

PAWS FOR EFFECT



The PolyTrak Newsletter December 2008

Volume 2 - Number 9

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Maine Coon Polydactyl



International Database



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WELCOME!

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

This month another election or vote in the TICA Organization has been completed. This time the focus was on a new Breed Committee for the Maine Coon Breed Group as well as Regional Directors and two Administrative positions of President and Vice President. As with other votes in TICA recently, this one also is fraught with controversy and agendas. We think that many are hoping that best Holiday gift they could receive this year would be a brand new Breed Committee that is representative of all members Worldwide. Let's hope the Holiday Season and the new year of 2009 brings some "fence mending" and a new appreciation of the views of TICA members and the Maine Coon.

On the lighter side, the gang at PolyStandard found some new reasons why polydactylism is bad (a tongue-in-cheek list in the form of Late Night's David Letterman's Top 10 Reasons routines). We also have this Month's roundup of PolyTrak statistics and some great pictures of those wonderful Maine Coons. We have made some changes to the PolyTrak website that will aid you in your search for information about polydactyl Maine Coons.

So grab a beverage, sit back and enjoy this Month's issue of "*Paws for Effect*".



"What greater gift than the love of a cat?"

-- Charles Dickens --



SPEAK TO THE PAW!!!



(Photo courtesy of
Berit Sørensen – Wackymoon Coons)



TURMOIL IN TICA MAINE COON BREED SECTION

The recent Application for Advancement of a New Trait to Championship Status, along with the upcoming vote for a new TICA Maine Coon Breed Committee, has stirred up a storm of accusations and controversy amongst the Breed Section members. How this will affect the viability of Section and the just completed election of 7 new Committee Members from a slate of 14 candidates remains to be seen.

In March of this year 17 members of the PolyStandard Group placed an advertisement in the "TICA Trend" magazine notifying all TICA members of their intent to file for Advancement of a New Trait (polydactylism). In accordance with TICA rules this announcement was required followed by the actual application 30 days later. When the actual application was filed copies were sent to the TICA Executive Office and each Maine Coon Breed Committee member, along with the rule-required submissions to the TICA Rules Committee and the TICA Genetics Committee. The application had to be reviewed by the Rules Committee to make certain that everything was in accordance with current rules of TICA. The Genetics Committee was required to rule on the validity



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of the “New Trait” (polydactylism). The Rules Committee stated unanimously everything was in accordance with TICA Rules. The 7-member Genetics Committee issued their report with 5 members stating it was a valid trait, 1 abstention and 1 comment that did not address the validity requirement.

Prior to the release of the Genetics committee finding, a member of the Breed Committee mailed out numerous emails to Maine Coon people, most not members of TICA or retired breeders, asking them to join TICA, The MC Breed Section and vote NO on a ballot that would be coming out soon. No mention was made of the fact, that most would not be eligible to vote, since it was well inside the 6-month membership requirement to vote on the Application. Soon after the Chair of the Breed Committee issued a general post urging members to vote against the proposal.

Following a long session of negative and uninformed messages from a select few radical anti-poly members the ballot was mailed to an undetermined number of TICA Maine Coon Breed Section members for their vote. The measure was defeated by a margin of 70 to 146. At this point it appeared the exercise was over and all could go back to normal. It was not to be however...

In late September a member of the Breed Committee announced to the section members and to new candidates running for election to the Breed Committee that all discussion about the feelings of Breed Committee candidates and their platforms should remain in the confidence and privacy of the membership-required Yahoo chat Group. Potential candidates were also requested to state their views on Maine Coon polydactyls and whether they would sign or support a petition to set aside the TICA rules and have the Board of Directors over-rule the Breed Section vote. Ridiculous! This, of course did not happen as some Committee members

still allege, in spite of the fact there never was such a petition at this year’s Annual Meeting.

