



Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America

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The Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America (PMAA) Board of Directors is committed to the future health and well-being of the Pyrenean Mastiff. As such, it is strongly recommended that health screening tests be conducted for both sire and dam in all breeding programs.

The Pyrenean Mastiff is a generally healthy breed with a life expectancy of 10-12 years.

The PMAA recommends that Pyrenean Mastiff breeders perform the following physical health screenings on all breeding stock with submission to OFA, Orthopedic Foundation for Animals - The Canine Health Information Center:

- OFA Hips – a hip radiograph at 2 years of age or older to rule out conditions which can occur in any giant breed.
- OFA Elbows – an elbow radiograph at 2 years of age or older to rule out conditions which can occur in any giant breed.
- OFA Heart – auscultation by a General Practitioner or by a Board-Certified Veterinary Cardiologist at 2 years of age or older to rule out conditions which can affect the heart.
- Genetic testing and submission of results to OFA to rule out risk of Degenerative Myelopathy which can affect the spinal cord.

Dogs tested in accordance with these four protocols are recognized with a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number and certification.

Additionally, the PMAA encourages breeders to conduct the following optional tests prior to breeding to ensure that offspring are unaffected by these conditions:

- OFA Spine radiographs at 2 years of age or older are optional to better understand potential conditions affecting the spine in the breed.
- OFA Companion Animal Eye Registry after 1 year of age to gather information related to eye conditions that may be affecting the breed.

There are other conditions which may affect the breed such as Addison's Disease, Autoimmune Conditions, Epilepsy, Cancers such as Osteosarcoma, Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus (GDV), subluxation or hock instability and idiopathic trembling of rear legs. These conditions can be discussed with your breeder if there are any concerns.

The PMAA is currently working on worldwide data collection efforts regarding breed health to have a better understanding of potential conditions that could impact the breed.

This Health statement was updated and approved by the Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America Board of Directors on November 24th, 2024.

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