



American Ferret Assoc, Inc.

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Color Standards:

For all colors and patterns, coat condition requirements are the same and are as follows:

Coat Condition

The coat of a ferret should be shiny, smooth, and soft to the touch. There is no preference between the summer (short) coat or the winter (long) coat. Both should be soft, supple and shiny, showing good health. A summer coat is much shorter than a winter coat and won't feel as soft and supple. Do not penalize summer coats unless they are sparse, dry, brittle or overly coarse. Staining, dirt, excessive yellow or orange tones, matting, or sparseness of the hair coat is undesirable. Excessive eye staining is undesirable. Marks and/or missing fur from collars, harnesses, or rough play are undesirable.

Standard and Solid Color Patterns

For color classes of sable, chocolate, black sable and champagne, the preferred pattern is standard or solid. Any deviation such as uneven roaning, white spotting, mitts, bibs, knee patches, etc. should be considered unacceptable and be penalized according to severity. Any unusual pattern such as a ferret with one leg a different color than the rest of the ferret is asymmetrical and should be penalized. A mask color that does not match the color of the points should be penalized slightly. Slight roaning, if evenly patterned or a few white hairs on older ferrets is acceptable, but not preferred.

Albino – *Preferred:* Pure white coat, pink to red eyes, no mask, pink nose. *Acceptable:* Cream or buff colored undercoat and/or guard hairs. *Unacceptable:* Any other color anywhere on ferret, or nose color other than pink.

Black – *Preferred:* Solid black guard hairs, white to buff undercoat, black eyes, black nose. Note: A solid pattern is equally preferred with a standard pattern. *Acceptable:* Buff to slight golden tone to undercoat, heavily speckled black nose. *Unacceptable:* White or brown hairs, yellow undercoat, brown or pink nose.

Black Sable – *Preferred:* Blackish-brown with black glossy shine guard hairs, white to buff undercoat, very little white around face, solid black nose, black eyes. Cool color palette as opposed to warm. Note: A solid pattern is equally preferred with a standard pattern. *Acceptable:* Cream undercoat, blackish brown to heavily mottled blackish brown nose. *Unacceptable:* White or brown hairs, golden undercoat, brown or pink nose or lightly mottled nose.

Champagne – *Preferred:* Diluted chocolate, tan, color of champagne (hence the name), white to buff undercoat, ruby to burgundy eyes or brown eyes, beige to pink nose, bar mask. *Note:* A solid pattern is equally preferred with a standard pattern. *Acceptable:* Reddish tint to guard hairs, cream undercoat, light brown T on nose, V-shaped mask. *Unacceptable:* No mask, eye rings, yellow undercoat, black eyes or dark nose. *Note:* This color most often shows with a V-mask. While the bar mask is preferred for a standard pattern, a V-mask is acceptable and should not be heavily penalized. No mask at all or eye rings should be penalized. This color also often shows with a heavier concentration of color along the back, which, while not preferred, is acceptable and should not be too heavily penalized, unless mixed in the darker concentration of guard hairs are other darker colors.

Chocolate – *Preferred:* Warm milk-chocolate brown guard hairs, white to buff undercoat, brown eyes, beige, light brown T, brick colored nose or pink nose. *Note:* A solid pattern is equally preferred with a standard pattern. *Acceptable:* Slightly golden undercoat, burgundy eyes, light brown freckled nose, *Unacceptable:* Yellow undercoat, V-mask, black or sable nose.

Dark-Eyed White (DEW) – *Preferred:* Pure white coat, ruby to black eyes, no mask, pink nose. 0-10% any color/90-100% roaning (white guard hairs) with 0% any color, 100% roaning (white guard hairs) preferred. *Acceptable:* Cream colored undercoat and/or guard hairs. *Unacceptable:* Dark hairs in excess of approximately 10%, any type of mask, black nose, yellow undercoat or guard hairs.

Sable – *Preferred:* Dark, warm brown guard hairs, buff or cream undercoat, brown or black eyes, brown nose. Warm color palette as opposed to cool. *Note:* A solid pattern is equally preferred with a standard pattern. *Acceptable:* Blackish-brown guard hairs, white undercoat, mottled brown, brown T, or mottled brown nose, *Unacceptable:* Yellow undercoat, pink or black nose, V-mask, burgundy eyes.

Patterns

The following pattern classes are judged based on the pattern, not the color of the ferret. Any of these patterns can be found in any of the standard colors. The ferret is still required to have the correct nose and eye color for its color, for example, a Chocolate Point should have chocolate brown guard hairs on the points, a white to buff undercoat, brown eyes and a beige, brick or light brown T nose.

Blaze – Must have blaze over top of head. *Preferred:* Wide white stripe on head, can start at nose or can have full white face with white stripe starting between ears and continuing down back of head and neck to shoulders, stripe should be a minimum of ½ inch across, four white feet – either mitts or white toes, ruby to brown eyes, pink nose. *Acceptable:* Crooked or broken blaze, bib, knee patches, speckled belly, white tip on tail or roaning, eye patches. *Unacceptable:* Full mask, white spot or snip on head (small), thin stripe or excessive roaning.

Panda – *Preferred*: Full white head to shoulders with dark coloration across shoulders, and across hips, burgundy eyes, pink nose, full mitts . Body coloration is concentrated on the shoulder and hips, usually the belly is fully white or speckled. *Acceptable*: Some color on head such as eye patches or eye rings, or a small patch of color in front of ears, knee patches, white tip on tail, white or speckled bellies, and roaning are acceptable. *Unacceptable*: Full mask or V-mask or excessive roaning.

