



Copyright 2021 Article by Tracy Caywood, [Cat Breeder Sensei](#)

## PLEASE SHARE THIS BLOG POST ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND HELP STOP THESE SCAMMERS!



Name: NORIS  
Breed: Maine Coon  
Sex: Male  
Pets Current Age : 10 weeks  
Champion Bloodlines: Yes  
Pedigree: Yes  
Registered: Yes  
Breeding: Conditional  
Quality: Show Potential

We are towards the end of Year already! It's time to give gifts to your loved ones and relatives. Beautiful Maine coon kittens are offered to your attention. Excellent pedigree, mom is champion, dad interchampion (grandfather of world champion). The cat is very active, accustomed to everything, vaccinations are all made. Grown with kids and love other animals. Ready to move to new responsible

Please be aware there are a number of pet sales scam operations. It is highly suggested that you do adequate research about the catteries and individuals prior to sending money. TICA strongly recommends that transactions with breeders be undertaken with the same caution and due diligence as one would devote to any important business matter.

### **Read this article to learn how to avoid getting scammed by these fake websites.**

The pandemic has caused more people to work from home and stay at home more than any time in history. The number of new pet owners has risen by 11 million people in 2020 alone. These are incredible numbers! This has also led to an increase in new cattery registrations.

There are unfathomable acts of fraud and theft being enacted all over the world. There are people that are creating fake personas online, pretending to have Pedigree kittens for sale (usually advertised at a very inexpensive rate), and will even “chat” with you via Facebook messenger or Whatsapp. Once they receive your deposit, they’re nowhere to be found.

These scammers are getting better and better at looking authentic in today’s pool of websites and Facebook pages. This blog post is an informative post, to bring awareness to some of the red flags you’ll see from a scam artist.

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### **Plagiarism**

Most scammers don't take the time to write their own content for a short lived website. So they'll just find someone else's website and copy / paste the content into their own site.

You can check to see if a website has plagiarized someone else's content in one easy step using [Grammarly's Plagiarism checker](#)



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In the example shown below, notice the content in their FAQ section (see image), which they have nestled very tiny at the top of their site. If you copy the very first paragraph onto your clipboard and paste it into the plagiarism checker, you'll instantly discover that this isn't original content.



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### WHAT MADE YOU TO START BREEDING THE MAINE COON CAT

I grew up on a farm and have always been an animal lover so the cats keep me close to my roots. Since leaving the farm and starting my professional career, dogs and cats were the easiest 4-legged critters to have around. I had raised and shown working Birman cat for many years then I ran across the Maine coon and fell in love. The cats are my "escape" if you will. When I have a bad day, I come home to my cats and they make everything better. It's great therapy!

Maine coons are different from every other breed in that they are almost human like. I've always said, "until you have a Maine coon, you just cannot understand the difference between them and the rest of the cats." I had to have one ... then another. Now, I must confess, I am a Maine coon addict, hooked on Maine coon for life.

The Maine Coon is the best breed of cat for me. They are everything that I could ask for in a family companion. The Maine coon is the "original" cat with an athletic muscular build, plenty of stamina to run & play for long periods of time, they make excellent family pets, and they train very easily. They are a delightful Maine coon breed with much to give back to their owners.

The content that is circled is what was checked for plagiarism.

Then, the content was pasted into a [plagiarism checker tool](#) which did a scan of 16 billion webpages. This checks to see if this same content is used on any other website in the world.



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## Plagiarism Checker by Grammarly

Grammarly's plagiarism checker detects plagiarism in your text and checks for other writing issues.



Catch plagiarism from ProQuest databases and over 16 billion web pages.

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Scan for plagiarism

Upload a file

A significant amount of plagiarism was detected. This indicates that most likely, the entire website has been copied and pasted.



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We have found significant plagiarism in your text and have also detected 5 writing issues.

*Correct them now!*

Significant plagiarism was detected



Grammar



Punctuation



3 Punctuation in Compound/Complex Sentences

Spelling



Enhancement



2 Word Choice

Style







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### Images Can Be Found on More than One Website

[Google has an image search tool](#) that when you upload any image, it will show you every website where the same photo has been used. If you suspect any red flag on a catteries that you're researching, try the image search tool to see all of the places where the images show up.

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### No Names or Physical Address Listed on the website

In many cases, the fraudulent websites will not have the personal name of the breeder (s) or the physical address of the cattery listed on the website.

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### Backdrops in Photos Are All Different

Most of the time, breeders have their own "style" when it comes to taking photographs of kittens. They usually take them in the same room or same area. If you look at photos on a real breeder's website you'll start to notice a pattern of picture styles.

In the photo examples below you'll notice that the styles and backgrounds are all completely different. These kittens are all posted as "Available" from an actual "scam" website.



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**Name:** CHERYL  
**Breed:** Maine Coon  
**Sex:** Female  
**Pets Current Age :** 11 weeks  
**Champion Bloodlines:** Yes  
**Pedigree:** Yes  
**Registered:** Yes  
**Breeding:** Conditional  
**Quality:** Show Potential

Meet Donna!! One of the first things people notice about her when they meet her is that she is a very lovely lady and will tip toe into your heart and you can't imagine life without her apply for her below before she is gone.

