

REX

Standard Guide to Cat Breeds
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Cornish Rex

In 1950 a curly-coated kitten appeared in a litter on a farm in Cornwall, England. Mrs Ennismore, the owner, realized that it was an unusual kitten, and took veterinary advice. When the kitten, named Kallibunker, matured, he was mated back to his mother, a straight-haired Tortoiseshell and White. Several curly-coated kittens resulted from this mating, and a new variety of cat was established and soon became popular in many countries. The variety was given the name Rex, after the well-known curly-coated rabbit variety.

When Kallibunker died, Poldhu, one of his curly sons, was used to continue the line by mating him to other members of the growing family. Mrs Ennismore realized that this in-breeding could reduce the vigour of the line and therefore outcrossed Poldhu to ordinary shorthaired females. The resulting progeny, all of whom were plain-coated, were either mated back to Poldhu or among themselves. From the former

cross Rex kittens were born in a succession of litters in the ratio of one Rex to one plain-coated kitten. From the latter type of mating the proportion of Rex born was 1:3; that is, one Rex to three plain-coated kittens.

At about this time a litter-sister of Poldhu, in kitten by her brother, was registered in the name Lamorna Cove and exported to the United States, where a different strain of Rex also had occurred in much the same way as the Cornish strain.

In 1960 another curly cat was discovered in England, this time in the County of Devon. It was naturally assumed that the Devon and the Cornish Rex were of the same breed. But, surprisingly, when a Devon Rex named Kirlee was mated to one of Kallibunker's descendants, all the resulting kittens were plain-coated. After the cross had been repeated several times, and exclusively plain-coated kittens continued to be born, it was realized that the Cornish and Devon

varieties possessed different genes for curly coats. Both are recessive mutations and will produce curly-coated offspring only if both parents carry the same type of gene. Kirlee was then outcrossed to a plain-coated female and the offspring from this union were mated back to their father. These matings produced Rex kittens in the ratio of 1:1; that is, one Rex to one plain-coated kitten.

The Cornish and Devon strains were named Gene 1 Rex and Gene 2 Rex respectively, and it was noted that the Cornish Rex had a denser but slightly less curly coat than the Devon Rex. At about the same time a Rex kitten was born in Germany. Specimens of each variety of Rex – American, Cornish, Devon and German – were mated to each of the other varieties. In every case the mating produced plain-coated kittens in the first



Devon Rex

generation. This proved that the four Rex varieties possessed different recessive genes for curly coats.

As any of the four fundamental Rex genes can be bred into any plain-coated cat, there is virtually no variety of cat that cannot be rexed. However, only shorthaired Rex cats are recognized, and the cat fancies disapprove and discourage the breeding of longhaired Rexes because the grooming of such cats would be extremely difficult. The type of cats chosen by breeders to represent the different spontaneous varieties of Rex were chosen by consensus, as more or less any type could have been selected.

