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## **SIBERIAN BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **A BREEDING POLICY FOR SIBERIAN CATS**

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# **SIBERIAN BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **A BREEDING POLICY FOR SIBERIAN CATS**

### **1. Introduction:**

This breeding policy accompanies and supplements the Siberian Registration Policy and should be read in conjunction with that document.

#### **1.1 Aims:**

**The aims of the breeding policy are as follows:**

- 1) To encourage breeding of Siberians which conform as closely as possible to the GCCF Standard of Points
- 2) Is to breed to further the welfare, health and care of Siberian Cats at all times.
- 3) To promote breeding for sound conformation, good temperament, and free from inheritable tracts and defects.

When considering breeding the objective must be to improve the Siberian Cat and working to meet all aspects of the Siberian Standard of Points.

#### **1.2 History:**

The Siberian is an indigenous cat breed from Russia which is well adapted to the cold climate of its native land, being medium to large, semi-longhaired and solid to ensure it is well-protected from the cold. Although the felines that formed the foundations from which this breed developed did not all necessarily come from Siberia itself, the name evokes the cold and severe climate of the area reflected in the cat's appearance. It is the name that was applied to this type of cat by the ordinary Russian people long before a formal pedigree programme was established.

Reports of longhaired cats in Russia date back hundreds of years and they were highly valued by Tsarist Russia (1853-1917) because of their looks and hunting skills. In the early days of the cat fancy, around 150 years ago, Harrison Weir, the godfather of all pedigree cats, described the "Russian Longhair" as one of the breeds seen at the time. He wrote an article in 1889 that described how the Russian Longhair differed from the other longhaired breeds such as the Angora and the Persian. He outlined a cat, which was large in body with short, strong limbs and a thick, woolly coat with coarser guard hairs. A Siberian cat was exhibited at Crystal Palace in 1871 and then another in 1884 at shows at Madison Square Gardens in the States.

At the time there were no strict breeding and registration policies and the different longhaired varieties were often interbred. The more popular Persian type took over and the Russian and Angora types disappeared from the scene. The Natural History Museum did however continue to exhibit a stuffed specimen described as a 'Russo-Persian cat' and a book published in 1926 described a longhaired cat from Siberia called the Tobolsk Cat.

During the Communist era in Russia, pet ownership was discouraged as a frivolity although working cats were kept on farms, but as the cold war came to an end and the iron curtain fell pedigree cats found their way into the bigger cities of Western Russia, such as St Petersburg and Moscow. The

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Russian cat fancy really began in 1987 and clubs were set up which started putting on shows. Russians, proud of their Siberian cats, began to show them and the members of the fledgling cat fancy decided to instigate a formal breeding programme to produce purebred Siberians and track their bloodlines.

The first Siberians used for breeding were cats of the correct type but whose parents were often unknown. The first Siberian World Champion, Ch. Dimka Laskovyi Zver, (Dimka the Affectionate Beast ) owned by Mrs T Pavlova, was one such cat. With each new generation of kittens bred the gaps at the end of the pedigrees receded and a pedigree record was built.

In the early 1990s the breed began to get attention elsewhere in the world. In 1990 a breeder from Louisiana named Elizabeth Terrell imported three Siberians to the USA, swapping them for some Colourpoint Persian (Himalayan) kittens then a Norwegian Forest Cats from New Jersey, named David Boehm imported fifteen Siberians and became the breeder of the first Siberian litter in the USA. The breed's popularity rose in there and Siberians were recognised by CFA (Cat Fanciers' Association) and TICA (The International Cat Association). In some early sources the breed was referred to as the "Siberian Forest Cat" but this was changed to avoid confusion with the Norwegian Forest Cat.

The breed became better-known throughout the 1990s and spread to other countries. In 2002 the first Siberians arrived in the UK when Heather Sabine (Silkiestar Siberians) imported a black smoke male, Windrifter Borealis, aka Boris, and a brown mackerel tabby and white female, Sibano Ariadne, pet-named Aria, bringing them through quarantine. Sue Bellew (Tiggytykes Siberians) and Caroline Gilyeat (Catreba Siberians) soon followed with other cats coming through quarantine and entering the country with PETS passports. Siberian breeding lines from Russia, America and Western European countries such as Italy, Finland and Germany were subsequently added to the UK gene pool.

The group of breeders obtained preliminary recognition for the breed with the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF). Siberians started to appear at British cat shows in assessment classes, competing to gain enough cats with enough merits to meet the targets set out for new breeds. Silkiestar Liudmilla, owned by Mandy Symonds was the very first Siberian to gain four merits. The Siberian Cat Club was formed in 2002 and gained full affiliation in 2009. The breed gained full championship recognition in 2013.

The colourpointed Siberians were bred independently under the name of Neva Masquerade which was not practical in the long term as it limited the gene pool. They are now seen as one of the varieties within the Siberian breed and breeders who wish to test to see if cats are carriers of the colourpoint gene are able to do so. The presence of the variety helps to explain the breed's good genetic diversity. Siberians of good type, but with this pattern, are a natural feature, and were an especially common sight around the Neva River in St. Petersburg. (which is why the variety was referred to as Neva Masquerade). Russian history provides a possible explanation: during WWII St. Petersburg (then still called Leningrad) endured a 900 day siege. Many of the residents, both humans and cats, died of cold and starvation. After the siege was over and the spring came the surviving rats quickly bred with fewer cats to control them and there were large rat infestations across the city. Trains were used to bring in hundreds cats from the far reaches of the USSR, including its furthest south-eastern corner bordering China where colourpoint cats are often seen and these could have passed on the gene to the local population.

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In the early 2010s a recessive extension gene was discovered in Siberian cats that is thought to be unique to the breed. This is known as zolotoy in the GCCF and is sometimes referred to as “sunshine” or “golden tabby” in other registries. It is hoped that a DNA test will be developed for the gene.

## **2 Siberian Type**

### **2.1 Appearance:**

The Siberian Cat is a medium to large semi-longhaired cat, solid with “heft” rather than rangy. The most important features are head type and coat quality. The overall impression should be of a cat with substance and rounded contours. Larger animals are preferred, though females will be somewhat smaller than males, but overall type is the overriding factor. The Siberian has a very distinctive weatherproof coat unique to the breed, and, as the breed originated as a natural outdoor cat in Russia, the overall appearance of the Siberian cat should reflect this natural heritage.

