



GCCF Selkirk Rex Breed Seminar

5th May 2019





Discussion Points

- Breed History
- General Description of Breed
- Genetics for Curl
- GCCF Standard of Points
- Comparisons and examples of the breed
 - Differences to British Shorthairs
 - Differences to Other Rex Breeds
 - Several examples for discussion
 - Homozygous
 - Variants
- Selkirk Grooming & Show Preparation
- Future Emphasis, Problems & Changes
- Useful contacts





Breed History

- The Selkirk Rex originated from Sheridan, Montana USA in 1987.
- Jeri Newman took on a 'strange' looking kitten from a local shelter, this cat exhibited a curly coat.
- This kitten was later bred by Jeri to one of her Black Persian males 'Photo Finish of Deekay'.
- On 4th July 1988 the year old 'strange' cat by the then named 'Miss de Pesto of NoFace' delivered 6 kittens, 3 of the 6 kittens had a curly coat and the other three were straight-haired kittens. The 50% ratio of curly off-spring is precisely what you would expect from a dominant gene for curl.
- Jeri selected one of her family names 'Selkirk', with the same theme as the Cornish and Devon Rex regional names, the Selkirk mountains and a stream by the same name were nearby. So the Selkirk Rex breed was established.
- After years of promotion and exhibition by Jeri and other dedicated breeders, the Selkirk Rex was admitted to full Championship status by TICA in 1994, the CFA in 2000 & GCCF in 2009.
- Acceptable outcrosses for the Selkirk Rex with GCCF are the British Shorthair & Longhair, Persian and Exotics. TICA also allows the American Shorthair.



General Description

- **The breed** has been developed in two coat lengths, long (79l) and short (79s). It should be a medium to large and solidly built breed, similar to a British Shorthair in substance. The body should be longer than the legs, in good balance and have a slight rise to the rear. The breed displays good to heavy boning and surprising weight. Females are less massive than males.
- **The curl** as previously mentioned is produced by a dominant gene affecting the guard, awn and down hairs. The curl is usually most prominent around the neck, underside and rear in both coat lengths. The longhaired coat curls more easily than the shorthaired. Some kittens and adults may lose their whiskers due to their brittle nature, this is not to be considered a withholding fault.
- **The coat** is very soft and has a woolly look and feel with loose, unstructured curls.
- **Head** - Round, broad and full-cheeked with round underlying bone structure. The head should be set on a short thick neck. Forehead rounded, with a slightly curved top of head. **‘The Head should be wider than it is deep with a rectangular matchbox shape muzzle. A British or Persian look should be discouraged’**. The whiskers are curly or broken.





General Description Cont:

- **Nose** - The nose should be short, broad and straight with a downward slant. In profile the nose can appear to have a convex curve. The nose break is neither too pronounced nor too shallow.
- **Chin** - Firm and well developed. The bite must be level, the tip of the chin should line up with the tip of the nose in the same vertical plane.
- **Ears - Medium sized not small**, broad at the base and may be tufted at the tips, set well apart on the broad head. Should fit into (without distorting) the rounded contour of the head. Internal furnishings, if present, are curly. **Should not appear to be stuck on top of the head.**
- **Eyes** - Large, round and well-opened. Set wide apart with no tendency to Oriental shape or squint. All eye colours allowed.
- **Body** - Cobby type with a level back and may have a slight rise to the heavy hindquarters. The muscular torso is more rectangular than square, but not long. The body is equally broad across the shoulders and the rump, medium to large but not rangy.
- **Legs & Paws** - Legs are of medium length and substantially boned. Paws are round and firm.
- **Tail** - Thick, medium length, thicker at the base with a rounded tip.



General Description Cont:

- **Coat** - The coat is thick and dense, with no bare or sparsely covered areas on the body. The coat stands out from the body and should not appear flat or close-lying. It is a random, unstructured coat arranged in loose individual curls giving an overall soft and plush feel. Ideally the entire coat should show the effect of the rex gene, but curliness may be most evident on the neck, belly and tail. Allowance may be made for less curl on kittens and younger adults especially females.
- **Longhair:** The coat is semi-long; the tail curls are plummy and stand out away from the tail. The ruff hairs are longer and frame the face.
- **Shorthair:** The coat is a fairly uniform length over the entire body. The ruff and tail fur being a similar length to the rest of the coat, with tail curls that are plush and lie compactly round the tail.
- **Colour** – All coat colours, patterns and colour combinations are acceptable, including any white markings on any coat pattern. If a cat is entered in a show catalogue clearly in the wrong colour coding this is still irrelevant and should not be withheld on, merely pointed out to the owner and show manager.

General Description cont..

- Kittens are born curly at birth, this can be difficult to detect for the uninitiated but the general give away is either curly or absent whiskers for the curly babies or the usual long straight whiskers for a variant kitten.
- Kittens may lose their coats completely at 4-6 months but start to develop an adult curly coat at 8-10 months.



Kittens on left show clear hair loss for LH's & thinning of the coat at 6 months old

Kitten on right showing curly whiskers from birth and clear curl



- The coat continues to develop until about 2 years of age, so kittens with moderate coat types or length should be evaluated mostly by head and type.
- The coat texture is often seasonal and affected by hormonal influences, especially the females. Allowances should be made during the summer months for cats shown with limited coat.



Genetics for Curl

For this example, 'C' is dominant curly, 's' is recessive straight, CC is homozygous.

Mating 1: Sire: Black Persian to Dam: Miss DePesto curly

		Sire		
		s	S	
Dam	C	Cs	Cs	50% Curly
	s	SS	SS	50% Straight

Mating 2: Sire: Heterozygous Selkirk Rex Dam: Heterozygous Selkirk Rex

		Sire		
		C	s	
Dam	C	CC	Cs	
	s	Cs	SS	

(75% Curly, 25% Homozygous, 25% Straight)

Mating 3: Sire: Homozygous Selkirk Rex Dam: Heterozygous Selkirk Rex

		Sire		
		C	C	
Dam	C	CC	CC	
	s	Cs	Cs	

(100% Curly, 50% Homozygous)



GCCF Standard of Points

SCALE OF POINTS

HEAD (35)

Skull	15	Round, broad and full-cheeked with round underlying bone structure. The head should be set on a short thick neck. Forehead rounded, with a slightly curved top of head. 'The Head should be wider than it is deep. with a rectangular matchbox shape muzzle. A British or Persian look should be discouraged'. The whiskers are curly or broken.
Muzzle	5	A rectangular matchbox shape muzzle of medium width with well padded whisker pads and is clearly visible beyond the cheeks when viewed in profile.
Ears	5	Medium Sized not small, rounded and may be tufted.
Eyes	5	Large, round and well-opened. Set wide apart.
Nose	5	short, broad & straight <u>with a downward slant</u> . In profile the nose can appear to have a convex curve

BODY (30)

Torso	10	Cobby type with a level back and may have a slight rise to the heavy hindquarters. The muscular torso is more rectangular than square, but not long. The body is equally broad across the shoulders and the rump, medium to large but not rangy
Legs/Feet	10	Legs are medium length and substantially boned. Paws round and firm
Tail	10	Thick, of medium length, thicker at the base with a rounded tip.

