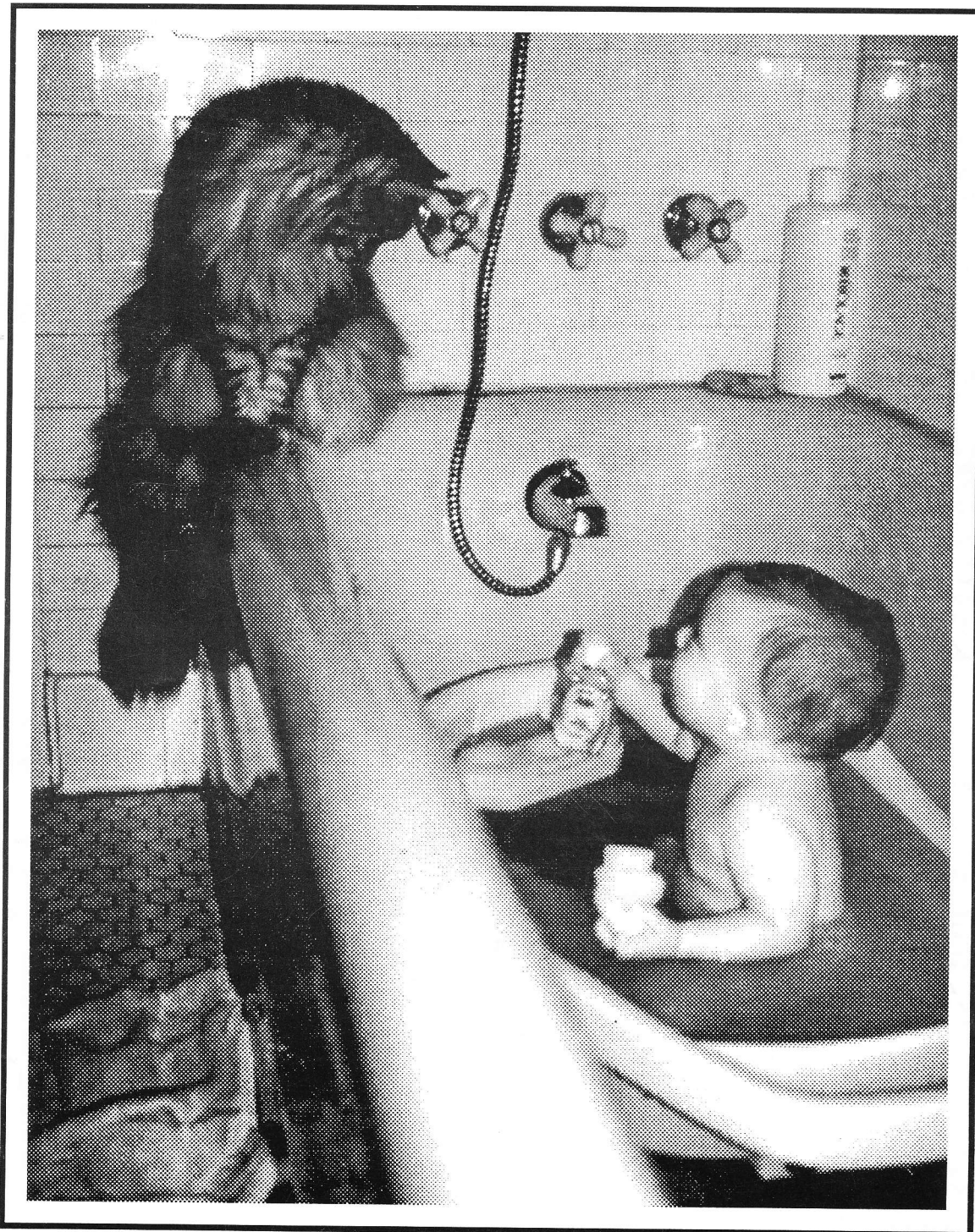


# The Scratch Sheet

*The Official Publication of the  
Maine Coon Breeders & Fanciers Association*  
Established in 1968 for the Promotion & Protection of the Maine Coon Cat  
**SPRING 1993**



**"Come On In - The Water's Fine!"**

*Klipperkats Sir Spencer & Vikki Crystal of Denver, Colorado enjoying a bath*

**IN THIS ISSUE: THE TOP MAINE COONS OF 1991 - 1992**

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No one may run more than one ad per issue (excluding "Breeders For Sale," "Grand Gallery," "Lonesome Toms," and "Lonely Hearts" listings, and merchandise ads).

Payments must be received with ads. Ads may be sent camera-ready, or the Editor will lay out the ad if so requested. Please send your ads and payments to the Editor, address at left.

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SIZE	ONE TIME	ONE YEAR
1/8 Page	\$7.50	\$27.00
1/4 Page	\$15.00	\$60.00
1/2 Page	\$30.00 (limit two per year)	
Full Page	\$60.00 (limit one per year)	

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1/4 Page: \$20.00 per issue  
1/2 Page: \$40.00 per issue  
Full Page: \$80.00 per issue

**ALL AD PHOTOGRAPHS (Including "Grand Gallery")**

\$15.00 charge per photo (photos will be returned if requested and accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope)

**SCRATCH SHEET SUBMISSIONS**

Anyone may submit articles, pictures, and stories to *The Scratch Sheet*; however, only a member may submit "Grand Gallery" information. Letters to the Editor must be signed in order to be published, but names and/or addresses will be withheld if requested. Please send your submissions to the Editor (address at left). Photographs will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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A limited number of back issues are available from the Editor for \$2.50 each.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

*Happy springtime, all!* I hope your houses are filled with happy, healthy pets and people, and that 1993 is treating you well.

### APOLOGY

The Editor humbly apologizes for the lateness of this issue. Due to major hardware failure, the entire issue had to be re-scanned and re-set. I sincerely hope that there aren't too many typos, but in the rush to get the issue re-set and in the mail in a reasonable amount of time, it's entirely possible that the proofreading isn't up to *The Scratch Sheet's* usual standards. Thank you all for your patience and understanding!

### 'SCRATCH SHEET' HAPPENINGS

At the request of several of our members, we're not going to be using so many different type-faces in *The Scratch Sheet*. (Apparently they make it harder to read, and we certainly don't want that!) We've changed the header (also by popular request), so that the page numbers are in the upper outside corner of each page. So look at the new format, and tell us whether or not you like it.

### GRAND GALLERY

Space considerations have forced the elimination of ring wing listings in the Grand Gallery. (The Summer '93 issue

will be the last in which ring wins will appear.) We will, however, continue to list new Grands and cats who have won Best Of The Best In Show.

### AWARDS ISSUE

This issue attempts to feature the top five Maine Coon cats, kittens, and alters in each registry. Congratulations to all these beautiful Maine Coons, and many thanks to their owners for sharing them with all of us.

Unfortunately, TICA could only supply us with the top four Maine Coon cats, kittens, and alters, CFF named only the top two Maine Coons in each category, and CCA only named the top Maine Coon cats - ignoring kittens and alters! Obviously, these registries need a better program!. ACFA and CFA were the only registries who could provide Top Five Maine Coon cats, kittens, and alters. We got nothing from the European registries.

If there are members out there who know the breed rankings in the associations which provided incomplete information (or who provided no information at all, such as GCCF and FiFE) we would welcome that info and will feature it in the Summer issue of *The Scratch Sheet*.

In this issue we also feature an excellent article on hypertrophic cardiomyopa-

thy by Dr. Mark D. Kittleson of the University of California at Davis, and a picture essay of some of the old Heidi-Ho cats. Additionally, we are starting three new sections: *Golden Years*, which recognizes our feline Senior Citizens (Maine Coons over 10 years old); *Best Ever* (Maine Coons who have achieved the highest rankings in three or more registries, or Maines who have achieved the highest national placement of any Maine in the associations in which they were shown); and *Maine Tales* (a place where members can share their anecdotes about their cats). So if your cat qualifies for *Golden Years* and/or *Best Ever*, or if you have anecdotes, stories, or poems to share in *Maine Tales*, please send them to the Editor (along with photos!).

### THANK YOU!

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who has responded so nobly to my request for submissions. Thanks to you, I am now swamped with articles, pictures, and stories — too many, in fact, for one issue! So if you don't see your submission in this issue, please be patient — I promise it will appear soon.

*Your Grateful Editor, Trish*

## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to comment on Helen Wohlfort's article in the Winter *Scratch Sheet*.

I think there is room in the breed for ruffs on either the shoulders or around the face, so long as there *is* a ruff. But certainly I think we should keep the distinctive coat, the luxuriant tails, the ear furnishings and snowshoes. To me those are things that distinguish a Maine Coon.

As to the grouchy expression, I'm not sure what Helen meant. For sure we don't want even a hint of a Persian scowl. But I don't think a 'sweet' look and a 'feral' look are mutually exclusive. My guys are both brown mackerel tabbies; most of the time they are as sweetie-faced as can be, but they are quite capable of looking as feral as any wildcat when it strikes their fancy.

I would also like to know whether any genetic testing or DNA testing has been done on Maine Coons and some of the other small forest cats. I remember a while back I watched a TV program about the Caledonian Forest which featured footage of Scottish Wildcats. It showed a Scottish Wildcat drinking from a forest pool. Before it drank, it raked the surface of the water, just as my Maine Coons do.

I can't help wondering whether these Scottish cats, the Norwegian Forest Cats, Siberian cats, and our own Maine Coons are all regional variations of a basic Northern Forest Cat.

Finally, as a fancier, I'd like to say to the breeders: I personally would prefer to see higher prices and less cats than the other way around. Please, breeders, don't

breed the vitality out of our cats. And please be very, very selective about the cats you sell as breeders and the people to whom you sell them.

*Very sincerely,*

*Barbara E. Svetich, Boise, Idaho*

Dear Editor,

After reading Helen Wohlfort's article "Where Are We Going?" in the Winter '92 *Scratch Sheet*, I felt an earnest desire to respond. Even though I'm a novice at showing this magnificent breed (and not yet a breeder) I feel I can answer a few of Ms. Wohlfort's questions, though I agree with many of the issues she raises.

When she says "...the beautiful green-gold eyes... have practically disappeared from the breed..." I have to disagree. I have had three Maine Coons from

**LETTERS (Continued)**

Dianna M. Jones' cattery, Blazers Maine Coons (one currently on the show circuit), and all three have had the mysterious and lovely green/gold combination. They have also had the short-on-the-shoulders, longer-in-the-back coat and the square muzzle. So I have to say, the standards that made the Maine Coon distinctive have not necessarily disappeared. As to the expression - I would think a better description of the Maine Coon look is 'regal.' These Maine Coons look like the lion in expression - not grumpy. And I see that as the distinction - Norwegian Forest Cats may continue to look 'sweet.' I much prefer the regal look of the Maine Coon.

The most difficult question to address is the way the breed has 'changed.' I do not subscribe to the notion that all change is bad. Just as we no longer drive black Model-T Fords, I believe there is room for some expansion of the standard to include the beauty of the copper-eyed silver, and perhaps some other variations. I agree that the standard shouldn't be drastically altered, but I trust the bright breeders to incorporate the 'good' from the ring judging and forgive the judges their occasional 'off' day.

Based on the multitudes of people who crowd around the bench cages at the few shows I've done, the increased numbers of Maine Coons registered, and the fact that quality kittens are in such high demand, I would say "Don't be discouraged. Maine Coon quality does exist and there are breeders concerned with it."

*Very Sincerely,*

Sandra L. Schwartzbach, Ridgecrest, CA

Dear Editor,

MCBFA is an organization that I proudly support and promote wholeheartedly! Though we are few in number up here in Canada, we are working hard to introduce the Maine Coon from coast to coast, and even up into the territories. Wherever I am showing, I always have the latest edition of *The Scratch Sheet* with me to let interested parties take a look and discover for themselves what we already know - The Maine Coon is just *The Best Cat Ever!*

Being a relative newcomer to the Maine Coon breeding world, I have been fortunate to meet some of the greatest

people and their marvelous cats, and have been lucky enough to acquire some of those cats with whom to share my home. Now I and others in Canada are trying to create some of the Maine Coon beauty up here for Canadians to enjoy.

My concerns about the breed were to some extent addressed in a letter printed in the Fall issue of *The Scratch Sheet*, dealing with the Code of Ethics. I, too, had the unfortunate experience of being 'jerked around' by an MCBFA member. Aside from the initial cost of purchasing a kitten (add in the exchange for us to change our money), I tallied up hundreds of dollars in vet bills, transportation costs, and telephone bills. And when the end finally came, there was only grief. The kitten succumbed to a fatal disease — there was nothing we could have done.

Had this been my initial, or only, experience with a breeder (and especially an approved MCBFA breeder) I might have given up. Thankfully, it was not.

The cats that I am presently working with are all very special to me, as are all the people who helped bring them into the world. These people are some of the 'great' ones to whom I made reference earlier in this letter. They were honest, fair, and more than generous to me right from our first meeting, and still are!

I am thrilled to be an MCBFA breeder member, and look forward to meeting many more of you out there 'on the road.' I do believe that most MCBFA breeders are extremely conscious of the importance of upholding and maintaining high ethical standards in our breeding programs — health-wise, living-condition-wise, and social-wise. However, I do look forward to having in place a committee to deal with the small minority who cause heartache, grief, and anger to those who try to deal with them.

Ultimately, our cats rely on us to do the right things; in most ways we, not Mother Nature, are the controlling factor. In my opinion I cannot be another Mother Nature, but I can be a loving partner to my cats, providing for their emotional and physical needs the best I can, and try to promote the Maine Coon as Mother Nature would — happy, healthy, hardy, and ready to live life!

*Very sincerely,*

Laura Grams

WYNDHAVEN Maine Coons

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in hopes that it will help some other owner whose cat has cardiomyopathy.

We used to own an Abyssinian who developed cardio when she was 1-1/2 years old. We went through some tough times with her — our vet had tried everything he could, but Cinnamon only got worse. Finally, he wanted to try giving her large doses of taurine and some baby aspirins. We worked with our vet, another vet from South Jersey, and the Cornell School of Veterinary Medicine.

Cinnamon received 500 mg of taurine (250 mg in the morning, and 250 mg in the evening) a day, and 1/2 of a baby aspirin every other day (this was based on her size - the most she ever weighed was seven pounds).

The main key to this treatment is to make sure the cat gets the medication! We would open the 500 mg capsule, put some butter on the end to seal it, and administer the 1/2 capsule orally.

She had EKGs and echocardiograms. The echocardiograms were six months apart, and the last showed a reversal of the cardio. We were so happy to have reversed it, only to lose her three months later to a rare blood disorder.

My advice to anyone who has a cat with diagnosed cardio is: Please ask your vet about taurine. It worked for us, and it is proven that taurine can reverse some types of cardio.

*Very sincerely,*

Mary Alice Dickson, Neshanic, NJ

(Editor's Note: Taurine has been shown effective in treating the dilated form of cardiomyopathy.)

Dear Editor,

Patsy Stephens - I hope that your letter in the Summer '92 *Scratch Sheet* opens many eyes. We have printed it in the International Sphynx Breeders & Fanciers Association newsletter, *The Naked Truth*, and I am waiting for our members to comment on it.

Trish, keep up your marvelous work on *The Scratch Sheet*; it and MCBFA are the models for our breed association and we aspire to the same popularity that you enjoy.

*Lisa Bressler*

ISBFA President

# FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION...

*By Lisa Bressler, President, International Sphynx Breeders & Fanciers Association*

Following is an excerpt from my President's Message in the Fall 1991 issue of ISBFA's newsletter, *The Naked Truth*. I hope that your members will respond to it as well as ours did.

*(Ed. Note: Although the following addresses Sphynx owners and breeders, it is equally relevant to the Maine Coon (just insert 'Maine Coon' wherever you see 'Sphynx'), and should provide us with lots of food for thought. Thank you, Lisa, for sharing it with us!)*

In this message I would like to address a more serious subject than I have in the past, and that is our motto: "For The Promotion and Protection of the Sphynx Cat." What does that mean? It is something that all of us, whether fanciers or breeders, can and should be doing, and something that is possible for all of us to do.