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**Name:** TOMAS  
**Breed:** Maine Coon  
**Sex:** Male  
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**Registered:** Yes  
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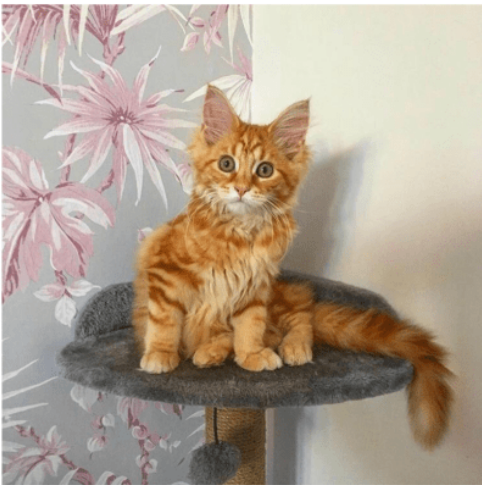


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### Same Cat, Same Background, Different Name

This kitten has actually been listed on the website twice with two different names.



Name: MERISI  
Breed: Maine Coon  
Sex: Male  
Pets Current Age : 11 weeks  
Champion Bloodlines: Yes  
Pedigree: Yes  
Registered: Yes  
Breeding: Conditional  
Quality: Show Potential

I am Mersi "On a scale of 1 to 10, The family I have now tells me that I am a true cutie and any family would be lucky to have me. But truthfully, I'd be lucky to have a family to love me and I sure hope that it is you. I'm a simple guy. I like to play, run around, take a nap or two, and a kitten treat every now and then would sure be great. I am vet check from head to tail so I am healthy and ready to go. I have packed my bags and I am ready to venture off to my new family as soon as possible.



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Name: CAMILLE  
Breed: Maine Coon  
Sex: Female  
Pets Current Age : 11 weeks  
Champion Bloodlines: Yes  
Pedigree: Yes  
Registered: Yes  
Breeding: Conditional  
Quality: Show Potential

Hello to our sweet little Camille, one of the sweetest little kitty's you could ever hope to meet! Sometimes when you are looking at her you think you have dreamed her into life because she is so perfect. Our cattery has long since been known for creating the sweetest personalities and Camille certainly raises the bar even further in that accomplishment.

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### No Parents or Adults Shown on the Website

Typically speaking (But not always) there aren't any Queens or Sires listed on the scammers website. This won't automatically indicate that you're dealing with a scammer, but the majority of breeders will show their breeding cats on their website along with their kittens.

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### Lack of Social Media Presence

Don't take this the wrong way and lump everyone who doesn't have a Facebook page or Instagram as fraudulent. There's plenty of people who don't have a Facebook account, or a Page for their cattery. Sometimes, they're just listed as their personal name and they're hard to find if you don't know their name.

When researching the validity of a cattery, you use cross-reference their social media accounts to check for consistencies.

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### Not Registered with TICA, CFA, or ACFA

Every breeder in the world should be registered with a Cat Association. This is where the adults are registered, litters are registered, and where the new owners can register their new kitten and receive a certified copy of the Pedigree.

For every cat registered in a cat association, there is a Pedigree to support their bloodlines.

**You may see some websites that are using the Association's logo, sometimes multiple logos. Check the TICA Database and other Associations for registered cattery validity.**

NOTE: Sometimes scammers will register a cattery with an Association to make them look more authentic. Even if you find the cattery is registered, and be sure to continue your due diligence if you have any suspicions about the breeders.

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### "Copy and Paste" Descriptions for Kittens

An example is shown below to demonstrate how the same description may be used for multiple kittens on a fraudulent website. A lot of the kittens listed on this page (shown below) have the same exact description.

### Gender on Kitten Profile Don't Match Description

In one instance, the kitten is listed as a female, but they refer to her as a "him" .



Name: KITTY  
Breed: Maine Coon  
Sex: Female  
Pets Current Age : 10 weeks  
Champion Bloodlines: Yes  
Pedigree: Yes  
Registered: Yes  
Breeding: Conditional  
Quality: Show Potential

Say hello to our angelic KITTY!

His genetic makeup must surely be....sugar and spice and everything nice! This little doll turns on his purr-box the very moment you make eye contact with him.

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**Don't Send Money Before You Feel it is Safe!**





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The scammers will conduct brief correspondence via email or messenger and then request a large upfront deposit for the kittens. They make it seem like it's very important that you send the money as soon as possible by creating a feeling of 'scarcity'. Once you send the money, you'll never see it again.

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### What You Can Do To Avoid Being Scammed

Part of being a knowledge pet owner starts with educating yourself and being able to make an informed decision. Take your time when researching a cattery to make sure that they're a credible source.

Here are some tips on how to research a cattery that you're interested in:

- Don't Buy on Impulse. Take the time to get to know the breeder and their cats. Follow them on social media for a while to see the interaction and responses between them and their followers.
- Verify that they are a registered cattery.
- Verify that the kitten is in the possession of the breeder by asking for photos or videos of the kittens, with a piece of paper with the current date and your name written on it.
- Ask for references from several people who have acquired a kitten from the breeder.
- Speak to the breeder on the telephone. Have a real person-to-person discussion.
- Ask the breeder about the characteristics of this breed. They should be happy to discuss their breed with you.
- Ask the breeder about their health guarantee and what diseases /conditions are covered.
- Ask the breeder how the kittens are raised and socialized.



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- Don't Send Money until you feel confident and have done your research so you believe it is safe to move forward with your purchase. They may request money via WesternUnion, MoneyGram or Bank Wire. These are all irreversible methods of payment. Use a payment service such as Paypal that has Buyer Protection.