

PAWS FOR EFFECT



*The PolyTrak
Newsletter
August 2007*

Volume 1 - Number 8
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Maine Coon Polydactyl



International Database



Paws for Effect - The PolyTrak Newsletter

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WELCOME!

We would like to welcome several new subscribers this month as well as some from previous months. We did not want to skip anyone, so to all, a big welcome from the staff at PolyTrak. As you may know this newsletter “*Paws for Effect*” is published monthly near the 1st of each month. Archive copies of the newsletter, should you desire to read them, are available at our website <http://www.polytrak.net>. From there, click on the Newsletter button and at the top of the page you will see a link for archived issues. The current issue is archived each month approximately 2 to 3 weeks after publication. On some occasions we have small puzzle or quiz just to better inform you of information you may not have known. There is no grand million-dollar prize; in fact now that we think about it, there is no prize. If there is a puzzle in a monthly newsletter you will also see the answers on this page on our website. If you have a comment, suggestion or question feel free to email us at ptnewsletter@polytrak.net. We would love to hear from you. So again to the 10%+ new subscribers this month – WELCOME!



POLY STANDARDS GROUP FORMS

Acceptance of the polydactyl Maine Coon in the show rings has been a goal of many Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers for some time now. In fact when these cats were being considered for registration some 30+ years ago,

the poly was included in the plans and proposed breed standards. It wasn't until the last minute the poly variety of Maine Coon was dropped for political expediency from showing in the entire main cat Associations of the World. Although they could be registered as a pedigreed Maine Coon, the poly was banned from the show ring for championship status. A few determined breeders seeing the poly numbers drop lower and lower kept the lines going and continued to breed and work with the polys. In 2004 a television reporter from Canada during an interview with then MC Poly President, Deb Brown, coined a phrase: “Distinction should not equal Extinction!” That has been the mantra of the poly Maine Coon breeder since then.

In the last few years the poly acceptance has been slowly growing. We here at PolyTrak have noticed a more rapid increase in Maine Coon breeders now working with the polydactyls in their breeding programs just in the last 6 months or so. The Poly Standards Group was formed and momentum is increasing to now have the polydactyl Maine Coon added to their brothers and sisters in the Championship show rings.

As we mentioned in last month's issue two experienced people in the MC polydactyl world, Vonne Bode and Cathy Pettey volunteered to head up this small, but hard working group. With breeders and fanciers from several different Countries around the world, this group has put “their nose to the grindstone” and has begun the process of developing a proposed amendment to Maine Coon Breed Standard along with a rationale and a mountain of supporting documentation for the proposal. Hopefully we will get a glimpse into their work and progress on a monthly basis and will report it here in “*Paws for Effect*”.

You can't own a cat. The best you can do is be partners. - Sir Harry Swanson



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WHO LIKES THE POLYS?

Contributed by Cathy Pettey

Recently Polystandards co-chair, Cathy Pettey attended a TICA cat show for the Northeast Region. In addition to participating in showing Maine Coon polys in the New Traits Division, she put together an informal survey to hand out to other breeders of Maine Coons. The survey was short and anonymous. It said: “Dear Maine Coon Breeder: As you are aware, there are many Maine Coon breeders who also breed the polydactyl Maine Coon. We would like to see the Poly arrive to show status in TICA. It is generally understood that there is some resistance to this happening and we would like to understand why.” Then two simple questions were asked and participants could drop off their unsigned answers in a box at the Petteycats benching area.

The two questions stated:

1.) Do you accept or oppose the Maine Coon Poly being accepted for show status.

YES NO, if NO, please briefly state why.

2.) Would you object to the Poly Maine Coon being shown in the same classes as the non poly Maine Coon, if YES please explain why.

We don't know what you would predict as a result to a question like this, but Cathy stated she was pleasantly surprised at the feelings of the MC breeders at the show. Although unscientific and informal, it gives people an idea of how much support may potentially be out there for the acceptance of the Maine Coon poly in the show rings. The result of the first question was a resounding 11 out of 13 (85%) in favor of acceptance for show status. Several responses contained no comments but some who did comments made statements like this:

YES - Maine Coons have been polys historically, increase genetic diversity.