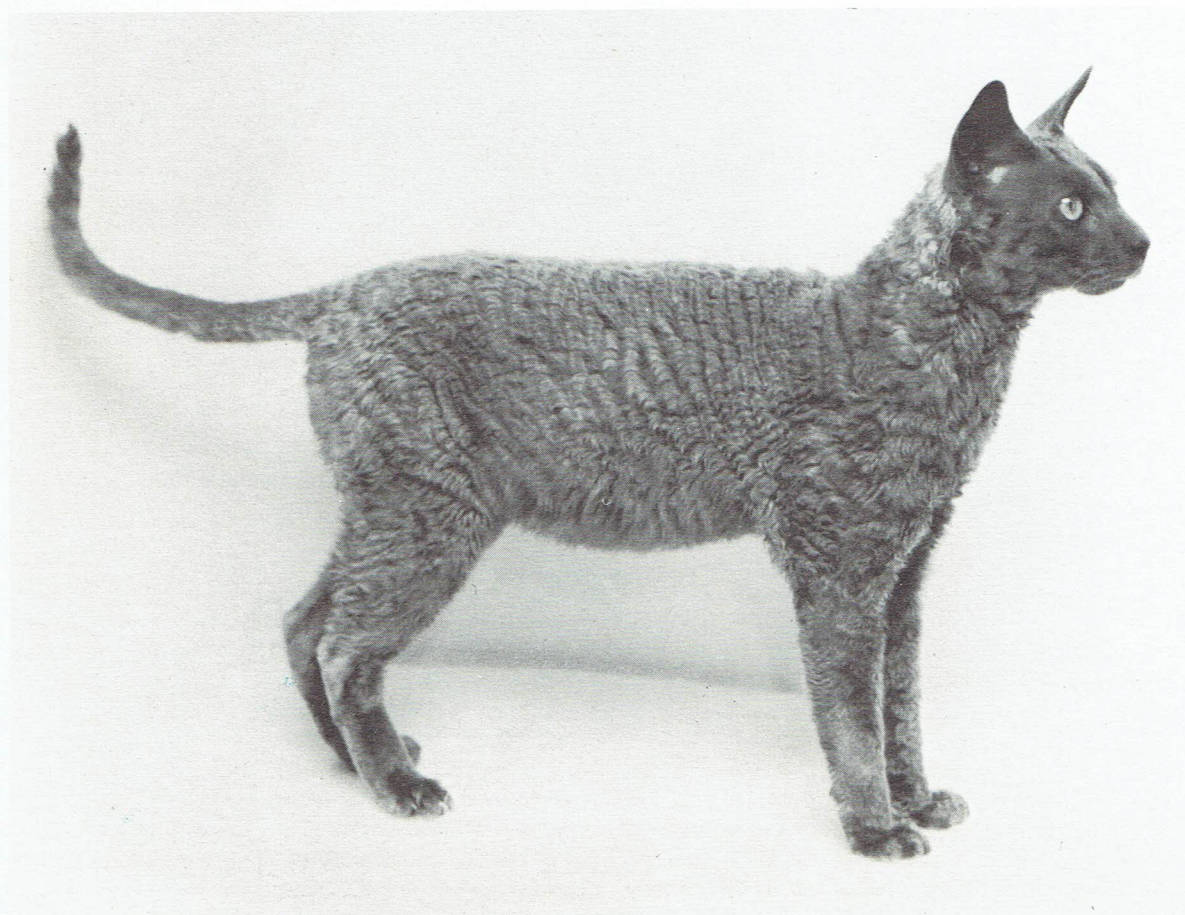
In Britain the cat fancy recognizes two varieties of Rex: Cornish and Devon. In America the cat fancy used to recognize only one variety of Rex – that descended from the British-exported Lamorna Cove. However, the Cornish and Devon Rex genes were investigated by the Cat Fanciers' Association Breed Council and the CFA Board, and in 1979 they decided to recognize the Rex in these two varieties. Although Rex cats have been found occurring naturally in Oregon, Ohio, California, and in Italy and Germany, all apparently carrying different rexing genes, none of them has been granted official recognition.

Rex cats are remarkably affectionate animals. Unlike most cats, many of them tend to wag their tails

when pleased. This, coupled with their curly coats, has earned them the nickname 'poodle cats'.



Rex



Cornish Rex

OFFICIAL STANDARD

Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.

REX

POINT SCORE

Head (25)	
Size and shape	5
Muzzle and nose	5
Eyes	5
Ears	5
Profile	5
Body (30)	
Size	3
Torso	10
Legs and paws	5
Tail	5
Bone	5
Neck	2
Coat (40)	
Texture	10
Length	5
Wave, extent of wave	20
Close lying	5
Colour (5)	5

General

The Rex cat, a spontaneous mutation of the domestic cat, has accentuated the characteristic features of the breed to create a longer, slighter and more agile creature than its ancestors. Its arched back and muscular hind legs develop the flexibility for high jumps, quick starts and amazing speed. At ease its relaxed appearance is contradictory to its capacity for sudden and fast movements. When handled it feels firm and because of its short coat, warm to the touch.

Head

Comparatively small and narrow; length about one-third greater than the width. A definite whisker break.

Muzzle

Narrowing slightly to a rounded end.

Ears

Large, wide at base and come to a modified point at the top. Placed high on the head and erect.

Eyes

Medium to large in size, oval in shape and slanting slightly upward. A full eye's width apart. Color should be clear, intense and appropriate to coat color.

