



# THE CHARTREUX

Chartreux Breed Council, May 2015  
Orca Starbuck, Breed Council secretary

# CHARTREUX



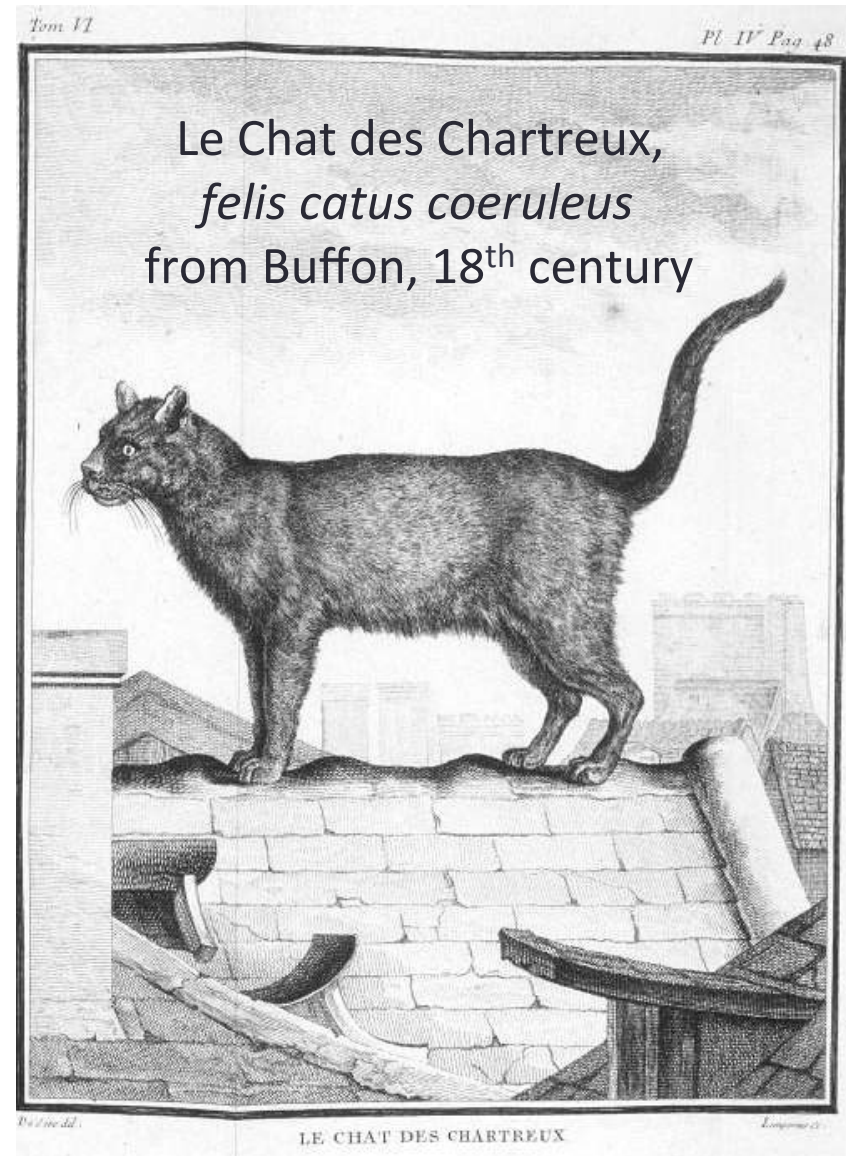
A robust cat;  
very elegant  
in all respects.

*from "Standard Plan of  
the Chartreux Cat," 1975*

# CHARTREUX

The Chartreux is a natural, historic French breed. It was first described in writing as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and catalogued by early naturalists Linnaeus and Buffon as one of four breeds known in Europe.

Most lived a harsh existence, as ratters, or as “rooftop cats,” as in this engraving. Their pelts were also traded by furriers that prized their thick, woolly coats.



# CHARTREUX

We do not know how these cats acquired the name “Chartreux.”

Legend says that they were raised by the Carthusian monks as companions, and this theory appears in the entry on the breed in Denis Diderot’s 1758 *Grand Encyclopedia*.

However, there are no records that the monks ever kept cats.



La Grande Chartreuse  
monastery near Grenoble



# CHARTREUX

Chartreux kept as companions have been much beloved by their owners. Famous owners of Chartreux have included Charles de Gaulle, Charles Baudelaire, and the novelist Colette.



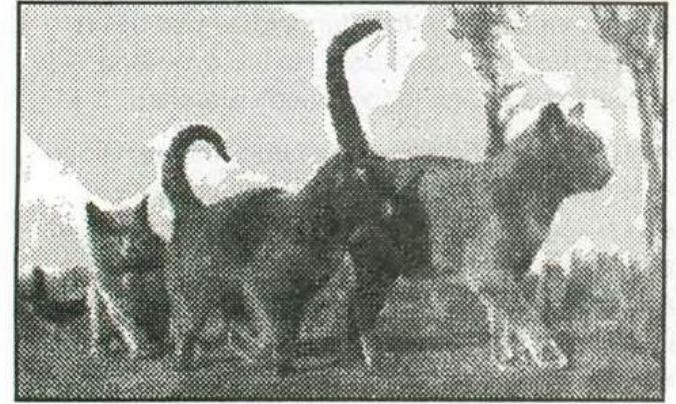
Colette with cats; she wrote 1933 book *La Chatte* about her Chartreux, Saha



*Magdaleine Pinceloup de la Grange*  
by Jean-Baptiste Perronneau, 1747

# CHARTREUX

Selective breeding began in the 1920s, when sisters Christine and Suzanne Léger moved to Belle-Île in the northwest of France, and were intrigued to find large colonies of blue cats that matched historical descriptions of Chartreux.



Belle Île Chartreux, early 1930s

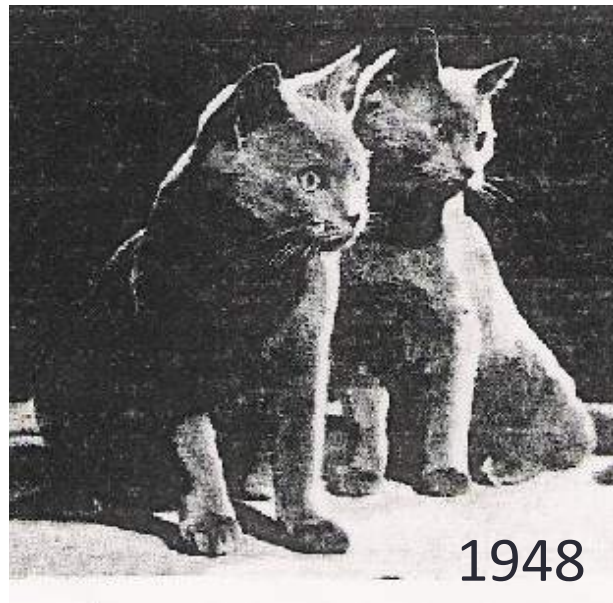


Belle-Île-en-Mer



# CHARTREUX

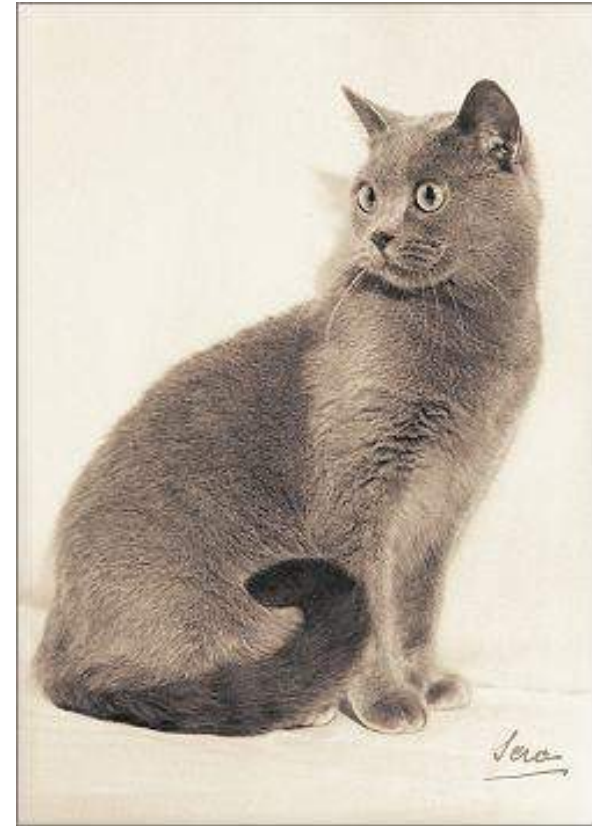
Other breeders near Paris formed a club in the 1930s. From early on, they worked with the Léger sisters, exchanging cats to maintain a viable gene pool with consistent type. The first official breed standard was established in 1939.



# CHARTREUX

After the war, it became difficult to find natural Chartreux, and in the 1960s some breeders used British Blues as an outcross. This caused some lines to become very mixed.

From 1970-1977, FIFe even judged the two breeds under the same standard, but breeders protested. Finally the original 1939 standard was restored.



Pensylva Julia, a British Shorthair used in the 1960s

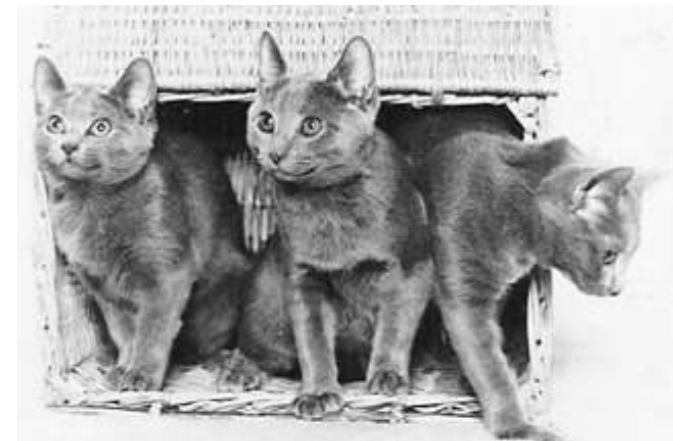


# CHARTREUX

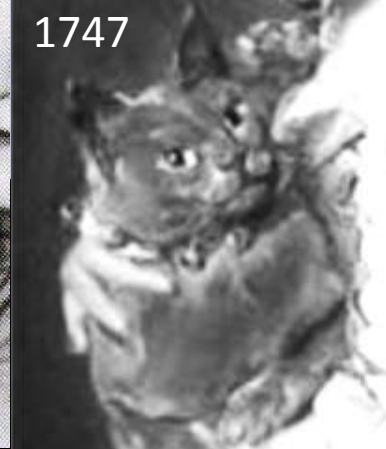
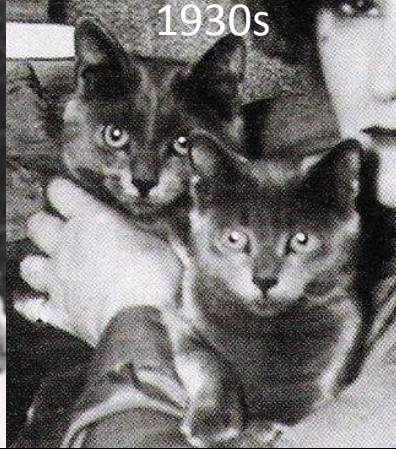
In 1970, Helen Gamon began the first North American breeding program, using Chartreux from the best French lines available.

Breeders in the US and Canada continued to import Chartreux with the least influence of British Shorthair, including cats directly from the Léger sisters of Belle-Île.

The Chartreux was advanced to CFA championship competition in 1987.



Kittens born in 1975



Today's Chartreux remains quite similar to the natural Chartreux from the 1920s, and in turn, the images and descriptions from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We continue to protect and preserve this historic breed.



# CHARTREUX

## Standard



# CHARTREUX

The point allocation in the CFA standard can appear complex because there are a lot of small parts, and unlike some breeds, there is no single part of the cat that dominates the standard.

## HEAD (35)

Shape and size	6
Neck	4
Profile/nose	5
Muzzle	5
Ear shape / size	5
Ear placement	5
Eye shape / size	5

## BODY (30)

Shape and size	8
Legs and feet	8
Boning	5
Musculature	5
Tail	4

## COAT (20)

Texture	15
Length	5

## COLOR (15)

Coat color	10
Eye color	5

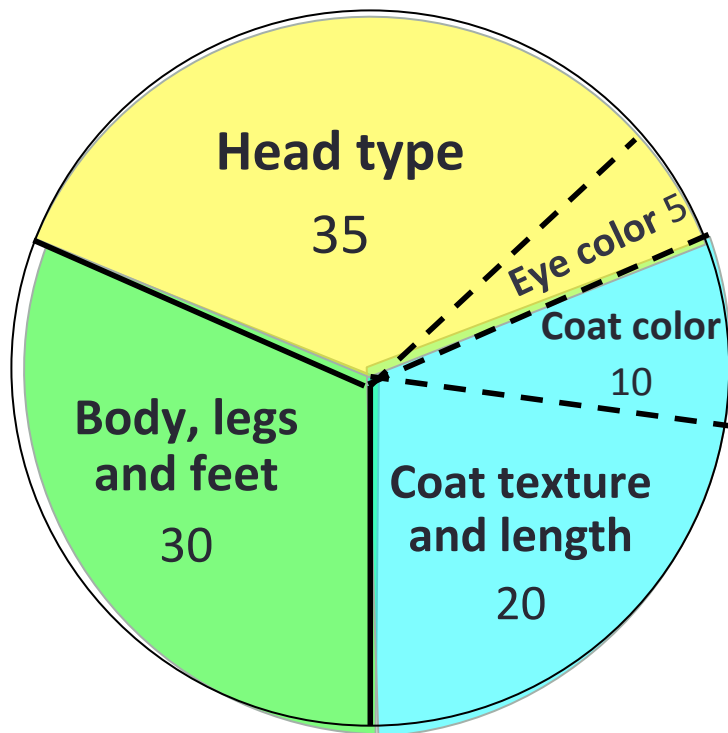
# CHARTREUX

Try mentally grouping the parts of the standard into just three areas: head, body, and coat.

