

## **Ragdoll Breed Group Rational**

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*“People talk about the middle of the road as though it were unacceptable. Actually, all human problems, excepting morals, come into the gray areas. Things are not all black and white. There have to be compromises. The middle of the road is all of the usable surface. The extremes, right and left, are in the gutters.”*

*--President Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Breeders of blue-eyed pointed (BEP) Ragdolls and breeders of mink, sepia, and solid Ragdolls are working together to find a compromise in the advancement of the “New Traits” Ragdolls to the Championship class. The current Ragdoll standard only allows for BEP cats. The mink, sepia, and solids cannot show in the championship class. The authors of this proposal, under the governing regulations 31.4 and 33.9, respectively, in the *TICA Registration Rules & Related Standing Rules*, seek to establish a Ragdoll breed group to create a separate breed, namely Cherubim, for mink, sepia, and solid Ragdolls so that they may compete in the Championship class.

Ann Baker was the originator of the Ragdoll breed. While the BEP Ragdoll was the first focus of Ann Baker, she also developed other categories & breeding lines. These lines included all colors and patterns. All breeding lines developed by Ann Baker printed the following phrase across their IRCA Ragdoll registrations: “Registrar of Cherubim Cats.” When certificates of registration were transferred from IRCA to the TICA Registry, all cats in all colors were registered as Ragdolls in one grouping. As such, a breed group structure correctly reflects the Ragdoll/Cherubim relationship. The breed name Cherubim has been widely accepted by many Ragdoll breed section members, and we propose using Cherubim as the new breed name for the mink, sepia, and solid Ragdolls.

The TICA website states, “the strength of TICA lies in its members. Breeders, exhibitors, and cat lovers are invited to join TICA and participate in the most progressive registry in the world” ([www.TICA.org](http://www.TICA.org)). A total of 1088 members of the Ragdoll Breed Section joined TICA because they, too, believe it to be the most progressive registry in the world. The mink, solid, and sepia Ragdolls breeders trust this mantra and it is time for the mink, solid, and sepia Ragdolls to advance to championship status. This will allow them to have a written standard they can breed to so they can show and preserve their lines. To date, thirty-three exhibitors have internationally shown their solid, mink, and sepia Ragdolls for the purpose of submitting the application for the advancement of “New Traits” to the Championship class and request TICA recognize their cats. The authors propose the creation of a breed group which will allow the separation and coexistence of pointed and mink, sepia, solid. This concession will seek to have the solid, mink, and sepia adopt the name of “Cherubim.” These concessions are made to ensure ease of passing a breed section vote and to receive recognition in a Ragdoll Breed Group Standard, on the TICA website, in the show halls and breed seminars for the Ragdoll Breed Group. Given the history and the genetic evidence of the origins of all Ragdoll cats, it is reasonable to see that the current barrier to the exhibition hall is not aligned with TICA founding principles.

The authors believe this would create a sense of belonging for many and ultimately increase the number of exhibitors (and spectators) if the mink, solid, and sepia are accepted for show and the current TICA Ragdoll Breed Standard is amended to reflect a breed group. The growth in membership within the Ragdoll breed section from September 14, 2023 (951 members) to October 24, 2023 (1088 members) is substantial. That is 13% growth in approximately a one-month period. The authors surmise that much of this occurred as a result of discussions of a breed group and the notice of intent to apply for advancement to championship “New Traits” status published on October 17, 2023 in the TICA Trend. The authors believe that this is indicative of members who breed mink, solid, and sepia Ragdolls acting upon their excitement over the possibility of earning titles and learning within the show halls.

Representatives, breeders, and exhibitors of all viewpoints have collaborated to determine an equitable compromise. The solution, based upon our unofficial poll, that will pass with a majority breed section vote is the creation of a Ragdoll Breed Group to separate the BEP Ragdolls from the mink, sepia and solid Cherubims (72% voted yes to being open a breed group, dependent on name). This will allow the BEP offspring of mink, sepia, and solid cats to be registered and shown as Ragdolls while also allowing Championship Status for the Cherubim (mink, sepia, solid) cats themselves. This document proposes the necessary changes to the Ragdoll Standard to accomplish the creation of a Ragdoll Breed Group (RD/CB) and allow for the advancement of the mink, sepia, and solid Cherubim into Championship. A Ragdoll Breed Group is, in Eisenhower’s words, our “usable surface.”

## **SOURCES:**

Baker, Ann. *Ann Baker’s Autobiography: Cherubims Research*. Published by Business and Consumer Advocate of the Animal World. 1985.

Pickering, Robin, Pollard, David, Wallace, Lorna. *The Definitive Guide to Ragdolls*. Pontefract, W. Yorkshire: Ragdoll World. 1995. First Edition.

