

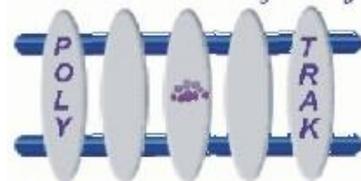
PAWS FOR EFFECT



*The PolyTrak
Newsletter
October 2007*

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Maine Coon Polydactyl



International Database



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WELCOME!

Welcome to our October Edition of "Paws for Effect". As always we would love to hear from you with interesting stories, articles or comments regarding PolyTrak and *"Paws for Effect"*. You can just email ptnewsletter@polytrak.net with your thoughts. We have some interesting items in this month's newsletter. We are excited with a new edition to our staff as we expand PolyTrak with more information and listings. Several new changes have been made, or will be made soon, to PolyTrak which will be mentioned in detail later in this Newsletter. And of course the gang at Polystandards are as busy as ever. So sit back and enjoy this month's "Paws for Effect".



POLY BREEDER SANCTIONED FOR WORKING WITH POLYS!

A British Cat Club, The Maine Coon Cat Club (or MCCC) recently placed sanctions on a long-time Maine Coon breeder in Cornwall England for importing and breeding Maine Coon polydactyls. This sanction came to light just before *"Paws for Effect"* was ready to publish this month's Newsletter, so a lot of the details are not available yet. Hopefully we will be able to follow through on this story with more in the future.

What we have been able to ascertain at this point, is that the governing committee of MCCC has been concerned and discussing the fact that several United Kingdom breeders have been importing Maine Coon polydactyls and using these cats for breeding. It seems, that although this is perfectly acceptable and allowable thing to do under United Kingdom regulations and also from the Governing

Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF), TICA and other Cat Associations operating in the United Kingdom, the MCCC has determined that importing and breeding poly Maine Coons is a problem and is cause for sanctions. Since all of these breeders importing and breeding with the polys do not fall under the control of the MCCC, the Committee determined nothing could be done except for one breeder that was a member in good standing for 6 years of the MCCC.

Since there are no laws, regulations or guidelines regarding polydactyl importation or breeding, the Committee cited the MCCC constitution of the Cat Club as the basis of the violation. The Committee cited "Article 2 – Objectives, Section c" as the alleged applicable clause. That article states: 'to encourage the breeding of Maine Coon cats of sound conformation, amiable disposition and good health and free from hereditary defects whether expressed or carried in masked form'. There was no further clarification of the basis for their ruling, of how a polydactyl Maine Coon as a general population would not have an amiable disposition, not be in good health or suffer from a hereditary defect of some kind. Since none of these polys have been examined or judged by the MCCC, it appears that this was a broad stroke of assumption by this Committee that all poly Maine Coons suffer these defined maladies en masse. There was also no scientific or genetic documentation provided to substantiate their claim that polydactylism contravenes any of their Constitutional Articles in the Breeder's program or the Maine Coon population in general.

It will be interesting, to say the least, how the MCCC will be able to justify this stance and sanction. This organization freely accepted this member and money was spent for registrations of Cattery, breeder cats and litters (including the MC polys) and then a unilateral sanctioned this person without right of appeal. It will also be interesting to watch the 'ground



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swell” of response from Maine Coon Breeders, both poly and nonpoly, as this “plays” out in the backrooms of the MCCC. Already, in the few short days since this was announced, groups and individuals have started organizing letter writing campaigns and talk of withdrawal of memberships from the MCCC in support of the this breeder/importer.

We, at PolyTrak, and “*Paws for Effect*” understand that there are two sides to every story and that not a lot of detail is available yet. “*Paws for Effect*” invites opposing views and any clarification of facts from the MCCC. They will be printed in “*Paws for Effect*” in the interest of fairness and full disclosure.



Cosy Corner Ninifee of Auchentoshan (F2)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!

PolyTrak would like to welcome a new and knowledgeable member to our staff. Miriam Muller of Cattery van Siduroy is the latest edition to our endeavour. As PolyTrak continues to grow, so does the workload and it was time to expand our volunteer staff. Miriam graciously accepted the challenge and brings to PolyTrak experience and a good knowledge of polydactylism. So WELCOME Miriam, we are sure the visitors of PolyTrak will benefit from your contributions. PolyTrak will be expanding several areas, one of which is the "Heritage"

section (more on that plan later in the Newsletter). Miriam will be working with Kitty in the Heritage and Polydactyl lines back to Foundation Maine Coons. If you would like to contact Miriam at PolyTrak, her email address is miriam.m@polytrak.net



Hi! I just wanted to introduce myself as a new 'member' of the PolyTrak staff". My name is Miriam Muller and I live in the Netherlands where I have a small cattery since 1999. I breed poly and non-poly Maine Coons and Siberian Colorpoints (aka Neva Masquerades). I have been a member of MCPI from the start and a poly-lover since the first time I saw one...that must be 6 or 7 years ago.

I seem to be poly-magnetic - all kinds of polys come in my way. We don't have only poly Coons but also have poly chickens, dogs and a human poly-neighbour. I am the Pedigree-, and Championship Registration officer of the Dutch TICA club "Cats and Tulips" and now I will try to track down the polys in our PolyTrak-database to their roots and search for their poly offspring/siblings or maybe non-poly related well-known show Coons??

