

# THE BOMBAY

**"Patent Leather Kid with the New Penny Eyes"**

**Judges Workshop  
Sacramento, California  
June 25, 1999**

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# BRIEF HISTORY

Nikki Homer (Shawnee Cattery), in Louisville, Kentucky, was the originator of the Bombay breed. She began breeding Bombays in January 1966 and between January 1966 and January 1972, she produced 27 Bombay litters, 106 kittens. She began the breed by crossing a black American Shorthair with a sable Burmese and, after several years of highly selective breeding, was able to develop a cat that had the look she wanted: totally black with huge, copper eyes and a short, shiny coat. She described her new breed as "the patent leather kids with the new penny eyes". At the 1970 Annual meeting, the Bombays were accepted for registration. The requirements for advancement from registration to Provisional status were to have at least one breed club and the registration of 100 specimens of the proposed breed. These requirements were met in May 1974. On May 1, 1976, the Bombays were eligible to compete in the championship classes. There has been only one change to the Bombay breed standard since its inception in 1976. This change was made in 1996 to emphasize that the Bombay is not a black extreme Burmese with a distinctive nose break, nor is it a black American Shorthair with a concave profile (and a hard textured coat) but a combination of the two.

There have been eight national winning Bombays since the inception of the breed in 1976.

Season	Cat	Win
1982-83	GC NW Road to Fame's Mabel Black Label	10th Best Cot
1984-85	GC NW Road to Fame's Luv It Black	2nd Best Cat
1985-86	GC NW Road to Fame's Instant Replay	7th Best Cat
1987-88	GP NW Ratatat's Betty Boopers of Djas	6th Best Premier
1988-89	GC NW Road to Fame's Moagly of Sultan's Pad	11th Best Cat
1990-91	GC NW Colchester A Man Called Hawk, DM	8th Best Cat
1990-91	GC GP NW Djas Cajun Reve Fille of Ratatat	2nd Best Premier
1997-98	GP NW Shadowland's Yoda	17th Best Premier

## Bombay vs Burmese

There are two differences between the Bombay breed standard and the Burmese breed standard.

### (1) NOSE STOP/BREAK

**BOMBAY** In profile there should be a moderate visible stop; however, it should not present a “pugged” or a “snubbed” look. Moderate stop is not to be considered a “break”, but a slight indentation at the bridge of the nose between the eyes thus providing a change of direction from the rounded head to the medium, rounded muzzle.

**BURMESE** In profile there **is** a visible nose break.

### (2) BODY

**BOMBAY** Medium in size, muscular in development, neither compact nor rangy.

**BURMESE** Medium in size, muscular in development, and presenting a compact appearance.

## **BOMBAY**

Total Members: 19

Ballots Received: 17 60%=10

1. **GENERAL** Due to its short jet black. Gleaming coat and bright gold to vivid copper eyes, combined with a solid body and a sweet facial expression, the ideal Bombay has an unmistakable look of its own. It is a medium-sized cat, well balanced, friendly, alert, and outgoing; muscular and having surprising weight for its size. The body and tail should be of medium length, the head round with medium-sized, wide-set ears, a visible nose break, large rounded wide-set eyes and be of excellent proportions and carriage.

**GENERAL (Change to read):** The Bombay was originated as a hybrid between the Burmese and the American Shorthair. With its jet black, gleaming coat and gold to copper eyes, solid body and sweet facial expression, the ideal Bombay has an unmistakable look of its own. It is not a natural breed but a genetic hybrid, with distinctive features that separate it from its foundation (parent) breeds. The Bombay is a medium-size cat, well-balanced, friendly, alert, and outgoing; muscular and having a surprising weight for its size. The body and tail should be of medium length, the head rounded with medium-sized, wide-set ears, a moderate nose "stop" which is visible (not a break), large rounded wide-set eyes, and an overall look of excellent proportions and carriage.

**RATIONALE:** By using the above wording we hope to emphasize that the Bombay is not a 'black' extreme Burmese with a distinctive nose break, nor is it a black American Shorthair with a hard textured coat and concave profile, but a combination of the two.

