



TURKISH ANGORA

An Illustrated Standard

TICA turkish angora breed winners 2023/2024:



RW BW TGC Finland Burnt Sienna



LA BW SGCA Finland Crystal Blue Walter White



IW BW SGC Finland Silver Ice of Jennypurz

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.



Balanced - Elegant - Graceful - Refinement - Intelligence

A NATIONAL
TREASURE
of Turkey



HISTORY

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 Sergeant and Mrs. Ivan Leinbach brought 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 Imports from the Ankara Zoo

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.



Turkish Import AKDENIZ



Turkish Import NAZLI

Development from Foundation



Turkish Import from Ankara



Point Distribution



HEAD 40 POINTS

Shape	9
Eyes	4
Ears	12
Chin	2
Muzzle	2
Profile	5
Neck	4
Nose	2

BODY 40 POINTS

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

COAT/COLOR 15 POINTS

Coat	10
Color	5

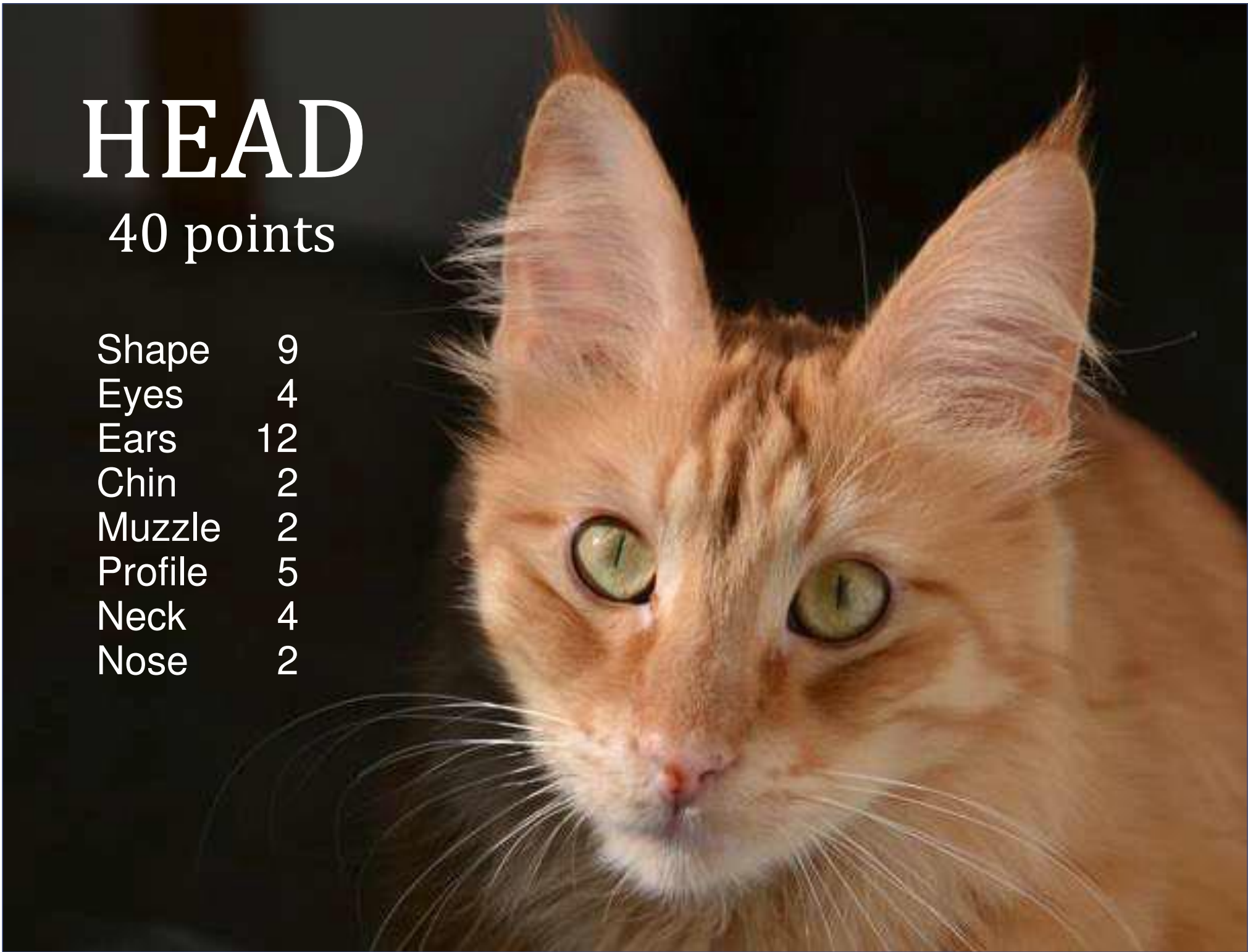
OTHER 5 POINTS

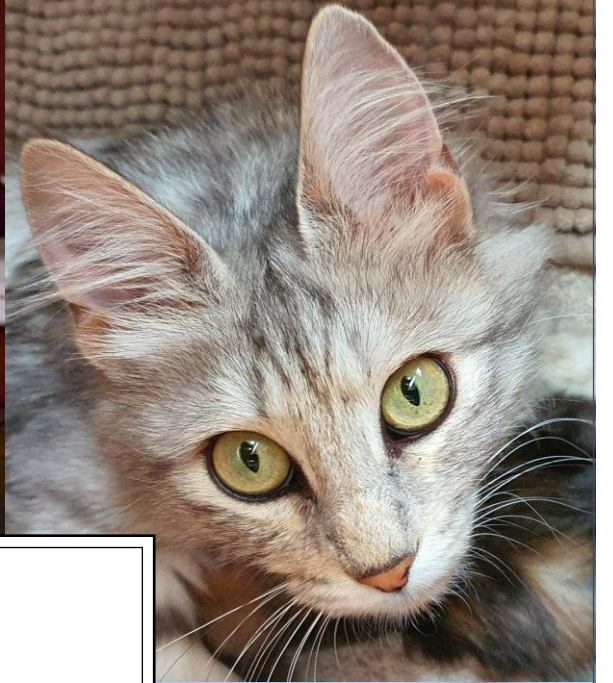
Balance	5
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HEAD

