

AZTEC
(Breed AZT)

General Type Standard

The Aztec is a medium to large agouti cat of moderate type, noted for its "wild" appearance. It is athletic and powerful, yet graceful and lithe. The coat, in twelve different colours, is in the classic tabby pattern. The head accentuates the wild appearance, with moderately large ears and large expressive almond shaped eyes. The body is solid, rather long, with a well-muscled chest and substantial muscle and bone development surprising in this elegant cat. The tail is fairly long, not whippy; the coat is sleek and close lying. The Aztec's temperament belies its wild appearance, though active, intelligent and demanding of attention, it has a very affectionate nature and loves the companionship of man in particular, easygoing with other cats and with dogs.

Head - Modified wedge, longer than it is wide, showing a slight curve from muzzle to cheek, with a visible but gentle rise from the bridge of the nose to the brow. There is no nose break as such, but a slight dip is seen in profile. The muzzle is broad and well defined with a definite suggestion of squareness and in profile is longer than its width. A nose bump is not a withholding fault. Strong chin. Firm jaw. Broad, level bite. Moderate whisker pinch. Head carried gracefully on an arching neck. Allowance should be made for jowls on mature males.

Ears - Alert, moderately large and wide at base, set at a 45 degree angle, neither too high nor too low, with at least the width of an ear base between them. The tips of the ears should be gently rounded; vertical tufts from the ear tips are desirable but not essential.

Eyes - Large, almond shaped, and angled slightly upwards towards the ears, more than the length of an eye between the eyes. All eye colours except blue are allowed, with no correspondence between eye colour and coat colour. Depth of colour preferred.

Body - Solid, with substantial bone and muscle development and an athletic appearance. The body should be long. The chest should be deep and rather broad. The back should be straight and slightly higher at the rear. Both sexes should feel surprisingly heavy for their size, with the females smaller than the males.

Legs & Paws - Legs of good substance and well muscled. Medium length, powerful and in good proportion to the body. Paws oval and compact.

Tail - Fairly long and in good proportion to the body, broad at base with only a slight taper, no whip.

Coat - Short, satiny in texture with a lustrous sheen. Close lying and sleek, with no suggestion of woolliness. Allowances should be made for seasonal variation.

Colours - All colours should be clear and pleasing and the patterning should not be faint or blurred, although the pale colours will show less contrast than the darker ones. The lightest colour is found on the face, chin, lower jaw and abdomen., The darkest colour is found on the tip of the tail and the tail tip colour is the final definitive in determining the colour of the cat. Silver white colour on the throat and muzzle of silver cats is not a fault and the ground colour may be diluted by the Inhibitor (Silver) gene giving a cooler or darker colour, this should not be penalised. Tarnishing, i.e. discolouration of the silver is undesirable.

Pattern - All markings to be clearly defined and dense. On the forehead there should be a letter 'M' giving the impression of a frown. An unbroken stripe should run from the outer corner of the eye; narrow lines on cheeks. The neck and upper chest to have unbroken necklaces, the more the better. The edges of the ears to be the same colour as the markings with a central patch of ground colour resembling a thumbprint. A series of lines should run from above the 'M' markings over the top of the head and extend to the shoulder markings. The shoulder markings form the outline of a butterfly, when viewed from above. Both upper and lower 'wings' to be clearly defined with the central areas broken by small areas of ground colour. On the back there should be an unbroken line which should run down the spine from the butterfly to the tail, and there should be a stripe on either side of this and running parallel to it; these stripes should be separated from each other by stripes of the ground colour. On each flank there should be an 'oyster-shaped' patch which should be surrounded by one or more unbroken rings. The tail should have complete rings, as numerous as possible, with the tip of the tail being the same colour as the markings. The legs should be barred with bracelets from the body markings to the feet, which should be spotted. The abdominal region should also be spotted and may be predominantly lighter in tone. Ground colour and markings should be evenly balanced. Bilateral symmetry is much preferred to random "marbling"; ideally the pattern on both sides of the cat should match, and overall resemble the classic tabby pattern.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head.....	5
Muzzle.....	10
Ears.....	5
Eyes.....	5
Body.....	10
Body size and weight.....	5
Legs and Paws.....	5
Tail.....	5
Coat Pattern.....	30
Coat Colour.....	5
Coat Contrast.....	10
Coat Texture.....	5
	Total <u>100</u>

