PROPOSED GCCF REGISTRATION POLICY FOR MAINE COON CATS - MARCH 2025

SECTION 1: THE REGISTER

A: Outcrosses are not permitted between Maine Coons and any other variety of pedigree or non-pedigree cat (with the exception of 3d. below). Breeders are advised to research pedigrees very carefully before importing cats since some registering bodies may accept colours and patterns which are unacceptable in GCCF pedigrees. Blue or odd eyes are only allowed in white cats (MCO w 61 or MCO w 63). Blue or odd eyes are not allowed in any other colour or pattern.

B: The acceptable colours and patterns of Maine Coon for registration on the Full or Supplementary Register are: Solid (Self), Smoke, Classic/Mackerel Tabby, Shaded, Bicolour and Particolour in Black, Blue, Red, Cream, Tortie and Blue Tortie, including "& White".

C: The following patterns are not recognised for showing but are acceptable in the pedigrees of Maine Coon cats:
Spotted Tabbies, Ticked Tabbies and Van patterned bi- and tricolours in Black, Blue, Red, Cream, Tortie and Blue Tortie. This does not indicate any future intention to recognise these patterns for showing.

1 FULL REGISTER

Maine Coons with full recognition which have in their pedigrees within the preceding five generations only Maine Coons as listed in B above shall be registered on the Full Register.

2 SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER

Maine Coons with full recognition which have in their pedigrees within the preceding four generations only Maine Coons as listed in B and C above shall be registered on the Supplementary Register.

3 REFERENCE REGISTER

a. Maine Coons listed in C above which have in their pedigrees within the preceding four generations only Maine Coons as listed in B and C above must be registered on the Reference Register as Maine Coons.
b. All cats of Maine Coon appearance, which have in their pedigrees within the preceding four generations any breed other than Maine Coons as listed in B or C above must be registered on the Reference Register as the appropriate colour of Semi-Longhair with no reference to Maine Coon type. The offspring of matings between Maine Coons and any other pedigree or non-pedigree cat must be registered on the Reference Register as the appropriate colour of Semi-Longhair or Shorthair, with no reference to Maine Coon type and with no progression as Maine Coons
c. Any Chocolate, Lilac, and Colour-pointed offspring produced by Maine Coons cats must be registered on the Reference Register as Unclassified Longhair of Maine Coon Type (XLH <MCO>). Neither these nor their progeny will be recognised or registered as Maine Coon cats , and they are not acceptable in the pedigrees of Maine Coon cats.
d. Unregistered cats and/or foundation register Maine Coons are permitted within the four generation pedigrees of Maine Coons. The area of origin of any unregistered/foundation cats must be the states of the North Eastern USA.
e. No other cats will be registered as Maine Coons. No outcrosses are allowed and there are no variants.

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NOTE 1: WHITE CATS
Breeders of Solid White Maine Coon cats must comply with GCCF Rules, Section 1, Rule1g which states as follows:

"Before any progeny may be registered from any breed of white cat, male or female, this cat must have had a BAER or OAE certificate of freedom from unilateral or bilateral deafness submitted to the GCCF Office. White cats without such certification will be registered on the non-active register until such time as the required certificate is sent and an application for transfer to the active register is made. Cats must be microchipped when tested with the number recorded on the test result and the cat's own veterinary records. (Added 24.02.2016, Effective 01.06.2016)"

N OTE 2: POLYDACTYL CATS

Polydactyly in Maine Coon cats is inherited as an autosomal dominant trait with incomplete penetrance and variable expressivity. Polydactyl cats are registered by some registration organisations and can be shown with the EMS Code MCP (TICA), Polydactyl cats are not allowed to be registered in GCCF, but to allow for polydactyly in the pedigree, all imported cats will require DNA testing as the variable level of expression could lead to polydactyl cats being inadvertently registered. All negative imported cats will therefore have the GEMS code MCO in the pedigree instead of MCP

NOTE 3: RED SERIES

All Red, Cream Maine Coons with one or more Tabby or Shaded parent(s) must be registered as Red, Cream Tabbies or Shadeds until proven otherwise by genetic testing (proof to be supplied with registration documentation). No cat may be registered as a Tabby or Shaded unless it has an agouti parent. (See DNA Testing for Colour Clarification, e.g. Red or Cream Solid/Tabby Confirmation section below).