**YES: 12**

**NO: 5**

**BOARD ACTION: Motion Carried. Hannon voting No.**

2. **HEAD:** The head should be pleasingly rounded with no sharp angles. The face should be full with considerable breadth between the eyes, tapering slightly to a short well-developed muzzle. In profile there should be a visible nose break however, it should not present a 'pugged' or 'snubbed' look.

**HEAD(Change to read):** The head should be pleasingly rounded with no sharp angles. The face should be full with considerable breadth between the eyes, blending gently into a broad well-developed moderately rounded muzzle that maintains the rounded contours of the head. In profile there should be a moderate visible stop; however, it should not present a 'pugged' or 'snubbed' look. Moderate stop is not to be considered a 'break', but a slight indentation at the bridge of the nose between the eyes thus providing a change of direction from the rounded head to the medium, rounded muzzle. The end of the nose is slightly rounded down thus completing the roundness of the head.

**RATIONALE** This description does not favor the extreme head type found in the contemporary Burmese but rather maintains the ideal medium look created by the combination of both of the Bombay's parent breeds.

**YES: 13**

**NO: 4**

**BOARD ACTION: Motion Carried. Hannon voting No.**

3. **COAT:** Fine, short, satin-like texture; close-lying with a shimmering patent leather sheen.

**COAT (Change to read):** The coat of the ideal Bombay specimen will be short to medium in length, satin-like in texture, close-lying, with a patent leather sheen. Allowance should be made for ghost tabby markings and uneven texture in the coat of kittens and young cats up to two years of age.

**RATIONALE** Since the Bombay at times is slow in its physical development especially because of the American Shorthair influences, there may be what appears to be a ghost pattern in the coat of a young kitten/cat. Lack of maturity (i.e., kitten coat) should not detract from the overall quality of an individual specimen.

**YES: 10**

**NO: 7**

**BOARD ACTION: Motion Failed.**

4. **DISQUALIFY:** Kinked or abnormal tail. Lockets or spots. Incorrect number of toes. Nose leather or Paw pads other than black. Green eyes. Improper bite. Extreme break that interferes with normal breathing and tearing of eyes.

**DISQUALIFY (Change to read):** Kinked or abnormal tail. Lockets or spots. Incorrect number of toes. Nose leather or paw pads other than black. Green eyes. Improper bite. Presence of a definite break. Lack of an adequate muzzle resulting in a pointed muzzle. An extreme, exotic head type that interferes with normal breathing and tearing of eyes.

**RATIONALE** This is a Bombay and should not be an example of a Burmese, Persian or Exotic Shorthair. Some breeders feel that this extreme look may have been a contributing factor to chronic upper respiratory infections, tear duct blockages, eye ulcers, dry eye conditions. We would like to have healthy cats.

**YES: 12**

**NO: 5**

**BOARD ACTION: Motion Failed.** (Some discussion followed and it was determined that the wording "exotic head type" was improper.)

5. Are you in favor of including, as part of the Bombay standard, the attached drawings.

**YES: 7**

**NO: 10**

**NOT CONSIDERED.**

## **THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

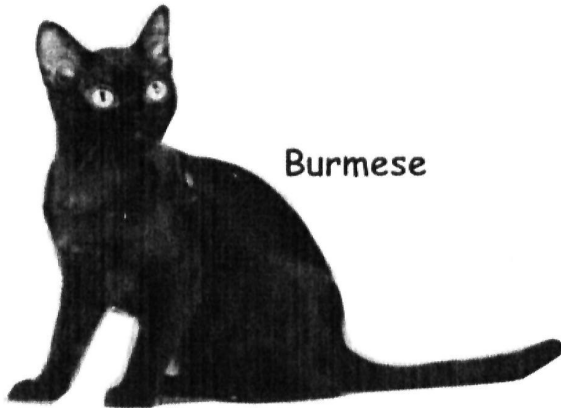
Executive Board Meeting • Irving, TX • February 03-04, 1996

**The rationale for changing the GENERAL breed standard is:**

**RATIONALE:** By using the above wording we hope to emphasize that the Bombay is not a "black" extreme Burmese with a distinctive nose break, nor is it a black American Shorthair with a hard textured coat and concave profile, but a combination of the two.

