

PAWS FOR EFFECT



*The PolyTrak
Newsletter
January 2009*

Volume 3 - Number 1
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Paws for Effect - The PolyTrak Newsletter

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WELCOME!

Greetings to each and everyone one of you. Welcome to this month's issue of *"Paws for Effect"*. Also a welcome to this month's new subscribers. You can add, remove or send us your comments or story ideas at any time by just emailing ptnewsleter@polytrak.net.

"Paws for Effect" is a Newsletter from PolyTrak, a worldwide data base service that tracks information on the Maine Coon polydactyl. We feature information from our database as well as pictures of Maine Coons from the submissions from Breeders and Fanciers that participate in our database tracking system. We also feature articles of interest to the Maine Coon poly owners and breeders. But most important it is a Newsletter designed for you – the reader.



Quilts N Queens Matthew

If you have suggestions on how to make this Newsletter better --- if you have a comment --- if you would like to write a letter to the Editor or compose an Article on The Maine Coon polydactyl, we invite, actually encourage you to write to us. We would be delighted to hear from you and feature your Article or letter in *"Paws for Effect"*.

In addition PolyTrak and *"Paws for Effect"* works closely with a great bunch of Breeders and Fanciers who are interested or work with The Maine Coon polydactyl. These people have formed a group called PolyStandard. This Group is actively supporting the acceptance of the MC poly into the Championship Rings of Cat Associations around the World. This is an active Group from many Countries around the World. If you support acceptance would like to join their team in this project, they would welcome you to their fold. If you would like more information you can email polystandard@polytrak.net. They would be happy to answers your questions. If you would like to join the group you can click on this link:



[Click to join polystandard](#)

You will asked to fill out a short narrative about the reason you would like to join. Once that is received by the Group a short questionnaire will be sent to you privately asking a little bit about yourself that includes any MC polys that you may have, show or breed, where you are from and similar info. In any event, you will probably enjoy the fun and work of this active group as they work to bring the Maine Coon poly to its rightful place in the Show World.

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



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NZCF FIRST MAJOR CAT ASSOCIATION IN THE WORLD TO ACCEPT THE MAINE COON POLY!

The New Zealand Cat Fancy (NZCF) has accepted the Maine Coon polydactyl cat in the Show Ring making it eligible for Championship Status alongside the regular-footed Maine Coon. This makes the NZCF the first major Cat Association in the World to include the poly alongside other Maine Coons.

On January 6th of this year, Ms. Susan Grindell from New Zealand released the following surprise announcement:

I am proud to tell you all that the New Zealand Cat Fancy has accepted polydactyly in the Maine Coon breed and 2009 will see the polys on the show bench, taking their rightful place (in my opinion of course LOL) alongside their straight footed brothers and sisters.



Mainelymagic's Jazzman P

New Zealand has long been a country that embraces fairness and equality. We are

made up of people who are not afraid to do something different to the rest of the world if we think it is right. NZ was the first country in the world to allow votes for women and I hope that, as with equality for women, the rest of the world will slowly follow our lead and treat polys equally.

I hope you will all see over time that nothing has changed, some people will continue breeding polys because they like them and others won't because they don't.....just as it is now. The cats will look the same, the breed won't deteriorate because a previously ignored section of it is ignored no longer...just maybe the breed will improve as the disenfranchised poly breeders come back into the fold and improve the quality of their cats because of the showing exposure. My big wish for the New Year is that other registries, including TICA, will follow suit.

I would like to thank all the Maine Coon breeders in NZ who did not allow prejudice to overcome their sense of fairness, and who voted three times over the years to accept polydactyly. In particular I'd like to thank my friend Zena for her unswerving support of the poly cause.

The effort culminates several years of work primarily by Susan Grindell of Mainelymagic Maine Coons and Zena Pigden of Shiningwater Maine Coons also a member of the NZCF Breed Council for Maine Coons.

The first news of this effort was noted in March of 2008 when the World Cat Congress (WCC) held it's annual meeting in Houston, Texas, USA on the 31st of March. Ms. Deb Armishaw, is the delegate to the World Cat Congress from the NZCF. In her annual report to the WCC, Ms Armishaw stated to the WCC: *"...They were also dealing with a proposal for recognition of polydactyl Maine Coons; at present they were being registered but did not have recognition. They were to be shown in a separate section at a forthcoming show and the*



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matter would then be considered further.” This would be similar to the Advanced New Traits Division of The International Cat Association (TICA), where the MC poly can be shown and judged as a Maine Coon to the current Breed Standard, but were not eligible for points or titles. However, as the matter was considered further, it was decided that the polydactyl Maine Coon was indeed a full fledged Maine Coon and should compete alongside their regular-footed brothers and sisters.



Shiningwater Ligeia P

In her announcement to The TICA Maine Coon Breed Section and to PolyStandard, Ms. Grindell noted: *“The polys are not a separate breed in NZ. The Maine Coon Standard has been changed to allow polydactyly. At first they thought a separate breed may be the way to go, but it was going to*

cause too many problems with the Registry and the EC(Executive Council) did not see the point of having them as a separate breed. They are Maine Coons and have been in the breed since its inception and are bred from and registered today. There is no earthly reason not to accept them. The New Zealand EC were progressive and open minded enough to see this. I hope other Registries will "see the light" and follow.”

The above statement was issued to clarify a report by a TICA Officer who reported, with her observations, it was the belief that the NZCF was indeed treating the polydactyl Maine Coon separately as a different breed.

It appears that 2009 will see the return of the Championed and Titled Maine Coon polydactyl. Who will be the first to title their poly? 😊 Maybe a better question will be who will be the next major Cat Association in the World to embrace the poly and accord the Maine Coon polydactyl full status and equal rights of their regular-footed brothers and sisters.