The Siberian matures slowly; full development of the cat can take four to five years. The cat should have an alert expression, be in good condition and well presented. A cat should not be penalised if apparently wrongly colour registered as there are no points for colour.

The head should be in good proportion to the body, forming a short, broad wedge with rounded contours, with a slightly rounded muzzle and chin. The lower forehead should be slightly domed giving the profile line a slight concave curve at the bridge with a nose of a harmonious length and showing a uniform width. Overall, the cheekbones are the determining factor in the head type of a Siberian. The cheekbones should be low-set, very broad and connected by a gentle, rounded line to the whisker pads and chin, which produces the desired expression. The head should also show ears of medium size rounded at the tip and set wide apart, ideally an ear or more width between them. A cat that displays a tall ear set but keeps the broad rounded head is to be preferred to a cat with wide set ears but a narrow head. The Siberian's eyes should be large, slightly oval shaped, set slightly oblique and wide apart. Any eye colour for all tabby and solid cats is allowed, other than blue or odd-eyed these colours are only allowed in Siberians that are solid white or that are van patterned. For colourpointed Siberians the only allowed eye colour is Blue.

The body of the Siberian is rectangular in shape but not excessively long, showing to be well muscled and heavily built with a broad chest. The neck should be short and substantial and the body should be supported by legs that are medium in length with substantial bone structure and strength. The paws are large, with toes carried close and rounded with well-developed tufts. The tail should be broad at the base, of proportionate length and slightly tapering towards the tip and reach the shoulder blade and be well furnished.

The texture and structure of the coat are important features of the breed. However, allowance should be made for kittens that may have softer fur, and for the seasonal shedding in adults. The coat should be of medium length, with a very dense undercoat that is soft, fine and somewhat “springy”, covered by a coarser, more substantial topcoat. The fur over the shoulders is shorter. The hair is firm to the touch and waterproof. The smoothly flowing guard hairs should cover the back, flanks and upper side of the tail, whereas the underside of the body and the breeches has only undercoat. The undercoat is shorter than the covering topcoat; it should be dense and plentiful. The

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summer coat of the Siberian may be lighter but should still be present. One should feel the definite resilience of the dense

## 2.2 General Description

**Head:** The head should be in good proportion to the body. It should form a short, broad wedge with rounded contours, with a slightly rounded muzzle and chin. The lower forehead should be slightly domed. The profile line should show a slight concave curve at the bridge with a nose harmonious length. The nose should be of uniform width when viewed from the front. The whisker pads should be moderately well developed and form a gentle, rounded line with the chin. The muzzle should be broad and rounded. The chin should be slightly rounded, neither receding nor prominent when viewed in profile.

**Cheekbones:** The cheekbones are the determining factor in the head type of a Siberian. The direction of the cheekbone arch extends to the outer ear base. The cheekbones should be low set, very broad and connected by a gentle, rounded line to the whisker pads and chin, which produces the desired impression.

**Ears:** Ears of medium size, rounded at the tip, set wide apart, the width of an ear or more between the ears. A cat with higher ear set but a broader rounded head is to be preferred to a cat with wide set ears but a narrow head. Ears should be well furnished.

**Eyes:** Large, slightly oval shaped, but with a rounded lower line, slightly oblique and wide apart. Any shade is allowed except blue and odd eyed colour are allowed in white or van patterned Siberians and only blue in Colourpoint Siberians. The colour should be a clear and bright indication of good health.

**Body:** The body is rectangular in format but not too long. The cat should be medium to large, well-muscled and heavily built with a broad chest. The neck should be short and substantial.

**Legs & Feet:** The legs should be in proportion to the body, of medium length with substantial bone structure and strength. The legs should be felt to estimate bone structure. Paws large with toes carried close, rounded and with well-developed tufts. A medium sized female with balanced bone structure and proportions should be preferred to a giant male whose legs are too long.

**Coat:** The texture and structure of the coat are important features of the breed. However, allowances should be made for kittens that may have softer fur, and the seasonal casting. The coat is of medium length, with a very dense undercoat that is soft, fine and somewhat "springy", covered by a coarser, more substantial topcoat. The fur over the shoulder is shorter. The hair is firm to the touch and waterproof. The smoothly flowing guard hairs should cover the back, flanks and upper side of the tail.

The underside of the body and the breeches have only undercoat. The undercoat is shorter than the covering topcoat. It should be tense and plentiful. It may be lighter in the summer but should still be

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present. One should feel the definite resilience of the dense undercoat when a hand is placed on the coat. A longer, plentiful ruff is preferred.

### **2.3 Coat Colour & Pattern:**

The Siberian is recognised in a wide range of colours and patterns including colourpoint. The colourpoint is registered by the GCCF as a Siberian with colourpointed colour distribution.

Tabby Siberians may have a classic, mackerel or spotted tabby patterns and may also be shaded.

Brown tabbies have a wide range of variations in density of colour ranging from dark cold tones to a warmer honey brown as well as the dilute form of black or blue tabby, Silver tabbies are also seen in the accepted tabby patterns. The red series tabbies include red, cream, black tortie and blue tortie tabbies in the accepted tabby patterns and the corresponding silver varieties. Zolotoy (Russian for golden) tabby Siberians are also seen in classic, mackerel and spotted patterns mainly in the black and blue varieties

The GCCF has agreed to register Siberians referred to as "Sunshine" or "Golden Tabby" in other registries using the description "Zolotoy" which is Russian for "Golden". GEMS Code **t2** is used for zolotoy Siberians instead of the GEMS Code **y** which is used for the registration of Golden cats.

Breeders and owners of zolotoy full coated and colourpointed, with or without white Siberians that have been registered as brown tabbies by the GCCF may apply to the GCCF for a change of GEMS Code and colour/pattern description. The GCCF have agreed that there will be no charge for the changes to the GCCF database. If breeders and owners require reprinted Registration cards, these may be ordered online in the usual way at the usual cost.

A wide range of solid colours is seen within the breed including black, red, blue, cream, black tortie, blue tortie and the corresponding smoke varieties. The Siberian is also seen in solid white with four permitted eye colours. blue, green, gold and odd-eyed. Any eye colour is allowed on the tabby, solid and smoke Siberians and odd eyes are accepted in the tabby & solid Siberians.

