

# GUIDE TO SHOWING BENGAL CATS

*By Annie Wedge  
Updated 2024*



To the novice shower, entering your first GCCF Championship cat show can be a very daunting experience and I hope this will make it easier to understand how the GCCF show system works for the Bengal breed. I will endeavour to take you through the various stages of the showing system as it relates to each colour of the breed and also instruct you as to how to fill in the all important show entry form.

Firstly and most importantly, your cat **must** be registered with the GCCF and transferred into your name prior to 21 days before the show. No kitten under the age of 14 weeks can be shown.

Bengals are in the Section 4 and at the end of this article you will find The GCCF Bengal Standard of Points as well as a glossary.

~~~~~

At the time of writing this (April 2024), the Bengal breed colour group's showing status as regards the different colours are as follows: -

## **CHAMPONSHIP / PREMIER:** -

Brown Spotted, Brown Marble, Snow Spotted, Snow Marble & Silver Bengals.  
Blue Bengals are at the Assessment stage, so gain a Merit certificate if they meet the breed standard.

Championship / Premier status means that the above colours of the Bengal breed are eligible to be awarded Champion Certificates (CC's) for entire adult cats over 9 months old, or Premier Certificates (PC's) for neutered adult cats over 9 months old. These CC and PC Certificates go towards the cat gaining the title of Champion or Premier and you need to gain 3 Certificates to gain the title.

## **KITTENS**

Classes for kittens aged 14 weeks to 9 months of age. Kittens do not gain titles, but are eligible for Best in Show.

Their main class is the Breed class which is divided into colour groups and sex.

Please note that **NO** classes are of mixed sex

---

## **BENGAL COLOUR GROUPS: -**

Brown Spotted  
Brown Marbled  
Snow Spotted  
Snow Marbled  
Silver  
Blue (Assessment)

On the entry form, as well as the classes you enter you also have the option of paying extra for a double pen and also buying a catalogue which you are either given with your entry envelope when you arrive at the show, or given it when you leave the hall at 10am so that the main certificate judging can start.

---

## **KITTENS**

*In your schedule: -*

### **BREED CLASS - SECTION 4 KITTENS + *specific colour***

The Breed class is sex specific. There is no mixing of the sexes in the Breed class.

The kittens are judged 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in both the male and female kitten classes.

The kitten placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the male Breed class and the kitten placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the female Breed class are then judged against each other to be awarded Best of Breed (BOB).

The kitten awarded BOB will go forward to be judged later on in the day against all the other BOB kittens in Section 4 and the kitten judged the best will be declared Best of Variety Section 4 Kitten.

The three Best of Variety winners in Section 4, (Adult, Neuter, Kitten) will then be judged against each other to decide the Best Section 4 Exhibit.

This Best Section 4 Exhibit will then be taken to the beautifully decorated Best in Show pens and be judged at the end of the day for Overall Best in Show.

## **MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES**

*In your schedule: -*

### **MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES - SECTION 4 KITTENS**

As well as your Breed class your show entry fee will also include either one or two miscellaneous classes. You can enter more miscellaneous classes for an extra fee.

These are side classes and judges always judge these after they have finished judging their allocated Breed classes.

In the schedule these classes will be listed under the Section 4 Miscellaneous section for the Bengal breed. At the beginning of the schedule will be a list of what each class

means eg. Limit, Debutante, Maiden, Novice, Senior, Junior etc. These classes and their eligibility may vary slightly from show to show so I won't explain them here.

