

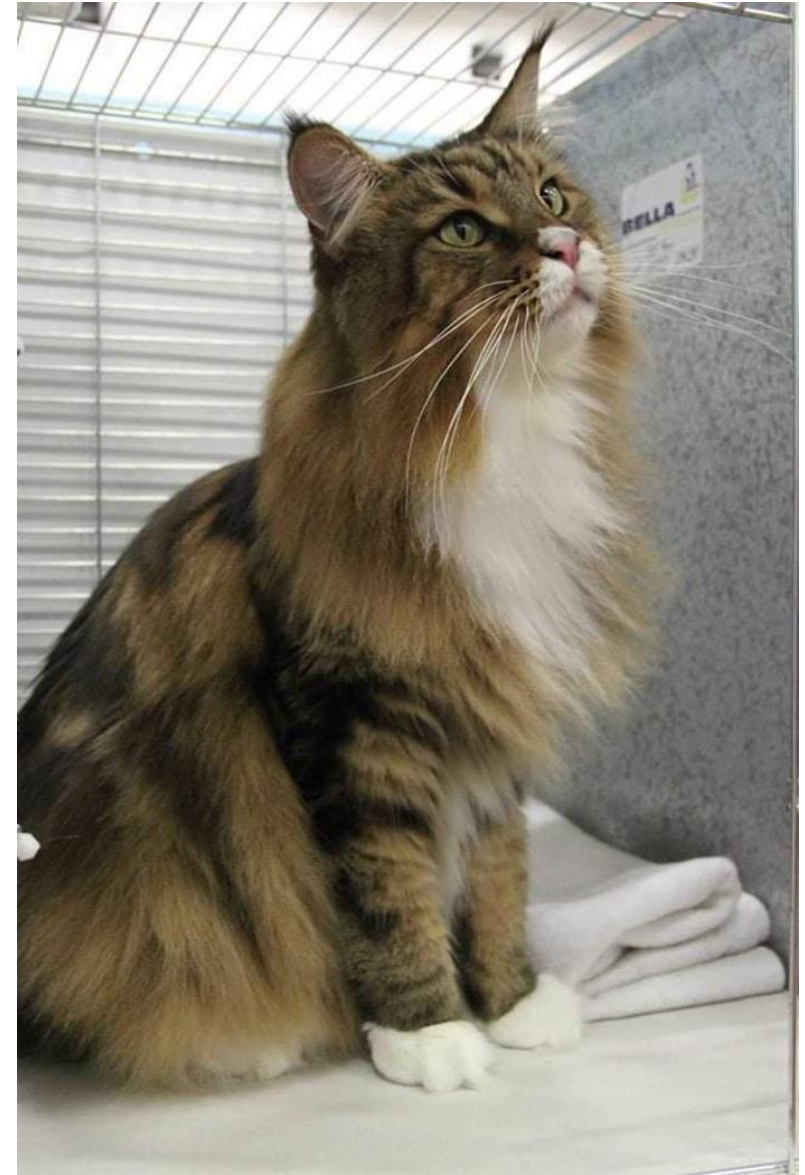
MCBAC Report 2026

March 22, 2026

What is the MCBAC?

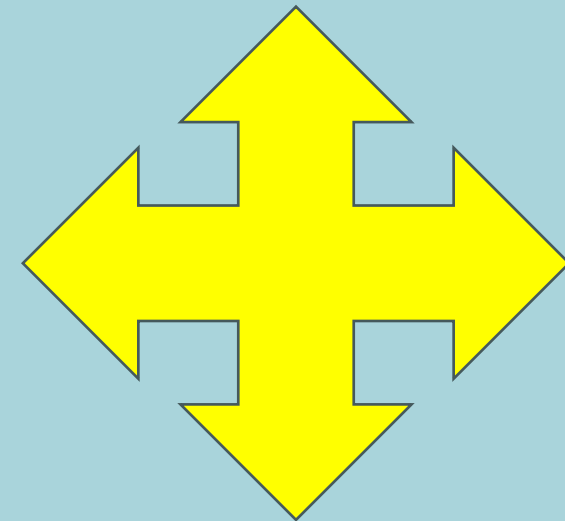
Maine Coon Breed Advisory Committee

Health and protection of the future of
the breed is paramount, above all
else.



