

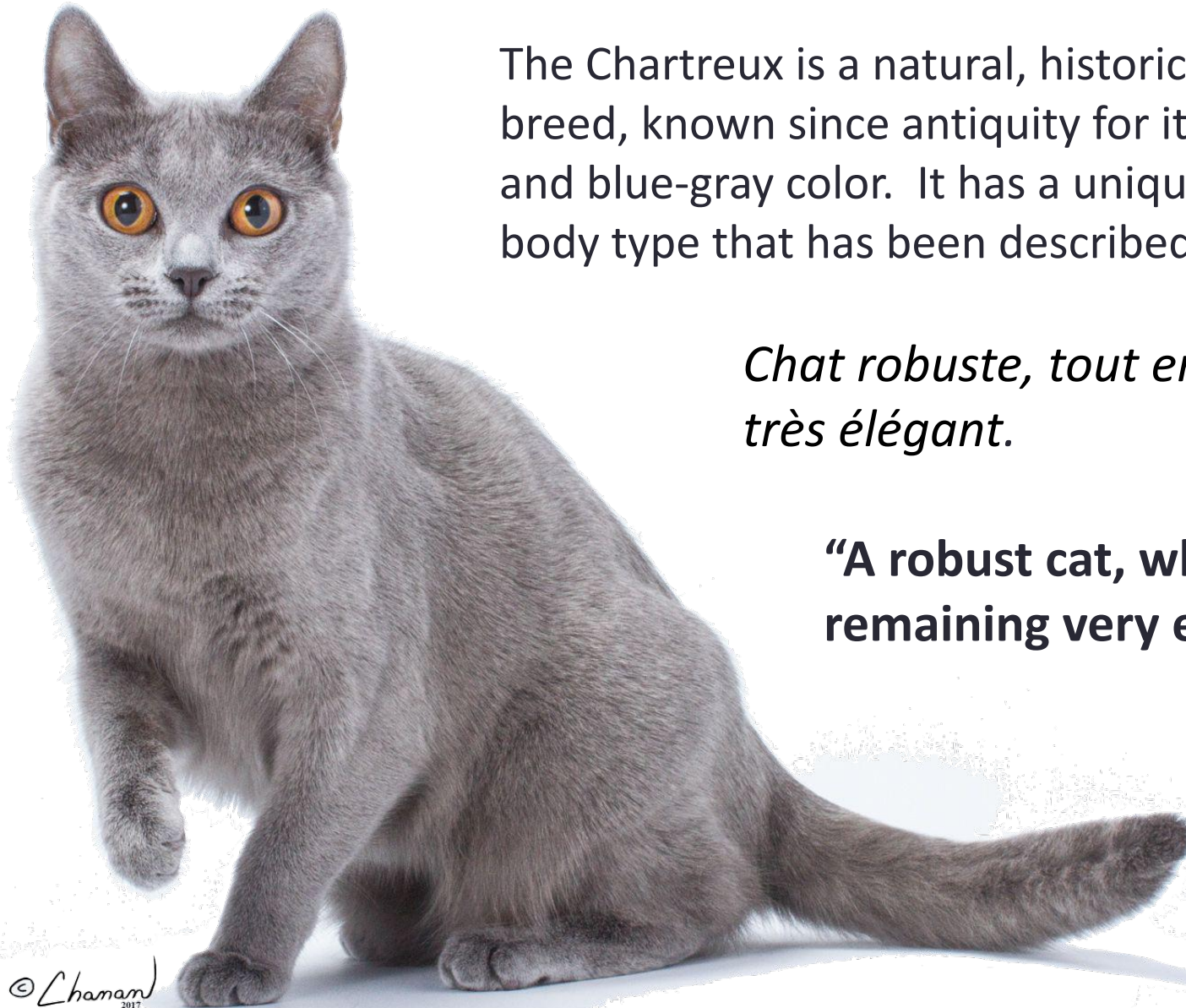


Chartreux Breed Presentation

CFA Judges Workshop, October 2021

Orca Starbuck, CFA Chartreux Breed Council secretary

CHARTREUX



The Chartreux is a natural, historic French breed, known since antiquity for its woolly coat and blue-gray color. It has a unique head and body type that has been described as follows:

Chat robuste, tout en restant très élégant.

“A robust cat, while remaining very elegant.”

CHARTREUX

1747 painting

A legend dating back to the 18th century says that this breed was developed by Carthusian monks. Although the monks have no records of raising cats, we can say that this breed's quiet, companionable temperament would have been well suited for monastic life.



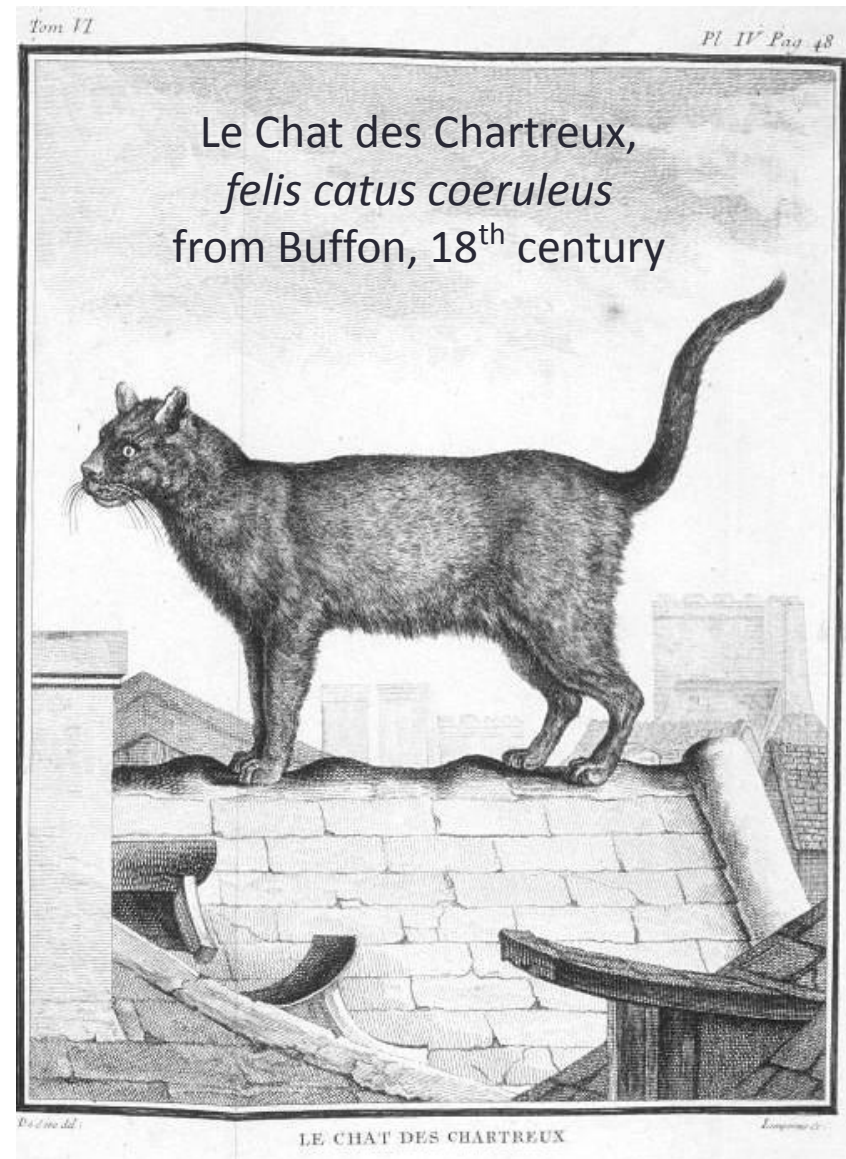
La Grande Chartreuse
monastery near Grenoble



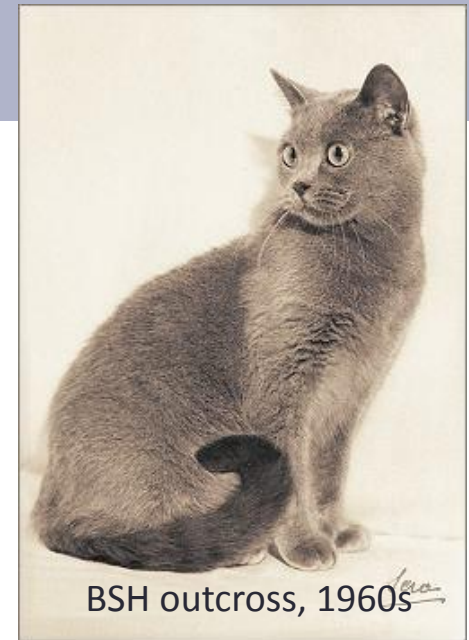
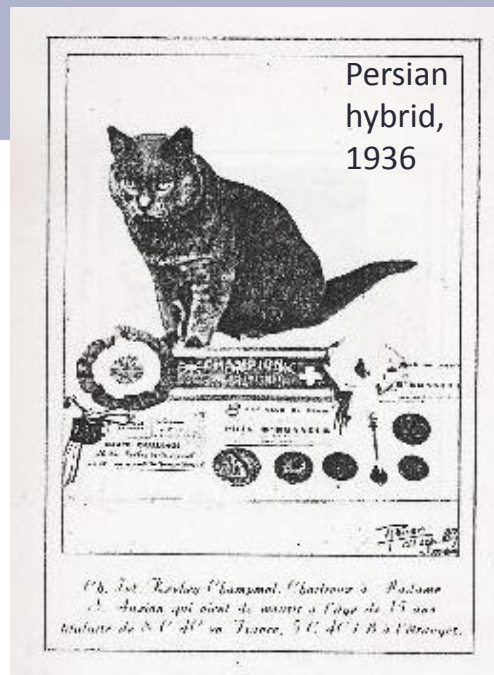
CHARTREUX



Selective breeding began in the 1920s, based on French blue cats found in natural colonies. These original cats were muscular, yet very elegant in type, similar to this 18th century engraving.



CHARTREUX



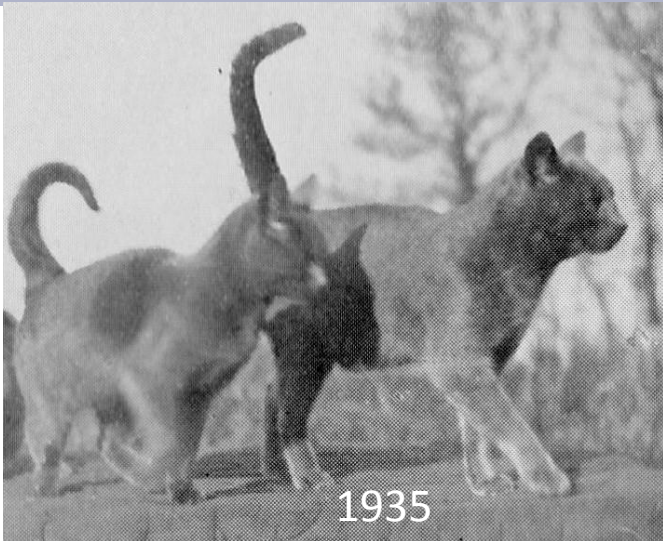
Outcrosses were used in some European breeding programs between the 1930s-1980s:

- Persian, beginning in 1936
- British Shorthair, beginning in 1960

Persian and BSH influence made some bloodlines more heavy and stocky in type, compared to the original native blue cats. This led to the breed's unique identity being threatened during the 1970s, when FIFe briefly combined the Chartreux and British Shorthair under one standard.

