Spinal Muscular Atrophy in Maine Coon Cats

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in Maine Coon cats is caused by a large deletion in chromosome A1 that eliminates two genes.

SMA is inherited in an autosomal recessive fashion. Affected kittens, having two copies of the deletion, will have inherited a deletion from both parents.

Carriers of the SMA deletion (i.e. carrying only one copy) show no signs of the disease. If two carriers mate then by probability, approximately 25% of kittens will have SMA.

SMA is due to the death of spinal cord nerves that normally stimulate the skeletal muscles of the trunk and limbs. The loss of these nerves can lead to kittens developing a swaying in their gait, particularly in their hind quarters.

Animal DNA Laboratory now offers a simple DNA test to identify the SMA deletion for Maine Coons. A simple cheek swab can be sent to our laboratory to identify whether a cat is either normal, affected or a carrier.

The test can be performed on cats of any age, so long as you can obtain a reliable sample.

TESTS COMING IN 2009

We are pleased to announce that the following tests will be introduced during

- Progressive Retinal Atrophy
- Blood Typing
- Pyruvate Kinase
- Long Hair Genetics

STOP PRESS!
SMA TEST IS NOW AVAILABLE

Inside this issue:

- SMA in Maine Coon Cats 1
- DNA Question Corner 2
- Customer Feedback 3
- Members 4
DNA Question Corner—win free tests

Animal DNA Laboratory gives all readers the opportunity to ask questions relating to our services. The best question each issue will win 2 free DNA tests and be published in the Animal DNA Laboratory newsletter. So if you have a question simply send it to:

dnaquestions@animalsdna.com

This quarter’s winner is Suzanna from Germany who asked.

“I do not like sending off my credit card details in the post. Is there an alternative way to pay for your testing services?”

Dear Suzanna,

Animal DNA Laboratory can now accept payment via Paypal.

Paypal is an electronic system allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the internet. It enables anyone with an email address to send and receive payments online. As a buyer you can pay for your item, or service online through Paypal without sharing your financial information. You are able to fund your payment with your debit card, credit card, bank account or Paypal balance.

To set up a Paypal account or get further information, go to www.paypal.com

How to make a Paypal Payment

1. Set up a Paypal account on the above website.
2. Indicate you want to pay by Paypal on the order form.
3. When we receive the swabs we will send you an email confirming receipt of your order and prompting you to make the Paypal payment.
4. Pay by Paypal (admin@animalsdna.com) and insert the unique 5 digit number we send you in the email so that we can identify your payment.

Feedback from Animal DNA Laboratory Customers

“Thank you for providing such a great service at an excellent price. When I told friends that I was getting my cat DNA tested to ensure that she was a lilac, they all said “That will cost you a fortune!”. I told them about how much I paid for the 2 tests and they were surprised at the low cost”

Thanks again

Susan, Australia

Continued page 3
Feedback from ADL Customers continued.

“Thank you that was very quick :-) A very pleasant first time experience for me all round! I will be telling my friends about your service”

Jody, New Zealand

“Thanks so much for such great results !!
You will be hearing from me again I am sure....I like all my breeding cats to have their own copies of documents and we do change over our breeding stock very quickly - so I'll be around again !! :)”

Warm wishes
Lou, USA

“Thank you very very much for getting the results back so quickly. I really appreciate it, your company's service is fantastic and I will be using your company again and recommending you to everyone”

Thanks
Sheryn, Australia

“Thank you very much
the results came quickly!
it's great! you are very professional
see you”

Catherine, France

Please see some of the clubs, associations, breeders and societies overleaf that have registered with Animal DNA Laboratory which allows their members to receive 10% off the price of tests!

Visit our website to see a complete list of organizations registered with us. You too could be entitled to receive a 10% discount!

Ask us how!

contact@animalsdna.com

Important if you are a breeder with an active website, you are also eligible to register with Animal DNA Laboratory to receive a 10% discount off the price of all tests!
Some of the Associations, Clubs, Societies and Professional Breeders currently registered with Animal DNA Laboratory.

Agacoon Cattery
Amacoon Association Brasil
Argonath Cattery
Ashaneeka Persians
Asian Group Cat Society
Aurorapetz
Australian Cat Federation
Axis Star Maine Coon Cattery
Basic Organization of Cat Breeders Trutnov
Baunty Kitty
Beautiful Kittens
BKH of Swansea
Bobkatin Ragdolls
Bombay Breed Club
Britisch Kurzhaar Katzenzucht-Britenzwerge
Cat Authority of Victoria
Cat Fanciers Club Selena
Cat Owners Association of Western Australia
Cats Incorporated
CaBojs Ragdoll & Maine Coon
Capital Cats
Cattery Boyars Exotics & Persians
Cercle Felin Languedoc Roussillon
Cinnamon and Mon Grand Amour Catteries
Colourpoint Cat Club
Council of Federated Cat Clubs of Queensland
Dream Cats Club
Exotic Snowbobs
Exotic directory
Fayola Maine Coons
Feanor Persians
Feline Cat Council of Victoria
German Angora Cat Club eV
Gold Coast Cat Club
Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of South Australia
Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of Australia and Victoria
Grand Canyon Feline Fanciers
Guysndolls Ragdolls
Himalayan Cats of Australia
Ivory Ragdolls
Kennel Club of Leskovac
Kinnley Cattery
Kiwimagic Loveable Ragdolls
Little Miracles Ragdolls
Migatobonito Maine Coons & Devon
Merindalee Abyssinians
Mission Hill Persians
New Zealand Cat Fancy Inc
Of Dromlings-paradise, British Short-hair
Rascal Maine Coons
Rasclub Maine Coon
Richmaure Persians
Riverina Cat Club
Rubydolls Cattery
Satinova Ragdolls
Sempre Ragdolls
Shorthair Cat Society
Siamese and Shorthair Cat Club
Sophisticats
Sphynx Cat Association
The Feline Association of NSW
The Persian Lovers
Warratah National Cat Alliance