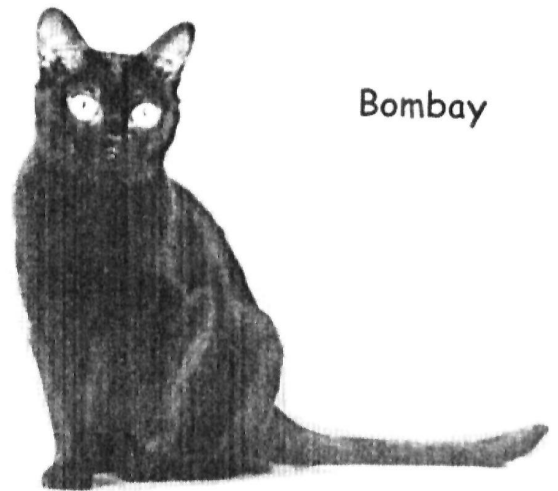
## GENERAL BREED CHARACTERISTICS

The Bombay was originated as a HYBRID between the Burmese and the American Shorthair. With its, jet black, gleaming coat, gold to copper eyes, solid body and sweet facial expression, the ideal Bombay has an unmistakable look of its own. It is not a natural breed but a genetic hybrid, with distinctive features that separate it from its foundation (parent) breeds. The Bombay is a medium-size cat, well balanced, friendly, alert and outgoing; muscular and having a surprising weight for its size. The body and tail should be of medium length, the head rounded with medium-sized, wide set ears, a moderate nose "stop" which is visible (not a break), large rounded wide-set eyes, and an overall look of excellent proportions and carriage.



Burmese

Burmese - Compact in Appearance



Bombay



American Shorthair

# THE BOMBAY BREED POINT SCORING

## HEAD & EARS (25)

Roundness of head	7
Full Face & Proper Profile	7
Ears	7
Chin	4

## EYES (5)

Placement & Shape	5
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## BODY (20)

Body	15
Tail	5

## COAT (20)

Shortness	10
Texture	5
Close Lying	5

## COLOR (30)

Body Color	20
Eye Color	10

The following pages will go into further depth regarding these brief point descriptions. These will be in order of highest to lowest point scoring.

# **HEAD, EARS & CHIN**

## **25 TOTAL POINTS**

**Roundness of head: 7 Points**

**Full Face and Proper Profile: 7 Points**

**Ears: 7 Points**

**Chin: 4 Points**

The head should be pleasingly rounded with no sharp angles. The face should be full with considerable breadth between the eyes, blending gently into a broad well-developed moderately rounded muzzle that maintains the rounded contours of the head. In profile there should be a moderate visible stop; however, it should not present a "pugged" or "snubbed" look. Disqualify for an extreme break that interferes with normal breathing and tearing of eyes. Moderate stop is not to be considered a "break", but a slight indentation at the bridge of the nose between the eyes thus providing a change of direction from the rounded head to the medium, rounded muzzle. The end of the nose is slightly rounded down thus completing the roundness of the head.

The ears should be medium in size and set well apart on a rounded skull, alert, tilting slightly forward, broad at the base, and with slightly rounded tips.

The chin should be firm, neither receding nor protruding, reflecting a proper bite. Disqualify for improper bite.



# HEAD

Pleasingly rounded with no sharp angles. Full with considerable breadth between the eyes. Well-developed moderately rounded muzzle.



Muzzle too narrow



Broad, rounded muzzle



GOOD MUZZLES

# HEAD

In profile there should be a moderate visible stop; however it should not present a 'pugged' or 'snubbed' look. Moderate stop is not to be considered a 'break' but a slight indentation at the bridge of the nose between the eyes.



No Pronounced Stop

Acceptable Stops



Acceptable Stops



The ears should be medium in size and set well apart on a rounded skull. They should be alert, tilting slightly forward, broad at the base with slightly rounded tips.



TOO SMALL



TOO POINTED



ACCEPTABLE

ACCEPTABLE EAR SETS



TILTING SLIGHTLY FORWARD

# CHIN

Should be firm, neither receding nor protruding, reflecting a proper bite.