*TICA Registration Rules & Related Standing Rules*. 19 January 2023. Version A. 28 October 2023.  
<https://tica.org/resources/our-publications/rules-regulations/file/1146-registration-rules-version-a-19-jan-2023-4>

UC Davis Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. *Colorpoint Restriction*. 28 October 2023.  
<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/colorpoint-restriction>

## RAGDOLL BREED GROUP (RD/CB)

The **Ragdoll (RD)** is a large semi-longhair, blue eyed pointed cat of moderate type.  
The **Cherubim (CB)** is a large semi-longhair, mink, sepia, or traditional colored cat of moderate type.

<b>HEAD</b> .....	40 points
Shape .....	9
Ears .....	5
Eyes .....	7
Chin .....	5
Muzzle .....	4
Profile .....	9
Neck .....	1
<b>BODY</b> .....	35 points
Torso .....	8
Legs/Feet .....	5
Tail .....	4
Boning .....	10
Musculature.....	8
<b>COAT/COLOR/PATTERN</b> .....	25 points
Length .....	4
Texture .....	8
Pattern.....	6
Color .....	7

**CATEGORY:** RD – Pointed; CB – Mink, Sepia & Traditional

**DIVISIONS:** RD - Solid Point Division; Tortie Point Division; Tabby Point Division; Solid Point/white, Tortie Point/white, Tabby Point/white Divisions (mitted and bicolor patterns ONLY).

**CB - Solid Division; Tortie Division; Tabby Division; Solid & White, Tortie & White, Tabby & White Divisions (mitted and bicolor patterns ONLY).**

### COLORS:

RD - All pointed colors.

CB – All Mink, Sepia & Traditional colors, except solid white

**PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES:** None

### HEAD:

**Shape:** Broad modified wedge, with slightly rounded contours, with the appearance of a flat plane in area between ears when looking at the head from the front, skull medium in size.

**Ears:** Medium in size, broad at base, rounded tip. Set as much on top of the head as on the side, slightly tilted forward.

**Eyes:** Large oval. Level set; moderately wide apart. Emphasis should be on correct shape, size and placement.

**Preference given to deeper tones in all colors.**

RD - Blue, CB - Mink: Blue-Green to Green-Blue (Aqua); Sepia: Gold, Gold -Green (Chartreuse) or Green Traditional: Bronze, Copper, Gold, Yellow, Green, or Hazel  
**Chin:** Well developed, with good depth, forming a perpendicular line with the upper lip and tip of the nose.

**Muzzle:** Rounded, medium in length; in line with wedge. **Profile:** Straight nose to bridge, followed by a concave curve to the brow. Convex curve to the forehead.

Appearance of a flat plane between the ears.

**Neck:** In proportion to head and torso.

### BODY:

**Torso:** Medium-long to long, substantial. Broad chest. Fat pad on lower abdomen acceptable. Females may be smaller than males.

**Legs:** Substantial boning, in proportion to body, hind legs slightly longer than front legs.

**Feet:** Large, round, tufting desirable.

**Tail:** Equal to length of body. Thicker at base, with slight taper.

**Boning:** Substantial.

**Musculature:** Well-muscled with solid weight.

### COAT:

**Length:** Semi-long, allow for shorter coats on unaltered adults and seasonal variations. Correct coat texture is more important than coat length. **Texture:** Silky soft. Minimal undercoat gives the coat body, but coat still falls smoothly. Not wooly or cottony.

### COLOR/PATTERN:

#### SOLID POINT/SOLID DIVISION:

(RD) Pointed: Ears, mask, legs, feet and tail to be darker, well-defined color. Chest bib and chin areas may be somewhat lighter in color.

Even, lighter color on the body with minimal shading. Soft shadings of color are allowed. Definite contrast between body and point color. Allow for darker body color in older cats. Allow for undeveloped color in young cats.

(CB) Mink: Even, medium shade of body color, showing contrast to points. Allow for darker body color in older cats. Allow for undeveloped color in kittens and young cats.

(CB) Sepia: Body color closer to that of extremities, showing slighter contrast to points. Allow for darker body color in older cats. Allow for undeveloped color in kittens and young cats.

(CB) Traditional: Even solid color for solid-colored coats

#### ANY COLOR AND WHITE DIVISION:

##### Mitted Pattern:

**Head:** May have a broken or evenly matched white blaze on nose and/or between eyes. White not to extend into the inner corner of the eye, nose leather or whisker pads. Chin must be white.

