

TABBY PATTERNS

Tabbies are recognised in 4 patterns: classic(blotched), mackerel, spotted and ticked.

GENERAL: All tabbies have the following markings in common: -

- a scarab or "M" on the forehead.
- unbroken stripes running back from the outer corner of the eyes to meet a broken line running from the corners of the mouth and narrow pencillings on the cheeks and around the eyes and nose.
- darker-spotted whisker pads.
- solid-coloured ears, which must show a thumb print.
- one or more necklaces.
- vest buttons or abdominal spots.
- identical markings on both sides of the body.
- distinctly- and evenly-barred legs.
- solid colour on the back of the hind legs from paw to hock.
- a ringed tail, with as many rings as possible and a solid colour tip of the same colour as the markings.

Clear definition of markings in all tabby patterns is highly desirable, resulting from good contrast with the ground colour. However, in dilute colours, markings and thumbprints may not be as evident.

Markings and thumb prints may be less distinct in young kittens and they should not be penalised for this.

SPECIFIC PATTERN DESCRIPTIONS

CLASSIC/BLOTCHED:

All markings to be clearly-defined and dense. Ground colour and markings should be equally balanced.

A series of lines runs from above the "M" on the forehead, back over the top of the head and extending to the shoulder markings. The shoulder markings form the outline of a butterfly when viewed from above. Both upper and lower wings should be clearly defined in outline, with the central areas broken by small areas of ground colour. On each flank there should be a large oyster-shaped patch, which should be surrounded by one or more unbroken rings. On the back there should be an unbroken line running down the spine from the butterfly to the tail, with a parallel stripe on either side of it. The stripes should be separated from each other by stripes of ground colour. On the neck and upper chest there should be unbroken necklaces, the more the better. The legs should be barred evenly with bracelets from the body markings to the feet, which may be spotted.

MACKEREL:

The head, legs and tail are marked the same as the Classic/Blotched Tabby. There should be three narrow, preferably unbroken lines running from the back of the head to the base of the tail. The rest of the body is to be covered with narrow parallel unbroken lines running vertically down from the spine line. These should be as narrow and as numerous as possible.

SPOTTED:

The head is marked the same as the Classic/Blotched Tabby. Necklaces are broken or unbroken. Body and legs are to be as spotted as possible. Spots may vary in size and shape. Spots should not run together or become elongated to give any suggestion of mackerel stripes. A dorsal stripe is ideally composed of spots running the length of the body to the tip of the tail. Spotting should be the same on both sides of the body. Rings on the tail may be broken or unbroken.

TICKED:

Tabby markings on face and an "M" on the forehead. One or two (unbroken preferred) necklaces on upper chest. When viewed from above, the body is free from noticeable blotches, stripes or spots, except for darker dorsal shading. There is a double row of dark spots on belly and chest. Lighter underside may show tabby markings. Well defined stripes on front and hind legs. Solid colour on tail tip and up the back of the hind legs from pads to hock joint. Ground colour is to be distinctly ticked with a darker colour of similar tone.