



# SE Region December 2010 Newsletter



## Meet Your Neighbors

Toni Scarboro  
Athens, AL  
Dixiekatz Maine Coons  
[www.dixiekatz.com](http://www.dixiekatz.com)

**1. What breed do you work with..??.. How long..??..**

Maine Coons. I have been breeding since 2005

**2. If you could, what other breed of cat would you like to work with..??..**

Maybe Ragdolls, or Birmans. My Shorthair breed would be Tonks or Brits.

**3. What is your most memorable win..??..**

My first Supreme was my wonderful Maine Coon stud Calicoon Robby of Dixiekatz. He was the SE regions best Maine Coon in 2004-2005. Sadly, I lost him In Novemembr of 2009.

**4. How did you start in the world of cats..??..**

As a kid we always had pets, but cats were always part of our lives. I have never been without a cat for very long. I will always have cats. I started showing cats in 2003 and have been hooked on cat shows ever since. Cats are like potato chips, you can't have just one!

**5. What, if any other hobbies..??..**

I like to cross stitch, scrapbooking, read, and bowl. I also enjoy spending time with my grandchildren (well most of the time) and of course judging and going to cat shows.





# Meet The Breed

## Maine Coons

### General Description

America's native longhair, Maine Coons were well established over a century ago as a hardy, handsome breed of domestic cat, well equipped to survive the hostile New England winters. Breeders have sought to preserve the Maine Coon's "natural," rugged qualities. Maine Coon owners enjoy the breed's characteristic clown-like personality, affectionate nature, amusing habits and tricks and willingness to 'help' with any activity. They make excellent companions for large, active families that also enjoy having dogs and other animals.

### History

One of the oldest natural breeds in North America, the Maine Coon is generally regarded as a native of the state of Maine (in fact, the Maine Coon is the official Maine State Cat). A number of attractive legends surround its origin. A wide-spread (though biologically impossible) belief is that it originated from matings between semi-wild, domestic cats and raccoons. This myth, bolstered by the bushy tail and the most common coloring (a raccoon-like brown tabby) led to the adoption of the name 'Maine Coon. Another popular theory is that the Maine sprang from the six pet cats which Marie Antoinette sent to Wiscasset, Maine when she was planning to escape from France during the French Revolution. Most breeders today believe that the breed originated in matings between pre-existing shorthaired domestic cats and overseas longhairs (perhaps Angora types introduced by New England seamen, or longhairs brought to America by the Vikings). First recorded in cat literature in 1861 with a mention of a black and white cat named 'Captain Jenks of the Horse Marines,' Maine Coons were popular competitors at early cat shows in Boston and New York. A brown tabby female named 'Cosie' won Best Cat at the 1895 Madison Square Garden Show.

### Personality

While Maine Coons are highly people-oriented cats, they are not overly-dependent. They do not constantly pester you for attention, but prefer to "hang out" with their owners, investigating whatever activity you're involved in and "helping" when they can. Most are not lap cats but Maine Coons will stay close by you, follow you from room to room and wait outside a closed door for you to emerge. A Maine Coon will be your companion, your buddy, your pal, but rarely your baby. Maine Coons are relaxed and easy-going in just about everything they do. They generally get along well with kids and dogs, as well as other cats. They are not as vertically-oriented as some other breeds, preferring to chase objects on the ground. Many Maine Coons will play "fetch" with their owners. Maine Coons develop slowly, and don't achieve their full size until they are three to five years old. Their dispositions remain kittenish throughout their lives; they are big, gentle, good-natured goofos. Maine Coons rarely meow, instead most have a soft chirp or trill in a tiny voice doesn't fit their size!

### Traits

The important features of the Maine Coon are the head and body shape, and the texture and 'shag' of the coat. Maine Coons evolved by adapting to a harsh Northeast climate. Its semi-longhair glossy coat is heavy and water-resistant, longer on the ruff, stomach and britches and shorter on the back and neck. The coat falls smoothly, and is almost maintenance-free: a weekly combing is all that is usually required to keep it in top condition. Maine Coons have very long, bushy tails. One of their most distinctive features is their eyes, which are large, oval to nearly round, expressive, and set at a slightly oblique angle. Maine Coons are seen in nearly all traditional colors and patterns. Maine Coons male cats, at maturity, can average 13-18 lbs. Maine Coon female cats average 9-13 lbs. Overall, the Maine Coon should appear as a large, natural yet uncommonly attractive cat.

*(Taken from the TICA breed pages.)* Laurie Patton



## Christmas Recipes

Some of my family favorites... Although I didn't get any of the Betty Crocker genes in my family here are some great tasting dishes... Laurie

### Oyster Casserole

1 cup milk  
1 cup crushed crackers (Ritz or Saltines)  
2 cans oysters  
1 tbsp. butter  
Pepper & salt to taste

Mix milk & oysters in casserole dish. Add crushed crackers on top after mixing all other ingredients. Dot with the butter and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.



### Chocolate Pecan Pie

#### Ingredients

1 (9-inch) unbaked pie shell  
2 cups pecan halved  
3 eggs  
3 tablespoons butter, melted  
1/2 cup dark corn syrup  
1 cup sugar  
4 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped

#### Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.  
Cover bottom of pie crust with pecans.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs and melted butter. Add the corn syrup, sugar, and the chopped chocolate. Stir until all ingredients are combined. Pour mixture into the pie shell over the pecans and place on a heavy-duty cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes. Lower the oven temperature to 350 degrees F and continue to bake for an additional 25 minutes or until pie is set. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack.



