Cinnamon Coat Colour

About the Colour

A mutation in the Brown gene (tyrosinase-related protein-1, *TYRP1*) results in the Cinnamon coat colour.

The mutant b^l allele produces a light brown or cinnamon colouration. The mutation is recessive, hence two copies of the b^l allele are required for cinnamon colouration.

Interpretation of results

Test Result	Interpretation
Cinnamon (b^l/b^l)	Has two copies of the Cinnamon allele (b^l/b^l). Cat is Cinnamon.
Carrier of Cinnamon (B/b^l or b/b^l)	Has one copy of the Cinnamon allele. Cat is Full colour (B/b^l) or possibly Chocolate if the cat also carries Chocolate (b/b^l).
Does not carry Cinnamon (B/B, B/b or b/b)	Has no copies of the Cinnamon allele. Cat is Full colour (B/B, B/b) or possibly Chocolate (b/b).

FAQs

How do I test for lilac in my British Shorthairs?

Lilac is the result of the Dilute gene working on the Chocolate or Chocolate and Cinnamon genes. The results must be Chocolate (b/b) and Dilute (d/d) or Chocolate carrying Cinnamon (b/b^l) and Dilute (d/d) for the British Shorthair to be Lilac.

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The genetics of Chocolate, Cinnamon and Dilute colours

The Brown gene

The Brown gene has three alleles (B, b and b^l), with B dominant to b, and b dominant to b^l. When B is present (BB, Bb or Bb^l) the coat colour is its normal, full colour. If a cat is bb or bb^l the brown is lightened to chocolate. When a cat is b^l b^l the colour is further lightened to cinnamon.

Chocolate, Cinnamon and Dilute Colours

Chocolate/Cinnamon	Dilute	Coat colour
BB or Bb or Bb^l	DD or Dd	Black/Brown
BB or Bb or Bb^l	dd	Blue
bb or bb^l	DD or Dd	Chocolate
bb or bb^l	dd	Lilac
b^lb^l	DD or Dd	Cinnamon
b^lb^l	dd	Fawn