

Mastiff Club of America established 1929



*“What the Lion is to the cat—the Mastiff is to the Dog,
The noblest of the family; he stands alone, and all
others sink before him. His courage does not exceed
his temper and generosity, and in attachment he
equals the kindest of his race.”*

~Cynographia Britannica 1800

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 Referral

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

MCOA Communication

The MCOA Journal Committee publishes a professional quality bi-annual publication called *The Journal*. *The Journal* comes packed with educational articles, current health updates, member accomplishments & interviews and pictures of Mastiffs excelling at all they do. Anyone interested can subscribe. For subscription information and questions regarding back issue availability, email: mastiffjournal@gmail.com or go to:

themastiffclubofamerica.com/mcoa-journal

The MCOA has an official quarterly newsletter for members, *The Castlekeepers Times*, that is sent out via Constant Contact. Additional club communication regarding important issues or items of interest are sent by Constant Contact email as well. For members not available through email, the *Castlekeepers Times* is also available by US Mail for a minimal fee.

The MCOA maintains a Facebook page (*Mastiff Club of America*) for anyone interested in looking up information about the club. In addition, there is a members-only Facebook page for internal communications.

Rescue

The MCOA supports the efforts of Mastiff rescue groups nationwide through financial support from the non-profit Rescue Foundation, Incorporated (RFI). There are rescue groups from across the country recognized for their efforts and the list is available on the rescue page on the MCOA website at:

themastiffclubofamerica.com/mastiff-rescue

Unfortunately, the number of rescue cases has increased dramatically in recent years and the MCOA urges you to suggest ownership of a rescue Mastiff to friends who admire your new gentle giant and might want to own a Mastiff.

Please do your part in the effort to reduce the number of Mastiffs needing rescue by spaying or neutering your Mastiff pet as recommended by your breeder, generally after the age of 18-24 months. You will help prevent unwanted litters and own a pet less likely to develop reproductive disorders such as uterine infection (pyometra), mammary or testicular cancer.

Events

The members of the Mastiff Club of America are united in their love for Mastiff, please join us in promoting responsible dog ownership. Each year the MCOA sponsors the MCOA National Specialty, a spectacular week-long event featuring hundreds of Mastiffs being shown in Conformation, obedience, various miscellaneous classes, and a variety of seminars such as health issues that affect our mastiff. The Specialty is in a different city and state every year in hopes that everyone will be able to attend at least one. They are attended by Mastiff Breeders, exhibitors, and just plain Mastiff folks who love their Mastiff, from every part of the U.S. as well as breeders and judges from other countries. For more information and how to attend our Nationals, please see our website:

www.mastiff.com

On the local level MCOA recognizes several regional Mastiff clubs that sponsor Mastiff events throughout the country. The MCOA and Regional Mastiff clubs encourage you to participate in protecting this wonderful breed by joining your regional club. Joining your Regional club will give you a spring board to meet others that love the breed as much as you, helping mastiffs in

more ways than you could have imagined and educating the public on our wonderful breed. To see a list of MCOA recognized and supported regional clubs, go to:

themastiffclubofamerica.com/mcoa-regional-clubs

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:

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:

OFA Hip Dysplasia – 24 months of age or older

OFA Elbow Dysplasia – 24 months of age or older

CERF Eye Clearance – 24 months of age or older

OFA Congenital Cardiac – 12 months of age or older

It is also highly *encouraged* to do the following optional tests:

OFA Thyroid – 24 months of age or older

Cystinuria DNA/Urine Test – Males 24 months of age or older

For more information on *CHIC*:

www.caninehealthinfo.iorg/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

