

WELCOME BACK — ANGORA

Liesa F. Grant

1. PROLOGUE



Mrs. Grant

As I stepped out of the terminal at Ankara Airport that afternoon in 1958 — the first day of my four year tour in Turkey — a cat brushed against my leg and as I stooped to pat it, the Turkish friend who had come to meet me said, "Ah, you like cats — have you ever heard of the Ankara Cat — a beautiful white cat oftentimes with one amber eye and one blue eye?" And thus began my adventures with this most fascinating of cats.

At my earliest opportunity, I visited the Zoo in Ankara. At that time the Angoras were kept in a separate building, isolated from the wild animals. As the Turkish people love cats and would never dream of mistreating one, I found their housing to be meticulously kept and the cats to be in excellent health. I visited them from time to time and

promised myself that, before I left Turkey, I would find a way to take one along with me.

2. HIGHLIGHTS — THESE PAST EIGHT YEARS

Our two original ANKARA CATS were purchased personally by us from the Zoo in Ankara, Turkey, in November 1962 and were shipped to the United States at that time. They are called Yildiz and Yildizcik (meaning Star and Starlett) and are documented with a Bill of Sale from the Ankara Zoo, a Certificate of Ancestry (dam and sire for each) from the Director of the Ankara Zoo and all the necessary "shot" records and export/import papers.

Our first litter from this original pair was born in March, 1963 and out of this litter of four we chose to keep an odd-eyed male, Mustapha, and an amber-eyed female, Suna Aisha. At this time, we registered our original pair with the CFA under the "Longhair" category. Early in 1968, the CFA re-registered all Ankara cats under their proper "Angora" category. Up until May, 1967, all our kittens were sold **only** as pets, with a signed statement from the purchaser that they would be neutered or spayed. This was because we had no unrelated pair to offer breeders and we did not want any of our cats inbred or bred with any other breed than the pure Ankara cat. In May, 1967, we sold our first kitten to a breeder — a female from our original pair.

In August, 1966, we personally travelled to Ankara, Turkey and purchased from the Zoo another unrelated male and female. Again, we dealt directly and personally with the Zoo Director and obtained all the documentation previously provided when we bought the original pair. A male from this litter was sold to the same breeder mentioned above.

In June, 1967, we appeared formally before the President, Officials and Board Members of the CFA during their Annual Meeting in

Los Angeles, discussed the Ankara Cat and showed three cats — our original female, Yildizcik, her 20 month odd-eyed daughter, Talihi, and her four month old blue-eyed daughter, Yalvaran. Great interest

expressed in the cats and it was readily admitted that they were a distinct and separate breed of their own.

In the ensuing two and a half years, much progress was made in orienting cat lovers on the breed ; formulating standards;



Talihi, odd-eyed kitten at 5 weeks and Yildizcik, amber-eyed and 5 years old.

and in placing selected cats in the hands of selected breeders. In January, 1970, the CFA officially recognized the breed for show purposes. The Angora was, as last, in its rightful place among the most beautiful breeds in the Cat Fancy !

3. WE WHO BELONG TO ANGORAS

The many breeders and purchasers of Angoras have written glowing reports of them and the following are some of the comments:

"The Angora is one of the most responsive cats I have ever known and the most drawn to people."

"She (the Angora) is a most remarkable cat in that she is most intelligent ; as a small kitten she became a retriever, without any training, bringing the ball back and putting it at our feet to throw."

"The Angora is an excellent traveler and is trained to use her litter box in the car and motels."

"Our Angora brings her leash to us when she wants to go out."

"As for the Angora, last but not least is her great beauty ; her coat is very luxuriant and her ruff is very outstanding; she is greatly admired by everyone."

"In the seven years that she has been ours, we have always enjoyed her and never regretted our decision to take her."

"The Angora is not a nervous cat and it is a pleasure to have guests in with a cat who comes to greet them."

"Our Angora is very polite and seems to sense what is right and wrong."

"My Angora has never been sick a day of her life and is a most affectionate and beautiful animal."

"The Angora has the greatest personality, he never seems to be dull and is exciting to watch when he plays."

"I believe that the Angora is the most beautiful of cats in that the face is a pleasure to look upon and the movements are so graceful



Ind Bell. Owner: George Bell

and fluid."

"We have had nothing but good luck with our litters, with very few deaf blue-eyes."

"The mother cat is the most wonderful of mothers and never leaves her kittens for a moment when they are young."

"My Angora enjoys riding around on the vacuum cleaner — she is not nervous about noise at all."

"Our Angora is so easy to groom and we never have a

problem of tangled fur."

"The Angora is very gentle with our children, although he is extremely playful, he never gets rough."