## Southeast Regional



### Rolling Out The Red Carpet The A “cat” emy Awards



July 30 & 31, 2011  
Columbia, SC

Ring Sponsors and Judges Dinners Sponsors are available.

Don't miss the “show premier” party on Friday Night at the hotel - FREE


**Parade of Breeds** – We will have a special area with as many breeds present as possible for the public to see. Columbia has wonderful cat lovers and they flock to the show.

**Star Wall of Fame and Remembrance** – We will have a wall of stars that will be personalized remembering a friend that is now gone or celebrating a win. Cost is only \$5.00.  
Get your star today!

**Goodie bags** will be available at the dinner courtesy of Kitt Flicks Productions. You are welcome to bring a little gift announcing your wins for the show year as well.  
Get your thinking caps on now!

Laurie Patton, Show Manager  
[PiratesLairMC@aol.com](mailto:PiratesLairMC@aol.com)



 Christmas is not as much  
about opening our presents  
as opening our *hearts*.

~ Janice Maeditere



## PET TALK WITH RENE KNAPP CHRISTMAS SAFETY FOR CATS



It's Christmas time again and everyone is excited; the kids, the parents and our cats can sense that something is in the air. It is the time to enjoy the holidays but also the time to take some extra precautions with our kitties because there will be many dangers facing them during the Christmas season. Cats and Christmas trees. I know that the rules say it is better to have an artificial tree than a real one for cat safety. So the first year we were married, my husband and I invested in a very expensive fake tree. We put the tree up and decided to let the cats get used to it before we put up any decorations. Well, the next day when we got home from work, there were very few branches left on the tree. The cats had pulled them off and ran around the house with them as toys. A few had thrown up because they had eaten some of the fake pine needles. So we tossed the tree and bought a real one. For us, the real tree works. Our cats like to sleep under the tree and smell the out of doors. We never put any type of chemicals in the tree water though, because a few of our cats will drink from the tree stand. It has taken us twelve years but we have the routine down pretty well. We put the tree up and leave it bare for at least three days – by then the cats are bored with it – then we put up the lights and we use wooden garland with beads, rather than any type of tinsel materials. Cats will play with and eat tinsel and it is very dangerous, causing blockages which result in expensive emergency surgery. We put non breakable wooden and fabric ornaments on the bottom of the tree so the cats can safely bat at them. Also, when they don't get yelled at, the cats figure they are not doing anything wrong so they get bored and leave them alone. All of our breakable ornaments (yes, we do have them), are up high where they are less likely (notice I said less likely) to get knocked off the tree and broken. The lights are unplugged when we are not home and they have bitter apple lining them when they are plugged in to prevent curious kittens from chewing the wires.

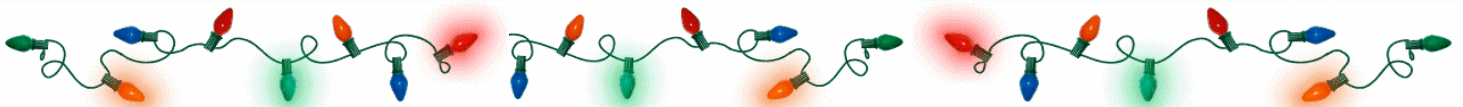
We never use artificial snow (it is toxic to cats) and candles on the tree are a definite no-no. Flames are very hard for a cat to resist checking out and the cat and the house could be in serious trouble. We are Christmas plantless in our house because holly, mistletoe and poinsettias, although beautiful, are toxic to cats, all in varying degrees. If you really feel you need to have plants to make your holiday complete, place them where your cat cannot get to them. As you give your cats special treats of human food, it is important to remember that some foods do not belong in feline stomachs. Never give your cats chicken or turkey bones as they can splinter and become lodged in your cats throat or puncture the intestines and stomach. Chocolate is very dangerous and you need to keep your gift boxes of chocolate in the cupboards. Make sure your garbage can is not easily accessible turkey bones wrapped in aluminum foil can be doubly dangerous if ingested. We don't put ribbons and bows on our family presents anymore (note – we also do not have small children) but the few that we do decorate, stay in our closets on our shelves until our visitors arrive. Speaking of visitors; that brings us to how our cats react to strangers. Cats are like people, some are gregarious and friendly, others suspicious and still others shy. Be aware of your cat's feelings and give the cat the option of mingling with the guests or retiring to a nice, quiet area of their own. When buying toys, make sure you thoroughly check them first. There should be nothing glued on that the cat can pull off and swallow, and, if the toy is small enough for a cat to swallow, don't give it to your pet. I still maintain kittens should not be Christmas gifts unless you are an adult getting the kitten for yourself. If you insist on bringing a kitten home for your five year old, please do not tell her it is from Santa. How horrible would it be if there was something wrong with your rescue kitten? Could you ever explain to a child why Santa would give a sick kitten as a gift? If you feel you have to have a kitten on Christmas Eve, then please give the baby its own room, plenty of food and fresh water and alone time. You do not want to cause undo stress on a baby.

Please ensure your cats are safe and happy, inside and warm and have a very happy holiday.



## Quote of The Month

Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right.  
**Henry Ford**



Anyone wanting to submit articles, recipes, trivia or anything you think others would like to read can send me the info at [PiratesLairMC@aol.com](mailto:PiratesLairMC@aol.com)  
Thanks to all who contributed this month..!!..  
Laurie

Don't forget that the SE Region is on Facebook  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=300505338191>  
Until next month!

## Have a Purrr'fect Holiday

