

# The Regal And Intelligent Turkish Angora

by  
**Maria and Brian Reade**

## ORIGIN OF THE BREED

Two centuries ago Angoras were brought to the Americas by sea traders and later were shipped over from England, France and other European countries. These cats were so well regarded that a New York fancier is reported to have imported a male Angora from France, valued at \$5,000.00.

According to a 1756 publication of Buffons "Histoire Naturelle", it appears that examples of this breed had been taken to Europe in the 16th century. It appears that historians differ concerning the date on which the Angora was first introduced to Europe. Some say 1626, others say 1550 but it would be fairly safe to say that somewhere in that timespan, the cat appeared in Italy and shortly thereafter in France.

The word Angora was formerly the name of a city in Turkey. In the year 1930, the city of Angora became the city of Ankara which we now know as the capital city of Turkey. At one time, any longhaired cat was called an Angora by people not knowledgeable about cat breeds, and this misnomer still exists in some parts of the North American Continent. The word Angora causes confusion with people not heavily involved in the cat fancy and prospective buyers often answer a Turkish Angora advertisement and expect to be shown a pet quality Persian.

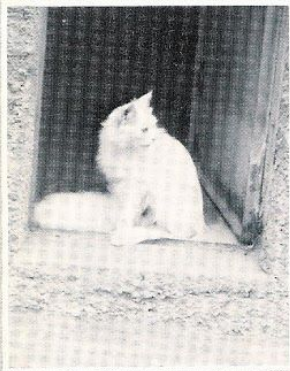
## TURKISH ANGORAS IN NORTH AMERICA

The Turkish Angora cat breed is one of the oldest and one of the purest. Until recent years, they could only be found at the zoo in Ankara.

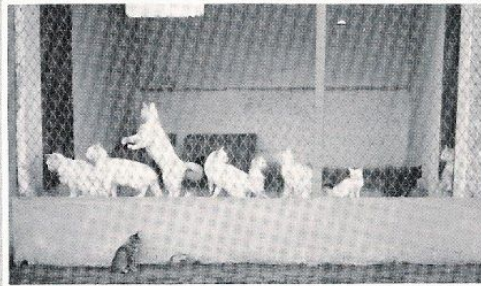
At the zoo, the Turkish Angoras were kept in a separate building, isolated from wild animals and other cats in order to protect and preserve their purity. The Ankara zoo had an extremely controlled breeding program and since the housing was kept meticulously clean, all cats were in excellent health.

In olden days, the white theorists pointed to a legend that the Turkish people's beloved Turkish Angora would return some day in the guise of an odd-eyed white deaf Turkish Angora called "Attaturk".

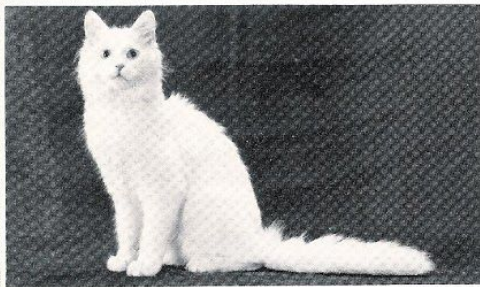
The Turkish Angora is an inquisitive and extremely active breed and since this is the case, it is best to be aware that they respond to firm but respectful handling. In its graceful and dignified calmness, a Turkish Angora looks as elegant as it is possible for any cat to look.



Ankara Zoo-Ankara, Turkey.



Istanbul Zoo-Angora cats.



Ch. Tario Gipsy Kismet.



Gr. Ch. Tario Fast Gipsy of Ziya.  
Sre. Musta of Leshin-Wieler  
Darn. Ch. Tario Kismet  
Ow. Sonckalee Rodgers