Receding (Over bite)



Protruding (Under bite)



Proper Chin (Firm)



# **BODY COLOR**

**20 POINTS**

**This is the highest ranking of a Bombay's single point distribution.**

**The mature specimen's coat should be black to the roots.**

**Kitten coats should darken with age.**

**Disqualify for any lockets or spots.**

# **COAT**

## **20 TOTAL POINTS**

**Shortness: 10 Points**

**Texture: 5 Points**

**Close Lying: 5 points**

**Fine, short, satin-like texture. The coat should not be as soft as a Burmese nor as hard as an American Shorthair, but in between the two breeds. It should be close-lying with a shimmering patent leather sheen. Kitten coats will become more sleek with age.**

**When the standard was changed in 1996, the general rationale was for the coat to be a combination of the hard textured American Shorthair and the satin-like texture of the Burmese. As with the copper eye color, it is not written within the standard.**

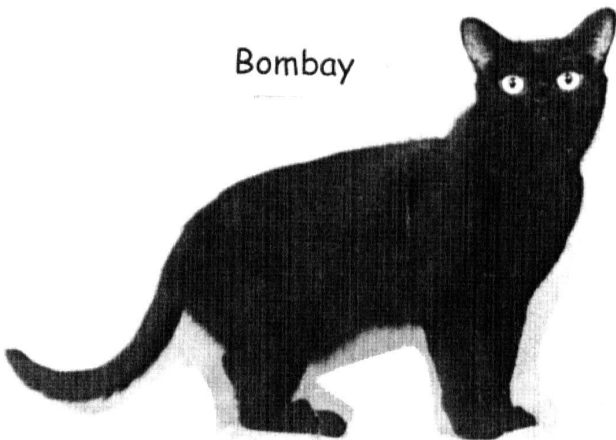
# BODY

## 15 POINTS

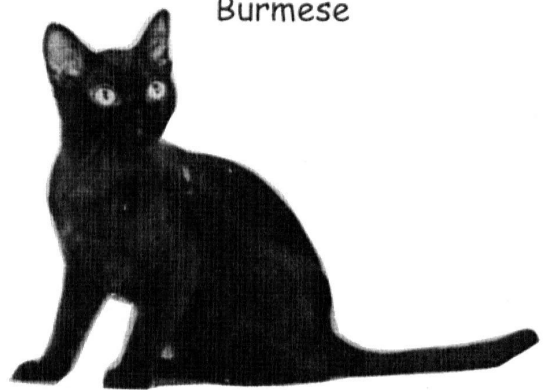
Medium in size, muscular in development, neither compact nor rangy. Allowance is to be made for larger size in males.

Penalize for excessive cobbiness or ranginess.

