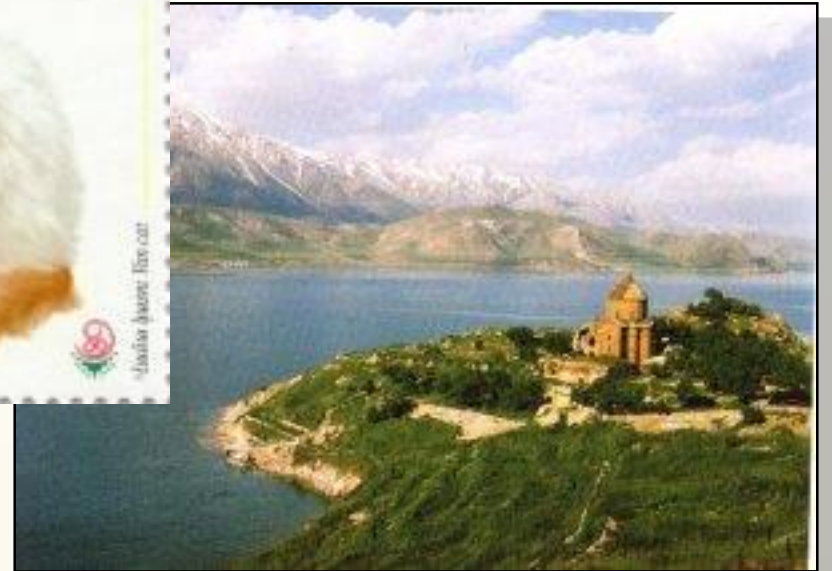
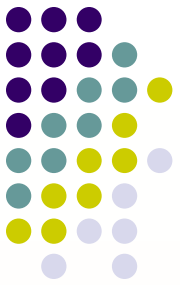


# Turkish Vans

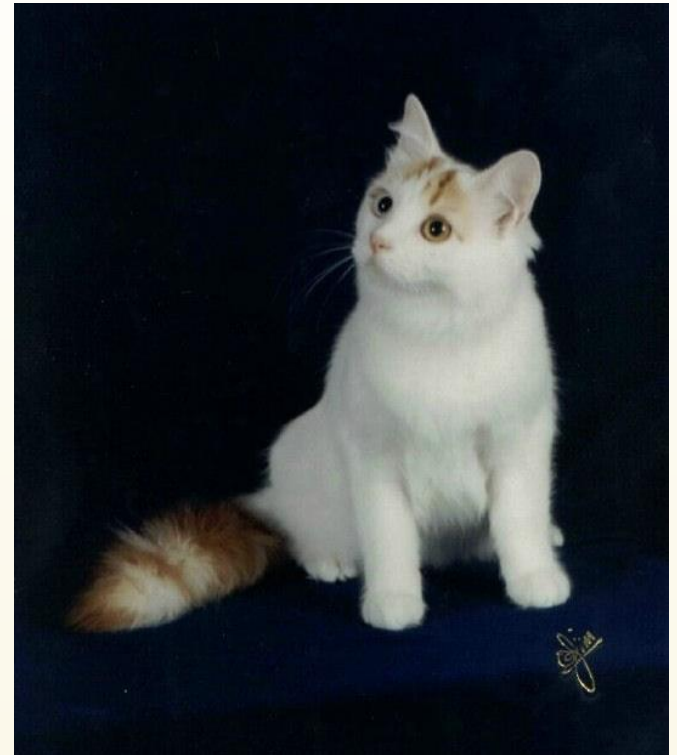


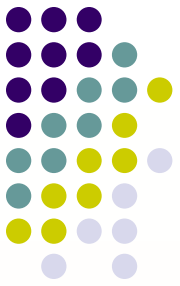
**Judges Workshop**  
**2016 Annual Meeting**  
**June 30, 2016**



# Points of Emphasis

- Origins and General Appearance
- Body
- Ear Set
- Head Shape
- Coat Differences
- Development
- Pattern

