

PAWS FOR EFFECT



*The PolyTrak
Newsletter
June 2008*

Volume 2 - Number 6
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Just In.....

TICA TO ISSUE BALLOT FOR MC POLY ACCEPTANCE!

On May 31st PolyStandard was advised by the TICA Executive Office that the ballot for members of the TICA Maine Coon Breed Section will be mailed to all of these “Members in Good Standing”. Ballots must be completed, SIGNED and returned by July 16, 2008.

The proposal has been winding its way through the various Committees and Offices since early spring and has received a favourable review as it pertains to the soundness of the genetics and conformation with the rules of TICA. It is now up to Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers of TICA to decide the future in the show ring for the polydactyl Maine Coon based on documented fact and personal choices. PolyStandards urges all eligible to participate in the ballot.



BALLOT SHEET

I accept the changes to the Maine Coon Standard as below:

Feet: Large, round and well tufted. Polydactyl allowed.

VOTE YES



Yes



No



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WELCOME!

Hello one and all! We have some new subscribers this month and we welcome you! You can of course add, remove or send us your comments or story ideas at any time by just emailing ptnewsletter@polytrak.net.

The gang at PolyStandard is anxiously awaiting word on the Official Ballot at TICA for advancement of the Maine Coon poly to Championship status. A PolyTrak Staff member is set to conduct a workshop on the Maine Coon poly to the public, breeders and fancier, as well as special session with potential TICA judges this month at Warwick, Rhode Island. And of course we will have some more “poly stats” this month.

This month we will try to start a new feature. Each month we would like to feature a Maine Coon Breeder or Fancier that works with polys and has submitted to PolyTrak. We think you will find this interesting and informative. I think we can all learn much from the many and varied breeding and show programs from many different parts of the world.

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



White Poly Young Ladies from a recent litter at KinneyCoons

POLYSTANDARD GROUP

May was a month of progress at the PolyStandard group. The deadline for submission of the Application for Advancement has come and gone. Reports from the Genetics Committee and the Rules Committee were submitted by their respective Committee Chairs. The Rules Committee found the PolyStandard Application in accordance with all TICA rules and requirements. The Genetics Committee,



although differing in their personal views about whether they personally would like to see the Maine Coon poly in a show ring found no genetic problems that would be a consideration if the poly were to be accepted for full Championship Show Status. These were important reviews by these two Committees! The Application was also scrutinized by members of the Maine Coon Breed Committee of TICA for accuracy and completeness. Again everything was found to be in order. With all of the Committee reviews complete, and with no problems noted, the entire package was submitted to the TICA Executive Office, along with a request by the Maine Coon Breed Committee Chairperson to have TICA conduct a mail ballot of all Maine Coon Breed Section members. This will determine the views and choices of each Maine Coon Breeder and Fancier registered with TICA and eligible to vote. Although the entire procedure will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of TICA at their Annual Meeting in August of 2008, the



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mail-in ballot should pretty much determine whether the Maine Coon poly will begin showing in Championship Rings of TICA on May 1st, 2009.

At that point they will all be Maine Coons with no distinction between the poly and the non-polys. The poly will once again return to the show ring for the first time since the Maine Coon Breed was established and recognized by Cat Associations around the World, in the 1960's and 70's. With straw polls conducted by members of PolyStandard in the United States and in Europe last year showing a high percentage of acceptance by breeders and fanciers (up to 92% in one poll), the group is hopeful the formal vote of TICA breed section members will confirm what most have already determined: The Maine Coon poly presents no breeding, genetic or show ring issues and it is just a matter of personal "like" of how each show person views a polydactyl Maine Coon.

There are few things in life more heart warming than to be welcomed by a cat.
- Tay Hohoff -



Watercoons Nighthalwk P In The Air of DemiCoons

Editors Note: Following is the first in what we hope will be a series of many features articles from many of the Breeders and Fanciers with PolyTrak. We have over 70 Catteries that have listed information in our database from all over the World and we would like to meet and learn about the many different Main Coon polydactyl stories from all over. We feel you will find this an interesting and enjoyable reading. This month we are featuring a story from Elisabeth Morcel of Kreiz ar Mor Maine Coons. If you would like to be featured, just drop us an email at ptnewsletter@polytrak.net for more information.

Kreiz ar Mor Maine Coons

(by Elisabeth Morcel)

I am a Maine Coon Breeder "by accident" since January 1995, but at first I was like many, a cat lover without any knowledge about breeding and pedigreed cats. I considered neutering or spaying a cat was against nature, and that it should not be done. I could not understand, as well, that an animal like a cat or a dog could be sold.

In the 90's, after many years without a cat, I took a black and white house neutered boy from a shelter. He brought me back the desire for kittens. I then decided that if I did not want my babies to be thrown in the ditches when people left for holidays, I had to have a pedigreed dam, for people who would have paid for a baby would be really desire her or him, and would take care of the kitten.

I joined a cat club, and began the quest for my breed. It was rather quickly decided that I would have a Maine Coon. For the club, I translated breed standards from English into French and it helped me a lot. The club president was a very good SLH judge, who advised me about the types. After 2 years



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visiting shows, I had found the breeder of my future girl. I just loved her, and I still miss her. She crossed the rainbow bridge 1 1/2 years ago at the age of 13, because of a cancer. She never



gave me a baby but she inoculated me with the "Coons virus". I involved myself in the club life, taking part in

the shows, organisation, and attending shows myself, most of the time helping as a clerk. Thanks to clerking, I learned a lot about the other breeds too.

