Dear New Mastiff Owner,

The Mastiff Club of America, Inc (MCOA) congratulates you on your new Mastiff. We feel that the more you know about this noble breed and its unique traits, the more you will appreciate your “gentle giant” and be able to provide the care your dog requires. The MCOA is the American Kennel Club’s national parent breed club for the Mastiff in the United States. The MCOA has over 500 members across the U.S. and worldwide whose common bond is their love for the Mastiff.

Mastiffs need moderate exercise, socialization, obedience training, a quality food with moderate protein and fat content, and the normal maintenance activities that any breed requires. Included are minimal grooming and bathing, ear cleaning, and regular vet check-ups and vaccinations.

Nutrition

In general, Mastiffs do best on a food that is in the mid-range for protein and fat and is well balanced. Feeding a Mastiff puppy food that is high in protein, calories and fat may accelerate their growth rate and possibly increase the risk of joint, bone and/or tendon problems. Mastiffs will grow to what they were genetically preprogrammed to be whether they get there slowly or quickly. It is best to grow them slowly to minimize the risk of developing long term joint and bone problems. If the dog food you intend to use is balanced for nutrition, do not add supplemental calcium to the diet. Too much calcium causes more problems than too little! Feed a good quality, premium food, following the recommendations provided by your breeder and adjusting the amount according to body condition. Do not let a Mastiff puppy or young adult get fat. You should be able to feel the ribs, or at least see the last two ribs while the dog is in motion. Fat dogs are more likely to have problems with joints, bones, heart, liver, kidneys, etc.

Training

Because they are destined to be very large dogs, basic obedience training should be a part of every Mastiff’s upbringing. Adequate socialization is an extremely important part of a puppy’s training. To find obedience and socialization classes, contact your local kennel club(s) and/or veterinarian. If you cannot locate classes, take your puppy out often to places where it can meet people and other dogs in a friendly atmosphere such as parks and shopping centers. Positive reinforcement training tends to work best for most Mastiffs. Many Mastiffs have received their Canine Good Citizenship titles and are wonderful Therapy Dogs. Mastiffs DO NOT need protection training. Mastiffs are excellent companion dogs, are intelligent and eager to please their owners. This can be demonstrated by the numerous titles earned by our gentle giants in conformation, obedience, agility, carting, rally, scent work, trick dog and as Canine Good Citizens, certified Therapy Dogs and Service Dogs.

Responsible Dog Ownership

To help promote responsible Mastiff ownership and educate Mastiff owners, MCOA publishes various resources. To contact someone within the club regarding questions you might have, see: themastiffclubofamerica.com/contact

Breeder Referall

The MCOA maintains a list of current member breeders from across the country. The Breeder Referral Packet is an informative compilation of breeder contact information, a list of available Mastiff publications, and introductory brochure on Mastiff care, a list of regional clubs with their contact person, the Mastiff Standard, the MCOA Code of Ethics, and information on health issues affecting Mastiffs. To obtain a packet, go to: themastiffclubofamerica.com/breeder-referral

You can also contact Kelly Meyer at: kellysmastiffs@comcast.net

In addition, there is a list of MCOA breeders available on the website at the above address. To see listings of currently available litters through MCOA member breeders, check out the Facebook page “MCOA Members Breeder Referral and Litter Announcement Listings”.

Frequently Asked Questions

Find answers to FAQ’s on our webpage at: themastiffclubofamerica.com/f-a-q
Joining your Regional club will give you a spring board to meet in protecting this wonderful breed by joining your regional club. The MCOA and Regional Mastiff clubs encourage you to participate in mastiff events throughout the country. On the local level, MCOA recognizes several regional Mastiff clubs. They are attended by Mastiff Breeders, exhibitors, and just plain Mastiff folks who love their Mastiff, from every country. For more information and how to attend our Nationals, please see our website: www.mastiff.com

Health of the Mastiff

The MCOA has established committees to help gather and publish information, and raise funds for research concerning Mastiff health. Please see our website for information on health issues that affect our mastiffs and for health committee contact information:

www.themastiffclubofamerica.com/mastiff-health

Some common health issues in Mastiffs are:
- Cancer – Various types i.e.; bone cancer & lymphoma
- Canine Multifocal Retinopathy (CMR) – retinal folds
- Cystinuria can cause kidney stones in intact males
- Hip/Elbow Dysplasia - malfunction of the hip/elbow joint(s)
- Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) causes blindness
- Neurological Disorders (Degenerative Myelopathy, Cervical Spondylomyelopathy)

Health testing is valuable to everyone; it provides us with important health information on our Mastiffs, it helps breeders make informed decisions with their breeding program; and it provides canine health researchers with valuable information that can be used to help with future studies. Canine Health Research is done to develop better diagnostic and treatment options and to develop DNA Health tests which can be used by breeders to avoid producing puppies with inherited health problems.

MCOA encourages EVERY Mastiff owner to participate in research, health test their Mastiff using the Mastiff recommended Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) tests, be AKC DNA Profiled, donate blood to the CHIC DNA Repository and fill out the OFA Health Survey throughout your Mastiff’s life as changes in health occur.

The minimum health tests recommended by the MCOA for the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Age Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFA Hip Dysplasia</td>
<td>24 months of age or older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFA Elbow Dysplasia</td>
<td>24 months of age or older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERF Eye Clearance</td>
<td>24 months of age or older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFA Congenital Cardiac</td>
<td>12 months of age or older</td>
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It is also highly encouraged to do the following optional tests:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Age Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFA Thyroid</td>
<td>24 months of age or older</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cystinuria DNA/Urine Test</td>
<td>Males 24 months of age or older</td>
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For more information on CHIC:

www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=MF

AKC DNA Profile your Mastiff (Cheek Swab):

www.akc.org/dna/index.cfm

CHIC DNA Repository (Blood Donation):

www.ofa.org/about/dna-repository

OFA Mastiff Health Survey (Ideally multiple times):

www.ofa.org/about/educational-resources/health-surveys#api_summary