What does the BAC Do?

1. Monitors training and performance of the Maine Coon Judges & trainees
2. Standard of Points
3. Registration Policy
4. Breeding Policy



What have we done in the last 12 months?

1. New GCCF Judge training scheme is now fully operational
2. Revised Maine Coon SOP is now being used for judging
3. Revised Registration Policy now allows offspring from two GCCF cleared parents to be active registered without DNA testing. DNA testing solely to clarify colour can be done by the owner.
4. Breeding Policy updated to reflect the registration policy changes

1. Judges Training & Monitoring

- Now using a new scheme to speed up training judges
- Judges train on groups of breeds (ours is Maine Coon & Siberian). We work with the Siberian BAC, holding joint meeting to discuss judges and training - this extra tier is known as the JPG2C committee
- JPG2C responsible for judge promotions. MCBAC has input into this.



1. Judges Training & Monitoring

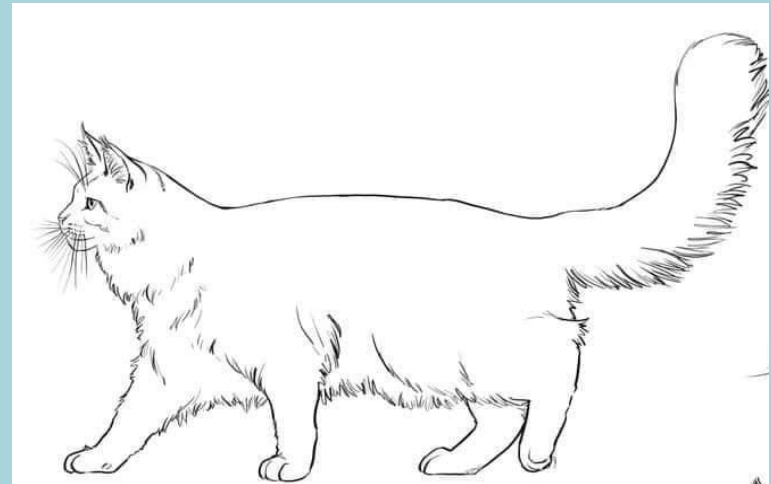
- Currently have 4 2C (Maine Coon & Siberian) pupil judges –
Jen Spence, Craig Dryden,
Sophie Butcher & Wayne Baxter
- Dorothy Stone is currently training on Maine Coons as she is already a full Siberian judge
- Nathan Gilbert has been promoted to full 2C judge



2. Standard of Points

Aims –

- To retain the unique features of the breed and avoid extreme features
- Prevent health issues e.g. entropion and undershot or twisted bites.





2. Standard of Points

1. 2025 AGM - Proposed changes to SOP discussed. This proposal was submitted and approved at the June GCCF Delegates Meeting and is now used for judging.
2. A further small wording amendment was later made to reflect on the fact that kittens can also now gain certificates, so the “or 1st place in kittens” wording was removed as it was not needed.

2. Standard of Points

1. The revised SOP has been given positive feedback from owners, breeders and judges.
2. Thanks to everyone for the input last year at the AGM.

3.Registration & 4. Breeding Policies

- Let's reflect on what we said at the 2025 AGM...



3.Registration & 4. Breeding Policies

- Some organisations based both in the UK and worldwide want to ban certain breeds or even ban pedigree breeding altogether. This is now already happening.
- For future protection, we must do everything we can to prevent bad publicity in any form of media – websites, social media, TV, newspapers etc.
- As part of this, we introduced some DNA testing and also advised having breeding cats' heart scanned and hip scores done.



3.Registration & 4. Breeding Policies

- How can we protect our breed from potential restrictions or banning?
- To keep one step ahead, we must constantly look at the health of the cats being produced
- The Registration Policy – aims to only able to register and breed from cats which are healthy and free from undesirable traits and follow the origins of the Maine Coon in North America, its homeland.
- The Breeding Policy is a road map for breeders to follow, offering guidance and advice for breeders.

