



THE

SCRATCH SHEET



Spring 1970

JTCBFA Newsletter

"For The Promotion And Protection Of The MAINE COON CAT"

UP TO DATE

Betty Ljostad, Secretary

CFA Registration --- CFA will now accept Maine Coons for registration and as of this summer, will provide a new class at all CFA shows for those cats which are registered, but not as yet recognized for Championship.

Foundation Stock --- We strongly recommend that all foundation stock be checked by three judges for breed verification before registration. There have been some cases of longhaired cats being registered as Maine Coons, when in fact they were not. Do have your cat checked before registering if you are not certain of its background. Perhaps the simplest way to do this is to enter it in the 'household pet' class at a show, and while there, get a written OK from three judges.

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(Up To Date - cont.)

MCBFA Polydactyl Standard --- Our MCBFA Polydactyl Standard has been voted in by our membership, and the wording is as follows:

"The Maine Coon Polydactyl Cat should conform to the Standard of the Maine Coon Cat, with the exception that multiple toes are allowed on either fore or hind paws, or both."

Polydactyl Registrations --- We are considering the possibility of requesting registering organizations to include the letter P with the registration numbers on all poly cats. At the present time there is no way of tracing polydactylism by looking at a pedigree. This would be a boon to breeders, but will take some study.

"For Free Take" --- Available from MCBFA Secretary -- gratis:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. genetic sheets. | 5. MCBFA Maine Coon Standard. |
| 2. Constitution. | 6. MCBFA Polydactyl Standard. |
| 3. Kitten Sale Code. | 7. Flyers. |
| 4. Kitten Shipping Code. | 8. Membership blanks. |

"For Buy -- Its A Bargain" --- Our new MCBFA buttons are now available for \$1. Just write to our Secretary.

<p><u>AD PRICES</u></p> <p>1/8 page --- \$ 3.50 1/4 page --- \$ 6.00 1/2 page --- \$10.00 Full page -- \$15.00</p>	<p>914-471-0336 Stud Service</p> <p><u>Mieaou Cattery</u> Mrs. Muriel Corgan 82 Academy Street Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601</p> <p>MAINE COONS</p>
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MAINE COON BREEDERS' & FANCIERS' ASSOC. OFFICERS

- President ----- Dr. E. Eminhizer, 1125 Trumbull S.E. Warren, Ohio.
Vice President -- Dr. R. Ljostad, 12 Brook Lane, Port Chester, N.Y.
Treasurer ----- Mrs. L. Vanderhoff, 21 Jacksonville, Pequannock, N.J.
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L. Vanderhoff; B. Ljostad; N. Wartell

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dr. Earl Eugene Eminhizer
MCBFA President

Many times there are opportunities which come our way whereby we can become involved with cats and the public. In the next few lines I want to tell you about one way in which I have become involved here in Warren, Ohio. Several years ago I had two young men in my classes at the University who went into YMCA work. Both knew about my interest in cats. In time, they both moved up the chain of command at the "Y" so that one found himself in charge of the adult education program. This involved much work and required him to think up subjects that he thought would be of interest to people generally. The "Y" had for years had a course in dog care, and it had been well attended. Not long after Dick took over this job, he asked me if I thought there would be enough people interested in cats to do the same thing with cats, and of course, if I would take on such a class as teacher. He agreed that a sure way to find out would be to offer the class. And we did.

This course in cat care has been, and is now being presented, every Wednesday for four weeks. Each session lasts about two hours. The first week I usually discuss feeding and the kind of good things there are for cats to eat. Generally I like to have questions from those present and bring out what I would like to have them know by answering their questions. There is no lack of questions, the problem is to keep the questions on the subject at hand. I also have them tell something about their cats.

The second week is devoted to grooming and usually Lee, my wife, takes a couple of our cats to show them how to clip nails, clean ears and eyes, and care for the coat. Again we answer questions which they have concerning their own cats. Feeding and coat care are probably the interesting discussions for those taking the course. We also talk about what to do when the cat has kittens, and encourage them to have their pets altered.

The third week, with Lee's help, I discuss the various breeds of cats and attempt to at least show pictures of the different breeds if we cannot get live examples. Since we have four breeds, all longhairs except one, these get a good deal of attention. Generally someone will have one or more breeds of shorthairs, and I ask them to bring them down if they would like to. This always adds interest and many questions. Usually the people in the class have never seen a purebred cat up close. They are generally quite interested in one of my big Maine Coons.