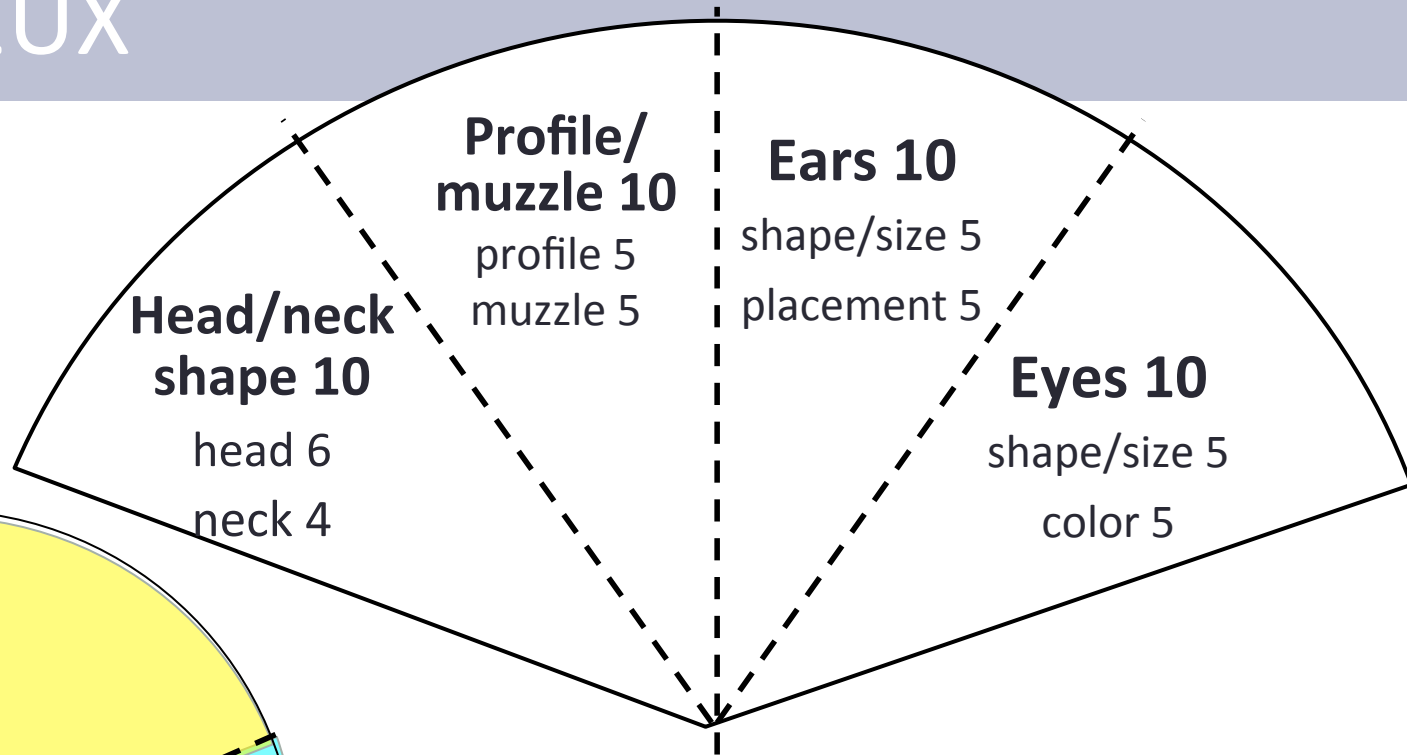
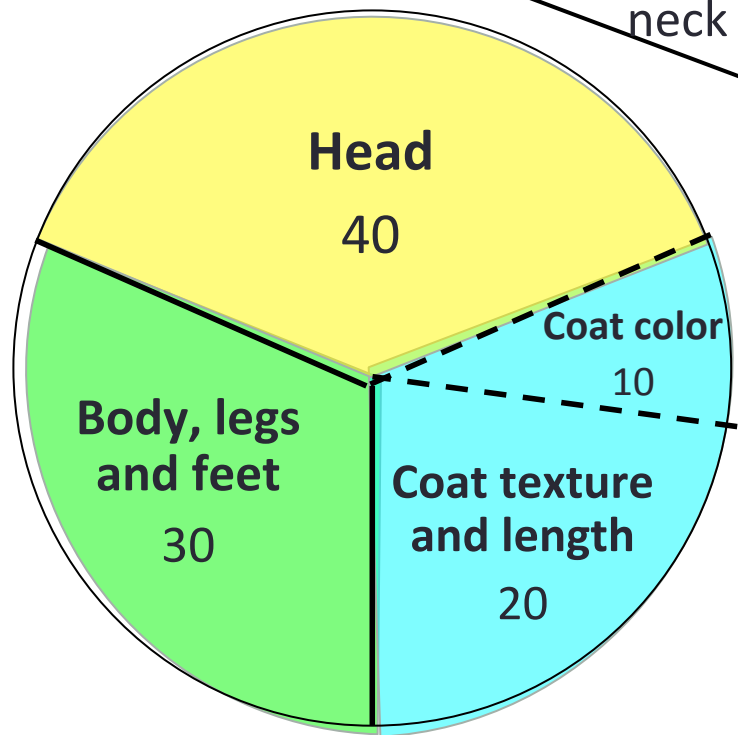
Note the emphasis on the head, with more points allocated to the head than in most breeds.

Coat (texture and color together) is equal in value to the body.

Coat texture is much more important than coat color.

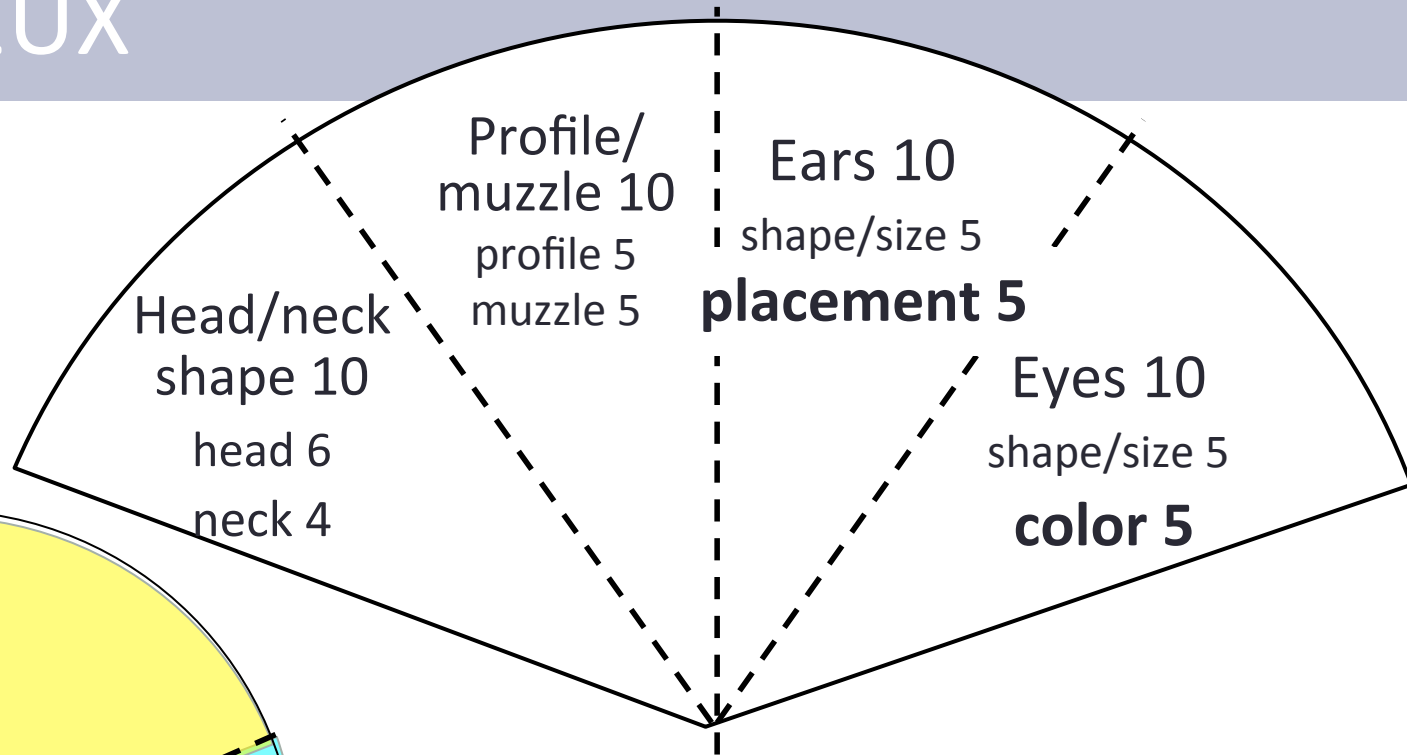
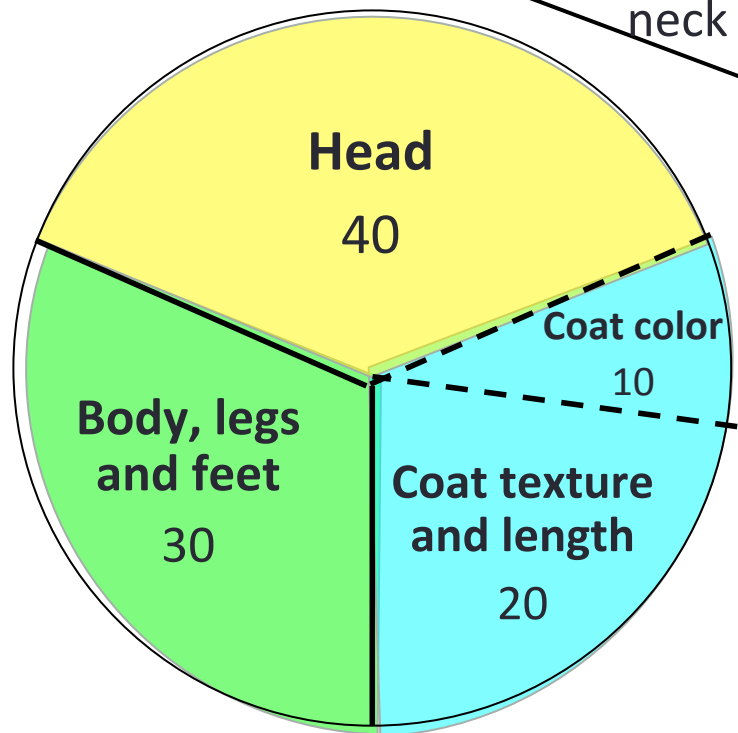


# CHARTREUX



Including eye color, the points allocated to the head total 40 points, and can be grouped into four equally important areas.

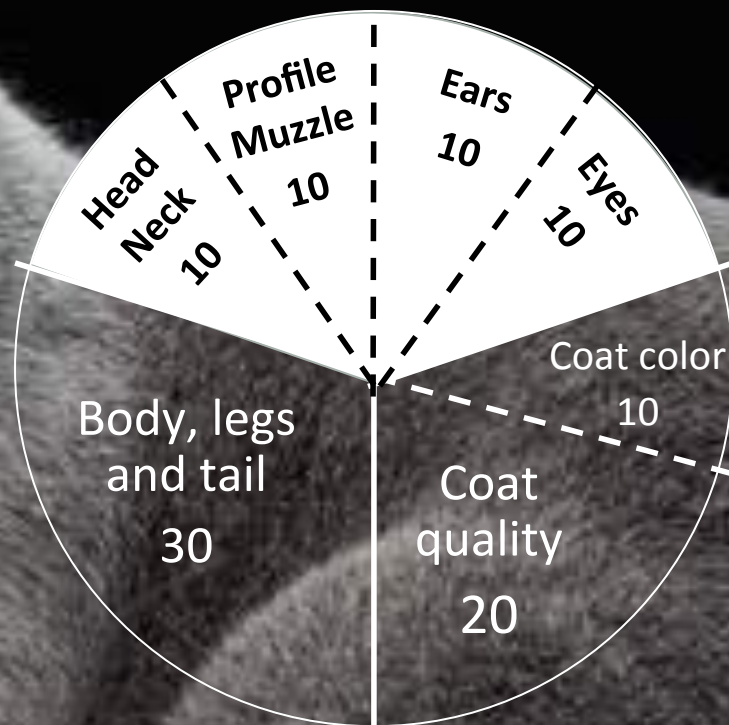
# CHARTREUX



Note: Ear placement and eye color are very visible parts of the head, strongly affecting how we perceive the cat. Keep in mind that they are only worth 5 points each.

# CHARTREUX

## The Head





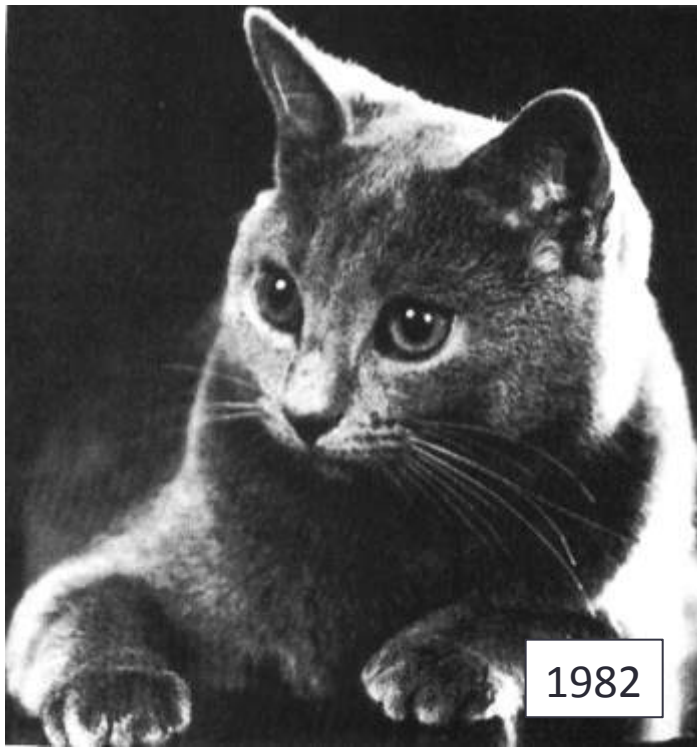
# CHARTREUX

## Head Shape

- Rounded and broad.
- Not a sphere.
- Powerful jaw.
- Full cheeks.
- Mature males have larger jowls.