3.Registration Policy



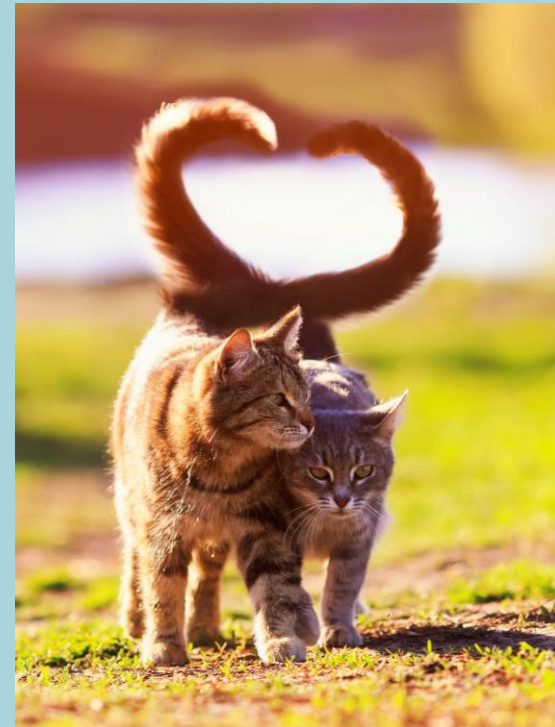
- MCBAC works with the GCCF Genetics Committee on the Registration and Breeding Policy to protect our breed and our breeders
- Our testing/clearing system for HMCmc, PKDef and SMA is now well established.
- Many other breeds also now have mandatory testing to identify unwanted health related genes.

3.Registration Policy Recent Changes

- Cats being registered on the GCCF Active Register no longer need to be tested if both their parents are GCCF registered and both have been verified by GCCF as being clear of HCMmc, PKDef and SMA. All other cats must still be tested and cleared before being placed on the active register.
- If cats are being DNA swabbed purely for colour clarification, this can now be done by the owner, e.g. to determine whether a cat is red tabby or red solid.
- Both these amendments help to reduce costs – vet fees

4. Breeding Policy

- Reflects the registration policy and is written to help breeders in their breeding programmes.
- Latest update in 2025 to reflect the 2025 changes in the Registration Policy.



4. Breeding Policy

- It is currently under review again as we look at issuing further advisory information relating to various subjects including potential Factor XI blood clotting issues.
- We are currently working with GCCF Genetics Committee on this.



GCCF Stats – Total Number of Registrations for 2025

GCCF Total Number of registrations for 2025 = 17464

#1 = British Shorthair (5873)

#2 = Ragdoll (3061)

#3 = Maine Coon (2324)



13.3% of all GCCF registrations are Maine Coons

GCCF Stats

Maine Coons added to GCCF Active Register:

2024 - 349 Active

2025 - 362 Active



Whilst general registrations are down, the number of Maine Coons being registered for breeding remains stable, despite the new testing regime

DNA Testing – Latest Statistics

- Since the DNA testing started, we have seen a decrease in the number of carrier and positive cats.
- We work closely with Langford, obtaining updated statistics of the total number of Maine Coon cats that have been tested there.
- We know how many were testing negative, carrier or affected so we can monitor what is happening over time.



