



THE SCRATCH SHEET

MAINE COON BREEDERS & FANCIERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 1971

Newsletter

"for the promotion & protection of the Maine Coon Cat"

ANNUAL AWARDS

Our award for Best Maine Coon Cat for the 1970 - 71 show year has been awarded to

MIEOU'S DAMARISCOTTA

Red & White Parti-color Female

Breeder & Owner - Muriel Corgan

Scotty, as she is commonly known to friends, collected the greatest number of MCBFA Best Maine Coon Ribbons for the year. Muriel Corgan was presented with a beautiful walnut and brass plaque.

Our award for Best Maine Coon Kitten for the 1970 - 71 show year went to

WAR-TELL'S PLAYBOY

Black & White Parti-color Male

Breeder - Florence & Nate Wartell

Owner - Barbara Smith

Playboy, resplendently attired in the feline equivalent of a tuxedo, gathered the greatest number of MCBFA Best Maine Coon Kitten Ribbons. The plaque went to Barbara Smith of Marlboro, New Jersey.

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 Editor----- Miss. C. DuPree, 429 $\frac{1}{2}$ Orange Rd., Montclair, N.J.

It's the Greatest

The Pine Tree Cat Club of Portland, Maine had their third annual show this summer. In addition to the usual awards, they also had prizes for things such as youngest, oldest, furriest, longest tail, prettiest face, most fraidy cat, biggest thief, and most mysterious (he couldn't be located).

The prize for biggest cat went to Boots, a 15 pound Maine Coon brought by Mrs. Eunice Daley. Boots who is orange and white, also took the Best Maine Coon award.



"Max, our Maine Coon, is a wonderful cat and purrs all the time. His favorite thing is catching flies, which he is quite good at. David spends a lot of time letting them in the house for him, and the two of them go on hunting trips to find them."

Carol Fertig - Chicago

MIEAOU CATTERY

Mrs. Muriel Corgan
 PO Box 706
 Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
 12601.

HOME OF:
 MIEAOU'S DAMARISCOTTA
 MCBFA Best Maine Coon '71

Maine Coon

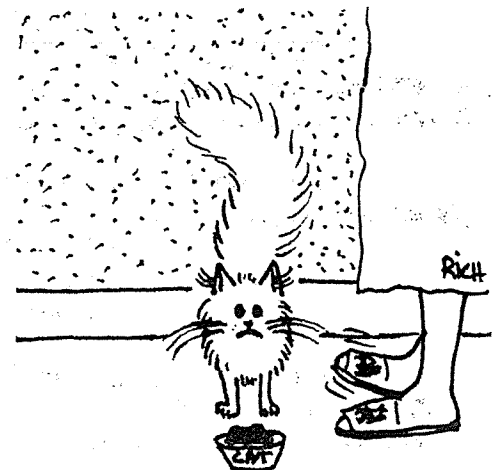
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UP TO DATE

Betty Ljostad

Maine Coon Kittens At CFF Shows ---- All Maine Coon Kittens now need a CFF registration number to be shown in CFF Shows.

DARAK Medal ---- Several months ago, upon the request of the San Diego Cat Fanciers (who correspond with them), information on the Maine Coon was sent to the oldest cat club in Denmark, the Dansk Racekatte Klub. In appreciation for the information, they have sent us their golden Club Medal to be awarded to the Best Maine Coon shown at one of the American Shows. This medal will be awarded at the ACFA, Allentown Pa. Show on Nov. 6, & 7 by Phyllis Whitney, President of ACFA. For further information on this show, contact:

Mrs. Dawn Brendle
132 N. 11 St.
Allentown, Pa. 18102.

Grand Champion Maine Coon ---- Congratulations to LaVera Miller of Glendora California, on "Sir Driftwood of Populi" (copper eyed white neuter), the first Grand Champion Maine Coon Cat!

POTPURRY Column ---- In response to Popular Demand, Connie Condit will be editing our new POTPURRY Column which will include
..... whatever YOU would like it to include. Send all questions and suggestions to:

LTC Connie Condit
3057 S. Kearney St.
Denver, Colorado 80222.

