



Mishikoonz Klapatche reluctantly poses for a photo-op after agreeing to serve as Campaign Manager.

(On a more serious note...)

My name is Cari Tucker – aka Carolyn Tucker -- and I am once again asking for your vote in the Maine Coon / Maine Coon Polydactyl Breed Committee Election.

I have served twice on the Breed Group Committee. As a junior member in previous terms, I've been disappointed in the Committee's activity but reluctant to push forward alone on some things that I truly feel need to happen within our breed. I hope that all the candidates will post regarding their commitment to ACTIVE engagement and not just being a name on the Committee List. I would urge each Breed Section member to evaluate those people running and VOTE, please vote. Elected to Committee or not, I feel the following items merit attention:

- I STRONGLY support doing the very hard work of “firming” up our Standard and working with Judges to ensure that we do not continue to reward a more and more extreme look and size in the Maine Coon / Maine Coon Polydactyl breeds. Terms such as “slightly longer than wide” (head), “broad chest”, and “large” are inherently imprecise and subject to interpretation. With the exception of the change to a Breed Group in 2015, the STANDARD has not changed in many years but the cats have. Do we want them to?
- While the “duties” of a Breed committee in the TICA bylaws state only that the Committee represent the members on any proposed Breed Standard change, amendment or deletion, the bylaws do not prohibit the Breed Committee from other endeavors: More involvement in discussing Health Standards for Breeders, Initiatives to increase participation, training courses for new unmentored breeders – the list goes on. To me, a Breed Committee should provide leadership to move that breed in the direction that the Breed Section wants. Am I alone in thinking this?

For those who don't know me, a few facts:

- My breeding program is small but active, under the cattery name Mishikoonz. I show regularly, although I've never all-out “campaigned” a cat to an IW and probably never will.
- I have a strong interest in Maine Coon history and evolution, particularly as it spans multiple registries. (I'm the Maine Coon database manager for PawPeds in Canada and the United States.)
- I test my breeding cats religiously...and like so many others, search endlessly for the perfect match of health, temperament, and appearance.
- In my other-than-cat life, I'm an avid hiker and a recently retired Clinical Pharmacist with a specialty in pediatric intensive care.

Sincerely, Cari Tucker