



THE TURKISH VANKEDISI

The white cat from Van – rare and beautiful!

You would be forgiven for having never heard of Turkish Vankedisi cats since they have only been known by this name for a relatively short time, and it's unlikely that you will find them in any book of cats.

In Turkey the white cats are considered to be the true Van Kedi (Van cat), however for the last half century it has been the auburn & white cats that we have come to know as the Turkish Van, and of course more recently the other colours as well. History has a lot to answer for, since during that time the word "van" has become a style of coat patterning, meaning as having two coloured "butterfly" head markings and a coloured tail, and for this reason there can be no "white" Turkish Van in the GCCF, since they don't have any markings!



So this brings us to the Turkish Vankedisi, a cat identical to the Turkish Van in every way except for its colour.

The Turkish Vankedisi is a pure white Turkish cat originating from eastern Turkey, around the region of Van. 'Vankedisi' is the Turkish phrase for *cat from Van*, and betrays the close relationship that it has with the Turkish Van cat. In fact the Turkish Vankedisi is simply a completely white Turkish Van, and with some registration bodies (e.g. TICA) they are classified as such, and compete in cat shows against their coloured counterparts. Ironically perhaps, it is the Vankedisi that the Turkish people hold in such reverence!

Due to the severe restrictions placed on the export of these very special cats very few ever left Turkey, however, in the early 1990's Lois Miles succeeded in obtaining written permission from the Turkish authorities to bring home a white, odd-eyed female. More recently there has been a trickle of Vankedisi entering the UK to match their increasing popularity. In Turkey the Turkish Vankedisi remains highly prized, the most sought after being the odd eyed cat, although blue eyed cats are also regarded as special, being preferred over the amber-eyed specimens.

In Britain most Turkish Vankedisi matings are to a Turkish Van in order to minimise the probability of hearing disorders associated with white cats, particularly those with blue eyes. These matings will on average produce litters of 4-6 sturdy kittens of which we might expect 50% to be Vankedisi and 50% Vans, although often Mother Nature likes to juggle the figures somewhat just to keep us on our toes!

Kittens have a well balanced temperament and strong constitution. Variations between litters are exactly the same as those found with Turkish Vans. Indeed, with regard to coat texture, eye colour, bone structure and personality they are indistinguishable from Vans, as we would expect. A few breeders have reported that these cats seem even keener to play with water than their (coloured) Turkish Van brethren!

TYPE & CHARACTER

The Turkish Vankedisi is a naturally occurring semi-longhaired breed from the rugged region of the Middle East centred on Lake Van where the climate varies to extremes. It is a large muscular cat weighing anything from 12 to 18 lbs (5 to 8 kg) for a fully-grown male, the strength and power being evident in its substantial body and legs.



The breed does not gain full maturity until 3 years or more, therefore allowances must be made for age and gender. Individual cats should convey an impression of a well balanced, well proportioned and strong appearance in which no one feature is exaggerated.

Vankedisi cats are loyal, loving and intelligent cats. Their temperament depends greatly on their upbringing, the amount of human contact and handling they receive as kittens, and the temperament of the parents, particularly the dam.

They are very affectionate, giving head butts and love bites, but to the uninitiated this could be slightly alarming. When you get to know your cat you will begin to understand! They also like to give their owner washes, whether it suits or not.

They are great climbers, so don't be surprised to find them sitting on top of doors, kitchen units or wardrobes, and some wouldn't think twice about climbing your curtains and sitting on the curtain rail. A great game is retrieving screwed up paper balls, maybe catching it in mid-flight, and making great somersaults in the process, hopefully avoiding the ornaments!

They like to be involved in everything their owners do and follow them around like a dog, in fact on the whole they get on very well with dogs although the Turk will want to be the boss. They may also like paddling in water, but don't expect them all to want to swim, as they are reputed to do!

Like its Van counterpart, the Vankedisi makes a wonderful pet, but beware about leaving your favourite ornaments out since they love to play, and anything is game!

AVAILABILITY

There are just a few breeders of Turkish Vankedisi in the UK so kittens are not always available immediately. Details of breeders can be found on the Turkish Van Cat Club website where you will also find information on kitten availability. Alternatively you can contact us at the number below.

Turkish Van Cat Club

General Enquiries:

Steve Lloyd Tel: 01635 248436
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Membership Enquiries:

Suzann Lloyd: Tel: 01635 248436
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