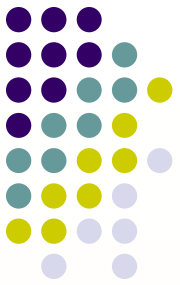




# Geographic Origins

- Van region of Turkey
- Variable climate – temperature extremes
- Rugged
- Shallow streams contain major food source
- Contributes to many features of the Van: muscular body, no undercoat, water resistant coat, swimmer's body, and seasonal coat variation





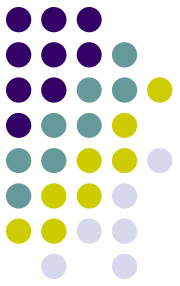
# General Appearance

It is important to remember that overall, when looking at these cats:

- ◆ They must have a well balanced and proportioned appearance and no single feature should stand out!



# Body



*Remember the swimmer's body*

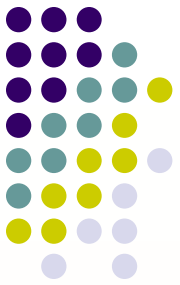
- Muscular, not flabby or soft
- Heavier than they look
- Not too long or too cobby
  - ◆ these are penalties
- Center of gravity in front
- Head and other features must be in proportion
- Chest is strong and deep
  - ◆ not barrel chested
  - ◆ slightly wider than hip pelvic areas



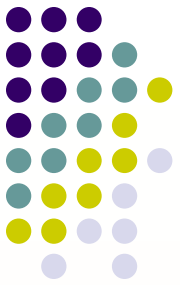
and

# Body

- Evaluate body length when they are in their natural relaxed standing position
- When stretched out, the Van will be surprisingly longer
- Make sure to adequately support them while judging



# More on Body



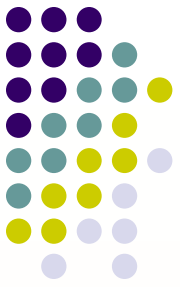
- Muscularity evident regardless of age or gender
- Heavy but not fat; omentum allowed
- Weight is towards the front
- Should not have wide stomach/hip area

Deep chest and muscular development is apparent in this 8-month old male



Full chest development in a mature breeding male

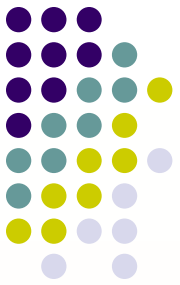
# What should the ear set of the Turkish Van look like?



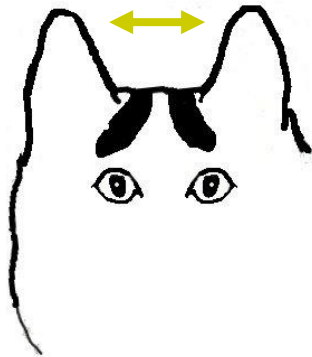
- Moderately large
- In proportion to the face
- Gives an alert and pleasing look
- Does not follow outline of the wedge
  - ◆ This would result in too much outward flare which is not desired
  - ◆ Ears do not have a forward pitch



# Recognizing Good Ear Set

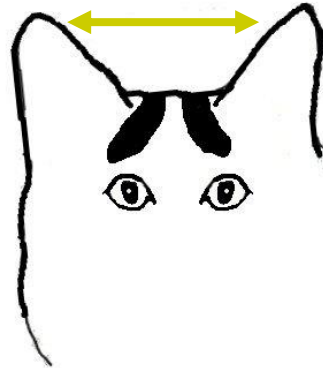


too close



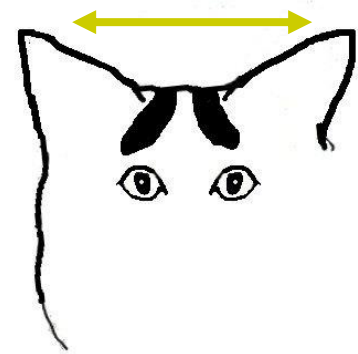
**Too straight**

good width



**Just right**

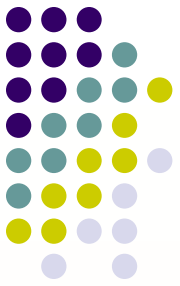
too wide apart



**Too flared**

You will rarely see Vans with ears too straight, an exception being as a developmental stage in kittens.

