EMS-code (en)

BREEDS

Category I
EXO = Exotic shorthair
PER = Persian

Category II
ACL / ACS = American Curl longhair / shorthair
CYM = Cymric
JBT = Japanese Bobtail
KBL / KBS = Kurilean Bobtail longhair / shorthair
MAN = Manx
MCO = Maine Coon
NFO = Norwegian Forest
PBL / PBS = Pixiebob longhair / shorthair
RAG = Ragdoll
SBI = Birman ("Sacred BIrman")
SIB = Siberian
TUA = Turkish Angora
TUV = Turkish Van

Category III
ABU=American Burmese
ABY=Abyssinian
BEN = Bengal
BML = Burmilla
BOM = Bombay
BRI = British
BUR = Burmese
CHA = Chartreux
EUR = European
KOR = Korat
MAU = Egyptian Mau
OCI = Ocicat
RUS = Russian
SFL / SFS = Scottish Fold longhair / shorthair
SNO = Snowshoe
SOK = Sokoke
SOM = Somali

Category IV
BAL = Balinese
MBT = Mekong Bobtail * (*in the preliminary recognition*)
OLH / OSH=Oriental longhair / shorthair
SIA = Siamese
SYL / SYS = Seychellois longhair / shorthair
THA = Thai

Category V
CRX = Cornish Rex
DRX = Devon Rex
DSP = Don Sphynx
GRX = German Rex
SPH = Sphynx

House Cats

HCL = House Cat longhair
HCS = House Cat Shorthair

BREEDS

C OLOURS

The second part of the EMS code, which identifies a cat's colour, is always written in small (lower case) letters.

- a = blue
- b = chocolate
- c = lilac
- d = red
- e = cream
- f = black tortie
- g = blue tortie
- h = chocolate tortie
- j = lilac tortie
- m = caramel or apricot - **for registration purposes only**.
- n = black ("n" comes from the French *noir*, meaning black) seal (in Himalayan-patterned cats, Burmese, Burmillas and Tonkinese) ruddy (in Abyssinians and Somalis).
- o = cinnamon (sorrel in Abyssinians)
- p = fawn
- q = cinnamon (sorrel) tortoiseshell
- r = fawn tortoiseshell
- s = silver
- w = white
- x = any unrecognized colour
- y = golden
- nt = amber - *applicable only to the Norwegian Forest Cat*
- at = light amber - *applicable only to the Norwegian Forest Cat*

P ATTERNS

The second part of the EMS code, which identifies a cat's colour, is always written in small (lower case) letters.

- 01 = van
- 02 = harlequin
- 03 = bicolour
- 04 = mitted - *applicable only to the Ragdoll*
- 05 = snowshoe - *applicable only to the Snowshoe*
- 09 = unspecified amount of white
- 11 = shaded
- 12 = shell
- 21 = unspecified tabby pattern
- 22 = blotched tabby
- 23 = mackerel tabby
- 24 = spotted tabby
- 25 = ticked tabby
- 31 = Burmese shading pattern
- 32 = Tonkinese shading pattern
- 33 = Himalayan pointed pattern

TABBIES

Coding the various tabby patterns can present a problem, especially in the pointed breeds or the Van or Harlequin varieties where only small areas of the body display the pattern. Cats such as these are identified by the code "21" which indicates that the cat is tabby without specifying the pattern.

In other breeds or varieties where the pattern can be seen, a number that corresponds to a specific pattern usually designates them. A British black blotched tabby would be written "BRI n 22." The British silver spotted tabby is "BRI ns 24." Ticked tabbies are confined to the Abyssinian/Somali and the Oriental Shorthair at present. The Abyssinians/Somalis are all ticked tabbies, so it is not necessary to add "25" after the colour code; but the orientals, which have different colours of ticking, must be identified by a pattern code. A chocolate ticked tabby Oriental would be written "OSH b 25."

