

United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia



INFORMATION BOOKLET

For Breeders & Fanciers

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is published by the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia (UMCFA), a non-profit club dedicated to the promotion and welfare of Maine Coon cats in Australia.

Mission Statement of the UMCFA

- To provide useful and informative resources and links for existing and potential Maine Coon owners.
- To assist cat-owners in general by providing information on care, health, diet and exercise regimes.
- To assist prospective Maine Coon owners by providing links to breeder members of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia.
- To assist genetic diversity by maintaining a database of breeding cats imported into Australia wherever possible.
- To promote the testing of breeding cats for genetically inherited diseases such as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) and Hip Dysplasia (HD) and other genetic diseases.
- To provide a forum for discussion about Maine Coon cats open to all members.

CARING FOR YOUR NEW KITTEN

First Days

Your kitten will probably be quite lonely and disoriented in the first few days after he moves to his new home. His environment has totally changed and he must learn to cope with this change without the support of his mother and siblings.

The best thing to do is to provide him with a small area to become accustomed to first before introducing him to the whole house. Speak gently to him and let him explore his new surroundings and become acquainted with his new family slowly.

Provide a bowl of water and the food he is used to close to his travel crate. Leave his travel crate near him so that he has a place that smells familiar to retreat to when needed.

Food

Your kitten will do best on the food he/she is accustomed to. A sudden change of diet may result in diarrhea. The breeder should have provided you with a specific list of the foods he was reared on. The basis of his diet should be one of the premium brands of dry kitten food such as Hills, Royal Canin, Iams or another complete food. He may be used to other foods as well. If you didn't receive an information kit from the breeder, then a phone call to ask about dietary requirements is worthwhile.

Water

Cats should always be provided with fresh water. Maine Coons often like to play in their water bowl, and a convenient location where puddles are not a problem is a good idea. Check the water at least every day and refresh as necessary.

Grooming

Maine Coons usually have a fairly carefree coat. A comb twice a week with a rolling tooth comb should be all that is necessary to keep his coat tangle free. Pay particular attention to grooming in autumn and spring when they tend to shed their old coat.

Maine Coons tend to have a fairly greasy coat. The grease in the coat is natural and helps keep their coat tangle free. Your kitten will have been bathed before leaving the breeder's home. Talk to the breeder of your kitten for more specific instructions on bathing depending on whether you want to show your kitten or just enjoy him as a pet.

Cleaning

Many general household cleaners are poisonous to cats. Bleach such as White King hospital grade bleach is the safest cleaner to use in a house with cats. It is cheap, effective, kills germs and will help keep your kitten safe. Always rinse after cleaning and before allowing your kitten back into the room.

Litter

There are many different types of cat litter available these days. It is best to use a litter recommended by the breeder of your kitten at least for the first few weeks and if you want to use a different litter, slowly change by mixing the two types of litter. A sudden change of litter may result in “accidents” especially during the initial period where everything is new and different for your kitten.

UMCFA promotes the testing of breeding cats for hereditary diseases such as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Hip Dysplasia. Some breeders may also test for PKD – Polycystic Kidney Disease. Many breeders use the fact that they test to promote the fact that they are responsible breeders. Ask about the parents of your kitten and keep in touch with the breeder so that you are aware of the long term health of the parents of your kitten.

The information you provide to the breeder regarding the health of your kitten/cat may help him/her make more informed decisions regarding future breeding practices.

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BREEDER AND THE PURCHASER OF A PET KITTEN

This agreement signed by both the breeder of the kitten and the purchaser of the kitten is binding on both parties.

The buyer agrees to accept complete responsibility for the kitten's health and welfare, and pledges to care for it in a proper manner, housing it in roomy quarters, feeding it properly, maintaining its health and freedom from parasites, giving it generous amounts of love and personal attention.

