

# THE MAGNIFICENT SAVANNAH



The Savannah is still a young breed that was just awarded Championship status May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. It therefore remains a breed in development and not every cat seen will excel in every point of the Standard.

When proceeding through this presentation please remember to focus on the feature that is presented in the slide you are reviewing. It may also be a good exercise to critique the entire cat (when seen), to put into practice what you have just learned, and judge how close you believe it comes to the Standard.

# GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The overall impression of the Savannah is a tall lean graceful cat with striking dark spots and other bold markings on a background color of any shade of brown, silver, black or black smoke. The Savannah cat is a domestic breed which closely resembles its ancestral source the African Serval, but is smaller in stature. Affectionate and outgoing, with exceptionally long neck, legs, and tall ears, as well as a medium length tail, the Savannah is both unusual and beautiful. The Savannah is also an exceptionally graceful, well-balanced cat with striking color and pattern.

*Please note that **NO WHERE** in the Standard is there reference to size, except to say that the Savannah “closely resembles its ancestral source the African Serval, but is smaller in stature”*

*In general, the SBT Savannah that is shown in Championship is the same size as a normal to large domestic cat*































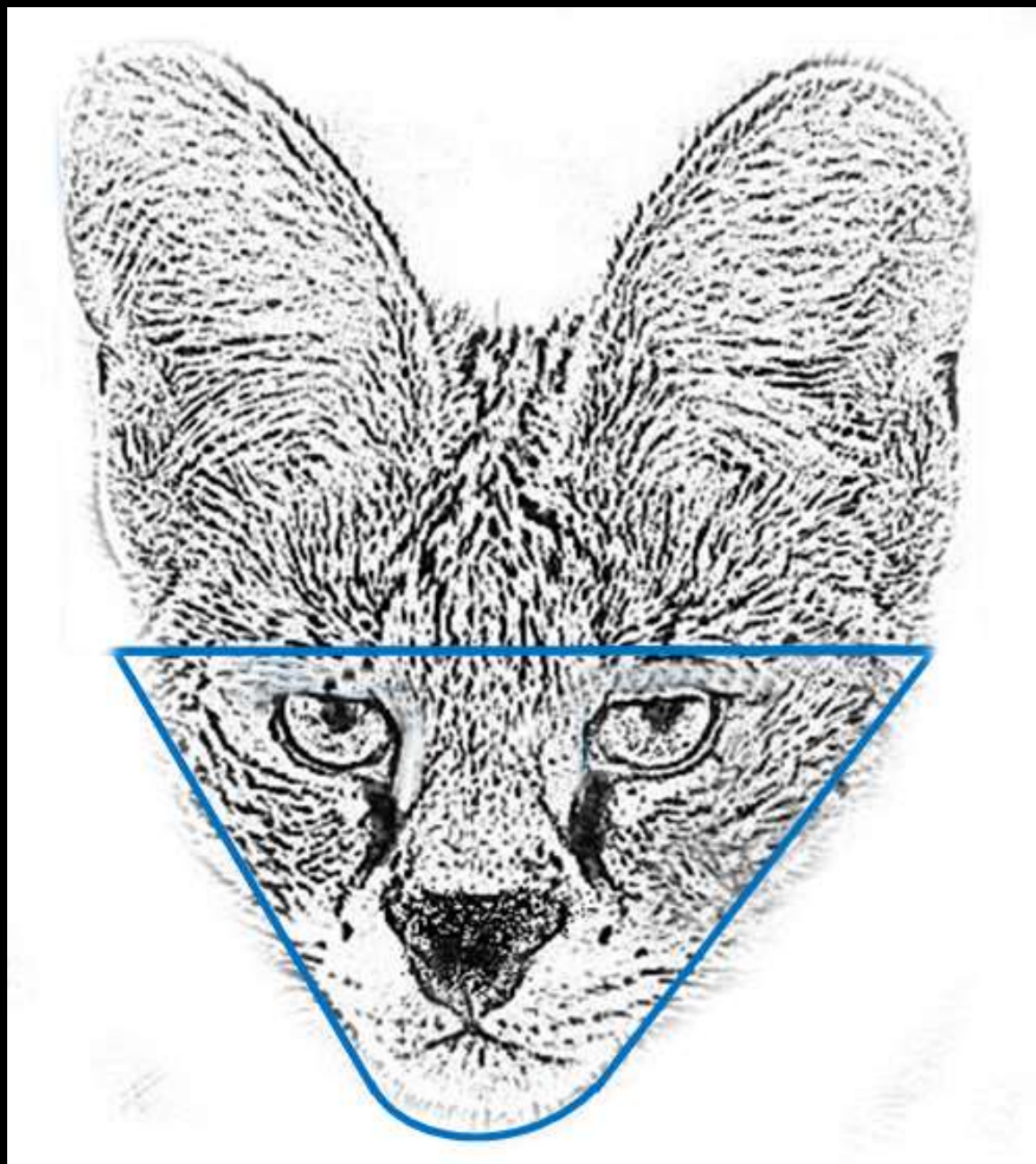


# HEAD

The face forms an equilateral triangle: the triangle is formed by the brow line over the eyes and the sides follow down the jaw bone with a rounded finish at the muzzle. Above this triangle the forehead and ears form a rectangle from the brow line to the tops of the ears. The head is small in proportion to the body.







# EYES



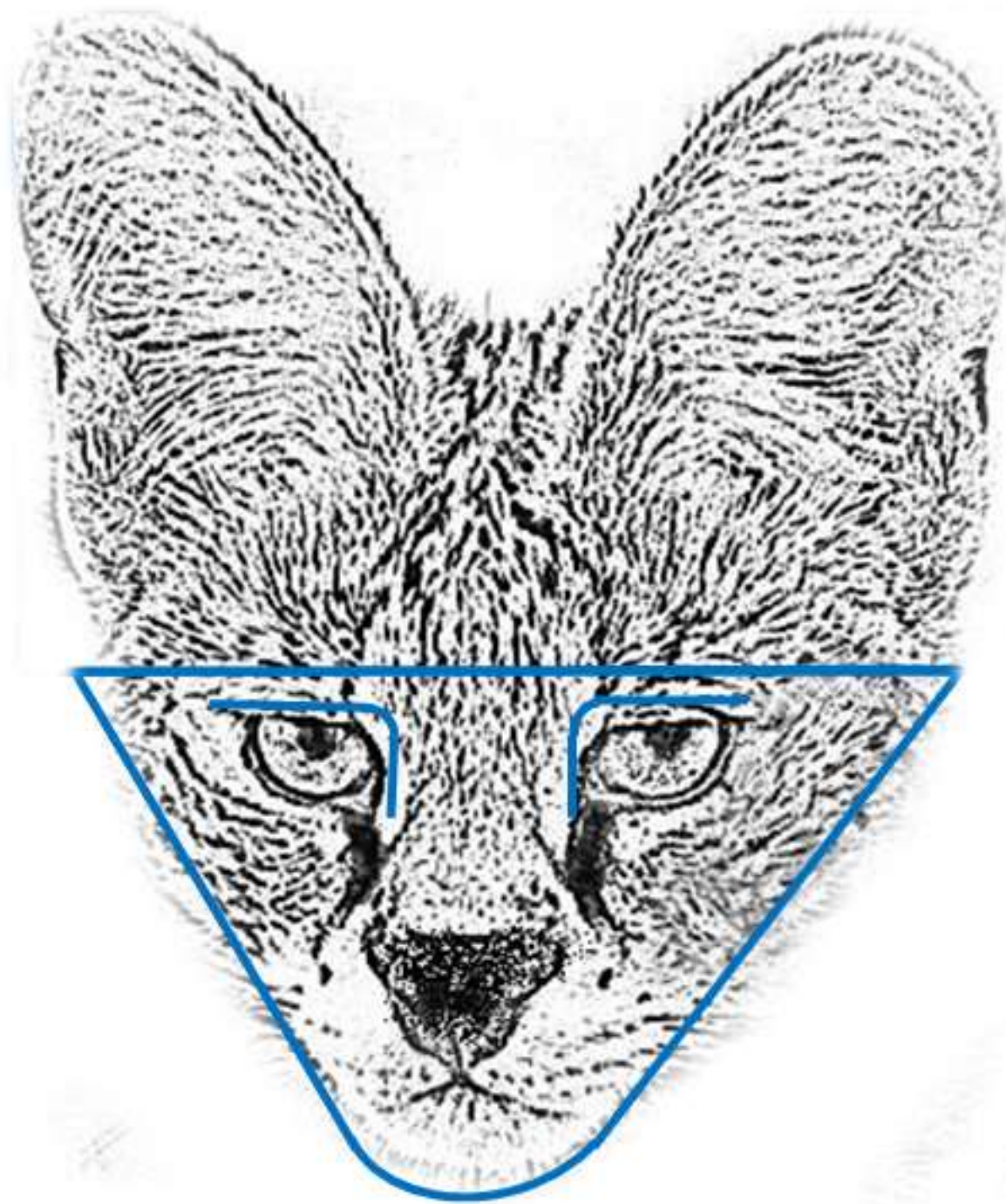
Medium sized and set underneath a slightly hooded brow. The top of the eye resembles a boomerang, which is set at an exact angle so that the corner of the eye slopes down the line of the nose. The bottom half of the eye has an almond shape.



