



FELINOTECHNIC TERMS GLOSSARY

Adelphogamy

Brother to sister breeding.

Admitted

Is said of a character allowed by the [standard](#), without being searched for as a goal in [breed](#) selection.

Affix

Designation added to the animal's name, mentioning the cattery of origin. It can be put before the cat's name (prefix) or after it (suffix). It is the cat's "surname", in some way.

Agouti

Name given to a hair showing alternation of light and dark zones.

That character is controlled by a gene whose A [allele](#), wild and [dominant](#), reveals the [tabby pattern](#) present in all cats: in a non agouti cat (having two aa [recessive](#) alleles), the agouti hair zones which should have been light coloured become almost as dark as the stripes. The latter being no longer distinct, the cat is often abusively said "non [tabby](#)".

Albinism

Total absence of pigment, due to mutations affecting the tyrosinase enzyme coding [gene](#) (C [locus](#) in felinotechny).

All Breed (judge)

Is said of a judge entitled to judge all breeds.

Allele

One among several forms of a [gene](#) that is at a given [locus](#).

Example: for the L locus, we know L (responsible for shorthair) and l (responsible for longhair or semi longhair) alleles. For B locus, we know B (black eumelanin), b (chocolate eumelanin) and b' (light brown eumelanin that gives the colour called cinnamon).

Allelic series

An allelic series gathers all the [mutations](#) of a [gene](#). In the same series, the classification always starts with the [dominant allele](#), then, in decreasing order of dominance, the other alleles.

Example: C series which is in charge of colour distribution on the body; C is dominant over c^b (Burmese), itself being dominant over c^s (Siamese), itself dominant over c^a (light blue eyed albino).

**Allowance**

Trait that is not expected in a breed but which may be difficult to avoid, for instance, in some seasons or ages of the cat, and thus should not be penalized when judged.

Example: allowances for hair length or density of a long or semi longhair cat during summer, allowances for kittens' eye colour, etc.

Alopecia

Total or partial absence of hair.

Amber

Progressive modification of black pigment into yellow-gold pigment.

[Light] Amber

Progressive modification of dilute black (blue) pigment into cream-gold pigment.

Anouran

Absence of tail.

Apricot

[Coat](#) colour, result of a modification of cream giving it a metallic reflection. Colour not yet recognized by the LOOF.

Aquamarine

« Southern seas blue » (green-blue), eye colour desired in the Tonkinese breed or together with the [mink](#) pattern.

Aquiline

Is said of a nose that is thin and curved like an eagle's beak.

Arlequin (w^s-)

[Bicolor](#) cat showing 50 to 80% of white.

Awn hair

See [hair](#).

Balance

General physical equilibrium of a cat.

Barrings

Name given to the vertical bars behind the bengals' shoulders.

Basic colour

One of the solid colours in the colours list, except white.

Best

Award given to the best cats during a cat show.

Examples: Best in Variety (BIV) = best cat in the breed, colour and/or variety; Best in Show (BIS) = best of a group (sex, age...) among a [category](#); Best of Best (BOB) = best among the Best in Show.

**Bicolor (w^s-)**

1. Cat with white patches.
2. In certain breeds, cat whose coat shows between 25 and 50% of white.

Birman

Synonymous with Sacred cat of Burma.

Blaze

Orange, cream or white marking located between the eyes, going from the nose up to the forehead.

Blotched tabby / classic tabby or marbled tabby

Describes the most recessive among [tabby](#) patterned coats. (also called classic tabby by some federations). Blotched tabby displays characteristic large stripes on the back, patterns called « butterfly wings » or « oyster shells » on shoulder blades or flanks, and wide rings on tail.

Blue (B- dd)

Coat colour ranging from grey-blue to slate grey. Blue colour is the result of an irregular distribution of the pigmented granules that contain black [eumelanin](#).

Bobtail

Designates cat breeds with very short and curved tail forming in some of them a pompon, which reminds of chrysanthemum flowers.

Example: Japanese Bobtail, Kurilian Bobtail and American Bobtail.

Bracelet

Darker coloured ring on front legs of a cat.

Brachycephaly

Brachycephaly (litteraly « with a short head » from ancient greek brachus, short and kephalê, head) is the morphological aspect of skulls when they are wider than deep. It results in a shortening of the face, typical of some breeds (Persian, Exotic shorthair, Bombay, American Burmese).

Brachygnathous

Cat whose lower jaw is abnormally short. (see withholdings list).

Also called retrognathous.

Break

Well stressed angle between nose and forehead (synonymous with stop).

Breast

Part of the body including underside of chin and chest, generally used to mention the colour of the fur at that precise location.