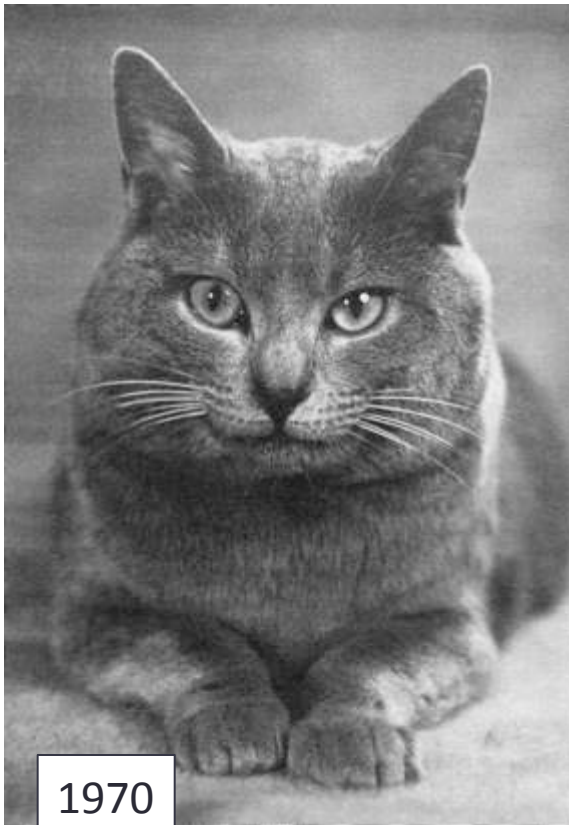


# CHARTREUX



The female: rounded head, broad at eye level, with full cheeks.

# CHARTREUX



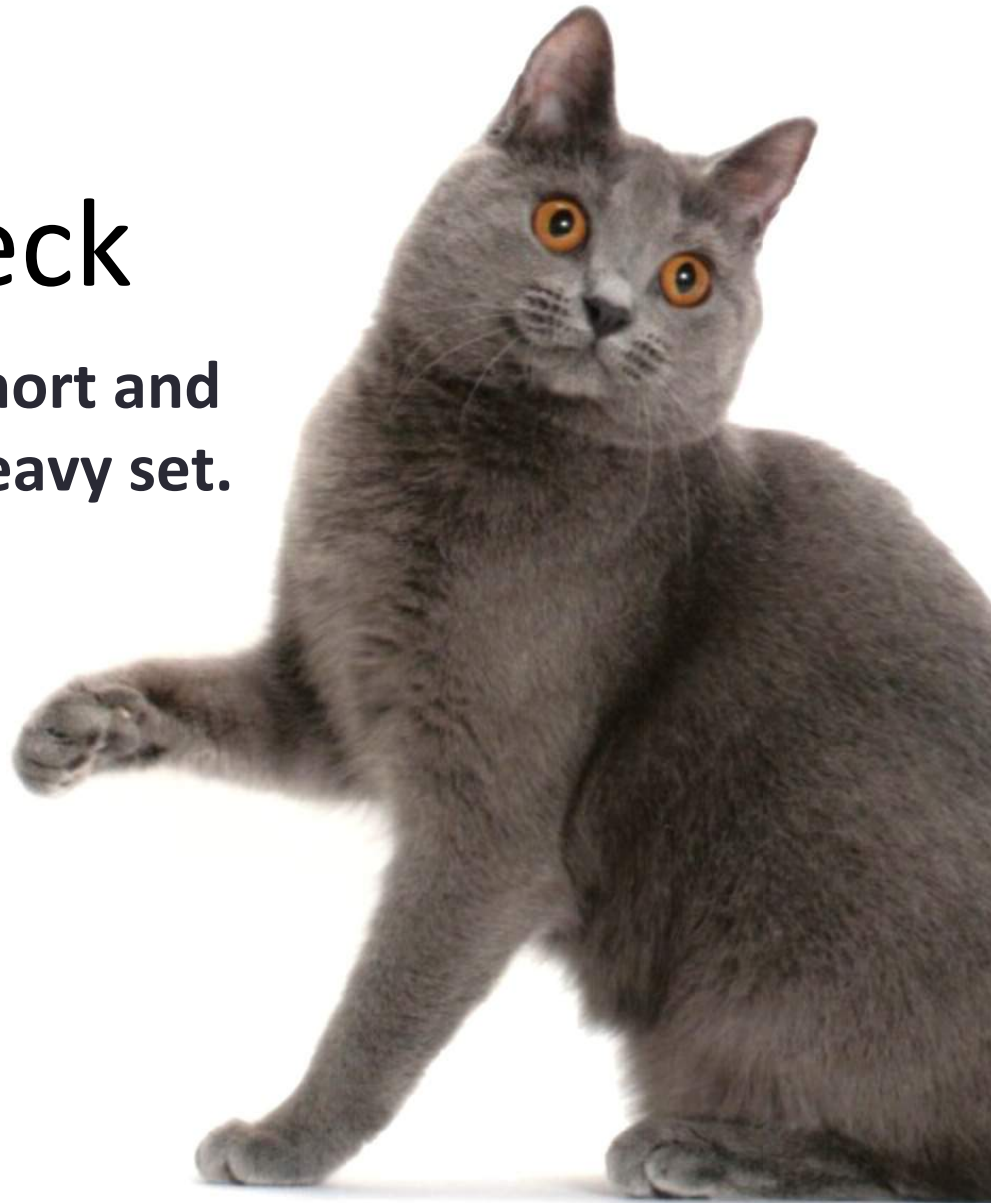
The mature male: broad at eye level, with heavy jowls that make the base of the head wider than the top.

# CHARTREUX



## Neck

- Short and heavy set.



## Profile

- **High, softly contoured forehead.**
- **Straight nose, medium length and width.**
- **Slight stop at eye level.**



# CHARTREUX



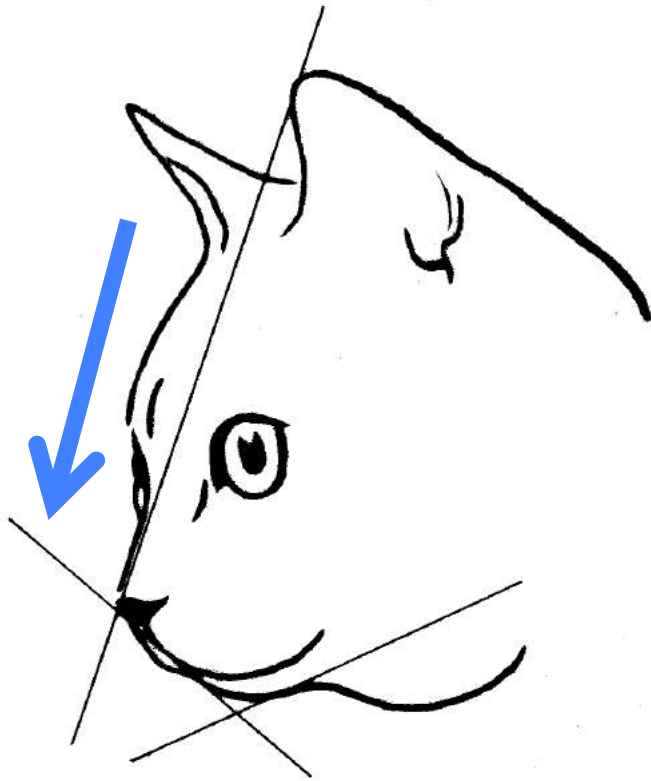
Medium length, straight nose with slight stop.

# CHARTREUX



Thick hair can create “eyebrow” that accentuates stop.  
Smooth back the hair to feel the underlying profile.

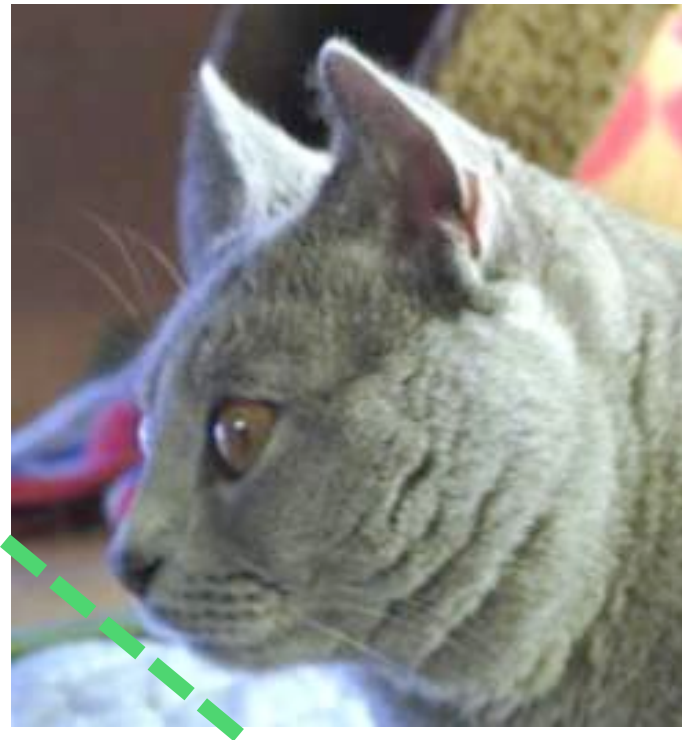
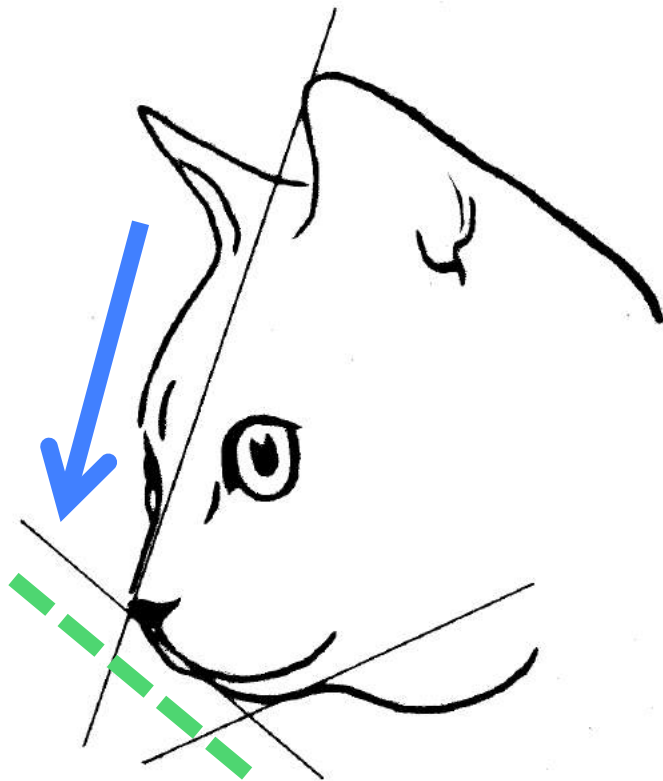
# CHARTREUX



Nose and muzzle point downwards, which allows forehead contour to flow smoothly into straight nose.



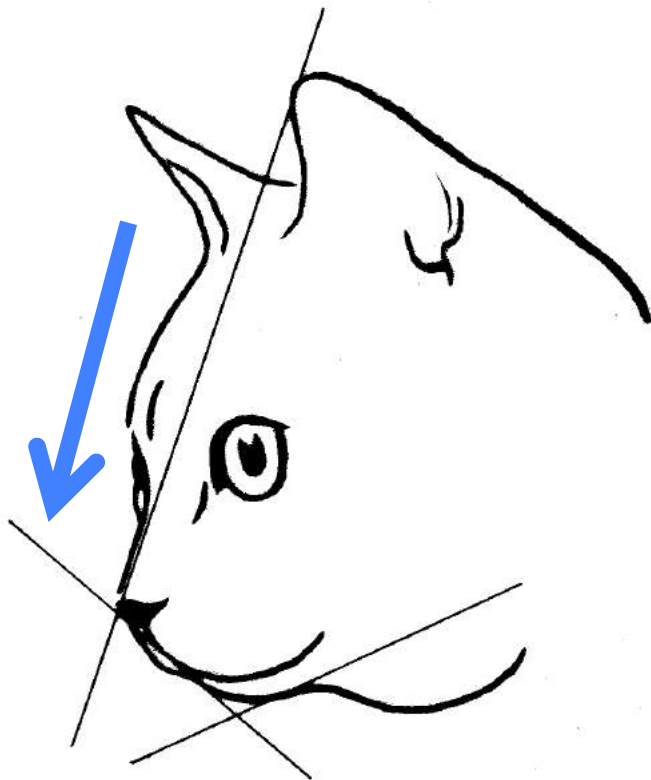
# CHARTREUX



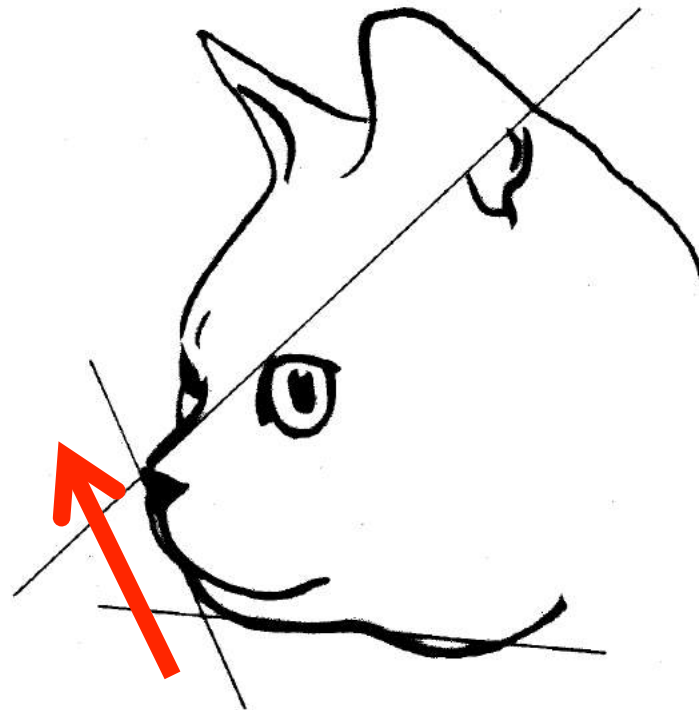
Nose to chin line slants back, due to muzzle angle.

Chin is not required to be strong, firm or deep, but should not be so weak as to appear overshot.

