

Official Publication of the Maine Coon Breeders & Fanciers Association

# The Scratch Sheet



1996

Established in 1968 for the Promotion and Protection of the Maine Coon Cat

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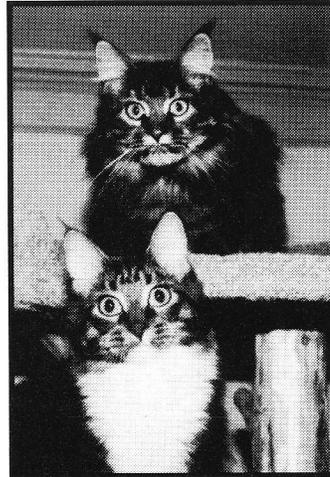


# WE URGE YOU...

To add \$5.00 to your annual dues and get your Scratch Sheet quicker, in better condition, and with more certainty. Bulk Mail is treated very shabbily and often never reaches you. We will be happy to slip your copy in a protective envelope, stamp it "FIRST CLASS" and send it speedily on its way. Use the RENEWAL FORM in the back of this issue, and mark the appropriate boxes. \*This applies only to members in the Continental U.S. All other members already receive theirs by First Class Mail.

ARE YOU MOVING? Send us your new address on the RENEWAL/ADDRESS CHANGE form inside the back cover. You don't want to miss a single issue!!

COVER PHOTO: A basketful of Maine Coon kittens belonging to Hannalore Spahn, Ampuriabrava, Spain. Photo taken in 1994. Spring is the season of New Life, new beginnings. We wish all of you many new beginnings.



TGC Seascape Sabrina (top)  
Seascape Reba

*Seascape*  
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from  
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Dorothy & Gary Robinson  
P.O. Box 281  
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## PUBLICATION CHANGE

AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS  
will now be the FALL issue  
DEADLINE Aug. 15, 1996!  
Get your Top 10 Winners  
Photos in--NO CHARGE!  
See p.26 for details

The Scratch Sheet will publish letters and articles at the discretion of the Editor (no letters or articles defamatory to particular persons or catteries will be published), but reserves the right to edit letters and articles in the interest of clarity. Additionally, names and/or catteries mentioned in letters and/or articles may be withheld at the discretion of the Editor. Letters will be published with author's names withheld if so requested, but letters must be signed in order to be published. Letters received anonymously will not be published. The opinions expressed in published letters and articles are not necessarily the opinions of MCBFA or the Editor.

## Editor's Note



As is evidenced in the collection of "Letters" this issue, everyone is reading the Scratch Sheet, and that's wonderful. Some are reading with blinders, and that is not good. *The Scratch Sheet* is meant to be MCBFA's information/communication vehicle. Nowhere in its title does it say "Holy Bible according to MCBFA (or the Editor)". The Editor and its contributing writers enjoy the same right to freedom of speech and press that all of you do.

It has definitely stimulated discussion, and that too is wonderful. So rather than writing denigrating letters that squelch ideas and make people retreat and afraid to express themselves, it would be better to submit constructive opinions/suggestions/sketches, etc. to augment the discussion, and thereby come to some point of understanding, respect and acceptance of individuals.

~ ~ ~

Paul Kurtz, a Fancier in Illinois, was the ONLY person to take up the challenge of naming all the cats on the cover of the last issue. He named 7 of the nine correctly. Just for participating, I'm sending him a set of old-fashioned cat postcards. Thank you, Paul. Here are the correct names of the cats, clockwise, starting at the top:

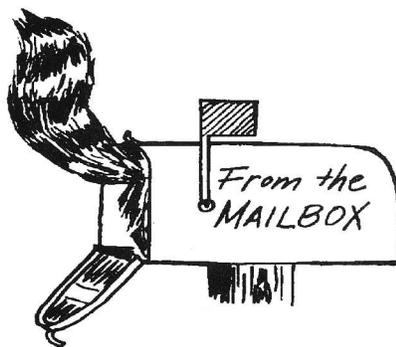
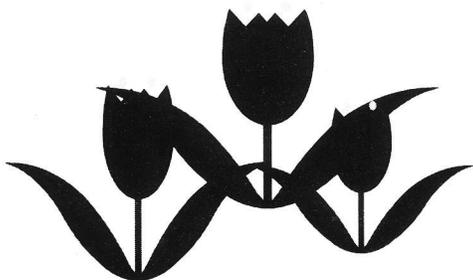
McKimmey's Warrior  
Capecoon's Indy of McWhiskers  
Wyndhaven's Beaudesapha of Wolfewillow  
Terrificats Vanna  
Berryhill's Silver Dawn  
Wyndhaven Quirk  
Gracie  
Hoosiercoon Bobbie Six  
Essiecoons Winston

~ ~ ~

The theme of this issue is RESPONSIBILITY - as a breeder and a fancier. We talk about ways to establish a better reputation; rescuing and finding new homes; dealing with aggressive animal rights groups and the legislation developing across the nation. We hope that it helps you realize that it is better to join them than hide. It is better to be active than passive. MCBFA and *The Scratch Sheet* are showing these individuals and groups that all breeders aren't bad, and that we strive to promote the same ideals they do. But each of you must back up our words with action so that our message does not ring hollow.

~ ~ ~

Our next issue will feature our male members and their cats--both breeders and fanciers. Send in your pictures and stories, either about your catteries or your individual cats. Pedigrees would be an added attraction. Deadline is May 15, 1996



### DO WE REALLY CARE?

When I first thought of writing about Hester for the Scratch sheet, I had reservations. After all, this is a magazine about Maine Coons, something Hester definitely is NOT. Then our dear Editor told me the theme of this quarter's issue. I've tried to make Hester's story a little humorous, but there is nothing humorous about her plight, or the plight of thousands of homeless and unwanted pets.

There is nothing funny about finding animals living at garbage dumps, hunting for food. Nothing humorous about pets running scared alongside the road. Nothing humorous about humane societies so overcrowded they have to euthanize. Let's face it, killing animals to make room for more is a vicious cycle. A friend from the Humane Society in New York once said she never used the term "put to sleep" with people. She said they are not sleeping and they don't wake up!

There was a real person who called me inquiring about a female so that her son could experience "the miracle of birth". I tried my best to make her understand this was not the thing to do, but after all was said, her last words were, "You can always find homes for kittens, they're so cute". I finally told her what Traci Jones had recently told me--her vet tech answers that kind of statement with "Just visit the pound every Thursday and experience the "miracle of death"!

I hope we've all been preaching to the converted. Certainly, no MCBFA member or fancier would ever abandon a pet or breed without the reasonable assurance of decent, loving homes. And, we're all prepared to keep those we produce who don't get adopted, aren't we?

Of the Maine Coon breeders I've met, almost everyone is in some form of animal rescue, although most don't even think of it as that. They just see a need and meet it. Many have former strays; many practice capture/vaccinate/neuter/release programs. Many have neutered and placed "someone else's responsibility" into good homes. Alan's oft-used phrase, "someone else's cat" comes when I spend money on spaying, shots, etc. for a stray we've rescued.

What happens the next time a pregnant cat or tiny kitten appears? Do I turn it away, send it to it's almost certain death at the pound,

or continue to amass so many cats that we all suffer? It's something I worry alot about and I know Hester will not be the last to show up at our door.

One organization said they couldn't keep an animal longer than two weeks. THIS TIME, I could, but if we all don't do our share to give an animal a home, take steps to educate people to spay or neuter (they DON'T NEED one litter first to be happy), find homes for ones we can't keep, and do whatever else we can to help, we're all going to be in trouble.

If we say we love cats (and dogs) and do NOTHING, do we really care????

Bev Jennings, Alberlee  
Rincon, GA

Dear Editor:

As a breeder member, I am becoming increasingly concerned about the tone of *The Scratch Sheet* at the present time.

Too much emphasis is being placed on the look of the Maine Coon and breeders working with the more extreme look are being viewed in a very negative fashion.

No one is "genetically engineering" this look. Many breeders happen to be working with Heidi-Ho lines. When two cats with this lineage are bred together, they often produce kittens with long muzzles, large ears and heavy lynx tipping. I have seen this happen time and time again when breeding fairly moderate cats with Heidi-Ho lineage. To say we are altering or "genetically engineering" our cats is foolhardy and dangerous.

There is enough division already between breeders of different looks and the different organizations. It is time we started to all come together for the welfare of the breed. Inflammatory statements which are unfounded, are not helpful. They only "fuel the fire".

We should be concentrating on the common bond we all share--the love of the Maine Coon Cat. There is plenty of room in the fancy for the different looks, and *The Scratch Sheet* should not be used as a vehicle for a very narrow point of view.

As far as the health and vigor of the Maine Coon is concerned, I agree there are problems and I do not know what the solution is. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is seen in many unrelated lines, as is pectus. Breeding two outcross cats together does not solve the problems as all the Maine Coon lines were developed through inbreeding and close line breeding. I have seen outcross lines bred with disastrous results. We are experiencing the same problems that have plagued breeders working with pedigreed animals of any sort.

Please let's stop bashing each other over muzzle length, ear size and lynx tips and focus on the important issues at hand.

Sincerely, Cynthia Patteson  
Coontastic Maine Coons, New York



Dear Editor:

The Winter 1995 issue was both a surprise and a major disappointment to me. While reading the article on "What [Exactly Does] A Maine Coon Look Like", I was shocked to read a reference to "long horse-faced muzzles" and to see a diagram that showed an ear with "too thick" lynx tips. These are personal opinions and should not be reflected in *The Scratch Sheet*. The publication was designed to represent all breeders, their various looks and associations. Stating that we are breeding to please judges is totally off the mark. We breed for the look we want which is good lynx tips and long muzzles. It is my pleasure and my desire to develop a Maine Coon that I feel both meets the Standards of my association and my personal vision of the cat.

Sincerely, Patricia LeDoux  
Temora Maine Coon Cats, MA

Dear Editor:

I wanted to write my first and last "letter to the Editor" to explain why, after 14 years as breeder members, my wife and I have decided not to continue our membership in MCBFA.

Cheri and I made this decision for several reasons. A large factor, perhaps the largest, comes from our decision to stop breeding and showing (it just ain't fun anymore). However, concern for, and dismay at the state of the association also played a large role in our decision.

We both feel that MCBFA has grown too large to function as anything other than a debating society. We've been unable to keep out many unethical breeders. It seems that our officers can no longer resolve problems between kitten buyers and breeders due to threats and fears of lawsuits. Despite years of effort, it seems that every cat fancy organization has a different standard for our cats. We haven't even been able to agree on a code of ethics for ourselves. In addition, we feel that the sponsorship program has become a joke. Ninety percent-plus of the sponsors have never been to their sponsoree's cattery more than once. Witness the many breeders who have sponsored 3-4 or more new members at a time. Heck, the only new member I ever sponsored was in the UK!

It's time for us to admit that we can't really do anything about anything. Stop pretending that we can, and relax the membership requirements to the level of the rest of the breed clubs. Simply have prospective members provide proof of having bred at least one litter and let them in. Either that or simply disband entirely, altho I know that won't happen. Too many people have their egos tied too tightly to what happens here.

Perhaps the association can be resurrected to the form it had ten years ago, when it was a tight-knit organization of dedicated breeders, who were more interested in the Coon's welfare than in personal ego gratification. However, that would take a monumental effort and a great deal of dedication, and I simply don't see those kinds of folks around anymore.

In closing, I would like to wish you and all the rest of my old friends good luck in the future. May you all have healthy kittens and many Grands in each litter. And I bid you goodbye.

Sincerely, Todd & Cheri Glosier  
Shirecats Maine Coons, California

Dear Editor:

I would like to make corrections to the two leading sentences in my letter to the editor in the Winter 95 issue. They were not well edited and are completely in error. The first sentence "I have two Maine Coon alters which are full brothers to a recent Memorial cat, etc." is totally false. My 2 cats, who are brothers, are not related to any Memorial cat. In my original letter, before it was edited for publication, I merely commented on the death of a cat from cardiomyopathy. (not related)

The second sentence "They, along with their sire died of cardiomyopathy" is irrational since in the next sentence I refer to my health concerns over my two very much alive cats. I don't know who the "They" in that second sentence refers to. It makes no sense.

I had also written in my original letter that I've never written a letter to an editor and now I know why. My letter was edited in such a way that the first two sentences are misleading, false and illogical. Consider this, please, my last letter to the Editor.

Sincerely, Beth Robertson  
Morrisville, Vermont

[Ms. Robertson has been sent a personal card of apology from the Editor]

Dear Editor:

The article on Feline Vaccines which you wrote for our Winter edition was very thoroughly researched, and very informative, but it neglected to comment on one aspect of vaccines which is imperative knowledge if breeders are to make an educated decision of weighing the pro's against the con's. This aspect is the ongoing studies of side effects from some of the vaccines, specifically, Feline Leukemia, Rabies and Feline Infectious Peritonitis.

There is a definite link between FeLV and Rabies vaccines and deadly fibrosarcoma tumors in cats, mostly at the injection site, sometimes elsewhere on the cat's body. The instance of these tumors has exploded in areas where mandatory rabies vaccine laws have been enacted in the past few years. The tumors run deeply through the muscular tissue, making their removal impossible. In the cases I have followed, surgeries to remove the tumors only served to cause rapid regrowth. Radiation therapy has not resulted in a cure. It is believed that the tumors are caused by the aluminum adjuvant contained in the vaccines. There is a very well-written article in the November 1995 issue of the CFA Almanac for those who want more information, and the Winn Foundation is in the process of a study on Vaccine-induced fibrosarcomas.

Also, I have an article which ran in the Persian News, Oct 1993, written by Lorraine Shelton, a veterinary technician who worked for a company researching FeLV, FIP and FIV. It is very technical in nature, but states that some cats vaccinated for FeLV will develop FIP. It further states that 20-73% of vaccinated kitties in the FIP study developed enhanced clinical disease upon challenge with FIP. The main gist of the article was to use caution--do not let your cats become

guinea pigs. How can they develop a vaccine for a virus which they cannot even isolate from other corona viruses?

I have another article from the JAVMA (Vol 207, No.4, Aug.15,1995) entitled "Are We Vaccinating Too Much?" It covers such topics as Duration of Immunity, Sarcoma Formation, Immune-mediated Disease, Vaccine Failure, Risk vs. Benefit, using titer tests to determine the duration of protection on individual animals, etc. I will provide reprints of these articles for anyone who is interested.

I wonder if there is a licensed veterinarian, also a member of MCBFA, who would be willing to proof future SS articles which deal with medical information? We need to be very careful that we do not give out mis-information to our readers, and that we present both the pro's and con's of medical issues.

Sincerely, Traci Jones  
Rocquoone Maine Coon Cats  
Glen Allen, VA Ph: 804-270-7040

[ED: My article was researched solely from veterinary publications and proofed by Dr. F. Clarke Berryman, DVM. Rabies vaccine requires administration by a licensed vet. It is their business to know the correct methods of administration and side effects.

In addition, Dr. Mary McCauley, DVM and MCBFA member (former Maine Coon breeder) has graciously offered to proof all future medical articles. Please send them to her along with a SASE to forward to the *Scratch Sheet* Editor. Her address is: 18355 Gladville St. Homewood IL 60430]

Dear Editor:

Thank you for sending my *Scratch Sheet* by First Class Mail. Keep up the good articles. I loved the one you wrote on "What Exactly Does A Maine Coon Look Like". Keep up the good work.

Thank you, Judy Harvey  
Classycoon Cattery, New York

Dear Editor:

The latest issue of *The Scratch Sheet* is super! I particularly enjoyed the articles on Ginny, the Schindlers; the good explanations about the types of vaccinations to give, especially the reprint on Bordatella; and the delightful story about a day at Rocquoone.

I must agree with Ginny that there is too much emphasis on winning and not enough on protection of the breed by careful breeding; she also hit the nail on the head about the lack of guidance being given to too many of the new breeders. We have all seen the results of washing our hands of a cat after it has been sold. Thank heavens I was fortunate enough to be taken in hand by Vicki Shipp, Sue Shaw and Mary Buckmaster, who were always there for me when I had a problem or a question and who never hesitated to set me straight if I seemed to be veering from the proper path. Like Ginny, I have been appalled at some of the pedigrees I have recently seen; line breeding done for a purpose is appropriate, but INBREEDING TO THE EXTENT

LETTERS *cont.*

IT IS BEING DONE CAN NEVER BE EXCUSABLE! Some people have been lucky--so far--but I fear for the day when the accounting is demanded, as it will be.

Thanks for a great issue, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours, Liz Flynn, V.P.  
Tanasi Maine Coons, Georgia

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for the hand-drawn head and ear diagrams in the latest *Scratch Sheet*! This need for clarification has always seemed so necessary but how to express it had always eluded me, and coming from you as Editor, I HOPE people will listen and stop breeding the "German Shepard look"!

Sincerely, Beth Kus, Dirigo MC

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to a recent vote NOT to admit a person that I sponsored into MCBFA as a Breeder Member. I will tell the story and let the readers decide if the current rules for attaining breeder member status are allowing a few unethical breeders to blackball qualified new members.

