

Maine Coon Breed Committee Candidate

Liz Hansen



I am proud to be a current member and candidate in the 2017 TICA Maine Coon Breed Committee election. My educational, professional and life experience blend well with my personal experience in TICA. This combination of advanced teaching experience, corporate vision, and being an involved Cat Fancier and Breeder allows me to be a respected voice for the Maine Coon Breed Section. My love for our chosen specialty breed, the Maine Coon, and the Cat Fancy, as well as the people that share these same passions, powers my belief that I can be an active and positive representative for YOU, the breed section.

My introduction to this amazing breed occurred in 1999 when a professor in graduate school bought a kitten & brought him in one day. I was mesmerized by this stunning kitten and the rest, as they say, is history. In 2001, I adopted his full, younger brother. By this time, I had also attended a few shows with that Professor and realized I would like to show a cat in the spayed/neuter class. Unfortunately, my new baby didn't share the same opinion of showing so he was soon joined by a second Maine Coon companion. After a bit more success, I was hooked on both cat shows and more specifically, Maine Coons. Educating myself about feline husbandry and Maine Coons, showing my cats and networking within the cat fancy all laid the foundation for my own cattery and Chemicoons was born. The name Chemicoons is a merger of the words "chemical" and "Maine Coon" which represents my two passions...my vocation as Chemistry professor and my hobby as Maine Coon enthusiast

I am an active participant on the Maine Coon Breed Committee, served a term as the elected Vice-President of the Maine Coon Breeders & Fanciers Association (MCBFA), involved in Feline Health Research and The International Cat Association, all with an eye on my main goal...to breed these wonderful cats to produce beautiful, healthy and sweet "gentle giants" for my own home-based breeding program, but also in hopes of providing wonderful companions for other cat lovers as well.

During the past 13 years, I actively served TICA in various roles from show manager to Great Lakes Regional Director (currently). I am proud of my work as the TICA Mentor Program organizer and originator (alongside Vice President Bobbie Tullo). Without new exhibitors, and breeders, our breed would not thrive and we would not have the Cat Shows to attend. Most recently, I've been attending various veterinarian conferences where I work with TICA to promote not only TICA and cats, but our beloved Maine Coons as well.

As an exhibitor, I am a regular at all of my regional shows contributing not only by attendance and entries but also as a clerk, master clerk, entry clerk, mentor, raffle supporter as well as pitching in wherever is needed. I travel to shows outside of my region too, meeting and forming friendships with Maine Coon breeders and fanciers across the world.

The Committee

I believe that first and foremost, the committee's job is to represent the members of the section and to keep members current on all issues relating to the breed and TICA.

I believe the committee chair's job is to act as a facilitator of discussion & be active through dissemination of information. I'd like to see the chair facilitate the organization and publishing of an updated breed seminar and handouts, establish a website with information pertaining to important health topics, peer-reviewed journal articles, grooming, and the history of the breed.

Each committee member should be active not only in the show halls, but as a breeder/exhibitor and within the breed. They should be available to all of the members and prospective members at shows and via email and phone.

The committee should be working together to promote the breed by encouraging new members, hosting breed seminars at shows, compiling a breed booth for use at multiple shows, active in fundraising & educating towards MC research and rescue, etc.

I've also recently spearheaded an "Exhibitors Choice" event at the 2017 TICA Annual. I found this to be a starting point for encouraging comradery and communication between us. I am working with the other breed committee members to organize a Maine CoonVention event. Our long-term goal is to establish an annual event/show where exhibitors and breeders come together to not only showcase their beloved cats, but further their knowledge about current research and health-related topics, feline husbandry and showmanship.

I hope to serve you again over the next three years and to work with a more active group of both section and committee members to better our beloved breed. I look forward to implementing YOUR ideas and those of the other elected breed committee members.

I'd be happy to answer any further questions members have. I also encourage you to review my goals & breeding program can be viewed here: www.chemicoons.com