Bombay

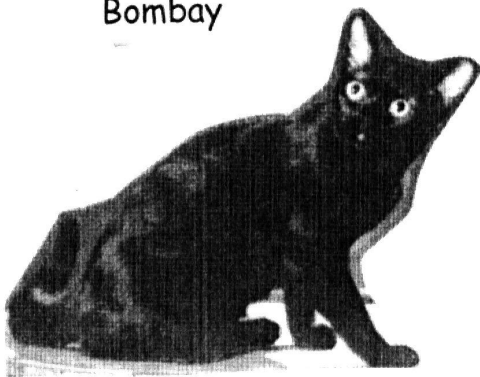


Burmese

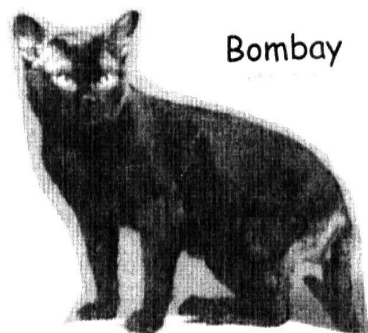


Bombay - neither compact or rangy  
Good Body Lengths

Bombay



Bombay



# EYES

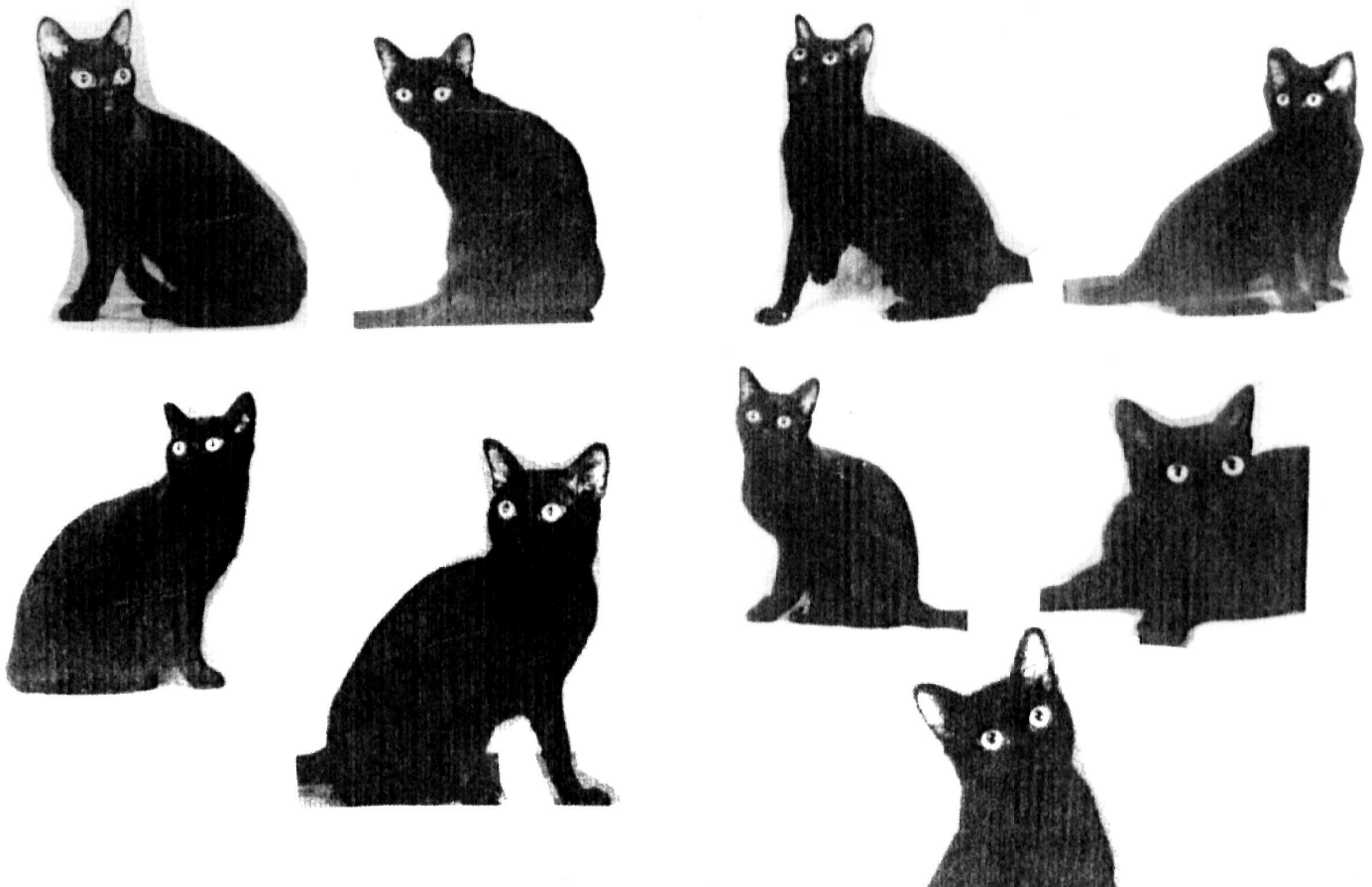
## 15 POINTS

### Color: 10 Points

Should range from gold to copper, the greater the depth and brilliance the better. Although not written~ in the standard, it is known amongst the breeders that given equal Bombays, the one with the better (copper) eye color would break a tie. Disqualification for green eyes.

### Placement & Shape: 5 Points

Set far apart with rounded aperture.





