

# **National Futurity/Maturity Stake Rules**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the MCOA Futurity and Maturity is to encourage the breeding of the best possible Mastiffs, reward diligent MCOA breeders for their efforts, recognize the owners for selecting the best quality puppies from responsible breeders, and reward the owners and breeders for raising and developing the inherited qualities of the puppy.

In nominating a litter for the Futurity, MCOA members are casting their vote of confidence in their breeding decisions and indicating their commitment to improving the quality of our mastiffs.

In addition, the Maturity Stakes not only provide Futurity-nominated puppies with an additional opportunity to compete but also gives those unable to participate in a futurity the chance to compete during the next National Specialty in the Maturity stakes.

## **GENERAL**

Correct and timely nominations of both the litter and the individual puppy are required for stakes eligibility. Prize moneys can only be won through competition at the MCOA National Futurity or Maturity stakes held in conjunction with the MCOA National Specialty.

Nomination forms may be secured from the Futurity/Maturity Director or on the MCOA Website <http://www.mcoamastiff.com/FUTURITYMATURITY.htm>. The Nomination entry must also be mailed directly to the Futurity/Maturity Director.

Nomination and entry fees should be paid online via MCOA PayPal, but checks may be sent to the Treasurer identified by FUTURITY ENTRY FEE in comments section of check.

Effective 2007 Futurity the Futurity/Maturity Director is eligible to participate in Futurity/Maturity Competition.

### **ETHICS -**

While the Futurity/Maturity Stakes is a non-regular event, this function will be held under the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Code of Ethics as is any AKC sponsored event.

Examples include but are not limited to:

1) Judges should advise potential exhibitors not to enter under you when their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of unfair advantage. Examples include but are not limited to:

- ...your employer or an employee.
- ...a relative.
- ...a person with whom you co-own dogs.
- ...a person with whom you co-breed dogs.
- ...a person with whom you travel to dog shows.

2) Exhibitors should not to enter under a judge when their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of unfair advantage. Examples include but are not limited to:

- ...your employer or an employee.
- ...a relative.
- ...a person with whom you co-own dogs.
- ...a person with whom you co-breed dogs.
- ...a person with whom you travel to dog shows.

3) No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his immediate household or immediate family has been known to have owned, handled in the ring more than twice, sold, held under lease or boarded within one year prior to the date of the show.

### **FUTURITY NOMINATION OF LITTER**

Nomination must be made by breeder or co-breeder. The person making the nomination **MUST** be an MCOA member.

Nomination must be made after the breeding, but before puppies are whelped. The postmark on the entry envelope is the official date of nomination.

The fee to nominate the litter is \$25.00.

Of the nomination fee \$20.00 will go to Futurity nomination and \$5.00 will go to the Maturity Nomination.

Nomination fees cannot be transferred from one litter to another nor from one bitch to another. There will be no refunds.

The nomination of a litter makes all puppies in the litter eligible for individual nomination in both Futurity and Maturity.

## **FUTURITY NOMINATION OF PUPPY**

Nomination must be made by the legal owner or co-owner of the puppy as of the date of nomination.

Nomination must be made before the puppy reaches four (4) months of age. The postmark on the envelope is the official date of nomination.

The fee is \$25.00 for each puppy nominated and the entry should include a copy of the current AKC registration.

Of the puppy nomination fee \$15.00 will go to Futurity Nomination and \$10.00 will go to the Maturity Nomination. There will be no refunds.

An entire litter may be individually nominated by the breeder for Futurity and Maturity before puppies are sold by paying fee for each puppy and supplying (for each puppy):

- Litter Registration Number
- Whelping Date,
- Name
- Sex
- color

Once the individual registration papers have been received by the new owner/co-owner, a copy of the puppy's new AKC registration **must** be sent directly to the Futurity/Maturity Director **no later than eight (8) weeks PRIOR** to judging the Futurity.

## **FUTURITY STAKES**

### **REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER FUTURITY JUDGING**

The puppy must be entered in one of the regular classes, either in conformation or obedience at the MCOA National Specialty Show. All entries must be paid in full.

The Futurity entry must include:

- Futurity entry **must** be indicated as an additional class.
- Futurity entry **must** include Additional Class age division (e.g., Futurity 6-9, etc.)
- Futurity Classes range in age from six months through the eighteenth month (until the dog is nineteen months old). The classes will be divided as such:
  - 6 to 9 months
  - 9 to 12 months
  - 12 to 15 months
  - 15 to 18 months

Puppies are eligible **only** for the first Futurity Stake Show that is held in conjunction with the first MCOA Specialty Show held on or after the date the puppy reaches six (6) months of age.

