Birman
(Sacred Cat of Burma)

POINT SCORE

HEAD, BODY, TYPE & COAT (65)
Head (including boning, nose, jaw, chin) ......................... 30
profile, ear & eye shape & set.)
Body/Type (including boning, stockiness) ...................... 25
elongation, legs, tail.)
Coat (including length, texture, ruff.) .............................. 10
COLOR – INCLUDING EYE COLOR (35)
Color except gloves (including body color) .................... 15
point color, eye color.)
Gloves (including front & rear gloves) ......................... 20
laces & symmetry)

GENERAL: a cat of mystery and legend, the Birman is a color
pointed cat with long silky hair and four pure white feet. It is
strongly built, elongated and stocky, neither svelte nor cobby. The
distinctive head has strong jaws, firm chin and medium length
Roman nose. There should be good width between the ears,
which are medium in size. The blue, almost round eyes are set
well apart, giving a sweet expression to the face.

HEAD: skull strong, broad, and rounded. There is a slight flat spot
just in front of each ear and a slight flat spot on the forehead in
between the ears.

NOSE/PROFILE: the forehead slopes back and is slightly con-
 vex, with a slight flat spot on the forehead in between the ears.
The nose is medium in length and width, in proportion to the size
of the head. The nose starts just below the eyes and is Roman
(slightly convex) in shape and profile. The Roman nose creates
nostrils that are set low on the nose leather.

CHEEKS: full with somewhat rounded muzzle. Muzzle to be nei-
ther short and blunt nor pointed and narrow. The fur is short in
appearance about the face, but to the extreme outer area of the
cheek the fur is longer.

JAWS: heavy.

CHIN: strong and well-developed, with the lower jaw forming a
perpendicular line with the upper lip.

EARS: medium in length. Almost as wide at the base as tall.
Modified to a rounded point at the tip; set as much to the side as
into the top of the head.

EYES: almost round with a sweet expression. Set well apart, with
the outer corner tilted VERY slightly upward. Blue in color, the
deeper and more vivid blue the better.

BODY: elongated and stocky, with a good muscular feel.
Females may be proportionately smaller than males.

LEGS: medium in length and heavy.

PAWS: large, round, and firm. Five toes in front, four behind.

TAIL: medium in length, in pleasing proportion to the body.

COAT: medium long to long, silky in texture, with heavy ruff
around the neck, slightly curly on stomach. This fur is of such a
texture that it does not mat.

COLOR EXCEPT GLOVES: Body: even, with subtle shading
when allowed on all colors/patterns of more mature cats. Strong
contrast between body color and points. Points except gloves:
mask, ears, legs, and tail dense and clearly defined, all of the
same shade. Mask covers entire face including whisker pads and
is connected to ears by tracings. No ticking or white hair in points.

Golden Mist: desirable in all points colors is the “golden mist,” a
faint golden beige cast on the back and sides. This is somewhat
deeper in the seal points, and may be absent in kittens.

GLOVES: Front paws: front paws have white gloves ending in
an even line across the paw at, or between, the second or third
joints. (The third joint is where the paw bends when the cat is
standing.) The upper limit of white should be the metacarpal (dew)
pad. (The metacarpal pad is the highest up little paw pad,
located in the middle of the back of the front paw, above the third
joint and just below the wrist bones.) Symmetry of the front
gloves is desirable. Back paws: white glove covers all the toes,
and may extend up somewhat higher than front gloves. Symmetry
of the rear gloves is desirable. Laces: the gloves on the
back paws must extend up the back of the hock, and are
called laces in this area. Ideally, the laces end in a point or inver-
ted “V” and extend 1/2 to 3/4 of the way up the hock. Lower or
higher laces are acceptable, but should not go beyond the hock.
Symmetry of the two laces is desirable. Paw pads: pink pre-
ferred, but dark spot(s) on paw pad(s) acceptable because of the
two colors in pattern. Note: ideally, the front gloves match, the
back gloves match, and the two laces match. Faultlessly gloved
cats are a rare exception, and the Birman is to be judged in all its
parts, as well as the gloves.

PENALIZE: white that does not run across the front paws in an
even line. Lack of white on all front toes. Persian or Siamese type
head. Delicate bone structure. White shading on stomach and
chest. Lack of laces on one or both back gloves. White beyond
the metacarpal (dew) pad. (The metacarpal pad is the highest up
little paw pad, located in the middle of the back of the front paw,
above the third joint and just below the wrist bones.)

