

The Castlekeepers Times

The Official News and Information Bulletin for the Mastiff Club of America

Issue 4

October — December 2008



Mastiff Club of America



DELEGATES MEETING

December, 2008

The meeting was held in Long Beach, California in conjunction with the Invitational Dog Show with Champion dogs from our country and representatives of 52 foreign nations. Our Mastiff entry was very good and something the breed can be proud of, especially since so many graduates of our judges education program were there to comment on the lovely dogs and how much they enjoyed judging them.

Our meet the breed booth was well attended and although we did not win a prize, the dogs and owners were great. It is hard to compete with so many others who do superlative things with construction and decoration.. We still had the best dogs!!!!

Monday December 15th

The meeting usually becomes anticlimactic with the show, but this year had some major issues being raised.

HEALTH

The most positive thing was the distribution of books of dog breeding and breed identification to every new first year vet student by Royal Canin. I have been trying to get this done for years and finally success. It will have contact information on how to get to the Parent Clubs website.

Crop and Dock raised its ugly head with the new position statement of the AVMA. It is not good for those who do that, and we were not expecting it. As liaison for that group I was a little hurt by it, but we did get them to temper it, but

I fear legislative fights on the horizon and we may not win this time. We are working on a new health survey form and that should be available on line, but I do not have a timeline. With some slight difficulty, we were able to get AKC to allow a link from their DNA identification number to CHIC on those dogs who have deposited DNA with them. Simply it means that CHIC will have the identification number with the DNA record if that number is available. What it means is more reliability or credibility of dogs and samples to the researchers.

PARENT

Two issues of importance here for us is that the next conference will be limited to one person because of revenue shortfalls. It should be 2009 but it may not be until 2010. Our club picks the person and pays the airfare. The club will get a request for a copy of our membership application, code of ethics, bylaws, and proof of accepting the code. Again they are

reviewing this subject and want to know how you enforce it...We should probably highlight the grievance procedure.

Tuesday December 16th

The General meeting was with board candidates trying to get elected to our board in March. They answered questions generically, and made pretty speeches that all said about the same thing and do not really tell you about the individual whom delegates should know. No three minute prepared speech can tell you what the person is about. I shall forward the names to the board for their input but doubt they will know them all.

No major votes were taken but new actions by staff and board were reported. AKC will foster a new major national Meet the Breed Program to push pure bred dogs. It will start in Central Park and move about the country.

The new STAR puppy CGC program is off to a running start and I am attempting to get up to move it into local shelters to help the Humane Societies. AKC will also initiate a new frozen sperm bank program which will be voluntary but which will keep frozen semen from the top dogs for future use. More to follow...

Legislative Department is to start a newsletter mailing to politicians but I am not clear if it will be national or state. I am a PAC Board member and a founder of the Humane Fund so I shall find out in January at our meetings in New York. NO I never stay home and why should I, Dan the Man is gone.

Kay Routten's girl was invited to compete in Agility and made two great runs. She is the first Mastiff ever invited and competed with good ovation. We are very proud with Mastiff people watching including yours truly, Carla Sanchez and others. Congratulations to Kay and it may never happen again.

I do not know what I forgot but it can wait. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, your families and your dogs. This year I have no tree because most of the presents under it went to one guy.

Dr. Bill Newman
Mastiff AKC Delegate

E-Mail Motions
Oct 1, 2008-Dec 31, 2008

EM#10/08-01

It was moved by Jodi LaBombard and seconded by Mary Speer to approve an extension of seven days to the timeline for an ethics hearing, due to Hurricane Ike delaying the receipt of information sent via US Mail.
Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Speer, Lange, Collings, Moore, May, DeLisa
N/R: Hudspeth
Motion Carried

EM#10/08-02

It was moved by Dolly Moore and seconded by Mary Speer to approve the CEMC entry with sweepstakes but without the stud dog and brood bitch request. The original request was: The Cascade English Mastiff Club would like the Mastiff Club of America to support our entry on July 18, 2009 at the Portland Kennel Club, OR. In addition we would like permission to hold Puppy Sweeps, Stud Dog and Brood Bitch.
Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Hudspeth, Speer, May, Moore, DeLisa
N/R: Collings, Lange
Motion Carried

