

## **Sharon Otten Bout running for the Maine Coon Breed Committee for 2017**

Hello, I would like to introduce myself: I am Sharon Otten Boulton of TLC Polycoons Maine Coon Cattery in Holland. Born and raised in America, I moved to Holland when I was 25 years old, where I now live for 28 years. I've been lucky to always have Maine Coons. Growing up as a girl in Pennsylvania, we had Maine Coon Polydactyl cats. My Mom's motto was raise them with "tender loving care". I believe it to this day and practice tender loving care in my cattery and in life.

In 2003 I started showing and breeding Maine Coons in Felikat, a FIFe club. I became a member of TICA and Cats and Tulips in Holland in 2008. For a period I was also a member of Felikat's Breed and Advice Committee, where I was responsible for mentoring new breeders amongst other tasks. It has been great joy to show my cats and be a spectator at many different shows. I've been to TICA shows in Belgium, Germany, France, Holland, and the Annual in Austria, as well as an Annual in Syracuse, N.Y. in 2005. Over the years I have supported TICA, and especially Cats and Tulips shows with my time and energy, by for example the creation of baked goods and helping set up the show hall. I really enjoy our shows, which are friendly, fun, and have many felines of all breeds.

Most of my adult life has been spent working for the Maine Coon breed and seeking to understand it better. I have attended many seminars, such as the Winn Feline Foundation and Felcan, as well as seminars through our Felikat Breed Club (Rasclub Maine Coon). I have participated in numerous breed presentations and written articles for magazines about Maine Coons, and even given a speech at an international cat show explaining the genetics and breeding of MC and MCP cats. What I've learned about Maine Coon cats, I would like to put to use in the Maine Coon Breed Committee.

I have particular interests in health, temperament, genetics, and in breeding to type while still preserving the breed I fell in love with. It's been wonderful to bring people and information together, working with others to spread the word of our beautiful breed. I have proven to be a team player, making sure the goals we've set were met. An example is the creation of the current MCP Breed standard. I worked with Cari Tucker and others plus used suggestions from my regional director to aid in writing the MCP standard as accepted today. This project took a lot of time, organization, and we met all the necessary deadlines.

My goals for the Maine Coon Breed Committee are several different things. I would like to see more education, examples are, more breed seminars and breed presentations. I would like to work with the committee doing things like the revision of the standard to protect the basics. I feel it's important that we prevent overdeveloping our cats into extremes of type. I would also listen to suggestions from the breed section and work together with the rest of the breed committee to make these suggestions happen. I would be very happy to put my talents towards getting the job done, to work for you and for the Maine Coon Breed.

Sincerely, Sharon Otten Boulton