

Comments to Proposal 1, 2 and 3 from ragdoll breeders around the world and with support of Scandinavian Ragdoll Club

Our opinion is that these three proposals should be voted down. The intentions of the proposal are to let the ragdoll breed develop in another way than the existing standard points to. A main argument from the FFF is the resemblance of f.ex. ragdoll and persians, and we would say that most breeders and judges would say that there is no problem today. The suggestions in the proposal are unclear, not well argued and if the changes will be made there will be a much wider interpretation of the standard than we have today.

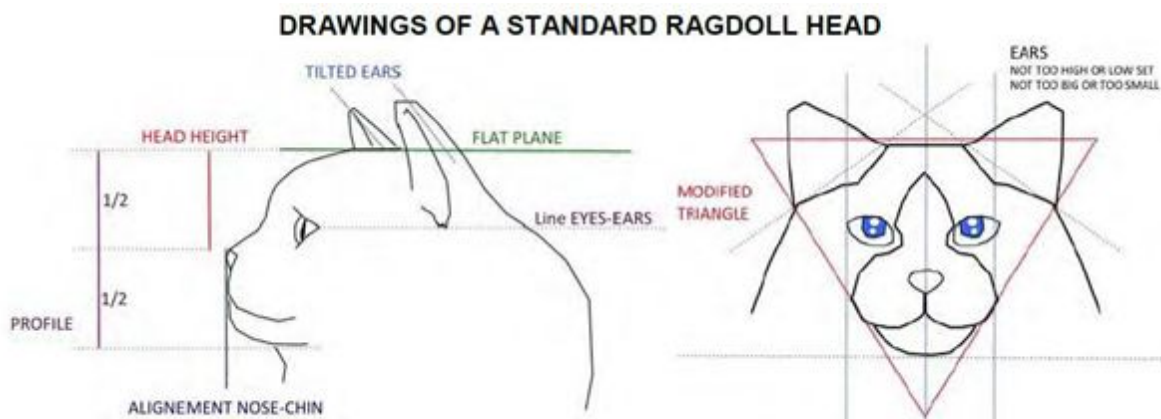
These proposals have not been presented to the Ragdoll Breed Council. Due to this lack of transparency, few members of the BC have had an opportunity to be a part of the process resulting in these proposals. As we know, no Ragdoll Breed Club have been a part of the process nor being asked about their opinions about the proposals.

FR	FFF	Proposal 1	Standards, Gen. Part & EMS List	RAG
Changes to the Ragdoll standard – head shape				
Head/ Kopf/ Tête	Shape/ Form/ Forme	Medium size, broad modified wedge. Slightly rounded , never domed forehead (not-domed) showing a gentle transition to a flat plane between the ears. Good height in profile. The height from nose to flat plane in between the ears should represent no more than half of the head height	Mittlere Größe, breite modifizierte Keilform. Leicht gerundete gebogene Stirn (nicht-gewölbt), nie gewölbt , zeigt einen sanften Übergang zu einer flachen Stelle zwischen den Ohren. Gute Höhe im Profil. Der Abstand von der Nase zu der Ebene zwischen den Ohren sollte nicht mehr als die Hälfte der Kopfhöhe betragen.	De taille moyenne, en forme de large triangle aux contours arrondis. Front légèrement arrondi (non-bombé) courbé, jamais bombé , montrant une transition en douceur à un plan plat entre les oreilles. Bonne hauteur en profil. La hauteur a partir du nez et jusqu'au plat de a tête ne sera pas plus grande que la moitié de la hauteur de la tête entière.

Motivation

Head: Several changes were proposed to clarify this point that seems one of the most important to keep the Ragdoll look moderate and to keep the look distinct from Persian and British.

