

BREED MAINE COON

GENERAL Originally a working cat, 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 environments. 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, and large feet with tufts.

HEAD

SHAPE

Medium in width and slightly longer in length than width with a squareness to the muzzle. Size in proportion to body. Allowance should be made for broadening in older studs. Cheekbones high.

EYES

Large, slightly oval, appear round when wide open. Outer corner of eye points toward outer base of ear. Wide-set.

Eyes color: Any shade of green and/or gold. No relation to coat color. Blue and odd-eyes accepted in white and van/ harlequin/ bicolor.

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 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.

PROFILE

Gently curving forehead. Proportionate to the overall length of the head and should exhibit a slight concavity when viewed in profile. 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." Slight nose bump allowed in kittens.

MUZZLE/ CHIN

The muzzle is visibly square, medium in length and blunt ended when viewed in profile. It 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, wide and deep enough to complete square look of muzzle. When viewed in profile the chin depth should be observable and give the impression of a square, 90-degree angle.

BODY**TORSO**

Large, substantial, rectangular, equal in breadth from shoulders to hips. Broad chest. Level back. 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. Females may be noticeably smaller than males. Allowance should be made for slow maturation.

LEGS AND FEET

Legs substantial, wide set, of medium length to form a rectangle with the body, and in proportion to the body. Forelegs are straight. Back legs are straight when viewed from behind. Paws large, round, well-tufted. Five toes in front; four in back.

TAIL

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

MUSCULATURE

Substantial, powerful.

**COAT
COLOR
PATTERN****TEXTURE**

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

COLOR/ PATTERN

Any amount of white is permitted.

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.

COLOR VARIETIES

The colors chocolate and cinnamon, as well as their dilution (lilac and fawn) are not recognized in any combinations (bicolor, tricolor, tabby). The pointed pattern is also not recognized. All other colors and patterns are recognized. The description of colors is listed in the general list of colors.

PENALIZE

Unbalanced proportions.
Straight / convex profile.
Nose break/ Roman nose/ Pronounced bump.
Pronounced whisker pads, round/ pointed muzzle.
Undershot/ narrow/ lack of depth chin.
Slanted/ almond shaped eyes.
Very close/ Set straight up/ Narrow bases/ Wide-set/ flared ears.
Fine/ light bone structure, short cobby body.
Short tail.
Coat of overall even length.
Lack of belly shag or slight undercoat.

DISQUALIFY

Delicate bone structure.
Misaligned bite.
Crossed eyes.
Kinked tail.
Incorrect number of toes.
Cats showing evidence of hybridization resulting in the fault colors.

SCORE

Head
41 points

Shape 8
Ears 8
Eyes 6
Chin 5
Muzzle 6
Profile 8

Body
33 points

Torso 10
Legs and feet 5
Tail 5
Boning 7
Musculature 6

Coat/Color/Pattern
16 points

Texture 5
Pattern 3
Length 5
Color 3

Others
10 points

Condition 3
Grooming 2
Balance 2
Temperament 3

OUTCROSS

None