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(President's Pg. cont.)

At the last session I attempt to tell them what goes on at a cat show. In doing this, I show them catalogs and explain the different classes of cats and what the ribbons mean. This is probably the most difficult, since most have never been to a cat show, but they'll probably be at the next one. I also finish answering any left over questions.

During the course I suggest books which I think will be helpful. Also, I send their names to Pet Pride and ask that they be sent the booklet on cat care which Pet Pride issues. If any of you have a chance to do something of this type, don't be afraid to get in the act and give it a try. It takes a good deal of work to get ready, but I'm sure that you will have a good time doing it. It is also a good way to get the Maine Coon before the public.

The current issue of Science Journal has a report by Dr. Shawn Shapiro of U.C.L.A. that shows that the information processing parts of the brain develop faster in animals that are handled, sung to, stroked, shaken, and otherwise stimulated during the first days of life.

A Word From The Treasurer
Lillias Vanderhoff

I would like to remind all of our Breeders and Fanciers who have not renewed their membership, to please do so soon. Membership renewals are due April 30th.

If you would voluntary send in your dues they are as follows Breeders single(\$10.)ten dollars and family plan(\$15.)or fifteen dollars. Fanciers dues remains at(\$2) two dollars per year. Please send to Lillias Vanderhoff 21 Jacksonville Rd. Pequannock, N.J. 07440

May I suggest a membership in M.C.B.F.A. as a Birthday Anniversary, or just wanting to do something nice for someone, in the family or a friend.

Anyone who wants to breed cats can benefit greatly by giving attention to some of the fundamentals which contribute to a fine, healthy cattery. These include proper diet, care of the queen and assistance during the birth of kittens, care of young kittens and dealing with diseases and congenital defects.

Before deciding to mate cats, the breeder should look into the backgrounds of the sire and the dam to be as sure as possible that there are no congenital defects that can be passed on to their kittens. If it is known that either the sire or the dam has had in its background cats with external defects, it should not be bred. In addition, if the background of a cat is marked by diseases such as diabetes, cancer, leukemia, cryptorchidism (testicles not descended down into scrotum), any congenital bone or joint malformations as well as other conditions which may be passed on to the kittens including cats which are prone to uroliths (stones in the kidneys), it should not be bred. Only cats which are of sound health and are known to come from parents, grandparents and farther back which have been free from hereditary diseases or bone or joint malformations should be bred. Cats to be bred should also be chosen for good dispositions.

When a healthy male and female with good stock in their backgrounds have been selected, the dam should be checked for worms. If she is found to have them, she should be wormed before she is mated.

Once the cats are mated, the next step is in caring for the queen up until the kittens are born, i.e. the prenatal care of the kittens. The diet of the queen should consist of protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals and vitamins as always. However, during gestation and lactation she will need larger quantities of food plus more calcium and vitamin A in her diet, since the reserves of these elements are drawn on heavily during this time. Whether the queen is fed a good grade of commercial canned or dry cat food, or cooked meat or fish and vegetables from the table, some raw meat is necessary in the daily diet of the cat. Raw beef, kidney, liver, etc. should be added to her ration. A hard boiled egg once or twice a week grated into her ration is also beneficial. In addition, a small amount of a complete vitamin and mineral powder such as Perveline or Theralin for cats should be added to the ration daily. The directions of the manufacturer as to the quantities to be given to the pregnant queen should be followed.

If during the time of gestation and lactation the queen should show any signs of illness, i.e. running eyes, coughing, sneezing, loss of appetite or any other symptom, watch to see that she is urinating enough and that she is not going to the litter pan frequently and either urinating a few drops at a time or not at all. If anything seems abnormal, take her to the veterinarian for a checkup.

After the 5th week of pregnancy, the queen should be kept away from other cats with which she may get into fights in order to prevent injury to the kittens.

About 9 weeks after mating, usually from the 64th to the 68th day after the queen has been mated, the kittens will arrive. The queen will want the breeder with her at the time that she is giving birth. All the breeder has to provide is a corrugated box large enough to give the queen room to stretch out to nurse her kittens. A few layers of newspapers laid flat will be sufficient. After the

kittens are born, the paper can be removed and replaced with a soft towel. During the birth, let the queen eat the after birth of the kittens. This stimulates the hormones to let the milk down.

In case of a breech birth where the queen cannot expel the kitten and the kitten is part way out, take a wash cloth, hold the kitten firmly and pull, encouraging the queen to help. After the kitten is out, all the others should come easily.