1. We propose to change the word "round" with the word "curved".
2. The word round is highly confusing and does not really describe the forehead of the Ragdoll, since round is always connected with the geometrical shape that is the circle. Round might be very well adapted to Persians, British, Siberians but we believe is not suitable for Ragdolls. Moreover, the adjective "slightly" in front of the word "round" is very often forgotten. This forget might be understandable because semantically is incorrect to use the word "slightly" together with the word "round". We believe the word "curved" is more appropriate, because it gives the logical image of a curve that can have the property of being "slight" and that can correspond to the shape of the forehead of the Ragdoll.
3. We propose also to take the sentence "not domed" out of the brackets and substitute with "never domed".
4. The reason for this clarification is, that often sentences in brackets are forgotten and seem to be a detail. Now, the forehead of a Ragdoll is never domed and this is not a detail, so this sentence deserves to have all the importance needed in the standard.
5. We propose to explain better the "height of the forehead" by a sentence that describes exactly how high the forehead should be. It seems very important to give a limit to the height of the forehead; the look of the Ragdoll should be moderate and moderate means to have a lower and an upper limit. The tendency these last 10 years was to promote foreheads that were higher and higher with years and with judgments. To keep the Ragdoll look equilibrated it is important to precisely give an upper limit and because of the equilibrium, we agreed on having the head of the Ragdoll separated in two zones that are equal in size. The area below the nose and the area above the nose should be of equal size. This modification is not only a guarantee that the head of the Ragdoll remains equilibrated but it is a very easy characteristics that will be remembered by judges and breeders.



Comments of Proposal 1 - changing the ragdoll standard - head shape

The standard is already very clear and detailed and gets no interpretation to other breeds like persian or British. This is the main argument of the need of changing the standard. We think that there are big differences in both the breeds and the standards today and don't think that the type should be more moderate than the standard of today.

1. The change from "slightly rounded" to "slightly curved" is not better.
2. The argument is set from that round might be misunderstood as a circle and can't be "slight round". We think that "slightly rounded" is very clear and think it is suitable to describe the forehead of a ragdoll. It's a great difference in the forehead of a persian and a ragdoll and we think very few judges would say that "slightly rounded forehead" is correct on a persian.
3. What is the meaning in changing a word "not domed" in to "never domed"?

4. If we change a sentence with the argument that words in brackets have less meaning, we need to change a lot in very many standards. We haven't seen any proof that this is an accurate observation. All text in the standard is important.

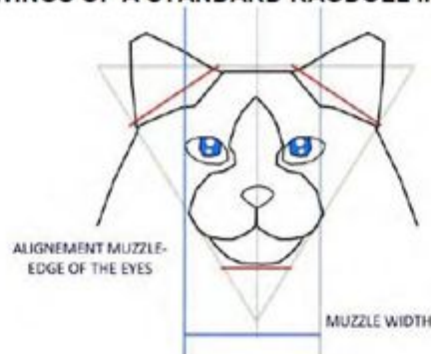
5. Anatomically, the young cats is different in their head shape and similarly the older cats, how to mathematically'll get to a maximum height is very difficult if you have for example a weaker chin or a young cat who often have more height in the head how do you do this measurements? What decides the exactly hight the forehead should have?

Head/ Kopf/ Tête	Cheeks, Chin, Muzzle / Wangen, Kinn, Schnauze / Joues, Menton, Museau	Cheeks well developed, tapering to a rounded well-developed, <i>fairly</i> broad muzzle of medium length (never narrow) and a well-developed chin, <i>aligned with the nose</i> .	Gut ausgebildete Wangen, die sich zu einer gerundeten, gut entwickelten <i>und relativ</i> breiten Schnauze von mittlerer Länge verjüngen (nie-schmal). Gut entwickeltes Kinn <i>in einer Linie mit der Nase</i> .	Joues bien développées se prolongeant par un museau arrondi <i>moyennement, assez large</i> de longueur moyenne museau large- (jamais étroit) , bien développé tout comme le menton, <i>qui est aligné avec le nez</i> .
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Motivation

Cheeks, Chin, Muzzle: We propose to add the adjective "fairly" to the wording "broad muzzle" to avoid, that the muzzle of the Ragdoll become larger and larger. We do think, that the size of the muzzle should be moderate to be distinguishable from muzzles of BSH and BLH and to respect the equilibrium of the Ragdoll head. Fairly means moderate and clearly describe what we think is the good size of the Ragdoll muzzle. We propose to delete "never narrow" as this feature has been added to the Fault List.

