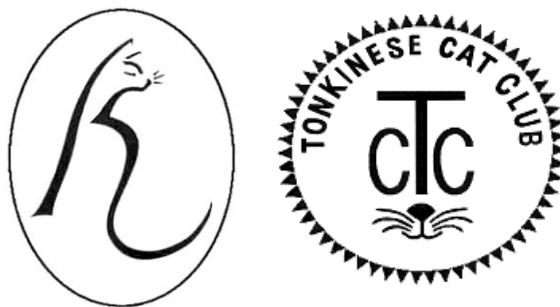


**Tonkinese
Breed Advisory Committee**

**The
TONKINESE BREEDING POLICY**

March 2013

Supported by the
Tonkinese Breed Club & Tonkinese Cat Club



THE TONKINESE BREEDING POLICY

Contents

SECTION I

TONKINESE GENETICS

1. The Tonkinese Type
2. The Tonkinese Coat (including Colour, Pattern and Expression)
3. Tonkinese Coat – Genetic Codes
4. Tonkinese Eye-Colour

SECTION II

TONKINESE BREEDING POLICY

1. Prohibited Breed Matings
2. Permitted Breed Matings
3. Tonkinese Registration
4. Breeding For The Healthy Development Of The Breed
 - 4.1. Breeding With Different Generations
 - 4.2. Inbreeding/Line-Breeding
 - 4.3. Selecting Suitable Cats For Breeding
 - 4.4. Selecting Breed Mates
 - 4.5. Breeding/Matings Detrimental To The Tonkinese Breed
 - 4.6. Breeding/Matings Detrimental To The Health And Welfare Of The Breed And Cats.
 - 4.7. Inherent Breed Problems (including recessive white Tonkinese)
 - 4.8. DNA Testing
5. Breeding For Coat-Patterns
6. Breeding For Type
7. Breeding For Colours And Patterns
8. Keeping Breed Development Visible For The Future
9. Other Registries
10. Assistance From The Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee

Section I

TONKINESE GENETICS

The Tonkinese draws its genetic resources from the Tonkinese, Burmese and Siamese breeds. The distinctiveness of a breed lies in its type, coat (length, texture, colour and patterns) and eye colour. The most distinctive feature of the Tonkinese is that its three different coat-patterns are inherited from just two variations of the same gene – a feature unique among cat breeds.

Notes:

- The code for the different genes and their variations (alleles) is shown in brackets after the gene's name.
- The three Tonkinese coat-patterns are Burmese Colour Restriction (BCR), Tonkinese Colour Restriction (TCR) and Colourpoint Pattern (CPP) – the abbreviations will be used in this document for simplicity.

1. TONKINESE TYPE

The Tonkinese has no extreme physical features; it is a well-balanced cat of medium Foreign type. The body is firm and strong with well-muscled, slender legs; the tail is gently tapered (neither thick nor whippy) and balancing the body for length. The feet are oval rather than round.

The head is neither elongated nor short and round; it gives the general impression of an equal sided triangle when viewed from the front. The muzzle is gently rounded and defined by a slight whisker pinch. The top of the head is gently rounded and the medium to large ears well spaced apart, oval tipped and pricked forward. In profile, the Tonkinese has a slight nose-break and a firm chin of medium depth.

The eyes are large and expressive, set well apart and more almond shaped than oriental or round. The top line of the eye slants down toward the nose with the lower line of the eye rounded. The eye-colour is associated with its coat-pattern - see later description.

2. TONKINESE COAT

The Tonkinese is a shorthaired cat with straight, close-lying fur. The genes that make up the appearance of the Tonkinese coats fall into three groups: Colour, Pattern and Expression.

2.1 Colour

The colour of the coat is a combination of three genes:

- a. **Colour** - this controls the black (eumelanin) pigment granules.
- b. **Colour-Density** – this controls the placement of the pigment granules along the hair.
- c. **Orange-Making** – this controls the orange (phaeomelanin) pigment granules.

2.1.a Colour gene - There are three variations, only of which two concern the Tonkinese:

1. Black (B) - Expressed as very dark brown in Tonkinese, Tonkinese name - Brown
2. Dark brown (b) - Modified from black to dark brown, Tonkinese name - Chocolate
3. Light brown (bl) - Modified from black to light brown, known as Cinnamon, this colour is not accepted in Tonkinese.

2.1.b Colour-density gene - there are two variations, dense and dilute.

1. Dense (D) - Dominant to Dilute, pigmentation is produced uniformly along the coat hair preventing light from passing between the pigment granules.
2. Dilute (dd) - Recessive to Dense, pigmentation is clumped along the hair allowing light between the clumps to produce a diluted colour effect – brown is diluted to blue, chocolate is diluted to lilac, red is diluted to cream.

In addition the Dilute modifier gene modifies the effect of the dilute variation.

Dilute Modifier (Dm) - Recessive to Dense - Pigmentation is less clumped along the hair allowing only a little light between the clumps to produce a less diluted effect – brown is diluted to caramel (referred to as blue-based), chocolate is diluted to caramel (referred to as lilac-based), red is diluted to apricot.

2.1.c Orange-making gene – this replaces the black pigmentation with orange pigmentation in a growing hair. In cats the coat is referred to as red, cream or apricot. The orange pigmentation does not completely mask tabby markings, which may be seen in any areas of orange on the cat's coat. This is a sex-linked gene, as it is inherited on the XY chromosomes, which determine gender, so it affects males and females in different ways.

