



## TURKISH ANGORA

Turkish Angoras were the first longhaired (semi-longhaired) cats to come to Europe in the 16th century originating from Ankara in Turkey. Hence angora-genes may be found in many current breeds. The breed almost died out in the 1960s and a last-minute breeding programme was introduced to save the Turkish Angora, when breeding material was gathered in Ankara Zoo to initiate a breeding programme. The cats primarily came from private owners. England produced their own Angora breed, a mix of long-haired Orientals that was never FIFe-approved as an Angora.

Only the white Turkish Angora was FIFe-approved in 1989. However, the process of breeding white x white for several generations entailed a high risk of deafness, particularly for blue- or odd-eyed varieties. Today all eye-colourings are approved. It wasn't until 1994 that differently coloured varieties were approved. These are the same colours as for MCO i.e. only naturally occurring colours. Colours like cinnamon, chocolate, fawn, purple and pointed are prohibited. Deafness is prevented by breeding coloureds with whites. In Germany, Holland and England do not allow breeding white x white, only white x coloured. This applies to all breeds.

Turkish Angoras are long, slim, elegant cats with particularly graceful movements. They rarely misjudge a leap. They are of medium size. The male is slightly larger than the female, weighing between 4,5 and 7 kg with the females weighing in at between 3 and 4 kg. They are highly sociable with other cats and not least with people. A Turkish Angora will follow you everywhere... especially in the kitchen. There is no cat quite like a Turkish Angora, they love food and are incredibly loving and talkative, enjoying long conversations. They will try to convince you to give them snacks at any time of the day and make lovely family pets, enjoying children and playing an active part in family life.

Turkish Angoras have a silky-soft fine coat with no undercoat. Angoras shed like other cats, so in order to avoid cat hair all over the house daily grooming is recommended. They generally enjoy the care and attention involved. They tend to feel the cold so radiator beds are popular with Angoras. Closets and drawers are also popular spots for sleeping and hiding. In winter they grow a long coat that turns short during the summer months. Angoras take 5-8 years to reach full maturity and their coat tends to grow thicker and longer with age. Females have slightly less voluminous coats than males and tend to have a less distinctive mane. Neutered males shed less than fertile ones.

In Turkey a great deal of superstition is connected to the Angora. For instance it is believed that the "Father of Turkey" Kemal Atatürk, who died in 1938 will be reincarnated as a white, deaf, odd-eyed male Angora. The Turks how-

ever, have different notions of Turkish Angoras and Turkish Vans. They do not recognize FIFe-approved Angoras and Vans, but only pure whites, which they term Van cats.

Unfortunately, foreign breeders are quickly destroying this beautiful breed. In spite of the fact that only naturally-coloured Angoras are recognized, some breeders breed in other breeds to produce non-approved colours, not to mention excessively large ears ("rabbit-ears"). This has led to a great deal of hereditary disease originating from the cats used to change Angora characteristics.

So let's preserve the classic Turkish Angora.

A popular Danish book on cats, Politiken's "Katte i Farver" even recommends that this breed be preserved without being cross-bred since it is the founding line of a number of other breeds.

FIFe TUA standards were altered effective from January 1st 2007 and now deviate significantly from the original Turkish Angora that was rescued in the 60s.

[www.ankarakedi.dk](http://www.ankarakedi.dk)

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