

## MAINE COON

(Breed 64)

### General Type Standard

The Maine Coon is a semi-longhaired cat of medium Foreign type and is distinguished by its large size, bone structure, rectangular appearance and flowing coat.

The Maine Coon evolved as a working domesticated cat in a rural environment; this role is reflected in a muscular cat of rugged outdoor appearance with a characteristic weatherproof coat and the demeanour of an alert capable hunter.

**Head** - Medium in length, the nasal bridge being equidistant from the ear line and the tip of the nose, with the width being slightly less than the length of the head. Allowance should be made for additional breadth or jowls in mature males.

The muzzle should be square with a firm chin: chin, upper lip and nose leather should fall in a perpendicular line. Cheeks fairly full, with high cheek bones. Bite level. Nose of uniform width with a shallow concave curve at the nasal bridge when viewed in profile and without a sharp break or stop.

**Ears** - Large, tall ears, wide at the base and tapering to appear pointed at the tip; set high but well apart.

**Eyes** - Full and round, spaced wide apart with a slightly oblique aperture and set. Shades of green, gold or copper; coat and eye colour may be unrelated. Odd or blue eyes are permissible in white cats.

**Body and Neck** - Body large to medium size, solid and muscular with breadth of chest. Long body with proportionate limbs to create the characteristic rectangular appearance; square rump. Neck moderately long; particularly thick and muscular in mature males.

**Legs and Paws** - Substantial legs with large round paws; toes carried close, five in front, four behind.

**Tail** - Long, at least the length of the back, wide at the base and tapering towards the tip.

**Coat** - Waterproof and virtually self-maintaining, consisting of an undercoat covered by a more substantial glossy top coat. Fur shorter on the head, neck and shoulders, increasing in length down the back, flanks and tail. A fluffy appearance is undesirable.

Breeches and belly fur full and shaggy. Frontal ruff beginning at the base of the ears; heavier in males than females. Tail fur long, profuse and flowing; not bushy. Ears feathered and preferably tufted at the tips; the ear feathering should extend beyond the outer edges of the ear. Paws tufted, with long tufts emanating from under the paws extending backwards to create snowshoe effect.

**Coat Colour and Pattern** - The Maine Coon is recognised in a variety of solid colours (including white in all eye colours); tortoiseshell; tabby colours (classic and mackerel patterns) with or without silver; shaded and smoke colours; bi-colour and parti-colour (e.g. solid/tabby/tortoiseshell/shaded/smoke colour and white).

#### Notes:

1. Since the Maine Coon is slow to mature (taking up to 4 years), allowances should be made as to their size when judging younger cats. The balance of the cat is of uppermost importance
2. The cat loses coat during the summer months
3. Different coat colours may have different textured coats.

## SCALE OF POINTS

<b>Head:</b> including general shape and proportions; shape, size and ear set; shape, size, set and colour of eyes; nose length and profile; cheeks; muzzle and chin	35
<b>Body:</b> including shape and proportions; size, bone structure, muscularity and condition; height and thickness of legs; shape and size of paws; shape and length of tail .....	30
<b>Coat:</b> including length and texture; frontal ruff; ear featherings and tufting; tail furnishings; paw furnishings.....	20
<b>Colour and pattern</b> .....	<u>15</u>
	Total.. <u>100</u>

### Withhold all awards for:

1. Any exhibit displaying any obvious evidence of being polydactyl (anything other than four toes on each paw and one dew claw on each front leg)
2. Wrongly registered adults, kittens or neuters  
NOTE: These should be marked as wrong colour on judge's slips and disqualified
3. Blue or odd eyes in cats of a colour other than white
4. Van patterned cats.

### Withhold Certificates or First Prizes in Kitten Open Classes for:

1. Cobby body shape and/or fine bone structure
2. Bi-colour or Parti-colour cats that exhibit do not exhibit some white on all four paws, belly and chest
3. Definite nose break or stop
4. Straight profile or pronounced nose bump
5. Untufted paws
6. White markings (including buttons, lockets or spots) anywhere other than those referred to in the SOP
7. Overall even coat length
8. Persian-like coat texture
9. Serious colour or pattern faults
10. Any defect as listed in the preface to this SOP booklet.

### Faults:

1. Unsound base coat in Solid or Tortoiseshell coloured cats
2. Tabby markings in adult Smoke coloured cats
3. Heavy tabby markings in Shaded coloured cats
4. White extending beyond the throat in Non-Silver Tabby cats registered without white
5. Tarnishing in Silver Series cats
6. Heavily brindled coat in Tabby cats

### COAT COLOURS

Chocolate, Lilac and Siamese points are not allowed.