- The cat shall receive a booster vaccination each year (unless otherwise advised by veterinarian), and will be examined by a veterinarian at least annually unless otherwise warranted.
- The cat shall not be denied necessary veterinary attention.
- The breeder strongly recommends that the cat shall not be allowed outdoors except on a leash, under close supervision, or in a completely enclosed run.
- The cat shall have access to fresh water at all times.
- The cat shall not be de-clawed.
- The cat will not be de-voiced.
- If at any time the buyer decides that he/she can no longer keep the cat, then the cat is to be offered back to the breeder. At no time is the cat to be given or sold to another person not approved by the breeder.

Description of Cat/Kitten

Description of Cat/Kitten	
Breed	Maine Coon
Date of Birth	
Sex of Kitten	Male/Female
Desexed	Yes/No
Immunisation records	Attached/Not Attached
Registration Certificate provided	Yes/No
Pedigree provided	Yes/No
Parasite treatments (describe) Date of Administration:	

HEALTH GUARANTEE

The parents of your kitten have been tested for the following and original certificates or results should be available for scrutiny at the home of the breeder.

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy	YES/NO
Hip Dysplasia	YES/NO
Polycystic Kidney Disease	YES/NO
Other	YES/NO

In the event of an unexpected/undisclosed major illness or death the breeder shall consider replacing the kitten up to a maximum age of A vet's report or certificate as to cause of illness or death is required to be submitted to the breeder. In the event of suspected heart condition, the report should be prepared by a respected veterinary cardiologist.

HEALTH GUARANTEE

The agreed purchase price and total expenses are set out below. Where a separate receipt is not issued, this document may be used to record the financial transactions made between the purchaser and the breeder with respect to the purchase of this kitten/cat.

Purchase price of the kitten	\$
Transport	\$
Other (Specify)	\$
TOTAL	\$

Name of Breeder:

Signature of Breeder:.....Date:

Name of Purchaser:

Signature of Purchaser:Date:

CODE OF ETHICS

The aim of the Code of Ethics is to protect both the Maine Coon Cat and to provide guidance to registered breeders in their endeavour to provide healthy well socialized kittens for purchasers.

Purchasers who have a justifiable complaint are welcome to approach the Ethics Committee to discuss any issues they may have with the breeder of their cat or kitten. A Complaint Form is included in this booklet.

The Ethics Committee and Terms of Reference of the Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee shall comprise 4 financial members of the club, duly elected by majority vote. The Ethics Committee shall be comprised of the following members:

- Two registered breeder members of the UMCFA
- Two fancier members of the UMCFA

Members must be financial members of UMCFA to be elected and to maintain their position on the Ethics Committee.

Amendments

The UMCFA Code of Ethics may be amended by action of the Executive Council upon recommendation from the Ethics Committee.

Enforcement

Upon sufficient proof of violation of this Code of Ethics, the Ethics Committee of UMCFA is empowered to cancel membership of UMCFA for a period to be determined by the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee is also empowered to lodge a complaint in writing to the registering association of that person against whom a complaint has been received if the complaint is of sufficient magnitude to warrant such action.

Liability

The United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia, as an organization, subscribes to the guarantee and Code of Ethics below, and each of its individual members is expected to abide by it. Members failing to adhere to the UMCFA Guarantee will be subject to action by the association.

(Condt)

The purchase of a cat or kitten should be handled as any business transaction and be fully documented in writing. For the protection of all concerned, the use of sales contracts between buyer and seller is strongly urged.

UMCFA attempts to ensure that healthy kittens are sold by its member catteries, but UMCFA cannot guarantee the show or breeding potential of those kittens. UMCFA strongly recommends that any purchaser becomes well informed about the Maine Coon standard and the meaning of cat show awards before acquiring a show/breeding cat or kitten.

UMCFA is not responsible for the liabilities of its individual members.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR REGISTERED BREEDERS

The following section comprises a declaration of intent by Registered Breeders to follow the Code of Ethics of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia.

By applying for membership or membership renewal, all breeder members are deemed to have read and agreed to the Code of Ethics of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia.

Record Keeping

I shall keep meticulous records of all breeding cats, which will enable me to provide true and accurate records of the pedigrees of any kittens sold. All mating certificates provided for outside stud service shall be true and correct and matings witnessed by me where possible. Where it proves difficult to witness a mating, I shall make arrangements so that there is no question of paternity of a litter of kittens.