EM#10/08-03

It was moved by Dolly Moore and seconded by Mary Speer to approve the LSMF request to hold a supported entry with sweepstakes and draft test on July 17, 2009 (Friday) at the Reliant Center in Houston. This request also includes a BOB trophy. Danielle Brown Chair of MCOA Working Dog Committee approves Jennifer Lambden as well qualified to be the draft judge for the LSMF supported entry request. Sweepstakes judge will be Susie Farber.
Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Hudspeth, Speer, Lange, DeLisa, Moore, May
N/R: Collings
Motion Carried

EM#11/08-01

It was moved by Jodi LaBombard and seconded by Cindy Furr to approve the Oct 29 BOD minutes with edits.
Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Hudspeth, Speer, Lange, DeLisa, Moore, May, Collings
N/R: Speer
Motion Carried

EM#11/08-02

It was moved by Dolly Moore and seconded by Mary DeLisa to approved the amended motion for RMMF 2/14/09 supported entry to include sweeps.

Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Hudspeth, Speer, Lange, DeLisa, Moore, May, Collings

N/R: Speer

Motion Carried

EM#11/08-03

It was moved by Mary DeLisa and seconded by Dolly Moore to approved the amended motion for RMMF 2/14/09 supported entry to include BOB Trophy.

Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Speer, DeLisa, Moore, May, Collings, Speer

N/R: Lange, Hudspeth

Motion Carried

EM#12/08-01

It was moved by Dolly Moore and seconded by Jodi LaBombard to approve the CEMC request for a BOB trophy for the supported entry on July 18, 2009 at the Portland Kennel Club, OR.

Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Hudspeth, Collings, May, Moore, DeLisa

N/R: Lange, Speer

Motion Carried

EM#12/08-02

It was moved by Cindy Furr, and seconded by Dolly Moore, to authorize the following people as signors effective January 1, 2009 on the JPMorganChase bank accounts for the Mastiff Club of America, including 3 checking accounts(General, Rescue and Specialty) and 2 savings accounts

(General and Rescue):

Jill McMahan, Treasurer (the bank will remove me on 2/1/09)

Diane Collings, President (a current signor)

John Lange, Vice President (a new signor to act as backup)

Aye: Furr, LaBombard, Hudspeth, Speer, DeLisa, Moore, May, Collings

N/R: Lange

Motion Carried

**Mastiff Club of America Breeder
Referral Form**

Breeder Referral is about educating the public, **not just about selling puppies. If you** would like to educate a prospective Mastiff owner even when you do not have puppies, please complete the following and you will be placed on MCOA's Breeder Referral Listing. **Note: You must be a MCOA member in good standing to be placed on the list.**

There are many states that are not being represented in the listing and it would be great to have the whole United States represented for contacts.

Kennel Name _____

Your Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail _____

Please forward this form to Kelly Meyer, Chairperson, Breeder Referral
2229 Tennessee Avenue
Savannah, GA 31404 Phone:
(912)238-3170

Litter Announcement

The MCOA Board has reinstated the Litter Announcement to the Breeder Referral to members who pay the "Love Tax". Amount of donation is up to you.

Your listing will remain on the Breeder Referral Litter Announcement for four (4) months or until notified by you to remove by calling (912) 239-3170.

Complete this form and return with the Love Tax after the whelping of a litter or a stud service. Make check payable to MCOA and send to Kelly Meyer, Breeder Referral Chairperson, at 2229 Tennessee Avenue, Savannah, GA 31404. You may direct any questions to Kelly at (912) 238-3170.

Name _____ Kennel _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Date Litter Whelped _____ Date of Stud Service _____

Mastiff Club of America, Inc.
October 29, 2008
Board Meeting Minutes

President Diane Collings called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm PT.

Board Members Present: Diane Collings, Cindy Furr, Jodi LaBombard, Mary Speer, Dolly Moore, Anna May, Mary DeLisa, John Lange
Absent: Jim Hudspeth.

Previous Minutes: July, 2008 minutes were email approved (**EM#08/08-02**).

Report of the Recording Secretary: Nothing at this time.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary: Rather than mailing a hard copy packet, Dolly forwarded a couple emails as well as collating other information received via email.

Discussion regarding NC sales tax requirement for items sold at specialty. It is not a significant change from the past, and it is a requirement to avoid tax issues. There were several ideas to make the process streamlined when needed. Dolly will respond to Nicki. Cindy mentioned that the sale of the logowear on the website to the public may be subject to Federal income taxes as unrelated business income.

Discussion regarding RMMF status as an AKC recognized club. Dolly will write letter to document their status.

