

# TONKINESE BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Guide for GCCF Judges

The TBAC offer this guide to enhance and clarify details contained in the Standard of Points. The aims are:

- To preserve the Tonkinese at its best today
- To prevent modification of the breed by the award of prestigious Certificates to inferior cats
- To minimise misunderstanding of the breed

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**In Tonkinese the ‘Type’ takes precedence over coat-pattern and colour;** but *all* awards to be withheld if either the declared coat-pattern or colour is wrong.

### **Coat-Pattern abbreviations:**

BCR – Burmese Colour Restriction (TOS .. 31)

TCR – Tonkinese Colour Restriction (TOS .. 32)

CPP – Colourpointed Pattern (TOS .. 33)

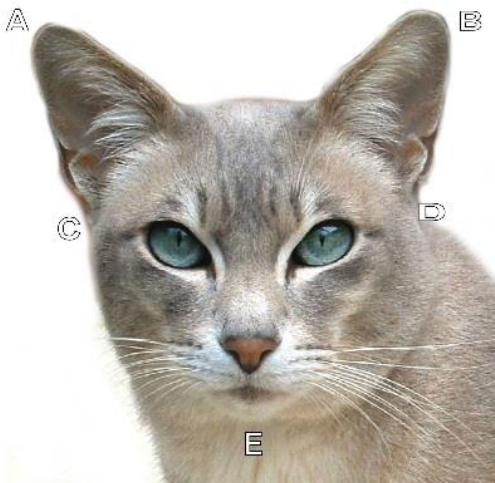
**NOTE:** *Many Tonkinese are now DNA tested for coat-pattern and colour, but we accept that not all are necessarily good examples of the proven pattern or colour. For this reason we recommend that Judges do not ‘wrong-pattern’, or ‘wrong-colour’, a cat; instead it should be written up as not meeting the required standard.*

## HEAD and EARS:

When viewed from the front, a good head, including the ears, gives the overall impression of an equal-sided triangle:

$A > B > E$  or  $C > D > E$ .

This impression also indicates the correct ear-set and size in proportion to the head. Ear-set should be assessed when the cat is relaxed.



The whisker pinch shouldn't be so extreme that it makes the muzzle prominent. The top of the head (i.e. the skull between the ears, not the forehead) should be gently rounded, not flat. There should be no sharp angles or exaggerated curves. Heavy jowls in a mature male is acceptable.

Ears that are set slightly vertical to the head, low set, or have pointed tips are undesirable.



Ears too high,



Good ear set,



Ears too low



*Left: Head too short & nose break too strong,  
Centre: Good head,  
Right: Too long & straight*

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**EYES:**

Eye shape should be assessed when the cat is relaxed, usually in its pen. Round, oriental or bold eyes are undesirable. In kittens the developing colour may be 'muddy', this is acceptable but in mature cats clarity of colour is required, and incorrect colour for coat-pattern and should be penalised.



**Eye colour for coat pattern**

*Left: BCR – Any shade of yellow or green, incl. yellowish-green to bluish- green.  
Centre: TCR - Any shade of greenish-blue or bluish-green.  
Right: CPP – Any shade of clear blue.*

## **BODY:**

Female Tonkinese are notably smaller than males. Neuters may be heavier than entire cats but should retain good muscle-tone. Fine, small or notably long cats depart from the desired standard ("Medium to long, well balanced, firm and muscular.") and should be penalised.

## **TAIL:**

The tail should be of medium length and gently tapering. It is not necessary for the tail to reach the shoulders, but when extended it should appear to balance the length of the body.

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## **TONKINESE COAT-PATTERNS and COLOURS:**

A clear expression of the relevant coat-pattern is preferred; it is sufficiently described in the Tonkinese SOP but some judges are still mistakenly looking for contrast between the points and body colour in the brown, blue and tortoiseshell TCRs - or a complete lack of it in all BCR colours (see the notes on chocolate, cinnamon, lilac & fawn).

The colour may lighten toward the hair roots. In mature TCR cats, especially browns and blues, the coat darkens over the back and shoulders to the extent that the TCR coat-pattern may not easily be seen - but the colour should still lighten over the throat, chest, lower shoulders and toward a lighter belly. If you are undecided about the coat-pattern it is recommended that you view it from a short distance to see full the colour-flow over the length of the cat.