### SOLID COLOURS

The fur should be sound to the roots in colour and free from any shadings, markings and patches of white hairs, except that red series solid cats may well show tabby markings. Nose leather, paw pads and eye rims to tone with the body colour.

64 14	White – Blue-eyed	64 15	Black
64 14a	White – Orange-eyed	64 15d	Red
64 14b	White – Odd-eyed	64 16	Blue
64 14c	White – Green-eyed	64 17	Cream

## **TORTOISESHELLS**

The patterning should extend throughout the coat including the limbs, tail and face; blaze desirable. Base colour should be sound to the roots.

### **TORTOISESHELL (64 21)**

**Coat colour** - Black and shades of red.

**Nose leather, paw pads and eye rims** – Pink and/or black depending on the distribution of the red.

### **BLUE TORTIE (64 28)**

**Coat colour** – Blue and shades of cream.

**Nose leather, paw pads and eye rims** – Pink and/or blue depending on the distribution of the cream.

## **SMOKE COLOURS**

Any solid or tortoiseshell colour accepted. The undercoat should be silvery white with deep tips shading to the basic colour. The cat appears darkest on the back, head and feet. In a smoke cat the silvery white undercoat, which is next to the skin, should not be clearly visible when the cat is in repose. However, this can be seen when the fur is parted or when the cat is moving.

This is a genetically silver non-tabby variety of Maine Coon. The appearance of clear tabby markings in the coat is undesirable. However, it is accepted that Red Series Smoke colours may exhibit some faint markings which should not be unduly penalised in an otherwise good example of the breed. It should also be noted that kittens of all Smoke colours may well show ghost tabby markings on the body for which they should not be too heavily penalised. The presence of tabby markings in adults is undesirable.

### **BLACK SMOKE (64 36)**

**Coat colour** – Silvery white undercoat deeply tipped with black, and free from tabby markings.

In motion, the silvery white undercoat is apparent; cat in repose appears black with no other markings. Extremities and face black, narrow band of silvery white at base of hair, next to skin, which may only be seen when the fur is parted.

**Nose leather and paw pads** – Black.

### **BLUE SMOKE (64 36a)**

**Coat colour** – Silvery white undercoat deeply tipped with blue, and free from tabby markings.

In motion, the silvery white undercoat is apparent; cat in repose appears blue with no other markings. Extremities and face blue, narrow band of silvery white at base of hair, next to skin, which may only be seen when the fur is parted.

**Nose leather and paw pads** – Blue.

### **RED SMOKE (64 36d)**

**Coat colour** – Silvery white undercoat deeply tipped with red, and free from tabby markings.

In motion, the silvery white undercoat is apparent; cat in repose appears red with no other markings. Extremities and face red, narrow band of silvery white at base of hair, next to skin, which may only be seen when the fur is parted.

**Nose leather and paw pads** – Pink.

### **TORTIE SMOKE (64 36e)**

**Coat colour** – Silvery white undercoat, deeply tipped with black and shades of red, which are clearly visible on both body and extremities. Cat in repose appears tortoiseshell. Extremities and face black and shades of red with narrow band of silvery white at base of hair next to skin, which may only be seen when the fur is parted. Red markings on the face are desirable.

**Nose leather and paw pads** - To conform to requirements for coat colour.

### **CREAM SMOKE (64 36f)**

**Coat colour** – Silvery white undercoat deeply tipped with cream, and free from tabby markings. In motion, the silvery white undercoat is apparent; cat in repose appears cream with no other markings. Extremities and face cream, narrow band of silvery white at base of hair, next to skin, which may only be seen when the fur is parted.

**Nose leather and paw pads** – Pink.

### **BLUE TORTIE SMOKE (64 36g)**

**Coat colour** – Silvery white undercoat, deeply tipped with blue and cream, which are clearly visible on both body and extremities. Cat in repose appears blue tortoiseshell. Extremities and face blue and cream with narrow band of silvery white at base of hair next to skin, which may only be seen when the fur is parted. Cream markings on the face are desirable.

**Nose leather and paw pads** – Blue or pink to conform to requirements for coat colour.

## **TABBY PATTERNS**

Allowances to be made for diffusion of tabby markings in cats showing long or full flowing coats.

Recognised coat patterns are Classic and Mackerel pattern.