Report of the Treasurer:

Cindy reviewed Treasurer Report that had been emailed out.

Motion 10/08-01: Cindy Furr moved and Dolly Moore seconded to approve emailed treasurer report. All in favor, motion carries.

Discussion about late dues and late payments. Agreement that those who paid dues and late fee do not need to reapply.

Motion 10/08-02: Anna May moved and Jodi LaBombard seconded to send reminders to those individuals and households who still owe late fee. Until late fee is paid those will remain members but not in good standing and cannot vote. All in favor, motion carries. Action: Cindy and Jodi to coordinate mailing.

Further discussion about membership trends and ideas for improvements. Mary S will chair a membership committee, and Anna volunteered to assist. Output will include ideas for membership rules changes. A communication

mailing or vote would also include an updated National Specialty judge's selection survey to minimize additional mailing costs.

Reports of Committees

Judges Committee: – Tabled due to Jim's absence.

Nominating Committee: Jim Hudspeth was previously selected as chair this year.

2010 National Specialty: Two proposals have been received and discussed.

Motion 10/08-03: John Lange moved and Mary Speer seconded to accept the bid from the Cascade English Mastiff Club. Aye: Cindy Furr, Jodi LaBombard, Mary Speer, Anna May, John Lange. Abstain: Mary DeLisa, Dolly Moore. Motion carried. Dolly will notify the 2 clubs.

National Specialty Advisor report: *Issues discussed:*

Retire Top group placing Dog & Bitch, replace with single trophy: Need cost of replacement plaque. Diane will ask Chuck for this information.

Purchase Marie Moore Medallions: Postpone purchase until next year, since we have this year covered.

2011 and 2012 proposals: Potential areas discussed.

Request for \$150 National Trophy Chairman Imprest fund: Chuck is requesting a standing fund to draw from, so he is not using his own money for expenses. Receipts plus the cash always equals the \$150. He will submit original receipts and an accounting of the \$150 imprest account at least quarterly to the Treasurer.

Motion 10/08-04: Mary Speer moved and Dolly Moore seconded to approve Chuck having \$150 standing funds to draw from. Aye: Mary Speer, Anna May, John Lange, Mary DeLisa, Dolly Moore. Nay: Cindy Furr, Jodi LaBombard. Motion Carried.

Request for travel budget for NSA: No set budget is established since needs vary each year. Suggest that request be made as needed to BOD. Diane will inform Chuck of process to follow.

Expense considerations for BOD at National. Guideline for comp rooms will be documented in the Specialty manual being created. Key points: no set protocol. Comp room distribution will be approved by the_BOD each year, most comp rooms go to contractually obligated such as judges.

RFI: Request to hold a temperament test seminar at specialty at no cost to MCOA. Dolly will send a note to Becky Campbell for her to ask Nicki & Vicki if this can be scheduled in to the agenda.

John Lange will talk with Margaret Murphy to include a request for silent auction items in the bulletin.

Ethics Committee: Committee voted that charges submitted should be investigated.

Hearing Committee: There were 2 charges from Carol Applegate against Bonnie Blink.

COE # 4. Hearing results: Guilty

COE # 12. Hearing results: Not guilty

Penalty for violation of COE # 4 is 60 days suspension from MCOA.

Health Committee:

DNA Profiling: A draft letter to AKC was submitted to the BOD for approval stating that the MCOA's DNA Sub-Committee would like to ask the AKC to share their DNA Profile numbers on Mastiffs with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Mary D will send the letter to Glenn Lycan at AKC to review. Once the letter is ready to go, a copy will be sent to Dolly to add to the files.

Motion 10/08-05: Anna May moved and Mary S seconded to change the CHIC criteria for Mastiffs to "If evaluations are on file for the same test from multiple organizations, ALL the results must be disclosed and placed in the open database in order to receive a CHIC Certificate." All in favor, motion carried.

Motion 10/08-06: Anna May moved and Dolly seconded to change the CHIC criteria for Mastiffs to "OVC testing results will only be accepted from Canadian owners to receive a CHIC Certificate." All in favor, motion carried.

Motion 10/08-07: Cindy Furr moved and Mary D seconded to authorize Anna May and Jenny Zinn-Boyce a budget for the 2008 AKC/Eukanuba Meet the Breed event not to exceed \$500. Aye: Cindy Furr, Jodi LaBombard, Mary Speer, John Lange. Mary DeLisa, Dolly Moore. Abstain: Anna May, Motion carried.

