



The Siamese Cat

Gregarious Oriental Feline

Being intelligent does not mean they are easy to train and you will come to find that each cat has its own characteristics. Some cats will desist from a forbidden activity when you say "No!" Others of more mischievous natures will just bide their time until you are not around before resuming their favourite activity.

Legend of the Siamese cat

The Siamese cat has its origins from Thailand, which was formerly known as Siam. It was held in such high esteem in its native country that only the King and members of the royal family were allowed to keep them.

Records reveal that the cats were venerated as the guardians of temples. When persons of high standing passed away, it was customary to select one of these cats to receive the deceased's soul. The cat would then be taken away from the royal household and sent to one of numerous temples to live out its life in total luxury with monks and priests as its servants. The cats were reputed to feast on the finest foods from gold plates and to sleep on cushions made of the finest materials. These were all provided by the dead person's relatives in hopes of receiving blessings and good luck. Once they became temple cats, they were reputed to possess special powers and could intercede on behalf of the dead person.

Many years ago, physical characteristics such as crossed eyes and a kinked tail were considered part of the breeds' genetic make. Though careful selective breeding has almost phased out this trait, many stories abound about their origin.

It was said that a princess from the Siam royal family used the cat's tail as a ring stand while she took a bath. The kink in the tail prevented the rings from dropping off and being lost.

Another story recounts how Siamese cats developed both characteristics. During a time of war, all the men of Siam left their homes to defend their homeland. Two Siamese cats, a male named Tien and a female named Chula, were left to guard Buddha's golden goblet in the sacred temple. The male cat later became restless and mated with the female. He then left her to guard the goblet alone while he went out to find another priest to look after the temple. The female was so

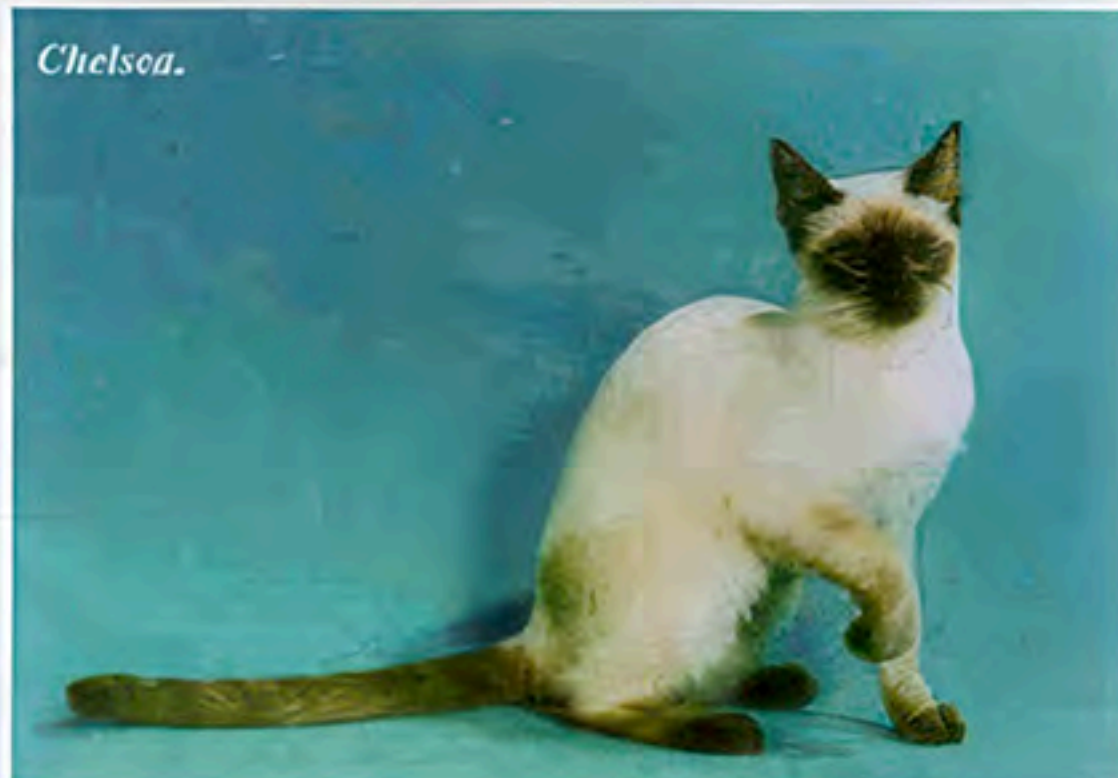
If you are a cat lover, then no cat conjures up visions of the mystical east more readily than a Siamese cat. This easily recognizable breed has captured the hearts of both young and old with their intelligence and inquisitive nature. They are not shy and most will go right up to strangers and demand to be petted. The people-oriented feline loves human companionship and likes to be in the middle of what you are doing, whether it is reading a book or cleaning the house. This ancient breed, perhaps the oldest of all cats, is able to communicate like no other. The Siamese voice is legendary. They speak both with their voice and with their body. Many people have mistaken a Siamese cat's "wailing" for agony when in fact they are only expressing themselves.

