



Dear Friends,

My name is Maria Bryant and I am asking for your support in the current Maine Coon breed committee elections.

I bought my first cat at the age of 18 as strangely all of my family are allergic to cats!

I started breeding 32 years ago. Since 2007 I have actively bred and showed under the cattery name Migatobonito. I am a recognised member of the Cat Fancy, both in UK Cat Fancy (GCCF) and in TICA. I have held the Honorary Secretary role for Merseyside Cat Club from July 2008, until my resignation in July 2014. I have held a GCCF prefix and TICA cattery since 2007 and I am a current disciplinary committee member for the UK GCCF.

I am a TICA member and have been since 2007 and in good standing throughout.

I fell in love with Maine Coons in 2007 and have never looked back. Health is very important to me and I regularly screen cats for heart disease and gene test plus coronavirus test all cats. Breeding is by-product of my desire to show but never at the expense of their health. Many members will be aware that I was one of the first to show a Maine coon polydactyl firstly in new traits and then in championship. I achieved the international first RW and Supreme MCP. However I am very clear to all I speak that toes are the 'little extra' and health followed by type is more important.

I have 30 years' experience of working within Health. My diverse career has required me to be self-motivated, with the ability to communicate at all levels across a wide range of topics. I work autonomously under pressure to achieve expectations, meet deadlines and put plans into action. I qualified as a Registered General Nurse in 1989 and have a valid UK NMC Registration in General Nursing. I abide by a professional Code of Conduct, which means honesty, transparency and objectivity.

For the last 13 years I have worked as a Senior Regional Officer for a Nurses Trade Union. During this time I have built good professional relationships with key opinion leaders, and I am able to demonstrate proven ability to work strategically and manage complex cases. I manage a team of RCN staff and activists. I am part of a membership led organisation. I have obtained a Diploma in Law, LLB (Hons) and LLM. I believe that an extensive knowledge of law is required for my day job, but also in my hobby as a cat breeder. This also ensures that a high quality of advice and support is disseminated to others. I frequently advise fellow breeders in this regard.

There are many things I would like to see if I am elected as a committee member; such as education and health testing. However I feel that consultation with the members in the group is vital to see what you actually want. I would then like to work with the other committee members to ensure that views are protected and the group is not just acting on the committee desires. I am currently working with a cardiologist and awaiting sponsorship confirmation to see if we can begin an Echo scan study specifically for Maine coons.

I hope you can support me as your advocate for the Maine Coon Committee and thank you for taking the time to read about me.

Maria