

# PAWS FOR EFFECT



## *The PolyTrak Newsletter May 2008*

**Volume 2 - Number 5**

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*Maine Coon Polydactyl*



*International Database*



# Paws for Effect - The PolyTrak Newsletter

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## WELCOME!

Hello one and all! We are a little bit earlier this month. Our April Issue was a bit behind, but we hope you felt it was worth the wait. We have some new subscribers this month and we welcome you also. You can of course add, remove or send us your comments or story ideas at any time by just emailing [ptnewsletter@polytrak.net](mailto:ptnewsletter@polytrak.net).

This month we will devote some time to the poly acceptance movement. As you may be aware, the group, PolyStandards has filed an Application for Advancement to Champion Status for the Maine Coon polydactyl. This was filed with The International Cat Association (TICA). It is quite a lengthy and complicated process, but the group is hopeful of a relative smooth trip through the paperwork jungle and that come August 2008 a favourable decision will be made by the Board at TICA. If this were to happen, the Maine Coon polydactyl will be showing alongside regular (or “digitally challenged as we like to call them 😊”) Maine Coons in the same rings for points.

We will also delve a bit into the subject of Poly X Poly breeding. And of course the Issue will also have some greats “pics” of Maine Coons. We try to feature pictures of polys that have been recently submitted to our database each month. However the number of new breeding Sire and Dams and newborn poly kittens is growing each month. Also we receive some great poly pictures each month in the mail. It is getting to the stage where we cannot feature all of them and it is getting very hard to decide which ones we can include. We apologize for any that get overlooked. If you drop us a note, we will try to feature any that we may have missed.

So now is the time to sit back read and enjoy this months Issue of “*Paws for Effect*”.

### Avistacats Morticah of Petteycats



Best Polydactyl in Maine Coon Congress – June 2007  
8 out of 12 rings Best Polydactyl Maine Coon

## POLYSTANDARD GROUP

April was a very busy month at the PolyStandard group. The deadline for submission of the Application for Advancement was rapidly approaching and many formal lists had to be compiled to be included in the submission. Registrations and numbers had to be rushed through the TICA Office and returned to cat owners and Catteries for inclusion in the package.

First in the application, Rule *33.9.2.1* required *least ten individual examples of the new trait or traits have been shown. PolyStandard with a lot of help from Breeder and Fanciers around the world were able to round up 31 entries:*

1. WaterCoons Harald Blaaland P, SBT 010407 020, Cats & Tulips, Hellevoetsluis-NL, 10 & 11 Nov. 2007
2. UpperValley Silverfoot P, SBT 031105 048, WFC TICA Annual show, Syracuse-US, 2 & 3 September 2005
3. Coonplay P. Linkin of QuiltsNQueens, SBT 021707 024, Cape Cod Cat, Marston Mills-US, 8 & 9 Sept 2007
4. RoyalMainlys P Bandhu Dancer, SBT 042306 009, Cats & Tulips, Woerden-NL, 26 & 27 August 2006
5. Blueblaze Vialle P, SBT 032507 049, Gold Coast Show, Hempstead-US, 10-11 Nov. 2007