*To promote the Sphynx:* It is obvious that breeders are out there showing their cats and getting them seen by the public. The Sphynx owners who do not breed but do show their alters are doing the same thing. We are at the shows, answering questions about our cats, and hopefully dispelling some of the crazy myths about them. The fanciers who choose not to show their cats promote them every time company comes over and are won over by the cats themselves, and by showing their 'baby pictures' to their friends. Everyone who owns a Sphynx becomes a 'Sphynx Fanatic' and their love for their cats is a better promotion tool than all of the newspaper articles and TV appearances combined.

*To protect the Sphynx:* Ah, here we move into more subjective territory. This is more the responsibility of the breeders. How do we 'protect' our breed? Obviously we don't hire bodyguards or tote a gun, but there are things which seem to me to be ways to prevent our wonderful cats from following the route of other 'trendy pets' such as the Chinese Shar-Pei, which has fallen victim to the 'dime-a-dozen' variety where there are now so many of them that many of the breeders have

trouble giving them away. Also, improper breeding practices have rendered many of these dogs victims of health and temperament problems. This has happened with other breeds of dogs when the breeders bred to achieve certain characteristics. Look at the Dobermans or German Shepherds as an example.

What am I trying to say? There is nothing wrong with placing a show quality animal as a pet. If the new owner wants to show the cat in the Alter class, he or she is promoting the breed just as it would have been promoted if the cat had been kept whole, except that the cat is generally more tractable and can be shown as long as the owner wishes without worrying about the problems we encounter when our boys grow up or our girls start cycling.

What if somebody isn't interested in breeding, but wants a show alter or just a show quality cat as a pet? What do we do? If you, as a breeder, have an exceptional litter but don't need to keep the kittens for your breeding program, are you going to force someone to breed who doesn't want to? I welcome the people who want to keep their cats strictly as pets, or who want to show them as alters.

Many times I wonder if someone who has never bred before thinks he or she can make a lot of money breeding Sphynx, since this is not an inexpensive cat. No matter what you tell them about the added expense of breeding, and the occasional heartbreak that all breeders encounter, many of them don't hear you. The more breeders there are, the more cats there are and the quality is bound to deteriorate as the quantity proliferates.

Yes, there are some serious people out there who want the best for the breed. Many of them have started out with alters, and after having seen what is involved in having a successful breeding program have either made the decision to start a breeding program of their own, or to stick with their altered cats. They prove their commitment by joining ISBFA and agreeing to promote and protect our breed. But ask any breeder of Sphynx about the number of weirdoes who call looking for breeders or 'genetically com-

patible pairs' (yup, I got a letter like that!) — people who have never bred any kind of animal before. You will probably be told some very high number.

One of the things that I have noticed about Sphynx breeders is that everybody knows everybody who has ever called one of us looking for a Sphynx. To have such a network is good, as some people may tell you one thing and tell some other breeder something else after talking to you, or vice versa. The declawing issue is only one such example, although there are many others (such as the people who tell one breeder that they want the cat as a pet, and tell another breeder that they plan to breed). We protect our breed by talking to one another.

Having a good sales contract is another way we protect not only our beloved cats, but also the buyer of the cat and ourselves. Health guarantees are essential, as well as provisions for the cat's future care and living environment. If someone says "I'm paying so much for this cat I can do whatever I want with it," I'm sure as shootin' not going to sell him one of my babies! Many of us with 'restrictive' contracts have been criticized for them, but if the prospective buyer has a problem with it, as far as I'm concerned he can go elsewhere. Unfortunately Sphynx can be bought without contracts or restrictions, and that is going to be the downfall of our breed. As backyard breeders grow in number, there will be a day when Sphynx will be available in pet stores because there will be too many of them to find good homes for. Imagine your baby in one of those wire cages, being ogled and poked at, without the loving nurturing to which any young animal has the basic right.

I would like all of you to take a moment to think about our motto and what it means to you. I would like you to use this newsletter as a forum to air your feelings about it. Please, give us your opinion! I hope your response will be overwhelming. Even if you have never taken the time to write before, do it now! I have gone out on a limb by expressing my feelings. I'd like some company. □

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

*By Carol Lawson, ACFA Breed Committee Chairman*

*Reprinted from The Maine Coonnection, the official newsletter of the ACFA Maine Coon Breed Council*

Whatever happened to the good old days? You remember — those fun-filled weekends when anticipation was high and rewards were few and far between — but each and every reward was cherished and appreciated and most importantly, acknowledged by everyone? You know what I'm talking about! Good sportsmanship in the name of furthering the Maine Coon breed.

More and more often, I see fewer breeders/exhibitors sharing that camaraderie. What's the matter? Have we become callous and calculating for the almighty WIN? Could it be ... ?

I often reminisce about the 'good old days,' when it *seemed* as though everyone shared a common bond and cause ... to move our breed from obscurity to its rightful place among purebred cats. Now it seems that everybody has a reason for either winning or not winning — it's just like anything else; people always need an excuse ... or perhaps the better wording is 'people are always looking for a scapegoat.'

What is it this year? What pet peeve can we select and harp on to create a 'bone of contention?' What reason can we use for winning or losing? I hear lots of things ... size, politics, color, sex (male vs. female), coat length, age, profile, the judging cages, temperament, championship status (i.e., "it's a grand"), the judge's perfume, the show hall, the Standard ... it goes on and on and on.

Hopefully, if you are a serious breeder and/or exhibitor, you own a copy of the Maine Coon Standard of Perfection for the association in which you show. I hope that I am not being presumptuous to think that you have read and studied it. This is the road map, the guide which every breeder needs to follow. This is a description of the PERFECT Maine Coon, which NO ONE will ever own or breed, but one which is the ultimate goal towards which to strive. If I am to assume that you have indeed read the standard, then you have an interpretation of your own, just as everyone else has his or her own individual interpretation. Each and every judge also has read (hopefully) and studied the Maine Coon Standard and drawn from it his or her own interpretation. No two people will share exactly the same interpretation on each and every detail.

Our Standard was originally written by people many years before we all ever considered being owned by Maine Coons. The true pioneers of our breed were people who shared not only a camaraderie, but knowledge of the Maine Coon at its infancy within the cat fancy. Ours, remember, is a natural breed, NOT created by man, now being proliferated by man for the preservation of an historical breed. I hear people disillusioned by not winning in the show ring using "we need to change the Standard" as their 'scapegoat.' Since one's cats can't come close enough

(or as close as another cat) to the Standard, then the Standard must be changed. What about breeding to meet the Standard more closely? Perhaps that is just a bit too difficult for some to want to undertake. What a pity. Who loses in the end? Why would there ever be a reason to change that which is natural and inflict our own likes and dislikes, which have no bearing whatsoever on the REAL Maine Coon? I would hope there would never be a reason. I would hate to see our breed modified into something it should not become because of human influence. Think of other cat breeds, dog breeds, etc., and how they have been drastically changed and, in some cases, their existence threatened because of man's intervention.

As we complain and find our excuses for winning or losing in the show ring, who is it that is ultimately going to win or lose? Not us the people, but the Maine Coon as a breed. We have chosen to be involved with the Maine Coon, and therefore are charged with the responsibility to continue what all those pioneers worked so hard for.

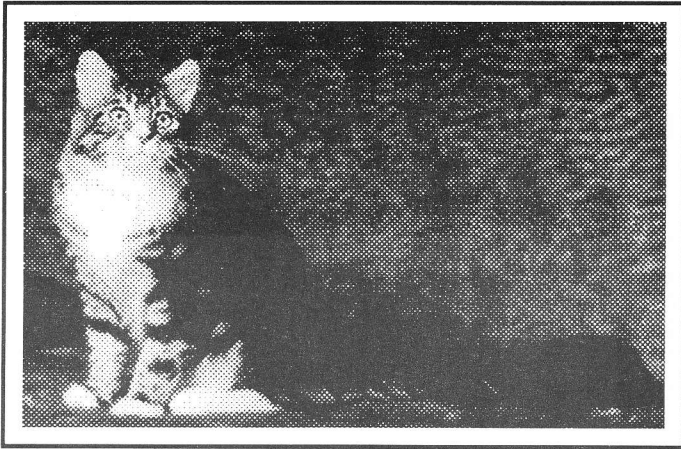
To share knowledge with each other and especially with new lovers of the Maine Coon, to share the joy of winning and the disappointment of losing, to share a common bond through this wonderful breed, to share in the knowledge that 'the good old days' CAN return — we can make it happen! □

## Kitty Litter Hints

*By Katrinka*

Bussing trays, found at membership discount warehouses such as Price Club, are selling for around three for \$6.00. They make wonderful litter boxes - they clean better, are made for hot water and disinfectant, don't ever show scratches, and come in better sizes (regular and giant) for Maine Coons. I have three and the cats seem to prefer them.

# 1991 - 1992 ACFA WINNERS - CATS



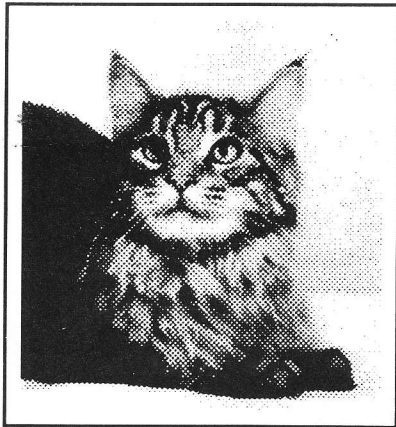
## BEST MAINE COON CAT

### Lawmaine Northern Xposure of Alabar

Brown Classic Tabby with White Male

Breeders: Steve & Carol Lawson;

Owners: Lee Polk & Barbara Truitt

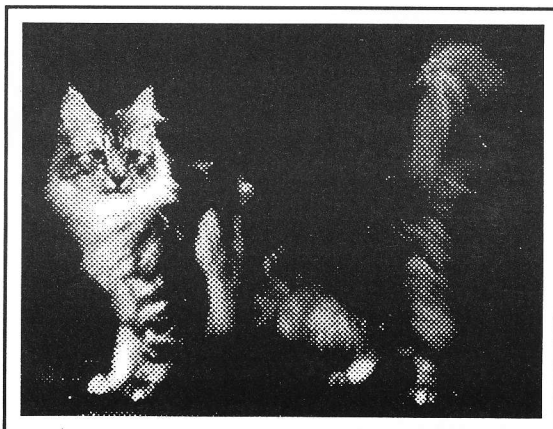


## 3RD BEST MAINE COON CAT

### Alabar Chocolate Thunder

Brown Classic Tabby Male

B/O: Lee Polk & Barbara Truitt



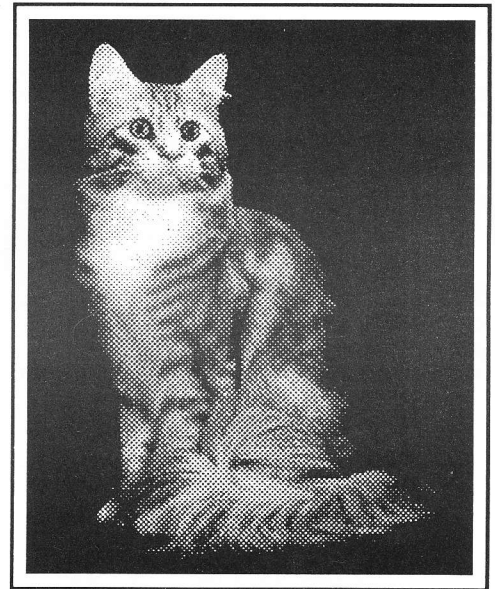
## 5TH BEST MAINE COON CAT

### Catch-A-Penny Phoebe II of Manekatz

Silver Classic Tabby Female

Breeder: Barbara Pilchard

Owners: Bonnie & Doug Blackmore



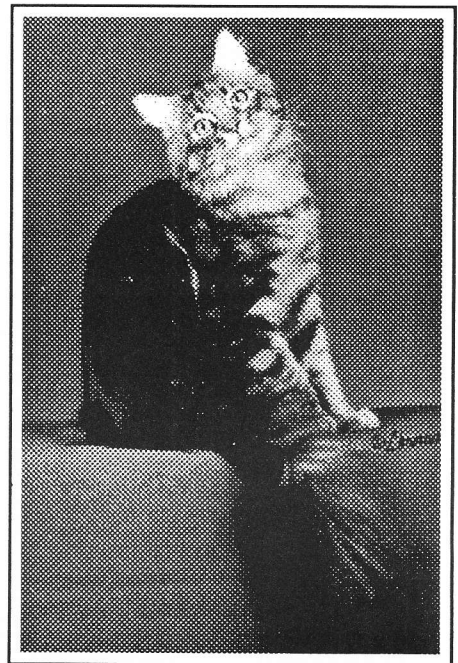
## 2ND BEST MAINE COON CAT

### Cooncreole Cadillac of Hertzwick

Red Classic Tabby with White Male

Breeders: J. Chappetta & P. Harrell

Owners: C. Hertzler & Jane Mickens



## 4TH BEST MAINE COON CAT

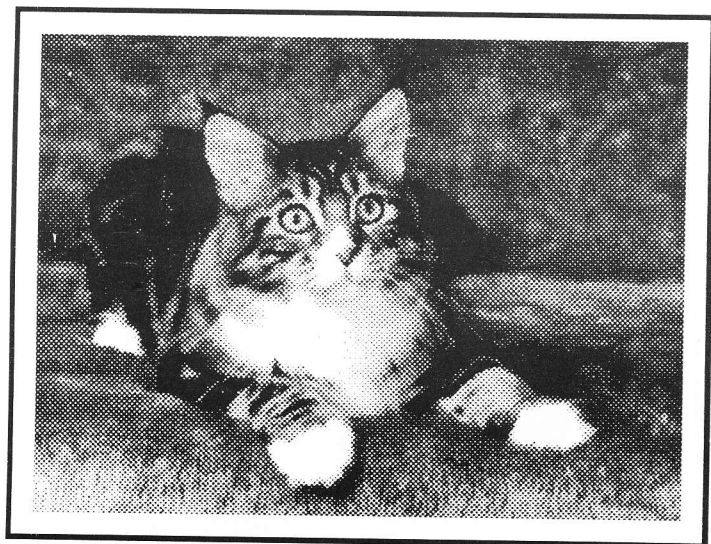
### McInkats Skyhawk of Coronadocats

Blue Classic Tabby Male

Breeders: Karen & Steve McInchak

Owners: Diane & Chuck Sweeney

## 1991 - 1992 ACFA WINNERS - KITTENS



### BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

#### Lawmaine Northern Xposure of Alabar

Brown Classic Tabby with White Male

Breeders: Steve & Carol Lawson; Owners: Lee Polk & Barbara Truitt

### 2ND BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

#### Serval's Kickin It With Fita

Brown Classic Tabby with White Male

B/O: Fred & Brenda Parnell

(No picture furnished)

### 3RD BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

#### Serval's Unchained Melody

Brown Classic Tabby Female

Breeders: Fred & Brenda Parnell; Owner: Margaret Hopman

(No picture furnished)

### 4TH BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

#### Countrycousin Belle Starr O'Cree

Brown Classic Tabby with White Female

Breeder: Anne Vytlačil; Owners: Jean & William Lipscomb

(No picture furnished)

### 5TH BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

#### Berrihill's Ben Hur

Brown Classic Tabby with White Male

B/O: Greta Triolo

(No picture furnished)

