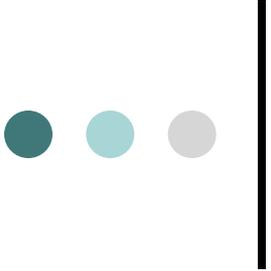




# MCP: Maine Coon Polydactyl

In Championship May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

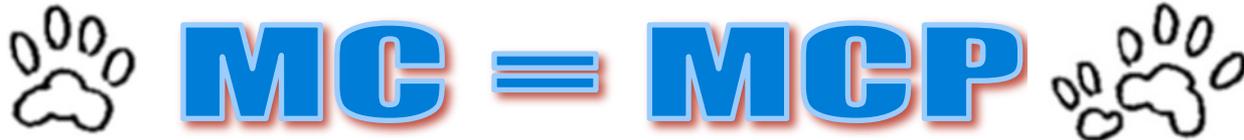




# Maine Coon Breed Group

- As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Maine Coons are divided into:
  - Maine Coon (MC)
  - Maine Coon Polydactyl (MCP)
- Will be judged separately, with only difference being the feet
- From a standpoint of points and titles:
  - First, Second, and Third of Breed for MC *and* MCP
  - Finaled and titled as either a MC or a MCP
  - Regional/International wins as either a MC or a MCP

# MC Polydactyl Standard



- The MCP Standard is identical to the Maine Coon (MC) except for the feet.
- Point allotment:
  - Head – 40 points
  - Body – 35 points
    - Torso, tail, boning & musculature = 32 points
    - **Feet and legs = 3 points**
  - Coat/Color/Pattern – 25 points

# MC versus MCP



- The difference in the feet?
  - **MC**: Large, round and well-tufted.
  - **MCP**: Large, well-tufted. Additional toes allowed on either fore or hind paws or both. Paws may be mitten or patty foot. Symmetrical expression preferred. Maximum of 7 toes on any foot.

# Additional toes allowed on either fore or hind paws or both

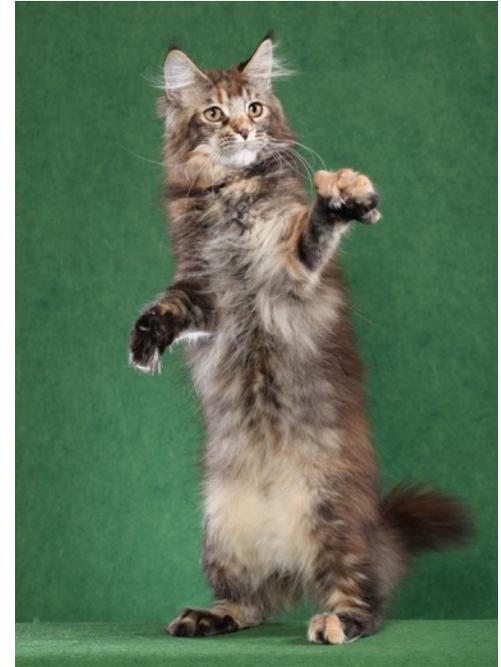


## ○ Distribution of Polydactyly?

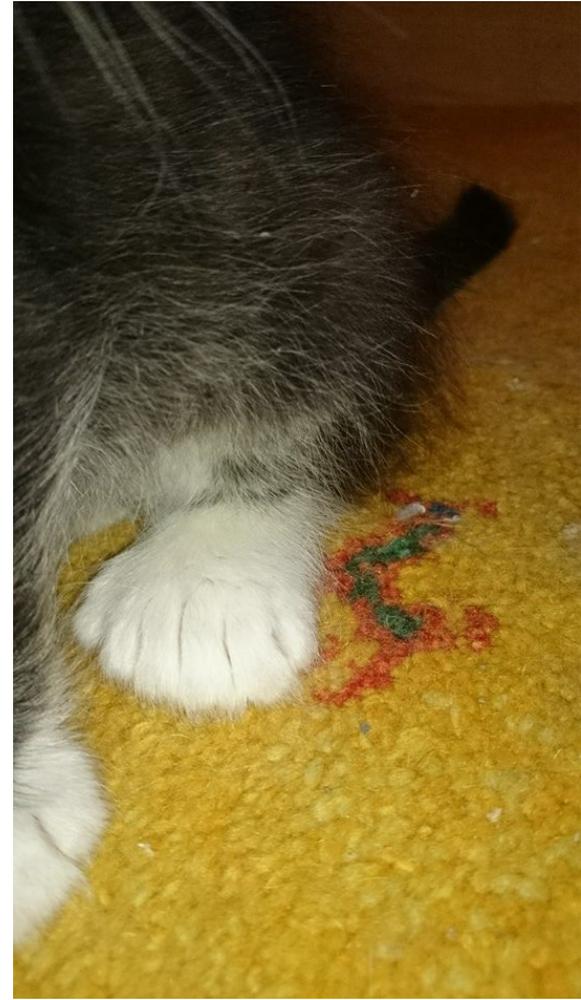
- Greater than 90% of MC polydactyls are poly on both front feet (“2 WD”) or all 4 feet (“4 WD”)
- Less common:
  - One paw only (<1%)
  - Three paws (~ 6%)
  - Both back paws (~ 1%)