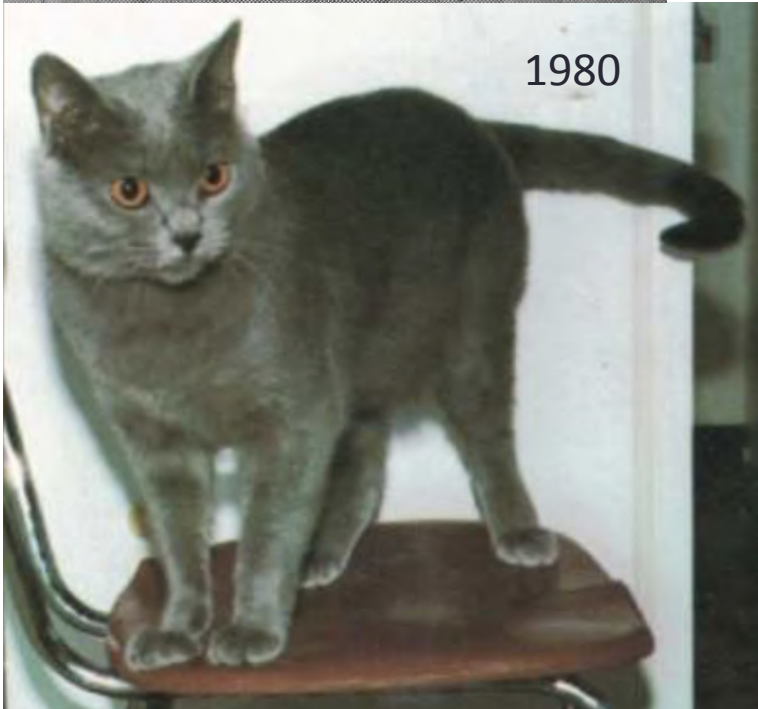
Breeders today strive to minimize the influence of these outcrosses.

CHARTREUX



By the late 1970s / early 1980s, the breed was again established with its own unique standard.

This is a **robust**, muscular cat, still retaining the **elegance** of the original native French cats.



CHARTREUX

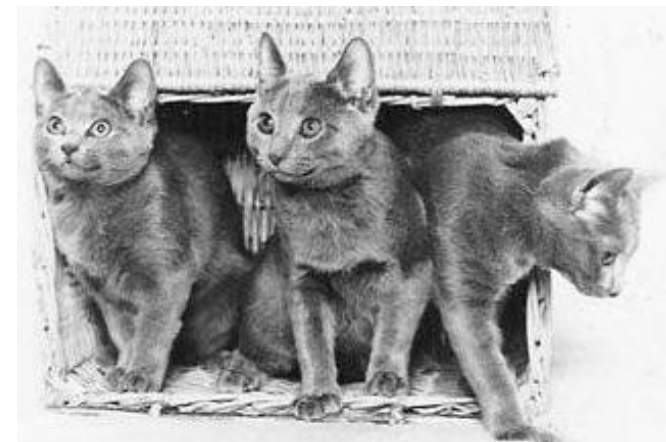
First Chartreux imported to the US, 1970.

Advanced to CFA championship, 1987.

The CFA breed standard has remained nearly unchanged over the years.

We do not want to see this breed change or become more extreme or exaggerated.

Many cats from the 1970s / 1980s are still some of the best examples of the breed, and are used as references throughout this presentation.



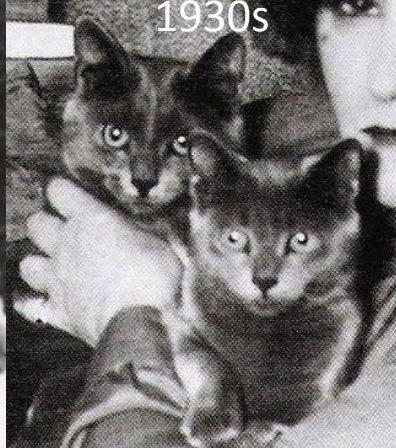
Kittens born in 1975



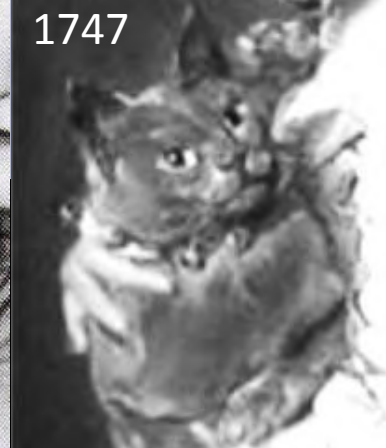
1957



1940s



1930s



1747



2013

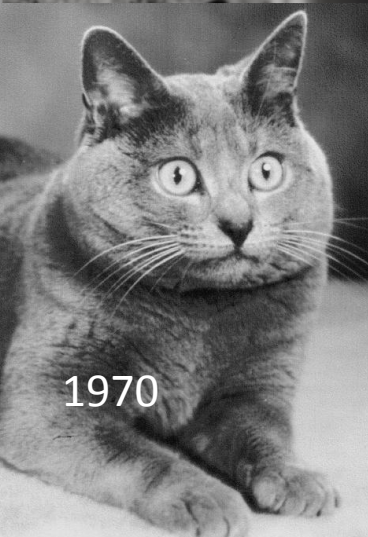


1960

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



2005



1970



1978



1983



1993



1998

CHARTREUX

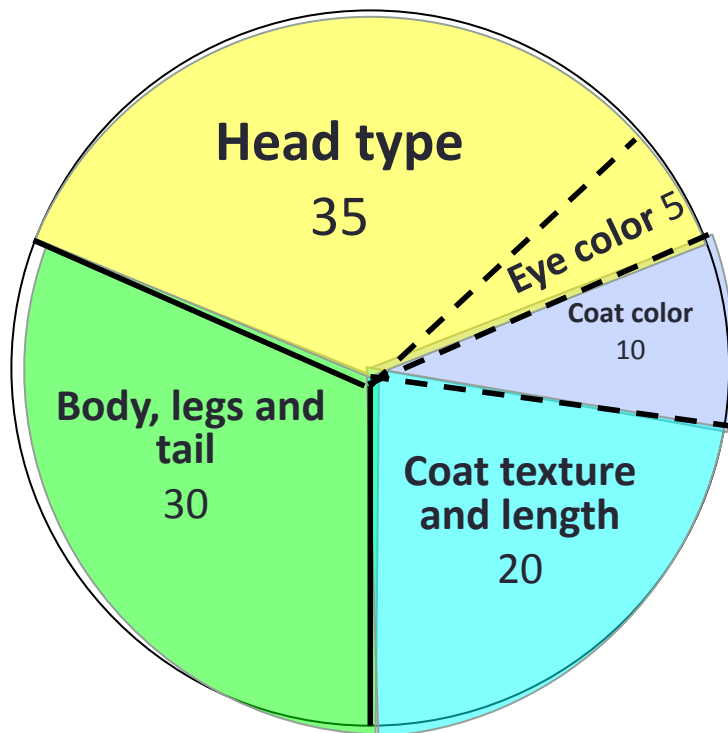
Keep in mind when considering the Chartreux standard:

- Our standard combines elements of both **strength** and **elegance**. This breed has its own sense of “balance” and harmony.
- Males and females are supposed to look quite different in this breed (**sexual dimorphism**). The standard is not written for the males or the females; each sex has its own advantages. Males tend to be more robust, females more refined.
- This is a **slow developing**, double coated breed. Our standard includes a number of allowances for age, sex, season, and habitat, particularly when considering the coat.

CHARTREUX

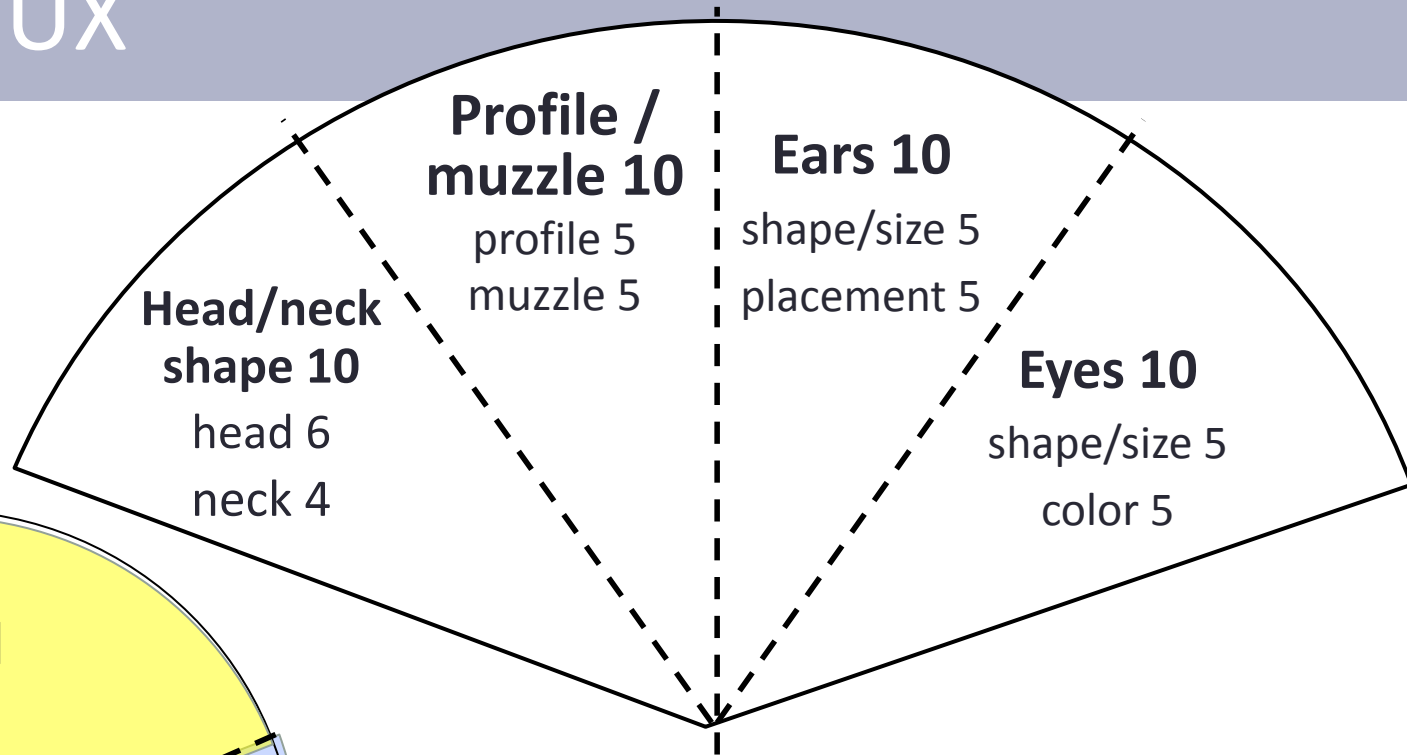
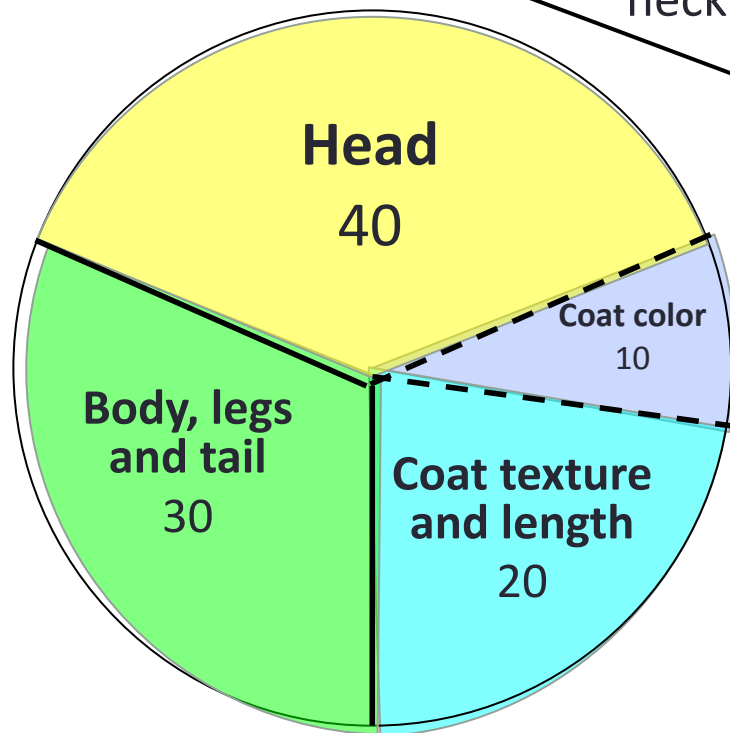
Point Allocation

The point allocation in the Chartreux standard has a lot of small parts. To make it easier to remember, it can be helpful to simplify the point allocation, grouping the points for eye color with the head.