Colourpoint Siberians may be seal, blue, red, cream, seal tortie and blue tortie with either solid or tabby points. The tabby pattern is not specified for colourpoint Siberians. The colour range also extends into the base colours of silver. For example, seal silver tabby point and seal smoke point. Allowances should be made for colourpoint Siberian tummy spots and shading. The eye colour of the colourpoint Siberian is always blue although the intensity of the blue may be paler in some cats. It is generally less intense than in other colourpoint breeds.

Any amount of white is allowed on all patterns including the colourpoint varieties.

Note 1: The only non-permitted tabby pattern is a ticked Tabby

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Note 2: The non-permitted colours within the Siberian breed are chocolate, cinnamon and caramel and the associated dilutes colours of lilac, fawn and apricot. These colours are not accepted in any pattern combination (solid, bi-colour, tri-colour, tabby or colourpointed). Burmese and Tonkinese colour restrictions are also not permitted

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## 2.4 Registration codes.

The following are the old and new GCCF registration

**Codes: -**

We have left the old GEMS codes to assist newer breeders to identify some registrations on the pedigrees:

The following registrations for Zolotoy t2“Golden” as other registration. Of course, there was no previous GEM numbers

Solid Colours			Solid Colours with White		
Colour	Old GCCF Description	EMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code
BLACK	82 15	SIB n	BLACK & White	82 31	SIB n 03
BLUE	82 16	SIB a	BLUE & White	82 31a	SIB a 03
Blue-Eyed WHITE	82 14	SIB w 61	RED & White	82 31d	SIB d 03
Orange-Eyed WHITE	82 14a	SIB w 62	CREAM & White	82 31f	SIB e 03
Odd-Eyed WHITE	82 14b	SIB w 63	BLACK TORTIE & White	82 22	SIB f 03
Green-Eyed WHITE	82 14c	SIB w 64			
RED	82 15d	SIB d	BLUE TORTIE & White	82 22a	SIB g 03
CREAM	82 17	SIB e	GCCF default registration will be 03 for white (bicolour) it will be the breeder’s responsibility to determine the level of white and its corresponding number 02 – high white, 03 – bicolour, 09 – unspecified white –covering spotting and low white.		
BLACK TORTIE	82 21	SIB f			
BLUE TORTIE	82 28	SIB g			

Tabby Colours					Tabby Colours with White				
Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code			Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code		
		Classic tabby	Mackerel tabby	Spotted tabby			Classic tabby	Mackerel tabby	Spotted tabby
BLACK (Brown) TABBY	82 20	SIB n 22	SIB n 23	SIB n 24	BLACK (Brown) Tabby & White	82 31t	SIB n 03 22	SIB n 03 23	SIB n 03 24
BLUE Tabby	82 20a	SIB a 22	SIB a 23	SIB a 24	BLUE Tabby & White	82 31at	SIB a 03 22	SIB a 03 23	SIB a 03 24
RED Tabby	82 19	SIB d 22	SIB d 23	SIB d 24	RED Tabby & White	82 31dt	SIB d 03 22	SIB d 03 23	SIB d 03 24
CREAM Tabby	82 20f	SIB e 22	SIB e 23	SIB e 24	CREAM Tabby & White	82 31ft	SIB e 03 22	SIB e 03 23	SIB e 03 24
BLACK TORTIE Tabby	82 20e	SIB f 22	SIB f 23	SIB f 24	BLACK TORTIE Tabby & White	82 31et	SIB f 03 22	SIB f 03 23	SIB f 03 24
BLUE TORTIE Tabby	82 20g	SIB g 22	SIB g 23	SIB g 24	BLUE TORTIE Tabby & White	82 31gt	SIB g 03 22	SIB g 03 23	SIB g 03 24
GCCF default registration will be 22 for tabby it will be the breeder’s responsibility to determine the pattern and register accordingly.					GCCF default registration will be 03 for white (bicolour) it will be the breeder’s responsibility to determine the level of white and its corresponding number 02 – high white, 03 – bicolour, 09 – unspecified white –covering spotting and low white. GCCF default registration will be 22 for tabby it will be the breeder’s responsibility to determine the pattern and register accordingly.				

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Smoke Colours			Smoke Colours with White		
Colour	Old GCCF description	GEMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code
BLACK Smoke	82 36	SIB ns	BLACK Smoke & White	82 31s	SIB ns 03
BUE Smoke	82 36a	SIB as	BLUE Smoke & White	82 31as	SIB as 03
RED Smoke	82 36d	SIB ds	RED Smoke & White	82 31ds	SIB ds 03
Cream Smoke	82 36f	SIB es	CREAM Smoke & White	82 31fs	SIB es 03
Tortie Smoke	82 36e	SIB fs	TORTIE Smoke & White	82 31es	SIB fs 03
BLUE TORTIE Smoke	82 36g	SIB gs	BLUE TORTIE Smoke & White	82 31gs	SIB gs 03
			GCCF default registration will be 03 for white (bicolour) it will be the breeder's responsibility to determine the level of white and its corresponding number 02 – high white, 03 – bicolour, 09 – unspecified white –covering spotting and low white		

Silver Colours					Silver Colours with White				
Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code			Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code		
		Classic tabby	Mackerel tabby	Spotted tabby			Classic tabby	Mackerel tabby	Spotted tabby
BLACK Silver Tabby	SIB ns 22		SIB ns 23	SIB ns 24	BLACK Silver Tabby & White	82 31ts	SIB ns 03 22	SIB ns 03 23	SIB ns 03 24
BLUE Silver Tabby	82 18a	SIB as 22	SIB as 23	SIB as 24	BLUE Silver Tabby & White	82 31ats	SIB as 03 22	SIB as 03 23	SIB as 03 24
RED Silver Tabby	82 18d	SIB ds 22	SIB ds 23	SIB ds 24	RED Silver Tabby & White	82 31dts	SIB ds 03 22	SIB ds 03 23	SIB ds 03 24
CREAM Silver Tabby	82 18f	SIB es 22	SIB es 23	SIB es 24	CREAM Silver Tabby & White	82 31fts	SIB es 03 22	SIB es 03 23	SIB es 03 24
BLACK Silver TORTIE Tabby	82 18e	SIB fs 22	SIB fs 23	SIB fs 24	Silver TORTIE Tabby & White	82 31ets	SIB fs 03 22	SIB fs 03 23	SIB fs 03 24
BLUE Silver TORTIE Tabby	82 18g	SIB gs 22	SIB gs 23	SIB gs 24	BLUE Silver TORTIE Tabby & White	82 31gts	SIB gs 03 22	SIB gs 03 23	SIB gs 03 24
GCCF default registration will be 22 for tabby it will be the breeder's responsibility to determine the pattern and register accordingly.					GCCF default registration will be 03 for white (bicolour) it will be the breeder's responsibility to determine the level of white and its corresponding number 02 – high white, 03 – bicolour, 09 – unspecified white –covering spotting and low white. GCCF default registration will be 22 for tabby it will be the breeder's responsibility to determine the pattern and register accordingly.				