The eyes are moderately deep set, low on the forehead, and at least one eye width apart. Tear stain markings are present along and between the eyes and the nose. All eye colors are allowed and are independent of coat color.







# EARS

Ears are remarkably large and high on the head.

They are wide with a deep base.

They should be very upright and have rounded tops.

The outside base of the ear should start no lower on the head than at the height of the eyes, but may be set higher.

The inside base of the ears is set close at the top of the head; ideally a vertical line can be drawn from the inner corner of the eye up to the inner base of ear.

Ear furnishings may be present; pronounced ocelli are desirable.





# MUZZLE

The muzzle is tapered with no break. It falls within the bottom portion of the facial triangle that runs from the brow to the point of the chin. Whisker pads are not pronounced.

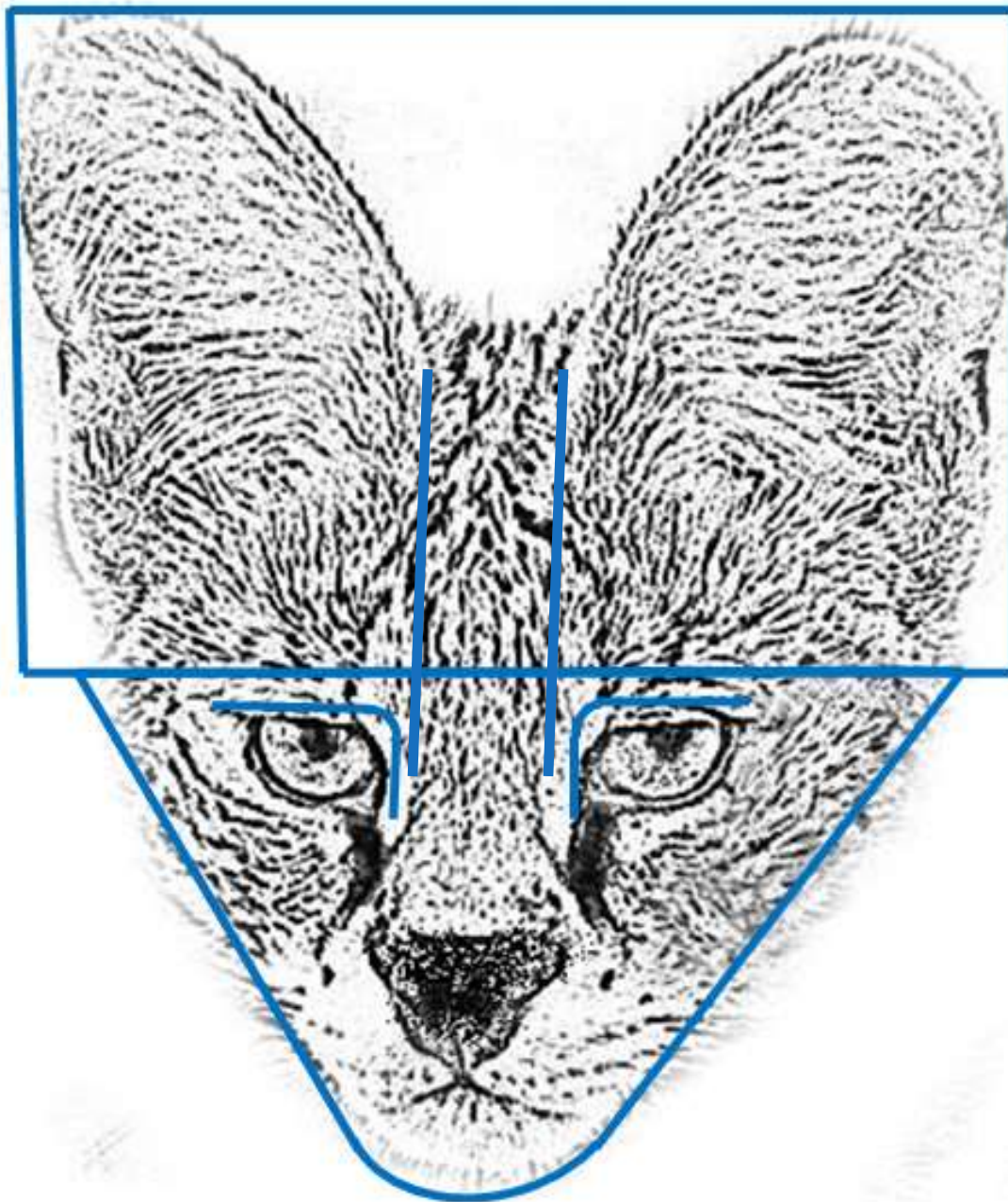


# NOSE

Viewing from the front, the nose is wide across the top with low set nostrils. In profile, there is a slight downward turn at the end, giving a rounded appearance. Nose leather is slightly convex and wraps up over the nose.







# CHIN

From the frontal view the chin tapers to follow the triangle of the head. In profile, the nose is slightly protruding so that the angle from the nose to the chin slants back, which may cause the chin to appear recessed.

