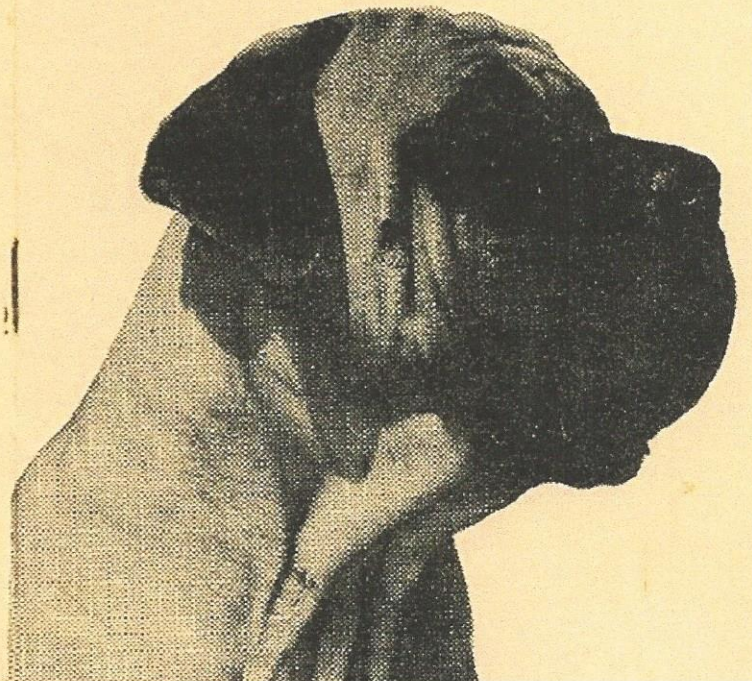
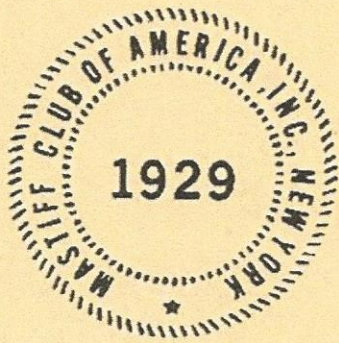


THE MASTIFF



This folder was prepared by the Mastiff Club of America, the Member club of the American Kennel Club which represents this breed in America. When you become a Mastiff owner you will have an interest in the breed's future in this country.

HISTORY

The Mastiff is one of the oldest breeds of dogs, most probably originating in the mountains of Asia. It is the ancestor of the giant breeds.

Bas reliefs of the Babylonian era depict Mastiffs hunting lions and horses. Phoenician traders probably introduced the Mastiff to England where the Romans found them and brought them back to fight in the arena.

Marco Polo wrote of the court of Kublai Khan who kept a kennel of 5,000 Mastiffs used for hunting and dogs of war. Hannibal, when he crossed the Alps, left Mastiffs behind which crossed with the local native breeds to produce the St. Bernard, once called the Alpine Mastiff, and all the massive mountain dogs of Spain, France, Turkey, and the Balkans have Mastiff blood in their ancestry. Even the Chow carries his blood as does the Pug, which was originally a form of a dwarf Mastiff.

Of all the countries who used the Mastiff, it was the British who kept him in his purest form, and it is to them that we owe the Mastiff of today. They kept it to guard their castles and estates, releasing them at night to ward off intruders. Henry the VIII is said to have presented Charles the Fifth of Spain a gift of 400 Mastiffs to be used in battle. The Legh family of Lyme Hall, Cheshire, who were given their estate by Richard the II (1377-1399), kept and bred Mastiffs for many years, and reference is found in Stowe's Annual which shows that James the I (1603-1625) sent a gift of two Lyme Mastiffs to Phillip the III of Spain.

