



The Mastiff Club of America Health Statement

Approved by the Mastiff Club of America Board of Directors on January 16, 2025

1. The Mastiff Club of America (MCOA) Board of Directors is committed to the future health and well-being of the Mastiff. As such, we urge breeders to perform the following health screening tests on both sires and dams in their breeding program.
 - **Hip Dysplasia:** OFA Evaluation - minimum age 24 months
 - **Elbow Dysplasia:** OFA Evaluation - minimum age 24 months
 - **Eye Disease:** CAER Eye Examination by a board-certified ACVO Ophthalmologist - minimum age 24 months
 - **Cardiac Evaluation:** (one of the following)
 - **Advanced Cardiac Exam** evaluated by a board-certified cardiologist - minimum age 12 months
 - **Basic Cardiac Exam** evaluated by a veterinarian or board-certified cardiologist - minimum age 12 months
 - **Autoimmune thyroiditis (FT4, cTSH, TgAA):** evaluated by an OFA approved laboratory - minimum age 12 months
 - **Patellar Luxation:** OFA Evaluation by a Veterinarian - minimum age 12 months
 - **Cystinuria:**
 - **Cystinuria-Associated Marker (Type 3)** DNA Buccal Swab evaluated by UPENN – no minimum age
 - **Urine Nitroprusside Test** (Intact males only) evaluated by UPenn – annual testing starting at 18 months
 - **Canine Multifocal Retinopathy Type 1 (CMR):** DNA Buccal Swab evaluated by an approved laboratory – no minimum age
 - **Degenerative Myelopathy (Common Variant) (DM):** SOD1A Variant of the SOD1 gene - DNA Buccal Swab evaluated by an approved laboratory – no minimum age
 - **Dominant Progressive Retinal Atrophy (dPRA) (Bullmastiff/Mastiff Type):** DNA Buccal Swab evaluated by an approved laboratory – no minimum age
2. The MCOA strongly recommends that all Mastiffs being bred have a CHIC certificate from The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

Required testing to receive a CHIC number:

- Hip Dysplasia
- Elbow Dysplasia
- CAER Eye Examination

- Cardiac Evaluation: Congenital Cardiac Exam, Advanced Cardiac Exam, or Basic Cardiac Exam

Note: Permanent identification (microchip or tattoo) is required for certification.

3. The MCOA also encourages breeders and owners to have an AKC DNA profile, submit a sample to the CHIC DNA Repository, and to fill out the OFA Health Survey throughout their Mastiffs' lives as changes in health occur.
4. For more detailed information about [Mastiff health](#) and [health testing](#), please visit the [Mastiff Health website](#).

Contact person

Mary DeLisa, MCOA Health Committee Chair: divinemastiffs@gmail.com