There is a tendency for tabbies to show white around the immediate area of the lips and lower jaw area. It is a serious fault if this extends beyond the throat in non-silver tabbies or tabbies registered without white. Silver-white colour on the throat and muzzle of silver tabbies/silver tortie tabbies is not a fault and the base colour may be diluted by the gene producing silver.

### **CLASSIC PATTERN**

All markings to be clearly defined and dense. On the forehead there should be a letter 'M' giving the impression of a frown. There should be an unbroken stripe running back from the outer corner of the eye and narrow lines on the cheeks. On the neck and upper chest there should be unbroken necklaces, the more the better. The edges of the ears to be the same colour as the markings with a central patch of ground colour resembling a thumb print. A series of lines run from above the 'M' marking, over the top of the head and extend to the shoulder markings. The shoulder markings form the outline of a butterfly, when viewed from above. On the back there should be an unbroken line running down the spine from the butterfly to the tail, and there should be a stripe on either side of this running parallel to it. These stripes should be separated from each other by stripes of ground colour. On each flank there should be an 'oyster' shaped patch which should have complete rings, as numerous as possible. The tip of the tail should be the same colour as the markings. The legs should be barred evenly with bracelets from the body markings to the toes which should be spotted. The back of the leg from the sole to the hock should be solid colour. The abdominal area should be spotted.

### **MACKEREL PATTERN**

All markings to be clearly defined and dense. On the forehead there should be a letter 'M' giving the impression of a frown. There should be an unbroken stripe running from the outer corner of the eye and narrow lines on the cheeks. On the neck and upper chest there should be unbroken necklaces, the more the better. The edges of the ears to be the same colour as the markings with a central patch of colour resembling a thumb print. A series of lines run from above the 'M' marking, over the top of the head and extend to the shoulder markings. There should be one narrow, unbroken central spine line on either side of which is a broken spine line from which the narrow lines which form the Mackerel pattern run vertically down the body. These lines should be unbroken and as narrow and numerous as possible. The tip of the tail should be the same colour as the markings.

**BROWN TABBY (64 41, 64 44) (Previously 64 20)**

**Coat colour** – Black markings on a warm copper agouti ground colour.

**Nose leather** – Brick red.

**Paw pads and eye rims** – Black or brown.

**BLUE TABBY (64 41a, 64 44a) (Previously 64 20a)**

**Coat colour** – Blue markings on a cool beige agouti ground colour.

**Nose leather** – Solid blue or pink edged with blue.

**Paw pads and eye rims** – Blue.

**RED TABBY (64 41d, 64 44d) (Previously 64 19)**

**Coat colour** – Rich red markings on a bright apricot agouti ground colour.

**Nose leather, paw pads and eye rims** – Deep pink.

**TORTIE TABBY (64 41e, 64 44e) (Previously 64 20e)**

**Coat colour** – Black markings on a warm copper agouti ground which has been overlaid with shades of red.

**Nose leather** – Brick red and/or pink.

**Paw pads and eye rims** – Black and/or pink depending on the distribution of the red.

**CREAM TABBY (64 41f, 64 44f) (Previously 64 20f)**

**Coat colour** – Rich cream markings on a cooler cream agouti ground colour.

**Nose leather, paw pads and eye rims** – Pink.

**BLUE TORTIE TABBY (64 41g, 64 44g) (Previously 64 20g)**

**Coat colour** – Blue markings on a cool beige agouti ground which has been overlaid with shades of cream.

**Nose leather** – Blue and/or pink.

**Paw pads and eye rims** – Blue and/or pink depending on the distribution of the cream.

**SILVER TABBY**

**Coat colour** - Colour and markings as above on a silver agouti ground. Silver-white colour on the throat and muzzle of silver tabbies/silver tortie tabbies is not a fault and the base colour may be diluted by the gene producing silver. Tarnishing is undesirable.

**Nose leather, paw pads and eye rims** – as above.

**Silver Tabby (64 41s, 64 44s) (Previously 64 18)**

**Blue Silver Tabby (64 41as, 64 44as) (Previously 64 18a)**

**Red Silver Tabby (64 41ds, 64 44ds) (Previously 64 18d)**

**Tortie Silver Tabby (64 41es, 64 44es) (Previously 64 18e)**

**Cream Silver Tabby (64 41fs, 64 44fs) (Previously 64 18f)**

**Blue Tortie Silver Tabby (64 41gs, 64 44gs) (Previously 64 18g)**

**SHADED COLOURS**

**Coat colour** - Both Standard (non-silver) and Silver Shaded colours are accepted in any solid or tortoiseshell colour. Shaded cats are genetically agouti. In the Shaded cat the coloured fur should give the overall appearance of a mantle on the back. The body should be as free from tabby markings as possible in adults. Kittens may well exhibit ghost tabby markings on the body for which allowance should be made.