Photos above from Tario Collection

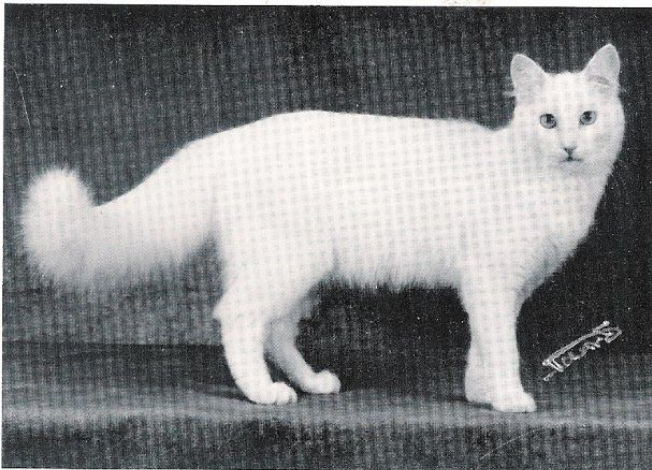




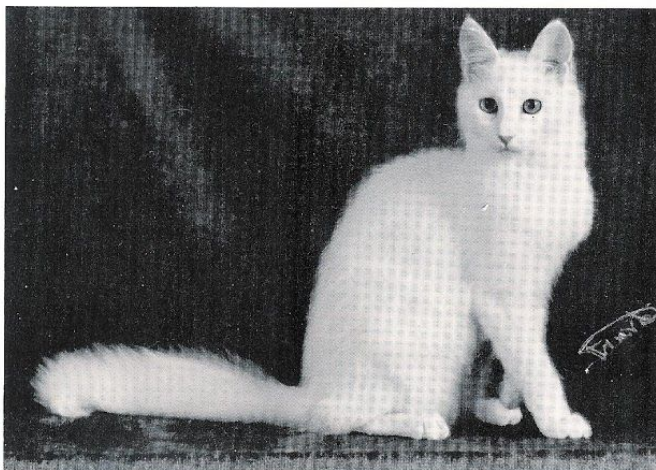
Ch. LeShin-Wieler Snow White  
 OEW female Ow/Dr. LeShin-Wieler  
 LeShin-Wieler Cattery, among the first breeders of Turkish Angora  
 in the Northeast. First litter born in 1971.



Gr. Ch. Antrim Alamer of No Ruz  
 Ow: Mrs. Elaine Gesel



Gr. Ch. Azima's Dynasty of Ziya-Male  
 Co-ow: Barbara Azan & Sandralee Rodgers



Gr. Ch. Ziya's Kristal Fantasy of Azima-female  
 Sire: Gr. Ch. Torio Fool Dam: Gr. Ch. Azima's Kristal Tirsol  
 Ow: Barbara Azan

### "THE ORIGINAL TURKISH ANGORA SOCIETY"

We, as present-day breeders owe our deepest gratitude and honest respect to the original North American importers of our lovely breed and in our research we have been fortunate to have discovered details of a body called "The Original Turkish Angora Society" which was established in the late sixties and its members comprised of those persons who had brought their cats directly from the Ankara Zoo in Turkey or those persons who had cats whose ancestry could be traced directly to the Turkish Angoras from the zoo.

The purpose of the above-mentioned Society was the preservation and promotion of the pure white Turkish Angora cat. When this Society was established, coloured Turkish Angoras were not acknowledged as they are today and this group of people adhered to the pure white colour only. At that particular point in time, white was the only colour recognized by the zoo. It is interesting to note that the Turkish Government set up a selective breeding program to be carried out by the Ankara Zoo since Turkey is their point of origin and especially since they were in danger of becoming extinct.

At Antrim cattery, we have an odd-eyed white male named Sebastian and he is third generation import from the zoo, his great-grandparents being Mavis and Yaman — a famous imported pair.

### TURKISH ANGORAS IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN AMERICA

When the people of Great Britain first found an active interest in cat breeding, they used the Angora and a woolly cat from Afghanistan to create what we know today as the Persian. The two breeds were mixed far beyond distinction and as we all know, the Persian triumphed as the most popular longhair, and the sad Angora as a longhair pure breed was lost to the cat fancy for many years. The English people imported some in the mid-fifties while the Americans imported in the early sixties but unfortunately they were two different breeds.

The British Turkish Cats are better known as Turkish Van cats because they come from the Lake Van region of Turkey. They have a renowned reputation as being lovers of the water and have a reputed love of swimming. We have seen the Turkish cats in England and they are indeed significantly larger than our American Turkish Angoras. In Great Britain today the Turkish Angora standard appears to be quite different from the U. S. standard. We found a 1975 British publication called "All About Cats" 1975, and it illustrates in detail a particularly round-headed, small-eared, short-nosed cat. The article published features three large colour pictures of Turkish Angoras. Fortunately continental European fanciers are now buying U. S. Turkish Angoras and their cats may soon resemble ours.

In England the Turkish Angora is simply called the Turkish cat. They were first promoted by Laura Lushington when she was presented with a pair on her first visit to Turkey. Upon breeding the two, she was thrilled to discover that the colour and pattern was hereditary and following this discovery, she returned to Turkey and acquired another pair of the same type but this time they were from the remote regions of Lake Van.

This was the foundation of the English Stock.