Shaded Colours			Shaded Colours with White		
Colour	Old GCCF	GEMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF	GEMS Code

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BLACK Shaded	82 43	SIB n 11	BLACK Shaded & White	82 43w	SIB n 03 11
BLUE Shaded	82 43a	SIB a 11	BLUE Shaded & White	82 43aw	SIB a 03 11
RED Shaded	82 43d	SIB d 11	RED Shaded & White	82 43dw	SIB d 03 11
CREAM Shaded	82 43f	SIB e 11	CREAM Shaded & White	82 43fw	SIB e 03 11
TORTIE Shaded	82 43e	SIB f 11	TORTIE Shaded & White	82 43ew	SIB f 03 11
BLUE TORTIE Shaded	82 43g	SIB g 11	BLUE TORTIE Shaded & White	82 43gw	SIB g 03 11
GCCF default registration will be 03 for white (bicolour) it will be the breeder's responsibility to determine the level of white and its corresponding number 02 – high white, 03 – bicolour, 09 – unspecified white –covering spotting and low white.					

Silver Shaded Colours			Silver Shaded Colours with White		
Colour	Old GCCF	GEMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code
BLACK Silver Shaded	82 43s	SIB ns 11	BLACK Silver Shaded & White	82 43sw	SIB ns 03 11
BLUE Silver Shaded	82 43as	SIB as 11	BLUE Silver Shaded & White	82 43asw	SIB as 03 11
RED Silver Shaded	82 43ds	SIB ds 11	RED Silver Shaded & White	82 43dsw	SIB ds 03 11
CREAM Silver Shaded	82 43fs	SIB es 11	CREAM Silver Shaded & White	82 43fsw	SIB es 03 11
BLACK TORTIE Silver Shaded	82 43es	SIB fs 11	TORTIE Silver Shaded & White	82 43esw	SIB fs 03 11
BLUE TORTIE Silver Shaded	82 43gs	SIB gs 11	BLUE TORTIE Silver Shaded & White	82 43gsw	SIB gs 03 11
GCCF default registration will be 03 for white (bicolour) it will be the breeder's responsibility to determine the level of white and its corresponding number 02 – high white, 03 – bicolour, 09 – unspecified white –covering spotting and low white.					

Solid Pointed Colours			Solid Pointed Colours with White		
Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code
SEAL Point	82 40 1	SIB n 33	SEAL Point & White	82 40 1w	SIB n 03 33
BLUE Point	82 40 2	SIB a 33	BLUE Point & White	82 40 2w	SIB a 03 33
RED Point	82 40 5	SIB d 33	RED Point & White	82 40 5w	SIB d 03 33
CREAM Point	82 40 7	SIB e 33	CREAM Point & White	82 40 7w	SIB e 03 33
SEAL TORTIE Point	82 40 6	SIB f 33	SEAL TORTIE Point & White	82 40 6w	SIB f 03 33
BLUE TORTIE Point	82 40 8	SIB g 33	BLUE TORTIE Point & White	82 40 8w	SIB g 03 33

Tabby Pointed Colours			Tabby Pointed Colours with White		
Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF Description	GEMS Code
SEAL Tabby Point	82 40 11	SIB n 21 33	SEAL Tabby Point & White	82 40 11w	SIB n 03 21 33
BLUE Tabby Point	82 40 12	SIB a 21 33	BLUE Tabby Point & White	82 40 12w	SIB a 03 21 33
RED Tabby Point	82 40 15	SIB d 21 33	RED Tabby Point & White	82 40 15w	SIB d 03 21 33
CREAM Tabby Point	82 40 17	SIB e 21 33	CREAM Tabby Point & White	82 40 17w	SIB e 03 21 33
SEAL TORTIE Tabby Point	82 40 16	SIB f 21 33	SEAL TORTIE Tabby Point & White	82 40 16w	SIB f 03 21 33
BLUE TORTIE Tabby Point	82 40 18	SIB g 21 33	BLUE TORTIE Tabby Point & White	82 40 18w	SIB g 03 21 33

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Smoke Pointed Colours			Smoke Pointed Colours with White		
Colour	Old GCCF	GEMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF	GEMS Code
SEAL Smoke Point	82 40 1s	SIB ns 33	SEAL Smoke Point & White	82 40 1sw	SIB ns 03 33
BLUE Smoke Point	82 40 2s	SIB as 33	BLUE Smoke Point & White	82 40 2sw	SIB as 03 33
RED Smoke Point	82 40 5s	SIB ds 33	RED Smoke Point & White	82 40 5sw	SIB ds 03 33
CREAM Smoke Point	82 40 7s	SIB es 33	CREAM Smoke Point & White	82 40 7sw	SIB es 03 33
SEAL TORTIE Smoke Point	82 40 6s	SIB fs 33	SEAL TORTIE Smoke Point & White	82 40 6sw	SIB fs 03 33
BLUE TORTIE Smoke Point	82 40 8s	SIB gs 33	BLUE TORTIE Smoke Point & White	82 40 8sw	SIB gs 03 33

Silver Tabby Pointed Colours			Silver Tabby Pointed Colours with White Silver Tabby Point with white		
Colour	Old GCCF	GEMS Code	Colour	Old GCCF	GEMS Code
Seal Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 11sw	SIB ns 21 33	Seal Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 11sw	SIB ns 03 21 33
Blue Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 12sw	SIB as 21 33	Blue Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 12sw	SIB as 03 21 33
Red Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 15sw	SIB ds 21 33	Red Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 15sw	SIB ds 03 21 33
Cream Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 17sw	SIB es 21 33	Cream Silver Tabby Point & White	82 40 17sw	SIB es 03 21 33
SEAL Silver TORTIE Tabby Point & White	82 40 16sw	SIB fs 21 33	SEAL Silver TORTIE Tabby Point & White	82 40 16sw	SIB fs 03 21 33
BLUE Silver TORTIE Tabby Point & White	82 40 18sw	SIB gs 21 33	BLUE Silver TORTIE Tabby Point & White	82 40 18sw	SIB gs 03 21 33