DNA Testing – Latest Statistics

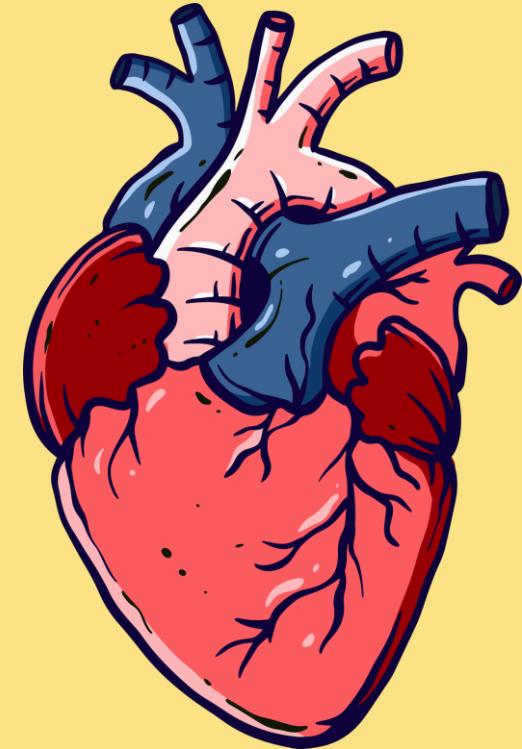
- From September 2025, offspring from GCCF registered parents, where both had been verified as clear for all three genes, no longer needed testing prior to being placed on the active register.
- This means that not all cats would now need to be tested and consequently the test result statistics for carriers may be artificially high.
- This information is Langford only, not from the other testing organisations that people may choose to use.



HCMmc, PKDef and SMA Maine Coon Test Results from 2020 - Feb 2026										
	Tested	Normal	%	Carrier	%	Affected	%		Total carrier or affected	Total Clear
From 2020 until March 2024 (4 years)										
HCM	2285	2005	87.7%	272	11.9%	8	0.4%		12.3%	87.7%
PKDef	2276	1772	77.9%	489	21.5%	15	0.7%		22.1%	77.9%
SMA	1895	1876	99.0%	19	1.0%	0	0.0%		1.0%	99.0%
Mar24 - Feb25 (approx 12 months)										
HCM	538	491	91.3%	46	8.6%	1	0.2%		8.7%	91.3%
PKDef	516	433	83.9%	81	15.7%	2	0.4%		16.1%	83.9%
SMA	443	442	99.8%	1	0.2%	0	0.2%		0.5%	99.8%
Mar25 - Feb26 (approx. 6 months mandatory testing & 5 months tests not required for cleared parents)										
HCM	578	535	92.6%	43	7.4%	0	0%		7.4%	92.6%
PKDef	598	500	83.6%	98	16.4%	0	0%		16.4%	83.6%
SMA	508	506	99.6%	2	0.4%	0	0%		0.4%	99.6%

HCMmc (MYBPC3 gene) Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- HCMmc – this is the one HCM gene that has been identified and able to be tested for using DNA testing.
- We know that there are other HCM genes for which there is no test yet. Because of this we recommend all breeders to have their cat's hearts scanned regularly and for this to continue after breeding as some forms of HCM do not actually become apparent until the cat is older.

