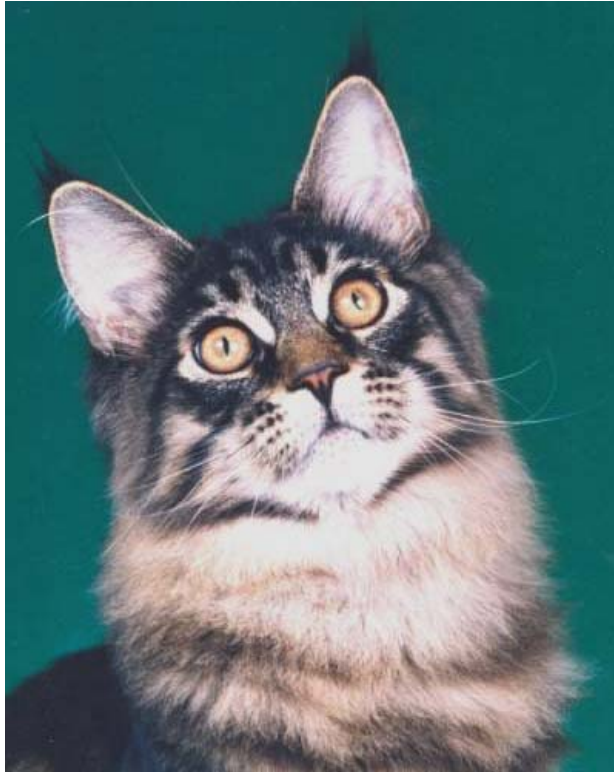


# MC Seminar - CFA Standard



## Coonsboro Calvin Coonidge

(at 9 months)

Born October 1991

The first Maine Coon one show Grand Champion in both CFA and TICA

B/O: Jill & Dave Burrows

Seminar Prepared by:

Beth Hicks, January 2004

TICA Judge since 1979

TICA Instructor – School & Ring

Tanstaaf Cattery – Est. 1972

This photographic seminar on the Maine Coon would not have been possible without the fantastic support received from Maine Coon breeders worldwide. The cats pictured in these pages are from the United States, Europe, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. These Maine Coons are beloved pets, breeding cats, and award winners that have been shown in many different associations around the world. After more than thirty years of breeding, I still find that the community of Maine Coon breeders and fanciers is a very special group of people. The response to my frequent requests for photos to illustrate specific features was fabulous! This started as a project to develop a photo seminar for TICA judges but quickly became much more than that. Maine Coon breeders, owners, and clubs worldwide have my permission to use this seminar as a teaching and training tool.

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This seminar can be found on the web at <http://home.midsouth.rr.com/mcseminar>

# Maine Coon - HEAD SHAPE (per CFA standard -15 points, includes muzzle, chin and profile)

**“Medium in width and slightly longer in length than width with a squareness to the muzzle. Allowance should be made for broadening in older studs. Cheekbones high.**

Maine Coons with different looks shown in different associations worldwide - all lovely cats that fit the standard.



# Maine Coon

## THE MUZZLE

“The muzzle/chin is visibly square, medium in length and blunt ended when viewed in profile. It may give the appearance of being a rectangle but should not appear to be tapering or pointed.”

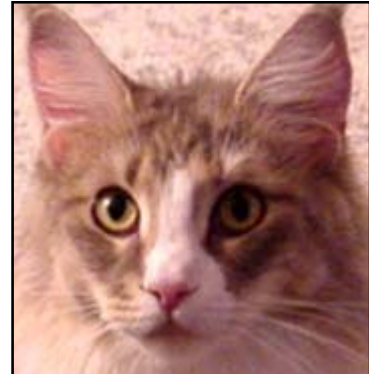
“Length and width of the muzzle should be proportionate to the rest of the head and present a pleasant, balanced appearance.”



