

***Looking for a "Cheap" Maine
Coon?***

***Think twice what you save now could cost
you later in veterinary bills and
heartbreak.***

***Cheap Maine Coons typically mean
untested Maine coons.***

Maine Coons are beloved for their gentle nature and striking appearance, but when it comes to purchasing one, the saying "you get what you pay for" couldn't be truer.

While a lower price tag may seem tempting, it often means you're overlooking potential health risks that may not be visible to the naked eye. Certain genetic conditions can go undetected early on, and by the time symptoms appear, the damage is often done.

Stay with us to learn about these conditions and why you should always invest in a breeder who prioritizes health testing.

If you're considering bringing a Maine Coon into your home, it's crucial to look beyond the price and ensure you're choosing a reputable breeder who tests for these hidden diseases. Your new feline friend deserves the best, and so do you.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
(HCM)

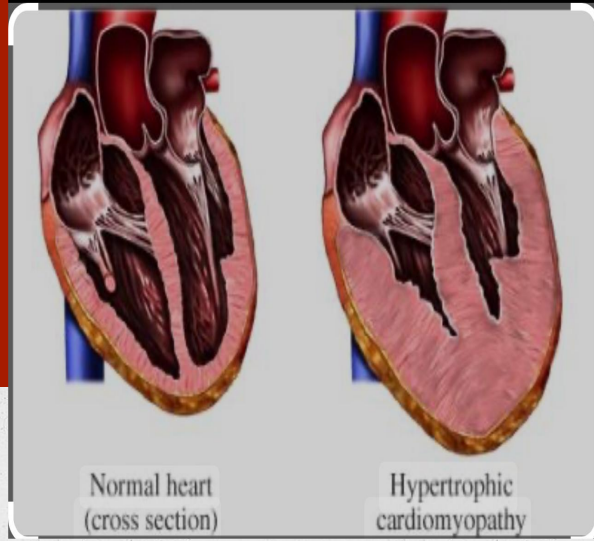
Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

Hip dysplasia & Patella
dysplasia

Polycystic kidney disease
(PKD)

In breeding ~ impaired immune
system

ESN- early spay & neuter ~
skeletal growth retardation



Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) is common in Maine Coons, but genetic testing alone isn't enough to protect your cat. While it can identify the gene mutation linked to HCM, it can't predict whether the disease will develop. That is why feline echocardiograms are important. Many cats with the gene never show symptoms, while others may develop it despite not carrying the mutation.

If your cat is diagnosed, treatment can be costly—medications and emergency care can run into the thousands. HCM is manageable but not curable, the prognosis varies. Some cats live for years, but others may experience heart failure and pass away prematurely.

HCM- HYPERTROPHIC CARDIO MYOPATHY 

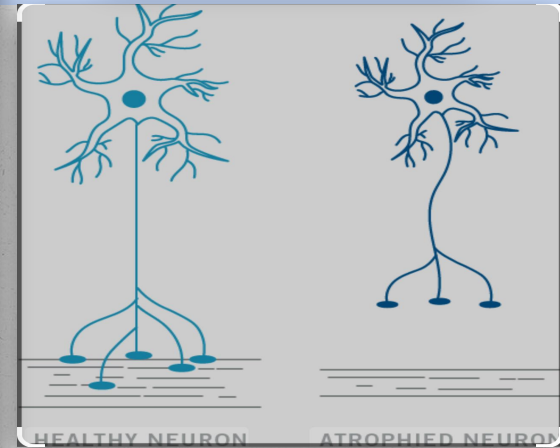
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a genetic condition that affects Maine Coon cats, and while genetic testing can identify carriers, SMA causes the progressive degeneration of spinal cord neurons, leading to muscle weakness, difficulty moving, and in severe cases, paralysis.

While genetic testing can tell you if your cat is a carrier, it doesn't predict when or how severely the disease will develop. Affected kittens typically show symptoms between 3-6 months, and by then, the damage is already done.