Possibly an insight to “Who will be next?” may come at this year’s World Cat Congress Annual Meeting. This year it will be held in The Netherlands (home of many Maine Breeders and Fanciers that are working with the poly). The Annual meeting of WCC will be held prior to FIFe’s Mundikat Cat Show on the 12th & 13th of April. Representatives from all the majors Cat Associations will be attending or judging at this show. It is already planned to have MC Polys at the show as well as informational material for visitors and attendees to the 2 day show..

PolyTrak **947** cats listed.
Is yours?



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"The really great thing about cats is their endless variety. One can pick a cat to fit almost any kind of decor, color, scheme, income, personality, mood. But under the fur, whatever color it may be, there still lies, essentially unchanged, one of the world's free souls."

- Eric Gurney December 2007-

A NEW POLY SHOWING IN 2008 AT REUNION ISLAND (CONTRIBUTED BY ELISABETH MORCEL)

Editors Note: Paws for Effect will looking back at some special Shows in 2008 for the poly. This time we feature a report from Elisabeth Morcel and her experience at the first Cat show to be held on Reunion Island.

The first Cat Show for the French Island of Reunion Island was held last fall on September 14th. Reunion Island is a tropical paradise located in the Indian Ocean. It is also home to Elisabeth Morcel and Kreiz Ar Mor Maine Coons. Kreiz Arm Mor literally means "in the middle of the Sea" in the Brittany language.



Ms. Morcel is an active Maine Coon breeder that works with polys and is an avid supporter of the Maine Coon poly. A feature

article on her Cattery and breeding program was featured in "Paws for Effect" last year In the June Edition of the Newsletter (http://www.polytrak.net/ptnews/archives/PTNews-V2_No6.pdf).

Preparations began well before show time as poly promotional material was assembled and printed. Some items were translated in French and a display was prepared for the big day.



The big day arrived! A huge crowd of 4500 people visited the show during the day. The interest was peaked by the addition for the first time...A Maine Coon polydactyl. According to reports it was a great show and the response to the poly was tremendous. Ms. Morcel stated afterwards:

"56 cats (not so bad, there are 6 official breeders I guess). All the documentation I printed about poly gone (several hundred leaflets).

*NZ*MainelyMagic Anwen P was judged by Mrs Aline Noël. She granted Anwen a CAC and would have called her for BIS were not she a poly. I got felicitations for Anwen's grooming... I did not shampoo her but I groomed the other coonies. But not her, since she was mated. Anwen has the most wonderful coat I ever saw. Of course, remember only 56 cats. Nevertheless, I am very pleased. People mostly*



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knew about Coons, even though most of them had only seen pictures, but they had never heard of the poly Coons. They were very interested.



Anwen, sad! Afterward I put her in the same cage than her friends, and the 3 girls were happy together.



Anwen P's Babies born Dec. 21st, 2008
Kreiz ar Mor Maine Coons-Reunion Island

In the end it was a tiring, fun and satisfying day. A great show for 2008 in Reunion Island. We look forward to the next show from there in September 2010.

"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this."

– Anonymous –

POLYTRAK FACT

At the end of January there are 679 kittens listed in PolyTrak born as part of a polydactyl litter. 373 of these kittens listed are polydactyl.

- 4 Kittens (1.1%) are 1WD
- 147 Kittens (40.5%) are 2FWD
- 7 Kittens (1.9%) are 2RWD
- 22 Kittens (6.1%) are 3WD
- 183 (50.4%) are 4WD
- 10 Kittens have unknown paws
- 350 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

"After scolding one's cat one looks into its face and is seized by the ugly suspicion that it understood every word. And has filed it for reference."

- Charlotte Gray -



Kinneycoons Kimba
(USA)



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MC POLY LITTERS IN 2008

(By Ken Bussard)

Polydactyl litters in the Maine Coon breed continues to grow each year around the World. Although there are Maine Coon breeders working with polys in most major nations, there are certain areas where the poly seems more predominant. PolyTrak's listed Catteries increased again in 2008 to 83, some have not reported any new matings or litters. Therefore it could be a bit misleading, but it does give an indication of "Where are the poly kittens?"

From data received from breeders around the World PolyTrak logged 43 litters from 6 different Countries. Actually 7 different geographic areas, since France is listed as 3 litters and two of those litters are from Reunion Island, a French Protectorate but geographically located a long ways from the mainland of France.

The final tally showed the 43 litters from:

1	Belgium
17	Denmark
3	France
14	The Netherlands
1	South Africa
7	USA

These 43 litters produced 203 kittens of which 115 were polydactyl, 82 non poly and the digits of 6 were unknown. This is a 58% poly expression in litters.

Again these figures probably do not represent the full picture, due to a number of unreported litters. It also underscores our continuing request to list your litters in PolyTrak. The more statistical data we have, the more it shows that polydactyl Maine Coons are a significant portion of the Maine Coon breed that have always been, are currently and

in the future, a benign, acceptable and desired display of the overall Maine Coon Breed.

As always you can send in your Cattery, Sire, Dam and Kitten/Litter information to PolyTrak. Just go to our Website (<http://www.polytrak.net>) and click on:

[Submit Info](#)

If you need assistance or would like Forms with much of the information filled out for you, just drop us an email at info@polytrak.net. Thank you to all that participated in 2009 and we look forward to your continued support.

That's a "wrap" for another month. The poly being accepted for Championship status in New Zealand is exciting news for poly lovers the world over. Let's all hope that this is just the beginning of full rights for the MC poly and their breeders, fanciers and owners. We should all dedicate ourselves to this mission for the betterment of the Maine Coon.

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. If you have any questions or comments feel free to email us anytime at ptnewsletter@polytrak.net.

Bye for Now!

