



# Turkish Angoras

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# The Turkish Aungora

## About the Turkish Angora

Turkish Angora cats are intelligent and sometimes quick-tempered cats. Inquisitive and agile, Turkish Angoras keep an eye on every move their human companions make. Turkish Angora kittens tend to be precocious, and may get themselves into a bit of trouble now and then. Turkish Angoras are friendly and generally do well with other pets as well as with children.

Turkish Angora cats originated in Turkey, in the area around Ankara previously known as Angora. They were likely the first long haired cats brought to Europe, carried there by the Vikings as far back as the 10th century. This breed was once thought to be nearly extinct, having been bred indiscriminately with Persians for so long there was no longer a clear and separate breed. In 1962, the true Turkish Angora was rediscovered through a breeding program at the Ankara Zoo.

## General Characteristics

Turkish Angora cats have a medium length long haired coat with no undercoat. While the most well-known coat color is white, Turkish Angoras may also have blue, black, red, or almost 20 other colors. Turkish Angoras may have blue, green or amber eyes, and often have one blue eye and one eye of another color. The average weight for a Turkish Angora is 5 to 9 pounds.

The silky single coat of the Turkish Angora does not mat. Weekly or twice weekly combing to remove dead hair is usually sufficient. Turkish Angoras shed in the spring, so additional combing at that time will help reduce the occurrence of hairballs.

Turkish Angoras are inquisitive explorers and are very fond of heights. It would not be unusual to find your Turkish Angora perched on a very high dresser or bookshelf, or even on a door. Their curious nature can get some Turkish Angoras into trouble, as they may chew their way through their explorative exploits.

Average Weight	5-9 pounds (2.3 – 4 kg)	Temperament	Inquisitive; friendly but somewhat aloof.
Average Height	6 kittens	Good with Children?	Does well with children and pets.
Coat	Medium length with no undercoat. Usually white in color but may be other solid colors and some tortie and tipped coats.	Health Concerns	Some cats with white coats and blue eyes may be deaf.



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## Selecting your Turkish Angora: Adoption or Breeder?

Deciding whether to adopt a pet from a shelter or rescue group, or purchase a pet from a breeder is a personal choice. Whichever you decide, be sure to research the source and find out as much as you can about how the cat has been cared for up to this point. Breed clubs and online groups are good sources of information about breeders and shelters.

### A few words about adoption:

Your local ASPCA or municipal animal shelter likely has a variety of cats available for adoption. If breed is not important to you, shelters like these can be excellent sources for an adoptable cat. If, however, you are committed to finding a Turkish Angora, you may need to do a more specific search. There are groups that specialize in rescue and adoption of Turkish Angoras; check the Internet for a group near you. Your local vet may also be a good resource for locating groups or individuals who have cats for adoption.

Finding a Turkish Angora available for adoption or rescue may take longer than locating a cat through a breeder. Your persistence will be rewarded, though, with the good feelings that come from providing a loving home to a Turkish Angora in need.

Some shelters or rescue groups charge a small fee for processing the adoption, others ask that you make a donation to their organization. Most shelters require you to spay or neuter the animal. Overall, the expense of taking in a rescue cat is usually much lower than the cost of buying one outright.

### A few words about breeders:

A good breeder will always have at least as many questions for you as you have for him. A breeder who cares about his animals will want to know that each cat is going to a good, loving home. You may find that you have a lot of initial contact with a breeder over the phone or via email. When you actually meet with the breeder, you may have your choice of only a few or several cats, depending on the size of his breeding operation.

Always make sure your breeder keeps sanitary and pleasant conditions. The cats should appear well-cared for and well-fed, with ample space to play, and clean cages. Look for a cat with clear eyes and a shiny coat. The cats should be active and alert. Be wary of a breeder whose cats are overly timid or aggressive. The cats should be well socialized and appear healthy and happy.

Get any agreements from the breeder in writing, and be very wary of a breeder who refuses to do so. Any reputable breeder should also provide you with a written guarantee regarding your animal and should clearly explain any return policies.



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The Internet can be a good resource for locating a Turkish Angora breeder. You can also check with local Turkish Angora clubs in your area, and ask your vet for recommendations. There are national and sometimes regional groups and professional societies for cat breeders. You may wish to find a breeder associated with a group like the Turkish Angora Breeder's Union. While not all cat breeders will belong to such groups, membership in a group like this may be an indication of how seriously the breeder takes her work. Ask other cat owners for recommendations for a breeder, or consult listservs and other websites devoted to pet cats.

## How to Choose Your New Turkish Angora

An important decision is whether to bring a kitten or an adult cat into your home. It's no secret that Turkish Angora kittens are cute and cuddly, but they are also a lot of work. If you cannot devote a serious amount of time and patience to house training and socializing a kitten, consider adopting an adult cat. Make this important decision before you begin looking at cats. When an adorable Turkish Angora kitten is curled up in your lap, it can be very difficult to think of anything but taking her home.

When selecting a cat, it is important to find out as much as you can about how the Turkish Angora was raised to this point, to have an idea of any health problems or behavioral issues that may not be readily apparent.

There are several signs of a healthy cat. Among these are the following:

- Healthy skin and coat
- Clear, bright eyes
- Energetic and playful demeanor
- Clean ears

## Preparing for Your Turkish Angora

There are several items you will need to care for your new Turkish Angora. Some examples of these include food and water bowls, good quality food, grooming products, litter and litter boxes, toys, and books on cat care.

Your Turkish Angora will need a place to eat and drink. Cat bowls are often made from plastic, ceramic or stainless steel, all of which are durable. It is important to put the bowls in the same place each day, so your cat knows where to find his food and water. Cat bowls should always be made from safe, non-toxic materials.