Individuals handling the dogs in Futurity Competition must be:

- **An Owner or Co-owner or**
- **A Breeder or Co-Breeder or**
- **An MCOA Member or Associate MCOA Member in good standing\* with MCOA and AKC. This includes professional handlers.**

\*In Good Standing – members and associate MCOA members that are not in a suspended status with AKC or MCOA.

### **CLASS DIVISIONS**

Stake is divided into four age divisions:

- Puppy - 6 to 9 months
- Puppy - 9 to 12 months
- Junior - 12 to 15 months
- Junior - 15 to 18 months

Each age group is then divided by sex.

Four placements are made in the judging of each class.

## **SEQUENCE OF JUDGING**

Judging sequence for each age division will be Dogs, Bitches, Winners and Best of Opposite. After the age division winner is selected, the judge will select a best of opposite winner.

Best Puppy and Best of Opposite Puppy are selected from the 6-9 and 9-12 winners.

Best Junior and Best of Opposite Junior are selected from the 12-15 and 15-18 winners.

The Best Futurity Puppy and the Best Junior compete for Best in Futurity Winner.

### **NOTE:**

- If the Best of Opposite Puppy and Best of Opposite Junior **are of the same sex**, they shall compete for the Best of Opposite Sex to the Best in Futurity Winner.
- If they **are different sexes**, the dog or bitch that was awarded Best of Opposite to the Division Winner (who is now the Best in Futurity Winner) shall re-enter the ring to compete with the remaining Division Winner (of his or her own sex) for Best of Opposite Sex to the Best in Futurity Winner.

## **DIVISION OF FUTURITY STAKE MONEYS** **GENERAL**

30% to operating expense fund.

70% to be divided equally between the puppy and junior stakes.

### **DIVISION OF INDIVIDUAL STAKE MONEYS (PUPPY AND JUNIOR)**

80% to placements in the eight classes, pro-rated by the number of dogs entered in each class, with 40% going to first place, 30% to second, 20% to third place, and 10% to fourth place.

7% to be divided equally between the two age divisions winners (puppy & junior) with 3 1/2% going to each.

3% to be divided equally between the two age divisions best of opposite winners with 1 1/2% going to each.

10% to Best in Futurity Stakes.

### **DIVISION OF PRIZE MONEY FOR FUTURITY**

40% to Breeder. 60% to Owner.

## **TROPHIES AND RIBBONS**

A trophy and rosette will be provided for:

- Best In Futurity Puppy,
- Best of Opposite Sex to Futurity Puppy,
- Best in Futurity Junior,
- Best of Opposite Sex to Futurity Junior.
- Best in Futurity Winner
- Best of Opposite Sex to Futurity Winner

The Best In Futurity Winner and the Best of Opposite Sex to Futurity Winner ribbons and trophies will be purchased from the Futurity operating funds. Other trophies and rosettes may be awarded at the discretion of the National Specialty Show Committee.

Ribbons will be awarded for each 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> placement. Duplicate copies of ribbons for the owners/co-owners or breeders/co-breeders may be purchased by requesting them from the National Ribbon Chairperson within 30 days after the national.

## **MATURITY STAKES**

### **REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER MATURITY JUDGING**

The Maturity Stakes will be held in conjunction with the MCOA National Specialty. A puppy nominated for a Futurity is **automatically** nominated for the next year's Maturity Stakes.

The Futurity Director will maintain the records of eligible Futurity/Maturity puppies.

Maturity entries are eligible to compete only in the first Maturity Stake held following the Futurity stake for which they were nominated.

While the nomination **must** have been made for Futurity, entry or participation in the Futurity Stakes is not required for Maturity judging. Thus if a puppy is not able to attend their futurity year, they may still enter in maturity the following year.

The dog entering a Maturity class **must** be entered in one of the regular classes, either in conformation or obedience at the MCOA National Specialty Show. All entries must be paid in full.

The Maturity entry must include:

- Maturity entry **must** be indicated as an additional class on the official AKC entry form.
- Maturity entry **must** include **Additional Class age division** (e.g., Maturity Under 24 Months or Maturity Over 24 Months)
- Maturity classes will be divided as such:
  - Maturity – Under 24 Months
  - Maturity – Over 24 Month

Individuals handling the dogs in Futurity Competition must be:

- **An Owner or Co-owner or**
- **A Breeder or Co-Breeder or**
- **An MCOA Member or Associate Member in good standing with MCOA and AKC. This includes professional handlers.**

\*In Good Standing – members or Associate Members that are not in a suspended status with AKC or MCOA.

### **CLASS DIVISIONS**

Maturity Stakes are divided by sex into two age divisions:

- under 24 months
- over 24 months.

## **SEQUENCE OF JUDGING**

The dog classes will be judged first, followed by the bitch classes. The judge will make four placements for each class.

