



Hi, my name is Elaine Hawksworth-Weitz, and I'm running for the Maine Coon Breed Committee.

It is my opinion that we need to have people on the MC Breed Committee that can 1) Work towards the common goal to strengthen the breed; 2) Respect one another's beliefs and view; and, 3) Separate personal biases in order to keep an open mind to other points of view. I am that 'type' of person. I love this breed and I want to see it become better and healthier. And, I would hope that serving on this committee would help that cause.

In addition to reviewing the Maine Coon breed standard to determine if we should consider making some changes, I would like to see the Breed Committee do the following:

1. Have the ticamcbreedsection yahoogroup list become a more representative & accurate tool to measure the section's wishes. Every person who is a legitimate member of the Breed Section should join the group.
2. Lead the Breed Section's efforts in sharing information related to Maine Coon health issues (such as HCM, SMA, hip dysplasia, and gingivitis).
3. Disseminate information to the general public about Maine Coons through a breed brochure (which was completed in August) and the MC breed seminar.
4. Be advocates for the Maine Coon - as directed by the Breed Section.
5. Continue what the current Breed Committee has started .... To have our Annual Maine CoonVention. We've started the process, now I'd like to see it through to fruition.

For the most part, the Maine Coon breeders in TICA have long been a cohesive, strong group. Even when we've had different approaches and beliefs to our individual breeding programs, we've always had the best interest of the Maine Coon cat at heart. And, I believe we still do.

Your Breed Committee should be comprised of people that you respect and trust. Having served on the Committee for 12 years, I have the expertise and knowledge to be an effective, integral part of the Breed Committee. Over the past several years, I have had the pleasure of judging all over North America, Japan, China, South America, Europe, and Australia. I have put on numerous Maine Coon breed seminars, which has afforded me the opportunity to talk with Maine Coon breeders all over the world about our beloved breed's future. That insight is a valuable asset for the Breed Committee.

For nearly 20 years (from 1994 to 2013), my husband, Fred, and I bred Maine Coons under the cattery name of SmokeyCoons. It was a very small cattery in Edmonds, Washington, USA, generally having one stud male and two to four females at any one given time. Our primary breeding goal was to produce healthy, happy and well-socialized Maine Coons. We were, and still are, strong advocates for testing breeding cats for the various health issues that affect the Maine Coon cat.

We bred and showed many of our Maine Coons to regional wins and 4 to international wins. Three of our cats received their Outstanding Sire and Dam titles,

and two other cats received their Lifetime Achievement awards. We've also shown an Exotic Shorthair Kitten and an Oriental Shorthair Kitten/Cat to Regional wins, and a Himalayan kitten and Household Pet kitten to an International win.

SmokeyCoons was also a member of Maine Coon Breeders & Fanciers Association (MCBFA) since 1996, and a breeder member since 1998. In 2000-2002, and 2014-through its close, I was the Western Region Director of MCBFA.

I was also actively involved with The International Feline Foundation (TIFF) - a nonprofit foundation (in the U.S.) that promotes, supports and encourages scientific research programs for the benefit of domestic cats through funding grant projects related to feline diseases and health. Since 2005 to early 2017, I was on the TIFF Board serving as the Foundation's Secretary, the Board's liaison to the Awards Review process, and also served as the Foundation's President.

Here's a recap of my TICA involvement:

- ✚ TICA Member for 20 years (since 1997)
- ✚ Approved Allbreed judge
- ✚ Entry Clerking Administrator (from its inception through early 2017)
- ✚ Certified Master Clerk
- ✚ Member, Maine Coon Breed Committee (for 4 terms: 2002-2011 and 2014-2017)
- ✚ Assistant Show Manager/Treasurer, 2004 TICA Annual, Edmonton, AB, Canada
- ✚ Treasurer for the 2009 TICA Annual, Orlando, FL
- ✚ Treasurer/Assistant Show Manager for the 2013 TICA Annual, Bellevue, WA
- ✚ Northwest Region Member of the Year (twice)
- ✚ Member, Special Regional Awards Committee (2002)
- ✚ Currently an active member of the following TICA clubs:
  - The Maine Event (a Maine Coon cat club)
  - The Evergreen Cat Fanciers

I have a Master of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Higher Education.

In my business career, I worked in Higher Education as a Vocational Administrator at Edmonds Community College – working with various industries and professions on their in-house or continuing education ranging from Construction, Fire Command Administration, Real Estate, Energy Management, Bank Teller Training, and Emergency Management. Prior to retiring in June 2016, I worked 10 years for a general contractor as their contract administrator/office manager. It is my plan to retire in 2015 in order to pursue my personal passions in more philanthropic endeavors such as the cat fancy, and continuing education.

I hope this has answered some of your questions about my candidacy to serve on your Maine Coon Breed Committee. I welcome all comments and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Hawksworth-Weitz