WITH WHITE

Cats with white on them present interesting cases. A black-and-white bicolour is "n 03," for example; but a Turkish van, because it always shows the van pattern, needn't be identified by the code for that pattern, "01." We simply write "TUV" for the breed, followed by the colour code and the eye-colour code because this is a breed that may have more than one eye colour. (The code for unspecified white, "09," is confined to those breeds where it is allowed, i.e. Maine Coons, Norwegian Forest Cats, the rex varieties and Manx.)

EYE COLORS

The next element of the EMS code is a numerical designation for eye color, which must be used with breeds that are judged in separate classes according to eye colour. In white Persians and British, for example, there are blue-eyed, orange-eyed and odd-eyed white colour classes. The blue eye colour that results from the Himalayan gene in Siamese cats is also different from that of other blue-eyed white cats. Therefore, Himalayan blue eyes are given a different code. The orange or yellow eye colour of most Persian and British cats is also different from the yellow eye color of Burmese. Thus, yellow eyes in Persian and British cats are given a different code.

- 61 = blue eyed
- 62 = orange eyed
- 63 = odd eyed
- 64 = green
- 65 = Burmese eye color
- 66 = Tonkinese eye color
- 67 = Siamese eye color

The code for eye color can be omitted when a breed, the Burmese, for example, is limited to one eye color. The same applies with Siamese and with some Persians and British, for example, the blacks, blues, creams, reds, etc., which all must have orange eyes according to the standard. It is, however, necessary to write the eye-color code with the white cats — Persians and British and some other breeds, as we have explained. So a blue-eyed white Persian is written: "PER w 61"; an orange-eyed white British would be "BRI w 62"; and an odd-eyed white Maine Coon would be "MCO w 63."

Eye color must also be encoded for silver tabby Persians because they are now judged in two classes according to their eye color, green or orange. Thus, a silver tabby Persian with orange eyes is "PER ns 22 62." The EMS code for a green-eyed silver tabby Persian would be written "PER ns 22 64." (In these notations the breed code, "PER," is followed by "n" for black, "s" for silver, "22" for a blotched tabby pattern and, finally, "62" for eye color).

One special case among Siamese is the all-white cat previously known as the Foreign White. The code for this cat is "SIA w 67."

BREED SPECIFIC CODES
These codes have been developed for breeds that have particular characteristics.

TAIL Codes
Codes that apply to only the Manx and its longhaired counterpart, the Cymric to indicate the amount of tail.

- 51 = rumpy – no tail
- 52 = rumpy riser – a tiny rise in the bone at the end of the spine
- 53 = stumpy – a rudimentary tail not longer than 3-4 cm (1.2 to 1.6 inches)
- 54 = longie – a regular or near regular tail (these cats are used for breeding but may not be shown)

EAR Codes
Codes that designate the ear type on two breeds. The first one being the American Curl in both short and long haired versions which although having a "curled ear" may produce straight eared offspring. The other breed is the Scottish Fold – again in both short and long haired versions – which may produce straight eared offspring although it has a folded ear itself.

- 71 = straight ears
- 72 = curled ears
- 73 = folded ears

TAIL Ear

Conclusion

With this information you should be able to work out your cat's EMS code without looking at its pedigree.

- First, locate the three-letter code for your breed. When you write it down, remember that breed codes are always capitalized.
- Second, find your cat's colour in the colour codes, which are always indicated by lowercase letters. Leaving a space after the three-letter breed code, write the colour code. If your cat is a silver, it will always have an "s" after its main colour code. For example, a black silver is "ns", a blue silver is "as".
- Next, if it is a patterned cat, find the code that corresponds to its pattern. All patterned cats except smokes must be identified by a pattern code. Persians, British and Burmillas can be shell or shaded. A chinchilla is a shell, which means that only the tips of the hairs have colour on them. The code for shell is "12." Thus, a Persian chinchilla would be identified by the code "PER ns 12." (Note that there is a space between the colour and the pattern codes, too.) A shaded silver Persian, whose tipping goes farther down the shaft of each hair, is written "PER ns 11."

The EMS, which is not a genetically based system, is intended to be both easy and logical. With a little practice any cat breeder should be able to speak EMS as fluently as his or her native tongue