

Manx Breeding, Registration policy and Standard of Points - suggested amendments

Karen Kempell - 16th February 2013

Health Screening of Manx Cats

Subsequent to consultation with members of the veterinary sub-committee it is suggested that Manx breeding cats be given a health screen by a veterinary practitioner and certified free of any overt physical or health defects e.g. intestinal or neurological defects. ~~A signed GCCF form (or letter, these two options are under consideration) from the breeder stating that the cat is free from any overt health issues including urinary or faecal incontinence is to be submitted to the GCCF.~~ **A signed letter from the veterinarian stating that the cat is free from any overt health issues including urinary or faecal incontinence is to be submitted to the GCCF.** This can be submitted with the certificate or entirety for males and a copy of the letter submitted with the kitten registration documents for females.

A small minority of white cats are deaf or partially deaf and the modifying factors determining whether a cat is deaf or not cannot be directly controlled in a breeding programme, however by selectively choosing cats with full hearing for breeding purposes the natural progression should be to avoid any increase in the incidence of deafness across the generations. For this reason all white Manx used for breeding are required to take a BAER (brainstem auditory evoked response) test which is necessary to show the cat is not bilaterally or unilaterally deaf. No white Manx kittens can be registered with GCCF unless a BAER certificate of freedom from deafness is supplied. For identification purposes cats must be microchipped prior to testing.

Standard of Points -

Changes are suggested to the current standard of points to discourage breeding of Manx cats with overly shortened backs as this may pose a greater risk of associated health defects, to place the emphasis more squarely with size, type and head and to shift emphasis away from taillessness as the dominant, defining feature of the breed.

Current:

Head – Fairly round and large with prominent cheeks, Nose broad and straight, of medium length without any break. Strong muzzle, without any hint of snipyness. Firm chin and even bite

Ears – Fairly tall, set rather high on the head and angled slightly outwards. Open at base tapering to a narrow, rounded tip

Eyes – Large and round. Colour preferably in keeping with coat colour

Body – Solid, compact with good breadth of chest and short back ending in a definite round rump. The rump to be higher than the shoulder. Flanks of great depth.

Legs – Of good substance with front legs short and well set to show good breadth of chest. Back legs longer than the front with powerful, deep thighs

Taillessness – Absolute taillessness is essential. The rump should be felt to be completely rounded, with no definite rise of bone or cartilage interfering with the roundness of the rump.

Coat – Double-coated showing a well padded quality arising from a short, very thick undercoat and slightly longer overcoat. The double quality of the coat is of far more importance than colour of markings, which should be taken into consideration only if all other points are equal.

Colours and Patterns – All colours and patterns are acceptable with the exception of the ‘Siamese’ pattern

Suggested alterations:

Head – Fairly round and large with prominent cheeks, Nose broad and of medium length without any break, **but with a gentle dip from forehead to nose.** Strong muzzle, without any hint of snipyness **and definite whisker break.** Firm chin and even bite.

Ears – Fairly tall, set rather high on the head and angled slightly outwards. **These should be medium in size and** open at the base tapering to a narrow, rounded tip. **From a flat, broad plane of head, the ears are angled gently outwards, with a gentle flare from the base of the outer ear to the tip.**

Eyes – Large and round **and set obliquely, at a slight angle toward the nose, outer corners slightly higher than inner corners.** Colour preferably in keeping with coat colour.

Body – Solid, compact with good breadth of chest. Short, **but not overly shortened** back, ending in a definite round rump. **Length of back is in proportion to the entire cat, height of hindquarters equal to length of body,** the rump to be higher than the shoulder. Flanks of great depth.

Legs – Of good substance with front legs short and well set to show good breadth of chest. Back legs longer than the front with powerful, deep thighs

Taillessness - Absolute taillessness is essential. **Exhibits should appear tailless.** The rump should be felt to be completely rounded, with no definite rise **substantial extension of tail** bone or cartilage, **although minor rises will be permitted if these do not** interfering **interfere** with the roundness of the rump. **The overall impression should be of balance for roundness of rump to back and hind leg length, giving the impression of proportion to body length, with no anterior contraction of the hock.**

Coat – Double-coated showing a well padded quality arising from a short, very thick undercoat and slightly longer overcoat. The double quality of the coat is of far more importance than colour of markings, which should be taken into consideration only if all other points are equal.