HEAD (35)	
Shape and size	6
Profile/nose	5
Muzzle.....	5
Ear shape and size	5
Ear placement	5
Eye shape and size	5
Neck.....	4
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

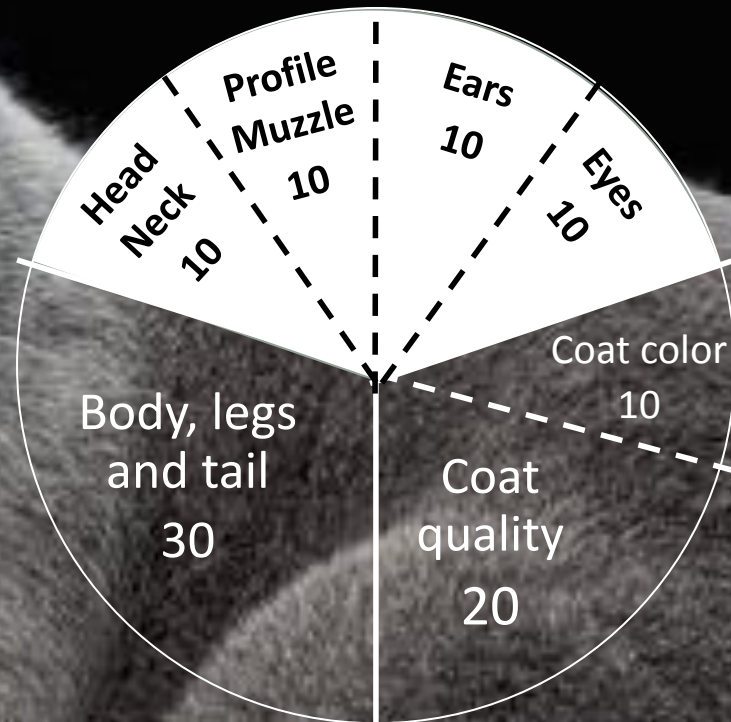


With this simplification, the priorities for this breed are as follows:

1. **Head (40)**
 - a. Head/neck shape (10)
 - b. Profile/muzzle (10)
 - c. Ears (10)
 - d. Eyes (10)
2. **Body, legs, and tail (30)**
3. **Coat texture and length (20)**
4. **Coat color (10)**

CHARTREUX

The Chartreux head is unique and distinctive. With 40 total points, it is also the most important part of our breed standard.



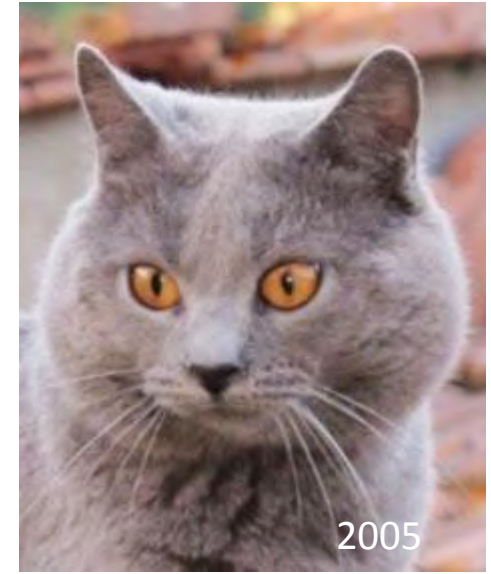
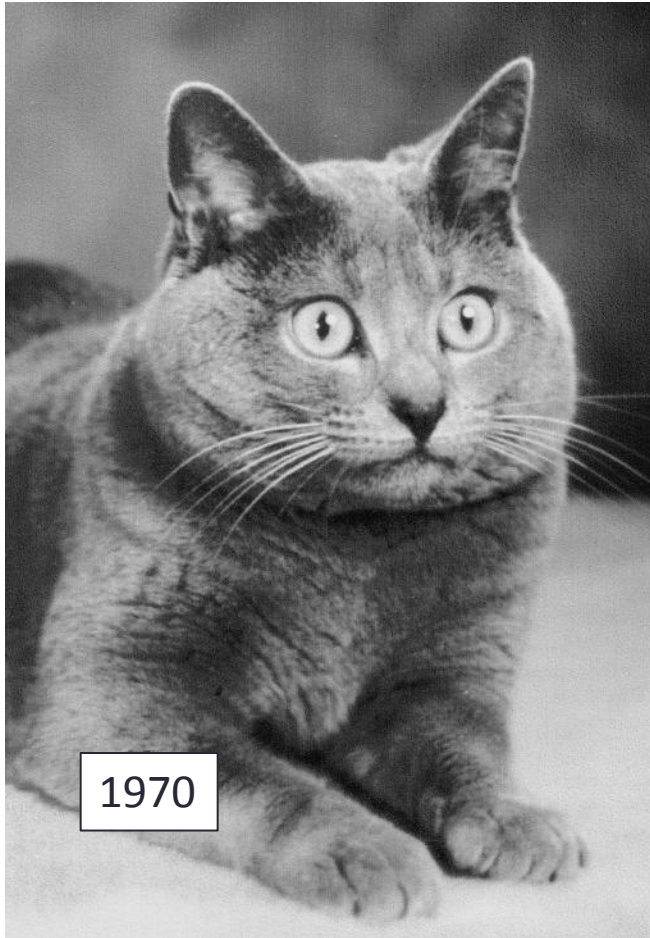
CHARTREUX

Head Shape

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

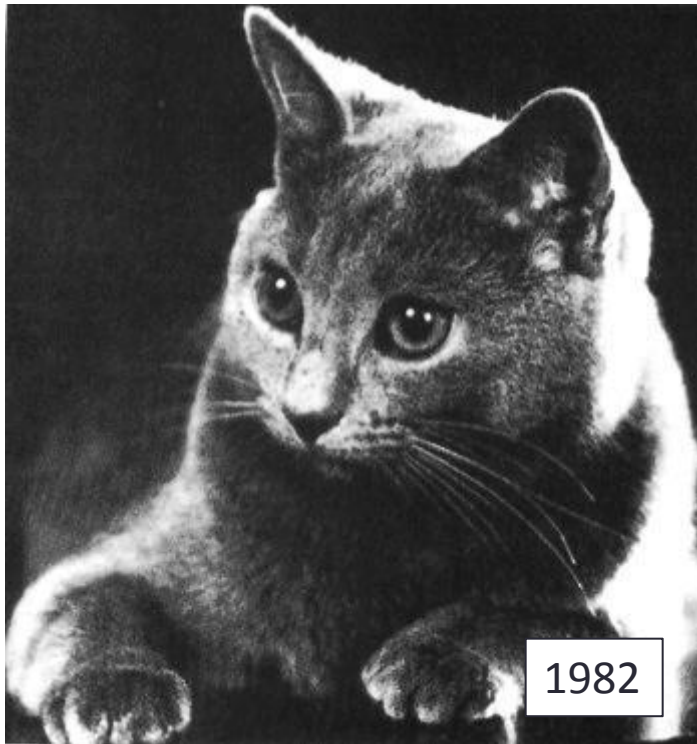


CHARTREUX



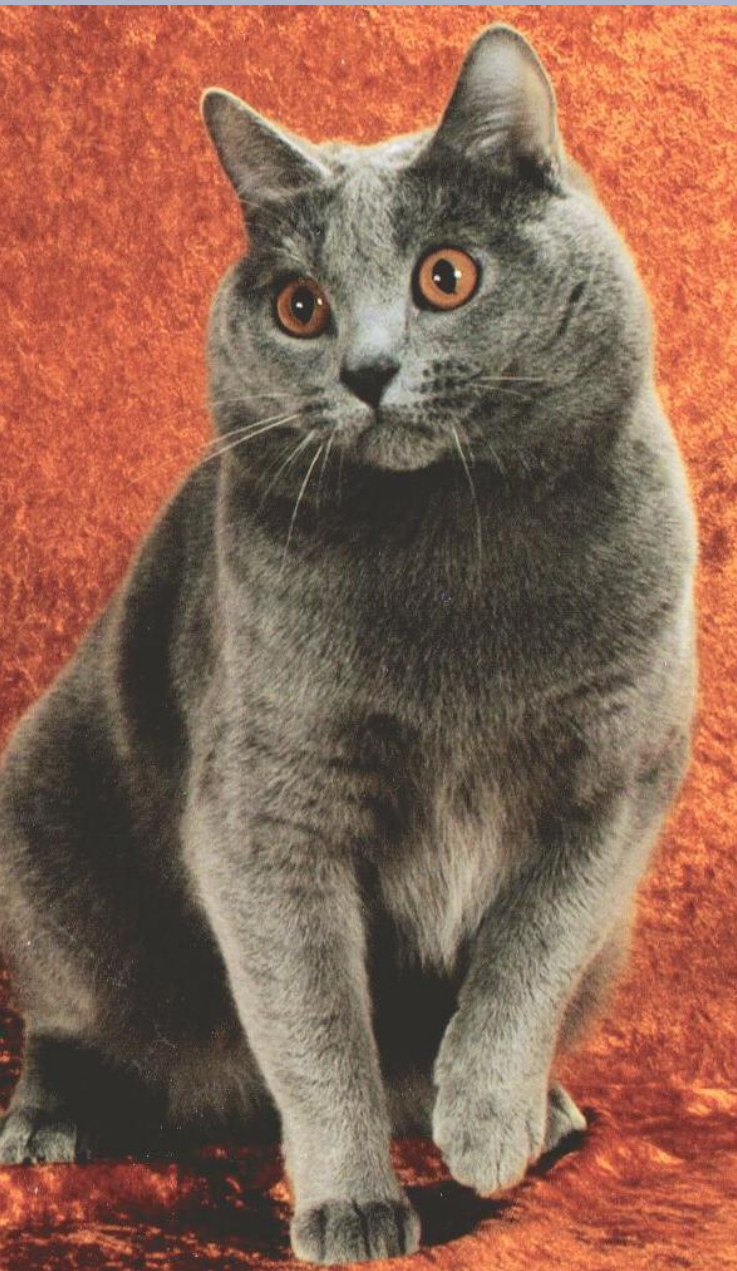
The male's head is broad at eye level, with heavy jowls developing with maturity. Whole males may have very large heads that give the cat a lion-like appearance.