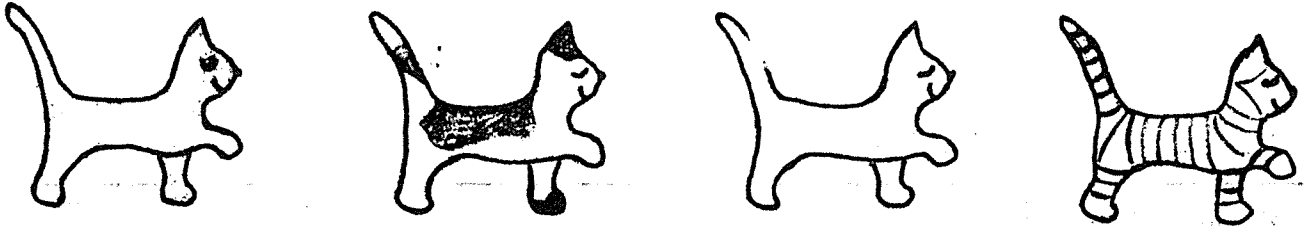
"Ours is an old State-of-Maine family, several members of which, years past, have had (and cherished) coon cats. In fact one of my cousins had a magnificent coon cat which died only a couple of years ago, at the ripe old age of 26 or 27 years.

I'll have to check with him the next time we go visiting down east, to see if he has any interesting stories to tell."

Richard Castner - Brockport, N.Y.

"I have a bag of hair combings that I collect now for a 'nest' of spinners in our neighborhood. The teenage son of the family noted the possibilities when he visited our seven cat household, and he has already picked up one bagfull of potential hairballs. We await with interest his report on the spinning properties of our cathairs. Naturally 'Cloud Nine's' blonde Maine tresses impressed the lad very much."

Mrs. J.P. Purchase - Ontario



P O T P U R R Y

Connie Condit.

Well you asked for it! At least many of you indicated that you would like a question and answer column in the "Scratch Sheet"..... so here it is.

First of all, lets define the purpose of the column. It is a "share the wealth" instrument for MCBFA members to use to ask all those questions we forget when we are at the veterinary's ... some of which might stump him too. No question is too silly. Secondly, while I will edit this column, I do not claim to be a "know it all" and will welcome help from all of you out there. If you disagree or have an alternate suggestion, please say so, but on paper so we can print it.

The topic for this issue is cat colors. I feel fairly safe with this one since 3 years ago I didn't know a tabby from a tortie and my grandmother's blue-cream looked like that because she was old and faded! Like many of you, I grew up with tigers, maltese, gray and orange cats; spotted, speckled, black, and white cats; and "lucky" three colored cats, most of whom lived at the barn and worked for their board and room.

Lets start with "tiger cats". These are tabbys and there are essentially two patterns: the mackerel tabby, the fellow in the convict suit with stripes all over; and the classic tabby who has stripes on head, legs, and tail but looks like a marble cake in the middle. Some people call this swirled pattern "bull's eyes". Tabby markings are genetically dominant much to the dismay of breeders who want solid colors. Many solid colored adults entered the world wearing stripes which faded as they grew up.

Tabbys come in every color. If your "tiger" has a buff or brownish base coat with black stripes he is a brown tabby. If his base coat is pale gray with black stripes he is a silver tabby, or he may be a red or blue tabby etc.



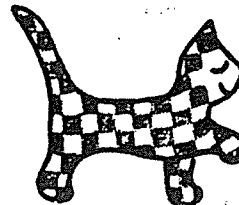
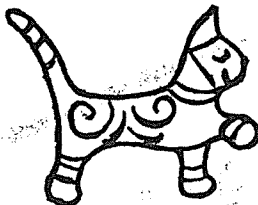
Speaking of colors, your "orange" cat is red in the fancy. If they are very pale orange or buff colored, they are cream. The old "gray" neighborhood bum has turned blue as has the "maltese" mouser who worked at the butcher shop. That speckled cat, the one that looked like a black cat who'd run through a paint factory is a tortoiseshell. Incidentally, it is 99.4% sure he is a she. The same goes for the calico that's the "lucky" cat with large well defined patches of orange ... oops! .. red, white, and either black or blue (gray). The spotted cats, white with big spots (all one color) are now particolored. Some associations also apply this term to cats with white boots and shirts, while others insist that particolored must be at least one third white. Take your choice, I'm still confused.