DERIVATION OF NAME

The word 'Mastiff', sometimes called in the north of England 'Masty or Mastie', is derived from the Latin 'Mastinus' standing for 'Mansatinus', the adjective corresponding to 'Mansata', a household, and therefore meaning a 'housedog'. It is said to be identical with the old word bandog (band-dog), a dog that is tied up.

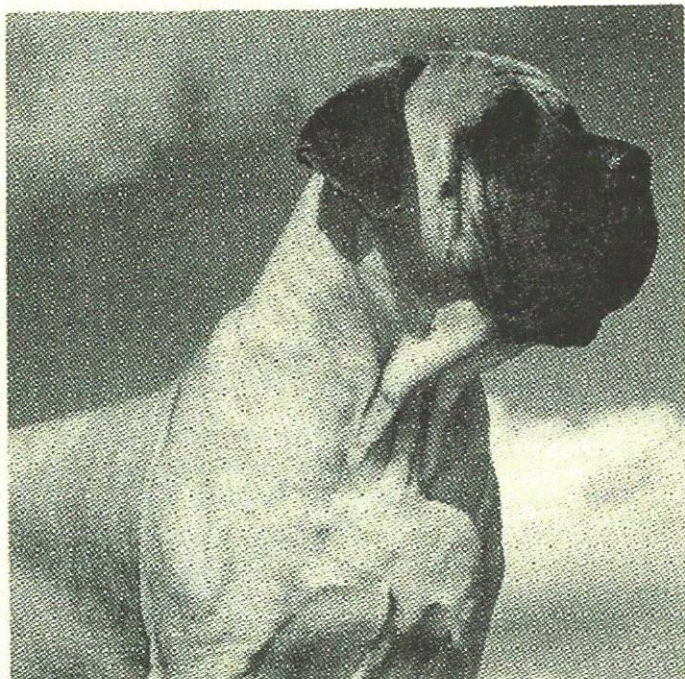
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A Mastiff should be a very large, massive, well balanced dog combining grandeur and good nature, courage, and docility.

Viewed from any angle, the head should be massive, with a broad, deep skull, short, blunt muzzle and a distinct stop. Ears and muzzle should be black, eyes dark brown, set wide apart and free from haw. While a scissors bite is preferred, a slightly undershot bite is acceptable.

The neck, back and loins should be powerfully muscled and the chest should descend at least to the elbows when viewed from the side. The dog's height comes properly from depth of body, rather than from length of leg. The legs should be heavily boned and should propel the dog forward with great drive and power.

The correct Mastiff coat lies tight to the body; fawn, apricot and brindle are the acceptable colors. White markings, if any, should be minimal and confined to the chest.



QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK ABOUT MASTIFFS

Q. How big do they get?

A. Bigger than a St. Bernard; not as tall as a Great Dane, but heavier. The Mastiff breed standard sets the desired minimum height at the shoulder at 30" for males, and 27" for females.

Q. How much does a Mastiff eat?

A. Probably not as much as you think. Pound for pound, the larger the dog, the less food it needs for each pound of body weight. Exactly how much food your dog should have depends on many factors including its size, age and activity level. Feed your Mastiff a good quality, balanced diet — low on table scraps — and don't let him get too fat.

Q. Do they shed?

A. Yes, like most breed they shed approximately twice a year. But, the short, sleek Mastiff coat is less objectionable when it sheds, than the coats of many longer-haired breeds. A daily brushing will prevent accumulation of hair around the house.

Q. Do they roam?

A. No. A Mastiff of either sex is a stay-at-home dog. Learning to stay within property boundaries comes naturally. Nevertheless, when your Mastiff is outdoors without supervision, it's a wise precaution to protect him with a fenced enclosure.

Q. Are Mastiffs good guard dogs?

A. They are excellent family guards. They go to the door, and bark, their hackles stand up, and they look formidable, but Mastiffs, as a breed, are not trigger happy. They have a gentle, rather than aggressive, nature which makes them unsuitable for guard or attack dog training. Nor are they suitable 'stake-out' dogs, because of their strong desire to be with their owners.