Breastbone

According to felinotechny, prominence of the sternum's point. Synonymous with protruding sternum.

Breed

1. Group of individuals sharing a certain number of morphological traits:
 - distinctive (distinguishing them from the other breeds);



- homogenous (uniformity of some characters inside the breed);
 - fixed (transferable to its descendants in a stable way).
2. Group of individuals having the same breed name on their [pedigree](#), according to a given book of origin.

Breeding auxiliary

Breed cat that misses one of the breed-inherent traits and is therefore not eligible for show but presents an interest for breeding.

Brindling

White hair visible in the dark points of [colourpoint](#) cats. Brindling is a fault at shows. It can sometimes be the result of oral medicine intake (especially antifungal, antibiotics).

Bronze

Name of the brown spotted [tabby](#) coat in the Egyptian Mau.

Brown

Is said of an [agouti](#) cat whose [eumelanin](#) is black.

Brush

Hard and curly hair, often sparse in Peterbald and Donskoy.

Bump

Bulge on nose or on forehead.

CAC

Championship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to an adult cat (see show rules conditions).

CACIB

International Beauty Championship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to an adult cat who is already a champion (see show rules conditions).

CAGCI(B)

Grand International (Beauty) Championship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to an adult cat who is already an international champion (see show rules conditions).

CACE

European Championship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to an adult cat who is already a grand international champion (see show rules conditions).

CAGCE

Grand European Championship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to an adult cat who is already a European champion (see show rules conditions).



CAP

Premiorship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to a [neutered](#) adult cat (see show rules conditions).

CAPIB

International beauty premiorship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to a [neutered](#) adult cat who is already premior (see show rules conditions).

CAGPI(B)

(Beauty) grand international premiorship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to a [neutered](#) adult cat who is already international premior (see show rules conditions).

CAPE

European premiorship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to an adult [neutered](#) cat who is already a grand international premior (see show rules conditions).

CAGPE

Grand European premiorship aptitude certificate. This certificate can be delivered by a judge to an adult [neutered](#) cat who is already a European premior (see show rules conditions).

Calico (C- w^s- Oo)

American word describing the [tortie](#) and white varieties (tricolor or [tortie](#) and white females).

Cameo (A- I- Wb- O(O))

Former name for [silver](#) cats with red or cream hair tip and gold eyes. A cameo may be [shaded](#) or [shell](#) according to length of [tipping](#). For example, gold eyed red silver shaded, gold eyed cream silver shell.

Capacity certificate

Certificate delivered by the Veterinarian Services Direction (DSV) and needed to satisfy the requirements of January, 6th, 1999's law when breeding 2 litters or more per year.

Caramel

[Coat](#) colour, result of a modification of [blue](#), [lilac](#) or [fawn](#), giving it a metal glint. Colour not yet recognized by the LOOF.

Carrier

Quality of an individual possessing a [recessive gene](#) that it does not express in its physical appearance but which it may pass on.

Example: chocolate carrier black cat (Bb).

Castration

Operation whose goal or result is to deprive a male or a female of his/her reproduction means. More often used only for males (testicles removal).





Category

1. In LOOF cat shows, there are 3 hair length categories:
 - Longhair: Persian.
 - Semi longhair: all the other longhair cats (Maine Coon, Norwegian ...)
 - Shorthair: all shorthair or hairless cats (Siamese, Bengal, Sphynx, ...)
2. In coats list, there are 4 categories corresponding to the different expressions of C gene:
 - Traditional (C-), full colour expression
 - Sepia ($c^b c^b$)
 - Mink ($c^b c^s$)
 - Point ($c^s c^s$)

CETAC

(stands for French: *Certificat d'Etude Technique de l'Animal de Compagnie*)
Pet technical studies certificate. It is one of the exams leading to the [Capacity Certificate](#).

CFA

Cat Fanciers' Association.

Champagne

Name for [chocolate](#) colour in the Burmese given by certain federations.

Champion, International Champion, Grand International Champion, European Champion, Grand European Champion

Titles given to a cat that has obtained the aptitude certificates for that title (see show rules).

Charcoal

1. Colour of some Bengals for which black has an unusual intensity and coat ground colour is particularly light. Colour not recognized by the LOOF so far.
2. Name given by some federations to dark grey colour in California Spangled Cat.

Chestnut

See [Havana](#).

Chinchilla (A- I- Wb-)

[Silver](#) cats whose hair is coloured only at the tip ([tipping](#) on around 1/8 of hair length).

Chocolate (b- D-)

Dark brown colour, result of the action of b [allele](#), [recessive](#) to B allele (Black), which transforms black [eumelanin](#) in dark brown eumelanin.