Nose

Roman. Length is one-third length of head. In profile a straight line from end of nose to chin with considerable depth and squarish effect.

Cheeks

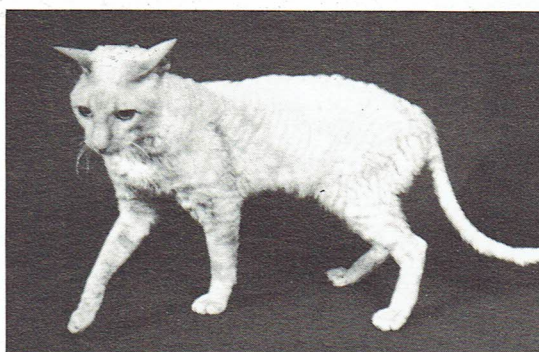
Lean and muscular.

Chin

Strong, well-developed.

Body

Small to medium, males proportionally larger. Torso long and slender. Back is arched with lower line of the body following the upward curve.



Cream Cornish Rex

Shoulders

Well knit.

Rump

Rounded, well muscled.

Legs

Very long and slender. Hips well muscled, somewhat heavy in proportion to the rest of the body. The Rex stands high on its legs.

Paws

Dainty, slightly oval. Toes, five in front and four behind.

Tail

Long and slender, tapering toward the end and extremely flexible.

Neck

Long and slender.

Bone

Fine and delicate.

Coat

Short, extremely soft, silky, and completely free of guard hairs. Relatively dense. A tight, uniform marcel wave, lying close to the body and extending from the top of the head across the back, sides, and hips continuing to the tip of the tail. The fur on the underside of the chin and on chest and abdomen is short and noticeably wavy.

CFA OFFICIAL STANDARD continued -

Condition

Firm and muscular.

Disqualify

Kinked or abnormal tail. Incorrect number of toes. Any coarse or guard hairs. Evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, lavender, the Himalayan pattern or these combinations with white.

REX COLORS

WHITE

Pure glistening white.

Nose leather

Pink.

Paw pads

Pink.

Eye color

Deep blue or brilliant gold. Odd-eyed whites shall have one blue and one gold eye with equal color depth.

BLACK

Dense coal black, sound from roots to tip of fur. Free from any tinge of rust on tips.

Nose leather

Black.

Paw pads

Black or brown.

Eye color

Gold.

BLUE

Blue, lighter shade preferred, one level tone from nose to tip of tail. Sound to the roots. A sound darker shade is more acceptable than an unsound lighter shade.

Nose leather

Blue.

Paw pads

Blue.

Eye color

Gold.

RED

Deep, rich, clear, brilliant red; without shading, markings or ticking. Lips and chin the same color as the coat.

Nose leather

Brick red.

White Cornish Rex, showing curly whiskers



Paw pads
Brick red.

Eye color
Gold.

CREAM

One level shade of buff cream, without markings. Sound to the roots. Lighter shades preferred.

Nose leather and paw pads
Pink.

Eye color
Gold.

CHINCHILLA

Undercoat pure white. Coat on back, flanks, head and tail sufficiently tipped with black to give the characteristic sparkling silver appearance. Legs may be slightly shaded with tipping. Chin, stomach and chest, pure white. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with black.

Nose leather
Brick red.

Paw pads
Black.

Eye color
Green or blue-green.

SHADED SILVER

Undercoat white with a mantle of black tipping shading down from sides, face, and tail from dark on the ridge to white on the chin, chest, stomach, and under the tail. Legs to be the same tone as the face. The general effect to be much darker than a chinchilla. Rims of eyes, lips and nose outlined with black.

Nose leather
Brick red.

Paw pads
Black.

Eye color
Green or blue-green.

BLACK SMOKE

White undercoat, deeply tipped with black. Cat in repose appears black. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent.

Points and mask

Black with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when the fur is parted.

Nose leather
Black.

Paw pads
Black.

Eye color
Gold.

BLUE SMOKE

White undercoat, deeply tipped with blue. Cat in repose appears blue. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent.

Points and mask

Blue with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted.

Nose leather and paw pads
Blue.