Point/Fine Point – Must have light body color with dark points (legs and tail). Similar to a siamese cat. The greater degree of difference the better. V-mask is a must. The thinner the mask the better. Eyes can be ruby in lighter coat colors to black. Pink nose, can have a color outline depending on coat color. *Acceptable*: Champagne points are acceptable if they have no mask, but note that a V-mask should be preferred overall. Slightly darker color concentrations on back are acceptable but should be penalized slightly depending on severity. *Unacceptable*: Lack of definition between points and body color, full mask, heavy concentrations of darker color on body.

Roan - White ticking evenly dispersed throughout the coat. *Preferred*: Mixture of color and 50% - 50% white guard hairs, 50% - 50% colored hairs, evenly dispersed. Do not count off if roaning is fairly even front to back. *Acceptable*: Somewhat uneven mitts, stockings or boots, white spotting on the head or neck. 40% - 60% colored hairs to white hairs. *Unacceptable*: Less than 40% white guard hairs, white spots instead of white ticking, uneven roaning (for example, only on hindquarters.)

Standard - The body will appear lighter in color and the points (legs and tail) are easily discernable. Body color should match front to back. Masks are the full bandit style mask. Color concentration is not as heavy as in the solid pattern. Preferred color concentration on guard hairs is an even distribution from side to side and front to back. Heavier concentrations of color on the back are acceptable.

Solid - Gives the appearance of solid color concentration from head to tail, with even color distribution all around the body. Masks are T bar (excluding Albino and DEW where no mask is present).

Mitt – *Preferred*: Front mitts should be even with each other. Back mitts should be even with each other. Bonus for all four mitts even to each other. There should be a true definition or color break from mitt to points in solids and standards. Roans do not have to have the level of color delineation as solids or standards. Mitts should be symmetrical, extending only to the wrist/ankle. *Acceptable*: Slight spotting or slanting, particularly in roans. *Unacceptable*: Stockings, angled mitts, color spots on mitts, unclear definition from mitt to point, toe tips, mismatched mitts in front or in back.

Mutt - Can be any color; black, chocolate, champagne, dark eyed white patterned, sable. Should have various random dots, spots or uneven roaning. Mismatched points, mask, body color. Bonus points for uneven patterning of color - roaning from waist down, etc. Body color should be uneven, as this ferret would not do well in a standard color class.

Dark-Eyed White Stripes/Patterns (DEW Patterned) - *Preferred*: Pure white coat, ruby to black eyes, no mask, pink nose. Stripes have a concentration of black hairs down spine including tail. Patterns have light concentration of black hairs all over body (light silver) or some color spotting. 75% roaning with 25% any color. *Acceptable*: Cream colored undercoat and/or guard hairs, freckled nose. 60-90% roaning with 10-40% any color. *Unacceptable*: Dark hairs in excess of approximately 40%, any type of mask, black nose, yellow undercoat or guard hairs.

Black Mitt – *Preferred*: Very little white around face, standard to t-bar mask, solid black nose, legs and tail black with black eyes. White bib and four white feet. Cool color palette as opposed to warm. Should have well defined and even mitts. 100% black with 0% roaning. *Acceptable*: 90%-100% black, with 0%-10% roaning.

Black Roan Mitt – *Preferred*: Black guard hairs with white roaning throughout the coat. Should be lighter than a black mitt but darker than a roan. 75% black guard hairs with 25% roaning. Should have mitts, but the lighter the body color the more the mitts go to stockings. Do not count off for lack of definition. The overall color should appear silver or grey. *Acceptable*: 60%-90% black guard hairs with 10%-40% roaning (white guard hairs).

Five Variations From Black Mitt to DEW:

Black Mitt - 90% to 100% black; 0% to 10% roaning
Black Roan Mitt - 60% to 90% black; 10% to 40% roaning
Roan - 40% to 60% any color; 40% to 60% roaning
White Patterned - 10% to 40% any color; 60% to 90% roaning
DEW - 0% to 10% any color; 90% to 100% roaning

Preferences For Specialty Rings:

Black Mitt - 100% black/ 0% roaning
Black Roan Mitt - 75% black/ 25% roaning
Roan - 50% color/ 50% roaning
White Patterned - 25% color/ 75% roaning
DEW - 0% color/ 100% roaning

Physically Challenged/Shelter-Rescue/Super Senior - *This is not a pity ring.* The ferret must be a good representative in overall structure, health, disposition and how well he is regularly maintained. These three classes are judged on the same basic standards as the Title classes, with added emphasis on care and maintenance and disposition.

For physically challenged, judge the handicap as if the missing part was present, it would be as good as the matching part that is present. For example, a ferret with a missing front leg should be judged as if the missing front leg is as good as the front leg that is present.

For Shelter/Rescue consider if this ferret is a well rounded and well adjusted pet. How easily can you judge him? How well is the ferret maintained? Please consider age in

this scoring. All participants in the Shelter/Rescue class must be neutered/spayed. A vasectomized hob is permissible with documentation.

For Super Senior consider over-all health care, maintenance, and structure. Does this ferret look his age? Reward ferrets who appear younger than posted age and those who are well maintained and cared for. It should be very obvious. Do not just award the oldest ferret in the class.

Special Classes

Little Misses - Weight will be measured. Jills over 2 pounds, deduct 2 points; over 1 ½ pounds, deduct 1 point; for those less than 1 pound, add 2 points. Jills between 1 and 1 ½ pounds get 0 here.

Hunk-a-Hunk - Weight will be measured. Hobs over 5 pounds, add 3 points; over 4 pounds, add 1.5 points; less than 3 pounds, deduct 2 points. Hobs between 3 and 4 pounds get 0 here. Also note that the muscle category is now 20 points! This is a very important category. We are judging for muscular ferrets **NOT FAT FERRETS!!!!!!**