## 1991 - 1992 ACFA WINNERS - ALTERS

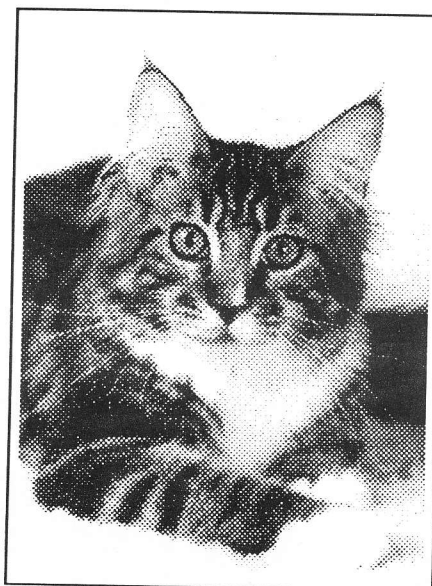
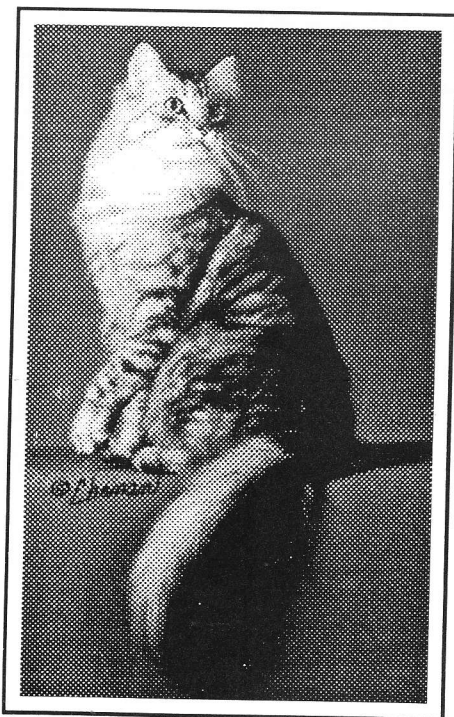
### BEST MAINE COON ALTER

#### Oak-Manor Methuselah

Red Classic Tabby with White Neuter

Breeders: Steve & Carol Lawson; Owner: Tone L. Hill

(No picture furnished)



### 2ND BEST MAINE COON ALTER

#### Lawmaine Stripes Again

Brown Classic Tabby with White Neuter

B/O: Steve & Carol Lawson



### 3RD BEST MAINE COON ALTER

#### Chancery's Finder Of A Lost Love

Silver Mackerel Tabby Neuter

B/O: Judy & Dale Liggett

## ACFA ALTERS (Continued)

### 4TH BEST ALTER

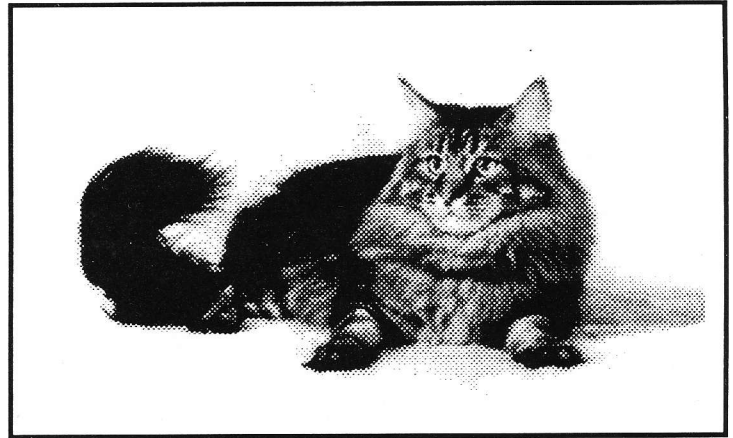
#### **The Tribe's Spirit of Takhlakh**

Brown Patched Mackerel Tabby with White Spay

Breeders: Ron & Judy Ingham

Owners: Nathan & Donna Demarest

*(No picture furnished)*



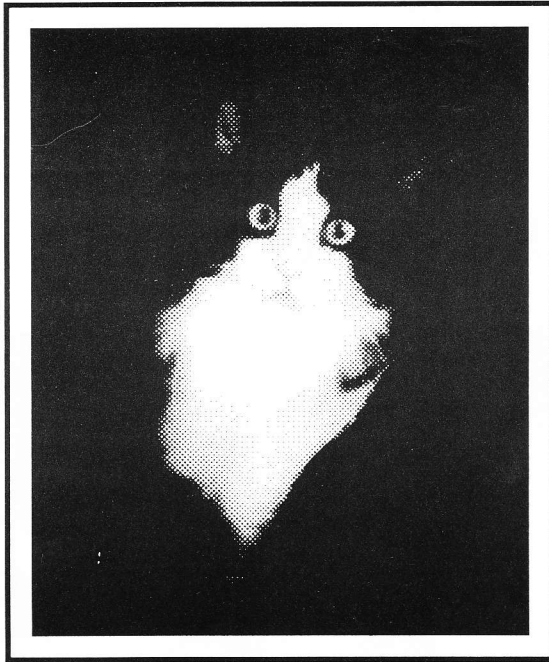
### 5TH BEST ALTER

#### **Mary B's Drogo Baggins**

Brown Classic Tabby Neuter

Breeder: Mary Buckmaster; Owners: George & Elena Tomkowich

## 1991 - 1992 CCA WINNERS - CATS



### BEST MAINE COON CAT

#### **Prime-A-Cat Batman**

Black & White Male

B/O: Joanne & George Prima

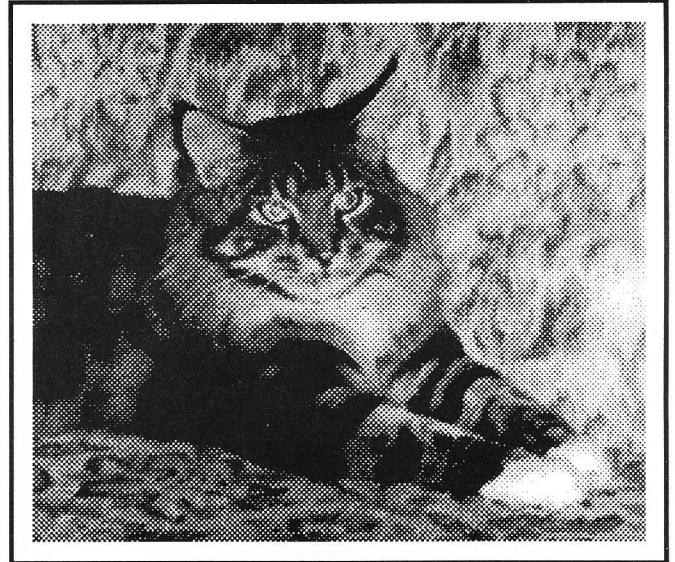
### 3RD BEST MAINE COON CAT

#### **Kanab Luanne's Lily**

Brown Classic Patched Tabby Female

Breeders: Trisha & Bill Swisher; Owner: Susan Nelson

*(No picture furnished)*



### 2ND BEST MAINE COON CAT

#### **Ryanplace Shacado of Wyndhaven**

Brown Classic Tabby with White Male

Breeders: Elizabeth & Stephen Cole

### 4TH BEST MAINE COON CAT

#### **Charmalot Lord Jaxsom of Ruathahold**

Brown Classic Tabby Male

Breeder: Ginny Molloy; Owners: Ruthanne & Bill Smith

*(No picture furnished)*

### 5TH BEST MAINE COON CAT

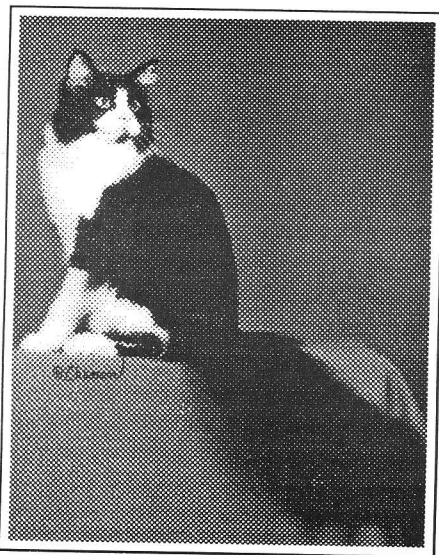
#### **Ruathahold Master Harper**

Brown Classic Tabby with White Male

B/O: Ruthanne & Bill Smith

*(No picture furnished)*

## 1991 - 1992 CFA WINNERS - CATS

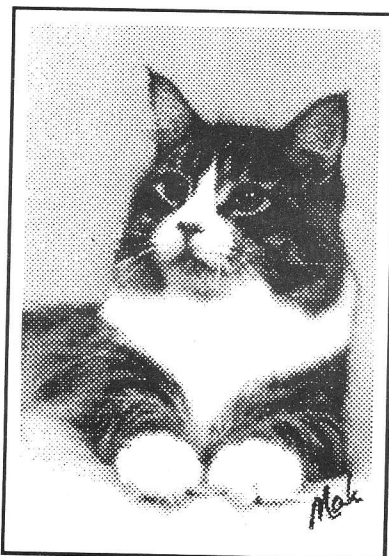


### BEST MAINE COON CAT

**Bangor's Eskimo Pie**

Black & White Male

B/O: Vicki & Gene Abelson

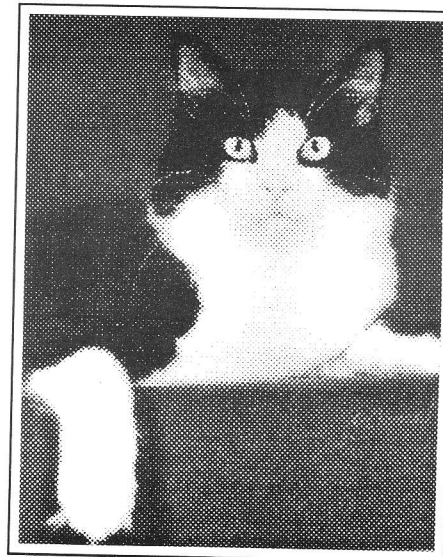


### 2ND BEST MAINE COON CAT

**Buctales Dirty Dancer**

Brown Mackerel Tabby with White  
Male

B/O: Chris & Bob Buck



### 3RD BEST MAINE COON CAT

**Kanab's Luanne's Vincent of Bentley**

Black & White Male

Breeders: Trisha & Bill Swisher

Owner: Jerry Robbins

### 4TH BEST MAINE COON CAT

**The Cat Hut Thomas Mack**

B/O: Odell & Geraldine Berry

(No picture furnished)

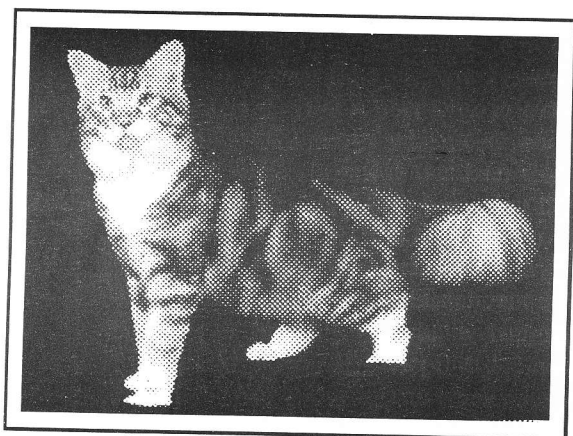
### 5TH BEST MAINE COON CAT

**Baker St. Mews Dr. Watson**

B/O: Carolyn Holmes-Sgro

(No picture furnished)

## 1991 - 1992 CFA WINNERS - KITTENS



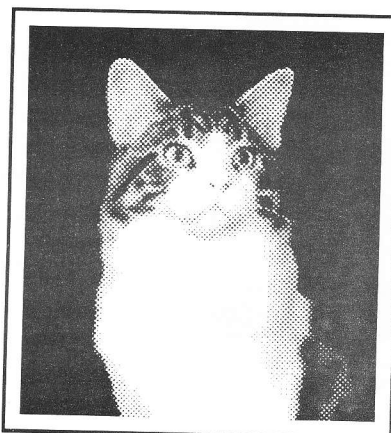
### BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

**All My Kittens Trevor D of Francoonia**

Red Classic Tabby with White Male

Breeders: Peter Renteria & Tom Rotella

Owners: Jennifer & Ray Hawkins



### 2ND BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

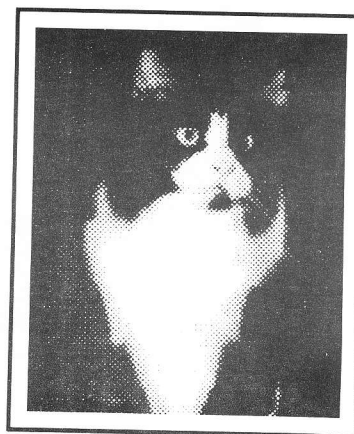
**Groovycats Bullwinkle of San-Toi**

Brown Classic Tabby with White Male

Breeders: Tome Rogers &

Martha Young

Owner: Dee Johnson



### 3RD BEST MAINE COON KITTEN

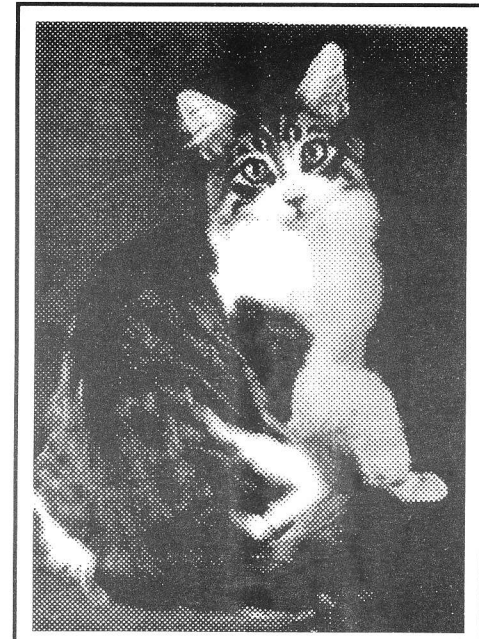
**Bangor's Eskimo Pie**

Black & White Male

B/O: Vicki & Gene Abelson

## CFA KITTEN WINNERS (Continued)

**4TH BEST MAINE COON KITTEN**  
**Mystermaine's Moris Klaw, Detective**  
 Breeders: Bill & Gail Frew  
*(No picture furnished)*



**5TH BEST MAINE COON KITTEN**  
**Groovycats Dynamite DJ of Carlacats**  
 Breeders: Tome Rogers & Martha  
 Young  
 Owner: Carla Blair

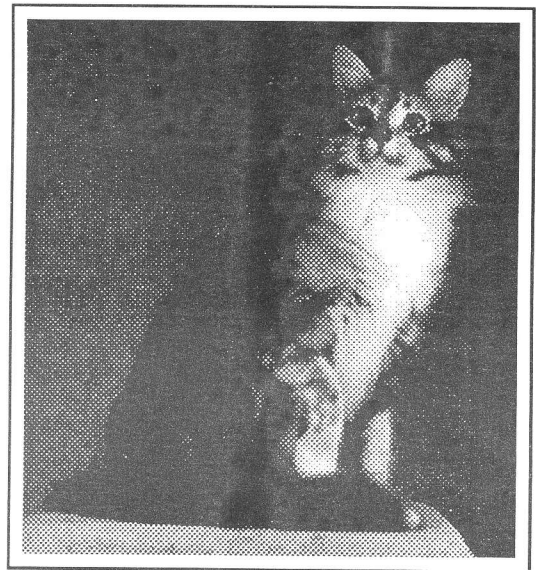
## 1991 - 1992 CFA WINNERS - ALTERS

**BEST MAINE COON ALTER**  
**All My Kittens Jeremy**  
 Brown Classic Tabby Neuter  
 B/O: Peter Renteria  
*(No picture furnished)*

**2ND BEST MAINE COON ALTER**  
**Buctales Nelson G. Rockefeller**  
 B/O: Bob & Chris Buck  
*(No picture furnished)*

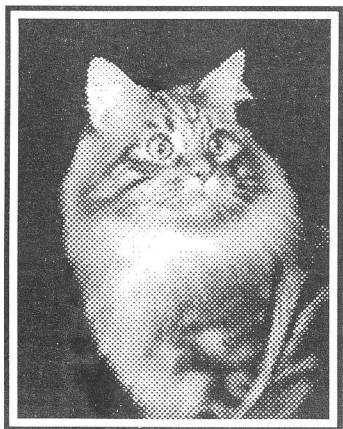
**4TH BEST MAINE COON ALTER**  
**Glenncourt Chocolate Ripple**  
 Breeder: Victoria Glenn  
 Owner: Debra Parker  
*(No picture furnished)*

