

ROOTS-OF-LIFE

Lake Colony Information Form

@calico_constellation

About

Name
Lake Colony

Name meaning
Named after the lake that takes up a big portion of their territory

Description
The Lake Colony is a very old Colony, among one of the first established, that lives in a fairly marshy area surrounding a medium sized lake. Cats from the Lake Colony tend to be very social and friendly with wanderers, although time has led them to be wary of other Colonies that haven't earned their trust. The Lake Colony values diversity, accepting any outsiders who wish to build a home there. It is considered rude to ask questions about a cat's past, so the Lake Colony is an ideal place for cats who wish to have a new start. Cats are encouraged towards artistic pursuits,

particularly rock painting, crafting and theatre. Having a beautiful, well decorated den tends to boost a cat's status in the colony, as does being artistically skilled. Because the territory has a lot of water, cats are encouraged to become more comfortable with water, and to learn how to swim- especially after the flooding of the Colony's camp during an earthquake resulted in some cats drowning. All kittens born in the Lake Colony are exposed to water from a young age so that they become comfortable with it, with adult supervision until they're old enough to be strong swimmers and know about water safety.

They have a variety of physical features. Although, due to the pervasiveness of Coral's bloodline among the Colony, maine coon features and large size are fairly common. Webbed paws are also a frequently seen feature, due to the prevalence of water and swimming.

Lake Colony cats frequently take advantage of the abundance of freshwater in their territory via fishing- they commonly catch several species of trouts and salmon, as well as northern pikes, walleyes, graylings and whitefish. They also hunt birds such as sparrows, ducks, blackbirds, kingfishers, starlings, crows and woodpeckers. They also hunt small rodents, most notably squirrels, mice and water voles. In addition, they sometimes go after frogs and toads, especially in the marshier parts of their territory. In the more cavernous areas of the territory, more daring cats might attempt to hunt bats.

There is, of course, other wildlife. Deer show up in the territory at times- as long as they are treated with caution due to their large size, they don't bother cats. Herons are much too large to be huntable birds, but they do not bother cats. Swans, on the other hand, are far more threatening, and cats are warned to keep a wide berth from them. The most threatening birds are eagles, hawks and ospreys- they do sometimes go after cats as prey, especially kittens. The Lake Colony also houses some musteloids. Stoats, weasels and minks are to be approached with caution, as they can give a cat a pretty good fight and leave some nasty injuries. For similar reasons, rabbits are mostly left alone, and very rarely regarded as prey. Lake Colony cats also know never to approach a beaver dam- they are highly territorial animals, and best left alone as a fight with one can get quite nasty.

Ranks

Leader- the leader of the colony. Makes political and day to day decisions on behalf of the whole

colony

Successor- training under the leader to eventually take their place

Advisor- the leader's second in command. Gives advice and a second perspective on important decisions. Usually of a close personal relationship with the leader. If a leader dies without a successor, their advisor would typically be the first choice to take over the position.

Commoners- All other cats above the age of 12 months

Juveniles- cats between the ages of 6 and 12 months

Kittens- Cats between the ages of 0 and 6 months

Landmarks



Heron Lake

The biggest landmark of all- the lake their colony is named after. It is situated at the very center of their territory, with a few rock bridges leading to their camp.



Sweet Marshes

The area surrounding the left of the lake. A very wet and open area, containing many useful plants. If cats can get the hang of wading through the shallow pools, it can be a decent hunting spot.



Whispering Caverns

The area on the north of the lake. Very rocky, with the shoreline being lined with stones and pebbles. Has quite a few hills and caves to explore. Many of the caves have a notable

echoing effect.



Winding Fields

The area on the right of the lake. Open, frequently sunny and beautiful, with rivers and streams weaving all throughout. It is an excellent area for cats to relax and hang out, and its bodies of water are popular fishing spots.



Storm Marshes

These marshes are to the south of the lake, and are generally a bit more unpleasant than

the Sweet Marshes. The air is swelteringly humid, and there is a large population of mosquitoes and flies in the area. Still, for those who dare to enter, it is plentiful in amphibians, and if cats can bear the unpleasant atmosphere they can usually come back with a pretty good prey haul.