DRAWINGS OF A STANDARD RAGDOLL MUZZLE



Comments of Proposal 2 - changing the ragdoll standard - chin, cheeks and muzzle

Muzzle: The argument of changing this text is that they have observed that muzzle go larger and larger and that there is a risk that ragdoll will have as broad muzzle as a british. We think that there is a clear difference in the standards of RAG and BSH/BLH today. Adding the word "fairly" only opens up to more interpretation of the standard.

When it comes to the drawing of the muzzle in relation to the outer edge of the eyes it has to be said that it doesn't look like a ragdoll at all. There will also be a problem when the cat has close set eyes - should the muzzle then be more narrow?

Chin: There are no arguments why the standard should be changed when it comes to the chin. The suggestion is to add "aligned with the nose" after the text of well-developed chin. It is very unclear where this line should be drawn? Our guess is that they mean seen from the side but in the drawing it looks like they mean inside the "triangle". The extra words makes it again open for more interpretation of the standard.

Faults/ Fehler/ Fautes	Head/Kopf/ T. te	Narrow or Round	schmal oder rund	Etroite ou ronde
	Muzzle/ Schnauze/ Museau	Too large or too narrow	Zu breit oder zu schmal	Trop large ou trop étroit
	Forehead/ Stirn/Front	Domed	gewölbt	Bombé
	Nose/ Nase / Nez	Stop, roman nose	Stop, römische Nase	Stop, nez romain
	Ears/ Ohren/ Oreilles	Large or small ears; pointed ears. Too low or too high set ears.	breite oder schmale Ohren, spitze Ohren, zu niedrig oder zu hoch angesetzt.	Larges, petites, pointues. Trop basses ou trop hautes.
	Eyes/ Augen/ Yeux	Almond or round in shape	mandelförmig oder rund	En amande ou ronds
	Neck/ Hals/Cou	Too long and too skinny	zu lang und zu dünn	Trop long ou trop fin
	Body/ Körper/ Corps	Cobby body; narrow chest.	gedrungener Körper, schmale Brust	Cobby; poitrail étroit.
	Legs/ Beine/ Membres	Short legs; lack of tufting	kurze Beine, Fehlen der Haarbüschel an den Pfoten	Courtes, Sans touffes de poil entre les doigts.
	Tail/ Schwanz/ Queue	Short	kurz	Courte
	Coat/ Fell/ Fourrure	Short Coat (seasonal). Wooly coat. Undercoat	kurzes Fell (saisonbedingt), wolliges Fell, Unterfell	Courte (selon la saison). Laineuse. Présence de sous- poil.

Motivation

List of faults: Lastly, we propose that the List of Faults should be back in the Ragdoll standard.

The fault list is not a redundancy of the standard but is the key of a clarification, especially for new breeders and new judges that ignore the evolution of the written standard. In fact, the fault list was present before 2010 and disappeared in 2010, since 9 years "roman nose", "cobby body" etc are no more faults. The result is that we see nowadays more and more Ragdolls with Roman nose and cobby bodies.

Accordingly with the standard proposition for the HEAD SECTION, we propose to add to the list:

- Head: Narrow head and round head.

Both narrow (undertyped) and round (overtyped) heads should be faulty.

- Forehead : domed.

A domed forehead should be a fault.

- Muzzle : Too Large or too narrow.

This is to avoid both under-typed or over-types muzzles.

- Ear set: too low or too high set ears.

To clarify the EAR SECTION, it is important to add to the fault list that both too low (overtyped) or too high (undertyped) set ears are both a fault. Ears in Ragdoll should be set in harmony with the head. Nowadays some Ragdolls have extremely small and low set ears, this is as much of a fault as large and high set ears.

- Eyes: Almond or round in shape.