COAT (35)

Density	15	The coat is thick and dense with no bare or sparsely covered areas on the body.
Curl	10	The coat stands out from the body and should not appear flat or close-lying. It is a random, unstructured coat arranged in loose, individual curls giving an "untidy" appearance with an overall soft, plush feel
Texture	10	Ideally the entire coat should show the effect of the rex gene, but curliness may be most evident on the neck, belly and tail. Allowance may be made for less curl on kittens and young adults, especially females.

TOTAL 100



GCCF Standard of Points - 2

Withhold All Awards for:

- 1. No evidence of curl.

Withhold Certificates or First Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:

- 1. Flat face, snub nose or sleek Oriental appearance.
- 2. Lack of substantial boning.
- 3. Lack of curls on either the neck, belly or tail (nb: Allowance may be made for less curl on kittens and young adults, especially females.)
- 4. Uneven bite.
- 5. Any other defects as listed in the preface to this S.O.P. booklet

Faults:

- Lack of rectangular muzzle.
- Excessively weak chin.
- Tendency to Oriental eye shape.

REMEMBER: A SELKIRK REX HAS A RANDOM, UNSTRUCTURED COAT – THIS IS PARTICULARLY APPARENT IN THE LONGHAIR ED SELKIRK.

All coat colours, patterns and colour combinations are equally acceptable, including white markings on any coat pattern. All eye colours are allowed on any coat pattern.

A cat should not be penalised if apparently wrongly registered as there are no points for colour. Breed numbers are used and follow the Series 1 listings in the GCCF Guide to Breed Numbers.



Selkirk Rex Examples & Comparison



Differences to British SH – Mature Males

The Selkirk Rex does not have the obvious round head of the British, but rather has rounded contours with more width at the cheeks and a rectangular muzzle with well padded whisker pads. The muzzle is of medium width and visible beyond the cheeks when viewed in profile.

Ears: BSH Small & rounded

SR Medium & broad at base

Eyes: Of similar round open appearance and set wide apart.

Legs: Short & strong, toes carried close

Body: Cobby, short level back, deep chest

Tail: Thick and medium in length, rounded tip

Coat: Short & Crisp, not fluffy or overlong

Nose: Short, Broad & Straight, nose break can be neither too pronounced or too shallow

Legs: Medium & strong, paws round and firm

Body: Cobby, level back with slight rise to hind quarters, more rectangular than square, but not long.

Tail: Tick and medium in length, rounded tip

Coat: Thick & dense, stands out from the body, random unstructured curls, soft plush feel, entire coat ideally should show the effect of the Rex gene.



Differences to Other Rex Breeds

Other Rex Breeds:

Head: Wedge Shaped

Ears: Large & Low set

Body: Elegant slender neck, Body muscular and slender, finer boning.

Legs & paws: Long & straight, high on legs, small and oval paws.

Tail: Long fine & tapering

Coat: Shorthairs have much shorter coats in comparison, some coat thinning acceptable in certain areas.



Selkirk Rex:

Head: Large & Round

Ears: Medium & fit in to head contour

Body: Cobby Type, heavy hindquarters, broad chest, shorter neck.

Legs & paws: legs of medium length, substantially boned, paws round & firm.

Tail: Thick, medium length.

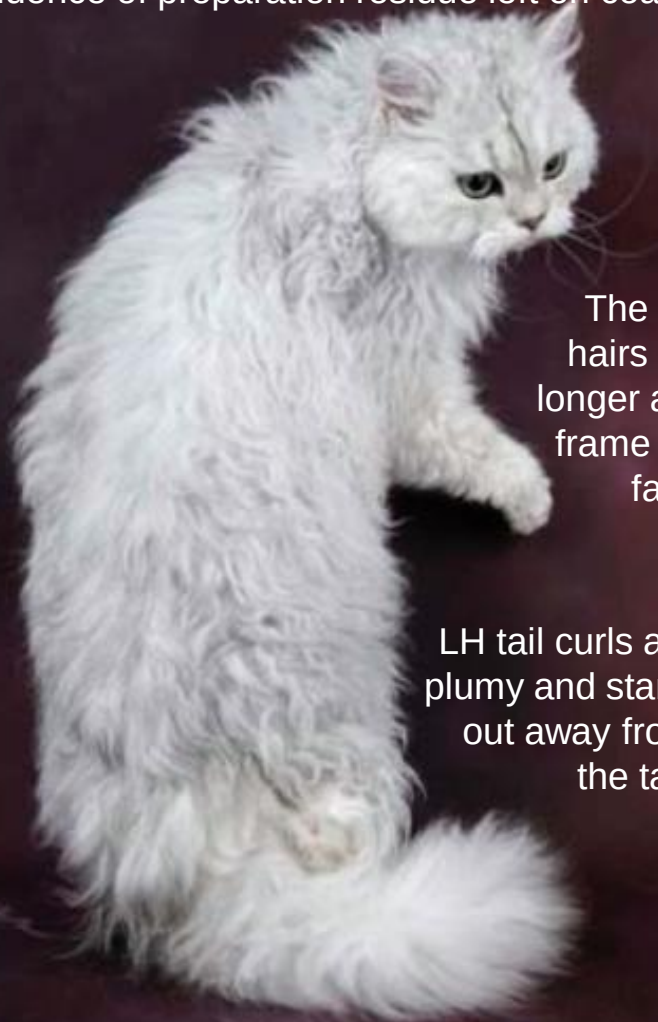
Coat: Thick & dense with both SH & LH

Plush feel.



Coat Appearance LH & SH

Longhaired coat should be of semi longhaired length, dense & showing good curl with no evidence of preparation residue left on coat.



The ruff hairs are longer and frame the face.

LH tail curls are plummy and stand out away from the tail.