Zolotoy					
Colour	GEM codes	Colour	Gem Codes	colour	GEMS Code
Black Zolotoy Classic Tabby	SIB nt2 22	Black Zolotoy Mackerel	SIB nt2 23	Black Zolotoy Spotted	SIB nt2 24
Blue Zolotoy Classic Tabby	SIB at2 22	Black Zolotoy Mackerel	SIB at2 23	Blue Zolotoy Spotted	SIB at 24
Seal Zolotoy Tabby Colourpoint	SIB nt2 21 23	Blue Zolotoy Tabby Colourpoint	SIB at 21 33		
Black Zolotoy Classic Tabby & White	SIB nt2 09 22	Black Zolotoy Mackerel & White	SIB nt2 09 23	Black Zolotoy Spotted Tabby & White	SIB nt2 09 24
Blue Zolotoy Classic Tabby & White	SIB at2 09 22	Blue Zolotoy Mackerel Tabby & White	SIB at2 09 23	Blue Zolotoy Spotted Tabby & White	SIB at2 09 24
Seal Zolotoy Tabby Colourpoint & White	SIB nt2 09 21 33	Blue Zolotoy Tabby Colourpoint & White	SIB at2 09 21 33		

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### 3

## Breeding System

The Siberian breed has evolved and developed over the years within its country of origin often referred to as the cat that came in from the cold. The breed has gained popularity since its introduction to the United Kingdom in 2002. Breeders are developing the breed's gene pool by the continual introduction of new lines to maintain stability within the breed.

Breeders continue to aim to further develop and maintain the Siberian breed, by breeding to a good standard that reflects the standard of points while still allowing scope to improve aspects of type, conformation and coat quality. With this in mind, all breeders need to have a clear, definite and well understood **“breeding system”**. This means the development and management of a breeding programme in which certain cats are assessed and carefully evaluated against the standard for merit of being bred to other examples of the breed, to produce the next generation of the breed. Equally important, it also means that breeders allow no mating until they have given careful consideration to the outcome. In particular three key rules must be followed:

- **Health must be the overriding consideration in any Siberian breeding programme.**
- **The good and bad features of the individual cats should be assessed and weighed against each other before any mating.**
- **When planning a breeding programme, breeders must realise that doubling of the good traits in a cat also results in the doubling of the defects; the breeding of cats with similar faults should be avoided at all costs otherwise there is a danger of fixation of the negative trait.**

The prime motive is to develop and sustain the qualities of the breed that reflects the standard of points that was established at the breed's recognition, whilst showing this standard on the show bench.

The skill in breeding lies in the choice of the individual cats and how these cats may be mated with each other – these two acts should be viewed as separate components to breeding although they interconnect.

### 3.1

## Genetic Make-up

Genetic studies have shown the Siberian to have one of the most diverse gene pools of any cat breed, which is important in maintaining good genetic health in the breed. The seminal 2008 study of cat breed *The Ascent of Cat Breeds: Genetic Evaluations of Breeds and Worldwide Random Bred Populations* by Lipinski et al includes the Siberian as one of the breeds analysed. It shows that it is a genetically distinct breed grouped in the family of

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Northern European breeds most closely related to the Norwegian Forest Cat and to the random-bred populations of cats in Finland and Germany. The study states that Siberians have the highest heterozygosity values among the breeds included, which is comparable to that of random-bred cats. The study recorded genetic heterozygosity in Siberians at 0.69, compared to a pedigree breed average across all breeds included of 0.51 and a range of 0.34 to 0.69. This compares to an average for random-bred populations of 0.65. This excellent level of genetic diversity can be maintained by careful planning of breeding programmes and occasional judicious use of outcrossing to introduce new bloodlines. The gene pool has benefitted from a diverse range of foundation cats and a system whereby new foundation cats of appropriate type and origins can be introduced.

## 3.2

### Inbreeding

Inbreeding is an inclusive term covering many different breeding combinations and degrees of relationship – including the more distant, less intense. It is consistently more efficient in eliminating heterozygous (varying & diverse) genotypes and increasing homozygous (same) genotype, thereby ensuring a greater likelihood that kittens will closely resemble their parents. Used here, the term does not mean close, purposeful, inbreeding of closely related cats (brother/sister, father to daughter), but rather the moderate form that results from the mating of not too distantly related (but not directly related) cats (first cousins, second cousins, etc). Some in-breeding is essential to stabilise conformation around a definitive type. In-breeding is the act of mating individuals of various degrees of kinship, and if continued it produces ever increasing homogeneity in the offspring.

It is important to monitor the percentage intensity of inbreeding for any mating – use this consideration as a key part of the decision-making process when considering any mating, and remember: **“The more intense the in-breeding, the more careful must be the selection”**. **“Loss of innate genetic variability must not be too great”**.

The overall approach should be one of balance and moderation in the degree of inbreeding coupled with consistent selective breeding with a clear objective in mind. i.e. improvement of key aspects and/or the elimination of weak traits or defective genes.

**When calculating inbreeding coefficients as many generations as possible should be used the BAC recommends that that breeders aim to calculate over at least 10 generations where possible the percentage of inbreeding for any desired/planned mating. The greater the number of generations used, the more accurate the result (ideally to foundation).**

Breeding systems and practices need to operate so as to ensure the Siberian gene pool contains enough variation to give scope to continue improving the breed and avoid the danger of either fixing type too quickly (before the ideal of the standard is reached) or deleterious genes being expressed and fixed in the breed. Breeders need to use acceptable levels of inbreeding to gain sufficient homogeneity to fix recognisable Siberian type, but with sufficient variation to both enable improvement, and maintain health and vigour,

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avoiding fixation of defective genes or unwanted traits (and to ensure the elimination of anomalies).

The golden rule is that health is paramount and must be constantly and consistently monitored; any evidence of weakness or the emergence of lack of vigour must be dealt with immediately through modification of the breeding system. No cat with any evidence of health problems or lack of vigour should be used for breeding.

