

VIZSLA FUTURITY/MATURITY PROGRAM

Purpose: To encourage and reward the breeding of Vizslas that most closely conform to the approved AKC breed standard. Such recognition is important to the breed for continued breed improvement. The program will not only reward the efforts of the breeder but also the owners in whose hands lie the responsibility of continued breed improvement. Recognition is also given to the sire of the dogs for his contribution to the breeding.

The Futurity/Maturity Program and Committee

The entire futurity/maturity program is administered by a separate committee (FMC) of three people. The FMC has its own bank account. The funds are kept entirely separate from the VCA.

The FMC will be entirely self-supporting - all funds disbursed come from the nominations it receives. Nomination fees are allocated 70% to prize money, 15% to expenses and 15% to the VCA National Show and Companion Events. In 2012, the FMC donated \$1875.00 to the VCA National Events account. An entry fee will be charged for the actual futurity/maturity competition. This fee will be set so as to help defray the costs for the judge, superintending, rosette/ribbon expenses. We expect it will not exceed the existing sweepstakes entry fee. This program is not intended to replace the existing Sweepstakes competition.

The Futurity/Maturity program costs the parent club absolutely nothing. It's actually projected to be a money-maker for the VCA. The FMC asked only for permission and permission was granted to be included in the VCA National Show and Companion Events schedule and for limited space in the Vizsla News and on the VCA website to advertise the program. Any incidental out-of-pocket costs incurred by the VCA for this program will be reimbursed by the FMC.

All forms and rules together with the committee names and addresses will be posted on the VCA website. The forms will be in PDF downloadable format. All forms and or updates will be submitted to the VCA Standing National Events Chairman for timely approval.

The Futurity/Maturity Committee (FMC) consists of three members in good standing with the Vizsla Club of America, Inc. and American Kennel Club, Inc. The initial Committee members consist of the program founders: Joyce Tischler, New York; Michelle Rochester, Nevada; and Edwin Foster, Ohio. The event is to be held annually in conjunction with the VCA National Show and Companion Events. The FMC is headed by the FMC Administrator, Edwin Foster. See adjoining FMC Administrator profile.

The administration and financial responsibility of this program rests with the FMC. Changes to the committee structure will be made by the program founders/successors, when and if required.

Rules for Futurity/Maturity program:

The sire and dam should have DNA and OFA numbers to be supplied on the Nomination Form. Special dispensation from the DNA requirement is given for frozen semen litters from sires that died before a DNA sample was obtained. *At all times the VCA Code of Ethics and approved AKC breed standard should be used as a guideline in breeding programs.*

[While this event is not intended for entrants to earn points toward acquiring an AKC Championship of Record, we will conduct the entry process and class structure in accordance with the Rules applying to Dog Shows, published by the American Kennel Club, July 2010. <https://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/RREGS3.pdf>]

The initial Futurity/Maturity competition was held during the VCA National Show and Companion Events on May 1, 2012. Each subsequent Futurity/Maturity competition will be held during the VCA National Show and Companion Events.

The nominating process will work as follows:

A litter must be nominated before the litter is whelped. The cost to nominate a litter is \$30.00. The litter nomination is confirmed with either email or a postcard acknowledgement if an email address is not provided. A litter's Futurity/Maturity Nomination number will be assigned and clearly noted on the acknowledgement. The nomination fee is separated equally into the Futurity and Maturity Divisions.

Futurity - Individual puppies from the nominated litter **must** be nominated for futurity before they turn 4 months of age. The cost to nominate an individual puppy is \$15.00.

Maturity – Individual puppies from the nominated litter **must** be nominated for maturity before they turn 6 months of age. The cost to nominate an individual puppy is \$20.00.

A puppy can be nominated for maturity at the same time it is nominated for futurity. [Note: Most people should do it this way as it saves having to remember to do it and possibly missing the eligibility date. Also, there is only one form to fill out - you just check the box that says "both".] Again, an email or post card notification acknowledging receipt of the nomination listing the futurity/maturity number will be sent.

The US postal service postmark date on the envelope used for mailing in the nomination will be used as the "official" nomination date. If a private meter is used, the "date received" by the FMC will be the "official" nomination date. As proof of mailing could result in your nomination being received late, thereby making it ineligible, we recommend use of certified mail with return receipt to the Administrator for **all** nominations.

The litter nomination number is different than the AKC Litter Registration Number. An AKC number is required at the time an individual puppy is nominated. We will incorporate the individual puppy AKC registration number into the identification on all future correspondence, Futurity and Maturity entries. This will facilitate the committee in formulating data bases, catalogues, and the verification process.

The Futurity/Maturity Judge:

At the same time you nominate a litter you get to nominate a judge. The top FIVE (5) vote getters from the previous year's election will be placed on the final ballot. Each litter nominator may cast one ballot per litter for the judges of their choice. **Litter Nominators are the only people allowed to vote.** Only AKC judges, fully approved or provisionally approved to judge Vizslas, are eligible for nomination. All fees and judging expenses incurred are the responsibility of the FMC and will not be paid out of any designated prize money derived from the nomination fees.