One Sunday evening, I received a phone call for the provisional member that I had sponsored. She told me that she had attended a cat show in which another provisional member had a litter of 2-month-old MC kittens in a crate under her cage. Since 2-month-old kittens are too young to receive all their shots, and are too young to bring into a show hall (as per that association's show rules), she told the show manager that the kittens were there. The show manager responded that she knew about them and that she had approved of them being there. The provisional member said that that was not acceptable, but she let it go. While at the show, she was told that she should learn to keep her mouth shut or she could be kept out of MCBFA. Since that statement bothered her, she called me to find out what to do. I told her that she had done the right thing, and that the health of the kittens was more important than what others thought about her. We both hoped that would be the end of the story. However, early the next week, I received a phone call from a member of the MCBFA Ethics Committee. I

was informed by that person that I should tell this prov. member to keep her mouth shut, or she would be blacklisted and kept out of MCBFA. The call was not a threat. It was a person I know, telling me what they had heard and trying to be helpful to me and the prov. member. I was amazed! I was on the phone with a member of the Ethics Committee who was telling me that to be a breeder member of MCBFA, the prov. member should ignore the MCBFA Code of Ethics and be careful not to anger people who were violating that code. It made no sense to me, but I took the message as friendly advice and told the prov. member that, although I thought it was the wrong way for an organization like MCBFA to be run, to tell me the next time she saw a problem, and let me handle it.

During the interim between the above incident and the vote on acceptance into full breeder member status in MCBFA, I advised the prov. member how to maintain a clean and controlled cattery, and how to choose the right breeding program so that her cattery did not expand beyond control. She complied, and in my opinion has a cattery that many of the breeder members could use as a model to get their catteries back under control.

This prov. member was up for vote and rejected by a vote of 9 Yes and 9 No. There aren't 18 breeder members who know her. In fact, before the vote, we were worried that there may not be 8 breeder members that knew her well enough to vote. Ironically, I had rejected the temptation to call people who did not know her in an attempt to get them to vote yes, because it seemed to be contrary to the spirit of the voting process. However, the only way that nine people could have voted against her is if there was a campaign to blackball her. It is a fact that several of the nine NO votes had to be people who had never met my sponsoree, but who agreed to vote according to the urgings of others.

By the way, the prov. member who brought the 2-month-old kittens into the showhall WAS voted in as a full breeder member. As a result, while I find it hard to believe that if you care about the health and care of Maine Coons, and make every effort to run a model cattery, you do not belong in MCBFA. That seems to be a logical interpretation of the situation.

Steven G. Cole, Ryanplace Cats, Texas

Dear Editor:

As a rookie Maine coon fancier, I am hesitant to write, but I would like to point out that I agree strongly with your editorial in the Winter 1995 issue. I agree wholeheartedly that manipulating the breed will only work to the detriment of the animals that we profess to care so much about. Man's attempt to refine nature's designs have resulted in animals that cannot survive in their natural habitat--indeed animals that have no natural habitat. Take for example, that 9 out of 10 chickens have lost the instinct to sit on their own brood of eggs. Striking a little closer to home, breeds such as the RagDoll, which for all their cuteness could not survive a day in the wild. Their proclivity to "go limp" at a sign of danger would mean accidental death, maiming or worse. Avoid breeding your own line of eccentric cats. The breed you design and name may have a miserable lot in life.

Sincerely,  
Victor R. Volkman

Dear Editor:

I read with some trepidation, the article "Life in a Cathouse" (Winter '95) by Traci Jones. The very next day, I read what Kitty Angell had to say in the March issue of CATS Magazine, in the regular feature "Dear Kitty". I quote in part, "Many people would never rear their children the way they raise their animals. In homes where little or no discipline and supervision are provided, cats turn into tiny terrorists! Like small children, cats are in need of guidance and limitations. Many people in their genuine love for their cats, tend to allow them to do anything they want. But a cat that lives with no rules is as uncontrollable as a small child in a similar situation." As my own kitties are far from angels, I've found that a plant sprayer and a tin with a few pennies work wonders. I also shut them in a cat-proof sun room while we're away. Cats underfoot while cooking, and "plumey tails through the plates" seems like a good place to start a little discipline. Mrs. Jones didn't mention cats on the counters, (my own special no-no). I really hate to think of making a sandwich (or anything else) where a cat has sat.

Mary Davies, Fancier Member

## Onion Powder in Baby Food

may induce anemia in cats

It is common in veterinary practice to tempt sick and debilitated animals to eat by offering them food that we consider to be highly palatable. One such product is commercially available baby food. It has come to the attention of the veterinarians in our hospital, through the investigative tenacity of an astute client, that the manufacturer of one of the most popular brands of baby food recently began adding onion powder to at least two varieties (chicken and turkey flavors). The aforementioned client was referred to us because her cat developed a regenerative anemia associated with marked heinz body formation. [Ed: These formations are abnormalities

in the DNA of the red blood cells, observed only under high-powered magnification] She had begun feeding her cat turkey baby food approximately two weeks prior to presentation. The anemia and heinz body formation resolved within three days after discontinuing the diet containing onion powder. Another veterinarian caring for another cat with a similar case history and hematologic data described resolution of the problem after discontinuing feeding the same brand of baby food containing onion powder.

Onions have been known to cause oxidative damage to canine and feline RBC (specifically to the hemoglobin molecule). The structural differences of feline hemoglobin make it more sensitive to oxidative damage. The affected RBC undergo accelerated destruction by

intravascular fragmentation or extravascular phagocytosis by the spleen.

There has not been a scientific cause and effect established for the described observations, however, these clinical findings are strongly suggestive of onion toxicosis. Therefore, it would appear prudent that we read the labels of baby food and other non-pet food products to ensure that the food does not contain onion powder before we feed it to our small animal patients. In addition, we should inform our clients to follow this recommendation, because onion powder is listed as an ingredient in various brands of baby food.

Dr Andrew J. Kaplan, DVM  
Mill Valley, CA  
reprinted w/permission from JAVMA, Vol 207  
No. 11, Dec. 1, 1995



# BULLETIN BOARD

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Sue Servies requests the following practices to take effect immediately:

All OVERSEAS payments of dues, ads, back issues etc. be made by a Bank Check with "U.S. Dollars" mechanically printed right on the check. NOT HANDWRITTEN.

OR, use an International Money Order.  
Our banks are getting very fussy about accepting personal checks from out of the country.

Up until now, Sue has been charging \$3.00 for NFS (bounced) checks. From now on, there will be a \$20.00 charge for NFS checks. Make sure you leave money in account before you close it, when all the checks haven't cleared. Your membership and all services will be denied until your check is covered.

Thank You!

## MCBFA MEETING

March 22-24, 1996

in conjunction with the  
Penn-Jersey Cat Club Show  
in Secaucus, NJ

It is usually held on one of the above dates and ALL MCBFA members, Fanciers, Prov. Breeders and Full Breeders and guests are welcome.

Let's have a large turnout.

For more meeting information, you may call  
Barbara Washburn at 610-644-9372.

## Special 1996 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Put your Name and/or Cattery name in the space marked "Referred By". Make copies of the Special Membership Application below. Hand these out to Fanciers interested in Maine Coons, new "Kitten Parents", or to those who simply like to read about cats. Send these Special Forms and checks directly to the Editor for tabulation and credit for prizes. Renewals are not eligible. NEW MEMBERS ONLY.

GRAND PRIZE - an original watercolor painting titled "Maine Coon Winter", by Cheryl M. Gower. (Winner must get a minimum of 30 new readers)

1st Place - Full page ad (to a breeder); copy of "That Yankee Cat" by Marilis Hornidge (to a Fancier) For the most new members up to 30.

2nd Place - Half-page ad (to a breeder); First Class postage for your Scratch Sheet for one year. (to a Fancier)

3rd Place - Quarter-page ad (to a breeder); collection of Feline Stationery, stickers, cards etc. (to a Fancier)

## Special MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I would like to begin one year as a Fancier Member of MCBFA and receive its quarterly publication, *The Scratch Sheet*. I have enclosed \$15.00 in USA (\$16 in Canada; \$26 Overseas). Please send my subscription to: (Please PRINT)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my subscription will begin with the issue following the receipt of my dues, and my expiration date will appear on the address label.

REFERRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check or Money Order payable to MCBFA (in U.S. funds)**

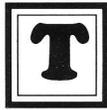
**MAIL TO: The Scratch Sheet  
Cheryl M. Gower, Editor  
12376 Checkerboard Rd.  
Gervais OR 97026-9701**

Heritage Series ~ ~ ~  
Rod & Betty Ljostad

# JoStad

MAINE  
COON  
CATS

by Rod Ljostad



There had always been at least one cat in any house that I lived in, so it seemed perfectly logical that Betty and I purchase a Siamese cat soon after we married. A friend then insisted that we visit a cat show in the local county center. We were fascinated by the many beautiful cats. It wasn't long before we were attending shows as exhibitors.

Years went by and in April of 1964, National Geographic Magazine had an article on cats of the world by Richard Gebhart with photos by Walter Chandoa. One photo had a caption, "Maine Coon Cat". I thought the cat in the photo looked like Fluffy, the neighbor cat of my youth. This was in City Island, New York, a small island in the western end of Long Island Sound. City Island was at that time a yachting center. About half the island was devoted to boat building or maintenance. Many yachts would follow the coast from Maine to Florida. Fluffy was given as a kitten to our neighbors by a crewman of a large sail boat. The boatyards always had many cats in residence. Sailors say they control the rats. I remember the cooks putting out food on the docks to feed the cats. Many of these cats were polydactyl (extra toes), as was Fluffy. I would estimate that forty per cent of the cats on the yachts and in the boatyards were "polys".

We started looking for Maine Coon Cats in our cat show circuit. Betty and I traveled as far as Boston and Philadelphia and never saw a registered Maine Coon. We did see a few household pets that looked as if they could be related.

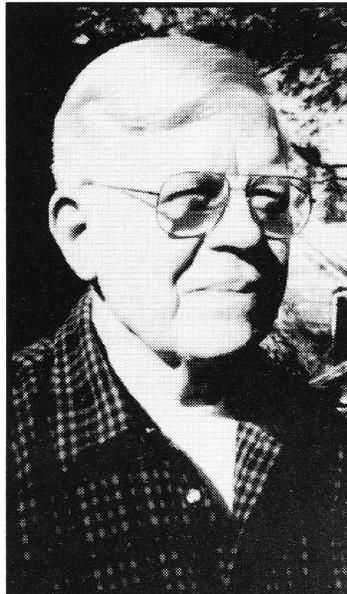
One of the nice things about being a school teacher is having time in the summer to do different things. We always managed to take two weeks and head for the rocky coast of Maine. I had rigged up a Volkswagon van for camping. It even had a tent platform on the roof for daughter, Lynn. Our *modus operandi* was to head for Acadia National Park, and go from there. A magnificent park, Acadia is where I first saw an American eagle nesting.

We found an ad in CATS Magazine by Ethelyn Whittemore for registered Maine Coon Cats. Betty wrote and made arrangements to visit. We arrived in Augusta, Maine, crossed the Kennebec River, and headed along Riverside Drive. After quite a while, checking landmarks, even I had to admit we were lost. I pulled over to a small general store and told the lady at the counter that we were looking for Mrs. Robert Whittemore. She said, "I am Mrs. Robert Whittemore." Soon it was time for her to leave work and we all proceeded to her nearby home. I remember she had a separate building for the cattery, with steam heat piped out from the main house. We saw many beautiful cats that day. Naturally we made arrangements for our first Maine Coon Cat, a tortoiseshell, who could leave the cattery in six weeks. She arrived in our house in May of 1968. This was Whittemore's Jennifer.

A letter arrived from Nancy Silsbee (Koon Kit) of Lakeville, Connecticut. She told how she had lost a beautiful Maine Coon neuter at thirteen years of age and had so much trouble finding another that she decided to breed some to be sure they were always available. She had purchased two registered Maine Coon Cats from Mrs. Whittemore in October, 1966. After breeding for two years, she was interested in organizing a group of friends of the Maine Coon Cat, and extended an invitation to visit her in northwest Connecticut. Nancy lived in an old farmhouse with Louise Scribner. They were professional musicians, and the living room was filled by two parlor grand pianos.

Attending the meeting were six Maine Coon owners: Ousi Kiefer, Betty and Rod Ljostad, Theodora O'Toole, Nancy Silsbee and Nate Wartell. This was in August, 1968. From this nucleus MCBFA was formed. Our hope was to unite all those who were interested in the Maine Coon Cat. It was a busy day. We set up an acting organization to serve until such time

as we could approve a constitution. Nancy was acting President; I was acting Vice President; Florence Wartell was Treasurer; Betty was acting Secretary. We set goals: To find Maine Coon Cats and owners wherever they might be; To get one uniform standard approved, and to get the cat accepted for championship exhibition in all nine registering organizations. We decided to meet monthly to speed up the process.



Our early meetings soon added Lillias Vanderhoff of Pequannock, NJ, who had Maine Coons from Mrs. Whittemore in 1966, and Delanne Dubois of Houston, Tx. Delane wrote, "My interest was aroused as a child when told that my ancestors had brought these cats with them to the Fireland Lands (Indian Lands) of Ohio from their homes in Connecticut. This was in the 1820s. There is a charming Indian legend that the many-toed (polydactyl) brown tabby is the Indian good luck cat. I knew one such huge stud that the local folk, in the area settled by my ancestors more than 100 years before, regularly gave a pat for good luck." In 1966, Whittemore's John of All Saints, a brown tabby polydactyl stud arrived at the DuBois cattery [All Saints].

Then we met Muriel Corgan. She got her Whittemore cats in 1968. Muriel worked in a luncheonette in Poughkeepsie, NY and liked to go West on her vacations, bringing and showing her cats, naturally. She met Eugene and Lee Eminhizer on one of these trips. Dr. Eminhizer was an Assistant Professor at Youngstown State University in Ohio. Lee taught in a local school in Warren, Ohio. They bred and showed Himalayans, Persians and Manx. They

used to vacation in Maine and in 1964 added Maine Coons to their Emin-Dale cattery. They wanted to be able to show Maine Coon Cats in their local shows in Ohio. Maine Coons were not accepted in shows, because they were not registered. The cat registries had all sorts of requirements about registering a number of generations behind the cat. Gene did all the paper work and registered his Maine Coons. He helped Mrs. Whittemore register her cats and their previous generations. By the winter of 1966-67, Maine Coons were accepted by CCA. In the Spring of 1967, ACA accepted our breed. ACFA followed a short time later.

We'll "fast forward" to 1970, because by then we had a constitution approved by the membership and were ready for our first official election. Elected were: Pres.- Dr. Eugene Eminhizer; VP - Dr. Rod Ljostad; Treas. - Lillias Vanderhoff; Secy. - Betty Ljostad; Recorder - Muriel Corgan; Editor - Nancy Silsbee. Nancy's health was deteriorating so the Editor's work was subsequently taken over by the Secretary. Mrs. Whittemore was made an honorary life member.

Gene and Lee Eminhizer used to come to New York to buy cork for cat scratching posts. Cork is good for these posts, because cats are attracted to cork more than carpet. There was an old sea chandlers shop at what is now called the South Street Seaport. This shop was a living museum, filled with everything a fishing boat from the Fulton Fish Market would ever want or need. I followed Gene's example and bought a bag of 100 cork seine floats. That's all it took to get me started in the scratching post business. You can imagine my chagrin when I arrived in lower Manhattan for a refill one day and found a hole in the ground where the shop should be and a sign proudly proclaiming, "We're building a new museum". The cork gave us an extra opportunity to meet and make plans. I now buy corks from Portugal and ship scratching posts all over the country.

Thus far, I have introduced the cast of characters. It seems only fair to give you some of the beginnings of the story.

## SHOW-INS

Our program for publicizing the Maine Coon Cat included what we called the "Show-In"--a united effort, whereby the group agreed on particular shows, and brought their cats before the judges and the public, even if they



were only eligible for exhibition.

### CODES for the SALE and SHIPPING of KITTENS

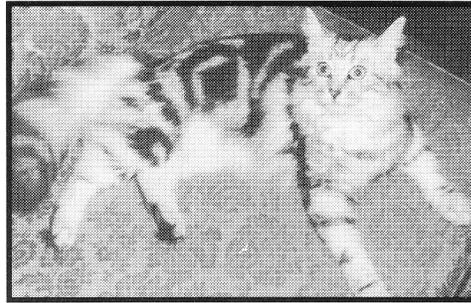
In the early days airlines carried freight in the cargo hold, which often was not heated or pressurized. After an unfortunate incident, we decided that it would help to have codes, the idea being that if the seller and buyer, the shipper and recipient knew exactly what to expect, the risk would be reduced.

### POLYDACTYLISM

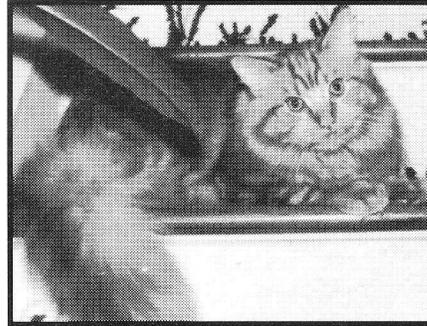
Many Maine Coons were polydactyl in the early days. Our usual method of solving things was to put it to a vote. The mail ballot was the most democratic way we could operate. The question here came down to should we write a standard for the normal-toed Maine Coon, or should we include the polydactyl, and in so doing make it more difficult to be accepted by registering organizations. Those who voted on this decided to submit the standard only for the normal-toed Maine Coon. Betty and I decided then that we had better buy a polydactyl Maine Coon. We didn't want this feature to be lost to the breed. As I type this, a red and white polydactyl, sixteen-year-old Maine Coon, named Mather (say Martha with a Nor-easter accent) is sitting on my desk. I can tell from the look on her face that she is considering learning to type.