Cinnamon (b^lb^l D-)

Red-brown colour, result of the action of b^l [allele](#) (for « Light Brown »), [recessive](#) to B (Black) and b (brown=chocolate) alleles, which transforms black [eumelanin](#) in red-brown eumelanin.



Class

In cat shows, level in which the cat is competing and which depends on the Championship title he has already reached.

Example: A grand international champion cat competes in « CACE » class.

Classic Tabby

Synonym for blotched tabby in certain federations (see [blotched tabby](#)).

(Claw) Clipping

Consists in cutting the non vivid end of the cat's claws, in order to make them less sharp and avoid damages caused by possible scratches.

Coat

Term used to designate the cat's hair colours, [pattern](#), length and texture.

Cobby

Means massive, stocky and short body (comes from « compact body »). See morphological types table.

Codominance

One speaks about codominance when the two different alleles present at one given [locus](#) in a [heterozygous](#) subject both express themselves in the individual's aspect (the [phenotype](#)).

Example: combination of the genes responsible for the Burmese (c^b) and the Siamese (c^s) [patterns](#) which results in a third intermediate pattern ($c^b c^s$) typical of the Tonkinese.

Collar

Continuous (closed necklace) or broken (open necklace) stripes on upper part of chest in [agouti](#) varieties.

Colourpoint ($c^s c^s$)

Cat with a lighter body and darker markings, called "[points](#)" on [mask](#) (face), ears, legs, tail and scrotum. The eyes are blue.

Example: all Siamese are colourpoint.

Concave

Designates a slightly curved profile.

Conformity

Examination carried out on a cat aged 10 months or more to verify that it meets the criteria of its breed's standard (morphology, type, colour, ...) and does not display any fault listed in the "non-conformity defaults" of its breed group. The conformity examination is part of the breeding cats' qualification scheme « [SQR](#) ».

Convex

Designates a bumped profile. Ex: Cornish Rex, Siamese...

Condition

Definition of the cat's physical and mental state of health. Should be considered: its general state, its weight and the quality of its [grooming](#). (see withholdings list)

**Cream (dd O(O))**

Dilution of red.

Cross breeding (or cross breed)

Mating of two cats from different breeds.

Cryptorchid

Designates a male cat without visible testicles in scrotum (see withholdings list).

Cuneiform

Is said of a corner shaped head (triangular prism).

Curling

1. Designates hair curl found in the American Wirehair or certain [Rexes](#).
2. Designates also the backward ear curving in the American Curl.

Declaw

Removal of claw and last phalanx. This handicapping and harmful mutilation is considered a [withholding](#) in cat shows. Not to be mistaken for [clipping](#).

Depigmentation

Lack of coloured pigments on all or certain areas of the body, making hair white or skin pink. That lack of pigments may or may not be the result of a lack of melanocytes (the only cells able to synthesize the pigments in mammals).

Dewclaw

Equivalent of the thumb for the cat.

Dilution (dd) [or maltesing]

Lighter expression of an intense colour.

Example: [blue](#) is the dilution of black, [lilac](#) is the dilution of [chocolate](#), [fawn](#) is the dilution of [cinnamon](#) and [cream](#) is the dilution of red.

Disqualification

Withdrawal of a cat from a show because of a [fault](#) estimated serious (see cat show [withholdings](#) list).

Division

Inside the coats nomenclature, a division is the gathering of the coats having certain characteristics in common, inside a [category](#). There are 8 divisions:

- Solid
- Tabby
- Silver/smoke
- Amber
- Solid and white
- Tabby and white
- Silver/smoke and white
- Amber and white

The categories and divisions description appears in the document called « Complete list of coats ».

**Dome**

Round shape made of the top of the head and forehead in Persian and Exotic Shorthair.

Dominant

Characteristic of a [gene](#) that needs only one [allele](#) present on one pair of chromosomes to express itself. A dominant gene is designated by a capital letter (example B: black)

Ebony

Name given to the black Oriental by some federations.

Ectropion

When the lower eyelid droops downward and turns outward.

Entire

Non castrated cat.

Entropion

When the lower eyelid turns inward, rubbing against the eye.

Epistasy (adj.: epistatic)

Effect of a [gene](#) (adj.: epistatic) on another gene located on a different [locus](#), hiding the effect of the latter.

Example: white colour, when determined by W gene, is epistatic on any other coat colour determined by the other genes controlling pigmentation.

Eumelanic

Refers to black, [chocolate](#) or [cinnamon](#) pigments named eumelanin and transferred in the hair from the cells that synthesize them.

Exogamy

See [Outcrossing](#).