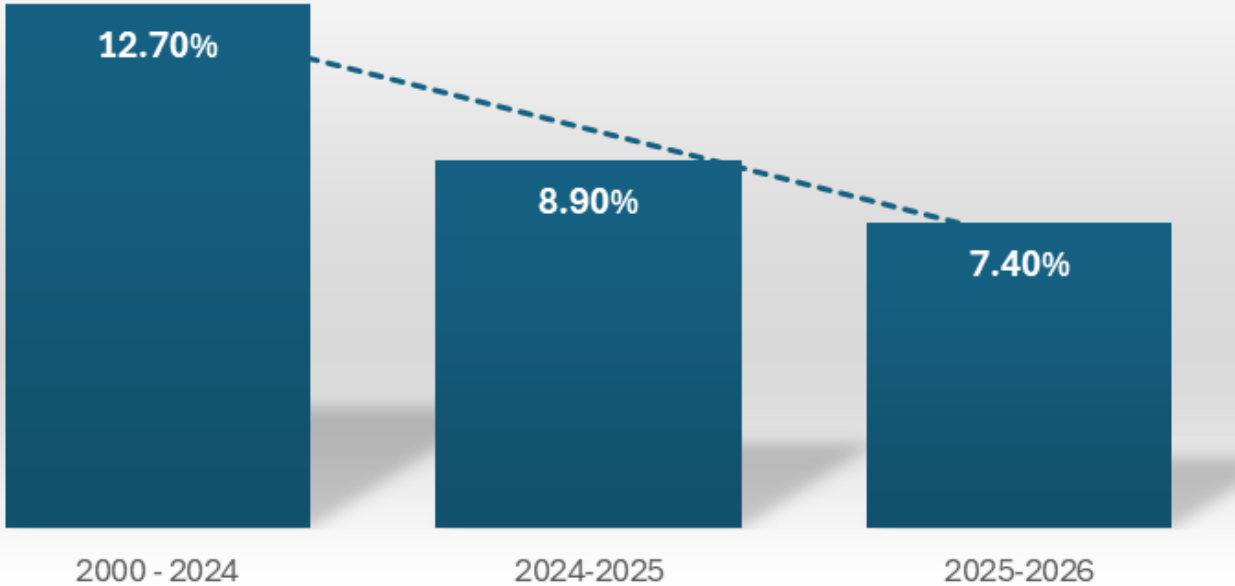


HCMmc (MYBPC3 gene) Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- Before testing started, it was estimated that about 30% of Maine Coons were affected by HCM – although this could have been any form of HCM, not just HCMmc.
- Good news – the decrease in the number of cats testing either as positive or as a carrier of HCMmc continues. Currently, 92.6% of cats being tested were clear of HCMmc.
- Even better news – Langford Results - NO AFFECTED CATS since March 2025