SECTION 2: DNA TESTING – See Appendix 1 & 2 for more information

FOR PROGENY FROM PARENTS WHERE BOTH PARENTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED ON THE GCCF ACTIVE OR GENETIC REGISTER:

Historically, all Maine Coon cats registered on the active or genetic register from 1st January 2024 MUST be tested for the one known Maine Coon HCM gene (i.e., HCMmc: the A31P mutation in the MYBPC3 gene), SMA, and PK-Def using the DNA testing procedure for these genes, as listed below. This enabled the DNA results and microchip number to be linked to the cat's registration details.

From 1st July 2025, the following rules apply:

a) DNA testing is not required for cats/kittens being registered on the Non-Active Register (no change).

b) DNA testing is not required for cats/kittens being registered on the Active (Breeding) Register, provided the following criteria have both been met:
   (i) Both parents were either DNA tested or retested after 31/12/23

   AND

   (ii) Both parents are DNA negative tested for HCMmc, PKDef and SMA

c) DNA testing must be carried out on the kitten/cat prior to its registration if:
   (i) One or both parents were not DNA tested or retested after 31/12/23

   OR

   (ii) One of the parents was registered between1st January and 31st May 2024 and is Heterozygous (carrier) for any of the following genes - HCM (MYBPC3), Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) & Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PK-Def).

   (iii) Future Generations (Pedigree Lines) of kittens from cats fulfilling criteria b)(i) and b)(ii) above:

Cats fulfilling b(i) and b)(ii) cats are now recorded as 'normal' (confirmed clear or negative for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA and PK-Def).
Once cats have fulfilled criteria b)(i) and b)(ii), provided they are mated with another clear (normal) cat, the kittens will all be 'normal' (clear/negative).

After the initial active registrations of the kittens born to parents with validated negative DNA results for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA and PK-Def, they would then clear their progeny and future descendants. No further DNA testing is required for future generations (descendants) of kittens from cleared lines.

Kittens and their future descendants of matings between 'normal' (clear or negative) cats fulfilling b(i) and b)(ii) will not require DNA testing for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA and PK-Def before being placed on the active register.

They (kittens to be registered) are from parents deemed normal because of the results from the testing of cats on every pedigree line in previous generations. Pedigree line in this case refers to both parents or 4 grandparents, 8 great grandparents, 16 great-great-grandparents and so on, or any combination of the same which is inclusive of both the sire's and dam's ancestors. This applies when the ancestors are recorded on the GCCF computer. (For more information, see Appendix 2).

Imports onto the register must comply with (other testing scheme requirements – see section **'For All Imports'** below).

DNA Testing for Colour Clarification, e,g, Red or Cream Solid/Tabby Confirmation

Provided the DNA test is only for confirmation of colour, e.g red or cream solid/tabby pattern, the swab may be taken by the owner or breeder. This is for kittens being registered either on the active or non-active register, to enable the correct colour/pattern to be registered. If any other DNA testing is required (e.g. HCMmc, SMA, PKDef, polydactyly, Chocolate, cinnamon and Siamese (cs) and Burmese (cb)}, this must be undertaken by a vet/RVN qualified veterinary nurse using the routine method below.

DNA Testing for HCM (MYBPC3), Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) & Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PK-Def) (applicable to cats/kittens in c)(i) or (ii) above):

The only method of testing that will be accepted is as follows; the cat is microchipped; a swab is taken by a vet or RVN registered vet nurse and the veterinary health certificate must state that the microchip number was verified by the vet or RVN registered vet nurse, and it must match the cat's veterinary records and vaccination card. The certificate must also include the veterinary practice's official stamp. The veterinary health certificate (DNA Test Results certificate) must show clearly the purpose of the genetic test.

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PROPOSED GCCF REGISTRATION POLICY FOR MAINE COON CATS - MARCH 2025

Please note cats that are on the Genetic Register can still be shown and bred from. There will be no exceptions to this testing method for any breeding Maine Coon being registered from the effective date.

1. Active Register

a) All cats testing normal (clear) of the known Maine Coon HCM (MYBPC3) gene, SMA and PK-def
b) Offspring from parents where both parents were tested or retested after 31/12/23 and both are DNA negative tested for HCMmc, PKDef and SMA.