YES - the poly gene goes way back in the breed, there has been NO correlation to any health concerns that would impact the cats

YES - Polydactyl cats can appear spontaneously in some breeds. these are no better or worse than standard cats, they just have different feet.

YES - but before the type should meet that of the non poly MC and I would like to see more information on the poly gene

YES - I would like to see them recognized as equals for the cat they are rather than relegated to the role of HHP. There is nothing but an extra toe or 2 keeping a beautiful cat from the recognition it deserves

NO - not in the standard and standard should stay the way it is. It is a deformity. We should breed towards perfection.

NO - I see this condition as a deformity. I have seen a MC with a 5th lef (sic) growing out of its femur. It is a deformity.

In addition Cathy stated that not only does this informal poll give insight into the support of the poly for full acceptance, it helps the group understand the feelings of various breeders how the group can be of assistance with information. With regards to the second question Cathy noted a little over 3/4 (77%) of the respondents felt the MC poly, if accepted, should be integrated into the general Maine Coon show rings alongside their non poly brothers and sisters. Cathy stated that these are encouraging signs, that by-and-large the Maine Coon Breeding and showing world may at long last be ready for the Polydactyl to enter it rightful place in the show ring for Championship status. It is hoped that more of these straw polls can be conducted at various cat shows in the future. It is vital that all share information and thoughts about the Maine Coon polydactyl.



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WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

Do you have something you would like to say about Maine Coon polys or your Cattery? Polytrak would like to hear from you. This newsletter is published each month. Ask a question or let the poly world know your thoughts and suggestions. PolyTrak does not

necessarily agree with positions taken, nor endorse them or subscribe to their validity. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space and all the other usual disclaimers. Beyond that write to us with your signed thoughts. Our email address is ptnewsletter@polytrak.net. Please mention Letter to the Editor in subject line so we make certain it reaches the staff.



INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS OF POLYDACTYL DIGITS!

By Vonne Bode

It was time to look at the 67 poly kittens left in my file and compare them with the previous 103 polys (*Paws for Effect* June 2007). We had some minor changes in the previous 103, so I added to their tables (no really shocking changes though). 😊 The plan is to put these analyses on the website soon too.

When looking at this last bunch of poly kittens and putting them in tables the first thing I noticed was that a lot of new digit combinations had to be added. Of these 69 polys, 39 are male and 28 are female, which is 42% =F and 58%=M. This time with the males, the category 2WD was bigger than the category 4WD. Of this group of poly males approx. 49% are 2WD and 36% are 4WD.

With the females this was 57% 4WD and 29% 2WD. But of both together, 45% was 4WD and 40% 2WD. So the 4WD stayed the most common type of poly. The most common digit combination with the females was: 6,6,5,5. So this stayed the same. And with the males it was: 6,6,4,4, which prior was 6,6,5,5. And for the whole group together it's 6,6,5,5. So this configuration stayed the same also.

In total, when looking at previous analyses and these analyses, all the polys are separated over 35 different digit combinations (and this is without even looking at the type of digit, because then it would be more). 😊 The 1WD is still rare. I also made cumulative tables that include the polys of previous analyses and the last. It contains 170 polys. But as I was working on these tables already new data came in. That will be for another newsletter.

In 1 cumulative table I also added a "DIGITS" column. This will show the total digits of the cat per digit combination. I thought this was interesting. Some are afraid for a cat with 8 digits, but it seems the cat with less have more in total. 😊 Just go through the tables and have fun. 😊



In order for the tables to be seen correctly they have been done on individual pages.