~~~~~

### **COMING OF AGE**

When a kitten reaches 9 months of age they are not classed as a kitten and have to be entered into Adult classes for entire cats, and Neuter classes for neutered/spayed cats.

~~~~~

### **ADULTS**

Classes for entire cats over 9 months of age. Brown Spotted, Brown Marble, Snow Spotted, Snow Marble and Silver are eligible to compete for Titles. These classes and how to find them in the show schedule are as follows: -

#### **CHAMPION**

*In your schedule with relevant sex and colour: -*

**BREED CLASSES - SECTION 4 ADULTS** - Bengal + *specific colour*

To gain the title of Champion your cat will require three CC's from three different judges from three different shows.

Once the title of Champion has been gained your cat will then be eligible for the Grand Champion Classes.

This class is for cats that have not gained a Title and is colour specific.

*(It is permitted for Grand Champion titled cats to also enter this class)*

#### **GRAND CHAMPION**

*In your schedule: -*

**GRAND CLASS - SECTION 4 ADULT**

*(Competing with Bengal, Ocicat, Aztec Egyptian Mau, Sokoke breeds)*

To gain the title of Grand Champion your cat will require three Grand Champion Certificates from three different judges from three different shows.

Once the title of Grand Champion has been gained your cat will then be eligible for the Imperial Grand Champion Classes.

This class is for cats that have gained the title of Champion and your cat will be competing against Bengals of other colours and other breeds eligible for this class as above.

*(It is permitted for Imperial Grand Champion titled cats to also enter this class)*

#### **IMPERIAL GRAND CHAMPION**

*In your schedule: -*

**IMPERIAL CLASS - SECTION 4 ADULT**

*(Competing with all Section 4 breeds:- Bengal, Abyssinian, Russian, Sinapura, Korat, Thai, Snowshoe, Rex Sphynx, La Perm, Ocicat, Aztec Egyptian Mau, Sokoke breeds)*

To gain the title of Imperial Grand Champion your cat will require five Imperial Grand Champion Certificates from five different judges, from five different shows.

This class is only for cats that have already gained their Grand Champion title or Imperial Grand Champion title and your cat will be competing against Bengals of other colours and all breeds in Section 4

## **OLYMPIAN CLASSES**

*In your schedule: -*

### **OLYMPIAN CLASS - ADULTS**

This class is for every cat in the show who has gained the title of Imperial Grand Champion. It is a class that is very hard to win as your cat will be against all different breeds so there is very strong competition.

To gain the title of **BRONZE OLYMPIAN** your cat will require five Olympian certificates from five different judges and from five different shows.

To gain the title of **SILVER OLYMPIAN** your cat will require five Olympian certificates from five different judges and from five different shows.

To gain the title of **GOLD OLYMPIAN** your cat will require five Olympian certificates from five different judges and from five different shows.

### **MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES - as above**

*In your schedule: -*

### **MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES - SECTION 4 ADULTS**

~~~~~

## **NEUTERS**

Classes for neutered cats over 9 months of age. Brown Spotted, Brown Marble, Snow Spotted, Snow Marble and Silver are eligible to compete for Titles. These classes and how to find them in the show schedule are as follows: -

### **PREMIER**

*In your schedule: -*

### **BREED CLASS - SECTION 4 - NEUTER - BENGAL + *specific colour***

To gain the title of Premier your cat will require three PC's from three different judges from three different shows.

Once the title of Premier has been gained your cat will then be eligible for the Grand Premier Classes.

This class is for cats that have not gained a title.

*(It is permitted for Grand titled neuters to also enter this class).*

### **GRAND PREMIER**

*In your schedule: -*

### **GRAND CLASS - SECTION 4 - BENGAL**

*(Competing with Bengal, Ocicat, Aztec Egyptian Mau, Sokoke breeds)*

To gain the title of Grand Premier your cat will require three Grand Premier Certificates from three different judges from three different shows.

Once the title of Grand Premier has been gained your cat will then be eligible for the Imperial Grand Premier Classes.

This class is for neuters that have gained the title of Premier and your cat will be competing against Bengals of other colours and other breeds eligible for this class.

*(It is permitted for Imperial Grand Grand Champion titled cats to also enter this class)*

### **IMPERIAL GRAND PREMIER**

*In your schedule: -*

### **IMPERIAL CLASS - SECTION 4 - BENGAL**

*(Competing with all Section 4 breeds:- Bengal, Abyssinian, Russian, Sinapura, Korat, Thai, Snowshoe, Rex Sphynx, La Perm, Ocicat, Aztec Egyptian Mau, Sokoke breeds)*

To gain the title of Imperial Grand Premier your cat will require five Imperial Grand Premier Certificates from five different judges and from five different shows. This class is only for neuters that have already gained their Grand Premier title or Imperial Grand Premier title, and your cat will be competing against Bengals of other colours and all breeds in the Foreign section eligible for this class, including breeds in the Original Foreign SH section.