"We trained our Angora to stay in a certain part of the house and not to go upstairs as we had a new baby, and he does not pass a certain point."

"Our pair of Angoras are wonderful parents when the mother leaves the kittens, the father kitten-sits for her."

"I think the Angora is the most beautiful cat in the world and very, very intelligent."

"My Angora is very devoted and is always waiting at the door for me when I come home."



Talihi, odd-eyed at three years

4. SOME HISTORICAL FACTS AND INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

Background

Probably the most reliable basic source document which refers to this presently rare breed of cat is the Encyclopaedia Britannica — and an exact quote appears appropriate :

"ANKARA, the second largest it (Province) in Turkey, contains the capital city, Ankara, (q.v.), situated, as other towns, on the green belt which encircles the steppe of central Anatolia*** It is famous for the Angora (Ankara) goat, bred for its long silky hair, which provides mohair, and for the Angora cat, which also has beautiful fur and often eyes of different colour, one blue, one amber."***

(Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1967-Vol. 1, Page 987.)

THE ANKARA CAT (Original Turkish Angora) is a very distinctive breed — one of the oldest and one of the purest. The first longhaired cats known in this country are said to have been Angoras, brought to New England by traders from the Orient, the name being taken from Angora (Ankara) now the capital of Turkey, famed for its longhair cats, dogs and goats. Through interbreeding with the Persian, they became extinct in the United States in the early 1900's and until recently could only be found in the Zoo in Ankara, Turkey, where they are highly prized and considered the purest of breeds. There, they are pure white in color, the odd-eyed ones being the most desirable. Even in Turkey, the purebred Ankara Cat is a rarity. On our visit to Ankara in August, 1966, we discovered that the Ankara Zoo had less than 30 Ankara Cats.

Personality

All Ankara cats are as alike as any individual animals could be alike. The general appearance is the same — the general disposition



Rise of Thornton

is the same — only their individual personalities are different. The Ankara Cat is responsive, intelligent and alert. It is not a talkative cat, but does respond readily to its owner. It moves with a fluid grace and adapts itself easily to changes of environment. It is a very loyal cat, courageous, friendly and very polite. It likes to please and therefore learns anything quickly. It can be taught to retrieve, sit up, jump up or down, and in fact, al-

most anything with a little patience and love. They are an unusually healthy and hardy cat with a long life expectancy.

5. PROPOSED STANDARD FOR THE ANGORA

I. HEAD TYPE 30

Size : Small to medium

Shape : Wedge-shaped

Chin Gently rounded

Jaw : Tapered

Nose : Medium long; gentle slope ; no break

Ears Long ; pointed ; wide at base ; tufted

Head : Wide at top, definite taper toward chin

Neck Slim and graceful ; medium length

Eyes : Large, almond shaped to round; slanting upwards slightly
Disqualify: Persian Head Type

II. BODY TYPE 30

Size : Medium in female ; slightly larger in male

Torso : Long; graceful and lithe

Chest : Light framed

Rump : Slightly higher than front

Legs : Long; hind legs longer than front

Paws : Small and round ; dainty

Tail : Long and tapering ; wide at base, narrow at end ; full brush ; carried lower than body but not trailing; when moving relaxed, tail is carried horizontally over the body, sometimes almost touching the head.

Bone : Fine

Disqualify: Persian Body type

Penalize : Kink or abnormal tail,
paw pads or nose other than pink ; mottled.

III. COLOR 15

Body color : Pure white ; no other coloring

Pads : Pink

Nose leather & lips : Pink

Eye Color : Odd-eyed, Blue, Amber

Disqualify: Any color other than white

IV. COAT 15

Texture: Body coat medium-long, long at ruff. Full brush on tail.
Length : Silky with a wavy tendency. Wavier on stomach. Very fine.

Gloss : Silk-like sheen.

V. CONDITION 10

Solid, firm ; giving the impression of grace and flowing movement.

6. YOU WANT MORE?

Articles pertaining to our cats have appeared in the 1966 issue of CATS Magazine (February) entitled MEET MUSTAPHA; the 1967 CFA Year Book entitled THE ANGORA OR ANKARA CAT by Ellen Dickie ; and in International Cat Fancy Magazine by Tana White (Volume Five, November - December 1967 Issue) .

Specific information on any aspect of the Angora breed (including photos) can be requested by writing to:

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Biographical Note

A short background of personal data — I was born in Germany, brought up in New York City and then returned to Europe where I lived most of my life i.e., Germany, Israel and Turkey with travel from the Scandinavian countries to Iran and everything in between. Walter is a West Point graduate and presently a retired Colonel. We have two children, the cats and a German Shepherd dog. I guess that covers enough.