The judge will select Best Maturity junior first, followed by Best of Opposite Maturity Junior, from the winners of the under 24 month classes.

The judge will select Best Maturity Senior first, followed by Best of Opposite Maturity senior, from the winners of the over 24 month classes.

Best Maturity Junior and Best Maturity senior will compete for Best in Maturity Winner, followed by Best of Opposite Maturity Winner using the following guidelines:

### **Note:**

If the Best of Opposite Maturity Junior and Best of Opposite Maturity Senior are of the same sex, they shall compete for the Best of Opposite Sex to the Best in Maturity Winner.

However, if they are different sexes, the dog or bitch that was awarded Best of Opposite to the Division Winner (who is now the Best in Maturity Winner) shall re-enter the ring to compete with the remaining Division Winner (of his or her own sex) for Best of Opposite Sex to the Best in Maturity Winner.



## **DIVISION OF MATURITY STAKE MONEYS**

### **GENERAL**

30% to operating expense fund.

70% to be divided equally between the junior and senior stakes.

## **DIVISION OF INDIVIDUAL MATURITY STAKE MONEYS -**

75% to placements in the four classes, pro-rated by the number of dogs entered in each class, with 30% going to first place, 20% to second, 15% to third place, and 10% to fourth place.

7% to be divided equally between the two age divisions winners (puppy & junior) with 3 1/2% going to each.

3% to be divided equally between the two age divisions best of opposite winners with 1 1/2% going to each.

10% to Best in Maturity Stakes and 5% to Best of Opposite in Maturity Stakes

## **DIVISION OF PRIZE MONEY**

40% to Breeder.

60% to Owner.

## **TROPHIES AND RIBBONS**

A trophy and rosette will be provided for:

- Best In Maturity Junior
- Best of Opposite Sex to Maturity Junior
- Best in Maturity Senior
- Best of Opposite Sex to Maturity Senior
- Best in Futurity Winner
- Best of Opposite Sex to Maturity Winner

The Best in Maturity Winner and the Best of Opposite Sex to Maturity Winner ribbons and trophies will be purchased from the Maturity operating funds. Other trophies and rosettes may be awarded at the discretion of the National Specialty Show Committee.

Ribbons will be awarded for each 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> placement. Duplicate copies of ribbons for the owners/co-owners or breeders/co-breeders may be purchased by requesting them from the National Ribbon Chairperson within 30 days after the national.

## **RECORDS**

The Futurity Director will maintain the records of Futurity/Maturity eligible puppies. However it is recommended that those who have made entries in the Futurity/Maturity Stakes have copies of all pertinent information regarding acceptance of nominations, name changes, etc., available at time of judging.

## **SUMMARY OF MAJOR RULES for Futurity/Maturity Stakes**

- Litter must be nominated before litter is whelped.
- Puppy must be nominated before puppy reaches four (4) months of age.
- Futurity is an **additional class** at the National Specialty, and the entry must so indicate on the official AKC entry.
- Maturity is an **additional class** at the National Specialty, and the entry must so indicate on the official AKC entry.
- Puppies are eligible to compete **only** in the first Maturity Stake held following the Futurity stake for which they were nominated.
- All information on entry form **must** be consistent with what was supplied to the Futurity Director eight (8) week before judging Futurity/Maturity.
- Entry is open to all legally eligible dogs.

### **For Additional Information, Contact:**

**Julia Kriebs,  
National Futurity Director  
Mastiff Club of America, Inc.  
135 Valley Road  
West Branch, IA 52358-8530  
phone: (319) 643-5315  
email: [nyalmast@Lcom.net](mailto:nyalmast@Lcom.net)**

## **SPECIAL FUTURITY AWARD CURRENTLY OFFERED**

Gladys Tangen had generously donated \$500 to the Futurity as a Futurity Challenge Award. This money shall be awarded to the first person who owns the Best in Futurity Winner in three Futurities. The Futurities need not be consecutive.

Additionally, a Best of Opposite Sex to the Grand Prize Futurity Winner will be awarded. (effective 1997).

Until the \$500 Challenge Award is awarded, the money shall remain in the MCOA bank account. Effective May, 2004 a set amount of \$50.00 shall be awarded annually to the winner of the Futurity Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Futurity Winner with the amount to be \$30.00 to the Owner and \$20.00 to the Breeder.

## **SPECIAL MATURITY AWARD EFFECTIVE WITH FIRST MATURITY 2010**

A \$500 Maturity Challenge Award has been offered by the Midwest Mastiff Fanciers in memory of Fred Simon and Betts Kieffer. This money shall be awarded to the first person who owns the Best in Maturity Winner in three Maturities. The Maturities need not be consecutive. Until the \$500 Challenge Award is awarded, the money shall remain in the MCOA bank account.