Editors Note: See Paws for Effect-Volume 2 No 8 for a full report on the presentation before the Board at this year’s Annual.
http://www.polytrak.net/ptnews/archives/PTNews-VI_No8.pdf

As potential candidates listed their qualifications and reasons for running for Breed Committee, a non-TICA sanctioned website was set up in England to list all of the candidate’s statements. The website, complete with a TICA logo, was instituted by a non-poly supporter, and was editorially modified by the Webmaster, so that all could see which of the candidates were Maine Coon Breeders that were also working with MC polys. A link was also added to each page linking to the candidates website. At least one Committee Candidate’s page contained an inaccurate link. When the webmaster was contacted about the “broken link” and a request to remove the Maine Coon polydactyl as a separate breed from the Maine Coon on this person’s page, the request was ignored and but the link was updated sometime later.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, 4 PolyStandard Members applied to the Show manager of the Annual TICA Cat Show held in conjunction with the Annual Board Meeting, for an information booth at this year’s Annual Show. Poly supporters have provided handouts and information at Annual meetings and other major Shows around the World for the past 3 years, without ever a problem. However this year the contingent was notified by the Show Manager, Toni Jones, that a vendor/information booth not be allowed at this year’s Annual Show. Ms. Jones cited the reason as being: *“She will not permit a display for polys at Annual. She said that she knows many of the people showing and does not want the fallout, (and sic) that it could get ugly”*. There was no further elaboration about what these “many people” had planned in the way of an “ugly”



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demonstration. As per TICA rules, the matter was appealed to the Southwest Regional Director of TICA. The Director after notification and consultation with Laura Cunningham, the Chairperson of the TICA Maine Coon Breed Committee, upheld the decision by the Show Manager to set a new precedence and not allow any information on polydactylism at a booth at this year's Annual Show. However this time the reason for not allowing was cited as the application for the booth was "submitted too late" and that the Maine Coon Breed Committee would have a booth and would "make their own information handouts" (without any information on polydactylism).

The Show Manager would however, allow a show cage (benching area) at the Show. 3 representatives of PolyStandard flew to the Annual and set up a benching area information area. Jokingly one member said that since it might not be a good idea to have a live poly at the show, in light of the threat of things getting ugly, something was needed to put in the cage for the show. A stuffed animal, namely an Armadillo (a critter native to Texas that has a "hard shell back") was chosen. The subtle message that an Armadillo, with its hard shell might be able to survive an "ugly" attack from "many people" was lost on most attendees. 😊

As of the writing of this Newsletter, the voting for Maine Coon Breed Committee Members is closed, although the votes have not been tabulated, nor results released as of yet. With numerous reports of people not wanting to vote or participate in the Maine Coon Breed Section, it remains to be seen how large a division has been created with all of the steps taken to quash the poly movement.

"Cats are connoisseurs of comfort."

- James Herriot -



*DK Antocats's Foxy Lady
(born October 13th, 2008 Denmark)*

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

By Winnie Scheffman

Things we can do to help get the Maine Coon Poly recognized as part of the Maine Coon Breed Standard in TICA. Each and everyone of us can do many things to help in the cause to have the Maine Coon polydactyl accepted in the Championship show rings around the World. Here is a list of things that many of us can do to aid in this cause. You may have other good ideas also, but here are some things you may not have thought of.

- *Become a TICA Member*
<http://www.ticaeo.com/content/forms/membership.htm> in breed section MCO to obtain voting rights. You'll have to be a TICA member in good standing for 6 months before you can vote.
- *Make your partner a Family member for only \$ 10. - / \$ 15, - (International). Now you have 2 votes.*



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- Register your Cattery with TICA - <http://ticaeo.com/content/forms/cattery.htm>
- Register your Cats especially Polys to show the number of Polys registered in TICA– <http://www.ticaeo.com/content/forms/registration.htm>. Please remember a P or PP in their name makes it easier to track the pedigree.
- Show your Polys at TICA shows in New Traits, and HHP in other organizations, which do not get points just rosettes, but will help the Poly exposure and increase our chances of Polys being accepted into the Maine Coon breed standards. Before you go to shows make up some of the fact flyers to hand out, located in the PolyStandard File Section <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/polystandard/files/> or you may write to polystandard@polytrak.net and we will email them to you.
- When showing a small footed Maine Coon (non-poly), if it has a Poly heritage let people know.
- Educate the Judges, Members of Registries, the General Public, prospective cat owners, and other Maine Coon breeders. Hand out some of the informational sheets located at PolyStandard or PolyTrak.
- Educate Maine Coon breeders, and TICA members so when they vote YES, it is an educated vote.
- Join the PolyStandard Group <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/polystandard/>.
- Make a donation for acceptance of the Maine Coon polydactyl cat at: <http://polystandard.polytrak.net/donate.htm>.
- Let other MC poly lovers know about the PolyStandard Group and their website: <http://polystandard.polytrak.net/>.
- Post pictures of Maine Coon Polys on your web pages, PolyTrak's Fancier listings and any photo list you belong to.
- Get your MC poly cats and kittens registered in the PolyTrak Database <http://www.polytrak.net> (Submit Info Button).
- Add <http://www.polytrak.net> to your email tag lines.
- Put the one of the PolyStandard Support logos which are located at http://www.polytrak.net/msc/logo_dl.htm (five choices) on your web page and link it to <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/polystandard/>.
- Take DNA samples of Poly litters and send them into Dr. Lyons for the Poly study. Forms and more information at http://www.polytrak.net/msc/dr_lyons_dna.htm
- Talk about Polys on Maine Coon cat lists/groups so people know this is not a fad or it isn't something that is brought up every 6 Months. The polys are here to stay!