Eye color
Gold.

CLASSIC TABBY PATTERN

Markings dense, clearly defined and broad. Legs evenly barred with bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail evenly ringed. Several unbroken necklaces on neck and upper chest, the more the better. Frown marks on forehead form intricate letter "M". Unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye. Swirls on cheeks. Vertical lines over back of head extend to shoulder markings which are in the shape of a butterfly with both upper and lower wings distinctly outlined and marked with dots inside outline. Back markings consist of a vertical line down the spine from butterfly to tail with a vertical stripe paralleling it on each side, the three stripes well separated by stripes of the ground color. Large solid blotch on each side to be encircled by one or more unbroken rings. Side markings should be the same on both sides. Double vertical row of buttons on chest and stomach.

MACKEREL TABBY PATTERN

Markings dense, clearly defined, and all narrow pencilings. Legs evenly barred with narrow bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail barred. Necklaces on neck and chest distinct, like so many chains. Head barred with an "M" on the forehead. Unbroken lines running back from the eyes. Lines running down the head to meet the shoulders. Spine lines run together to form a narrow saddle. Narrow pencillings run around body.

PATCHED TABBY PATTERN

A Patched Tabby (Torbie) is an established silver, brown, or blue tabby with patches of red and/or cream.

BROWN PATCHED TABBY

Ground color brilliant coppery brown with classic or mackerel tabby markings of dense black with patches of red and/or cream clearly defined on both body and extremities; a blaze of red and/or cream on the face is desirable. Lips and chin the same shade as the rings around the eyes.

CFA OFFICIAL STANDARD continued -

Eye color
Brilliant gold.

SILVER TABBY

Ground color, including lips and chin, pale, clear silver. Markings dense black.

Nose leather
Brick red.

Paw pads
Black.

Eye color
Green or hazel.

RED TABBY

Ground color red. Markings deep, rich red. Lips and chin red.

Nose leather
Brick red.

Paw pads
Brick red.

Eye color
Gold.

BROWN TABBY

Ground color brilliant coppery brown. Markings dense black. Lips and chin the same shade as the rings around the eyes. Back of leg black from paw to heel.

Nose leather
Brick red.

Paw pads
Black or brown.

Eye color
Gold.

BLUE TABBY

Ground color, including lips and chin, pale, bluish ivory. Markings a very deep blue affording a good contrast with ground color. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole.

Nose leather
Old rose.

Paw pads
Rose.

Eye color
Gold.

CREAM TABBY

Ground color, including lips and chin, very pale cream. Markings buff or cream sufficiently darker than the ground color to afford good contrast, but remaining within the dilute color range.

Nose leather
Pink.

Paw pads
Pink.

Eye color
Gold.

TORTOISESHELL

Black with unbrindled patches of red and cream. Patches clearly defined and well broken on both body and extremities. Blaze of red or cream on face is desirable.

Eye color
Gold.

CALICO

White with unbrindled patches of black and red. White predominant on underparts.

Eye color
Gold.

DILUTE CALICO

White with unbrindled patches of blue and cream, white predominant on underparts.

Eye color
Gold.

BLUE-CREAM

Blue with patches of solid cream. Patches clearly defined and well broken on both body and extremities.

Eye color
Gold.

BI-COLOR

White with unbrindled patches of black, or white with unbrindled patches of blue, or white with unbrindled patches of red, or white with unbrindled patches of cream. Cats with no more white than a locket and/or button do not qualify for this color class. Such cats shall be judged in the color class of their basic color with no penalty for such locket and/or button.

Eye color
Gold.

ORC (Other Rex Colors)

Any other color or pattern with the exception of those showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the colors chocolate, lavender, the himalayan pattern, or these combinations with white, etc.

Eye color

Appropriate to the predominant color of the cat.

BLUE PATCHED TABBY

Ground color, including lips and chin, pale bluish ivory with classic or mackerel tabby markings of very deep blue affording a good contrast with ground color. Patches of cream clearly defined on both body and extremities; a blaze of cream on the face is desirable. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole.

Eye color

Brilliant gold.

