



**UNITED RAT STANDARDS**

# United Rat Standards

## **Head**

Should be evenly proportioned, with clean lines and a well-defined stop at the brow. The muzzle should be of good breadth, rounded and blunt, not narrow or pointed. The male head should project broadness and strength, while a female's projects strength and definition that is clearly feminine. Faults: Long face with pointed muzzle, head too narrow or too wide, no clear brow stop, male head appearing too feminine, female head having a masculine appearance.

## **Ears**

### **Standard**

Well-formed oval shape of medium size, they should be upright and spaced well apart. Faults: Creases or folds, ears set too low or too far apart.

### **Dumbo**

Ears to be large, round, and semicircular, set low on the sides of the head, and pointing back toward the body, maintaining a picture of balance, while ideally being placed as low as possible on the head. Faults: Creases or folds; pointing down, so as to give an oblong or tubular shape, pointed edges, set too high or too low.

## **Tail**

### **Standard**

Long and cylindrical, thick at the base and tapering to a fine point. Should be at least the length of the body ( nose to base of tail ) and be firm, and of size/thickness appropriate to the size of the rat, so as to give a balance appearance. Faults: Not cylindrical, short, thin. Disqualification: Kinked or docked.

### **Tailless**

There should be complete absence of a tail, giving the appearance of a cobbler body and a rounded rump. Disqualification: Any evidence of a tail. Docked tail. Any evidence of physical abnormalities in walking, climbing, or skeletal problems.

## **Eyes**

Large, round, and bold; set wide apart so as to give the appearance of width to the head. Placement is ideally half way between the tip of the nose and the back of the ears. Faults: Eyes too small.

## **Coat**

### **Standard**

Fur to be dense, even, and lustrous – should lay flat and smooth. Long guard hairs or slightly coarser fur are permissible in Males. Whiskers are long and straight. Color and markings should conform to recognized standard.

### **Rex**

Fur to be thick and densely curled. Guard hairs should be coarse and easily felt. Whiskers to be curled.

Faults: Frizzed, loose coat, bald patches.

### **Satin**

Fine to the touch, with longer and softer guard hairs that give an overall glossy look or sheen. Satin lends some colors a sparkling appearance, and a yellowish cast on white and Siamese. Whiskers to be wavy and point in varying directions.

### **Hairless**

To be as hairless as possible. Any recognized color and markings allowed. Eye color to match the appropriate color. Skin should be clean, healthy, and free of any imperfections. Whiskers to be curly or absent. Preference given to the least amount of hair. Ears in either variety should appear larger.

### **Double Rex**

Several variations may appear on the table. Bald patches among short, wiry coat that resembles that of a poodle or partially sheared lamb. A rat nearly bald with small areas of 'peach fuzz' on the muzzle, legs, and base of tail. A very short, wiry coat that looks similar to a 'buzz cut'. Whiskers and eyelashes should be curled.

Faults: Fully furred with hair that is too long or soft and resembling a standard coat, or one that is fully furred with medium-length, wiry coat resembling a regular rex.

## **Teeth**

Two upper and two lower incisors, none misshapen or missing. Mouth should be able to close normally, with top incisors in front of the lower.

## **Faults and Disqualifications**

### **General Faults**

Stained, unkempt coats

Noticeably overweight or underweight

overgrown nails or teeth

kinked tail

tattered ears

injured toes

Other healed injuries that detract from the overall appearance

### **Disqualifications**

Severe scabs and/or parasites

fleas, lice and mites

pregnant or nursing does

Difficult to handle or aggression

Missing body parts including males with one or both testicles missing

Recent injuries that have not yet healed

## **Standardized Colors**

### **Non-Agouti Colors**

#### **Black**

A deep, dark lustrous black down to the skin.

Eye Color: Black

Faults: Silvering (white hairs), rusting, dullness.

#### **Beige**

A warm, medium tan, not too dark.

Eye color: dark Ruby.

Fault- Color too light or too dark, uneven color.

#### **American Blue**

A deep, slate blue with a pale undercoat.

Faults: Light in color, rusting or dullness.

Eye Color: Black

#### **Pink-Eyed White (PEW)**

Pure snow white, clean with bright red eyes.