(Note: the reference to 'brown' colours below includes all Tonkinese colours originating from black pigmentation i.e., brown, blue, chocolate, lilac and caramel).

Females;

1. Homozygous Non-orange (oo) - Allows full expression of brown colours - cats inheriting this will not be orange.
2. Homozygous Orange (OO) - Converts brown to orange – cats inheriting this will be orange.
3. Heterozygous Orange (Oo) - Produces incomplete conversion of brown to orange – cats inheriting this will be part orange (i.e. tortoiseshell).

Males;

1. Homozygous Non-orange (oy) - Allows full expression of brown colours - cats inheriting this will not be orange.
2. Heterozygous Orange (Oy) - Converts brown to orange – cats inheriting this will be orange.

2.2 Pattern

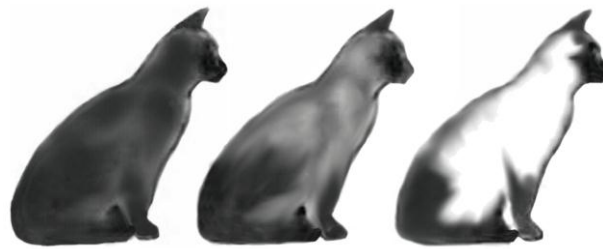
In this group there are three genes that concern us:

- a. **Albinism** (this controls the intensity of pigmentation over the coat)
- b. **Agouti** (this controls the type of pigmentation, which determines whether the tabby pattern is revealed)
- c. **Tabby** (this controls the type of tabby pattern).

2.2.a Albinism - This gene inhibits pigment production in warmer areas of the body. Typically the torso has less pigmentation than the cooler facial mask, ears, tail, legs and testicles. The following table shows the five versions (alleles) of the albinism gene.

Albinism Allele	Characteristics
1. Full Colour Expression (C-)	Dominant to all others in the group, non-albino.
2. Burmese Colour Restriction (c^b)	Non-albino • Recessive to Full-Colour, • Co-dominant with Siamese Restriction, • Dominant to Partial and Full-Albino.
3. Siamese Colour Restriction (c^s)	Non-albino • Recessive to Full-Colour, • Co-dominant with Burmese Restriction, • Dominant to Partial and Full-Albino.
4. Partial-Albino (c^a)	• Recessive to all of the above, • Dominant to Full-Albino. Blue-eyed
5. Full-Albino (cc)	Recessive to all of the above. Pink-eyed

There is no single allele for the characteristic TCR coat-pattern; it exists because the Burmese restriction gene ($c^b c^b$) is perpetually co-dominant with the Siamese restriction gene ($c^s c^s$) so the combination of these genes can only produce $c^b c^s$, a uniquely perpetual heterozygote variation of the albinism group.



BCR ($c^b c^b$) - TCR ($c^b c^s$) - CPP ($c^s c^s$)

2.2.b Agouti – This gene controls the type of pigmentation produced along the hair length, black and orange/yellow, which is arranged in bands (ticking) in the individual coat hairs. This gene is sometimes mistakenly referred to as the tabby gene because the ticking allows the tabby pattern to be seen. There are two variations:

1. Agouti (A^-) - Dominant – the colour along each hair is arranged in bands (ticking), hence all tabby cats show an element of ticking.
2. Non-agouti (aa) - Recessive – suppresses ticking thereby masking the inherited tabby pattern.

2.2.c Tabby – All cats inherit a tabby pattern but it is only when the dominant version of the agouti gene is inherited that the pattern is revealed, This gene controls the specific arrangement of the tabby pattern, one or more of the variations may be inherited:

1. **Mackerel** (Mc/Mc – homozygous or Mc/mc – heterozygous, i.e. mackerel carrying classic) - Dominant to classic. Produces a striped pattern resembling the markings on a mackerel.
2. **Classic/blotched** (mc/mc) – Recessive to mackerel, a dense blotched pattern showing oysters or bulls-eyes on the flanks and a 'butterfly' over the shoulders.
3. **Spotted** – (Sp/Sp – homozygous or Sp/sp – heterozygous, i.e. spotted carrying non-spotted). The spotted gene modifies both mackerel and classic patterns into spots. The spots follow the underlying tabby patterns and classic-based spotted have better pattern.
4. **Ticked** (T^a/T^a – homozygous or T^a/t^a – heterozygous, i.e. ticked carrying non-ticked) – The ticked gene modifies mackerel, classic and spotted into a ticked pattern, as per a wild rabbit, the ticking is additional to the ticking produced by the agouti gene. Each hair is banded with several rings of darker and lighter colour. Heterozygous ticked cats can have some striped markings on the legs and neck.

2.3 Expression

In Tonkinese the three colour-expression genes are fully recessive:

1. **Colour inhibitor (ii)** - The coat colour is expressed throughout the length of the hair i.e. the hairs are not tipped, smoked or shaded.
2. **White spotting (ss)** - The coat colour is expressed throughout the coat i.e. there are no white areas of any size.
3. **Dominant white (ww)** - The colour and pattern is fully expressed throughout the coat, i.e. the coat-colour it is not masked by white.