The mathematical probability of a common cat doing exactly as it pleases is the one scientific absolute in the world.

- Lynn M. Osband -

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DK Lykken's Mountain Climber PP - Denmark



POLY HUMOUR (NEW TOP 10 REASONS TO NOT ACCEPT THE POLYS IN THE RING)

Recently members of PolyStandard relaxed a bit after a busy spring and summer of working towards acceptance of the Maine Coon poly in the Show Ring. Much of the opposition cited stories and tails of troublesome things that were bad about the MC poly trying to convince people of their beliefs. Most of these reasons were shown to be not factual by the PolyStandard group members. As one reason after another was eliminated, it seemed that the radical anti-poly people were running out of reasons why they should not be accepted.

So the members of the group were feeling bad that the opposition might be running out of reasons why they should not be accepted. Collectively the group got together and came up with 10 new made up reasons that the opposition could draw on, should their camp run out of "fire-power". 10 of the "tongue-in-cheek" reasons were assembled in the style of David Letterman's Top 10 Reasons...and the results are shown below. We hope you get a

chuckle out of it.



NUMBER 10....

Polys are a direct cause of World Famine.

NUMBER 9....

Poly Dactyl??? I thought they were extinct like the teradactyl only with lots of toes and can fly????

NUMBER 8....

They will make even bigger waves in the water bowl than the ordinary Maine Coon.

NUMBER 7....

Because with their big paws they can easily open doors and windows.

NUMBER 6....

They will ruin your nerves because they are so good at balancing on the staircase rail and they really can walk on a string.

NUMBER 5....

They should be forbidden because they leave larger footprints on the wet floor.

NUMBER 4....

A Poly??? I don't like them, they are a freak of nature and Mother Nature is clueless about how to create a pleasant looking and functional cat.

NUMBER 3....

They are dangerous because with their big paws they can get a really good grasp of your wallpaper (just come and look at our place).

NUMBER 2....

A Poly Cat??? It is **WRONG, WRONG, WRONG!!!!** I don't know why....I just know that it is **WRONG!**

AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON WHY MC POLYS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP RING...

(DRUM ROLL PLEASE...)



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(Haha We made you scroll to the next page to find the number one reason.....😄)

Looking at a poly causes certain breeders to froth at the mouth.



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



Cocodrillio Ori Pretty Coon
Of Tascoon (Denmark)



POLYTRAK FACT

As of December 30th there are 643 kittens listed in PolyTrak born as part of a polydactyl litter. 355 of these kittens listed are polydactyl.

- 3 Kittens (0.9%) are 1WD
- 133 Kittens (38.6%) are 2FWD
- 7 Kittens (2.0%) are 2RWD
- 21 Kittens (6.1%) are 3WD
- 181 (52.5%) are 4WD
- 10 Kittens have unknown paws

- 314 litter kittens are from poly Sire
 - 298 litter kittens are from poly Dam
 - 24 litter kittens – both parents are poly
 - 7 litter kittens have homozygous Sire
- No litter kittens with homozygous Dam



*Everything I know I learned from my cat: When you're hungry, eat. When you're tired, nap in a sunbeam. When you go to the vet's, pee on your owner.
- Gary Smith -*



DK Anto Cat's Foxy Lady
(Denmark)



Congratulations Polystandard for 2008!

(By Deb Brown)

In a few hours our year of 2008 will be finished and we will welcome in the New Year of 2009!

