

## NORWEGIAN FOREST (NF)

### HEAD . . . . . 40 points

Shape . . . . . 8  
Ears . . . . . 8  
Eyes . . . . . 8  
Chin . . . . . 4  
Muzzle . . . . . 4  
Profile . . . . . 8

### BODY . . . . . 35 points

Torso . . . . . 7  
Legs . . . . . 7  
Tail . . . . . 7  
Boning . . . . . 7  
Musculature . . . . . 7

### COAT AND COLOR . . . . 25 points

Length . . . . . 5  
Texture . . . . . 20

**CATEGORY:** Traditional.

**DIVISION:** All Divisions.

**COLORS:** All Colors.

**PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES:** None.

### HEAD:

Shape: Triangular, where all sides are equally long when measured from the outer base of the ears to the chin and between the outer base of the ears; good height when seen in profile; forehead is sloped back.

Eyes: Large, almond shaped, set obliquely. Alert expression. All eye colors except odd-eyes or blue permitted regardless of coat color.

Odd-eyes and blue eyes permitted in white and with white only.

Ears: Large, wide at the base, arched forward as if listening, slightly rounded tips that appear pointed when lynx tips are present. Lynx tips and furnishings that extend beyond the outer edge of each ear are desirable. The outer edge of the ear should follow the line of the head down to the chin.  
Muzzle: Following the line of the triangular head, with no evidence of pinch or snippiness.

Profile: Long, straight profile from tip of nose to brow without break in line, i.e., no stop.

Neck: Muscular; medium in length.

### BODY:

Torso: Medium long and substantial.

Legs: In proportion to the body length, with hind legs higher than fore legs.

Feet: Large, round, well-tufted.

Tail: Long and bushy. Should be at least as long as the body.

Boning: Substantial.

Musculature: Strongly built and sturdy.

### COAT/COLOR:

Length: Semi-long.

Texture: The dense, woolly undercoat is covered by a smooth, water repellent upper coat which consists of long, coarse and glossy hair covering the back and the sides. A fully coated cat has a full ruff and britches.

Colors: All colors of all divisions of the traditional category are recognized including all colors with white. Any amount of white is allowed anywhere on the cat.

### OTHER:

Balance: Muscular and wellproportioned.

Condition: Not applicable/assumed.

Temperament: Intelligent and independent.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The

Norwegian Forest has evolved through the centuries as a product of its environment. They had to feed, defend, and protect themselves from the elements in the forests. Only the cats that were good hunters and fast to escape from predators survived.

Norwegian Forest cats that survived their first winter had the correct, semilong, water-repellant coat and were well-proportioned, strong, and intelligent. These no nonsense traits carry into the show ring. The Norwegian Forest is intelligent, independent and alert to its surroundings. A Norwegian Forest is large to medium-large size overall and strongly built. They are high on their legs, with a medium long, rectangular body. Their hind legs are higher than their fore legs. They are muscular and heavily boned. Their head is triangular, with all three sides equal when measured between the outer base of each ear and from these points to the chin. The profile is long and straight with no break or stop and displays a strong chin. Their eyes are expressive, large, wide almondshaped, and set on an oblique tilt.

Their ears are large, open and set in line with the triangular shape of the head. They may be well-tufted and have lynx tips. Their tail is long, flowing and carried high. The Norwegian Forest is known for its dense, rich fur with a woolly undercoat covered by long, coarse guard hairs. This coat is warm and water-repellant. A fully coated cat has a full ruff and britches. In the summer, the coat is short. The coat feels dense, especially on tabbies. Solid, bicolor and tri-color cats often have a softer coat.

The length of the Norwegian Forest coat is semi-long, which means that it should not be as long as a Persian coat. The overall appearance is of an alert, healthy, firm, muscular and wellproportioned cat. The males are large and imposing, often weighing 12-15 pounds or more. The females can be considerably smaller. This breed is not fully developed until 5 years of age.

**ALLOWANCES:** Buttons, spots and lockets allowed in all colors. Length of coat and density of undercoat vary with the seasons. Under no circumstances should a cat be penalized for having a semi-long coat. Coat is evaluated primarily on texture and quality. Allow for size difference between males and females. Very slow maturing of this breed should be taken into account. Mature males may have broader heads than females.

**PENALIZE:** Too small and finely built cats. Round or square head; profile with a break (stop). Round eyes. Ears too small or narrow at the base. Legs that are short, thin - not in proportion to the body, or cowhocked. Short tail. Cobby or extremely long body. Dry or silky texture on coat.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

\* 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.