3. TONKINESE COAT - GENETIC CODES

COLOUR (GCCF Breed No.s)	Colour			Pattern			Expression		
	Colour	Dense	Orange	Albinism	Agouti	Tabby	Inhibit	Spot	White
Brown (74)	B-	D-	oo	c ^b c ^b BCR or c ^b c ^s TCR or c ^s c ^s CPP	aa	--	ii	SS	WW
Blue (74a)	B-	dd	oo		aa	--	ii	SS	WW
Chocolate (74b)	Bb	D-	oo		aa	--	ii	SS	WW
Lilac (74c)	bb	dd	oo		aa	--	ii	SS	WW
Caramel (Blue) (74n)	B-	ddDm-	oo		aa	--	ii	SS	WW
Caramel (Lilac) (74n)	bb	ddDm-	oo		aa	--	ii	SS	WW
Red (74d)	--	D-	OO		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Cream (74f)	--	dd	OO		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Apricot (74fn)	--	ddDm-	OO		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Brown Tortie (74e)	B-	D-	Oo		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Blue Tortie (74g)	B-	dd	Oo		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Chocolate Tortie (74h)	bb	D-	Oo		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Lilac Tortie (74j)	bb	dd	Oo		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Caramel Tortie (Bl) (74p)	B-	ddDm-	Oo		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Caramel Tortie (Li) (74p)	bb	ddDm-	Oo		aa	T-	ii	SS	WW
Brown Tabby (74t)	B-	D-	oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Blue Tabby (74at)	B-	dd	oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Chocolate Tabby (74bt)	bb	D-	oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Lilac Tabby (74ct)	bb	dd	oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Caramel Tabby (Bl) (74nt)	B-	ddDm-	oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Caramel Tabby (Li) (74nt)	bb	ddDm-	oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Red Tabby (74dt)	--	D-	OO		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Cream Tabby (74ft)	--	dd	OO		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Apricot Tabby (74fnt)	--	ddDm-	OO		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Brown Tortie-Tabby (74et)	B-	D-	Oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Blue Tortie-Tabby (74gt)	B-	dd	Oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Chocolate Tortie-Tabby (74ht)	bb	D-	Oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Lilac Tortie-Tabby (74jt)	bb	dd	Oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Caramel Tortie-Tabby (Bl) (74pt)	B-	ddDm-	Oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW
Caramel Tortie-Tabby (Li) (74pt)	bb	ddDm-	Oo		A-	T-	ii	SS	WW

Notes:

1. Only the breed number for the TCR pattern is listed in the table, for BCR coat-patterns add 'qv' to the breed number, for CPP coat-patterns add 'v' to the breed number.
2. '-' means that any allele of the relevant gene may be present.
3. For simplicity only the ticked tabby pattern (T-) is referred in the above table, it could also be mackerel, classic or spotted.

4. TONKINESE EYE-COLOUR

There are no specific genes for eye-colour. The Tonkinese eye colours remain consistent according to the coat-patterns

1. Cats with the BCR coat-pattern ($c^b c^b$) have yellowish-green or greenish-yellow eye-colour.
2. Cats with the TCR coat-pattern ($c^b c^s$) have bluish-green or greenish-blue eye colour (also known as aqua).
3. Cats with the CPP coat-pattern ($c^s c^s$) have clear blue eye-colour, the depth of which varies according to the coat-colour – generally the darker the coat, the deeper the colour blue.

It is noted that due to the inability to breed for the subtle variations of eye-colour (particularly the aqua colour) cats with the darker TCR coat-patterns may have more blue-toned eyes and cats with the BCR coat-pattern may also have greenish-blue eye colour; but for show and exhibition purposes the above are the desired eye-colours.

Burmese Colour Restriction - Tonkinese Colour Restriction - Colourpoint Pattern



Section II

TONKINESE BREEDING POLICY

Breeding may be a self-supporting hobby but if we choose to bring kittens into the world then we must accept the responsibility of providing them with the best possible start in life.

The Tonkinese draws its genetic resources from the Tonkinese, Burmese and Siamese breeds. There are unrelated bloodlines within the Tonkinese breed, but it is recognised that presently the Tonkinese breeding population is still insufficient to rule out the development of new lines from Burmese x Siamese matings, the Tonkinese registration policy is written to reflect this.

1. PROHIBITED BREED MATINGS

- 1.1. Breeding Tonkinese with any other breed. **Note:** The progeny of any breed that permits an outcross with Tonkinese will not be registered as Tonkinese.
- 1.2. Breeding with any Burmese or Siamese that is not on its Full (CS) register. **Note:** A Burmese or Siamese may be on its Supplementary register simply because of the recent recognition of a new colour within that breed - this is irrelevant to the Tonkinese, the requirement for the cats to be on their Full register always applies.

2. PERMITTED BREED MATINGS

- 2.1. Burmese x Siamese
- 2.2. Tonkinese x Tonkinese – in any of the three coat-patterns.

2.1. Burmese x Siamese

Burmese and Siamese, which are to be used in the breeding of first generation (F1) Tonkinese, should be good examples of their breed and both cats must be on their Full register (their respective pedigrees shall include only cats of the same breed on the Full register for 5 preceding generations).

All progeny from the mating of a Full registered Burmese with a Full registered Siamese will be F1 Tonkinese and will have the typical Tonkinese Colour Restriction coat-pattern, but at this stage they may not necessarily have the desired type, eye colour or clarity of coat-pattern. Select for the best health, temperament and breed characteristics of the two breeds but it is recommended that you select for moderate type rather than extreme examples of each breed, particularly the Siamese. A pair of moderate type cats will produce a moderate type in the kittens, a pair of different extreme types will result in a litter of different types.

The breeding of F1 Tonkinese shall be permitted until such time as the Tonkinese gene pool is considered to be large enough and diverse enough to sustain the breed and restrict it to Tonkinese only.