Breeders should also be aware that research has shown that highly inbred animals are less likely to be show winners. Although a certain level of acceptable inbreeding can help to fix desirable traits, inbreeding depression can cause asymmetries and weaknesses that can be damaging to a cat's potential show success.

### **3.3 Inbreeding Depression**

A breed, breeding line or individual can suffer from inbreeding depression when inbreeding coefficients are raised to high levels and a loss of heterozygosity results. Inbreeding depression can result in a general loss of vigour, even if the animals in question are not suffering from specific recessive genetic disease. A small gene pool can result in inbreeding depression in a breed. A popular and numerous breed with a small gene pool has a low 'effective population size', regardless of the numerical size of the breed's population. A popular breed with a small effective population size can be compared to an overinflated balloon.

Inbreeding depression can compromise a cat's immune system and make it less able to resist disease. A group of genes called the Major Histocompatibility Complex, or MHC plays an important role in the immune system. The way in which the genes in the MHC are inherited means that it is particularly vulnerable to inbreeding depression and a loss of genetic diversity in the MHC can impact on the health of the cat.

Inbreeding depression can manifest in different ways depending on the particular make-up of the gene pool in question. Few cases of inbreeding depression will manifest all of the signs. Although these are the problems which can occur in any random-bred cat, a combination of some of these signs could well indicate a problem with inbreeding depression. Any Siberian breeder has a duty to the breed to manage inbreeding within the lines by using suitable cats of various lines this can be achieved by importing cats or using cats of Russian decent with unknown ancestry that confirm closely to the breed standard.

Signs of inbreeding depression include slow growth rate, small adult body size, small litter size, reduced fertility, increased kitten mortality, increased prevalence of allergies, reduced ability to fight infections, physical asymmetries, especially facial, an increase in congenital abnormalities, increased prevalence of cancers, increased incidence of genetic disease, and reduced life expectancy.

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### **3.4 Acceptable Levels for Coefficients on Inbreeding:**

**When calculating inbreeding coefficients, as many complete generations as possible should be used – ideally to foundation. The BAC recommends that breeders should aim to calculate the percentage of inbreeding for any desired / planned mating over at least 10 generations where possible.**

The following levels of inbreeding have been identified in the GCCF Breeding Policy:

0 to 10% = Low

10 to 20% = Fair

20 to 25% = Acceptable

25 to 40% = High. Only to be undertaken by experienced breeders for specific reasons

40%+ = Not advised

**NB** On the GCCF Website the (COIs) Coefficients of Inbreeding calculations are now available on the details of your cats.

### **3.5 Outcrossing**

The Siberian accepts cats of Siberian type that have unknown ancestry and are directly imported from Russia as the outcross option to introduce new bloodlines and maintain good genetic diversity in their gene pool. However, the following information (taken from the GCCF Siberian Registration Policy) must be adhered to:

**“Imports with unregistered cats in the background, as specified, will be accepted for registration only if they have been DNA tested to show they do not carry the following listed non permitted colours of chocolate, cinnamon or the Burmese colour restriction pattern. Cats must be microchipped at the time of testing, and the microchip number must be on the test certificate(s) and the cat's own veterinary record.”**

The Siberian does not permit any other pedigree breeds to be used for the purpose of outcrossing.

Undertaking an outcross or working with a breeding line containing a recent outcross brings many benefits to the breed by increasing genetic diversity, which is key to genetic health. It not only benefits the breeder but also safeguards the future of the breed. A cat of good type, which is as close to the Siberian standard as possible, should be used. The first and second generations of offspring may have less predictable results since the genetic background of the new cat is unknown, but the breeder should select the best cat from each generation to breed the line on with.

The outcross cat is registered as a foundation Siberian – their parents may be unknown or unregistered. The registration policy states that any Siberian with unknown or unregistered ancestors within three generations (i.e. parents, grandparents and great grandparents) will be placed on the reference register. Cats on the reference register cannot be shown in competition but they can be entered in the “exhibition with critique” class. This allows breeders to get valuable judges’ feedback on the cats in their breeding programme. If three full judges assess a Siberian in “exhibition with critique” classes favourably, it can be reallocated to the supplementary register and shown in competition.

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## 4 Evaluating Kittens

Breeders should make rational decisions on which kittens to retain for future breeding, or allow on the active register, based on a range of different factors. Animal breeding scientists use evaluation systems to calculate Estimated Breeding Values, or EBV's for animals. Cat breeders can use similar methods in a less formal way in order to evaluate kittens and make comparisons which can help to inform decisions.

There is a risk that breeders will make selections based on too limited a range of factors. The following should be taken into consideration: -

- Closeness to the standard of points.
- Number and severity of faults.
- Temperament.
- Health
- Development
- Coefficient of inbreeding
- Generational level
- Parental/familial breeding history
- The selected cat's fit with the breeder's breeding goals and aspirations
- Breeder's intuition

Breeding evaluation score-sheets are available for breeders to use to make assessments of their kittens. (See appendix 1)

## 5. Breeding Guidance

The selection of Siberian cats to be used for breeding purposes should be very strict, particularly so in the case of stud cats. Preference should be given to those individuals who conform most nearly to the GCCF standard of points with particular emphasis on overall balance and quality, type, coat texture. It should be noted that the breed can take a number of years to reach full maturity so an assessment of any cats should reflect development. The breed has no points for coat colour and pattern and the only focus should be on breeding the accepted colours and not introducing or developing colours that are not of natural occurrence within the breed (chocolate, lilac, fawn and cinnamon and Burmese and Tonkinese colour restriction).

It is recommended that cats/kittens that show the incorrect head type or structure or that have fine boning should not be retained for the purpose of breeding. In addition, it is recommended that cats that exhibit behavioural or skeletal abnormalities (spinal deformities or any abnormality of the bone structure of the tail) should not be bred from.

It is recommended that a female should not be bred at least, before she is a year old to allow her time to mature and develop

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## 5.1 Mentoring of New Breeders

All new Siberian breeders should start under the guidance of a mentor who is an experienced breeder and already has raised a number of litters of Siberian cats. This is especially important for novice breeders with little or no prior experience of cat breeding but support should also be available to breeders who may have experience of other breeds but who are new to the Siberian breed. If a new breeder does not have a mentoring relationship with the breeder of their cat, a mentor will be identified through one of the club's registered breeders. All breeders are strongly recommended to participate in ongoing education and development about cat breeding through participation in appropriate discussion forums, seminars and cat clubs.