Miriam.



van Siduroy's Indian P. Summer



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NEW CHANGES IN LITTER AND BREEDER LISTINGS

PolyTrak has made some new changes in listings of the cats and kittens that are listed in our litter tracking section. This is a rapidly expanding section of PolyTrak. As we move beyond 500 cats listed in this section, it becomes harder to find information on a particular cat or litter. Although everything is listed there, sometimes it takes many clicks to get from a particular kitten that you might be looking at to the parents of these kittens. We have been told that many of our visitors will search the web for a particular cat. The larger Search Engines, such as Google or Yahoo, in most cases, will give the "searcher" a PolyTrak link that will take you direct to the detail page for that cat. Many times the viewer desires to know information about one or both parents of this kitten. They may want to compare colour, check dates of birth, and check the configuration and number of digits of the kitten with the poly parent or a myriad of other information that is available.

Now you may check this information out with just ONE click. Down near the bottom of the page for each kitten detail is a section called "Litter Information". It is here that you will find the Sire and Dam for this kitten. In the past, this was just the name of the breeding Sire or Dam. Now the name of the breeder is also a "link". By clicking on the Sire or Dam name you will be taken to the detail page for that particular breeding cat. We hope this feature will be a "handy" addition to your visits and search for information.

One of the major goals of PolyTrak is to provide factual information and data regarding polydactyl Maine Coons. In providing this information, we are well on our way to confirming or dispelling the many stories that abound about the poly MC. These new features on our kitten and cat pages are a handy way to

see on your own, what may be happening. A couple of the statements we hear are: 1. The poly parent will add one more "toe" to its offspring...and 2. The poly kitten will have the same digit total and configuration as its parent. These statements are somewhat conflicting. So which one is correct? In reality, I think you will find that both statements are not necessarily true. Due to incomplete dominance of the Pd gene and the somewhat random expression of polydactyl gene, it appears, at least on the surface, to just be "luck of the draw". You never know what you will get. Now there may very well be other undiscovered factors that Science has not observed that could have an effect what you will actually see on a kitten, but to PolyTrak, we have been unable at this point to see a pattern thus far. This also adds to the uncertainty of breeding plans. We have heard things like: "I only breed for 'patty-feet' " or "I only want kittens with a 'thumb' ". These may be desirable plans for a breeder, but this can be a little difficult, since many times "Mother Nature" does not conform to our plans.

But whatever the differences that may exist between parent and offspring, do not take our word for it. Visit PolyTrak and see for yourself. Compare the parents and offspring and see if you can spot a pattern. With the addition of "linkable" parents on the kitten detail pages this research will be much easier. There is also another feature mentioned later in this Newsletter for offspring that will also aid you in this task.



TLC Polycoons Butch P. Cassidy



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DIARY OF A DOG AND OF A CAT

If you are reading this, then chances are good that you have at least one pet and probably many more. Many homes include both dogs and cats. We also think that there are a lot of "Garfield" and "Odie" type relationships between our 4-legged friends. This is an email that one of our staff received awhile back from an anonymous author that has been circulating around the Internet. It is a diary of observations from the viewpoint of the dog and a somewhat different perspective from the cat. Since this is a Newsletter on polys, we will have to assume that a poly MC wrote the cat's diary!

DOG DIARY

8:00 am - Dog food! My favorite thing!
9:30 am - A car ride! My favorite thing!
9:40 am - A walk in the park! My favorite thing!
10:30 am - Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!
12:00 pm - Lunch! My favorite thing!
1:00 pm - Played in the yard! My favorite thing!
3:00 pm - Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!
5:00 pm - Milk bones! My favorite thing!
7:00 pm - Got to play ball! My favorite thing!
8:00 pm - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!
11:00 pm - Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!

CAT DIARY

Day 983 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am. Bastards! There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of "allergies." I must learn what this means, and how to use it to my advantage.

This morning I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow -- but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released - and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded. The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicate with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe.

For now...
"Cat"



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MORE NEW FEATURES ON POLYTRAK WEBSITE

As we mentioned above, you can now, with one click, get from a kitten detail page to detailed information about both of the parents. What about going the other way? At the suggestion of one of our visitors, you can now see on one page, a list of all the kittens that are listed in PolyTrak's Litter Tracking Program. On each of the details pages for the Sires and Dams (these are all of the breeding cats that have been part of a poly litter -- this includes the non poly parent that was mated with a poly parent) you will find a new line on each of the pages. A line entitled "Offspring" has been added. By clicking on this link, you can view ALL of the kittens that were born of this parent. This list is separated by the "Litter Identification" title. The list also shows which kittens are polys and which are not. Also there is a date of birth and who the other parent was for this litter. You can click on each of the kittens to get detailed information about that kitten. We hope you will find this feature a handy aid in your search for "poly" information and we also are appreciative of the suggestion from our visitors.