# Recognizing Good Ear Set - 2



More Desirable

Less Desirable



# Recognizing Good Ear Set - 3

Rounded top head can be an indicator of less desired ear set as is a forward pitch to the ears



# Ear Size



- Moderately large and in proportion to the rest of the cat



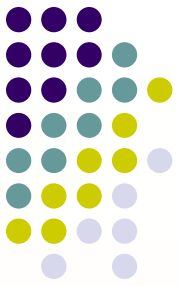
Too small



Just right



Too large



# Ear Set and Development

- Changes are most noticeable in the breeding male. Ears may spread with age and jowling. This can reverse after neutering.



6 months



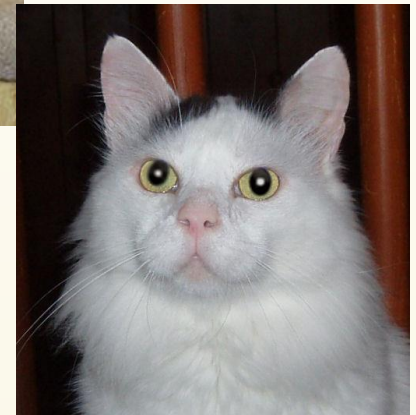
1.5 years



3 years

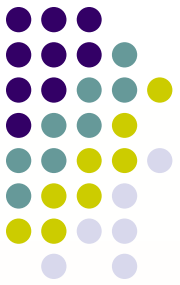


5 years



9 years; after  
neutering

# Ear Set Self Test



Here are 3 Van kittens at 4 months. Which has the best ear set now?  
Which do you think will be best as an adult?



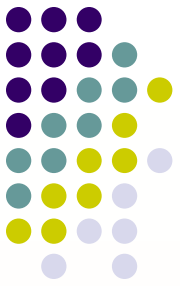
# Ear Set Self Test - 2



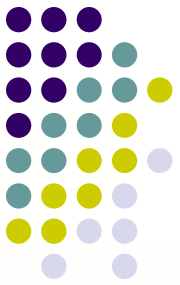
- This first day card and stamp depicts the Armenian national cat – a Van cat!
- Based on the standard, how would you rate this cat's ear set?

