

# Chinese Li Hua

(Miscellaneous Category)

**POINT SCORE**

HEAD .....	25
(including shape, eye shape & size, ear shape & placement)	
BODY .....	25
(including torso, neck, legs and tail)	
COAT .....	15
COLOR (20)	
Color .....	10
Pattern .....	10
PAWS .....	5
EYE COLOR .....	5
BALANCE .....	5

**GENERAL:** the Li Hua cat is one of the earliest known breeds of domestic cats native to China. They have lived in a wide area of China for centuries and they are known as good hunters. They are a sturdy, well-proportioned, natural breed with gentle, even dispositions. They are relatively slow to mature, taking as long as three years. Females are generally smaller than males and allowances should be considered when comparing females and young cats to the standard. No outcrosses are required or permitted.

**HEAD: Shape:** like a hexagonal diamond; longer than it is wide; size in proportion to the body, and rounded between the ears. The nose is the same width for its entire length. **Profile:** the nose is long and straight; there is a slight dip at the bridge of the nose, but no obvious forehead break. The chin is firm with a good bite, but the lower jaw is slightly shorter than the upper jaw. **Eyes:** large, bright, alert, and almond shaped with the outer corner higher than the inner corner. **Ears:** medium in size and wide at the base. The distance between the ears should be one and one half to two times the width of one eye. They should face to the front and tilt no more than 15 degrees to either side. Ear tips are sharp and ear tufts are permitted.

**BODY: Torso:** wide, strong, rectangular shape, with a wide chest and well developed muscles. The length should be longer than the height; viewed from the side, the back should be almost flat. The difference in size between adult males and adult females are significant; males are more than 11 pounds and females should be no less than 8-3/4 pounds. There should be no evidence of obesity, paunchiness, weakness, or apathy. **Neck:** the neck is short and strong making a smooth transition between the head and body. **Legs:** medium in size, in proportion to the body. They are straight, well muscled and strong. The front legs are the same length or slightly lower than the back legs. When viewed from behind, the distance between the straight legs should be small. **Tail:** slightly shorter than the length of the body, with no sudden tapering at the tip.

**COAT:** short and thick, lying close to the body. There is no thick undercoat so they do not have very great resistance to cold. The hair on the chest is short, flat and close to the skin. The male coat is thick and tough, while the female is softer in comparison.

**COLOR:** hairs on the body are ticked, except for the beige hair on the belly and chin. The lower part of the belly should be brown yellow, with at least two vertical and four horizontal leopard spots. White lips and chin are permitted. The ground color has a black root, the middle is a light yellowish color and the tip is brown – sometimes referred to as “mouse coat.” The black pattern color has a lighter root, a dark brown middle and a black tip. **Nose leather:** brick red, dark brown or black. **Rims of the eyes:** out-

lined with lighter, primrose yellow. **Pattern:** spectacular contrast and clarity of the brown mackerel tabby pattern. There are lines on the forehead, becoming darker between the ears to the back of the head. There are black lines beginning at the outer corner of the eyes and the bottom of the cheeks that continue back to the neck. There is a small black spot at the upper rear corner of mouth that produces a smiling expression. Starting from the neck, at least one clear black line separates the ground color, equally dividing the markings on both sides of the body. There must be at least one unbroken necklace on the chest. The body and flanks are covered by several complete or incomplete vertical lines. The legs are covered by black rings above the wrist and below the wrist the paws are brown. **Paw pads:** black and the hair between the toes is black – the darker the better. The tail is clearly marked with rings and the tip is black.

**PAWS:** broad, large and oval shape with five toes in front and four behind.

**EYE COLOR:** green, yellow or brown; green preferred.

**PENALIZE:** fat body; ear size not in proportion with the head; too wide or too narrow forehead; outer corner of eyes not higher than inner corner; mixed colors in the coat, detracting from clarity contrast of the pattern.

**DISQUALIFY:** improper bite or tip of canine teeth outside the mouth; eye color other than green, yellow or brown; incorrect number of toes; abnormal tail; long hair on the body or curly hair on the chest; lack of at least one complete necklace on the chest; white paws; white muzzle; tip of tail not black; nose is flesh colored, white or other light colors; any color/pattern other than brown mackerel tabby.

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*The following information is for reference purposes only and not an official part of the CFA Show Standard.*

**Chinese Li Hua Color Class Number**

<b>Brown Mackerel Tabby</b> .....	0510	0511
<b>AOV</b> .....	None	None

**Chinese Li Hua allowable outcross breeds:** none.