# CHARTREUX



**Correct**



**Incorrect**

Muzzle/nose should not be rotated upward.

Note how upward rotation shortens nose, deepens stop.

# CHARTREUX



Straight nose  
with slight stop.



Incorrect, rotated upward.  
Strong stop. Short nose.

# CHARTREUX



Straight nose  
with slight stop.

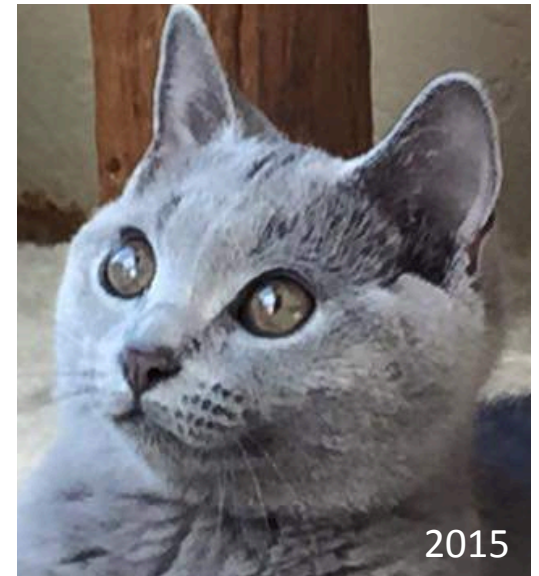


Incorrect, rotated upward.  
Strong stop. Short nose.

# CHARTREUX

## Muzzle

- **Comparatively small, narrow, tapered. Slight pads.**



# CHARTREUX



Correct narrow muzzle  
relative to head.



Incorrect broad muzzle  
relative to head.

# CHARTREUX

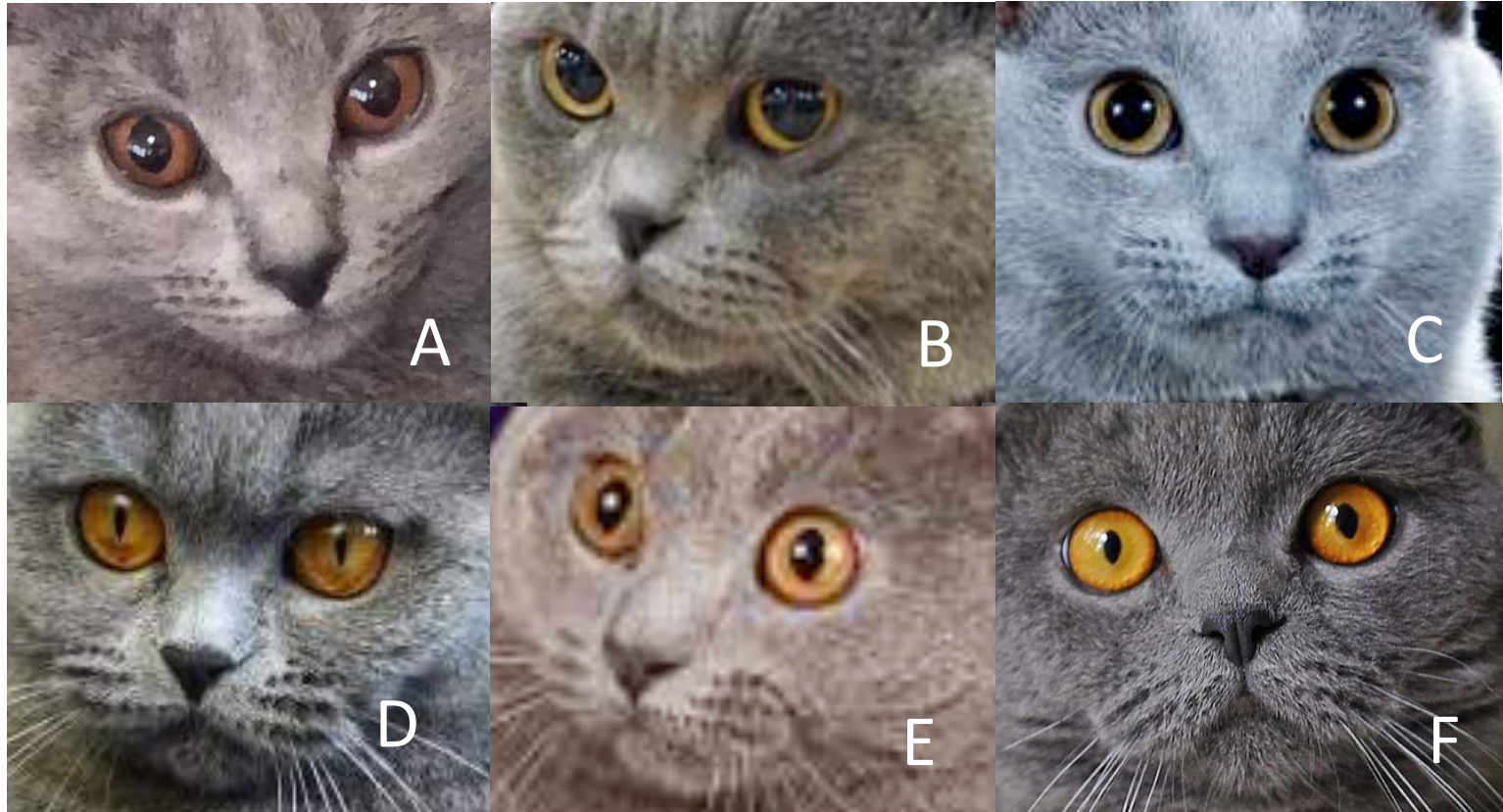


Correct narrow muzzle  
with slight pads.



Incorrect broad muzzle,  
heavy pads, whisker pinch.

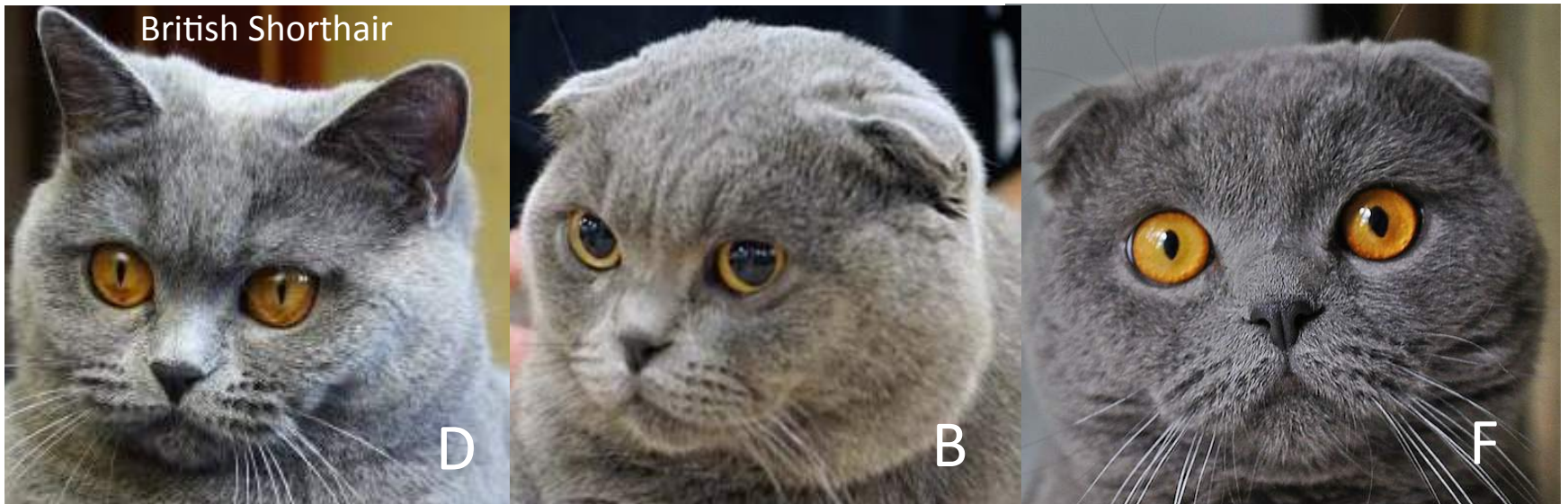
# CHARTREUX



Which cats are probably not Chartreux?  
How can you tell?



# CHARTREUX



Answer: These cats are not Chartreux. Besides the ears, you will note broader muzzles, shorter and more upturned noses, and a more pronounced dip or stop at eye level.

# CHARTREUX



The **sweet, smiling expression** of the Chartreux can suggest many moods. A smile can be hopeful. Perky. Innocent. Shy. Sincere. Kind. Gentle.



# CHARTREUX



A sweet smile can be impish.  
Knowing. Regal. Benevolent.  
Flirtatious. Amused. Coy.  
Enigmatic, a Mona Lisa smile.  
What is our 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Chartreux smiling about?



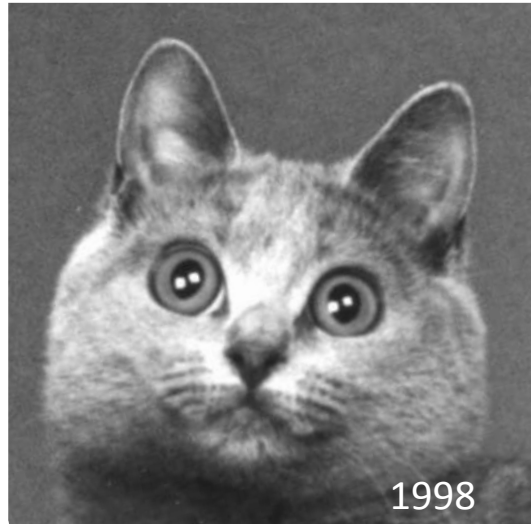
# CHARTREUX



## Ears

- Medium height / width
- Set high on the head
- Very erect posture

# CHARTREUX

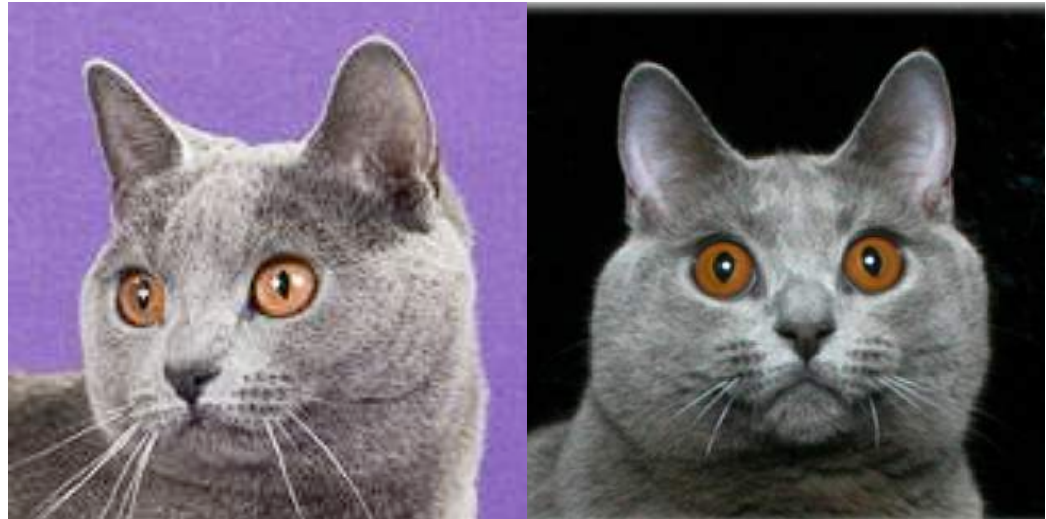


Medium height / width, set high, very erect posture.

# CHARTREUX

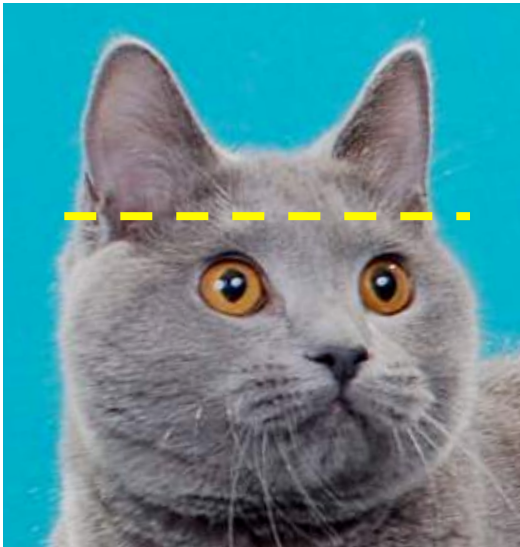


Ears too small.

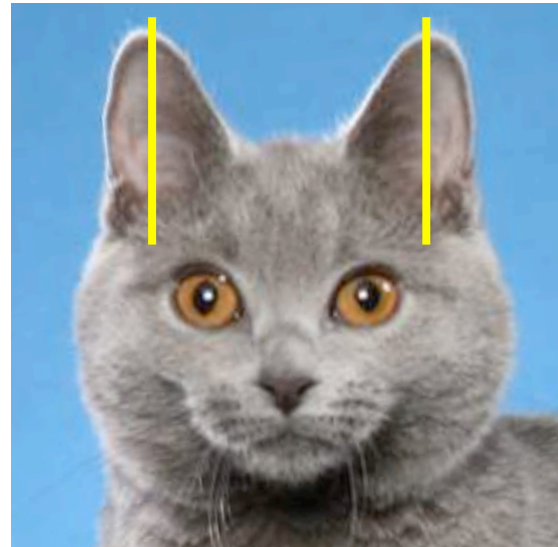


Medium in height and width.