*Painted by Armenian artist,  
A. Kechian from a live model*

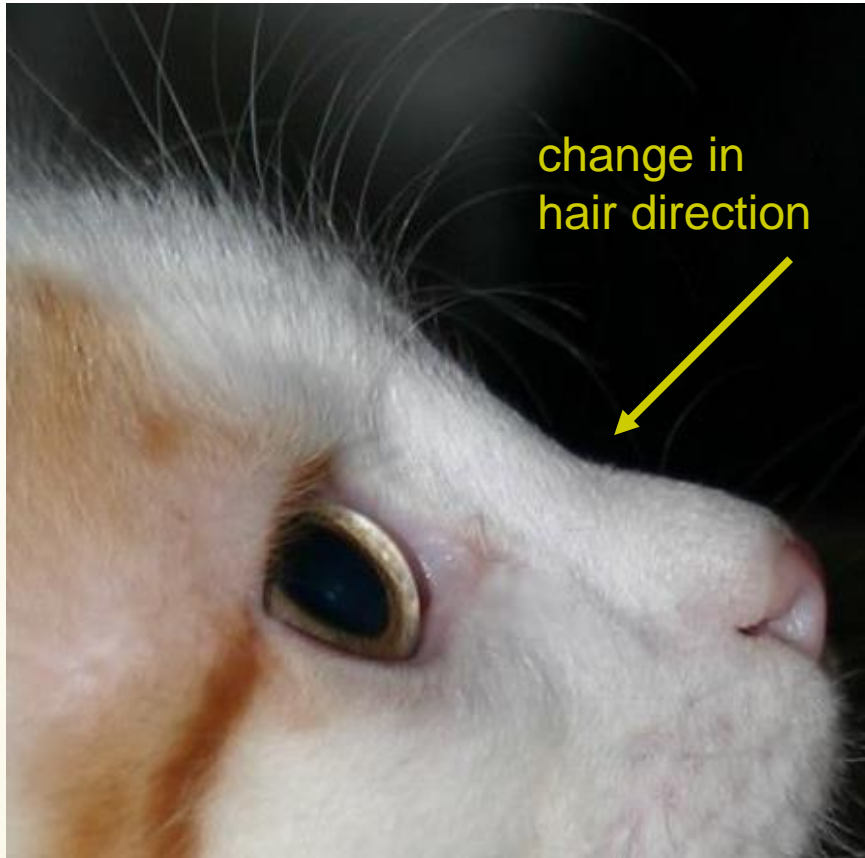
# Head



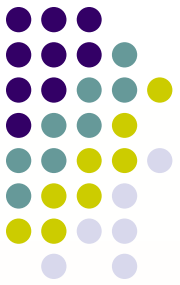
- Broad wedge, not round
- Gentle contours
- Does not include line of the ears
- High prominent cheekbones
- Wedge ends in gentle muzzle (rounded from front view)



# What is the Proper Profile?

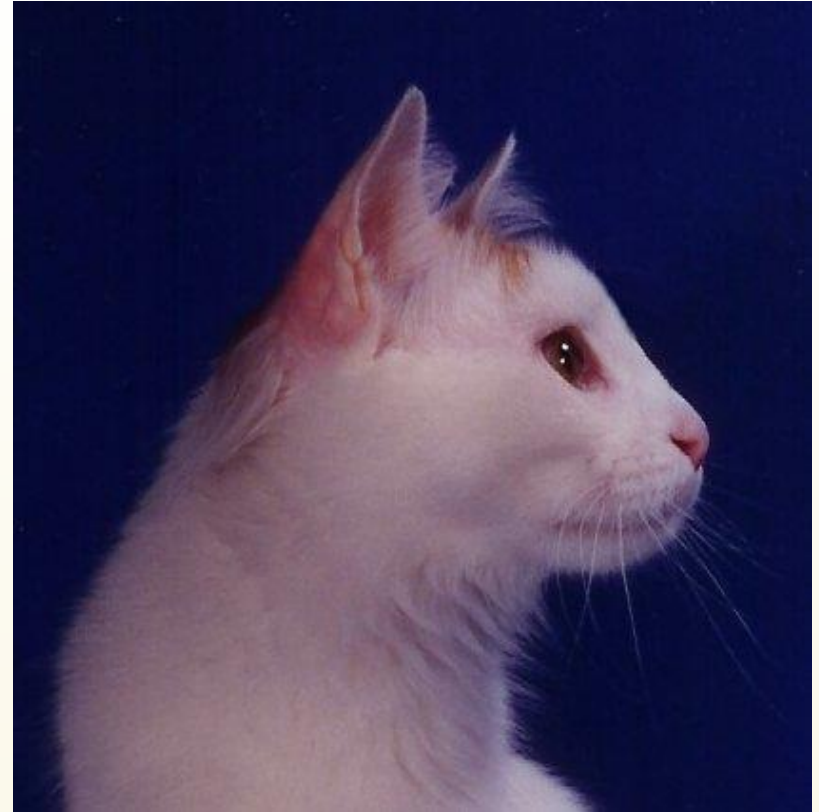


- If wedge shape of head is proper – profile will generally be good.
- Slight dip (or concavity) occurs below the eye level.
  - ◆ Note the change in direction of hair on the nose
- Chin must be firm and in line with upper lip.
- Not too short and not too long.



