

THE MAINE COON POLYDACTYL



Information about polydactyly on the Internet: :

 WHAT IS POLYDACTYLY ?

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/polystandard/>

 ORIGINS

www.polytrak.net

 IS IT DANGEROUS FOR THE CAT'S HEALTH ?

www.pawpeds.com

 WHY IS POLYDACTYLY NOT ACCEPTED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP?

 OUR GOALS

 PHOTOS



Cats on this flyer: D*Super Star's Nominée of Kreiz ar mor (black silver tabby male), Jarnac B'Mangree (black silver tabby with white male) chez Mme Yveline Vandenberghe, Kreiz ar Mor Dilwen PP (torbie female), Abesh Olynka PP of Isatis (creme tabby female), et Mainely Magic Anwen P of Kreiz ar Mor (black silver tabby female)

THE MAINE COON POLYDACTYL, A LITTLE BIT EXTRA!!

WHAT IS POLYDACTYLY ?

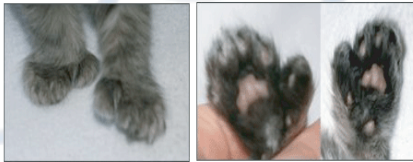
While cats have five digits on the front paws and four on the rear ones, polydactyly is a trait which is characterized by the presence of extra digits. Polydactyly also can be found in humans and in many animal breeds (Pixie Bob in cats, or Beauceron in dogs).

There are two sorts of polydactyly:

The patty foot



The mitten paw



(Photos: Sheila Curtis)

ORIGINS

Polydactyly has been known for more than four hundred years. Many barn cats in the North of the United States – the birthplace of Maine Coon cats- are polydactyl.

Some people say this trait helps the cats to hunt, others say that it enables them to walk in the snow, but none of these theories have been scientifically approved.

It is believed that, at the origin of the breed, 40% of Maine cats, also called the Maine Shags (Maine Coon's ancestors) were polydactyl, but today it seems that only 2% of Maine Coons are polydactyl.

IS IT DANGEROUS FOR THE CAT'S HEALTH?

For many years, opponents to polydactyly have argued that it was a harmful defect for the cats' health; nonetheless many serious scientific studies have proved that it wasn't the case.

Polydactyly is a genetic trait in the breed which has no consequence on the animal's health or physical abilities. Proof of this can be seen in the fact that two polydactyl cats bred together do not give birth to deformed kittens!



WHY IS POLYDACTYLY NOT ACCEPTED FOR CHAMPIONSHIP?

The answer is quite simple: when the breed was set for recognition, it was decided not to mention polydactyly as this trait could not be found in any other breed at the time, and it was thought it would make it easier and faster for the Maine Coon to be accepted for Show Status.

Polydactyly was hence set aside in the standard to ease matters, which is the reason why Maine Coon polydactyl cats cannot be shown nowadays (except in New Zealand where they have recently been granted Championship status).

OUR GOAL

Is is to have the Maine Coon polydactyl accepted for show status like any other Maine Coon.

Although Maine Coon polydactyl cats have a pedigree, like any other member of the breed, and their offspring are recognized as Maine Coon cats, they are not allowed to compete in show halls.

We think it is unfair and feel this injustice should be corrected so that the Maine Coon polydactyl can find the place it deserves inside the show halls, like any other Maine Coon.

PHOTOS