Q. Are they easy to train?

A. Very easy. They are smart and they live to please. Seldom does a Mastiff need stronger correction than a stern voice.

BODY large, massive, symmetrical, well knit

HEIGHT 30" males; 27½" females

EARS small, V-shaped; round at tips; leather moderately thin, set wide apart, lying close to cheek in repose; dark in color

NECK powerful, muscular, slightly arched, medium length; moderately "dry"

SHOULDER slightly sloping, heavy, muscular

BACK muscular, powerful, straight

LOINS wide, muscular, slightly rounded over rump

TAIL-SET moderately high, reaching to hocks; tapering to tip; hanging straight at repose; slight curve in action but not over back

HINDQUARTERS broad, wide, muscular; second thighs well developed

HOCKS set back, wide apart, turning neither in nor out

COAT double; outer moderately coarse; under dense, short, close lying

SKULL broad, rounded between ears; forehead slightly curved; marked wrinkles

HEAD massive, good breadth desired

TEETH powerful; canine, set wide apart; scissors bite preferred

BROWS moderately raised; temple muscles well developed

STOP well marked, not abrupt

NOSE broad, dark; nostrils spread flat

EYES set wide apart, medium sized, not too prominent; expression alert, kindly; brown in color

MUZZLE dark in color, half length of skull

CHEEKS powerfully muscled

FACE short, broad under eyes; square; under jaw broad to end, slightly rounded

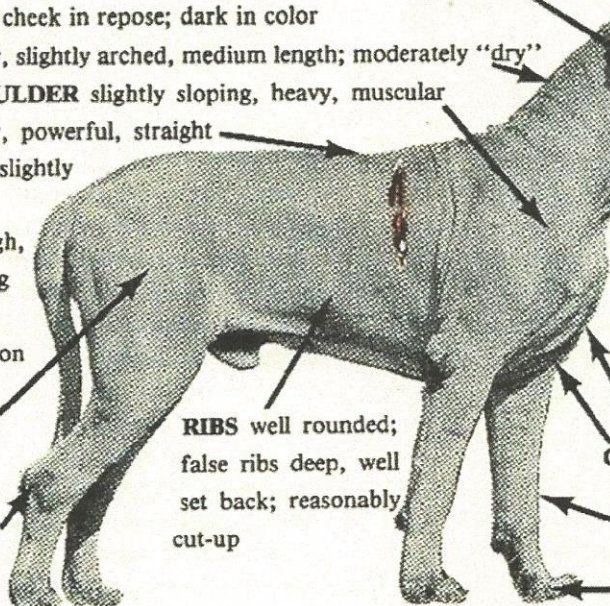
FORECHEST deep, well defined

CHEST wide, deep, rounded; well let down between forelegs

LEGS straight, strong, set wide apart, heavily boned; elbows parallel to body

FEET heavy, round, compact; toes well arched; pasterns strong, bent slightly; nails black

RIBS well rounded; false ribs deep, well set back; reasonably cut-up



COLOR: Apricot, silver fawn or dark fawn-brindle should have fawn as a background color which should be completely covered with very dark stripes. In any case muzzle, ears and nose must be dark in color, the blacker the better, with similar color tone around the orbits, extending upwards between them.

SIZE: Dogs — Minimum 30" at the shoulder.
Bitches — Minimum 27½" at the shoulder.

GAIT: The gait denotes power and strength. The rear legs should have drive, while the forelegs should track smoothly with good reach. In motion, the legs move straight forward, as the dog's speed increases from a walk to a trot, the feet move in under the center line of the body to maintain balance.

