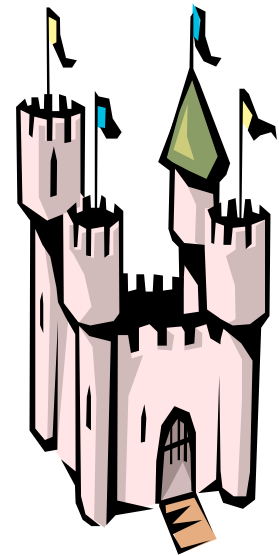


DARKTOWER Maine Coons



Maine coons are from New England in the USA. They were the original American wild cats, living mainly on farms where they were held in high esteem for their ability to catch vermin. They are the largest domestic cats in the world and the males can reach up to 18lbs in weight and the females up to 12lbs.

Maine coons are intelligent, playful and very gentle. They love people and dogs and will follow you around the house. They are not overly noisy, but will `chirp` at you to tell you about their day or ask for their favourite food.

Maine coons adore attention but are not overly demanding, and though they can be equally happy with any member of the household, they do tend to choose one particular person on whom they bestow the most affection.

Settling in

Before your kitten arrives make sure you prepare in advance:

A warm bed – This can be bought from a pet shop or made from a large cardboard box. They particularly like wicker baskets, but remember if you buy a bed especially Maine coons grow so buy the largest size. Put a warm blanket in or line with `vetbed`. Place it in a warm, quiet, draught free place.

A litter tray – Always put it in the same place and preferably use a covered tray. Your kitten has been raised on World's Best Cat Litter that is made from corn if you are not able to get this then a good quality litter like Catsan is best. Woodbased litter can become entangled in the fur around the kitten's breeches and anus, which becomes difficult to remove once your kittens fur grows.

Dishes – A fresh supply of water must always be available. Use a ceramic bowl as Maine coons can easily knock over other types. Each cat must have its own food bowl.

A carrying basket – This is essential for collecting your kitten and also for trips to the vet etc. Again remember your kitten is going to grow quite large so buy a big carrier in the beginning. Also it is very difficult to get a Maine coon out of a front opening box if they do not want to come, so always buy a top opener.

Whilst leaving the mother is a very traumatic time for your Maine coon kitten, they settle in remarkably quickly. To help this process place the kitten in one room at first, and introduce it to its food and litter tray. Ensure that you have closed all doors and windows and if applicable blocked the chimney! Ensure that you have a scratching post handy and gradually over a few days introduce the kitten to any other pets you may have.

Your kitten may go off his food for a day or two, but any longer than this and seek veterinary advice or contact me.

Feeding

Kittens need to be fed small, regular, frequent meals. They will initially need to be fed 4 times a day, but dried food and water must always be accessible. Try to stick with what your kitten is used to as any changes in diet can result in stomach upsets. Your kitten has been fed on:

Wet Food

Whiskas Singles

Felix Singles

(Adult versions are better as some kitten foods cause stomach upsets)

Dry Food

A good mix of dried food ensures that your kitten does not become fussy with his food.

Royal Canin

Iams

James Wellbeloved

Purina Pro Plan

Hills

Your kitten also likes:

Pilchards

Sardines in tomato sauce

Coley and scrambled egg

Chicken

Prawns

Salmon

These treats should only be given once or twice a week, as they need the vitamins etc. provided by commercial cat food.

Grooming

Kittens should be groomed once or twice a week. They enjoy this and think of it as a game, you must encourage this and never hold down you kitten to groom him/her, as this will frighten them. A good time to try is when the kitten is tired. A slicka brush is best when the coat is short, and a wide tooth comb will be needed as the fur lengthens. Do not over groom as this can lead to too much fur loss, especially on the tail, breeches and ruff and always groom with the fur not against it.. Adults may need

more grooming when moulting. Any knots should be gently teased out with a seam ripper.

Inoculations

Your kitten has been vaccinated against Feline Infectious Enteritis, Cat Flu, and Feline Leukaemia Virus at 9 weeks and 12 weeks. He will need a booster inoculation at about 15 months. Take your vaccination card to your veterinary surgeon on your first visit, so he can send you a reminder.

Worming

Your kitten has been wormed at 8 weeks with Panacur wormer, and this will need repeating regularly.

Fleas

Most animals if let to roam outside will collect fleas. They can either be seen on the cat, or you may see hard, black, shiny grit at the base of the coat when grooming, which are flea droppings. Regular application of Advantage flea control dropped onto the back of the neck will control this.

Neutering

Your kitten has been sold on the non-active register, this means you cannot breed from him/her. Females can be neutered at six months of age, and males from 6 months, but preferably eight or nine months. If your cat is being shown you may decide to wait until your kitten has finished kitten classes.

Home Safety

General Hazards – Like young children, kittens are inquisitive and every room is full of potential hazards.

Unprotected fires	Hot baths
Cooker hotplates	Ovens
Washing machines	Tumble dryers
Hot irons	Open windows
Electrical cables	Open toilets

Poisons – All sorts of household liquids can be poisonous to cats

TCP	Jeyes Fluid
Dettol	Bleach
Slug pellets	Antifreeze

Don't use disinfectants if they turn white in water, safer alternatives include Savlon, Milton and Domestos.

Plants –

Anemone	Crocus
Buttercup	Delphinium
Clematis	Foxglove

Holly
Impatiens
Lily of the Valley
Morning Glory
Poinsettia
Snowdrop
Wisteria

Hyacinth
Larkspur
Mistletoe
Ivy
Rhododendron
Sweet Pea
Yew

Insurance

Your kitten comes with 4 weeks free insurance from Petplan. They will write to you towards the end of this time to ask you to extend it. If your kitten is to go outside it is essential and it is advised for the first year on any indoor cat.

Reading

That Yankee Cat, by M Hornidge
Published by Tilbury House Publishers

This is the Maine Coon Cat, by S.P.Bass,
Published by TFH Publications Ltd

Maine Coon Cats: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual, by C.Himsel Daly.
Published by Barron's

Guide to Owning a Maine Coon Cat by A Greene
Published by TFH Publications Ltd.

Useful Addresses and Numbers

Jacky Edwards
The Old Lodge
56 Cromwell Road
Stretford
M32 8QJ
0161 865 8668

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy
4 – 6 Penel Orlieu
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 3PG
01278 427575

Maine Coon Cat Club
C/o David Howe
21 Fitzalan road
Handsworth
Sheffield
South yorkshire,
S13 9aw

Grange Cat Homes
Hillier Garden Centre
Woodhouse Lane
Botley
SO30 2EZ
01489 781260

FINALLY

Your kitten was brought up in a very caring environment; potential owners are vetted carefully as these are my precious babies. Your kitten was cherished and I shall miss him/her greatly, so please keep in touch and send me photographs. Hopefully I may see you at some shows.

If for any reason you have problem with your kitten please contact me, part of my agreement to sell you a kitten is that you let me know if you are rehoming the kitten so I can do it for you.

I know you will have as much enjoyment out of your kitten that I have had for the first 13 weeks of his/her life, so good luck and remember they are addictive!