2. Genetic Register

a) All cats testing positive heterozygous or positive homozygous for the known Maine Coon HCM (MYBPC3) gene, SMA and PK-def.

Note:
Homozygous cats born after 31st December 2023 are no longer eligible for Active registration.
Heterozygous cats born after 31st May 2024 are no longer eligible for Active registration

FOR All IMPORTS (Overseas and from other recognised registering bodies in the UK)
A 5-generation certified pedigree must be provided with the application for registration of any imported Maine Coon. The pedigree of an imported Maine Coon must conform to the GCCF registration policy, and no exceptions are made in the breeds permitted to be present in the pedigree. Blue or odd eyes are only allowed in white cats (MCO w 61 or MCO w 63). Blue or odd eyes are not allowed in any other colour or pattern.

a) Unneutered Cats:
Any application for the registration of an imported unneutered Maine Coon must be accompanied by DNA test results (carried out as above) demonstrating that the imported cat is free from the following:
HCMmc
Spinal Muscular Atrophy
Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency
Polydactyly
Chocolate, cinnamon and Siamese (cs) and Burmese (cb)

b) Neutered Cats

DNA testing is not required for neutered cats provided they have complied with GCCF Rules, Section 1.8d Notes 1 & 2. The cat must not exhibit any of the following traits:
Polydactyly. Chocolate, Cinnamon, Siamese (cs) or Burmese (cb) colouration.

To help people when looking to register cats or kittens, two appendices have been included:

Appendix 1 - a flow chart has been designed as a quick guide to requirements from 1st July 2025.
Appendix 2 - a table of DNA test requirements for matings between cats of various DNA test status e.g. Normal (negative for HCMmc, PKDef and SMA) cats, heterozygous cats or cats with unverified tests (those tests done before 1st January 2025 and consequently not validated at GCCF), including future generations.
Note: Validated tests means that they have been conducted in accordance with DNA Testing for HCM (MYBPC3), Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) & Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PK-Def), listed above and were taken after 31/12/2023 and therefore verified.