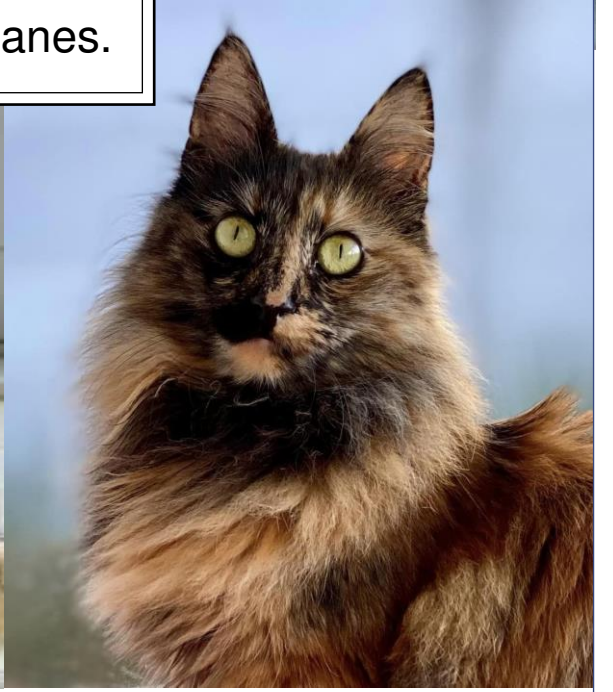
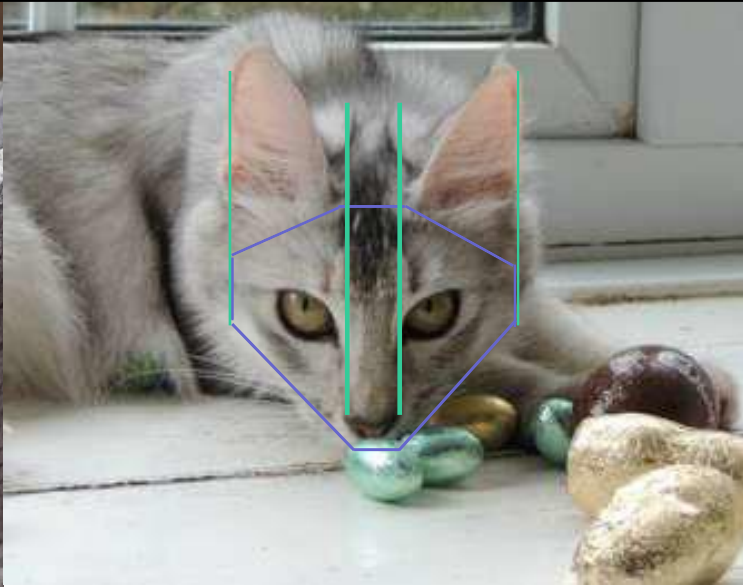
40 points

Shape	9
Eyes	4
Ears	12
Chin	2
Muzzle	2
Profile	5
Neck	4
Nose	2



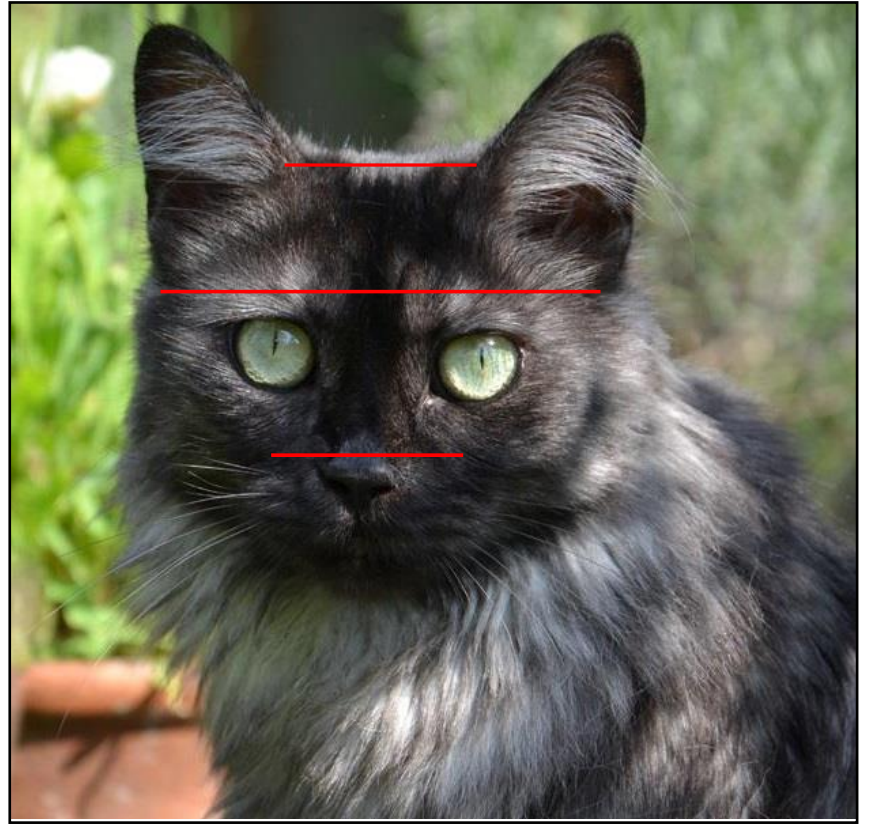
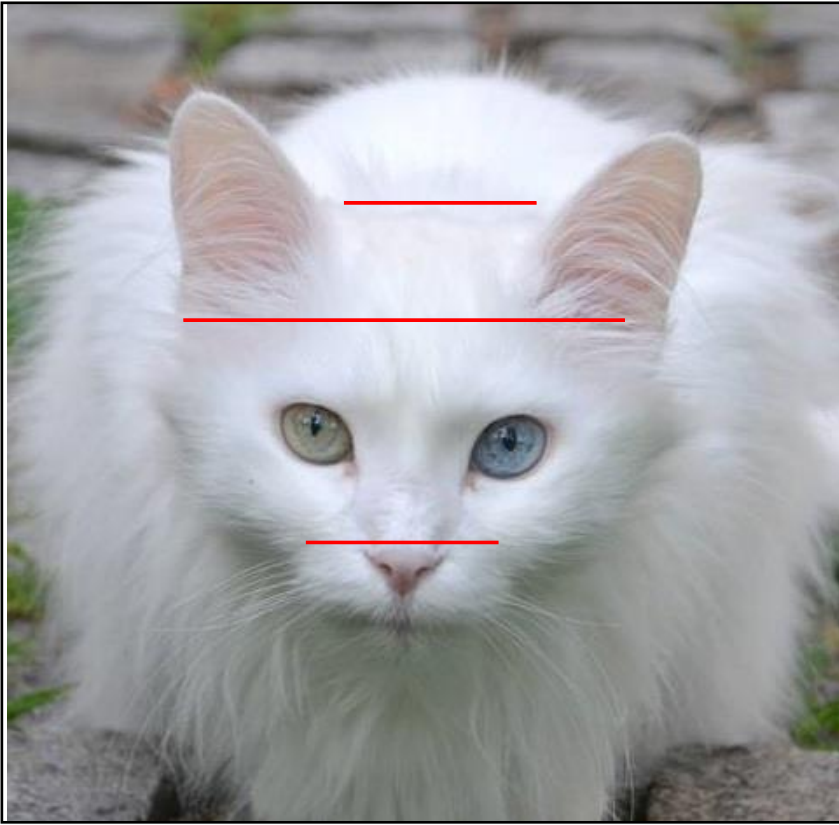