**5TH BEST MAINE COON ALTER**  
**Stonedance's Mainely Max**  
 Owner: Lynn Nunn  
*(No picture furnished)*

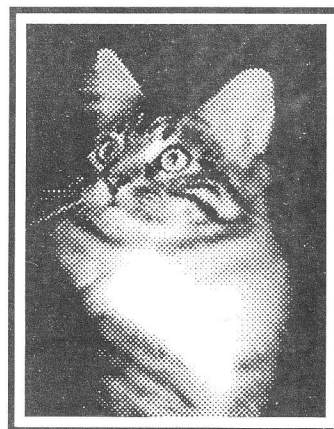


**3RD BEST MAINE COON ALTER**  
**Prime-A-Cat Luanne's Teddy of Balinan**  
 Brown Classic Patched Tabby with White Spay  
 Breeders: Joanne & George Prima  
 Owner: Nancy Grandison

## 1991 - 1992 CFF WINNERS - CATS

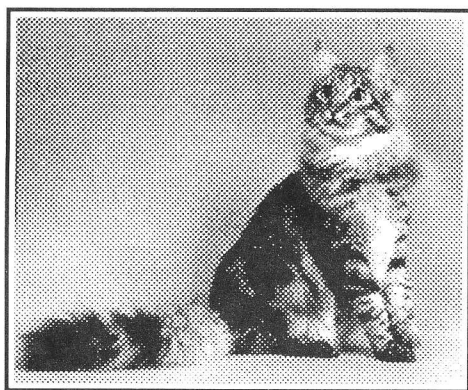


**BEST MAINE COON CAT**  
**Kitkor Jake Regan of Heritagecoon**  
 Red Classic Tabby Male  
 Breeder: Kaye Sukeforth  
 Owners: Betsy & Cindy Piper



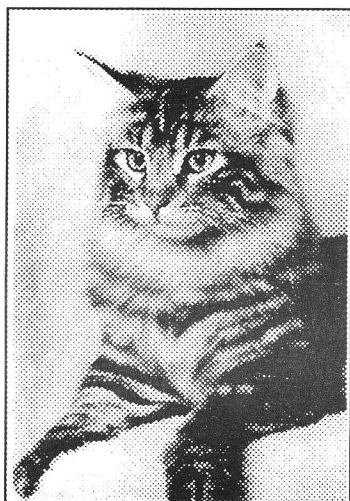
**2ND BEST MAINE COON CAT**  
**Capecoons Glenlivet of SaraJen**  
 Brown Classic Tabby with White Male  
 Breeders: Cheryl & Bob Kearns  
 Owners: Teri & Jeff Goldman

## 1991 - 1992 CFF WINNERS - KITTENS



**BEST MAINE COON KITTEN**  
**Heritagecoons Butch Regan**  
 Brown Classic Tabby Male  
 B/O: Betsy & Cindy Piper

## 1991 - 1992 CFF WINNERS - ALTERS

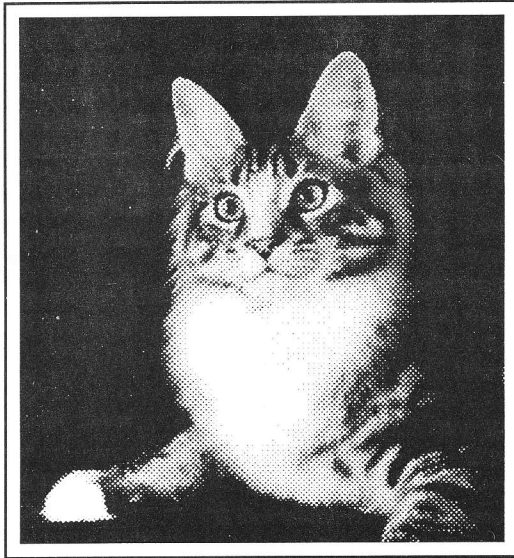


**BEST MAINE COON ALTER**  
**Codcoons Cinnamon Spice**  
 Brown Classic Tabby Neuter  
 B/O: Jane Gilley



**2ND BEST MAINE COON ALTER**  
**Glenncourt Chocolate Ripple**  
 Breeder: Victoria Glenn  
 Owner: Debra Parker  
*(No picture furnished)*

## 1991 - 1992 TICA WINNERS - CATS



**BEST MAINE COON CAT**  
**Cooncreole Cajun Cowboy**  
 Brown Classic Tabby with White Male  
 B/O: Judy & Dan Chappetta

**2ND BEST MAINE COON CAT**  
**Meunerie Thaddeus C of Connahugh**

Brown Classic Tabby Male  
 Breeders: Sally & Robert Miller  
 Owners: Donna & Hugh Richbourg  
*(No picture furnished)*

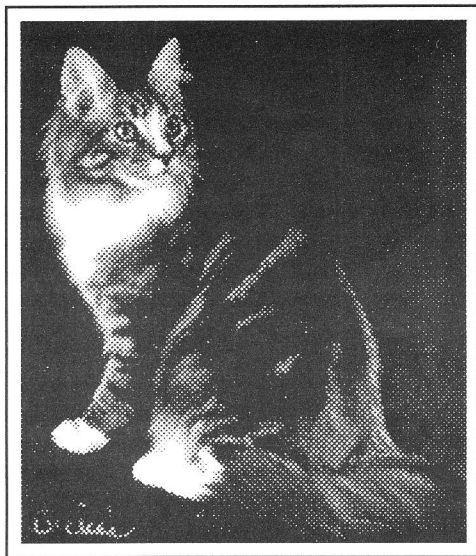
**3RD BEST MAINE COON CAT**  
**St.Clouds Starfire**

Brown Classic Tabby Male  
 B/O: Nancy Davenport  
*(No picture furnished)*

**4TH BEST MAINE COON CAT**  
**Coonmora Lucky Strike**

Brown Classic Tabby Male  
 B/O: Connie Zimmerman  
*(No picture furnished)*

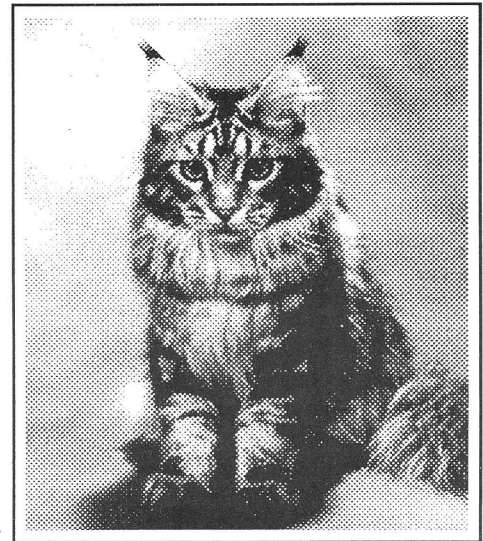
## 1991 - 1992 TICA WINNERS - KITTENS



**BEST MAINE COON KITTEN**  
**Cooncreole Cajun Cowboy**  
 Brown Classic Tabby with White Male  
 B/O: Judy & Dan Chappetta

**3RD BEST MAINE COON KITTEN**

**Coonmora Lucky Strike**  
 Brown Classic Tabby Male  
 B/O: Connie Zimmerman  
*(No picture furnished)*



**2ND BEST MAINE COON KITTEN**  
**Advent Hill Fitzwilliam**  
 Brown Classic Tabby Male  
 B/O: Lynne & Arthur Boroff

**4TH BEST MAINE COON KITTEN**

**MtKittery Casco**  
 Brown Classic Tabby Male  
 Breeder: Barbara Washburn  
 Owners: Dortemarie Kaplers & Barbara Washburn  
*(No picture furnished)*

*TICA Winners continued on next page*

# 1991 - 1992 TICA WINNERS - ALTERS

## BEST MAINE COON ALTER

### Coonmora High Roller

Tabby Neuter

Breeder: Connie Zimmerman

Owner: Mike Williams

(No picture furnished)

## 2ND BEST MAINE COON ALTER

### Mainelycats King George I of Karth

Breeder: Elizabeth Witt

Owner: Karen Norris

(No picture furnished)

## 3RD BEST MAINE COON ALTER

### Willowplace Bandit of Bococon

Tabby Neuter

Breeder: Barbara Ray

Owner: Susan B. Fellman

(No picture furnished)

## 4TH BEST MAINE COON ALTER

### Donnahugh Patten of Broadway

Breeder: Donna & Hugh Richbourg

Owner: Jean S. Thompson

(No picture furnished)

## Golden Years

*This feature is dedicated to Maine Coons 10 years old or older. Pictures and anecdotes are welcome!  
(We regret that the pictures we received this time could not be reproduced due to lack of contrast and focus.)*

**19 YEARS OLD:** NORWYNDE REBEL RAIDER, born March 14, 1974 out of TCh Norwynde Senator Margaret by QCh Senator Muskie of Norwynde. "Rebel is black, but after an illness last year (his only one in all these years) he has a lot of gray hair — looks like a smoke! He is still a very affectionate lap cat." Carole Jean Davis, Lexington, KY

**16, 15, & 14 YEARS OLD:** Three kitties from Melisse Moen: TUFFPAWS EMILY OF ISHMAELS, born Jan. 4, 1977 out of Sundar Tiffany of Tuffpaws by Sundar Reuel of Tuffpaws. (This was Tuffpaws' first litter). ISHMAELS ARTHUR, born Sept. 23, 1978 out of Tuffpaws Emily of Ishmaels by Sundar Cyril. TUFFPAWS FELIX OF ISHMAELS, born March 9, 1979 out of Sundar Tiffany of Tuffpaws by Sundar Reuel of Tuffpaws. All owned by Melisse Moen. "It might interest some of you to know that seven years Felix was diagnosed as having hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. He has been on daily medication since then, and has never shown any symptoms. He proves what his veterinary cardiologist told me: Cats with cardiomyopathy can have normal life expectancies."

**13 YEARS OLD:** A 13th birthday party was celebrated on Jan. 24, 1993 for MTKITTERY'S STANLEY, out of Ch Ktaadn Chelsea of MtKittery by Ch Miston Saco Buoy. Bred by Barbara Washburn, owned by Judy & Gary Kemmerer.

"All his friends were present to wish him many more, and he was most appreciative of a box of 'Kluckers!' We love you, Stan!"

**11 & 10 YEARS OLD:** Two kitties from Fred Yost: MARY B'S MIMIR, blue mactabby male born March 16, 1982, out of Mary B's Milo Olo by Zazzara Timothy Shantry, and MARY B'S GALADRIEL, white female born Jan. 6, 1983, out of SGC Heidi-Ho Lady Arwen of Mary B by Mary B's Gandalf. Both bred by Mary Buckmaster and owned by Fred Yost of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. "Both had short show careers as they absolutely hated the routine, and have been happy social parasites ever since! Mimir has been on chemotherapy for chronic lymphocytic leukemia for two years, but has responded well and does not suffer any side effects. (If anyone else has a cat with this condition, I would be more than happy to share my acquired knowledge with them. It took my vets a lot of research to find information on this condition, so perhaps others can save some time.) Mimir seems to be in complete remission and has gotten back to being his obnoxious self."

"Galadriel is a good, healthy peasant and has hardly been sick a day in her life, other than stomach discomfort brought on by a penchant for swallowing string, Easter basket 'grass,' and anything else she can get down her gullet. My best wishes for good health and longevity to all your

'Cooners!'"

**10-1/2 YEARS OLD:** LE BEAU MINU PENNY BRIGHT EYES, tortie with white female born July 16, 1982, out of Le Beau Minu Amy by CH Magnificat Spitfire. Bred by Carol & Tom Pedley, owned by Rev. Maurice & Thelma Allaire, Portland, Maine.

**10 YEARS OLD:** HEIDI-HO JASPER, red mactabby male born June 16, 1982 out of Heidi-Ho Rebecca Kat by Heidi-Ho Sonkey Bill. Bred by Connie Condit & owned by Linda Stevens of Edgewood, Maryland. "Jasper is so smart and so loving and accepting — he shares his home with six cats who did not have the good start in life that he did. His closest buddy is Alex, a short-haired grey tabby who was dumped near my house as a tiny kitten when Jas was only a year old. Jas loved him on sight and has never changed his mind. As the others appeared on the scene, Jas tried to be aloof, but always ended up liking them. Jas loves to ride in the car and visit for the weekend — the vet and his staff think he's perfect! (Well, there was that one incident when he had his teeth cleaned ... he got a little cranky and bit one of the vet assistants! But that was the *only* time he ever misbehaved.) Jas is not a show cat, but is no less perfect in the eyes of those who know and love him."

*(Ed. Note: If your 'Golden' report didn't appear here, look for it in the Summer issue.)*

# FELINE HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY

*By Mark D. Kittleson, DVM, Ph.D*

*Professor of Medicine, University of California at Davis*

## Personal Experience With Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

In 1988, my wife Judy complained to me that our cat, Sydney, a domestic shorthair, was breathing oddly. I looked him over and found no problem. A week later she told me again that he was having problems, so I took him into our Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the University of California at Davis. When I auscultated him there I found that he had a heart murmur and an extra heart sound called a 'gallop sound' (the heart sounds like a galloping horse because of the extra heart sound). When a chest x-ray was taken, it was found that he had pleural effusion (an accumulation of fluid around his lungs in the chest cavity).

All of this was suggestive of some type of heart disease. The pleural effusion was most suggestive of dilated cardiomyopathy, although I knew that Sydney was on a diet that provided adequate taurine. (Taurine deficiency is the most common cause of dilated cardiomyopathy in cats.)

The best way to make a definitive diagnosis of the type of heart disease in this type of case is to look at the heart with ultrasound (echocardiography). When I did this, I determined that Sydney had hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) and was in heart failure secondary to this disease. The walls of his left ventricle were markedly thickened and his left atrium, the filling chamber that sits behind the left ventricle, was markedly enlarged.

When I looked at his heart again several months later with a new machine that could look at abnormal blood flow in the heart, it was obvious that he had severe mitral regurgitation (leakage of blood back from the left ventricle through the mitral valve into the left atrium). This leak, coupled with the severe left ventricular thickening, was causing his heart failure.

Sydney was started on a diuretic (furosemide) to help decrease his fluid accumulation and a needle was passed into his chest to remove the fluid physi-

cally. At that time, Dr. Jan Bright at the University of Tennessee was doing a study looking at the potential benefits of calcium channel blockers in cats with HCM, so when Sydney was stable he took a flight to Knoxville where he was placed into Dr. Bright's study. He came home randomized to a calcium channel blocker called verapamil. He stabilized and did very well for the next three months. The combination of the furosemide and the verapamil made it so that I did not have to 'tap' Sydney's chest to remove fluid during that time. Gradually, however, he worsened and soon I was having to 'tap' his chest every two weeks and then every week to make him comfortable.

By that time Dr. Bright was having better success with diltiazem, another calcium channel blocker, so I called and asked if I could switch Sydney to diltiazem and Dr. Bright agreed. He immediately improved and went on to do well for another five months. After this period of time, however, the fluid accumulation started returning; within two months it became intractable and Sydney had to be euthanized.

## HCM - The Disease

HCM was first described in man in the mid-1800's but was not avidly pursued until the 1960's. In 1970 Liu, a pathologist from the Animal Medical Center in New York City, first described HCM in cats. Since that time veterinarians have recognized the disorder as one that produces heart failure and aortic (saddle) thromboembolism in cats.

HCM is a disease in which the heart muscle, primarily of the left ventricle, thickens for an unexplained reason. In man, this thickening usually involves some portion of the interventricular septum (the wall between the left and right ventricles) and sometimes the left ventricular free wall. HCM in man commonly causes sudden death. The classic example is the young athlete who goes out for football in the fall and drops dead on the practice field. This catastrophic

event is usually caused by an abnormal heart rhythm. The most recent publicized case of sudden death in an athlete with HCM was Hank Gathers, a basketball player who died while playing basketball on national TV.

