

# MAINE COON BREED GROUP (MC/MCP)

This Breed Group is comprised of the Maine Coon (MC) and the Maine Coon Polydactyl (MCP). Overall balance and proportion are 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 tufting on 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.....35 points

Shape.....	10
Eyes.....	6
Ears.....	6
Muzzle/Chin.....	6
Profile.....	6
Neck.....	1

## BODY.....35 points

Torso.....	10
Legs/Feet.....	4
Tail.....	6
Boning & Musculature.....	15

## COAT/COLOR/PATTERN.....20 points

Length & Texture.....	12
Color/Pattern.....	8

## BALANCE.....10 points

**CATEGORY: Traditional only** (Sepia, Mink and Pointed not allowed).

**DIVISION: All.**

**COLORS:** Only dominant black based (B/-) colors including the result of the sex-linked red allele (X<sup>o</sup>). Non-dominant black-based (b/-, b<sup>1</sup>/-) modified colors such as chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, fawn and caramel are not allowed.

**PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES:** None.

## 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 and oval. Appear almost round when wide open. Slight oblique set where outer corner of eye points toward outer base of ear. Distance between the eyes 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. Taller 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 ear's width apart and forms a rectangle with outer edge of the muzzle. Furnishings extend beyond outer ear edge. Lynx tips maintain the balance of the ear without heaviness or droop.

Chin: Wide and deep enough to complete square look of muzzle; in line with upper lip (see Profile).

Muzzle: Well-defined, square, with a definite box. Viewed from above, left and right edges are parallel, with muzzle size in balance with the rest of the head. Distinct transition between muzzle and cheek bones.

Profile: In profile view of entire head structure (back of head to tip of nose), balance is

is critical. Gently curving forehead flows into a slight concave curve at the bridge of the nose and continues into a smooth nose line free of humps and/or bumps. Straight, vertical line extends from the tip of nose, through upper lip to bottom of chin. Depth of chin is approximately 1/3 of overall depth of the muzzle.

Neck: Medium long, substantially thicker in mature males as compared to adolescent males and/or females.

## BODY:

Torso: Large, substantial, muscular, and rectangular. Females generally smaller than males. Body is relatively long with all parts in proportion, to create the appearance of a well-balanced rectangle. Broad, deep chest. Equal width from shoulders to hips, with depth of body. Allowance for slow maturation. Breed is considered "large" in size, but balance and proportion are of equal importance.

Legs: Substantial, medium length, in proportion to body to complete a rectangle. All legs straight without cow hocking or toeing-out.

Feet: All toes, excluding dewclaws/MCP thumbs, touch the floor. Tufts start between the toes and are visible beneath the pads where visible beneath the pads where they extend outwards.

MC: Large, rounded and well-tufted.

MCP: Large and well-tufted. Additional toes allowed on either fore or hind paws or both. Mitten or patty foot acceptable. Symmetrical expression preferred. Maximum 7 toes per foot.

Tail: Tail as long as body (from tail-base to shoulder blades). Wide base tapers to tip with full flowing fur.

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 britches (more apparent with age). Tail fur long, full, flowing.

Texture: All-weather coat often with silky texture. Slight undercoat provides body, but coat falls smoothly.

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 made 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.

Polydactyly 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.

Eyes: Overly rounded. Almond shaped. Flattened upper lid (hooded). Protruding. Small or deep-set. Excessive angle/slant (oriental set) or level. Excessive size.

Ears: Overly rounded/without taper. Small. Flared. Lacking furnishings or lynx tips. Lynx tips that detract from the set and shape of the ear.

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

Muzzle: Narrow and/or triangular shape. Prominent whisker pads. Rounded nose tip.

Profile: Straight from brow line to nose tip. Break, stop or Roman nose. Pronounced bump.

Neck: Too short or too long.

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

Legs: Cow-hocked or toed-out.

Tail: Too short to balance body length.

Feet: Toes, excluding dewclaws/MCP thumbs, not touching floor. Untufted paws.

Coat length: Equal overall, without shag. Short. Too close-lying.

Coat texture: Woolly or cottony.

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

## WITHHOLD 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.

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## 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.*