



The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.®

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

260 East Main Street • Alliance OH 44601

Phone: 330-680-4070 • Fax: 330-680-4633

www.cfa.org

MAINE COON CAT



Front Top: GC NW Cuzzoe Timberland, *Brown Classic Tabby*

Front Bottom: GC BW NW Venizia RedSilver Surfer,
Cameo Tabby/White

Back: GC RW Cavalino Cotton Candy, *Patch Tabby/White*

Collage (L to R): GC, NW Rallicats Double Dutch,
Brown Classic Tabby

GC, RW Trutails Great Expectations, *Brown Mackerel Tabby*
GP Cuzzoe Rikki Tikki Tavi, *Brown Ticked Tabby*



Copyright © 2023 The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.®

*Photographs are copyrighted by their individual photographers
and used under license.*

MAINE COON CAT

Myth, legend and lore surround the Maine Coon Cat. Some are amusing, some are fantastic flights of fantasy and some are merely plausible. They certainly provide good material for conversation. Many books and articles dealing with these aspects of the Maine Coon Cat are available and have been well received as people never seem to tire of the subject and are always eager to learn more about this National Treasure.

The Maine Coon Cat is the native American long-haired cat and was first recognized as a specific breed in Maine where it was named the official cat of the state. These cats were held in high regard by the locals for their mousing talents and special competitions were even held to reward the best "Coon Cat".

The Maine Coon cat evolved through nature's own breeding program developing characteristics by following a "survival of the fittest" evolution. The characteristics all have a purpose or function. Maine Coons developed into sturdy, working cats suited to the harsh winters and varied seasons of the Northeast region. The Maine Coon of today is known for a sturdy, rugged appearance, which includes an uneven, shaggy coat of three distinct lengths and a long, well furnished tail. They carry that tail proudly and use it to surround themselves for warmth and protection. A Maine Coon Cat has large, well tufted paws to allow ability to walk on top of snow despite size and weight. Ears are large and well tufted for protection and warmth. Even more than for beauty, Maine Coons are noted for intelligence and kindly disposition. After all, what they couldn't obtain themselves, they could always get by charming a nearby human. Though their size can be intimidating, they are known for their friendliness towards just about anything and are especially good with children and other pets. For these reasons, they have been dubbed the "Gentle Giant" of the cat fancy and are commonly sought after as family pets, companions, and therapy cats.

After years of local competitions and adoration, the Maine Coon Cat was chosen as Best Cat at the first major cat show ever held in the United States. "Cosey", a brown tabby female Maine Coon Cat was awarded this distinction at the Madison Square Garden show held in NYC in May of 1895. The silver collar and medal awarded to Cosey is on display at the CFA headquarters in Alliance, Ohio.

The transition from adorned or glorified "Barn Cat" to pedigreed CFA finalist was neither an easy one nor did it happen quickly. The Maine Coon Cat was all the rage in the early 20th century but lost popularity after the introduction of other long-haired breeds to the U.S. The Maine Coon Cat was even thought extinct

in the 1950's. Luckily, rumors of their death were greatly exaggerated and thanks to the dedication and perseverance of breeders, the Maine Coon Cat breed was accepted for CFA championship status in 1976. At present, sometimes the largest number of entries in a CFA show will be Maine Coon Cats and it is not unusual for one of them to be named Best Cat in a ring or even of the entire show. In fact, a Maine Coon Cat was recently named "Cat of the Year" in CFA's altered or Premiership class.

Maine Coon Cats are intelligent, trainable, described as "dog like". They will offer you hours of enjoyment with their antics but can at times be intrusive. Without question they want to be part of everything and your privacy may require a closed door between you and your cat. Most Maine Coon Cats have a fondness of water, to be in it, watch it, wash their food in it, or just plain play in it, so don't be surprised if you have an uninvited guest in your shower or help washing the dishes on any given day.

The Maine Coon Cat has a silky and somewhat oily coat, it is not dense and its upkeep is much easier than that of other long-haired breeds. The coat is almost self-maintained but will require occasional grooming. Because they love attention of any kind, grooming is easily accomplished.

Maine Coon Cats are an affordable pedigreed addition to any household. Prices vary in different areas of the country and overseas, depending on an individual breeder's guidelines. "Show" vs "pet" qualities are often a determining factor as well as the pedigree or titles held by the cats in the kitten's "family tree". However, many breeders offer retired show or breeding cats at a reduced cost to welcoming homes.

Kittens are normally available after 12 weeks of age, once they are weaned, physically stable, and have received basic inoculations. Socialization, additional examinations, testing and/or guarantees will vary from breeder to breeder. Maine Coon Cats and kittens are available from reputable CFA breeders in most areas in the U.S., Canada, and overseas, however, the transportation of cats/kittens to new homes depends on the individual breeder's practices.

Your new Maine Coon Cat addition should be kept indoors, spayed/neutered (if purchased as a pet) and be provided proper nutrition and acceptable surfaces for expression of natural behavior, for example, clean litter pans and scratching surfaces (CFA disapproves of declawing or tendonectomy surgery and most breeders will have related stipulations as part of their contract).

Available in a variety of about 75 different color combinations (with the exception of pointed pattern and colors) and two acceptable tabby patterns (classic and mackerel), there is a Maine Coon Cat just right for anyone. Although it is impossible to predict longevity, with proper care and nutrition, your Maine Coon Cat should give you many years of love, enjoyment, and companionship.