# CHARTREUX



Set high on the head



Very erect posture

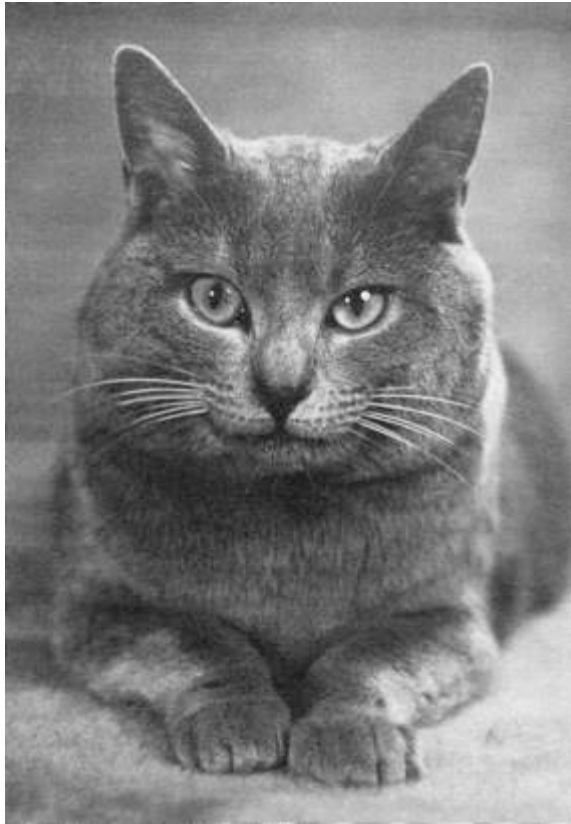
# CHARTREUX



Breeders may prefer slightly different styles and shapes.  
All of these cats have medium sized, high set, very erect ears.



# CHARTREUX



Some cats have nicely placed high set ears that angle out slightly. This is often seen in males as the head matures. It is not ideal, but acceptable.

All of the above males produced kittens with excellent ears.

# CHARTREUX



Incorrect low / wide set ears.

This male is pictured as a kitten and an adult.

His ear set is not a result of maturity.

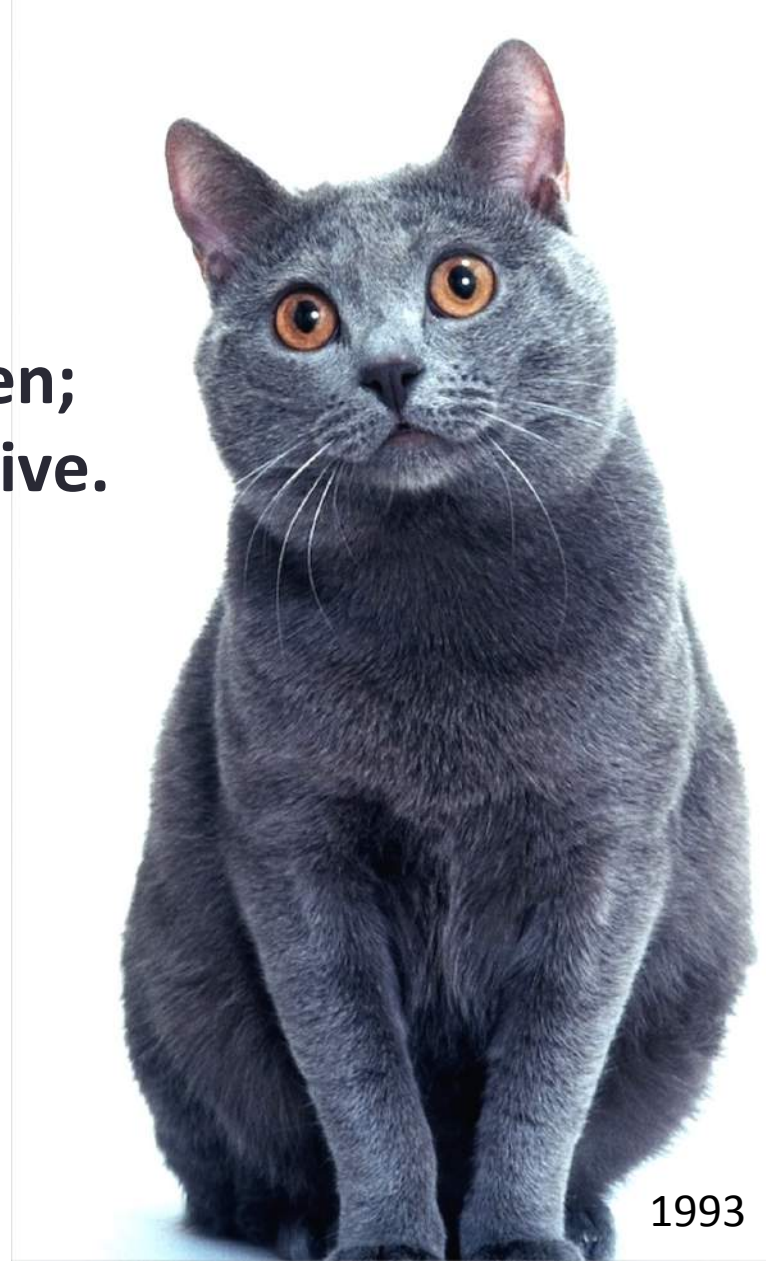
# CHARTREUX

## Eyes

- **Rounded and open;  
alert and expressive.**



2011



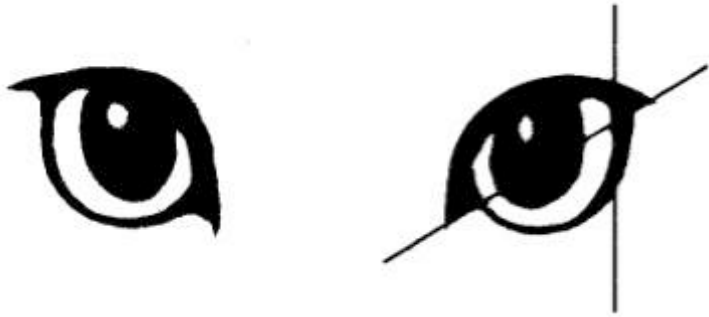
1993

# CHARTREUX



Rounded and open eyes.

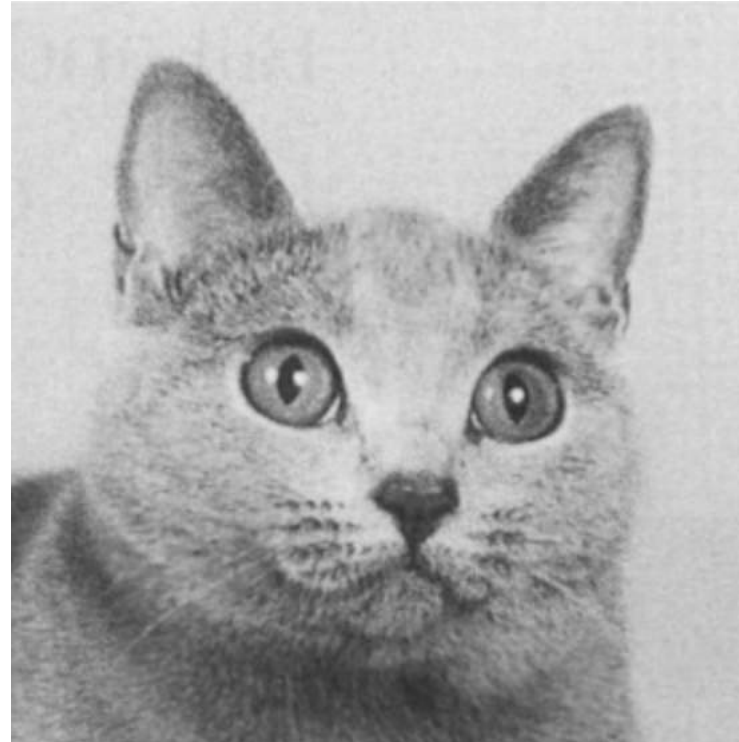
# CHARTREUX



Chartreux eyes are rounded and open, but have corners and are set at an angle.



# CHARTREUX



Together with rounded contours, the corners and angled set create a very expressive eye.

# CHARTREUX

Eye shape changing with mood and excitement.

Note rounded contour of lower lid.



Relaxed



Attentive



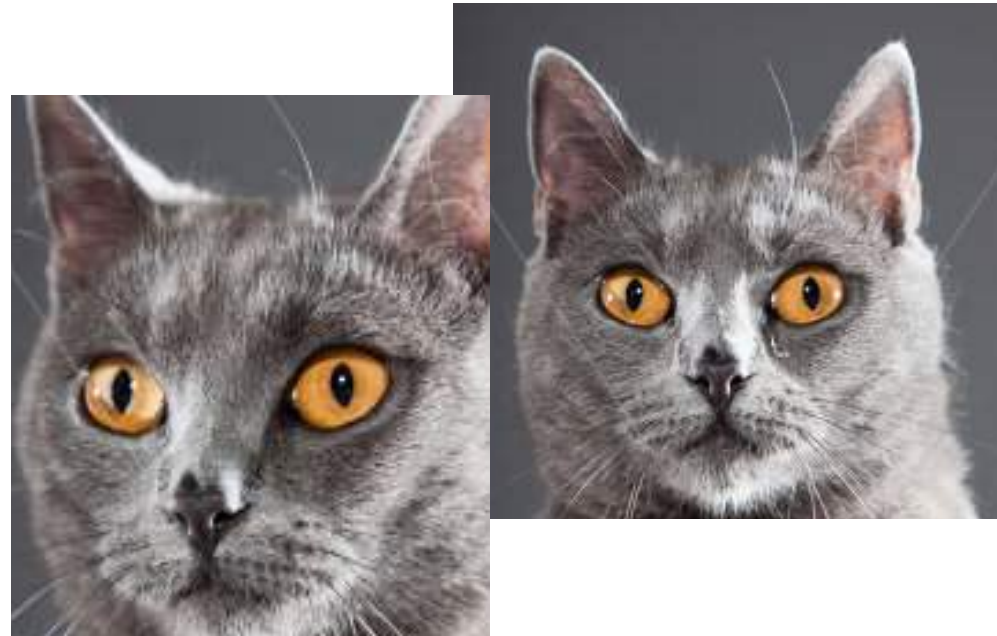
Excited



# CHARTREUX



Correct eyes.  
Note wide, open  
bone structure.



**Incorrect** almond eye.  
Note high cheek bones  
compressing eye shape.



# CHARTREUX



Correct eyes.  
Note prominent set,  
at front of face.



**Incorrect** small,  
almond shaped eyes.  
Note deep set.

# CHARTREUX

## Eye Color

- **Range is copper to gold**
- **Clear, deep, brilliant orange is preferred**

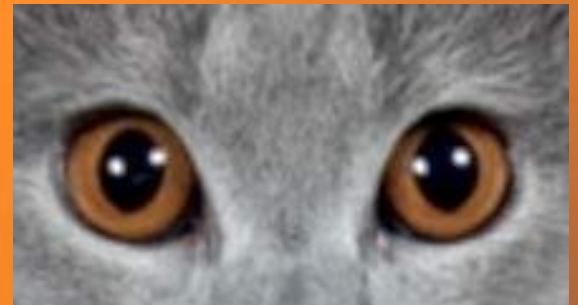
The standard specifies a range of colors. Emphasis should be placed on color clarity and intensity, rather than shade.



Gold



Orange



Copper

# CHARTREUX

## Immature



Dull, grayish  
brown

## Poor eye color



Weak gold,  
yellow



Orange with  
green ring

## Disqualify



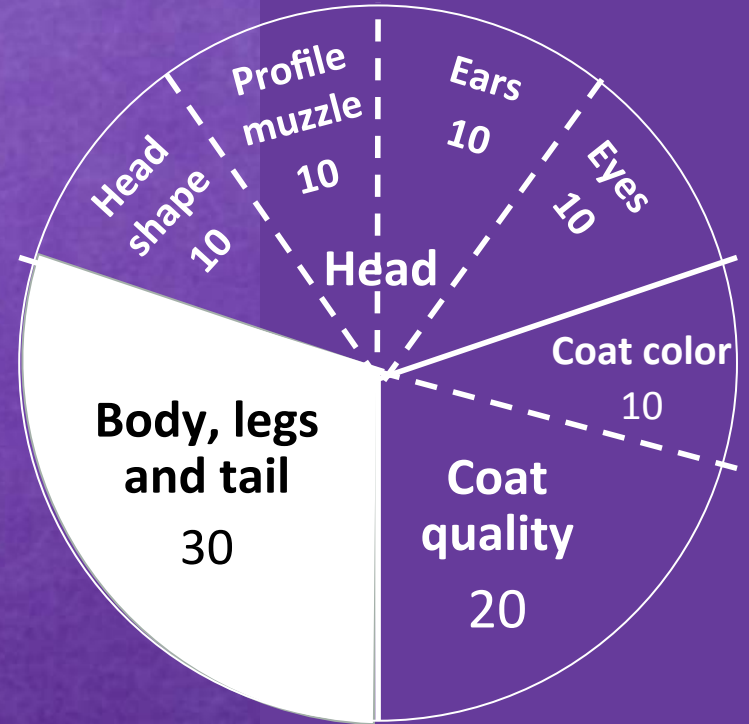
Green eyes



Note: In some older cats, especially females that have had several litters, eye color can weaken considerably. Even the most brilliant orange or copper eyes might become almost colorless or develop greenish tones.

