

## MAINE COON

### Standard of Excellence

#### 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. Originally a working cat found on the farms of North-East America, the Maine Coon is solid, rugged and can endure a harsh climate. A distinctive characteristic is its smooth, shaggy coat. A well proportioned and balanced appearance with no part of the cat being exaggerated. Quality should never be sacrificed for size. With an essentially amiable disposition, it has adapted to varied elements.

Head Shape	Medium in width and slightly longer in length than width with a squareness to the muzzle. Allowance should be made for broadening in older studs. Cheekbones high.
Muzzle/Chin	Visibly square, medium in length and blunt ended when viewed in profile. It may give the appearance of being a rectangle but should not appear to be tapering or pointed. Length and width of the muzzle should be proportionate to the rest of the head and present a pleasant, balanced appearance. The chin should be strong, firm and in line with the upper lip and nose. When viewed in profile the chin depth should be observable and give the impression of a square, 90 degree angle. A chin lacking in depth, i.e. one that tapers from the jaw line to the lip, is not considered strong, firm or desirable.
Profile	This should be proportionate to the overall length of the head and should exhibit a slight concavity when viewed in profile. The profile should be relatively smooth and free of pronounced bumps and/or humps. A profile that is straight from the brow line to the tip of the nose is not acceptable, nor should the profile show signs of having a break or stop.
Ears	Shape: Large, well-tufted, wide at base, tapering to appear pointed. Set: Approximately one ear's width apart at the base, not flared.
Eyes	Large, expressive and wide set. Slightly oblique setting with slant toward outer base of ear.
Eye Colour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye colour must conform to the standard for coat colour.</li> <li>• Blue-eyes or odd-eyes are also allowed for white or bi-colour (including vans) patterned cats.</li> </ul>
Neck	Medium long. Musculature sturdy.
Body Shape	Muscular, broad-chested. Size medium to large. Females generally are smaller than males. The body should be long with all parts in proportion to create a well-balanced rectangular appearance, with no part of the anatomy being so exaggerated as to foster weakness. Allowance should be made for slow maturation.
Legs and Feet	Legs substantial, wide set, of medium length, and in proportion to the body. Forelegs straight. Back legs are straight when viewed from behind. Paws large, round, well-tufted. Five toes in front, four in back.
Tail	Long, wide at base, and tapering. Fur long and flowing.

Coat	Heavy and shaggy, shorter on the shoulders and longer on the stomach and britches. Frontal ruff desirable. Texture silky, with coat falling smoothly. <b>Coat Colour must conform to the General Colour Standards.</b>
Penalize	A coat that is short or overall even.
Disqualify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delicate bone structure.</li> <li>• Undershot chin (front teeth – incisors – of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed).</li> <li>• Crossed eyes.</li> <li>• Kinked tail.</li> <li>• Incorrect number of toes.</li> <li>• White buttons, locket or spots.</li> <li>• Cats showing evidence of hybridisation resulting in the colours chocolate, lavender, the Himalayan pattern, or unpatterned agouti on the body (i.e. Abyssinian type ticked tabby).</li> </ul>

### SCALE OF POINTS

Total	100 points
Head ( incl. shape), Ears, Eye Shape & Colour	35
Body incl. Shape, Neck, Legs, Feet, Tail & Balance	35
Coat incl. Colour	30

### RECOGNISED COLOURS:

All Traditional Solids, Tabbies, Smokes, Silver Tabbies, and related Parti-Colours.

No evidence of hybridisation.

No pointed series, chocolate or lilac series, or cinnamon and fawn series.

### ALLOWABLE OUTCROSS:

Selected Breed Registration rules apply.

Polycoon. (Fully intermateable).

Non-Polydactyl Coons registered as Maine Coons, Polydactyl Coons registered as Polycoons.