Snippy & Narrow



Triangular



Rounded



This young girl has a good square muzzle but her head is narrow across the eyes and cheeks, making her look long in the face. The head will broaden as she matures



Prominent Whisker Pads  
- detract from squareness of muzzle and strength of chin



Short Muzzle



**Square muzzles.** White on the face can be visually distracting, look for actual shape.

# Maine Coon

## THE CHIN

The female's chin (left) is strong and deep but a little narrow. Male's chin (right) is receding and needs more depth.



The female's chin (left) needs to be stronger and have more depth. The male's chin (right) has the depth to look balanced with the muzzle.

**"The chin should be strong, firm, and in line with upper lip and nose. When viewed in profile the chin depth should be observable and give the impression of a square, 90 degree angle."**

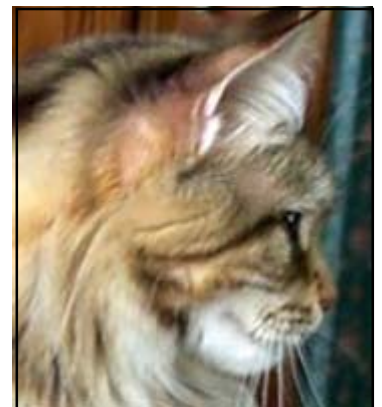
**"A chin lacking in depth, i.e. one that tapers from the jaw line to the lip, is not considered strong, firm or desirable."**



Chin - Receding



Chin - Lacks depth



**Three chins with the width and depth to complete the square look of the muzzle, also in line with the upper lip.**

# Maine Coon THE PROFILE

“The profile should be proportionate to the overall length of the head and should exhibit a slight concavity when viewed in profile. The profile should be relatively smooth and free of pronounced bumps and/or humps.”



Straight



Straight



Suggestion of a  
Roman Nose

“A profile that is straight from the brow line to the tip of the nose is not acceptable, nor should the profile show signs of having a break or stop.”



Pronounced Nose Bump



Slight Nose Bump



Unusual Nose Bump



Three perfect profiles

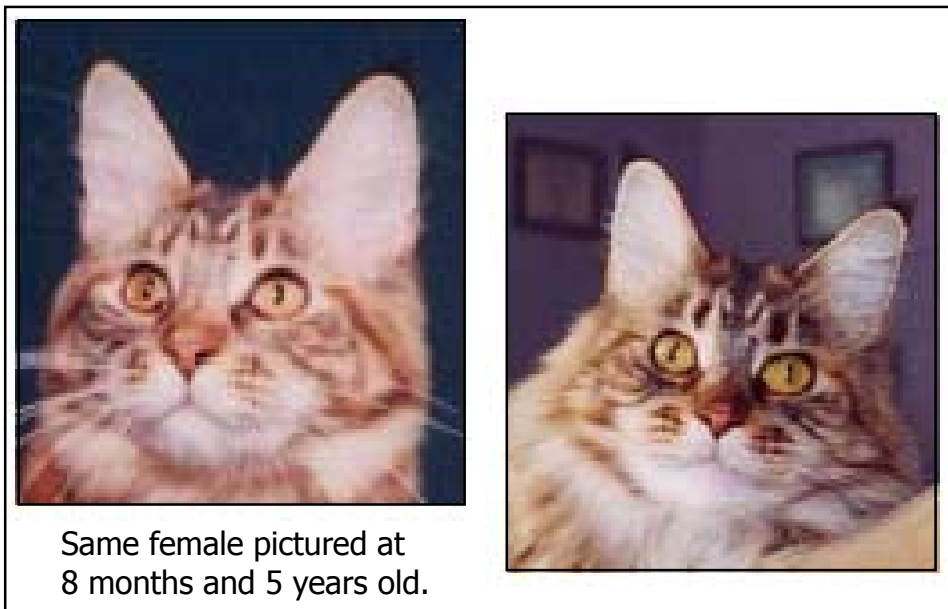
# Maine Coon

## THE EARS

(per CFA standard -10 points)

**"Shape: large, well-tufted, wide at base, tapering to appear pointed."**

**"Set: approximately one ear's width apart at the base; not flared."**



Same female pictured at 8 months and 5 years old.