They are generally good family pets and are very tolerant of small children taking liberties with them - that, they will not take from adults - as long as it does not border on abuse. Unlike some cats who, tend to get restless easily, the Siamese is not in a constant state of motion and is adept at balancing its activity level. It is just as happy chasing a ball of twine as it is curling up on your lap for a snooze.

All my cats and kittens are fed a super-premium cat food available for them at all times throughout the day and they drink from bottled water just as I do. I cook for them their treat food a natural diet of cooked ground chicken or turkey, and change their litter boxes daily - cleanliness is one of my top priorities! My home/cattery is also a Veterinarian supervised and inspected "Cattery of Excellence" and has scored a perfect 100 each time! Working closely with my Veterinarian and friend, Dr. Patty Forsythe we have developed an immunization and preventative health schedule second to none so all my kitten's health are guaranteed.

As I have been raising my Siamese for 24 years now, I have been having old friends/customers of 15-20 years, who now return to me to get a Siamese or two! It is commonplace for my "new kitten parents" who get a kitten from me to come back and get another because their first is so great or wants a playmate. Over the years I have become affectionately known as "Aunt Bea" by my many satisfied kitten owners. I receive their letters and photos all the time. My kittens have traveled to their new homes in many interesting and far away places and I am encouraged by their "love-letters" and invitations to come and visit my furry babies in their new homes if I only had the time - my passport would have stamps from all over the world.

Chelsea.



Chelsea and Chirstie.



Beatrice Dore and her adorable cat.



Raising happy, healthy, well-socialized new family members is of Paramount Importance to me. Since 1981 I have specialized in the rare CFA registered purebred Old Style Siamese and Balinese Kittens - lovingly referred to as "Applehead or Traditional Siamese

Our kittens are consistently eating their dry kibble and bottled water (we drink it so why shouldn't they) "free choice" whenever they want throughout the day. They also get their "treat food" (which they envision as "prey") of cooked chicken, turkey or ground beef in the mornings and again when we come home in the evening - boy are they always happy to see us! Yes, they are spoiled but this extra effort further imprints on the kittens that we humans are their "Parent/Provider". At this age kittens would not have as yet developed effective hunting skills and Mom/Dad/Uncle/Aunt would still be bringing them home life sustaining "real food".

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overwhelmed with having to guard the goblet that she never once glanced away from it. As a precaution, she wrapped her tail around it lest she fall asleep and it got stolen. A great deal of time passed and there was still no sign of Tien. The female cat who by now was very pregnant, could not delay the birth of her kittens any longer and they came into the world with the same characteristics she had acquired as the guardian of the goblet - crossed eyes and a kinked tail.