In Standard Shaded, the undercoat should be as pale as possible with the shaft of each hair pale at the root and darkening to the base colour at the tip.

In Silver Shaded, the undercoat should be as pale a silver as possible with shallow tips shading to the basic colour; the dark points being most clearly defined on the back, head and feet and the lighter points on the flanks and ear tufts. Any tarnishing of the coat is undesirable.

**Nose leather, paw pads and eye rims** – In keeping with the basic colour.

**Black Shaded (64 43) (Previously 64 74)**

**Blue Shaded (64 43a) (Previously 64 74a)**

**Red Shaded (64 43d) (Previously 64 74d)**

**Cream Shaded (64 43f) (Previously 64 74f)**

**Tortie Shaded (64 43e)(Previously 64 74e)**

**Blue Tortie Shaded (64 43g) (Previously 64 74g)**

**Black Silver Shaded (64 43s) (Prev 64 75)**

**75g**

**Blue Silver Shaded 64 43as) (Prev 64 75a)**

**Red Silver Shaded (64 43ds) (Prev 64 75d)**

**Cream Silver Shaded (64 43fs) (Prev 64 75f)**

**Tortie Silver Shaded (64 43es) (Prev 64 75e)**

**Blue Tortie Silver Shaded (64 43gs) (Prev 64**

#### **BICOLOUR AND PARTICOLOUR**

**Coat colour** - Any solid, tabby, tortoiseshell, shaded or smoke colour and white. The base colour to be present on head, back (extending down onto sides) and fully coloured tail. On Tabby cats, there should be sufficient base colour to show the pattern. The minimum white permitted is some white to all four paws, underbelly and chest, with some colour allowed to these areas. Refer to the appropriate section for descriptions of coat markings

Black & White (64 31)  
Blue & White (64 31a)  
Red & White (64 31d)  
Cream & White (64 31f)  
Tortoiseshell & White (64 22)  
Blue Tortie & White (64 22a)  
Black Smoke & White (64 31s)  
Blue Smoke & White (64 31as)  
Red Smoke & White (64 31ds)  
Cream Smoke & White (64 31f)  
Tortie Smoke & White (64 31es)  
Blue Tortie Smoke & White (64 31gs)  
Brown Tabby & White (64 41w, 64 44w)(Previously 64 31t)  
Blue Tabby & White (64 41aw, 64 44aw) (Previously 64 31at)  
Red Tabby & White (64 41dw, 64 44dw) (Previously 64 31dt)  
Cream Tabby & White (64 41fw, 64 44fw) (Previously 64 31ft)  
Tortie Tabby & White (64 41ew, 64 44ew) (Previously 64 31et)  
Blue Tortie Tabby & White (64 41gw, 64 44gw) (Previously 64 31gt)  
Silver Tabby & White (64 41sw, 64 44sw) (Previously 64 31ts)  
Blue Silver Tabby & White (64 41asw, 64 44asw) (Previously 64 31ats)  
Red Silver Tabby & White (64 41dsw, 64 44dsw) (Previously 64 31dts)

Cream Silver Tabby & White (64 41fsw, 64 44fsw) (Previously 64 31fts)  
Tortie Silver Tabby & White (64 41esw, 64 44esw) (Previously 64 31ets)  
Blue Tortie Silver Tabby & White (64 41gsw, 64 44gsw) (Previously 64 31gts)

Black Shaded & White (64 43w) (Previously 64 74w)  
Blue Shaded & White (64 43aw) (Previously 64 74aw)  
Red Shaded & White (64 43dw) (Previously 64 74dw)  
Tortie Shaded & White (64 43ew) (Previously 64 74ew)  
Cream Shaded & White (64 43fw) (Previously 64 74fw)  
Blue Tortie Shaded & White (64 43gw) (Previously 64 74gw)  
Silver Shaded & White (64 43sw) (Previously 64 75w)  
Blue Silver Shaded & White (64 43asw) (Previously 64 75aw)  
Red Silver Shaded & White (64 43dsw) (Previously 64 75dw)  
Tortie Silver Shaded & White (64 43esw) (Previously 64 75ew)  
Cream Silver Shaded & White (64 43fsw) (Previously 64 75fw)  
Blue Tortie Silver Shaded & White (64 43gsw) (Previously 64 75gw)