(Data from PolyTrak analysis of 740 polydactyl kittens)

● ● ● | Poly forepaws only



# Poly on all paws



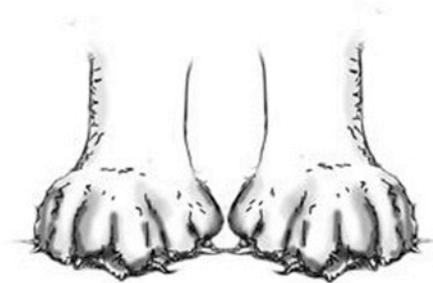
# Foot conformations



Mitten (extended thumb)



Mitten (closed thumb)



Patty (Snowshoe)

- A variation of the mitten is the most common
- Can be open or closed
- Thumbs may be functional (Beware!)
- Patty foot resembles a very large standard foot without a dewclaw

● ● ● | Patty paws



- ● ●

# Mitten paws



# Symmetrical expression preferred



- Top picture: asymmetrical forepaws with one patty foot and one mitten foot.
- Symmetrical appearance may change with foot position and/or motion
- Bottom picture: appears asymmetrical because one paw is spread and the other isn't. Identical structure.

# Symmetrical expression preferred



- Normal expression of the polydactyl trait may produce different numbers and/or configuration of toes side to side, or front to back
- Similar to pattern – may not be a mirror image
- Asymmetry that is not obvious with visual inspection should not be penalized

# Maximum of 7 toes per foot

- Should Judges count each toe on each foot? Yes, if there's any question!
- Statistically?
  - Guinness Book lists a cat named Jake as the record holder for most toes.
  - Jake has 28 toes – 7 on each foot



Seven Toes

# ● ● ● | Allowances

- Polydactyly is a trait with variable expression and may produce anything from a single extra dew claw to extra toes on each paw
- Any of these expressions are acceptable and there is no preference for more rather than fewer additional toes

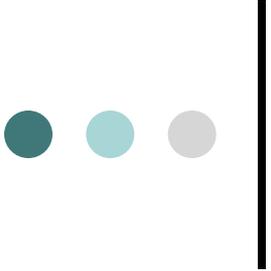


# Allowances

- Mitten paws may appear to toe out



- Hand/Paw naturally turns out (similar to a human walking on hands)
- Not a penalty

