

PAWS FOR EFFECT



The PolyTrak Newsletter Special Edition FIFé in Crisis!

Volume 7 - Special Edition

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Maine Coon Polydactyl



International Database



Paws for Effect - The PolyTrak Newsletter

Spring 2013 – Volume 7 Special Edition

WELCOME!

Welcome to another edition of “*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. We are in our 7th year of publication. Each issue 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. You can also visit us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Paws-for-Effect-The-Maine-Coon-Polydactyl/117223974963298>



Navarian Hills – Wakpala Luta Quadro PPhenia
Germany

This time we have a Special Edition dedicated to a looming crisis in FIFé as a few members and elected officials in the Organization seek to ban Maine Coon polydactyl breeding, showing and registrations in an attempt to cull the Maine Coon polydactyl out of existence. A Worldwide petition has been established to hopefully prevent this Organization from taking these draconian measures. Read the details and what you can do as a cat lover. Normally at this point we say sit back and relax and enjoy this Issue of the Newsletter...however this time we would like to say: Please read this as soon as possible and sign the petition to block some very serious setbacks for the Maine Coon polydactyl and good knowledgeable breeders in FIFé. No time is left. Tuesday night is about the last chance for you to join this movement and sign the petition. The link to the petition is: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/please-sign-to-help-us-save-the-polydactyl-maine/> The supporters have a goal of 2500 signatures and very little time to reach that goal.

AN URGENT CALL FOR POLY SUPPORTERS – TIME IS VERY SHORT!

For second time in the recent past the Cat Association known as Fédération Internationale Féline or more commonly known as FIFé is lashing out at its members and the Maine Coon polydactyl. As several un-named sources have reported, the campaign is being orchestrated by The FIFé Board, most notably its General Secretary, Mr. Eric Reijers. Reijers has been the focus of controversy over the years with his lack of understanding of polydactyl cats and genetics in general. He also has threatening actions against the members he represents as well as threats reportedly to Judges and a individual cat club for having polys showing in Holland awhile back. In addition in his second Office, as President of the World Cat Congress,



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it was noted at last year's meeting that members of FIFé had called in Police and Government Officials against the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA) and also the World Cat Federation for violating the local FIFé club's monopoly in Italy. Reijers stated it was not a matter for the WCC to solve and that he and FIFé were powerless to control their local Italian Club.

Again time is of the essence and Maine Coon poly FIFé members need your support from around the World to stop the nonsense perpetrated by a few in FIFé. To read and sign the petition please go to: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/please-sign-to-help-us-save-the-polydactyl-maine/> before the petition is submitted to the FIFé General Assembly on Wednesday.



Leather and Lace Wild Heart P
The Netherlands

THE PROCEDURE - 3 PETITIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED THIS WEEKEND FOR A VOTE

A proposal submitted to the General Assembly for voting action this coming weeked has been tendered by the Felikat Cat Club in Holland through their polydactyl liason person, Marjan Boonen. It essentially calls for

the Assembly to approve the showing of polydactyl Maine Coons in FIFé for points, ribbons and Championship status.

The second and third proposals are from the Health & Welfare Committee and the Breed & Registration Committee of the Association purportedly at the request and direction of the Board of Directors. One proposal will continue the ban against the showing of polys for Championship based on the unsupportable position that Maine Coons with phenotypical expression of Hw variant or similar expression is to be considered a deformity (without documentation) and as such is a disqualifying fault and cannot be judged in a FIFé show. This proposal is not a whole lot different from the present rules except that this emphasizes the "deformity" conclusion and prevents anyone from bringing forth a Maine Coon polydactyl for analysis. It is this authors conclusion that FIFé leaders are already aware of the erroneous and unsustainable position on polydactylism...this change merely makes certain that no one with the knoweledge and truth of polydactylism can come before FIFé or the Show audience with proof the statements made by FIFé are bold face lies and untruths.

The third proposal is the most damaging and has far reaching consequences. It will ammend various rules in FIFé to the extinction of all poly Maine Coons in FIFé and a substantial amount of its current membership. It also prevents the breeding and even selling of polydactyl kittens, although that is not an enforceable stance if the breeder has been kicked out of FIFé. If left unchecked, some in FIFé (albeit a small majority in power) would like to see the Maine Coon polydactyl culled and sanctioned into extinction. Since the rules will also prevent Maine Coon polydactyls from being registered as Maine Coons (or any breed for that matter) any poly kittens born of a poly parents will not have a pedigree, nor will be considered a Maine Coon. This includes the non polys of a poly litter, which generally average about half of the litter. These non polys, it is assumed are not registerable, since at least one parent is not a Maine Coon.



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<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/please-sign-to-help-us-save-the-polydactyl-maine/>

It is not known what FIFé intends to do with the existing registered Maine Coons over the past 40 years. It would be nearly impossible to wipe 40 plus years of Maine Coons off the books with one stupid rule.

