

Maine Coon Breed Health Information

It is preferred to use a Vet that is familiar with this breed. The majority of MC kittens will experience juvenile gingivitis while teething. This breed loses all baby teeth. It takes about 6 months for the adult teeth to grow in. It varies from kitten to kitten depending on how much swelling of the gums they experience during this process which occurs from 5 months to a year of age. Many Vets misdiagnose this as stomatitis or other mouth disease and recommend pulling teeth. **DO NOT let them pull any teeth!** Find another Vet and get a second opinion, just like you would for your own health. In bad cases of gingivitis a round of antibiotics usually clears it up.

Also, some MC kittens have an enzyme in their mouth that makes the gums try to grow over the teeth as the teeth are growing in. **Do Not pull any teeth.** The proper treatment is giving the kitten/cat Prednisone for inflammation for several weeks. In severe cases surgery may be required to remove some of the excess growth. Then give prednisone and antibiotics. Surprisingly, the excess growth normally does not grow back. It is very unlikely that a MC kitten or young adult cat will have any kind of permanent mouth diseases that would require pulling teeth. Remember, MC cats are not full grown until 3-5 years of age so they are just a big kitten at 1 year old.

Everything about MC Cats is large compared to other cat breeds. Head, Feet, Boning, Internal Organs such as heart. They have a loud heartbeat. Vets unfamiliar with MC breed will misdiagnose murmurs. Some MC kittens will experience juvenile murmur as the kittens grow extremely fast. If they have a murmur at all, they usually outgrow it within 6 months. A murmur is an entirely different issue from HCM which is enlargement of the heart and can be fatal. All Alley Catz Maine Coons have been DNA tested for HCM and are negative for disease. Murmurs come in 6 grades. Any murmurs grades 1-3 are considered minor and will normally be outgrown and should not be a concern. Grades 4-6 murmurs are major murmurs and will negatively impact the kittens life. Alley Catz kittens are examined twice during vaccinations for murmurs. If they have any grade murmurs at the time of pick up it will be noted on their health records and the buyer will be informed immediately to discuss options. Any kitten with a major murmur will not be sold. Normally, MC kittens/cats do not just suddenly develop a murmur. If they do not have a murmur at 3 months of age it is extremely unlikely they will develop one, especially during the first year of growth. If your kitten is diagnosed with a murmur, get a second opinion or find a Vet familiar with this breed. The kitten did not have a murmur when you took it home unless noted on their health certificate and discussed with us. If a murmur is confirmed please have your cat examined by a **Board Certified Cardiologist**. I can provide you with the name of the one we use for our cats ECHO's.

Lastly, this breed is a large boned animal and can easily grow to 20 plus pounds. Males are not overweight if over 20 pounds. All MC cats have a stomach sack like a Lion or Tiger. The stomach sack does not mean they are overweight. It is normal for the breed.

Alley Catz Maine Coons is an information resource for you. Please contact us prior to spending funds on questionable pet medical diagnosis. When in doubt, always get a second medical opinion.

I acknowledge I have read this page and understand the material presented.

Buyer
signature _____ Date _____