Longhaired Coat texture



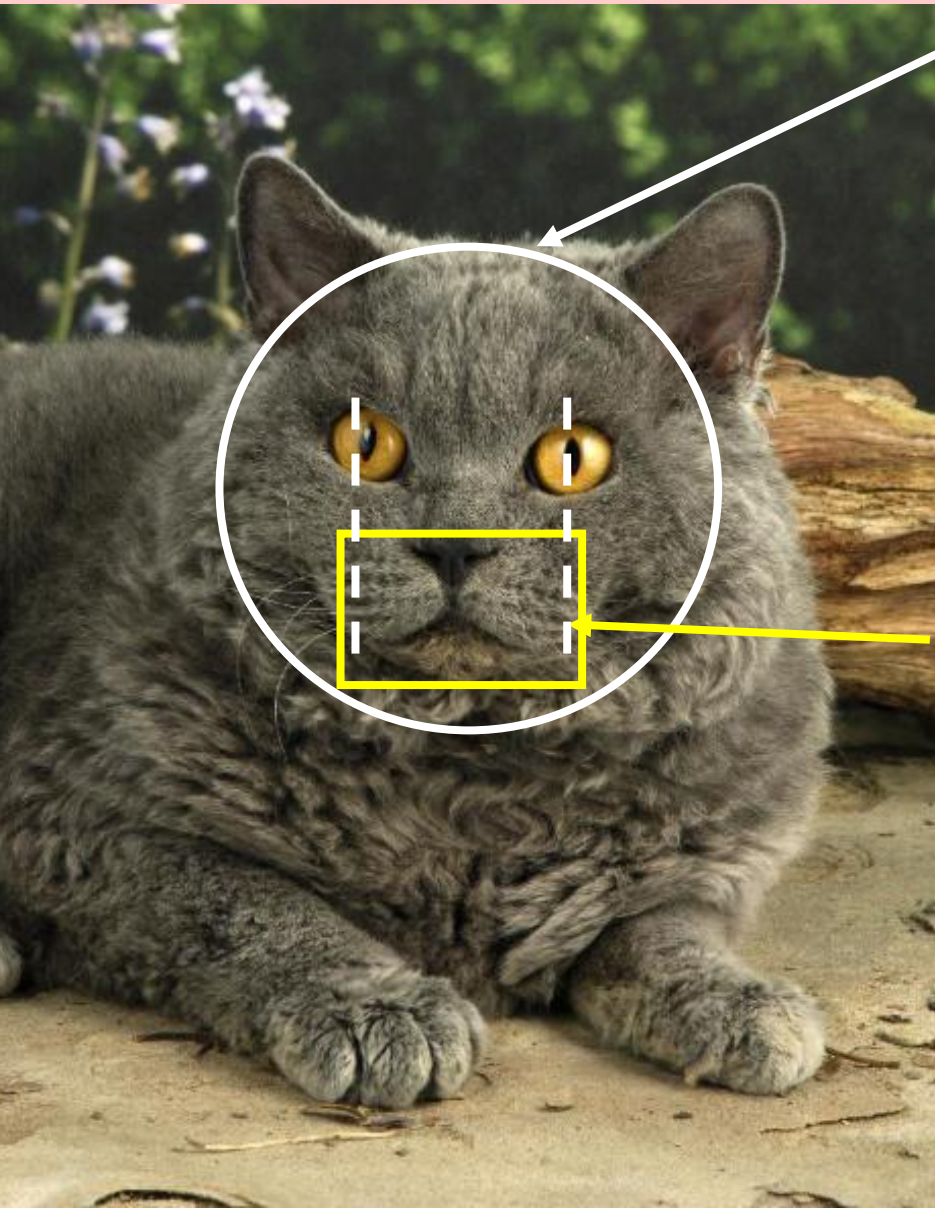
Shorthaired Coat texture



Shorthaired coat should stand away from the body and not appear flat or close lying. Random unstructured curls, overall soft & plush feel with a uniform length. Curls may not be apparent on spine line but this is not considered a with holding fault. Ruff & tail should be of similar length to body.



Head & Coat – 4 year old SH Male (Cs)



Good head roundness and width between the ears.

Balance of muzzle and eye placement, muzzle line should reach no less than eye centre.

Good matchbox muzzle width (markings should not distort the shape).

Excellent curling on all areas of the body especially the head, neck, chest and belly area.



Head Body & Coat — 14 wk old kittens (Cs)