SILVER PATCHED TABBY

Ground color, including lips and chin, pale silver with classic or mackerel tabby markings of dense black with patches of red and/or cream clearly defined on both body and extremities. A blaze of red and/or cream on the face is desirable.

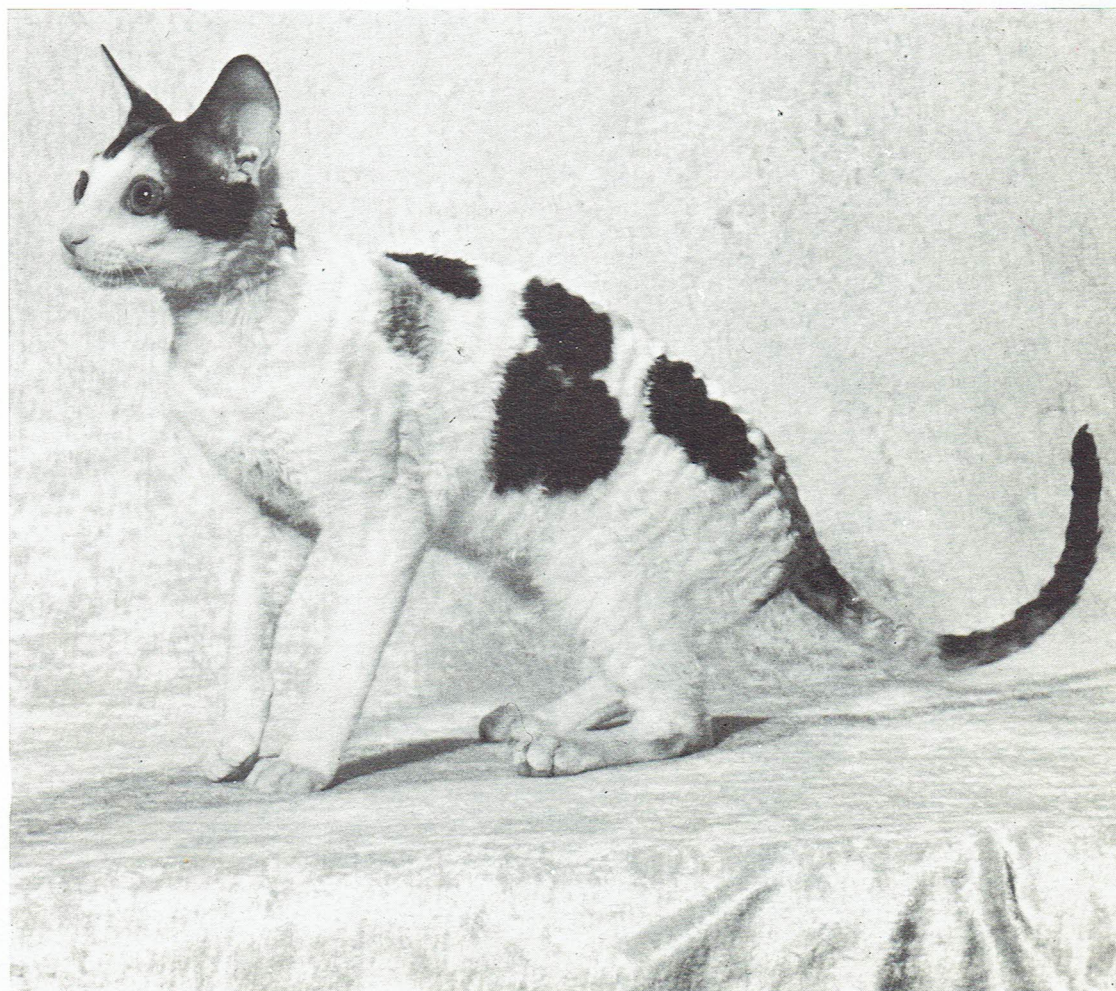
Eye color

Brilliant gold or hazel.



Silver Tabby Rex

Calico Rex



The Cornish Rex cats in Britain today were developed from, among others, an American descendant of Lamorna Cove that carried many Siamese characteristics, and therefore they are distinctly 'foreign' in type.