In cats, the heart muscle thickening involves the entire left ventricle (the larger pumping chamber of the heart). At our institution, HCM has been documented in kittens as young as three months and in cats as old as 17 years. When cats present to a veterinarian with this disease, they usually present because they are having difficulty breathing due to fluid accumulation in their lungs (pulmonary edema) or in the space around their lungs (pleural effusion), both of which are signs of congestive heart failure. Some cats also present because of acute rear limb paralysis and pain. This latter presentation is due to a clot that forms in the left atrium of the heart and which breaks loose and travels down the aorta to the caudal abdomen where it lodges, causing acute cessation of blood flow to the rear limbs. Left atrial clots form more commonly in cats that have heart disease. Both congestive heart failure and aortic thromboembolism commonly cause death, although cats with congestive heart failure can often be stabilized on medications for months. About 50% of cats with thromboembolism recover with supportive care, although many represent with the same signs later on.

## Treatment of HCM

Congestive heart failure due to HCM has long been treated with a diuretic (usually furosemide) and a drug called propranolol. In HCM, the thickened heart muscle can be hyperactive (contract too strongly) and drugs like propranolol, which block the effects of hormones like adrenaline, may help in reducing this hyperactivity to some degree. However, within the past five years more effective drugs have become available. Furosemide remains the foundation of therapy, but

### **HCM (Continued)**

angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and calcium channel blockers have been shown to be good adjunctive and, in some cases, primary therapy. In heart disease the body retains salt and water to improve heart function. In heart failure salt and water retention becomes detrimental. One of the major mechanisms for salt and water retention is the production of a hormone called aldosterone from the adrenal gland. ACE inhibitors block the stimulus for aldosterone release and so decrease salt and water retention. One of the abnormalities in cats with HCM is an inability of the heart muscle to relax properly. Calcium channel blockers like diltiazem help it to relax and in some cases can actually reverse some of the wall thickening.

### **HCM - The Cause?**

Current therapy is generally only palliative, i.e. it only controls the signs of the disease and does not produce a cure. In order to find a cure, the cause of the disease must first be found. In man, HCM is inherited most commonly in an autosomal (non-sex-linked) dominant pattern. Clinical manifestations of the disease can vary from family to family, with some families having very malignant disease while others have rather benign clinical courses. Recently, the probable gene abnormality responsible for HCM has been identified in about one-half of the families examined. This abnormality rests on the gene responsible for making a protein vital to heart muscle function — myosin. Myosin is one of two proteins in the heart responsible for the muscle contracting (the other is actin).

DNA is made up of repeating sequences of molecules called nucleotides. The nucleotides are adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G), and cytosine (C). A small portion of the gene that encodes for myosin may be CGTCCTGAT. The abnormalities in the gene from patients with HCM are called point mutations, where one type of nucleotide is switched for another. So instead of the above sequence, the myosin gene from an HCM patient might be GGTCCTGAT, where the first nucleotide, a C, is switched to a G. Three nucleotides code for an amino acid, and amino acids make up proteins. Consequently, one small switch like this makes one different amino acid in the myosin

protein, in this case a switch from the gene making arginine (CGT) in this location to one making glycine (GGT). How does this produce HCM or, for that matter, does it actually produce the disease? No one knows at this time.

### **HCM in Maine Coons**

Since HCM is seen in such a wide variety of ages and breeds in cats, it has generally been considered a nonheritable disease in cats. Recently, however, we have gathered evidence that HCM is heritable in Maine Coon cats and we have preliminary evidence that it may be heritable in other breeds as well. We have found several highly interrelated Maine Coon cats from several different areas of the United States with the disease. However, we have also diagnosed the disease in a number of cats unrelated to this line of cats. Consequently, if the disease is heritable in the breed, the problem is probably widespread.

We have identified the disease in one kitten as young as three months of age as well as in older cats. In the cats that we have reexamined to date, the disease does not appear to progress, i.e. the heart muscle starts off very thick but does not get progressively thicker. So it appears that the disease can be present in a severe form at a very early age and then can remain quiet for some period of time.

A Maine Coon cat distantly related to the other cats we have identified has been donated to me and now lives with me and my family. He is seven years old and has severe disease, but is clinically normal. Consequently, I am well aware of the silent form of HCM. Several of the cats we have identified have died from heart failure, so something can happen to make the heart function even more abnormally in these cats, sending them over the edge into heart failure. What causes this is unknown at this time. Since HCM can be silent (occult), a means of identifying cats, especially breeding cats, with the disease but without clinical signs can be very important. At this time, echocardiography (cardiac ultrasound) is the best means of doing this. Echocardiography is a noninvasive test (no needles or surgery) that requires no anesthesia and usually no sedation.

I am currently interested in identifying other Maine Coon cats with HCM, and in their heritage. I am only interested

in cats with confirmed disease, however. The only diagnostic tests that can confirm HCM in a cat are echocardiography (ultrasound examination of the heart), cardiac catheterization and/or angiography (dye injection through a catheter into the heart), and postmortem examination.

If you have or have had a Maine Coon cat with confirmed HCM, I would be interested in hearing from you. All correspondence will be handled in the same manner as a doctor-client relationship and so will be kept strictly confidential. Material gathered will ultimately be published in the veterinary literature, but no names will be used. Instead, cats will be identified as simple numbers or letters (no registration numbers). Medical records, copies of ultrasound exams, copies of radiographs, and/or copies of postmortem exams will be requested at the time of conversation. If your veterinarian has diagnostic material, either you can obtain this material and send it to me or I can call your veterinarian and request the material with your permission. Again, all material will be kept strictly confidential.

Letters of inquiry should be sent to:

Mark D. Kittleson, DVM, Ph.D  
Professor of Medicine  
Diplomate ACVIM (Cardiology)  
Department of Medicine  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California  
Davis, CA 95616

Our ultimate goal is to identify a gene abnormality in Maine Coon cats with HCM. To that end we are currently determining the sequence of the feline  $\beta$ -myosin heavy chain gene. Once this is completed, we plan to examine the gene from affected cats. If such an abnormality can be identified in Maine Coons with HCM, a test for the gene abnormality can be constructed. Such a test in man now exists and requires only a blood sample. If such a test is constructed, breeding cats could be tested and identified at an early age.

*The Scratch Sheet would like to thank Dr. Kittleson for taking the time to write this article for us. We encourage everyone with experience in HCM to aid him in his study, in order that some day this disease may be eliminated.*

# Midwest Persian Tabby Fanciers CFA Show

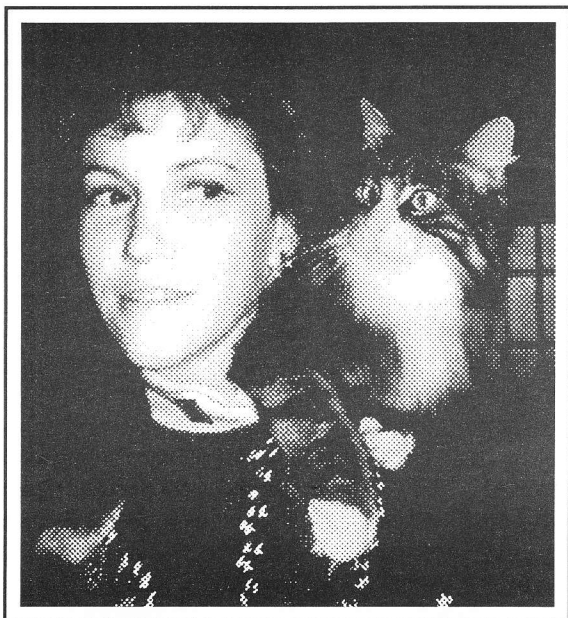
**January 23-24, 1993; Dearborn, Michigan**

*Photos by Meg Bachman, KUNBACH Maine Coon Cats*

The Maine Coon was well represented at this show, with six kittens, eleven in Championship, and seven in Premiership. Exhibitors came from Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Ft. Worth, Texas. We were pleased that Toni Edwards (ORO OJOS Maine Coons) could join us from Ft. Worth!

Toni stayed with Greda Balfour (KATSAMUST Maine Coons), who showed her what a Michigan winter was all about. Toni tried to coax Greda to come south where driving to cat shows is perfectly safe (never any white stuff dusting the roads in Texas).

On the other hand, Jill and Dave Burrow (COONSBORO Maine Coons) are very well used to unpredictable weather, being from the 'windy city.' But we all put the weather behind us and had a wonderful weekend!



**GRP COONSBORO'S MARIO "INDY" COONDRETTI**

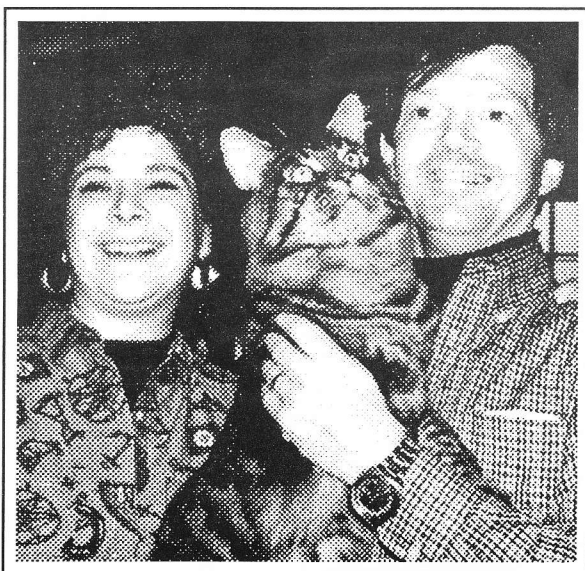
Brown Tabby w/White Neuter bred by Jill & David Burrow,  
with his owner, Donna Hinton

"Indy" is currently one of the top CFA Premiers in the nation



**CH ISLANDCATS APACHE TATOO OF ORO OJOS**

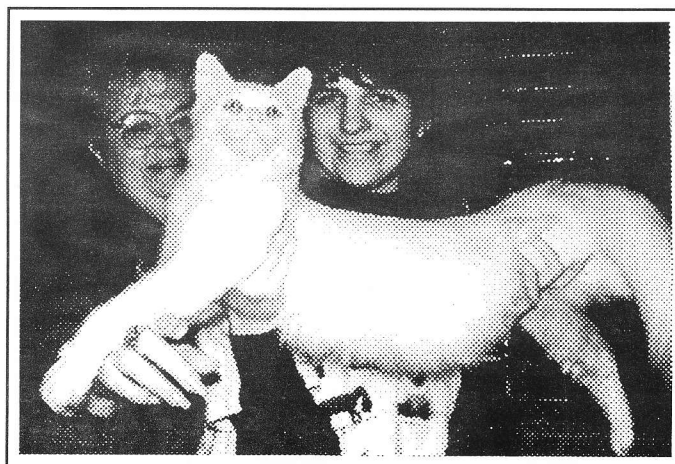
Silver Tabby Male bred by Pat O'Grady  
Kissing up to his owner, Toni Edwards



**GRC COONSBORO'S CALVIN COONIDGE**

Brown Tabby Male

With his breeders/owners, Jill and Dave Burrow



**CH ORO OJOS COTTON BABY OF KATSAMUST**

Gold Eyed White Female

With his breeder, Toni Edwards, & owner, Greda Balfour

*Many thanks to Meg Bachman for submitting this show  
report to The Scratch Sheet!*

## HEIDI-HO REVISITED

*With thanks to Sherry Lynn Jones (PURROCIOUS Maine Coons, USA), Simone Muehlfeit (TARA Maine Coons, Germany), and Ken Shindler (HILLSIDE Maine Coons, Canada) for the pictures.*

Heidi-Ho was founded by Mary M. ('Connie') Condit, and included two foundation cats, Andy Katt and Bridgett Katt. From that beginning Connie built a line which is famous for passing on its massive size and bone, wonderful, shaggy coats, and thick lynx-tipping.

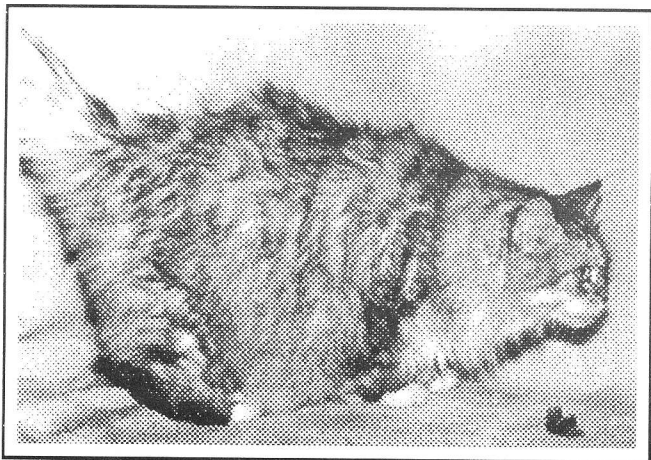
Connie was one of the early members of MCBFA, and the cats of Heidi-Ho Maine Coons have played a large part in so many lines, but many of us have never had the opportunity of seeing any of these cats in person.

Breeders talk about the 'clones,' but many people don't know that term refers to kittens out of Heidi-Ho Sonkey Bill and Tanstaaf Polly Adeline of Heidi-Ho. This pair produced many offspring, all of whom had the same signature 'look' (leading people to claim that Connie was cloning them!) which survives in their descendents today.

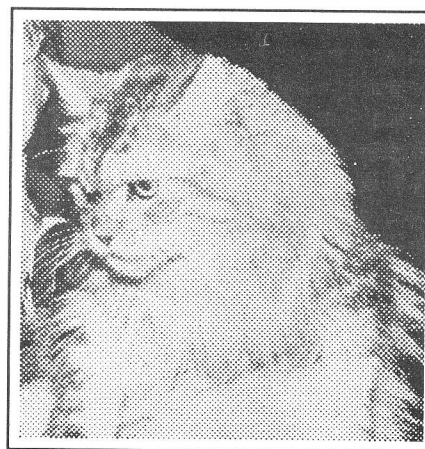
Although Connie has not been breeding Maine Coons for the last few years, her cats are still a powerful influence in many lines. As Ken Shindler of Hillside Maine Coons once said, "If you don't know where you came from, it's hard to know where you're going."



