

# *The breed of the month is...*

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## **Maine Coon**



### **Overview**

- ✓ The Maine Coon is a long hair cat that is native to America.
- ✓ They are hardy breed of cat that adapts well to the harsher climates of the North East.
- ✓ The Maine Coon is known to be sturdy and rugged.
- ✓ They are very outgoing, inquisitive and affectionate.
- ✓ Even though they are a long haired cat they are rather low maintenance.
- ✓ They have earned the nickname “gentle giants” due to their size and personality.



### **History**

The Maine Coon is one of the oldest breeds of cat that originated in North America and its origins can be traced back to the state of Maine. The Maine Coon is the state cat of Maine. They have developed into cats that are sturdy and are best suited to the harsher climates of New England, Maine and the rest of the North East.

### **Personality**



Maine Coons are considered highly people oriented cats that are not overly dependent. While they enjoy investigating and helping with any activity that people are doing they do not pester people for attention. They are not typically lap cats but will stay close to where people are. They tend to follow people around and will even wait outside of a closed door for people to come

out of. They are a rather mellow, easy-going cat that gets along well with children, dogs and other cats. Maine Coons are not very vertically oriented cats; they prefer to chase objects on the ground. Most enjoy a game of fetch with their owners. They are regarded as a very smart cat. Maine Coons tend to develop slowly and are not full size until 3 to 5 years of age. They tend to keep their kittenish disposition throughout their lives and are seen as big, gentle, good-natured goof balls. Maine Coons are not a very talkative breed but when they do “talk” it is normally a soft chirp or trill in a tiny voice that does not go along with their size. Most Maine Coons enjoy water whether they are in it, watching it, washing their food in it, or playing in it.

## **Traits**

Male Maine Coons can be 15 to 25 pounds when fully developed and females can be 9 to 13 pounds. They have large well tufted feet that allow them to walk on the snow even with their size and weight. Their ears are large and well tufted for protection and warmth. They also tend to have very distinctly set eyes. Their hair coat tends to be semi-long haired, glossy, heavy and water resistant with longer hair on the underside. Maine Coons also have a very long bushy tail that they use to wrap around themselves to keep warm. Maine Coons are almost maintenance free and typically only need a weekly brushing to maintain their coats.

## **Health Concerns**

The main health concerns for the Maine Coon are:

- ✓ Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy which is the most common form of heart disease in cats. This form of heart disease causes a thickening of the heart muscle.
- ✓ Hip Dysplasia which is a hereditary defect of the hip socket.
- ✓ Spinal muscular atrophy which is the death of the spinal cord neurons that activate skeletal muscles of the legs. This causes muscle weakness and degeneration