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MEET THE BOMBAY

by PATRICIA C. TAYLOR

The snowball is at last beginning to roll. It was in 1958 that the first Bombay cat made its appearance at Nikki Horner's Shawnee Cattery in Louisville, Kentucky. Yet, for some unknown reason, this fascinating shorthaired cat with the sleek, black coat and huge copper eyes was slow to capture the imagination of the cat fancy. This writer purchased a pair of Bombays in 1973 and immediately resolved to do her best to introduce more fanciers to this new hybrid cat. By extensive exhibiting, much talking and the establishment of an international breed club, interest in the Bombay is steadily growing.

The pair of Bombays I purchased was SHAWNEE BATA HARI and SHAWNEE MOZAMBIQUE. At that time, the Bombays were then provisionally accepted with Cat Fanciers Association, the only association to accept them. In May, 1976, they were accepted for championship showing by CFA. Judges' reactions to the new breed were, for the most part, good. Comments ranged from "simply gorgeous" to "who needs another breed?". Exhibitors reactions, depending upon their particular breeds, seem to be mixed concerning the Bombay. Many welcome a new breed, while others feel that a hybrid is a waste of time and effort. However, the fancy is large enough to include all cats.

While Shawnee Cattery originated the breed and set the present Standard, there are now quite a few dedicated breeders across the U.S. and Canada. A few have started their own lines by an initial Burmese x Black American Shorthair breeding. Outcrossing, or the process of breeding Bombay to Burmese or



PANTHERA BLACK MACTIC and PANTHERA BLACKBERRY, Bombay kittens owned by Joy Smith, Waukegan, Ill.



GRAND CH. KEJO KYRIE (left) and SHAWNEE BATA HARI OF KEJO (right). Owner: P. Taylor.

Black ASH, is still allowed by CFA, and several breeders are involved in such programs. This outcrossing is necessary at this time to produce several lines of Bombays so that severe inbreeding will not be necessary to keep the breed going.

A breed club has been formed by Bombay fanciers. The unaffiliated, non-profit International Bombay Society is now involved with the cross-breeding programs by keeping records of kittens born. In the majority of Burmese x Bombay breedings, a ratio of 2:2 has resulted between black and sable kittens. A few litters of such breedings have resulted in all black litters, and at least one such mating has resulted in all sable kittens. These sable kittens are registered as AOV Bombays and are sold as pets, or, if of exceptionally fine type and quality, can be used in the breeding programs. As expected, the breedings from Black ASH x Bombay and from Bombay x Bombay have resulted in only black kittens. The Society hopes, by keeping these records, to help each member, as well as new breeders and fanciers of the Bombay. A bi-monthly Newsletter is sent to each member containing questions, opinions, articles, show reports of members' cats, sales list and many other items of interest to Bombay fans.

While many people feel that the Bombay is a black Burmese, although the two breeds are close in type they are not the same! A comparison of the standards will immediately show likenesses and differences. Judges, especially, should note what the Bombay breeders are striving to produce. (See Standards on page 48.)

TEMPERAMENT

The Bombay temperament seems to fall into a happy medium between the garrulous Burmese and the hearth-loving American Shorthair. Happy-go-lucky cats, the majority will "talk" to you, but not unless they have something important to say! Kittens are playful but not a complete house-wrecking crew. They mature at about the same rate as Burmese: fe-

.....BOMBAY COMPARISON OF CFA STANDARDSBURMESE

HEAD AND EARS (25)	
Roundness of head	9
Full face and proper profile	9
Ears	7
EYES (5)	
Placement and shape	5
BODY (15)	
Body	10
Tail	5
COAT (20)	
Shortness	10
Texture	5
Close lying	5
COLOR (35)	
Body color	20
Eye color	15

HEAD (25)	
Roundness of head	7
Breadth between eyes	4
Full face with proper profile	8
Ear set and placement	6
EYES (5)	
Placement and shape	5
BOOY (30)	
Torso	15
Legs and feet	5
Tail	5
Muscle tone	5
COAT (10)	
Short	4
Texture	4
Close lying	2
COLOR (30)	
Body color	25
Eye color	5

HEAD: The head should be pleasingly round without flat planes, whether viewed from front or side. The face should be full with considerable breadth between the eyes, tapering slightly to a short, well developed muzzle. In profile there should be a visible nose break.

EARS: The ears should be medium in size and set well apart on a rounded skull, alert, tilting slightly forward, broad at the base and with slightly rounded tips.

EYES: Set far apart with rounded aperture.

BODY: Medium in size, muscular in development, neither compact nor rangy. Allowance is to be made for larger size in males.

LEGS: In proportion to body and tail.

TAIL: Straight, medium in length.

COAT: Fine, short, satin-like texture; very close-lying with a shimmering patent leather sheen no other black cat possesses.

COLOR: The mature specimen should be black to the roots. Kitten coats should darken and become more sleek with age. Nose Leather: Black. Paw Pads: Black. Eye Color: Ranging from gold to deep copper, the greater the depth and brilliance the better.

DISQUALIFY: Kinked or abnormal tail. Lockets or spots. Incorrect number of toes. Nose leather or paw pads other than black. Green eyes.

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 males produce an average of four to five kittens a litter, needing little or no help from the anxious owners. Grooming consists of brushing once or twice a week; more in summer than winter, please. A good hand rub and a polish with the chamois will give the high gloss they are noted for. From my own experience, I have found the Bombays to be hale and hardy cats, able to cope with changes in climate and diet with no problems. Mine have

GENERAL: The overall impression of the ideal Burmese would be a cat of medium size and rich solid color; with substantial bone structure, good muscular development and a surprising weight for its size. This, together with its expressive eyes and sweet face, presents a totally distinctive cat which is comparable to no other breed.

HEAD: Pleasingly rounded without flat planes whether viewed from front or side. Face full, with considerable breadth between the eyes, tapering slightly to a short, well developed muzzle. In profile there should be a visible nose break.

EARS: Medium in size and set well apart on a rounded skull; alert, tilting slightly forward, broad at base with slightly rounded tips.

EYES: Set far apart and with rounded aperture.

BODY: Medium in size, muscular in development, and presenting a compact appearance. Allowance to be made for larger size in males. An ample, rounded chest, with back level from shoulder to tail.

LEGS: Well proportioned to body.

PAWS: Round. Toes, five in front and four behind.

TAIL: Straight, medium in length.

COAT: Fine, glossy, satin-like in texture; short and close lying.

COLOR: The mature specimen should be rich, warm sable brown; shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter hue on the underparts, but otherwise without shadings or markings of any kind. Nose leather: Brown. Paw Pads: Brown. Eye Color: Ranging from yellow to gold, the greater the depth and brilliance the better.

PENALIZE: Green eyes.

DISQUALIFY: Kinked or abnormal tail. Locket or button.

Incorrect number of toes. Blue eyes.

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 all been exceptionally good travelers as well.

For anyone who has seen the glossy black cat with the huge copper eyes, and desires a challenge in his/her cattery, the Bombay could be the answer. For those who want a gorgeous winner in the show ring, or a fire-side companion and playful friend, the Bombay has what it takes and more. ###

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