

Kurilian Bobtail - Main Forms of the Tail

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The Kurilian bobtail's phenomenon consists in its tail. Every Kurilian bobtail has its unique tail. The tail could be called pompon for its appearance. But its structure may differ. The best way is to say "short tail", "twisted" or "spiral tail".

It is absolutely impossible to find two identical tails. The tail serves cats for something like human fingerprints. The tail is as individual as possible. Such a diversity of tails gives still more charm to this breed.

Approved on June 16-17, 2001, in Moscow by the International Collegium of experts-felinologists, the standard currently in force describes the tail as short one in the forms of "whisk", "spiral", "snag" or "delayed bobtail", being bushy. The visible length (without hair) comes to 3-8 cm. The tail consists of 2-10 vertebrae, kinked many times in various directions and with different degree of articulation.

The expert has to establish visible length of the tail, quantity of vertebrae, curves and their angles, flexibility or rigidity of vertebrae junction as well.

The breeders usually subdivide the tails into relative forms in order to describe their pets.

"Snag"

This form of tail mostly consists of 2-8 vertebrae, strongly deformed as if they stick between them. The vertebrae joint rigidly. The kinks are felt like knobs.



short-cut "snag"



"snag" in the type of a spiral



"snag" with outgrowth

The short-cut "snag" usually consists of 2-3 still and rigid vertebrae. The presence of a skin pouch on such a tail may testify that the laying of vertebrae was meant for bigger length. But for some reason, the vertebrae resorbed or simply deformed in the process of embryogeny. The vertebrae of such a tail may coil up, but it is impossible to determine the direction of cockling due to very close fitting. Sometimes, such a "snag" ends with 1-2 vertebrae, thin enough and pointed aside. As is often the case, the vertebrae of so-called "snag with outgrowth" keep partial flexibility.

It is difficult to count the exact number of vertebrae as, very often, only the outgrowth can be felt. So the expert may indicate by mistake on the result sheet that the tail consists of 1 vertebra only. The situation can be clarified when finding the tail base or having roentgenogram. In all cases, the expert must be very experienced.