This Breed Group is comprised of the Maine Coon (MC) and the Maine Coon Polydactyl (MCP). Overall balance and proportion is essential to the Maine Coon and no one feature should dominate the appearance of the cat.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Maine Coons originated in the Northeastern part of the United States and are generally regarded as native to the state of Maine. The breed, with its essentially amiable disposition, developed through a natural selection process where only the fittest survived. It should always be remembered that Maine Coons developed as “working cats”, able to fend for themselves in a harsh climate of rough and woody terrain. The Maine Coon is a large breed with substantial boning, a broad chest, and a long, hard-muscled, rectangular body. The tail is long and flowing. Whether polydactyl or regular, the paws are large and well-tufted. The Maine Coon reaches full maturity at four to five years of age.

HISTORY: Legend has it that Maine Coon cats likely originated from domestic cats in New England that were descendants of cats that came on merchant and colonizing ships from western Europe. Over the years, those cats’ descendants evolved to survive the hostile New England winters by developing keen hunting skills valuable for vermin control, strong muscular bodies, shaggy coats, and tufted ears and feet. Polydactyl paws were common in the original Maine Coon population although it is unknown whether the trait was introduced from overseas or developed in North America. First recorded in cat literature in 1861 with a mention of a black and white cat named “Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines,” Maine Coons were popular competitors at early cat shows in Boston and New York. A brown tabby female named “Cosie” won Best Cat at the 1895 Madison Square Garden Show. The Maine Coon was accepted for championship status in TICA when the Association was established in 1979. In 2015, polydactyl Maine Coons were assigned their own breed name (MCP) and accepted for Championship in a separate class from non-polydactyl MCs. The MC Breed Section then became the MC/MCP Breed Group.

HEAD: Shape: Slightly longer than wide, as measured from back of head to tip of muzzle, while still in proportion to body. Viewed from the front, a square muzzle under high and broad cheek bones give the appearance of an overall broad modified wedge-shaped head. Eyes: Large, well furnished, wide at base, tapering to appear pointed by the enhancement of lynx tips. Tailer than the width at base but still in balance with head length. Outer base just above the level of the top of the eye. Outside edges have a very slight outward tilt, not past 11 and 1 o’clock. Distance between inner ear edges is approximately one eye-width apart. Color: Any shade of green and/or gold. No relation to coat color. Blue and odd eyes accepted only in white and with white.

Ears: Large, well furnished, wide at base, tapering to appear pointed by the enhancement of lynx tips. Tailer than the width at base but still in balance with head length. Outer base just above the level of the top of the eye. Outside edges have a very slight outward tilt, not past 11 and 1 o’clock. Distance between inner ear edges is approximately one eye-width apart. Color: Any shade of green and/or gold. No relation to coat color. Blue and odd eyes accepted only in white and with white.

Boning & Musculature: Substantial boning adequate to support structure and size of the cat. Firm musculature, without flab. Allowance for females and immaturity.

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN: Length: Uneven; shorter on shoulders, gradually lengthening down back and sides. Frontal ruff, belly shag and briches (more apparent with age). Tail fur long, full, flowing. Texture: All-weather coat often with silky texture. Color & Pattern: Clear pattern and color, as described in the UCD. Acceptable patterns are ticked, classic, spotted, mackerel, and shaded/chinchilla. Some white on all four feet of cats with white.

ALLOWANCES: Standard favors the male. Allowance must be given for significant size difference between male and female. Type should not be sacrificed for size. Breed is slow to mature. Slightly larger and/or tighter-set ears in kittens. Lower ear set in heavily jowled, fully mature males. Wider ear set in fully mature adults.

Polydactyl is a trait with variable expression, from a single extra dewclaw to extra toes on each foot. All expressions are acceptable, without preference for more rather than fewer additional toes (up to the allowed maximum). Polydactyl mitten paws may appear to toe out.

Ghost markings in smoke and solid-colored kittens and adults less than 18 months.

PENALIZE: Head: Round, narrow, or unmodified wedge shape. Muzzle length disproportionate to head.


Chin: Narrow, not full. Diamond or triangular rather than square shape. Pronounced or receding. Excessive depth (50% of the profile or more).


Neck: Too short or too long.

Torso: Tubular, narrow or foreign body. Short, booby. Overweight. Excessive length (sway backed).

Feet: Toes not touching floor. Untufted paws.

Coat length: Equal overall, without shag.

Short. Too close-lying.

Coat texture: Wooly or cottony.

Fur color: Lockets. Shaded with heavy tabby markings on body. Silver series with heavy tarnishing.

WITHOLD ALL AWARDS (WW): Head: Heavy, massive muzzle out of balance with the rest of the head. Heavy brow detracting from the open expression of the eye.

Eyes: Small, beady, or deep set.

Ears: Narrow base/upright set with parallel appearance.

(Continued on next page)
MAINE COON BREED GROUP (MC/MCP)

DISQUALIFICATIONS (DQ)
Non-permissible colors.
Blue or odd-eyes in any colored cat other than solid white or with white.
Fine boning.
Cobby body.
Tail fault. 
Tail length significantly out of balance with body.
Significantly too small for age or gender.

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.