Old Business:

Specialty Manual project: Almost done. Chuck is editing, Mary D will send to BOD for review.

New Business:

Suggestion to have a Yahoo Group for BOD business to help keep emails organized.

Dolly suggested that we try Board Host. Dolly will send everyone a link so the BOD can try it.

Cindy has submitted her resignation effective Dec 31. We will search for a replacement.

Website: Max has been working on revisions. Jodi will contact Max to suggest that Committee Chairs can submit edits directly to Max for their own sections, and all other requests can be submitted to Jodi for review with the BOD as needed.

2009 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show

AKC contacted Diane asking if the MCOA would be interested in sponsoring a Specialty or Supported entry at the 2009 AKC/Eukanuba National Show. AKC will be celebrating their 125th anniversary and are offering classes at the breed level and championship points will be awarded. It was discussed and suggested that the Pacific Southwest Mastiff Club be contacted to see if they would want to help with the event.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 9:55 pm PT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi LaBombard
Recording Secretary

2009 National Specialty Update: Head for the Hills, Fontana Village, NC May 11-17, 2009

The 2009 National is less than 4 months away! The Hotel is sold out and has a waiting list. If you need to cancel your room, remember- you only have until April 8th to cancel for a refund (less \$50 penalty). After April 8th, you forfeit the entire deposit of one nights room and tax. If you find you need to cancel, contact Vicki or I and we may be able to find someone to take over your room or call the hotel directly to cancel .

The Specialty packet is mailing this month with the MCOA Journal as an insert. This 32 page book gives you all the detail on the National and special events. You will also find in the packet the order form to sign up for the Banquet, Welcome registration, SSMF barbeque sign up, T shirts and other Logo products and Catalog Ad form. Remember- these will not be included in the Premium list. If you don't subscribe to the Journal, please visit the 2009 Specialty Website: <http://www.ssmfmastiff.org/2009MCOANational.htm> click on the "Download a Specialty Packet" tab and print out the packet. Individual forms are also available on the website.

RV parking is also going fast. There is one spot left in the campground with a hookup, 10 with no hookup, and three spots on-site (no hookup) within walking distance to the rings. Visit the web to download an RV parking reservation form and send it in ASAP with payment to reserve your space.

The Premium list will go out the first week in March and we do have an early closing date of April 15th- do don't put off sending in your entry.

Also- don't forget to sign up for some of our special events- -this year we are offering a "Competitive" Obedience Seminar, Carting Seminar, Freestyle Seminar, The Breed Standard seminar and The Structure and Movement Seminar. The MOCA Health Committee is also offering a special Seminar presented by Jerald Bell DVM on Genetic Diversity. You can enroll via the web, or fill out the forms in the specialty packet.

We are also offering in addition to the Banquet and Welcome Party, a barbeque with entertainment hosted by SSMF. We need volunteers, raffle donations and don't forget the catalog ad deadline is March 7th. Contributing to these things makes for a successful national!

Thanks to Eukanuba and Bayer for supporting the National with donations. Our first 150 Welcome Bag registrants receive a complimentary 4 pack of Advantage or K9 Advantix- \$60.00 value! Our Welcome Bags feature the logo in full color thanks to Eukanuba.

As always, feel free to contact Vicki or I at oakmast@aol.com or mastiffud@triad.rr.com if you have questions.
Service Award Deadline: March 1

The deadline for nominations for MCOA Service awards is March 1. please forward an email to Nicki Camerra @ mastiffud@triad.rr.com with a brief write up on your nominee- and what they have contributed to the betterment of the Club or the mastiff breed.

FUN MATCH AND OBEDIENCE RALLY RUNS

A SSMF hosted FUN MATCH & OB/RALLY RUNS are scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2009. The entry fee of \$10.00 includes pizza and tea or lemonade. Currently in place will be classes for 6-9, 9-12 and adult classes, as well as JR. All obedience and rally regular classes will be done. It will be indoors at the recreation hall of Fontana Resort. Time: 6 pm (subject to change with notice).