Colours and Patterns – All colours and patterns are acceptable with the exception of the ‘Siamese’ pattern **colour-pointed (Himalayan/Siamese colour restriction), chocolate or cinnamon and their dilute derivatives lilac or fawn.**

Scale of Points -

Current:

Head and Ears	20
Eyes	5
Body, legs and paws	30
Taillessness	25
Coat texture	20

Total 100

Suggested alterations:

Head and Ears	20	25
Eyes	5	10
Body, legs and paws	30	35
Tailessness	25	10
Coat texture	20	
	Total	<u>100</u>

This reapportioned allocation of points brings the Manx standard more in line with those of the other breeds in the British section; the British Shorthair and the Selkirk Rex for head, ears and eyes (35 points) and for tail (10 points) and closer to the standard for other registration bodies; **CFA** - ears and eyes (30 points) and tailessness (5 points), **CFCCQ Inc** (Australia) - head, ears and eyes (30 points) and tailessness (15 points). Currently **FIFE** has the same approximate apportioning of points as the current GCCF standard for head, ears and eyes (20 points) and tailessness (25 points).

Withold Certificates or First Prizes in Kitten open classes for -

Current:

- ~~1. Definite rise of bone or cartilage at the end of the spine interfering with the roundness of the rump~~
- ~~2. Uneven bite~~
- ~~3. Any other defect as listed in the preface to this SOP booklet~~

Suggested alterations:

1. Definite **and prominent** rise of bone or cartilage at the end of the spine interfering with the roundness of the rump, **such that it stops the hand**
2. Uneven bite
3. Any other defect as listed in the preface to this SOP booklet

Faults -

Current:

- ~~1. A rise of bone or cartilage at the end of the spine~~
- ~~2. Lack of double coat~~
- ~~3. Weak chin~~

Suggested alterations:

1. A **definite and prominent** rise of bone or cartilage at the end of the spine
2. Lack of double coat
3. **Eyes not obliquely set**
4. Weak chin, **lack of defined whisker break**

i.e. (1) is considered by Dr D Kerruish in his 1964 book 'The Manx Cat' to show 'the characteristics of a good Manx'

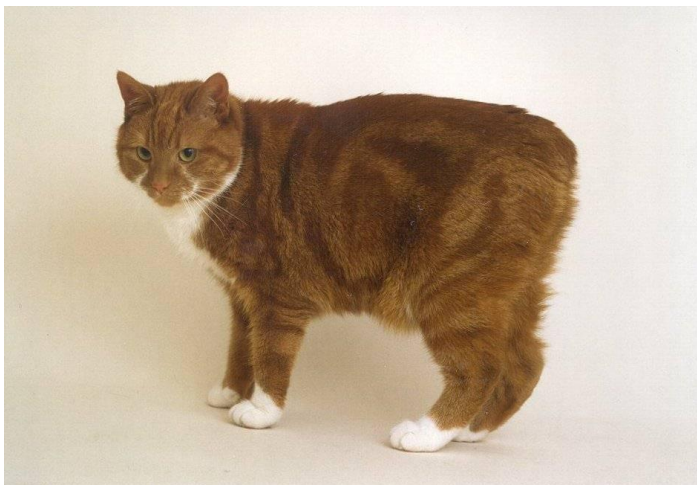
(1)



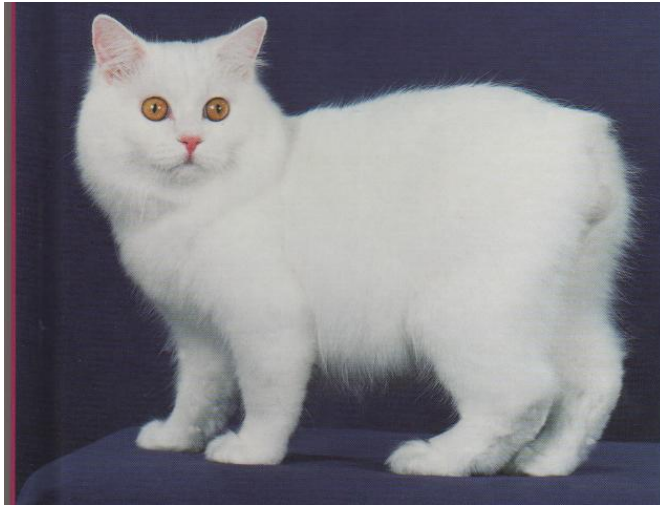
(2)







(3)



(4)



(1) and (2) do not show evidence of an overly shortened back, while (3) has a slightly shortened back and (4) quite a short back and not a good Manx head. My impression is that if the back is a bit too short it compromises the overall roundness of the rump. That extra back length and downward curvature of the spine above and beyond the hocks is required for an overall impression of roundness (as seen below in postcard paintings and a picture from a breeder's website).

