

A GUIDELINE TO THE STANDARD OF POINTS by KBAC

Looking at the Korat in its entirety the most important characteristics to consider are:-

This is a slow maturing, medium-sized cat with smooth curves and a heart-shaped head and face, with large luminous eyes. The body is semi-cobby, muscular and firm, with a blue coat well tipped with silver. The Korat can be a very vocal cat, but this does not usually indicate aggression.

A) HEAD

The Korat has a heart-shaped head and face when viewed from the front. The eyebrow ridges form the upper curves of the heart and the sides of the face curve gently down to the chin to complete the heart-shape. The forehead is large and flat. Too narrow a head with not enough width between the eyes is undesirable. In some mature adults, particularly males, there is a slight central indentation, on the eyebrow ridge, which accentuates the head's overall heart-shaped appearance.

The description 'heart-shaped' was included in the standard in order to emphasise that the head and face are neither round nor wedged.

The bone structure of the head undergoes considerable change as the cat matures. In Korat kittens and adolescents the shape of the head may be longer, more slender.

B) NOSE

The nose has a downward curve just above the nose leather and the required 'slight stop' should be easily seen in profile, but should not be exaggerated. During the period when kittens lose their first teeth the 'stop' may not be visible for a while.

C) CHIN AND JAW

Chin and jaw should be rounded, strong and well developed, properly completing the heart-shaped head.

D) EARS

Although large and set high (may be slightly lower set in adult males) the ears should not be upright.

E) EYES

The eye size and prominence is a particular feature of the breed. However, the final few words of the SOP are sometimes overlooked: the eyes have 'an Asian slant when closed or partially closed.'

F) EYE COLOUR

The six hundred year old poems, in which the first descriptions of the Korat appear, liken the colour of its eyes to 'raindrops on a lotus leaf' and the 'first shoots of young rice'. This emphasises luminosity and light. The word 'brilliant' is used in the SOP though bright clear green, would possibly be more acceptable, as sometimes too deep a shade of green seems to be sought.

Whilst the true green eye colour of the mature adult cat is particularly attractive, only 5 points are given for eye colour. Adolescent cats with an amber cast, and otherwise excellent exhibits, should not be unduly penalised.

G) BODY

Whilst females may be smaller and daintier than males they certainly should not be lightweight and fragile. The standard describes a cat which is medium-sized, with a well-muscled, supple body that suggests power; and on picking up an exhibit, of either sex, it should feel heavier than it looks.

H) TAIL

Whilst a tail that is long, thin and whippy is certainly not desirable, too short a tail in proportion to the body appears to be a more common fault.

I) COAT

The hair length called for is short to medium, 'glossy' and 'close-lying' being the ideal. Adult males may have a slightly thicker and coarser coat as working studs.

J) COLOUR

The coat should be judged for its overall silvering, being free from shading (patchiness in the overall colour), or tabby markings. Soundness to the roots is irrelevant.

The coat colour is given 20 points. because great importance is attached to the blue colour with its silver tipping. The description of the colour lies in the very name of the breed (Si-Sawat - grey cat), in its native country. In old manuscripts the coat is described as having 'roots like clouds and tips like silver.

The intensity (light or darkness) of the blue can vary; it is the graduation from root to tipping that produces the required silvery sheen. Where the coat is short, the sheen is intensified, but a cat with silver tipping on head, legs and feet only is not desirable. It is the quality of this overall sheen that should be looked for.