

THE COAT

Our standard reads that the BSH coat should be : Short, very dense, well bodied, resilient and firm to the touch. Not double coated or woolly. In the existing standard there are penalize options for the judge when the coat is overlong or light in the undercoat. The judge is also asked to disqualify for long or fluffy coat.

The texture of the BSH coat is the crucial feature that may well distinguish our breed from all others. Our coat, when pushed against the grain, should return to place like velvet and not stay in place like corduroy. Coat texture may also vary with the color (as one would expect) and the blue coat continues to serve as a standard for the other colors to reach. Color-bred blue cats should provide the most dense and resilient coats with blue cats coming out of tabby or parti-color breeding having less dense and resilient coat texture. Color bred solid color cats, however, are few and far between. While the color bred coat may be a standard bearer, we constantly work toward that goal on an ongoing basis. Our coat should not be interchangeable with the feeling and/or appearance of the Scottish Fold or the Exotic Shorthair!

As the BSH is used as an out cross in a variety of breeds be aware that our coat should feel different than that of any out cross coat.

- * The Scottish fold allows for a "medium short, soft" coat. Some Scottish Fold cats are 7/8 bred BSH , this makes the integrity of the BSH coat even more important to maintain. A straight-ear Scottish Fold must not be confused with a BSH!

- * The Devon Rex and Selkirk Rex coats are obviously different

- * Manx out cross is allowed in Australia so imports must to watched closely by the breeders for coat texture faults

The coat should be short and we would suggest a target length of 2.0 -2.5cm (about 3/4 to 1 inch). Some judges consistently use their hands (finger/knuckle height) to assess the overall length of the coat and we would encourage this procedure. While each hand is different, if you know the knuckle height of your hand you can then assess the coat length with more measureable accuracy. The good BSH coat is almost impossible to flatten and the coat should stand away from the body. The coat at the base of the tail should not be longer than the coat on the rest of the body.

The BSH does endure seasonal coat changes and the coat may be more sparse with the heat of the summer and the renewal of coat in the fall. The coat should not fall out while being judged and at all times the cat should be presented in a clean condition without clipping and coat enhancing with mousses, gels and overused texturizers. These products may leave the coat sticky and should be watched for. Do not mistake "crisp" for enhanced coat texture from sprays and mousses.

Kitten coat should have guard hairs to about age 4-6 months and if they are not present consider the cat MAY have been clipped to present a more dense coat. This practice is not encouraged and may be judged as illegal based on CFA rule 3.07.