CHARTREUX



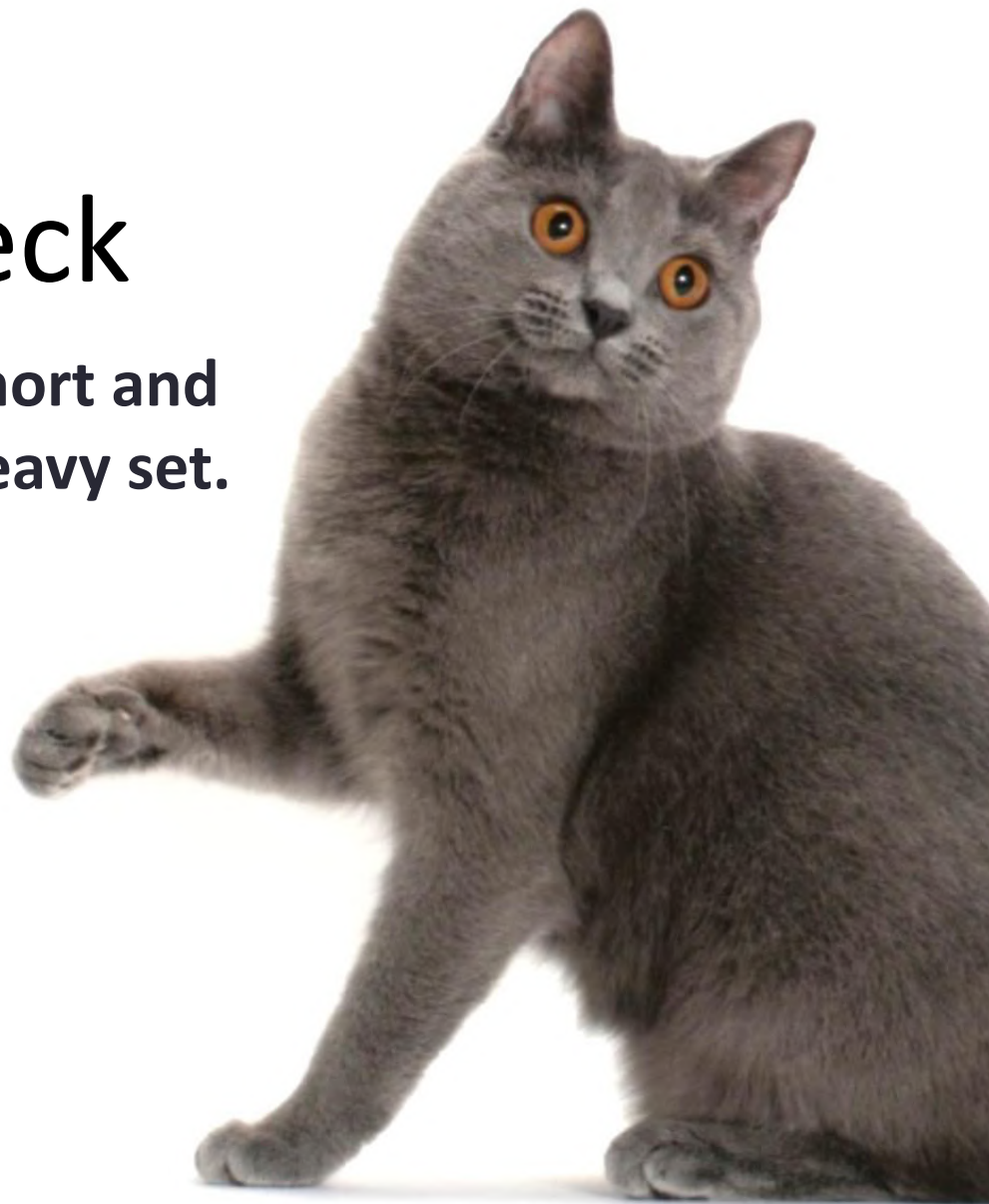
Females do not have the heavy jowls, but the head should still be substantial, broad at eye level, with full cheeks.

CHARTREUX



Neck

- Short and heavy set.

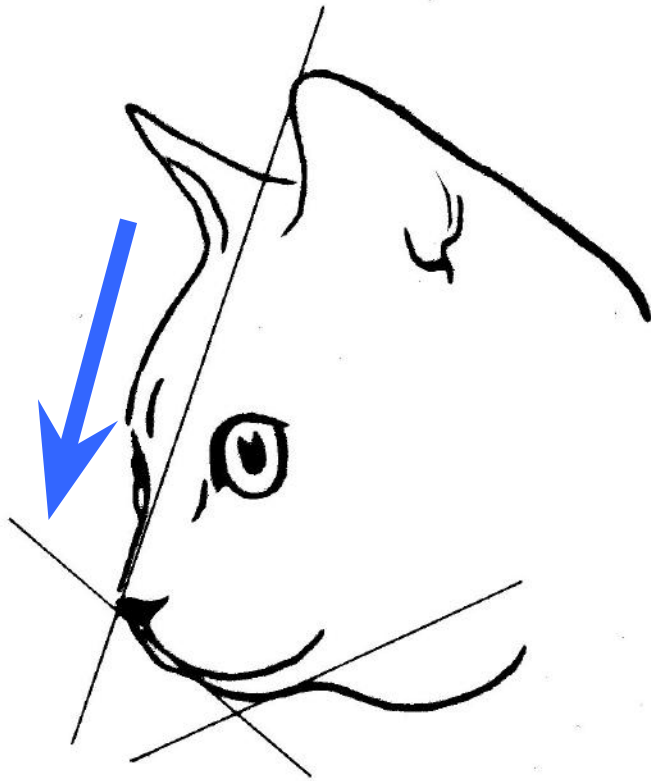


Profile

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

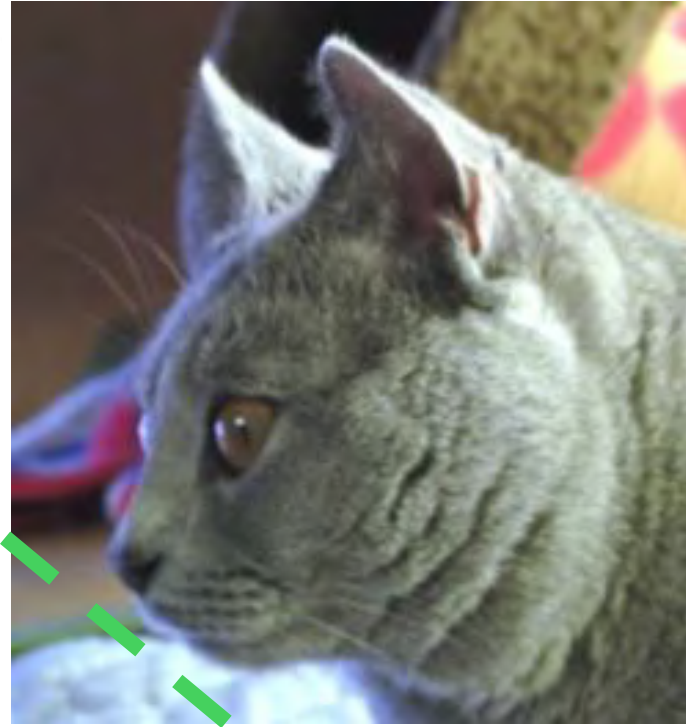
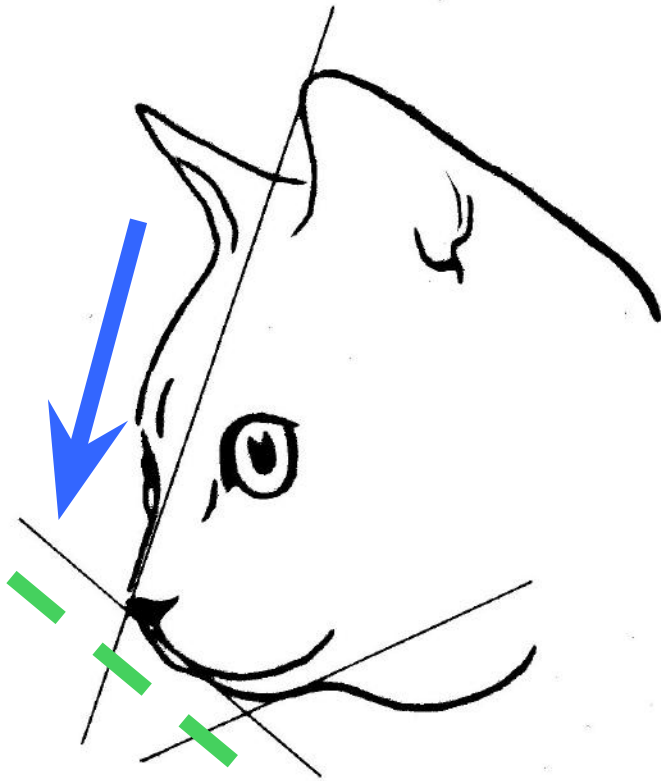


CHARTREUX



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

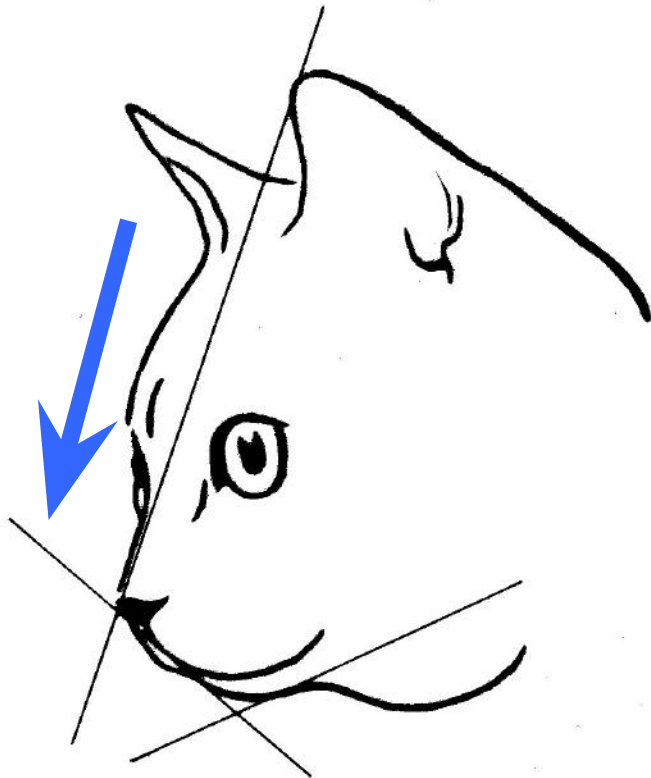
CHARTREUX



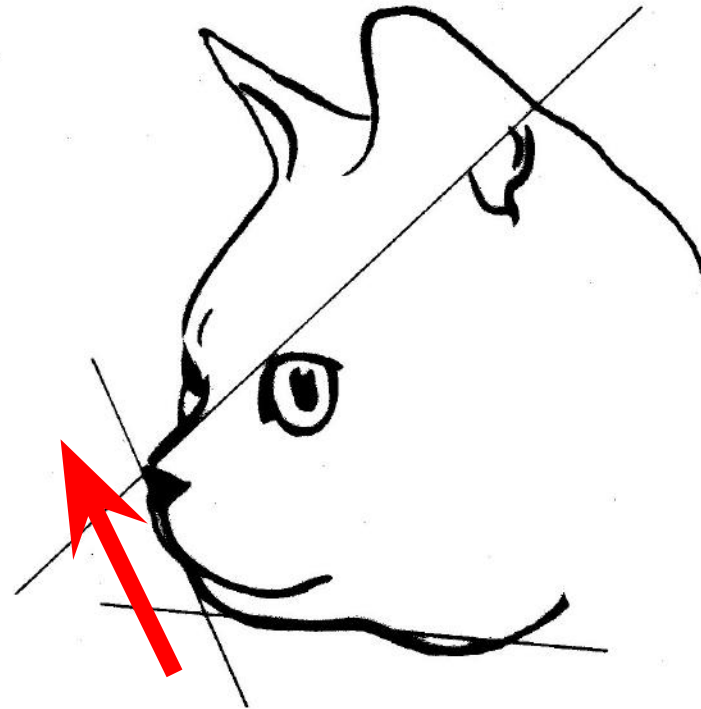
Nose to chin line slants back, due to muzzle angle.