2009 National Rescue Parade and Parade of Titleholders!

If you are attending the MCOA National Specialty with a rescued mastiff, please contact Marguarite Matter, 2009 Rescue Parade Chair if you would like to be included in the Annual Rescue parade, which will be Saturday, May 16. She will need a brief write up on your mastiffs history (1/2 page0 and a photo. Deadline is March 7 for inclusion in the catalog. Her email is: toadhal@gmail.com

We will once again offer the Parade of Titleholders at the national. Entry form can be downloaded at: <http://www.ssmfmastiff.org/DOWNLOADABLEFORMS.htm>

The entry fee is \$20 and includes a large Rosette with the dogs name imprinted on it. Any AKC title is acceptable including Rally, Obedience, agility or Champion. Entry deadline for the Parade of Titleholders is April 15th. Please note: these get sent to Carol Applegate- **not** to the Show Superintendent.

Jodi LaBombard, Membership Secretary
 jalmistone@mastaffs@yahoo.com

The following membership applications have been received by MCOA. These applicants are now Associate members. You have one (1) year from the date hereof to submit any negative letters to the Corresponding Secretary, Dolly Moore, 5114 Sunrise Trail, Huntsville, AL 35810. If the Corresponding Secretary receives any negative letters they will be forwarded to the Ethics Committee. A written negative response shall automatically remove an Associate member status until the Ethics Committee reviews the negative response(s) and so advises their findings to the Board for Associate notification or further Board action.

LAST	FIRST	Mail ADDRESS1	CITY	ST	ZIP	COUNTRY	PHONE1	Date Joined	Sponsor1	Sponsor2
Bruno-Petrina	Auri	2330 Lloyd Ave	N Vancouver	BC	V7P 2P5	Canada	604-987-4704	9/17/2008	Cheryl Compton	Shannon Low
Buckley	Robin	27 Cream Pot Rd	Clinton	CT	6413		860-664-4061	9/20/2008	Kimberly Morrell	Floberta Pavoll
Levoit III	Conrad	1865 Lincoln Blvd	Tracy	CA	95376		209-835-7464	9/27/2008	Toni Hyland	Margo Lauritsen
Wood	Kym	8781 Danforth Dr	Windermere	FL	34786		407-612-6647	10/6/2008	Susan Prickett	Dolly Moore
Sessions	Porsche	4008 E 66 N	Rigby	ID	83442		208-228-0098	10/17/2008	Tamara Kuhn	Karen Parks
Burns	Tamar	6050 Yorktown Rd	Mt Airy	MD	21771		301-829-3535	10/20/2008	Myra Street Nelson	Susan McQueen
Dickson	Darwin	15 Midway Dr	Oroville	CA	95966		530-534-9088	10/27/2008	Margo Lauritsen	Stephanie Howells
Brunner	Belle	3501 Quail Run Dr	Moore	OK	73160		405-237-3361	11/13/2008	Judi Mott	Terrence Shotts
Fleetham	BJ	17075 32nd Ave RR2	South Surrey	BC	V3S 0L5	Canada	604-531-5674	11/13/2008	Jamie Morris	Shannon Low
Wimmer	Mabel	HC 01 2560	Glenallen	AK	99588		907-822-3346	11/30/2008	Mary Rosa	Gina Anelli
Hervas	Julie	2621 Gresham Ave N	Oakdale	MN	55128		651-777-9234	11/30/2008	Elizabeth Lapinski	Diana Whealon
Friend	Debbie	2662 Cook Tr	Ortonville	MI	48462		not published	12/27/2008	Deborah Vanderveer	Gloria Cuthbert
Houck	Terr	PO Box 185	Graham	WA	98338		253-847-8967	1/9/2009	Danna Burnett	Isobel Goodchild

Membership Directories are now available electronically. Either obtain a file from the MCOA Yahoo Group (Files Section Membership Directory) or email your request to Jodi. Directories will be updated Quarterly and posted to the MCOA Yahoo files.

MASTIFF CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.
Consolidated Statement of Operations (Unaudited)
For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2008

	General	Rescue	(Rescue) Eliminations	Consolidated
Revenues:				
Dues Income	\$5,770	\$-	\$-	\$5,770
Specialty Income	3,162	65		3,227
Journal Income	57	0		57
Rescue Donations	0	248		248
Interest Income	50	101		151
Other Income	385	75		460
Total Revenues	9,424	489	0	9,913

	General	Rescue	(Rescue) Eliminations	Consolidated
Expenses:				
Contributions	0	3,453		3,453
Awards and Trophies	1,525	0		1,525
National Specialty Expense	977	0		977
Professional Services	500	0		500
Specialty Expenses	492	0		492
Bank Credit Card and Service Charges	406	(4)		402
Bulletin	333	0		333
Postage and Delivery	261	0		261
Telephone	190	0		190
Secretaries	71	0		71
Breeder Referral	0	36		36
Total Expenses	4,755	3,485	0	8,240
Net Income (Loss)	\$4,669	\$(2,996)	\$-	\$1,673