SHAPE (9 POINTS)
Small to medium-sized.
Smooth, slightly modified wedge with flat planes.



HEAD SHAPE

Less Desirable Phenotype



Lacking a smooth modified wedge and two flat planes meeting right above eye. Head width is out of balance in length for both examples.
















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.”

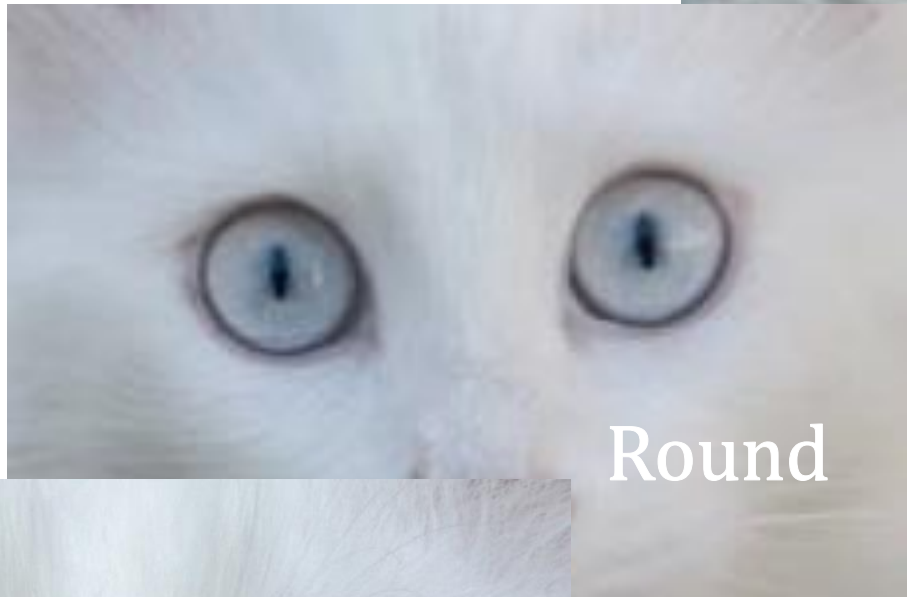
 Round	 Almost Round (Rounded)	
 Oval	 Large Oval	 Almost Oval
 Almond	 Large Almond	 Almost Almond
 Lemon	 Peach Pit	 Walnut
 Soft Triangle (Hooded)		

EYES

Less Desirable Phenotype



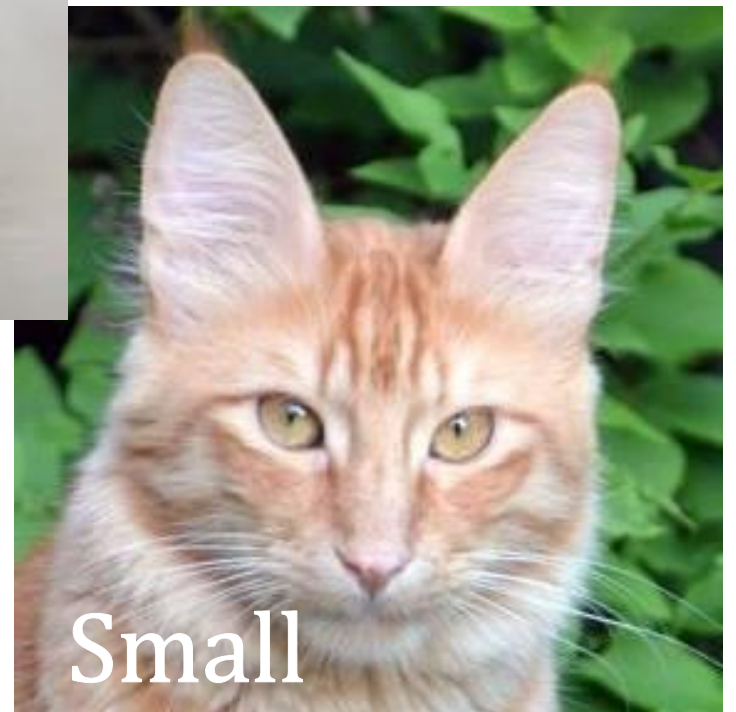
Hooded



Round



Oriental



Small



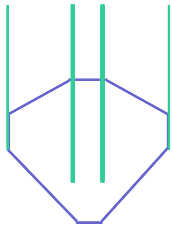
HEAD



EARS (12 POINTS)

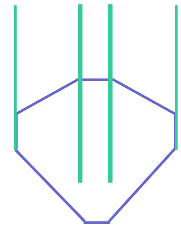
Large, wide at base, tufted, and slightly pointed.
Set high on the head, vertical and erect.





