

Lions Gait Cattery

Maine Coon Cats

FAQ on the process of receiving your coonlet (2025)

Lions Gait Cattery is a small cattery on BC's coast near Vancouver. This is a hobby cattery and is registered with The International Cat Association (TICA). We regularly enjoy showing our cats in TICA.

We view our hobby seriously and always hold the best interest of our breeding animals at heart. We believe in a Gold Standard of health testing for our breeding cats to give kittens the best chances at a healthy life. This includes all our breeding pairs have had heart echocardiograms performed by board certified veterinary cardiologists, hip x-rays submitted to and graded by OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals), and DNA testing. Our kittens are raised safely indoors in our home with hours of dedication to raising and socializing kittens. Any small amount of profit made goes towards bettering the lives of our cats, both through their premium foods, environment and health testing.

We have a contract which helps to ensure the peace of mind of both parties, while also promoting the ongoing health and longevity of the kittens.

After you have returned your questionnaire and we have reviewed it for suitability, we may place you on a kitten waitlist in 2025. We try to provide the kitten sex and colour you are seeking, but this is never guaranteed. If you want to wait for your exact kitten choice, the wait could be longer. Our Queens only have one litter per year, and we are a small cattery. If you have told us that you will

consider the opposite sex kitten (or another colour) your name may come up sooner! It is also sometimes possible to purchase a young adult cat that may be retiring from breeding or showing.

Thus begins the wait for your Maine Coon family member, which with any reputable breeder, can take months to year(s). When a Queen is pregnant, and your name has come up on the waitlist, we will keep you informed. We are quite busy acting as midwives around the kittens birth and delivery and you will be notified soon after the kittens are born. Please note that during the first 2 weeks after their birth, the coonlets are vulnerable. We post pictures minimally, respecting the mother and infant bonding. We are quite busy doing twice daily weights and observations. When kittens are around a month of age, we begin litterbox training, introducing solid food, and the process of selecting your kitten. We will most likely need to discuss flexibility around kitten choice. We watch for the development of each baby's 'purrsonality' to find the best placement.

To reserve your kitten, we ask for a deposit of \$500.00. (The deposit is non-refundable if you change your mind, but is transferrable to another litter) The coonlets will have their first veterinary visit at 8 weeks of age, when they are assessed, vaccinated and receive a deworming treatment(preventative). We start the kittens medical passport book; which you will receive with your baby.

At 12 weeks, the kittens have their second set of vaccinations, dewormer, and health assessment, and are microchipped. After a wait of a few days to a week (to allow the vaccinations to provide immunity) and to watch for vaccine

reactions, the kittens are ready for their forever families! The remaining payment is requested 48 hours prior to kitten delivery or pickup, to be sure any e-transfers have time for proper processing. You will be responsible for the final set of vaccinations around 4 months of age if you and your veterinarian decide this is wanted.

We do not normally ship our kittens, instead traveling up to 4 hours by car (at no extra charge) to welcome the kitten to their family. We will have a contract ready for signatures and hard copies for the family and our records. We prefer to meet the new owners for the handover if possible. Alternatively, you may pick them up at our cattery. Longer trips of over 4 hours or including ferry travel costs can be negotiated. Many people traveling a distance choose to overnight in a hotel, and we can meet there for the transfer of your kitten. Please bring a hard-shelled carrier, which is required for the transfer and safety of the kitten, if picking up your kitten. We will bring you a blanket with the birth home and mother's scent to help your kitten transition.

We also recommend the purchase of Feliway spray for your carrier, and even use the diffuser plug-ins in our homes on a regular basis. Our vets have given advice that Feliway products containing pheromone help to bring harmony to the home, especially where there are multiple cats.

If traveling to pick up your kitten please have a small cooler, flat plate and water dish with you. When traveling, a lot of people also purchase an inexpensive disposable litter box in case of emergency overnight stops on the road. Believe me, I have been surprised by road closures, winter or summer, necessitating unplanned overnights along the road!

We start our kittens on wet and hard food. We can provide enough food for a short transition period into whatever you decide to feed.

As written within our contract and to validate it, within 72 hours of receiving your kitten, you must take your kitten to a vet to verify health status. We suggest you book this appointment several weeks in advance, as many vet clinics get backlogged.

You will also need to book an appointment for your kitten to have the final kitten appointment for vaccinations, 4 weeks after receiving your baby, at 4 months of age (if your vet recommends this). Please keep in touch regarding your kitten's weight and development. Remember, we have loved and cared for your new baby for many months, have formed an attachment and would like to get updates.

We recommend you purchase an insurance plan for your pet such as Trupanion, We provide a 30 day free trial offer for Trupanion pet insurance. We will email the signup information before you receive your new baby. (No credit card required)

The spaying or neutering of your kitten (before or at maturity) is required, as per the contract. We do not recommend spaying/neutering under the age of 6 months for females and 10 months for males, but do suggest waiting with your male kitten to neuter even later, around one year. Some studies suggest a later neutering to be best in this slow growing and heavy breed cat. We realize every situation is unique and that it is best to consider the recommendation of your vet.

It is worth mentioning that your Maine Coon kitten should continue to have its

nails trimmed once monthly. The kitten should be brushed with a soft brush every few days and a wire slicker type brush as they get bigger, and it is wise to try to make this a positive experience (try a few dehydrated organic liver treats). There are some specific grooming tools that we recommend and can discuss.

You will receive the breeder's certificate for the registration of your cat (with TICA - The International Cat Association) when we get proof of spay/neuter from your veterinarian. If you do not neuter/spay your cat, you have breached the contract. We have fortunately never had to enforce a contract through litigation, as we have built a relationship of trust with our kitten families. (But we will if necessary)

To receive your registration papers, send your breeder certificate to TICA. Please know that the \$20.00 (charged by TICA) will be in US funds. You will be able to pick out a name that follows the prefix 'LionsGait', and there are a certain number of letters allowed (35 including spaces).

We are available for answering questions as you bond with your new Maine Coon. We welcome posts of pictures to us and/or to the Lions Gait Facebook page, where others waitlisted or with kittens enjoy seeing posts. We notice that some families also post on the Maine Coon Canada Facebook page. We appreciate knowing our kittens are doing well, and love to have our families promote the breed, if you so choose.

Please know that we are here for random questions on caring for the incredible Maine Coon cat. Remember that this new family member is still just a baby, and can grow for 4 to 5 years. Many families have chosen to build enclosed catios

and purchase sturdy cat posts. Others start immediately with harness training their cats for safe adventures with their family.

Please start your research now on the requirements for successfully providing an enriched indoor environment for your new family member! There are several websites to visit if you wish to research catios, toys, food or general health of the Maine Coon cat.

Thank you from;

Katie of Lions Gait Maine Coons (Langley, BC, Vancouver area)