



## How much would a maine coon cat cost

We'll never resolve the "cat versus dog" debate, but when it comes to diversity, man's best friend is the clear winner. Domestic dogs are way more variable than their feline counterparts. On top of the vast differences in ear shape, snout length and limb proportions, our canine pals come in a huge range of sizes — the largest dog breeds are around 40 times bigger than the smallest ones. Still, it's not like all cats are created equal. Here's an overview of two plus-sized breeds with personalities to match their statures: the Maine Coon and the Norwegian Forest cat. Winter FursAs they say in Norway, there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing. To endure the harsh winters of Scandinavia, the Norwegian Forest cat — also called the "Wegie" (pronounced "wee-gee") — evolved a double layer of thick, waterproof fur. Mystery surrounds the breed's origins; it may be descended from Siberian cats or Turkish longhair cats who entered present-day Norway. Regardless, written records tell us that a new and distinctive type of domesticated cat had arisen in this corner of Europe by about the year 1000 C.E. The ancestors of today's Wegies were likely used to keep Viking ships and settlements clear of mice.Full-grown adults of both sexes are very muscular animals — and heavy, to boot. Mature females usually weigh 9 to 12 pounds (4 to 5.4 kilograms) while males regularly tip the scales at 16 pounds (7.3 kilograms) or more. Accordingly, the Norwegian Forest cat is one of the biggest breeds available.But the Maine Coon has it beat. Capable of weighing 25 pounds (11.3 kilograms), this all-American beauty is downright gigantic. In fact, on May 22, 2018, a Maine Coon named Barivel set a new Guinness World Record as the longest known domestic cat. From one end to the other, he measures 47 inches (120 centimeters) in length. By the way, the previous record-holder in this category was another Maine Coon. Sounds like they've got a furry dynasty going. True to its name, the Maine Coon is a product of northern New England. Here again, we've got a creature whose backstory is unclear. According to one popular fable, the first Maine Coons can be traced to (of all people) Marie Antoinette. During the French Revolution, she supposedly had her beloved cats shipped to North America, where they interbred with local felines. The truth may be less glamorous, but Maine Coons probably do have European roots. Historians think the breed is descended from long-haired cats whom seamen ferried across the north Atlantic. Like Scandinavia, New England gets a lot of snowfall and some serious windchill every winter. Shaggy coats help protect Maine Coons from these frigid conditions. They've also got wide, tufted "snowshoe paws" that occasionally sport extra digits. Heads and TailsSome enthusiasts think the Norwegian Forest cat is the Maine Coon's direct ancestor. (After all, we know Norse settlers occupied modern-day Newfoundland during the 11th century C.E.) The idea speaks to the many similarities between these long-haired, big-bodied breeds. Yet as Sandra Cagan will tell you, there are plenty of differences as well.A resident of Florida, Cagan owns the Orlando Cat Café, a coffee shop where the patrons get to hang out with adoptable felines who need good homes. She personally owns two purebred Maine Coons and is well-acquainted with the breed's idiosyncrasies."The Maine Coon has a wider muzzle than a Forest cat," Cagan explains via email. In contrast, the latter breed has a flattened forehead, straight nose and triangular-shaped skull, giving it what Cagan describes as "more of a 'regular cat face.'" Meanwhile, with its high cheekbones and broad snout, the Maine Coons are available in lots of different colors, there's an iconic hairstyle specific to each breed. "Both breeds have distinctive ear tufts, but the Maine Coon's tail is bushier and less shapely. Beyond looks, the felines may communicate differently. "Maine Coons tend to be very vocal; they are known for their chirping sounds," Cagan tells us. "Norwegian Forest cats tend to be quieter." That said, they both like to emit contented purrs, which can get fairly loud. In terms of disposition, Wegies and Maine Coons are often described as "dog-like." Norwegian Forest cats love socializing with their favorite people while Maine Coons engage in all sorts of canine behaviors. "I know of several Maine Coon owners who have taught their cats to give 'high fives' or 'shake paws' like a dog would do," says Cagan.Not only are the big guys easy to train, but they've got an endearing habit of carrying their toys around like excited terriers. "Many of them also play fetch," Cagan adds. What's more, she notes that