History of the Siamese cat

The first sighting of Siamese cats on western soil was in 1884 when the vice consul from Bangkok, brought a pair of Siamese cats from Siam as a gift for his sister. The two cats, Pho and Mia were listed as 1a and 2a respectively in the British Siamese Cat Register. The children of Pho and Mia, Duen Ngai, Kalahom and Karomata were exhibited at the Crystal Palace in 1885 and beat all competitors. They mysteriously died after the show.

A gentleman by the name of Harrison Weir was so impressed by the animals that he wrote the "Points of Excellence" in 1892 so that Siamese cats could be judged using the description in shows. When the Siamese Cat Club was founded in 1902, these "Points of Excellence" were changed to the "Standard of Points." This is the standard and guide for the breeder of Siamese cats.

Between 1884 and the end of the nineteenth century, A large number of Siamese cats were imported from Siam into England and are recorded in the British Cat Registers. In America, the first Siamese cat arrived during the presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881), as a gift from the American consul in Bangkok to the first lady, Lucy Webb Hayes. The cat was named Siam and soon became a favourite at the White House.

As their popularity surged, Siamese cats began appearing on every conceivable medium

from postage stamps to figurines. The Hollywood film industry jumped on the bandwagon and soon Siamese cats were appearing on features like Walt Disney's, "That Darn Cat!" starring Haley Mills and Dean Jones and "Bell, Book and Candle," with Jimmy Stewart and Kim Novak.

Traditional and modern Siamese cats

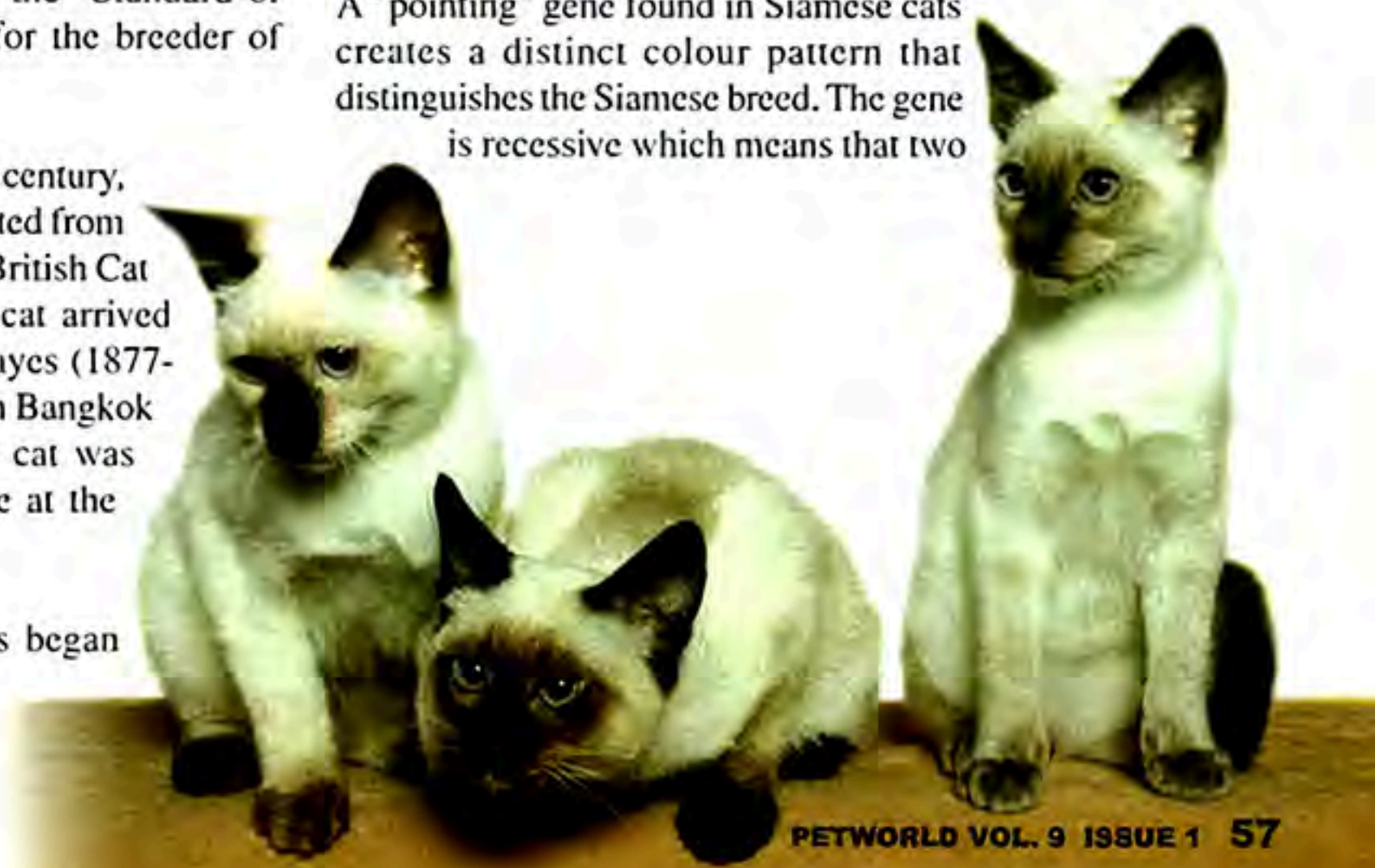
All the cats mentioned till now have been of the Traditional or Applehead variety. They differ from the cats seen in modern cat shows. The Traditional Siamese is a muscular, athletic cat with a round head and brilliant blue eyes. It has a striking contrast between point and body colour, which characterizes the breed. They tend to be longer-lived, more laid-back and healthier than their modern counterparts, having an average life-span of 15 to 20 years.