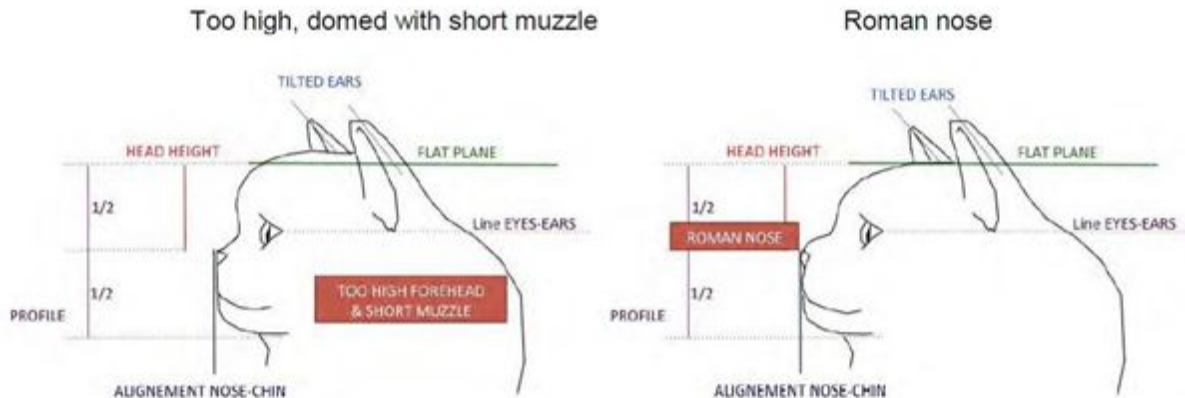
To clarify the EYES SECTION, we add "round shape eyes" as a fault, as for other characteristics of the Ragdoll, the equilibrium stay in the moderate shapes. Eyes that are round are a fault as much as eyes that are almond shape.

- Coat: Short coat (seasonal), wooly coat, undercoat

To clarify the COAT SECTION, we add "wooly coat and undercoat".

One of the unique characteristics of the Ragdoll that makes this breed so popular is the non-matting silky fur with no undercoat. This silky non-matting fur falls on the body naturally and breaks when the cat moves, in other cat fancy organisations this fur is described to be "bunny like". It is important to keep this characteristic intact, as this is unique for the Ragdoll.

EXAMPLES OF A NON STANDARD FOREHEAD



Comments of Proposal 3 - Fault list

Fault list is the reverse words of what the standard intends and are not necessary when the standard is as detailed as it is today. Another problem by adding a fault list is that it is hard to know what to do with the faults. Are they disqualifying, no cert or something else?

A fault list can also be a contributor to much confusion. Let's say that we are to judge a ragdoll with rectangular eyes (in theory). The standard says the shape should be

oval, but the fault list does not mention rectangular shapes at all, so what are we supposed to do with this cat? It is much easier to consider and treat all traits that are not fulfilled by the standard as faults instead.

Head: *broad modified wedge* can never be narrow or round head.

Forehead: *slightly rounded forehead (not domed)* it's already in standard not domed.

Muzzle: *tapering to a rounded well-developed, broad muzzle of medium length (never narrow)* too large? too narrow - it's already in the standard.

Ear set: **Set wide on the skull with a slight tilt forward. Medium size.** In the standard you have the correct placement and also size of the ears. Too small or too large ears is already a fault also too low or too high set ears. If anything should be added to the standard is the size to the points list.

Eyes: **Large and oval. Outer edge of the eye aperture to be level with the base of the ears.**

The size and shape is already in the standard and also the placement of the eye. When we look at the drawings the angle is not correct, the cat at the drawing must have a round eye to get the straight line with very low set ears.

Coat: **Medium long, dense, soft and silky texture, lying with the body. Feels like cold silk to the touch.** The text is very detailed with the silky texture and cold to the touch so it can never be woolly and warm.

Today under remarks we have allow for seasonal coat, if seasonal coat is a fault we will see less ragdolls at show when changing the coat