### FOUNDATION REGISTRATION

The gene pool of the existing registered Maine Coons (circa 1966) was quite small, so a



JoStad's Annabelle - Silver Cl. Tabby

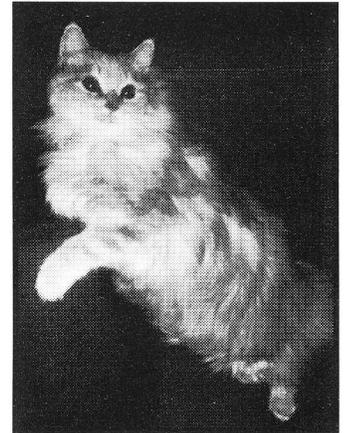


JoStad's Ather (Arther spoken with a Nor'easter accent) Red cl. Tabby Male

proposal was made that cats with unknown backgrounds could be registered as Maine Coons as long as they met the standard. This question raised lots of discussion, and actually it was one that each of the registering organizations settled for themselves.

### BREED CLUBS

CFF and CFA had requirements that a breed club chartered by them had to exist before a new breed could be accepted for championship. We voted that MCBFA continue to remain independent. At this time, the number of Maine Coon breeders was a finite number. So most MCBFA members joined two more clubs and went to all the meetings.

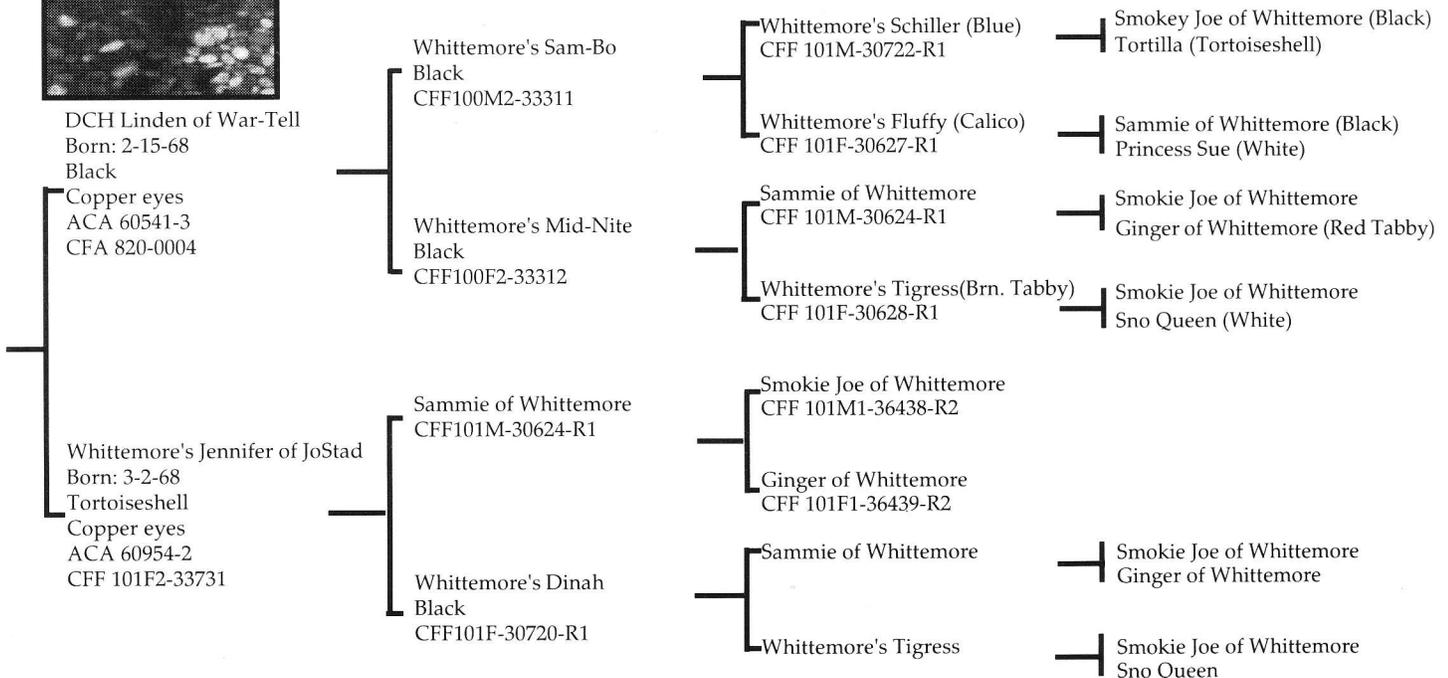


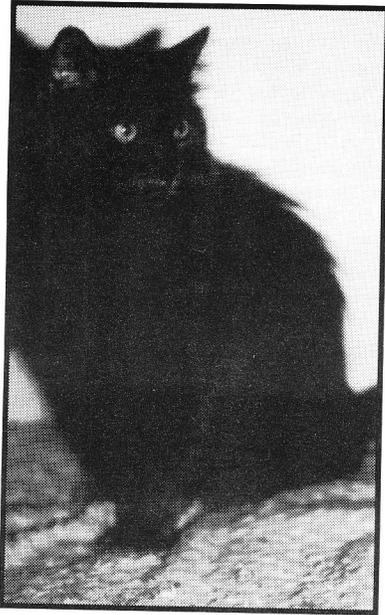
Whittemore's Hester of JoStad Cameo cl. tabby



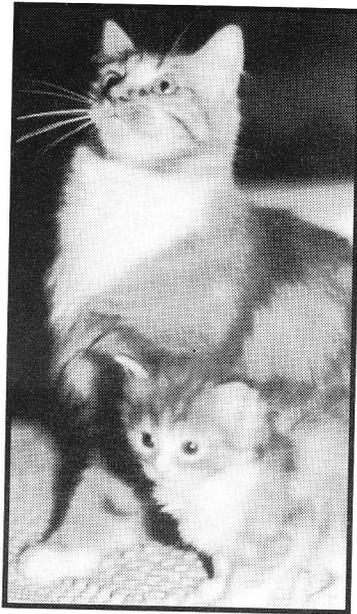
Whittemore's Jennifer of JoStad

Betty and I operated JoStad Kittery (the phonetic pronunciation of their last name) and specialized in red, blue and silver Maine Coons. Betty sang with the Parkchester Choral Society, and was one of the foundresses of the Westchester Recorder Guild. She died of lung cancer brought on by smoking in 1987 at the age of 57. I learned a Doctor of Education degree from New York University in 1965 and taught shopwork/ engineering drawing at Scarsdale High School in New York before retiring in 1990. Even though I'm 70, I still keep involved with cats and showing by setting up cages and trophy tables. Swimming everyday makes me feel so good I could clean out the garage. Fortunately the three-mile trip back home wears off the enthusiasm. 

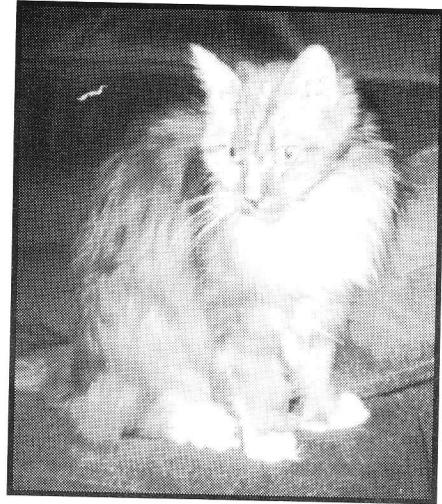




JoStad's Jon (Solid Black)



JoStad's Mather with kitten (red cl. tabbies w/ white) in about 1981.

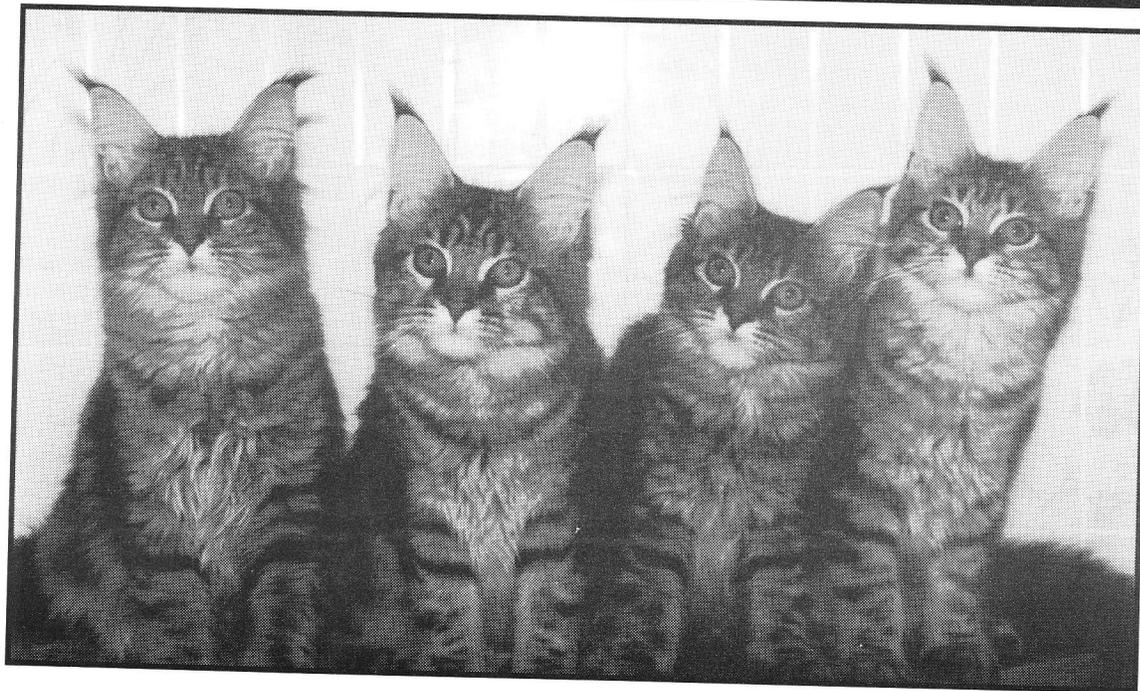


JoStad's Mather today at 16 years of age.

*Thank you, Dr. Rod, for all you and Betty did to further the development and spread the good word about our beloved Maine Coon Cats.*

*"We grow only when we push ourselves beyond what we already know"*

Unknown



CAPECOON MAINE COON CATS

Cheryl & Bob Kearns

171 Weir Rd. Yarmouthport, MA 02675 PH: 508-362-8826 FAX: 508-362-5244



# Campaign Clips

Short Bits about MCBFA Electoral Hopefuls

For PRESIDENT:

Judy Chappetta, Cooncreole Maine Coons, Louisiana  
Currently Breeder Member Secretary

For VICE PRESIDENT:

Incumbent, Liz Flynn, Tanasi Maine Coons, Georgia

"I am running for a second term as your Vice-President. As the association will have a new President this year, I feel it might be advantageous to have the continuity that would be provided by having the second most important office held by one who is a present member of the Executive Council. Although the Vice-Presidency is not an exceptionally demanding position, this office needs to be held by someone who has been active in MCBFA and who has worked closely with the present administration.

I have been a Breeder Member of MCBFA since the mid-1980's. I have served on the Ethics Committee as Chair and on the Complaints Committee. While carrying out the duties of both of these committees, I have been impressed by the vital necessity of making MCBFA a unified force for the protection and preservation of the Maine Coon breed.

Now that I am in the second year of retirement from a lifelong commitment to teaching, I know that I do have the time and the energy to devote to the Vice-Presidency and to any other tasks which the association may feel need to be undertaken.

I appreciate your support in the past and ask for your vote in the upcoming election."

For FANCIER MEMBER SECRETARY:

Incumbent, Karen Wiggins, Karth Maine Coons, Texas

For Mid-Atlantic REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

JoAnn Genovese, Taelcat Maine Coons, Maryland

"I have been exhibiting Maine Coon Cats since 1986. In 1988, I started a cattery and began my breeding program. I originally specialized in silver Maine Coon Cats, with or without white, however, I am now concentrating on browns and blues, with or without white.

I am a member of the Maine Coon Breed Committee for ACFA and am very active in that association. In 1994, I became a licensed household pet judge, and am working at fulfilling the requirements to become a championship judge.

MCBFA was formed to promote and protect the Maine Coon Cat. This association also has cultivated friendships among Maine Coon breeders and fanciers. As breeders we need to work together to overcome the problems that we have in our breeding programs and also about the successes of our programs. As fanciers we need to support each other in the judging rings and proudly display our beautiful cats for other exhibitors and spectators to see and enjoy.

If elected as your Mid-Atlantic Director, I will bring with me fresh ideas and much enthusiasm to this position. As an active breeder and exhibitor, I can be found at shows along the East Coast and am available to talk with you about your concerns and ideas regarding Maine Coons and MCBFA. Please feel free to call me at 410-850-0574. My e-mail address is TAELOCAT001@aol.com. I am asking for your support and your vote.

For Southwest REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

Darlene Ruhle, Crooners Maine Coons, Oklahoma  
Currently Provisional Breeder Member Secretary

Western REGIONAL DIRECTOR: (3 filings)

Incumbent, Nancy Davenport, St. Clouds Maine Coons, California

I have been a Maine Coon breeder for the past ten years. All of the cats I started with are alive and well in my home, including QGC St. Cloud's Diamond Lil, the first kitten from my cattery. I've produced about 200 kittens; sixty-three have gone to breeders in America, Europe and Japan. I believe these facts indicate a record of consistent quality and good care.

I'm a semi-retired psychotherapist (MSW from UCLA '67) and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. I work only a half-day per week now, so I have

plenty of time for my cats and other MCBFA-related duties. I was recently elected to the TICA Maine Coon Breed Council.

During my first term as Western Director of MCBFA, I mediated and helped resolve six disputes between breeders; brought in over 20 new Fancier members; assisted in the rescue, rehabilitation and relocation of 20 distressed cats; referred 12 kitten buyers to breeders in our region; co-chaired one meeting and provided assistance and advice to everyone who requested it.

I've enjoyed my term as Western Director, and feel I've just gotten good at it. If elected for another term, I hope to develop, enhance and find funding for a regional Maine Coon rescue program. Hopefully, with your support, I'll be able to continue.

Helen Johns, Pedropurrs, California

It's time for MCBFA breeders to come together in unity to promote our beloved Maine Coon Cats. We can get along; we can help one another by sharing information. When one of us has a tragedy in our cattery, we can provide educational and moral support. We can share with new breeders what has and has not worked for us, and allow them to make their own decisions based on experiential knowledge. If one of us is no longer able to maintain our cattery, the rest of us can step in and help put us back on our feet or help find good homes for our cats if needed.

I encourage you to send me your thoughts and ideas for our Western Region. How do you see MCBFA in 1996; what would help you to promote/maintain our "gentle giants"? Perhaps you would like to have a Regional Newsletter....

Many of you are familiar with PEDROPURRS ALEXANDER THE GREAT (from my first litter in 1989); Alex was a TICA Regional and International Winner. PEDROPURRS DESTINY and MR. LUCKY (2 survivors out of a litter of 9) were TICA Regional winners in the Alter Class and Mr. Lucky was the 15th Best Premier in CFA SW Region a couple of years ago. Last year, PEDROPURRS SIRIUS STAR (blue-silver classic sired by Alexander The Great) was the 2nd Best MC Kitten in TICA; he's a SGC in TICA and a GRC in CFA. My husband, Don, and I do this as a hobby, not a business; we fell in love with this breed because it looks like a "real cat".

Don and I are native Californians; we have been married 37 years and have three daughters and four grandchildren. I am a Children's Social Worker for Los Angeles County Dept. of Children and Family Services. I see children on my job who are not as loved and cared for as many of our cats. My cats are a great source of comfort to me.

Let me close by saying I hope that your breeding program will be successful, healthy and personally fulfilling. Please remember to vote for the candidate of your choice. You can make a difference in MCBFA.

Laura Cunningham, Coonyham Maine Coons, California

I am running as a candidate for MCBFA Western Director. I have a variety of experiences to bring to this role which promotes MCBFA to those living in the West.

I have been a member of the TICA Feline Welfare Committee for the past two years, during which time I have participated in formulating the TICA cattery inspection program and I wrote an informational brochure on Feline Infectious Diseases for the public. In this role, I worked with breeder complaints which requires diplomacy, discretion and sympathy.

I've had the opportunity to meet many Maine Coon breeders and exhibitors in this region as I've exhibited Maine Coons since 1989 at many, many cat shows from Alaska to New Mexico and in the two Western Canadian provinces. While I've exhibited primarily in TICA where Coonyham Maine Coons have won eight TICA International kitten, cat or alter awards including two International Best of Breed awards, I am NOT association blind.