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6. Dirigo Brown Polly, SBT 060400 032, Nauticats show, Augusta-US, 17 & 19 March 2006
  7. Petteycats Ima Keeper Too, SBT 070507 016, Westchester, White Plains-US, 17 & 18 November 2007
  8. Jarnac Un G Rico P, SBT 090303 048, TICA CATS Annual show, Hannover, 2 & 3 September 2006
  9. Ormedon's Ambush P, SBT 030907 047, Cats & Tulips, Hellevoetsluis-NL, 10 & 11 November 2007
  10. Mainely Magic Hocus P Pocus, SBT 103105 049, CFL, Syracuse-US, 15-17 June 2007
  11. TLC Polycoon's Butch P Cassidy, SBT 090303 048, Magnifi-Cat/Belgium Catlovers, Belgium, June 5 2006
  12. Amerrykoon P Princess Leia, SBT 072206 014, Cats & Tulips, Hellevoetsluis-NL, 10 & 11 November 2007
  13. UpperValley Olwyn P, SBT 031105 064, Nauticats show, Augusta-US, 17 & 19 March 2006
  14. UpperValley Storm Cloud P, SBT 102106 027, Catamondi, Tucson-US 15-16 September 2007
  15. UpperValley Lightfoot P, SBT 071305 028, Geneticats, Ansonia-US 29-30 April 2006
  16. UpperValley Bahzell P. of Blue Blaze, SBT 041206 071, CFL, Syracuse-US, 15-17 June 2007
  17. BlueBlaze Princess Llewella P, SBT 032507 048, Gold Coast Show, Hempstead-US, 10-11 November 2007
  18. Avistacats Morticah of Petteycats, SBT 020106 008, CFL, Syracuse-US, 15-17 June 2007
  19. Petteycats Ynot Raven, SBT 070507 001, Westchester, White Plains-US, 17 & 18 November 2007
  20. RoyalMainlys Fiera Heart P, SBT 051907 007, Cats & Tulips, Hellevoetsluis-NL, 10 & 11 November 2007
  21. TLC Polycoon's Daniel P Boon, SBT 112106 038, Cats & Tulips, Hellevoetsluis-NL, 10 & 11 Nov. 2007
  22. TLC Polycoon's Davy P Crockett, SBT 112106 039 Cats & Tulips, Hellevoetsluis-NL, 10 & 11 Nov. 2007
  23. WaterCoons Valdemar Sejr P, SBT 041607 023, Cats & Tulips, Hellevoetsluis-NL, 10 & 11 Nov. 2007
  24. TLC Polycoon's Annie P Oakley, SBT 112106 040, TICA Regional Show, Lehrte Germany, 6+7 Oct 2007
  25. Siduroy Indian P Summer, SBT 112404 025, Cats & Tulips show, The Netherlands, 10 November 2007
  26. Liza Jane P. van Siduroy, SBT 020607 ???, Cats & Tulips show, The Netherlands, 10 November 2007
  27. Ormedons Candy P Cookie, SBT 022503 073, TICA CATS Annual show Hannover, 2 & 3 September 2006
  28. The Dorsai Orlith of Pern, SBT 070607 010, Cats & Tulips show, The Netherlands, 10 & 11 November 2007
  29. TLC Polycoons Thunderchick P, SBT 011807 ???, Cats & Tulips show, The Netherlands, 10 & 11 Nov. 2007
  30. KityWhiskers Sargent Sam, SBT SBT 041807 010, Cape Cod Cat Club, Marstons Mills-US, Sept. 8 & 9 2007
  31. KityWhiskers Mustang Sally, SBT 041807 011, Cape Cod Cat Club, Marstons Mills-US, Sept. 8 & 9 2007
- The next section asked for:
- 33.9.2.2** *At least ten TICA members in good standing actively breeding and/or exhibiting the new trait or traits in the New Traits Class.* (Note: We have removed the membership numbers from the list.)
1. Kazandra Holm Moeller, Northern Europe
  2. Elektra Hammond, North East
  3. Gordon Pugh, North East, North East
  4. Sandra van Kluiven, Northern Europe
  5. Yvonne Bode, Northern Europe
  6. Deb Brown, Great Lakes
  7. Dawn Lovell, North East
  8. R.A. Oude Egbrink, Northern Europe
  9. Miriam Muller, Northern Europe





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10. Winnie Scheffmann, Northern Europe
11. Yvonne Bode, Northern Europe
12. Michael Hammond, North East
13. Patrick Hummel, Northern
14. John van Welie, Northern Europe
15. Cathy Pettey, North East