Please continue to the next page 😊



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TABLE A2 -JULY 2007

PM = Poly male, PF = Poly female, LF = Left Front paw, RF = Right Front paw, LR = Left Rear paw, RR = Right Rear paw. 4S = cat with 4 digits on front paw instead of 5. 5R = 5 digits standard front paw LF5 = Left Front paw with 5 digits, but without a dewclaw. 2WD = the number shows how many paws are effected by the Pd gene, so polydactyl

PM	1WD:	2WD:	3WD:	4WD:	Total: 39	PF	1WD:	2WD:	3WD:	4WD:	Total: 28
	1	19	5	14			0	8	4	16	
4S		1	1		2	4S					
5R		1			1	5R		2	1		3
LF5	1	2	2		5	LF5			1	2	3
LF6		11	1	10	22	LF6		6	2	11	19
LF7		3	1	4	8	LF7				3	3
LF8		1			1	LF8					
4S		1	1		2	4S					
5R	1	1	1		3	5R		2			2
RF5		1	1		2	RF5			2	1	3
RF6		12	2	9	23	RF6		6	2	12	20
RF7		4		5	9	RF7				3	3
RF8						RF8					
LR4	1	17			18	LR4		6	1		7
LR5		2	5	14	21	LR5		2	3	16	21
LR6						LR6					
LR7						LR7					
RR4	1	17	2		20	RR4		6	2		8
RR5		2	3	14	19	RR5		2	2	16	20
RR6						RR6					
RR7						RR7					

TABLE A&A2 cumulative

PM = Poly male, PF = Poly female, LF = Left Front paw, RF = Right Front paw, LR = Left Rear paw, RR = Right Rear paw. 4S = cat with 4 digits on front paw instead of 5. 5R = 5 digits standard front paw LF5 = Left Front paw with 5 digits, but without a dewclaw. 2WD = the number shows how many paws are effected by the Pd gene, so polydactyl.

PM	1WD:	2WD:	3WD: 8	4WD:	Total: 99	PF	1WD:	2WD: 28	3WD:	4WD:	Total: 71
	: 1	41		49			0		6	36	
4S		2	1		3	4S					
5R		2			2	5R		3	1		4
LF5	1	8	2	5	16	LF5		6	2	4	12
LF6		21	4	31	56	LF6		18	3	24	45
LF7		7	1	13	21	LF7		1		7	9
LF8		1			1	LF8				1	1
4S		2	1		3	4S					
5R	1	2	1		4	5R		3	1		3
RF5		6	1	4	11	RF5		5	3	3	11
RF6		24	5	30	59	RF6		18	2	27	47
RF7		6		14	20	RF7		2		7	9
RF8						RF8					
LR4	1	37	1		39	LR4		25	1		26
LR5		4	7	44	55	LR5		3	5	37	45
LR6				5	5	LR6					
LR7						LR7					
RR4	1	37	4		20	RR4		25	3		28
RR5		4	4	44	19	RR5		3	3	36	42
RR6				5	5	RR6				1	1
RR7						RR7					



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TABLE B2-July2007

A summarized table of the numerical variation in the kittens toe configuration. **PM** = Poly male, **PF** = Poly female, **LF** = Left Front paw, **RF** = Right Front paw, **LR** = Left Rear paw, **RR** = Right Rear paw. **4S** = cat with 4 digits on a front paw instead of 5. **5R** = 5 digits in front as in a standard front paw **LF5** = Left Front paw with 5 digits, but without a dewclaw.

LF	RF	LR	RR	PM	PF	Total
5P	5R	4	4	1	0	1
4S	4S	5	5	0	0	0
4S	5R	5	5	1	0	1
5P	5P	4	4	1	0	1
5R	5R	5	5	1	2	3
5P	6	4	4	1	0	1
5P	7	4	4	0	0	0
6	6	4	4	11	6	17
6	7	4	4	0	0	0
7	6	4	4	0	0	0
7	7	4	4	3	0	3
8	7	4	4	1	0	1
4S	5P	5	5	1	0	1
5R	5P	5	5	0	1	1
5P	4S	5	5	1	0	1
5P	5P	5	4	0	1	1
5R	6	5	5	0	0	0
5P	5R	5	5	1	0	1
6	5R	5	5	0	0	0
6	6	5	4	1	1	2
6	6	4	5	0	1	1
7	6	5	4	1	0	1
5P	5P	5	5	0	1	1
5P	6	5	5	0	1	1
6	6	5	5	8	11	19
6	7	5	5	1	0	1
7	6	5	5	0	0	0
7	7	5	5	1	0	1
8	6	5	5	0	0	0
6	6	6	6	0	0	0
6	7	5	5	1	0	1
7	6	5	5	1	0	1
7	7	5	5	2	3	5
7	7	5	6	0	0	0
7	7	6	6	0	0	0



