

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
2009 BREED COUNCIL POLL

SIAMESE

Total Members: 120
 Ballots Received: 102
 60% of Voting: 62

1. PROPOSED: add to the General section of the Siamese standard:

GENERAL: the ideal Siamese is a medium sized, svelte, refined cat with long tapering lines, very lithe but muscular. Males may be proportionately larger.

The Siamese cat was first imported from "Siam," now Thailand, in the late 1880's. From the very beginning, the Siamese cat captivated all who saw it with its elegant structure, fine boning, wedge shaped head, large flared ears and deep blue almond shaped eyes. Siamese coloring intrigued the public and the fledgling cat fancy. At the time the Siamese cat was the only breed to exhibit the point restriction characteristic, a genetic component that keeps the "points" (ears, face, feet and tail) dark while the body of the cat remains a much lighter shade. The Siamese cat has only blue eye color, which is not connected to deafness.

The Siamese cat was one of the original breeds recognized when CFA was founded in 1906. It is the foundation breed for many of today's recognized breeds. The Siamese breed has no outcrosses, and any Siamese registered with CFA can have only pedigreed Siamese behind them, in one of the four natural colors: seal point, blue point, chocolate point and lilac point. No other cats can be shown in CFA as Siamese without having Siamese registration and pedigree, no matter what color pattern they exhibit.

The Siamese cat is as famous for its personality as for its looks. It is known for its talkative nature, interesting voice, and dog-like interaction with its owners. It has been featured throughout American culture including movies, literature, comic books, and art. The Siamese cat has remained as one of the most popular of pedigreed felines for over a hundred years, and its popularity remains strong even today when the cat fancy has grown from the original few breeds to over forty.

YES: 78 NO: 24

RATIONALE: while preparing for the Meet The Breeds exhibition this year, I had the opportunity to review standards for AKC breeds, noticing that many of them included information on the history and purpose of the breed. This information is useful for

both breeders and the general public in helping them learn quickly about a breed they are interested in. Therefore I am proposing that we add the above statement to the General section of the Siamese standard, to expand knowledge and preserve the history of the breed.

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

2. PROPOSED: to end the use of the Siamese breed as an outcross for the Oriental Shorthair breed, effective with litters born on or after May 1, 2010.

76 **YES, I would like to end the outcross.**

26 **NO, I would like the outcross to continue to be available to the Oriental breed.**

RATIONALE: the Oriental breed has been in existence since accepted in 1977. It has used the Siamese breed for over 30 years to develop a significant gene pool to support the standard chosen by its breeders. Furthermore, the Oriental has a large gene pool of cats to draw on in Europe and other areas of the world, where for the most part the Siamese cat has been subsumed into a wider group of cats bred for an oriental body style.

If the Oriental breed is given a pointed color class, as it is requesting (see below), the entire purpose of the breed will be changed. The outcross privilege of using the Siamese breed was given to the Oriental breed when their stated purpose was to mimic the Siamese breed in all but color. Creating a pointed division changes the nature of the breed and therefore negates the "grandfather" provision of the outcross.

As an established breed of cat, the Oriental has no need of using its parent breed to increase its gene pool or maintain its type, and if allowed to add a pointed division, has changed its nature so significantly that the "grandfather" provision for an outcross to the parent breed is negated. Therefore the Siamese Breed Council is voting to request that the Board end the outcross privilege effective with litters born on or after May 1, 2010.

3. PROPOSED: the Oriental Breed Council has proposed a pointed division containing all pointed colors that the cats are

capable of producing, with the exception of the four Siamese colors (see below). This vote is to determine whether or not the Siamese breed is affected by the creation of a pointed division of the Oriental breed.

“This proposal creates a color class for the point-restricted colors that are produced in the Oriental breed.”

PROPOSED: COAT COLOR: the Oriental’s reason for being is the coat color whether it is solid, shaded, smoke, parti-color, bi-color, pointed or tabby patterned.

SHADED POINT: white undercoat with a mantle of tipping consistent with the base colors of seal, blue, chocolate, lilac, cinnamon or fawn, or any of these colors in particolor, shading down from sides, face and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, underside and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as the face. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with color consistent with the corresponding base color. Nose leather and paw pads: appropriate base color.

SMOKE POINT: white undercoat, deeply tipped with color consistent with the corresponding base color of seal, blue, chocolate, lilac, cinnamon or fawn, or any of these colors in particolor. Points and mask appear solidly colored, with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin, which may be seen only when fur is parted. Nose leather and paw pads: appropriate base color.”

83 YES, a pointed division of Oriental Shorthair affects the Siamese breed.

19 NO, a pointed division of Oriental Shorthair does not affect the Siamese breed.

RATIONALE: a pointed division of Oriental Shorthair will always affect the Siamese breed, as long as the Oriental breed is allowed to use Siamese as an outcross. There are several reasons for this.

First, the addition of the word pointed in their standard changes entirely the purpose of this breed, which was originally created to mimic the parent breed, Siamese, in all colors except pointed. By creating a pointed color class, the Oriental breed will be copying the Siamese breed entirely, and not differentiating itself from its parent breed.

Second, the proposal calls for allowing cats that directly mimic the Siamese cat and its colors to be shown. Seal-smoke, blue-smoke, chocolate-smoke and lilac-smoke points cannot be distinguished from the traditional Siamese colors. The only visible trait separating these cats from the Siamese is an undercoat, which can only be seen by parting the fur. The same applies to these colors when combined in the shaded division. Cats of the

four Siamese base colors in the shaded and smoke classes will be indistinguishable from the four traditional Siamese colors to anyone just looking at the cats.

Furthermore, if a pointed division is created without ending the outcross, the Oriental breeder will be breeding Siamese in increasing numbers to Oriental cats, as all the pointed kittens produced will be showable. The more breedings that take place, the more AOVs (seal, chocolate, lilac and blue points) produced, the more AOVs registered, the more pressure for the showing of these cats. Even if the Siamese colors are excluded from this proposal, they will be included in the next proposal. There is no way to stop this if a pointed division is allowed, and the Oriental breed continues to outcross to Siamese.

Introducing a pointed division of Orientals, with colors that mimic the Siamese colors, directly affects the Siamese breed and the Siamese BC should be allowed to affect the decision on the creation of such a division. The pointed division will have a direct impact on the Siamese breed and should not be allowed.