B and R Series Dates seen: 1904 – 1919	
"Kys ta Shiu?" (<i>How are You?</i>)	
Silver Tabby Series 1904 – 1919	
	
	



Outcrossing policy for Manx Cats

All GCCF breeds are to have an allowable outcross (this means an independent and separate breed). This will remain the British Shorthair (BSH) for the Manx cat; however suggested changes to the registration policy are being made such that outcrosses to BSH are placed on the reference register and are subject to the five generation pedigree rule. Outcrosses to indigenous Manx have always been permitted and the three generation rule will still apply apply for tailless, and stumpie and Tailed Manx. ~~It is recommended that the five generation rule is applied to tailed Manx as it is difficult to prove Manx ancestry with tailed cats from the Isle of Man, due to the likelihood of imported domestic shorthairs on the Island.~~

Recognition of Cymric

An application for recognition of the Cymric will be made to the British Breed Associated committee (BAC) from Dr Karen Kempself (representing the Shorthaired Cat Society). The Cymric is currently being discussed at council as part of the all breed variants list. The Cymric could either be progressed independently as a new breed through this means or as part of the Manx breed section (see changes to registration policy below). The latter would make more sense logistically, would take less time and would ensure continuation of longhair Manx in the overall Manx breeding policy.

GCCF REGISTRATION POLICY FOR MANX CATS (current)

Agreed/effective February 1997

~~Manx are at present recognised as Tailless Manx (25), Stumpie Manx (25a) and Tailed Manx (25b).~~

~~Semilonghair Manx have the designation of Semi-longhair Variant (25v, 25av and 25bv) and are part of the normal breeding programme. Only Tailless Shorthair Manx are recognised by the Standard of Points for showing. Manx includes 25, 25a and 25b unless otherwise indicated.~~

FULL REGISTER

~~Tailless Manx (25) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.~~

~~Stumpie Manx (25a) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.~~

~~Tailed Manx (25b) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.~~

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER

~~Manx offspring from Manx to British Shorthair matings.~~

~~Manx offspring from Manx to Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv)~~

~~Manx offspring from Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv) to British Shorthair matings.~~

REFERENCE REGISTER

~~Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv) from Manx to Manx matings.~~

~~Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv) from Manx to British Shorthair matings.~~

~~Manx cats indigenous to the Isle of Man with unknown background.~~

~~No other cats to be registered with breed number 25.~~

~~The normal three generation progression through the Registers applies.~~

~~For further information please contact the Secretary of the British Shorthair Group Committee.~~

GCCF REGISTRATION POLICY FOR MANX CATS (suggested amendments)

Manx are at present recognised as Tailless Manx (25), Stumpie Manx (25a) and Tailed Manx (25b).

Semi-longhair Manx have the designation (25 v I, 25a-v I and 25b-v I) and are part of the normal breeding programme. Only tailless ~~Shorthair~~ Manx (25), **(25I)** are currently recognised by the Standard of Points for showing. Manx includes 25, **25I**, 25a, **25aI**, 25b and **25bI** unless otherwise indicated.

FULL REGISTER

Tailless Manx (25) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.

Stumpie Manx (25a) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.

Tailed Manx (25b) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER

~~Manx offspring from Manx to British Shorthair matings.~~

~~Manx offspring from Manx to Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv)~~

~~Manx offspring from Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv) to British Shorthair matings.~~

Tailless Manx (25I) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.

Stumpie Manx (25aI) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.

Tailed Manx (25bI) offspring from Manx to Manx matings.

REFERENCE REGISTER REFERENCE REGISTER I

Tailless, Stumpie and Tailed Manx cats indigenous to the Isle of Man with unknown background.

The normal three generation progression through the Registers applies.

REFERENCE REGISTER REFERENCE REGISTER II

~~Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv) from Manx to Manx matings.~~

~~Semi-longhair Manx Variant (25v, 25av, 25bv) from Manx to British Shorthair matings.~~

Manx offspring (25, 25a, 25b, 25I, 25aI, 25bI) from Manx to British Shorthair matings.

The normal five generation progression through the Registers applies.

No other cats to be registered with breed number 25.

For further information please contact the Secretary of the British Shorthair Group Committee.