Believe it or not, blacks are still blacks and whites are still white but watch out. If your black cat is wearing white underwear (ruffle up his coat) then he is a smoke. Same goes for your blue. If your white cat has colored tips on the outer coat then you have a silver or a cameo depending upon whether the tipping is black or red.

Finally, if you find that your tortoiseshell has stripes, she's a torbie. If she also appears to have taken a bath in bleach you'll have to call her a smoke-torbie; and if she stood in the bleach too long, you'd better add "with white" to take care of her mittens.

I have covered only the basic patterns and colors; cats have real creative talent in this field. One of the reasons I am so "hooked" on Maine Coons is that we tend to accept them in the colors they choose. I hope that never changes. I'm eagerly awaiting the day my Bridget presents me with a kitten in Blackwatch Tartan!

Comie.



MAINE COON PROFILES

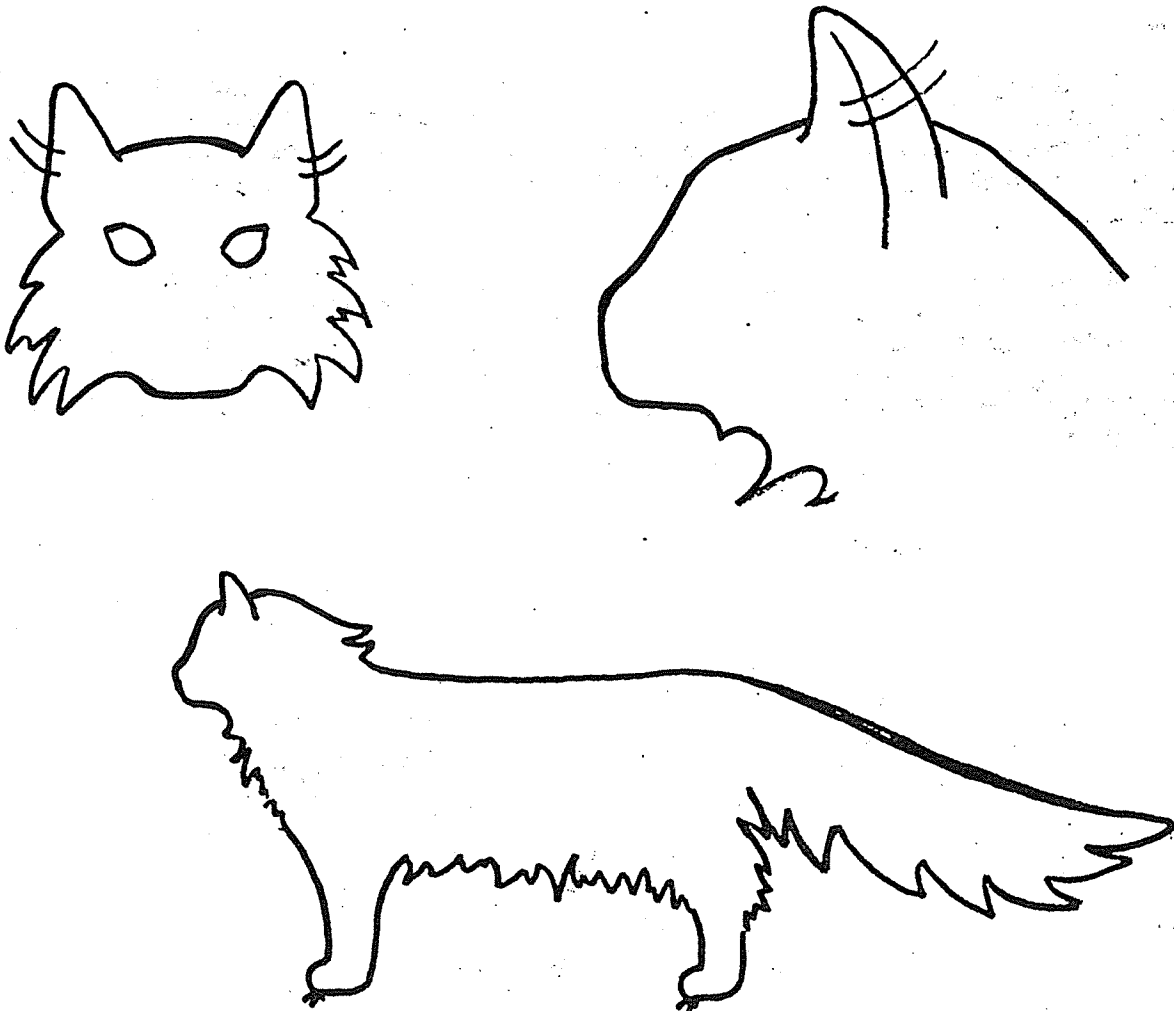
The Breeders Division of MCBFA has just completed these profile views of Maine Coon Cats. Many of the registering organizations require them to illustrate the standards. Up to now there were none available for Maine Coon Cats.