SCALE OF POINTS:

General character and symmetry.....	10
Height and substance	10
Skull.....	10
Face and Muzzle.....	12
Ears	5
Eyes	5
Chest and ribs.....	10
Forelegs and feet.....	10
Back, loins and flanks.....	10
Hindlegs and feet.....	10
Tail.....	3
Coat and Color.....	5
Total	100

Q. How are they with children?

A. Gentle and protective, providing they have been raised with children, and are accustomed to them. Small children should not be allowed to play roughly with a puppy; Mastiffs are a sensitive breed that can be permanently traumatized by rough handling.

Q. Where should I buy a Mastiff?

A. Never from a pet shop. Never from a middleman who buys puppies from breeders, and resells them. The best way to get a healthy, happy, quality Mastiff puppy, is to buy directly from the breeder. Reputable breeders put the welfare of their dogs and the improvement of the breed above the desire for financial gain. Reputable breeders will take back or replace a puppy who is found to have a congenital defect. Breeders who are members of the Mastiff Club of America have agreed to abide by a Code of Ethics.

Q. How much exercise does a Mastiff need?

A. About as much as you do. Most Mastiffs are like most humans: they can manage a sedentary life without getting 'hyper' — but, like humans, they reach a physical peak with a moderate degree of fitness.

Q. Does the Mastiff have problems with hip dysplasia?

A. Hip dysplasia occurs in all large breeds (as well as in many not-so-large), and the Mastiff is no exception. A positive diagnosis of hip dysplasia can be made only with X-rays, and often only once the dog is mature. Puppies from dysplasia-free parents are less likely to become dysplastic, but even they are not immune. Ask the seller about his policy for replacement, or refund should your puppy prove to be dysplastic.

Q. What are Mastiffs like in the house?

A. Clean, quiet, undemanding. Mastiff heaven is a rug beside his owner's chair. Mastiffs are naturally clean, quick to housebreak, and once house-broken, generally foolproof. Most adult Mastiffs don't chew, and they don't get on the furniture without an invitation. Most Mastiffs have a dislike of bumping into things, which renders them harmless to furniture, lamps and decorative objects.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Mastiff Club of America requires its members to adhere to the following rules which constitute its Code of Ethics. This code details certain practices necessary to implement the objectives of the club as outlined in Article I, Section 2 of its Constitution.

1. I will consider primarily the betterment of the breed when allowing a mating of Mastiffs being conscious of controlling and eliminating inherited problems.
2. I will not allow a bitch to be bred more than once a year nor prior to her third season or twentieth month, whichever comes first.
3. I will keep a three generation pedigree on each litter of Mastiff puppies I breed.
4. I will sell a Mastiff only to a buyer whom I believe to be interested in the betterment of the breed or whose interest would not be inconsistent therewith.
5. I will not sell a Mastiff to a pet shop or for resale.
6. I will furnish a signed registration or transfer with each Mastiff I sell unless a written agreement is made with the buyer that such papers will be withheld.
7. I will furnish the buyer with complete instructions for the care of each Mastiff I sell. I will supply with each Mastiff I sell a record of inoculations for Leptospirosis, Hepatitis, and Distemper with a record of worm-check.
8. I will advise the buyer of each puppy to have a veterinarian's check within two weeks of the sale, and I will take care of a puppy, refund the purchase price or replace it, if it is found to be unfit because of breeding or early kennel care.
9. I will try to show good sportsmanship at all times, and in all matters relating to Mastiffs I will maintain the highest degree of honesty and integrity. I will not knowingly make a misstatement of fact in any serious discussion of my Mastiffs, or the Mastiffs of any other M.C.O.A. member, that I might have with persons not qualified to judge the facts for themselves.

10. I will report to the Board of Directors as outlined in Article VI Section 2 of the M.C.O.A. By-Laws any mistreatment of Mastiffs or unethical practices by an M.C.O.A. member.
11. I understand that if the Board of Directors of the M.C.O.A. determines that there is sufficient evidence of a member's having violated any of these specific rules or those objectives implied in the Constitution, they may suspend that member as provided in the By-Laws under Article VI.

May 1980

