**This Code of Ethics is binding on all Breeder Members of the MCIG (SA) and must be concluded annually by the Breeder Member and submitted by the 31st January.**

**1. PROTECTION OF THE BREED**

I agree to protect and preserve the Maine Coon breed by employing responsible practices on personal, social, and business levels. No Maine Coon Cat shall be bred to any cat other than a registered Maine Coon Cat. The Maine Coon Cat shall not be used as an outcross for any other breed.

**2. AIMS**

In breeding Maine Coons, I will emphasize good health, stable temperament and intelligence as well as appearance. I shall breed discriminately and only upon good evidence of finding satisfactory homes for all kittens. I shall emphasize quality, not quantity.

**3. BREEDING**

3.1 I shall plan and implement a breeding program with the preservation and protection of the breed kept foremost in mind. I will offer stud service only to breeders with an established cattery registered in at least one recognized association.

3.2 My breeding stock shall be to the best of my knowledge free from disease or hereditary deformity and shall exhibit no radical departure from the Maine Coon Standard.

3.3 I shall not breed a queen until she is at least one year old unless she has been in season twice; I shall not intentionally breed a female more than twice in twelve months. If a dam has severe birthing difficulties, I shall alter her.

3.4 I shall arrive at a written agreement concerning shipping and boarding charges for female sent to a male, any health tests required, registration of the litter, payment methods for stud service, and options to cover a female's failure to conceive or her reabsorption of kittens, and shall provide a copy of this agreement to the owner of the female before the date of breeding.

3.5 I shall take care that breeding males and females are not accidentally bred. Kittens of unknown lineage or offspring of accidental matings to another breed shall be responsibly placed and altered.

3.6 I shall provide proper care for the safe and healthy delivery of kittens, and shall, whenever possible, be available to assist the queen if necessary, without undue interference with natural parturition. I shall in any event assure that a responsible person is available for the birth. I shall consult a veterinarian at the first sign of life-threatening difficulty.

3.7 I shall have euthanized a kitten born with a deformity that a veterinarian deems incompatible with a healthy or comfortable life. If I suspect genetic defects, I shall consult a veterinarian or geneticist as soon as possible. I shall report all findings to purchasers of kittens from the same breeding stock, and to the owner/breeder of the sire and/or dam.

3.8 I agree to allow stud males seven to ten days between breeding females.

**4. HEALTH**

4.1 I shall maintain a high standard of health and care, including adequate room for exercise, regular handling and grooming, clean and comfortable quarters, adequate ventilation and light, a balanced diet and clean water, regular inoculations and veterinary care, and love and affection.

4.2 I shall not allow a cat to run outdoors, unless my property is secure from other animals. I shall provide any outdoor runs with security from weather, other animals and parasites.

4.3 I shall protect my cat and others by not exhibiting at shows a cat, which is ill or has been in contact within the last 30 days with another cat that has a transmittable disease.

4.4 I shall not declaw cats bred or owned by me. I shall advise any buyers of my opposition to this procedure and my reasons for my decision.

4.5 No cat with a congenital abnormality should be registered, used or sold as a breeding cat. Any breeder selling such a kitten must ensure it is registered as “Not For Breeding” and sold as such.

**5. SALES**

5.1 All kittens sold must be registered with at least one SA registration body.

5.2 I shall conduct sales in a manner designed to promote maintenance of the cat's health and to provide reasonable protection for the buyer.

5.3 I shall not give or sell kittens to an animal shelter, pet store or laboratory, or as a prize in any competition.

5.4 I shall not allow any kitten to leave my cattery before it is at least ten weeks old, though a sales agreement may be finalized prior to that date, and shall not ship any kitten before it is at least ten weeks old (domestic) or at least sixteen weeks internationally or twelve weeks old to SADEC countries.

5.5 I shall continue to be available to all buyers on the proper care of the cat, or kitten. I shall encourage buyers to join the MCIG(SA).

5.6 I shall provide a sales contract with buyer and seller each holding a copy of the agreement. The agreement shall contain a complete description of the cat, including colour, sex, whether it is sold as breeding stock, details of immunization, a guarantee of freedom from external and internal parasites, clear and specific enumeration of the buyer's responsibilities to the breeder, including the procedure and time period for notification of defects and other limitation of guarantee; whether registration papers and pedigrees will be provided at the time of sale or after receipt of proof of alteration (pet quality kitten).

5.7 I shall also specify in the sales contract the course of action to be taken should kitten/cat prove to be sterile, in poor health upon, or shortly after arrival or suspected of a genetic defect.

5.8 The pedigree shall comply with the rules of the appropriate registration body.

5.9 I shall conduct myself in a professional manner in all sales. I shall refuse to buy from or sell to, or to recommend breeders who do not conform to this Code of Ethics.

**6. ADVERTISING**

Advertising, written or oral, shall be factual and not misleading.

**7. SPORTSMANSHIP**

I shall behave at all times in a manner that will reflect credit upon Maine Coon Cat, the MCIG (SA), and me. I agree to abide by the rules and customs that govern each show, whether I am a spectator or an exhibitor. I shall view success as a concern secondary to the health and well being of the cat and to my relationship with others among the cat fancy and MCIG (SA).

**8. AGREEMENTS**

In accordance with MCIG (SA)'s strong recommendations, I shall document in writing all transactions, including contracts for stud services, sales of kittens/cats.

**9. RECORDS**

I shall keep accurate records of all pedigrees and matings and shall register breeding stock with at least one recognized cat association. These records shall be made available, for legitimate reasons, upon request by a delegated Committee member of the MCIG (SA).

**10. AMENDMENTS**

10.1 The MCIG (SA) committee may amend this code.

10.2 New Breeder Members must be proposed by another Breeder Member in good standing, and can then be accepted by Committee as a Breeder Member.

10.3 Breeder Members must submit their contracts at annual submission.

10.4 Fully suspended Breeder Members names may be published in the MCIG (SA) Newsletter.

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| **Signed at** | **On the Day of**  |  **2014** |

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| --- | --- |
| **Name (print)** | **Signature** |
| **Cattery Name** |