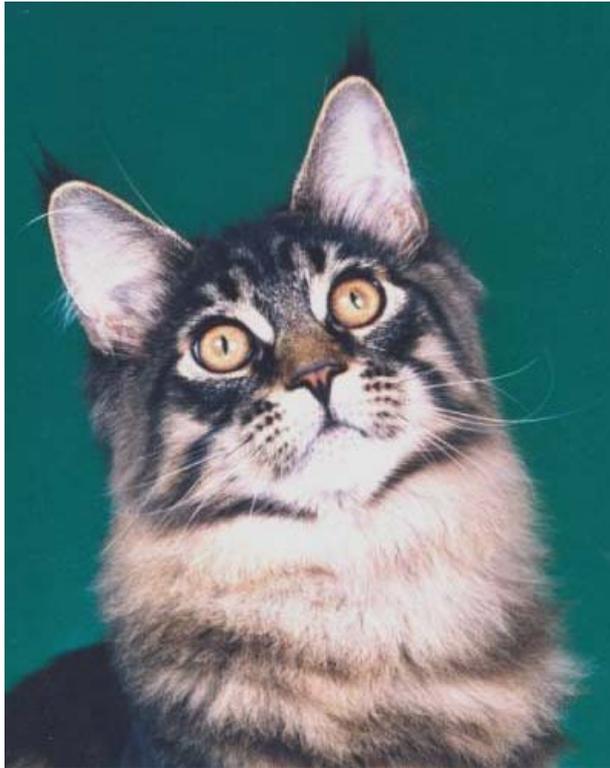


# Maine Coon Seminar



## Coonsboro Calvin Coonidge

(at 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>

# Maine Coon

## THE CHIN

The female's chin (left) is strong and deep but a little narrow. Male's chin (right) is receding and needs more depth.



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



**“Wide, deep enough to complete square look of muzzle. Firm, in line with upper lip ...”**

**“Penalize:  
Weak or  
Receding,  
Narrow,  
Lack of Depth”**



Chin - Receding



Chin - Lacks depth



Chin - Too narrow



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

# Maine Coon

## THE MUZZLE

“Square  
Penalize: Prominent whisker pads.”



Short Muzzle



Snippy & Narrow



Triangular



Rounded



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



Prominent Whisker Pads - detract from squareness of muzzle and strength of chin



**Square muzzles.** White on the face can be visually distracting, look for actual shape.

# Maine Coon

## THE EYES

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



Almond Shaped



Round



Too Wide-Set



Slanted



Flat topped



Small

“Penalize: Slanted, almond-shaped eyes, flat tops on eye openings.”



Three cats with good eye set, size and aperture.

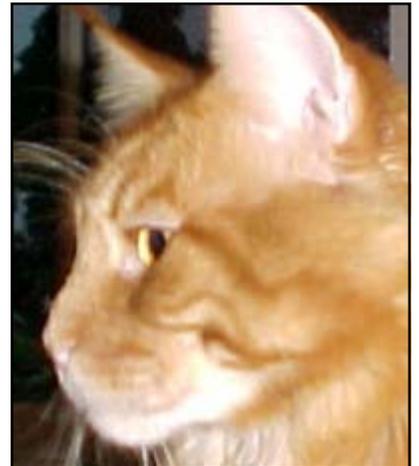
# Maine Coon

## THE PROFILE

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



Two profiles that are too straight



Suggestion of a Roman Nose



Pronounced Nose Bump



Slight Nose Bump



Unusual Nose Bump

**"Penalize: Straight. Roman Nose. Pronounced bump."**



**Perfect profiles**

# Maine Coon

## 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.”*



Set straight up



Nice size and set but too much outward tilt



Ear bases are too narrow



Too small and too wide set





### Ear Flare



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.



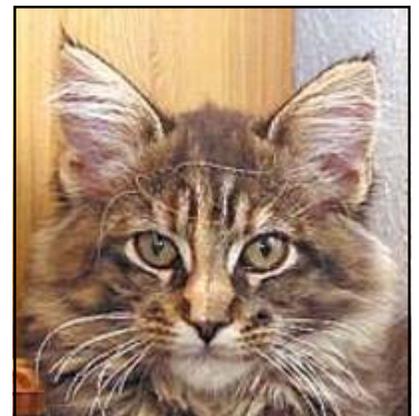
Set too low



Out of balance - so tall that ears are the first thing you notice!



Lynx Tips add dramatically to the MC look!  
Pictures of the same female against different backgrounds - see how the visible lynx tips properly finish the pointed shape of the ear.