Next was the big list of no more than 50 cats that exhibited the new trait (in this case: polys). More than 50 polys were received from breeders, however the rules states no more than 50 so a few were held in reserve if needed later. Here is a list of 50 great polys that satisfied Rule: **33.9.2.3.2 Ten percent of the cats registered, not to exceed 50 cats, for those breeds registering 100 or more cats.**

1. WaterCoons Valdemar Sejr P, SBT 041607 023
2. UpperValley Silverfoot P , SBT 031105 048
3. Vaskebjorns Sariyah P, SBT 120107 013
4. Siduroy Indian P Summer, SBT 112404 025
5. Petteycats Take A Chance, SBT 031408 001
6. Mainely Magic Hocus P Pocus, SBT 103105 049
7. BlueBlaze Princess Llewella P, SBT 032507 048
8. RoyalMainlys P Bandhu Dancer, SBT 042306 009
9. UpperValley Olwyn P, SBT 031105 064
10. TLC Polycoon's Davy P Crockett, SBT 112106 039
11. UpperValley Bahzell P of BlueBlaze, SBT 041206 071
12. Petteycats Ima Keeper Too, SBT 070507 016
13. Avistacats Saddest Moon, SBT 101805 003
14. TLC Polycoon's Daniel P Boon, SBT 112106 038
15. Furbabies P Renegade of Coonplay, SBT 070707 069
16. Wackymoon Coon's Intrepid P Bear, SBT 092705 052
17. Blueblaze Vialle P. of UpperValley, SBT 032507 049
18. Vaskebjorns Layla P, SBT 120107 011
19. KityWhiskers Sargent Sam, SBT 041807 010
20. WaterCoons Harald Blaataand P, SBT 010407 020
21. Petteycats Mystic Pearle, SBT 090507 031
22. Amerrykoon P Princess Leia, SBT 072206 014
23. RoyalMainlys Fiera Heart P , SBT 051907 007
24. Coonplay P Linkin of QuiltsNQueens, SBT 021707 024
25. Vaskebjorns Subhi P, SBT 120107 012
26. UpperValley Lightfoot P, SBT 071305 028
27. Kinneycoons Centipede P, SBT 101206 036
28. Petteycats Magenta, SBT 090507 029
29. Dirigo Brown Polly SBT 060400 032
30. Jarnac Un G Rico P, SBT 090303 048
31. Siduroy Indiana P Jones, SBT 112404 026
32. TLC Polycoon's Butch P Cassidy, SBT 032105 056
33. Just P for me of Magic Craft, SBT 092807 029
34. Avistacats Morticah of Petteycats, SBT 020106 008
35. Ormedon's Ambush P, SBT 030907 047
36. Vaskebjorns Thurayya P, SBT 120107 015
37. UpperValley Polly P Anna of Petteycats, SBT 041206 065
38. KityWhiskers Mustang Sally, SBT 041807 011
39. Petteycats Hope Alive, SBT 031408 003
40. Royal Mainlys P Chakaya Hearts, SBT 052006 009
41. Prairiebaby Thankful for Grace P, SBT 051807 034
42. Kinneycoons Lavender P, SBT 112406 030
43. The Dorsai Orlith of Pern, SBT 070607 010
44. TLC Polycoon's Annie P Oakley, SBT 112106 040
45. Dirigo Polly JR, SBT 062204 034
46. UpperValley Storm Cloud P, SBT 102106 027
47. Kumskaka Missing PeaceP of Coonplay, SBT 041806 069
48. Avistacats Shotgun, SBT 101805 004
49. Siduroy Lets Dance P, SBT 020607 046
50. Petteycats Ynot Raven, SBT 070507 001



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Another requirement for the Application is a notice of any changes to the Standard that may be required. Since there is a blanket Rule in TICA that prevents extra toes from being shown in any breed, it is required that a statement be put in the Maine Coon Breed Standard for an exception to the Rule. This was required several years ago when the PixieBob breed was accepted for Championship Status. Therefore PolyStandard has requested simply the addition of: "Polydactyl allowed" to the Maine Coon Breed Standard.

