Taking photos for the Burmese CC Online Show

To give you some kind of idea of the photos that the judges will be looking for in the Burmese COLOUR classes (classes 1 to 10) we asked **Sylvan Mason** to take a series of photos of her cats Poppy and Piglet. We then sent the photos to one of our senior Burmese judges, **Steve Crow**, who has kindly evaluated them but stresses that this is just his opinion.

The photos were numbered 1 to 10 by Steve as this was the order in which they were presented to him.

The best body shot for me is **photo number 4**, although **photo number 3** quite useful too.

Ideally, I would like the photo to be taken from a slightly lower angle so I can see the body fully sideways on at eye level, that way I can see the leg length, the body length and assess the balance of the cat. It would be great if the tail can be seen held upright or out behind (again to see the length in relation to the body).

Both 4 and 3 give pretty good visibility of coat, how it lies along with the colour and tone.

Photo number 2 wasn't helpful. There was no clear definition of any part of the cat.

Photo number 1 is good for seeing the cat sitting and shows the chest and forelegs and the tail shape and length well, it also shows the coat and colour pretty clearly.

Photo number 5 wasn't helpful. The photo is slightly out of focus and the angle doesn't show the profile properly or the face/earset/wedge clearly although it was good for eye colour.

Photo number 6 is quite good at showing the profile. Ideally, I'd like the shot to be taken full-on to the profile, that way the chin, as well as nose break and length, the shape of the forehead, the depth of skull and set of the ears, would all be visible as they are in photo 7.

Photo number 7 is better than number 6 and is the correct angle to show all the elements listed in No 6.

Photo number 8 is a very good one of the full face - giving the shape of wedge and muzzle, ear shape and set, eye shape, set and colour, plus the colour of the face. I find this one very useful for assessing head full-on and Burmese expression.

Photo number 9 gives the face but is not a helpful as number 8, it also shows the shape of forelegs and feet, but doesn't show much that is useful about the rest of the cat.
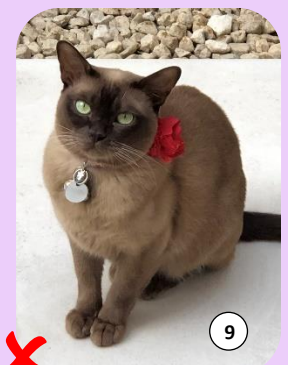
Photo number 10 is blurry and not of much help. It is hard to distinguish between the two cats, as they blend in too much.

Overall, I think a side-on photo of the body when standing is best for body shape, leg shape, tail, balance, coat and colour. A full-on face shot of the head and full-on profile shot of the head will give the detail of wedge-shape of head, ears, eyes, break, forehead and chin, all of which have a total of 45 points in the SOP.