I've also granded two Coonyham males in CFA, and bred four other CFA grand champions/premiers (including a CFA Regional Winner) and have other CFA grand-pointed cats. In ACFA, I have granded one male in two shows (Washington and S. Calif). I feel the Maine Coon should be actively and vigorously promoted in all associations!

I have always been enthusiastic about and supportive of MCBFA. I have given fancier memberships to pet buyers, have sponsored several provisional breeder members, and I have helped other MCBFA officials

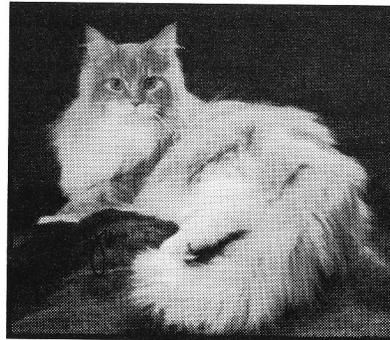
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# GRAND GALLERY

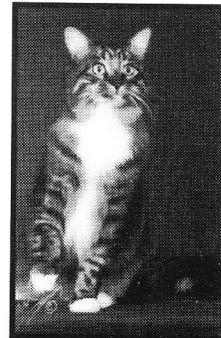
*Congratulations to all these fine Maine Coon Cats, their Breeders and Owners.*

## NEW MALE GRAND CHAMPIONS

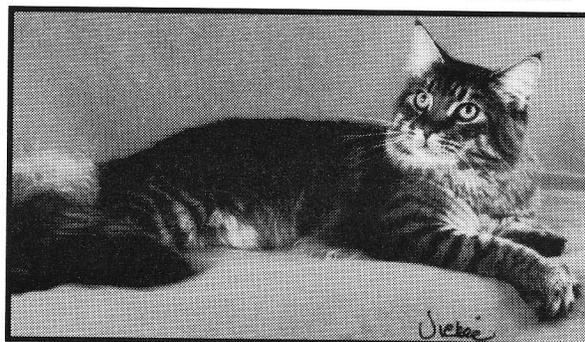
- ★ **ACA, ACFA, CFA, TICA GRC, QGC or SGC Coronadocats Hawkeye**, Cream Cl. Tabby w/wht., BR/OW: Chuck & Diane Sweeney.
- AACE Tati-Tan's Tigre**, Red McTabby, BR/OW: Sonya Stanislow
- CFA GRP Carlacats Bartleby King of Artemea**, Brn McTab w/wht.  
BR: Carla Harper-Blair OW: Beverly Day/Carla Blair
- CFA GRC Silversun Prancer**, Brn McTabby; BR/OW: Sharon Rosema
- CFA GRP Kumskaka's Chief Sitting Bull**, Brn. Tabby w/wht.  
BR: P. Tobias OW: Gregory & Phyllis Tobias
- CFA GRC Beau Boulderdash of Electricoons**, Red Tab w/wht.  
BR: Sue Yanik/Jim Furr OW: Marnee K. Smith
- CFA GRC Cremocrop's Gilbert Grapefruit**, Brn Tab w/wht.  
BR/OW: Susan D. Lymbouris
- FIFE EuroCH/Int GRC Capecoon's Rambo of Portlands**, Brn.Cl.Tab  
BR: Cheryl/Bob Kearns OW: Eusebio/Sylvie Sanchez, France
- TICA SGC Hoosiercoon's Wildfire of Bodacious**, Red Silver Cl.Tabby; BR/OW: Carol/Mike Downs/Susan Winsky
- TICA SGC Bodacious Sovereign of Tassels**, Brown Cl.Tabby  
BR: Susan Winsky OW: Grace Hammond
- TICA DGC Bodacious Thibodeaux of Rhiannon**, Brown Cl.Tabby  
BR: Susan Winsky OW: Kendall & Bill Brown
- TICA GC, German GC, Int.GC Seascape Marley**, Brown Tabby  
BR: Dorothy Robinson OW: Jan & Manuela Peters
- TICA GCA/CFA GRP Willowplace Mountain Explorer**,  
Brn Cl Tabby; BR: Barbara Ray OW: Kent A. Taylor
- TICA GRCA Coonsworth's Indiana Jones**, Brn. Cl. Tabby  
BR: Jack/Darlene Sweeney & Gerry Walsh OW: Bill/Maryann Rahm & Darlene Sweeney.



Coronadocats Hawkeye



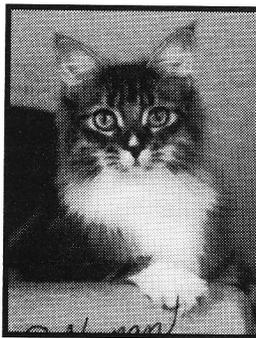
Carlacats Bartleby King of Artemea



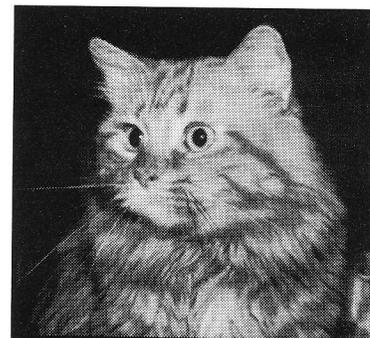
Silverspun Prancer

## NEW FEMALE GRAND CHAMPIONS

- ACFA GRC Sugar Baker of Tips N Tufts**, Brn McTabby  
BR: Jack & Darlene Sweeney OW: Jo Ann Cassidy
- CFA GRC Avicats Argentina**, Silver McTabby w/wht.  
BR/OW: Julia Cozzarelli
- CFA GRC Coonyham Sassafras of Ambar**, Blue Cl Tab/wht  
BR: Sharon/Laura Cunningham OW: Jean Marie Diaz
- TICA SRC Hoosiercoon's Roux of Bodacious**, Brown Cl.Torbie  
BR: Carol Downs OW: Susan G. Winsky
- TICA QGC Masterpiece Geneva of Bodacious**, Brown McTabby  
BR: Dee Dalton-Wilson OW: Susan G. Winsky
- TICA QGC Willowplace Angela of Mainelyhill**, Brown Cl. Tabby  
BR: Barbara Ray OW: Tomomi Hidaka
- TICA GRC SaraJen Mimosa**, Brown Cl. Tabby  
BR/OW: Teri Matzkin
- TICA DGC Hoosiercoon Kayla**, Silver Cl Tabby w/wht.  
BR/OW: Carol Downs



Coonyham Sassafras of Ambar



Tati-Tan's Tigre

## BOTB & Best In Ring Wins

- AACE QCHTati-Tan's Silhouette**, Black M. BR/OW: S. Stanislow  
Best Cat/Best MC, Mary Ann Dutton SP; Shorthair Enthusiasts,  
Parsippany, NJ; 12-2-95.
- 9th Best Cat, John McGonagle SP; same show as above; 12-3-95
- 5th Best Cat, MaryAnn Dutton SP; Happy Tails CC, 2-10/11-96
- AACE Tati-Tan's Bon Chance**, Black/Wht. M. BR/OW: S. Stanislow  
Best MC/4th Best Cat, Carolyn Vella SP, Oriental Slant CC,  
Pennsauken NJ, 11-11-95
- CFA CH Chattacocon Rocky Road of Mtnmaine**, Brn Tab w/wht M.  
PROV.BR: Duane & Judi May OW: Merrie Doering  
Best Kitten; Brian Moser, Willamette Valley CC, 10-22-95  
Best LH CH, Will Thompson AB & Kitty Angell AB, Oregon CF,  
Portland OR 2-3/4-96

New Grand listings: **FREE**  
Best in Ring & Best of the Best listings:  
**\$2.00 each win**  
All Photos (Please label on back) **\$10.00 ea.**  
**Include STAMPED envelope for photo return**  
**SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Must be here by Feb. 15, May 15, Aug. 15, Nov. 15  
If they are not here, they will appear in the following issue.  
Send all submissions to Cheryl M. Gower, Editor  
Address inside back cover.



GRAND GALLERY Ring Wins and photos (cont.)

**CFA GRC Silversun Prancer**, Brown McTabby M. BR/OW: S. Rosema  
Best MC Cat, Best LH CH, Best AB CH, W. Trevathan AB  
Front Range CF, Greeley CO, 9-16/17-95

**CFA Classycoon's Honeysuckle Rose**, BR/OW: Judy/Dave Harvey  
Best Kitten, Gary Veach, Ontario CF, 10-22-95

**CFA Classycoon's Sunfire**, BR/OW: Judy/Dave Harvey  
Best Kitten, Roger Lawrence AB, Iroquois Cat Soc., 11-6-95

**FIFE Capecoon's Mufasa of Mt. Machias**, Brown Tabby M.  
BR: Cheryl/Bob Kearns OW: Amie/Don O'Connor, Germany  
Best in Show & BOTB: Biebesheim-Esch borner Katzensucht-und  
Schutzverein e. V. El Gato 1/27/96.

Best in Show: Solms-Eschborner Katzensucht-und-Schutzverein e.  
V. El Gato 10-14-95.

**FIFE Capecoon's Sarabi of Mt. Machias**, Brown Tabby F.  
BR: Cheryl/Bob Kearns OW: Amie/Don O'Connor, Germany  
BOTB: Simmern Verein fur Rassekatzen e. V. Grand Prix 1-1-96

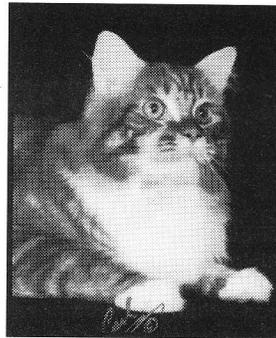
**TICA SGC Hoosiercoon's Wildfire of Bodacious**, Red Silver Cl  
Tabby M. BR/OW: Carol & Mike Downs/Susan Winsky  
Best Kitten - Great Lakes 1994-1995  
Best Cat, K. Crawford AB and Penny Garrett AB; A Star Spangled  
Cat Extravaganza, Huntsville AL, 6-24/25-95

Best Cat, Bobbie Tullo AB, N.I.C.E. Elk Grove Village, IL; 8-5/6-95

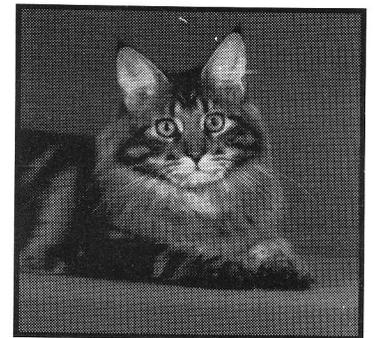
**TICA GC, German GC, Int. GC Seascape Marley**, Brown Tabby M.  
BR: Dorothy Robinson OW: Jan & Manuela Peters

Best Over All, Hamburg Germany, 6-10-95  
**TICA Mainelyhill Limelight**, Brown Cl. Tabby M.  
BR: Tomomi Hidaka OW: Kazuto Higuchi  
Best Cat, Yukimasa Hattori AB; 4th Best Cat, Eriko Odaka SP,  
TCC, Tokyo Japan 1-21-96

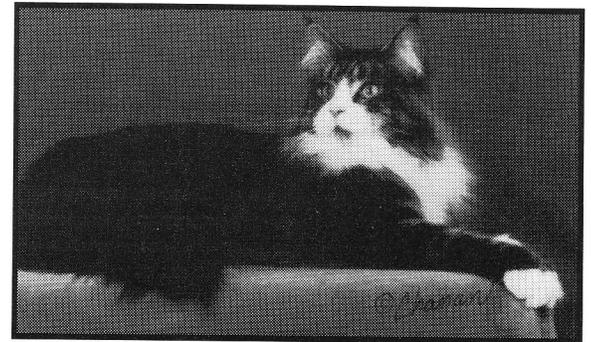
**TICA Claddacon's Belleek**, Brn. McTabby F.  
BR/OW: Mary/Mike Hanafin  
Best Kitten, Sue Becknell-Bower AB, Westchester FC, White  
Plains NY, 11-19-95



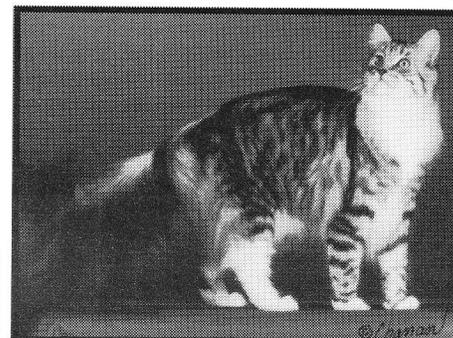
Beau Boulderdash of Electricoons



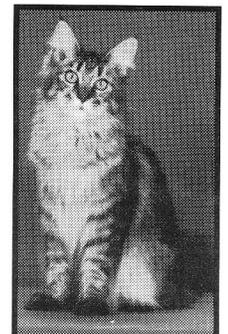
Bodacious Thibodeaux of Rhiannon



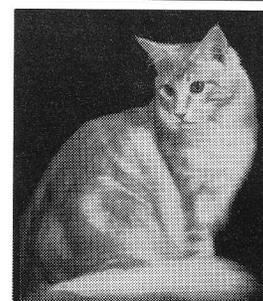
Kumskaka's Chief Sitting Bull



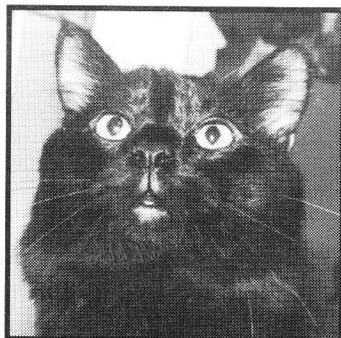
Avicats Argentina



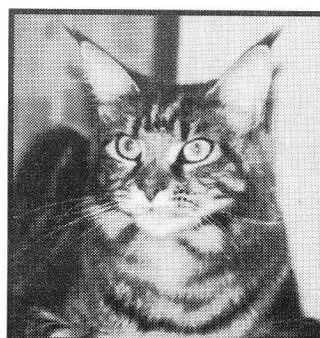
Masterpiece Geneva  
of Bodacious



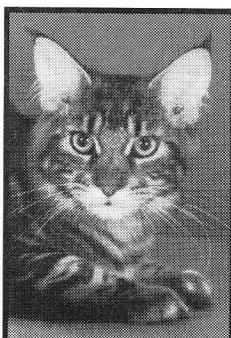
Hoosiercoon's  
Wildfire of  
Bodacious



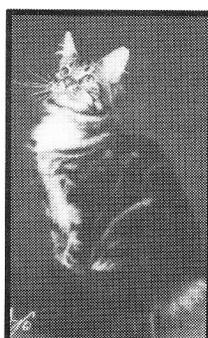
Tati-Tan's Silhouette



Willowplace Angela  
of Mainelyhill



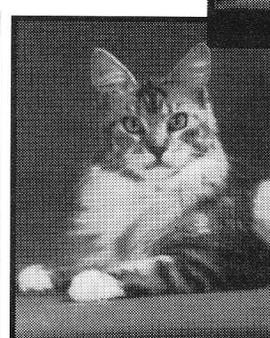
Bodacious Sovereign  
of Tassels



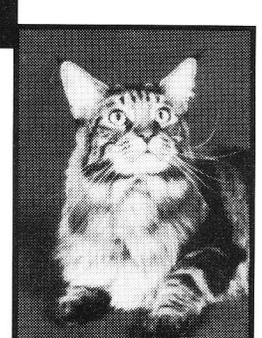
Chattacon Rocky  
Road of Mtnmaine



Cremocrop's  
Gilbert Grapefruit



Hoosiercoon Kayla  
(Sister to Wildfire)



Willowplace Mountain Explorer

More Grand Photos on Page 16

# Guess Who's Coming to Deliver

by Beverly Jennings  
Alberlee Cattery

My neighbor thought it was quite funny when her son told her the people next door yell and scream alot. She had to explain it was HIS yelling while playing football on their lawn that triggered the Amazon pair to screech every bad word and string of complaints they had learned from their former owners. Then came the day I told her, "Tonight, when you hear the screams, it won't be the birds!"

I was a nervous wreck waiting for Alan to come home that evening. Felt this was the 'straw' (cat) that would cause him to go berserk. Chase, The-Vicious, the kitten-sitter dog, had continually asked to go out, and then whined at something he knew was under the house. Fearing it was one of the cats' dreaded snakes, I shooed him away so he wouldn't get bit, and crawled under to see what was there.

A little meow, and out stepped the cat who has since made me long for a blue Maine Coon. Well, Alan and I knew this would occur sooner or later, due to the stray problem here in Georgia. We had only to visit the dumpster areas that this county installed in lieu of using the landfill. After rescuing two young kittens someone had tossed away with his garbage bags, and presenting them to Linda, my sister, only to find more the next trip, we realized we could not single-handedly solve the homeless problem. But it's forever on my mind. What can we do?

She wasn't our first, but would Alan understand why I didn't ride the roads searching for animals to bring home. With the exception of a half-Siamese friend gave me twenty years ago, every cat we had, excluding the Maine Coons, just showed up at our door--or Alan brought them home. Just "one more cat", she appeared to be around eight months old, a beautiful solid blue baby with dainty, silvery feet, oriental in type, and to a MAINE COON breeder, resembled a Korat, and she was very, very pregnant. From the way her sides wiggled and bulged, she wouldn't be pregnant much longer. Our un-wed mother, Hester.