Withhold all Awards for:

1. White locket or spotting, or white anywhere other than around eyes, nostrils, lips, chin and upper throat (except white agouti ground in silver colours)
2. Blue eyes
3. Reds, creams or tortoiseshells
4. Cats with very indistinct pattern

Withhold Certificates or First Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:

1. Oriental or British head
2. Oriental or British body type

3. Long, shaggy or rough coat
4. Small-boned, fragile-appearing animal
5. Whip tail
6. Extensive tarnish or discolouration
7. Three or more faults from the list below
8. Any defect as listed in the preface to the SOP booklet

Faults:

1. Round or protruding eyes
2. Close-set or upright ears
3. Straight profile
4. Pointed muzzle
5. Tarnishing or discolouration on silvers
6. Cold grey tone to agouti ground colour
7. Poor contrast between pattern and ground colour

TAWNY (AZT n)

Coat Colour - Black or dark brown patterning on a tawny agouti ground. Tail tip black.

Nose Leather - Brick-red rimmed with black.

Eye Rims – Black.

Paw Pads - Black or dark brown.

CHOCOLATE (AZT b)

Coat Colour - Chocolate patterning on a pale copper agouti ground. Tail tip dark chocolate.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with chocolate.

Eye Rims – Chocolate.

Paw Pads - Chocolate-pink.

CINNAMON (AZT o)

Coat Colour - Bright cinnamon patterning on a lighter cinnamon agouti ground. Tail tip cinnamon.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with cinnamon.

Eye Rims – Cinnamon.

Paw Pads - Pink.

BLUE (AZT a)

Coat Colour - Blue patterning on a mushroom or pale blue agouti ground. Tail tip blue.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with dark blue.

Eye Rims – Blue.

Paw Pads – Blue.

LILAC (AZT c)

Coat Colour - Lilac patterning on a pale oatmeal or dove-grey agouti ground. Tail tip lilac.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with dark lilac.

Eye Rims – Lilac.

Paw Pads - Lilac-pink.

FAWN (AZT p)

Coat Colour - Fawn patterning on a pale oatmeal agouti ground. Tail tip fawn.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with fawn.

Eye Rims – Fawn.

Paw Pads - Pink.

BLACK SILVER (AZT ns)

Coat Colour - Black patterning on a silvery-white ground. Tail tip black.

Nose Leather - Brick-red rimmed with black.

Eye Rims – Black.

Paw Pads - Black.

CHOCOLATE SILVER (AZT bs)

Coat Colour - Chocolate patterning on a creamy-silver ground. Tail tip chocolate.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with chocolate.

Eye Rims – Chocolate.

Paw Pads - Chocolate-pink.

CINNAMON SILVER (AZT os)

Coat Colour - Cinnamon patterning on a cinnamon-silver ground. Tail tip cinnamon.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with cinnamon.

Eye Rims – Cinnamon.

Paw Pads - Pink.

BLUE SILVER (AZT as)

Coat Colour - Blue patterning on a blue-silver or mushroom silver ground. Tail tip blue.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with blue.

Eye Rims – Blue.

Paw Pads - Pink.

LILAC SILVER (AZT cs)

Coat Colour - Lilac patterning on a lilac-silver ground. Tail tip lilac.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with dark lilac.

Eye Rims – Lilac.

Paw Pads - Lilac-pink.

FAWN SILVER (AZT ps)

Coat Colour - Fawn patterning on a fawn-silver ground. Tail tip fawn.

Nose Leather - Pink rimmed with fawn.

Eye Rims – Fawn.

Paw Pads - Pink.