Finally after all of the above lists and submission Rule: **33.9.2.4 Submission of an electronic Application for Advancement to Championship to each member of the Breed Committee, (and if part of a Breed Group, to each member of each Breed Committee in the Breed Group), each member of the Genetics Committee, and each member of the Rules Committee, at least 120 days before the applicable Board meeting. The application must be signed by at least ten TICA members in good standing.** PolyStandard met this requirement with 17 TICA members in good standing signing and submitting the Application on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The applications was sent to each member of the MC Breed, Genetics and Rules committees. These committee members now have until May 27<sup>th</sup> to check over the application and include any comments that they may desire. By May 27<sup>th</sup> The Breed Committee chair is required to submit the whole package to TICA Headquarters for preparation of a ballot (poll) to be sent to all Maine Coon Breed members for a vote, the expense of which has to be borne by submitters of the Application.

*"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast."*

*- Unknown -*

WaterCoons Valdemar Sejr P



Bred by Kazandra Holm Møller and co-owned by Kazandra and Heidi Hermann of Hei Sejrcoon

## POLYTRAK FACT

As of May 1<sup>st</sup> there are 523 kittens listed in PolyTrak born as part of a polydactyl litter. 289 of these kittens listed are polydactyl.

- 2 Kittens (0.7%) are 1WD
- 106 Kittens (38.0%) are 2FWD
- 7 Kittens (2.5%) are 2RWD
- 19 Kittens (6.8%) are 3WD
- 145 (52.0%) are 4WD
- 10 Kittens have unknown paws
- 271 litter kittens are from poly Sire
- 226 litter kittens are from poly Dam
- 19 litter kittens – both parents are poly
- 7 litter kittens have homozygous Sire
- No litter kittens with homozygous Dam

*"One small cat changes coming home to an empty house to coming home."*

*- Pam Brown -*



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Meserve Josette P

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BREED A POLY SIRE WITH A POLY DAM?

(by Ken Bussard)

The simple answer to that question, not much of anything different that you would with just one parent being polydactyl. The only notable difference will be the average number of polys in a litter. With just one poly parent, statistically, one half of the litter will be polydactyl and one half will be non poly. If both parents are polydactyl that ratio will rise to three fourths of the kittens being polydactyl. Other than that, I doubt you would be able to distinguish one type of breeding from another.

Should you breed with two polydactyl parents? You will hear many different answers to that question. Ultimately, if it comes down to no harm, then the answer lies with each individual breeder and their personal preference.

But, as with many things in polydactylism, decisions are sometimes based on stories that have little basis in fact. PolyTrak, admittedly does not have great amount data related to poly x poly breeding, but let us look at bit of what we do have. Although it is becoming more common these days to breed with two poly parents in Maine Coons, it still represents about 6 to 7% of the litter data in our database. It is suspected that the percentage of these kinds of litters is a little higher, due to reluctance of some to share their information openly. We can only work with the information that we have.

So lets look at some numbers. PolyTrak has 19 kittens that are from poly x poly breeding. 4 of these kittens (or 21%) are non poly. Even though the sample is small it is within the margin of error for the sample, which by genetics rules should be 25%. This also means that approximately 5 kittens (25%) would be homozygous polydactyl. Although we only have two breeders that are suspected homozygous polys in our data there have been no documented problems or variations from the norm. The only difference with a homozygous parent is the fact all kittens in the litter will be poly regardless of the other parent – even if non poly.

There have been stories that you should not breed poly x poly because you can end up with Rh or twisty cats. **NOT TRUE!** Rh, although it can express extra digits, is an entirely separate gene (Tw gene), and is not true polydactylism in the everyday definition of the word. The Tw gene has not been documented in the registered Maine Coon breed either. The polydactyl gene that you see in the Maine Coon is called the Pd gene. Therefore breeding a Pd gene cat with another Pd cat would not produce a Tw kitten. This is like saying breeding two Maine Coons will create a Siamese kitten.

