

Greetings from the Netherlands,

My name is Rianna Vande Vusse of Lauda Maine Coons, and I would like to declare my candidacy for the TICA Maine Coon Breed Committee. I have kept Maine Coons since 2010 and been a member of the TICA Maine Coon Breed Group since 2013. I am passionate about the health, welfare and historical beauty of our Maine Coons.

Everyone has a unique way to express passion. One way I do this is by being an insufferable know-it-all. For example, I have spent years researching the development of Maine Coon breed standards--from Dr. Rachel Salisbury's 1956 "Standards for Judging Maine Cats," through the first decades of the MCBFA, to TICA's 2023 Maine Coon Breed Group standard. I can break down and explain the individual changes in the CFA, TICA and FIFé standards over time and tell you what they mean for our breed. I would be happy to devote this knowledge to ensuring that any decisions regarding our TICA Maine Coon Breed Group Standard preserve the health, welfare and historical beauty of our Maine Coons.

I was born and raised in Michigan, studied on three continents, and for the last 25 years I have lived in the Netherlands. I have longstanding working relationships with breeders in FIFé as well as many independent European cat associations. I feel that it is essential to work with the different worldwide cat associations to ensure the health, welfare and historical beauty of our Maine Coons.

Passion, knowledge and international networking are not enough to meet these goals. In my day job as a quality advisor for a large Dutch welfare organization I have developed skills for information analysis, risk management, research, communication, preparation of educational materials (including seminars), presenting and running workshops, and team building. These skills can be put to work as a member of the TICA Maine Coon Breed Committee in order to promote the health, welfare and historical beauty of our Maine Coons.