several owners have taught their Maine Coons to use leashes. "One of my two loves to walk on his leash, the other not so much," she tells us. So come to think of it, maybe we can settle the whole cat versus dog debate. If you're in want of a pet and feeling indecisive, just split the difference and get yourself a Maine Coon. Or a Wegie.Originally Published: Nov 12, 2019 Maine coons are one of the most well-known domesticated cat breeds in the United States. While the breed's exact origins are unknown, Maine coons have been around long enough to get their namesake from the state of Maine, where they're also the official state cat. Despite their popularity, most people don't know much about Maine coons other than their large size and luxurious long fur. While these are notable and defining qualities of the Maine coons are a popular choice for people looking for a cat companion. They are known as "gentle giants" with a laid-back attitude and affectionate demeanor that make them a great pet. Main coons are generally not "lap cats" who spend most of their day napping or relaxing; rather, owners often describe them a great family pet. They typically get along well with other cats, and their calm, affectionate nature makes them tolerant of children and dogs. Maine coons are also generally less stressed out by strangers than most other cats, so they're a good fit for busy households with regular guests. Cyndi Monaghan / Getty Images Most Maine coons are also generally less stressed out by strangers than most other cats, so they're a good fit for busy households with regular guests. colorings and markings. Tabbies are usually brown or silver, with darker stripes in a distinctive pattern over their heads and bodies. Chocolate, lavender, and patterns with significant white are generally not permitted. Breed clubs also forbid Maine coon cats with Himalayan markings or other hybrid colors. Bettina Sentner / Getty Images Maine coons are one of the largest breeds of domesticated cats, with males weighing up to 18 pounds. Females are smaller but still relatively large. Their coats are long and silky, and their ears feature distinctive tufts at the tip that are reminiscent of lynx or other wild cats. Images Maine coons are active, intelligent cats who need plenty of exercise. Their high energy levels and keen hunting skills make them a populations under control. They can also do well indoors, but owners need to spend time playing with them every day to keep them stimulated and happy. Since Maine coons are fairly trainable, some owners teach them to wear a leash and walk them around the neighborhood. RyersonClark / Getty Images Maine coons are generally healthy cats, but they can have some hereditary issues, including hip dysplasia and polycystic kidney disease. The most serious issue they experience is called feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a potentially fatal heart disease. It's the most common form of heart disease in cats, and some lines of Maine coons have a genetic variant that makes them more prone to it. This breed is also prone to obesity, so owners should keep an eye on their cats' diets and exercise. aware of these lovely cats' grooming requirements. Since Maine coons are a long-haired breed, they need regular brushing to prevent matting and other issues. Maine coons should be on a flea and tick preventative, as their long coats can hide pests. RyersonClark / Getty Images In addition to brushing, Maine coons need regular nail trimming. Keeping a cat's claws short saves your furniture, curtains, clothes, and skin from getting your cat declawed. These cats also need regular dental cleaning to help prevent gum and tooth diseases. RyersonClark / Getty Images The origin of Maine coons is unclear, but many local legends have arisen as an attempt to explain it. Some claim they're the offspring of bobcats mating with the domesticated cats brought to the US by European settlers, while lynx and mountain lions are also sometimes claimed as ancestors. One version of the story says that they're the offspring of a domestic cat and a raccoon, although that's just a tall tale. A more realistic theory is that they're related to the Norwegian forest cat or the Siberian, both of which have similar physical characteristics to the Maine coon. Chase Swift / Getty Images Another popular tale about the origins of the Maine coon is that they're descended from exotic long-haired breeds once owned by Marie Antoinette. According to this legend, she sent some of her beloved pets ahead as she was fleeing France, and they landed by chance in what is now Maine. While it's a romantic tale, historical records do not back this one up. Owning a pet may be an act of love, but love alone