Uppervalley Polly Ana of Petteycats

*No tame animal has lost less of its native dignity
or maintained more of its ancient reserve. The
domestic cat might rebel tomorrow.*

- William Conway

POLYTRAK FACT

Although we were unable to find the source or any detail of a study on litter size for, it has been noted on some websites that the average litter size for a dam is 4.2 or 4.3 kittens per litter. Again since there were no details, we have to assume this is not a breed specific number...but a number for all cats in general. However since these figures, likely would not be available for the feral population or for unregistered domestic mixes, one would assume that these figures were obtained with a documented cat or registered cat used in a formal survey.

We have also heard on occasion that MC poly litters are 'smaller'. Again there is no documented previous study that we are aware of. Again no reason is given for this kind of statement. Is it just a "tale" that has circulated for years? Or is it the results of a documented study? One suggestion was that polys have larger feet and heavier boning that may lead to smaller litters. There are probably many other ideas of why this may be true. But is it "true"?

PolyTrak did a brief study of poly litters (this includes the non-poly litter mates of a poly Maine Coon litter). We found in our database a total of 77 distinct and separate litters. These 77 litters contained 380 kittens. If you do the math you will come up with a figure of 4.9 kittens per litter. This is not significantly larger than the 4.2 or 4.3 number for non-poly litters. What conclusions can you draw from these numbers? In reality there is not much you can say with any degree of accuracy, other than it is unlikely that poly litters of Maine Coons are smaller (in fact just slightly larger) than their non-poly counterparts of other breeds.

Maine Coon Polydistyl



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POLYSTANDARDS CONTINUES ON ITS MISSION

The Polystandards gang is hard at work on their goal for acceptance of the Maine Coon poly in the show rings of the world. Members have been in touch with TICA regarding the new rules and forms that will be needed for the submissions. It is a maze of paperwork and forms, but the group is well on their way toward a submission in early 2008. This is a costly and time-consuming project, but the day is nearing where the Maine Coon poly might finally be able to join their brothers and sisters in the Show Ring.

The group would like to have input and suggestions from all. One of the requirements of TICA is a list of at least 50 cats expressing the New Trait (in this case polydactyl or Pd gene) that are registered with TICA. The group has the nearly 50 cats required, but if you have a TICA registered poly that may not be on the list, they request that you let them know. Also if you know of another breeder or fancier that may have a TICA registered MC poly, encourage them to get in touch with Polystandards also. You may email any of the members of the group if you know their email address or you may send an email to polystandards@polytrak.net and we will forward your message on to the Chairpersons of the group.

What can you do to help in this project? If you have something you feel would be of benefit to the mission please get in touch with them at the above address. Also in your daily travels, talk with other breeders and fanciers of Maine Coons about the benefits of poly acceptance. Learn and educate others and just generally spread the word! The "Poly" is gaining in numbers and in popularity and it is through the efforts of everyone that someday we will see these great cats accorded their full rightful place.



Lykken Wherecat

POLYTRAK HERITAGE SECTION UNDERGOING EXPANSION

As we mentioned earlier we are pleased to add Miriam to our staff. PolyTrak has grown beyond all expectations since its inception in March of 2006. The time requirements of our staff have grown to the point where we are all busy on a daily basis in some facet of the PolyTrak site. With the addition of Miriam, we have launched a new effort in the Heritage area. Right now she is gathering information on the polydactyl lines of the Maine Coon. PolyTrak will be attempting to trace the poly lines back to the original Foundation breeders. We are also seeking pictures and interesting stories about the "Poly of the Past". Although the Maine Coon and the poly version of the Maine Coon has been an officially registered breed for a relatively short time (30+ years), some of this information is slowly being lost. Many MC Breeders and others have collected a massive amount of information over the years and there are some great websites out there with fascinating information and stories. With the birth of the Internet, much of this information is available to everyone at the click of a mouse. At the same time we are certain that there are stories, information and facts regarding the MC poly that may have not seen the light of day for



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sometime. We would love to have anything MC poly related that you might know of. If you can fill in any of the blanks in our poly lines of years past, please let us know. Kitty and Miriam have a huge and fascinating job ahead of them and we are certain you will enjoy and use this information. You may contact Miriam at miriam.m@polytrak.net or just drop a note to info@polytrak.net.

At this time we have nearly a hundred cats listed in our Heritage section. Soon we will be taking these 100 cats and all of the new information on lineage that is being gathered now and reformatting it a bit, so that you will only be a couple of clicks away from seeing the poly lines from a kitten born recently all the way to original Foundation. With Foundation breeders introducing new blood lines, it becomes more important to be able to instantly track the poly lines back. Once again if you have info of interest we encourage you to let us know. All of us working together can do nothing but raise awareness and appreciation for the Maine Coon polydactyl.



Well it is time to put away the keyboard and get out the litter scoop. Writing about the Maine Coon poly or cleaning litter boxes are two things that are never ending. 😊 We hope you enjoyed this month's issue of "*Paws for Effect*". Hope to see you back again next month. In the meantime we hope you have an enjoyable October and give your cat a whisker rub from PolyTrak. We welcome any comments or suggestions...email us at ptnewsletter@polytrak.net.

Bye For Now!