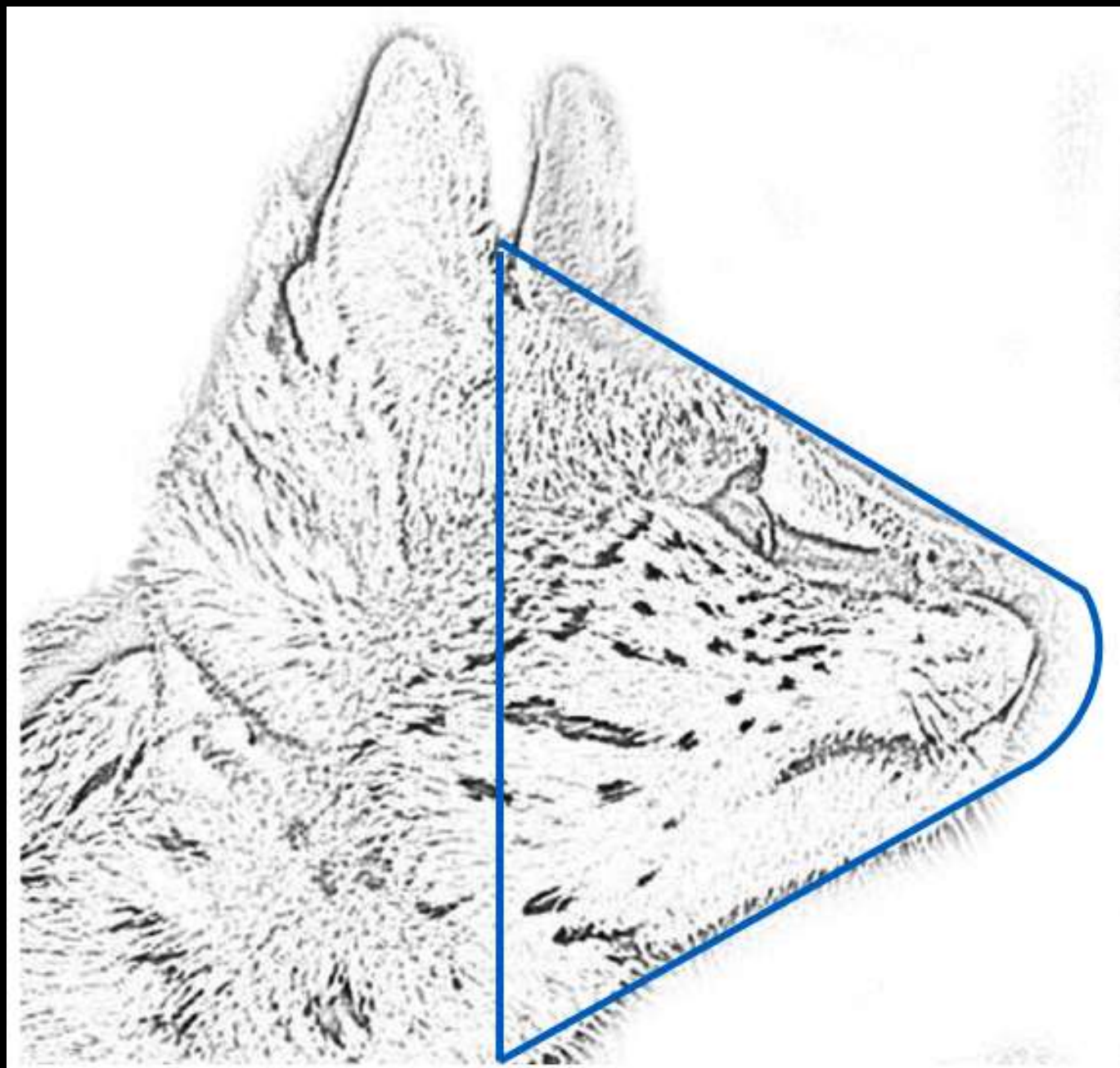




# PROFILE

The forehead is a straight to slightly convex curve from the top of the head to the ridge just above the eye, where there is a slight change of direction and a straight to very-slight concave curve from that ridge to the tip of the nose. In profile, the face also forms a triangle from the top of the eye to the tip of the nose, turning to follow the jaw line and back up to the eye.







# NECK

Long and lean.



# TORSO

The torso is long, lean, and well muscled with a full deep rib cage, prominent shoulder blades, a slight, but not extreme tuck-up, and a rounded rump. The hip and thigh are full and long, and somewhat heavy in proportion to the rest of the body.





# LEGS

Longer than average, well muscled, without appearing heavy or overly delicate. The back legs are slightly longer than the front legs.



# FEET

Oval, medium in size.



# TAIL

Medium to thick in width. Medium in length, ending between the hock and just above ground level when standing, with preferred length just below the hock. Tail should taper slightly to a blunt end. Whippy tails are not desired.





# BONING AND MUSCULATURE

Medium boning with density and strength.

Muscles are firm and well-developed. Athletic yet not bulky.  
Lean but not delicate.

















# COAT

Short to medium in length, moderately dense and loose. It has a slightly coarse feel to it and lacks resilience. Coarser guard hairs cover a softer undercoat. The spots have a notably softer texture than the texture of the ground color hairs. Glitter is not desired.



# PERMISSIBLE COLORS

Brown (Black) Spotted Tabby

Black Silver Spotted Tabby

Black

Black Smoke

No preference is given to ground color on  
the Brown (Black) Spotted Tabby