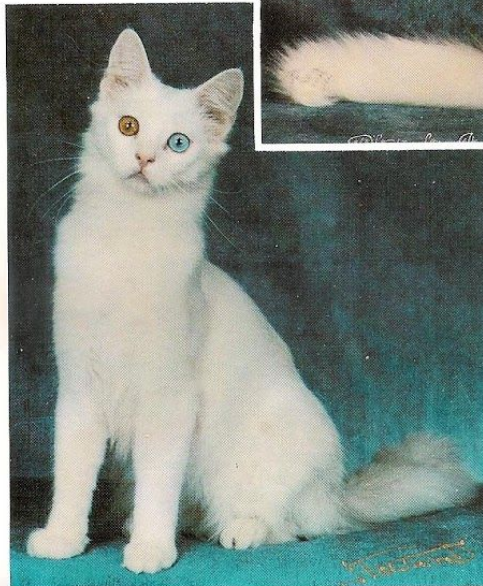
**THE EVOLUTION OF THE COLOURED  
TURKISH ANGORA**

Although the Turkish Angora is dominant for white, other colours have surfaced in certain breeding programs and in fact C.F.A. acknowledged colours, other than white, in 1978. There were many arguments against the colours when they were first accepted, however, most North American breeders are now using them in breeding programs. Most of the Turkish Angoras are white and these whites may be blue-eyed, amber-eyed or odd-eyed. Since 1978 when C.F.A. started to acknowledge colours, it has been an interesting challenge for breeders to produce a cat of a certain colour to meet the required written standard. When these colours were first introduced, good quality show typed coloured cats were few and far between. This was mainly because white is so dominant and not many coloured kittens were born and consequently the coloured cats tended to have weak colour, a colour that seemed to fade or maturity. We are happy to notice that during the past two or three show seasons, some very adequate coloured cats have been shown and a few have even graded in C.F.A.

**BREEDING A TURKISH ANGORA**

Many breeders limit their breedings to twice a year as an overwhelming demand for their kittens does not exist. The breed is capable of producing three to seven kittens per litter. Fortunately, today it is a lot less difficult to locate the stud male of your choice. At one time, when

Gr. Ch. Tario Gipsy Sarik or Setay  
Best Turkish Angora Nationally 1978-1979  
Sire: Mustu of LeShin-Wleler  
Dam: Ch. Tario Kismet  
Ow: Ann G. Kenneth Yates

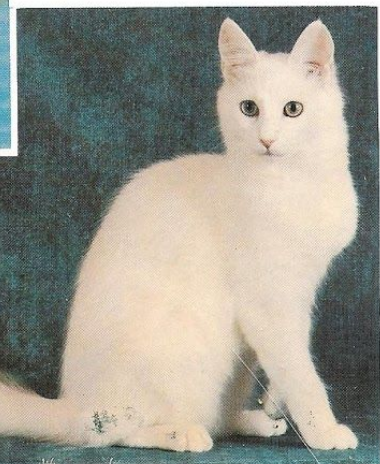


Ch. Setay Royal Heir to the Throne-OE male  
Sire: Ch. Setay's Crown Jewels  
Dam: Tario Gipsy Sarik of Setay  
Ow: Ann S. Yates

Turkish Angoras first came to North America, lack of suitable breeding stock caused the breeder to do a lot of inbreeding in order to keep the breed in existence. Suitable outcrossing of the cats was not possible as all of the cats in existence were related and closely at that. This system of 'family' inbreeding that had to be used by the breeders, caused many unwanted recessive characters. Today there are suitable different lines available so that inbreeding to the same extent as before is not necessary. Turkish Angoras had a reputation for a bad disposition when they were first accepted for showing. It is quite understandable for a judge to recall this when judging a class of Turkish Angoras. Even today it is quite an achievement for a breeder to be able to show an adult whole male beyond thirteen months of age. Turkish Angora breeders are working very hard to avoid any recurrence of these characteristics and it is a pleasure for breeders and judges alike to witness the many sweet-dispositioned cats today.

**THE PROBLEM OF DEAFNESS IN TURKISH  
ANGORAS**

As I look at our beautiful, but deaf, Sinatra, I



Gr. Ch. Ziya's Kristal Fantasy of Azima  
Ow: Barbara Azan

think "how sad for him never to have experienced the warmth of our voices and sounds." Then I think again and conclude that, never having heard, he does not miss what he has never had and is blessed with a special and serene peace.

I hasten to add that the few deaf cats we have always arrive at the food dishes on time together with their hearing companions. When the deaf females have kittens, they appear to handle all eventualities just as if they could hear. A deaf female mother has been seen to respond, from some distance, to distress calls from both kittens and full grown cats alike.

From the British publication of "Comparative Genetics of Coat Colour in Mammals" by A. G. Searle, I have researched that Deol (1954) has



shown that deafness results from cochlear degeneration; other degenerative changes also occur in the labyrinth, and cell-size is reduced in the vestibular ganglion. The white Turkish Angora cats have a white spotting genic system that is the causative factor of deafness. This genic make-up, however, must be present in order for the white cat to be white. Odd-eyed white cats are sometimes faulty in hearing only on the side having a blue eye. However, we have had totally deaf odd-eyed whites and amber-eyed whites in our breeding experience.

Deaf parents can and do have sound hearing offspring and conversely, sound hearing parents can produce deaf offspring.

