

Birman Breed Advisory Committee

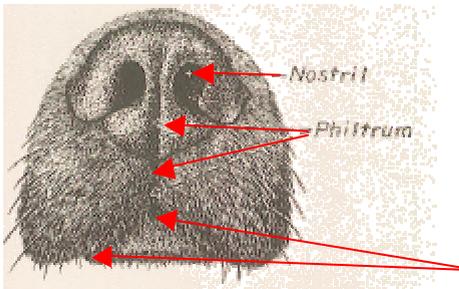
Guidance Notes for Judges

Clarification of with holding fault effective June 2003

8. With hold certificates and 1st prizes in kittens, for lack of pigmentation on nose and/or philtrum on seal, blue, chocolate and lilac point Birman. (Nose leather should tone with points colour).

Definition:

The nose comprises the rhinarium, the nasal cavity and the paranasal sinuses. The rhinarium is the moist hairless part of the tip of the cat's nose; it may be black, pink or a spotty combination of the two. A midline groove called the philtrum divides the rhinarium into two, each half containing a nostril (naris). Being made of cartilage the rhinarium is relatively mobile. – Veterinary notes for cat owners by Trevor Turner

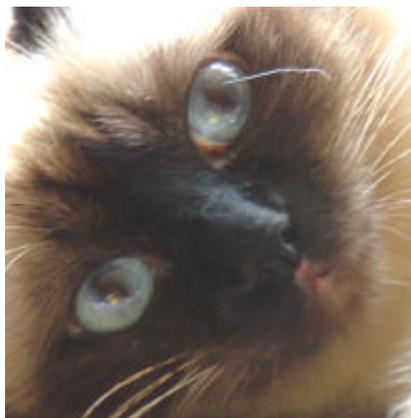


This diagram, which appears in Miller's "Anatomy of the Dog", illustrates exactly whereabouts the philtrum is on the face in relationship to the nose leather, nostrils and lips.

The BAC guidance for the pigmentation is that it does not visually detract from the appearance of the cat. Lips should not be parted by judges to assess for this fault. The 'butterfly' at the base of the philtrum is part of the lips. As lips are not part of this with holding fault, pigmentation loss in this area or any area of the lips is not applicable.

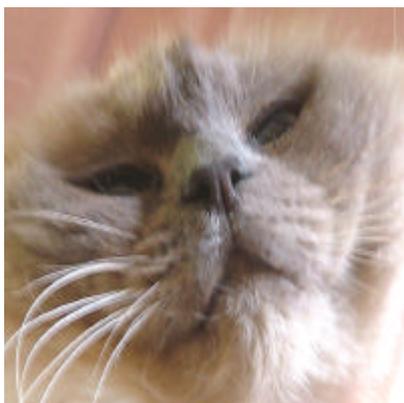
The photographs overleaf are examples of how to assess the fault

Pigmentation Loss on Nose Leather and Philtrum



The above two examples are of two different Seal Point Birmans. The left example shows clear pigmentation loss to the nose leather and lower lip. The example on the right shows good nose leather and pigmentation loss to the philtrum and lips. (*note: Lips not covered by this with holding fault*)

Both of the above examples are not acceptable and are with holding faults



The above two examples are of the same Blue Point Birman. The left clearly shows that at rest there is no evidence of pigmentation loss. The example on the right shows that when the lips are parted there is pigmentation loss on the 'butterfly' and lips, not nose leather or philtrum.

This is acceptable and NOT a with holding fault