# CHARTREUX

## Body



# CHARTREUX

## Body overview

### Shape and size: 8 points

- **Medium-long body**
- **Robust physique**
- **Broad shoulders**
- **Deep chest**
- **Females medium**
- **Males large**

### Tail: 4 points

- **Moderate length**
- **Heavy base, oval tip**
- **Lively and flexible**

### Legs and feet: 8 points

- **Legs comparatively short**
- **Straight and sturdy**
- **Feet round, medium size**
- **Feet may appear small**

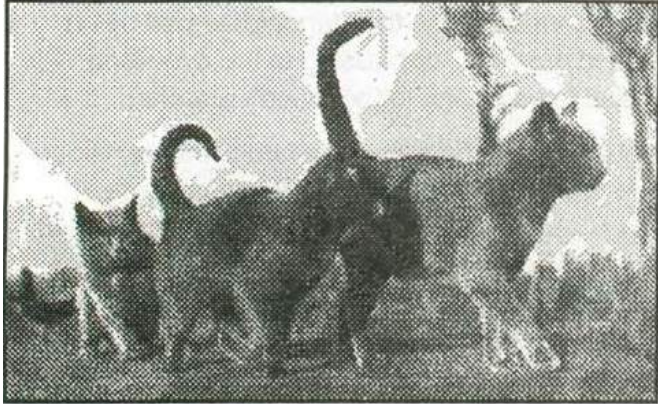
### Boning: 5 points

- **Strong boning**
- **Legs comparatively fine**

### Musculature: 5 points

- **Solid, dense**

# CHARTREUX



## Size

- **Females medium;  
males large.**

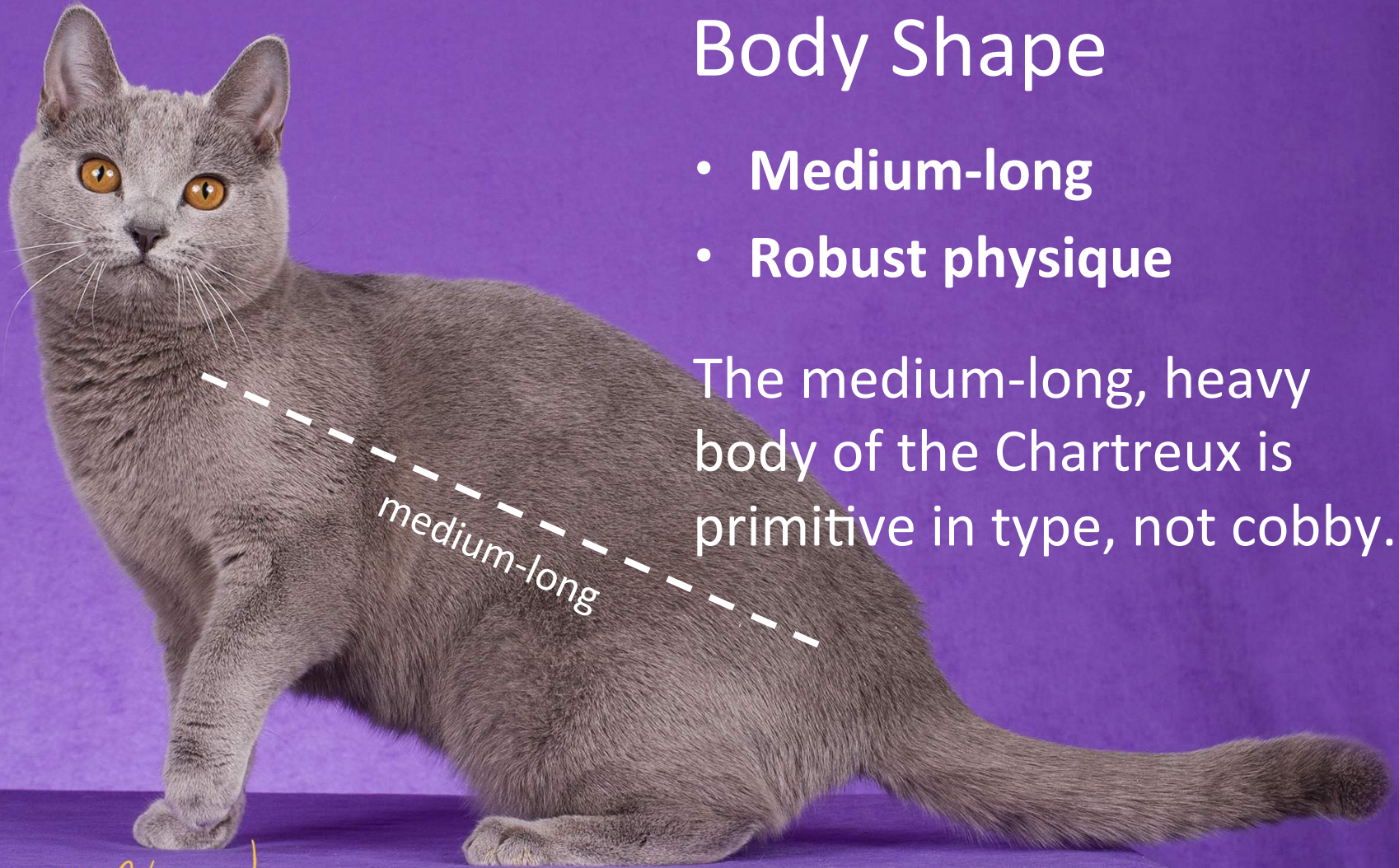
Males may be twice the size of females, and much more massive and broad, especially in the head, neck and chest. Females are medium sized and more refined. This is not an “allowance” for the female; it is specified in the standard. *Vive la différence!*

# CHARTREUX

## Body Shape

- **Medium-long**
- **Robust physique**

The medium-long, heavy body of the Chartreux is primitive in type, not cobby.

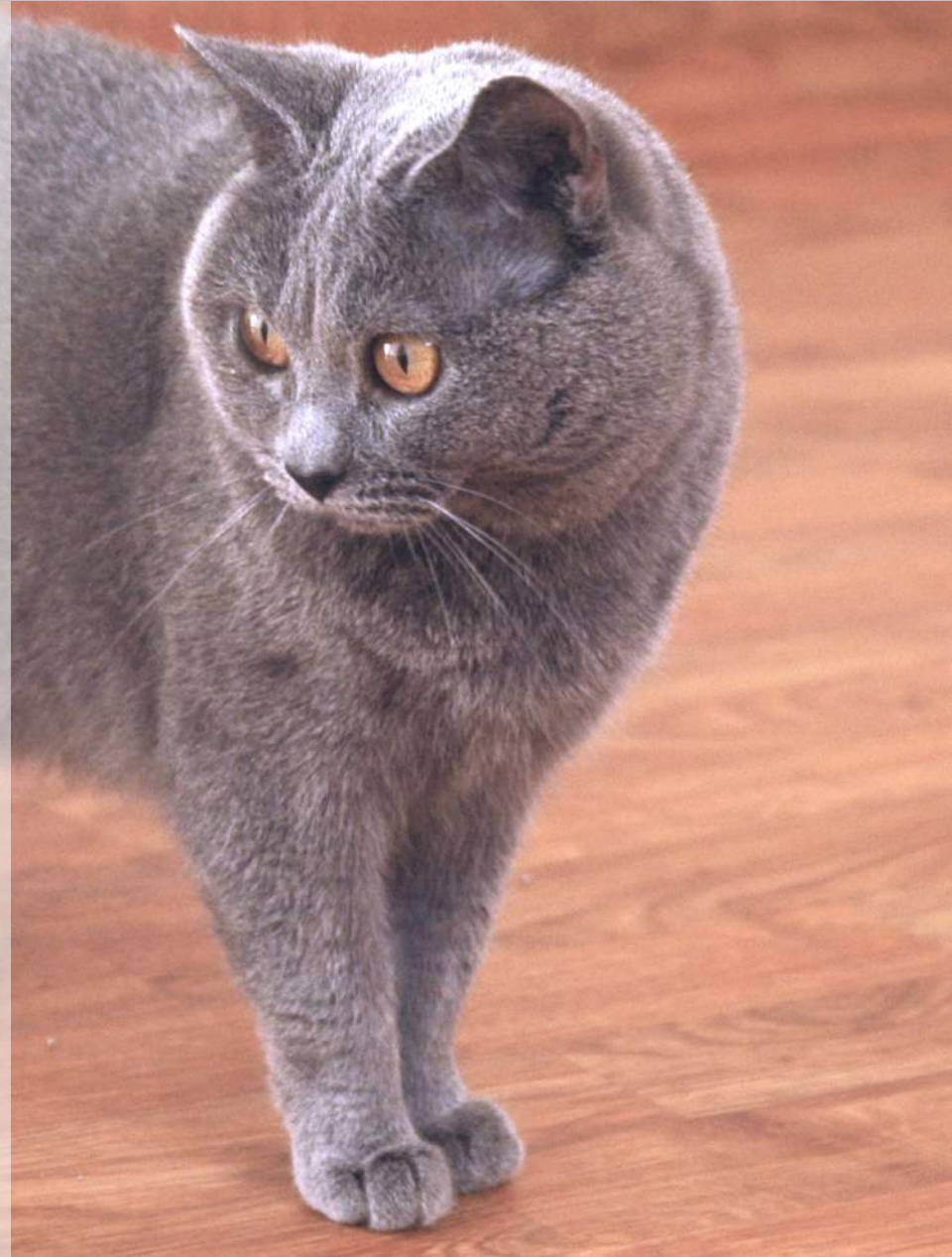


# CHARTREUX

## Legs and Feet

Contrast between legs and body is a distinctive characteristic.

- **Legs comparatively short and fine-boned**
- **Feet round, medium in size**
- **May appear almost dainty compared to body mass**



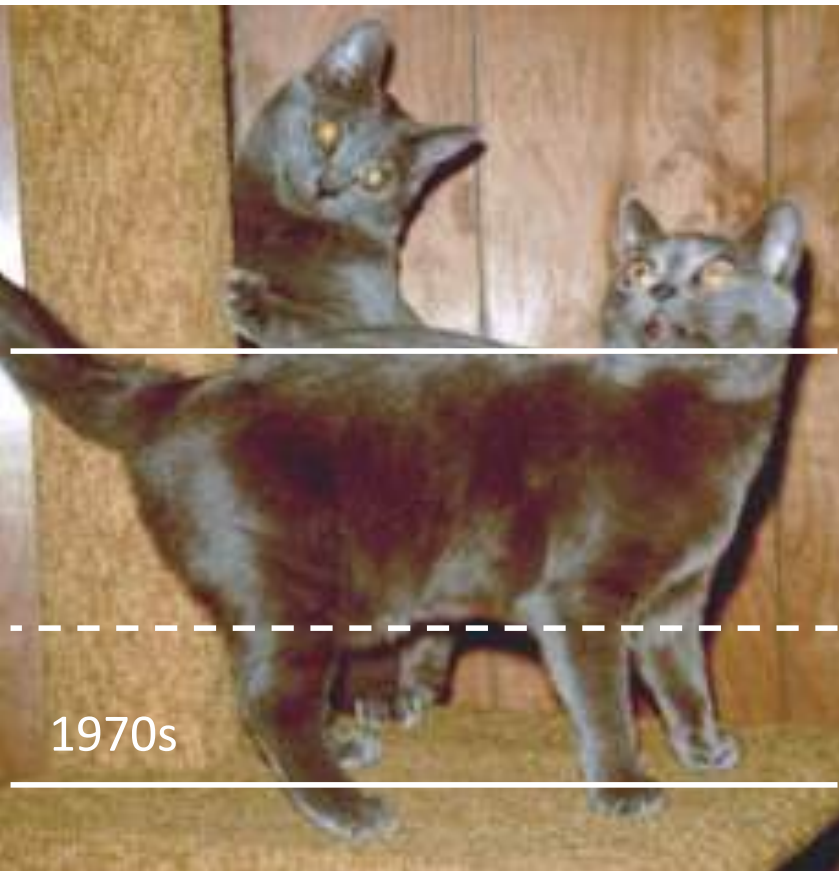


# CHARTREUX

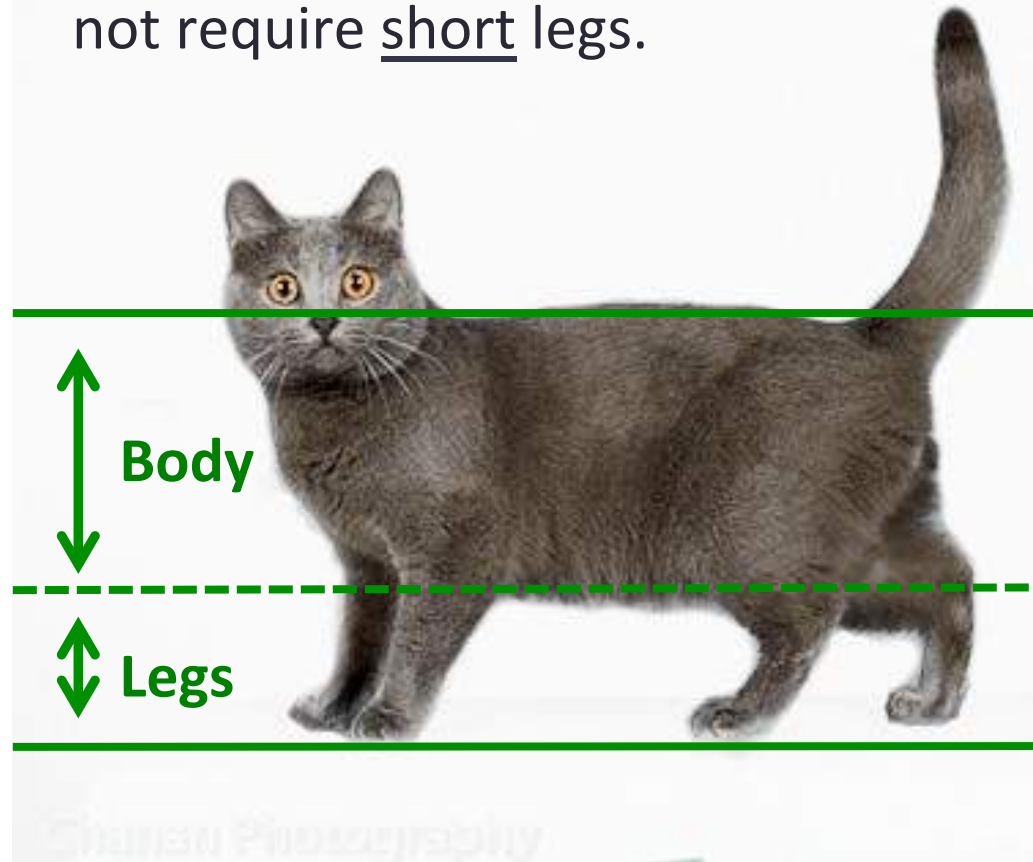


Legs are comparatively fine boned, relative to the body mass. In large, massive or mature cats, upper part of leg may be very sturdy and muscular, with legs tapering towards medium feet.