Fat pad

Pad of fat tissues located on the belly and often very visible in cats showing overweight. In felines from desert areas, this pouch works as a food reserve, like the camel's hump. It also has the characteristic to offer a greater elongation, allowing the feline to run faster and do bigger jumps. In the Egyptian Mau, the fat pad is a characteristic [admitted](#) by the [standard](#).

Fault

Any notable imperfection compared to the breed's standard and its specific qualities (see withholdings list).

[Cosmetic] fault

Purely esthetic fault compared to the standard (ex: white [locket](#) in a solid cat) which does not endanger the cat's health.

Fawn (b'b' dd)

Dilution of [cinnamon](#). Pinkish beige colour.

Felinotechny

Refers to feline world.

**Feral**

Domestic cat that has gone back to wild life.

FIFe

(stands for French « Fédération Internationale Féline ») International Feline Federation.

Flame Point

Name for Red Point in some federations.

Flat Chest Kitten syndrome (FCK)

Rib cage flattening or depression.

Flehmen response

Characteristic attitude of some mammals among which felines which use their Jacobson vomeronasal organ located on the palate, under the nasal cavity to detect pheromones or some scents, by opening their mouth.

Flock

See Velvet.

Foolscap

Straight and close ears, especially in breeds in which this trait is not desirable.

Foreign

1. Slender and elegant morphology (see cat morphological types list)
2. Name for Solid Oriental in some federations.

Foreign White

Name for a blue-eyed white Oriental, supposed to hide a Siamese, in some federations.

Foundation (cat)

First subjects used during the selection of a [breed](#).

Frost

Name given to the [lilac](#) Burmese in certain federations.

Fuzzy

In Bengals, phase where the kitten has long light hair masking a bit the final coat, typically between 3 weeks and 3-4 months of age.

Gaiter

White extending up the back legs.

GCCF

Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

Genealogy

All the ancestors close to an individual and showing the parenthood.

Gene

DNA portion that contains genetic information. It is « responsible » for one or several characteristics of the organism (eye colour, hair length, blood group, body shape ...).



Genotype

All [alleles](#) carried by an individual at one or several [loci](#).

Ghost marking

Visible [tabby](#) markings, in certain non-[agouti](#) cats. Those markings express the tabby [pattern](#) genetically carried by the cat. They generally fade as the cat gets older, although less noticeably in cats from the [orange](#) series or certain [smoke](#) cats.

Glasses

Lighter area around the eyes in a coloured [mask](#) (Siamese, Birman).

Glitter

Glistening aspect of the coat, particularly in some Bengals.

Glove

Pure white area restricted to the end of the feet.

Example: all Birmans should have gloves.

Gloving

Gloves as a whole.

Golden

1. Modification of ground colour giving a golden hue.
2. In LOOF nomenclature, used only to describe non [silver tipped](#) cats.

Gonosome

Synonymous with sexual chromosome. Name given to the 2 chromosomes that are responsible for sex determination, among other functions. The female has 2 X chromosomes and the male has 1 X chromosome and 1 Y chromosome.

Grooming

Preparation of a cat aiming to improve its cleanliness and appearance (combing, shampoo(s), brushing ...).

Grizzle

Specific coat found in the Chausie showing a light [tipping](#) on a dark background. Colour not recognized by the LOOF at the moment.

Guard (hair)

See hair.

Hair

There are of 3 different kinds:

- Awn hair (primary cover hair): longer hair, straight and pigmented. Present on the upper parts of the cat. It gives the [coat](#) its colour and protects the cat from the elements.
- Guard hair (secondary outer coat's hair): Hair of intermediate length, soft and more or less thick.
- Undercoat (down secondary hair): very short, fine, wavy and dense hair.

Each primary hair grows in one follicle, while several secondary hairs grow together in the same follicle. Finer and softer, they provide a good thermal isolation.



Half-breed

Offspring of two cats of different breeds (see also [Hybrid](#)).

Havana

1. Name given to the [chocolate](#) Oriental by some federations.
2. Nowadays, name of the [Havana Brown](#) breed (also called Chestnut Havana by some federations), distinct from the Oriental.

Heterozygous

A cat is [heterozygous](#) for one given [gene](#) or [locus](#) when both [alleles](#) carried by the pair of chromosomes at this locus are different. A [dominant](#) gene can express itself even when in heterozygous state.

Example: a Bb cat is black, chocolate carrier.

Himalayan

Some federations call Himalayan a [Colourpoint](#) Persian.

Homozygous

A cat is homozygous for a given [gene](#) or a [locus](#) when both [alleles](#) carried by the pair of chromosomes at that locus are identical. [Recessive](#) genes only express themselves when in homozygous state.