Bold solid markings are preferred on all  
tabbies.

*When the Savannah Standard was first written the majority of those involved believed that the silver Savannah more closely represented the white Serval.*

*Since the Standard accepts both silver and black (solid) colors we had to, by default, accept black smoke as well.*





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# PATTERN

**SPOTTED PATTERN ONLY.** The spotted Savannah pattern is made up of bold, solid dark spots, which can be round, oval, or elongated.

A series of parallel stripes, from the back of the head to just over the shoulder blades fan out slightly over the back. The spotting pattern follows the line of the stripes from the shoulders and continues along the length of the body.

Vertically aligned spots are not desired.

Smaller spots may be found on the legs and feet, as well as on the face.

In the black Savannah ghost spotting may occur.

A visible spotting pattern on the smoke Savannah is preferred.

In all divisions, any visible pattern must be spotted.









*Jaciriana Savannahs*  
*CactusRun*  
Aug 18









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# TEMPERAMENT

The ideal Savannah is to be a confident, alert, curious and friendly cat.

















09/13/2005







APR 22 2008













## **ALLOWANCES:**

Females proportionately smaller than males

## **PENALIZE:**

Rosettes. Spots that are any color other than dark brown to black. Any distinct locket. Mackerel tabby type stripes. Cobby body.

## **DISQUALIFY:**

Extra toes

## HANDLING:

Savannahs do not require any special handling. Because they are active cats, they usually respond well to a wand toy, which is also a good tool to help evaluate ear set and eye shape when held at eye level to catch their attention.