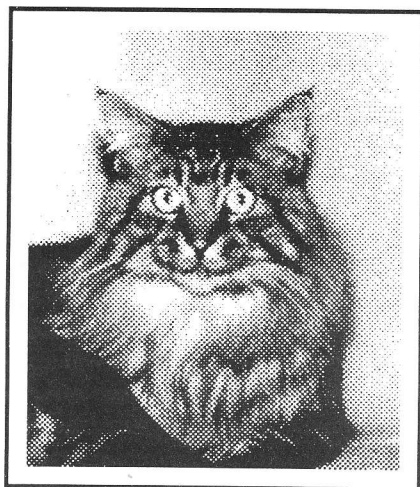
Heidi-Ho Christian  
With Heidi-Ho Founder Mary M. Condit



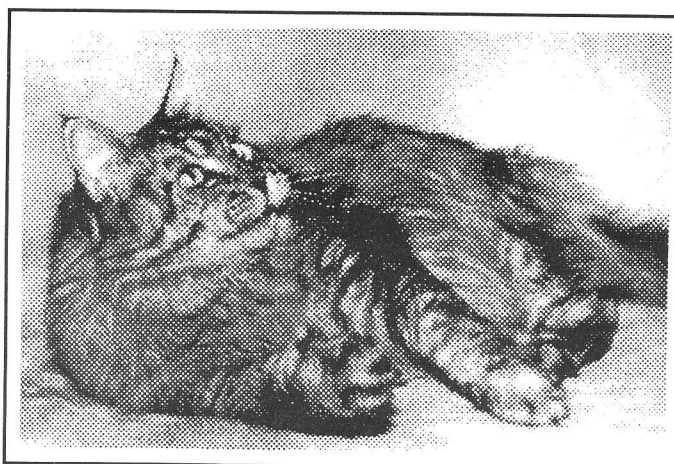
Heidi-Ho Heather



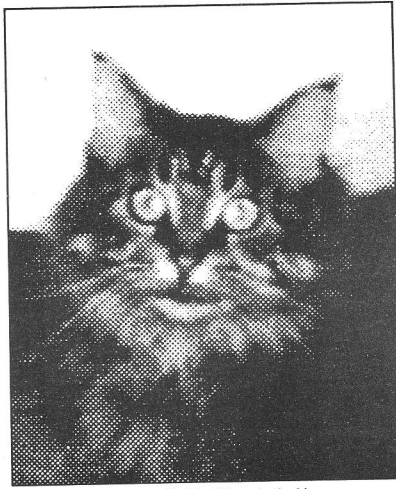
Heidi-Ho Henrietta Katt



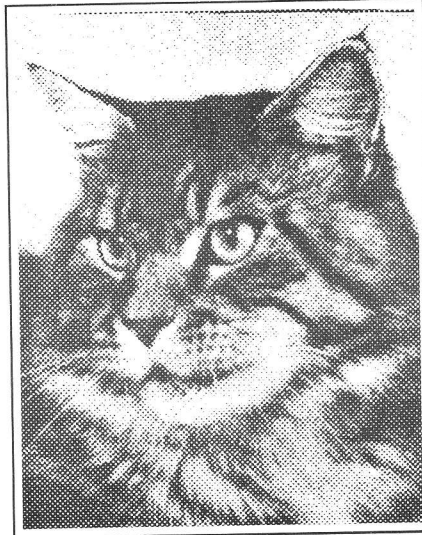
Heidi-Ho Just Plain Bill Katt



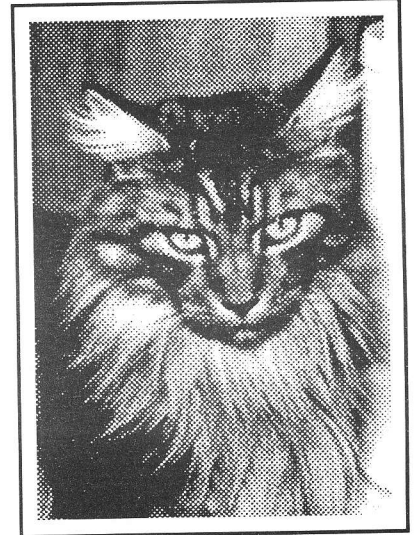
Heidi-Ho Henry Sayward

**HEIDI-HO (Continued)**

Tanstaaf Polly Adeline  
of Heidi-Ho



Heidi-Ho Sonkey Bill



Heidi-Ho Justin Morgan Katt

## FIV / FIP Q & A

By Niels C. Pederson, D.V.M., PhD, University of California at Davis  
*Reprinted from the S.O.C.K. (Save Our Cats & Kittens) Corp. Newsletter*

**Q:** My 11-year-old household cat has been diagnosed with FIV infection. What is the risk of him spreading the infection to his 11 feline housemates?

**A:** FIV is spread mainly through bites. Biting is a behavior that usually ceases when cats are housed together indoors. Therefore, FIV infected cats that are living in stable indoor relationships with other cats are not highly infectious. It is like HIV infection; you have to engage in high-risk activities to efficiently transmit the virus.

We have tested households of cats a number of times because of similar situations. The incidence of infection in the housemates is usually the same as it is in the general population (about 1% - 5%). We have had about 40 uninfected research cats living with FIV infected animals for up to five years. Only one seroconverted, and that was an animal that fought constantly with the other animals. Based on what we know, I would not hesitate to keep the cats together as long as they are not biting each other.

**Q:** Have you been able to test the new FIP vaccine that is on the market?

**A:** I have not tested the FIP vaccine because it has already been studied at Cor-

nell by Dr. Fred Scott's group. Hopefully, the results of these studies should be appearing within the next 12 - 18 months in the veterinary literature. I do not know all of the details of these studies, but it is my impression that the vaccine was only efficacious when vaccinated cats were experimentally infected with extremely small amounts of virulent virus. When vaccinated cats were infected with larger amounts of virulent virus, they either were not infected or were more susceptible. What this means in terms of field (natural) exposure is unknown, because no one knows exactly how infection occurs in nature and how much virus is involved in the average field exposure. All that is certain about the FIP vaccine is that it appears to be safe. Besides the possible reservations mentioned above, we are uncertain as to whether the vaccine works on cats that are vaccinated when under 16 weeks of age and whether the vaccine will provide long-acting immunity.

We have not recommended FIP vaccine at UCD because we are uncertain whether the degree of protection that it offers is sufficient to justify its expense to the client. Although we are often condemned for being anti-profession because

of stands like this, we are a state institution and as such, we are public advocates first. Also, if we recommend a product, that is taken as a testimonial that it is good.

We are also concerned about the use of FIP vaccine for the average household pet cat, regardless of its efficacy. The incidence of FIP among pet cats (especially if they are not purebred) is less than 1 in 2,000. Unfortunately, household pet cats are the group that is most likely to be vaccinated by veterinarians. Cattery cats, which would benefit the most from a good FIP vaccine, are either vaccinated with vaccine bought directly from a supply house or they are not vaccinated.

Two doses of FIP vaccine often cost owners \$50 - \$100 per year. Given the cost of other yearly vaccines, cat owners may pay several hundred dollars per cat just for routine vaccines each year. One-third of cat-owning households have two or three cats or more, so you can see just how much money can be spent on vaccines by some people. If the vaccines are good, and the cost/benefit ratio favorable, this is money well spent. If they are not, then this is money better spent on other aspects of routine care.

# GRAND GALLERY

## BEST OF THE BEST IN SHOW

- Hillside Beau Diddley of Abnaki**; Brown Classic Tabby w/White Male; Best Of The Best Cat at the Felis Amicus CC, Hunsfeld, Germany, 12/5/92. Br: Alma & Ken Shindler; Ow: Elke Carson
- Degoonacon Madagascats Bay**; Brown Classic Tabby Female; Best Of The Best Kitten at the TICA Foaming Frenzy CC show, San Francisco, CA, 1/9-10/93. B/O: Alexandra DeGuzman
- Coonyham Sundance**; Brown Classic Tabby Male; Best Of The Best Kitten at the TICA Silver Cats show, 10/2-3/92. B/O: Sharon & Laura Cunningham
- Syracoon's Dan'l Boon**; Brown Classic Tabby w/White Male; Best Of The Best Cat at the CFA Monroe Shorthair Show, 7/11/92. Br: Alexis Huston; Ow: Richard & Winnie Osborne

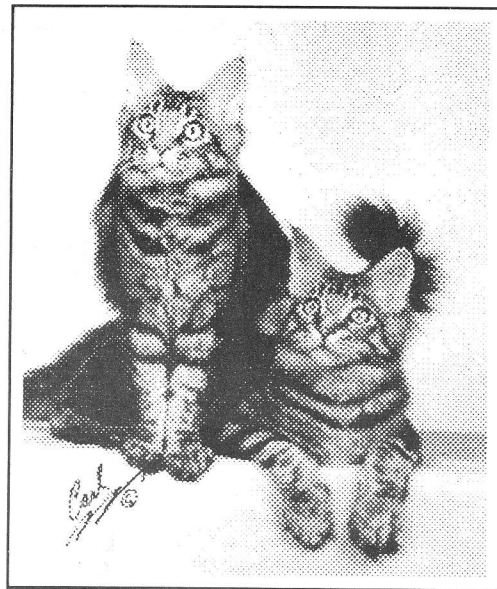
## NEW GRAND CHAMPIONS

- ACFA GRC Our Cougar of Coronadocats**; Cameo Classic Tabby Male; Br: Mary Schweiger; Ow: Diane & Chuck Sweeney
- ACFA GRC Coonriggers Hornet of Coronadocats**; Brown Mackerel Tabby Male; Br: Judy Carlson; Ow: Diane & Chuck Sweeney
- CFA GRC Rockcoon Keystone of Coonspiracy**; Blue Classic Tabby Male; Br: Debra & Jeffrey Diehl; Ow: Dory Hicks & Len Trout
- CFA GRC Snickets Northern Exposure**; Blue Mackerel Tabby Male; B/O: Heidi Oliveri
- CFA GRC Caipre Firedancer of Electricoon**; Red Mackerel Tabby Male; Br: Pat & Kurt Shryack; Ow: Marnee K. Smith
- CFF MST Kitkor Chances Are**; Cameo Mackerel Tabby Male; B/O: Kaye Sukeforth
- CFF MST Heritage Coons Butch Regan**; Brown Classic Tabby Neuter; B/O: Betsy & Cindy Piper
- TICA SGC Mainlysilver Sheffield**; Silver Classic Tabby Male; B/O: Bonnie & Mike Pilar
- TICA SGC Cooncreole Papillon of Britches**; Brown Classic Tabby w/White Male; Br: Judy & Dan Chappetta; Ow: Mary-Stewart Slade
- TICA SGC Cooncreole Mardi Gras of Coonyham**; Brown Torbie w/White Female; Br: Judy & Dan Chappetta; Ow: Sharon & Laura Cunningham
- TICA QGC Willowplace Damon of Temora**; Brown Classic Tabby w/White Male; Br: Barbara Ray; Ow: Pat Ledoux & Victoria Johnson
- TICA DGC Capecoon Glenlivet of SaraJen**; Brown Classic Tabby w/White Male; Br: Cheryl & Bob Kearns; Ow: Teri & Jeff Goldman
- TICA DGC Ryanplace Octavia of Coonstone**; Brown Mackerel Tabby Female; Br: Elizabeth & Stephen Cole; Ow: Edith Dunford
- TICA DGC Willowplace Absinthe of SaraJen**; Brown Mackerel Tabby Female; Br: Bettye & Cliff Scrutchin/Barbara Ray; Ow: Teri & Jeff Goldman

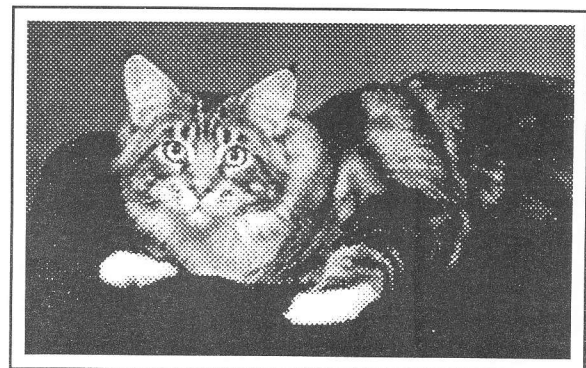
## BEST IN RING

- Coonyham Santana**; Brown Classic Tabby Female; Best Cat in Patty Andrews' ring, TICA Vieux Carre CF Show, 1/16-17/93.
- Heritage Coons Butch Regan**; Best Alter in Liz Bickford's AB & Sue Ford's LH rings, CFF Pilgrim CC Show, 10/25/92, & Jane Perkins' AB ring, Central Mass. FF Show, 11/14/92
- Kitkor Chances Are**; Best Cat in Nancie Belser's AB ring, CFF Central Mass. FF Show, 11/14/92; Best Cat in Cindy Nagle's AB ring & Phil Albert's LH ring, CFF Most Amazing Felines Show, 11/21-22/92
- Mainlysilver Sheffield**; Best Cat in Lynne Sherer's ring, TICA Tobacco Road CF Show, 1/1/93; Best Cat in Patty Andrew's rings at PACE, 11/28/92, Delaware Valley CF, 12/5/92, & Executive Class CF, 1/17/93 (all TICA); Best Cat in Linda Lindsey's ring, TICA Jersey State FF Show, 1/24/93

- Our Cougar of Coronadocats**; Best Cat in Judy Rodger's AB ring, ACFA Capital City CC, 11/16/92
- Ryanplace Octavia of Coonstone**; Best Cat in Cheryl Hogan's ring, TICA Keestone Katz, 11/7-8/92 (also Best Maine Coon Female at Keestone Katz). Best Cat in Mary Lemp's ring, Westchester Feline Club, 11/21/92
- Snickets Northern Exposure**; Best Kitten in Liz Watson's ring, CFA MCCC Show, 8/15-16/92 (also Best Maine Coon Kitten in Show); Best Kitten in Lynne Search's ring, CFA I Love Cats Show, 7/11-12/92 & CFA New Hampshire FF, 7/25-26/92.
- Temora DJ**; Brown Mackerel Tabby w/White Male; Best Kitten in Solveig Pflueger's LH ring, TICA Boscats Show, 12/19-20/92; Best Kitten in Barbara Ray's & Pam Barrett's LH rings and Best Kitten in Pam Barrett's MC Breed Congress, Executive Class CF Show, 1/16-17/92. B/O: Patricia Ledoux
- Weysha's Jiminy Cricket**; Brown Mackerel Tabby Male; Best Cat in Patti Andrews' ring, and Best Maine Coon in Show, TICA Derby City CC/M.I.C.E., 11/7-8/92. B/O: Barbara & Don Bruce
- Willowplace Damon of Temora**; Best Cat in Connie Webb's LH ring, Westchester FC Show, 11/21-22/92, & Best Cat in Solveig Pflueger's AB ring, TICA Boscats Show, 12/19-20/92
- Wyndhaven Honky Tonk Legend**; Brown Mackerel Tabby Male; Best Kitten in Lynn Judge's LH ring, TICA White Hatters CF Show, 1/31/93. B/O: Laurel Grams
- Wyndhaven Sugar Shaker**; Blue Classic Tabby w/White; Best Kitten in Rene Copeland's LH ring, White Hatters CF. B/O: Laurel Grams

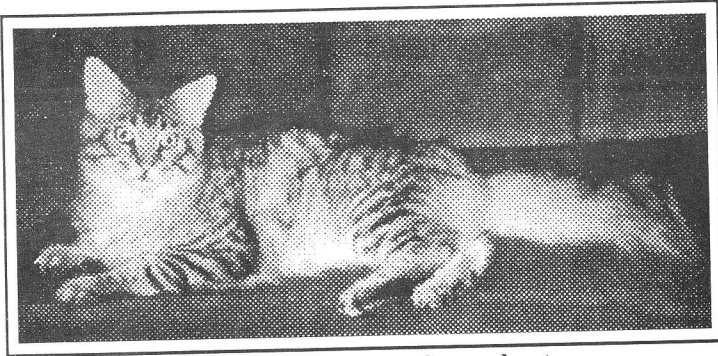


Coonyham Sundance (L); Coonyham Santana (R)