Example: a bb cat is homozygous for chocolate gene (whereas if it were bb', it would also be chocolate, but not homozygous for that specific gene).

Hook

Qualifies the typical hooked hair of the American Wirehair.

Hooked

Describes a convex, arched nose.

Hybrid

1. Product from the mating of two felidae from different species (for instance, domestic cat and *Prionailurus bengalensis* for the creation of the Bengal [breed](#)).
2. By misuse of language, cat out of two different [breeds](#) cross (synonymous with [half-breed](#)).
3. In the Persian, for example, cat out of a solid cat and a colourpoint cat.

Inbreeding

1. Breeding mode that consists in mating 2 individuals that are more or less closely related, i.e., that have at least one known common ancestor.

Inbreeding coefficient is the probability that the two [alleles](#) that an individual possesses at a given [locus](#) be identical by ancestry (i.e. inheriting the same allele from a common ancestor).

2. Close reproduction, with very close common ancestors, ex: grand father X grand daughter.

Inhibitor

Qualifies I gene which avoids (inhibits) phæomelanin production.

Jowls

Name given to well-developed cheeks, especially in adult males.

**[Tail] kink**

Deformity of sacral vertebrae that can cause an angle in the tail. It is a [withholding](#) fault in cat show.

Lace

White area on the underside of the foot ending in a point below the heel, specific of the Birman.

Lacet

French word describing a fault in Birman's gloving, made of a white lace-shaped area extending from [glove](#) along the leg.

Lavender (or Self Lavender)

Denomination of the [lilac](#) Oriental in some federations.

Lethal

Is said about an [allele](#) leading to foetal or newborn death when it is in [homozygous](#) state.

Lilac (b- dd)

[Chocolate](#) dilution. Pinkish grey colour.

Line

Group of individuals descending from the same origin.

Linebreeding

Wide inbreeding reproduction, with distant common ancestors, ex: same great great grandfather.

Linkage

Association between two or several [loci](#) on the same chromosome, so that the traits determined by the [alleles](#) present on those loci tend to be inherited together.

Locket

White spot of varying size not related to the [white spotting](#) (w^s) gene or to the gloving (G) gene.

Locus (plural loci)

Location of a [gene](#) on a chromosome.

Longy

Manx with normal tail.

LOOF

Stands for French: Livre Officiel des Origines Félines (Official Book of Feline Origins).

Lynx Point

Name given by some federations to a [colourpoint](#) cat whose [points](#) are [agouti](#).

Lynx tips

Tufts of hair located at end of ear.



Mackerel tabby

[Tabby](#) pattern where the cat displays narrow stripes on back and flanks as well as thin stripes on legs and tail.

Make-up

1. (natural make-up) contrasted designs on forehead (characteristically « M » shaped) and on an [agouti](#) cat's face.
2. (artificial make-up) Adding of make-up or tattoo hiding imperfections, underlying details or changing the colour's appearance on coat or nose leather of a cat.

Malocclusion

Misalignment between upper and lower jaws, precluding a proper dental bite.

Maltesing

see [dilution](#).

Marble

Term used for Bengals and Sokoke in which the pattern is modified compared to the classic blotched one.

Marbled

Synonymous with « [blotched](#) ».

Mascara (line)

Natural eye [make-up](#) in certain cats giving the impression that they have a khôl line.

Mask

Coloured area of the face in [colourpoint](#) patterned cats, darker than the rest in [sepia](#) or [mink patterned](#) cats.

Melanin

Pigment normally present in the skin, hair, eye, etc. Melanins are responsible for coat coloration, eye's iris, nose leather, [pawpads](#)...

They are:

- eumelanin, family of pigments varying from black to light brown.
- [phaeomelanin](#), family of yellow pigments.

Mi-Ke

Japanese Bobtail's [tortie](#) and white variety.

Mink (c^bc^s)

Result of the joint action of a [colourpoint](#) (c^s) [allele](#) and a [sepia](#) (c^b) allele. Qualifies tonkinese pattern, which is then an example of [codominance](#) between two alleles.

Mitted

1. Synonymous with [gloved](#).
2. In some breeds, for example the Ragdoll or the Snowshoe, pattern of white distribution detailed in the [standard](#).

Modifier gene

Gene(s) that modify(ies) the action of another gene.

**Monorchid**

Qualifies a male having only one visible testicle in scrotum (see withholdings list).

Morphology

Shape and general appearance of a cat. There are several types of morphology in cats (cobby, semi-cobby, foreign, semi-foreign, long and powerful, oriental).

