



Why Choose A Reputable Breeder

Beth Csomay of Sun O'er Sea



1. Why a reputable breeder?

Reputable breeders, first and foremost, **back their lines**, with their expertise and *health testing on kings and queens* (over \$1000, at minimum, in each breeding cat just for *echocardiogram, hips, and standard DNA testing*). Second, they provide **legally binding contracts** that protect you—as a consumer and them—as a breeder, ensuring that you have a healthy, happy family member for years to come; the contract provides the **congenital health guarantee**—meaning that for so many months *usually years* your baby is guaranteed to be free from hypercardiomyopathy, a condition where the heart wall thickens and causes the cat to pass prematurely.

2. Are reputable breeders more expensive?

Yes. There's no way around this; given the reputable breeders initial investment in the breed, pet quality kittens are \$2500-4500, given inflation. Our cat food bills alone are usually over \$1000/month and our veterinarian bills are obscene; unlike any other "profession," cat breeders do not get compensated for their expertise. If we did, our prices would suddenly be truly out-of-sight. We do our best to keep costs down, but the money you invest in one of babies will be money that you save in vet bills down the road.

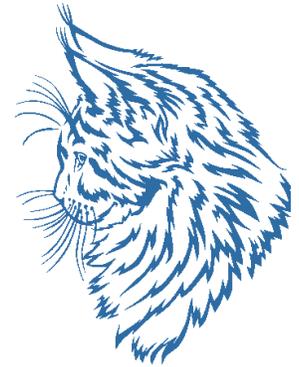
Purchase from an unreputable breeder can result in the following:

- ❖ Ringworm
- ❖ Giardia
- ❖ Coccidiosis
- ❖ Unsocialized, fearful kittens
- ❖ URIs
- ❖ Trichomoniasis
- ❖ Hernias
- ❖ Malabsorption



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These conditions can arise in any household; however, they are much more likely to occur in an unreputable breeder's home where quarantine and proper infectious disease protocol is not observed; infectious disease is more common in a cattery environment due to the number of cats in the multi-cat household.

3. What expertise do reputable breeders have?

Reputable breeders are **well-versed in genetics**. We know our pedigrees, which means we can identify potential line issues as our commitment to health in our breed extends beyond our immediate offspring and to the overall health of the Maine Coon. In addition, we are **experts in cat behavior**. We didn't become good breeders overnight; we know our cats, their behaviors, their personalities, and strategies for dealing with kitten and cat behaviors. We also **recognize common issues** and know when and when not to recommend the vet; we can decipher the difference between an upset tummy and a blockage and we can help you with the trial and error of a food allergy, if they happen to arise.

Maine Coon kittens have individual personalities; we bring our years of experience to help you integrate your new family member as seamlessly as possible into your new house. Additionally, we **truly love** our cats and kittens; therefore, **we are here, for you, for our kitten, for the life of the cat—through kittenhood to adulthood to the end and beyond. We are your breeder—it is our top and utmost responsibility.**

4. What happens if I can no longer care for my Maine Coon?

Reputable breeders stand behind their cats—for the life of their cats, no matter the circumstances. Part of the legal contract you sign stipulates you keep your breeder informed of any and all changes to your household that affect the kitten; if ever the need to rehome occurs, the cat can return to the cattery at any time, for any reason, and the breeder and you will work out the details prior to the kitten exchanging hands in the beginning. **Reputable breeders help in any and all ways, for life.**



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You're buying years of expertise from a cat behavioralist, invaluable health of a kitten, a cattery congenital guarantees along with backed lines with proof of previously happy parents, and a cat that will love you for the rest of its life. Your responsibility to your animal is truly shared with a reputable breeder; you can't put a price on ethics or love.

Our prices might be a bit more than your mill or your backyard breeders who just have two cats from unproven lineages and want pretty babies (what's health when there's cute?). But we are worth it because:

- *We believe in health.**
- *We believe in lifelong support.**
- *We believe in standing behind our lineage.**
- *We love our cats and want them to transition into healthy adults.**
- *We provide congenital guarantees and pet-only registration, certifying that you have purchased a Maine Coon from exceptional lineage.**
- *We are committed—not only to you and our cats, but also—to our breed, the Maine Coon Cat.**
- *You can visit with us, talk with us, stay in contact with us, and most importantly—work with us in the selection process of your future baby.**

Our price is double or triple BYBs or mills—but the service we provide is invaluable.

Sincerely,

One of Thankfully Many Reputable Breeder of Maine Coon Cats

Sun O'er Sea Cattery

sunorseacattery.com