Faults: yellowing, staining, hint of color

#### **Black-Eyed White (BEW)**

To be a clean snow-white rat.

Eye color: Black

Faults: any color on the body, yellow cast, odd-eyes.

#### **Russian Blue**

A dark gray-blue color commonly seen in Russian Blue cats. This color has a subtle ticked effect, also referred to as heathering. Color to be even throughout and dark down to the skin.

Eye color: Black

Faults: Large amounts of white hairs (silvering), rusting.

#### **Russian Dove**

Color is to be a warm-toned dusty gray, with a subtle ticking or heathering effect on each hair and slightly darker guard hairs. Color should be even throughout, and consistent down to the skin. Belly color to match top color, feet to be light.

Eye color: dark Ruby to Black.

#### **Russian Silver**

To be a pale, ice-like blue-gray with very apparent faint speckling or heathering.

Eye Color: Black

Faults: Dullness, Ruby eyes, Yellow cast.

**Mink**

To be an even mid gray-brown, devoid of silvering, rusting or patches, and having a distinct blue sheen. Foot color to match top.

Eye color: Black.

**Silver**

To be a very pale blue, with a cool and sparkling appearance, distinct from white upon close examination. Feet and ears to be very light.

Eye color: Pink.

**Champagne**

To be a very light, evenly-warm sand. Belly color to match top.

Eye Color: Pink.

Faults: gray cast to coat.

**Pearl**

To be the palest silver cream with each hair tipped with gray evenly over the whole animal. Belly fur to be a pale silver gray and foot color to match top.

Eye color: Black.

**Platinum**

To be an even shade of pale blue gray. Foot color to match top.

Eye color: Ruby.

**Havana**

color is a rich, warm, light brown, near the color of milk chocolate. Eye color is mid ruby. Belly and foot color to match top.

Faults: Color too dark, or uneven color.

## **Agouti Colors**

### **Agouti**

Color is to be a rich chestnut brown with a dark gray undercoat and black guard hairs. Hairs to be evenly ticked with bands of similar colors. Belly and foot color will be silver gray.

Eye color: black.

### **American Blue Agouti**

Color is to be a medium slate overall with a pale gray undercoat and dark blue guard hairs. Hairs to be evenly ticked with bands of mid-blue and yellow-tan. Belly and feet to be silver gray.

Eye color: Black

### **Cinnamon**

Color is to be a warm, russet brown, evenly ticked along the length of the hair with darker banding. Undercoat to be a medium gray. Belly and foot color to be a lighter gray version of top color.

Eye color: Black or Ruby

### **Cinnamon Pearl**

Coat to consist of multiple bands of color: cream, blue and orange with silver guard hairs. The combination gives an overall golden appearance with a silver sheen. Belly color to be pale silver gray.

Eye color: Black

### **Fawn**

Color to be a bright orange interspersed with silver guard hairs. Undercolor to be pale gray down to the skin. Belly fur to be a silver-cream color. Top color to be even throughout with a clear demarcation between belly and top color.

Eye Color: Ruby

### **Russian Blue Agouti**

An even mixture of Russian Blue and Agouti with ticking (heathering) being normal for this variety. Undercolor to be dark Russian Blue. Belly fur to be silver gray, consistent with Agouti.

Eye Color: Black

Faults: Uneven blending, too dark or light

## **Standardized Markings**

### **Self**

Rat shall be all one color displaying no markings.

Faults: White fur on body, white toes/feet

### **Merle**

Merle rats may be shown in any recognized mink-based color. The unique feature is a pattern of dark spots distributed evenly over the entire lighter background color. The spots should be numerous and distinct and will be less prominent on a non-silvered background.

### **Silvered**

Any recognized color may be silvered, with the coat containing an equal number of silvered and non-silvered hairs, where as much length possible on each silvered hair should be white, giving the coat a characteristic sparkling appearance. Colored tips to be allowed. Foot color to match top. On agouti or cinnamon rats, belly color to be coordinated per those standards. For all other silvered rats, belly color to match top. Not to be confused with pearl or self rats.

Faults: Not enough silvering.

### **Berkshire**

Symmetrically marked with full white underside. To have a clear cut demarcation line void of brindling or spotting between top and bottom. Feet and up to half of the end of tail to be white. Small headspot or wedge blaze acceptable for this variety.

