

SOKOKE (SK)

HEAD	30 points
Shape	5
Ears	4
Eyes	4
Chin	2
Muzzle	4
Nose	4
Profile	5
Neck	2

BODY	40 points
Torso	6
Legs	9
Feet	3
Tail	6
Boning	9
Musculature	7

COAT	30 points
Texture	10
Pattern	12
Color	8

CATEGORY: Traditional.

DIVISION: Tabby.

COLOR: Brown Tabby ONLY.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES:
None.

HEAD:

Shape: Modified wedge, appearing small in relation to body, top of the skull almost flat, and length should be slightly longer than width at temples. Cheek bones high and well defined.

Ears: Medium large; broad at the base, upright with tips slightly rounded. Tufts on the tips desirable, but not required. Set medium high, with a distance of one ear's breadth in between preferred.

Eyes: Moderately large, set wide apart, slightly slanted towards the base of ears. Slightly almond in shape. Brilliant and expressive. Color: Amber to light green, outlined with black.

Chin: Strong and broad, in line with the tip of the nose. Not fleshy.

Muzzle: Whisker pad-well defined. There may be more bulk, or definition to the rear of the whisker pad than to the forefront, giving the frontal view a smooth look, with gently rounded contours.

Nose: Broad, with a relatively abrupt end of the tip.

Profile: Nose of medium length, straight; with a short, softly convex curved bridge.

Neck: Slender, medium to slightly long in length yet strong, muscular.

BODY:

Torso: Medium long, slender, lithe and graceful, with well-developed chest, level back, and rounded rib cage.

Size: Males tend to be from 10 to 40% larger than females.

Legs: Long, slender with medium or fine boning. Hind legs well angled and muscular and longer than the front legs. The position of the hind legs gives a "tip toe" gait that is very characteristic of this breed, yet even when standing at ease the back remains level.

Boning: A fine to medium boning giving a slender, yet sturdy look.

Musculature: Well-developed musculature especially pronounced in neck and shoulders. These cats look fine and delicate; but, when lifted should be surprisingly solid and give the feel of strength.

Feet: Oval and medium small. Should be in balance with overall size.

Tail: Medium to long, and has a firm, tight, muscular feel from base to tip; tapers, whip like, to a narrow pointed tip.

COAT:

Texture: Very short, close lying with an almost hard - not silky feel and little or preferably no undercoat.

Pattern: Modified classic tabby. The pattern should be muted by ticking. This ticking, along with the modifications of the pattern are hallmarks of the Sokoke breed. The Sokoke pattern differs from the standard classic pattern in the following manner: at least one chin strap (broken allowable); the shoulder butterfly may be broken, just a blotch or not obvious; the bullseye should be broken, and the forehead "M" may be broken, but must be vestigially present.

COLOR: Any shade of brown tabby. It should be noted that the Sokoke is not a highly rufoused cat and the shades of brown can range from cool to warm. Black tail tip may also be ticked.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Sokoke is a recently discovered breed, found in and near the threatened Arabuko Sokoke Forest on the coast of Kenya. The first Sokoke Cats were discovered in the 1970's, and exported to Europe where a breeding program was started. The Kenyan Sokokes are a naturally occurring breed, free roaming and self-sufficient, yet living in close proximity to human settlements. The Sokoke is a sleek, slender, naturally athletic, muscular cat, with a medium frame dressed in a tight, short, ticked modified classic tabby coat. The local Girama natives

describe them as "looking like tree bark". Even when relaxed, their slightly longer rear legs give the appearance of being "at the ready". Their graceful athleticism, alert intelligence, and peaceful personality combine to make the Sokoke a true companion-animal who thrives on affection. They can exhibit a vocal possessiveness towards their feline families and human companions with whom they deeply bond.

PENALIZE: Head type too oriental or too round, stop too distinct; neck short and thick; body too cobby, lack of elegance; weak ticking on pattern.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS (WW):

Locketts, no ticking.

DISQUALIFY (DQ): Tail faults.



Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.