



Congratulations on your new Mastiff!

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 Kennels 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 Mastiffs.

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 such as minimal grooming and bathing, ear cleaning, toenail clipping, teeth cleaning, and regular vet checkups 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 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 programmed 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 when the dog is moving. Fat dogs are more likely to have problems with bones, joints, heart, liver, kidney, 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 Clubs and veterinarians. 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 Certificates 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 and as Canine Good Citizens, Therapy Dogs and Service Dogs.

Responsible Dog Ownership

To help promote responsible Mastiff ownership and educate Mastiff owners MCOA publishes various resources, please go to our website for a list of current contacts: www.mastiff.org/MCOAOFFICERSANDCONTACTS.htm



*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.*

*~Cynographia Britannica
1800*

MCOA Breeder Referral Packet, consisting of an informative compilation of MCOA member breeders throughout the U.S.; a listing of available Mastiff publications; an introductory brochure on Mastiff care; a list of the Regional Clubs with their respective contact person, *Mastiff Standard*, the *MCOA Code of Ethics* (COE), and health issues that affect mastiffs. To order the packet: www.mastiff.org/BREEDERREFERRAL.htm or send a \$5.00 check payable to the MCOA (to cover duplication and postage costs) to:

Kelly Meyer,
KELLYSMASTIFFS@comcast.net
2229 Tennessee Avenue, Savannah, GA 31404
Phone: (912) 238-3170

MCOA Website Mastiff Breed FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) – a compilation of questions most often asked by new Mastiff owners.

www.mastiff.org/MASTIFFFAQ.htm

MCOA Journal – a biannual magazine packed with articles and pictures about our breed. For subscription information and back issues see our website.

www.mastiff.org/MCOAJOURNAL.htm

MCOA newsletter, *Castlekeeper* – a quarterly publication pertaining to club business and is sent to all members via *Constant Contact*. Members not on the internet will receive by mail.

The Mastiff Club of America supports a nationwide rescue service for Mastiffs in need of new homes. Unfortunately, the number of rescue cases has increased dramatically over the past few years, and the MCOA urges you to suggest ownership of a rescue Mastiff to friends who admire your gentle giant and might want to own a Mastiff. For your more information about Rescued Mastiffs, or if you know of a Mastiff in need of a new home:

www.mastiff.org/MCOARESCUE.htm

Please do your part in the effort to reduce the number of Mastiffs needing rescue by spaying and neutering your Mastiff pet. You will prevent unwanted litters and own a pet less likely to

develop reproductive related disorders such as uterine infections (Pyometra), mammary or testicular cancer.

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 with 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.org

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 local 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.

www.mastiff.org/REGIONALMASTIFFCLUBS.htm

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.mastiff.org/MASTIFFHEALTH.htm

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 malformation of the hip/elbow joint(s)

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) causes blindness

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

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 make DNA Health tests which can be used by breeders to avoid producing puppies with inherited health problems.

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/UrineTest – Males 24 months of age or older

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.offa.org/chicdnabank.html

OFA Mastiff Health Survey (Ideally multiple times):

www.offa.org/surveys/survey_mastiff.html

More Resources

If you are interested in furthering your knowledge of this wonderful breed the following books, program and video are recommended by the MCOA:

Books (available through local and internet bookstores):

- *Mastiff, Aristocratic Guardian*, by Dee Dee Andersson
- *The History and Management of the Mastiff*, Second Edition 2004 by Patricia B. Hoffman & Elizabeth J. Baxter
- *The Complete Mastiff*, by Baxter & Blaxter
- *The Mastiff & Bullmastiff Handbook*, by Douglas B. Oliff
- *The Mastiff*, by Marie Antoinette Moore

DVD Videos

- *The Mastiff - The Official AKC Video*. To order, please call toll-free, 1-877-252-2665 or email orderdesk@akc.org.
- *Mastiff National Specialty Videos*. To order, go to:

www.showdogvideopros.com/Mastiff.html

Join Us!

Please contact us for more information on how you can become an MCOA member. We would love to have you join us. For more information on how to become an MCOA member please contact our Membership Secretary:

Jodi LaBombard, brimstonemastiffs@yahoo.com

189 Miranda Ln, Roxboro, NC 27574

Cordially,

MCOA Members, Officers & Board Of Directors