## 5.2 Domestic Pet recommendations:

Associated with these guidelines is the parallel requirement that the health and well-being of these cats, including the careful placement of kittens in suitable permanent homes, is to be of paramount importance at all times. The placing of kittens/cats in homes on 'breeding terms' is to be discouraged. It is recommended that any progeny that are not required for Siberian breeding should be placed on the Non-Active Register and it is a recommendation kittens are neutered or spayed to avoid Siberians being bought for the wrong reasons. It is realised that not all Breeders agree with this therefore it is recommended that Breeders follow up all kittens' sales.

All kittens should be Vaccinated and microchipped before going to their new homes. New owners should be encouraged to join a breed club, or signed up to a club by the breeder.

Breeders are urged to observe the recommendations of the GCCF and the advice of their own Veterinary Surgeons regarding cat welfare, the importance of neutering and health inoculations.

## 6 Health Testing

In some lines that have been used as foundation breeding stock within Russia and exported all over the world, some of the foundation cats and the resulting kittens have gone on to develop, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) and also Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). For both diseases, no health screening tests specific to Siberians have been developed and the conditions remain in certain lines.

### **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)**

HCM can be tested for by the means of Doppler Ultrasound scans of the heart performed and analysed by qualified Veterinary Cardiologists. Such scans can only be performed when the cat is over 10 months of age. Consultation with your Veterinary Surgeon is needed as a referral to a specialist will be required. Scans will need to be repeated every two years. It should be noted that cats can appear clear on one scan then on the next they can show the disease. Ref: - <https://pawpeds.com/health-programmes/hcm.html>

### **Langford Laboratories HCM Statement 2019**

HCM is the common form of heart disease in domestic cats and it is likely that it is caused by different mutations in different breeds; many of the mutations are as yet unidentified. Langford

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College University are currently carrying out research into HCM in Siberians and other breeds. They don't have the knowledge of the General Echocardiography Screening Programme through their specialist cardiology service to add to this. As yet they don't know the basis of HCM in Siberians. The HCM-causing mutations have been identified and they offer genetic tests for those linked to HCM in Maine Coon and Ragdoll cats respectively. The mutations are specific to these breeds, so testing for either mutation in Siberian is not likely to be informative unless they have Maine Coon or Ragdoll ancestry. There are 837 Siberian Cats on the database and only 3 have tested for Maine Coon HCM (all normal) and none for Ragdoll HCM.

It is possible to have an echocardiogram after the age of 10 months to examine the health of the heart but this must be repeated at least every two years.

The main genetic tests that are relevant to Siberians are the blood group Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) at low prevalence. Pyruvate Kinase Disease PKDef and coat colour

### **Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD)**

PKD can be tested for by use of DNA testing for the disease.

Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) was first reported in 1967. It is an inherited disease in Persian and Persian-cross cats. It has also been diagnosed in British Shorthairs, Exotics, Scottish Folds, and Himalayans. It is a slowly progressive, irreversible disease.

### **Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PK Def)**

PK Def can be tested for by use of DNA testing for the disease.

PK Def is an inherited lack of the enzyme **pyruvate kinase**, which is used by red blood cells. Without this enzyme, red blood cells break down too easily, resulting in a low level of these cells (haemolytic anaemia).

### **White Cats and Deafness**

It has been identified that all white cats, of whatever eye colour, are at risk of deafness, either unilaterally or bilaterally. If considering breeding with a white cat it is recommended that it should be either BAER or OAE tested before breeding.

The Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) test is based on the electrical response of the components of the auditory pathway. The test offers a quick, non-invasive and accurate assessment of an individual's hearing status.

BAER testing is available from Langford.

<http://langfordvets.co.uk/small-animal-hospital/services/screening-unit#tab-2>

Others available

Cheshire – Cranmore Veterinary Centre                      Tel 0151 339 9141

Derby –            [www.scarsdalevets.com](http://www.scarsdalevets.com)                      Tel. 01332 245 191

Dorset/Hampshire [www.scvetspecialists.co.uk](http://www.scvetspecialists.co.uk)                      Tel. 01425 485 615

Kent      Church Farm Clinic                                      Tel 0151 327 1885

Glasgow        [www.gla.ac.uk/faculties/vet/smallanimalhospital](http://www.gla.ac.uk/faculties/vet/smallanimalhospital)                      Tel 0141 330 5848

Hampshire [www.seadownvets.co.uk](http://www.seadownvets.co.uk)                      Tel 02380842237

Manchester [www.amcreferrals.com/2-5electrophysiol.html](http://www.amcreferrals.com/2-5electrophysiol.html)                      Tel 0161 881 3329

Suffolk        [www.aht.org.uk/ahtequine.html](http://www.aht.org.uk/ahtequine.html)                      Tel 01638 751000

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## **Blood Types**

Some lines have also shown that "B" blood group cats are within breed programmes around the world so it is advised that breeders be aware of lines that have produced "B" blood group cats, the offspring of these cats should be tested to see if they are "A" "A/b" or "B" blood group as a queen who is blood typed as a "B" may experience fading kittens due to blood incompatibility if she has been mated to an "A" blood typed male. "A" blood is dominant to "B".

<http://langfordvets.co.uk/small-animal-hospital/services/screening-unit#tab-2>

## **7 Allergy advice**

### **Are Siberian Cats hypoallergenic?**

**Some Siberians are useful to some people that are sensitive to cats.**

In recent years hypoallergenic cats have repeatedly made news headlines. What is the meaning of "hypoallergenic" with regard to cats and what are "reasonable expectations" for allergy sufferers at this time?

Feline allergen is a very small glycoprotein created in the salivary (saliva), lacrimal (tears), sebaceous (skin), and perianal glands. Salivary Fel d1 becomes airborne during grooming, sebaceous Fel d1 tends to be distributed across the fur, with the highest levels being found near the skin. Perianal glands secrete the allergen onto the faeces. The highest concentration of Fel d1 is found in the perianal glands.

Feline allergen (Fel d1) is found only in cats and accounts for up to 60% of cat allergies. Typical reactions to the allergen vary but includes symptoms ranging from a mild runny nose and itchy eyes to severe reactions such as swollen eyes, hives or difficulty breathing. Individuals allergic to cats and not to other animals are usually allergic only to Fel d1. The allergen is very stable and it can remain in the home for 6 months after the removal of the cat

Research has shown that all cats produce some Fel d1 but the amounts are quite varied. Studies by Siberian Research have shown there is a very strong correlation between the allergen level in saliva and the perceived allergic reaction in highly allergic individuals. Siberians with very low allergen levels pass this trait to some (but not all) of the kittens in the litter.