All Alan said after my hours of rehearsing various arguments and mapping out a quick getaway route was what I had been thinking from Day One. "I wish I could catch some so-and-so dumping an animal. I'd do all I could to have him arrested." The second thing he said was, "You can't leave her outside to have her kittens. Put her in my den." His sacrosanct den?! Why, not even his beloved Chase, and certainly not a well-behaved Maine Coon had ever set paw in that room since we moved here. Not even Alan entered it! I would stare at a closed door and dream of a stud room....

"I can't bring in a strange cat I know nothing about and expose the rest to who-knows-what. She'll have to be tested first." Admittedly, I am a little fanatical about bringing in a new cat, but that was only common sense. He thought I loved animals. What was I doing making that cat stay outside to have her kittens? Was this Alan?! Must have had a good day on the docks.

I carried Hester to the vet and had her tested for FeLV, FIP and FIV. If there were another test, I would have had it run. Hester proved negative to everything, including ear mites, fleas and worms. Maybe she had escaped from an inside home. A thorough search of the neighborhood didn't turn up a former residence. Three days later, four precious kittens followed.

A first-time mother, she breezed through it and cared for all without my intervention...How about that, Amanda? We started at 2 a.m. and ended at 5 a.m., so it was another long day. When our beautiful blue classic patched tabby with white girl arrived, all I could see was her perfect pattern and jewel-toned colors, a long square muzzle, and thought "this one is not going anywhere". Then reality set in and I remembered, these were not

Jessica's or Amanda's kittens. These were homeless, unwanted kittens three days ago. Where one cat arrived three days prior, now we have FIVE. I needed HELP, and for the next few days, called every animal organization in two phone books. I discovered I was on my own unless I wanted to give Hester and her kittens from three days to two weeks to find themselves new homes through various shelters.

Never once mentioning the dreaded word BREEDER to anyone, I feared for our unearned reputation. I missed my old friends at our humane society up north, who knew me before I was a breeder, and still liked me. That particular naughty word would render the person on the other end of the phone deaf to anything else I might say. I'd have to get to know them better first. One person was explaining their policy and why they had only limited space and adoption time. I understood from previous volunteer work at a shelter. She suggested I volunteer to go door to door to pressure my town into enacting anti-breeding laws and confiscating all unaltered animals! I volunteered that it was unenforceable. People were not breeding. They were just ignoring the situation. I never saw one pedigreed animal at the dump sites and darn few at our shelter. I felt like adding that it was a real breeder who had been the only one to take in Hester and you didn't see my kittens being thrown away. But by then I was too discouraged to argue, and knew if these kittens were to go to new homes, it was all up to me. At least Alan was supportive, and that helped.

Jessica was jealous and growled at the nursery door when the kittens were brought out for "social hour". She alternately hissed and washed a kitten. Amanda, who was always good at the licking thing, licked, but if a kitten so much as looked at her, she ran hysterically. Grace left

the room and sat in the doorway looking at me fit-to-kill. If a kitten ventured near her, she'd hit first and ask questions later. Carly and Lumpkin, just seven months old, had never seen kittens before. Lumpy was just totally petrified and escaped out to the cat run whenever the kittens were around and about. Carly wasn't much better, but at least came close before she'd growl and run. After I exchanged the wooden door for a screened one, she spent hours sitting and growling at Hester, who ignored her. These are my loving mothers and future mothers! On the other hand, the altered cats adored the babies.

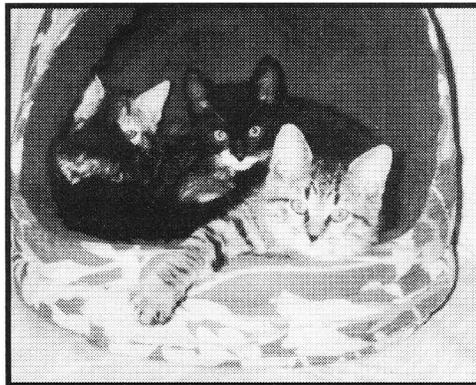
As I began to let the kittens come out on their own, Amanda, Carly and Lumpkin settled down and began to play "baby" with them. Jessica, just plain wanting her own, went into heat and began tearing her hair out. Grace never tolerated her half-siblings and wasn't having any commerce with Hester's either. Even now, the remaining babies give her a wide berth.

Hester is already in heat again, but has an upcoming date with the vet who will render her a one-time mom.

There are two babies left, thanks to vets I've never met who were kind enough to post my color ad of Hester and company. They also respected my wish to have references on any adopters. Linda thought my flyer read like a contract. But I wanted to make sure that the time, effort and expense weren't wasted on people who had little regard for animals.

As if Hester's plight weren't enough, Alan came home one night with Little Charlie! Alan and his co-workers spied but couldn't catch a young kitten running around the docks at the Savannah Ship Yards. Finally, weak from lack of food, Charlie gave in and allowed Alan to pick him up. And just in the nick of time, as he was so undernourished, we doubt he'd have lasted another cold night. Breezing in the door, Alan said, "I'm sorry, but I couldn't just let him die." Apparently none of the other guys spoke up with an offer to take him home.

With no other secure and isolated place left, Charlie went into the bathroom with some KMR and kitten food. It was all he needed along with a warm carrier to snuggle in. He perked up immediately, purring away





*Guess Who's Coming to Deliver cont.*

and relishing his good fortune. But Alan forgot to "put the seat down" and the next morning Charlie almost met his Waterloo again. You guessed it-into the water, in the loo. He set up a howl, and I came running to his rescue, the second time within a 24-hour period. Charlie is fine. Frisky is not the word for this hyperactive, curtain-climbing, screen-ripping kitty. Maine Coon babies spoil one for "regular" kittens.

Charlie followed the same regimen Hester's brood did, tests and vaccinations. With a negative report, he was allowed to join Hester's babies. He has also joined our "family". Chase adopted him. Alan feels he is his cat and exhibits a fatherly feeling for this kitten he gave life to, so to speak.

This was my welcome to Georgia and my first Georgia Cats. I have the time and a little more room to spare. Hester's story has a happy ending. We do wonder what kind of endings future kittens and puppies will face. The answer is not with Alan and me. We can't bring home every animal we see in trouble. There is a big cat and dog problem here and everywhere. We all need to do our best to educate people, make them understand the merits of neutering and that animals are not disposable items. They do not belong in garbage dumps and pounds. Wouldn't it be nice if every animal was a wanted pet?

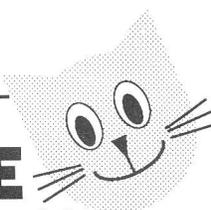
Now Alan and I prepare for a new life, and a new baby--Ellsworth. We'll be meeting him soon....



**Campaign Clips** (cont from p.9)

Laura Cunningham - whenever needed (such as helping coordinate last year's associational winners to submit photos in time for printing deadlines). Everywhere I go, I encourage all Maine Coon owners/breeders to join MCBFA. I have promoted MCBFA nationally and internationally - by bringing MCBFA rosettes and literature to Maine Coon breeders and shows around the world.

The Western Director's role is vital to the success and growth of MCBFA in this region. I will continue to support and publicize MCBFA, including promoting adherence to our code of ethics and will work to increase MCBFA's visibility and membership in the West.



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(606) 282-0836

*Welcome New Breeder Members*

- Donnis & Robert Betzer, Bococon - Illinois
- Stephanie Boulter, Coonoquan - Virginia
- Jean Marie Diaz, Ambar - California
- Butch & Joan Gaudet, Coquille - Louisiana
- Carol Jo Oberle, Black Forest - California
- Maryrose & Greg Sanchez, Codycats - Massachusetts

Spelling correction to Judy's last name:  
Judy Soltys, Coontagious - New Jersey

*Welcome New Prov. Breeder Members*

- Fred & Elaine Weitz, Smokeycoon, Washington

*Welcome New Fancier Members*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rachel Anderson</li> <li>Carol Ann Hoare</li> <li>Colleen Allmatras</li> <li>Ronald Garland</li> <li>Anthony Storti</li> <li>Kate Balco</li> <li>Nancy E. Burke</li> <li>Stephen Cyuong</li> <li>Kathleen Czechowski</li> <li>Donna DiCerto</li> <li>Frank &amp; May Drawe</li> <li>Pamela O'Brien</li> <li>Pam Palmer</li> <li>Dee Reid</li> <li>Carol Schmidt</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marilyn Bryant</li> <li>Shaun Grossman</li> <li>Robt. &amp; Olive Rosson</li> <li>Patricia Brennan</li> <li>M &amp; M Gerstenfeld</li> <li>Bonnie Harrell</li> <li>D &amp; K Howser</li> <li>Joyce Anne Irvin</li> <li>Tom Keitel</li> <li>Denise &amp; Bill Murphy</li> <li>Patricia Murphy</li> <li>Rina Stapel-Kool</li> <li>Bill Stevens</li> <li>Pauline Walker</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



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# What *Exactly* Does A Maine Coon Look Like?

## Part II The Body

by Cheryl M. Gower

In the last issue, we presented for your consideration some suggestions for the conformations in the Maine Coons head features--ears, eyes, muzzle, etc. How I wish I had the luxury of an entire page for each of these features. Not only would they be easier to see, but much more readily understood.

An artist can draw until they are blue in the face and never please everyone. When I was drawing the face-front view of the head, I was looking at a particular photo of a well-known and high-achieving Maine Coon--that I think has the right look. You may disagree. You may have your own ideas of the perfect look. If so, sketch them or send in a photo. My guess is that we'd have a veritable "Grand Gallery" of looks. So will we ever be able to come together on one perfect look? I doubt it. But that isn't the point of this discussion. The point is that we set forth some format for moderation and balance that results in maintaining a strong and healthy breed of cat.

The Standards universally call for a MEDIUM to Large cat. My idea of a "large" cat is a lion. Does that give me license to breed bigger and bigger until I achieve this size, because that is my perception of large? No! Then where do we draw the line? We've all heard show spectators comment that they have a 25lb. cat at home, much bigger than anything they see at the show. That's great if the cat is healthy (no hip problems), muscular, not obese, and all body parts in balance--head is in proportion to body; tail as long as body; legs long and well-boned to support the body, etc.) And we see Maine Coons this size once in awhile, but the majority are in the medium to large range, 12-18 pounds for males; 9-12 pounds for females. There are some that would fit in the "petite" size class, typey as typey can be, but just on a smaller scale. Some of these typey petites produce some very desirable offspring.



The chest should be broad, but not like a bulldog. When the cat is standing, there should be at least a leg-width between the two front legs. If two fingers can fit between the shoulder blades, the chest is usually the correct breadth.

From the rear, the legs and rear feet should be straight in line with the body, ankles not touching nor splayed outward



There should be a definite squareness to the rump. The fur is thick and shaggy above the ankles, giving the appearance of britches.

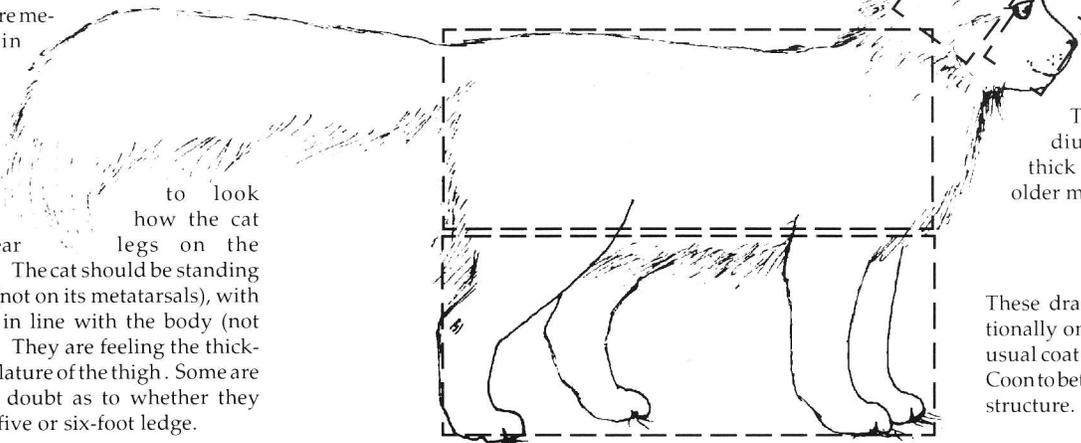
The head and muzzle are "a box on a box". Some judges refer to the "modified wedge-shape" to the head. This means that the "muzzle box" is smaller than the "head box", but by no means allows for a v-shaped head as seen in the Siamese.

The body, when viewed from the side, is a rectangle; when viewed from above, the body is a rectangle. The space below the body is a rectangle of equal size, which helps to determine the correct leg length.

Tail length should be the same length as from tail base to shoulder bone.

**LEGS and FEET:** All the Standards require medium length in proportion to the body; well-muscled and wide set. Many judges are beginning quite closely at

to look how the cat stands on its rear legs on the judging stand. The cat should be standing up on its paws (not on its metatarsals), with feet and hocks in line with the body (not "cow-hocked"). They are feeling the thickness and musculature of the thigh. Some are narrow, giving doubt as to whether they could leap to a five or six-foot ledge.



The NECK is medium long; may be thick and muscular in older males.

These drawings have intentionally omitted much of the usual coat carried by a Maine Coon to better exhibit the body structure.



# Seahawk— Our Good Will Ambassador

by Alice Pursell

Preface by Cheryl M. Gower

Lyman Stewart found these ads in a recent California newspaper and sent them to *The Scratch Sheet* as examples of the current, frustrating trend toward irresponsibility, and the resulting work of rescue groups to reclaim the innocent animals suffering from it. Mr. Stewart called on these ads and found them to be legitimate. He said in his letter, "What is even more crushing is that these Maine Coons have come from two MCBFA Breeder Members." He says that more and more rescued Maine Coons are showing up in Southern California. Carol Jo Oberle is going to write on this situation for an upcoming issue.

Then in my local paper, a reporter wrote an article for the Humane Society of the Willamette Valley, which had a convoluted "problem". As the reporter put it, "Hey, buddy. Wanna get rid of your cat? Now is the purrrfect time. Assuming that your kitty is friendly and likes to be held and petted, the HSWV is eager to take in your feline". You see, they recently moved into their new larger facility, that boasts 120 cat cages—which were mostly EMPTY. Not for long. Once this article appeared, the humane society was deluged. Many cats and kittens were euthanized, but all the cages filled quickly. The staff attributes the lack of cats to a growing public awareness about pet over-population. And the number of pet adoptions has greatly increased.

What does all this have to do with Seahawk? He's one very bright example of the ongoing educational efforts carried out by dedicated individuals like Alice Pursell, his owner and MCBFA Fancier member.

Calicoon Seahawk Helse, my 5-1/2 year-old silver classic tabby "gentle giant" and I are Pet Partners.

Neither of us alone could generate the interest and sociability that we can as a team; we would not be able to do this without the excellent cooperation of the staff of the Health Care Facility. We like to visit the dementia patients (those with memory lapses) in the nursing home. Seahawk is introduced to the people who maybe haven't seen him before, and to the others, he is the "big cat". A big cat he is at 19+ pounds. He is lazy and spoiled, which seems to be important for what we do. He doesn't want to be in cat shows any longer, but he likes being a "star" and the center of attention. Seahawk loves having his long coat petted gently, his chin scratched and ears rubbed. The care center residents ask many questions about him and share stories of their childhood pets. As they reach out to Seahawk, they want to know what kind of cat he is, how much he weighs, if he's a boy or girl, what he eats and its cost; where I got him and how much he cost.

For ten years, I have been interested in, and a member of, Delta Society. Ms. Queenie Mills, PhD, made a suggestion that I attend a Delta Conference being held in Minneapolis. That meeting, in 1983, convinced me of the value

of Delta's mission of exploring Human-Animal-Nature interactions. One of the Delta Society's programs is called Pet Partners. After reading about it, I was fascinated by the emphasis on health and enjoyment of older folks. Realizing that Seahawk would be a calm partner, one that senior citizens would enjoy, we began making visits to care centers. The socialization with "the big cat" has added fun to their lives and some conversation to help them feel like valued persons. My cat and I have enticed those eventful and happy, long-ago memories from those who thought they didn't matter any more. There is no amount of money in the world that can repay the joy of this communication.

One resident, whose name is Dorothy, comes fondly to mind. She walks all the way from another building to be with us. Arriving regularly at 2 p.m., she is usually the last person to pet Seahawk. One day, she said that she had been wishing all day for a cat to pet. She thought that perhaps

a stuffed cat would help fill those days between Seahawk's visits. On our next visit, Seahawk presented her with a soft, stuffed gray and white kitten that looked a bit like Seahawk. She was very pleased when she saw it. Dorothy asked if it had a name. "No, that is for you to do." She was thoughtful for a moment, and then her eyes brightened as she announced, "I think it should be 'Sunshine', because the days will be brighter with him." She put the fuzzy toy to her face and said, "He will sleep with my teddy bear." As a child, she had a real kitten and a teddy bear. The kitten and bear had been company for this only child. Her early animal bonding was important as a source of companionship in later years.

And her regular visits with Seahawk and me have helped her become more sociable.

