

PAWS FOR EFFECT



*The PolyTrak
Newsletter
November 2009*

Volume 3 - Number 6
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WELCOME!

Welcome to another edition “*Paws for Effect*”. Also a welcome to our new subscribers. You can add, remove or send us your comments or story ideas at any time by just emailing ptnewsletter@polytrak.net.

“*Paws for Effect*” is a Newsletter from PolyTrak, a worldwide database service that tracks information on the Maine Coon polydactyl. Each month we try to feature articles of interest, not only for better understanding of the Maine Coon polydactyl, but also articles that may be of interest to the Maine Coon Breeder and Fancier, as well as the General Public. As always, we look forward to your ideas, suggestions and particularly your information and stories.

Headlines for this month: The biggest poly Maine Coon Cat Show in the World was held Halloween weekend – PolyStandard files Application for Advancement of a New Trait – Our featured Cattery this month is from Demark – TICA Maine Coon Breed Committee foiled in attempt to block 2009 Application to TICA for Advancement – this was to be our Halloween, October, Issue but we held back to bring you a report from Holland and the World’s Largest MC poly showing in the World over the Halloween weekend - a few facts, some great pictures all make for interesting reading this month.

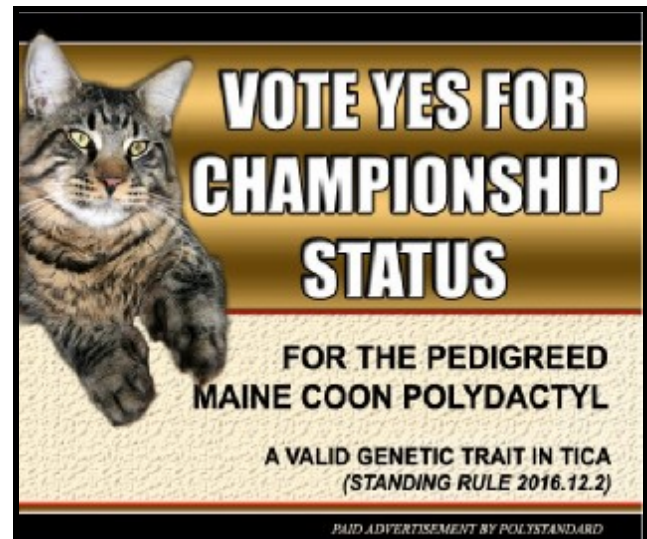
Happy Halloween!

POLYSTANDARD FILES APPLICATION FOR ADVANCMENT OF NEW TRAIT

On September 22, 2009 25 TICA members from PolyStandard filed formal application with The International Cat

Association (TICA) to modify the Maine Coon Breed Standard to accept polydactyl Maine Coons and move the poly MC from New Traits to the Championship Ring. If the measure is passed, TICA will become the second Major Cat Association and WCC member to thus accord the poly full and equal status as a Maine Coon.

PS (PolyStandard) members have planned an advertising and information campaign in conjunction with this year’s Application. Announcement was formally made and has appeared in the fall Issue of The TICA Trend along with a colour advertisement associated with the Issue’s feature on the Maine Coon.



In addition the Applicants are using mailings to reach as many members of their Breed Section as possible around the World. The Group will be asking for a “Yes” vote, when the person receives their ballot. A PolyStandard spokesperson noted that it was important to encourage people to vote regardless of their feelings about Acceptance, since last year’s response to the ballot was a dismal 25%. Soon ballots should be mailed to the TICA Maine Coon Breed Section members around the World. After the mailing, MC Breed members have 30 days to return the ballots for tabulating.



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Shasta Pof Bojin

Pantahduc Cattery – The Netherlands



TICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TURNS DOWN REQUEST FOR RULE CHANGE FOR 3 YEAR MORATORIUM ON POLYSTANDARD

In a move that was not so surprising, The TICA Maine Coon Breed Committee petitioned the Board of Directors of TICA to add a new rule that would prevent Breeders, Fanciers or Groups from resubmitting an Application for Advancement of a New Trait for a period of three years. The Committee which is comprised of seven members (Chair: Laura Cunningham, Royko Doi, Elisabeth D. Flynn, Jennifer Sable, Kim Tomlin, Elaine Weitz, and Liz Hanson) filed the request this Summer to be acted upon by the Board of Directors at their Annual meeting in September in Florida.

The matter was first visited by the TICA Rules Committee, prior to being handed to the Board for action. It was the general consensus that this rule addition would not be in the best interest of TICA, since it would apply to all

Breeds, not just the Maine Coon. They further stated that it was a problem in one Breed, it did not require the changing of a procedure for New Traits, that appeared to be working without problems.

