



Reputable Maine Coon Breeders

vs.

Other MC or MC-mix Breeders

Beth Csomay of Sun O'er Sea



Reputable Breeders	Backyard Breeders	Kitten Mills & Scammers
\$2,500-5,000 for pet quality kittens, pet-only registration; do not offer show or breed rights	\$1,500-2,500 for pet quality or unspecified (may include rights) registration	\$1000-2000 (>900—RUN) *Anything beneath 1000, even 1200, has likelihood of being a scam *Do your research!!
Breeds for health, testing for HCM (hypertrophic cardiomyopathy) via echocardiogram and DNA, PK Deficiency, SMA as well as radiographs of hips to prevent hip dysplasia Knows and can speak generationally to line health and quality	Breeds with little to no health testing ; may only offer basic DNA testing and does not have line knowledge of health or quality	No health testing Queens do not get adequate rest Cage breeding Cats are not family pets Kittens are under-socialized Ask you to pay for flight/kitten, sight unseen Grammar mistakes
Registers their cats with a renowned organization in the cat fancy such as CFA (American) & TICA (international)	Cats may or may not be registered ; registration may be recorded in many different, lesser known registries and kittens may or may not come with papers	Breeding unregistered cats
Cat lineages are also tracked on PawPeds , which is a pedigree tracking database for Maine Coons	Unlikely that pedigree is tracked in entirety on PawPeds or that breeder is involved in continuing does not	No pedigree or registration or knowledge of parental lines



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where inbreeding coefficients are measured for the entirety of the known pedigree, over 10 gens	go back genetics education; pedigree may only be known up to what is listed on parents' pedigree; <i>the minimums 10 gens</i>	
Knows and articulates breed standard , which all reputable breeders strive to breed for, which ensures proper confirmation; can discuss nuance between TICA/CFA	Can not articulate breed standard; may not even know breed standard	Pet quality breeding pet quality for maximum profit
Has pet parents/owners sign pet-only contract and spay and neuter agreement , if they do not practice early spay and neuter	May have a rudimentary contract , if any; may automatically provide rights, which causes unscrupulous breeding and makes more BYBs	No contract
Stand behind the health of their cats and their offspring for the life of the cat and remain a supportive resource	Has a 30-day, 1 year, or no health guarantee	30-day health or no guarantee
Litters are meticulously recorded in cat fancy registry and kittens go home with contract, of-age shots, microchips, toys, and transitional food	Kittens may or may not come with registration Kittens will likely have 1st and 2nd set of kitten shots and kitten pack	Very little to no guidance, if kitten arrives at all; you may just be out thousands



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Reputable breeders are \$2,500-5,000 and do the following:

- ❖ Register their cats
- ❖ Health test their lines
- ❖ Know standard
- ❖ Provide a clean, sanitary environment that prioritizes comfort and health of their queens who do not overbreed *out of condition
- ❖ Do not maximize profit
- ❖ Always prioritize health and happiness of cats
- ❖ Supportive and present in the process