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

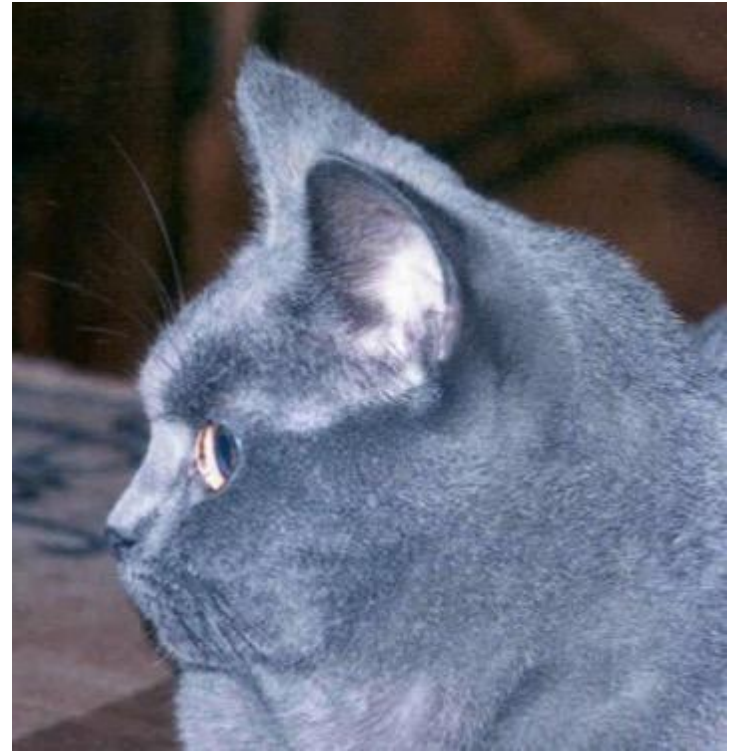


Changes of direction from the forehead to the nose profile should be very gentle and subtle. This is what is meant by “slight stop.”

CHARTREUX



Good nose profile



Incorrect, rotated upward.
Strong stop. Short nose.

CHARTREUX



Good nose profile

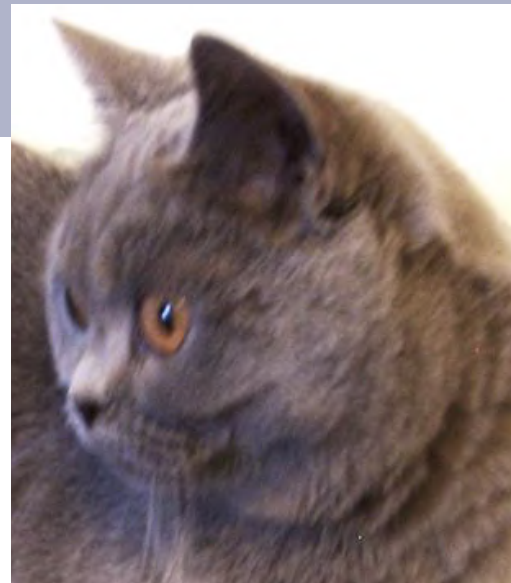


Incorrect profile with too much dip / concave curve

CHARTREUX

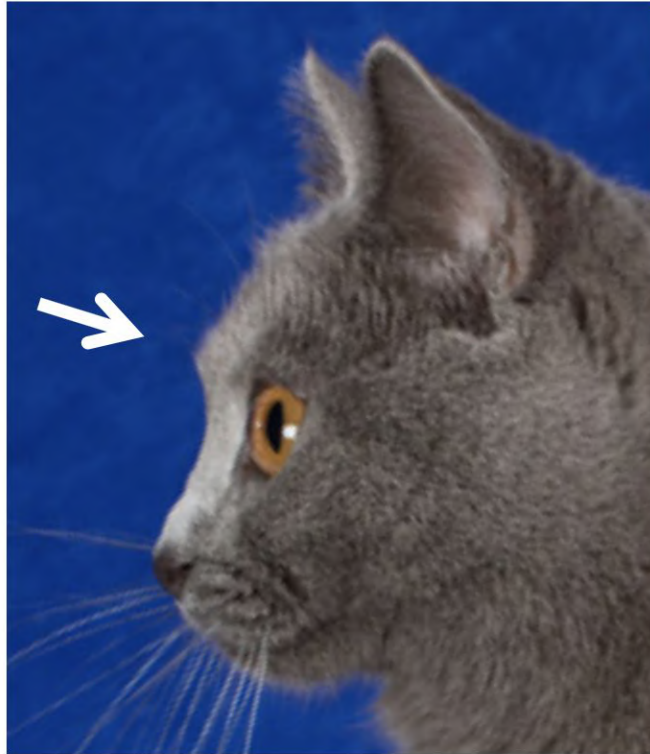


Nose should be medium in length, not short.



Nose and muzzle too short, with too much stop.

CHARTREUX



Sometimes, thick hair can create “eyebrow” that gives the illusion of a dip.

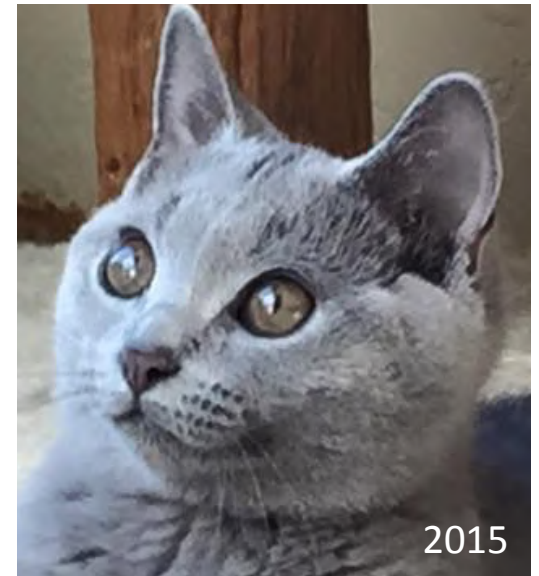
Smooth back the hair to feel the underlying profile.

(This is the same cat, showing how thick hair changes the appearance of her profile.)

CHARTREUX

Muzzle

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



CHARTREUX



Correct narrow muzzle
relative to head.



Incorrect broad muzzle
relative to head.

CHARTREUX



Correct tapered muzzle with slight pads.



Incorrect broad muzzle, heavy pads, whisker pinch.

CHARTREUX

Some cats have puffy-looking whisker pads when excited (note position of whiskers).

You can double-check the muzzle shape by gently smoothing back the hair.



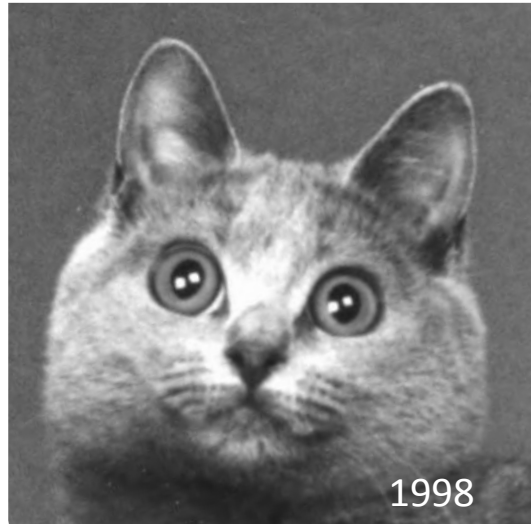
CHARTREUX



Ears

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

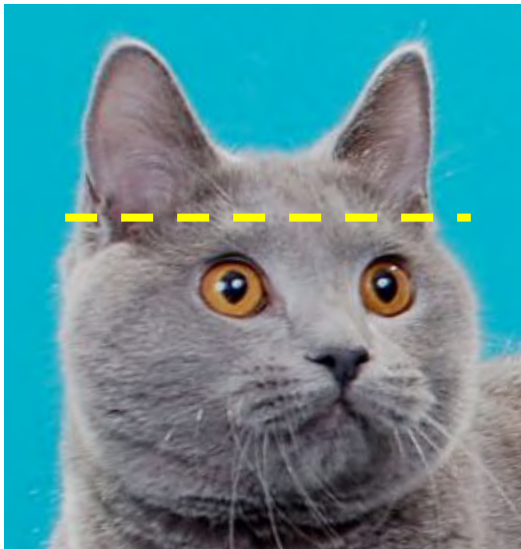
CHARTREUX



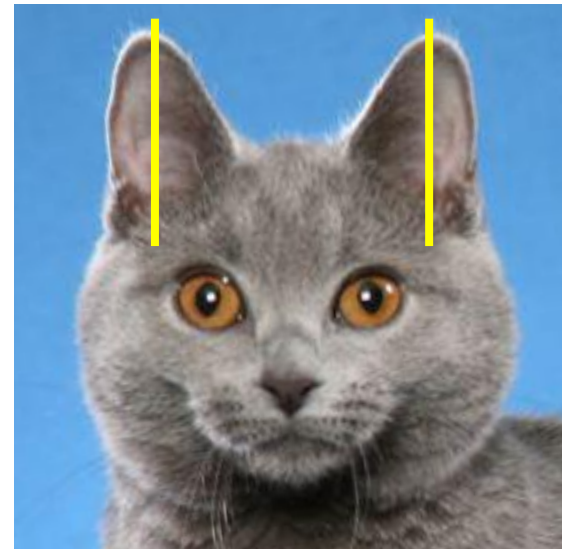
Medium height / width, set high, very erect posture.

CHARTREUX

Ear set



Set high on the head



Very erect posture

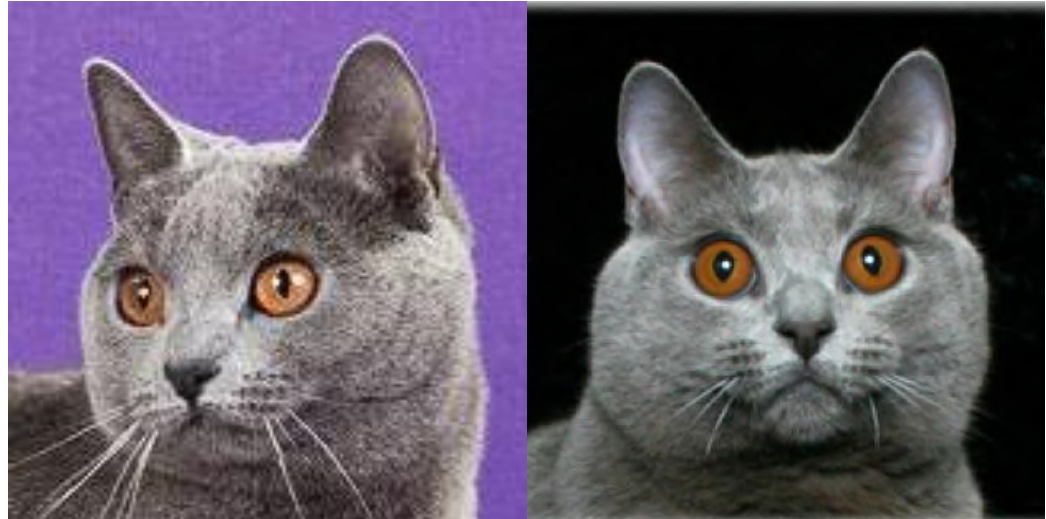
Everyone loves to see good ear set on a Chartreux.
However, remember that ear set is worth only 5 points by itself.

CHARTREUX

Ear size



Ears too small.



Medium in height and width.

