
BIRMAN

Breed Council Secretary: Karen Lane – Delray Beach, Florida
Total Members: 63
Ballots Received: 37

1. **PROPOSED:** Add “Structural defects or abnormalities” to Disqualify Section of the Breed Standard.

Current:

DISQUALIFY: lack of white gloves on any paw. Kinked or abnormal tail. Crossed eyes. Incorrect number of toes. Areas of pure white in the points, if not connected to the gloves and part of or an extension of the gloves. Paw pads are part of the gloves. Areas of white connected to other areas of white by paw pads (of any color) are not cause for disqualification. Discrete areas of point color in the gloves, if not connected to point color of legs (exception, paw pads). White on back legs beyond the hock. Eye color other than blue. White tail tips or chin spots.

Proposed:

DISQUALIFY: lack of white gloves on any paw. Kinked or abnormal tail. Structural defects or abnormalities. Crossed eyes. Incorrect number of toes. Areas of pure white in the points, if not connected to the gloves and part of or an extension of the gloves. Paw pads are part of the gloves. Areas of white connected to other areas of white by paw pads (of any color) are not cause for disqualification. Discrete areas of point color in the gloves, if not connected to point color of legs (exception, paw pads). White on back legs beyond the hock. Eye color other than blue. White tail tips or chin spots.

RATIONALE: As breeders we strive to produce the most nearly perfect kittens we can according to the Birman breed standard. That standard of perfection should be multi-dimensional to include overall beauty of the cat, as well as structural soundness without physical defects or abnormalities.

STANDARD CHANGE (passes)

Votes: 36

60% of Voting: 22

YES: 24

NO: 12

ABSTAIN: 1

2. **PROPOSED:** That the term “Lynx” point in our striped Birmans be changed to “Tabby” point in our Birman Breed Standard.

Current:

Lynx Point Color Classes

...

Seal Lynx Point Color Class

SEAL LYNX POINT: ...

Blue Lynx Point Color Class

BLUE LYNX POINT: ...

Other Lynx Point Colors Class

CHOCOLATE LYNX POINT: ...

LILAC LYNX POINT: ...

RED LYNX POINT: ...

CREAM LYNX POINT: ...

NOTE: on red and cream lynx points, “freckles” may occur on nose, lips, eyelids and ears. Slight freckling in a mature cat should not be penalized.

SEAL- TORTIE LYNX POINT: body mottled pale fawn to creamy white, shading gradually to lighter color on stomach and chest. Thumb marks are mottled in seal-tortie lynx points. Points, except for gloves, seal brown markings on a pale brown agouti background overlaid and intermingled with shades of light and dark red. **Nose leather:** pink, mottled pink or seal.

CHOCOLATE-TORTIE LYNX POINT: body mottled ivory to creamy white, shading gradually to white on stomach and chest. Thumb marks are mottled in chocolate-tortie lynx points. Points, except for gloves, milk chocolate markings on a light bronze agouti background overlaid and intermingled with shades of light and dark red. **Nose leather:** pink, mottled pink and chocolate or solid chocolate.

BLUE-CREAM LYNX POINT: ...

LILAC-CREAM LYNX POINT: ...

NOTE: the four colors above show the normal lynx point pattern which has been overlaid with shades of light and dark red (seal-tortie/chocolate-tortie) or cream (blue-cream/lilac-cream). The extent and distribution of the tortie areas are not important providing that both elements, tortie and lynx, are clearly visible.

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

Birman Color Class Numbers

Chocolate Point	0180	0181
Seal Point	0182	0183
Lilac Point	0184	0185
Blue Point	0186	0187
Other Solid Point	2178	2179
<i>(Red, Cream)</i>		
Parti-Color Point	--	2189
<i>(Seal-Tortie, Blue-Cream, Chocolate-Tortie, Lilac-Cream)</i>		
Seal Lynx Point	2152	2153
Chocolate Lynx Point	2154	2155
Blue Lynx Point	2156	2157
All Other Lynx Point	2158	2159
<i>(Lilac, Red, Cream, Seal-Tortie, Chocolate-Tortie, Blue-Cream, Lilac-Cream)</i>		
AOV	None	None

Proposed:

Lynx Tabby Point Color Classes

...

Seal ~~Lynx~~ Tabby Point Color Class

SEAL ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

Blue ~~Lynx~~ Tabby Point Color Class

BLUE ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

Other ~~Lynx~~ Tabby Point Colors Class

CHOCOLATE ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

LILAC ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

RED ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

CREAM ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

NOTE: on red and cream ~~lynx~~-tabby points, “freckles” may occur on nose, lips, eyelids and ears. Slight freckling in a mature cat should not be penalized.

