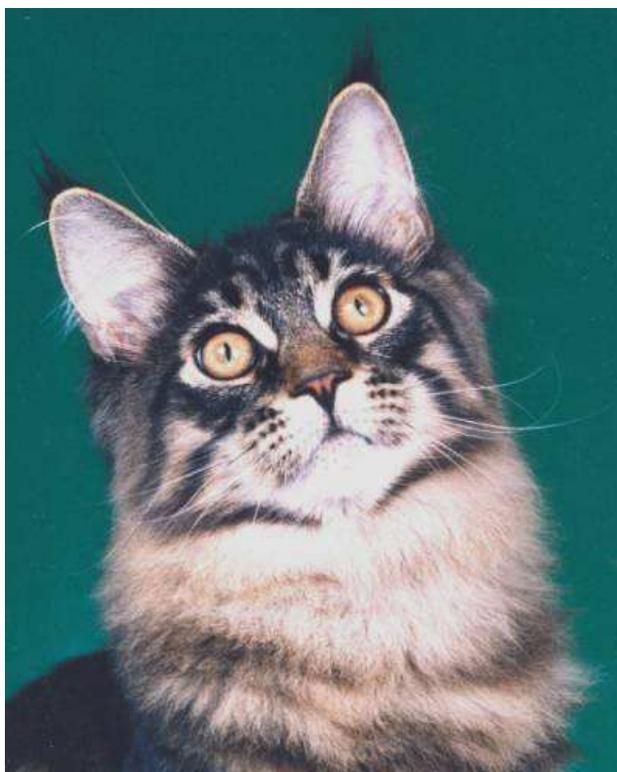


MAINE COON BREED SEMINAR



**COONSBORO CALVIN COONIDGE
(9 months)**

Born October 1991

**The first Maine Coon one show
Grand Champion in both
CFA and TICA**

B/O: Jill & Dave Burrows

Seminar Prepared by:

Beth Hicks, January 2004

TICA Judge since 1979

TICA Instructor – School & Ring

Tanstaaf! Cattery – Est. 1972

This photographic seminar on the Maine Coon would not have been possible without the fantastic support received from Maine Coon breeders worldwide. The cats pictured in these pages are from the United States, Europe, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. These Maine Coons are beloved pets, breeding cats, and award winners that have been shown in many different associations around the world. After more than thirty years of breeding, I still find that the community of Maine Coon breeders and fanciers is a very special group of people. The response to my frequent requests for photos to illustrate specific features was fabulous! This started as a project to develop a photo seminar for TICA judges but quickly became much more than that. Maine Coon breeders, owners, and clubs worldwide have my permission to use this seminar as a teaching and training tool.

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This seminar can be found on the web at <http://home.midsouth.rr.com/mcseminar>

CHIN

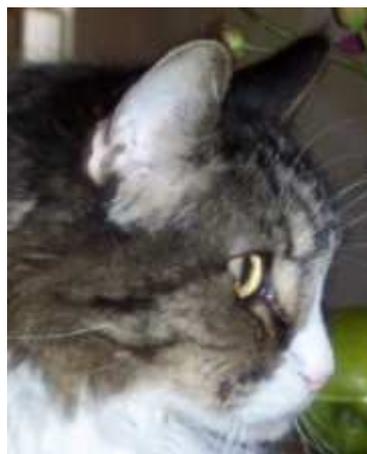
Wide and deep enough to complete square look of muzzle. Firm, in line with upper lip.
Penalize: Weak or receding, narrow, lack of depth.



The female's chin (L) needs to be stronger and have more depth. The male's chin (R) has the depth to look balanced with the muzzle.



Female's chin (L) is strong and deep but a little narrow. Male's (R) is receding and needs more depth.



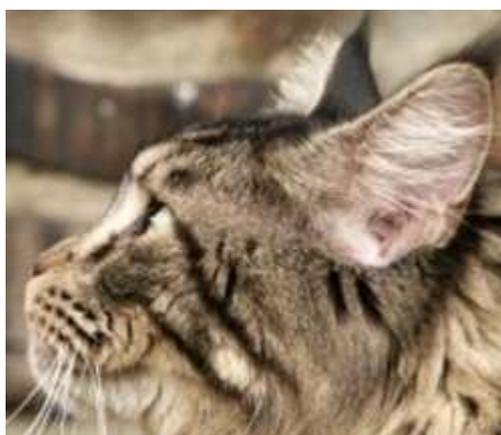
Lacks Depth



Receding



Too Narrow



Chins with the width and depth to complete the square look of the muzzle. Also in line with the upper lip.

MUZZLE

Square

Penalize: Prominent whisker pads.



Short Muzzle



Snippy & Narrow



Triangle



Rounded Muzzle



Muzzle appears prominent due to narrow head width but head should widen as this young female matures.



Prominent Whisker Pads



Square



Square - Obvious even from a frontal view!



Square

EYES

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

Penalize: Slanted, almond-shaped eyes. Flat tops on eye openings.



Almond Shaped



Round



Wide Set



Slanted



Flat Tops



Small



Three cats with good eye set, size and aperture.