# TAIL

## 7 POINTS

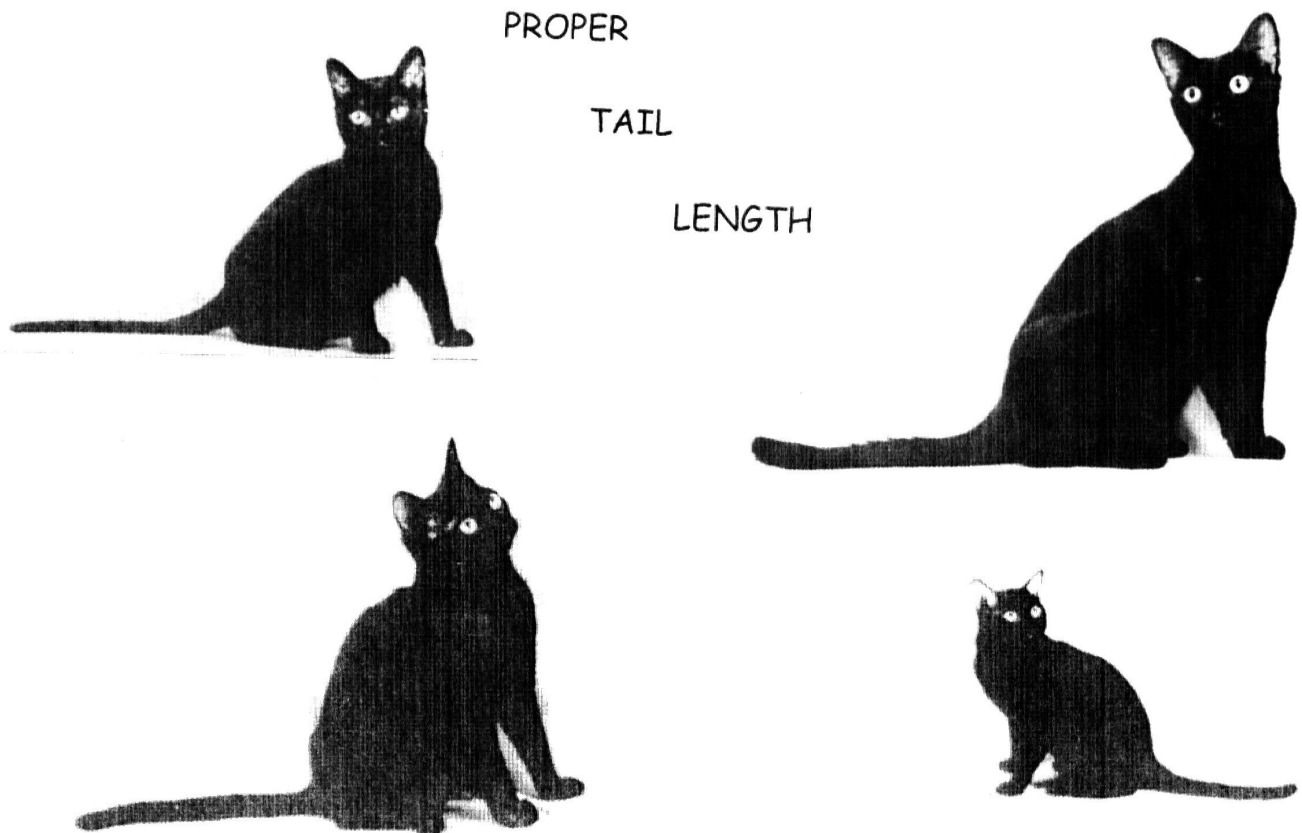
Straight, medium in length; neither short nor ~whippy”.

Disqualify for a kinked or abnormal tail.

Whippy - as in on Oriental Shorthair Tail.

Short - as in a Burmese or an Exotic Tail.

The tail length should be in balance with the body length.  
The body length is medium as well as the tail.



# DISQUALIFICATIONS

- KINKED OR ABNORMAL TAIL
- LOCKETS OR SPOTS
- INCORRECT NUMBER OF TOES
- NOSE LEATHER OR PAW PADS OTHER THAN BLACK
- GREEN EYES
- IMPROPER BITE
- EXTREME BREAK THAT INTERFERES WITH NORMAL BREATHING AND TEARING OF EYES

# BREEDING

The Bombay allowable outcross breeds are the Black American Shorthair and the Sable Burmese. Due to the Burmese influence, we will occasionally see the genetic head defect (Craniofacial Deformity Syndrome). We also have sable Bombays, although some breeders have been able to breed this color out of their line. While the sable Bombays are considered AOV's and cannot be shown, they can be used in a breeding program. Bombay dams, in general, experience few delivery problems and the kittens are usually very healthy. The litters average between three to four kittens, weighing three to four ounces at birth. I have found them very easy to wean, starting around five weeks of age. The kittens are very people oriented and love the attention of any adult or child. They are intelligent and inquisitive. They are a moderately active breed. Bombays can become sexually active as early as six months although seven to eight months is average. They are very slow to mature and their quality is difficult to assess until almost adulthood. This is one of the breeds that continue to improve as they age.