HCMmc (MYBPC3 gene) Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

HCMmc Affected or Carrier 2000 - 2026

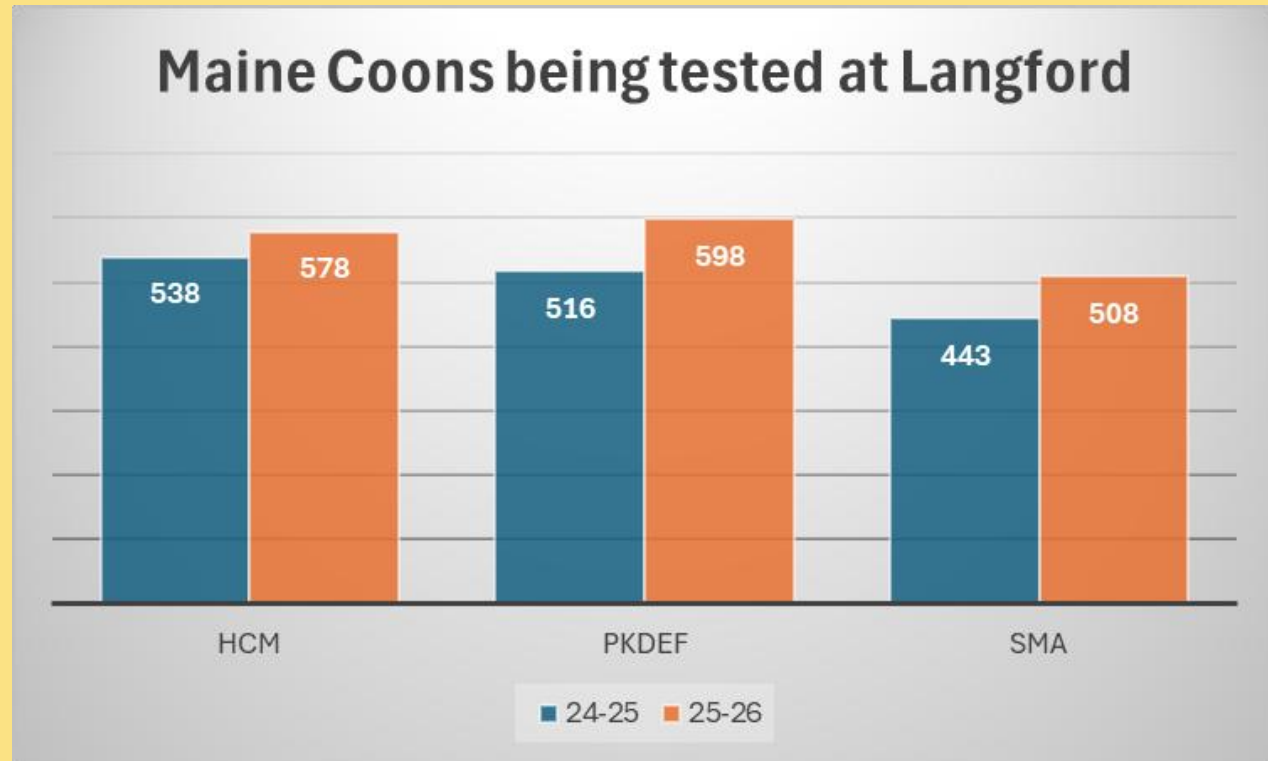


PKDef (Pyruvate kinase deficiency)

- Has also decreased from 22% to 16% since mandatory testing starting in 2024
- This year, more cats were tested for PKDef than either HCMmc or SMA. This may be due to breeders testing kittens for this gene first, from a known carrier parent, to see if it is clear, before spending money on the other tests when they know parents are negative. This can produce an artificial high carrier result for statistics and needs to be taken into consideration when assessing results.
- 16.4% tested in the last 12 months were carriers. No affected cats.

PKDef (Pyruvate kinase deficiency)

- 2025 -16.4% carrier
- 0 affected cats
- Increase in testing for this gene in 2025-2026 compared to HCMmc & SMA.



SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy)

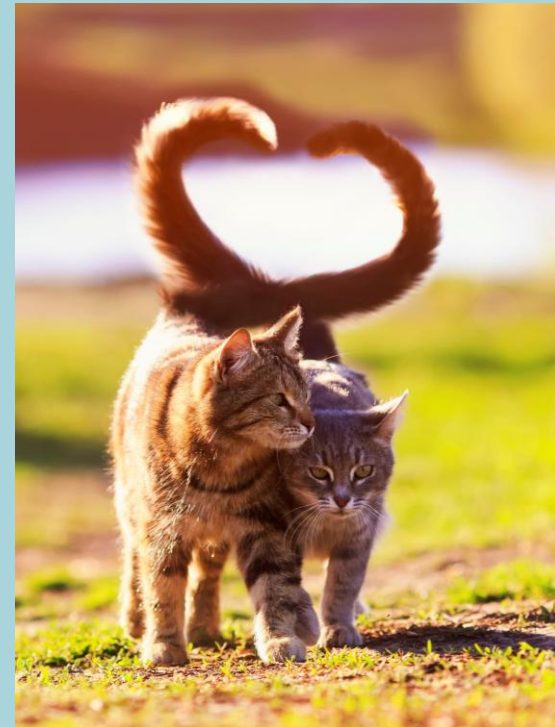
- SMA has extremely low occurrence but still 2 tested as carrier in the last 12 months. We don't know if they were from GCCF registered parents though.
- Had we not requested testing, this could have started to increase in numbers without anyone knowing and before too long we could have seen lots of cats who were either carriers or positive.
- Future testing is needed as we still have many cats in the system who were registered before any testing was mandatory and their DNA status may not yet be known.

Where are we now? – Looking Positive

- Langford Test Results indicate that incidence of carrier cats is decreasing.
- No cat has tested positive (affected) in the last 12 months.
- Carrier cats which were registered before 1st June 2024 can still be used in breeding programmes, mating with clear cats to try to produce a clear offspring to continue the lines, there is no cut off date for them. The increase in testing for PKDef indicates that breeders are possibly testing for this gene first since one of the parents is a known carrier and they want to produce a clear kitten to keep the pedigree line.

Good News to Finish...

- GCCF can now include a cat's hip score results and/or heart scan results in the cat's own GCCF records.
- If you would like your cat's hip score or ECG results added to its record, please send the information to GCCF and they will add it for you.



Thank You

We would like to say a special thank you to Sally Tokens (MCBAC and JPG2C Chairman) and Anne Jones (MCBAC and JPG2C Secretary) for all the time they give to us and our breed.