As the Siamese breed developed over the years, some breeders opted for a different look and produced what is now called the Modern Siamese. The cats initially started out with a slender body and a wedge-shaped head. As it evolved, the differences between the Modern and Traditional Siamese became more pronounced. The Modern cat now has an extremely slender body with a long triangular head, almond-shaped eyes and flaring ears. This look was favoured by show-oriented breeders and judges.

Over the past decade or so, there has been a resurgence of interest in traditional Siamese cats. To that end, associations like Traditional and Classic Cat International (TCCI) have been established with the aim of establishing an association and Registry for all traditional cat breeds. TCCI is also concerned with the health problems arising from specialized breeding to achieve a certain "look." It is striving too bring back and maintain the "Old Style" look of each breed and preserve bloodlines. TCCI also has its own breed standards for the Traditional Siamese Cat and regularly organizes cat shows for this and other breeds, which would otherwise be disqualified by modern breed-standard shows.

Pointed Genes

A "pointing" gene found in Siamese cats creates a distinct colour pattern that distinguishes the Siamese breed. The gene is recessive which means that two



■ breed feature

pointed parents will always produce pointed kittens. Siamese kittens are pure white at birth. The gene that produces "points" on the face, paws and tail is heat sensitive and the point colour gradually develops on the cooler parts of the body. In some bloodlines or warmer climates, the point colour may not manifest until the cat is over a year old.

A pointed cat that you might find in your local animal shelter may look Siamese but may not be a Traditional Siamese cat. A great number of purebred Siamese have interbred with domestic cats over the years. Therefore the gene, which creates the pointing pattern is found in a large number of cats. Some cats may look Siamese when in fact they have very little Siamese blood in them.

Feeding and grooming

By nature cats are carnivores. It is extremely important that your Siamese cat get the proper nutrition in the form of meat

protein. Meat should always be the main ingredient in any food you feed your cat. Kitten food from a reputable brand is recommended while your Siamese kitten is young, then gradually switching to adult food (different varieties) when 6-12 months old, depending on their weight and size. Feeding your Siamese kitten with a cheap brand of grocery store cat food, saturated by fillers, will simply make your cat vomit and create a lot of clean up chores for you.

