

MAINE COON

GENERAL STANDARD

The Maine Coon is a working cat, muscular, solid, long-bodied, and large, with a look of the wild, which is emphasized by the large, tufted ears, square muzzle and shaggy coat. It is capable of surviving a harsh climate by itself, but is of amiable disposition. Ultimate type can take 3 or 4 years to develop in this breed; the largest of all pedigreed cats. Males are generally considerably larger than females.

HEAD: Medium in width and slightly longer than wide. Broadening with age and jowls in males may combine to make the head wider than long and allowance should be made for this in maturity. Skull curves gently in front view and in profile, with only a slight dip between the eyes at the top of the nose. The muzzle is of moderate breadth, square when viewed from any angle.

EARS: Large, tall, wide at the base, tapering to appear pointed, with lynx-like tipping and inner tufts extending beyond the outer edge of the ears. They are set high on the head; the distance between them being equal to the width of an ear at its base.

EYES: Large and oval, with a slightly oblique setting. Eyes are well-opened and expressive.

NOSE: Broad, of even width and medium length, in proportion to length of head. Nose leather to extend the full width of the nose, with large nostrils. The profile is slightly concave between the eyes, with no break, then straight to the tip of the nose.

CHEEKS: Cheekbones are high and become broader with age, particularly in stud males.

JAWS: Firm and moderately broad to create the squared muzzle.

CHIN: Firm, strong and deep, in a vertical line with the tip of the nose.

NECK: Medium to long, strong and in proportion to the body. Thick and muscular in older males.

BODY: Medium to large in size, muscular and broad chested. The body is long, with all parts proportioned to create a rectangular appearance when viewed from above or in side view. It feels solid, with firm muscle and no flabbiness. When viewed from the rear, there is a definite squareness to the rump. Due to the rapid growth of this large breed, there may be a lack of body bulk, muscle and balance until maturity. Allowance should be made for this.

TAIL: Long, at least the length of the body, but in proportion to it, wide at the base, with bone structure tapering towards the tip.

LEGS: Sturdily boned, well muscled, wide-set, medium in length and in proportion to the body.

PAWS: Large, round and well tufted both between the pads and underneath.

CONDITION: Excellent muscular condition is required. Any indication that the cat is not in good physical condition or has not had proper grooming should be penalised.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head (incl. shape, ears, eyes and profile)	35
Body (incl. neck, body shape, tail and paws)	35
Coat length and texture	15
Colour (incl. eyes and coat)	10
Overall condition	5

TOTAL **100**

FAULTS / PENALTIES

REFER TO GENERAL LIST OF FAULTS FOR ALL BREEDS, PLUS:

PENALISE:

- Flared or widely spaced ears.
- Round, small or deep-set eyes.
- Short or narrow nose or Persian-like break in nose.
- Small nose leather or small nostrils.
- Short rounded muzzle.
- Narrow or pointed jaw or jaw which is too broad.
- Short tail.
- Un-tufted paws.
- Persian-like undercoat.
- Lack of depth in eye colour.
- Flabbiness or obesity.

WITHHOLD:

- Undershot chin.
- Delicate bone structure.
- Short cobby body and legs.
- Overall even coat.

COAT AND COLOUR

COAT LENGTH AND TEXTURE: A light density undercoat covered by a waterproof outer coat. Not fluffy. Texture may vary with coat colour and pattern. It is uneven in length and markedly subject to seasonal variation. Fur on head, neck and shoulders is short, becoming gradually longer along the back towards the tail and down the sides toward the belly. Britches and belly fur is full and shaggy. The smooth coat flows down the body, continuing in the same manner onto the tail. There is a frontal ruff, generally heavier on males than females. The tail is heavily furred, long and flowing, but it is not bushy as is a fox's brush.

COAT COLOUR AND PATTERN: Any recognized colour or recognized combination of colour except Chocolate, Lilac, cinnamon, fawn, caramel and apricot. Any recognized pattern except the Himalayan pattern. The colour and pattern should be

clear and distinct, well marked and even. White trim around the chin and lip line allowed except in solid colour cats.

EYE COLOUR: There is no relationship between eye colour and coat colour. Eye colour should be shades of green, green-gold, gold, orange or copper, preferably clear and deep. Blue-eyes or odd-eyes are also allowed for white or bi-colour (including vans) patterned cats.

NOSE LEATHER: Plain or mottled to correspond with coat colour.

PAW PADS: Plain or mottled to correspond with coat colour.