

# BREED TURKISH VAN

**GENERAL** The Turkish Van is a natural breed from the rugged, remote and climatically varied region of the Middle East. The breed is known for its unique, distinctive pattern...the term “van” has been adopted by a variety of breeds to describe white cats with colored head and tail markings. The Turkish Van is a solidly-built, semi-longhaired cat with great breadth to the chest. The strength and power of the cat is evidenced in its substantial body and legs. This breed takes a full 3 to 5 years to reach full maturity and development, therefore allowances must be made for age and sex. Turkish Vans are very intelligent and alert cats, and as such feel more secure, and handle better with all four feet on a solid surface.

## HEAD

### SHAPE

Substantially broad wedge, with gentle contours and a medium length nose to harmonize with the large muscular body, ears are not to be included in the wedge. Prominent cheekbones.

### EYES

Large and oval, set slightly oblique. All colours permitted, regardless of coat colour. Eye lids to be outlined with pink.

### EARS

Medium to large and well furnished; wide at the base, slightly rounded tips. The ears are preferred to be white outside, inside pale pink. Set one ear width apart, placed medium high on the skull.

### CHIN

Firm

### MUZZLE

The muzzle is neat, rounded, and proportionate to head, with a definite but not sharp whisker break (must be felt in full-coated cats).

### NECK

Medium short and muscular. May have full ruff with winter coat in mature adults.

### PROFILE

Slight dip below eye level marked by a change in direction of hair growth. Nose has a slight downward curve, but not so pronounced as to be a Roman profile.

**BODY**

**TORSO**

Sturdy and long. Full chest and substantial musculature. No hard planes or angles to shape of body. The rib cage is somewhat rounded (no slab sides). Size is large and imposing in males, females proportionately less so. Kittens do not have the hard muscular feel of adults. Mature males should exhibit marked muscular development in the neck and shoulders. Shoulders should be as far apart as head is wide. Body tapers slightly to a strong pelvis. Allow for loose skin between the back legs.

**LEGS**

Medium length forelegs with hind legs slightly longer. Medium boned with strong trim muscles.

**FEET**

Neat, round feet with toes tufted.

**BONING**

Medium.

**TAIL**

The tail is a brush or plume, but without undercoat. Medium-length and in proportion to the cat. Hair is at least 2 inches long in adults with a full brush.

**MUSCULATURE**

well-muscled all over.

**COAT  
COLOR  
PATTERN**

**TEXTURE**

Soft, with the feel of cashmere. Individual hair is fine, water resistant and has a slight stand-away quality, particularly in winter. Winter coat is fuller, longer and softer.

**LENGTH**

Semi-long with no wooly undercoat. Due to the extremes in climate of their native region, the breed carries two distinctive coat lengths and allowances must be made for the seasonal coat. The summer coat is short, conveying the appearance of a shorthair except for feathering of tummy and britches and is not as soft. The winter coat is substantially longer and thicker. Facial fur is short. A frontal neck ruff and full brush tail become more pronounced with age. The above description is that of a mature adult, allowances must be made for shorter coats and tail hair on kittens and young adults.

**COLOR/ PATTERN** Van pattern only on glistening chalk white body with colored markings confined to the head and tail is preferred. One or more random markings, up to color on 15% of the entire body (excluding the head and tail color), are permissible. Random markings should not be of a size or number to detract from the van pattern, making a specimen appear bi-color. A symmetrical pattern of head markings, divided by white up to at least the level of the front edge of the ears, is desirable.

**COLOR VARIETIES** Black/ Blue/ Red/ Cream Van  
Black/ Blue Tortie Van  
Black/ Blue/ Red/ Cream Agouti Van  
Black/ Blue Tortie Agouti Van

**PENALIZE**

Any evidence toward extremes (i.e. short cobbiness or svelte, fine-boning).  
Greater than 20% white in the tail.  
Flat profile.

**DISQUALIFY**

Total absence of color in the area from eye level up to the back of the head or tail.  
Definite nose break.  
Color in excess of 15% of the entire body (excluding the head and tail color).

**SCORE**

**Head**  
30 points

Shape 6  
Ears 5  
Eyes 5  
Chin 4  
Muzzle 2  
Neck 2  
Profile 6

**Body**  
30 points

Torso 15  
Legs & Feet 3  
Tail 7  
Boning & Musculature 5

**Coat/Color/Pattern**  
30 points

Texture 10  
Length 5  
Color/ Pattern 15

**Others**  
10 points

Condition 3  
Grooming 2  
Balance 2  
Temperament 3

**OUTCROSS**

None