One year old alter - the head doesn't widen as it does with an intact male.

**Comment: Age plays a factor in position of ears on head! On kittens and younger adults (particularly females) the ears will often be set more closely together. A whole male's heads will broaden with age and ears may appear smaller and further set.**



Pictures of the Same Male at ages 7 months, 2 years and 12 years - Ear size did not change! The head broadened

**Comment: Adult males, as they mature, will get broader across the top of the head causing the ear set to look wider, but the ears at attention should never flare or point outward.**

**Ears less than perfect:**



Set straight up and narrow



Ear bases are too narrow



Set too low



Out of balance - so tall that ears are the first thing you notice!



Ear flare is largely determined by the relationship between the set of the inner and outer base of the ear. If the outer base is set way back from the inner base, the ears will be flared out.

**Ear Flare**



Nice size and set but tilted and flared



Two whole males:  
one on left is 6 years old,  
one on right is 5 years old.

Ears that are set correctly should not "go south".

Too small & too wide set



Good ears on a 3 year  
old female



Same boy pictured at 6 months and one year - you can  
see the difference in width of head, but size and set of  
ears is still good.



Lynx Tips add dramatically to the MC look!  
Pictures of the same female against different back-  
grounds - see how the visible lynx tips properly finish  
the pointed shape of the ear.



Adult Male with  
excellent set and size -  
Well balanced ears



# Maine Coon

## THE EYES

(Per CFA standard - 5 points)



Too Slanted



Too Round



Small



Flat topped



Too Wide-Set



Almond Shaped

**“Large, expressive, wide set. Slightly oblique setting with slant toward outer base of ear.”**



**Three cats with good eye set, size and aperture.**

# Maine Coon

## BODY (SHAPE)

“Long, rectangular in appearance with no part of the anatomy being so exaggerated as to foster weakness.”

(Per CFA standard - 15 points)

### Legs and Feet

(Per CFA standard - 5 points)

“Legs substantial, wide set, of medium length, and in proportion to the body. Forelegs are straight. Back legs are straight when viewed from behind”



“ Paws large, round, well-tufted. Five toes in front, four in back.”

### Neck

(Per CFA standard - 5 points)

“Medium Long”



**Comment:** Imagine a shoebox sitting on top of another shoebox and you have the proportional shape of the Maine Coon body as it sits over the legs - the legs shouldn't be so long as to make the body look short, nor should the body be so long as to make the back appear unsupported. Full belly ruff will make legs look shorter.



Legs should not be overly long or short - the appearance from the side when the cat is standing naturally should be a perfect rectangle with the body positioned evenly over the legs.

# Maine Coon

## BODY (SIZE)

**“Quality should never be sacrificed for size.”**

**“Body Shape: Muscular, broad-chested. Size medium to large. Females generally are smaller than males. The body should be long with all parts in proportion to create a well balanced rectangular appearance with no part of the anatomy being so exaggerated as to foster weakness.**

**Allowance should be made for slow maturation.”**



On the left is a SIX MONTH old male who already weighs 14 pounds. Next to him is his TWO YEAR old dam who weighs 11 pounds - that is not a small female, but in another six months she will look “small” sitting next to her son.

**Comment: The size difference between males and females is more significant in Maine Coons than any other breed. Males average 15-20 pounds. Females average 9-12 pounds.**



Littermates at 11 months. This is a big female (right) but notice the difference in body build and boning in the leg.



Littermates at one year two males and one female.