It appears that deafness causes more concern among people than it does among the deaf cats. The white cats born deaf do not realize that anything is wrong and with this deficiency, their other faculties become more acute. Research has shown that on the very odd occasion, a kitten born deaf can acquire his hearing as he grows older and obviously this could cause a personality change while the kitten becomes adjusted to hearing all the sounds. Only white cats can be born deaf regardless of eye colour. One genetic publication states that all blue-eyed cats are deaf — genetically speaking. Incidentally, the deaf cat is often much sweeter and more loving.

And to conclude on the subject of deafness, it would appear that this condition in our white cats is here to stay as long as the Turkish Angoras are dominant for white. Some of the breeders of coloured Turkish Angoras are using the argument that they want the colours to prevent the deafness, and that they will "breed the defect out" with colours.

#### THE TURKISH ANGORA STANDARD

The purpose of establishing a standard for any breed of cat is to have something definite that is regarded to be the perfect example of a cat of that breed. Very seldom, if ever, will that goal be attained as no cat is perfect, but the standard is there as a goal for the breeders to reach. Small changes making the standard more definitive are acceptable, however, care must be taken to ensure that some of the breeders, who have cats that do not make the established standard for the breed, do not make the effort to have the standard changed to match their cats.

In summary, care must be taken in making any changes to the standard and cats must be bred to meet this standard.

#### POINT SCORE

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Head .....  | 35 |
| Body .....  | 30 |
| Color ..... | 20 |
| Coat .....  | 15 |

**GENERAL:** Solid, firm, giving the impression of grace and flowing movement.

**HEAD:** Size, small to medium. Wedge-shaped. Wide at top. Definite taper toward chin. Allowance to be made for jowls in stud cat.

**EARS:** Wide at base, long, pointed, and ruffed. Set high on the head and erect.

**EYES:** Large, almond shaped. Slanting upwards slightly.



Channon Photo

Gr. Ch. Antrim Snatra-DEW male Br/Ow: Maria Reade

**NOSE:** Medium long, gentle slope, No break.

**NECK:** Slim and graceful, medium length.

**CHIN:** Gently rounded. Tip to form a perpendicular line with the nose.

**JAW:** Tapered.

**BODY:** Small to medium size in female, slightly larger in male. Torso long, graceful, and lithe. Chest, light framed. Rump slightly higher than front. Bone, fine.

**LEGS:** Long. Hind legs longer than front.

**PAWS:** Small and round, dainty. Tufts between toes.

**TAIL:** Long and tapering, wide at base, narrow at end, full. Carried lower than body but not trailing. When moving relaxed tail is carried horizontally over the body, sometimes almost touching the head.

**COAT:** Body coat medium-long, long at ruff. Full brush on tail. Silky with a wavy tendency. Wavier on stomach. Very fine and having a silk-like sheen.

**BALANCE:** Proportionate in all physical aspects with graceful lithe appearance.

**DISQUALIFY:** Persian body type. Kinked or abnormal tails.

#### TURKISH ANGORA COLORS

**WHITE:** Pure white, no other coloring. Paw Pads and Nose Leather: Pink. Eye Color: Odd-Eyed, Blue-Eyed, Amber-Eyed.

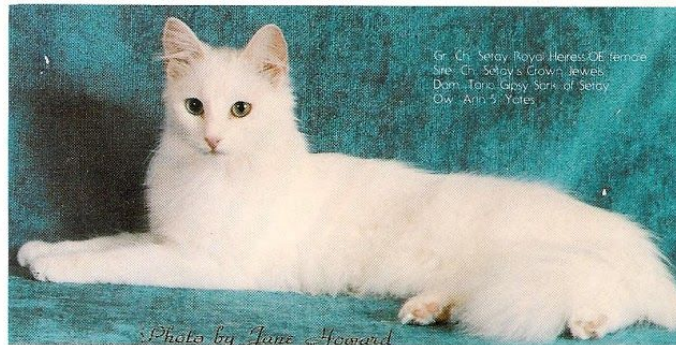
**BLACK:** Dense coal black, sound from roots to tip of fur. Free from any tinge of rust on tips or smoke undercoat. Nose Leather: Black. Paw Pads: Black or Brown. Eye Color: Amber.

**BLUE:** Blue, lighter shade preferred. One level tone from nose to tip of tail. Sound to the roots. A sound darker shade is more acceptable than an unsound lighter shade. Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Blue. Eye Color: Amber.

**CREAM:** One level shade of buff cream without markings. Sound to the roots. Lighter shades preferred. Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Pink. Eye Color: Amber.

**RED:** Deep, rich, clear, brilliant red, without shading, markings, or ticking. Lips and chin the same color as coat. Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Brick Red. Eye Color: Amber.