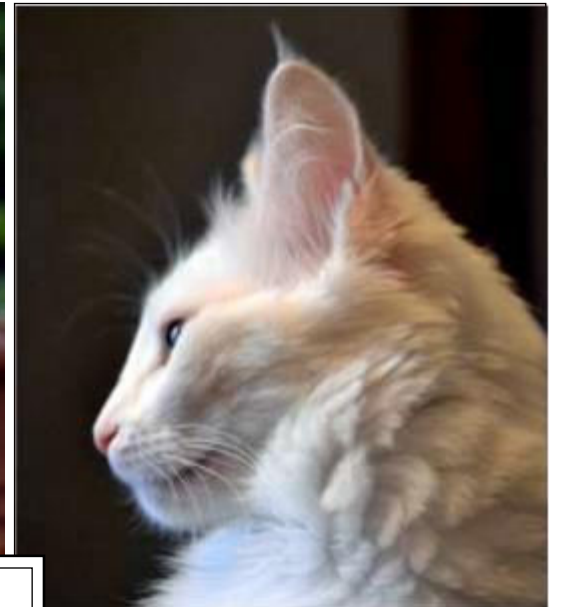
EARS

Less Desirable Phenotype



Ear set is not as erect and vertical as desired.





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.



MUZZLE (2 POINTS)

Should be a continuation of the smooth lines of the wedge.



MUZZLE

Less Desirable Phenotype



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.

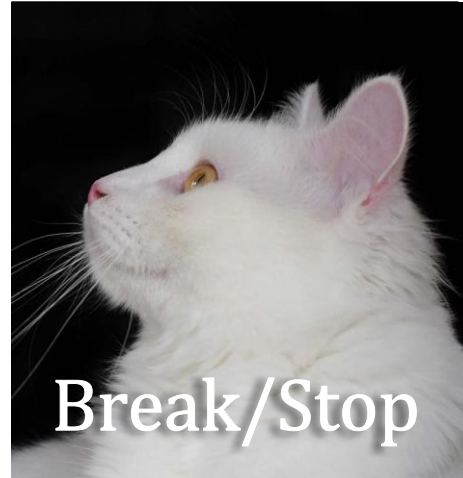
PROFILE (5 POINTS)

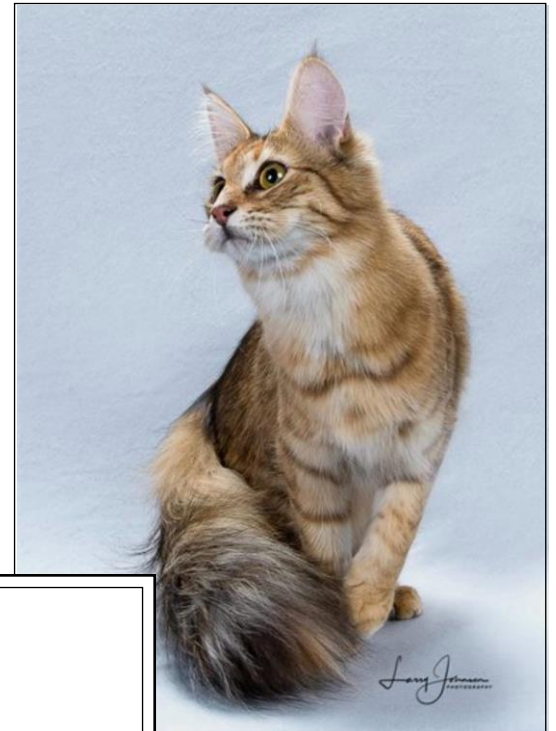
Consists of two planes formed by the flat top head & the line of the nose meeting at an angle, slightly above the eyes.



PROFILE

Less Desirable Phenotype





NECK (4 POINTS)
Slim, graceful, *medium* in length.

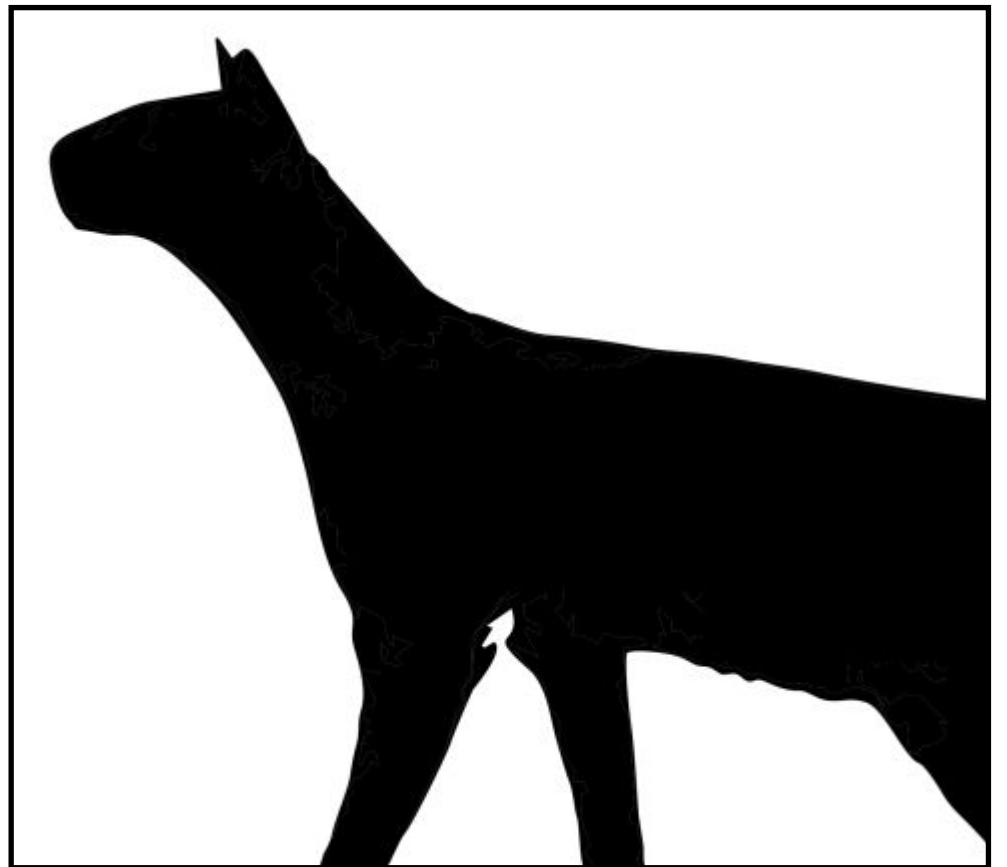


NECK

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 intype. 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.