The Devon Rex is a more delicately sculptured cat. It was deliberately bred to have a type based on a statue of the Cat Goddess Bast at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. One of the problems associated with this variety is that its hair, although beautifully curled, tends to be somewhat sparse in several breed-lines, particularly on the underparts. To correct this tendency, any suggestion of relative hair-

lessness has been deemed a serious fault. This policy is producing good results, for breeders naturally do not want to breed cats that are doomed to failure on the show bench.

One very popular sub-variety of Devon Rex in Britain is known unofficially as the Si Rex. It has been evolved by rexing the Siamese cat, and carries the Siamese genes responsible for limiting coat colour mainly to the points. It combines the charm of the Rex with the joyous independence and vivacity of the Siamese and is very popular on the showbench.

Devon Rex kitten



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OFFICIAL STANDARD

Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

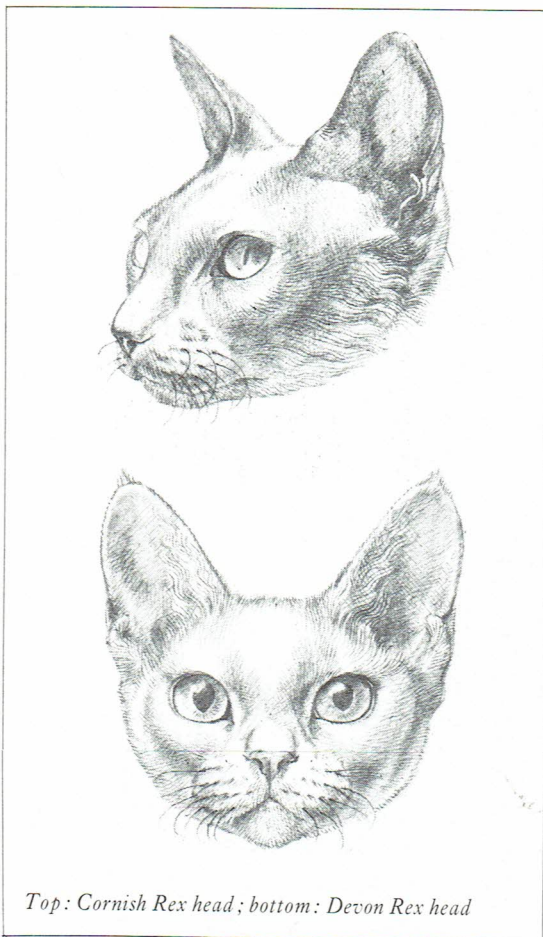
CORNISH REX: VARIETY 33

Coat

Short and plushy, without guard hairs, and should curl, wave or ripple particularly on back and tail. Whiskers and eyebrows crinkled and of good length. All coat colours acceptable, but any white markings must be symmetrical, except in Tortoiseshell and white.

Head

Medium wedge. Head length about one-third greater than the maximum width, narrowing to a strong chin. The skull to be flat. In profile a straight line to be seen from the centre of forehead to end of nose.



Top: Cornish Rex head; bottom: Devon Rex head

Eyes

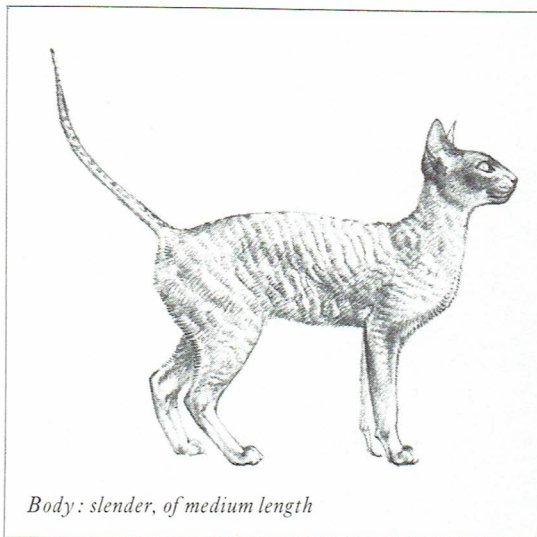
Oval shaped, medium in size, colour in keeping with coat colour.

Ears

Large, set rather high on head, wide at base, tapering to rounded tips and well covered with fine fur.