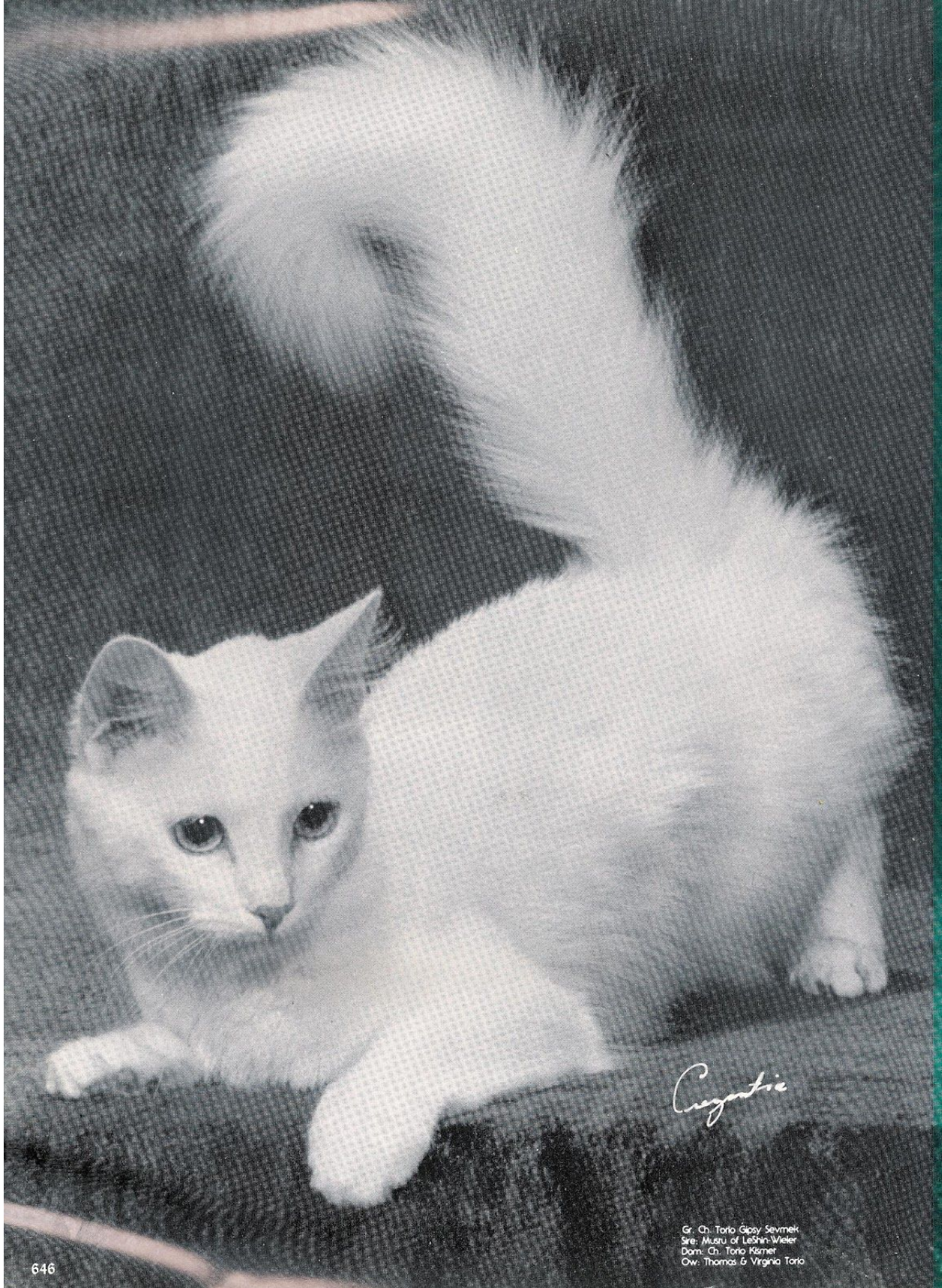
**BLACK SMOKE:** White undercoat, deeply tipped with black. Cat in repose appears black. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Points and mask black with narrow band of white or base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Black. Eye Color: Amber.



Gr. Ch. Setay Royal Heress-DE female  
Sire: Ch. Setay's Crown Jewels  
Dam: Tara Gipsy Spark of Setay  
Ow: Ann S. Yates

Photos by Jane Howard

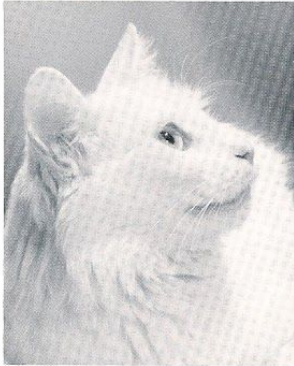




*Cragston*

Gr: Ch. Torio Gipsy Sevmek  
Sire: Musu of LeShin-Wieler  
Dam: Ch. Torio Kismet  
Ow: Thomas & Virginia Torio