### **OLYMPIAN CLASSES**

*In your schedule: -*

#### **OLYMPIAN CLASS - NEUTERS**

This class is for every cat in the show who has gained the title of Imperial Grand Premier. It is a class that is very hard to win as your cat will be against all different breeds so there is very strong competition.

To gain the title of **BRONZE OLYMPIAN** your cat will require five Olympian certificates from five different judges and from five different shows.

To gain the title of **SILVER OLYMPIAN** your cat will require five Olympian certificates from five different judges and from five different shows.

To gain the title of **GOLD OLYMPIAN** your cat will require five Olympian certificates from five different judges and from five different shows.

### **MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES - as above**

*In your schedule: -*

#### **MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES - SECTION 4 - NEUTERS**

~~~~~

### **SHOW DAY!**

When you arrive at the show, and after collecting your envelope you must go to vetting in. There are usually a few vets who look at your vaccination card to check that it is in date and also check your cat for any 'visitors' as well as their gums and general health. After that you can find your pen, put the blanket and water in and then put your cat in. For GCCF shows a white blanket, water bowl and litter tray is compulsory.

Prepare your cat for judging, then at 10am you must all leave the show hall so that the main certificate judging can take place. Before you leave the hall, and if you have fed your cat, don't forget to take the food bowl out plus any toys, and don't leave anything on the top of the pen.

So now it's time for a coffee and a chat with cat pals and a peruse of the catalogue to see who your cat is competing against. As time goes by the results are gradually put on the result board so every so often go and check to see how your cat has done. The miscellaneous results are usually posted after the main title certificate classes. You are then let back into the hall around 12.30 - 1pm to see your cat and admire any rosettes that may have been placed on the pen.

The Best of Variety judging is usually done towards the end of the day, and then when the winners are announced for Best in Show over the loud speaker a crowd forms to watch the judging which is held in the decorated BIS pens in the hall. One pen for the winner of each section, including the winner of the HHP and Pedigree Pet section, and from the Pedigree sections an Overall BIS winner is chosen!

The show can close anywhere between 4pm and 5pm - and of course ..... *you always take the best cat home!*



**GLOSSARY**

- GCCF – The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy
- Bengal Tabby – refers to both spotted and marble pattern
- SOP – Standard of Points
- BOB – Best of Breed
- BOV – Best of Variety
- BIS – Best in Show
- AOV – Any Other Variety
- AOC – Any Other Colour
- AC – Any Colour
- AV – Any Variety
- SH – Shorthair
- Ch – Champion
- Pr - Premier
- Gr Ch – Grand Champion
- Gr Pr – Grand Premier
- I Gr Ch – Imperial Grand Champion
- I Gr Pr – Imperial Grand Premier
- OB IGr Ch
- OS IGr Ch
- OG IGr Pr
- OB IGr Pr
- OS IGr Pr
- OG IGr Pr



**THE GCCF BENGAL STANDARD OF POINTS**

**Breed Number 76**

|                                                          |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Brown (Black) Spotted Bengal (Championship).....         | 76 30   |
| Brown (Black) Marbled Bengal (Provisional).....          | 76 20   |
| AOC-Eyed Snow Spotted Bengal (Provisional).....          | 76a 30  |
| Blue-Eyed Snow Spotted Bengal (Provisional).....         | 76b 30  |
| AOC-Eyed Snow Marbled Bengal (Provisional).....          | 76a 20  |
| Blue-Eyed Snow Marbled Bengal (Provisional).....         | 76b 20  |
| Black Silver Spotted Bengal (Preliminary).....           | 76 30s  |
| Black Silver Marbled Bengal (Preliminary) .....          | 76 20s  |
| AOC-Eyed Silver Snow Spotted Bengal (Preliminary).....   | 76a 30s |
| Blue-Eyed Silver Snow Spotted Bengal (Preliminary) ..... | 76b 30s |
| AOC-Eyed Silver Snow Marbled Bengal (Preliminary) .....  | 76a 20s |
| Blue-Eyed Silver Snow Marbled Bengal (Preliminary) ..... | 76a 20s |

## General Type Standard

The Bengal should be alert, friendly and affectionate and in excellent physical condition with a dependable temperament. The Bengal's wild appearance is enhanced by its distinctive spotted or marbled tabby coat which should be thick and luxurious. The Bengal is a large to medium cat, sleek and muscular with a thick tail which is carried low. The females may be smaller than the males.