Our procedure was to send out a request for possible profiles from Maine Coon Breeders. These were sorted out at one of our meetings, and the best four or five of each view were sent out for a preliminary choice, additions, or subtractions. Many good suggestions came in from all over the country.

From this information we were able to prepare some good possibilities, again several of each view. These were sent out for mail ballot. In most cases, the view you see below was selected by a large majority of the breeders.

On the next two pages we have reproduced the standard so that you can check one against the other.

MAINE COON CAT



MAINE COON BREEDERS & FANCIERS ASSOCIATION

"for the promotion & protection of the Maine Coon Cat"

STANDARD FOR THE MAINE COON CAT

HEAD 20 POINTS

- Head Shape Medium in width, except in the older more developed studs where it should be quite broad. Cheek bones high. The nose and face should be medium long, with an appearance of squareness to the muzzle. Slight or no break in the nose.
- Ears Large in size. Tufted, pointed, and wide at base.
- Eyes Large, round, wide set. Slightly oblique setting.
- Chin Firm and in line with upper lip and nose.
- Undesirable Short flat face, or long pointed nose. Undershot chin. Short, rounded, narrow set ears. Narrow, slanting eyes.

BODY 30 POINTS

- Neck Medium long. In the older, more mature cats, especially studs, the neck should be thick and muscular, giving the appearance of power and strength.
- Body Shape Muscular, powerful, and long. The chest should be full and from medium to large in size. The body should be level, but in stance the hind legs hold the body slightly lower than the front. There should be a definite squareness where the hind legs join the body at the rump. All the physical aspects of the cat should be in proportion to one another.
- Tail Long and full. Wide at the base, and should taper to it's end with no kinks.
- Legs & Feet Substantial, muscular, wide set, and of medium height. The cat should stand up well on it's forelegs giving the impression of an unbroken line from shoulder to forepaw. Paws should be large, round, and well tufted, with five toes in front and four in back.
- Undesirable Short legs and untufted feet. Short cobby body and short neck. A rounded rump. Kinked tail. Delicate, dainty bone structure.

COAT 20 POINTSCoat

The fur on the front shoulders is short and should become gradually longer along the back towards the tail, ending in a shaggy, heavy coat on the britches. The sides of the cat's coat should gradually get longer until the stomach is reached, where it should be long and full. A full ruff is not expected; however, there should be a slight frontal ruff beginning at the base of the ears. The fur on the tail should be long and full. Feet should be tufted. Coat should be fine, heavy, lustrous, and should fall smoothly. A slight undercoat may be carried. This is the optimum coat and will vary with climate.

COAT COLOR 10 POINTSCoat Color

The following colors are recognized in the Maine Coon Cat:

White	Silver Tabby	Blue Mackerel Tabby
Black	Cream Tabby	Cameo Mackerel Tabby
Blue	Red Tabby	Tortoiseshell
Red	Brown Tabby	Calico
Cream	Blue Tabby	Blue-Cream
Silver	Cameo Tabby	Parti-color: Solids
Cameo	Silver Mackerel Tabby	Parti-color: Tabby, Tortie
Black Smoke	Cream Mackerel Tabby	Other Maine Coon Colors
Blue Smoke	Red Mackerel Tabby	
Cameo Smoke	Brown Mackerel Tabby	

EYE COLOR 10 POINTSEye Color

Eye color may be green or gold. White cats may also be either blue or odd eyed. Clarity of color is desirable.

Undesirable

Impure color (flecks or rings). However improper eye color shall not disqualify the cat.

CONDITION 10 POINTSCondition

Solid, firm, muscular. Should be presented in a well groomed manner.