**Examples of the three coat-patterns in kittens**

**Brown** Left to Right: CPP, BCR, TCR

**Blue** Left to Right: CPP, TCR, BCR

**The colours and coat-patterns are as described in the Tonkinese SOP but here is some useful additional information: -**

**'SELF' COLOURS –**

**On the body**, ghost-marking/barring in developing kittens is undesirable; in mature cats it should be penalised.

**On the points**, faint tabby markings on red, cream and apricot cats are acceptable but not desirable; in other colours tabby markings on a mature cat should be penalised.

**TORTOISESHELL –**

**On the body**, ghost-marking/barring in developing kittens is undesirable; in mature cats it should be penalised.

**On the points** of mature cats, faint tabby markings (on the red, cream and apricot areas only) are acceptable but not desirable. In some cats, notably in the darker colours, the mottling may obscure the Tonkinese coat-pattern, so Tortoiseshells are best viewed from a short distance to see the full colour-flow over the length of the cat. Careful attention should be given to the cat's type, particularly the head as the mottling may camouflage the shape. The distribution of colour in Tonkinese tortoiseshells is immaterial so the body colour may not merge evenly with the darker points.



Blue Tortoiseshell (TCR) and Brown Tortoiseshell (TCR) – both showing well mingled colours and no sign of barring. As you can see it is better to view the cat from a slight distance to see the flow of the TCR coat-pattern, especially in the browns.

## **TABBY –**

The variety of tabby-pattern (ticked, mackerel, spotted or classic) is immaterial but the markings on the points should be clearly defined. Tabby markings may be slow to develop in kittens but in a mature cat the absence of clear head markings, leg bars or tail-rings should be penalised. Tabby Tonkinese may or may not have necklet/s (broken or unbroken). The colour of a dilute tabby (blue, lilac, fawn, caramel, cream and apricot) is usually lighter than its 'self' colour counter-part. In the brown tabby the markings may appear darker than the points of a brown self.



Left to right – Blue TCR, Brown BCR & Chocolate BCR, all with clear markings

**CHOCOLATE, CINNAMON, LILAC & FAWN** - In these modified colours the body colour is more reduced and will present more contrast with the points in the TCR, this should not be penalised unless the body colour is almost white and the eye-colour is clear blue. In these BCRs the body colour is also slightly lighter than the points. The colours may range in tone but warm tones are preferred.

**NOTE:** When judging BCRs you may find it useful to view the equivalent colour in a Burmese cat.



These photos show how much more contrast between the body and points colour there is in an adult chocolate TCR, compared to an adult brown TCR.

**CAMEL & APRICOT** - Caramel may be blue, lilac or fawn based, apricot is cream based.

The effect of the Dilute modifier is to reduce the dilution so that the colour is a little closer to the original brown, chocolate or cinnamon. For this reason, and depending upon the original colour, the difference between the full dilution and the modified dilution may vary considerably from cat to cat.

A brownish tinge to the coat and leathers will be evident but it may be less noticeable on the points.

**NOTE:** *The metallic sheen, said to be associated with Caramel, may be evident in a mature cat – but it is not a requirement.*



Blue Tabby TCR

Caramel Tabby (Blue-based) TCR

This picture shows how close the colours can be. In this instance look at the darker stripes and ticking of the caramel to see the subtle differences from the blue.

*Unfortunately the subtle differences may not be easily seen in print.*



These photos show the difference between the orange colours

Left: Red (BCR),  
Below Left: Cream (TCR)  
Below Right: Apricot (TCR)



**TEMPERAMENT:** The Tonkinese should be a confident and even-tempered cat, appropriate mention of its temperament in reports is appreciated. On the day of the show, many circumstances may affect an otherwise good-tempered cat. If the exhibit is a young kitten or if (in the Judge's opinion) there is clear reason for stress-related behaviour it should be taken into consideration, otherwise an aggressive demeanour should be penalised.

**CONDITION & VETERINARY DEFECTS:** The coat-texture and muscle-tone of a mature entire male may suffer in comparison with other Tonkinese, and this should be taken into consideration, but all exhibits should be clean, healthy and well presented. Cats clearly in unclean or poor condition should be penalised. Clarification of the Veterinary Defects is listed in 'Guide to the Defects listed in the GCCF Standard of Points'.

**Thank you for reading this guide.** If you care to make any constructive comments they would be appreciated by the Tonkinese BAC. See our web site for current contact details – and more information on the Tonkinese.

<https://tonkinesebac.weebly.com/>

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