**Head and Neck**-Broad medium wedge with rounded contours, slightly longer than it is wide with high cheek bones. The head should be rather small in proportion to the body but not taken to extremes. The profile has a gentle curve from the forehead to the bridge of the nose. The line of the bridge of the nose extends to the nose leather making a very slight concave curve. The nose is large and broad with a slightly puffed nose leather. The muzzle should be full and broad with a rounded, strong chin and pronounced whisker pads created by the widely set canine teeth. The neck should be thick, muscular and in proportion to the body. Allowance should be made for jowls in adult males.

**Ears**-Medium to small, rather short with a wide base and rounded tips. Set as much on the side as on the top of the head, following the contour of the face in the front view and pointing forward in profile. Light horizontal furnishings are acceptable but ear tufts are undesirable.

**Eyes**-Almost round, oval preferred, large but not bold. Set on a slight slant toward the base of the ear.

**Body**-Long, sleek and muscular. Large to medium and robust with the hindquarters slightly higher than the shoulders, showing depth of flank.

**Legs and Paws**-Legs of medium length, strong and muscular. The hind legs should be a little longer than the front and be more robust. The paws should be large and rounded.

**Tail**-Medium length, thick and even, with a rounded tip; may be tapered towards the end.

**Coat**-Short to medium in length, very dense, luxurious and unusually soft to the touch. Allowance should be made for a slightly longer coat in kittens.

## Bengal Tabby Pattern Descriptions

**Spotted Pattern**-The spectacles which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks which may be outlined by an "M" marking on the forehead. Broken streaks or spots run over the head on either side of a complex scarab marking, down the neck and onto the shoulders where they may break up into rosettes. Rosettes are formed by a part circle of spots around a distinctly lighter centre. Strong, bold chin strap, mascara markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklet(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks or spots are desirable. Spots may vary in size and shape but should be generally large, well formed and distributed at random, or in horizontal alignment. Contrast with the ground colour must be extreme giving a distinct pattern and a sharp outline to the spots. Rosettes and arrowhead-shaped spots are desirable. These are preferred to single spotting but are not essential. The stomach must be spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens). The legs may show broken horizontal lines and/or spots. The tail should have rings, streaks and/or spots along its length, with a solid dark-coloured tip. Spots should not run together vertically forming a mackerel tabby pattern.

**Marbled Pattern**-The spectacles which encircle the eyes should preferably extend into vertical streaks which may be outlined by an "M" marking on the forehead. Broken streaks run over the head on either side of a complex scarab marking, down the neck and onto the shoulders. Strong, bold chinstrap, mascaras markings, distinct broken or unbroken necklet(s) and blotchy horizontal shoulder streaks are desirable. There should be a distinct pattern with swirled patches or streaks, clearly defined but not symmetrical, giving the impression of marble, preferably with a horizontal flow. Contrast must be extreme with distinct shapes and sharp outlines. The stomach must be spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow kittens). The legs may show broken horizontal lines and/or spots. The tail may be ringed, marbled and/or spotted along its length, with a solid dark-coloured tip. The marbled markings should have as little similarity to the classic tabby as possible. A vertical striped mackerel tabby tendency is also undesirable.

## Colour Descriptions for Spotted and Marbled Bengals

**Brown Tabby**-All variations are allowed but a high degree of rufous colour yielding a yellow, buff, golden or orange ground colour is preferred. Markings may be black or various shades of brown. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Alternatively, the chest, underside and inner legs may be pale in contrast to the ground colour of the flanks and back. White or very light coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red. Paw pads and tail tip must be black. Preference should be given to marbled cats with three or more shades; that is ground colour, markings and dark outlinings of these markings. The overall appearance should be of gold dusting. A grey base coat should not be penalised.

**Eye Colour**-Gold, green or hazel, deep shades preferred.