CHARTREUX

Ear shapes



The standard simply specifies “medium in height and width.”
Breeders may prefer slightly different styles and shapes.

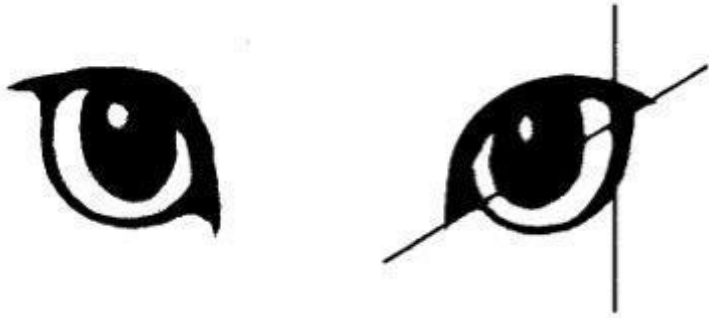
CHARTREUX

Eyes

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



CHARTREUX



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



CHARTREUX



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

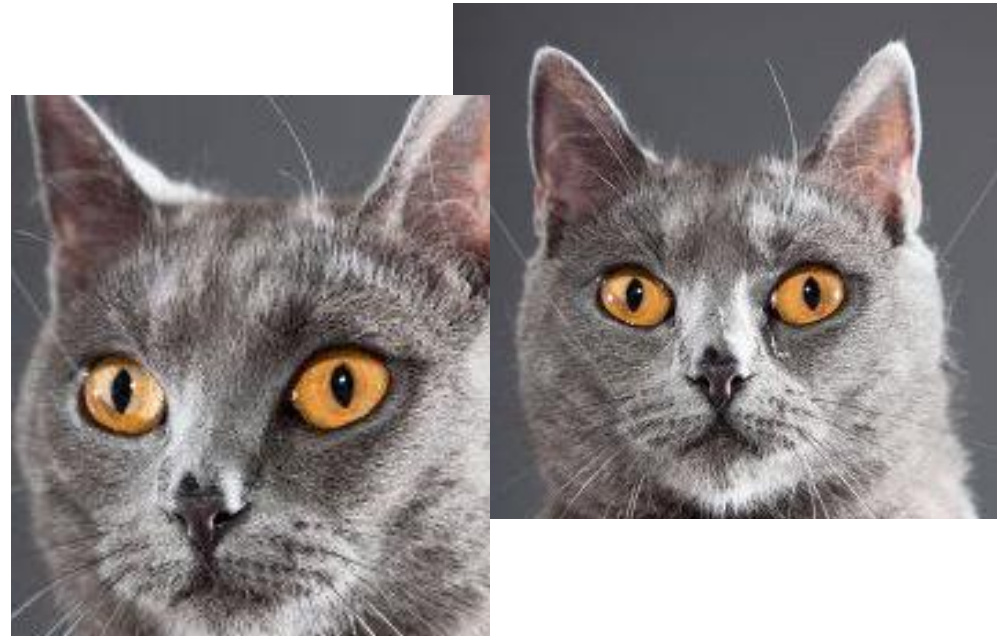


Incorrect small,
almond shaped eyes.
Note deep set.

CHARTREUX



Correct eyes.
Note wide, open
bone structure.



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

CHARTREUX

Eye Color

- **Range is gold to copper**
- 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.

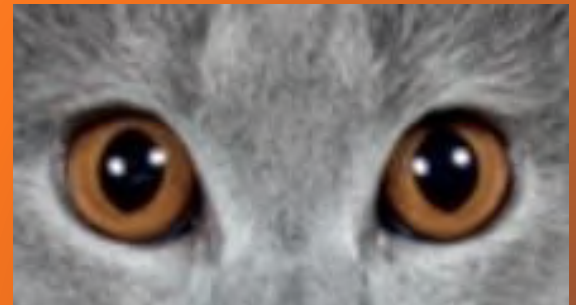
Also keep in mind that eye color alone is worth only 5 points.



Gold



Orange



Copper

CHARTREUX

Correct eye color range



Gold

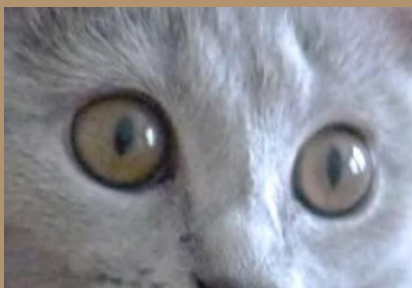


Orange



Copper

Immature



Dull, grayish
brown

Poor eye color

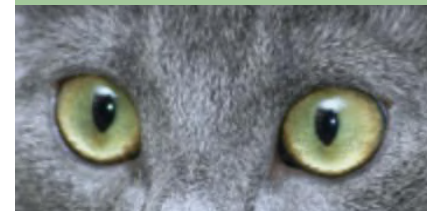


Weak gold,
yellow



Orange with
green ring

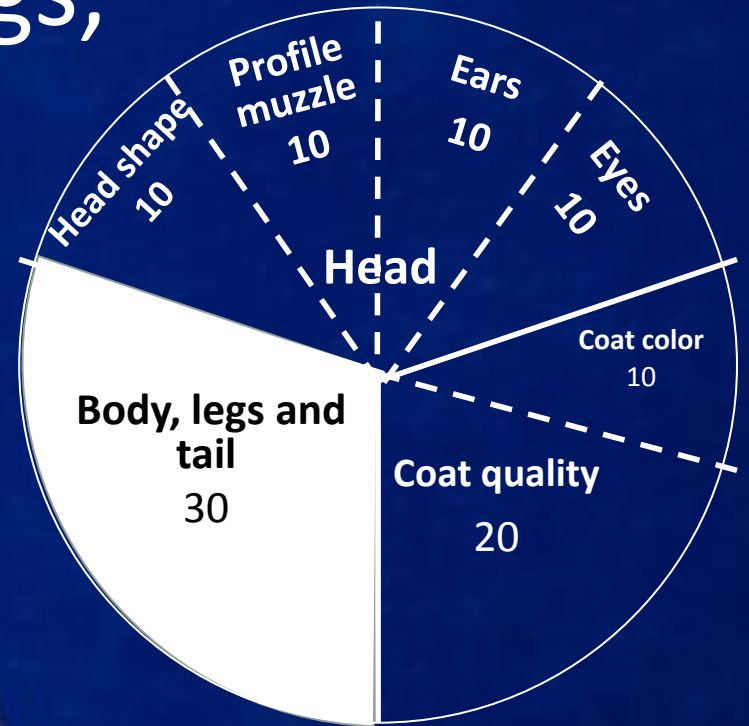
Disqualify



Green eyes

CHARTREUX

Body, Legs, and Tail



CHARTREUX



Russian Blue, Chartreux, British SH

(male, pictured at 15 months)



This comparison is a good starting point for understanding Chartreux body type. Look for the leg length, leg boning, body shape, body mass.

The Chartreux is intermediate in type, combining elements of both strength and elegance.



CHARTREUX

Sometimes characterized as “primitive,” Chartreux body style is **medium-long and robust**, and may be reminiscent of the “big cats” or European wild cat.

Body should not be short or cobby.



CHARTREUX



- **Females medium;
males large.**



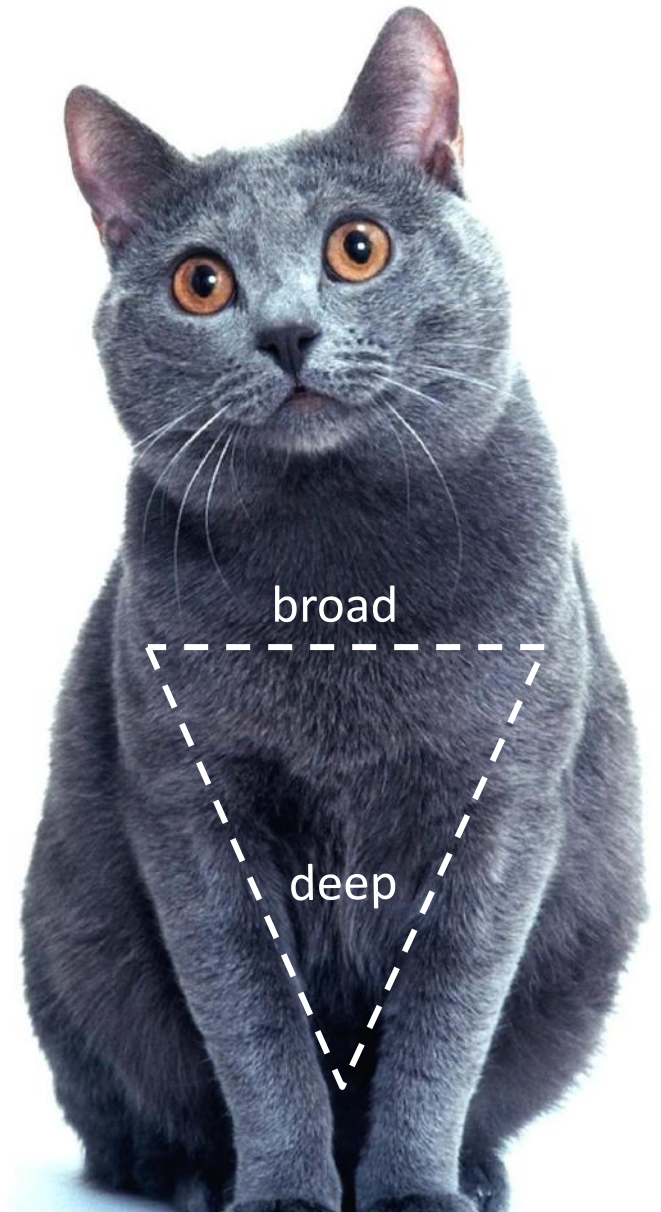
Males may be twice the size of females, and much more massive and broad, especially in the head, neck and chest. Females are medium sized and more refined. This is not an “allowance” for the female; it is specified in the standard. *Vive la différence!*

CHARTREUX

- **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.

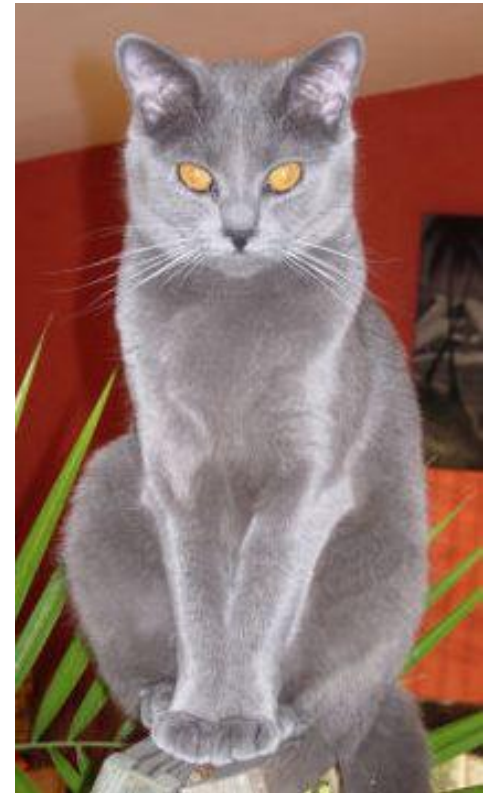


CHARTREUX



Females with broad shoulders and deep chests.

CHARTREUX



Young adult males with good structure for their age. As mature adults, they will become more massive in the head, neck and chest. Both sexes broaden with maturity, but this is most dramatic in the males.

This young male is too narrow in the chest and body.

CHARTREUX



Adult males with broad shoulders and deep chests; both are very handsome. The male on right is sitting with legs set apart, making the chest appear more square. This appearance is not required; the Chartreux isn't expected to have a square "bulldog chest."

