



**Hi, I'm Cari Tucker, and I'm running for the Maine Coon / Maine Coon Polydactyl Breed Committee.**

I'm not going to write a long essay on what I plan to do for our Breed-- if my first term on the Committee taught me anything, it's that working IN a Breed Committee is like herding cats. When the cats are volunteers, so much the harder!

To me, the significant accomplishment of the last three years has been moving forward on plans for the Maine CoonVention, a Maine Coon breed specialty show. There is so much MORE I'd like to see our Breed Committee do and be involved in! With a long list of "new blood" running, I have a lot of hope that we will see some fresh perspectives and some new enthusiasm and energy. I would really like to be part of that! But whether re-elected or not, it is my intense hope

that the upcoming Committee will move forward on some of the following goals:

-A review of our Standard with the aim to create a **STRONG MANDATE** countering extremism in the Maine Coon. We've all seen what happens in other breeds when certain attributes are exaggerated to the point of health risk and imbalance. Don't let this happen to us!

-Initiatives to get **NEW PEOPLE** involved--brainstorm systems to make it easier to mentor new Breeders and Fanciers and work on recruiting and welcoming them.

-**MOST OF ALL**, I would like to see **BREED SECTION INVOLVEMENT**. To me, this Committee of seven should be leadership that is itself led by the "voice of the people"-- and a big part of that is getting everyone in the Section on the list, as well as recruiting those breeders who show and register in TICA but have not joined the Section.

A few facts about me personally:

-My breeding program is small but active - cattery name Mishikoonz.

-I have a strong interest in Maine Coon history and evolution, particularly as it spans multiple registries. (I'm the MCO database entry person for PawPeds in Canada and the United States.)

- I show regularly, although I've never "campaigned" a cat and probably never will.

-I test my breeding cats religiously...and like so many others, search endlessly for the perfect match of health, temperament, and appearance.

-In my other-than-cat life, I'm an avid hiker and a (hopefully) soon-to-retire clinical pharmacist with a specialty in pediatric intensive care.