Good spacing to top

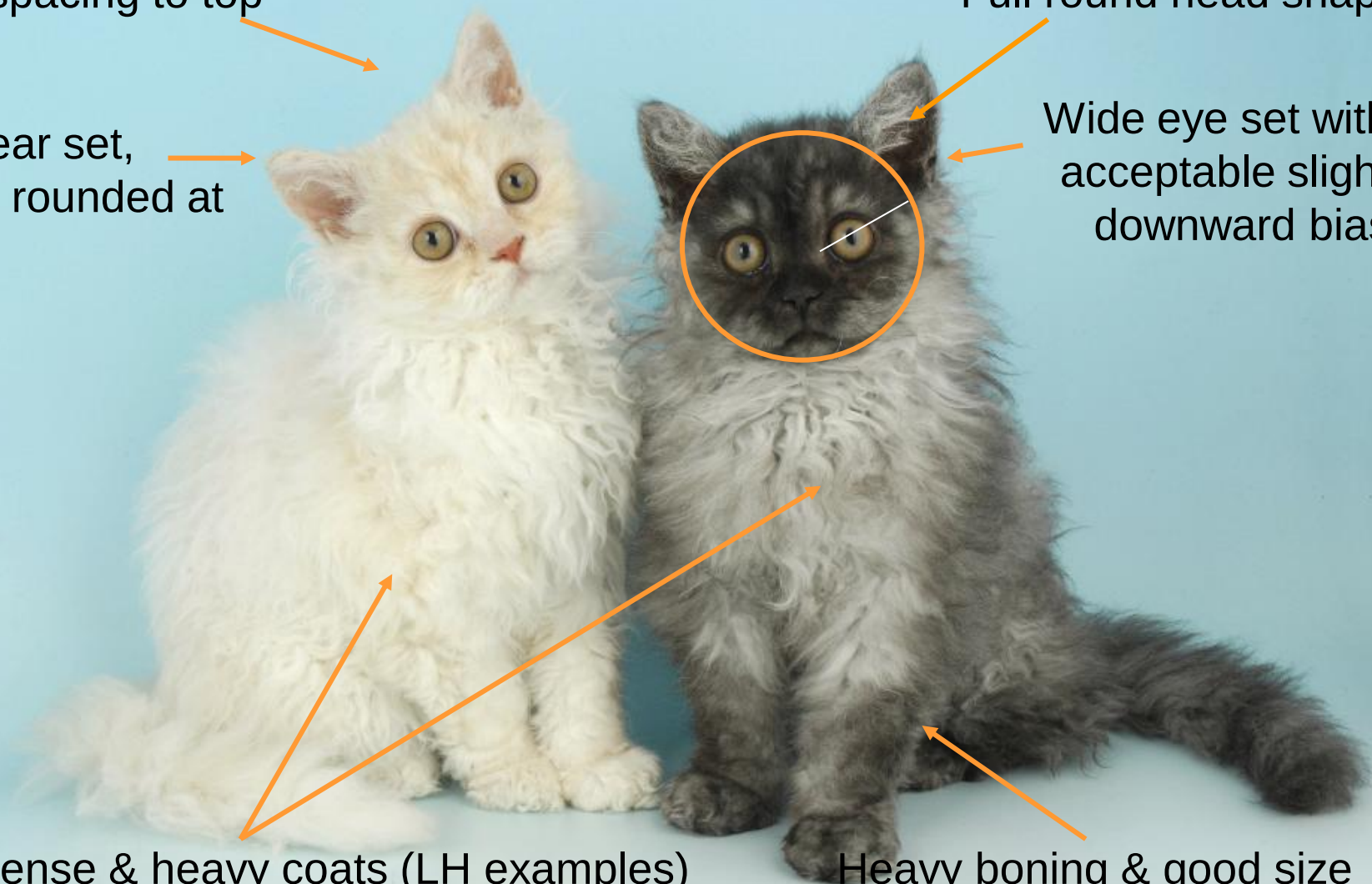
Good ear set,
wide & rounded at
tip

Full round head shape

Wide eye set with
acceptable slight
downward bias

Full dense & heavy coats (LH examples)

Heavy boning & good size



Head Body & Coat – 14wk SH Kitten (Cs)

Ear width acceptable but wider is preferred

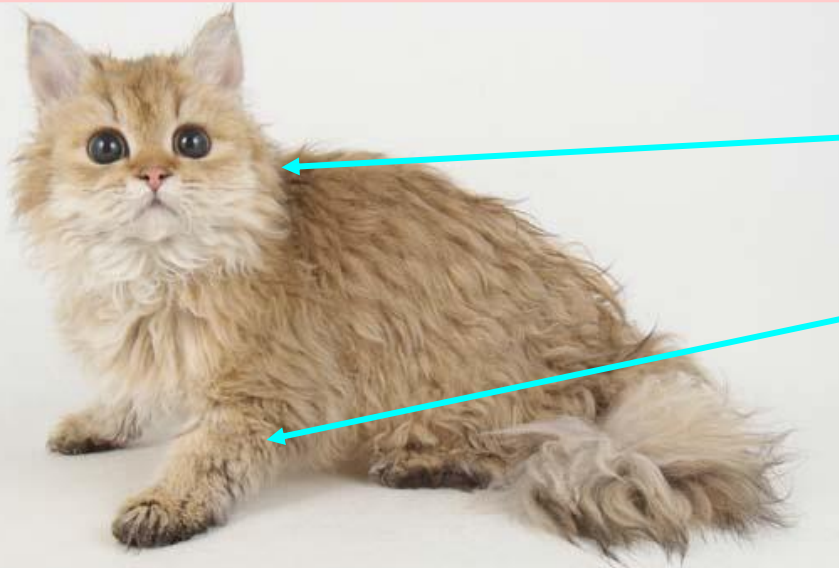


Noticeably less curls evident on shorthaired kitten this is usual for the breed & acceptable as long as curl is evident on neck belly and rear.

All kittens have excellent eye shape & muzzle shape



Head Body & Coat – 6 month old kittens (Cs)

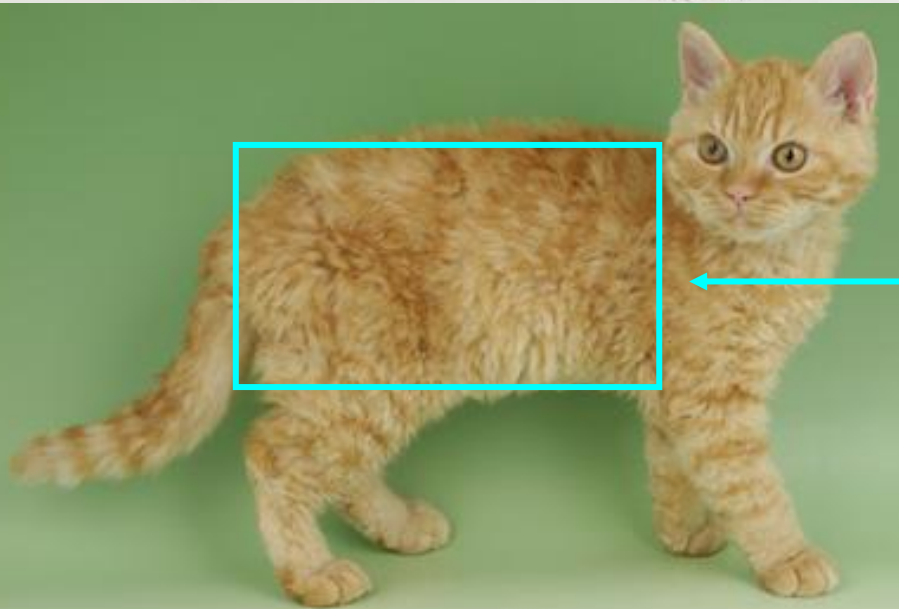


Longhaired female from Selkirk x Persian Mating

Head: a little angular and narrow in the cheeks, needs to be more rounded. Eyes of excellent roundness and open appeal, chin a little weak and muzzle could be more pronounced.

Body: Needs to develop greater boning in the leg and lacks weight when held.

Coat: Excellent curl and quality, very plush.