Siamese cats require little grooming. They tend to keep themselves clean and well groomed. However, brushing or combing will only benefit these cats as this is a way of removing excess fur. Traditional Siamese do not shed excessively. The cat's ears are a very important part of grooming. Bathing is not a requirement, and many Siamese cats do not need a regular bath.

Choosing a Siamese cat whether it be traditional or modern is also very much a matter of preference and inevitably the final decision is up to you, the individual. Whatever your choice is, there is no doubt that your Siamese Cat will give you years of pleasure and wonderful companionship.

The Breed Standard for Siamese Cats (Modern) as defined by the CFA (Cat Fanciers' Association)

General: The ideal Siamese is a medium sized, svelte, refined cat with long tapering lines, very lithe but muscular. Males may be proportionately larger.

Head: Long tapering wedge. Medium in size, with good proportion to body. The total wedge starts at the nose and flares out in straight lines to the tips of the ears forming a triangle, with no break at the whiskers. No less than the width of an eye between the eyes. When the whiskers are smoothed back, the underlying bone structure is apparent. Allowance must be made for jowls in the stud cat.

Skull: Flat. In profile, a long straight line is seen from the top of the head to the tip of the nose. No bulge over eyes. No dip in nose.

Ears: Strikingly large, pointed, wide at base; continuing the lines of the wedge.

Eyes: Almond shaped. Medium size. Neither protruding nor recessed. Slanted towards the nose in harmony with lines of wedge and ears. Uncrossed.

Nose: Long and straight. A continuation of the forehead with no break.

Muzzle: Fine, wedge-shaped.

Chin and Jaw: Medium size. Tip of chin lines up with tip of nose in the same vertical plane. Neither receding nor excessively massive.



Too & Ming of SiamBaliRags



Rumbera of SiamBaliRags

Body: Medium size. Graceful, long, and svelte. A distinctive combination of fine bones and firm muscles. Shoulders and hips continue same sleek lines of tubular body. Hips never wider than shoulders. Abdomen tight.

Neck: Long and slender.

Legs: Long and slim. Hind legs higher than front. In good proportion to body.

Paws: Dainty, small, and oval. Toes: five in front and four behind.

Tail: Long, thin, tapering to a fine point.

Coat: Short, fine textured, glossy. Lying close to body.

Condition: Excellent physical condition. Eyes clear. Muscular, strong, and lithe. Neither flabby nor boney. Not fat.