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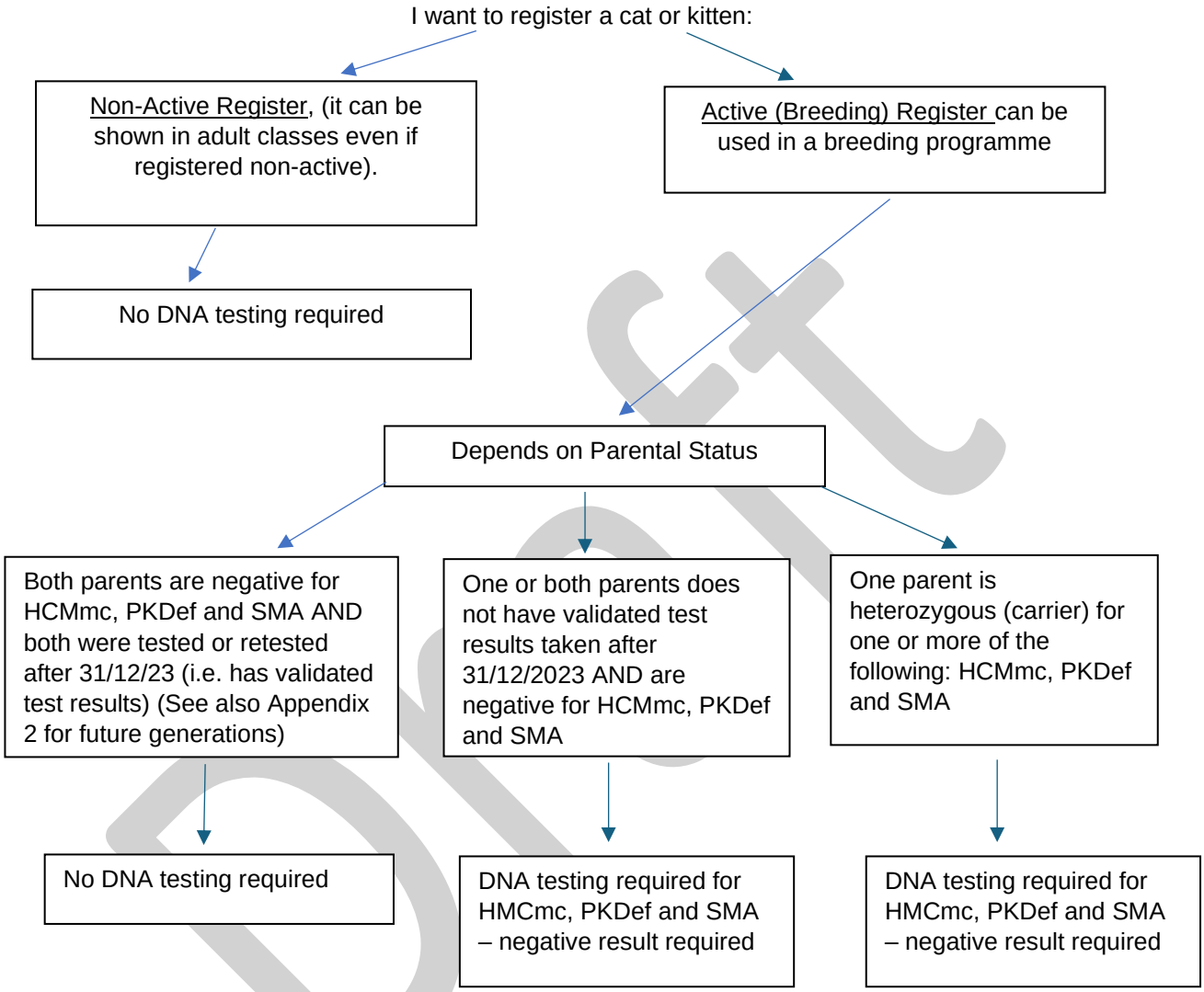
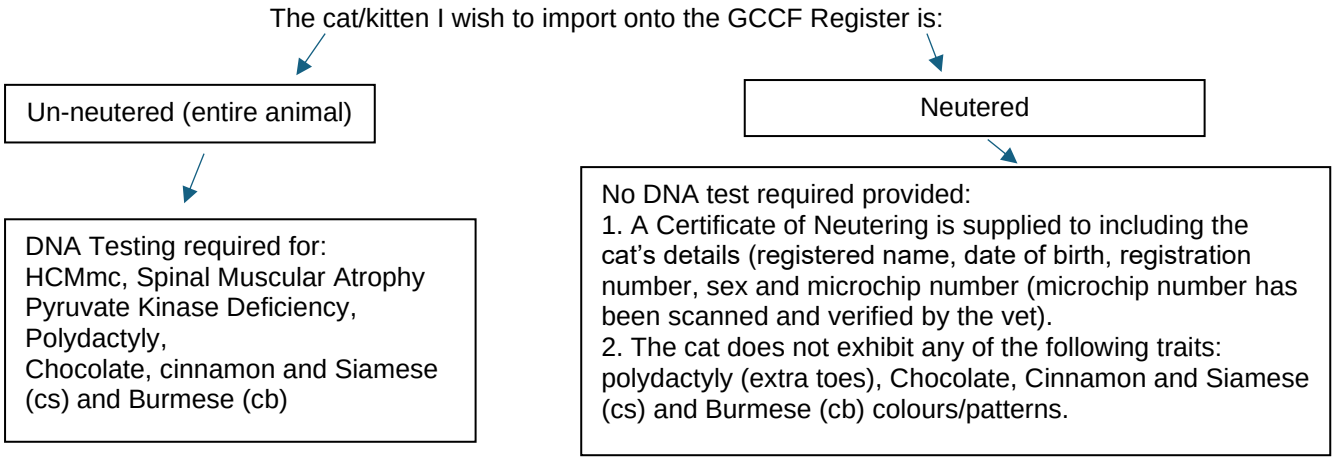
Appendix 1 - DNA Testing Requirements for Registering Maine Coon Cats or Kittens with GCCF from 1st July 2025

a) Registering cats/kittens where both parents are already registered on the GCCF Active (Breeding) Register:



b) Imports from other registering bodies, both in the UK and Overseas and registering cats/kittens where only one parent is GCCF Active Registered.



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Appendix 2 - Does My Kitten Need a Validated DNA Test for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA and PK-Def?

No test is required for kittens being registered on the Non-Active Register.

