

## **FIFE EMS SYSTEM**

### **Introduction**

FIFe needed an easy-to-remember way to denote the visual description of a cat that could be used for every colour, pattern, etc in existence without using too many characters (letters or numbers) to do so. They introduced the Easy Mind System or EMS as it is otherwise known.

With the EMS system, many cats can be completely described with just four characters; the majority use only six or seven, and even the longest description uses only a dozen or so characters.

### **Parts of the EMS Code**

This is a summary of what constitutes an EMS code - a complete listing of the applicable codes in each part is given overleaf, under a (fake!) demonstration code.

#### ***Breed***

The first part of an EMS code will always be an indicator of the cat's breed, and will consist of three uppercase (capital) letters. For example, NFO is Norwegian Forest Cat, TUA is Turkish Angora, OSH is Oriental Shorthair, MCO is Maine Coon, etc. This code will always begin with the same letter as the breed name and, if the breed comes in short and long-hair varieties, the last letter will often be S or L to denote which this is.

#### ***Non Recognised Breeds***

The code 'non' is used after a breed code and before the rest of the code where the breed only has a preliminary status. For example 'BOM non' or 'RGM non'.

#### ***Non Recognised Varieties***

If the cat belongs to a non-recognised variety an X is used before the colour code. For example PER x o or BSH x dy 11

#### ***Base colour and modifier***

A single lower case letter is used to indicate the base colour of the cat – for example 'a' is blue, 'd' is red and 'f' is black tortie. Sometimes other lower case letters are added to indicate silver, golden, dilute modifier and amber for example 'as' is blue silver etc. An x may also be used to indicate an unrecognised variety.

### ***Numerical codes***

These are used to add more information of the sort that is not necessarily on every cat, unlike breed and colour. They are grouped together according to the first digit, as follows:

- 0# With white
- 1# Tabby Tipping, e.g. shell or chinchilla
- 2# Tabby Pattern
- 3# Colour restriction, e.g. points
- 5# Tail length
- 6# Eye colour
- 7# Ear shape
- 8# Coat Structure

Some Examples of the EMS system in use:

**NFO n** - Black Norwegian Forest Cat

**TUA ay 09 11** - Blue golden shaded with white Turkish Angora

**OSH ams 23** - Blue-based caramel silver mackerel tabby Oriental Shorthair

**MCO as 09 22** - Blue silver classic tabby and white Maine Coon

**BUR fy 09 21 31** - Seal tortoiseshell golden sepia tabby with white Burmese

A full list of codes are captured in this document however should you wish to understand more about the EMS code system, the latest version of the FIFe EMS System document can be found in the Library section of the Felis Britannica website.

# FIFe EMS System

## BREEDS

### Category 1

EXO – Exotic  
PER – Persian  
RAG – Ragdoll  
SBI – Sacred Birman  
TUV – Turkish Van

### Category 2

ACL – American Curl Longhair  
ACS – American Curl Shorthair  
LPL – LaPerm Longhair  
LPS – LaPerm Shorthair  
MCO – Maine Coon  
NEM – Neva Masquerade  
NFO – Norwegian Forest Cat  
SIB – Siberian  
TUA – Turkish Angora

### Category 3

BEN – Bengal  
BML – Burmilla  
BSH – British Shorthair  
BUR – Burmese  
CHA – Chartreux  
CYM – Cymric  
EUR – European  
KBL – Kurilean Bobtail Longhair  
KBS – Kurilean Bobtail Shorthair  
KOR – Korat  
MAN – Manx  
MAU – Egyptian Mau  
OCI – Ocicat  
SIN – Singapura  
SNO – Snowshoe  
SOK – Sokoke

### Category 4

ABY – Abyssinian  
BAL – Balinese  
CRX – Cornish Rex  
DRX – Devon Rex  
DSP – Don Sphynx  
GRX – German Rex  
JBT – Japanese Bobtail  
OLH – Oriental Longhair  
OSH – Oriental Shorthair  
PEB – Peterbald  
RUS – Russian Blue  
SIA – Siamese  
SOM – Somali  
SPH – Sphynx

### House Cats

HCL – House Cat Longhair  
HCS – House Cat Shorthair

## PRELIMINARY BREEDS

BLH – British Longhair (Cat 3)  
SRL – Selkirk Rex Longhair (Cat 2)  
SRS – Selkirk Rex Shorthair (Cat 2)  
THA – Thai (Cat 4)

*Based on FIFe EMS System Document  
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## NON RECOGNISED BREEDS

ABL non – American Bobtail Longhair  
ABS non – American Bobtail Shorthair  
ALH non – Asian Longhair  
AMS non – American Shorthair  
AMW non – American Wirehair  
ASH non – Asian Shorthair  
AUM non – Australian Mist  
BOM non – Bombay  
BRX non – Bohemian Rex  
MBT non – Mekong Bobtail  
NEB non – Nebalung  
RGM non – RagaMuffin  
TIF non – Tiffanie  
TOL non – Tonkanese Longhair  
TOS non – Tonkanese Shorthair

XLH – Non-recognised longhair breed  
XSH – Non recognised shorthair breed

## COLOURS

a - Blue  
b - Chocolate  
c - Lilac  
d - Red  
e - Cream  
f - Black Tortie  
g - Blue Tortie  
h - Chocolate Tortie  
j - Lilac Tortie  
n - Black  
o - Cinnamon  
p - Fawn  
q - Cinnamon  
r - Fawn Tortie  
s - Silver  
w - White  
y - Golden

### Dilute modifier

m – Dilute modifier  
x am – Caramel known to be based on blue karamel  
x cm – Caramel known to be based on lilac karamel  
x pm – caramel known to be based on fawn karamel  
x em – apricot known to be based on cream apricot  
x \*m caramel where base colour is unknown karamel (SIA only)

### Amber (NFO Only)

nt – Amber  
at – Light Amber  
dt (d) – Red based on amber  
et (e) – cream based on amber  
ft – amber tortie  
gt – light amber tortie

## AMOUNT OF WHITE

01 – Van  
02 – Harlequin  
03 – Bicolour  
04 – Mitted (RAG only)  
05 – Snowshoe pattern (SNO only)  
09 – Unspecified amount of white

## PATTERNS

11 – Shaded (for BLH/ BSH tipped)  
12 – Shell (not for BLH/ BSH)  
21 – Tabby  
22 – Tabby Blotched  
23 – Tabby Mackerel  
24 – Tabby Spotted  
25 – Tabby Ticked

## POINTED

31 – Burmese pointed  
32 – Tonkinese pointed  
33 – Siamese pointed

## TAIL (MAN/ CYM ONLY)

51 – Rumpy  
52 – Rumpy riser  
53 – Stumpy  
54 – Longie

## EYE COLOURS

61 – Deep Blue  
62 – Copper or deep orange  
63 – Odd eye  
64 – Green  
65 – Golden yellow (Burmese)  
66 – Aquamarine (Tonkinese)  
67 – Intense deep blue (Siamese)

## EARS (ACL/ ACS ONLY)

71 – Straight ears  
72 – Curled ears

## COAT STRUCTURE

Only for DSP/ PEB  
81 – Longhair  
82 – Shorthair  
83 – Brush (only LPL/LPS & SRL/SRS)  
84 – Straight coat