

## POLYCOON (Polydactyl Maine Coon) Standard of Excellence

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Polycoon is America's native longhaired cat, but with the addition trait of polydactyly (extra toes). Polycoons are in fact bred from fully pedigreed Maine Coons, but have the distinctive additional physical feature of polydactyl toes. (More toes than the Standard allows for a Maine Coon 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.

History tells us that Polydactyl Coons have been a part of the Maine Coon gene pool since the beginnings of the Maine Coon Breed history. They were simply registered as Maine Coons and along the way, some were retained for the breeding of non-polydactyl Maine Coons. Invariably Maine Coons and Polydactyl Maine Coons from these breedings, had consistently heavier boning, a highly desirable trait in a breed recognised for its massive size, which may be the reason why the polydactyl Maine Coons have survived to this day. However Polydactyl Maine Coons were never accepted by the mainstream registries for Championship status, as the polydactyl trait was considered to be a fault in a Championship cat.

Over the years, many Maine Coon breeders have preserved the Polydactyls, recognising that they were valuable breeding cats and have sought to have them officially recognised as Maine Coon cats (being from fully registered Maine Coon bloodstock) with no known outcrosses.

CATZ Inc accepts that the Polydactyl Maine Coon cat is derived from the same original gene pool and that the Polydactyl is in fact a fully pedigreed Maine Coon Cat but with the additional trait of polydactyly. CATZ Inc has therefore recognised the Polydactyl Maine Coon and simply provided it with a forum for recognition, without adding what is perceived to be a fault, back into the established Maine Coon Championship breed standard. The Polydactyl Maine Coon has therefore been recognised as a separate but intermateable breed, The Polycoon, so that the excellent structure of these cats may be preserved and they may be shown and recognised for the contribution they have made to the continued development of the Maine Coon Cat.

Polycoons may therefore compete against one another as Polycoons as a New Breed & Colour Variety and earn recognition over time as a Championship Breed in their own right.

Polycoons are only intermateable with Maine Coons and other Polycoons (Polydactyl Maine Coons). There are NO allowable outcrosses. However ONLY POLYDACTYL MAINE COONS are registerable as Polycoons.

The Standard for the two breeds is essentially the same, except that the Polycoon must also conform to the additional CATZ Inc Standard of Excellence for all registered cats expressing the Polydactyl trait.

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. If 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.
Paws & Toes	<p>Paws should be firm and facing forward. Polydactyl paws may be "Closed Mitted", "Open Mitted" or "Patty-footed".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed Mitted: Where the four toes are in a normal position, with a thumb and possibly extra toes with it, set to appear like a normal hand.</li> <li>• Open Mitted: Similar to a baseball mitt, having four toes together, also having a thumb and possibly extra toes with it, set in an OPEN position, like an extended hand.</li> <li>• Patty Footed: The toes form one large foot, without the division.</li> </ul> <p>Show cats SHOULD have extra toes on the front feet, but having them ONLY on the back feet is acceptable.</p> <p>Extra toes on the back feet are desirable but not essential.</p>

	Where choosing between two exhibits of equal merit, preference should be given to exhibits with a symmetrical number of toes on both front and rear paws. A maximum of eight claws on the front paws, and seven claws on the rear paws for exhibition.
Coat	Heavy and shaggy, shorter on the shoulders and longer on the stomach and britches. Frontal ruff desirable. Texture silky, with coat falling smoothly. Coat Colour must conform to the General Colour Standards.
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>• White buttons, locket or spots.</li> </ul> <p>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).</p>

### 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.

### ALLOWED OUTCROSSES:

Selected Breed Registration rules apply.  
Restricted to Maine Coon or Polycoon only.  
Polydactyl progeny registered as Polycoon and Non-Polydactyl progeny registered as Maine Coon.