Faults: White coming up the sides, color dipping into the underside. Incomplete marking.

### **English Irish**

Clean, white equilateral triangle on the chest between the two front feet. White paws and tail tip acceptable. Clean, white equilateral triangle on the chest between the two front feet. All four feet and tail tip to be white

Faults: Uneven triangle, other white markings.

### **American Irish**

The body of the rat shall be of any standardized color. The feet, tail-tip and lower belly marking are to be white; white should not extend upward to half the length of the tail, nor up the legs. The abdominal marking to be as round as possible, of even shape and moderate size, not extending to the chest or legs.

### **Variegated**

Head and shoulders to be of a recognized color variety complete with a headspot or blaze. Back of the animal to be covered in clear, distinct patches and spots of the

same recognized color. Tail to have spotting. Underside to be a clean white without color.

Faults: Hooded marking in addition to patches and spots, Spots on the underside of the animal, Clumping of patches and spots, Unbroken stripe down spine

### **Dalmatian**

A clean white background splashed with spots of any recognized color variety. Spots should be numerous, similar in size and evenly distributed throughout.

Faults: Any other marking in addition to spots. Clumped spotting. Sparsely spotted.

### **Hooded**

Rat should have a white body, with a hood of any recognized color, that COVERS the head, neck, throat, chest and shoulders, with no breaks or white spots in the color.

Color continues in an unbroken line or stripe from the hood's center between the rat's shoulders, down the rat's spine to the base of the tail, with as much of the tail as possible being colored. Spine stripe should be of moderate width ( 1/4" to 1" ) and as straight and even as possible, without ragged edges or brindling. In light colored rats, a pale colored throat and chest is to be allowed.

Faults: Ragged edges on hood or spine stripe, spots of color or brindling in the white areas, breaks in color of hood or spine stripe; spine stripe not extending to the base of tail.

### **Bareback**

The head, shoulders, neck and throat of the rat to be of any standardized color, while the feet, sides, back, belly and tail should be completely white with no spots or colored hairs. The line of demarcation between color and white should be as even and sharp as possible.

### **Capped**

The head and ears of the rat to be of any standardized color, including the underside of the jaw and chin, while the shoulders, body, feet, belly and tail should be completely white with no spots or colored hairs. The line of demarcation between color and white should be as even and sharp as possible.

### **Masked**

A colored mask of any standardized color is to cover the face of the rat across both eyes; the chin, throat, ears, muzzle, jowls and body and tail of the rat are to be completely white without spotting or colored hairs.

### **Banded**

Jaw line, neck, legs, feet, sides and underside of rat to be completely white leaving a very wide band of color across the back. There should be a clear demarcation line between top color and white around the entire rat. Wedge-blazes acceptable.

Faults: Over-marked (seeming Berkshire), under-marked (seeming hooded).

### **Blazed**

Blazed rats to be shown with Berkshire or Variegated varieties. To be a symmetrical wedge-shaped white marking starting as a fine point located midway between the eyes and the ears. White to encompass bridge of the nose, enveloping the nose, whisker-bed and mouth of the rat in a thin triangle.

Faults: Thin blazes

### **Roan**

To be of any recognized color variety. Distinct white hairs to be blended with the solid color to give an intensely faded black/gray/white (salt-and-pepper) appearance. Roan to have Striped or Berkshire markings.

Faults: A completely faded (white) rat.

### **Striped**

Symmetrical marking in which the legs, underside and sides of the rat to be completely white creating a thick stripe of color across the back. To have a prominent inverted V-shaped blaze encompassing much of the nose, coming close to but not touching the eyes. Jaw line and underside of the head to be white.

Faults: Stripe too thin, non-wedge blaze.

### **Berkshire**

Marking to be same as regular Berkshire. To have a prominent inverted V-shaped blaze encompassing much of the nose, coming close to but not touching the eyes. Jaw line and underside of the head to be white.

Faults: Messy Berkshire marking, non-wedge blaze.

### **Headspot**

White marking to be small but clear and distinct placed as centrally as possible between the rat's ears and eyes on the top of the face. To be allowable in combination with the following standard markings: Berkshire and Variegated.