# Maine Coon - TAIL & COAT

**"TAIL: long, wide at base, and tapering. Fur long and flowing."**

(per CFA standard - 5 points)

**"COAT: heavy and shaggy; shorter on the shoulders and longer on the stomach and britches. Frontal ruff desirable. Texture silky with coat falling smoothly."**

(per CFA standard - 20 points)

**"Penalize: a coat that is short or overall even."**

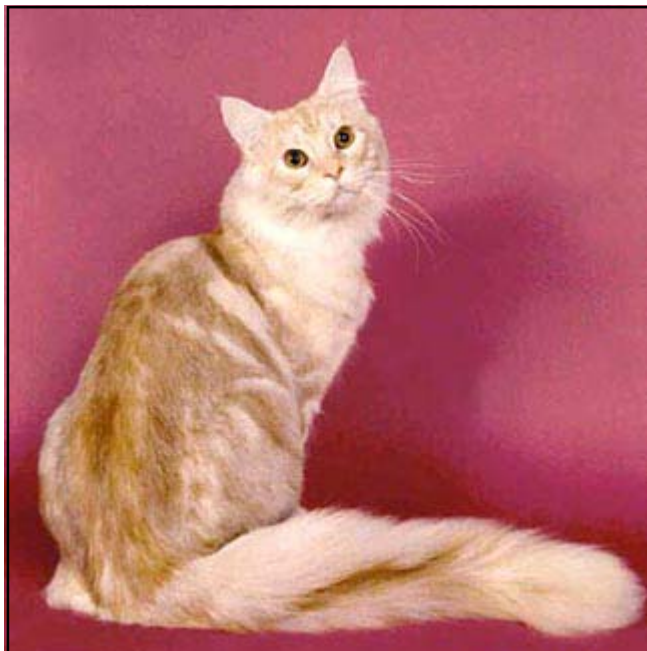
## Comment:

Age and hormonal status can impact development of coat - Many cats blow coat at sexual maturity and may be 2 or 3 years old before coat comes back in fully. Alters may have fuller coat than whole cats.



Two similar looking girls illustrate the difference a slight frontal ruff makes in appearance. Age is a factor, as the girl on the right is now 2 years old and her ruff is just starting to grow.

Two breeding males approximately the same age

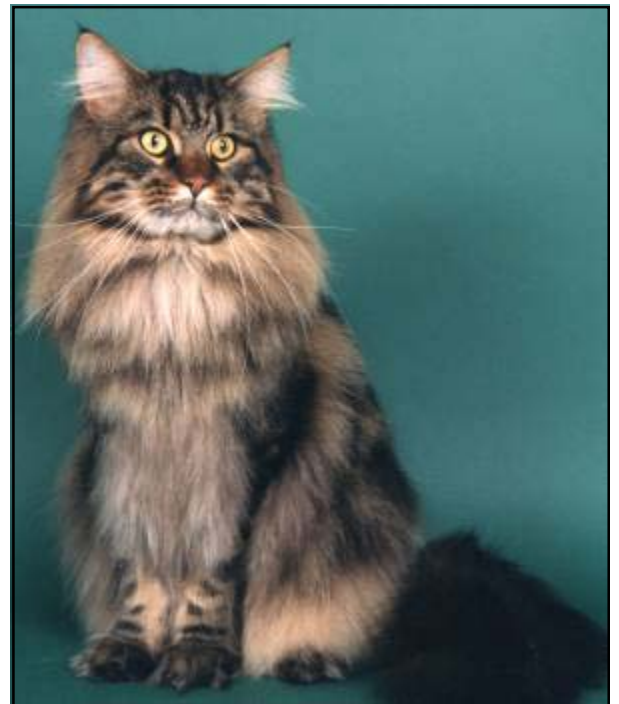


Slightly more undercoat adds to shaggy appearance and overall balanced look of this boy



Coat lies too close to the body - this boy needs more undercoat. belly shag and ruff

**Maine Coons with wonderful shaggy coats, frontal ruffs and long flowing tails!**



## Maine Coon

### **BALANCE** (per CFA standard - 5 points)

**Comment: While the CFA breed standard only applies 5 points specifically to balance, notice that it is mentioned in almost every part of the written description.**

### **COLOR** (per CFA standard - 15 points, 10 for Coat, 5 for eyes)

**Comment: Color is very subjective, involving elements of clarity and density.**

## Maine Coon - Tongue

(per CFA standard - no points are awarded for tongue ;-)

**Long enough to clean the nose...**



Hope you enjoyed  
our show!  
The End