For kittens to be registered active (breeding register) the following applies for kittens and their descendants being registered after 30th June 2025:

Note: In this table, 'Normal' means negative for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA and PK-Def validated tests (i.e. verified by a Vet/VN)

Father	Mother	Is a DNA test required?
Was tested or retested after 31st December 2023 and has DNA Validated Negative test results. Normal (clear/negative)	Was tested or retested after 31st December 2023 and has DNA Validated Negative test results. Normal (clear/negative)	No
DNA Classification: Normal	DNA Classification: Normal	
Was tested or retested after 31st December 2023 and has DNA Validated Negative test results.	Was not tested or retested after 31/12/2023 and has unvalidated DNA test results	Yes
DNA Classification: Normal	DNA test not validated using standard vet/VN swabbing procedure	
Was not tested or retested after 31/12/2023 and has unvalidated DNA test results	Was tested or retested after 31st December 2023 and has DNA Validated Negative test results.	Yes
DNA test not validated using standard vet/VN swabbing procedure	DNA Classification: Normal	
DNA Classification: Normal	DNA Classification: Heterozygous (carrier for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA or PK-Def)	Yes
DNA Classification: Heterozygous (carrier for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA or PK-Def)	DNA Classification: Normal	Yes
Registered active after 30th June 2025 - recorded as Normal (clear/negative) due to both parents having validated negative DNA tests	Registered active after 30th June 2025 – recorded as Normal (clear/negative) due to both parents having validated negative DNA tests	No
DNA Classification: Normal	DNA Classification: Normal	
DNA Classification: Normal (cleared either by validated DNA testing or both parents already registered as normal)	DNA Classification: Normal (cleared either by validated DNA testing or both parents already registered as normal)	No

DNA Classification: Normal (cleared either by validated DNA testing or both parents already registered as normal)	DNA Classification: Unverified (DNA test not validated) or Heterozygous (carrier for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA or PK-Def)	Yes
DNA Classification: Unverified (DNA test not validated) or Heterozygous (carrier for HCM(MYBPC3), SMA or PK-Def)	DNA Classification: Normal (cleared either by validated DNA testing or both parents already registered as normal)	Yes

5th March 2025

RATIONALE FOR CHANGES TO THE MAINE COON REGISTRATION POLICY

Background:

From 1st January 2024, all Maine Coons had to undergo mandatory validated (i.e. swabbing and microchip checking carried out by a vet/VN) DNA testing for HCMmc, PKDef and SMA genes, before being placed on the GCCF Active Register. From 1st June 2024, only Maine Coons which were homozygous negative for all three genes, with validated results, were eligible for future active registration. DNA test results with microchip number are directly linked to the cat being registered and recorded at GCCF Office.

Breeders have worked hard to reduce the incidence of carrier/affected cats and this is reflected in the increasing number of cats now testing negative for all three genes, according to statistical data received from Langford.

The Next Steps – Maine Coon Registration Policy Revision:

1. Since cats which are negative for all the above listed genes (identified as normal), cannot pass those genes onto their offspring, we would like to submit a revised Registration Policy to reflect this fact.
   The revised policy will allow breeders to register offspring and future generations from cats already on the active register, provided both parents have been classified as clear (normal) for HCMmc, PKDef and SMA, either by mandatory DNA testing (carried out in accordance with the Maine Coon Registration Policy) or because they are the descendants of cleared lines.
   This amendment means that breeders will be able to register offspring from two cleared parents on the active register without the additional expense of mandatory DNA testing and will therefore encourage breeders to continue to register future generations of Maine Coons with GCCF.

Mandatory DNA gene testing will still continue for any offspring from GCCF registered Maine Coons which have not been classified as clear.

There is no change to the testing requirements for cats being imported into the GCCF Register.

2. Red or cream Maine Coons with one or more tabby/shaded parent can currently only be registered as a self (solid) red/cream if proven by genetic testing. It was evident that some breeders had previously registered kittens as tabbies, even though they knew that the kitten was visually a solid, particularly where the kitten was being sold for pet or show neuter, because of the extra associated veterinary costs.
   This revision allowed breeders or owners to be able to swab and submit the DNA swab test themselves, rather than paying for a vet/VN to do the swabbing procedure, provided that the test is only for clarification of colour.
   This will encourage breeders to DNA test for clarification of colour, to enable the correct colour to be registered, for non-active as well as active registrations.

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