Magnolian Enjoys Raising Rare Coon Cats

By STEVE FORD
Staff Writer

Many a required college course seems to have dubious value for the student. The complaint is often heard that "I don't get anything out of the course."

The complaint is by no means a new one. When Mrs. Gordon Broach of 321 Beene Street, attended State Teachers College at Conway, she was required to take a course in American literature. However irrelevant the course may have been, Mrs. Broach received something from it that stuck with her for life.

"I remember reading a story in which an obscure breed of cat was mentioned. I thought perhaps that there was no such breed, since it was listed in neither encyclopedias nor pet books. The breed was "Maine Coon."

After more investigation, Mrs. Broach purchased a small cat book which listed the Maine Coon and showed a picture of it.

"I decided then that I would like to have a Maine Coon kitten," Mrs. Broach stated.

Logically, Mrs. Broach wrote to Maine for information.

"I contacted two Chambers of Commerce there and both put me in touch with the same breeder in Augusta, Maine."

Mrs. Broach contacted the breeder and made arrangements to have one kitten shipped to Magnolia by air. The results were disastrous for the kitten.

"Somewhere along the way the kitten was exposed to bad weather. It arrived at my house with an advanced case of pneumonia and died within a few days," Mrs. Broach sadly recalled.



Walking the Cats

Mrs. Gordon Broach of 321 Beene Street takes her Maine Coon cats Karen and Christa for a leisurely, late afternoon stroll. The cats are the only two of their kind registered in Arkansas. The cats, which have shown in various cities around the south, are kept on a leash outside to insure their safety.

Unshaken, she tried again. This time her efforts met with better luck.

"I took no chances this time," she explained. "My next cats were ordered from Houston and were driven personally to their new home by me."

Karen and Christa are sisters. Both longhairs with deep reddish-brown markings. Although they are very shy around strangers, they soon

make friends and continue about their business as usual.

"To the best of my knowledge, these are the only Maine Coon cats registered in Arkansas," Mrs. Broach said.

Karen and Christa entered their first cat shows when they were six and eight months old. Although not in championship show because of their age, both kittens received excellent marks, both bringing home the



Cat Nap's Over!

It seems that privacy has gone to the dogs nowadays. Two very sleepy Maine Coon cats, Karen and Christa, were disturbed from their cat naps just to pose for a photographer. Both cats were willing to oblige, but Christa decided the whole thing was a waste of

time and crept off to finish her nap under the kitchen table. Karen, whose afternoon nap was totally ruined, wandered over to sit in the sun streaming through the window, muttering things only another sleepless feline would understand.

first ribbon of their collection. At a show in Memphis while still a kitten, Karen received best long hair kitten (female) in show.

In March this year, both cats entered their championship competition in a show in Lexington, Ky. Each was awarded two wins toward a championship. Later, in McComb, Miss., Karen won a double championship, a win toward one of the highest awards given at cat shows.

For the present time, the cats are relaxing at home; far from the cat show circuit. Summer is a bad time to show cats, especially longhairs such as Christa and Karen. The heat and humidity affect the cats' fur and disposition, so the cats are allowed a vacation.

During the day, Karen and Christa lounge in their fenced-in pen under the carport. At

night they are allowed to sleep indoors, but Mrs. Broach keeps them in a pen in "their room."

"I don't allow the cats to roam the house at night for fear they'll get into some trouble," Mrs. Broach explained. "I certainly don't want anything to happen to these cats."

Mrs. Broach is very fond of the cats and enjoys talking about them. "I sometimes think I could talk all day about the cats and their history," she says.

The cats have an unusual, although obscure, past. Many legends and tales have been spread about their origin and peculiar name.

"The Maine Coon is really the only true American breed of cat," Mrs. Broach said. "The Maine Coon developed fully on its own with no help from man, giving them the honor of being original to the United States and Maine."

Mrs. Broach was familiar with many of the legends surrounding the cats' origin, but subscribed to only one herself.

"It is believed," she said, "that the cats were brought here as longhaired pets by sailors. They were very valuable pets, since they could not only catch rats and mice but were beautiful as well. Some of the cats probably were left in New England where they mated with other cats."

Mrs. Broach discarded the belief that the cats might have mated with either true raccoons or even wildcats. "It's just not biologically possible," she explained.

Some of the cats do bear striking resemblances to their namesake, the raccoon.