Muddy elbow

Qualifies presence of dull grey [undercoat](#) near the Abyssinian's or the Somali's elbow, especially for the [ruddy](#) colour.

Mutation

Sudden and permanent change of a [gene](#) giving a new [allele](#).

Examples: many breeds' main characteristic is the presence of a mutation: it is the case for the Sphynx among others ("hr" mutation, responsible for hairlessness) or for the Devon Rex ("re" mutation that causes the curly hair particular to that breed, etc). In most cases, the new allele is [recessive](#), but it can also be [dominant](#) (for instance, « M » mutation causing absence of tail in Manx and Cymric, « Cu » mutation responsible for American Curls' curled ears or "Se" mutation causing Selkirk Rexes' specific hair)

Natural mink

Synonymous with [seal mink](#) in some federations.

NB

New Breed.

NBC (New Breed or Colour)

Former name for the [class](#) in which a LOOF registered breed or colour would compete when Championship status was not yet completed.

NC

New Colour.

Neuter

Term used for a castrated male or a spayed female.

Neutering

Permanent suppression of procreation ability in males or females.

Nictating or Nictitating membrane

« 3rd eyelid » at internal corner of the eye.

Nodosity

Slight bone outgrowth, ex: kink.

Occiput

Back part of skull.

Odd (eyes)

In felinotechny, term used when the right and the left eyes aren't of the same colour. Is most of the time found in white or particolored cats.

**Orange**

Name of the gene carried by sex linked X chromosome giving red, [cream](#) and [tortie](#) cats.

Outcrossing (or Outcross)

Breeding of two unrelated (no known common ancestors) subjects, exogamy.

Overtyp

Extreme type.

Panachure

French word designating the presence of white areas in coat (see [particolour](#)).

Pants

Longer hair at the back of thighs in long and semi long hair cats.

Particolour [Piebald]

Name of a coat with white (action of w^s allele).

Patched

Other name for [tortie](#) in some federations.

Pattern

1. Colour distribution on the body of [point](#), [mink](#) and [sepia](#) cats.
2. Colour degree and distribution in [particolor](#) cats.
3. Specific design of a [tabby coat](#) in [agouti](#) cats.

Pawpads

Fleshy bulge located under the cat's paws as well as on the back of legs. Pawpads colour varies according to the cat's [coat](#) colour.

Peach skin

Typical of a skin with a light down, particularly in some naked cats.

Pedigree

Official genealogical document with two roles:

- Showing a cat's [genealogy](#);
- Mentioning the belonging of a cat to a given [breed](#).

Peke face

Typical trait of some Persians and Exotic Shorthairs that have a rather sulky expression, reminding of the Pekinese dog.

Pewter

Old name given to orange eyed chinchilla or [silver shaded](#) Persian (silver coat with [tipping](#)).

Phaeomelanic

Colouring due to a yellow pigment called phaeomelanin.

Phenotype

Genetic term referring to the physical aspect, what is visible.

Piebald

See [Particolour](#).

**Pinch**

Strong break between the cheeks and the muzzle.

Pinched (nostrils)

Narrow nostrils, often with reduced nose leather.

Platinum

Name given to the [lilac](#) colour in Burmese cats by some federations.

Plume

Longhaired tail, especially when it is held upwards.

Points

Coloured ends that are darker than the body in [point](#), [sepia](#) and [mink patterned](#) cats.

Points scale

Points distribution for the different elements for the cat's assessment written in the [standard](#). The total, equivalent to perfection, is 100.

Polydactyly (adj. Polydactyl)

Hereditary deformity characterised by the presence of too many finger(s) or toe(s) (see show withholdings list).

Polygenes

All the [genes](#), not individually identified, that modify in a transmissible and quantitative way certain traits of the subject.

Example: red shades that are undesirable in [silver](#) cats but desirable to increase [undercoat](#) colour intensity in some non silver cats are generally considered as a consequence of « [rufousing](#) polygenes » as well as of some non genetic factors such as food.

Prefix

Name of cattery when written before the cat's name.

Premior

Championship title synonymous with Champion for a [neutered](#) cat.

Presentation

General aspect of a cat, being part of the judge's appreciation in cat shows, considering the cat's attitude as well as the quality of its [grooming](#).

Prognathous

Qualifies a cat whose lower jaw is longer than the upper jaw (see withholdings list).

Recessive

Qualifies a [gene](#) that needs to be present on both chromosomes of the same pair to express itself.

Resilience

Quality of hair lying in the fact that it quickly comes back after being rubbed up the wrong way, as does the Abyssinian's.



Retrognathous

Qualifies a cat whose lower jaw is abnormally short. Also called brachygnathous (see withholdings list).