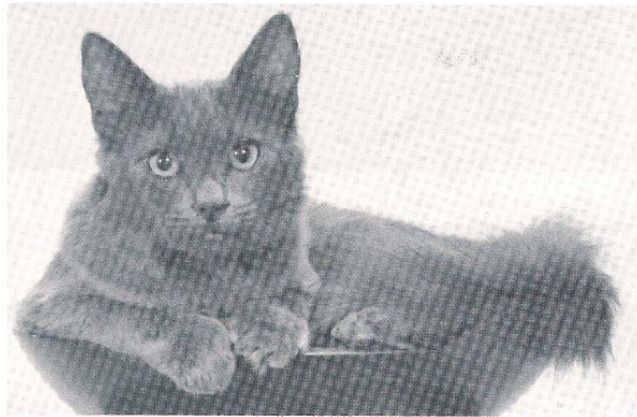




Ch. Princess Toro of Torio  
Ow: Thomas & Virginia Torio



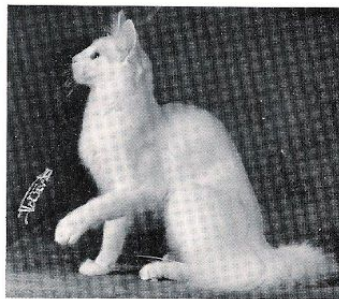
Ch. Gelin of Torio-Ankara Zoo Import  
Ow: Thomas & Virginia Torio



Ch. Bereker's Jenny Fur  
Ow: Helen Dinde



Gr. Ch. Antrim Amorette of Purbred-BEW female  
Br: Maria Reade Ow: Ruth & Larry Argus-Hills



Gr. Ch. Azima's Kristal Tsmal-male  
2nd Best Turkish Angora, CFA National 1981  
Ow: Barbara Azon

**BLUE SMOKE:** White undercoat, deeply tipped with blue. Cat in repose appears blue. In motion the white undercoat is clearly apparent. Points and mask blue with narrow band of white at base of hairs next to skin which may be seen only when fur is parted. Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Blue. Eye Color: Amber.

**CLASSIC TABBY PATTERN:** Markings dense, clearly defined, and broad. Legs evenly barred with bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail evenly ringed. Several unbroken necklaces on neck and upper chest, the more the better. Frown marks on forehead form intricate letter "M." Unbroken line runs back from outer corner of eye. Swirls on cheeks. Vertical lines over back of head extend to shoulder markings which are in the shape of a butterfly with both upper and lower wings distinctly outlined and marked with dots inside outline. Back markings consist of a vertical line down the spine from butterfly to tail with a vertical stripe paralleling it on each side, the three stripes well separated by stripes of the ground color. Large solid blotch on each side to be encircled by one or more unbroken rings. Side markings should be the same on both sides. Double vertical row of buttons on chest and stomach.

**MACKEREL TABBY PATTERN:** Markings dense, clearly defined, and all narrow pencilings. Legs evenly barred with narrow bracelets coming up to meet the body markings. Tail barred. Necklaces on neck and chest distinct, like so many chains. Head barred with an "M" on the forehead. Unbroken lines running back from the eyes. Lines running down the head to meet the shoulders. Spine lines run together to form a narrow saddle. Narrow pencilings run around body.

**SILVER TABBY:** Ground color, including lips and chin, pale clear silver. Markings dense black. Nose Leather: Brick Red. Paw Pads: Black. Eye Color: Green or Hazel.

**RED TABBY:** Ground color red. Markings deep rich red. Lips and chin red. Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Brick Red. Eye Color: Amber.

**BROWN TABBY:** Ground color brilliant coppery brown. Markings dense black. Lips and chin the same shade as the rings around the eyes. Back of leg black from paw to heel. Nose Leather: Brick Red. Paw Pads: Black or Brown. Eye Color: Amber.

**BLUE TABBY:** Ground color, including lips and chin, pale bluish ivory. Markings a very deep blue affording a good contrast with ground color. Warm fawn overtones or patina over the whole. Nose Leather: Old Rose. Paw Pads: Rose. Eye Color: Amber.

**CREAM TABBY:** Ground color, including lips and chin, very pale cream. Markings of buff or cream sufficiently darker than the ground color to afford good contrast but remaining within the dilute color range. Nose Leather and Paw Pads: Pink. Eye Color: Amber.

**TORTOISESHELL:** Black with unbrindled patches of red and cream. Patches clearly defined and well broken on both body and extremities. Blaze of red or cream on face is desirable. Eye Color: Amber.

**CALICO:** White with unbrindled patches of black and red. White predominant on underparts. Eye Color: Amber.

**DILUTE CALICO:** White with unbrindled patches of blue and cream. White predominant on underparts. Eye Color: Amber.

**BLUE-CREAM:** Blue with patches of solid cream. Patches clearly defined and well broken on both body and extremities. Eye Color: Amber.