2.2. Tonkinese x Tonkinese – In Any Of The Three Coat-Patterns.

It is strongly recommended that breeders read and understand the Tonkinese Standard of Points before choosing a cat for breeding. Tonkinese selected for showing and breeding should be as near the desired type as possible, with a clearly defined coat-pattern and good associated eye-colour. Mating Tonkinese x Tonkinese consistently produces 3 variations of the coat-pattern, with the relevant associated eye-colour; breeders are encouraged to use all three coat-patterns providing the cats conform to the definition of a good Tonkinese, i.e. healthy, good temperament, good type, good coat-pattern, good eye colour for coat-pattern and good colour.

3. TONKINESE REGISTRATION

Breeders must read and understand the Tonkinese registration policy before registering their kittens. The progeny of a Tonkinese x Tonkinese mating are Tonkinese and must be registered as Tonkinese. Where a litter includes BCR &/or CPP coat-patterns they must be registered as such, to falsely register the entire litter as TCR patterned is detrimental to the breed. To sell a kitten, knowing that it is incorrectly registered, is fraudulent.



Tonkinese kittens in the three coat-patterns (Left: Brown coat-patterns, Right: Blue coat-patterns).
Note: The round eyes in these pictures are due to the kittens' curiosity, not poor eye-shape.

4. BREEDING FOR THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THE BREED

Tonkinese breeders should view the breed as a whole; it is detrimental to the breeding population for individual breed lines to attempt to fix desirable traits because the process also fixes undesirable traits. Avoid poorly selected, unplanned or accidental matings, the probability of producing kittens with inherited defects or health problems is increased with such matings and all breeders have an obligation to prevent them.

4.1 Breeding With The Different Generations

The Tonkinese breeding population includes cats of 1st to 4th, and later, generations. Cats of one generation should not be restricted to matings with cats of the same generation – this is detrimental to the breed as it reduces the genetic resources available. Providing the guidelines for choosing suitable mates are adhered to it is irrelevant which generations are mated together. Note: The only exception to this is where you may wish to show one or more of the litter; in this case choose a breeding pair whose progeny may be shown.

4.2 Inbreeding/Line-breeding

Inbreeding/line-breeding is the mating together of related animals and should be avoided where possible, but it is permissible if the inbreeding co-efficient of the progeny would be within acceptable levels. With a small breeding population some common ancestors in a five-generation pedigree are not entirely avoidable, and it is understood that in rare circumstances a test mating may be required but otherwise the mating of closely related cats should be avoided - examples of close matings are father/daughter, mother/son and brother/sister.

The following is a sample of some inbreeding percentages:

Relationship	Inbreeding %
Father/daughter , mother/son, brother/sister	25
Half-brother/half-sister	12.5
Uncle/niece, aunt/nephew	12.5
Double first cousins	12.5
Half-uncle/niece, first cousins	6.25
First cousins once removed, half-first cousins	3.125

This table is a guide to acceptable levels of inbreeding co-efficient in the Tonkinese:

Inbreeding Level	%
Low	0 to 6.25
Fair	6.25 to 12.5
High - but occasionally acceptable	12.5 to 25
High - only to be attempted by experienced breeders for specific reasons (e.g. testing a new line)	25 to 40
High – Harmful	Over 40

It is strongly recommended that a cat with a high inbreeding co-efficient be registered as non-active, or mated with a completely unrelated cat.

It is recommended that breeders include the inbreeding co-efficient of kittens on their pedigrees particularly the pedigree of any cat intended for breeding. It is strongly recommended that stud owners include their stud's inbreeding co-efficient on mating certificates. *If you would like help finding the in-breeding co-efficient for a cat contact the Tonkinese BAC, see point 10.*

4.3 Selecting Suitable Cats For Breeding

See also in Section II, Point 6 (Breeding for Type) and Point 7 (Breeding for Colour & Pattern)

It is a misconception that breeding pairs may be selected to correct each other's faults. It is more probable that the kittens will inherit the faults of both parents, particularly faults in type. It is better to avoid the problem of faults from the start. Do not select for breeding any cat that has noticeable faults, is undersized, is in poor health or lacks vigour, has a poor temperament or is closely inbred. Become familiar with the Tonkinese Standard Of points and select cats that have the best possible breed characteristics:

- **Type** – Read the breed standard carefully and be objective.
- **Colour** – Choose the best possible example of your desired colour, if necessary make use of the available DNA tests.
- **Coat-pattern** – Whether you wish to breed from a BCR, TCR or CPP cat choose a cat with a clear example of the coat-pattern. A good coat-pattern should be obvious by the time the kitten is two to three months old. *Read also point Section II Point 7.*

- **Eye-colour** – By the time a kitten is two to three months old you should be able to tell whether it will have good eye-colour. The BCR cat will have clear indications of yellow in the eyes and the CPP cat will have clear blue eyes. The TCR cat may be more difficult, it may already have a good green/blue or blue/green tone or it will have a ‘muddy’ tone that appears to be more khaki than green, be guided by the quality of the coat-pattern but if there are clear yellow tones in the eye-colour they will not disappear.
- **Temperament** – Choose an even-tempered cat with an outgoing and inquisitive personality. Temperament is an inherited trait and the object is to produce good-tempered kittens that are suitable for a family environment.

4.4 Selecting Suitable Mates

Select a cat with the best possible breed characteristics, as above, in order to complement your cat. In addition to choosing a suitable cat, please ensure that you read the GCCF Code of Ethics for Breeders and any guidelines for breeders produced by your Tonkinese club/s.