Every day I thank Lynne Sherer and Kathy Paulini, Seahawk's breeders, for making this marvelous cat available to me. And it's my delight to share him with those who are unable to have pets of their own. He achieved his TICA Supreme Grand Champion Alter title and then was retired from cat competitions. Now he enjoys competing for everyone's praise and attention. He certainly has mine.

Since 1977, the Delta Society has been promoting human health and well-being through contact with companion animals. Its studies have provided new information about how contact with animals improves human health and well-being by reducing stress, alleviating depression, positively affecting the cardiovascular system and much more.

The Delta Society has teamed up with Hill's Pet Nutrition as a major sponsor of the Pet Partners Program in 1995. This year, Alice and Seahawk are featured in their 1996 Calendar for the month of December. The calendars are available where Hill's Science Diet pet foods are sold. Delta's activities are made possible by donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

If you are interested in the Delta Society, they have two offices:  
West Coast: 321 Burnett Avenue S, 3rd Floor, Renton WA 98055-2569  
206-226-7357; Fax: 206-235-1076  
INTERNET: 74403.1730@Compuserve.com  
East Coast: 300 Park Avenue 15th Floor, New York, NY 10022-7499  
212-310-2802; Fax: 212-310-2530

Los Angeles Times, Nov. 1995

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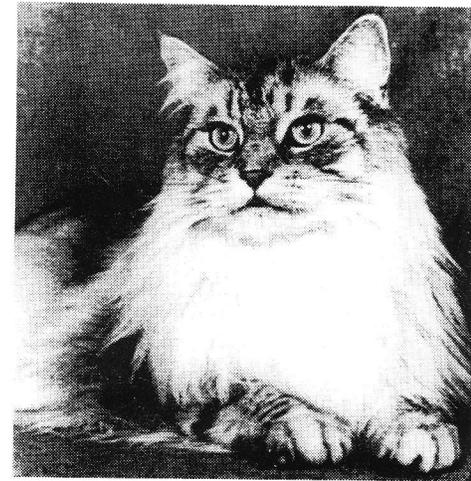
**Pet Adoptions 3660**

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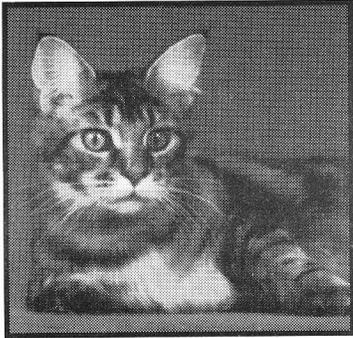
PAL RESCUE & ADOPTION  
**• KITTENS & PUPPIES •**  
 KITTENS/CATS-  
 Declaws, Himi, Siamese, Maine Coon,  
 Manx, etc.  
 Katie's Pet, Depot, Westwood

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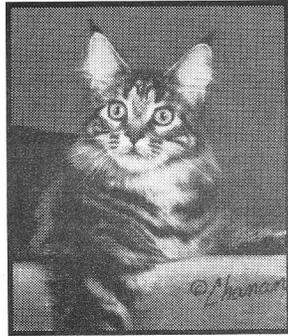
**RESCUED KITTIES!**  
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 CALICO, SIAMESE, MANX &  
 KITTENS  
 Tabbies, Orange, etc. at PETCO By CAT  
 CROSSINGS, Santa Monica



## Grand Gallery Photos



Hoosiercoon's Roux of Bodacious



Sarajen Mimosa

## MISSED SOME ISSUES of the SCRATCH SHEET?

If you let your membership lapse and missed some issues, you can order them -- see details on p.27 The Bookshelf.

If you move and we are not notified of your change of address before the next issue is mailed, we cannot be held responsible to re-mail you an issue. Bulk Mail is no longer forwarded. The cost was skyrocketing. It costs MCBFA 50-cents for each address correction. Last month alone, we had \$30.00 worth of address correction notices. If each member would send us a postcard, it wouldn't burden MCBFA this way.

Make copies of the First Aid Chart and use as hand-outs

## EMERGENCY FIRST AID FOR CATS and DOGS

### VETERINARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

**PREVENTATIVE INFORMATION:** Feed your pet a balanced diet of Authority Premium Pet Nutrition and change water daily. Groom as needed, and observe general appearance for any change. Examine ears and check for any external parasites weekly. Trim toenails as needed and keep your pet on a vaccination schedule.

**DROWNING:** Clear mouth and throat of material. Hold animal with hind legs elevated, to aid water removal. Stop this step if no water is expelled? Begin CPR, if fluids are expelled, resume drainage with hind legs up and head down. Call your veterinarian for an examination as soon as possible.

**ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION [AR] and CPR:** AR, use with drowning, cessation of breathing, or for electrical shock. Clear mouth, clamp muzzle closed with hands, exhale into animals nose at rate of 12-15 breaths per minute. CPR, lay animal on right side and place heel of hand behind left armpit. Press against chest rhythmically at 60-80 times a minute. At the same time, place your mouth over the muzzle covering nose and mouth and blow air for 3 seconds and release. Repeat as needed.

**HEAT STROKE:** Never leave your animal in a car in hot weather. Symptoms include excessive panting, foaming at mouth or even collapse. Normal temperature should be 99.5 to 101.5 F. Insert a rectal thermometer for one minute and remove. Immerse your pet in cool water [not ice water]. When temperature reaches 103 F, dry animal off and stop. If temperature goes to 106 or drops below normal, after cooling down your pet, then rush animal to your veterinarian.

**BROKEN BONE:** Muzzle pet and immediately immobilize leg. Control bleeding with bandages and treat for shock with AR and CPR. Cover with blanket to keep warm and get

### EMERGENCY PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

to a vet immediately. If vet care is not available, attempt a splint by padding the leg with layers of gauze. Place two flat sticks on each side or roll up newspaper around leg and tape. Do not attempt to bandage fractures of the ribs or pelvis.

**SEVERE BLEEDING:** Minor cuts will usually stop in 5-6 minutes. When bleeding is heavy or spurting, clip hair around area, cleanse wound and apply antiseptic solution. Next, apply bacterial cream and bandage to control blood flow and infection. Call your veterinarian.

**SEVERE BURNS:** Do not apply ointment to burns. Run cold water or place ice water packs over the burned area for 20-30 minutes, then cover area loosely with non-stick gauze and bring animal to your vet. Try to keep the animal from licking or scratching the burn area.

**FOR ALL INJURIES:** Restrain the animal from biting you. Use a strip of cloth to secure the jaw, wrap the cloth around the muzzle twice then back around the neck. Use a strip of cloth, a tie, or a scarf if needed. Keep the animal warm and use a blanket or sheet as a stretcher for transport.

### RECOMMENDED FIRST AID KIT:

- Rectal thermometer
- 1 roll 2" gauze
- 1 roll stretch gauze
- 1 roll porous adhesive tape
- 3-4 sterile non-adhesive pads
- 10 - 3" gauze squares
- 1 tube antibacterial ointment
- 1 small bottle antiseptic soap
- 1 small bottle hydrogen peroxide (3%)
- 1 pr. blunt-end scissors
- 1 pr. tweezers

Normal values for Cats/Dogs: Temperature: 101.5 degrees F. Pulse: 120-130/minute. Respiration: 15-30/min. (excludes panting)



# Responsibilities

by Jody Chinitz

Our pets each have their own unique personalities. Their behavior, however, is shaped not only by innate personality but also by the environment they live in and their interactions with others. Our responsibilities as pet owners extend well beyond providing the necessities of life and veterinary care. Some forethought and a willingness to make small accommodations can greatly influence whether a pet's behavior becomes a problem — or a pleasure.

Dozens of books have been written about cat care and behavior. A basic understanding of the feline nature is very helpful in addressing undesirable behaviors and can even prevent them from developing in the first place. A cat's sense of territory, for example, drives him to mark his territorial bounds — which he does by scratching, rubbing and, sometimes, elimination. Whatever the underlying cause for inappropriate scratching or elimination, they are among the most common behaviors for which owners seek advice.

While we can't prevent our cats from scratching, we can accommodate this need so that it is much less likely to be destructive. With patience, over time, you can accustom your cat to having his claws examined weekly and trimmed as necessary. Even if he allows you to groom only one paw at a time, praise him lavishly for his cooperation. Providing scratching posts is equally essential. Your cat is more likely to use them if they are a texture he prefers (mine like sisal rope). He's especially likely to notice and use them if they're near his favorite napping, as well as scratching, places. Praise him lavishly whenever he uses a post. While you may still have to hide a particularly tempting area of your sofa under a throw, providing your cat with the grooming, the facilities and the encouragement to scratch where you prefer should forestall most attentions to your furnishings.

Failure to use a litterbox can be due to any one of a multitude of reasons. When a cat begins to soil outside his box, it is important that he be examined by a veterinarian as this could be a symptom of a serious illness. If the cat is healthy, an environmental situation might be bothering him. Perhaps a second litterbox in another part of the house will help; in a multi-cat household, perhaps you will need to add a litterbox or two (some cats don't like to share this "territory"); maybe the litterbox is in a place that is unpleasant for your cat to frequent; perhaps the litter needs to be scooped or changed more frequently; or your cat might be more comfortable with a different brand or type of litter. He may even be expressing his distress over some change or upset in the household. Your kitty is not being spiteful. It can take a while to find the solution to what is troubling him.

Behavioral problems that owners do not have the perseverance to resolve are among the reasons that pets are given up or given away. Sad to say, many of these habits need never have developed in the first place if the pet owner was attuned to their cat's instincts, needs and concerns. That's why it is up to us as responsible pet owners to learn something about the feline nature and to provide an environment for our cat that encourages good manners.

And don't forget to praise him, even if he's older and his good habits are well-established. A hearty "Good boy!" is a far more effective motivator than a thousand "No's!" ^.^ )

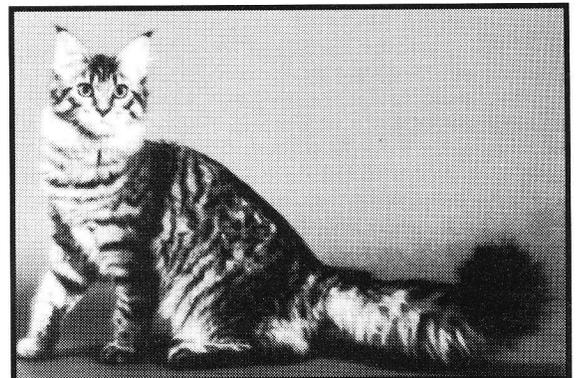


*Maine Coons in Australia*

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# Building A Better Reputation

by Traci M. Jones, Rocquoone Maine Coons, Virginia

Any reputable, caring breeder who reads this has felt the frustration of being grouped together with the "backyard" breeders by veterinarians, law makers, SPCA's and shelter groups, and the general public. Overcoming this huge obstacle is rapidly becoming necessary if we want to retain our rights to openly breed healthy, quality animals. I have been involved in this battle for years, and I am deeply frustrated and embittered by those who want to put their heads in the sand, and those who refuse to become involved. I am out there fighting for YOUR rights too, and I can't accomplish much by myself!!! For example, when there is only one person in attendance for hearings on animal issues, the appearance to our lawmakers is that it is not much of an issue. I can assure you that no one has animal control show up at their door by moving for a change in our animal laws, or fighting anti-breeder legislation. Apathy and ignorance will only foster more restrictions than already face us. With this in mind, I offer some tips for building a more positive reputation for breeders who deserve it.

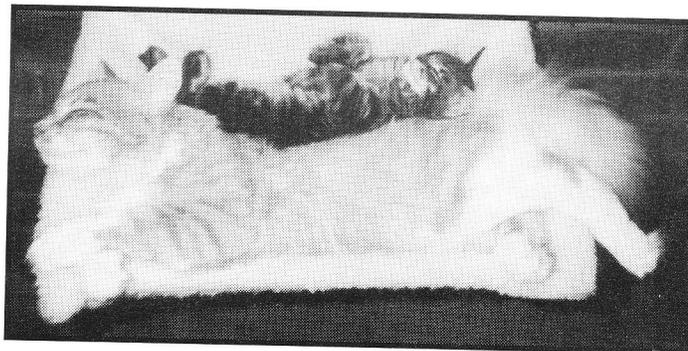
## OFFENSE

**KNOW YOUR LAWS** - Each state has "comprehensive animal laws", based in part on the Consumer Protection Act. These laws in part govern the sale of purebred animals. It is your obligation as a breeder to be familiar with them, and to write your contract and run your business in compliance with them. It is great to offer more in your contract than the laws require, but do not offer less. For example, in Virginia, a buyer has 10 days to have their purchased kitten deemed unhealthy by a veterinarian. The seller MUST either replace the kitten or refund the money, at the buyer's discretion. It is also against the law in this state to withhold blue slips for longer than 180 days on any animal sold as being registered, or registerable. Haven't we all done this in order to keep that carrot on the stick so that our pets are altered? (I give the blue slips at the time of sale, marked "not for breeding". My contract says that pet kittens must be altered by one year of age, and proof in writing sent to me. I drop a note in the mail to buyers when the kittens are 11 months old to remind them of their obligation.) The examples are endless, and differ widely from state to state. Go to your local law library and make copies for yourself.

**KNOW YOUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS** - In order to have your State's laws amended, you must find a member of either the House of Representatives or the Senate to sponsor your bill. If you can get more than one member involved, so much the better. This must happen before the Legislative session, usually November of the preceding year at the latest. Look for the pet owners, animal lovers, and Members who have sponsored animal welfare bills in the past. Bills are assigned numbers so that they may be tracked through the legislative process. Animal related bills will go through an Agricultural Sub-Committee before going to the House or Senate. If passed through the 2nd stage, it goes on to the third. It is imperative that someone attend each hearing, as changes can and will be made every step of the way! Once a bill makes it through all three hearings, it may then be signed into law. At any point, however, it may be killed, or amended, or tabled for a later year. When a bill is tabled, look for it to come back in a clearer form in the future. For example, in 1993, the Humane Societies and Shelter Groups in the State of Virginia moved for a law requiring all pets be spayed or neutered, and the licensing fee for unaltered pets to be ten times higher than that of altered ones (\$50, as opposed to \$5). It was done in a sneaky way. Somehow we did not find out

about it until it had already been assigned a Bill number and was underway to becoming law. The parties proposing this bill had sought out the political figures with a known dislike for animals as sponsors. When the Bill went before the Agricultural Sub-Committee, it was pointed out that with the wording as it stood, everyone who owned ANY warm blooded animal (guinea pigs, goats, etc.) would be subject to this law. The bill was killed in committee, and has not reared it's ugly head again to date. This brings me to another important point-- our lawmakers, by and large, are NOT interested in animal laws. Know that our lawmakers do not take animal laws as seriously as we do. They will not entertain a bill that is not clear, concise, and "sensible", and they do not have a great deal of patience. Be clear on your wording, or you may lose out due to lawmaker's perception that you are wasting their time.

**KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE....** Know what the dog and cat breeders in your area are up to! I cannot stress this enough. The organized groups with political clout are your lifeline to key information, and not having a contact can be horribly detrimental. As an example, in 1994 I learned by chance that the Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders, a statewide organization with legislative "how to" knowledge, was proposing some Pro-active (offensive instead of defensive) legislation. They lobbied for a law to be passed statewide requiring that puppies and kittens sold in Virginia must be given first vaccinations a minimum of 5 days before leaving the breeder's care. They also sought to put a minimum age on when puppies and kittens could be sold. Up until then, the law read that the babies must be weaned. "Weaned", by legal definition, meant able to eat solid food. You guessed it, "breeders" were selling 4, 5 & 6 week old puppies and kittens who had been on gruel or cereal for a few days, and it was perfectly legal! You've



Merlyn (cream tabby) and Sweet Georgia Brown from Australia

heard those stories, brought into the vet's office several days after purchase, unvaccinated, dehydrated, sick and dying. Anyway, I digress. The dog breeders, having no knowledge of when kittens received their vaccines, were proposing 8 weeks as a minimum age for sale. The bill was on it's way to committee when I intervened and had it

amended to read 8 weeks for puppies, 12 weeks for kittens. I resubmitted the supporting documentation for the bill, doing research on the socialization period and neurological development of kittens to point out the differences between kittens and puppies. I gained the support on paper of several area cat clubs, who then signed on as co-sponsors of this bill. I was the ONLY cat breeder who attended the Agricultural Sub-Committee hearings on the matter. In fact, much to my embarrassment as a cat breeder, the Dog people had to stand up for me when it was asked who was backing the changes to the bill. They did so freely, and with great conviction. Well, we tried. Unfortunately, the state veterinarian thought that 8 weeks of age was fine for most kittens to go to new homes, and the bill was again amended in the Senate back to it's original form. But, 8 weeks is better than no age restriction at all, and we always have the option of going back and asking them to raise it. I have very strong feelings against selling kittens that young, but as pointed out to me by one of the representatives of the state wide organization for humane societies (also a Himalayan "breeder" who



does not show), some catteries are so awful that it is best to get the kittens out as soon as possible. Those of us who truly care will continue to hold our kittens to a more appropriate age.