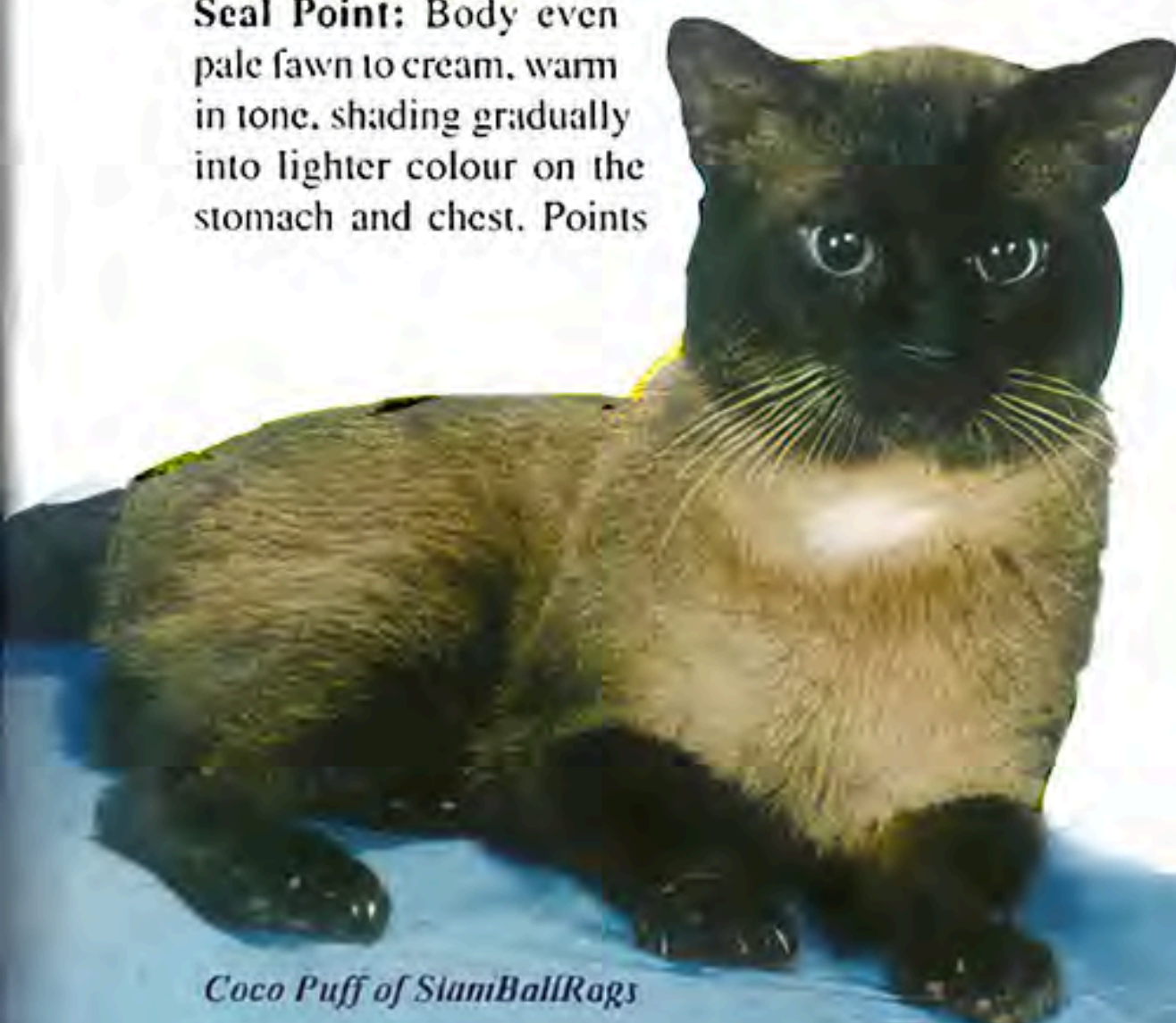
Colour: *Body:* Even, with subtle shading when allowed. Allowance should be made for darker colour in older cats as Siamese generally darken with age, but there must be definite contrast between body colour and points. *Points:* Mask, ears, legs, feet, tail dense and clearly defined. All of the same shade. Mask covers entire face including whisker pads and is connected to ears by tracings. Mask should not extend over the top of the head. No ticking or white hairs in points.

Penalize: Improper (i.e., off-color or spotted) nose leather or paw pads. Soft or mushy body. Visible protrusion of the cartilage at the end of the sternum under normal handling.

Disqualify: Any evidence of illness or poor health. Weak hind legs. Mouth breathing due to nasal obstruction or poor occlusion. Emaciation. Visible kink. Eyes other than blue. White toes and / or feet. Incorrect number of toes. Malocclusion resulting in either undershot or overshot chin. Longhair.

Siamese Colors

Seal Point: Body even pale fawn to cream, warm in tone, shading gradually into lighter colour on the stomach and chest. Points



Coco Puff of SlamiBallRags



Basket of Seal Point Babies.

Plc: SlamiBallRags

deep seal brown. Nose leather and paw pads: same colour as points. Eye color: deep vivid blue.

Chocolate Point: Body ivory with no shading. Points milk-chocolate colour, warm in tone. Nose leather and paw pads: cinnamon-pink. Eye colour: deep vivid blue.

Blue Point: Body bluish white, cold in tone, shading gradually to white on stomach and chest. Points deep blue. Nose leather and paw pads: slate coloured. Eye color: deep vivid blue.

