



To FIFe HWC, on the new HD rules for MCO from 2020

Situation and background information:

FIFe GA voted to introduce obligatory hip radiographs for Maine Coon from 1. Jan 2020. Rules and guidelines need to be set and implemented. At the moment the majority of MCO breeding cats in FIFe are not HD x-rayed.

There are two existing international systems for HD in cats, already in use by several MCO breeders in FIFe.

a) OFA has 3215 MCO evaluated in their registry since 1990, and have ca 90 HD evaluations for MCO every year. Evaluation is done by orthopedic specialist Dr. G. G. Keller for cats age 12-24 months, if the cat is over 24 months age then a panel of three associated orthopedists do the evaluation together.

b) PawPeds has over 4000 MCO evaluated in their health programme since its start in 2000, and usually evaluate ca 300 MCO hips every year. Evaluation is done by orthopedic specialist Dr. Per Eksell. Minimum age is 10 months.

1. Radiography images, doing the x-rays

FIFe and FIFe members should follow the guidelines given by the two current feline HD registries PawPeds and OFA, and the FCI, the international federation for dogs. These three are all very similar and describe how:

a) X-raying can be done by any veterinary with the proper radiography equipment

b) The veterinary must follow the instructions on how to verify ID, how to position the cat correctly, how to fill in the form and how to submit the radiographs and form to the evaluation body

c) If possible the veterinary should attend a course to ensure knowledge of radiograph routines for HD, many veterinary associations offer this to their members

2. Evaluation, interpretation and scoring of the radiographs

The experience over many years of HD screening from OFA, PawPeds and also the FCI kennel clubs show that evaluation and scoring (grading) must be done by a *specialist in orthopedics*. Research studies also emphasize that feline hip dysplasia FHD has different expression than canine hip dysplasia CHD, so the specialist needs to have knowledge of how HD is expressed in cats.

We ask FIFe and the FIFe members to accept evaluations by both international HD registries: OFA and PawPeds. They have different grading systems, but both distinguish well between normal hips and dysplastic hips. Both have many years' experience in evaluation of feline hip dysplasia.

OFA's representative reports on request:

«Based on the number of board certified radiologists in our consulting pool, we can handle any additional volume.» Eddie Dziuk, OFA Chief Operating Officer.

PawPeds also has the capacity for a higher number of evaluations than the current 300 pr year.



3. Transition period 2020-2025 with exceptions – Timeline suggestion

a) The first five years should be registration only, with no breeding restrictions. The motivation for this is that the most important is to collect data about prevalence and degrees of HD, and not damage the gene pool until more is known.

FIFe national members must submit statistical data of HD registration to FIFe and thus make their data available to the HWC.

b) The first five years should have exceptions for older breeding cats:

- Breeding cats over 4 years of age who already have offspring registered in FIFe will not need obligatory hip radiographs to be used in breeding.
- Breeding cats 2-4 years old who already have offspring registered in FIFe will not need obligatory hip radiographs in order to be used in breeding during the transition period 2020-1. Jan 2025. If intended to use in breeding after 1. Jan. 2025, they must have valid x-rays to have offspring registered. This gives breeders a choice.

The motivation for this is double: one issue is that hip status for older cats will be influenced by developed osteoarthritis (OA) and show *acquired HD* rather than genetic HD: older cats have «worse» results than cats in the ideal testing age (10-25 months) as they will have developed degrees of osteoarthritis already. Additionally, keeping older cats out of the obligatory test will make the introduction of obligatory hip radiographs gradual and give more room for breeders to make changes in their practice step by step.

4. Breeding guidelines and restrictions

Restrictions should not be introduced until after the transition period, when more data is available. If strong tendencies should appear before this date, the HWC can give recommendations for breeding depending on the results. After the data over 5 years is collected and analyzed, breeding recommendations and restrictions can be implemented.

We kindly ask the FIFe HWC to consider our suggestions.

Best regards,

The board of Maine Coon-ringen i Norge
Maine Coon breed club in Norway founded 1998


on behalf of the board

19. June 2019

Attached is a reference list of research on FHD as background for our views in the matter.



Resources:

Corley 1997 – about early age evaluation
Keller 1999 – about differences CHD and FHD
Loder 2017 – about prevalence
Perry 2016a – about diagnosis, differences CHD and FHD
Perry 2016b – about pain, treatment

OFA website and correspondence with statistics of prevalence
PawPeds website and correspondence with statistics of prevalence and breeding combinations (heritability)

Full Reference List

Corley, EA, et al. 1997. «Reliability of Early Radiographic Evaluation for Canine Hip Dysplasia Obtained from the Standard Ventrodorsal Radiographic Projection.» *JAVMA*. Vol 211, No. 9, November 1997.

Keller G. G. 1999. «Hip dysplasia: a feline population study.» In: *Veterinary radiology & ultrasound*. 1999 Sep-Oct;40(5):460-4.

Loder, Randall et al. 2017. «Demographics of hip dysplasia in the Maine Coon cat». In: *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery*, April 2017 DOI: 10.1177/1098612X17705554

Perry, Karen. 2016a. «The Feline Hip. How is it different from the canine?» Conference paper WSAVA World Congress 2016 Cartagena, Columbia

Perry, Karen. 2016b. «Feline Hip Dysplasia: A Challenge to Recognise and Treat». In: *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*. 2016 Mar;18(3):203-18. doi: 10.1177/1098612X16631227.

Smith G. K. 1999. «Evaluation of the association between medial patellar luxation and hip dysplasia in cats.» In: *Journal of American Veterinary Medicine*. 1999 Jul 1;215(1):40-5.