**Front Feet:** Evenly matched white mittens not to extend above bend of paw. All toes to be white.

**Back Legs:** White goes up to and around the hocks entirely and extends no higher than mid-thigh.

**Body:** White stripe extending from chin through chest and length of belly.

##### Bicolor Pattern:

**Head:** White inverted "V" on face that completely surrounds the pink nose leather and does not extend beyond the outer edge of the eye on either side. The "V" to be as symmetrical as possible. White chin. **Body:** Chest, stomach, and ruff are white. Saddle may include white or shading in body color.

**Feet and Legs:** All white preferred.

**Paw Pads:** Pink preferred.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The ideal cat of this breed group is a large semilonghaired cat with a sweet personality. They are a well-balanced cat of moderate type, with no extremes, and no one feature overpowering another. The breed grows large and heavy but is slow to mature and may not reach full weight and size for four years. Full color is not reached until 3 years old. They are a muscular cat with little fat except on the lower abdomen fatty pad.

#### ALLOWANCES:

**General:** Seasonal changes in coat length, shorter coats on unaltered adults and kittens. Females may be smaller than males.

**Mitted and Bicolor Patterns only:**

**Feet and Legs:** Small spots of point color in designated white areas.

**Paw Pads:** Spots of point color on paw pads or colored paw pads.

#### PENALIZE:

**General:** Very small ears, any eye shape other than oval, Roman nose, straight profile, cobby body, short legs, short tail, wooly/cottony coat texture. **Mitted:** Lack of white belly stripe; white on ears and/or tail. **Bicolor:** White beyond the outside edge of the eye. White on ears and/or tail.

#### WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS (WW)

**General:** Doming. RD- Any eye color other than blue. CB; Mink - Any eye color other than blue-green to green-blue (aqua), Sepia; Any eye color other than: Gold, Gold-Green (chartreuse) or Green, Traditional; Any eye color other than Bronze, Copper, Gold, Yellow, Green, or Hazel

**Pointed:** Any white. **Mitted:** Lack of white chin. **Bicolor:** Any dark markings inside the white "V" including the chin.

**DISQUALIFY (DQ):** Crossed eyes. Visible or severe tail faults. Severe cow hocks.



*Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.*

Comments from the Rules Committee include the following points.

- The decision to name these cats "Cherubims" is one that the Board will have to make. There is a long-standing general policy of "no designer names", but it is a policy and not a specific TICA rule. It is very difficult to see how this proposed breed group could work without two distinct breed names.
- Note that, if approved, the effective date of this change will be 1 May 2025 - the start of the next show season after the relevant Board Meeting. You could choose to withdraw this application and re-apply for the 2024 Annual or 2025 Winter Meeting without delaying that effective date.
- Some members are concerned that a color alone does not make a breed. This will be for the Board to decide, based upon advice from both Committees.
- The use of the abbreviation "CH" is not acceptable. This is already used for an existing Registration Only breed (Chinese Harlequin), plus could be confused with the existing abbreviation for Championship. The EO has said that (subject to Board approval) the breed code "CB" could be used.
- There is inconsistency in naming of the divisions - the revised standard should say:  
  
"CATEGORY: RD – Pointed; CB – Mink, Sepia & Traditional  
DIVISIONS: Solid Division; Tortie Division; Tabby Division; Solid & White, Tortie & White, Tabby & White Divisions (mited and bicolor patterns ONLY)  
COLORS:  
RD - All colors.  
CB – All colors, except solid white."
- I note that 46% of the 50 cats listed as registered in the last 3 years are from one cattery. This is not against the letter of our rules, but for a major breed feels too concentrated for my liking.
- In terms of the relevant TICA rules, the application meets the requirements for the number of regions that NT cats have been shown in. Some members expressed concern at the limited geographical areas in which the breed has been shown. It was noted that many cats of this type have been registered in Europe, yet none appear to have been shown in TICA.

Comments on bringing in new colors and/or a breed group in ragdolls from the Genetics Committee.

We have only one genetic issue. If traditional colors can have green eyes, then sepia colors should allow green eyes as well. The  $c^b$  allele is not going to turn green eyes gold.

Other issues: This one is more directed at the Rules Committee, but Ragdoll breeders should be aware. In TICA, breed groups that were grandfathered in have separate names for single-gene issues. Newer breeds do not. We have Selkirk Rex, and Selkirk Rex Longhairs. We have Maine Coons, and Maine Coon Polydactyls. The people bringing in longhair Bengals wanted them to be called Cashmeres. Instead, they are Bengal Longhairs. These Ragdoll breed group cats are separated by alleles of a single gene, and should be Ragdolls, and Non-Pointed Ragdolls, or something of the sort, not Cherubim.

For those breeders who do not want to use additional colors we assume that individual registration numbers will have an SBV prefix if more than one member of the breed group is behind the cat going to the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of ancestors.