

Maine Coon

The Maine Coon was originally a working cat, developed through a natural selection process in the woods and farms of New England. The Maine Coon is solid and rugged, able to thrive in the rough, woody terrain and the extreme north-eastern US winter climates. The cat has 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, companionable and playful nature, it was adapted to many varied environments.

HEAD	Medium in length, slightly longer than wide, with a gently curving forehead and high prominent cheekbones. The profile is slightly concave with no nose break. Nose is of uniform width. Muzzle is visibly square. Chin firm, in line with nose and upper lip. Bite level.
EARS	Large, tall and wide at base. Set high on the head with a slight outward tilt, approximately one ear's width apart. Ears to be well furnished. Lynx tips desirable.
EYES	Large and widely set, slightly oval but not almond shaped. Appear round when wide open. Set at a slight slant.
NECK	Medium in length. Males have a strong muscular neck.
BODY	Large, long and rectangular. Broad chest, square rump. Muscular with substantial boning. Females are smaller than males.
LEGS	Sturdily boned, medium length and in proportion to the body.
PAWS	Large, round and well tufted.
TAIL	Wide at base, and tapering. At least as long as the body from the shoulders to the base of the tail. Fur long and flowing.
COAT	Heavy and shaggy. Undercoat soft and fine, covered by a substantial topcoat. Shorter on head, neck and shoulders; lengthening gradually down back, flanks and tail. Trousers and belly fur full and shaggy. Frontal ruff desirable. Texture silky, falling smoothly. Different coat colours may have different coat textures.
EYE COLOUR	Any eye colour is permitted. Clear eye colour is desirable. Coat and eye colour may be unrelated.
COAT COLOUR	All colours and patterns acceptable, excluding chocolate variations and all pointed patterns. <u>Self Coloured Cats</u> should conform to the standard as for All Breeds

SCALE OF POINTS

Head		25
Ears		10
Eyes	Including shape, size and set	5
Body, Tail, Legs and Paws		25
Coat texture	Including length, texture and frontal ruff, ear feathering and tufting; tail furnishings; paw furnishings	25
Condition		5
Temperament		5
		100

FAULTS

Allowances:

- The balance of the cat is of uppermost importance, with no single features taking preference.
- Shorter or less dense summer coat.
- Different coat colours may have different textured coats.
- Allowance should be made for jowls, broader and larger heads in older studs.
- Allowances should be made in size and weight for females and immature cats. Females generally are smaller than males.

Major awards withheld for:

- Bump in profile;
- Straight profile;
- Rounded or pointed muzzle;
- Woolly, cottony coat
- Definite nose break or stop.
- Cobby body.
- Fine bone structure.
- Overall even coat length.
- Untufted paws.
- Kinked tail.
- Incorrect number of toes.
- Any defects as listed in the Relevant to All Breeds Section.

Allowable Outcrosses: None

Standard amended: January 2006