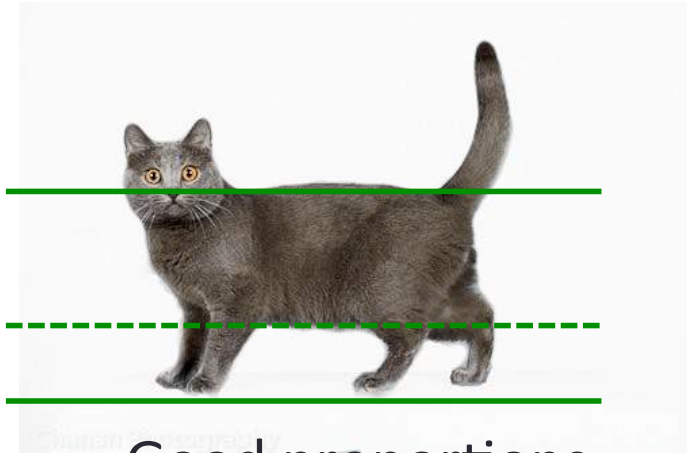
# CHARTREUX



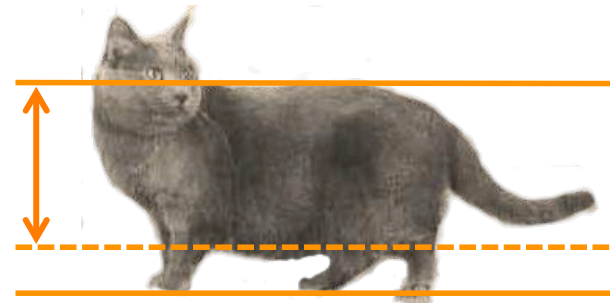
Legs are comparatively short, relative to the medium-long, deep body. The standard does not require short legs.



# CHARTREUX



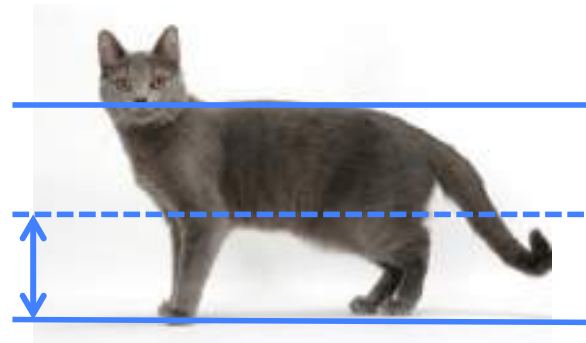
Good proportions  
Rectangular appearance



Extreme proportions due to  
overweight, not desirable



Long legs, body too short  
Square appearance



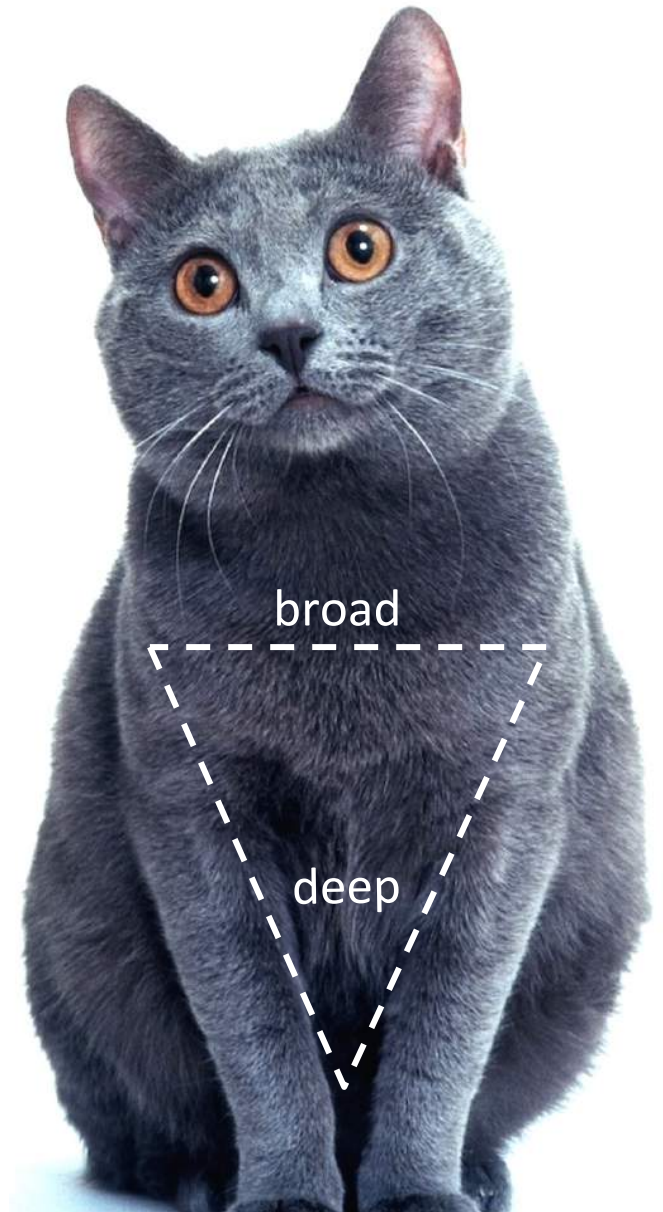
Legs too long, may occur in  
adolescent "lanky" phase

# CHARTREUX

- **Broad shoulders**
- **Deep chest**

Chartreux often sit or stand with the relatively small front feet close together, giving the front of the cat a somewhat triangular shape.

Look for breadth at the shoulders and upper part of the chest.



# CHARTREUX



Adult males with broad shoulders and deep chests; both are very handsome. The male on right has a more square lower chest, with legs set apart. This is equally correct, not required by the standard.

# CHARTREUX

Both sexes broaden in the head, neck and chest as they reach full maturity, but this is most dramatic in the males.



Young adult males with good structure.

Mature male.

# CHARTREUX



Young adult females with good structure. Note how their broad shoulders strongly contrast with refined legs and feet.



Incorrect front: narrow build, shallow chest, long legs, large feet.

# CHARTREUX

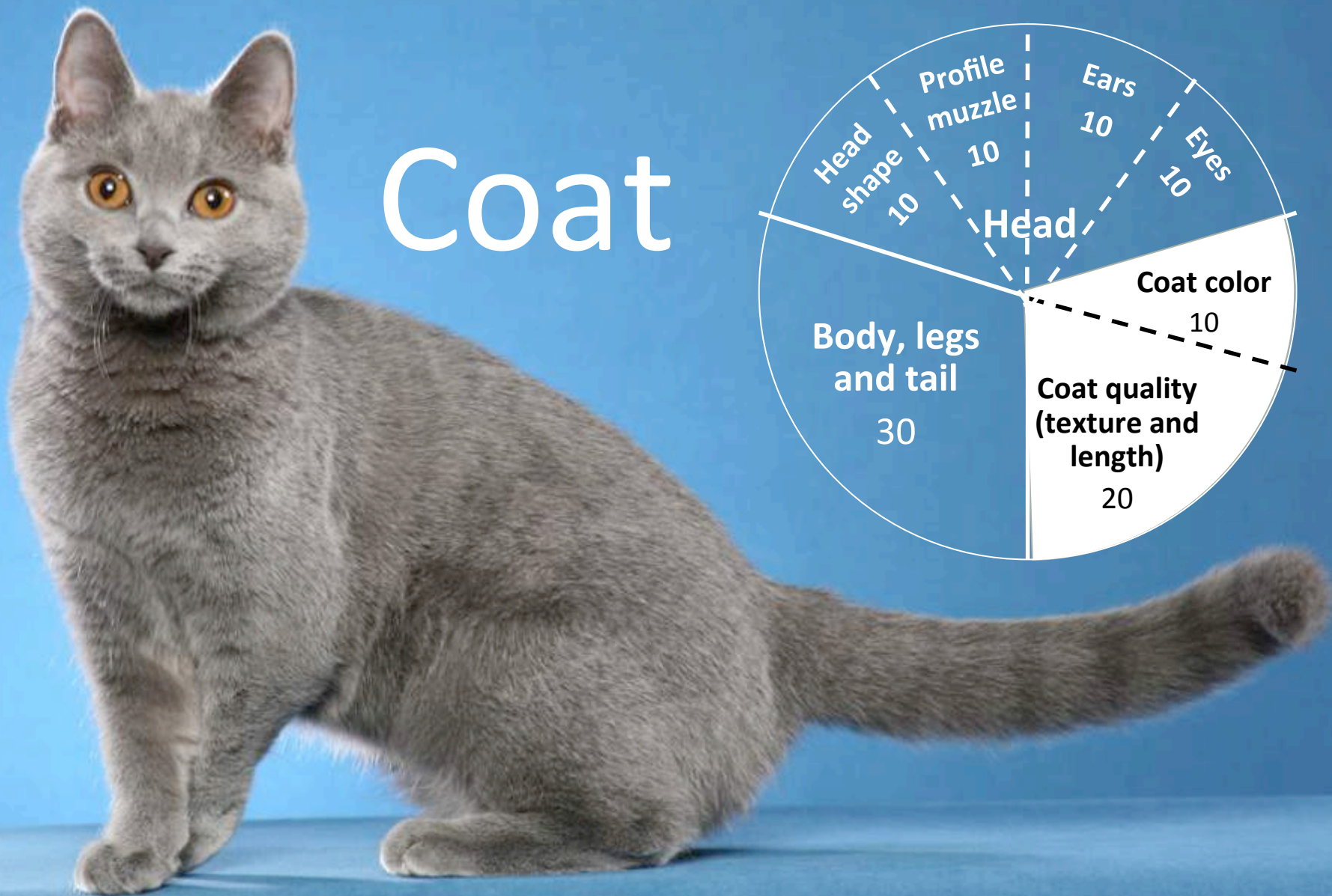
## Tail

- Moderate length;
- Heavy at base, tapering to oval tip.
- Lively and flexible.

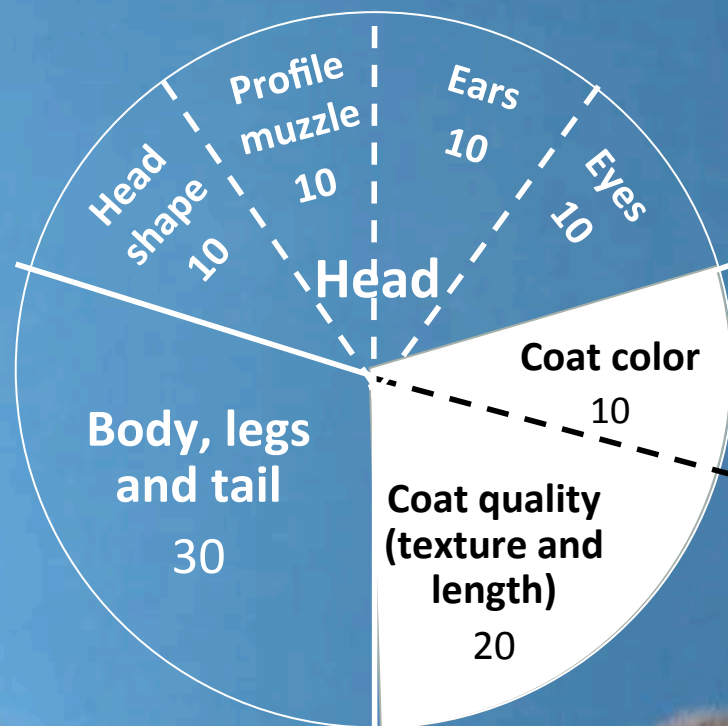




# CHARTREUX



## Coat



# CHARTREUX

## Texture / Length

- **Medium-short**
- **Slightly woolly**
- **Breaks like sheepskin**
- **Resilient undercoat; longer, protective topcoat.**



# CHARTREUX

Texture of the coat is more important than how much coat there is, or how much the coat appears to break.



Correct coat should feel substantial, not light and fluffy, with a perceptible difference between dense, woolly undercoat and slightly longer, protective top coat.

# CHARTREUX

- Degree of woolliness depends on age, sex and habitat, mature males exhibiting the heaviest coats.
- Silkier, thinner coat permitted on females and cats under two years.



# CHARTREUX

Young female with  
soft, silky coat



Male with well-developed  
woolly coat texture



# CHARTREUX

Fully developed woolly coat texture in a mature cat over 5 years old (also, typical behavior of the mature adult)



# CHARTREUX

Longhaired kittens are occasionally seen in Chartreux litters.

We do not want to see this promoted or perpetuated.

Long hair is a fault, like a tail kink. These cats can be cute pets, but should not be used in a breeding program.



Long hair is not historically correct for the Chartreux. It was probably introduced by a few isolated outcrosses that are known to have had Persian heritage.

# CHARTREUX

## Coat Color

- **Any shade of blue-gray from ash to slate; tips lightly brushed with silver.**
- **Emphasis on clarity and uniformity rather than shade.**
- **Preferred tone is a bright, unblemished blue with an overall iridescent sheen.**

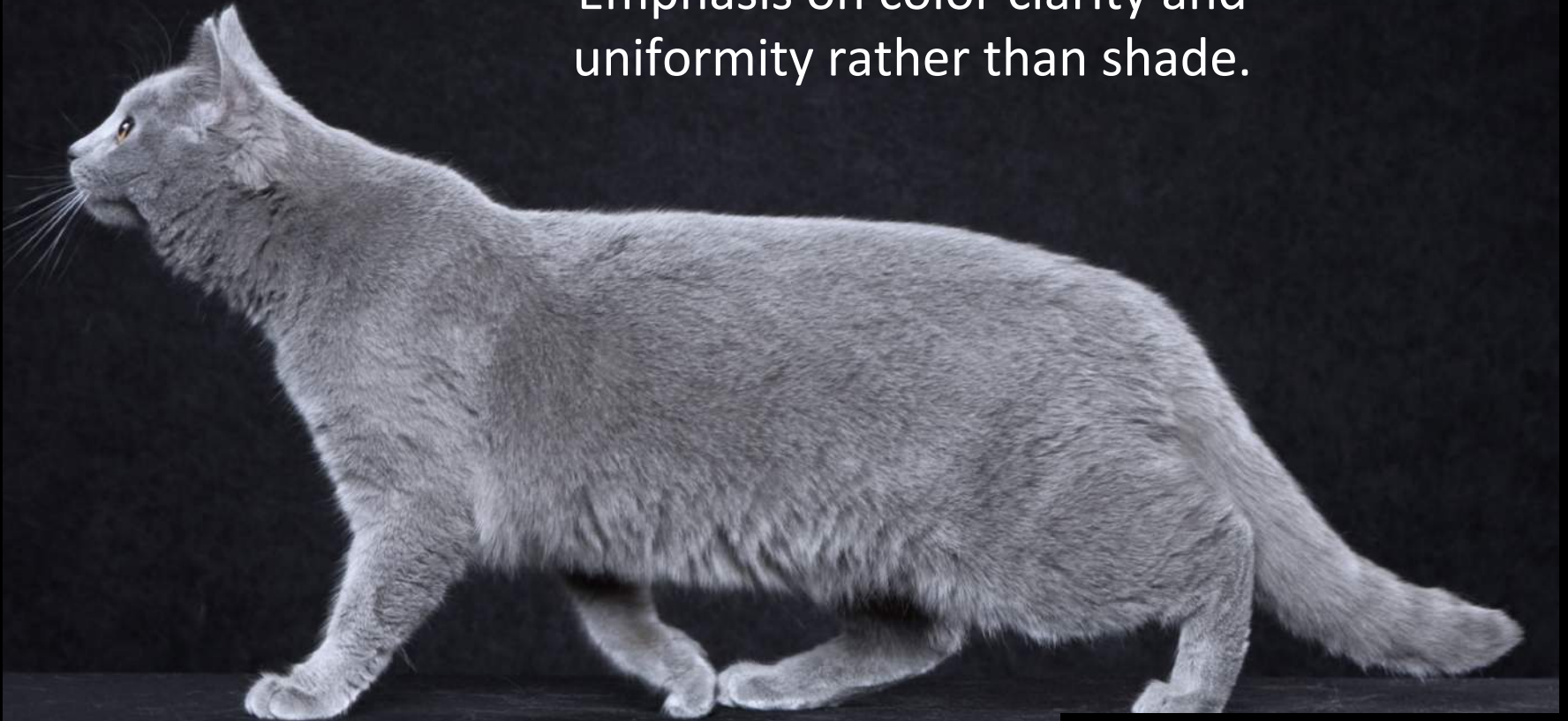




# CHARTREUX

Ash blue.

