

# TURKISH VAN (TV)

<b>HEAD</b> .....	35 points
Shape .....	7
Eyes ..	5
Ears .....	5
Chin .....	5
Muzzle .....	3
Profile .....	7
Neck .....	3

<b>BODY</b> .....	35 points
Torso .....	20
Legs/Feet .....	8
Tail .....	7

<b>COAT/COLOR</b> .....	30 points
Length/Texture .....	15
Pattern/Color .....	15

**CATEGORY:** Traditional.

**DIVISION:** Particolor.

**COLORS:** All traditional colors, Van pattern ONLY. Tabbies are not differentiated among the different tabby patterns. (NOTE: Red/white and cream/white cats may show tabby markings with no penalty. This is due to the difficulty in distinguishing between true red and red tabby on a Van patterned cat.)

## **HEAD:**

Shape: Large to medium size. Broad in males, moderately broad in females. Modified wedge with rounded contours and high cheekbones. Forehead slightly rounded. Allowances must be made for jowling in the males. Head is slightly longer than it is wide. The face should not look foxy or rounded.

Eyes: Large, walnut to peach pit shape, set slightly oblique. Color is amber, blue or odd eyed. Moderately large, a rounded aperture slightly drawn out at the corners, set at a slant, equidistant from the outside base of the ear to the tip of the nose. Eyes should be clear, alert and expressive. Allow for faded eye color and greenish cast to amber eyes in cats over 18 months of age. Rims are pink unless colored from random spotting.

Ears: Moderately large to large, set fairly high and well apart; the inside edge of the ear is slightly angled to the outside with the outside edge fairly straight but not necessarily in line with the side of the face; wide at the base. Tips are slightly rounded. Insides should be well feathered.

Chin: Rounded somewhat, with an even bite.

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).

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.

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

## **BODY:**

Torso: Sturdy and long. Full chest and substantial musculature. No hard planes or angles to shape of body. The ribcage 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.

Boning: Medium, well-muscled all over.

Legs and Feet: Medium length forelegs with hind legs slightly longer. Medium boned with strong trim muscles. Neat, round feet with toes tufted.

Tail: The tail is a brush or plume, medium length and in proportion to the cat. Hair is at least 2 inches long in adults with a full brush. Color should be continuous from base to tip. In tabbied colors, it should be ringed and darker above than below. Color may extend up rump.

#### **COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:**

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.

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.

Color: White with Van Pattern markings. Red and cream tabbied, all other colors may be tabbied or not and are true to color description. No yellowing on white. All nose leather/paw pads are pink unless colored in patches by random spotting. Since the white spotting gene is present, you may also see white patches in the colored areas or a small white tail tip.

Pattern: Van pattern, which is a blazed head patch and colored tail on white. Markings are ideally confined to the head and tail, but up to 20 percent of the cat (includes head and tail) may be colored with random spotting as long as it does not detract from the van pattern. A blaze (a white streak up the nose) to at least between the front edge of the ears is desirable. Allow for extended color on head or rump.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The Turkish Van is a natural breed which originates from a rugged, remote and climatically varied region of the Middle East. They are a solidly built, semi-longhaired cat with no undercoat and display seasonal variations in coat appearance. The breed is known for its distinctive pattern...the term "van" has been adopted by a variety of breeds to describe white cats with colored head and tail markings. The strength and power of the cat is evidenced in its substantial body and legs, well-developed chest, and muscularity. This breed takes a full 3 to 5 years to reach full maturity and development, therefore, allowances must be made for age and sex. Despite age and sex, as adults, individuals should convey an overall impression of a well-balanced and well-proportioned appearance in which no feature is exaggerated to foster weakness or

extremes. The cat should appear alert and healthy, and be well-groomed. Males should be large and imposing, females medium to large and well-balanced. Turkish Vans should not be restrained too tightly, but should be handled with a firm and gentle pressure. As they are very intelligent and alert cats, they feel more secure and perform best when allowed to stand on their own on the table (if temperament allows).

**PENALIZE:** Yellowed white; color over more than 20 percent of the cat; lack of facial blaze; any evidence toward extremes (i.e., short cobbiness or svelte, fine-boning); flat profile.

**WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS:** Total absence of color on the head or tail; definite nose break; poor condition; bi-color pattern.



*Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.*