4.5 Breeding/Matings Detrimental To The Tonkinese Breed

- Perpetual mating of BCR Tonkinese x BCR Tonkinese.
- Perpetual matings of CPP Tonkinese x CPP Tonkinese.
- Mating cats that both have a high inbreeding co-efficient.
- Breeding from a cat whose parents both have a high inbreeding co-efficient.
- Breeding with any cat that is clearly not a good example of its type, coat-pattern, coat-colour and eye-colour.
- Breeding with any cat that is known to produce poor quality kittens (in health, size or any of the breed characteristics) or is known to have a poor temperament (temperament is inherited).
- Matings chosen to correct defects in your cat.
- Any of the points in section 4.6.

NOTE: Matings to correct flaws (i.e. in type, colour, and pattern) are not guaranteed to do so.

4.6 Breeding/Matings Detrimental To The Health And Welfare Of The Tonkinese Or Individual Cats (Male Or Female)

- Breeding with any cat that has any inherited malformation.
- Breeding with any cat that is unwell or infested.
- Breeding with any cat with Flat Chested Kitten (FCK) syndrome, or any of its littermates.
- Breeding with any cat that has suspected Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), or any of its littermates.
- Breeding with any cat that has a protruding xiphoid sternum.
- Breeding with any cat that has/had a hernia, acquired at birth or later.
- Breeding with any queen that had difficulties when carrying/birthing two successive litters.
- Breeding with any queen that has suffered uterine inertia. Predisposition to uterine inertia is an inherited condition.
- Breeding with any cat whose dam suffered uterine inertia.
- Breeding with any cat that has produced poor quality or undersized kittens in more than one litter.
- Breeding with any cat that generally has a nervous or aggressive disposition.
- Repeating a mating that produces a kitten with any of the following conditions.
 - FCK (evidence suggests FCK is caused by a simple recessive gene)
 - FIP (predisposition to FIP is an inherited condition).
 - Protruding xiphoid sternum
 - Cleft palate
 - Hernia

- Strabismus (crossed-eyes) or nystagmus (repetitive &/or involuntary eye movement)
 - Other Inherited defects,
 - Pre-disposition to health problems (digestive, breathing, skeletal, muscular etc).
 - Undersized or otherwise unhealthy/nervous kittens.
 - Recessive white (blue-eyed albino)
 - Any of the conditions specified in the *GCCF Guidelines for Healthy Breeding*,
- m. Breeding with any cat that produces a kitten, from two different mates, that has any of the conditions mentioned above.

4.7 Inherent Breed Problems

Although a few of the problems mentioned above have occurred in Tonkinese kittens the Tonkinese does not have any known breed-related inherent problems. As long as breeders follow this document's guidelines they will be able to maintain healthy generations of kittens.

If any hereditary disease becomes prevalent in the Tonkinese, for which a practical and reliable test is available, the Registration Policy may be amended to require testing for that particular disease before any progeny may be registered as Active.

It should be noted that, although rare, the recessive white (blue eyed albino) gene has been observed in Tonkinese. These cats may be more prone to eye problems such as strabismus and nystagmus and therefore breeding with such cats or cats which carry the gene is strongly discouraged. Any recessive white cats produced should be neutered and DNA testing used to ensure that the gene is not passed on by any related cats.

4.8 DNA Testing

There are a many DNA tests available to test for feline health problems, for which you should first consult your vet. There are also a few tests that can help Tonkinese breeders determine a cat's coat-pattern and/or colour, i.e. test for:

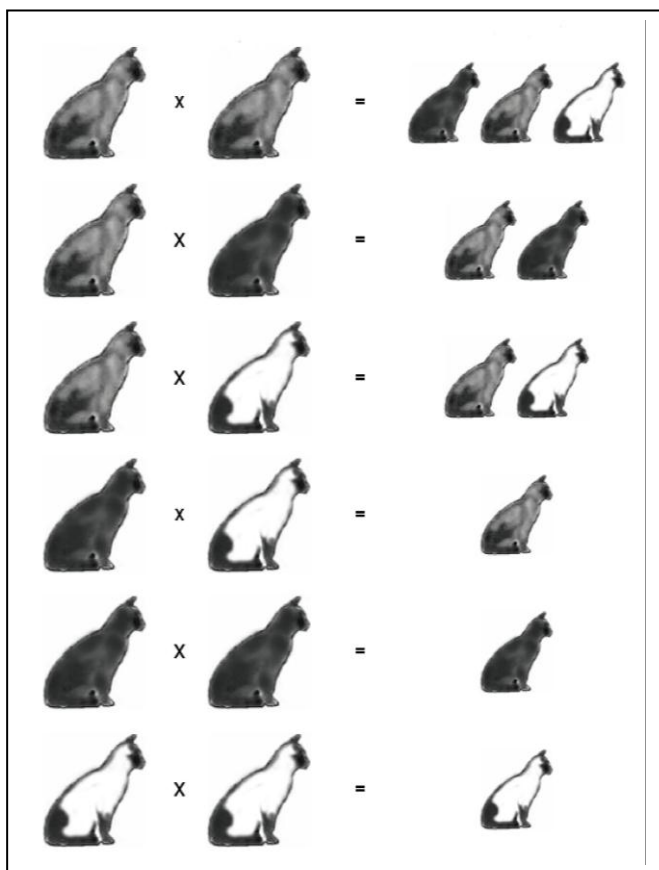
- The albinism gene (whether the coat is solid, mink or pointed).
- The colour gene (whether the cat is brown, chocolate or cinnamon)
- The dilute gene (whether your cat is blue, lilac or fawn)
- The long hair gene (whether your cat carries long hair)

A guide for micro-chipping and DNA testing, and any mandatory DNA tests required, will be included in the Tonkinese Registration Policy.