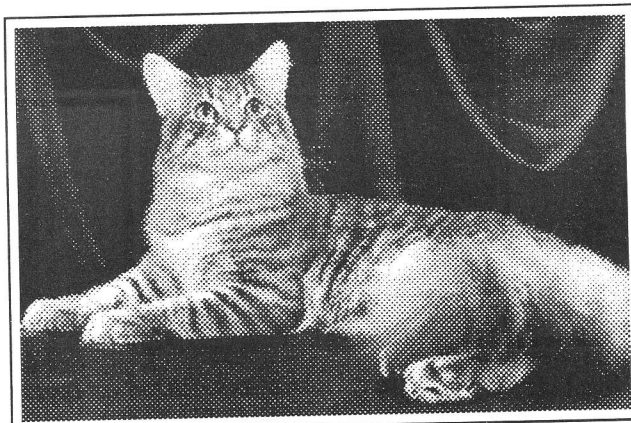


Hillside Beau Diddley of Abnaki

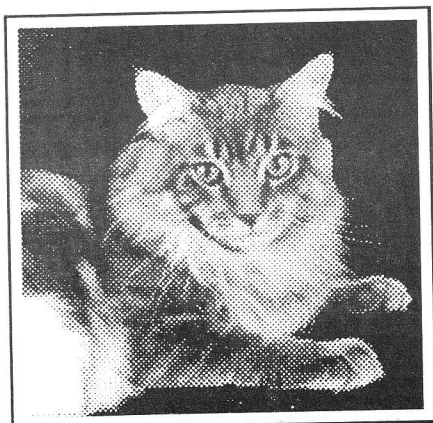
*Grand Gallery (Continued)*



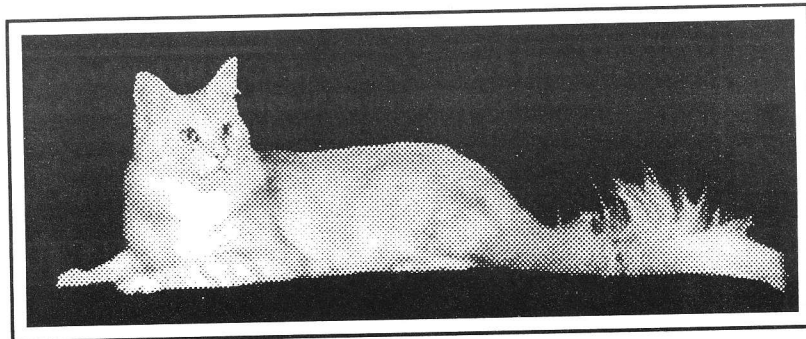
Coonriggers Hornet of Coronadocats



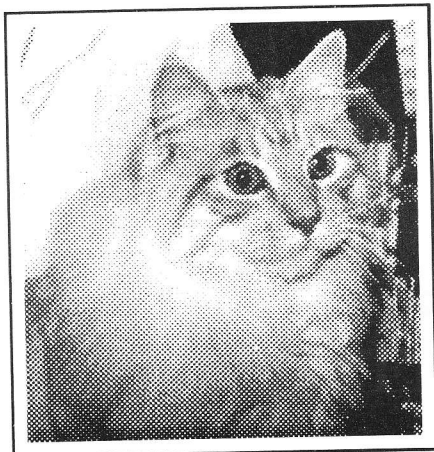
Snickets Northern Exposure



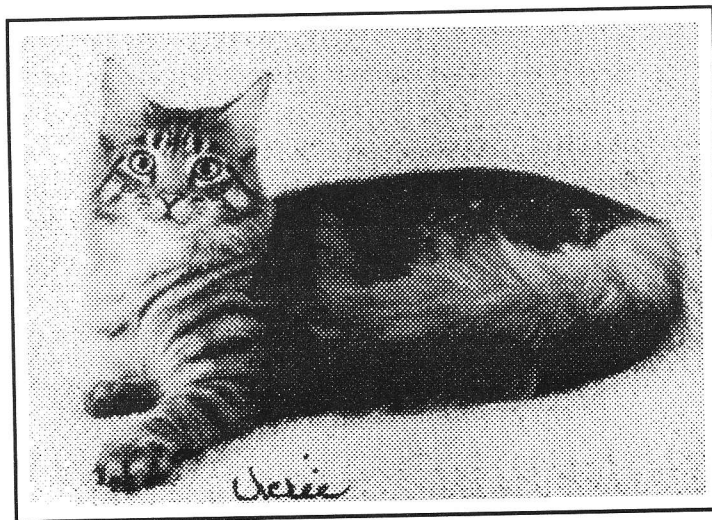
Rockcoon Keystone of Coonspiracy



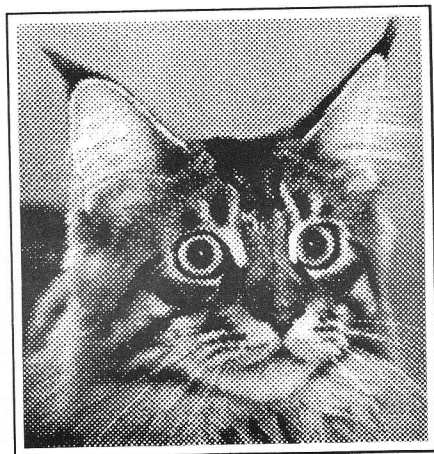
Our Cougar of Coronadocats



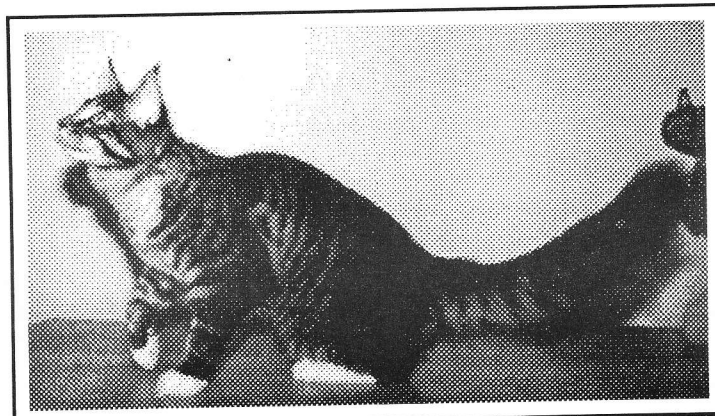
Kitkor Chances Are



Ryanplace Octavia of Coonstone

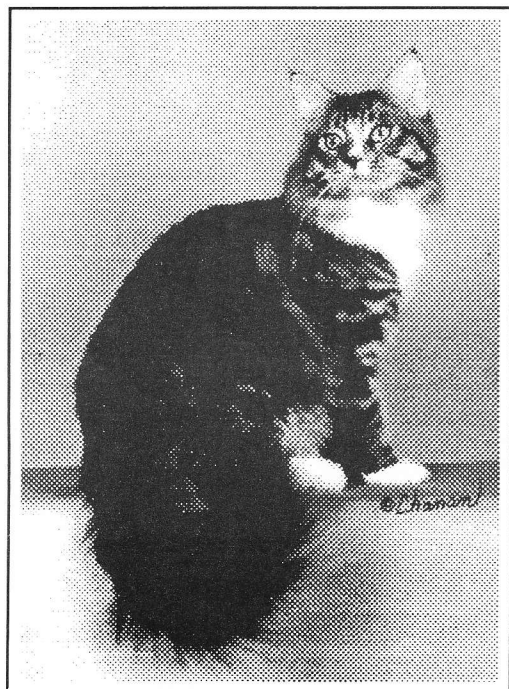
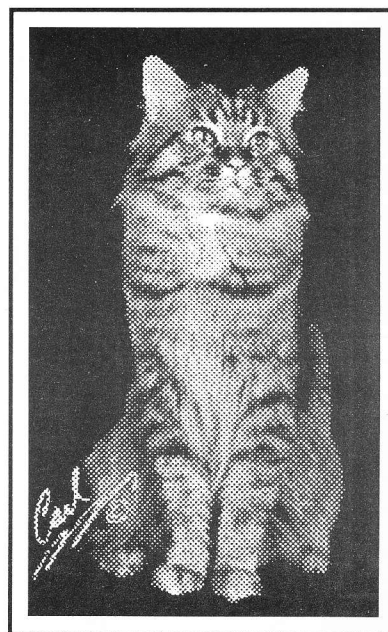
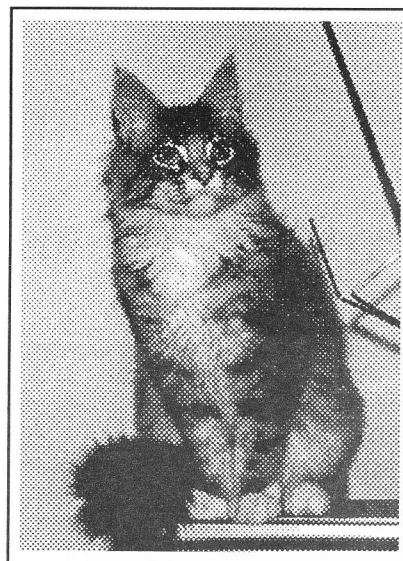
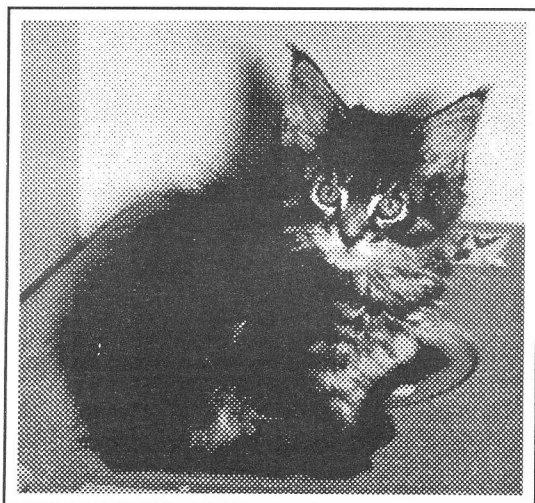
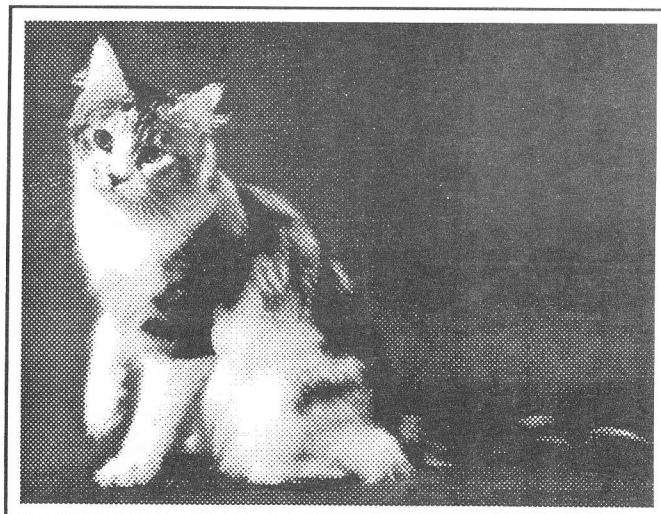


Weysha's Jiminy Cricket



Temora DJ

(More photos on next page)

*Grand Gallery (Continued)***Cooncreole Papillon of Britches****Caipre's Firedancer of Electricoon****Wyndhaven's Sugar Shaker****Syracoon's Dan'l Boon****Wyndhaven's Honky Tonk Legend****Cooncreole Mardi Gras of Coonyham**

# Judie's Zoo

By Judie Voelkel

## "COMMENTS BY ABBY!!"

Hi, there — my name is Abby. I'm not exactly filling in for Judie, but I *am* part Maine Coon (which part I'm not sure — top half, bottom half, left side, right side ...) and since I am "PART" Maine Coon and this is my story, I get to tell it!

I was an unwanted kitten lucky enough to be adopted from the Humane Society. Those of you who have now guessed the moral to this tale may be excused from the room. Yes, we are on our soap box again! Those of you who are curious (and remember, please, what curiosity is supposed to have done to the cat!) do read on. We promise there will be no finger-pointing, but food for thought is sure to be found.

We need to go back to before Judie adopted me and my step-sister, Spritzle (I hated Spritzle's guts, as I had never met her before the "Day of Adoption" from the Humane Society at age four months). Judie apparently wanted another Maine Coon — she has this 'thing' for Maine Coons! Every time she tried to get a cat (even an older cat) it appeared she was just one call too late. She tried to adopt the old odd-eyed white cat who some thoughtless person had abandoned down the road. But the vet discovered that the cat had Feline Aids and would not let Judie take her home to join the Zoo. Fortunately, the vet's father-in-law agreed to take the cat; another happy ending!

You think I'm through? In your dreams! The day after Christmas, Judie went to the Humane Society because she had been told that they had a long haired white cat for adoption. Guess what? She was five minutes late arriving and she watched the white cat (who also looked as if she had some Maine Coon in her) being carried out of the door to a new home. We hope another happy ending!

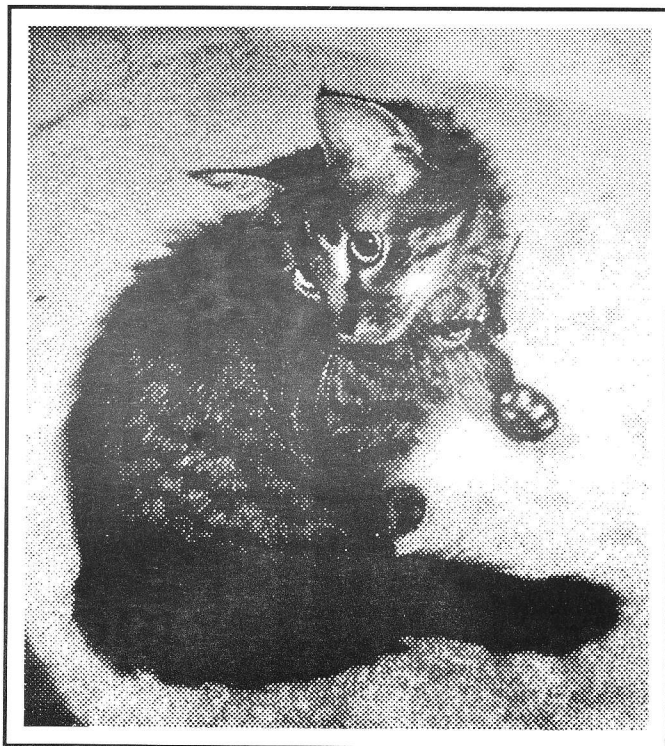
Now I enter the story. The Director, who knows Judie, asked her to go into the new kitten adoption area and look at the kitten whom everyone was sure was a purebred Maine Coon. *Wrong!!* (I was later told that Judie's initial reaction was to say 'no' and go home, but her curiosity got the better of her, so off she went to look at me.) She told the Director and his assistants that I was definitely part Maine Coon, possibly half Maine Coon, but definitely not *all* Maine Coon. But by that time, I had won her heart by hugging her and kissing her — she said she would adopt ME!! She also said that she would adopt Spritzle, a white with black patches — something about two kittens adjusting better together into a multi-cat household — so that Javert and Charlotte Croome and the others would not play bop-the-beetle using just me as the beetle. Two would have a better chance?

To get back on track: Among other things, a kitten or cat adopted from the Humane Society must already be spayed or neutered (sometimes as young as six weeks). Judie does not approve! But Spritzle and I are perfect examples of why this rule is enforced. If my mother's owner had been responsible, I would never have been born and in an animal shelter. There are varying pros and cons on the subject of such early spaying and neu-

tering. It is a very furry issue and could be hotly debated, but that is for another time. Our vet disapproves and wants her clients (who she trusts to be responsible and honest) to have the neutering done at six to eight months of age.

There lies the moral of this story — *responsible and honest people*. Responsible and honest purchasers and/or adopters of kittens, Maine Coons or not. We all know what our By-Laws state; those of you who sell your kittens as pets must have a contract requiring that your buyer have the kitten neutered or spayed at the appropriate age (determined by you and their vet) before you relinquish the registration papers to them. Get proof from the vet that the purchaser has fulfilled his part of the signed contract. This issue has been and will continue to be fur-raising as long as people breed cats and sell to unenlightened buyers. And people like Judie will continue to get up on the old soap box because if even *one* person hears what's being said it will help. Each of you who belong to MCBFA — continue to educate would-be buyers. Then there will be fewer kittens like me — part Maine Coon.

Charlotte Croome has been the only female Maine Coon among four boys and she hates my guts, so I guess that I am definitely part Maine Coon. Just wish I could figure out which part...



"Abby"

# Rainbow Bridge

(Author Unknown)

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There, there are meadows and hills where all our special friends can run and play together. There is always plenty of food, water, and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made

whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind. They run and play, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body begins to quiver. Suddenly he runs from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him

faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross  
the Rainbow Bridge together ...