# More Notes on Profile

- Longer heads can result in too long profiles that are nearly straight, which is not desirable. A flat profile is a penalty. A nose break is a disqualify.
- Rounder heads result in too short profiles and sometimes a nose 'bump' (Roman-type) which is not desirable, but not a fault.



profile is nearly straight on this cat

# Head Profile



- small Roman bump
- nice firm chin

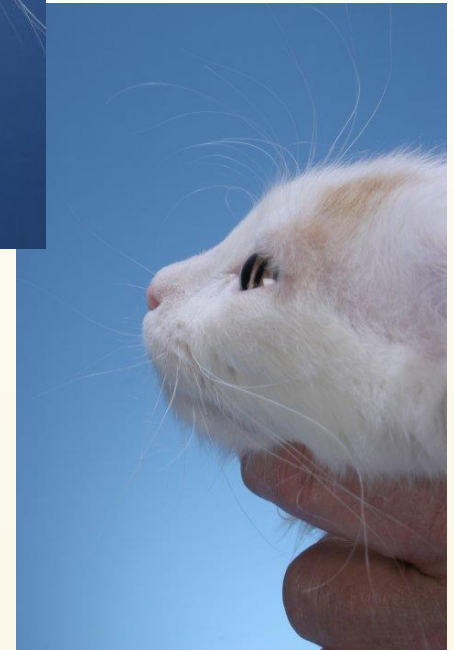


- gentle slope
- chin not as firm

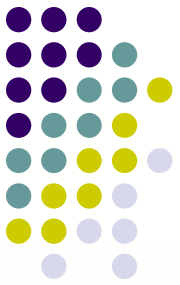
- gentle slope
- firm, but rounded chin



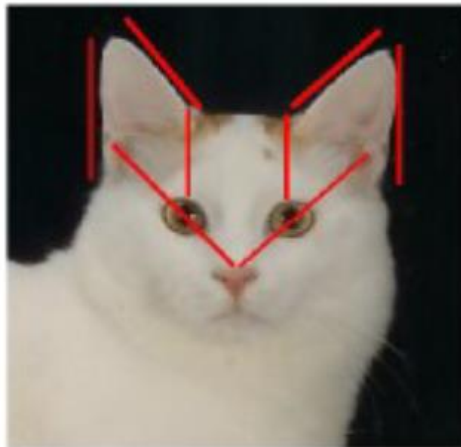
- gentle slope
- weak chin



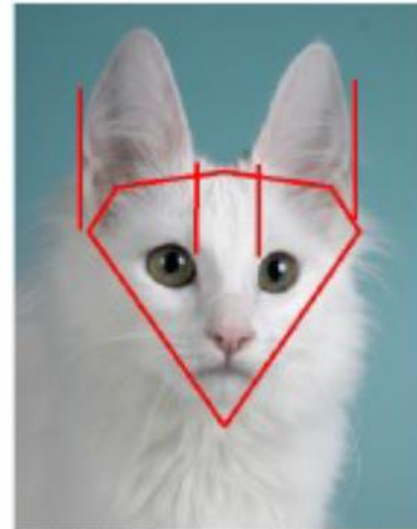
# Head Structure Comparison – Turkish Breeds



visual reference of contrasts



Turkish Van head structure



Turkish Angora head structure



# Coat – Length Differences

We are often asked why the Vans have different coats. There were originally two major types.

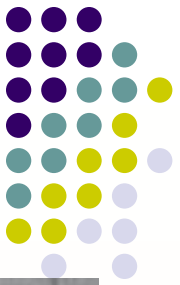
- Dutch coat – typical of Turkish imports of the time
  - ◆ Shorter and more uniform in length
  - ◆ Sparser in kittens and slower to develop
- English coat – resulted from early outcrosses
  - ◆ Much furrier even as kittens
  - ◆ Longer furred in all areas
- Both types should be soft or rabbit fur like in texture
- Standard allows for both – however there must be no undercoat and the body fur is not ‘long’
- Cats of today are often a mixture of both types



# Coat – Seasonal Variations

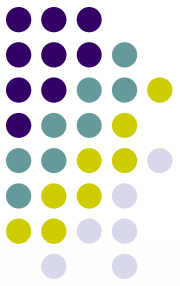
- Presumably as a result of the seasonal temperature extremes in eastern Turkey, many Turkish Vans today still exhibit two distinct seasonal coats.
- The summer coat is thinner and much shorter. In extreme cases, the cat will almost have the appearance of being a shorthaired cat.
- The winter coat is very plush and longer.
- Allowances should be made for the seasonal coat – this is not a fault.