**BI-COLOR:** Black and white, blue and white, red and white, or cream and white. White feet, legs, undersides, chest, and muzzle. Inverted "V" blaze on face desirable. White under tail and white collar allowable. Eye Color: Amber.





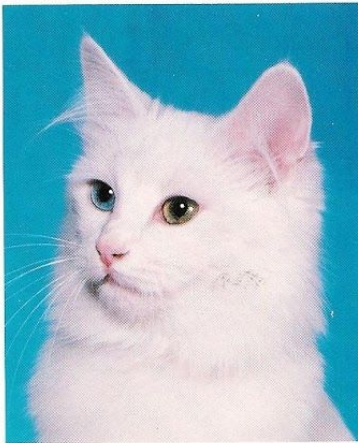
Bereket's Autumn Leaves, a tortoiseshell Turkish Angora, delivered her first litter on July 5, 1983. First to make their appearance were two white males, followed by two red mackerel tabby males, a blue cream female, and last, a blue female.

#### THE ALERT TURKISH ANGORA

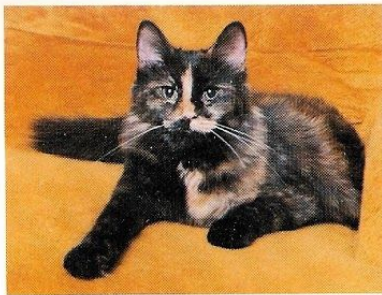
In the beginning, most of us are attracted by the breathtaking beauty and elegance of the Turkish Angora. However, any Turkish Angora owner will tell you that although this cat has a general disposition the same as any other, the individual personalities are different. As breeders, we have raised many kittens and placed them in loving homes and just as our own adult cats have interesting habits, so have the kittens that grew and left our cattery.

The Turkish Angora is responsive, intelligent and alert and therefore it is relatively easy to establish a routine and thus develop a behaviour pattern such that the cat will almost automatically do what you wish him to do. With an adequate amount of love, patience and understanding, the cat can become a joy in so many ways.

Being an alert and intelligent breed, the Turkish Angora can also be trained. One of our adult females was taught to retrieve at six months. We have also trained our daughter to display a gentle love for the cats and kittens and I hasten to add that the benefits have been two-fold. Not only is our daughter learning to show love and consideration for other living creatures but the kittens are most definitely prepared for a new environment having encountered the swift and sometimes unpredictable movements of a supervised but sometimes rambunctious two year old.



Gr. Pr. Antrim Sunshine of Jeminal  
Br. Maria Reade Ow. Lee Droake



Gr. Ch. Dore's Tutti Fruit  
Br/Ow. Ralph & Donna Weber

#### THE TURKISH ANGORA HABITAT

We spend many of our leisure hours watching the kittens play and never cease to be amazed at the wonder of it all. It only goes to show what occurs when an otherwise rational human being becomes dominated by a cat's charm and harmony of being.

Examples of habit-survival are seen in the play of young kittens who seem to enjoy playing at "hide and seek" and engage in sham fights. It is interesting to note that in the days of long ago, this would be their schooling for the serious business of life ahead when they would be required to hunt for food. The habit of this sort of play survives, even though the need for hunting and preparedness for the consequences does not apply now for our domesticated Turkish Angoras. This is simply an illustration of how living influence of the past may assert itself in youth, though weakening in the adult. It is constantly amazing to witness the fact that new habits acquired by the individual cat under these conditions of domestication do not out the old habits which were established in the wild life of our cats' ancestors. The hold of the past on the behavior of our domestic cats is apparent in reference to the small ways which were registered in the nervous system, and formed part of the racial inheritance. The cats' habit of climbing as high above us as possible cannot disappear, although perchance it might do through many generations.



### GROOMING A TURKISH ANGORA

As with any other long-haired cats, combing and brushing should be part of the daily routine of a Turkish Angora. Such a beautiful and graceful cat should never be poorly groomed. The silky coat of a Turkish Angora is enhanced by a beautiful ruff of distinctly longer hair about the neck and since this is a long-haired breed, owners should be conscientious about administration of furball preventatives. In our experience, white Turkish Angoras appear not to yellow as much as other white cats with exposure to stain or discolor under normal living conditions.