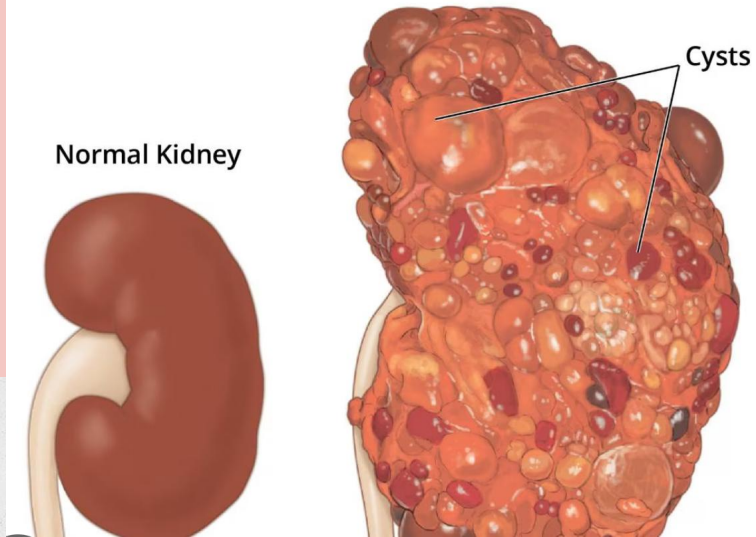
There is currently no cure for SMA, and treatments focus on managing symptoms, including physical therapy and assistive devices to aid movement. The cost of managing SMA can add up—physical therapy, vet visits, and special equipment may run into hundreds of thousands of dollars over time.

Unfortunately, the condition is progressive, and most cats with severe SMA face a reduced lifespan.

SMA Spinal Muscular Atrophy



Polycystic Kidney

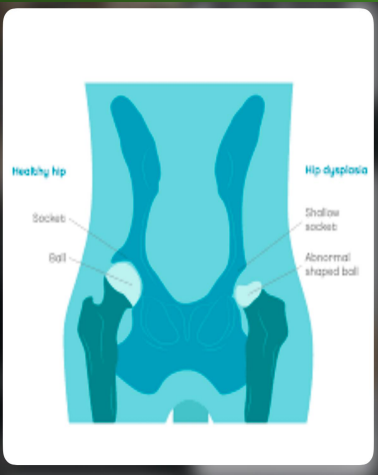


Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is a hereditary condition that affects Maine Coon cats. PKD causes fluid-filled cysts to form in the kidneys, leading to kidney dysfunction, kidney failure, and ultimately a shortened lifespan.

Many cats may appear healthy until their kidneys are significantly affected, often showing signs such as weight loss, increased thirst, or urination as the disease progresses. Unfortunately, there is no cure for PKD. Treatment focuses on managing symptoms, such as special diets and medications, which can cost hundreds of dollars per year. In more advanced stages, kidney dialysis or even a kidney transplant may be required, with costs running into the thousands.

PKD - Polycystic Kidney Disease

Hip & Patella dysplasia



Hip and patella dysplasia are common joint conditions in Maine Coon cats,

Hip dysplasia leads to abnormal joint formation, causing pain and arthritis. Patella dysplasia affects the kneecaps leading to joint instability and difficulty walking. Symptoms often appear in the cats first years of life and can worsen overtime affecting their ability to walk and quality of life.

In severe cases, surgery like a ****Femoral Head Ostectomy (FHO)**** may be necessary to alleviate pain and improve movement. An FHO procedure can cost between ****\$2,000 and \$4,000 per hip****, depending on location and the veterinarian's experience.

Post-surgery rehab, pain management, and follow-up visits can add hundreds more to the overall cost.

Choosing a breeder who tests for hip and patella dysplasia is key, x-rays and assessments from a license veterinarian can look for early indications.

