

## **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. Maine Coons are slow maturing and reach full maturity at 4 to 5 years of age.*

<b>HEAD</b>	Medium in length, slightly longer than wide, with high prominent cheekbones. The profile shows a gently curving forehead flowing into a slight concave curve at the bridge of the nose, continuing to a smooth nose free of bumps. Viewed from the front, a visibly square muzzle under high, broad cheek bones gives the appearance of an overall broad modified wedge-shaped head. Distinct transition between cheek bones and muzzle. Muzzle is well-defined, square with a definite box. Viewed from above, the left and right edges are parallel, with muzzle size in balance with the rest of the head. Chin is deep and wide enough to complete the square look of the muzzle; and in line with nose and upper lip. Bite level.
<b>EARS</b>	Large, well furnished, wide at base and tapering to appear pointed. Set high on the head with a slight forward tilt, approximately one ear's width apart. Taller than width at base, but still in balance with head length. Outer ear edges have very slight outward tilt; not past 11 and 1 o'clock. Ears to be well furnished. Lynx tips desirable, but without heaviness or droop.
<b>EYES</b>	Large and widely set, oval but not almond shaped. Appear almost round when wide open. Set at a slight slant.
<b>NECK</b>	Medium in length. Males have a strong muscular neck.
<b>BODY</b>	Large, substantial, muscular and rectangular. Relatively long, but in proportion to create a well-balanced rectangle. Broad deep chest. Equal width from shoulders to hips, with depth of body. Firm musculature without flab and substantial boning; adequate to support the structure and size of the cat. Allowance for immaturity and smaller females.
<b>LEGS</b>	Substantial, medium length and in proportion to the body. All legs straight without "toeing out".
<b>PAWS</b>	Large, rounded and well tufted.
<b>TAIL</b>	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.
<b>COAT</b>	Length uneven, 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.
<b>EYE COLOUR</b>	Any eye colour is permitted with blue and odd eyes only permitted in whites or "with white". Clear eye colour is desirable. Coat and eye colour may be unrelated.
<b>COAT COLOUR</b>	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 NOTE:

## SCALE OF POINTS

<b>Head</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Ears</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Eyes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Body, Tail, Legs and Paws</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Coat texture</b>	<b>20</b>
	Including length, texture and frontal ruff, ear feathering and tufting; tail furnishings; paw furnishings
<b>Colour &amp; Pattern</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Temperament</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>100</b>

## 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 outcross breeds:** None

**Standard Amended:** 2002/ 2004/ 2005/ 2023/ 2024