5. BREEDING FOR THE TONKINESE COAT-PATTERNS

This table shows the percentage of coat-patterns that may be produced when mating different combinations of the coat-patterns together.

	BCR	TCR	CPP
BCR	100% BCR	50% TCR 50% BCR	100% TCR
TCR	50% TCR 50% BCR	25% BCR 50% TCR 25% CPP	50% TCR 50% CPP
CPP	100% TCR	50% TCR 50% CPP	100% CPP



This diagram shows the six different combinations of Tonkinese matings and the coat-patterns they can produce.

If, after two or three litters, your cat has not produced the full range of expected coat-patterns you should look into the registration of your kittens' ancestors, one or more may have been incorrectly registered.

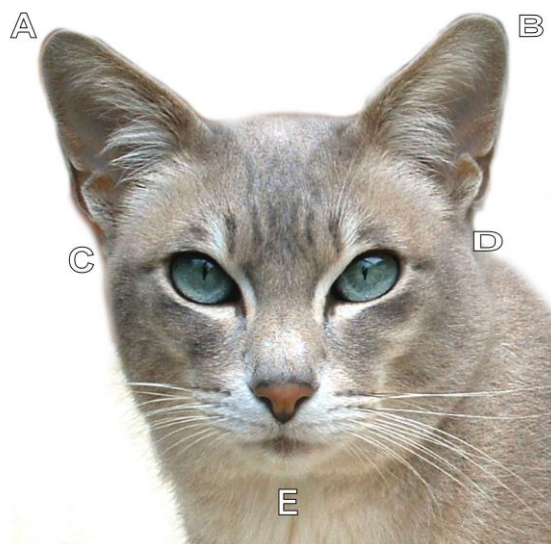
If you find this to be in the pedigree of your cat's mate/s you are advised to inform its owner. Only by sharing information can these anomalies be noted and corrected for the future of the breed.

6. Breeding For Type

Select a mating pair of moderate type rather than extreme examples of each parent. A pair of moderate type cats will produce a moderate type in the kittens; a mated pair of different types will result in an unpredictable litter of different types. Remember - it is a misconception that breeding pairs may be selected to correct each other's faults. It is more probable that the kittens will inherit the faults of both parents. It is better to avoid faults from the start. Become familiar with the Tonkinese Standard Of points and select cats that have the best possible breed characteristics.

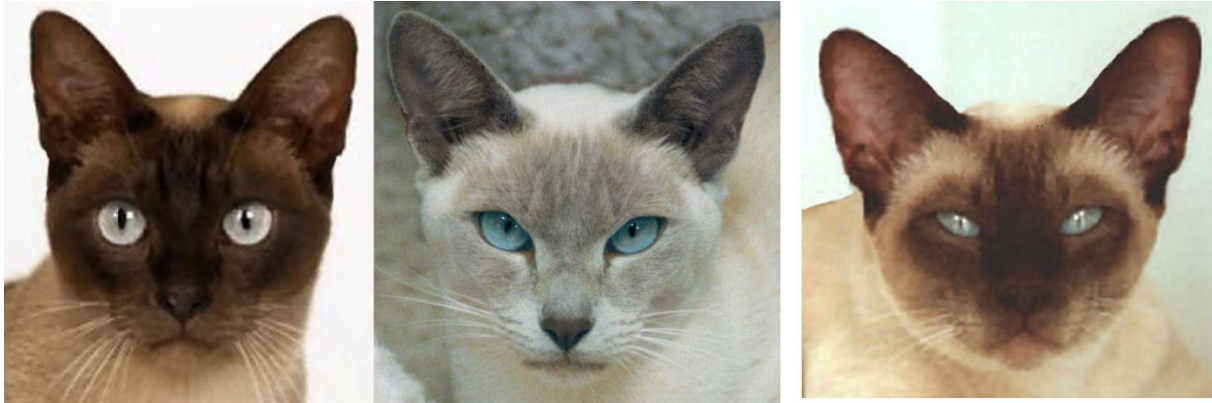
In a good Tonkinese head the width between the top of the ears matches a line from the top of the ear to the base of the chin. So, when viewed from the front the head gives the impression of an equilateral triangle – whether it is viewed as A/B/E or C/D/E.

HEAD: The top should be gently rounded with good width between the ears, a moderately proportioned wedge with a muzzle that is neither pointed nor square and a definite, but not exaggerated, whisker pinch. In profile there should be a slight nose break leading down to a level bite and chin of medium depth.

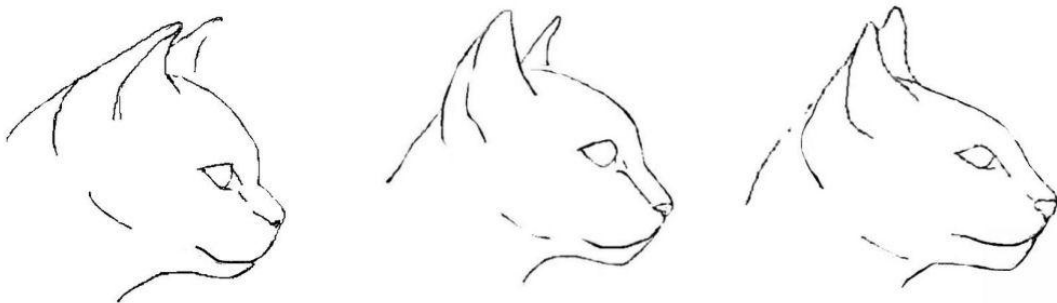


EARS: Medium size, slightly taller than wide, pricked forward, with broad base and oval tips. Base equally balanced between side and top of head, with outer line continuing line of wedge.