won't pay for adopting or feeding your four-legged family member — not to mention keeping it healthy. By making smart, money-conscious choices, though, you can save a lot. To find out what people really pay for their pets, and learn lessons from their experiences, we polled 2,000 Americans about their relationship with, and spending on, pets. The results underline both how much they're willing to spend for (and on) them. Here are some key spending tips from what we found, and what those findings may mean for your pet and your pocketbook. You don't need to spend more than \$300 Some of those in our survey who didn't own pets cited cost as a factor in their decision. Yet getting a pet needn't necessarily break the bank. More than a quarter (28%) of people who got a new pet within the last year received it as a gift — presumably at no cost. And of the rest, six in ten (62%) paid no more than \$300. More than a third paid less than \$100. Where you get your pet has a big effect on its cost. Short of having a pet gifted to you, shelters are the cheapest way to get a new dog or cat. More than eight in ten (81%) people who acquired a shelter pet during the pandemic paid no more than \$300 for it, including all fees, and nearly half (49%) paid less than \$100. By contrast, only about four in ten (42%) who got their pet from a store, and about a third (34%) who bought from a breeder, paid as little as \$300. And more buyers from those sources ran into unexpected charges than was the case with shelters. A cat costs less in every way Being a confirmed cat person — or a dog person open to switching allegiances — can help reduce your financial burden of a pet, starting when you buy. Only one in three new cat owners in our survey (31%) spent more than \$300 for their kitty, compared with nearly half (45%) of those who got dogs. But cats are also cheaper to own than dogs. Data from our survey shows you're more likely to spend no more than \$50 a month on feeding, grooming, and entertaining a cat than a dog — and, correspondingly, less likely to spend big money on doing so. Pet insurance also costs, too. Survey respondents with dogs took their pet to the vet a little more often than did cat owners, for both routine care and acute care (such as a medical emergency). Those more frequent visits may help explain other data that shows dog owners spend more annually at the vet than cat owners, especially for acute care. Ads by Money. We may be compensated if you click this ad.AdPets are an essential part of the family.Pumpkin Pet Insurance covers your pet from head to paw—for a lifetime.Get Started A mixed-breed pet should save you at the vet, too It's no secret that pets with pedigrees are pricey to buy. While 70% of survey respondents who bought a mixed-breed animal paid for no more than \$300, only around 42% got a pedigrees are pricey to buy. extends to medical costs. Owners of purebreds in our survey, were more likely to take their pet in for routine care - perhaps because the animal's greater cost motivates them to detect any serious condition early. More significant, though, are the differences between pedigreed and non-pedigreed pets in how often they visit a vet for acute care. These differences likely reflect the genetic predisposition of purebred pets, at least of certain breeds, to higher incidences of medical problems from cancer to hip dysplasia. In addition, certain dog breeds such as Labrador Retrievers are more likely to ingest foreign objects, and so require emergency visits to remove them. Purebred dogs were a little more likely (42%) to require such care than were mutts (36%), according to their owners. But the gap by lineage was a lot bigger with cats. Purebred causins to visit the vet at least once a year for acute care — a hefty 49%, compared to 27% for cats with no breed. The tendency for mixed-breed animals to need less medical care may help explain why pets acquired from shelters required less acute care than those bought from other sources, according to our survey. Rescue pets were far more likely to be be mixed breeds than purebreds, but the opposite was the case for animals acquired at other places. Pets from shelters and breeders were about as likely to require acute care at least once annually (32% and 36%, respectively). But animals from a pet store were significantly more prone to needing such care than either, with nearly half (48%) requiring it at least once a year. The upshot: Less need for medical care may add to the advantages (and cost savings) of getting a Heinz 57 pet from a shelter. More from Money: Best Pet Insurance Companies Pets and Pet Spending in the Pandemic How Much Does Pet Insurance Cost?

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