Another myth that is talked about on occasion is, if you breed Poly X Poly you will get more digits or toes. Let's start out with a



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couple of facts first. 1. There is a physical limit of 9 or 10 toes that will fit on the paw. 2. Of the 289 kittens in the database only 3 have 8 digits. No kittens have more than this, including the Poly X Poly bred kittens. This amounts to 1% of the total poly kitten population documented in PolyTrak. To put that another way: 99% of the polydactyl kittens have 7 or less digits. This also ties in with another myth and fear that was stated on a chat group awhile back: If a breeder were to show a cat for points...and this cat had 7 digits on a paw...and if this cats were to be special and win titles, the breeder might be inclined to think that this 7 digit cat was so great, I think I will breed one with 8 digits, or 9, or 10 or whatever magic number they decided on. But as you can see on PolyTrak, the breeder has little, if any, choice on numbers and kinds of digits when it comes to breeding with a poly parent(s). There is no known way to consistently create extra digits in subsequent generations. Another myth is busted!

Let us look at what happens in reality with digits of kittens from 3 poly litters that are from breeding with Poly X Poly. I will compare only the front paws, since this is the most often looked at feature.

## LITTER 1:

Sire: 2FWD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 20.**

Dam: 2FWD with 7 digits on the left front and 6 on the right front paw. **Total digits = 21.**

A total of 7 offspring, of which 6 were poly and 1 was non poly.

Kitten 1: 4WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 22.**

Kitten 2: 4WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 24.**

Kitten 3: 2WD with 7 digits on left paw and 6 digits on right paw. **Total digits = 21.**

Kitten 4: Non poly with 5 digits on both front paws. **Total digits = 18**

Kitten 5: 2WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 20.**

Kitten6: Polydactyl but died at 3 days of age and digit configuration is unknown.

Kitten 7: 3WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 21.**

## LITTER 2:

Sire: 2FWD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 20.**

Dam: Awaiting verification but believed to be 2FWD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 20.**

A total of 6 offspring, of which 5 were poly and 1 was non poly.

Kitten 1: 4WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 22.**

Kitten 2: 4WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 22.**

Kitten 3: Non poly with 5 digits on both front paws. **Total digits = 18.**

Kitten 4: 2WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 20**

Kitten 5: 4WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 22.**

Kitten6: 4WD with 5 digits on left paw and 6 digits on right paw. **Total digits = 21.**

## LITTER 3:

Sire: 4WD with 6 digits on left paw and 7 digits on right paw. **Total digits = 23.**

Dam: 2FWD with 6 digits on both front paws

**Total digits = 20.**

A total of 6 offspring, of which 4 were poly and 2 were non poly.

Kitten 1: Non poly with 5 digits on both front paws. **Total digits = 18**

Kitten 2: 4WD with 7 digits on left paw and 6 digits on right paw. **Total digits = 23.**

Kitten 3: 4WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 22.**

Kitten 4: 4WD with 7 digits on left paw and 6 digits on right paw. **Total digits = 23.**

Kitten 5: Non poly with 5 digits on both front paws. **Total digits = 18**





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Kitten6: 4WD with 6 digits on both front paws.

**Total digits = 22.**

To summarize a bit and to make a little easier to see: In one litter a **20** digit Sire and **21** digits Dam produced kittens with: **22, 24, 21, 18, 20 & 21** digits respectively. In the second litter a Sire and Dam both with **20** digits produced kittens with **22, 22, 18, 20, 22 & 21** digits respectively. And in the final litter a Sire with **23** digits and a Dam with **20** digits produced a litter with: **18, 23, 22, 23, 18, & 22** digits respectively.