MASTIFF CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.
Consolidated Balance Sheet (Unaudited)
As of September 30, 2008

Assets	General	Rescue	(Rescue)	
			Eliminations	Consolidated
Cash	\$90,008	\$66,856	\$-	\$156,864
Trade Accounts Receivable	0	15	0	15
Intercompany Receivable	0	313	(313)	0
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	6,078	0		6,078
Transfers	17,305	(17,305)		0
Total Assets	\$113,391	\$49,879	\$(313)	\$162,957
Liabilities & Equity				
Accounts Payable - Other	\$2,988	\$-	\$-	\$2,988
Accounts Payable - Rescue	313		(313)	0
Accounts Payable - Health Trust	210			210
Juniors Fund	6,487			6,487
Deferred Revenue	29,613			29,613
Designated Health Funds	5,000			5,000
Total Liabilities	44,611	0	(313)	44,298
Equity				
Retained Earnings	64,111	52,875		116,986
Net Income (Loss)	4,669	(2,996)		1,673
Total Equity	68,780	49,879	0	118,659
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$113,391	\$49,879	\$(313)	\$162,957

MASTIFF CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.**Consolidated Statement of Operations By Income Source (Unaudited)
For the Three Months Ended September 30, 2008**

	Dues	Journal	Specialty	Rescue	Other	Total
Revenues:						
Dues Income	\$5,770	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$5,770
Specialty Income			3,162	65		3,227
Journal Income		57				57
Interest Income				101	50	151
Rescue Donations				248		248
Other Income				75	385	460
Total Revenues	5,770	57	3,162	489	435	9,913
Expenses:						
Contributions	0			3,453		3,453
Awards and Trophies	1,525					1,525
National Specialty Expense	0		977			977
Professional Services	500					500
Specialty Expenses	0		492	0		492
Bank Credit Card and Service Charges	406			(4)		402
Bulletin	333					333
Postage and Delivery	261					261
Telephone	190					190
Secretaries	71					71
Breeder Referral	0			36		36
Total Expenses	3,286	0	1,469	3,485	0	8,240
Net Income (Loss)	\$2,484	\$57	\$1,693	\$(2,996)	\$435	\$1,673



7th Annual Northeast Ohio Picnic 2008

The 2008 Mastiff Picnic was a huge success! They had over 200 people and almost 100 dogs attend this year's picnic and they raised over \$2900 which will be used to support Mastiff Health & Rescue!!

GREAT JOB WE APPRECIATE IT!

Once again, Kim Fish did a wonderful job at coordinating the picnic and its many fundraising activities, games, and prizes....

A very special Thank You also goes out to Jan McNamee, Dr Michelle and Dr. Karl for running the Cystinuria Clinic and to Lisa Gynn for sharing her experience with Cystinuria!

Last but not least, a HUGE THANK YOU to all the great people that attended the picnic and participated in the activities, especially all those who donated food, drinks, items, money and that volunteered your services and time to make it an event to remember!! Special kudos to all of you that raised your Mastiffs with socialization and training as a priority!

To view the list of wonderful sponsors go to:

<http://www.mastiffpicnic.com/sponsors.html>

Mastiff Lover Cookbook!

Please contribute your favorite recipes to help this new fundraiser be a big success.
<http://www.mastiffpicnic.com/cookbook.html>

The Mastiff Picnic Store

All profits from sales will be used to fund health & rescue!
<http://www.mastiffpicnic.com/shoponline.html>

For more information on the Annual Northeast Ohio Picnics and their fundraising projects and to view the wonderful pictures and see the various sponsors and prizes, please visit their website at: <http://www.mastiffpicnic.com>

**2009 Mastiff Club of America National Specialty
Health and Breeding Educational Seminar Luncheon**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009 FROM 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

The Ins and Outs of Pedigree Analysis, Genetic Diversity and Genetic Disease

**Jerold S Bell, DVM, Clinical Associate Professor of Genetics
Department of Clinical Sciences, Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine**

This educational seminar will help us improve the results of our breeding programs by gaining the knowledge of breeding strategies aimed at minimizing undesirable traits while maximizing those that we desire. Dr. Bell will cover genetic disorders affecting Mastiffs with updates from pertinent researchers such as Dr. Paula Henthorn of the University of Pennsylvania regarding Cystinuria in Mastiffs. The talk will also cover the different types of genetic tests, their availability, and their proper use as well as breeding recommendations to manage different types of genetic disorders. An optional lunch will be served during the seminar and a question and answer period will follow. Please bring a friend and attend this special seminar!

