

TURKISH VAN

GENERAL STANDARD

The Turkish Van is a natural breed from the rugged, remote and climatically varied region of the Middle East. It is a semi-longhaired cat with a distinctive pattern, in which colour is preferably limited to the head and tail. It is strong, powerful and solidly built, with great breadth to the chest, long and substantial body and legs, taking 3 to 5 years to mature fully. Adult cats, especially males, tend to fill out in the head as they mature. Males are generally much larger than females.

HEAD: Medium length, slightly longer than wide, with a medium width skull. A smooth taper from the outer edge of the ear, through a short to medium wedge, ends in the chin. The profile has a barely perceptible dip.

EARS: Medium, upright, set fairly close together and well feathered. Slightly rounded tips and wide at the base.

EYES: Large, open, oval in shape, well spaced within the limits of the width of the face, slanting slightly upwards at the outer corners towards the ears.

NOSE: Medium length and breadth, not tapering, with the nose leather below eye level. The profile has a barely perceptible dip, neither straight nor with a marked break.

CHEEKS: Very slightly rounded cheekbones with some breadth shown at eye level.

JAWS: Slightly rounded muzzle to harmonise with the wedge. Neither pointed nor too broad, although males broaden with age, due to jowls.

CHIN: Firm, full and strong, in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.

NECK: Slim and graceful, but strong, and of medium length. In proportion to the body.

BODY: Long and substantial, but sturdy, with level back. Chest and flanks are strong and muscular, not narrow, without being too broad or too deep. Boning should not be fine under the muscular development. Males are particularly muscular on the neck and shoulders. Allowance should be made for developmental stages in kittens and young adults.

TAIL: Full, in proportion to the body, ideally carried lower than the back, but not trailing.

LEGS: Medium to long, in proportion to the body. Boning is medium and strong, well covered in muscle. Not tapering to paws.

PAWS: Medium size, rounded, neat and with well-tufted toes.

TEMPERAMENT: Should be friendly and outgoing, allowing easy handling at all times.

CONDITION: Excellent muscular condition is required. Any indication that the cat is not in good physical condition or has not had proper grooming should be penalised.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head (incl. eye size, shape and set)	30
Body , (incl. tail)	25
Coat and colour	35
Eye colour	5
Overall condition	5

Total 100

FAULTS / PENALTIES

REFER TO GENERAL LIST OF FAULTS FOR ALL BREEDS, PLUS:

PENALISE:

- Any tendency towards extremes of body structure i.e. cobby or svelte body or fine boning.
- Small, widely-spaced or flared ears.
- Small and/or deep-set eyes.
- Nose break.
- Short face.
- Long or narrow wedge.
- Pointed chin.

WITHHOLD:

- Total absence of colour on head or tail.
- Too much colour on body.
- Exhibit which clearly challenges or is unable to be handled.

COAT AND COLOUR

COAT LENGTH AND TEXTURE: Semi-longhaired. Coat length is seasonal; short in summer, but much longer and thicker in winter, though never as long or thick as a true longhaired cat. Facial fur is short at all times. There is a frontal neck ruff. A full brush tail becomes more pronounced with age. Allowance is made for shorter coats and shorter tail hair on kittens and young adults.

The coat has a cashmere-like texture, which is unique to this breed, soft to the roots and with no trace of undercoat.

COAT COLOUR: Chalk white with no trace of yellow. Ears are preferably white, with a delicate shell pink inside them. Accepted colours are black, blue, auburn, cream, black tortoiseshell and blue tortoiseshell.

COAT PATTERN: The van pattern is superimposed over the chalk white body. with colour markings preferably confined to the head and tail. Markings up to the size of a 20-cent piece on the body are permissible, but they should not be of a size or number, which detracts from the van pattern.

EYE COLOUR: For all coat colours.

Amber: Eye rims pink skinned.

Blue-eyed: Eye rims pink skinned.

Odd-eyed: One eye amber, one eye blue, with equal depth of colour in both eyes. Eye rims pink skinned.

NOSE LEATHER: Shell pink.

PAW PADS: Shell pink.