Rex

Refers to cat breeds whose coats display a wavy and curly aspect and having, for most of them, curly whiskers. In fact, this term covers several mutations, both on [genotypic](#) and [phenotypic](#) levels.

RF [From the French « Registre de Filiation »]

The filiation registrar is a database allowing to record certain cats out of LOOF non-permissible crosses, displaying LOOF non-permissible characteristics in a breed, or household cats. It does not presage registration of their descendants in the Book. Those cats are not eligible for championship.

RIA [From the French « Registre d'Inscription au titre de l'Apparence »]

Appearance Registration Book. The procedure to enter the RIA is explained in LOOF rules.

RIEX [From the French « Registre d'Inscription Expérimentale »]

EXperimental Registration Book. The procedure to enter the RIEX is explained in LOOF rules.

Ringed

Describes a tail displaying dark coloured rings.

Roan

Describes a coat showing white hair (amelanistic) mixed with another coat colour, giving a salt and pepper effect. The proportion may vary, 50/50 being ideal. Typical of the Lykoi.

Roman (nose)

Used to qualify a hill shaped nose.

Rosette

Spots looking like a leopard's or jaguar's spots.

Ruddy

(American) Term used for genetic black Abyssinian or Somali (brown ticked tabby).

Ruff

Mass of longer and densier fur around the neck.

Rufousing

1. Reinforced presence of yellow pigment at subapical band (band located between the coloured end and the preceding band of [ticking](#)), giving the coat yellowish shades, particularly in [silver](#) cats.
2. Group of [polygenes](#) having the effect described above.

Rumpy

Tailless Manx.

**Rumpy riser**

Manx having 1 to 3 sacral vertebrae covered with a tuft of hair.

Sable

1. Synonymous with [seal sepia](#) in the Burmese, name given by some federations.
2. Name given to the first Brown Tabby Orientals, which also were sometimes named Seal Tabby.

Seal

Synonymous with black in [point](#), [sepia](#) and [mink](#) cats.

(artificial) Selection

Genetic improvement method inside a [breed](#) that consists in evaluating the genetic value of potential breeding cats, then in classifying and last choosing those sires and dams in order to produce the next generation. In felinotechny, the main selection criteria aim at producing subjects in conformity with the breed's [standard](#) in the colour varieties desired by the breeder.

Self

Of uniform colour, synonymous with [solid](#).

Semi-cobby

Silhouette slightly longer and thinner than [cobby](#). See morphological types table.

Semi-foreign

Rather slender silhouette, but with a relatively strong boning. See morphological types table.

Sepia (c^bc^b)

Qualifies Burmese [pattern](#).

Shaded / Shading

Describes a [tipped](#) cat whose coat is only coloured at the end of hair, on about 1/8 to 1/4 of its length.

Shell

Synonymous with [chinchilla](#).

Silver (A- I-)

Coat modified by [inhibitor](#) gene (I-) in [agouti](#) (A-) cats with depigmentation of all hair roots and lighter bands of agouti hair. Such a coat has a [silvery](#) look, hence its name.

Silvering

Qualifies the silvery shimmering typical of the Russian Blue's coat.

Slip

White spot between back legs.

Smoke (aa I-)

Coat modified by « I » mutant [allele](#) of [inhibitor](#) (I) locus in non-[agouti](#) (aa) cats. Only the base of hair is [silver](#), on about 1/4 to 1/3 of its length.

**Snow**

Name given to point, sepia or mink Bengals by some federations.

Soles

Underside of back legs.

Solid (aa)

Of uniform colour, synonymous with [self](#).

Sorrel (b' b' D-)

Name given to the [cinnamon ticked tabby](#) coat in the Abyssinian and Somali.

SQR [from the French « Système de Qualification des Reproducteurs »]

Breeding cats' qualification scheme. This step-by-step system aims at highlighting studs and queens as well as their offspring, on the basis of several criteria. These criteria are not only morphological ([Conformity](#) examination, championship titles) but also based on health issues (genetic tests defined in the selection grids of each breed) and, for the upper levels, performance of the offspring (when parentage has been genetically certified).

Spotted Tabby

[Tabby pattern](#), characterized by round markings, or spots.

Standard

The standard is the precise and complete description of the ideal cat for a given [breed](#). A good standard should allow the reader to imagine very precisely what a breed should look like without seeing the cat.

[Protruding] Sternum

In felinotechny, prominence of xyphoid appendix. It is a withholding for all cat breeds (see withholdings list). By extension, is sometimes simply called « sternum ».

Stop

Well stressed angle between nose and forehead (see also [break](#)).