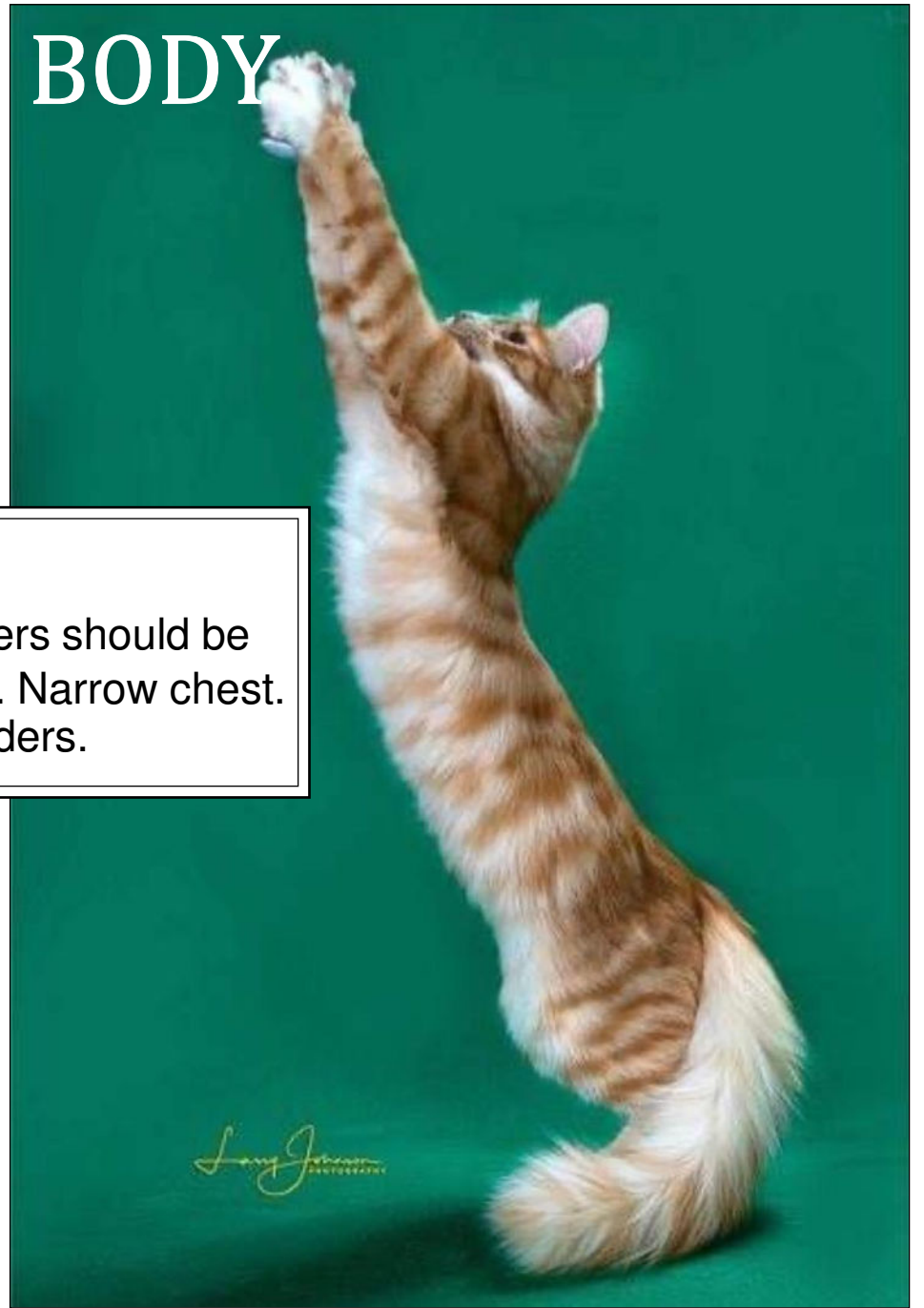




BODY

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.

