

AMERICAN CURL BREED GROUP (AC/AL)

The **American Curl (AC)** is a medium-built, well-balanced shorthair cat, semi-foreign in type.

The **American Curl Longhair (AL)** is a medium-built, well-balanced longhair cat, semi-foreign in type.

HEAD 40 points
 Shape 6
 Ears 20
 Eyes 5
 Chin 2
 Muzzle 2
 Profile 5

BODY 30 points
 Torso 10
 Legs/Feet 5
 Tail 5
 Boning/Musculature .. 10

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN 20 points
 Length 5
 Texture 10
 Pattern/Color 5

OTHER 10 points
 Balance 10

CATEGORIES: All.

DIVISIONS: All.

COLORS: All.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES:

Domestic longhair/shorthair, not a member of a recognized breed.

HEAD:

Shape: Modified wedge without flat planes; approximately 1-1/2 times longer than wide.

Ears: The overall appearance of the American Curl ear should be one that is aesthetically pleasing to view. Minimum 90 degree arc of curl. Firm cartilage from ear base to at least one-third of height of ear. Wide at base and open; curving back in an arc when viewed from the front, side or rear. The surface of the curved portion of the ear should be smooth. Tips rounded and flexible. Moderately large in proportion to head. Erect, set equally on top and side of head. Furnishings are desirable.

NOTE: When American Curls are alert with their ears swivelled toward the front, lines following through the curve of the ears should point to the center of the base of the skull.
 Eyes: Walnut in shape; oval on top and rounded on bottom.

Moderately large in proportion to head. Set on a slight angle between the base of the ear and the tip of the nose, one eye-width apart. Color clear and brilliant with no relation to coat color, except that blue eyes are required on all pointed cats.

Chin: Firm, in line with nose and upper lip.

Muzzle: Rounded with gentle transition; no whisker break.

Profile: Straight nose with gentle rise from bridge of nose to forehead which then flows into arched neck without a break.

BODY:

Torso: Rectangular, length to be approximately 1-1/2 times the height at the shoulders.

Legs: Length medium in proportion to body; set straight when viewed from front or rear.

Feet: Medium and rounded.

Tail: Flexible, wide at base and tapering; equal to body length.

Boning/Musculature: Medium, neither fine-boned nor heavy-boned. Moderate strength and tone.

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:

Length (AC): Short with tail coat same length as body coat.

Length (AL): Semi-long with tail coat full and plumed.

Texture (AC): Soft, silky, laying flat, resilient without a plush dense feel. Minimal undercoat.

Texture (AL): Fine, silky, laying flat. Minimal undercoat.

Pattern: Well-defined, clear pattern. Sound color.

OTHER: Balance/proper proportion is more important than overall size.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The American Curl is the result of a spontaneous ear mutation in the domestic cat population of the United States. The first such cat was found in Southern California in 1981 and named "Shulamith". The distinctive feature of the American Curl breed is their unique, attractive curled ears. American Curls are a well-balanced, moderately muscled, medium built cat. They are alert and active with gentle, even dispositions.

ALLOWANCES: Allow for stud jowls in males. Allow for proportionately larger size in males. Allow for buttons and lockets.

PENALIZE:

Body: Excessive size without proper conformation.

Coat: Heavy undercoat/heavy ruff.

Coarse, cottony or fluffy coat texture. Dense or plush coat.

Ears: Vertical/horizontal crimps.

Depressions or ripples on the surface of the curled portion of the ears. Low set ears. Abrupt change of direction rather than a smooth curve.

NOTE: Vertical and horizontal crimp are two opposite and undesirable extremes affecting the base of the curled ear. The former causing the base to appear too narrow, the latter causing the base to appear too wide. Nose: Deep nose break.

DISQUALIFY (DQ):

Tail faults of any kind. Straight or severely mismatched ears. Lack of firm cartilage in base of ear. Extreme curl in an adult cat where the tip of the ear touches the back of the head or the ear itself. Ear tips that are not flexible.

Ears in which the lower portion of the ear is abnormally flattened, has compressed ridges of cartilage and does not have a normal, visible ear cavity.

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* All breeds must to present a unchallenging temperament; the cat may show fear, seek to flee, or may complain aloud, but may not threaten to hurt. Any sign of definite threat shall disqualify. Disqualifications: a cat that bites, a cat that shows evidence to deceive, adult whole males with not two descended testicles, cats with parts or whole tail missing or with tails faults (except the approved breeds), polydactyl cats (except the approved breeds), crossed eyes, total blindness, smaller size for the breed, depression of the sternum or usually small diameter of the rib cage itself.