### **Odd-Eye**

Rat is to have one dark ruby or black eye, and one pink eye, with a clear and obvious difference between the two. Color and markings to be judged according to their own standards

### **Downunder Berkshire**

Solid body color, in any recognized color, on top with a matching colored stripe running the length of the white Berkshire belly. Belly stripe to be of good width (1" or more), and as clean and symmetrical as possible, extending in a thick, unbroken line from the base of the throat down to, and filling in, the area between the back legs. To have a clear cut demarcation line devoid of brindling or spotting between top and bottom. Feet and up to half of the end of tail to be white. Small headspot acceptable. Agouti-based rats will have a paler belly stripe.

Faults: broken or overly jagged belly stripe, white spots on belly.

### **Downunder Hooded**

Rat should have a white body, with a hood of any recognized color, covering the head, neck, throat, chest and shoulders and continuing in an unbroken line or stripe from the hood's center between the rat's shoulders, down the rat's spine to the base of the tail, with as much of the tail as possible being colored. Spine stripe should be of moderate width ( 1/2" to 1" ) and as straight and even as possible, without ragged edges or brindling. Belly stripe to match top, being as clean and symmetrical as possible and extending in a thick, unbroken line from the colored chest down to, and filling in, the area between the back legs. Agouti-based rats will have a paler belly stripe.

Faults: Broken or overly jagged hood or belly stripe, color or brindling in any of the white areas including the belly.

### **Downunder Hooded/Spotted**

Similar to the Downunder Hooded but with as many side spots as possible allowing for brindling or jagged edges where the spine stripe meets spots. Belly stripe to match top, being as clean and symmetrical as possible and extending in a thick, unbroken line from the colored chest down to, and filling in, the area between the back legs. Agouti-based rats will have a paler belly stripe.

Faults: Broken hood or belly stripe, lack of spots.

### **Downunder Spotted**

Back and belly stripes, in any recognized color, to be as broken and spotted as possible giving the appearance of spotting all over the back and the underside of rat. Belly stripe to extend in a broken and brindled line from the base of the throat down to, and filling in, the area between the back legs. Agouti-based rats will have paler belly markings.

Faults: Distinct and unbroken spine or belly stripes, lack of spotting.

### **Downunder Variegated**

Head and shoulders to be of a recognized color variety complete with a headspot or blaze. Back of the animal to be covered in clear, distinct patches and spots of the same recognized color. Tail to have spotting. Belly stripe to be of good width (1" or more), and as clean and symmetrical as possible, extending in a thick, unbroken line from the base of the throat down to, and filling in, the area between the back legs. Agouti-based rats will have a paler belly stripe.

Faults: Broken belly stripe or spotting on the underside, distinct hooded marking along spine, clumping of spots and patches or lack of spots and patches.

## **Standardized Color Patterns**

### **Siamese**

Body color to be ivory to medium beige depending on the colorpoint variety. Color to be gradually and evenly shaded over the head, shoulders, back and belly of the rat. Points to be dark as possible - shaded evenly into the body color and located on the nose but should not extend past the eyes, on the ears but not extending past the ears, on all four feet but not extending past the legs, and the base of the tail shading up over the hindquarters.

Faults: Patchy or uneven coloration, pale or light areas

Eyes: Red to Ruby

### **Seal Point**

Points to be a rich dark seal color shading into a medium beige color over the rest of the rat.

### **Russian Blue Point**

Points to be a distinct smoky blue-gray shaded into a bright ivory color over the rat. Light heathering is normal for this Russian Blue-based colorpoint variety. Contrast between the shaded points and the ivory color of the body to be very distinct.

### **American Blue Point**

Points to be subdued cool yellow-brown shaded into a bright ivory color over the rest of the rat. Contrast between the shaded points and the ivory color of the body to be very distinct.

### **Himalayan**

Body to be an even clean white base with points to be dark as possible - shaded evenly into the body color and located on the nose but should not extend past the eyes, on the ears but not extending past the ears, on all four feet but not extending past the legs, and the color on the tail is not to extend beyond halfway up the rump. Eyes red.

Faults: stains, yellowing, or white on the feet/toes

**Seal Point** - Points to be a rich dark seal/sepia color shade. Contrast between the shaded points and the white color of the body to be very distinct.