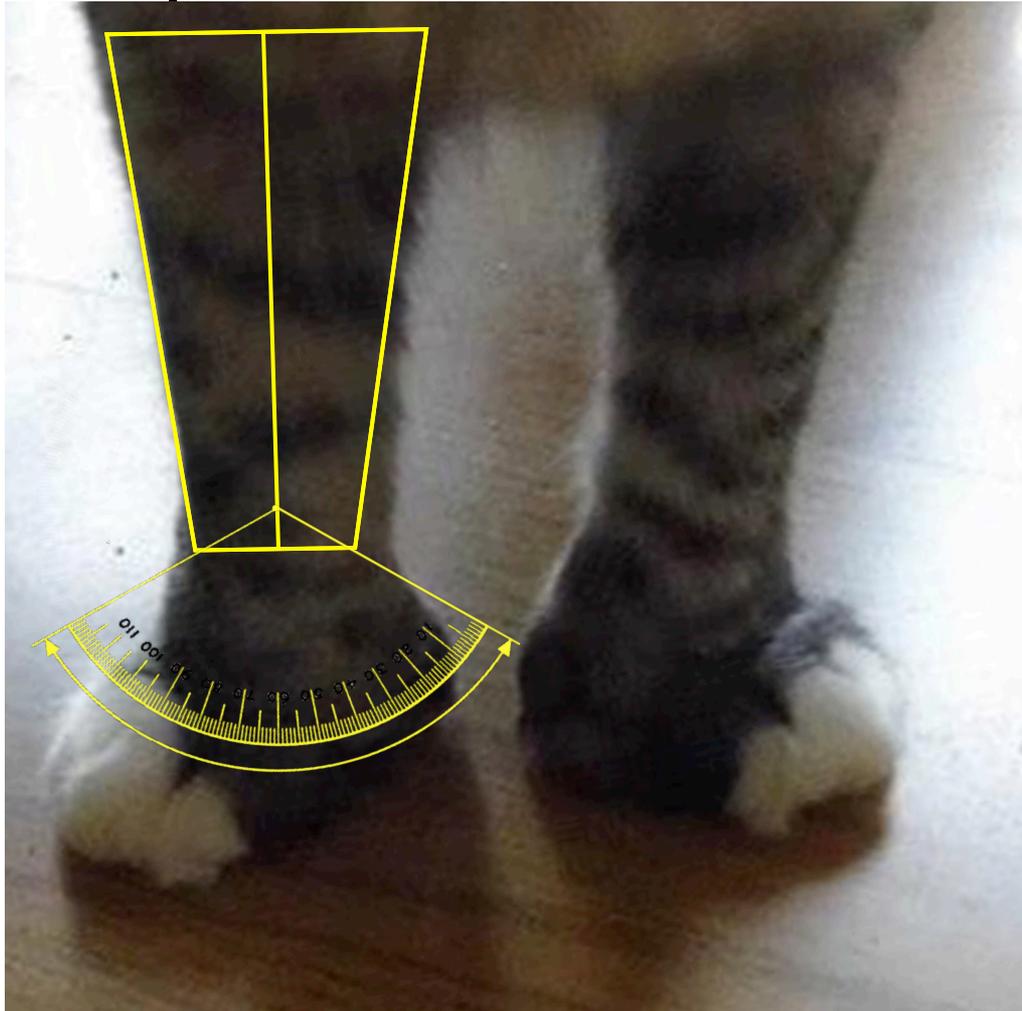


# Allowances

- Much concern over toeing out
- Rare to actually have too much – balanced by the position of the “thumb(s)”
- May have subtle rotation of the leg to accommodate the larger paw, but...
- Just as with non-poly Maine Coons:

**LEGS NEED TO BE STRAIGHT!**

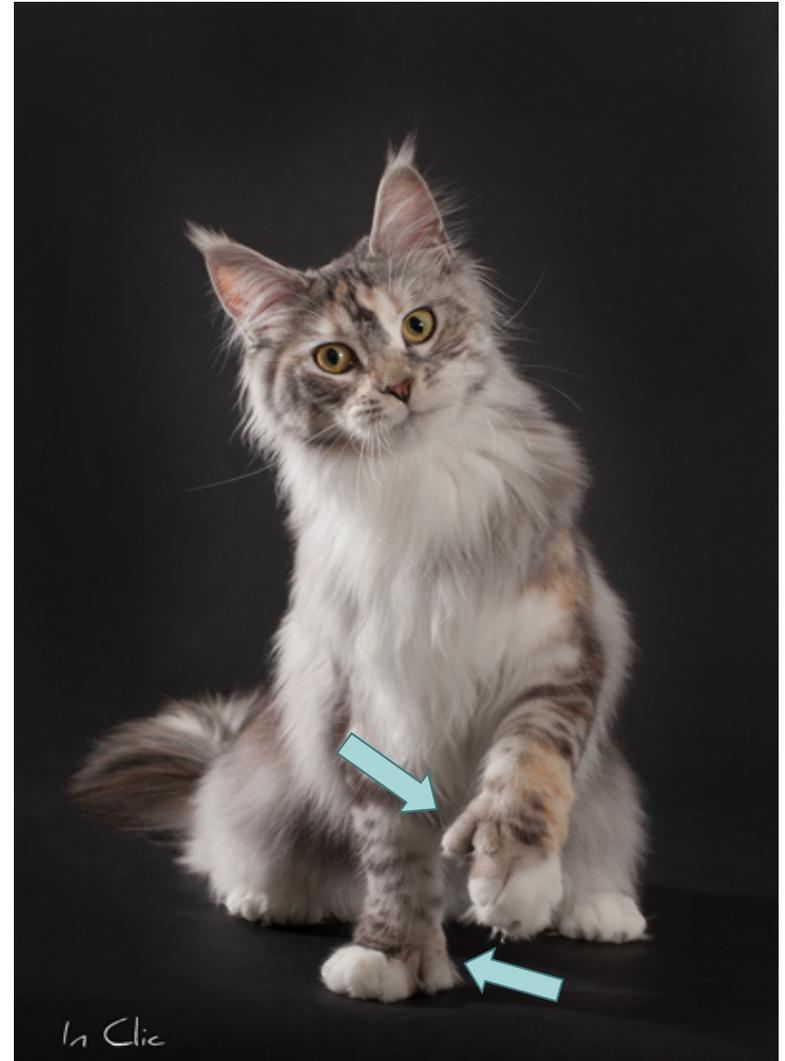
# Evaluating “toe out”



- Imagine a line down the leg
- Imagine an angle measure
- Is the distance balanced?
- Within 60 degrees off the center line?

# Penalties - Toes (excluding dewclaws) not touching the table

- Toes may appear short when paw is raised
- All should touch ground with weight applied
- Dewclaws are an exception, and just as with standard paws, will not “touch down”





Questions to catch?