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TABLE B&B2cumulative

A summarized table of the numerical variation in the kittens toe configuration. **PM** = Poly male, **PF** = Poly female, **LF** = Left Front paw, **RF** = Right Front paw, **LR** = Left Rear paw, **RR** = Right Rear paw. **4S** = cat with 4 digits on a front paw instead of 5. **5R** = 5 digits in front as in a standard front paw **LF5** = Left Front paw with 5 digits, but without a dewclaw. **DIGITS**: shows the total digits on a cat per combination.

LF	RF	LR	RR	DIGITS	PM	PF	Total
5P	5R	4	4	18	1	0	1
4S	4S	5	5	18	1	0	1
4S	5R	5	5	19	1	0	1
5P	5P	4	4	18	6	5	11
5R	5R	5	5	20	2	3	5
5P	6	4	4	19	1	1	2
5P	7	4	4	20	1	0	1
6	6	4	4	20	21	17	38
6	7	4	4	21	0	1	1
7	6	4	4	21	2	0	2
7	7	4	4	22	5	1	6
8	7	4	4	23	1	0	1
4S	5P	5P	5P	19	1	0	1
5R	5P	5P	5P	20	0	1	1
5P	4S	5P	5P	19	1	0	1
5P	5P	5P	4	19	0	2	2
5R	6	5P	5P	21	0	0	0
5P	5R	5P	5P	20	1	0	1
6	5R	5	5	21	0	1	1
6	6	5	4	21	3	1	4
6	6	4	5	21	1	1	2
7	6	5	4	22	1	0	1
5P	5P	5	5	20	4	3	7
5P	6	5	5	21	1	1	2
6	6	5	5	22	25	23	48
6	7	5	5	23	3	1	4
7	6	5	5	23	2	2	4
7	7	5	5	24	4	2	6
8	6	5	5	24	0	1	1
6	6	6	6	24	2	0	2
6	7	5	5	23	1	0	1
7	6	5	5	23	1	0	1
7	7	5	5	24	2	3	5
7	7	5	6	25	0	1	1
7	7	6	6	26	3	0	3



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POLYTRAK DATA SECURITY

This is information concerning the PolyTrak website. Within a short time we have had a substantial increase in the amount of visitors. While wonderful in the promotion of the polys getting the information worldwide it also increases the probability of any unauthorized actions. PolyTrak email was the victim of a Denial of Service attack in July (over 1,000 email per hour for about 8 hours) and through due diligence and our Host provider's strict security measures this was corrected in a matter of a couple hours. Lol but it sure made for some frantic deletions and we hope no legitimate email was lost at this time. If you sent a request to PolyTrak and have received no response, please email us again. This also prompted us to request additional data security on the website and an advanced monitoring system that pays particular attention to excessive bandwidth usage as well as data extraction. This was done for the protection and integrity of your data. Unauthorized replication of the PolyTrak data would result in the compromise of original data quality, as the figures reproduced would not retain their authenticity. They change with each new entry. All data on the Internet is open for anyone to look at. You have all seen some sites that block individuals from copying pictures or information from websites. Although this is a very good feature, there are some disadvantages on a public site, with search engines etc. No needed to get into that. There is spamming, phishing, crawler bots and all kinds of things present that we need to be diligent for, whether on a home computer or server. The additional security service implemented for PolyTrak, is a little like your bank security for debit/credit cards. If something is tried a number of times the bank card is disabled for your protection. This could be due to an error on your part or theft of your card. Regardless of the reason your card is disabled, you are then notified, or figure it out when your card doesn't work. You contact your bank and it is resolved and maybe if