Shorthaired Male from Selkirk x British Mating

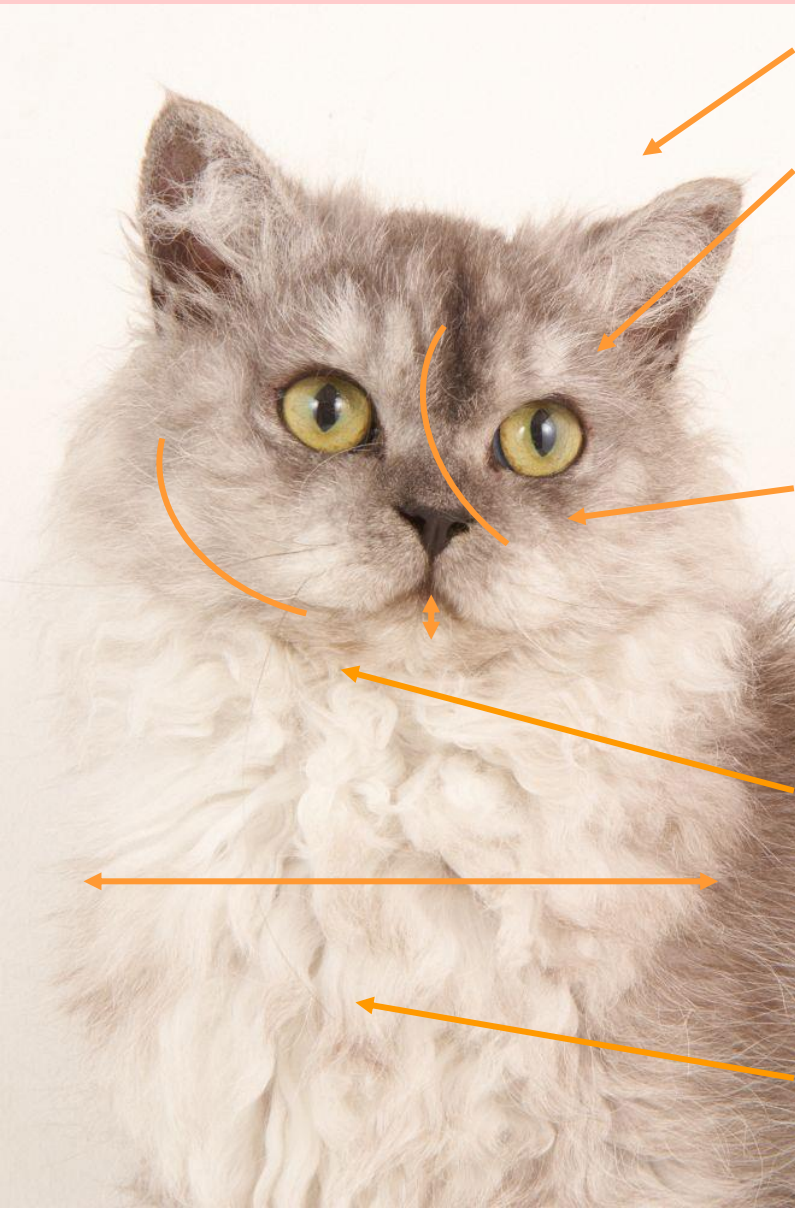
Head: Nice round head with full cheeks, eyes just at correct size for age, muzzle clearly rectangular and chin firm.

Body: excellent rectangular body showing sturdy medium length legs of good boning.

Tail medium and thick with a rounded tip.

Coat: showing correct curliness for age, this curl can wane from 6mths to 2years old through due to hormonal changes, this is not a withholding fault.

Head Body & Coat – 18mth LH Female (Cs)



Good ear set with acceptable tufts.

Strong eye bias, but round and set wide apart.

Good nose slant, in longhairs it may be necessary to feel the nose slant with your thumb as fur could give the impression of a nose break when there is non.

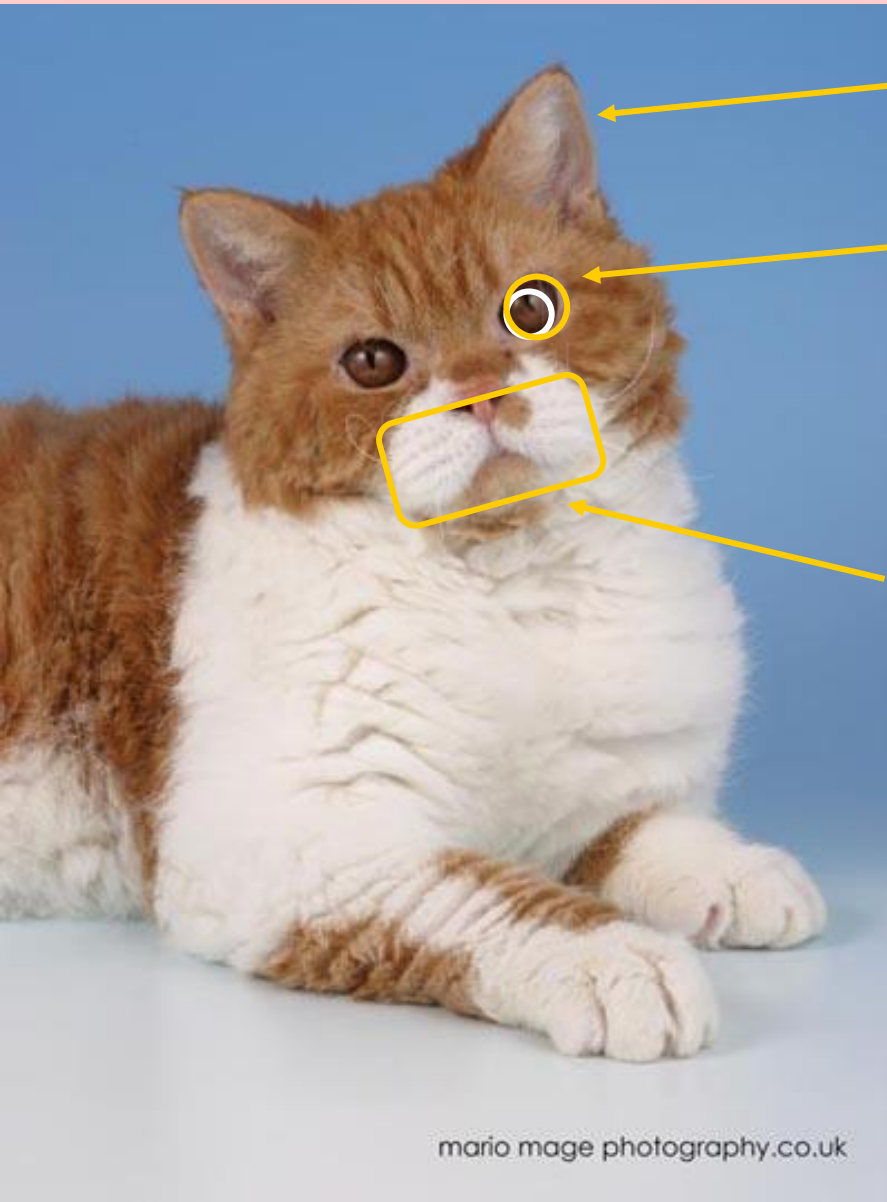
Chin a little weak when fur pressed back.

Good cheek profile, nice & round.

Good width across the chest.

Good curling all over body, excellent ruff on longhair coat.