# Coat – Seasonal Variations



The same cat displaying his summer and winter coat

# Coat – Developmental Phases



- Young adults often lack a mane – giving an unbalanced appearance
- Fur can be relatively short on the body; tail may be the exception
- Texture change occurs w/ loss of kitten coat
- Ruff development slower in some lines until 3 years or older



# Development and Season



Effects of season and development can be seen in this one year old male sporting his summer coat.

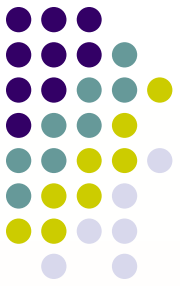
Here is the same cat 6 months later.



The standard indicates that allowances must be made for the seasonal and developmental coats.



# Development – Non-breeding Cats

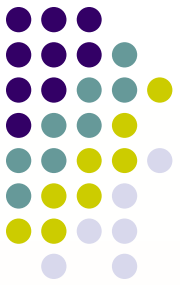


- Tail plume and ruff can be better developed in the premiership cats.
- Males neutered when young often do not have the larger head size seen in breeding males.
- Premiership cats will generally be heavier but still should maintain the musculature characteristic of the breed.



Mature spayed female with a fully plumed tail

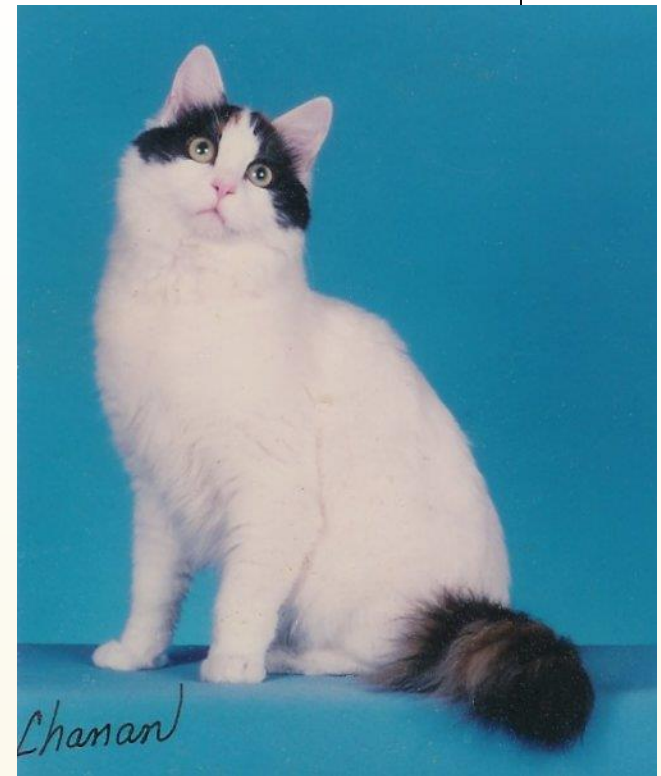
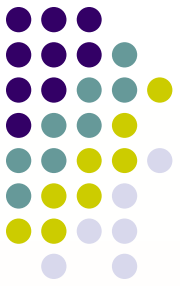
# Pattern



- Ideal pattern
  - ◆ Blaze to at least the start of ears
  - ◆ Matched markings
  - ◆ Markings confined to head and tail
- Mismatched markings are not faulted
- Size of head markings are not important
- Body spots allowed but must not detract from Van pattern



Color confined to head and tail, blaze to at least the start of ears, and matched markings are the ideal.