**Blue-Eyed Snow (Siamese restriction of coat pattern)**-The ground colour should be ivory to cream. The pattern may vary in colour from charcoal to dark or light brown with light coloured spectacles, whisker pads and chin. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red. Paw pads should be brown with rosy undertones. The colour may be darker on the points than on the body; as little contrast as possible is preferred. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. The overall appearance should be of pearl dusting.

**Eye Colour**-Blue, deep shades preferred.

**AOC-Eyed Snow (Burmese/Tonkinese restriction of coat colour)**-The ground colour should be ivory to tan, with the pattern clearly visible. The pattern may be charcoal or shades of brown with light coloured spectacles, whisker pads and chin. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red. Paw pads should be dark brown with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. The overall appearance should be of pearl dusting.

**Eye Colour**-Gold, green or blue-green.

**Black Silver Tabby**- Markings should be black on a silvery-white ground colour showing extreme contrast. The base of the hair should be glacial white. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably silvery-white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Silvery-white coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red although a black nose leather is acceptable. Paw pads and tail tip must be black. There should be little or no tarnish (brown pigmentation) present in the coat colour. The overall appearance should be of diamond dusting but this is not essential.

**Eye Colour**-Gold, green or hazel, deep shades preferred.

**Blue-Eyed Silver Snow (Siamese restriction of coat pattern)**-Markings may vary from charcoal or shades of brown on a silvery-white ground colour showing good contrast. The base of the hair should be glacial white. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably silvery-white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Silvery-white coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red although a black nose leather is acceptable. Paw pads should be brown with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. The colour may be darker on the points than on the body; as little contrast as possible between the points and the body is preferred. There should be little or no tarnish (brown pigmentation) present in the coat colour. The overall appearance should be of diamond dusting but this is not essential.

**Eye Colour**-Blue, deep shades preferred.

**AOC-Eyed Silver Snow (Burmese/Tonkinese restriction of coat colour)**-Markings may vary from charcoal to shades of brown on a silvery-white ground colour with the pattern clearly visible. The base of the hair should be glacial white. There may be a light coloured "thumb print" on the back of each ear. A very pale colour, preferably silvery-white, is highly desirable on the whisker pads and chin and may extend onto the chest, underside and inner legs. Silvery-white coloured spectacles encircling the eyes are desirable. The eye rims, lips and nose leather should be outlined in black and the centre of the nose leather should be brick red although a black nose leather is acceptable. Paw pads should be brown



with rosy undertones. The tail tip must be dark brown or charcoal. There should be little or no tarnish (brown pigmentation) present in the coat colour. The overall appearance should be of diamond dusting but this is not essential.

**Eye Colour**-Gold, green or blue-green.



**SCALE OF POINTS**

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Head and Neck.....        | 15   |
| Ears.....                 | 5    |
| Eye Shape and Colour..... | 5    |
| Body.....                 | 20   |
| Legs and Paws.....        | 10   |
| Tail.....                 | 5    |
| Coat Texture.....         | 10   |
| Coat Colour.....          | 10   |
| Pattern and Contrast..... | 20   |
|                           | ---- |
| Total                     | 100  |
|                           | ---- |

**Withhold All Awards for:** Aggressive behaviour.

**Withhold Certificates and First Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:**

1. Long, rough or coarse coat.
2. Distinctly ticked coat.
3. Tail tip not the required colour.
4. Whip tail.
5. Stomach not spotted (except in Blue-Eyed Snow and Blue-Eyed Silver Snow kittens).
6. Incorrect paw pad colour.
7. Oriental head type, e.g. straight profile, large flared ears.
8. Burmese head type, e.g. distinct nose break or 'stop'.
9. Cobby or Abyssinian, Burmese or Oriental body type.
10. White patches or spots other than those referred to in the Colour descriptions.
11. Any other defect as listed in the preface to the GCCF SOP booklet.