Breeding

Program

I shall plan and implement a breeding program which addresses the following issues:

- Preservation and protection of the breed;
- Health and freedom from congenital disease and deformity;
- Conformity to the standards of the breed as set out by their individual registering associations.

Care of cats

- I shall make advance preparations for the care of my cats should I not be able to care for them;
- I shall not allow an entire cat to run loose outdoors (i.e. not within a cat-proof area);
- I shall provide any outdoor runs with security from weather, other animals, and parasites;
- I shall protect my cat and others by not exposing at shows a cat which is ill;
- I shall not declaw cats bred or owned by me. I shall advise any buyers of my opposition to this procedure and my reasons for my decisions.

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Care of stud males

- I shall only offer external stud service to breeders with an established cattery registered in at least one recognized association, and preferably to breeders who are members of UMCFA (or others who provide proof of health screenings).
- I agree to allow stud males adequate time between successive matings.

Care of breeding females and kittens

- Females are to be preferably over 12 months old at the time of their first mating. Exceptions are made where prolonged calling by a young female jeopardizes her fertility or health;
- Females are not to be over-bred. I shall follow the guidelines of my registering association in establishing a limit which does not overly tax my breeding queens. Where my association has no guidelines, I agree to abide by the limits set out in the Code of Ethics of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia to breed my females no more than twice in any twelve month period;
- I shall not repeatedly breed a dam who has severe and persistent birthing difficulties;
- I shall provide proper care for the safe and healthy delivery of kittens, and shall, whenever possible, be available to assist the queen if necessary, without undue interference with natural parturition. If I am unable to be present at the expected time of birth, then I shall ensure that another responsible and experienced person is available to attend the birth. A veterinarian shall be consulted at the first sign of life-threatening difficulty.
- I agree to have euthanased, any kitten born with a deformity which a veterinarian deems incompatible with a healthy or comfortable life. If I suspect genetic defects, I shall consult a veterinarian or geneticist as soon as possible and report all findings to purchasers of kittens from the same breeding stock, and to the owner/breeder of the sire and/or dam.

Health

I shall maintain a high standard of health and care, including providing for each cat:

- Adequate room for exercise;
- Regular handling and grooming;
- Clean and comfortable quarters;
- Adequate ventilation and light;
- A balanced diet and clean water;
- Regular vaccinations and veterinary care;
- And love and affection.

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I shall test all breeding cats for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Hip Dysplasia. The minimum testing frequency shall be as follows:

- At least once before the age of two years;
- (HCM retesting) - at least once every two years for the breeding life of the cat. Where placement of retired breeding cats as pets makes it possible to continue testing, then testing shall be continued to the age of 8 years at minimum.

The identity of each cat tested is to be confirmed by including a microchip number on the certified test reports. Original certificates must be sent to the club's designated record maintainer to be sighted then copies and returned to the breeder. A record of the results will be maintained by the club.

Sale of kittens

- I shall conduct myself in a professional manner in all sales;
- I shall only deal with breeders whom I consider to be reputable;
- I shall not deal with wholesalers or retailers, shall not provide a Maine Coon Cat for raffle purposes, or buy and sell in litter lots;
- I shall conduct sales in a manner designed to promote maintenance of the cat's health and to provide reasonable protection for the buyer;
- I shall not allow any kitten to leave my cattery before it is a minimum of twelve weeks old, though a sales agreement may be finalized prior to that date;
- I shall not ship any kitten before it is twelve weeks old (domestic) or sixteen weeks old (overseas);
- All kittens must receive two vaccinations prior to placement in their new homes;
- All pets or show/neuters must be neutered/spayed prior to placement;
- All kittens must be microchipped prior to placement in their new homes;
- Before selling any kitten, I shall honestly appraise the quality and potential of the kitten and shall inform the buyer as to the differences between pet, breeder and show quality;
- Additionally, I shall provide for breeder and show quality animals a five-generation pedigree complete with registration and colours;
- I shall also specify in the sales contract the course of action to be taken should kitten/cat prove to be sterile, in poor health or suspected of a genetic defect, or incompatible with the buyer's family.