Dr. Bell is considered an expert on managing genetic conditions to improve the health and quality of pure-bred dogs. In addition to teaching genetics to veterinary students, Dr. Bell also offers Veterinary Genetic Counseling services and he practices Small Animal Veterinary Medicine. He has been a guest speaker at several Canine Health Foundation events and has spoken at various National Specialty Shows. Dr. Bell and his wife also breed Gordon Setters.

For pre-registration forms and directions please see the 2009 Specialty Website:

<http://www.ssmfmastiff.org/2009HealthAndBreedingSeminarAndLuncheon.htm>

If you cannot attend the seminar and you do not want to miss out on this educational opportunity, you can pre-order a recorded videotape of the seminar.

2009 MCOA National Specialty Health Clinics

Take advantage of our many reduced price health testing options available
on

Wednesday, May 13th from 8 am to 10 am and on Friday, May 15th, from
*12 PM to 4 PM or approximately *1 hour after Winner's Dog. CERF exams
will be dependent on 30+ exams.

Tests offered this year include: AKC DNA Profiling (required for all future nationals), Cystinuria, PRA DNA, CMR DNA, Fluffy DNA Test, and Microchipping. We may be able to offer CERF exams if we have at least 30 dogs pre-registered. We will also offer **FREE** blood draws to support the CHIC DNA Repository, Cancer, Epilepsy, & the National Institute of Health studies.

2009 MCOA National Specialty Health Walk

The 2009 **March For Health** will be held on Friday, May 15, 2009, 1/2 hour after the MCOA Annual Meeting. The entry fee to walk is \$20 which includes a commemorative T-shirt. Please get as many sponsors as you can to help raise money for Mastiff Health Projects! If you cannot participate in the walk, please offer your support by purchasing a T-shirt and/or by giving a donation. Once again this year, following the walk we will raffle free prizes to those that participated in the health events (Clinics, Seminar & the March for Health).

For pre-registration forms on the clinics & walk please see the 2009 Specialty Website:

<http://www.ssmfmastiff.org/2009HealthAndBreedingSeminarAndLuncheon.htm>

**HELP WANTED! HEALTH CLINIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
E-MAIL: mastiff@iinet.com**

Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) News

Instructions for Updating Health History of dogs with DNA samples banked in the CHIC DNA Repository: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/>

“CHIC is currently in the process of developing an online web-based application to allow owners to record any significant changes in the health history of their dogs that have DNA samples banked. Until this application is implemented, please email us with any significant health updates. Please include your name and contact information in the body of the email, as well as what changes have been noted. We are primarily looking for new disease diagnosis, as an example, a dog that had developed cancer, PRA, or been diagnosed with hip dysplasia would all be updates that should be incorporated into the dog's record. Emails should be sent to: chic@offa.org “

Mastiff CHIC Certificate Requirement Updates:

If evaluations from Mastiffs are on file for the same test from multiple organizations, **ALL** the results must be disclosed and placed in the open database in order to receive a CHIC Certificate. In addition, OVC testing results on Mastiffs will only be accepted from Canadian owners to receive a CHIC Certificate.

CHIC testing requirements in Mastiffs:

Hips at 24 months or older:

<http://www.offa.org/hipgeninfo.html>

Elbows at 24 months or older:

<http://www.offa.org/elbowgeninfo.html>

Heart – OFA Congenital Cardiac Database at 12 months or older:

<http://www.offa.org/cardiageninfo.html>

Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF) at 24 months or older:

<http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>

OFA Thyroid - Autoimmune Thyroiditis at or after 24 months of age (Optional):

<http://www.offa.org/thygeninfo.html>

<http://www.offa.org/thygrade.html>

Cystinuria at 18 months or older (Optional):

<http://www.mastiff.org/health/cystine.htm>

The MCOA Cystinuria Committee recommends screening dogs for Cystinuria annually or 2 months before each breeding. If your dog is closely related to an affected dog you should consult with the University of Pennsylvania for special re-testing recommendations.

The Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC/Canine Health Foundation and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.

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