AND YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER...Know what the opposition is thinking, and what their next move will be. You fight a better battle when you know what you are dealing with. In September of 1994, my cat club, Southern Dixie, paid for me to attend a weekend seminar held in West Virginia, sponsored in part by the Humane Society of the United States. I did not divulge the fact that I was a breeder (probably the only breeder in attendance). I was able to hear firsthand what the groups' concerns were, and their plans for the immediate legislative future. Cat licensing was a biggie, but their logic on what it would accomplish was flawed. After presenting their views, the speaker for this portion of the program asked the attending congregation who was opposed to the licensing of cats. I was the ONLY one to raise my hand. When questioned, I in turn posed a question to the group: "How many of you have in your household more than 3 warmblooded animals?" Almost every hand went up. I explained: In the county that I live in, you would be in violation of a "limit law", restricting warm blooded animals to 3 per household. While kennel licenses are available, you will not be granted one if you live in a residential neighborhood. Do you then advertise to your government that you are in violation of one law in order to comply with another?" Apparently, no one in the group had thought about this aspect of cat licensing. I seriously doubt that the proposed legislation will be approached any differently based on my input, but it was a valid point that would affect any person who lived in an area with limit laws, whether safehousing strays or breeding purebreds.

I learned from this experience that these groups, perceived by most as our "enemies", share many of the same concerns that we do. Eating lunch with a group of these ladies, the conversation was very similar to that one would experience while sharing a meal with some cat breeder friends. Concerns about stress, safety, cleanliness and the like all came up, as did the marvelous things that specific animals did. The main thing that I walked away with was a feeling that "us" and "them" are not very far apart, and it is a shame that we cannot find a way to work together towards the greater good. Imagine what could come of all that energy spent bickering among ourselves if we were able to channel it into a more positive direction! (I must admit that I immediately drove to a cat show on the way home from that convention, and felt as if I were walking into a big hug upon entering the building. I had gone for almost 48 hours without physical contact with an animal, something you would never think of until you experience it. I was painfully aware of that fact as I held and loved on my friends' babies at that show.)

Another way to display your concern for ALL cats, and to raise the consciousness of your local rescue groups and shelters is to donate vendor space to them at your club's show for adoption booths, collection plates, and sale items. I always get a warm fuzzy feeling at the end of our show when the adoption numbers come in, and I know for a fact that our local groups have a very different picture of the breeders that are members of our club. Before Southern Dixie started this trend in our area, the only "breeders" these groups knew were the ones we are trying to differentiate ourselves from.

CATTERY INSPECTIONS- Another extra expense, I know, but COME

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ON- you know your veterinarian, you know when they will show up at your cattery and you know what they will be looking at. If you can't easily attain this certification you should either make the necessary changes or stop breeding! The little certificate goes a long way towards demonstrating to the nay-sayers that we do care, and we do a great job of caring for our animals. If you don't already have one, GET ONE!

MAINTAIN A GREAT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR VET- The cattery inspection may be the only time your vet comes into your home, and gives them an entirely different perspective from the one they have if they only see your cats when something is wrong. Enroll your vet as a MCBFA Fancier member. Let them see what this group is about. My vet was extremely impressed with the content of the *Scratch Sheet*, and circulated the fungus article that I had written years ago to several other vets in the area. Establish an anonymous emergency fund at your veterinary hospital to be used for good clients who cannot afford emergency care. Remember, there are many people out there who's hearts are bigger than their pocketbooks. It would be a shame for any animal to lose out on life-saving measures because well-meaning individuals cannot afford the care. This also goes a long way toward demonstrating your concern for all of our four-legged friends.

## DEFENSE

- Always conduct your business in a professional manner.
  - Be sure to have a health exam done by your veterinarian on your litters before you sell any of the kittens.
  - Vaccinate your kittens appropriately before they leave your home and provide buyers with a health record, and recommendations for future vaccines. Inform your kitten buyers on the health risks of certain vaccines (Rabies, FeLV, FIP - printed material available, contact me) so that they may make educated decisions as to future veterinary care.
  - Provide a "Cat Care Sheet" with each sale, advising in writing diet, bathing, claw clipping and general care. Don't expect a buyer to remember all these things.
  - Do not let an animal go to a new home if you suspect that it may be ill.
  - Make sure that your sales contract complies with your State's laws.
  - Do not sell any animal without a written contract of which both parties retain a copy.
  - Close the holes in the contract you are using now by putting in writing the penalty for contract breach. The more complete your contract is, the less room for discrepancy. Don't just say "Thou shalt not", also state "or else".
  - Do not put any warranties in your contract that you are not prepared to back up.
  - Enforce your spay/neuter agreements!
  - Be there for your kitten buyers, offer your expertise and assistance with any problems they may encounter. Aid in placing their pets if they can no longer keep them.
  - If for whatever reason animal control comes knocking at your door, know that they may not enter without either your permission, or a written warrant. If you live in areas with limit laws, know that a Pennsylvania case which went to the State's Supreme Court ruled that limit laws are unconstitutional. (Reprints available, contact me.)
  - Under no circumstances allow anyone to remove your animals from your care without a written warrant!! I have heard of several cases nationwide where this has happened, and perfectly healthy cats were euthanized without due process.
  - If there are things in your cattery that would preclude you from attaining acceptance into a cattery inspection program, CHANGE THEM.
  - BE HONEST ABOUT FAULTS IN YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM. It is a common cry that we have all heard before, but it is so important. This extends not only to breeding cats that we sell, but our pets as well. If you discover a problem in a line you are working with, which may affect any cats you have sold, let the buyer know! You should also let the breeders of the cat's lineage know, also, in case they have not yet dealt with the problem.
- For example, a few years ago, I discovered after spending lots of money on testing, elimination diets, biopsies and the like, that a certain line I was working with at the time had Eocynophilic Granuloma Complex. I also discovered that feeding a food without ethoxoquin as a preservative alleviated the majority of symptoms. Not only did I advise the people who

(cont. on p.20)

Building A Better Reputation *cont.*

had purchased breeders from me, I also went back to the breeders of the cats I was working with, and the people who had bought pets from me. Why put those pet kitties through what my cats had gone through? Interesting angle, maybe, but I learned that one of the pets had been suffering with some symptoms, and it had not yet been diagnosed. I was able to make recommendations to the owner which alleviated the problem without the owner and the cat having to go through alot of stress.

Honest IS the best policy!! While it may be uncomfortable in the short term, it is the ONLY way to contribute to healthy Maine Coons, serving to protect our precious breed.

In closing, I cannot stress enough the importance of each aspect set forth above. Protect your individual reputation, and work to elevate the reputations of quality breeders as a whole. Do what you can. We have a very deep hole to dig out of with regard to what is thought about us, and where our future lies. We can only do so a bit at a time. I'm afraid if we don't start digging, we will be buried alive.

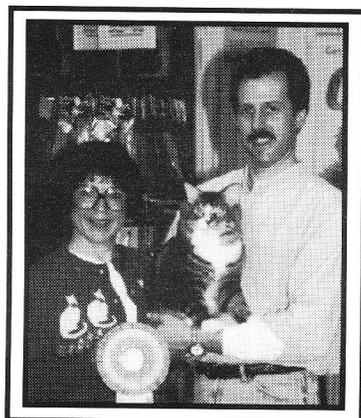
**Around  
the  
SHOW CIRCUIT**

Photos and Show Information  
by  
Robert & Donnis Betzer  
BoCoon Maine Coons, IL  
and  
Laura Cunningham  
Coonyham Maine Coons, CA

The 1995 CFA International was a great show for Maine Coons! Here are pictures of them with their proud owners. Many of the Maines placed at least once in the top 15 of a Championship final. There were thirty-five Maine Coons entered in Championship--Four Opens; Seventeen Champions and Fourteen Grand Champions.



Best Maine Coon in Show  
GRCBuctales Wacky Animainiac



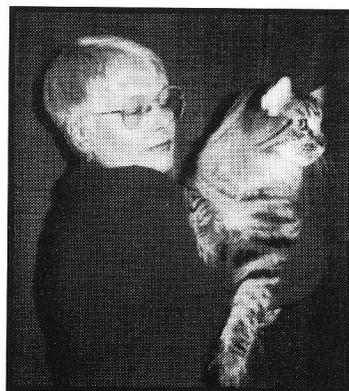
Second Best Maine Coon in Show  
GRC BoCoon Mr. Beaujangles



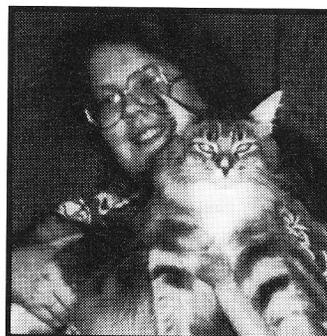
A FINALIST  
GRC Jayhawkcats Wholly Mackerel of Meep  
OW: Frank & Mary Drawe



Libby Watkins with her finalish kitten,  
Katmaindu's Coont Basie, Brn McTabby



Brooke Berger with GRP Purricoon  
Coont Dracula, Brn McTabby



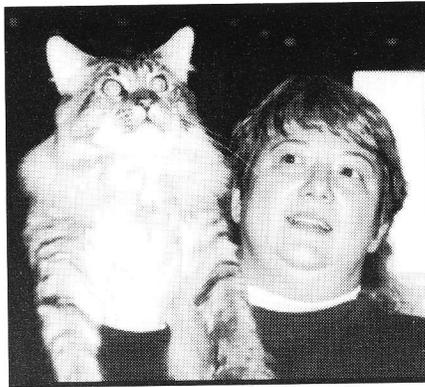
Jean Marie Diaz with  
CH Coonyham Sassafras of  
Ambar, Blue Tab w/wh. female



Scott Barrus owner of CH  
Guitars Chase Maincatan  
of Tribetta, Brn Tabby M.



Gerrie Martin with GRC Seaford Tomasina of Tabbypatch, Blue tabby w/whit. female



Rita Blose, breeder of CH Navkatz Silver Eagle of Oldechelsea, Silver McTabby



Elinor Koehlinger, owner of CH Navkatz Silver Eagle of Oldechelsea



Liz Kelly, owner of CH Islandcat's White Magic of Kellycat, GEWhite male



Gail Frew, B/O of CH Mysterymain's Jonathan Gash, Blue McTab w/whit. M



From L to R: Leslie Dick with XTC Elementary Coon Watson; Mary and RC Smith B/O XTC Blue Sued Coon and Will Scarlet of XTC. All male kittens.



Susan Edwards, B/O of CH, RW Coons Cross Jonathan Romeow Edwards, Brn Tabby w/whit. M.

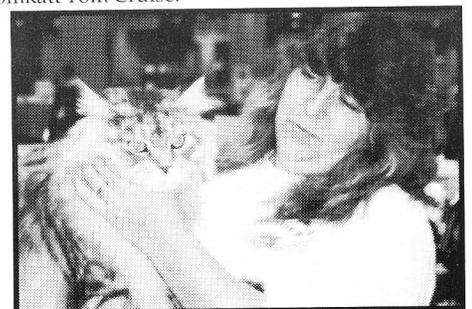


A FINALIST!  
Melissa Duthler B/O of GRC Fuzzyland's Nitro, Brn McTab w/whit.



From L to R: Paul Shuba, Sue Storton & GC/GP/RW McKittycreek Paladin (Best Premier is Show; Ramona Shuba and Fujiko Katsumata holding GC/RW Freedomkatt Tom Cruise.

Of the Grands entered, there were  
1 Solid color male  
2 Tabby males  
9 Tabby w/white males  
2 Tabby w/white females



Catherine Moody, owner of GRC/GRP Coonsboro Typhoon of Stormwatch, Silver McTab F, spay.

Around the Show Circuit *cont.*

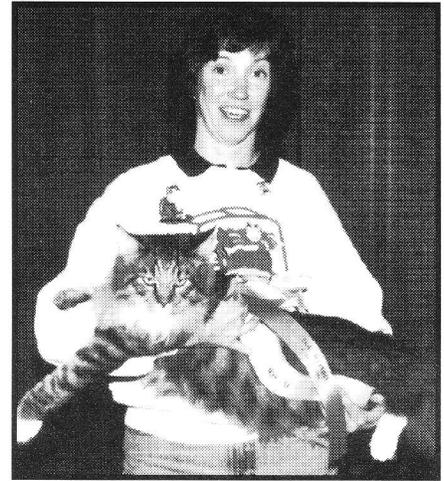


Martha & Norman Auspitz B/O of  
GRC Abizag Maine Attraction  
Twelfth Best Cat

*"Norman, wake up and stop walking in your sleep!"*



Merry Braun with B/O of GRC  
Calabash's Zeus, Red Tabby w/  
white M.  
Fifteenth Best Cat



*"Hey, hey, hey!! This guy brings out the Fat Albert in me!"*

Donna Hinton owner of GRC/RW Stormwatch Dirtrack  
Demon of Nascat.



Cathy Madden, B/O of Salemcoon  
Tortellini (tortoiseshell) and Salemcoon  
Fusilli (silver tabby), both kittens

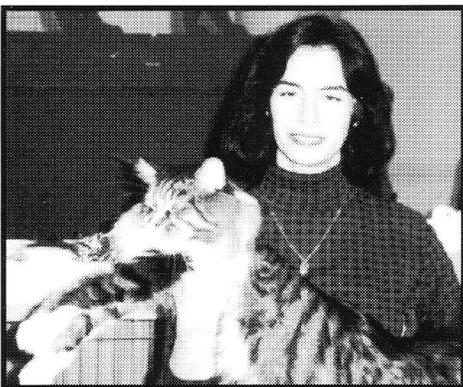


Kathleen C. (Casey) Fish, owner of  
Nascat Hawaii Bound of Pysabs ("Bounder")  
Pysabs cattery is in Hawaii

*Don't you just want to draw a heart around Casey's face?!*



Pennie Pendleton, B/O of  
Coonpaws Sugar Bear,  
GE White M.  
Fifteenth Best Cat



Linda Komar (Angtini Cattery) with GRC/NW  
Coonsboro Beni Pussalini of Angtini  
CFA Maine Coon of the Year, 1994-95

*Congratulations to all Exhibitors!  
It's great to see such a large representation of  
our breed, AND to have their quality recognized  
so highly.*



"Breeder". You know who "they" are, the ones that regard their animals as objects to be exploited, and have no regard for any cat or dog which does not fit a purebred standard. Those cold, money-grubbing individuals who are only in the business so that they can make payments on their Rolls-Royces... RIGHT.

I will probably never have a Rolls-Royce to make a payment on, because I am a veritable sucker for an animal in need. I continue to contribute towards the well-being and prosperity of "my" veterinary clinic, pet food distributor, various kitty litter companies and the like. I have taken more dogs off of "death row" or the streets, treated them, rehabilitated them and either placed or kept them than I care to remark on. My darling Pomeranians-- Rascal, aka (Couch) Potato, and Buttons, aka Tater Tot are both rescue dogs, as was my beloved Collie, Chessie, whom I lost in 1994 at age 15. My Indian name is "Rocks for Brains" with regard to animals. Truly though, money and hard work aside, my life has been enriched by each and every animal that I have shared my home with. Since this issue is on animal rights, overpopulation and overcoming the negative overtones of being a breeder, I thought I'd take the opportunity to share with you the story of three very special kitties. I know probably every one who reads this has a similar story to share, MCBFA'ers are a soft-hearted group. These are the stories we MUST tell--to our lawmakers, our shelter groups, anyone who has a negative connotation on what being a breeder is about.

First, there is Spook, a solid black Domestic Short Hair adopted by myself from the local SPCA on Valentine's Day, 1984. One does not need to point out how unusual it is to have a 12-week-old DSH kitten at that time of year during the harsh Virginia winter. Briefly, Spook was wild. Untouched by human hands, it seemed. She was adopted as a companion to my first-ever kitty, Miss Gremlin, a Siamese/DSH mix who got into plenty of trouble when left alone during the day. It took a full year before Spook would remain in a room when a person entered. She grew to trust very slowly, but has become a very loving Kitty towards people she is familiar with. Now 13, she lives in my bedroom by choice. She does occasionally venture downstairs to see what is going on, but by and large prefers solitude. She is the bed kitty of the house, and her fur does not seem to irritate my allergies. She has served as an illustration to me as to what love can accomplish, and I draw from our experience for my toughest rescue cases. This brings me to kitty number 3, but I cannot tell that story without first telling about kitty number 2:

While cleaning up after my club's show in October of '93, I stumbled upon a cage with 2 kittens in it; one remarkably colored (a chocolate and cream tortie), the other solid black. I was so tired from the show and so struck with the color of the one kitten that it did not dawn on me that their cage had no curtains, food, or water, and just a cardboard box with litter in it. I called my friend Laura over to see this unique kitten, and then it hit everyone had left except a few vendors and the show committee. Eyes wide with horror, we looked at each other in a stupor. It couldn't be... it just couldn't!