Advertising

Advertising, written or oral, shall be factual and not misleading, shall be in conformity with federal, state, or local consumer protection laws.

Sponsorship

I will maintain close contact with other Maine Coon breeders to ensure continued learning to enable me to endeavour to be informed about any problems currently occurring within the breed. In the case of establishing/sponsoring a new breeder, I will ensure that I view this responsibility of introducing a new breeder to Maine Coons, as a meaningful relationship and will encourage them to continue with further learning. I shall endeavour to know as well as possible the person whom I sponsor, the breeding program planned, the conditions of the cattery involved, the extent to which the person is truly devoted to advancing and protecting the breed, to what extent the person is making an effort to meet and get to know other breeders and to participate in showing the Maine Coon Cat.

I shall try to limit my sponsorship role to my own geographical region and to sponsor only so many at one time as I am truly able to guide and help.

Sportsmanship

I behave at all times in a manner that will reflect credit upon myself, the Maine Coon Cat, and UMCFA. I agree to abide by the rules and customs that govern each show, whether I am a spectator or exhibitor. I shall view success as a concern secondary to the health and wellbeing of the cat and to my relationship with others among the cat fancy and UMCFA.

Enforcement

I am aware that upon sufficient proof of violation to this Code of Ethics, the Ethics Committee of UMCFA is empowered to cancel my membership of UMCFA for a period to be determined by the Ethics Committee.

I am aware that the Ethics Committee is empowered to make a complaint in writing to my registering association if the complaint is of sufficient magnitude to warrant such action.

AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASERS

Buyer Responsibilities

If you have decided to buy a Maine Coon kitten, the following are your responsibilities:

- Unless special arrangements are made with the breeder in advance, kittens should be paid for before shipping and the buyer should expect to pay all shipping charges. The buyer should also be prepared to pay for a rabies shot if it is required for shipping.
- The buyer should be prepared to supply an airline carrier for shipping. The buyer may use his own carrier, supply funds for the breeder to purchase one, or in some cases borrow one from the breeder.
- The buyer should be waiting at the freight office to pick up the kitten. As soon as possible, the buyer must notify the breeder, by telephone, that the kitten has arrived.
- UMCFA recommends that the kitten be examined by a veterinarian within 48 hours of its arrival (excluding Sundays and holidays). Thereafter, a vet's services should be used whenever necessary.
- The buyer should expect the kitten to be nervous and off its diet for a day or so, until it becomes accustomed to its new surroundings. Offer the kitten fresh water, food and a clean litter tray upon its arrival. The kitten should be kept in a small, quiet area until it becomes adjusted to its new environment.
- Your cat should be combed often enough to keep it free of hair mats. Provide companionship every day.

Guarantee

Should a veterinarian find a cat or kitten in ill health within 48 hours of arrival (excluding Sundays and holidays), the breeder shall be responsible for any related vet's bills. However, the buyer must immediately notify the breeder by phone of any illness or other problems.

If requested, the buyer must provide the breeder with a written vet's report. Should a cat or kitten die from an infectious illness contracted prior to shipment, the breeder must replace the cat with one of equal value, or refund the purchase price plus cost of shipping. The total liability of the breeder shall in no case exceed the purchase price plus cost of shipping.

The United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia, as an organization, subscribes to the Guarantee above, and each of its individual members is expected to abide by it. Members failing to adhere to the UMCFA Guarantee will be subject to action by the association.

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The purchase of a cat or kitten should be handled as any business transaction and be fully documented in writing. For the protection of all concerned, the use of sales contracts between buyer and seller is strongly urged.

UMCFA is not responsible for the liabilities of its individual members.

UMCFA attempts to ensure that healthy kittens are sold by its member catteries, but UMCFA cannot guarantee the show or breeding potential of those kittens. UMCFA strongly recommends that any purchaser becomes well informed about the Maine Coon standard and the meaning of cat show awards before acquiring a show/breeding cat or kitten.