CHARTREUX

Legs and Feet

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



CHARTREUX

medium
ears

Body is one size stronger and longer than medium, with a broad head and neck.

This contrasts with medium extremities: ears, nose and muzzle, legs, feet, tail.

medium
length
nose

tail is also medium

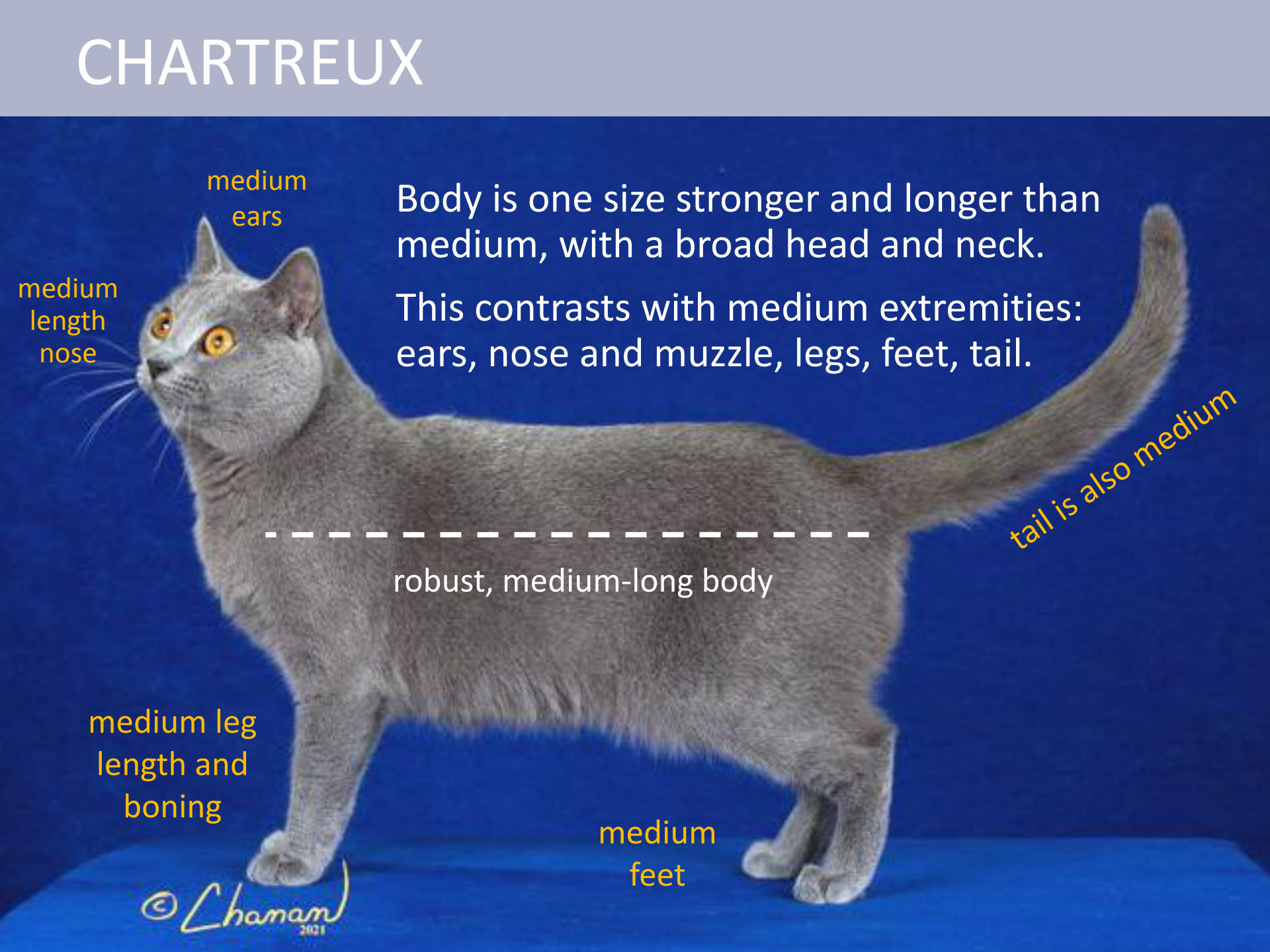


robust, medium-long body

medium leg
length and
boning

medium
feet

© Chamam
2021



CHARTREUX



© Chamam
2007

The Chartreux has its own unique balance.

Robust body and medium extremities should have a harmonious appearance.

It should not look like a bunch of unrelated parts.

CHARTREUX

young
female



young
female



Females, particularly when young, should be expected to have a generally lighter build and finer bone structure. Their boning and feet may be more on the “fine” and “small” side of medium.

CHARTREUX

In mature cats with large or massive bodies, you can expect the upper leg to be sturdy and muscular, tapering to feet that may be on the upper end of medium.



Even the most massive mature Chartreux should always be supple and agile, and should have a harmonious appearance.

CHARTREUX

Chartreux in proper show condition should feel muscular and powerful, with weight well distributed through the medium-long body. If the cat is round or pear shaped, it's probably overweight. Our standard wants depth of chest, not depth of flank.



This young female has a muscular body



This mature female is overweight



This mature female has a muscular body

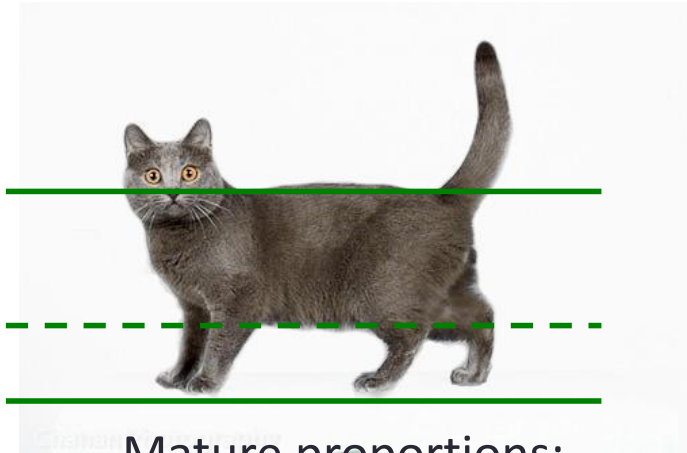
CHARTREUX

We aren't looking for extreme contrast.
This appearance is not correct or desirable:

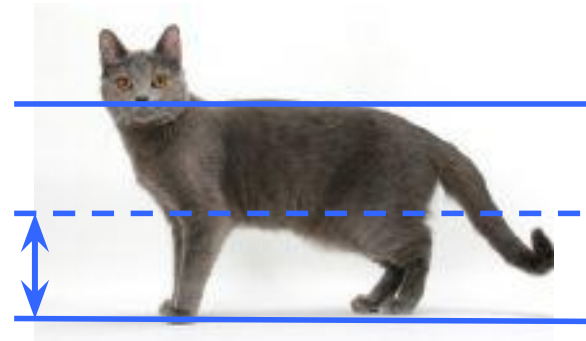


The Chartreux should not appear to be unbalanced or awkward, with a big fat body on tiny legs. These cats are not in proper show condition. (As in other breeds, allowances may be made in Premiership class, if the cat is not so obese as to be unhealthy.)

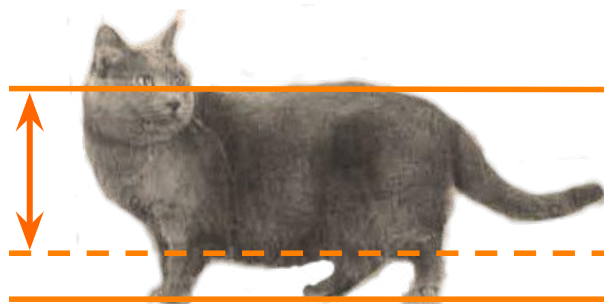
CHARTREUX



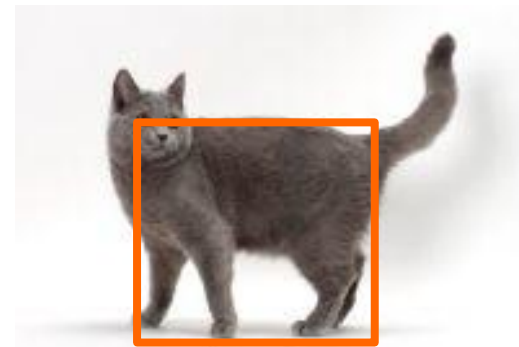
Mature proportions:
Body slightly deeper than leg length
Body and legs form a rectangle



Legs may appear slightly longer
in “lanky” teenagers under 2 years



Extreme proportions due to
obesity: **not correct**



Square appearance due to
short body: **not correct**

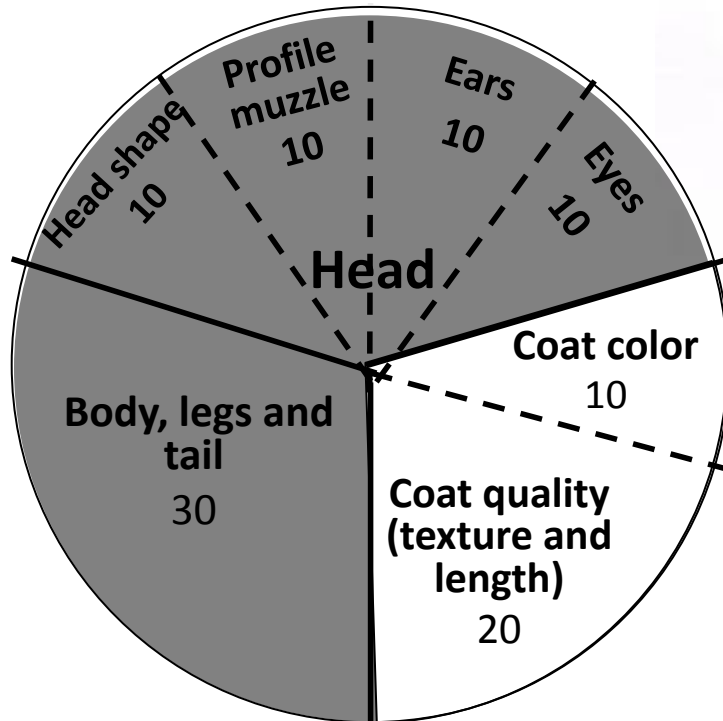
CHARTREUX

Tail

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



Coat and Color



CHARTREUX

Texture / Length

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

Note that the points in the standard are on texture and length. **Texture** is most important. There are no points on coat volume.