DISQUALIFY: lack of white gloves on any paw. Kinked or abnor-
mal 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.

BIRMAN COLORS

SEAL POINT: body even pale fawn to cream, warm in tone,
shading gradually to lighter color on the stomach and chest.
Points, except for gloves, deep seal brown. Nose leather: same
color as points.

BLUE POINT: body bluish white to pale ivory, shading gradually
to almost white on stomach and chest. Points, except for gloves,
slate blue. Nose leather: slate blue.

CHOCOLATE POINT: body ivory. Points, except for gloves, milk-

LILAC POINT: almost white. Points, except for gloves, frosty

Tabby Point Color Classes
There should be a clearly defined “M” marking on the forehead,
light colored “spectacle” markings around the eyes with spotted
whisker pads. Ears solid with no stripes. “Thump marks,” which
are less apparent in dilute colors and kittens, should be visible on
the back of the ears. Ear furnishings in front of the ears should be
off white in color. The legs should have clearly defined, varied
sized broken stripes and/or rings. There should be solid markings
on the back of the hind legs above the laces. A tail showing
lighter and darker rings is preferred, but such markings may only occur on the underside and should not then be faulted. The tail may be ticked. The chin may be light colored but not white. A light colored “bow tie” should be evident just below the nose.

**Seal Tabby Point Color Class**

**SEAL TABBY POINT:** body even pale fawn to cream, warm in tone, shading gradually to lighter color on the stomach and chest. Pale body coat is desirable, preferably free from body markings; however, body shading of light ghost striping toning with the points is acceptable. Points, except for gloves, seal brown markings on a pale brown agouti background. Solid markings on back of hind legs should be deep seal brown. Tail color, with the exception of the rings, should be deep seal brown. **Nose leather:** pink to brick colored outlined in seal to tone with the points. A solid color nose leather to tone with the point color is acceptable.

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

**SEAL-TORTIE 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 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 TABBY POINT:** body mottled ivory to creamy white, shading gradually to white on stomach and chest. Thumb marks are mottled in chocolate-tortie 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 TABBY POINT:** body mottled bluish white to clear white, shading gradually to almost white on stomach and chest. Points, except for gloves, blue markings on a light beige agouti background overlaid and intermingled with shades of light and dark cream. **Nose leather:** pink, mottled pink and blue or solid blue.

**LILAC-CREAM TABBY POINT:** body almost white with no shading. Points, except for gloves, lilac markings on a pale beige agouti background overlaid and intermingled with shades of cream. **Nose leather:** pink, mottled pink and light grey or solid pink-grey.

**NOTE:** the four colors above show the normal 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 tabby, are clearly visible.

**Parti-Color Colors Class**

**SEAL-TORTIE POINT:** body mottled pale fawn to creamy white, shading gradually to lighter color on stomach and chest. Points, except for gloves, seal brown, mottled with red. **Nose leather:** in accordance with one or both point colors.

**BLUE-CREAM POINT:** body mottled slate bluish white to clear white, shading gradually to almost white on stomach and chest. Points, except for gloves, slate blue mottled with cream. **Nose leather:** in accordance with one or both point colors.

**CHOCOLATE-TORTIE POINT:** body mottled ivory to creamy white, shading gradually to white on stomach and chest. Points, except for gloves, milk chocolate mottled with red. **Nose leather:** in accordance with one or both point colors.

**LILAC-CREAM POINT:** body almost white with no shading. Points, except for gloves, lilac markings on a pale beige agouti background overlaid and intermingled with shades of cream. **Nose leather:** pink, mottled pink and light grey or solid pink-grey.

**NOTE:** the four colors above show the normal 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 tabby, are clearly visible.
CREAM POINT: Body creamy white to clear white with no shading. Points, except for gloves, buff cream. **Nose leather:** flesh pink.

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

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

**Birman Color Class Numbers**

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<th>Category</th>
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**Other Solid Point**

- Red, Cream: 2178, 2179

**Parti-Color Point**

- Seal-Tortie, Blue-Cream, Chocolate-Tortie, Lilac-Cream: –, – 2189

**Lilac Tabby Point**

- 2150, 2151

**Seal Tabby Point**

- 2152, 2153

**Chocolate Tabby Point**

- 2154, 2155

**Blue Tabby Point**

- 2156, 2157

**All Other Tabby Point**

- Red, Cream, Seal-Tortie, Chocolate-Tortie, Blue-Cream, Lilac-Cream: 2158, 2159

**AOV**

- None

**Birman allowable outcross breeds:** none.