Cat food is the basis of your Turkish Angora's nutrition, so feeding him the right food and in the right quantities is critical. Healthier food means a healthier cat. Cat food comes in three main forms: hard dry food, canned wet food, or semi-moist food. Check with your vet or breeder for recommendations based on the age and health of your cat.

Grooming products can include brushes, combs, and topical treatments like shampoos and flea prevention products. For Turkish Angoras, you will fare better with a comb than a brush. It is important to get your Turkish Angora kitten used to being groomed at a young age. Start with just a few minutes each day, until your kitten is accustomed to the attention and



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You'll need these basics before your Turkish Angora comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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|--|---|
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activity. Cat shampoos can include flea and tick formulas, detangling formulas, deodorizing formulas, and more. It may take some patience and practice to bathe your Turkish Angora or apply topical treatments. Be prepared with all necessary supplies and be ready to give your cat plenty of praise and maybe even some treats.

Litter boxes come in simple pan styles, enclosed “privy” types, and even automatic-scooping models. Whichever type of litter box you select, there are certain factors to keep in mind. The sides of the box should not be too high, especially when used for young kittens or older cats. Some cats like privacy while using the litter box, so a covered model is best for them. Others, however, do not like to feel enclosed and will not use a litter box with a cover.

Cat litter comes in three basic forms, clay litter, clumping clay litter, and crystals. While there are other types of cat litter on the market, these are the most prevalent types. Clay litter is a traditional choice and works well for many kittens. Clumping clay litters absorb the moisture from the urine and form clumps which can be scooped out like solid waste. Crystal cat litters are fairly new on the market. Regardless of the type of cat litter you select, be sure to keep the litter box scrupulously clean.

Don't forget something for your Turkish Angora to play with. As kittens and mature cats, Turkish Angoras are naturally very playful creatures; giving them their own toys to play with can protect your curtains, shoes, and even your own feet. There are toys that mimic prey, toys that smell enticing, toys that bounce, toys that hold treats, and on and on and on.

A few good books on raising cats, purchased at a pet or book store or borrowed from your library, can be invaluable. Knowledgeable pet owners have happier, healthier pets!

## Your Turkish Angora Through the Years: The Turkish Angora Kitten

Turkish Angora kittens are very fuzzy and soft, and very active. Young Turkish Angora kittens scamper around like balls of fur with feet, seemingly running in every direction at once. By around nine weeks of age, the kittens coat begins to become silkier, although it is still short. By around 4-8 months, the Turkish Angora kitten's tail is fluffy, but the rest of the silky coat is still short. Once the cat is around 8 months old or so, the coat has usually begun to lengthen and fill in more completely. Kittens should be fed two small meals a day, to aid in digestion. A high-quality food specifically formulated for kittens will help your Turkish Angora to get a healthy start in life. Get your Turkish Angora used to being groomed as a kitten; it will make life easier for both of you as the cat matures.

Immunizations are important to your cat's health. Core feline vaccinations are feline panleukopenia, also known as feline distemper, feline calicivirus (FCV), and feline herpesvirus type 1 (FHV-1). For cats over 16 weeks of age, one modified live virus dose of each is recommended. A booster shot should be given at one year, and every subsequent three years. Kittens



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under 16 weeks of age should receive parenteral (not through the digestive tract) dose at 6-8 weeks, 9-11 weeks, and again at 12-16 weeks of age. Feline rabies is also a core vaccine. An inoculation with killed rabies vaccine should be given to kittens at 12-16 weeks of age. A booster shot should be given at one year, and every subsequent three years. Some veterinarians administer recombinant vaccines rather than killed; discuss the differences with your vet.

## Your Turkish Angora Through the Years: The Turkish Angora Adult

Turkish Angoras reach maturity at around two years of age; spayed and neutered cats mature sooner. Don't necessarily expect your Turkish Angora to start acting mature, though; these cats will stay playful and inquisitive all their lives.

As your cat matures, switch him from kitten food to a high-quality adult cat food. This will meet all of his nutritional needs and help to keep him healthy. Be sure to bring your Turkish Angora to the vet annually, for a "well cat" check up. Stay current on your cat's vaccinations, to ensure the health of his immune system. Feline panleukopenia, also known as feline distemper, feline calicivirus (FCV), feline herpesvirus type 1 (FHV-1) and rabies vaccinations should be given to adult cats every three years.

## Your Turkish Angora Through the Years: The Turkish Angora Senior

As cats age, their immune systems become less able to fight off infections and disease. Be sure to bring your Turkish Angora senior to the vet each year to have her health checked. Turkish Angoras are normally a healthy breed, and there are no breed-specific issues to be concerned with. Normal aging issues among cats include hyperthyroidism, hypertension, and diabetes. Some of these can be avoided through proper diet and regular exercise. As they age, some cats groom themselves less effectively; it is important to keep up with the grooming of your Turkish Angora to avoid matting and an increase in hairballs.

## Medical Considerations

Turkish Angora cats often have one blue eye and one eye of another color, often amber. Because the gene that is responsible for the combination of white fur and blue eyes is very closely linked to the gene that causes deafness, many Turkish Angora cats with blue eyes are deaf. In the case of cats with one blue eye, the deafness often only affects the ear on the same side as the blue eye. Not all blue-eyed Turkish Angora cats are deaf, however.

The average litter size of the Turkish Angora is six kittens. Overall, the Turkish Angora is a healthy breed and is not particularly prone to any diseases. The average life span of a Turkish Angora is around 15 years. Properly cared for, many Turkish Angoras live to their late teen years.



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