Manx & Cymric (MAN & CYM)

Breeding programme 28/07/2025

Note: THIS SHEET IS A PROPOSAL BY FELIS BELGICA AND HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES
The most recent updates can be found at: Breeding Decision - Cat Breeding Programmes | Vlaanderen.be

Other names

Manx and **Cymric** are sister breeds that share the same standard, except for coat length. Free crossbreeding is always possible. No additional permission is required.

Rumpy: a tailless Manx / Cymric

Rumpy Riser: a Manx in which the sacral bone causes a small bulge at the tail, but the cat still appears tailless

Stumpy: a Manx / Cymric with a short tail of up to 3 cm

Longie: a Manx / Cymric with a medium-length tail

Aim of the programme

The breeding programme aims to reduce the most common hereditary disorders without excluding too many cats, in order to maintain genetic diversity within the breed population.

Instead of systematically excluding animals, we have drawn up breeding recommendations based on carefully considered combinations. The physical health of the animals is of course taken into account, and cats suffering from one of these disorders are excluded from breeding.

Performance tests

CONDITION	RECOMMENDATION	SCREENING METHOD	AGE	FREQUENCY
Deafness	Mandatory for completely white cats (W-locus gene)	BAER test	From 6 weeks Before the first mating	One-time
Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)	Mandatory	Echocardiography	From 12 months	Valid for 2 years

Breeding advice per performance test

Breeding advice is provided here (schematically and in table form) for every possible parent combination.

- **Positive advice** or green means that this is a suitable pairing based on this test.
- **Conditional positive advice** or orange means that this is not an ideal pairing based on this test, but that the pairing is permitted. Such combinations are permitted in order not to compromise the genetic diversity of a breed.
- **Breeding prohibition** or red means that this is not a suitable pairing based on this test. These animals may not be combined.

CONDITION	POSSIBLE SCREENING RESULT	BREEDING ADVICE				
Deafness	BEAR test results: 1. **normal**: normal hearing in both ears 2. **unilateral**: completely deaf in one ear and normal hearing in the other ear 3. **bilateral**: completely deaf in both ears 4. **no result**: no BAER test was performed	Male / Female cat	Normal hearing	Unilateral deafness	Bilateral deafness	No result
		Normal hearing				
		Unilateral deafness				
		Bilateral deafness				
		No result				

CONDITION	POSSIBLE SCREENING RESULT	BREEDING ADVICE				
Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)	1. **Normal**: no signs of HCM are visible on the echocardiography. 2. **suspicious**: signs visible on echocardiography that may indicate HCM. The cat must be retested after 1 year. 3. **Affected**: clear signs of HCM are visible on the echocardiography. 4. **No result**: no echocardiography was performed.	Female \ Male cat	Normal	Suspicious	Affected	No result
		Normal				
		Suspicious				
		Affected				
		No result				

Overall breeding advice

The **mandatory tests** must be carried out in accordance with the specified conditions and frequency. If one or more of these results is a 'breeding ban', this combination may not be carried out.

Depending on the number of clinical examinations that may result in a **conditional positive breeding recommendation (orange)**, a maximum number of conditional positive results is permitted:

- 1-2 examinations: max. 1 conditional positive
- 3-4 examinations: max. 2 conditional positives
- 5 or more examinations: max. 3 conditional positive results

In such cases, **further follow-up** by the breeder is required before repeating such mating.

The **inbreeding coefficient** in the FBe database is calculated using Wright's formula **over 5 generations** (if known).
The inbreeding coefficient (COI) of an offspring may **be a maximum of 1% higher than the average COI of both parents**.

If **fewer than 3 generations** of the parents are known, the combination is only permitted if there are no common ancestors on both the paternal and maternal sides. All breeding recommendations for the mandatory tests must then be positive. A female cat may not be mated with her grandfather, her father, her brother, her half-brother, her son or her grandson.

To prevent disease-causing mutations from spreading too widely within the breed or population, it is essential not to allow a male cat to mate too often (popular sire effect). In this way, we limit the spread of harmful genetic variants and contribute to the long-term health of the breed.

The Manx gene is a mutation (M) that causes taillessness or a shorter tail. This gene is labelled a lethal gene because, when homozygous, the foetus dies during the first stage of development. This does not cause suffering, as a homozygous Manx does not develop in the womb. Every Manx is heterozygous for the gene. However, taillessness is associated with **spinal deformities** with serious consequences, such as paralysis, pain, incontinence, etc. However, we do not have any figures on this and the latest studies date from the 1990s. Given the natural evolution of the Manx, the long history of the breed without any reports of this problem and the lack of scientific information on the subject, no additional measures are being imposed.

However, it is important that Manx and Cymric breeders are aware of this issue and take measures to safeguard the health of their breeding animals. It is important to collect sufficient data so that the necessary measures can be taken after a few years. Breeders participating in the breeding programme undertake to cooperate with the studies carried out as part of the Breeding Healthy Pets project.

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