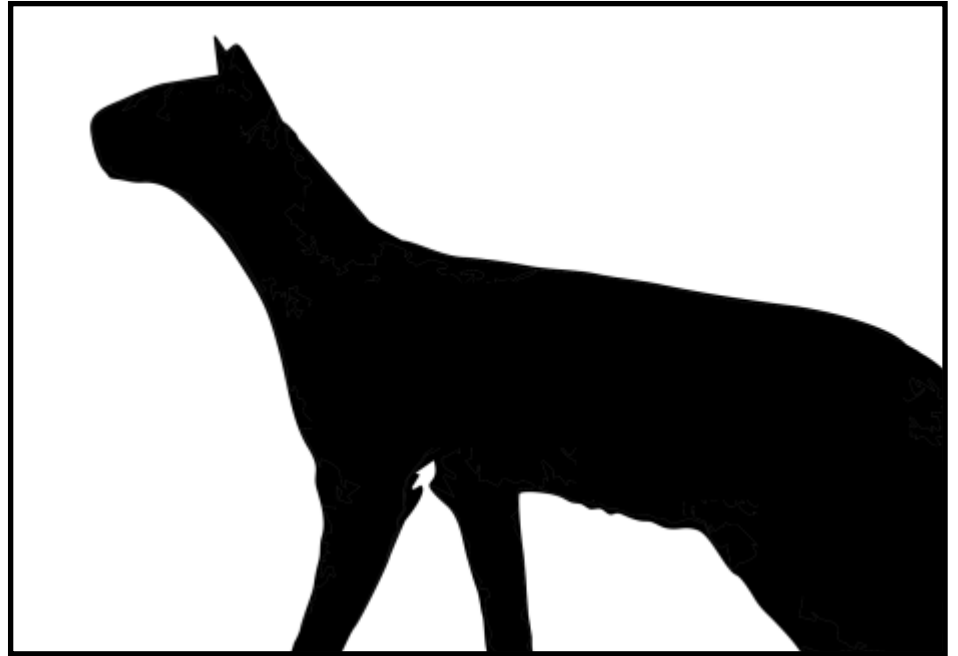


TORSO

Less Desirable Phenotype



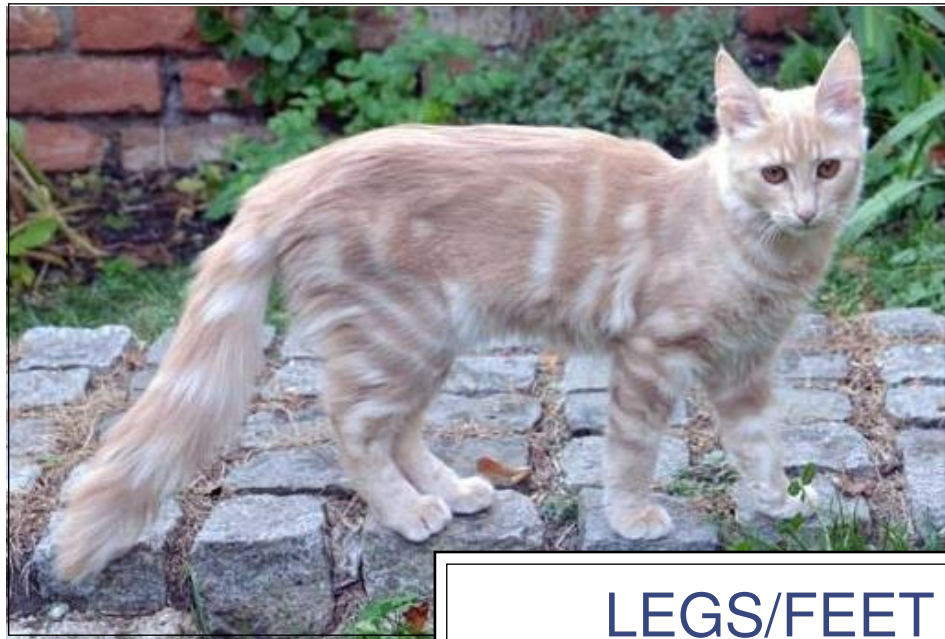
Cobby body type.



Tubular and oriental in type.



TURKISH ANGORA



LEGS/FEET (9 POINTS)

Long. hind legs longer than front legs. Feet are small, oval and in proportion with legs. Toe tufts are desirable.



LEGS/FEET

Less Desirable Phenotype

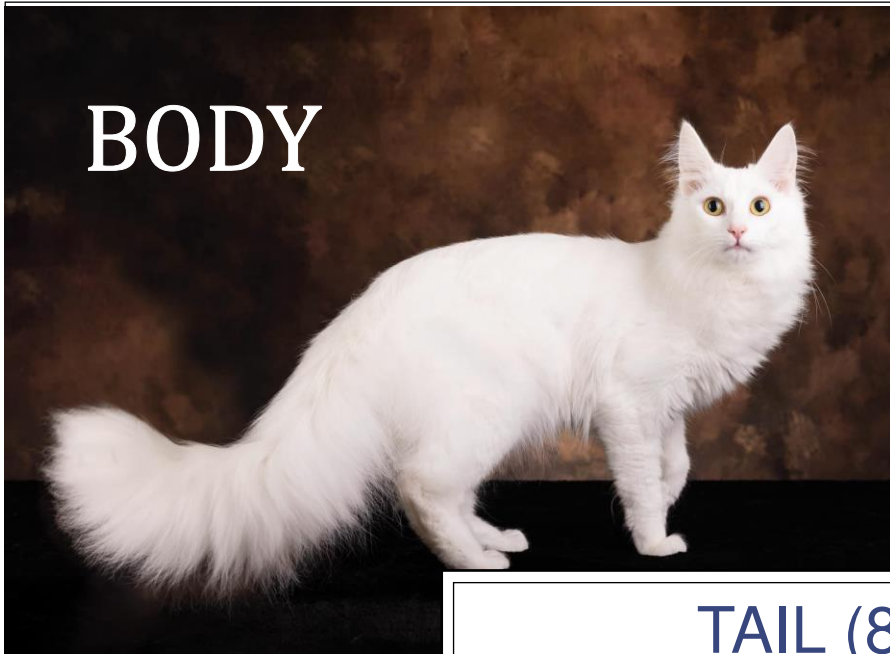


Feet large and not oval. Short legs. Hind legs not longer than front legs.