It has been quite the year with all the wonderful accomplishments this group has made. The Maine Coon polys have been seen in shows through out the world. The new show in



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Denmark and many other shows throughout Europe and North America have brought many poly people together and made the awareness strong. This has brought forth the recognition of the polys and soon the acceptance. We have seen many Maine Coon litters born and future stars come forth. It has also been a year of challenges and loss. But through all of this we have become a stronger united group and our message is spreading loud and clear! 😊

For the first time ever a united group formed and presented application to the TICA BOD for Championship Status for the Maine Coon polydactyl. As we all know this attempt did not pass but definitely opened the eyes of some people. I know we will have continued success in 2009. But the most important part, and I would like to think it is because of all of our efforts, TICA has now included the polydactyl standard of 7 toes maximum and declared polydactyly a viable trait. **Approved: Standing Rule 2016.12.2 as follows: Polydactyls, in any breed authorized by a Board approved standard, shall be limited to no more than 7 toes on any foot.**

Also on many lists some people have definitely come out and agreed that there are no health issues caused by extra digits.

GREAT WORK!

It has also been a great year for hearing about shows where people got out with their cats and their promotional materials and made a great difference. For the first time in some areas, people heard and saw for the first time a Maine Coon Polydactyl. Some even set up and promoted without a poly and faced adversity doing so. But kept the faith, so to speak, and moved forward. I think almost everyone can look back on a show and smile and remember the new friends met and old ones seen again. What a wonderful way to meet people, and lots of great events to look forward to in the future.

Again GREAT WORK!

We lost a dear friend this year, Kazandra. She was a wonderful person, and a great lover of the Maine Coons and the polys. But her work and dream has been sustained, and we all rejoice in the accomplishments we hear with Watercoons Cats. Great Work Kazandra. You are missed.

So the year 2008 has been one full of accomplishments. Many new members have joined Polystandard and have worked to increase the awareness and move towards the acceptance for Championship status. I know I for one love reading about the new babies, the new shows and the new adventures all are experiencing.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the families of the Polystandard members that have been the somewhat silent supporters in the background. The hours spent in all aspects of our hobby would not be possible with out the continued support of our families.

**GREAT WORK POLYSTANDARD!
CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL
DONE!**



Look out 2009...the Maine Coon Polys are here to stay!! See you in the Show Ring. 😊

Deb



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CHANGES TO POLYTRAK SIRE AND DAM PAGES

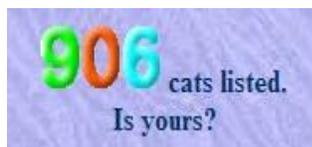
PolyTrak has made some changes to the Sire and Dam (breeding cats) pages.

We have added the names of the Parents of our listed Sires and Dams. This feature was added to aid in following lines of poly and non-poly breeding cats that are involved with a poly litter. They maybe a poly themselves or a non-poly that was mated with a poly to produce a polydactyl litter. As has always been the case, any breeding cat's line can be followed by clicking on the PawPeds link for each cat.

However now if one or both of the parents are listed in PolyTrak, there will be a hot link on the cat's name, which will take you to the details of that cat. Eventually this linking of parents will be used to trace the full line of any poly cat or kitten back to the Foundation Cat. This is a huge project that is quietly going on behind the scenes presently and is headed up by PolyTrak's Miriam Muller. The goal is to eventually, with a mouse click or two, you will instantly see the full poly line, including Heritage cats, Foundations, and all of the polydactyl breeding cats in any given litter.



PolyTrak



Uh-Oh! I think I pulled a muscle exercising!



That's a "wrap" for another month. We at PolyTrak sincerely hope that you had a great holiday season with family and friends and course with your great polys and Maine Coons (they are the same thing LOL). A Maine Coon polydactyl is a Maine Coon! Hopefully we can bring you more positive news and get back to normal as most of us head back to the daily grind. For those subscribers in the Southern Hemisphere, it is summertime and we will be thinking of you as we all go out and shovel the snow. 😊

We hope that you will join us again in 2009 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.

Bye for Now!



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**News Just Arrived December 31,
2008**

**Following are Results TICA
Maine Coon Breed Committee
Vote**

2008 Maine Coon

- 111 **Laura Cunningham**
- 41 Jan Dell
- 55 **Ryoko Doi**
- 72 **Elizabeth D Flynn**
- 53 Elektra Hammond
- 51 Michael Hammond
- 60 **Liz Hansen**
- 38 Dawn Lovell
- 43 Blair Milburn
- 48 Susan Milburn
- 34 Gordon M Pugh
- 89 **Jennifer Sable**
- 105 **Kim Tomlin**
- 98 **Elaine Hawksworth Wei**