NON CONFORMANCE REPORT

Name of person lodging this report:

**Name of the UMCFA member
against whom the complaint
is lodged:**

Nature of complaint:
.....
.....
.....
.....

**Documentary evidence supporting
complaint:**
.....
.....
.....

Signature of the complainant:

Date:

The completed form is to be sent to the Secretary of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia at the following address. The Secretary will then forward the form to the Ethics Committee.

United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia
PO Box 7223
Leura NSW 2780

**UNITED MAINE COON FANCIERS AUSTRALIA
NOMINATION FORM FOR NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP – (Non Breeder)**

Members must agree to abide by the Rules of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia and the Code of Ethics. New members will be voted in by the executive of the club and must be sponsored by two existing members of the UMCFA.

Membership fees in Australian dollars - \$30.00 joining fee and \$10 annually per family thereafter (one vote) paid on 30 June each year.

The nomination form must be accompanied by a cheque or money order for a full years membership. If membership is rejected any cheques or money orders accompanying the nomination form will be returned to the unsuccessful applicants.

A pro-rata reduction to 60% of the full years fees will apply for membership extending for a period of less than 6 months.

Nomination forms are to be sent to the UMCFA Secretary.

New members please print or type all nominations.

Name	
Postal Address	
Phone Number (home) Mobile	
Email Address	
URL	

I agree to abide by the Rules and Code of Ethics of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia.

Signature of Proposed New Member:

Name and Signature of UMCFA Proposer:

Name and Signature of UMCFA Seconder:

Dated:

United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia
PO Box 7223
Leura NSW 2780

**UNITED MAINE COON FANCIERS AUSTRALIA
NOMINATION FORM FOR NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP – (Breeder)**

Have you sent “Record of Testing Forms” with this application? YES/NO

Members must agree to abide by the Rules of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia and the Code of Ethics. New members will be voted in by the executive of the club and must be sponsored by two existing members of the UMCFA.

Membership fees in Australian dollars - \$30.00 joining fee and \$10.00 annually thereafter per family (one vote) paid on 30 June each year.

The nomination form must be accompanied by a cheque or money order for a full years membership. If membership is rejected any cheques or money orders accompanying the nomination form will be returned to the unsuccessful applicants.

A pro-rata reduction to 60% of the full years fees will apply for membership extending for a period of less than 6 months.

Nomination forms are to be sent to the UMCFA Secretary.

New members please print or type all nomination.

Name	
Postal Address	
Phone Number (home) Mobile	
Breeders Registered Prefix (if applic)	
Email Address	
URL	

I agree to abide by the Rules and Code of Ethics of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia.

Signature of Proposed New Member:

Name and Signature of UMCFA Proposer:

Name and Signature of UMCFA Seconder:

Dated:

United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia
PO Box 7223
Leura NSW 2780

RECORD OF TESTING FORM

(This form is to be completed by all new and renewing members)

Name:.....

Address:

.....

.....

Phone:

Email:

Prefix:.....

New UMCFA Membership Renewing UMCFA Membership

As a member of UMCFA I have agreed to abide by the code of ethics which includes an undertaking to test my breeding cats prior to 2 years of age for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Hip Dysplasia. Breeding cats are to be retested every two years for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy up until the age of eight years.

Original certification must be sighted by two breeder members of UMCFA and the back of photocopies signed by them to be sent to the club's designated recorder of testing. If you are in a remote area and do not have access to fellow members, please send original certification with one (and a stamped address envelope for return) to the club's recorder. The original certification will then be sighted by two members and returned to you.

Please send completed "Record of Testing Forms" to:

United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia
PO Box 7223
Leura NSW 2780

Name of Cat	Date of Birth	Date of last testing for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Colour Doppler/DNA Test	Date of testing for Hip Dysplasia

Please copy this form if more than one sheet is required. If you are unable to supply testing results for individual cats, please list them where an explanation as to when their testing will be completed.