Head Body & Coat – 1 year old Male SH (Cs)



Ears of correct set and good size

Eyes a little small for **perfection**

Head nice and round

Muzzle showing correct rectangular shape and good chin with level stop

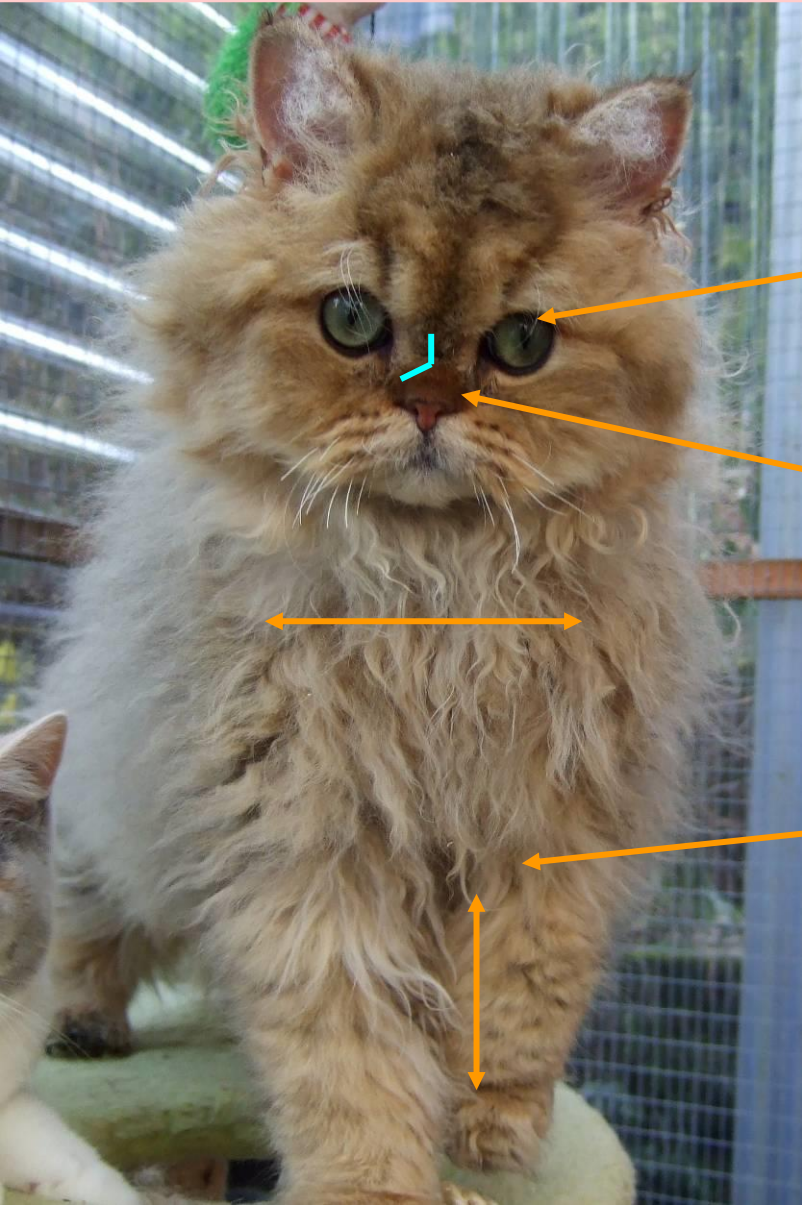
Whiskers all evident and curly

Strong legs and paws, good boning

Deep chest and body rectangular

Coat & eye colour irrelevant for SOP

Head: Over Persian Type (Cs)



Nice round head, although short on profile not ideal, ears can be overly tufted but not to be considered undesirable

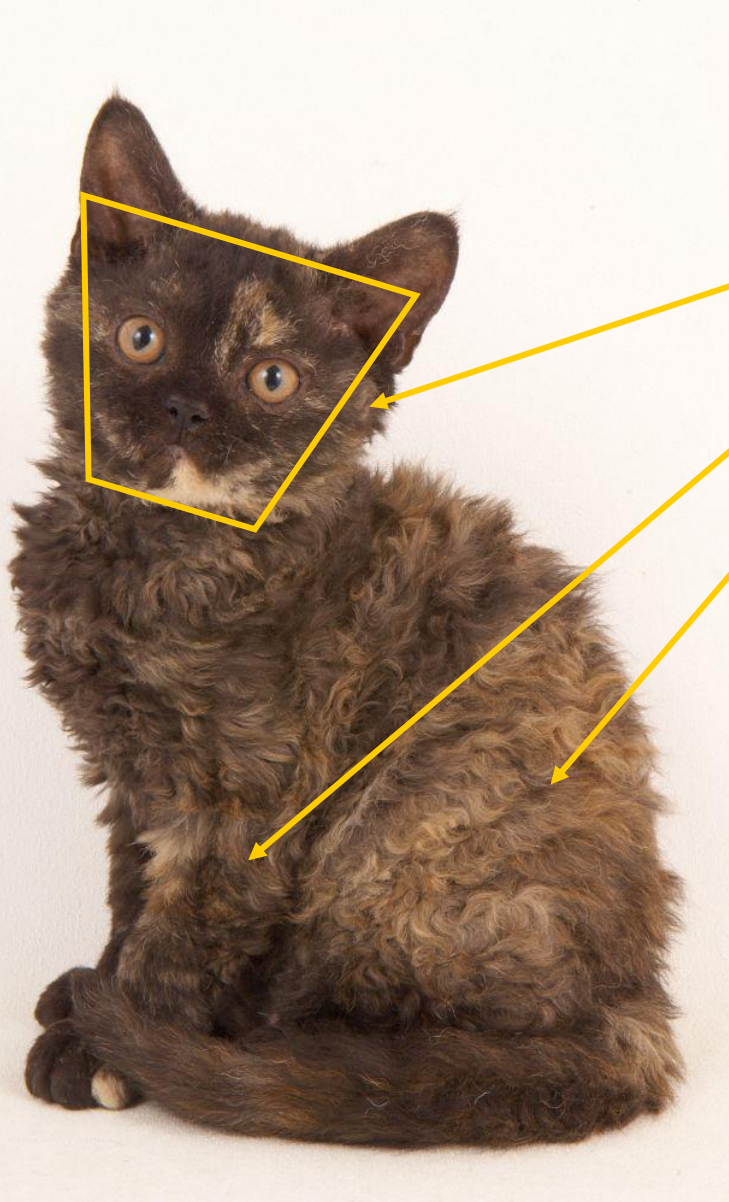
Eyes are usually excellent from Persian lines as large, round & expressive

Nose is too short and has a noticeable break, at this length & angle it should be considered a withholding fault.