"I had left the cats in my car in Little Rock and gone across the street into a store," Mrs. Broach recalled. "As I came out, I noticed a meter

maid beside the car, although I knew there was time left on the meter. It turned out she wasn't checking the meter, just the cats. She thought they were real raccoons!"

Mrs. Broach has joined with other cat fanciers in openly accepting the Maine Coon. "Until recently, Maine Coons were not considered a true breed of cat. Today, however, six of the nine major cat associations do accept them."

She is also active in working for the continuance of the breed.

"There was a time when the Maine Coon was being spayed and neutered so that he was in danger of extinction. We

are working hard to prevent this from happening."

Karen and Christa will also do their part to insure the propagation of the species: both

will be bred later in the year. This will be a nervous time for Mrs. Broach, since it will be the first time the cats have been shipped without being personally chauffeured.

If all goes well, the Broach household will soon be blessed with the patter of tiny feet. The kittens will grow up in a unique atmosphere, since they will be treated by the Broaches with all respect due to America's only true breed of cat.

With thanks to Steve Ford who wrote the article and also took the pictures, and to The Daily Banner - News of Magnolia, Arkansas for giving us permission to reprint

Please Don't Eat The Philodendron

One of our recent articles mentioned the fact that most house plants are toxic to cats. If you would like to delve more deeply into this subject write to Cornell University for their bulletin "Common Poisonous Plants" by John M. Kingsbury. Free to residents of New York State, twenty cents to others. Write to Mailing Room, Cornell University, Research Park, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

"If a cat eats house plants it is because the animal needs greens such as grass. A good substitute is young oat sprouts. I plant a small dish every two or three weeks so there is a constant supply of succulent new green shoots for my cat to nibble on."

Mrs. Edward J. Volkman, North Salem, N.Y.

For the Promotion ...

As of August tenth, The Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers Association has sent information about Maine Coon Cats to 675 people who have written in asking about these fascinating cats.

From the Warrington, Virginia Cat Show

Hunting Cat Trial (Non-Championship, Fun Class)
Entrants will prove their ability and interest in following the scent of mice by finding their way through a seven compartment maze, the seventh compartment containing three mice protected inside a cage. The first four placings will be based upon time. Entrants may be brought to the trial maze to be timed any time between one and five P.M. Official timers will be present. Awards will be announced and presented during the dinner break.

KITTENS AVAILABLE

As a service to all concerned, we will list (free of charge) any purebred Maine Coon kittens which are available. Just let us know. They are now available from:

D & G Cattery, 429 $\frac{1}{2}$ Orange Rd., Montclair, New Jersey 07042
 Jo Stad Kittery, 12 Brook Lane, Port Chester, New York 10573
 Oak Lan Cattery, 1011 51st Ave., Oakland, California 94601
 War-Tell Cattery, 2 Kipling Rd., Yonkers, New York 10710

STUDS AVAILABLE

Let us know of any purebred full adult male Maine Coons that are available for stud service, and we will be happy to list them (free of charge). We have heard from:

D & G Cattery, 429 $\frac{1}{2}$ Orange Rd., Montclair, New Jersey 07042
 Brown Tabby, Silver Parti-color, Black & White Parti-color
 Susan A. Dow, 187 Whitney St., Hartford, Connecticut 06105
 Solid Black - War-Tell's Linden

TELEPHONE: 914 SP 9-3829

War-Tell Cattery
 MRS. FLORENCE WARTELL
 2 KIPLING ROAD
 YONKERS, N.Y. 10710

MAINE COONS

Jo Stad Kittery

Dr. & Mrs. R. Ljostad
 12 Brook Lane
 Port Chester, N.Y. 10573
 914 - 939 - 2646

JOIN US

Anyone with an interest in Maine Coon Cats will be welcomed as a member. Fanciers Division dues are two dollars per year.

If you have bred purebred Maine Coon cats, join the Breeders Division and help formulate policy. Dues ten dollars per year.

If you are between 12 and 18 years of age and are interested in breeding Maine Coon Cats, you can join the Junior Members. Dues two dollars per year.

Mail to; Lt. Col. Mary Condit, Treasurer
 3057 South Kearney Street
 Denver, Colorado 80222

I would like to join the Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers Association. Please enroll me as a member of the _____ division. Enclosed _____.

Name _____

Address _____