

MAINE COON BREED GROUP (MC/MCP)

This Breed Group is comprised of the Maine Coon (MC) and the Maine Coon Polydactyl (MCP).

HEAD	40 points
Shape	8
Eyes ..	5
Ears	10
Muzzle and Chin ...	10
Profile	7

BODY	35 points
Torso	10
Legs and Feet	3
Tail	5
Boning	7
Musculature	10

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN ...	25 points
Length	10
Texture	5
Color	5
Pattern	5

CATEGORY: Traditional.

DIVISION: All.

COLOR: All.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: None.

Overall balance and proportion are essential to the Maine Coon and no one feature should dominate the eye's attention over any other.

HEAD:

Shape: Broad, modified wedge. Size in proportion to body. Slightly longer than wide. Distinct muzzle break can be seen under high prominent cheekbones .

Eyes: Large, slightly oval, appear round when wide open. Outer corner of eye points toward outer base of ear. Wide-set. Color: Any shade of green and/or gold. No relation to coat color. Blue and odd-eyes accepted in whites and particolors.

Ears: Large, wide at base with outer base set just slightly farther back than inner base. Outer base just above the level of the top of the eye. Outside edges have a very slight outward tilt that is not past eleven and one o'clock. Set fairly high on head with inner edge of bases no more than one ear's width apart. Taller than the width at base but still in balance with head length. Moderately pointed ears appear taller due to lynx tips. Furnishings extend beyond outer edge of ear.

Chin: Wide and deep enough to complete square look of muzzle. Firm, in line with upper lip.

Muzzle: Square.

Profile: Gently curving forehead. Gentle concave curve at bridge of nose flowing into a smooth nose line. Slight nose bump allowed in kittens.

BODY:

Torso: Large, long, substantial, rectangular, equal in breadth from shoulders to hips. Broad chest. Level back. Females may be noticeably smaller than males.

Boning: Substantial.

Musculature: Substantial, powerful.

Legs: Medium length to form a rectangle with the body.

Feet:

MC: Large, round and well-tufted.

MCP: Large, well-tufted. Additional toes allowed on either fore or hind paws or both. Paws may be mitten or patty foot. Symmetrical expression preferred. Maximum of 7 toes on any one foot.

Tail: At least as long as the body. Wide at base and tapering to tip with full, flowing fur.

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:

Length: Uneven; shorter on shoulders, gradually lengthening down the back and sides. Long, full, shaggy belly fur and britches. Tail fur long, full, flowing. Frontal ruff becomes more developed with age.

Texture: All-weather coat. A slight undercoat gives the coat body but coat still falls smoothly. Not cottony.

Color: Particolors must have some white on all four feet.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Maine Coon is America's native longhaired cat. The breed, with its essentially amiable disposition, developed through a natural selection process where only the fittest survived. It should always be remembered that the Maine Coon developed basically as a "working cat" able to fend for itself in rough, woody terrain and under extreme climatic conditions. The Maine Coon is a large breed with big ears, broad chest, substantial boning, a long, hard-muscled, rectangular body and a long, flowing tail, and large feet with tufts.

ALLOWANCES: Standard favors the male. Allowance **MUST** be made for a significant size difference between the male and the female. Type should not be sacrificed for size. Breed is slow to mature. Allow for tight ear set in kittens and wider ear set in mature adults. Polydactyly is a trait with variable expression and may produce anything from a single extra dew claw to extra toes on each foot. Any of these expressions are acceptable and there is no preference for more rather than fewer additional toes. Polydactyl mitten paws may appear to toe out.

PENALIZE:

Eyes: Slanted, almond-shaped Flat tops on openings.

Ears: Very close, set straight up. Narrow bases. Wide-set, flared.

Chin: Weak or receding, narrow, lack of depth.

Muzzle: Prominent whisker pads.

Profile: Straight. Roman nose. Pronounced bump.

Torso: Narrow.

Tail: Short tail.

Feet: Toes (excluding dewclaws) not touching the table.

Coat: Lack of slight undercoat or belly shag . Overall even coat.

Color: Obvious lockets.



Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing , except as authorized by a board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.