SEAL- TORTIE ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: body mottled pale fawn to creamy white, shading gradually to lighter color on stomach and chest. Thumb marks are mottled in seal-

tortie ~~lynx~~ tabby points. Points, except for gloves, seal brown markings on a pale brown agouti background overlaid and intermingled with shades of light and dark red. **Nose leather:** pink, mottled pink or seal.

CHOCOLATE-TORTIE ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: body mottled ivory to creamy white, shading gradually to white on stomach and chest. Thumb marks are mottled in chocolate-tortie ~~lynx~~ tabby points. Points, except for gloves, milk chocolate markings on a light bronze agouti background overlaid and intermingled with shades of light and dark red. **Nose leather:** pink, mottled pink and chocolate or solid chocolate.

BLUE-CREAM ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

LILAC-CREAM ~~LYNX~~ TABBY POINT: ...

NOTE: the four colors above show the normal ~~lynx~~ tabby point pattern which has been overlaid with shades of light and dark red (seal-tortie/chocolate-tortie) or cream (blue-cream/lilac-cream). The extent and distribution of the tortie areas are not important providing that both elements, tortie and ~~lynx~~ tabby, are clearly visible.

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<i>(Red, Cream)</i>		
Parti-Color Point	--	2189
<i>(Seal-Tortie, Blue-Cream, Chocolate-Tortie, Lilac-Cream)</i>		
Seal lynx Tabby Point	2152	2153
Chocolate lynx Tabby Point	2154	2155
Blue lynx Tabby Point	2156	2157
All Other lynx Tabby Point	2158	2159
<i>(Lilac, Red, Cream, Seal-Tortie, Chocolate-Tortie, Blue-Cream, Lilac-Cream)</i>		
AOV	None	None

RATIONALE: We Birman Fanciers here in CFA were latecomers to what the rest of the planet refers to as “Tabby” points. All striped Birmans in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South America and South Africa are referred to as “Tabby” points. Using the term “Lynx” point is confusing to the rest of the world, not to mention to the general public, who see our

striped Birman as “Tabby” Points and are constantly having to have it explained to them, that when we say “Lynx”, we really mean “Tabby”.

As CFA spreads to other parts of the planet, it would behoove us to refer to our striped Birman by the universal term “Tabby” points. The rest of the world began referring to striped Birman as “Tabby” points years and years before we brought our first striped Birman into CFA.

There is a reason that the term “Lynx” point was chosen when these striped Birman were accepted into CFA. CFA edited out the term “Tabby” in the Birman proposal to accept striped Birman and replaced it with a term of their own choosing; namely, “Lynx”, in order to follow the tradition of the Persian Breed Standard, which calls its striped pointed Persians “Lynx”.

However, in CFA it is true to say that there is spotty adherence to the standardization of color descriptions. Therefore, it is not without precedence that we Birman Breed Council members should get to choose what color description we want for our striped Birman.

Other breeds have their own unique color descriptions:

- Tonkinese are called “Platinum” for the color that is universally known as “Lilac” across most other breeds. And “Natural” in place of “Seal”, as the Pointed Persian standard has it. That same seal coloration is known as “Sable” in the Burmese breed.
- “Red” Abyssinians are colored by the Cinnamon gene, yet they are not called “Cinnamon” Abys. Meanwhile, the term “Cinnamon” is used to describe that same genetic coloration in other breeds, such as Oriental Shorthairs.
- And while we’re on Orientals, they are not called “Black”, they are called “Ebony”; and they are not called “Lilac”, they are called “Lavender”.

There are so many other examples of a disconnect between what one breed calls a certain color and what another breed calls that same color, that a movement to stringently standardize color descriptions in CFA was shelved years ago.

Then, of course, there is the inaccuracy in using the word “Lynx” to describe a striped pattern. The Lynx species of wild cat itself is not patterned with stripes in adulthood. Rather, it is either spotted (like the Ocicat) or agouti colored (like the Abyssinian).

So for these reasons it makes sense to change our Standard's terminology from “Lynx” to “Tabby”:

- We follow the tradition of the rest of the Birman world, who had Tabby Points before we did here in North America;
- We end confusion by calling a color pattern by its real name and we pave the way for CFA to expand into the rest of the world;

- We end inaccuracy by using the term “Tabby” instead of the term “Lynx”, a name which comes from a wild felid species that is NOT striped, but rather is spotted or agouti.

Every breed in CFA is unique and every breed wants to celebrate its unique qualities by choosing its own presentation of its CFA Breed Standard. This is one of the many traditions that makes CFA great.

STANDARD CHANGE (passes)

Votes: 35

60% of Voting: 21

YES: 25

NO: 10

ABSTAIN: 2