PROFILE

Gently curving forehead. Gentle concave curve at bridge of nose flowing into a smooth nose line.

Penalize: Straight. Roman nose. Pronounced bump.

Allowance: Slight nose bump allowed in kittens.



Too straight



Suggestion of Roman nose



Pronounced bump



Slight bump



Unusual Bump



Perfect Profiles



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 bases not 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.

Penalize: Very close, set straight up. Narrow bases. Wide-set, flared.

Allowance: Allow for tighter earset in kittens and wider earset in mature males.



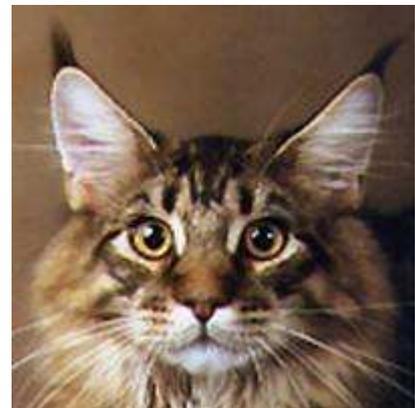
Ear Bases are too Narrow



Set Straight Up



Nice Size and Set but too much outward tilt



Too Small and Too Wide Set





Ear flare is largely determined by the relationship between the set of the inner and outer base of the ear. If the outer base is set way back from the inner base, the ears will be flared out.



Set Too Low



So tall that the ears are the first thing you notice!



Curved Inner Edges - Rarely Seen



Lynx Tips are a must for a proper look!
Pictures of the same female against different backgrounds.



The same male at 7 months, 2 years and 12 years!
Ear size did not change! The head broadened.



Two whole males – one on left is 6 years old; one on right is 5 years old. Ears that are set correctly should not “go south”!

Nice Set & Size. Well Balanced.



Properly set ears should stay properly set. Same female at 8 months and 5 years old.

Lovely ears on a 3 year old female.

COAT

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.

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

Penalize: Lack of slight undercoat or belly shag. Overall even coat.



Similar looking females that show the difference a slight frontal ruff makes in appearance. Age is a factor – the girl on the right is now 2 years old and her ruff is starting to grow.



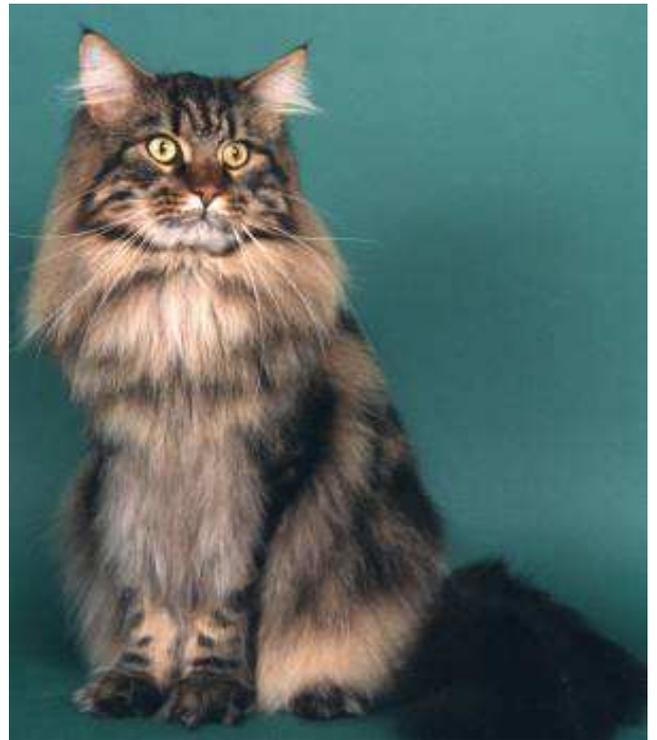
Coat lies smooth and close to the body. Needs more undercoat.



Two young males about the same age. The belly shag is already much more developed on the brown tabby.



Maine Coons with lovely coats!



HEAD

Broad, modified wedge. Size in proportion to body. Slightly longer than wide. Distinct muzzle break can be seen under high prominent cheekbones.

Maine Coons with different looks shown in different associations worldwide. All lovely Maine Coons that fit the standard.



SIZE – MALE vs. FEMALE

Allowances: The standard favors the male. Allowance **MUST** be made for a significant size difference between the male and the female. Type should not be sacrificed for size. Breed is slow to mature.

Comment - The size difference between males and females is more significant in Maine Coons than any other breed. Males are 15 to 20 pounds. Females are 9 to 12 pounds. Put a 10 pound female next to a 20 pound male and she will look small. Ten pounds is **NOT** a small female. Most breeders feel that the girls don't get a fair deal in the show hall.



On the left a SIX MONTH old male who already weighs 14 pounds. Next to him is his two year old dam who weighs 11 pounds. That is not a small female but in another six months she will look “small” sitting next to her son.



Littermates at 11 months. She is a big female but note the difference in body build and lea bonina.



Litter mates at one year – two males and one female.

TONGUE

Long enough to clean the nose!



HOPE YOU ENJOYED
THE SEMINAR!