If, after the kitten is born and the queen licks it for a considerable time, the kitten doesn't cry out or move about, it is possible that the kitten may have swallowed a lot of mucous in the mother and is strangling. Pick the kitten up and place it in the palm of your hand with its head held down between your fingers. Support the kitten with your other hand and shake the kitten as you would shake down a thermometer. If the mucous flows out of its mouth and nose, you know that this is the trouble and the kitten will cry out and begin to move about.

The discharge of the queen should be checked daily for 4 or 5 days after she gives birth. If the discharge is red, all is well. If the discharge is green or greenish yellow, she should be taken to a veterinarian immediately. She may have retained the afterbirth or may have a dead kitten in her. An injection of pituitary gland extract should alleviate the condition.

If the sire and the dam are of good hereditary background, you can expect the kittens to be sound and healthy. From three to six kittens in a litter is normal. The queen will take care of the feeding and cleaning of her kittens until they are weaned.

The weaning process should begin when the kittens are four weeks old. The queen's food should be put on a large flat plate, the food spread out, and the kittens placed around the plate. They will begin to eat when they are ready to do so. No coaxing is necessary, nor is any special food. The kittens should be weaned on the same food that the queen eats. The kittens also need the extra calcium, vitamin A and fats that the queen requires during gestation and lactation plus the B complex vitamins, iron and other vitamins and minerals. The age that kittens will begin to eat will vary from kitten to kitten and should not be of any concern providing that the kitten is still nursing and getting nourishment from the mother.

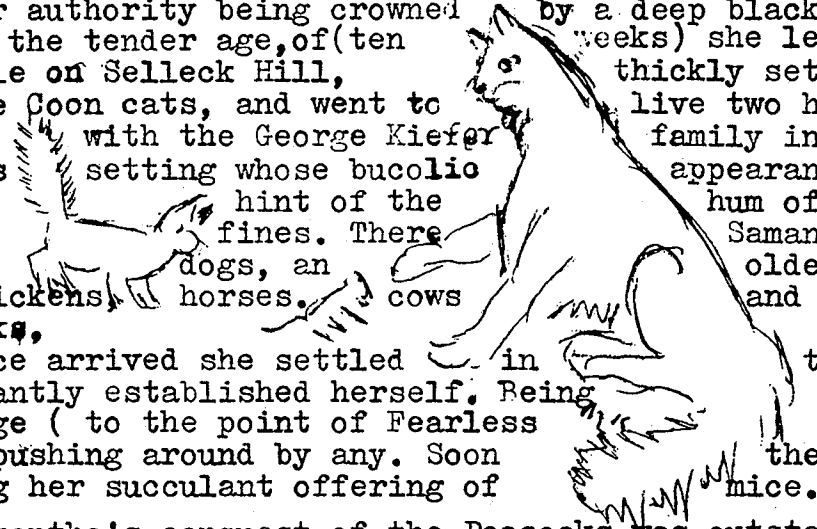
Rarely do kittens become bothered by worms or coccidiosis while they are nursing. It is generally after they are weaned that this problem arises and they become debilitated and stop eating because of internal parasitic infestation. The first 4 months of a kitten's life is the time that it is most susceptible to disease and internal parasites. A complete well balanced diet high in protein, high in calories, including fat from meat (preferably raw), cooked fish, eggs occasionally, liver once or twice weekly, milk if it tolerates it well and a vitamin and mineral formula formulated especially for cats will aid the kittens to resist diseases. However, diet, no matter how good it is, does no good if a kitten is infested with internal parasites. The kitten stops eating, soon becomes anorectic, dehydrated and most often dies if the parasites are not gotten rid of.

Calico Cattery
of Salisbury, Conn.

When Mrs. George Kiefer, long time animal lover and breeder, versed in animal husbandry, decided to include Maine Coon Cats in her household it was a happy day for the breed. Besides her work with animals, both large and small Mrs. Kiefer is the mother of three out standing children. Is very active in town affairs, and a ski instructor at Catamount, a large ski resort nearby. Mr. Kiefer, a forrester by profession shares her interest in the animals, and it would be hard to imagine a happier background for cats and kittens.

Koon Kit Samantha of Calico Cattery is a Maine Coon of broad experience and sterling character. Her brilliant red and black markings on spotless white, with luscious tri-color plumed tail single her out as a lady of dominance, as indeed she is, her authority being crowned by a deep black cap.