TURKISH ANGORA

BODY



TAIL (8 POINTS)

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

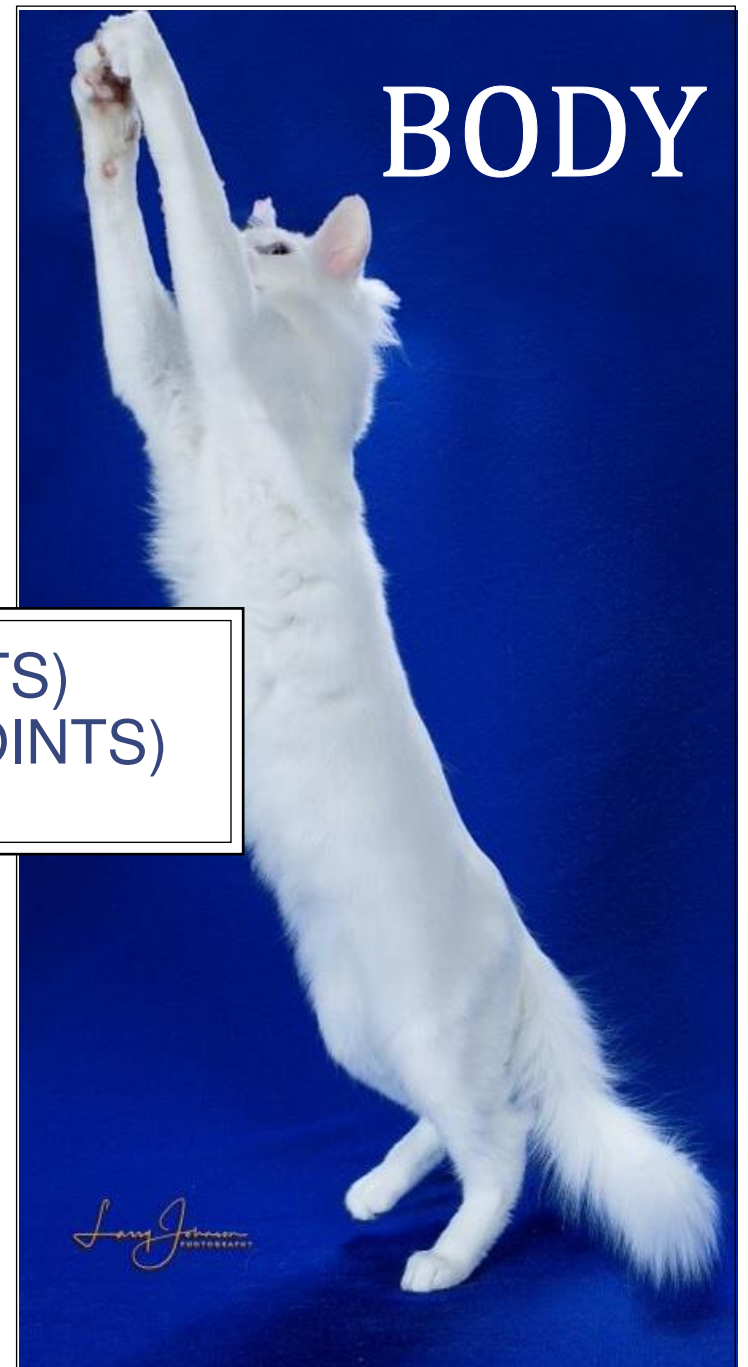


TAIL

Less Desirable Phenotype



Tail is short in comparison to length of body.



BONING (9 POINTS)
MUSCULATION (5 POINTS)
Firm.



BONING & MUSCULATION

Less Desirable Phenotype



Heavy boning.



TURKISH ANGORA



TURKISH ANGORA

An ancient, long-haired breed

COAT & COLOR

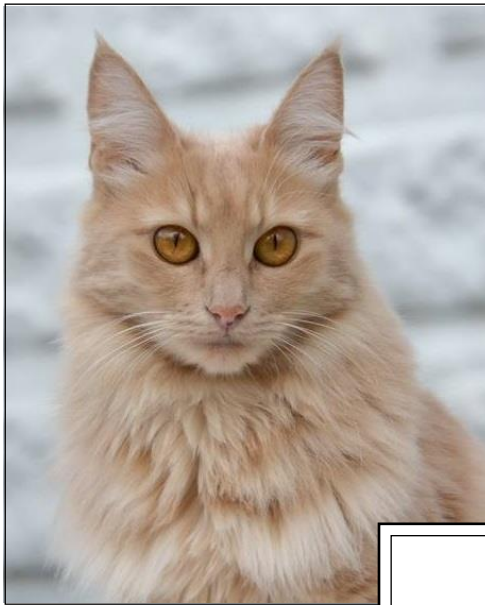
15 points

Coat	10
Color	5

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

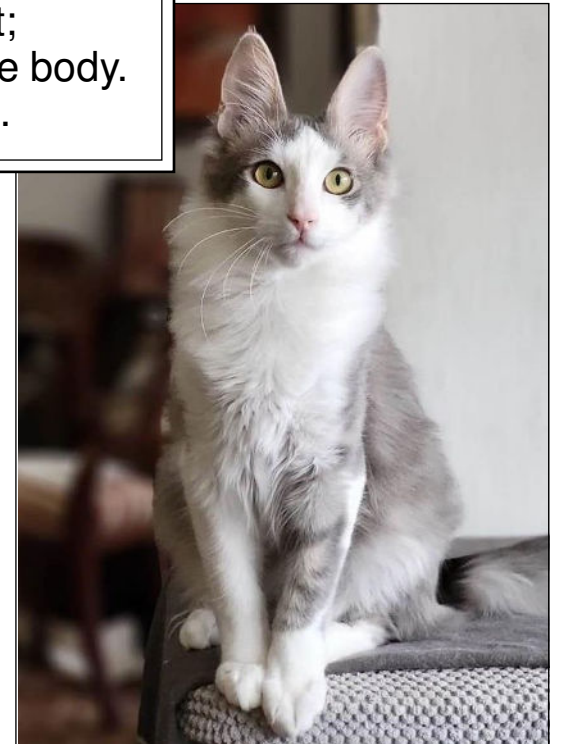
Medium-long on the body.

Silky and fine, with little undercoat.



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.

BALANCE

5 points



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*.



