Turkish Van

HEAD (30)
Shape (boning, chin, nose, cheekbones, profile)......................... 18
Ears (shape, placement and size)........................................... 7
Eyes (shape, placement and size)........................................... 5

BODY (30)
Type (boning, muscle, length, size)................................. 18
Legs and feet.......................................................... 5
Tail............................................................... 7

COAT (30)
Semi-long with a cashmere-like texture; soft to the roots with
length nose to harmonize with the large muscular body, ears are
not to be included in the wedge. Prominent cheekbones. In profile,
the nose has a slight dip below eye level marked by a change in the
direction the hair lays. Allowances must be made for jowling in the
males. Firm chin in a straight line with the nose and upper lip; round-
ed muzzle.

EARS: Moderately large, in proportion to the body, 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.

EYES: 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.

BODY: moderately long, sturdy, broad, muscular and deep-chested.
Mature males should exhibit marked muscular development in the
neck and shoulders. The shoulders should be at least as broad as the
head, and flow into the well-rounded ribcage and then into a muscular
hip and pelvic area. Turkish Van males are substantially larger than
females and exhibit much greater development.

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-long-
haired 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.

BALANCE: 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.

HEAD: Substantially broad wedge, with gentle contours and a med-
ium length nose to harmonize with the large muscular body, ears are
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LEGs AND FEET: Moderately long, muscular legs. They are set wide
apart and taper to rounded moderately large feet. Legs and feet
should be in proportion to the body. Toes, five in front, four behind.

TAIL: Long, but in proportion to the body, with a brush appearance.
Tail hair length is keeping with the semi-long coat length.

COAT: Semi-long with a cashmere-like texture; soft to the roots with
no trace of 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, con-
voying the appearance of a shorthair; the winter coat is substantially
longer and thicker. There is feathering on the ears, legs, feet and belly.
Facial fur is short. A frontal neck ruff and full brush tail become
more pronounced with age. The above description is that of an adult,
allowances must be made for short coats and tail hair on kittens and
young adults.

COLOR and 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 mark-
ings 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.

PENALIZE: any evidence toward extremes (i.e. short cobbliness or
svelte, fine-bonjing); 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; genetic/skeletal
defects such as flattened ribcage, kinked or abnormal tail, incorrect
number of toes, crossed eyes. Color in excess of 15% of the entire
body (excluding the head and tail color).

TURKISH VAN COLORS

Eye color on all coat colors: amber, blue and odd-eyed. Eye color
may fade with age.

Nose leather on all coat colors: pink.

Paw pads on all coat colors: pink is preferable but color spot(s) on
paw pads acceptable due to the two colors in the pattern.

Solid and White Colors

RED: ranging from warm red to deep auburn, but should be one level
shade, sound to the roots.

CREAM: one level shade of buff cream, sound to the roots.

BLACK: dense coal black, sound to the roots. Free of any tinge of
rust on tips or smoke undercoat.

BLUE: one level tone of blue, sound to the roots.

Tabby and White Colors

Tabby markings are dense and clearly defined. How much of the
tabby marking is seen is highly dependent on the size and placement
of the head and body spots. A spot may be of a size that only ground
color or only the tabby stripe is seen, thus there may not be enough
color to determine whether the markings are classic or mackerel.

RED TABBY: ground color creamy red. Tabby markings range from
warm red to deep auburn.

CREAM TABBY: ground color very pale cream. Tabby markings of
buff cream sufficiently darker than the ground color to afford good
contrast but remaining within the dilute range.

BROWN TABBY: ground color creamy beige. Tabby markings
dense black.

BLUE TABBY: ground color pale bluish ivory. Tabby markings a
deep blue affording a good contrast with ground color. Warm fawn or
patina over the colored portions.

Parsi-color and White Colors

TORTOISESHELL: black and red patches with tabby markings
allowed in the red portion.

DILUTE TORTOISESHELL: blue and cream patches with tabby
markings allowed in the cream portion.

BROWN Patched Tabby (torbie): brown tabby description with
patches of red or red tabby.

BLUE Patched Tabby (dilute torbie): blue tabby description with
patches of cream or cream tabby.

*Note: It is characteristic of the Turkish Van breed to carry tabby
markings in the red/cream portions of the tortoiseshell colors.

OTVC (Other Turkish Van Colors): van pattern only – any other
color and white (silver tabby, smokes, etc.) with the exception of...
those showing evidence of hybridization resulting from the Himalayan pattern (point restricted) and colors (chocolate, lilac, etc.).

The following information is for reference purposes only and not an official part of the CFA Show Standard.

**Turkish Van Color Class Numbers**

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>Solid &amp; White</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(van pattern only – any other color and white (silver tabby, smokes, etc.) with the exception of those showing evidence of hybridization resulting from the Himalayan pattern (point restricted) and colors (chocolate, lilac, etc.).)</td>
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AOV: None

Turkish Van allowable outcross breeds: none.