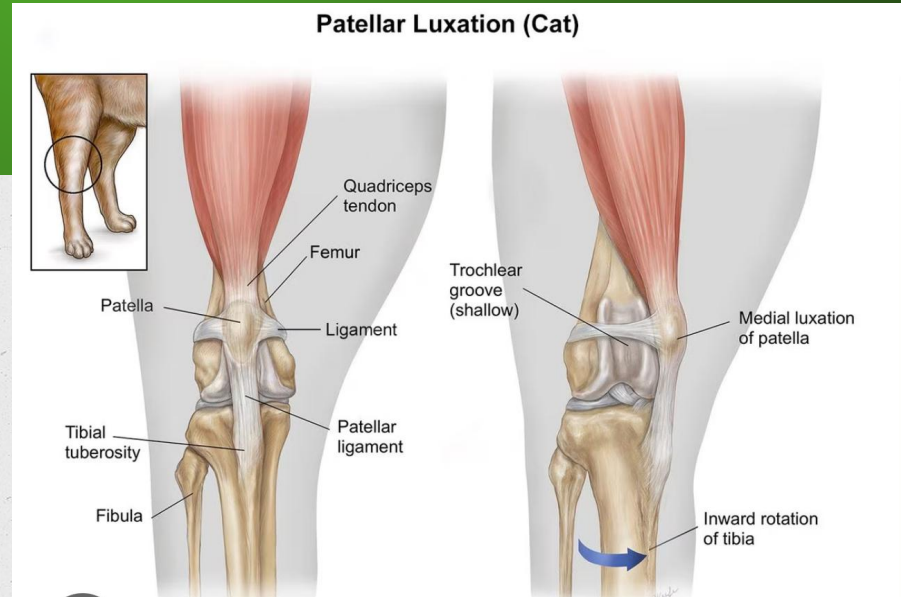
Patellar Luxation is a common issue in Maine Coon cats where the kneecap slips out of place, causing pain and difficulty walking. It can be congenital or develop with age. Symptoms include limping, difficulty jumping, and the leg "locking" in an abnormal position.

Conservative Management: For mild cases, pain relief, joint supplements, and physical therapy may help.

Surgery: In severe cases, surgery like Tibial Tuberosity Transposition may be needed to realign the kneecap. Surgery costs between \$1,500 to \$4,000.

With treatment, most cats can live comfortably, but the condition can worsen over time.

Patella Luxation




When choosing a Maine Coon kitten, it's crucial to consider breeders who analyze ****pedigrees**** and focus on the ****Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI)****.

Responsible breeders use these tools to ensure genetic diversity and avoid inbreeding, which can have serious long-term health consequences.

Inbreeding increases the risk of inherited genetic disorders, such as ****heart disease****, ****hip dysplasia****; and ****spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)**** More concerning, it also weakens the immune system. Kittens from inbred litters may struggle to fight off common viral and bacterial infections-diseases that healthy, genetically diverse kittens can easily handle. This can result in higher vet bills for conditions like ****upper respiratory infections****, ****gastrointestinal issues****, or ****urinary tract infections**** that would otherwise be less severe or even preventable.

By breeding with a focus on minimizing COI, breeders can help ensure that kittens have stronger immune systems, lower susceptibility to inherited diseases, and overall better health. While it requires extra effort, this practice reduces the likelihood of costly and emotionally taxing vet visits down the road.

Why pedigree analysis is important.
Inbreeding 
Be cautious some breeders do this
intentionally.

Effect of neutering and breed on femoral and tibial physeal closure times in male and female domestic cats

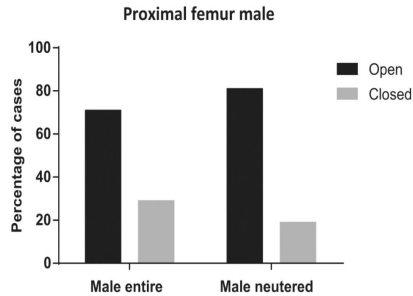


Figure 3 Comparison between the percentage of male entire and male neutered cats with closure of the proximal femoral growth plate at 9 months of age ($P = 0.6228$)

Early Spay/Neuter (ESN) is common in some breeding programs for convenience and population control, but for Maine Coon cats, it can lead to serious long-term health issues. Spaying or neutering a kitten before they reach full maturity—typically before 10 months—can interfere with their natural growth and cause skeletal and joint problems.

What Can Happen:

Hip Dysplasia: Early ESN can increase the risk of hip dysplasia, where the hip joint doesn't develop properly, causing pain and mobility issues.

Joint Instability: It can weaken connective tissues, making cats more prone to conditions like patellar luxation (dislocated kneecap) and arthritis.

Growth Issues: Spaying/neutering too early can lead to abnormal bone growth and longer limb bones, affecting the cat's proportions and mobility.

Why It Matters:

Maine Coons are large, slow-maturing cats. Allowing them to fully mature before spaying or neutering—ideally at 10 months—helps their bones and joints develop properly. Delaying the procedure reduces the risk of costly, painful health issues later on.