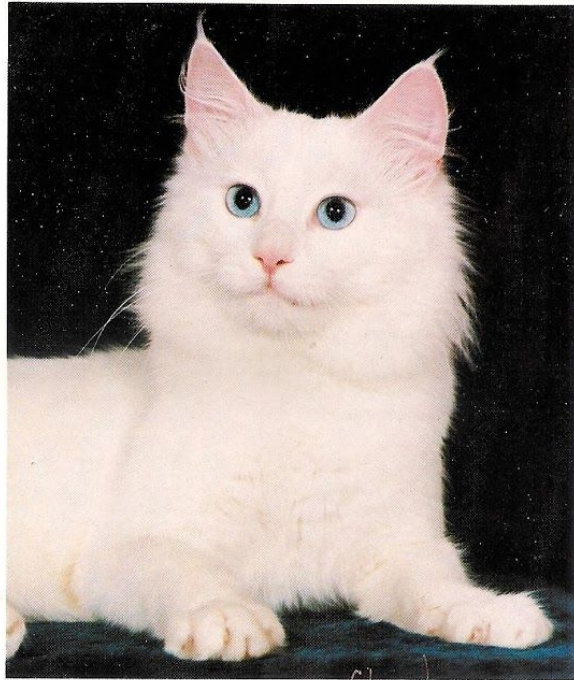
Kittens are shown at four months of age or as soon as possible thereafter as it allows the kitten to become accustomed to being handled by different people. Whereas many other different breeds are well behaved and have a charming sophisticated air in the show ring, Turkish Angoras usually put on a show of their own which is much to the amusement of judges and audience alike. One of our recent show cats was a constant source of embarrassment to us and amusement to the audience as he used to talk all the way through the finals until it was his turn to come out and after the judge had rendered his comments, he would thank him by raising his head to say meow and by grabbing the rosette in his mouth.

We usually bathe our kittens/cats the night before a show. "Ring 5" blue shampoo, "Lambert Kay" or blue coloured "Snowy Coat" can be used. It is best to try and experiment and discover what best suits your cat bearing in mind that the resulting coat texture should be silky and "squeaky clean." For greasy stud tail we use Fullers earth but it is very important to purchase the medicated type that is lighter than the untreated powder. Adequately bathed and groomed white Turkish Angoras should not require much, if any, cornstarch or shows. Some breeders use a small amount for "rouch up" purposes but it is vital that the cat does not have cornstarch on its coat in the show ring. There is nothing sadder than to see a good show type cat "dripping" in cornstarch on the judge's table.

Patience is important when preparing your Turkish Angora for going to the judge's ring. I have often seen people at shows, reach in, grab the cat, rake a comb through the fur, rush up to the judge's cages and push the cat into the cage. Then they have the audacity to wonder why the cat does not show well and is cross about the whole thing. Plenty of time in preparation is of the greatest importance. Do we not owe it to our cats who have travelled in a kennel for many miles, been in a strange hotel room and sat in the showhall cage patiently for the entire day?

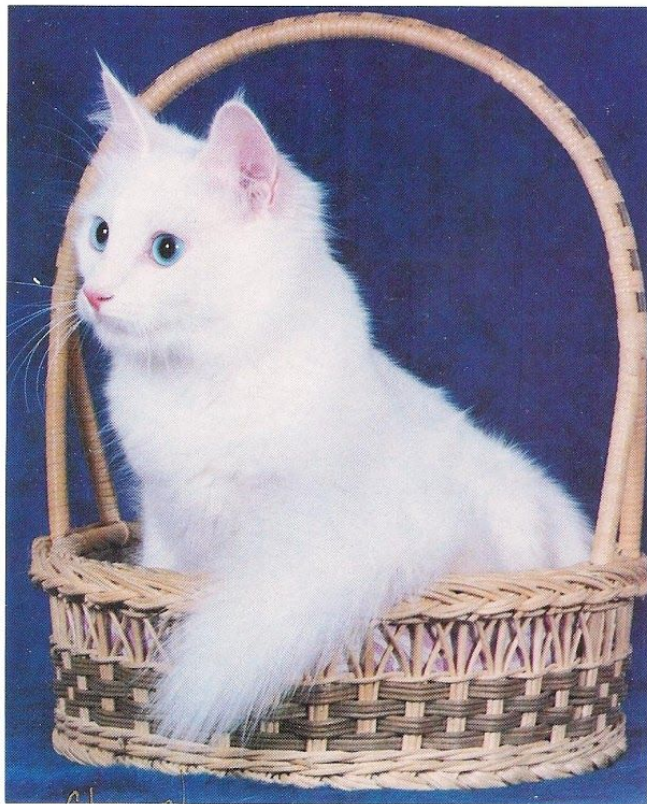
### CONCLUSION

Many serious and devoted breeders have chosen to work with and perfect the Turkish Angora and with the recent acknowledgment of "colours other than white" in C.F.A., a new and interesting challenge presents itself to the breeders. Whether we work mostly with the whites or experiment with colours, I feel we can all agree that the written standard is there as a common goal for all breeders to reach as we continue to raise the alert and intelligent Turkish Angora.



Channon Photo

Gr. Ch. Antrim Amorage of Purbred  
Dr: Mario Reade Ow: Ruth & Larry Argus-Hills



Channon Photo

Gr. Ch. Antrim Amorette of Purbred-BEW female  
Dr: Mario Reade Ow: Ruth & Larry Argus-Hills