The breed council currently has twenty-five members, with over half actively breeding. Out of these members, 12 are within the same cattery name. There are not a lot of Bombay breeders, but we all work very hard to get healthy, show quality kittens. While we may not all have the same look, they meet the breed standard as written. Most of us within the council appreciate these differences; we want to be known for our own style.

## HANDLING/JUDGING

- Use firm support when removing a Bombay from the cage. Please do not "pin" the cat to the judging table. If given the chance, the cat will stand perfectly still while you judge it.
- When removing Bombays from their judging cage, try not to face them towards another cat's cage. The same goes for returning them to their cage. They are a very territorial breed.
- Bombays should not be swung around nor stretched. The adult boys are too substantial to be held with one hand and carried on a hip.
- Try using toys, some absolutely love them. Others need a little more prompting (almost to the point of aggravation!) and still others couldn't care less.
- Some Bombays are real "talkers" like the Burmese. Please do not confuse this with aggression or meanness. Usually when handled they are very loose and relaxed, they just have to have the last word.
- When judging the tail, it is not necessary to go over the tail again and again, twisting and bending it looking for kinks.
- Some do not like their head grabbed to be judged. Instead, try using a feather to distract them or to view the head.

# MEMBERS VOICES

I asked the members to give me their concerns regarding judging of their cats. They were very open and honest with their answers, I hope you gain some insight from their remarks.

- (1) If a judge is going to penalize a so-so bite in a Bombay. they need to do it with all other breeds too, (Where the bite is identified in their breed standard to be penalized or disqualified)
- (2) (a) If a Burmese is finaled, there is no reason not to final a Bombay too. (In other words, one should not exclude the other) Also, it is OK to final more than one Bombay per final if they have the merit. This does not happen in my region, but I did see it happen at the International show, twice.  
(b) Bombays are NOT black Burmese...You CAN use them both in your finals.  
(c) They are not black Burmese, they don't have to just use one or the other in finals.
- (3) Paw Pads darken with age just like the coat. This needs to be taken in consideration when judging a kitten. I have several cats that were born with brown paw pads and as adults are now black.
- (4) (a) There has never been a national winning Bombay kitten. There are plenty of American Shorthairs and Burmese. Why? We are told as exhibitors that they need to develop and mature. Isn't this why it is called a KITTEN CLASS?  
(b) Kitten class...Judge to standard...don't compare size (4 month to 7 month).
- (5) I have noticed that some of the judges really don't know how to judge a Bombay. I will respect a judge for pulling out a breed standard, if they don't know the finer points or the allocation of points.
- (6) I feel that some judges do not look at the overall cat. They will zero in on the head and not consider the rest of the cat. There are a lot of points on the head structure, but there is in coat color too.
- (7) I feel that some of the judges reflect their opinion of the breed by not spending time with them or handling them in an indifferent manner.
- (8) (a) Some judges act as if they are afraid of Bombays. They do have Burmese in them, so some talk more than others. That does not indicate meanness or bad attitudes.  
(b) Remember 'talking' is normal in the Bombay. If the cat is relaxed, everything is OK. Just because he/she talks, does not mean they hate showing.

- (9) Play with the cats...Bombays love to play.
- (10) The standard calls for a nose 'stop', not a 'break'.
- (11) Handle Bombays with confidence. They can tell if you are afraid of them or are uncomfortable with them. Bombay's are very sweet and gentle cats.
- (12) Judge all cats to the standard. BALANCE. A well-balanced smaller cat is better than an unbalanced larger cat. Even a smaller cat can have great muscle tone.
- (13) There are new breeders working with the Bombay's. Hopefully you will see more than one in the class. Even if there is just one (very common), PLEASE don't forget us!