Legs on the short side need to be of medium length, chest also narrow

Coat quality from Persian X mating is usually excellent, soft and curls easily therefore an essential mix for the breed.

Head Body & Coat – Homozygous 12wk kitten (CC)



Overall appearance is finer than heterozygous, however should have a surprising weight and substance when held

Face can be more angular in appearance giving the ears an oversized look

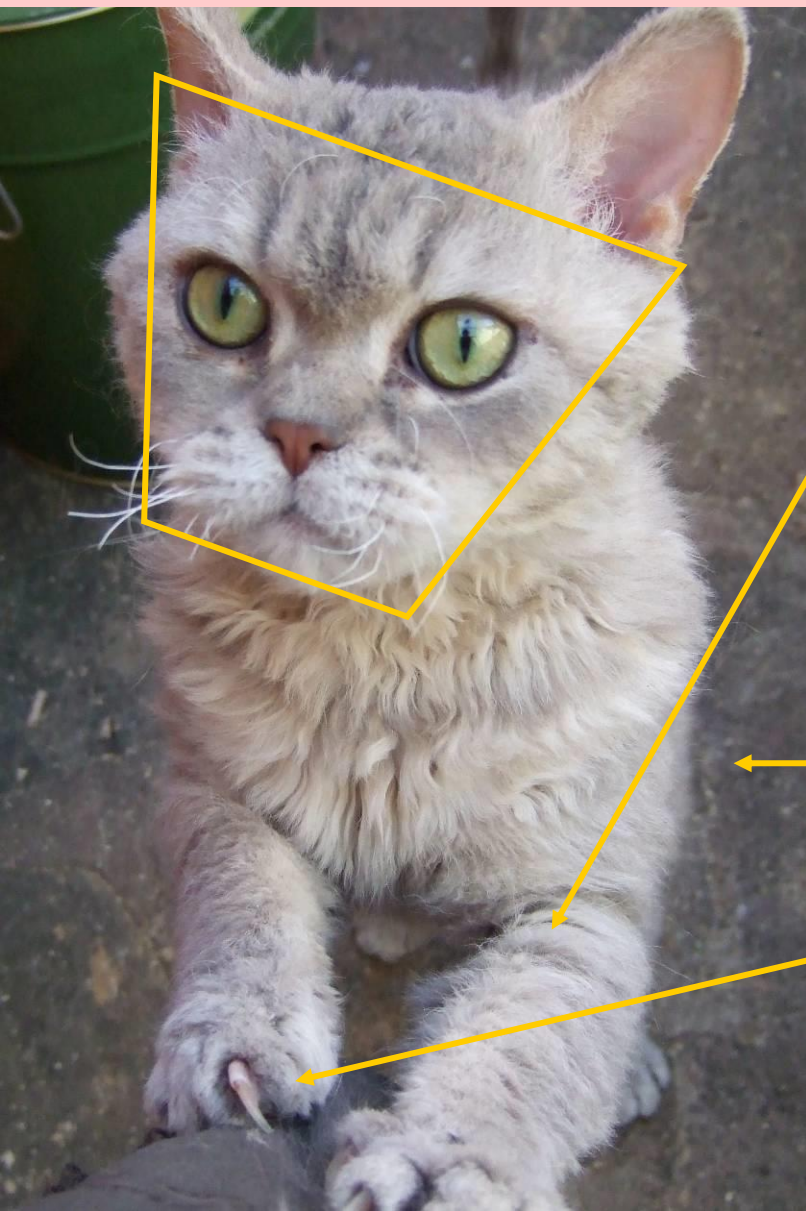
Boning can be finer in appearance

Fur can have an oily or dry feel to it, can be extremely curly and a little harsh.

A Homozygous kittens body temperature can be a degree higher for a short period which can result in total body hair loss for a short period. This can be alarming at the time but perfectly normal for the breed. This can happen directly from birth up to 8 months old.

This particular homozygous kitten had a very successful show career as a kitten in the UK.

Head Body & Coat – Homozygous Adult (CC)



Double Gene'd mature male stud.

Head shape is angular and narrow at the cheeks. Ears look oversized due to head shape.

Body sits on long narrow legs, although this cat does possess weight and substance his general look is one of insufficient boning and an all over oriental tendency.

Coat showed extensive tight curling as a kitten which has followed through to adulthood, although can be brittle & coarse plus break easily when held.

Feet are narrow and small from balance.

All kittens sired by this male will be curly.

Importance of Outcrosses

Using outcrosses in the Selkirk Rex is all about balance, no cat is perfect so each mating must be assessed on its merits, do you need more boning, longer coats, bigger eyes, a firmer chin etc.

- **British Shorthair & Longhair**– Using BSH/BLH in the SR breeding maintains the boning and sturdiness of the breed, also essential is you are looking at reproducing a short coat if only using BSH. British can also bring back firmer chins and level bites and the desired nose profile. Too much BSH outcrossing however can create flat coats in Selkirk's by transferring some of the crisp coat properties.
- **Persian LH & Exotic SH** – Persians & Exotics bring the lovely soft 'easy to curl' coats of the Selkirk's. The wonderful owl eyed expression and balance ear size and ear width. Focusing too much on this outcross can have detrimental effect on nose shape and result in a tumpy look for the cat.



Selkirk Rex Longhair Examples (Cs)



Selkirk Rex Shorthair Examples (Cs)



Selkirk Rex Homozygous — Examples off (CC)



Selkirk Rex Variants — Examples off (ss)





Health Concerns

There are no known health problems specific to the Selkirk Rex breed. They are a robust breed. Breeding towards proper head structure is necessary to prevent kinking of the tear ducts, resulting in tear run down the front of the face, or muzzle creases that can result in dermatitis on the face. Like other Rex breeds, irritation of the inside of the ear by curly fur can occur, increasing the production of ear wax.

Homozygous cats (with two copies of the dominant Selkirk Rex gene) may have a tendency towards excessive greasiness of the coat, requiring increased frequency of bathing.

Other health problems may be inherited from the outcross breeds used, including Polycystic Kidney Disease from Persians and Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy from British Shorthairs. Responsible breeders screen their breeding cats for these diseases to minimize their impact on the breed.

PKD Screening Scheme - Active and Non Active Register

All Selkirk Rex, Selkirk Rex Variants and outcrosses used for breeding Selkirk's shall be screened clear of PKD for both kittens to be registered on active or non-active register.

Before the registration of any **White Selkirk Rex** or **White Selkirk Rex Variant**, a certificate of freedom from deafness for the white parent(s) must be supplied to the GCCF.