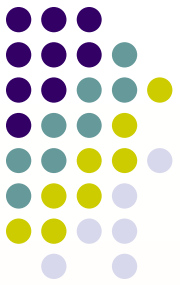
Size of markings is not important, but achieving symmetrical markings is difficult!

# Pattern and Apparent Head Type

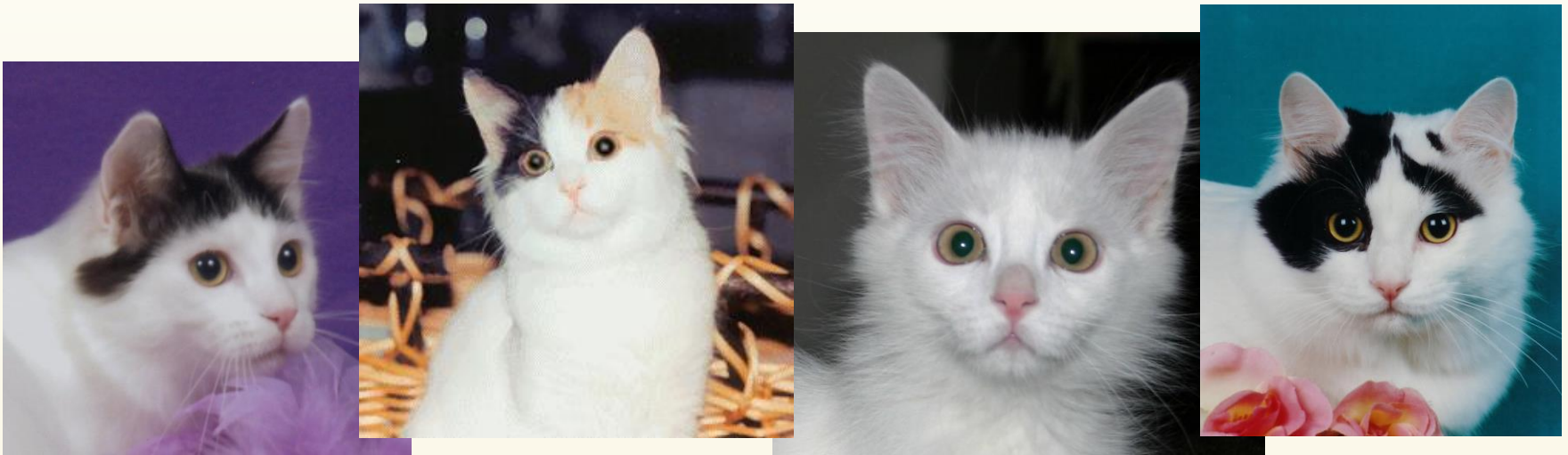


- Different colors and shapes of markings can make the same face look quite different.
- Placement and the amount of white can make the Van's head appear larger or smaller than it really is.
- Color of the markings also impacts this 'illusion'.
- Look beyond the color to the head structure.

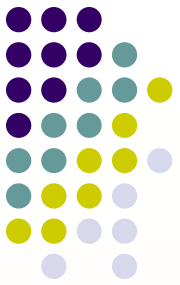
# Color, Pattern, and Apparent Head Type



- Dark color on ears can make them appear smaller
- Color around the eyes can make them appear larger
- White around eyes can make them appear wider set
- Offset head markings can distract from head type (not a fault!)
- Keep these optical illusions in mind when evaluating the head structure of this breed.



# Summary: Fine Details to Check on the Table



- Profile should show a strong chin and a gentle nose dip with no break.
- Legs are moderately long and in proportion to the body.
- Shoulders should be at least as broad as the head. The hip and pelvic area are slightly slimmer than the shoulders.
- Tail is long and the coat may give it the appearance of a bottle brush; not long and flowing.
- Total absence of color on the head or tail is disqualifiable.
- Color in excess of 20% of the entire body is disqualifiable.

