



Ankara Kedi

**Specialclub of
Felis Danica**

TURKISH VAN

Turkish Vans originate from Eastern Turkey and were discovered in 1955 by Laura Lushington and Sonia Halliday (UK) who were travelling by Lake Van. They brought two cats home with them to England and later went back for more. Later Van cats were brought to Norway when one lady had to move back to Norway from Turkey. She couldn't bear to leave her cats and brought them home with her. They came to Denmark in 1977, but breeding first began in 1988.

Turkish Vans have a distinctive chalky-white coat (no yellow tinge). The markings are unique to this breed. They have 2 coloured markings between their ears. Ears should be white. Tails are coloured and ringed, although these fade with age. The rest of the cat is white. Note that the term Van is also used to designate other breeds as a marking. Kittens born with less-than-perfect markings, numerous

spots and coloured ears may still be used for breeding if they are typical when it comes to their coat, colouring and temperament.

Vans with slight markings are bred with Vans with heavy markings to preserve the distinctive Van appearance, but there's no guarantee of a perfect outcome. Their eyes may be gold, blue or odd. The initial colours were red/white and later cream/white (cream indicates a colour reminiscent of a mixture of sugar and cinnamon). Vans were initially GCCF-approved in 1969 and in FIFe in 1971. In 1997 all natural colours were recognized. Genetically speaking Vans are coloured cats with a white-spotted gene.

Vans are semi-longhaired and a typical natural breed. They have a silky-soft coat with no undercoat. In summer their coats are shorter and sparser than in wintertime. Grooming may be necessary when they shed in early February. Being a natural breed Vans tend to bite off any tangles themselves. Some Vans develop longer coats with age, anything up to 8 or 10 cm. This requires attention to grooming. Their coats are water-resistant, which makes them difficult to wash. Coats will only grow really thick if the cats are able to go outside.

Some call Vans "swimming cats". Yes, they do enjoy water, but whether yours will get into the bath with you remains to be seen. They are however, unable to resist a tub or cup of water or an open toilet. Vans love playing with water but don't like being washed.

Vans make great family pets since they simply leave when things get too intense. They are

playful even late in life. Although a Van may appear to be lazing around, don't be fooled. It if spots an insect at the far end of the room it will take off immediately and that's one less creepy-crawly! But watch out for your fragile heirlooms. Vans want attention when they want it and hate to be kept waiting. They will devise ways and means of getting your attention by sending something crashing to the floor or pulling some other stunt.

Vans are solidly-built medium-sized cats. Males are larger than females at 6-9 kg and 3-5 kg respectively. They take around 5 years to reach full maturity. Vans have a distinctively melodious voice that will melt your heart. Fertile males have quite loud voices and don't mind using them. Vans should not be given the run of the neighbourhood as they are highly territorial. They should be trained like dogs and need to know who's in charge. They're only to happy to take control of the household if given half a chance.

Vans are loving, devoted and highly intelligent cats and they love anyone who will play with them.

www.ankarakedi.dk

Chairman **Barbara Hassenteufel**
Tel: **+45 9817 9509**

Caitlin Madden