

# Maine Coon Buyer Checklist

What to verify before placing a deposit

This checklist is designed to help future Maine Coon owners make informed, confident decisions. Ethical breeders welcome these questions and are happy to provide documentation. If a seller avoids or dismisses this checklist, that is important information.

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## Breeder transparency checklist

Before committing to a Maine Coon kitten, confirm the breeder can provide the following.

- ☐ Full breeder name and location
  - ☐ Active website or verifiable online presence
  - ☐ Clear contract with health terms explained
  - ☐ Willingness to communicate openly and answer questions
  - ☐ No pressure to send a deposit immediately
  - ☐ Live video call offered or available
  - ☐ Parents available to view via video or photos
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## Health testing verification checklist

Claims of health testing should always come with proof.

- ☐ DNA test results for both parents
- ☐ Testing lab or platform clearly identified
- ☐ Dates of testing provided
- ☐ Explanation of what conditions were tested
- ☐ Echocardiogram documentation if advertised
- ☐ Clear understanding that testing reduces risk, not guarantees

If documentation cannot be shown, testing should be assumed not completed.

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## Genetic and breed specific considerations

Maine Coons are generally healthy cats, but responsible breeders acknowledge known predispositions.

Confirm the breeder openly discusses

- ☐ Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- ☐ Hip and joint health
- ☐ Spinal muscular atrophy
- ☐ Polycystic Kidney Disease

A breeder who refuses to discuss potential issues is not being transparent.

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## Kitten care and development checklist

Ethical breeders prioritize proper development over early placement.

- ☐ Kittens stay with the breeder until developmentally appropriate
- ☐ Early socialization and handling are practiced
- ☐ Routine veterinary visits are completed
- ☐ Vaccination and deworming records provided
- ☐ Microchip placement explained if included
- ☐ Clear instructions for transition to a new home

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## Spay and neuter policy checklist

Responsible breeding includes a clear sterilization plan.

- ☐ Spay or neuter requirement explained
  - ☐ Timeline provided
  - ☐ Contract language clearly states expectations
  - ☐ No breeding rights unless explicitly agreed upon
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## Buyer education and support checklist

Ethical breeders provide support beyond pickup day.

- ☐ Written care guidance provided
  - ☐ Nutrition recommendations explained
  - ☐ Growth and development expectations discussed
  - ☐ Guidance on common Maine Coon behaviors
  - ☐ Ongoing support offered after placement
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## Red flags to walk away from immediately

If any of the following occur, proceed with caution or walk away.

- ☐ Refusal to show health testing proof
- ☐ Pressure to send money quickly
- ☐ Prices far below market value
- ☐ No contract or vague terms
- ☐ Stolen or inconsistent photos
- ☐ Defensive or dismissive responses to questions

Trust your instincts. Ethical breeders do not rush buyers.

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## Final reminder for future Maine Coon owners

Buying a Maine Coon kitten is a long term commitment. You are not just purchasing a pet. You are choosing the foundation of that cat's health, temperament, and quality of life.

Ask questions. Request documentation. Take your time.

A responsible breeder will support your diligence.

A truly ethical breeder will expect it.



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