Production and secretion of the Fel d1 allergen is controlled by hormones and stress. In normal cats, the highest levels are found in un-neutered males. In very low-allergen Siberians, the males and females have similar levels of Fel d1. Some of the lowest levels have been found in Siberian males. (Information from [www.siberianresearch.com](http://www.siberianresearch.com))

### **7.1 Allergy Visits.**

Before embarking on an allergy visit to a breeder's home you need to discuss the severity of the symptoms of your allergy. It is strongly advised that if you visit a breeder, you should take your medication with you for your allergies but not to take it prior to your visit. People with severe

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allergies and those who have other underlying medical conditions, should consult with a doctor about the planned visit and take advice from them on whether the visit is advisable.

On contacting a breeder, the extent of the allergies must be explained to them. On visiting a breeder, the person effected must not be exposed to other breeds of cats or other animals as this could affect the allergy visit.

It is also advised from the Siberian Research website that nursing queens are good to see and handle as they are at a less reactive stage. Many breeders would be reluctant to allow strangers to visit whilst the kittens are still suckling. Most breeders will not allow outsiders to have contact with their kittens until vaccinated. Prospective owners should only visit one litter per day to minimise any transfer of disease from one cattery to another.

Kittens' coats will carry more Fel-d1 due to mothers washing the kittens and also from dust within the litter tray. As most breeders would not allow a visit until the kittens have had their first vaccination, prospective new owners will get a better reading. Severe allergies should only be exposed to one kitten/cat at a time as the density increases with number.

On visiting the breeder, you should not be exposed to other pets or another breed of cat as this can affect the results of an allergy visit. It is sensible to be introduced to one animal to see if there is a reaction and time should be spent before introducing others. If everything progresses well with little or no reaction then the opportunity may be given to handle several cats. You are advised to act normally and, as it is human nature, to handle your face automatically. The time scale for reactions varies but a general rule is within 15 to 20 minutes you will show some reaction, but if you are a mild allergy sufferer you may need a longer exposure to the cats and kittens. It is possible there may be a reaction within the next 12 hours. Everyone is different.

Some prospective owners who have found it difficult to get to a breeder have had the suggestion of using a t-shirt or blanket that the cats have slept on etc. and to sleep with it on their pillow. This is not a normal practice. Every effort must be made to spend time with a kitten/cat. The animal will hopefully be with you for many years.

It is possible with people with a mild reaction to "acclimatise" to their cat, but allowing the cat to wonder in the outside world will "contaminate" it.

If you react whilst on the visit excuse yourself and go and wash your hands and face and take your medication and if possible, change your clothing if you have a severe reaction.

The Siberian Cat Club committee would advise that allergy sufferers take time to think about the decision whether or not to pursue the purchase of a kitten; it is advisable to go home and see if any symptoms of a reaction appear within a few hours if not then contact the breeder and arrange the purchase of a kitten. Likewise, the breeder must decide if they are happy to let the kitten/cat be homed with the possibility of the animal being returned. Deposits are taken in good faith but generally are not returnable if you decide to decline a kitten at a later date.

**NB** Higher Fel d1 are higher in Entire animals. Also, animals under stress. The above recommendations are on the assumption that all animals have been neutered.

## **8 BAC Recommendations**

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The BAC recommends that breeders re-read this breeding policy as well as the general GCCF Breeding Policy, the GCCF Siberian Registration Policy, the Siberian Standard of Points at least once a year.

Breeders will be encouraged to participate in any relevant official scheme which may be devised by the BAC to test the soundness of the Siberian breed.

Siberian breeders are encouraged to work closely with other like-minded breeders to improve the Siberian breed whilst maintaining a diverse gene pool.

When importing cats from abroad or between registries, it is highly recommended to look at the ancestry carefully to ensure that a non-permitted outcross has not occurred within the pedigree as this will result in the cat being placed on the Reference Register–II with no further progression.

The BAC further recommends that, if a breeder who wishes to import any Siberian cat or kitten onto the GCCF Register (either from an overseas registry or from another registry within the UK) is in any doubt about whether the proposed imported cat complies with the current GCCF Siberian Registration Policy, the breeder should obtain a copy of the pedigree and forward this to the Siberian BAC for checking before agreeing to purchase the cat/kitten.

Now all imported that are destined to become an active stud will require a Certificate of Entirety from a British Veterinary Surgeon.

Please note that any cat or kitten found not to conform to the GCCF Siberian Registration Policy, together with any progeny, will be registered on the GCCF Reference Register with no progression.

Breeders are urged to observe the GCCF Code of Ethics alongside the Siberian Cat Club's own Breeder Code of Ethics and the recommendations of the GCCF and the advice of their own veterinary surgeons regarding cat welfare, the importance of neutering, health, inoculations etc. also Felv and FIV testing

The Siberian BAC recommends that breeders should think carefully before selling any Siberian cats on the Active Register taking into consideration the purchaser's experience and that no kitten should be sold on the Active Register to a breeder who is new to the breed without ensuring that a mentoring relationship is in place either with the breeder of the kittens or another suitably experienced breeder. We recommend that no active stud should be sold to anyone who has less than 2 females. The GCCF policy is that no pedigree Stud is allowed to mate with a non-registered, non breed female.

This Breeding Policy aims to support the development of all Siberians regardless of colour or the pedigree lines they are bred from. The policy does not endorse or frown upon breeders who have made choices to breed for colour but the policy encourages all breeders to breed responsibly and also make valued assessments of cats used in a breeding programme to enhance the development of the breed for future generations.

**DNA Testing is available at:**

- Langford Laboratories at Bristol University (a discount code is available to Siberian Cat Club members)

<http://www.langfordvets.co.uk/diagnostic-laboratories/diagnostic-laboratories/general-info-breeders/list-feline-genetic-tests>

- The Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at UC Davis, California

<http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/cat/>

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**For further reading on cat genetics and breeding practices, breeders are advised to refer to:**  
“Robinson’s Genetics for Cat Breeders & Veterinarians” by Vella, Shelton, McGonagle and Stanglein,  
Published by Butterworth & Heinemann.