**Russian Blue Point** - Points to be a distinct smoky blue-gray shade. Light heathering is normal for this Russian Blue-based colorpoint variety. Contrast

between the shaded points and the white color of the body to be very distinct.

**American Blue Point** – Points to be subdued, cool yellow-brown shade. Contrast between the shaded points and the white color of the body to be very distinct.

## **Provisional Colors**

### **Platinum Agouti**

A mix of soft gray ticking over a rich warm cream color with a distinctive bluish cast. Pastel blue undercolor down to the skin with belly color a light silver with pale gray feet

Eye color: Ruby or Red.

Faults: shades or tints of brown, Blue to dark.

### **Russian Fawn**

Top color a warm golden orange, ticked evenly with silver to silver-blue guard hairs. Parting the coat should reveal a distinctive blue cast close to the skin. Belly and throat to be cream. Feet matching or slightly lighter than top color. Some heathering is acceptable.

Eyes color: any shade of red to ruby.

Faults: Pink eyes, patchy color, color too pale, lack of ticking, lack of blue undercolor.

### **Russian Beige**

Color to be an even, pale wheat, with subtle heathering of gray-blue, which lends the coat a shimmering cast throughout.

Eye color: dark ruby

Fault: White hair

### **Platinum Pearl**

To be an even blue cream undercoat with each hair tipped with blue gray evenly over the whole animal. Belly fur to be a pale blue cream and foot color to match top.

Eye color: ruby.

### **Russian Cinnamon**

Color to consist of a mixture of light gold, cream and brown hairs giving an overall golden and sparkling appearance on a pale silver-blue base. Undercoat to be pale down to the skin. Belly and foot should be a lighter, gray version of top color.

Eye color: Black

Faults: Overly dark or diluted color, patchy or uneven ticking.

## **Provisional Color Patterns**

### **Black Eyed Siamese**

Body color to be ivory to medium beige depending on the colorpoint variety. Color to be gradually and evenly shaded over the head, shoulders, back and belly of the rat. Points to be dark as possible - shaded evenly into the body color and located on the nose but should not extend past the eyes, on the ears but not extending past the ears, on all four feet but not extending past the legs, and the base of the tail shading up over the hindquarters.

Eyes: Black

Faults: Patchy or uneven coloration, pale or light areas

### **Seal Point**

Points to be a rich dark seal color shading into a medium beige color over the rest of the rat.

### **Russian Blue Point**

Points to be a distinct smoky blue-gray shaded into a bright ivory color over the rat. Light heathering is normal for this Russian Blue-based colorpoint variety. Contrast between the shaded points and the ivory color of the body to be very distinct.

### **American Blue Point**

Points to be a subdued cool yellow-brown shaded into a bright ivory color over the rest of the rat. Contrast between the shaded points and the ivory color of the body to be very distinct.

### **Black Eyed Himalayan**

Body to be an even clean white base with points to be dark as possible - shaded evenly into the body color and located on the nose but should not extend past the eyes, on the ears but not extending past the ears, on all four feet but not extending past the legs, and the color on the tail is not to extend beyond halfway up the rump.

Eyes Black

Faults: stains, yellowing, or white on the feet/toes

**Seal Point** - Points to be a rich dark seal/sepia color shade. Contrast between the shaded points and the white color of the body to be very distinct.

**Russian Blue Point** - Points to be a distinct smoky blue-gray shade. Light heathering is normal for this Russian Blue-based colorpoint variety. Contrast

between the shaded points and the white color of the body to be very distinct.

**American Blue Point** – Points to be a subdued, cool yellow-brown shade. Contrast between the shaded points and the white color of the body to be very distinct.

**Burmese**

Color to be medium sepia, absent of any dinginess, silvering, or patches. Points of dark sepia to be located on the feet, tail, nose and ears. Strong contrast between point color and body color is very apparent.

Eye Color: Black

Faults: white markings, no points

**Sable Burmese**

Color to be a rich, dark brown with points in a darker shade of the same color on the feet, tail, nose and ears. Absent of any dinginess, silvering or patches. Contrast between points and body color is to be definite but not exaggerated

Eye Color: Black

Faults: white markings, no points, black points