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

4 months

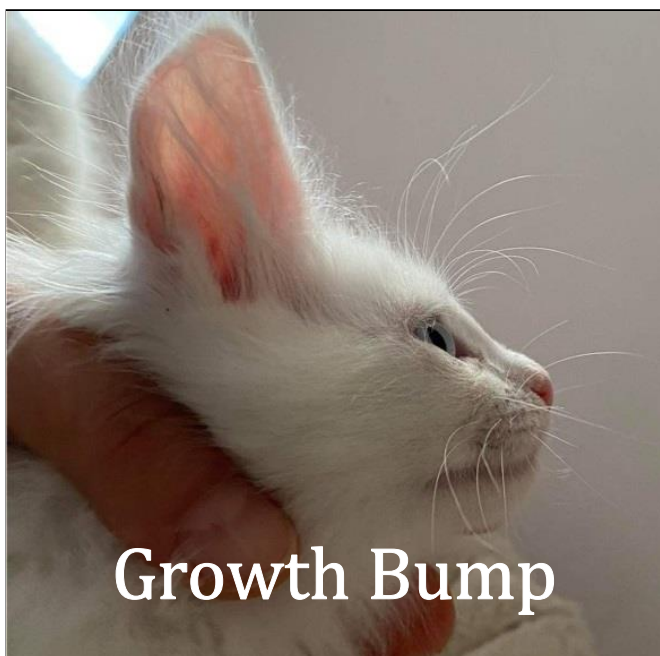


8 months



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

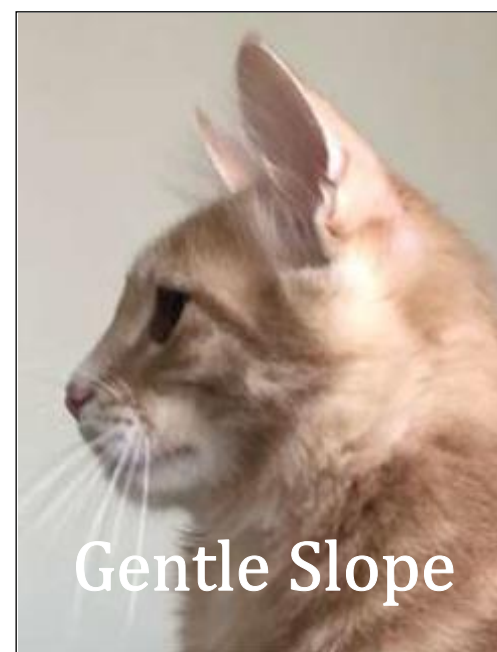
2 years



Growth Bump



Gentle Slope



Gentle Slope

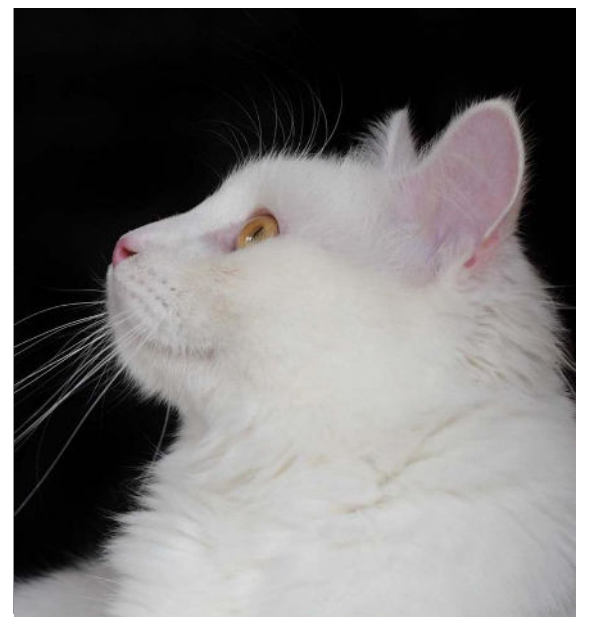
Penalize

Break in profile

Pronounced
whisker pads or pinch.



Pronounced whisker pads or pinch.



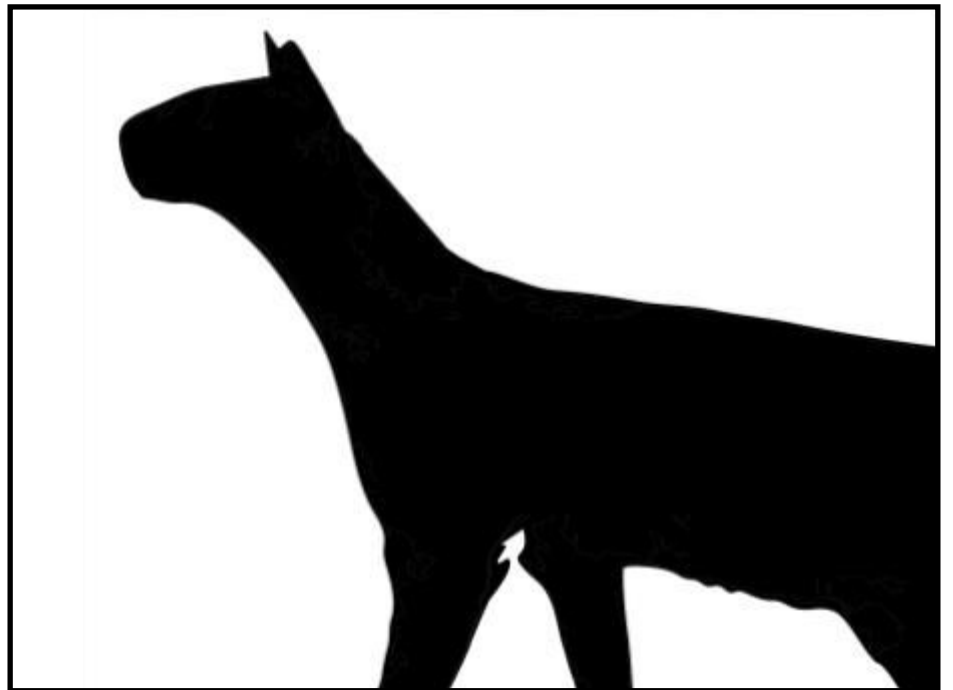
Break in profile. Profile should consist of two planes meeting at an angle above the eye.

Withhold (WW)

Cobby body type.

—
Oriental head.

—
Oriental body type.





THE END

Thank You

This presentation would not be possible without the support and contributions of the TICA Turkish Angora breeders worldwide. A sincere thank you for giving verbal permission to use your cat's photos to help complete the illustrated breed standard!

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Presentation created by Kelli Hallifax (2020)

Updated by Christine Masser (2024)



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