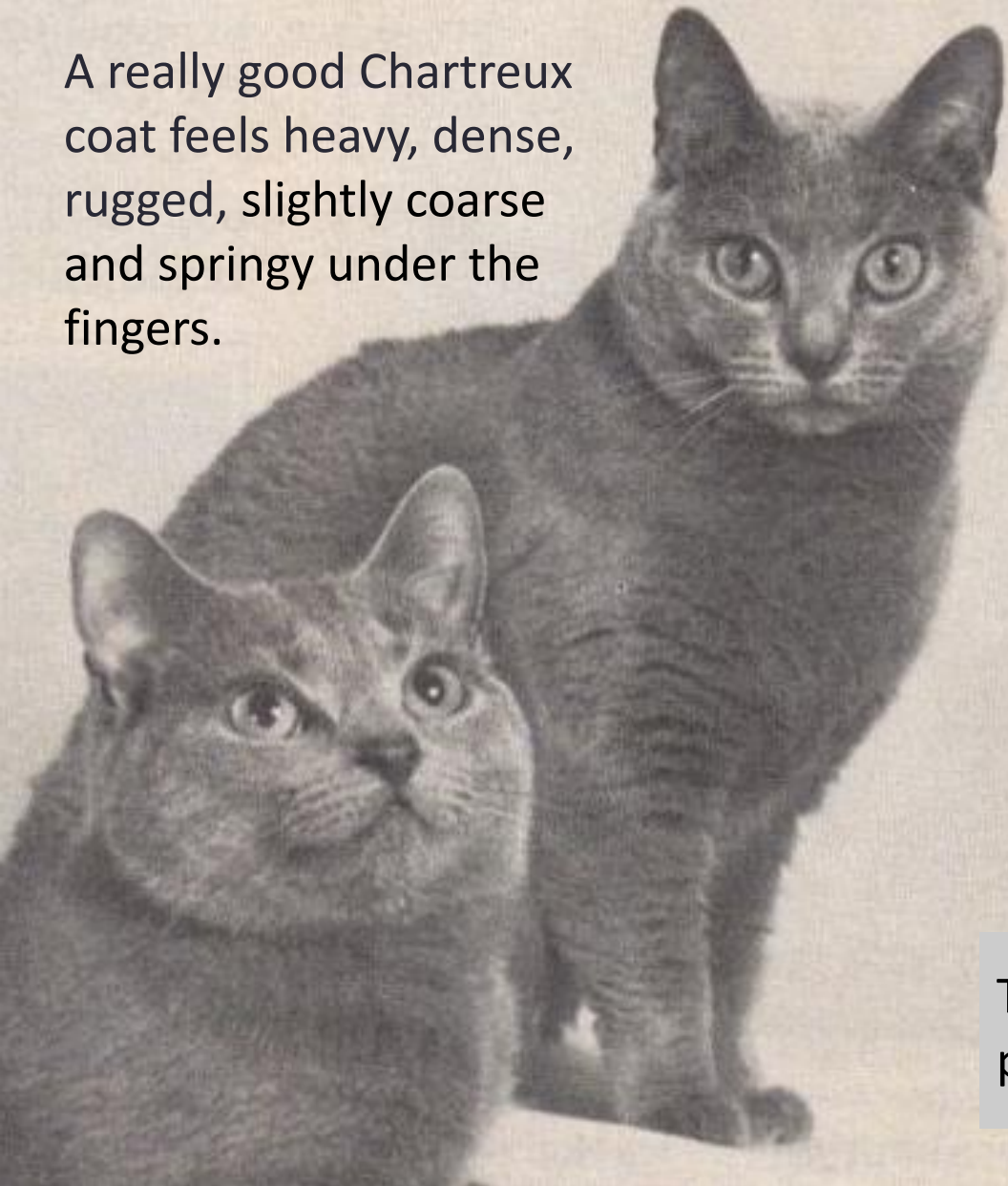
COAT (20)

Texture	15
Length	5



CHARTREUX

A really good Chartreux coat feels heavy, dense, rugged, slightly coarse and springy under the fingers.



Texture in closeup, showing a profusion of crinkly awn hairs.

CHARTREUX

The coat is semi-erect, with the coarse, protective, slightly longer guard hairs tending to stand out from the body at a slight angle.

Breaks in the coat appear and disappear as the cat moves, flexes, or raises and lowers its hairs.



CHARTREUX

Because the correct Chartreux coat goes through many different stages throughout life, our breed standard has extensive allowances:

- **Coat texture... [is] affected by sex, age, and natural factors which shall not penalize.**
- **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

Typical Chartreux coats develop slowly. Young cats often have flatter coats without as much obvious coat volume, but a good coat will already have some texture when touched.

Remember that the standard has points on **texture**, not volume.

The pictures show a typical coat development pattern. The same female cat is shown as a teenager and as a mature adult.

This cat's coat meets the breed standard in both stages pictured.



CHARTREUX

In recent years, Chartreux breeders in the United States have been working together on a comprehensive genetic testing project. As part of this project, we have learned a lot about longhair carriers in our breed. In particular, we have found that the recessive longhair gene is often associated with a different type of coat that appears more plush at an early age.

As an example, these are 5 month old males with the same sire. The kitten on the left is a LH carrier. The kitten on the right is homozygous SH.



CHARTREUX

Increased coat volume and plushness at a young age can be impressive in the show ring. Plush coat also superficially enhances the look of the head and body, making these kittens look more mature and “put together.”

Looking back through our breed’s recent history, we found that many cats shown to significant wins at a young age have been LH carriers like these.

However, these coats are often relatively soft in texture, with a puffy and insubstantial feel when touched.



CHARTREUX

Adult longhair carriers often develop a shaggy and messy appearance. The coat may lie semi-flat, because the individual coat hairs are too soft and limp to hold the shape of the coat. Or the coat may stand out from the body, but have an excessively soft texture and a tendency to mat frequently.



This is not correct or desirable coat texture.



CHARTREUX

Some LH carriers have an attractive breaking coat that looks impressive on first glance.

This cat has a pretty coat, but the texture is not correct. When touched, the coat feels soft and fluffy, reminiscent of rabbit fur. Individual coat hairs are relatively thin, limp, silky, and insubstantial, parting easily.

This is not correct or desirable coat texture. Breaks in the coat do not necessarily mean the texture is correct.



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



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

Male pictured as a kitten, adolescent, and young adult.



CHARTREUX

Female pictured as a kitten, adolescent, and adult.



CHARTREUX

Female pictured as a kitten, adolescent, and adult.



age 4 months



age 1
year

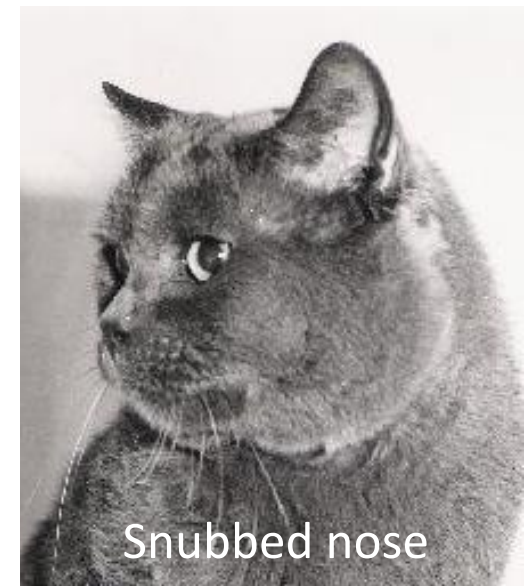
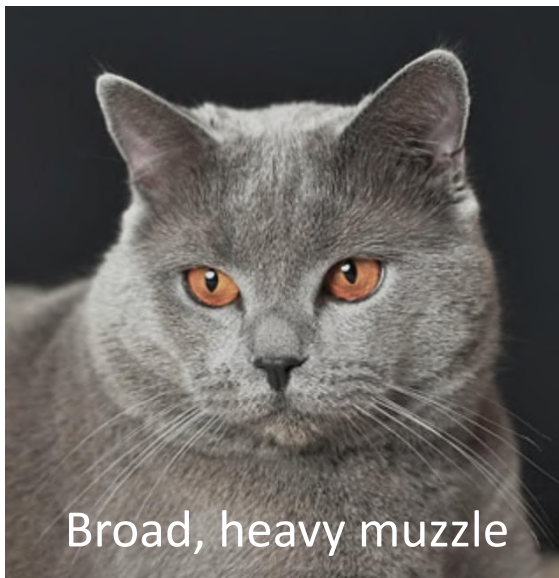


age 3.5
years
spayed

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 Handling and Judging

The next few slides are from a short video of judge Vicki Nye handling and judging a large class of Chartreux kittens at the 2019 CFA International show.



CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

The medium-long, robust body needs to be supported at both front and rear. Here are two good ways to carry a Chartreux:



Tuck body under arm, with hand under chest

OR



Use two hands to support both chest and rear end

CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

Chartreux prefer to have feet on the table, and most prefer a light touch that does not feel too confining.

Some Chartreux will get nervous or upset if they feel dangled in the air, grabbed or restrained tightly, or pinned down on the table.



Two feet on the table OK, too.

CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

Stroking the back of the cat and moving down to the tail lets you feel musculature, body breadth, and check for tail faults at the same time.

Feel for breadth at the neck and shoulders.



Musculature along the back.



Use a gentle touch on the tail.
Palpable fault is only a penalty.
Visible fault is DQ.

CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

Some cats will go straight for the post. You can feel the body and tail in this position, too.



Gentle touch on the tail.
You don't need to search
for subtle faults at the tip.

CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

Touch is a good way to judge leg boning. Some cats have thicker coat that makes legs appear heavier than they really are.



CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

When feeling the body, also think about weight distribution.

You want to feel weight in the chest and shoulders (especially in males).

Weight shouldn't be concentrated in the belly and rear.



CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

Young Chartreux don't always have a whole lot of coat volume, especially as teenagers between 8-18 months. You are primarily feeling for texture.

Coat is best judged on the sides of the cat. Be gentle with coat along the spine, which normally lies more flat; roughly flipping it back can damage the coat.



Don't be surprised to see a lighter undercoat. Color isn't required to be sound to the root in this breed.

CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

It can be helpful to feel the head for the desired breadth at cheekbones, refined muzzle shape, and smooth profile contour. Thick fur on cheeks, muzzle, and top head can sometimes obscure underlying structure.



When handling the head, be gentle, as some Chartreux can be head shy. Be sure to keep the head and neck in a natural position, without extreme twists or rotation. Keep in mind that this breed has a short thick neck.

CHARTREUX Handling and Judging

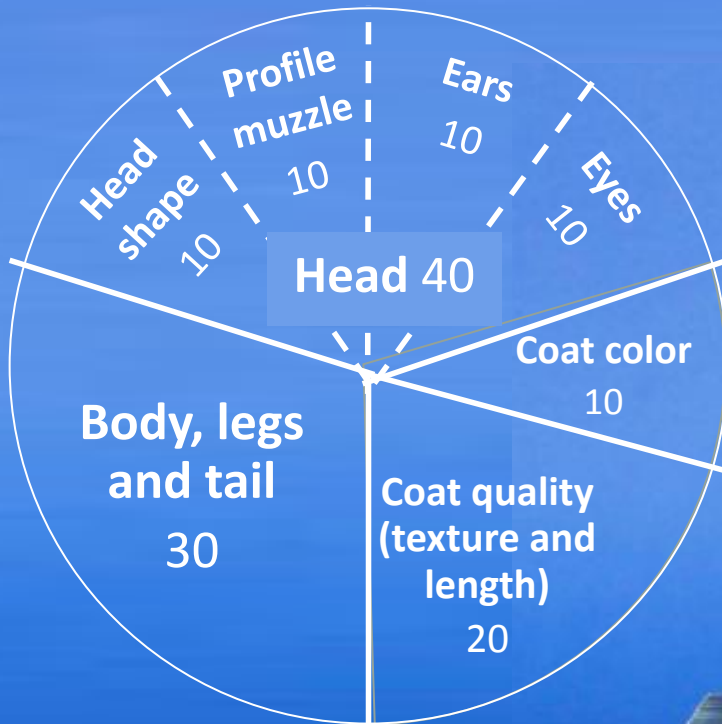
A toy can also be a great tool for evaluating the head.



If the cat won't respond to a toy on the table, try again when the cat is back in the cage. Exhibitors will truly appreciate your efforts to give the cat a chance to show off its ear set and expression!

Some Chartreux love feathers, while others prefer more exciting sparkly or jingly toys. It's ok to use highly stimulating toys for this breed.

Questions?



For more information:

CFA Chartreux Breed Council: Reference Library

<https://www.chartreuxbc.org/breed/reference-library/>

In-depth articles about Chartreux history and breed development.



CFA's Chartreux breed profile

<https://cfa.org/chartreux/>

Breed standard, registration rules, top winners in CFA, and more.