Selkirk Rex Grooming

Both longhairs and shorthaired Selkirk Rex will mat if not periodically groomed. It is advised to use a wide toothed comb or one with rotating teeth enabling the fur to part with out actually pulling it out.

To add structure and body to the coat it is advised (if your cat allows) to groom the coat back to front whilst working the comb to skin level, gentle strokes only.

Most if not all show cats are bathed before a show, shorthaired cats normally no more than three days before a show and longhairs anything up to a week before the show to allow the coat to recover and 'bounce' back.

Selkirk Rex do suffer from dirty ears, this is due to the curly hairs located in the ears acting as a constant irritant and excess wax been produced. It is advised to clean ears once a week to reduce it. Homozygous Selkirk Rex's suffer even more so with excessive ear wax.

Shampoos are advised, degreasers are available, rinse well, apply a second shampoo if required as a colour/brightness enhancer.

Most Selkirk exhibitors do not use any conditioner as this can weigh the coat down or 'top coating' as this can give the coat a harsh texture.

Natural air drying in a warm room is the most desirable way for the cats coat to dry. However longhairs can take blow drying of the base coat only and leave the top coat to dry naturally.

Afterwards when the coat is dry and the cat ready for exhibition it is sometimes helpful to spritz the coat to increase curl or rub it down with a damp cloth if shorthaired.



Selkirk Rex Show Preparation

The Selkirk Rex is an easy cat to groom and therefore an easy cat to show well. Due to the curliness of the coat this should be checked directly before a show for debris as the coat can act as Velcro? Be very selective on the type of cat litter you chose?

All spritzing before the show should be done well in time before judging as the coat should be dry. Combing during the show is discouraged as it may temporarily straighten the hair, but it will bounce back with a water spritz and running your fingers through it.

Recommendations on grooming products:

Denman Triple Comb D12

Mikki Rotating Tooth Comb

Eye Envy Products

House of An-Ju products –Snowy Blue

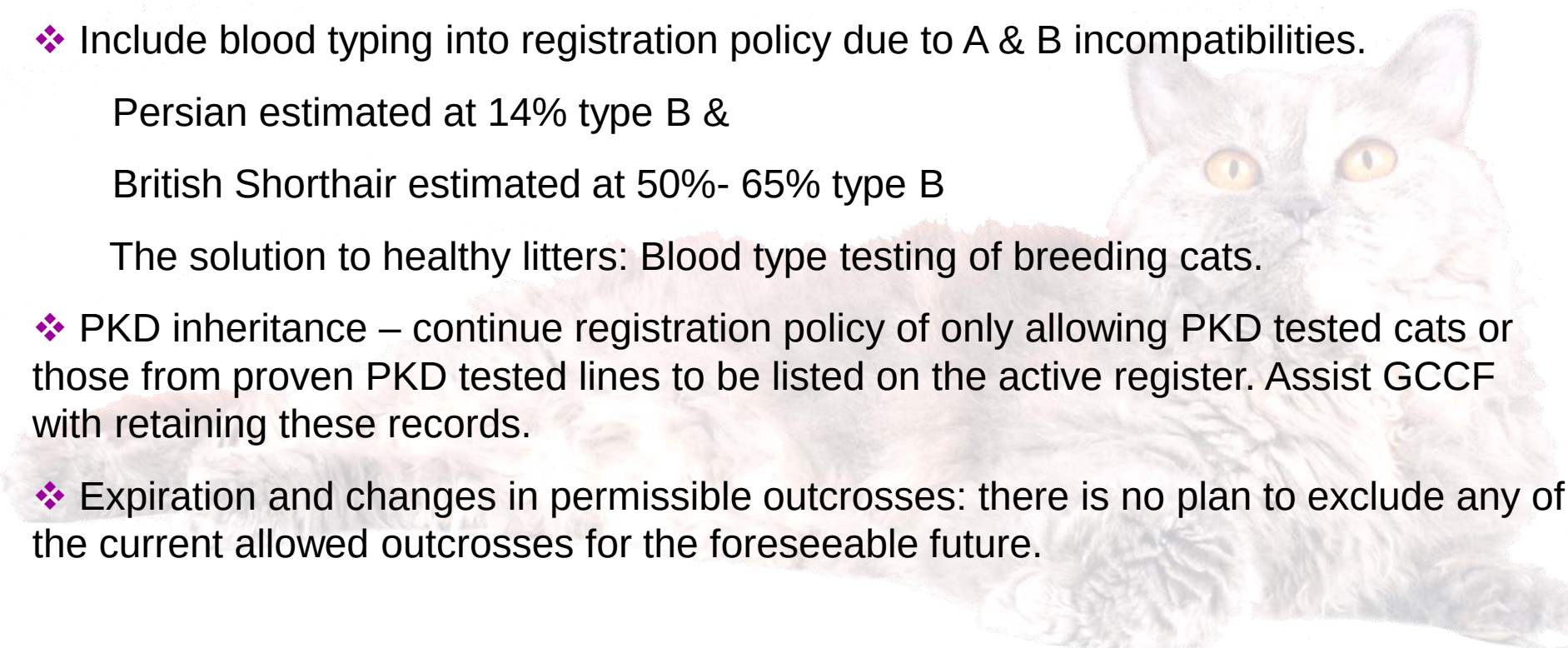
John Frieda Frizz-Ease “Dream Curls”





Future Emphasis, Problems & Changes

- ❖ Remain in the British Section for Judging, remain in the Rex BAC for support.
- ❖ Splitting future GCCF Judging classes in to Shorthaired and longhaired sections as numbers grow on the show bench. Constantly collating.
- ❖ Encouraging more Selkirk to Selkirk variant breeding.
- ❖ Developing homozygous type to breed standard.
- ❖ Include blood typing into registration policy due to A & B incompatibilities.
 - Persian estimated at 14% type B &
 - British Shorthair estimated at 50%- 65% type B
 - The solution to healthy litters: Blood type testing of breeding cats.
- ❖ PKD inheritance – continue registration policy of only allowing PKD tested cats or those from proven PKD tested lines to be listed on the active register. Assist GCCF with retaining these records.
- ❖ Expiration and changes in permissible outcrosses: there is no plan to exclude any of the current allowed outcrosses for the foreseeable future.



Useful Contacts and Assistance



For Information about the breed:

Selkirk Rex Cat Club – www.selkirkrexcatclub.co.uk



Club Contacts:

Chairman – Zoë L Amarilli – amazolou@gmail.com – www.amazoloucats.com

Secretary – Anne Minshall – acozni@gmail.com – www.acozni.co.uk

Treasurer – Pam Beard-Smith – pam@mewsoscats.co.uk – www.mewsoscats.co.uk

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