The Breed Committee, in their Rationale for asking for the rule edition stated: *“The proposed rule addition for New Traits (33.9.4) that is submitted is based on experience of the Maine Coon breed section who recently dealt with the proposal that would have allowed polydactyl Maine Coons to be shown in the championship class. For nearly six months prior to the Board’s action at the 2008 Annual meeting, the TICA Maine Coon breed section discussed the polydactyl issue from every possible point of view. Polydactyl discussion dominated, and still dominates, all other discussion topics within the breed section.”* The Committee went on to say: *“We must address other pressing matters of interest for the Maine Coon breed, including discussion of health issues affecting the breed, updating the Maine Coon breed seminar presentation and the educational brochure.”*

One Rule Committee member responded: *“Additionally, waiting three years actually requires the new trait to start from the beginning, given the requirements. I do not think such is in the best interest of any breed, nor does there seem to be a problem that needs to be addressed, as the new trait program seems to be working fine.”* Another Committee member added: *“I feel this rule is to address a specific situation within the New Traits program and I feel uncomfortable with the Board making a rule to suit a single situation.”*

Following the recommendation of the Rules Committee, the Board of Directors of TICA met in Orlando, Florida, USA to vote on the matter. The MC Breed Committee request was turned down on a 9-4 vote by the Board with only Great Lakes Regional Director, Jamie Christian, Northwest Regional Director, Ellen Crockett, Mid Pacific Regional Director, Linda Kay Ashley and Asia Regional Director, Motoko Oizumi voting to accept the Rule Addition as requested by the Maine Coon Breed Section.



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Kreiz Ar Mor Dougall Dylan P of Anatolê Main Coons

MAINE COON KRAMMEKATTEN



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 -



FEATURED CATTERY IN THIS ISSUE OF FROM DENMARK

(Editors Note: Following is an interesting article and a featured Cattery for this Issue. "Paws for Effect" would like to feature a Cattery and poly Breeding Program in each of our Issues. This a chance for you to tell the World a little bit about your Breeding Program, Cattery and your corner of the World. We encourage you to write to us (ptnewsletter@polytrak.net) with your story or for help in preparing the article.)

Krammekatten in Denmark is a small upcoming Cattery of Maine Coon cats. We have always had animals around us; Bernese Mountain Dog and domestic cats. The last years, however, only cats.

We had long wished for a Maine Coon, and after our 19 year old house cat, Sofus fell asleep, would our next cat be from this breed? Then we bought our first pet, Bine, from Krammedyret.dk in 2006, and enough after a visit to Dorthe, we fell for Athena and Aronja. Aronja was for sale as a pet, but Athena was possibly pregnant, and not for sale. Eventually, however, we got both cats home. We agreed that



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we, would take care of Athena and kittens, to have one of the kittens from the litter. A big thanks to Dorthie that she showed us the confidence.

It was a great and wonderful experience to have kittens in the house and we had no doubt that we would breed this wonderful breed.



Our choice of kitten was a red boy, Dusty Dundee. The agreement was that he was neutralized, but when he developed a good size and a lovely temperament, Dorthie would like to use him as a stud. He would still be with us. Dundee was the father of 5 litters of kittens before we chose to castrate him in September 2008. He had begun spraying (everywhere, even inside the house), which we particularly disliked. And to have our stud in voulierer. No, we will not. It is important to us that all our cats can move where they want and where we are.



Our cats live as family cats and can move freely throughout the house and have free access to a large enclosed garden. I first saw poly coons by Krammedyret and then I read lot of articles about poly and I decided that I would have a poly.



Our poly girl, DK Krammedyret Blue White Oceane P, arrived in summer 2008. She is poly on both front paws. We are very fascinated by her. She really uses her extra toes. She catches the ball and she eats with her paw, as if it were a spoon. It seems that Poly Cats even know they have something special. They has a different temperament, they are more lively and inquisitive, they are incredibly loving and contact searching. We feel very fortunate, to have Poly Coons in our breeding.



We will certainly seek to pursue this particular gene that always has been a part of the Maine Coon history. I expect soon to have another girl in my cattery, but this time, not a Poly.



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To have a serious breeding of cats is a big task and we will be wiser every day. Our goal with this breeding is getting good, healthy Maine Coon cats, with a loving temperament and pure beautiful kittens. It takes time, so in a period our kittens will only be sold as pets - Until we know how the offspring from our breeding cats are shaping up. Only then can the sale of breeding cats begin.

Lena

www.123hjemmeside.dk/krammekatten



POLYTRAK FACT

At the end of October there are 812 kittens listed in PolyTrak born as part of a polydactyl litter. 436 of these kittens listed are polydactyl.

- 4 Kittens (0.9%) are 1WD
- 174 Kittens (41.2%) are 2FWD
- 7 Kittens (1.7%) are 2RWD
- 27 Kittens (6.4%) are 3WD
- 210 (49.8%) are 4WD
- 14 Kittens have unknown paws
- 418 litter kittens are from poly Sire
- 359 litter kittens are from poly Dam
- 28 litter kittens – both parents are poly
- 7 litter kittens have homozygous Sire

No litter kittens with homozygous Dam



"We have a theory that cats are planning to take over the world, just try to look them straight in the eye...yup, they're hiding something!"

- Dog Fancy -



This show is one of two each year put on by the Cats and Tulips TICA club in the Netherlands. This fall, however turned out to be a record-breaker for the showing of Maine Coon polys in a TICA sanctioned New Traits Division.

The show was very well attended and 30 MC polys from around the World showed their "stuff" over the two-day event. There were many pictures, reports, stories and tales to tell that we, at "*Paws For Effect*", decided to create a special Issue of "*Paws For Effect*" dedicated to just the Cats and Tulips show. Watch for it your "In Box" coming soon.



That's a wrap for another Issue. We hope that you will join us again in 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.

Bye for Now