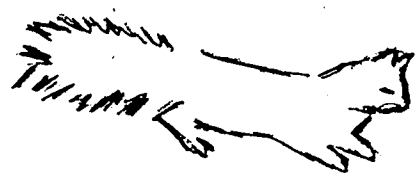
At the tender age, of (ten weeks) she left her original domicile on Selleck Hill, thickly settled with other Maine Coon cats, and went to live two houses down the road with the George Kiefer family in a Currier and Ives setting whose bucolic appearance gives no outer hint of the hum of life within its confines. There Samantha encountered two dogs, an older cat, ewes, ducks, chickens, horses, and a pair of large peacocks,



Once arrived she settled in to hold court, and instantly established herself. Being a kitten of courage (to the point of Fearless Folly) she brooked no pushing around by any. Soon the older cat was bringing her succulant offering of mice.

Samantha's conquest of the Peacocks was outstanding as they, especially the male are almost big enough to ride and not exactly timid. But size meant nothing to her as she hammered down her point by bursting out of the bushes at them until they were finally under control and she triumphantly brought in a tail feather as a Trophy.

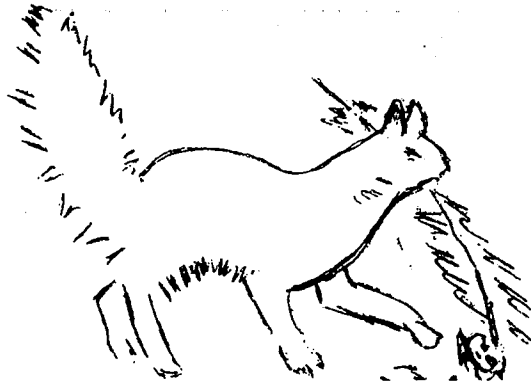
Samantha was (at first reluctantly, since she did not initiate the move) bred to Antonio Vivaldi of Koon Kit, and and in due season produced six beautiful kittens, two cameo and



white, one red and white, and one black and white and one blue a rainbow fleet.

Samantha may be seen in a show or two before long. But she is preparing for a new breeding as soon as a propitious moment arrives, and so Calico Cattery continues in full force,

Nancy Silsbee



TRUE MAINE COON STORY

Share experiences with others about your "Maine Coon Cat". The best True Stories will be printed in newsletters to come. Ask yourself, "What is a Fish, Bird, Dog, or another Cat to a Kitten at first meeting?" For example; this is a true story about the last litter of kittens I had.

When my Maine Coon Cat, Zizzy, felt her time was getting near, she found a dark corner upstairs and made her nest in a bottom bureau drawer. By the next morning, she had a fine litter of five kittens. Being the perfect mother she was, she didn't leave them for two days. During this time, my husband's dog, Duncan, a beagle, took great interest in our "new members of the family". He would sit for hours just watching and trying to play nursemaid to the kittens.

By the next day, Zizzy decided to stretch her legs, so I let her outside. About a half hour later she came in and went straight upstairs - then came back like a shot; very upset. On my way up to investigate, I met Duncan starting down the stairs with a kitten in his mouth. Quickly I reached down and took the kitten and returned it to its nest. To my surprise, they were all missing. I went downstairs and looked in Duncan's bed. There he was, curled up with the Kittens, all fast asleep. I put them back and tried to explain to Duncan that he was a dog. Of course, he didn't understand too well because he tried it two or three more times before the kittens were weaned. Duncan had never seen baby kittens or even puppies. How did he know what to do?

Please print your stories or type, and send them to Mrs. Gail Apy,
40 Deep Valley Road, New Canaan, Conn.

Thanks to Mr. John MacDonald, President of The New York Suburban Cat Fanciers for helping to interest Crown in Maine Coon Cats. His club will be the first Crown club in the New York area.



"The Maine Coon Cat, the only native American breed which has evolved of itself." Jane Martinke - Cats Magazine - Jan. 1970



Free Pedigree Forms - Send 3 Calo labels to Calo Pet Foods, P.O. Box 4077, Oakland, Calif. 94623. Be sure to specify Cat Pedigree Forms. They will send 10 very nice blank forms.



Muriel Corgan says read, "The Complete Cat Guide" by Grace Pond, a Pet Library book. It has an interesting section on Maine Coon Cats.