actionable if there are offending parties. Unfortunately you are unaware of this until some thing happens, but then steps are taken immediately to ensure it doesn't happen again. This is briefly (not too much geek speak) how the security now works on PolyTrak's host server. When an unusual amount of bandwidth is used, or there seems to be an obvious unauthorized extraction of data, our host will automatically block the offending IP address or addresses, create a log file, create a history of access, and determine the source. There is a 100% accuracy with this. We are then notified of the event and the information is delivered to the Webmaster with their recommendations to keep it blocked or not. If a pattern is seen with individual IP's, multiple IP address, and consistent geographic location or with similar excessive patterns, this is also documented and logged and passed along. So what does all this mean? It means we at PolyTrak are, to the best of our ability, protecting data security and integrity. Who knows why anyone would "try to reinvent the wheel" if the information is readily available. Maybe imitation is the highest form of flattery. Please note at this time no request to duplicate the data has been received. If you find you are having any difficulties viewing Polytrak, try refreshing the page. We are constantly updating or please contact info@polytrak.net.



No amount of time can erase the memory of a good cat, and no amount of masking tape can ever totally remove his fur from your couch. - Leo Dworken



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EASY LIFE OF A CAT INTERRUPTED FOR POLYTRAK

Ahh...the easy life of the cat! Let's see there is probably a food bowl not too far away. On good days there is a sunbeam within sleeping distance. And of course there is always a staff member nearby for whisker rubs and a little luvin'. What could possibly ruin an otherwise good day in Fluffy's life? Well if you are polydactyl it might be us, or his or her owner. PolyTrak has been collecting various photos of paw prints. We will be using this as an aid in helping all with identification of those confusing digits and to demonstrate the various paws in the MC polydactyl. We look at nails, digit types, pads and many things to help identify and log polydactyl digit configurations.

We thank all of you that have been working with us in collecting these pictures. It isn't easy sometimes getting the poor cat to cooperate...flipping them over on their back...trying to get the fur out of the way to expose the pads and digits and trying to get them to hold still long enough to snap a picture. As we mentioned there have been several of you and we thank you all individually. But one "good trooper" caught our attention. That is Celine's Prairiebaby Biscotti PP. She seems to take it all in stride and we thought this was cute picture. We thank Biscotti and all the other polys.



Go ahead and finish your nap! 😊

ATTENTION BREEDERS!

There is a wide and diversified group of breeders, fanciers and supporters reading this Newsletter. Currently there is a dialogue with the ticabreedmembers section concerning the Maine Coon polydactyl. The process is moving forward for the acceptance of the poly:)) It has been requested we provide data. We need you now to come forward for the polys, and any other breeders you know that have polys in their programs. We require statements from all of our Maine Coon breeders working with polys to verify that digits are not a health issue, breeding issue or any issue. We need all the aspects as well. The MC poly now needs the benefit of your years of experience. How long have you been breeding? Why? Benefits? Digits? 😊 You hold the facts and are the voice of the polys! You don't have to be a member of TICA to submit this information. This is documentation that only the breeders can provide. We have been working hard to promote the polys. This is one more aspect as we get closer to our goal:) Lol we knew all along this day would come and the questions be asked. Very positive...instead of just disregarding...asking for verification. A great step! If you would just like to send in your experiences please email polystandard@polytrak.net. This is critical data required. Please find the time for this project for the polys. Thanks in advance! 😊
Deb



Well that is it for now. Actually we had a bit more news to tell you about, but we are running a bit long and we are a little late to the presses this month. So we hope you enjoyed this informative issue and we look forward to seeing you next month in *Paws for Effect*. Enjoy your summer and give your cat a hug from the Staff at PolyTrak!

Bye For Now!