Emphasis on color clarity and uniformity rather than shade.



# CHARTREUX

Slate blue.

Emphasis on color clarity and uniformity rather than shade.



# CHARTREUX



Bright blue with excellent clarity and uniformity.

# CHARTREUX

- Nose leather slate gray
- Lips blue
- Paw pads rose-taupe



# CHARTREUX



Allowance made for ghost barring in kittens and tail rings in juveniles under two years of age.

# CHARTREUX

## Growth and development

Bone growth in the Chartreux continues for about 15 months. Most young adults seen in the show hall are still growing.

Development continues until about 3-4 years for females, and 4-5 years for males.



# CHARTREUX

The rate and pattern of development can vary greatly. These are both 5 month old males. The kitten on the left is already much more mature in head, body and coat. Both development rates are normal.



# CHARTREUX



Male pictured as a kitten, adolescent, and young adult. He will continue to mature until he is 4-5 years of age.



# CHARTREUX

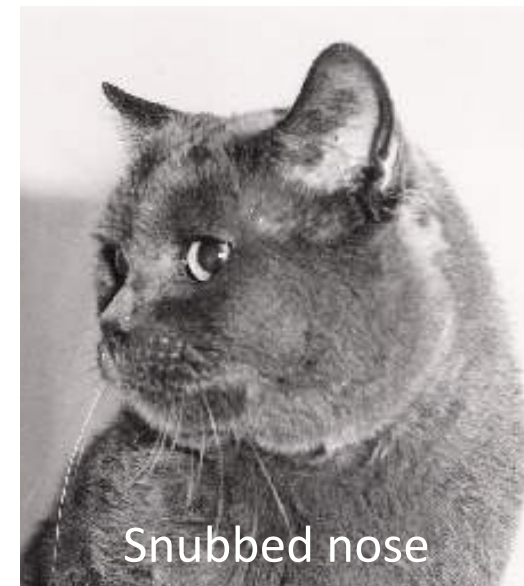


Female pictured at different ages, showing awkward adolescent stage and development of head, body and coat – particularly coat texture.

# CHARTREUX

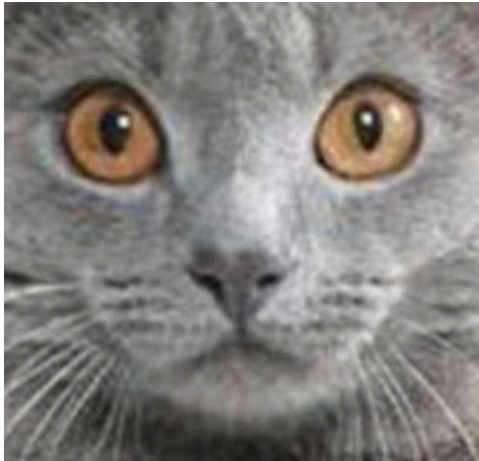
## Penalize

- Snubbed or upturned nose, nose break
- Broad, heavy muzzle
- Palpable tail defect
- Eyes too close together giving angry look



# CHARTREUX

The standard penalizes faults in the nose and muzzle because these features are important to distinguish the Chartreux from other breeds.



Chartreux nose and muzzle when seen from the front.



Penalize **snubbed or upturned nose.**

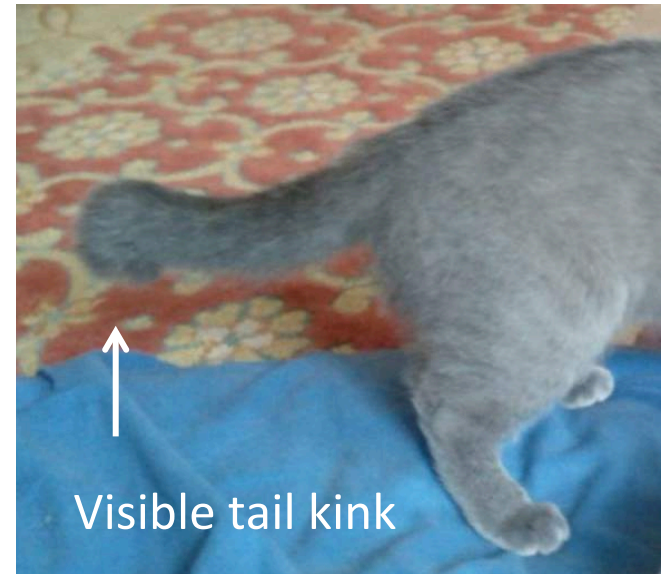
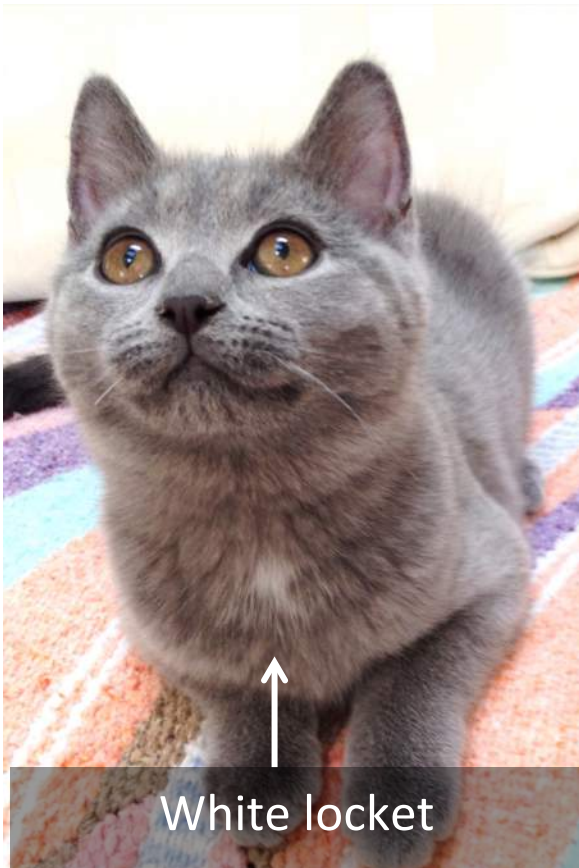


Penalize **broad, heavy muzzle.**

# CHARTREUX

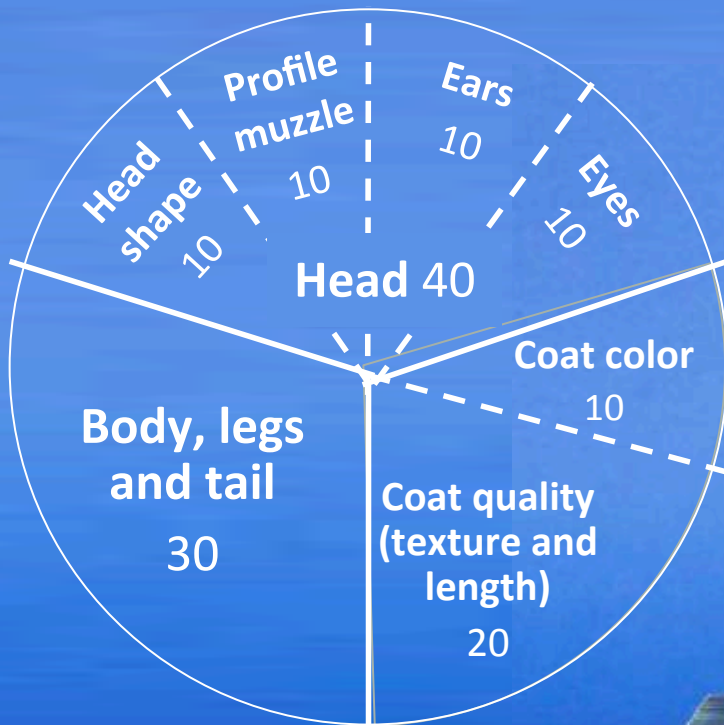
## Disqualify

- **White locket**
- **Green eyes**
- **Visible tail kink**
- **Any signs of lameness in the hindquarters**



# CHARTREUX

Any questions?



# CHARTREUX

**We owe our North American Chartreux bloodlines to the dedicated efforts of more than 100 breeders since 1970.**

**Acadia** Eva & Glenn Veprek

**Ajolie** Dru Milligan & Jolie Stratton

**Ami** Bill & Pauly Schumacher

**Amoureuse** Don & Luci Koizumi

**Aneise** Jessie Strike-McClelland

**Ange Bleue** Barbara Witten

**Arista** Genevieve Scudder

**Ashmanor** Debbie Rexelle

**Azurhills** Marilyn Lidner

**Backcountry** Mary Rathbun

**Bas-Bleu** Erika Stuart & Jonathan  
Feinstein

**Beanerie** Michelle Jockers

**Belleisle** Penny Rice

**Bellereve** Larry and Brennie Brackett

**Bergebleu** cattery

**Biboux** cattery

**Bienaimebleu** Lynda Kaczmarski

**Bijou Bleu** Denis & Roxane Hettinger

**Blandings** John & Linda Dolan

**Blaukatzen** Jerry Auerbach

**Bleujeanne** Jeanne Johnson

**Bleujoie** Jaye Clark

**Bleukitears** Valerie Griffiths

# CHARTREUX

**Bleumime** Bob & Sally Walden

**Blue Topaz** Bob & Jean Novak

**Bluebijou** Carol & Doug Menzel

**Bluetreasure** Yasuko Tabata

**Bo-Wood** Oattie Wood

**Cabaret** Pauly Evans

**Capitolcats** LeAnn Harner

**Carchet** Carole McFadden

**Carignan** Susan Raisbeck

**Carthusian** Jill Rasmussen & Roy Horine

**Cestbonvin** Pam Sharp

**Champetz** Rich Ketz

**Chanson Bleu** Judy Belden

**Charleval** Sandi & Harlee Patrick

**Charmeuse** Bill & Susan Lee

**Chartres** Chuck Murphy

**Chateaubleu** Fred Andrews

**Chatelaine** Elaine Boyle

**Chatton** Sue Herhold-Helmke

**Chazy** Joan Steffen

**Cherokeetrails** Bea Latham

**Ciara** Lindajean Grillo

**Clervaux** Christine Fuge

**Colette** Travis Black

**Colorfield** cattery

**Columbleu** Sherrie Zabriskie

**Dahozho** Jean Kelley

**Del Sogno Blu** Katia Pocci

**Dressedinblue** Jose & Claudia Link

**Fiorire** Kiyoko Kobayashi

# CHARTREUX

**Forever-Moor** Barbara Moore

**Fourth Paw** Pat Klein

**Foxykats** Kathy Black

**Frenchcon** Roy Horine

**Galazur** Pat Gallaway

**Gallois** Doug Welsh

**Gamonal** Helen Gamon

**Gato Azul** Christine Rosenfield

**Gordonstoun** Artie & Anne Boyle

**Grandbois** Nancy Dionne

**Gwyneddmews** Joyce Gusky

**Houseofblues** Dennis Giannoni &  
Maria Yaneza

**Idlemaine** Pat Idleman

**Jacquelnjil** Jill Rasmussen

**Janvier** Mary Ann Sweeters

**Jewllz** Karen Godwin

**Jouvencebleu** Monte & Robin Phillips

**Katmanbleu** Hank & Lisa Tanner

**Katoklix** Marcus & Gena Click

**LeBeauYeux** Kay Kimble

**LeCompagnon** Dave Hadley

**Les Plushes** Akiko Ishimura

**Longview** Mary Super

**Lutece** Orca Starbuck

**Luxueux** Dawn Varney

**Mabuhay** Carla Bizzell

**Maison DuKat** Mark & Linda Humpage

**Mercimono** Yoko Kobayashi

**Minoux** Donna & Jennifer Salyer



# CHARTREUX

**Misty Vale** cattery

**Moranimals** Jamie Moran

**Moumoune** Andrea Hawkins

**Neufchatel** cattery

**Nounoursbleu** Lenore Scallan

**Quatrepaws** Dick & Shelly Irwin

**Re Desiderio** Nicoletta Magno

**Rivierebleue** Patti & Dave Schwartz

**Rumtumtugger** Bob & Karen Wilson

**Sai-Ban** cattery

**Sandfire** Ken and Donna Ray

**Sheenahs** Shirley Rosenberg

**Sinaye** Denise & Jerry Williams

**Soleillevant** Tamaki Nishida

**Sourirbleu** Gina Wiley Lehman

**Steppenbleu** Stephanie Pendleton

**Tellacats** Suzanne Tell

**Tiarableu** Debbi Jo Smith

**Treux Bleux** Richard Bressler

**Valleyvideo** David & Alexis MacPherson

**Velure** Kitty Kisrow

**Vincent** Pierre Vincent

**Webefrench** Jean Rostonski

**Win-Cal** John Burch

Helen Berryman

Ken & Claire Stevens

Ruth Brady