Curved inner edges - Rarely seen



Pictures of the Same Male at ages 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 and size - Well  
balanced ears



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



Good ears on a 3 year  
old female

# Maine Coon - 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.”



Two similar looking girls illustrate the difference a slight frontal ruff makes in appearance. Age is a factor in ruff development - girl on the right is now 2 years old and her ruff is just starting to grow.



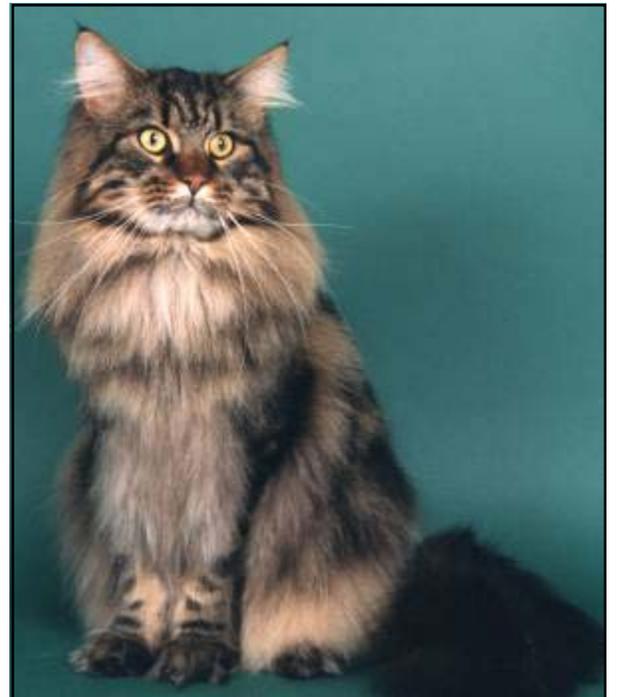
Coat lies too close to the body - this boy needs more undercoat



Two young males about the same age - boy on right has more belly shag



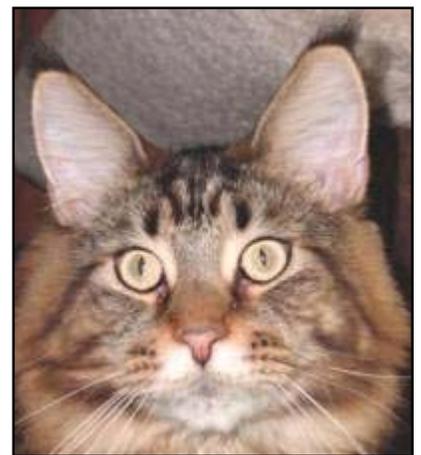
**Maine Coons with wonderful shaggy coats, frontal ruffs and long flowing tail fur.**



## Maine Coon - HEAD

“Broad modified wedge. Size in proportion to body. Lightly 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 cats that fit the standard.



# Maine Coon SIZE

**"The standard favors the male. Allowance **MUST** be made for a significant size difference between the male and female."**

**Comment:** The size difference between males and females is more significant in Maine Coons than any other breed. Males average 15-20 pounds. Females average 9-12 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.

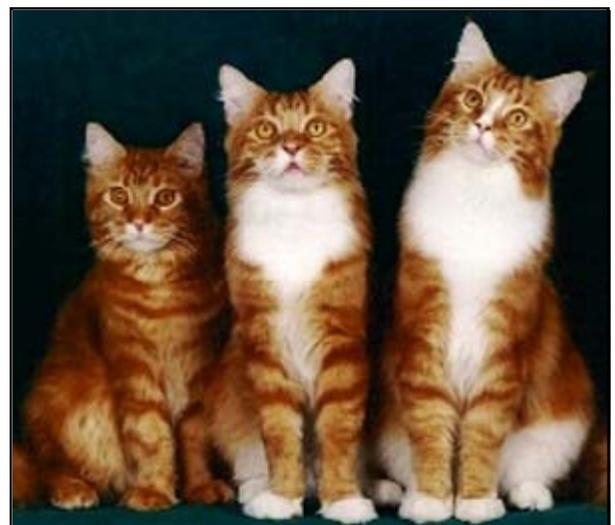


On the left is a SIX MONTH old male who already weighs 14 pounds. Next to him is his two year old dam who weighs 11 pounds - that is not a small female, but in another six months she will look "small" sitting next to her son.

**"Type should not be sacrificed for size. Breed is slow to mature."**



Littermates at 11 months. This is a big female (right) but notice the difference in body build and boning in the leg.



Littermates at one year two males and one female.

# Maine Coon - Tongue

Long enough to clean the nose...



Hope you enjoyed  
our show!  
The End