Straight

Used to describe:

Straight ears in Scottish and Highland (as opposed to Fold)

Non curly hair in Selkirk (as opposed to Rex).

Stud

Male breeding cat.

Stumpy

Manx with a 1-to-10 cm long tail often having bony abnormalities.

Suffix

Name of the cattery when written after the cat's name.

Sweet look

Sweet and open expression of the face sought after in Persian and Exotic Shorthair, as opposed to « [Peke face](#) ».

**Tabby**

Describes cats with patches of [agouti](#) hairs generated by the A [dominant allele](#) at the agouti [locus](#). According to the [pattern](#), these cats can display contrasted patterns ([blotched](#) tabby, [mackerel](#) tabby, [spotted](#) tabby) or have a uniform distribution of ticked hair ([ticked](#) tabby, [tipping](#)).

Tan

In Abyssinian, the colour, in the [blue](#) variety for instance, found on belly and throat is tan (oat).

Tarnish

Term used in Egyptian Mau and Bengal breeders to describe the undesired brown shadows in [silver](#) cats. Some Egyptian Mau breeders make a distinction between those shadows and [rufus](#).

Tawny

Qualifies [ruddy](#) Abyssinians and Somalis in some federations (mainly in Australia).

Thumb (mark of)

Lighter oval zone at the back of the ear, typical of [agouti](#) cats, also called "wild thumb".

TICA

The International Cat Association.

Ticked tabby

Describes a coat exclusively made of [agouti](#) hair on the flanks as seen in the Abyssinian, Somali or Singapura.

Ticking

Alternation of dark bands and lighter bands on an [agouti](#) hair.

[Inverted] ticking

Phrase used when the tip of a hair showing alternate bands of colour is light instead of being dark.

Tipping

Coloured zone at the end of hairs of Wb- gene [agouti](#) cats.

Title

Honorary cat name such as « champion », « international champion »... given to an individual having satisfied the criteria required by each federation. Those criteria may be based on the number of judges' certificates obtained by the cat in a given class (LOOF, FIFe, WCF) or on the amount of points added during the judgments of the cat (TICA, CFA).

Torbie

A cat that is [tortie](#) ([tortoise shell](#)) and [tabby](#) at the same time.

**Tortie**

Coat displaying areas of red (respectively [cream](#)) hair next to areas of black, chocolate or cinnamon hair (respectively blue, lilac or fawn). The O gene is responsible for that colour and being carried by the X chromosome, tortie cats are generally females.

Tortie and white

Cats displaying the [tortie](#) colours together with white [spotting](#).

Tortoise shell (Oo)

Synonymous with tortie (see [tortie](#)).

Tricolor

Synonymous with [tortie](#) and white.

Tuck up

Characteristic arch of the Cornish Rex's spine.

Type

Shape and general stature of a cat (see morphological types table).

Usual

English term for [ruddy](#) in Abyssinians and Somalis.

Undercoat

See [Hair](#).

V

Inverted V shaped white marking on face.

Van

Cat whose body is more than 80 % white, with colour on top of the head and tail.

Variant

Designates a shorthair cat [carrying](#) longhair [gene](#).

Example: a shorthair kitten from a Siamese X Balinese mating is a variant Siamese.

Variety

Subdivision inside a [breed](#) where individuals may be distinguished by a specific character. Used for instance to describe a colour inside a breed.

Velvet (or flock)

Typical of a skin with a small 2-to-3-mm thick down as soft as short velvet especially in certain naked cats.

Vibrissa

Long tactile hair situated on the face, close to the mouth, above the eyes and at the back of the legs.

Vison mink

Name given to [seal mink](#) by some federations.

**Wad**

Mass of dead hair having the density of felt.

Waving

Coat curling in certain [Rex](#) cats (see [curling](#)).

WCC

World Cat Congress.

WCF

World Cat Federation.

Whip

Long and thin tail.

Whisker pad

Fleshy part of the muzzle where the whiskers grow.

White (W-)

Cat with all white coat. That character is controlled by a highly epistatic gene; it hides all patterns and colours.

White-spotting (w^s)

Name of the [gene](#) that produces white spots.

Wideband (Wb)

Mutant dominant allele located at the [locus](#) of the same name, specific of [shell](#) or [shaded](#) cats. In [agouti](#) cats, it pushes the light coloured subapical band towards the hair's root. The melanin coloured zone is then limited to the tip of hair, transforming [ticking](#) into [tipping](#).

Woolly

[Undercoat](#) texture looking like wool.

Zibeline

Synonymous with sable in French. Name given to [seal](#) [sepia](#) Burmese by the LOOF.