EYES: Large and expressive, more almond shaped than round and set well apart. The top line of the eye is slanted down towards the nose; the lower line of the eye is rounded.

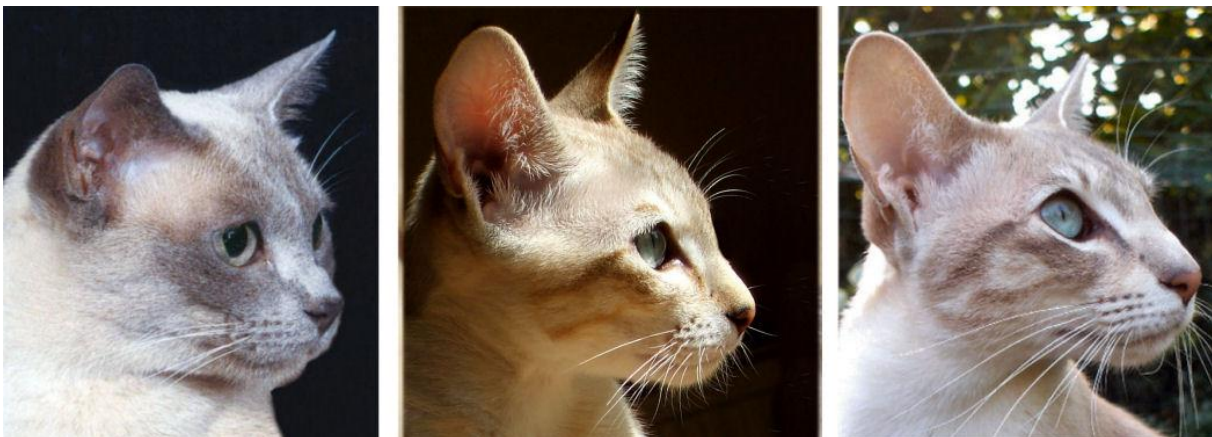


Left – Ears too high & eyes too round, **Centre** - Head well balanced, **Right** – Ears too low



Profile

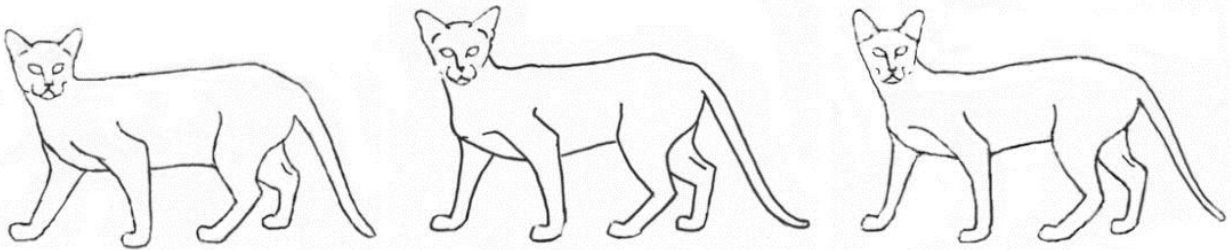
Left – Muzzle too short with strong nose break, **Centre** - Good profile, gently rounded forehead, gentle nose break, medium length muzzle, **Right** - Muzzle too long, flattened forehead and shallow nose break.



BODY: Medium to long, well balanced, firm, and muscular. Chest slightly rounded, flanks level, back rising gently from shoulders to rump.

LEGS AND FEET: Legs slender and well-muscled, the hind legs slightly longer than the front. Feet neat and oval.

TAIL: Tapering tail of medium length, neither thick nor whippy.



Left – Too cobby,

Centre – Good type,

Right – Too long & slender

Examples of Good Type and Coat-Pattern:



Brown, Tonkinese Colour Restriction



Brown, Burmese Colour Restriction



Chocolate, Tonkinese Colour Restriction



Lilac, Tonkinese Colour Restriction

Examples of Good Type and Coat-Pattern:



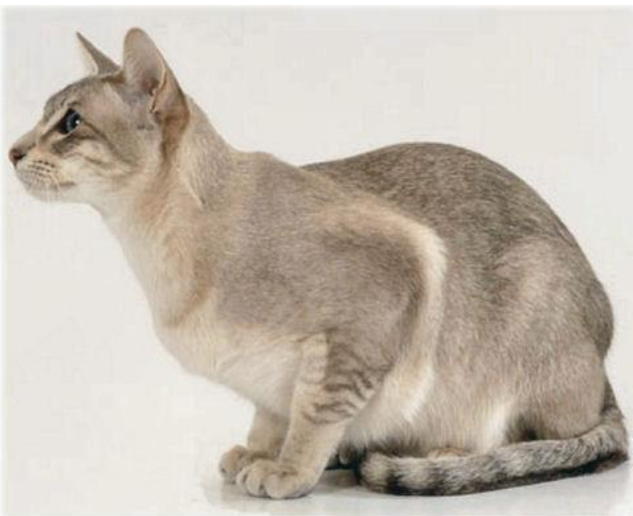
Brown Tortie, Colourpoint Pattern



Brown Tortie, Tonkinese Colour Restriction



Blue Tabby, Tonkinese Colour Restriction



Caramel Tabby, Tonkinese Colour Restriction



Blue, Tonkinese Colour Restriction
and
Seal Brown, Colourpoint Pattern

7. BREEDING FOR CLEAR COLOURS AND PATTERNS:

It's not always possible to know the different gene variations carried by a mated pair of cats, but it is possible to take steps toward breeding for clear colours and patterns. Once again you are advised to familiarise yourself with the Tonkinese Standard of Points and the Tonkinese Exhibitors Guide (produced by the TBAC) so that you know what you should be breeding for – the correct colour tones, and the quality of the tortoiseshell or tabby markings.

7.1 Selfs (single coloured cats) – in self-coloured Tonkinese a clear coat is required, i.e. without sign of tabby markings. If you wish to breed only the self-coloured cats you should avoid mating your cat with a heavily marked self or a tabby, especially a mackerel or spotted tabby as these are the most dominant patterns and very difficult to breed out. When breeding the red, cream or apricot selfs there will be some tabby markings but careful selection of breeding pairs can help to minimise the markings in the kittens; avoid breeding with cats that have markings on the torso or strong leg markings.

7.2 Tortoiseshells – It is not possible to breed for clarity of tortoiseshell markings, but if you wish to show your cat (in pedigree or household pet classes) it is recommended that you select a cat with the clearest possible expression of the BCR, mink or pointed coat-pattern. Note that the areas of red, cream or apricot may show tabby markings and so the advice given to the red, cream and apricot selfs is also valid here.

7.3 Tabbies - be sure to read Section I Points 2.2.b and 2.2.c. The actual variety of tabby-pattern in the Tonkinese is irrelevant; the aim is to produce clearly marked cats that also have good examples of the BCR, TCR or CPP coat-patterns. By their nature the Tonkinese coat-patterns are not as obvious in the tabbies as they are in the selfs or torties, especially the ticked tabbies.

If you wish to breed tabbies select cats with the clearest markings. If you wish to breed tabbies for showing avoid breeding ticked tabbies together, a fully ticked tabby (homozygous for ticking) has very little or no leg markings and without the leg markings it is impossible to see the Tonkinese coat-pattern expression.

7.4 Chocolates – This is a colour that confuses breeders and judges of the Tonkinese. Be aware that the chocolate colour presents a more extreme reduction of pigmentation than the brown or blue in the Tonkinese, Burmese and Siamese. Generally by the time they are 7-8 weeks old the CPP kittens will have clear blue eyes and a bright white torso, the TCR will give the impression of a pointed coat-pattern but will have a warm-toned pale ivory torso, and the BCR will also look pointed but will have a pale golden toned torso. This reduction of pigmentation is also presented, to a slight less degree, in the dilute colour of chocolate i.e. the lilac.

7.5 Dilutes – The Dilute Modifier gene is not a health risk but does pose a risk to the future continuation of the pure dilute colours (blue, lilac and cream). So it is increasingly important to try to keep the dilute colour clean, otherwise eventually all blues and lilacs will be caramel and all creams will be apricot. Unfortunately there is not yet a DNA test available for the dilute modifier, and a cat does not have to be a dilute to carry the gene, so breeders should keep careful records of their kittens colours and should make it clear to that their cat carries the Dm gene.

8. KEEPING THE BREED'S DEVELOPMENT VISIBLE FOR THE FUTURE

It is strongly recommended that breeders inform stud owners of litter details including the number of kittens, colours, coat-patterns and any health problems. This will help stud owners to make more informed choices about accepting queens, and to provide more information for breeders when selecting appropriate studs for their queens.

It is also recommended that the same information be provided to the TBAC for the Tonkinese pedigree database.

9. OTHER BREED REGISTRIES

Please be aware that cats registered with other Registries (e.g. TICA) may not conform to the requirements of this Breeding Policy.

10. ASSISTANCE FROM THE TONKINESE BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The TBAC has produced a Guide for Tonkinese Exhibitors, which, in combination with this Breeding Policy and the Standard of Points, is effectively a Tonkinese blueprint for breeders. These documents are all available from the TBAC Secretary by e-mail or by post (please enclose a large SAE).

If you need help to understand any of the above matters, to understand the Tonkinese Registration Policy, to find the inbreeding co-efficient for a particular cat or you are looking for help with a pedigree please feel free to contact the TBAC. If we are unable to help we will be able to advise you on where help may be found.

If you believe that your Tonkinese has been incorrectly registered by the GCCF registrar you should inform the Tonkinese BAC as soon as possible with copies of supporting documentation (i.e. full pedigree and registration document of the cat in question).

CONTACTS *(these may be updated as/when contacts change):*

- General matters - Tonkinese BAC, Hon.Secretary, Mr A Nichols, Flat 4, 80 Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 8QZ. E-Mail: anthony_nichols@hotmail.com
- Help with Registration and Pedigrees - Tonkinese BAC, Mrs L Vousden, 12 Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Berkshire RG41 5LX. E-mail: tbc.uk@ntlworld.com

Further Reading About The Tonkinese

Tonkinese Cats (ISBN 185279087-3) via Amazon etc.
Tonkinese Cats – A History (ISBN 978-1-907652-68-4) via www.tonkinese.me