Pebble Island

An island in the centre of the lake, where the Lake Colony builds their camp. Aptly named for the rock bridges leading to and from it. The ground is fairly sandy, and rock formations make for easy dens. Near the center of a camp lies a large rock, where the leader will go to make speeches or important announcements.

Leaders

Current Leader

Astrid • Owned by @calico_constellation

Fluffy, long-haired bicolour blue ticked tabby molly

Previous Leaders

Coral • Owned by @calico_constellation

Mute, long-haired vibrant red classic tabby maine coon molly with white

History

Early Beginnings

The Lake Colony was founded by two ex-house cats, Coral and Pike. They, like everyone else, were travellers, who were passing through the territory only to end up calling it home. As more cats filtered in, many came and went, but quite a few stayed with Coral and Pike as well, eventually amassing a small group, at which Coral was the head. Eventually, she decided to make it official and the cats began calling themselves a colony, with Coral as leader and Pike as her advisor.

Rising Star

In the war between the Web Colony and the Fire Colony, the Lake Colony fought alongside the Fire Colony and the Frost Colony, against the Web Colony, the Clover Colony, the Hill Colony and the Cavern Colony. During one of the battles, Coral was rendered mute and chose to step down from a leadership role, handing down the mantle to her successor, Astrid.

As the war raged on, the Fire Colony was driven out of their home, and the Lake Colony allowed them refuge in their camp and territory. The Clover Colony pulled out of the war, but the other Colonies kept fighting. The war ended with the dissolution of the Web Colony, allowing the Fire Colony to return home. The Lake Colony accepted one former Web Colony cat, a young molly who goes by the name of Bramble. After the fall of the Web Colony, the Lake Colony remained allies with the Frost and Fire Colonies.

Extinguished Flames

The Lake Colony's allyship with the Fire Colony grew a bit more strained as their old leader, Tinder, went missing and was replaced with their daughter, Nightshade. She was much more strict than her parent, and a religious group called the Valenists were starting to make their home amongst the Fire Colony. Tensions between Rune, the group's leader, and Nightshade grew to a high, and with the Cavern Colony's help, he succeeded in taking down the Fire Colony. This solidified the Lake Colony's antagonistic relationship with the Cavern Colony. Astrid wanted to remain uninvolved, but a small contingent of Lake Colony cats aided the Fire Colony against her wishes.

After the fall of the Fire Colony, Nightshade's surviving brother, Orchid, created a new Colony called the Sky Colony,

for those who didn't want to follow the Valenists. As a gesture of good will, Orchid tried to recreate the allyship the Lake Colony had with the Fire Colony, and Astrid accepted.

Conflict in the North

As the amount of Colonies expanded, so too did the conflicts. With the Lake Colony being more southwestern, they were largely uninvolved with the conquests of the Lignite and Flytrap Colonies in the northeastern side, although they did of course hear of them through the grapevine.

Kelp, daughter of Coral, became mates with a Cavern Colony cat, and moved there, forcing the Colonies to put some of their enmity aside... although it certainly wasn't easy, and tensions remained high.

Eventually, the Lignite war ended, though it took a while for the news to reach the Lake Colony.

In a New World

In the winter, two colonies that Lake Colony had historically been allied with, the Frost and Hill Colonies, dissolved. Frost due to political conflict, Hill due to a flood. The Lake Colony took in refugees from both fallen colonies, some cats deciding to join up with a friend of their former home.

Though the Lake Colony was uninvolved with the war on Flytrap, it did eventually end as a result of several colonies working together to dismantle them. From Flytrap came the Swift Colony, and Astrid found herself quite suspicious of the newcomers. Back in her day, there were only a few colonies, not this massive, sprawling political ecosystem of untrustworthy weasels. Though she hasn't made a public announcement yet, cats can see her getting cagey around most other colonies.

Relations

Sky Colony Allies	Berry Colony Tentatively Friendly	Swift Colony Hostile	Ridge Colony Neutral
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