At first glance this might indicate, at least in the first two litters that there is a slight increase in the number of digits in the offspring. But, is this slight increase due to Poly X Poly breeding or is it due the fact that there is no non poly to control the dominance of the Pd gene. It has been suggested by the scientific community that in a polydactyl breeding that the non poly may be a controlling influence on the number of digits in offspring. The Pd (polydactyl) gene has incomplete dominance in a mating. This suggestion can be noted in many of the polydactyl litters on PolyTrak from standard Poly X Non Poly encounters. The same poly parent when mated with different non poly parents can exhibit a wide variation in the number of digits. But in any case, any of the litters listed above, non had more than 7 digits.

In a regular Poly X Non Poly mating, each poly kitten is the result of one dominant (P) and one recessive (p) portion of the Pd gene. The recessive portion (p) may be a controlling factor, even though it is not dominant...but may be merely controlling how much control is allowed to the dominant (P). This is all speculation in the Scientific community as far as I know, but it does provide an answer to why there is little consistency between parent and offspring when it comes to the kind and amount of digits in a polydactyl kitten. Even in a Poly X Poly litter of 4 kittens you will have statistically the following kind of kittens: 1 “PP“

(Homozygous), 2 “Pp“ (Heterozygous) and 1 “pp“ (Non Poly). So even in a Poly X Poly mating, the recessive portion of the gene is present 75% of the time and could very well be affecting the amount of digits. Again the myth of a Poly X Poly mating causing more digits than normal is pretty well busted also.

And the final myth that is going around is that Poly X Poly mating can cause nubbins or undeveloped digits, where Poly X Non Poly do not appear as often. Just the opposite appears to be true. None of the 19 kittens shown above have a nub. Although somewhat rare, we do see them in other kittens in the database from Poly X Non Poly.

So if you are interested in breeding Poly X Poly, read the facts, do your homework and then make your personal choice based on documented fact and watch out for the stories that float around.



**Nova's Place Yuma Sunlight P**

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*By associating with the cat, one only  
risks becoming richer.*

*– Colette*

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## SEE AND LEARN ABOUT THE MC POLY AT THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING SHOWS

JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>  
WEST WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND  
CIVICE CENTER.

NE Junior Achievers & Mysticats proudly  
present  
their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Bare Bones" TICACat  
Show



**T**here will 10 rings (all specialty) for the two day event. MC poly will be shown in New Traits Division and flyers and information will be available to show participants and the general public.

Of special interest at this show will be two talks, Question and Answer sessions, about the Maine Coon polydactyl. This will be given by Deb Brown from Ontario, Canada, who is a member of The PolyTrak Staff and PolyStandard. Deb will be giving the seminar at Show Hall on Sunday morning for the public and show participants that can attend. On Saturday evening Deb be providing a special presentation to the TICA Judges for the show at the Holiday Inn Express in Warwick.

. THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FIFE  
CAT SHOW FOR MAINE COONS ONLY  
IN THE NETHERLANDS.  
Sunday 22 June 2008



This will be organised by the RMC in association with the Show committee of Felikat. Maine Coon polys will be at this show also, along with poly personal and handout information. This 1-day certificate show will be kept on Sunday 22 June 2008. The location will be: Sport Hall the Flower Court, Hornweg 87,1432 GH Aalsmeer, The Netherlands.

## Viking Cats

The very first Danish TICA show will take place in the Kolding area (approx. 200 km from Copenhagen, 200 km from Hamburg, Germany, and 45 km from Billund Int'l Airport), on November 8-9, 2008. Please reserve the dates. The polys will be there also. A show flyer with more details will be available soon at this URL: [http://www.viking-cats.dk/English\\_version/next\\_show.php](http://www.viking-cats.dk/English_version/next_show.php).

## PolyTrak



That's a "wrap" for another month. We hope that you will join us again next month for more of the latest news from PolyTrak. Visit PolyTrak at <http://www.polytrak.net>

## Bye for Now!