I first heard of poly coons by reading the article written by Janet Marr in Maine Coon International, in 1995. I immediately wrote an answer claiming my support, because I could not understand why a trait present in the breed since its beginning was not clearly authorized. More over, this trait is totally sound and does not bring any disability or health trouble. I right away decided too that I would have a poly myself. I found one, in Denmark, but a friend of mine, a German MCO breeder, told me that it would not be wise to buy a poly girl, since she would be only my second breeding girl (my first one was sterile, and I had received a girl in exchange for a mating of my boy meanwhile) and that I was nobody. It would have been too difficult for a beginner, who needed to take part in shows, to place poly babies in a country where the "normal" coons were still seldom and where people at shows told you that they had exactly the same cat as yours, in their barn.

After a disastrous try in 2004 with a dishonest breeder, my first poly girl, DK*Mystery Coons Yuna Madalen P arrived in 2005, thanks to a Dutch friend. She knew I liked polys and let me know that an acquaintance of hers in Denmark had a litter with 2 poly girls. There was an option on Yuna (she had another

name then, Yuna is a Breton name, whose radical means "desire"), but the people did not



confirm because the sales agreement stated that all the boys born from her should be neutered. I did not mind. I was in love since I had seen the first photos. Yuna, poly on four paws,

arrived in December 2005. She is the most intelligent cat I ever met. She's a real lady, with a very strong temperament.

NZ*MainlyMagic Anwen P arrived in March after a long trip from New-Zealand, partly with her brother, a non poly boy who is



now living in continental France at a friend of mine's, partly with me since I fetched her in Paris. She is poly on the front paws and is my first

outcross Coon. I hope Suzan Grindell does not regret to have entrusted me with my sweet teddy bear. Her name means "the very beautiful".

I suppose I also have to say I am a member of the team of translators for Pawpeds, and that I translated in French Sheila Curtis and Lucinda King's article about the polys (a digest of this big article is now on a French website too), and that I of course am looking for any further information I can find about them, also to help me in my breeding program, since I now



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am a passionate breeder and not only a cat fancier. It is a bit difficult to do what I consider a good work, because I don't rehome my oldies, but anyway I progress. Also thanks to my companion, a Maine Coon breeder with cattery name "Seizh Avel". We met thanks to Coons and now are working together, sharing "resources", but each of us has his definite views of the type and kind of Coons he wants to breed (for example, he is a fanatic of brown tabbies blotched with the wild look, and I like nearly all the colours, especially silvers). Of course, my breeding program now includes special "private" matings, planned to keep poly babies.

I was born in Brittany, in continental France, and all the names of my cats are Breton or Celtic, as a link to my country and my culture. I have been living for 5 years in Reunion Island, a small French overseas department (650 000 inhabitants) in the



Southern Hemisphere, where I brought all my older cats with me when I moved. Most of my babies join their new families in Europe, by plane, (one is in South Africa, some of them are in continental France and in other European Countries). One of them F*Kreiz ar Mor Calinka P happens to be the first poly Coon in Russia, she is now living at my friend's Ljuba, Savage Coons Cattery, near Moscow. You may imagine I am proud of that!

At last, as a member of the Board, and now Vice-President of one of the 2 very small

French Maine Coon Fanciers clubs (about 40 members each... compared with more than 360 breeders or so called breeders). I am taking part to the fight for the recognition of the poly Coon at the French LO. Some people here (among them Maine Coons breeders) would even like them to be completely forbidden.

Professionally, I am working as a manager secretary in a big company which produces and sells cement, aggregates etc.



Reunion Island

"Of all God's creatures, there is only one that cannot be made slave of the leash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve the man, but it would deteriorate the cat."

- Mark Twain -



Lykken's Silkeblomst



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POLYTRAK FACT

As of June 1st there are 532 kittens listed in PolyTrak born as part of a polydactyl litter. 292 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
- 148 (52.0%) are 4WD
- 10 Kittens have unknown paws
- 271 litter kittens are from poly Sire
- 235 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

The ideal of calm exists in a sitting cat.
- Jules Reynard -

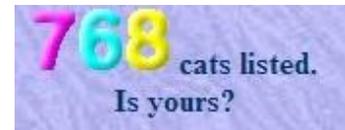


Diwilik Zilla P Layla

SEMINAR FOR SHOW PARTICIPANTS AND JUDGES AT UPCOMING SHOW

This weekend Deb Brown of the PolyStandard group will be conducting a talk with a Question and Answer session at the 2nd Annual "Bare Bones" TICA Cat Show in Rhode Island. The event will be held June 7th & 8th at the West Warwick, Rhode Island Civic Center. The talk to breeders, fanciers and interested individuals will be Sunday morning in the Show Hall. All are welcome to attend and participate. On Saturday evening Deb be providing a special presentation to TICA Judges for the show at the Holiday Inn Express in Warwick. And of course some great MC polys will be showing in the New Traits Division. Plan now to attend.

PolyTrak



*Cats are a mysterious kind of folk.
There is more passing in their minds
than we are aware of."*
- Sir Walter Scott -

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> to see archived issues of "Paws For Effect" dating back to January of 2007. If you have any questions or comments feel free to email us anytime at ptnewsletter@polytrak.net. Have a great summer all! **And don't forget to vote if you receive a ballot.**

Bye for Now!

