

MAINE COON (MC)

HEAD 40 points
Shape 8
Eyes 5
Ears 10
Muzzle and Chin 10
Profile 7

BODY 35 points
Torso 10
Legs and Feet 3
Tail 5
Boning 7
Musculature 10

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN..25 points
Length 10
Texture 5
Color 5
Pattern 5

CATEGORY: Traditional.

DIVISIONS: All.

COLORS: All.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: None.

Overall balance and proportion are essential to the Maine Coon and no one feature should dominate the eye's attention over any other.

HEAD:

Shape: Broad, modified wedge.

Size in proportion to body. Slightly longer than wide. Distinct muzzle break can be seen under high prominent cheekbones.

Eyes: Large, slightly oval, appear round when wide open.

Outer corner of eye points toward outer base of ear. Wide-set. Color: Any shade of green and/or gold. No relationship to coat color. Blue and odd-eyes accepted in whites and particolored.

Ears: Large, wide at base with outer base set just slightly farther back than inner base. Outer base just above the level of the top of the eye. Outside edges have a very slight outward tilt that is not past eleven and one o'clock. Set fairly high on head with inner edge of ear bases no more than one ear's width apart. Taller than the width at base but still in balance with head length. Moderately pointed ears appear taller due to lynx tips. Furnishings extend beyond outer edge of ear. Chin: Wide and deep enough to complete square look of muzzle. Firm, in line with upper lip.

Muzzle: Square.

Profile: Gently curving forehead. Gentle concave curve at bridge of nose flowing into a smooth nose line. Slight nose bump allowed in kittens.

BODY:

Torso: Large, long, substantial, rectangular, equal in breadth from shoulders to hips. Broad chest. Level back. Females may be noticeably smaller than males.

Legs: Medium length to form a rectangle with the body.

Feet: Large, round and welltufted.

Tail: At least as long as the body. Wide at base and tapering to tip with full, flowing fur.

Boning: Substantial.

Musculature: Substantial, powerful.

COAT:

Length: Uneven; shorter on shoulders, gradually lengthening down the back and sides. Long, full, shaggy belly fur and britches. Tail fur long, full, flowing. Frontal ruff becomes more developed with age.

Texture: All weather coat. A slight undercoat gives the coat body but coat still falls smoothly. Not cottony.

Color: Particolors must have some white on all four feet.

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. It should always be remembered that the Maine Coon developed basically as a "working cat" able to fend for itself in rough, woody terrain and under extreme climatic conditions. The Maine Coon is a large breed with big ears, broad chest, substantial boning, a long, hard muscled, rectangular body and a long flowing tail. Good muscle tone and density give the cat the appearance of power.

ALLOWANCES: Standard favors the male. Allowance **MUST** be made for a significant size difference between the male and the female. Type should not be sacrificed for size. Breed is slow to mature. Allow for tighter earset in kittens and wider earset in mature adults.

PENALIZE:

Eyes: Slanted, almond-shaped.

Flat tops on openings.

Ears: Very close, set straight up. Narrow bases. Wide set, flared. Chin: Weak or receding, narrow, lack of depth.

Muzzle: Prominent whisker pads.

Profile: Straight. Roman nose.

Pronounced bump.

Torso: Narrow.

Tail: Short tail.

Coat: Lack of slight undercoat or belly shag. Overall even coat.

Color: Obvious lockets.

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* All breeds must to present a unchallenging temperament; the cat may show fear, seek to flee, or may complain aloud, but may not threaten to hurt. Any sign of definite threat shall disqualify.

Disqualifications: a cat that bites, a cat that shows evidence to deceive, adult whole males with not two descended testicles, cats with parts or whole tail missing or with tails faults (except the approved breeds), polydactyl cats (except the approved breeds), crossed eyes, total blindness, smaller size for the breed, depression of the sternum or usually small diameter of the rib cage itself.