Lilac Point: Body glacial white with no shading. Points frosty grey with pinkish tone. Nose leather and paw pads: lavender-pink. Eye colour: deep vivid blue.

The Breed Standard for Traditional Siamese Cats as defined by TCCI (Traditional and Classic Cat International)

General: The ideal Traditional Siamese is a medium to large blue-eyed cat of pointed colour. The body is long and substantial, neither cobby nor svelte, but solid and surprisingly heavy. The cat presents a well-balanced appearance, with body, legs, feet, head and tail all in proportion. The overall impression should be of a cat that is robust and muscular, though calm and poised with an alert intelligence.

Head: Proportionately large and broad rounding out from the ears and gently, tapering to the chin. In profile the tip of the chin lines with the tip of the nose in the same vertical plane. There is a slight convex curve of the forehead to just below the eyes where there is a slight to moderate break. The muzzle is blunt and is slightly wider than it is long. The cheeks are rounded out from just below the ear and taper in a curved line to a strong chin. Allowance to be made for jowls in the stud cat.

Ears: Alert, medium in length, almost as wide at the base as tall. Modified to a rounded point at the tip and set as much to



Malee (L) & Keilah (R) of SamBaliRags with their kittens.

the side as to the top of the head. Not overly large - proportional to the size of the head.

Legs: Proportional to body; medium in length and muscular. Back legs slightly longer than front legs.

Body: Large to medium, neither long and svelte nor cobby and compact. Females may be proportionately smaller than males. The body should be large and substantial, rectangular in shape with a full chest and equal width across shoulders and hindquarters. Firm and muscular. Balance and proportion are more important than size alone. Minimal stomach pad on lower abdomen acceptable.

Coat: Medium short in length, fairly close-lying, soft with a lustrous sheen.

Eyes: Open almond shape slightly slanted along the cheekbones toward the outer edge of the eye. Eyes are proportional in size to the face and have an alert and intelligent expression.

Paws: Medium size, and more round than oval. Toes: Five in front and four behind.

Neck: Moderate in size and length and muscular.

Tail: Medium length in proportion to the body, with close lying hair. Heavier at the base, tapering gradually along the length to a rounded tip.

Colour Body: Even with subtle shading on hips and along back. Lighter areas on chest and stomach. Allowance should be made for darker color in older cats as Traditional Siamese do darken with age. There must still be a definite contrast in colour between the body and the points. Points: Mask, legs, ears, feet and tail are densely coloured, all of the same shade, and clearly defined. Mask covers entire face and is connected to ears by tracings but should not extend over the top of the

head. Allowance to be made for incompletely developed point colour in cats less than one year of age.

Penalize: Off-colour or spotted nose leather or paw pads, ticking or white hairs in points. Tail kink that is detectable only by touch.

Disqualify: Any evidence of illness or poor health. Lack of nose break resulting in straight profile. Weak hind legs. Visible kink in the tail. Eyes crossed or other than blue. White toes and/or feet. Incorrect number of toes. Malocclusion resulting in either undershot or overshot chin. Long hair.

Siamese Colours

Seal Point: Body: Even pale fawn or cream, slightly darker across the back, shading gradually into a lighter colour on the belly and chest.

Points: Deep seal brown. Nose leather and paw pads same colour as points.

Eye Colour: Deep, vivid blue.

Chocolate Point: Body: Ivory in colour, lighter and with less shading than a seal point.

Points: Milk chocolate colour, warm in tone. Nose leather and paw pads are Cinnamon pink. Eye Colour: Deep, vivid blue.

Blue Point: Body: Icy bluish white, slightly darker across the back, shading gradually into a lighter colour on the belly and chest. Points: Silvery blue-grey. Nose leather and paw pads dark blue grey. Eye Colour: Deep, vivid blue.

Lilac Point: Body: Milky white with no shading. Points: Frosty pinkish grey. Nose leather and paw pads lavender pink.

Eye colour: Deep, vivid blue.



Mr Bolero of SamBaliRags