These are the three proposals now before the General Assembly. Of course if either or both of the latter two mentioned proposals are adopted, the Felikat proposal for acceptance become a moot issue and would not be considered. Following are the words of the 3 proposals as submitted to the General Assembly for consideration this weekend.

We strongly urge you once again to voice your opinions in the petition to FIFé regardless of membership. Show the World is watching and well aware of their shenaigans. The link to see and sign the petition is:



Fluffy Coons Moby P
France

PROPOSAL 1 FROM FELIKAT



PROPOSAL 2 - Felikat proposes a change to the following rule:

Showrules - 3.9 Faults leading to disqualification
Table of faults no. 1.5 Cats with poly- or oligodactylism
Exception to this rule: the polydactyl Maine Coon

Motivation for this proposal:

- The trait for polydactyly has been found in the breed ever since the beginning of its existence; it has not been bred into the breed artificially. The foundationcats of the breed survived with it as free range cats for decades. Accounts of polydactyly in the Maine Coon cat are documented as far back as 1876. It is inherited as a dominant trait.
- The trait does not influence the health or dexterity of the cat in any way. Many studies have proved this, the most recent one by Hamelin in 2011.
- The type of the polydactyl Maine Coon is similar to the non-polydactyl Maine Coon; they are Maine Coons with extra toes.
- Polydactyl Maine Coons can be found in the pedigree of every Maine Coon.



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PROPOSAL 2 FROM FIFé HEALTH & WELFARE COMMISSION



Health & Welfare Commission - FIFé GA 2013
Kommission für die Gesundheit & zum Wohl der Katze - FIFé GV 2013
La Commission de Santé & du Bien-être - AG de la FIFé 2013



(addition: *bold+italics*, deletion: ~~strikethrough~~)

Proposal to amend the General Part of the Standards

Proposal 3 - change to Table of faults, 1.5:

~~Cats with~~ *Deformities of the toes, for example* poly- or oligodactylism (too many or too few toes)

If this proposal is carried, it must also be implemented in the table of disqualifying faults in the Show Rules.

Motivation:

All *deformities* of the toes must be considered as disqualifying faults. FIFé does not promote the breeding of congenital abnormalities (BRR: 3.1).

(Hinzufügung: Text in *fett+kursiv*, Streichung: ~~Durchgestrichen~~)

Vorschlag zur Änderung des allgemeinen Teils der Standard



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PROPOSAL 3

FROM FIFé HEALTH & WELFARE COMMISSION



Breeding & Registration Commission

Proposals to the FIFé General Assembly 2013

Proposals regarding the Breeding and Registration Rules

Additions: in **bold** and *italics*. – Deletions: ~~crossed-out~~.
Moved text: in *italics* only. – Unchanged text: in normal print.

BRC proposal 3 – articles 3.1 & 3.6: cats having congenital abnormalities are not allowed for breeding

3.1 General

~~A cat suffering from a congenital abnormality must not be used for breeding nor sold as a breeding cat. A breeder selling such a kitten must send a request to their FIFé Member for a "breeding restriction" to be put on the registration document.~~

~~Cats of all breeds, which are used for breeding purposes, must have whiskers.~~

3.6 Cats not allowed for breeding

The following cats are not allowed for breeding:

- deaf cats (white cats must be tested before they are used for breeding)
- cats with an umbilical hernia
- *cats without whiskers*
- any type of "wild" cat or any new breed based on "wild" cats
- cats suffering from (pseudo-)achondroplasia
- cats suffering from osteochondrodysplasia
- *cats suffering from congenital abnormalities.*

Each FIFé Member is free to impose further health restrictions, according to national circumstances.

3.6.3 Congenital abnormalities

FIFé will not support or encourage breeding with cats suffering from congenital abnormalities, for example:

- *hairless cats (except the current recognised breeds: Sphynx, Don Sphynx and Peterbald)*
- *polydactyl cats*
- *cats having other congenital disqualifying faults (refer to the Standards General Part).*

Such cats:

- *are not allowed for breeding*
- *cannot be sold as breeding cats; a breeder selling such a cat must send a request to their FIFé Member for a "breeding restriction" to be put on the pedigree*
- *cannot be promoted or advertised.*

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of *Paws for Effect*. This is a vital and necessary evil in the seemingly never ending fight for the rights of one of Mother Natures finest examples of adaptability and expression of a viable trait. In the 1600's poly owners were burned at the stake for witchcraft....today we do things like this. But one thing has not changed over the last four centuries: There are still the uninformed and uneducated that fear that which they do not understand. These people see the need to save the World from what they perceive as something bad when in fact the only bad in this case is the ignorance of the self-righteous and bullies.

Join us again for another issue of Paws for Effect. We hope to have much more positive news from the Maine Coon polydactyl World next time.

Poly Power! Bye for Now