A ballot will be compiled from the current top FIVE (5) nominated judges and the five carryover from the previous year. The ballot will then be sent or emailed to each of the nominators for the final judge selection. Each nominator may select a different first, second, and third choice. The ballot will have a weighted aspect: 10 points for the 1st choice, 5 points for the second choice and 1 point for the third choice. Results of the balloting will be announced first to the nominators within two weeks of the ballot closing date. Once that is done, the results will be emailed to the Vizsla News Group List, Vizsla News Editor and VCA Webmaster for publication.

Classes and Prizes Offered

1st – 4th places may be awarded in each class. There is no prize money allocated to a class placement.

Futurity Event - offers 8 classes

6 - 9 month dogs compete in their class and 9 -12 month dogs compete in their class. A winner from each class will then compete for Best Puppy Dog.

6 - 9 month bitches compete in their class and 9 -12 month bitches compete in their class. A winner from each class will then compete for Best Puppy Bitch.

12 -15 month Junior Dogs compete in their class. 15- 18 month Junior Dogs compete in their class. A winner from each class will then compete for Best Junior Dog.

12 -15 month Junior Bitches compete in their class. 15- 18 month Junior Bitches compete in their class. A winner from each class will then compete for Best Junior Bitch.

The Best Puppy Dog competes against the Best Puppy Bitch for **Best Puppy**.

The Best Junior Dog competes against the Best Junior Bitch for **Best Junior**.

The Best Puppy and Best Junior compete for **Grand Futurity Winner**.

Maturity Event– offers 4 classes:

18 month – 30 month Dogs compete in their class. 30 month and over Dogs compete in their class. A winner from each class will then compete for **Best Maturity Dog**.

18 month – 30 month Bitches compete in their class. 30 month and over Bitches compete in their class. A winner from each class will then compete for **Best Maturity Bitch**.

The Best Maturity Dog and Best Maturity Bitch then compete for **Grand Maturity Winner**.

NOTE:

1. A Futurity nominated dog/bitch may compete once in a Futurity Event.

2. *To compete in Maturity the dog/bitch must have been eligible to compete in a Futurity Event. It is not a requirement that they actually did compete. A maturity eligible dog may compete once*

in a Maturity event. It need not be the first event after they have obtained the necessary minimum age. There is no maximum age limit for a dog to compete in the Maturity Division.

3. Because the actual event date is not known, the committee will have the discretion to determine in which class a nominee is eligible to compete. This will be based on the nominee's actual birth date and its relationship to the event date. As soon as the event date is known the nominators of each nominated dog/bitch will be notified of the class their dog will be eligible to compete in.

Prize money will be determined as follows:

Of the gross money collected from litter and individual futurity/maturity nominations:

- **15%** is retained for expenses.
- **15%** is paid to the VCA National Show and Companion Events Account to be used to defray the costs of that year's VCA National Show and Companion Events.
- **70%** is used as prize money. (35% to Futurity Pool, 35% to Maturity Pool)

The prize money distribution follows:

Futurity:

Best Puppy Dog and **Best Puppy Bitch** each receive 10% for a total of 20%

Best Junior Dog and **Best Junior Bitch** each receive 10% for a total of 20%.

Best Futurity Puppy and **Best Junior Puppy** each receive an additional 15% for a total of 30%

Grand Futurity Winner received an additional 30%.

Maturity:

Best Maturity Dog and **Best Maturity Bitch** each receive 40% for a total of 80%

Grand Maturity Winner receives an additional 20%.

Allocation of cash prizes are distributed to the winning (Breeder) (Owner) (Owner of Sire) of the Best Vizsla categories listed above:

Each award winning percentage noted above in the futurity/maturity divisions are disbursed as follows:

- 60% goes to the **breeder** of the dog or bitch,
- 20% goes to the **owner** of the winning dog or bitch
- 20% goes to the **owner of sire** of the dog or bitch.

The names and address of the breeder, owner, and owner of the sire must be provided on the entry form to facilitate the payout disbursements.

In addition to the monetary prizes, the FMC plans trophies and rosettes for class placements and division wins.

Encore Award:

This special award is designed to recognize the Primary Breeder that has been awarded Two (2) Grand Futurities AND Two (2) Grand Maturities. It is a breeder award not tied to a specific Vizsla. The winner will be given a certificate for a reproduction of their favorite Vizsla. The commemorative reproduction will be created in copper by Beverly Capstick, Lutzyn Originals

LLC, from materials supplied to the artist. Ms Capstick is the artist used to create our wonderful trophies.

Vizsla Futurity Maturity Committee:

Edwin Foster Jr., FMC Administrator, 614-762-7006 (home) OR 352-817-7886 (cell)

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