TURKISH ANGORA
An Illustrated Standard

Presented by the TICA Turkish Angora Breed Committee
What makes a Turkish Angora unique?

General Description

The ideal Turkish Angora is a perfectly balanced, graceful creature with a fine, silky coat. When you handle it, you are struck by the contrast between the soft flowing coat and the surprisingly firm, long muscular body beneath it.

The Turkish Angora is a very intelligent, active and inquisitive breed that responds best to firm, but gentle handling.

In judging the Turkish Angora, refinement is more important than size. This should especially be taken into consideration when comparing males to females.
A NATIONAL TREASURE of Turkey
The Turkish Angora comes from Ankara (formerly Angora) where several other animals with delicate silky long coats originate. The earliest written reference occurs in 16th century France and they were well represented in the late 1800s and early 1900s at the dawn of the cat fancy in Europe. The Turkish Angora was used in Persian breeding programs in the early 1900s and disappeared as a separate breed.

However, Turkey considered the cats a national treasure and established a breeding program at the Ankara Zoo to ensure the preservation of the breed. They kept exact records of the genetically sound breeding program but were reluctant to let their cats go anywhere else. In the 1950's, American servicemen found the exquisite cats in the Ankara Zoo and carried news of them home. Eventually, in 1962, the Ankara Zoo allowed Colonel and Mrs. Walter Grant to have an odd-eyed white male named Yildiz and an amber-eyed white female named Yildizcek. These cats became the foundation of a new breeding program in the USA.

1964 saw Sergeant and Mrs. Ivan Leinbach bring a pair to Arizona: Sam Olgum and Aliya's Snowball. Mrs. Ray Porter brought a pregnant odd-eyed white female, Belkzar, home with her. The sire of the kittens was one of the Ankara Zoo males named Sam of Mountain Home. In 1966, the Grants were able to import another pair: an odd-eyed white male named Mav and an amber-eyed white female named Yaman. Other cats followed in the 1970s and the Turkish Angora became an established breed in North America.
Turkish Angoras Are A Natural Breed
Registration rule 37.3 Category II: Natural Breeds

Turkish Angora (Ankara, Turkey)

TICA Registration Rules, Page 25 Version D – 08/11/2020

307.3.2 Category II breeds must have an SBT(V, P), 01T(V, P), 02T (V, P), or 03T(V, P) status code to be eligible for championship competition.

37.3.1 Purpose. This category is for natural breeds which may have need to augment their gene pool with additional cats of unregistered ancestry, but which have little to gain (and perhaps much to lose) by outcrossing to other breeds. For the most part these breeds are ones which originated in specific geographic regions where good representatives of the breed are still to be found in their native state as pets, barn cats, feral cats, etc.

37.3.2 Requirements for Championship Exhibition. There can be no outcrosses to other breeds/breed groups within the three-generation pedigree. Cats of unknown ancestry are permitted for exhibition provided they meet the specific requirements for registration.

37.3.3 Requirements for Registration. The cat must be the product of two registered representatives of the breed, except for cats of unknown or unregistered ancestry for which proof of origin is available and such origin is acceptable for the breed in question. Such cats may be registered as first-generation purebreds providing the application is accompanied by a health certificate, customs declaration, air bill, or similar evidence of origin.
Development from Foundation

Turkish Import - 2016

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td><strong>HEAD</strong> - 40 POINTS</td>
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<td><strong>BODY</strong> - 40 POINTS</td>
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<td>Torso</td>
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<td>Legs/Feet</td>
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<td><strong>COAT/COLOR</strong> - 15 POINTS</td>
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<td>Color</td>
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# HEAD

40 points

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<td>Nose</td>
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SHAPE (9 POINTS)
Small to medium-sized. Smooth, slightly modified wedge with flat planes.
Lacking a smooth modified wedge and two flat planes meeting right above eye. Head width is out of balance in length for both examples.
HEAD

EYES (4 POINTS)
Large, walnut shaped.
Slanting slightly upward, with an open expression.
There is no relationship between eye color & coat color, but clarity & uniformity are paramount.
## TURKISH ANGORA

### CORRECT EYE SHAPE

“Large, walnut shaped.”

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<th>Round</th>
<th>Almost Round (Rounded)</th>
<th>TICA Logo</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lemon</td>
<td>Peach Pit</td>
<td>Walnut</td>
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*Soft Triangle (Hooded)*
EYES

Less Desirable Phenotype

Oriental

Hooded

Round

Round

Small
HEAD

EARS (12 POINTS)
Large, wide at base, tufted, and slightly pointed. Set high on the head, vertical and erect.
EARS

Less Desirable Phenotype

Ear set is not as erect and vertical as desired.