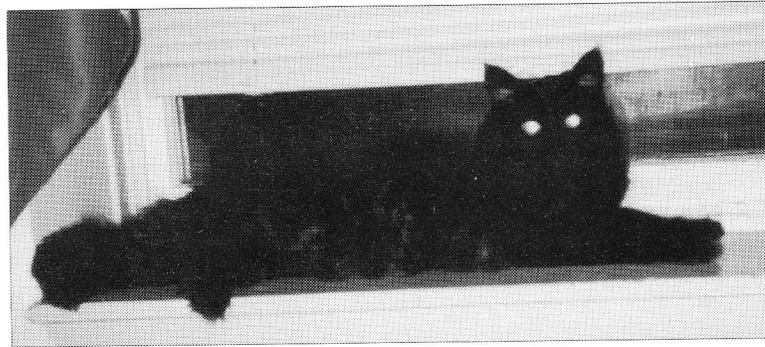
We later learned that a young woman had tried to give these kittens to one of the humane groups we had at our show, but they had turned her down. Apparently, she then walked into the show hall, deposited them in a vacant cage, and departed. We were very angry, but decided against

going public because we were afraid there would be 20 cats dumped at the show next year if we gave anyone the idea.

While the awful truth set in, I sat down in front of those babies and cried. How could someone do this?!! We brought Lisa, a representative from a local humane group, over to show her what I had discovered. Upon further examination, we saw that the kittens were sick--crawling with fleas and ear mites, the chocolate tortie had diarrhea so bad that it oozed out of her rear end into a puddle which she made no effort to move away from. Lisa immediately agreed to take her, stating that her markings were so unusual that she would have no trouble adopting her out. But the black kitten remained. Lisa shook her head, "We have 16 solid black cats in safehouses right now". Something in that pea-sized brain of mine just snapped. I agreed to take the kitten, and keep her, if Lisa would take her for the night, and take her to a vet for testing and spaying if she was deemed old enough.

Two days later I picked her up from the clinic that Laura worked at--bathed, de-flea'd, spayed and on ear mite medication. She went into isolation for 21 days, and was dubbed "Leftie Leftover". Leftie, as we called her, had the most unusual meow--raspy and hoarse. We first thought that she had some kind of ailment or injury, but learned in time that her voice was simply different.

As many cats will do when deprived of food at an early age, Leftie ate constantly and soon became the size of a beach ball. I couldn't make her understand that the food was there to stay, even with the other cats just casually munching on it. She also developed into a beautiful girl, and if I hadn't told people she wasn't a purebred Maine Coon they would have never known. She was a good 16 pounds. I showed her once as a house-



Leftie Leftover, a Maine Coon-type black female, dropped off at our cat show.

hold pet, and when asked by Virginia Wolfe during her final where the name came from, my voice choked with emotion as I told the story. Apparently, word of the kittens being dumped at our show had made it's way through CFA, as whispers went up from the audience: "That's one of the kittens from that show..." I couldn't have been prouder of any purebred making Best Cat In Show than I was of Leftie that weekend.

Leftie became the companion of my stud cat, Jaspurr. When I altered and placed Jaspurr, I saw no reason to keep Leftie confined, so I turned her loose with the others. She began to spray. Not tinkle in the corner, mind you, full fledged indiscriminatory spraying. There seemed to be a pattern to it: adding other animals into the household, including litters who reached the age and vaccination state to come out of isolation, threw her into a tizzy. The episodes would last about 15-30 days at a time. I decided that it would be in her best interest to be placed as an only cat, but I never found the proper home. I tried Elivil, to no avail. I am being brutally honest when I tell you that I halfway entertained euthanizing her if I could not find a home for her and she continued to spray. I don't believe I could ever have done that, but looking at the permanent yellow stains on my rose colored carpet made me think crazy thoughts. At that point, the spraying had been going on for over a year. In desperation, I called my vet yet again and asked her if there was anything else I could try. She suggested Ovaban. Since Leftie will eat anything, and was in spraying mode, I decided to put her into the stud pen and give her the pill in canned food. Well, she sprayed in the pen also. I was constantly in there with paper towels and disinfectant (cont. p.24)

## Love Comes in all Shapes & Sizes

by  
Traci Jones, Rocquoone  
Maine Coon Cats

Love Comes In All shapes and Sizes *cont.*

to keep her environment clean. On day 5, I was yet again mopping up a huge pool of urine when that proverbial light bulb went off over my head. I didn't like at all what it was saying, but I knew it was true- Leftie was diabetic. Excessive water consumption, overweight, huge quantities of very dilute urine... I'd never had a diabetic cat before, but still felt ignorant for not recognizing it sooner. (In my own defense, though, I was not aware of the large amount of water she was drinking, nor the volume of urine output until she was caged and separate from the general population.) I pulled some urine into a syringe, put Leftie into a carrier, and took her to my vet. I told Dr. (Grammar-) Peace what I suspected, and went home to wait for the results of the blood/urine profiles. All too soon the call came, and my fears were confirmed. When I asked if she could be regulated, Dr. Peace told me that she would need to be at the clinic for at least several days; if she were regulated she would need to have blood monitoring and insulin shots twice a day, plus eat on a schedule. To eat on a schedule in my free-feeding household meant to be caged.

Leftie was doomed to life in a cage, and 4 needles a day. Any hopes of finding a single- cat household vanished. Dr. Peace also told me that she had not had a patient live for over 6 months after being diagnosed with diabetes. With all these things in mind, I called Virgil at work and ruined his day with the news, returned to the clinic and held my Leftie one more time as Dr. Peace euthanized her. Tears still flow freely as I remember that afternoon. Tears of frustration, and of failure. My hopes for the remainder of Leftie's life were gone. She came from such meager beginnings, and in my trying to help her she was subjected to stress due to the other pets here. I wanted to give her a better life, and I didn't get the chance. She was cremated, and her ashes are in an urn on my china hutch.

In leaving Dr. Peace's office that afternoon, December 13, 1995, I saw a small cream mctabby / white Domestic Short Hair kitten in their adoption Tokyo cage. The limited information they had on her was that she

had been put in a child's school locker over Thanksgiving break - 6 days without food, water and a litterpan. The first day back from vacation, a teacher heard her crying and had the locker opened. She ran into the school's boiler room-- it was hours before she could be caught. Dehydrated and hungry, she was brought to the clinic. She was treated, tested & vaccinated, and needed a home. I reached out to her in the cage and she cringed. Just then a young couple asked Mimi, the receptionist, if she needed a home. I spoke up and answered "no". My heart went out to her, and I couldn't bear the thought of taking home an empty carrier that day. She has become Leftie's legacy. In keeping with my not so original cattery scheme, she was dubbed "Bailey's Irish Cream" on the spot, Bailey for short. I brought her home, trimmed her nails and put her in my bedroom with Spook. When Virgil came home from work that night, I told him what I had done. He gave me the obligatory 5 minute lecture, softened (or gave up, I'm not sure which), and went upstairs to see her.

Bailey was integrated into the general population a few weeks later. She still would prefer not to be touched by humans, but she is thrilled with the other cats. They in turn, seem to sense her need for reassurance and take turns grooming her and playing kitty games. It is my hopes that the others can communicate to her that she is safe here, and will be well cared for. I must admit, she looks pretty funny running with all the Coons, a small, very round shorthair. Interestingly, she has not meow'ed since she has been here, and I wonder if she no longer feels a need. There has been improvement already, she no longer runs under the nearest piece of furniture when we enter a room. Recently she has been joining us on the bed at night, but still won't allow us to touch her. In time, I hope she will come to trust us as Spook did. If not, so be it, but she will never again experience such cruelty and neglect as what brought her to me. Love does come in all shapes and sizes. If only love could buy cat food and litter...



## Flora and Fiona

by

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Award-winning wildlife artist Sueellen Ross turns her talents to an adorable Maine Coon kitten named *Fiona*. Nestled among brilliant California poppies and lush foliage, the artist's painting beautifully captures all the trademark attributes of a world-class breed.

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# Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy in the Maine Coon Cat

by Jacques Purris

INTRODUCTION by Nancy Davenport

The enclosed article was written by Jacques Purris, a former very successful stockbroker-commodities trader in Beverly Hills. He gave it all up to do independent research on holistic/homeopathic treatment of cat diseases. When he lived here in Santa Monica, I saw him cure a paralyzed cat who appeared to be dead from waist to tail. One vet took his own pet cat to Jacques, who cured it of FIP. We are pleased and gratified that Jacques gave *The Scratch Sheet* first release on his invaluable information, and hope that he keeps us abreast of all future revelations.

About thirteen years ago, I began exploring alternative ways to treat various feline disorders. I discovered that many homeopathic remedies worked well on cats and often worked quicker than conventional medicine. In 1994, I was even successful in curing some cases of dry FIP, which manifested in rear leg paralysis.

I'm not a veterinarian and don't pretend to be one. I still use conventional veterinary services for diagnoses, neutering, x-rays and antibiotics when needed. Most of the cats and kittens brought to me were very sick and had little hope. Their injuries and diseases were considered incurable by the vets who had seen them earlier. Many of the cats had been abandoned and were

in shelters. I was their last resort. Although I never charge for my services, I have been pleased when cat owners celebrated successful outcomes by donating funds to diminish my huge phone bills and care costs.

Recently, three Maine Coon breeders asked me to explore the problem of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. They reported a total of nineteen cases. Eighteen were neutered males and one was a nine-year-old whole male. To me, it looked like quite a coincidence: One hundred percent of the afflicted cats were male, and nearly 95% of these were neutered! This statistic caused me to wonder what deficits in an altered male animal might lead to cardiomyopathy.

I discovered that hair samples on some of the affected altered males revealed a deficiency of Selenium. This made sense, since Selenium is stored in the testicles. Selenium is a mineral found in the soil. Too much or too little will have toxic effects on the heart. Only tiny amounts are needed. Selenium affects muscle (heart) elasticity.

The possibility that a mineral deficit could cause hypertrophic cardiomyopathy seems more plausible when we remember that a Taurine deficit was found responsible for feline Dilated Cardiomyopathy a few years ago. This condition, once common in cats, has become much

more rare since cat food manufacturers started adding this amino acid.

Maine Coon breeders who wish to explore this possibility should find a holistic practitioner who can do a hair test. It costs \$25.00. Selenium is available from a product called Winnah Jr.. It is formulated with yeast, chromium and zinc, specifically for small pets. You can order it from the Vitamin Direct Company (1-800-868-4027 from outside California) and 619-738-4940 within California. Cost is \$10-12 for 8 oz. of the powder.

I realize that this is just the beginnings of my study. I need more data from breeders and pet owners. I know some homeopathic remedies which might arrest or even cure this condition, but they will not work unless the cat already has cardiomyopathy. They would have a negative effect if they were given to a healthy cat "just in case".

If anyone wishes to contact me and share information, we will be able to form more conclusive opinions. I assure you that all responses will be kept strictly confidential.

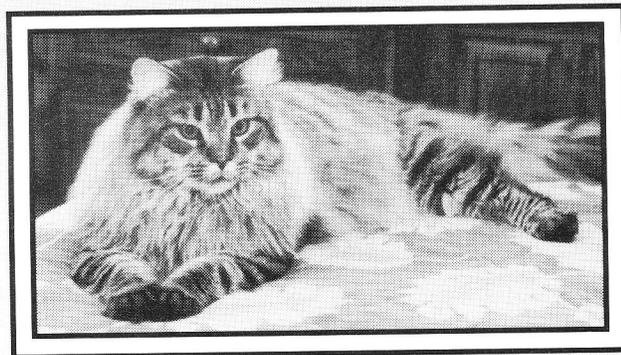
Jacques Purris  
335 NE 184th Pl  
Portland OR 97230

Just before publication, Mr. Purris sent this piece of additional information to *The Scratch Sheet*:

In the past week, a DVM friend of mine back East went through his computer records and came up with this statistic. It included Maine Coon-type as well as pedigreed Maine Coons. Of over one hundred cases with cardio 75% were neutered males; 15% were whole males; and 10% were whole and spayed females. This is a bit better random sampling.

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# FALL AWARDS ISSUE

This year we are making our big TOP 5 Announcements for the 1994-95 AND 1995-96 Show year in the Fall Issue. The show year goes from May 1 to April 30. The deadline is Aug. 15th for all submissions intended for the Fall Issue. We will get caught up on award announcements, and they will be news instead of really old stuff.

We invite all Maine Coon exhibitors from every Registry to send in the Top 5 Kittens, Cats and Alters. Let's have a complete list and as many pictures as possible. There is NO CHARGE for awards pictures. Please send all lists and photos to our current Vice-President, Liz Flynn, 208 King's Chapel Rd., Augusta GA 30907. For return of photos you MUST include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. They will NOT be returned without an SASE.

I would like to count on last year's "Registry Representatives" to collect photos and send them on to Ms. Flynn. They are:

AACE - Sonya Stanislow  
ACFA - Donna Hinton  
CCA - Sue Nelson  
CCF - Esther Ventola  
CFA - Catherine Moody

TICA - Lynne Sherer

We would like to hear from ACA, UCF, FIFe, GCCF and the new UFO.

*Thank you, in advance for taking on this important task.*

## CAT LINK (Breeders For Sale or Trade)

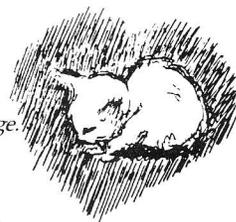
Are you searching for a particular cat or kitten to enhance your breeding program? Cost is \$2.00 per listing. Make checks payable to MDCBFA Scratch Sheet and send them to the Editor. Sorry, No pictures for this column. For Prov. and Breeder Members Only.

New USA Maine Coon Prov. Breeder, registered in CFA & TICA, seeking foundation breeding stock. Grand Champion parentage required, nationwinner/international titles desirable. Prefer solids and/or smokes but will consider other colors. Pedigree line must be free from genetic defects (hip dysplasia, cardiomyopathy, patellar luxation, etc.). For prompt consideration, mail photos (or video), five generation pedigrees and medical backgrounds to: SmokeyCoons, 5517 - 152nd St SW, Edmonds WA 98026-4343, or send facsimile to 206-743-5387. Maine Coon breeder references and cattery code of ethics available upon request.

## LONELY HEARTS (Looking For Homes)

*(No charge for Lonely Hearts listings.)*

*Lonely Hearts listings are limited to spayed or neutered adults available to good homes at a minimal charge.*



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LONESOME TOM AD RATES: Each Listing -- \$2.00 (\$8.00 / yr.)  
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Each additional photo -- \$13.00 per issue (\$52./year)



CLASSYCOON - Judy Harvey, 7932 Mudge Dr., Bridgeport, NY 13030, 315-633-2939. Brown Tabby w/whit., gold eyes.

CHARMALOT - Ginny Molloy, 1274 Uhls Rd., Franklin, KY 42134, 502-586-4076. Brown Tabby, gold eyes.



# The BookShelf

We have many MCBFA publications available to help you promote our wonderful breed as well as our #1 organization. Some are free, others have a nominal charge. Please avail yourselves of these resources.

ORDER THESE FROM TRISH SIMPSON  
10149 Oakwood Chase Ct., Oakton VA 22124

Caring For, Breeding, and Showing Your Maine Coon Cat, a manual of basic information necessary to maintain, breed, raise, show, and sell Maine Coons in a manner that parallels MCBFA's Code of Ethics. \$8.00 (includes S & H)

TO ALL PROVISIONAL BREEDER MEMBERS

You are supposed to receive a copy of MCBFA's book, Caring For, Breeding, and Showing Your Maine Coon Cat, when you are accepted for Provisional Breeder membership. If you have not received this book, please contact Trish Simpson, address above, or call 617-666-9125, and she will send you one.

Genetics For the Maine Coon Cat Breeder, a research publication explaining in understandable language, the basics of genetics in cats. Amanda Thomas. \$5.00 (includes S & H)

U.S Funds ONLY -- Make payable to MCBFA

Helen Wohlfort is no longer able to keep up with the demand for the back issues of The Scratch Sheet that she has in her collection. Helen is going to furnish the Editor with copies, and I will be happy to make copies of specific articles at \$.10/page plus postage. Please make checks payable to MCBFA.

Thank you, Helen, for your labor of love.

ORDER THESE FROM  
THE SCRATCH SHEET EDITOR  
Cheryl Gower, 12376 Checkerboard Rd.,  
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## MCBFA INFORMATIONAL BOOKLETS

Give one of these booklets to anyone who inquires about a kitten, MCBFA, or buys a kitten from you. They make great promotional tools! And they're **FREE!!** except for the postage. Send \$3.00 (within U.S.A) \$6.00 for overseas mail, for each bundle of 25 booklets, payable to MCBFA.

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*Make your selections, and indicate which issues we may substitute, if any.*

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- + Only full Breeder Members may advertise cats or kittens for sale, stud service, catteries, or any service related to animals.
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  - + No one may run more than one ad per issue (excluding "Breeders For Sale", "Grand Gallery", "Lonesome Toms", "Lonely Hearts" listings, and merchandise ads.
  - + Payments must be received with ads.
  - + Ads may be sent camera-ready.
- Please send your ads and payments to the Editor, all checks must be payable to MCBFA.**

### CATTERY AD RATES

- 1/8 pg. \$10.00/one time \$35/yr.  
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Photos are an additional \$10.00 each.

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\$10.00 Charge-per photo. Photos will be returned if accompanied by a SASE.

### "GRAND GALLERY" "LONESOME TOMS"

Please refer to these pages for rates. No charge for "Lonely Hearts" listings.

### SCRATCH SHEET SUBMISSIONS

Anyone may submit articles pictures, and stories to *The Scratch Sheet*; however, only a Breeder, Provisional or Fancier member may submit "Grand Gallery" information. Photographs will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE).

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