

Comparison between Somalis and Abyssinians



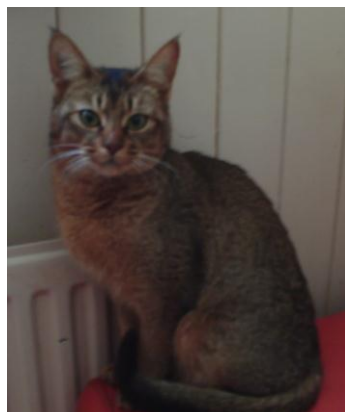
Here on the left is a litter of Abyssinian kittens and on the right Somali Shorthairs notice the difference in head shape and contours. See how the coat on the Abyssinian babies is so much shorter and closer – if you could feel it you would notice the Abyssinian coat is far more resilient; there is a slight “drag” as you stroke the coat. The Abyssinian SOP states the coat is short, fine BUT NOT SOFT; the Shorthaired Somali SOP asks for a medium length coat that is smooth, fine and dense but close-lying. The Somali SH coat will be of fairly uniform length with no ruff, toe tufts or brush. Judges should penalise a Shorthaired Somali coat that is coarse or overly resilient



On the left the fawn Abyssinian has the moderate wedge with gently rounded contours described in their Standard. The coat is short and close-lying. The whole impression of an Abyssinian is “sleeker” than the 63S. The Shorthaired Somali on the right has the shorter, moderate, more gentle wedge that is recognised by the Somali BAC. Notice her beautiful ear tufts. Her coat is of medium length; it is smooth, fine, dense and close-lying (but not as close-lying as the Abyssinian’s). The 63S coat is of fairly uniform length with no ruff, toe tufts or brush as found on a 63L.



Abyssinian 23



SH Somali 63S



SLH Somali 63L