

The Only Cat That Swims

• GATOS •



Van Cat (Վախա կառնու in Armenian, also known as Turkish Van) has a legend behind her origin.

When the Ark arrived at Mount Ararat some 5,000 years ago, Noah must have been a bit busy keeping the animals from stampeding in their eagerness to touch dry land. In the hustle and bustle, Noah didn't notice when two white-and-red cats leapt into the water and swam ashore. When the flood waters receded, the cats set out for Lake Van, located about 75 miles (121 km) to the south of Mount Ararat, where they have lived ever since. At least, that's one charming legend about the appearance of the Turkish Van, an ancient breed that has inhabited the Lake Van region (now in Turkey) for Heaven knows how long (petfinder.com).



One of the main characteristics of the breed is their eyes; they could be blue,



amber, or odd-eyed, the con-



dition known as *heterochromia iridis*.



Another peculiarity of the breed is their color; white body and red or red tabby tail, tips and inner surface of the ears. This is best seen on the color trial proofs below from Grunay Scotland local issue.

