

Tortoiseshell Cats – Intermediate Level

What do you know about tortoiseshell cats?

Tortoiseshell cats have a coat that is intermingled or "broken" with red, cream or apricot. They are often called "Torties". Each Section at a cat show will have tortie cats including the Household Pet Section. Tortie cats are usually female, though there have been a few males born.



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A chocolate tortie Persian kitten – the milk chocolate colour is well broken with red. The colours on this young kitten are very promising and should improve with age.



Photograph courtesy of Alan Robinson.

A blue-cream Selkirk Rex kitten - here the blue coat has cream patches. Some breeds allow patches but others want the cream to be softly intermingled and subtle. Some breeds require both colours on all parts of the body, others do not require this.



This is a tortie and white kitten – when the white spotting gene is present, the tortie develops into clear patches of colour and red, cream or apricot.



Photograph courtesy of Robert Fox.

A Siamese Tortie Point has the tortie pattern on its "points" – the ears, mask, legs and tail. This is a beautiful blue Tortie Point – her blue points are broken with cream and both colours can be found on each point.

Black, Chocolate & Cinnamon Torties have their coat colour broken with Red; Blue, Lilac & Fawn Torties are broken with Cream; Caramel Torties are broken with Apricot. In the Persian Section Black and Chocolate Torties should be broken into small patches and the Blue and Lilac Torties have their cream softly intermingled.

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