Maine Coon Buyer Checklist:
How to Choose a Responsible Breeder

Use this checklist to compare breeders confidently. A responsible breeder welcomes questions, provides proof, and prioritizes the cats' health, temperament, and long-term well-being.

Health Testing & Proof

☐ HCM screening plan explained clearly
☐ Parents have recent echocardiogram results
☐ Genetic testing disclosed (SMA, PKDef)
☐ Hip evaluation performed
☐ Vaccines and deworming schedule provided
☐ Vet records available upon request

Breeding Ethics & Transparency

☐ Written contract provided
☐ Clear health guarantee
☐ Return-to-breeder clause included
☐ Reasonable deposit policy
☐ Questions welcomed without pressure

Kitten Raising Environment

☐ Raised in-home
☐ Socialized with handling and grooming
☐ Clean, healthy environment shown

Going-Home Standards

☐ Kittens go home 12–16 weeks
☐ Litter box trained
☐ Eating independently
☐ Go-home packet provided

Support After Pickup

☐ Ongoing breeder support offered
☐ Nutrition and transition guidance

Red Flags

☐ No contract
☐ No proof of health testing
☐ Kittens under 12 weeks
☐ Pressure to send deposit
☐ Avoids questions

Notes:

Created to support informed, ethical Maine Coon placement.