightly rounded wedge without flat planes;
- the brow, cheek, and profile lines all showing a gentle contour.
- A slight rise from the bridge of the nose to the forehead, which
- should be of good size with width between the ears flowing into
- the arched neck without a break.

**MUZZLE:**
- Shall follow gentle contours in conformity with the skull,
- as viewed from the front profile. Skull shall be full, neither
- under or over, having a rounded appearance. The muzzle
- shall not be sharply pointed and there shall be no evidence of
- snappiness, foxiness, or whisker pinch. Allowance to be made
- for jowls in adult males.

**EARS:**
- Large, alert, moderately pointed, broad, and cupped at the
- base. Ear set on a line towards the rear of the skull.
- The inner ear shall have horizontal tufts that reach nearly to the
- other side of the ear; tufts desirable.

**EYES:**
- Almond shaped, large, brilliant, and expressive. Skull
- aperture neither round nor oblong. Skull accented by dark lidskin
- encircled by light colored area. Above each a short dark vertical
- pencil stroke with a dark pencil line continuing from the upper
- lid towards the ear.

**BODY:**
- Torso medium long, lithe, and graceful, showing well-
- developed muscular strength. Rib cage is rounded; back is slightly
- arched giving the appearance of a cat about to spring; flank
- level with no tuck up. Conformation strikes a medium between
- the extremes of cobby and svelte lengthy types.

**LEGS and FEET:**
- Legs in proportion to torso; feet oval and compact.
- When standing, the Somali gives the impression of being
- nimble and quick. Toes: five in front and four in back.

**TAIL:**
- Having a full brush, thick at the base, and slightly tapering.
- Length in balance with torso.

**COAT:**
- Texture very soft to the touch, extremely fine and double
- coated. The more dense the coat, the better. Length: a medium
- length coat, except over shoulders, where a slightly shorter length
- is permitted. Preference is to be given to a cat with ruff and
- breeches, giving a full-coated appearance to the cat.

**BREED STANDARDS**

**COAT COLOR:**
- Warm and glowing. Ticking: distinct and even, with dark colored bands contrasting with lighter colored bands on the hair shafts. Undercoat color clear and bright to the skin. Deeper color shades desired, however, intensity of ticking not to be sacrificed for depth of color. Preference given to cats UNMARKED on the undersides, chest, and legs; tail without rings. Markings: darker shading along spine continuing through tip of tail; darker shading up the hocks, shading allowed at the point of the elbow; dark lines extending from eyes and brows, cheekbone shading, dots and shading on whisker pads are desirable enhancements, eyes accentuated by fine dark line, encircled by light colored area. **Eye color:** gold or green, the more richness and depth of color the better.

**RUDDY:**
- Ground color burnt-sienna, ticked with various shades of darker brown or black; the extreme outer tip to be the darkest.
- Tail tipped with black. The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the ground color. **Nose leather:** tile red.
- **Paw pads:** black or dark brown, with black between toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.

**RED:**
- Ground color rich, warm glowing red, ticked with chocolate-brown, the extreme outer tip to be darkest. Tail tipped with chocolate-brown. The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the ground color. **Nose leather:** rosy pink.
- **Paw pads:** pink, with chocolate-brown between toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.

**BLUE:**
- Ground color warm beige, ticked with slate blue, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest. Tail tipped with slate blue.
- The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the ground color. **Nose leather:** old rose.
- **Paw pads:** mauve, with slate blue between toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.

**FAWN:**
- Ground color warm rose-beige, ticked with light cocoa-brown, the extreme outer tip to be the darkest. Tail tipped with light cocoa-brown. The underside and inside of legs to be a tint to harmonize with the ground color. **Nose leather:** salmon.
- **Paw pads:** pink with light cocoa-brown between the toes, extending slightly beyond the paws.

(PLEASE NOTE: the Somali is extremely slow in showing mature ticking and allowances should be made for kittens and young cats.)

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The following information is for reference purposes only and not an official part of the CFA Show Standard.

**Somali Color Class Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Number 1</th>
<th>Number 2</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1398</td>
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**Somali allowable outcross breeds:** Abyssinian.