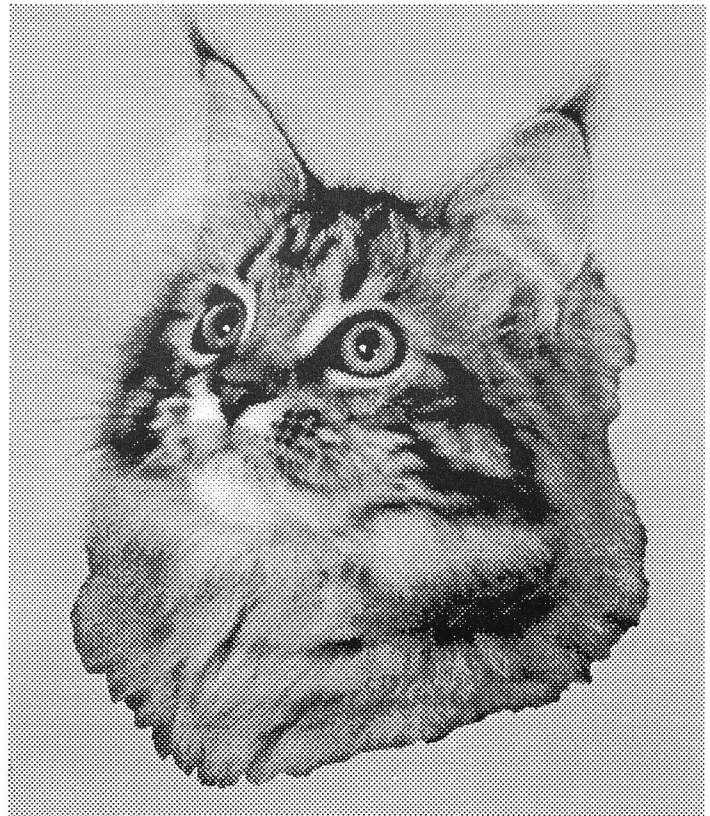
## *In Loving Memory Of Willowplace Golden Girl*

*November 30, 1988 - September 18, 1992*

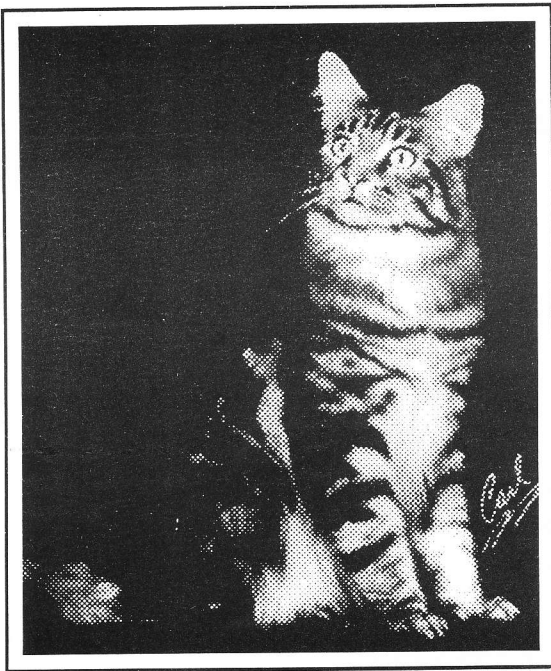
*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft star that shines at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there, I did not die.*



*Dearly Loved and Deeply Missed by Marsha Munro*



Allagash Bay

# SGC Degoonacon's Allagash Bay

*Wishes To Congratulate His Relatives  
For Their 1991 - 1992 TICA Wins*

*My Brothers,*

**SGC Degoonacon's Magalloway Bay**

20th Best Kitten, Southwest Region

14th Best Cat, Southwest region

6th Best Longhair Cat, Southwest Region

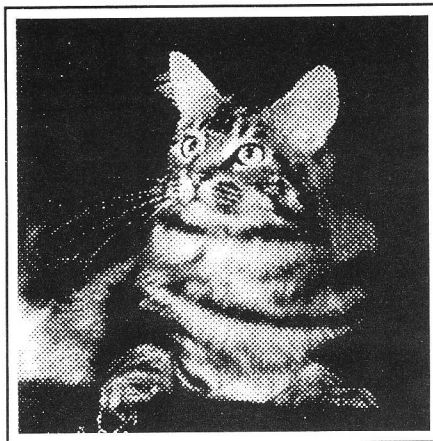
2nd Best Maine Coon Cat, Southwest Region

*And*

**SGC Degoonacon's Fantastic Alex**

18th Best Kitten, Southwest Region

2nd Best Maine Coon Kitten, Southwest Region



Magalloway Bay

*My Son,*

**SGC Degoonacon's Sebascodegan Bay**

17th Best Kitten, Southwest Region

3rd Best Maine Coon Kitten, Southwest Region

*And My Daughter,*

**Coycoon's Delilah**

11th Best Kitten, Southwest Region

Best Maine Coon Kitten, Southwest Region

**And Good Luck in 1992 - 1993**

**To My Kids,**

SGC Degoonacon's Sebascodegan Bay

SGC St. Valentine's Beau

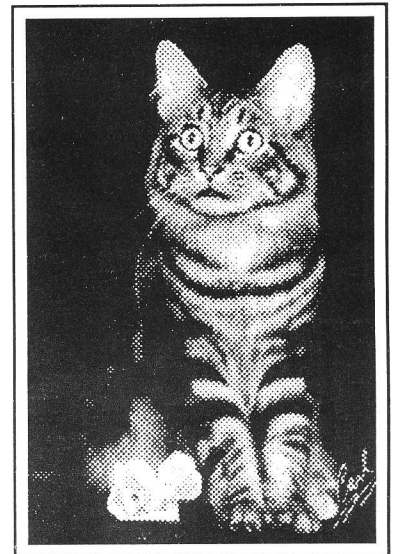
SGC Coycoon's Conan

CH Pedopurrs Charlemaine

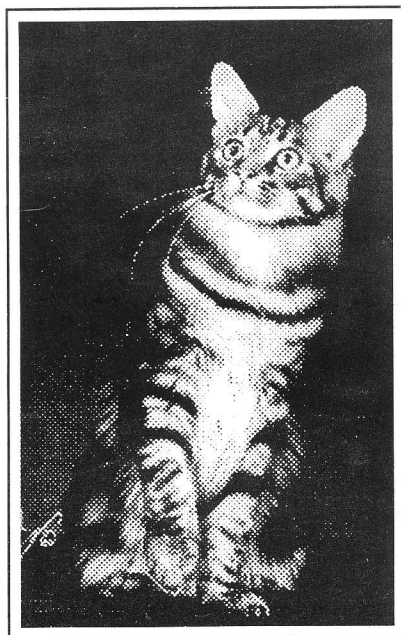
CH Pedopurrs Barnabus

CH Pedopurrs Heffalump of Poohcats

Degoonacon's Casseekey Bay



Sebascodegan Bay



Fantastic Alex

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*"Go, Sunny!"*

**Degoonacon Maine Coon Cats**

Alexandra DeGuzman

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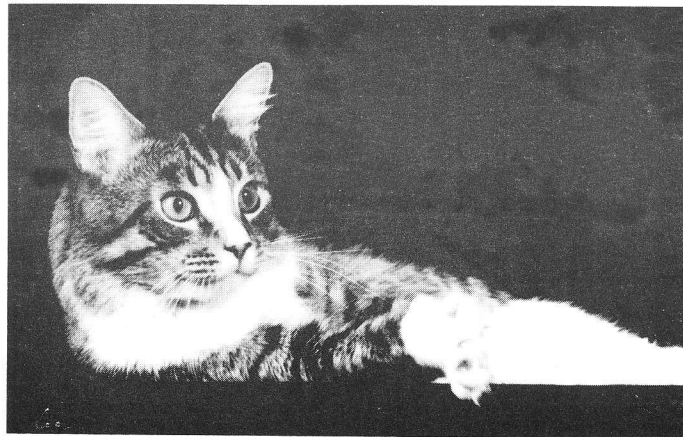
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# Congratulations

*GRC Lovabacon's Tom Terrificat, D.M.*

The first Maine Coon Male to achieve the Distinguished Merit



**20  
CFA GRANDS  
AND STILL COUNTING**

B/O: Karen B. Crooke  
Houston, TX

DOB: September 15, 1982

Sire: McInkats Kid BJ of Krutherskats

Dam: Lovabacon's Echo

CFA Best of Breed Maine Coon 1985/86  
Grandsire of GRC, NW Terrificats P.C. Gambit

*Karen, thanks for sharing your experience, the fun times and your friendship.*

With affection from your friends in the fancy

Vickie Abelson  
Carla Harper-Blair  
Bob/Chris Buck & Family  
Becky Carrazone  
Kitty Dieterich  
Debbie Elder  
Rosemary Hannon

Pat Idelman  
Toni Kalish  
Ginger Martin  
Gayla Pierce  
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*Special thanks to Chris Buck & GRC Buctales Dubbill Stuff  
whose Grand made the Distinguished Merit a reality.*

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Sharon and Laura Cunningham Pleasanton, CA phone 510-846-3858/fax 510-846-4243

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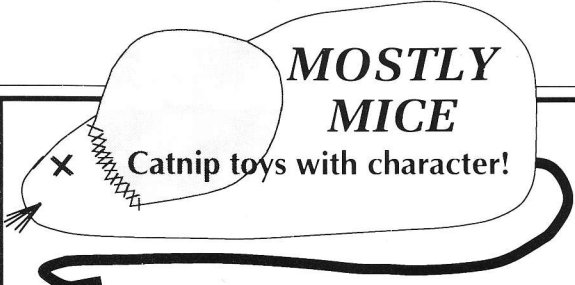
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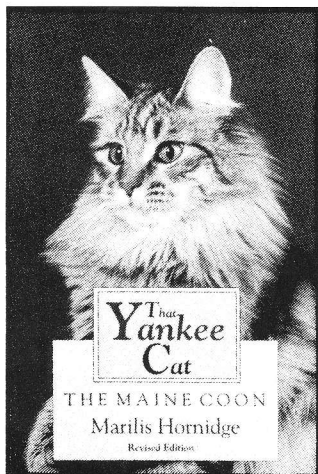
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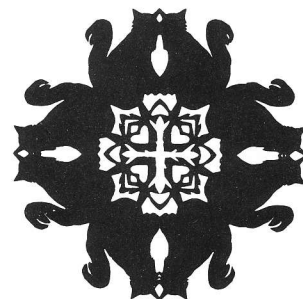
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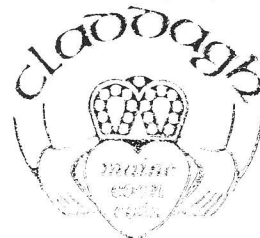
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### CALIFORNIA

*ST. CLOUDS* - Nancy Davenport, 5921 Stoneview Dr., Culver City, CA 90232; 213-836-2596; Blue-silver mctabby with white, brown mctabby with white; brown classic

### FLORIDA

*MAINIAC CAT COMPANY* - Judy Williams, 2656 Pinewood Blvd. #E, Middleburg, FL 32068; 904-272-6737; silver classic with white (carries solid); white

### GEORGIA

*TANASI* - Liz Flynn, 208 Kings Chapel, Augusta GA 30907; 404-860-1521; red classic with white/gold eyes

### ILLINOIS

*KATKEES* - Judy/Al Katkus, 7 Pershing Ave., Lake In The Hills, IL 60102; 312-658-9165; golden classic

### KENTUCKY

*CHARMALOT* - Ginny Molloy, 301 Double Springs Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101; 502-782-7554; brown classic

*FUR-KATS* - Janet Marr, 326 Melinda Ln., Florence, KY 41042; 606-282-0836; brown classics with/without white

### LOUISIANA

*PURROCIOUS* - Sherry Lynn Jones, 101 Kings Ct., Slidell LA 70458; 504-641-7418; silver classic/gold eyes

### NEW JERSEY

*ZAZZARA* - Susan/Jeff Shaw, 85 Ridgewood Ave., Trenton NJ 08618; 609-882-3937; blue-silver mctabby/green eyes

### NEW YORK

*KITTYKOON* - Joyce Weiner, 25-76 48th St., Astoria, NY; 718-204-5528; brown mctabby/green-gold eyes

*SACANDAGA* - Nellie Hintz, RR1 Box 523, Porter Corners NY 12859; 518-893-7102; blue classic/gold eyes; brown classic with white; silver mctabby/gold eyes

### OHIO

*MAINDIEVAL* - Joel/Marlene Wacker, P.O. Box 48, Wakeman, OH 44889; 216-839-2166; brown classic/green-gold eyes

### OREGON

*HAPPY CAT PATCH* - Helen/Cliff Proctor, 64530 Deschutes Market Rd., Bend OR 97701; 503-382-7730; blue classic; cream classic/green eyes

### PENNSYLVANIA

*MT KITTERY* - Barbara R. Washburn, 310 Boot Rd., Malvern PA 19355; 215-644-9372; brown mctabby; blue classic/green gold eyes

*OCOONKIT* - Hillary Force/Judi Dickson, 815 N. 24th St. #3, Philadelphia, PA 19130; silver mctabby/gold eyes; cream classic

### TENNESSEE

*CINNAMAINE* - Leslie Bruce, 4515 Saint Elmo Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37409; 615-821-3240; brown mctabby/green-gold eyes (carries solid)

*CORK* - Sheryl Stevens, 4641 Bowen, Memphis, TN 38122; 901-685-2191; solid black/gold eyes

### TEXAS

*ORO OJOS* - Joe/Toni Edwards, 2817 West Boyce Ave., Ft. Worth TX 76113-1503; 817-921-5585; gold-eyed white; brown mctabby/gold eyes; silver mctabby/gold eyes

*TERRIFICATS* - Karen Croke, P.O. Box 35407, Houston TX 77235-5407; 713-776-8227; brown mctabby with white/gold eyes; brown classic with white/gold eyes; solid black/hazel eyes

*UNICOON* - Michelle Sykes, 15926 Pfeiffer Dr., Houston TX 77082; 713-497-3184; cream classic/gold eyes, blue mctabby/green eyes

### VIRGINIA

*DEL-K-DE* - Debbie/Duffy West, 3912 Deep Creek Blvd., Portsmouth, VA 23702; 804-547-3912; brown mctabby/gold eyes

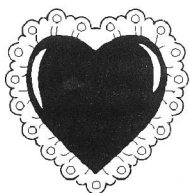
*ROCKCOON* - Debra/Jeffrey Diehl, P.O. Box 941, Centreville, VA 22020; 703-968-6980; cream classic/copper eyes

### WISCONSIN

*THE MAINE PLACE* - Patricia Hevenor, 2630 Waunona Way, Madison, WI 53713; 608-222-4312; brown classic/gold eyes

### GERMANY

*FORESTSPRITE* - Carmen/Rudi Schwermer, An Der Lehmkuhle 20, D 2854 Loxstedt-Nese, GERMANY (7474) 5666; brown classic with white/green eyes



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**FANCIER RENEWALS**

If you have already paid, please disregard this notice. Please send Fancier dues to Sue Servies (address inside front cover).

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**BREEDER/INACTIVE BREEDER/PROVISIONAL BREEDER MEMBER RENEWALS**

*Please include a copy of a recent litter registration with your renewal.*

Send dues to the Breeder or Provisional Breeder Member Secretary (as applicable). Secretaries' addresses inside front cover.

Breeder/Provisional Breeder notices are not being printed in this issue, due to the Editor's hard drive failure and the delay in getting this issue to the printer which that failure caused.

So please, everyone -- pay attention to the renewal notices you will receive from either Judy Chappetta (Breeder Member Secretary) or Darlene Ruhle (Provisional Breeder Member Secretary). It will be the only notice you will receive!

**NEW MEMBERSHIP OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS****New Fancier Memberships, Renewals, and Address Changes:**

Sue Servies, P.O. Box 791, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

**Breeder Member Address Changes:**

Judy Chappetta, 2210 Jefferson Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70115

**SEE INSIDE FRONT COVER FOR RATES.**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Provisional Breeder Membership Information/Address Changes:**

Darlene Ruhle, 2721 Aspen Circle, Norman, OK 73072

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\_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE SEND PROVISIONAL BREEDER INFORMATION (Send no money - that comes later!)

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

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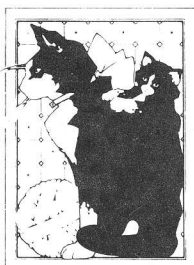
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