Body and legs

Body hard and muscular, slender and of medium length. Legs long and straight, giving an overall appearance of being high on the legs. Paws small and oval.



Body: slender, of medium length

Tail

Long, fine and tapering, well covered with curly fur.

Faults

1. Asymmetrical white markings, except in Tortoiseshell and white.
2. Shaggy or too short a coat.
3. Bare patches to be considered a fault in kittens and a serious fault in cats.
4. Shorthair type head, or too long a wedge.
5. Small ears.
6. Cobby body.
7. Lack of firm muscles.
8. Short or bare tail.
9. Kinks in the tail shall be considered a fault.

SCALE OF POINTS

Coat	35
Whiskers and eyebrows	5
Head shape	15
Eyes	10
Ears	10
Body and legs	20
Tail	5
Total	100

OFFICIAL STANDARD

Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

DEVON REX: VARIETY 33a

Coat

Very short and fine, wavy and soft, without guard hairs. Whiskers and eyebrows crinkled, rather coarse and of medium length. All coat colours, except bi-colours acceptable. Any white markings other than in Tortoiseshell and white will be considered a fault.

Head

Wedge-shaped with face full cheeked. Short muzzle with strong chin and whisker break. Nose with a strongly marked stop. Forehead curving back to a flat skull.

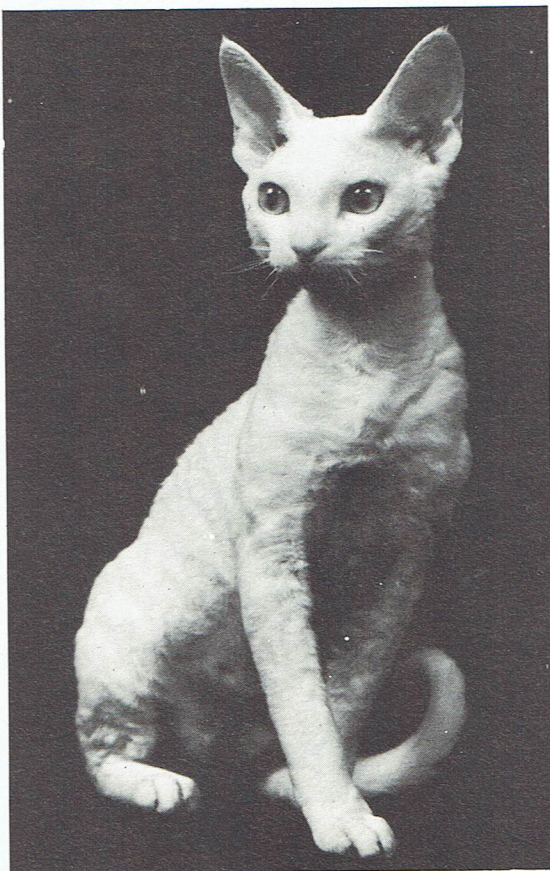
Eyes

Wide set, large, oval shaped and sloping towards outer edges of ears. Colour in keeping with coat colour, or, except in Si-Rex, chartreuse, green or yellow.

Ears

Large, set rather low, very wide at base, tapering to rounded tops and well covered with fine fur. With or without ear muffs.

White Devon Rex



Body, legs and neck

Body hard and muscular, slender and of medium length, broad in chest, carried high on long slim legs, with length hind legs emphasized. Paws small and oval. Neck slender.

Tail

Long, fine and tapering, well covered with short fur.

Faults

1. Straight of shaggy coat.
2. Any white markings, other than Tortoiseshell and white.
3. Bare patches to be considered a fault in kittens and a serious fault in cats.
4. Narrow, long or shorthair head.
5. Cobby body.
6. Lack of firm muscles.
7. Small or high set ears.
8. Short, bare or bushy tail.
9. Kinks in the tail shall be considered a fault.

Note

Many Devon Rex cats have down on the underparts. This should not be misinterpreted as bareness. Si-Rex, mentioned above, is not a variety and means simply a Rex cat showing Siamese colour restriction.

SCALE OF POINTS

Coat	40
Head	15
Eyes	5
Ears	10
Body, legs and neck	25
Tail	5
Total	100

Devon Rex kitten

