



# MAINE COON CAT CARE & REPUTABLE BREEDERS

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# MAINE COON CAT CARE

A long-haired cat the Maine Coon requires some upkeep, not as much as a Persian but certainly more than a domestic shorthair.



This is the best comb for Maine Coons; it works for shows and weekly/daily brushing.

# MAINE COON CAT CARE CONT.

Maine Coons need access to a lot of fresh water; they also love to splash in their dishes. A shoe mat with raised edges works well for water retention and to prevent spillage on the floor. I highly recommend pet fountains.

## Easy-to-Clean Design

- No hard-to-reach crevices
- Top rack dishwasher-safe parts





# MAINE COON CAT CARE

Show bath routine.

See documentation.



# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

See documentation.

# MAINE COON HEALTH

## **Major breed disorders:**

HCM: what is your breeder doing to prevent this in their line?

PK Deficiency

SMA

Hip Dysplasia

Basic DNA Testing

# HCM: WHAT IS IT

Maine Coon HCM is a genetic illness that thickens the heart walls, deteriorates the heart function, and causes the cat's body to receive a very poor blood flow. Symptoms include breathing difficulties, pulmonary edema, and limb paralysis. No cure exists, but early detection will improve the cat's prognosis significantly.

# HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY

DNA:

Cats affected by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) are at risk of sudden cardiac death. In Maine Coon cats with two copies of the disease-associated mutation, moderate to severe cardiac disease can lead to sudden death by age 4 years or less. Cats that carry one copy of the mutation have a longer life expectancy, but may still develop HCM.

<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/maine-coon-hcm>



# HCM-- DNA

**Mode of Inheritance:** Autosomal dominant (incomplete penetrance)

**Alleles:** **N** = Normal, **HCMmc** = hypertrophic cardiomyopathy-associated mutation

**Breeds appropriate for testing:** Maine Coon

## **Explanation of Results:**

- Cats with **N/N** genotype are not predicted to be at increased risk of HCM and cannot transmit this hypertrophic cardiomyopathy-associated mutation to their offspring.
- Cats with **N/HCMmc** genotype are 1.8 times more likely to develop HCM than cats without the mutation (N/N genotype). They will transmit this hypertrophic cardiomyopathy-associated mutation to 50% of their offspring.
- Cats with **HCMmc/HCMmc** genotype are 18 times more likely to develop HCM than cats without the mutation (N/N genotype). Cats with this genotype are at highest risk for sudden cardiac death.

# HCM— ANNUAL ECHOCARDIOGRAMS

baseline: 10-12 months

Yearly thereafter

Numerous clinics/board certified cardiologists/cardiologists at certain specialty clinics

# SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a condition that causes a cat's spinal muscles to slowly degenerate, causing the cat to have a weak or abnormal gait. While the condition is neither painful nor fatal, cats with Spinal Muscular Atrophy require extra care and attention.

+/+ b -/-

+/- or -/-

-/- b -/-

## Simple DNA test:

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a genetically inherited disorder, so a simple DNA test can be used to determine whether or not a cat has it.

A simple blood sample or buccal swab can be sent to a variety of genetic laboratories, and it will be sent back with results for a cost of about \$40

# PYRUVATE KINASE DEFICIENCY

Pyruvate kinase deficiency is a kind of anemia where the affected cat is unable to produce enough of the enzyme pyruvate kinase. This enzyme produces energy for red blood cells, and without it, their lifespan is reduced. Without sufficient red blood cells, the affected cat will suffer from anemia, leading to weakness, weight loss, and other symptoms.

+/+ b -/-

+/- or -/-

-/- b -/-

-/- & -/-

**DNA test as well; carriers or affected**

Since pyruvate kinase deficiency is a genetically inherited disorder, it is important to screen all cats before breeding them.

# HIP DYSPLASIA: CUTTING EDGE TESTING

Through OFA or Pawpeds, vets can submit x-rays and we can discuss this process after class.

Hip dysplasia is a condition where a cat's femur and hip joint are malformed.

Hip dysplasia is not widely tested for, but there is a call for Maine Coon breeders to increase testing.

Two healthy hipped cats can still produce poor hips, but we are seeing this reduce generationally.

# LESS COMMON DISORDERS: EYE ISSUES

**Entropion:** eyelid turns inward toward your eye, causing eye irritation and redness; results from deep eye sets or improper eye structure

**PRA:** progressive renal atrophy: malformed retina or deterioration of the retina, leads to partial or deterioration of the retina

# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Enthusiasts: only you can support reputable programs

Breeders: only you can ensure you're doing the best by the breed

**Our goal together is happy, healthy cats.**