"OUR YANKEE CAT GOES NATIONAL"

By Rod Ljostad

In August of 1968 six Maine Coon owners gathered in Salisbury, Connecticut; Ousi Kiefer, Betty and Rod Ljostad, Theodora O'Toole, Nancy Silsbee, and Nate Wartell were there. From this nucleus the Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers Association was formed. Our hope was to unite all those who were interested in Maine Coon Cats. From the start it was evident that there would have to be two divisions; one for those who were breeding Maine Coon Cats, and another for fanciers. The Breeders Division started meeting monthly, and within a little more than a year had succeeded in adopting a standard for Maine Coon Cats. This standard was presented to all cat associations for their approval, so that eventually we may have one standard in use by all associations.

One of our early purposes was to encourage owners of Maine Coons to show them as often as possible, so that they could become known in the cat fancy. It is an impressive sight to see a dozen Maine Coon Cats on display at a show. To encourage owners to show, The Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers Association awards a ribbon for Best Maine Coon in every ring of every show at which four or more full adult Maine Coon Cats are shown. Starting May first similar awards will be made for kittens. At the end of the year a trophy

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(Our Yankee Cat cont.)

will be awarded to the cat with the most wins. The buttons used on these ribbons have also been prepared with pin backs so that they can be used as membership badges.

Our response to an unfortunate cross country shipping incident was to develop two codes: 1. A Code for the Sale of Kittens, and 2. A Code for the Shipping of Kittens. These codes were designed to protect both the buyer and the breeder; but primarily the kitten.

This Scratch Sheet was started to get information to all Fanciers Division members. The aim is to provide interesting information on the history, grooming, breeding, etc. of Maine Coons.

At about the time of our last election one of our members decided to start another society for owners of Maine Coon Cats.

As we developed into a nation wide organization it soon became evident that important issues would have to be settled by mail ballot, to give distant members a voice in the organization. We have tried to transact all business in a truly democratic manner. The Breeders Division has been meeting in different locations to give members a chance to see more Maine Coon Cats and catteries. Informative meetings such as Bob Ford's talk on Genetics are fully reported to all members by meeting reports and the Scratch Sheet.

We now have 56 members of whom 19 are members of the Breeders Division. This membership is spread over 17 states, mostly along the Atlantic Coast as might be expected, but also along the Gulf Coast, and into the Central States. We even have one from Alaska.

In July 1969 Cats Magazine had a two page feature article on Maine Coon Cats by Jane Martinke. From that story comes the title of this article. We have received permission to make reprints. They will be available to anyone interested.

Where do we go from here? It all depends on you, and you, and you.

<p>203- 966-4331</p> <p>RATIKI CATTERY</p> <p>Mrs. Gail Apy 40 Deep Valley Rd. New Canaan, Conn.</p> <p>MAINE COONS</p>	<p>201-694-9248 stud service</p> <p>NORWYNDE CATTERY</p> <p>Mrs. Lillias Vanderhoff 21 Jacksonville Road Pequannock, New Jersey 07440</p> <p>MAINE COONS</p>
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 1970 - 71 season starts May 1st. We welcome new members and hope that present members will feel it is important enough to continue. Dues paid now will continue membership until April 30, 1971. You may complete the form on the bottom of the page and send it in with your dues for one year.

Breeders Division

For breeders who have bred and are breeding purebred Maine Coon Cats.

- Benefits:
1. The Breeders Division will hold regular meetings to formulate policy for the association.
 2. Votes on important issues will be by mail ballot for the benefit of distant members.
 3. Scratch Sheet
 4. Stud List
 5. May request Best Maine Coon ribbons for shows.
 6. Breeders will be listed on Cattery List.
 7. Meeting reports.

Dues: \$10 Annual Membership , Family Membership \$15

Junior Members - Breeders Division

For children age 12 to 18 who have an interest in breeding Maine Coon Cats. Junior members do not receive voting privileges.

- Benefits:
1. May attend meetings
 2. Receive Breeders Division meeting reports.
 3. Scratch Sheet.

Dues: \$2 Annual Membership

Fanciers Division

For anyone interested in the Maine Coon Cat.

- Benefits:
1. Scratch Sheet Newsletter
 2. Cattery List

Dues: \$2 Annual Membership

MAIL TO Mrs. Liliias Vanderhoff, MCEFA Treasurer, 21 Jacksonville Rd. Pequannock, New Jersey 07440

(check one)

I am interested in joining the Breeders Division
 Junior Members
 Fanciers Division

of the Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers Association.

Enclosed _____ Name _____

Address _____