Rounded

Slightly Small & Rounded
CHIN (2 POINTS)
Firm, gently rounded, with tip perpendicular to the nose.
CHIN

Less Desirable Phenotype

Chin structure is not perpendicular to nose. Too rounded. Weak.

Chin structure is too pronounced/strong.
HEAD

MUZZLE (2 POINTS)
Should be a continuation of the smooth lines of the wedge.
Muzzle should be a continuation of the smooth lines of the wedge. These examples show pronounced whisker pads and/or pinch. *NOTE* Turkish Angoras WILL have pronounced whisker pads while being teased with a toy at the judging table. Please view the cat in a relaxed state to judge the smooth lines of the modified wedge and muzzle.
PROFILE (5 POINTS)
Consists of two planes formed by the flat top head & the line of the nose meeting at an angle, slightly above the eyes.
PROFILE
Less Desirable Phenotype

- Nose Bump
- Break/Stop
- Straight
- Break/Stop
NECK (4 POINTS)
Slim, graceful, *medium* in length.
NECK
Less Desirable Phenotype

Neck short and thick.

Long and oriental in type.
BODY
40 points

Torso  9
Legs/Feet  9
Tail  8
Boning  9
Musculature  5

**Torso**: Long and slender, foreign in type. Shoulders should be the same width as the hips. Medium-sized. Narrow chest. Rump slightly higher than shoulders.

**Legs/Feet**: Long. Hind legs longer than front legs. Feet are small, oval and in proportion with legs. Toe tufts are desirable.

**Tail**: Tapering from a wide base to a narrow end. Long in proportion to body. With full plume.

**Musculature**: Firm.
BODY

TORSO (9 POINTS)
Long and slender, foreign in type. Shoulders should be the same width as the hips. Medium sized. Narrow chest. Rump slightly higher than shoulders.
TORSO

Less Desirable Phenotype

Cobby body type.

Tubular and oriental in type.

TURKISH ANGORA
LEGS/FEET (9 POINTS)
Long. hind legs longer then front legs. Feet are small, oval and in proportion with legs. Toe tufts are desirable.
Feet large and not oval. Short legs. Hind legs not longer then front legs.
TAIL (8 POINTS)
Tapering from a wide base to a narrow end.
Long in proportion to body. With full plume.

BODY
TAIL

Less Desirable Phenotype

Tail is short in comparison to length of body.
BODY

BONING (9 POINTS)
MUSCULATION (5 POINTS)

Firm.
BONING & MUSCULATION

Less Desirable Phenotype

Heavy boning.

TURKISH ANGORA
COAT & COLOR

15 points

Coat  10
Color  5

Semi-longhair with slight undercoat; appearing to be single-coated.

Medium-long on the body.

Silky and fine, with little undercoat.

TURKISH ANGORA
An ancient, long-haired breed
COAT/COLOR (15 POINTS)

Length: Semi-longhair with slight undercoat; appearing to be singlecoated. Medium-long on the body.

Texture: Silky and fine, with little undercoat.
A NOTE ABOUT COAT

Kittens and young adults may not be in full coat until after their first winter and the britches and ruff may take 2-3 years to develop. Coat length may differ in summer months compared to winter months.

These two images are the same cat. The image on the left is during the winter months, while the image on the right demonstrates the noticeable difference in the summer months.
Proportionate in all physical aspects with a graceful, lithe appearance. This means that the combination of the long body, legs & tail with neck, head, & ears should look as though they fit together & give an impression of gentle flowing motion.

OTHER
Allowances

Allowances should be made for the following:

In mature male cats - jowls, a slightly broader head, and a slightly wider ear set.

Kittens may have a growth bump on the ridge/forehead or the end of their nose.

Gentle slope in profile.

A photo timeline demonstrating how male cats change as they mature.
Penalize

Break in profile.

Pronounced whisker pads or pinch.

Pronounced whisker pads or pinch.

Break in profile. Profile should consist of two planes meeting at an angle above eye.
Withhold (WW)

Cobby body type.

Oriental head.

Oriental body type.
Thank You

This presentation would not be possible without the support and contributions of the TICA Turkish Angora breed preservationists worldwide. A sincere thank you for giving verbal permission for use in sharing your cats candid and professional photographs to help complete the illustrated breed standard!

Presentation created by Kelli Hallifax ~ 2020