

Maremma Sheepdog Club of America



The Maremma Guardian

August 2015 first edition

www.maremmaclub.com

MSCA Newsletter

YOU AND YOUR CLUB

MSCA BOD Meeting Minutes – Summaries

The MSCA Board of Directors has been busy the past 7 months discussing and updating the club policies so that the Club's primary goal is the preservation and protection of the Maremma Sheepdog breed, as well as how the Club can best serve the MSCA members.

January 07, 2015

1. Approved Absentee Voting for BOD Meetings.
2. Approved Incorporating as a Non-Profit in WA State and opening an account for club funds.
3. Approved Review and Revision of the MSCA Constitution, Bylaws and Code of Ethics.
4. Approved formation of Club Committees.
5. Denied allowing litter advertisements on the MSCA facebook page.

February 02, 2015

1. Approved purchase of new pedigree software.
2. Approved the addition of "Junior" memberships.
3. Opened discussion of joining CHIC program for health testing so that PennHip certification can be listed on the OFA database.

March 02, 2015

1. Approved reinstating co-ownerships.
2. Approved Code of Ethics revision.
3. Approved enforcement guidelines for Code of Ethics.
4. Approved Limited Registration option.
5. Approved return of incomplete forms.

April 18, 2015

1. Approved member contact information to be listed in Membership Packet.
2. Approved privacy policy for public information.
3. Approved President to call of special meetings.

May 28, 2015

1. Approved increasing BOD term limit to 3 years.
2. Approved staggering BOD positions for elections.
3. Approved Late Registration Penalty fee (2x's regular fee) for litter registration after 1 year from date of birth.
4. Approved Late Litter Registration Penalty of an additional \$100 and petition the BOD to register a litter after 3 years from date of birth.
5. Approved having a Suspended/Banned list posted to the MSCA website.
6. Approved increasing the cost of the booklet "The Northern Way" to \$16.00 to cover cost.

June 24, 2015

1. Approved petitioning the BOD to register an individual dog after 5 years from date of birth.
2. Approved that the MSCA does not recognize any other domestic registration organization.
3. Discussed the need to educate and bring awareness to the possibility of fad breeding/buying because of the "Oddball" movie.

July 30, 2015

1. Approved \$100 fee for preferring charges against another member.
2. Approved the MSCA Bylaws Revision.
3. Complaints and Suspensions will be dealt with on an individual basis.

August 27, 2015

1. Approved the MSCA Bylaws Final Revision.
2. Approved the MSCA Committee for assisted rehoming for members.

*For a copy of any MSCA Board of Directors meeting minutes, email requests to the MSCA Recording Secretary, Alison Charter-Smith,
email: alisoncs@wildblue.net*

Below is a list of important information about changing club policies and guidelines that members should be aware of:



members should be aware of:

1. The new MSCA committees (Fundraising, Education, Newsletter, Health, History and Rescue) are open to the Membership to join!

(www.maremmaclub.com/committees).

2. The MSCA now has Junior Membership and encourage juniors (10-17 years of age) to become active in the club.

3. The MSCA is considering joining the CHIC program (www.caninehealthinfo.org) to give our members who use PennHip the ability to list their certifications on the OFA website.

4. You can now have 2 owners listed on a dog's registration – the primary owner (or Sole Signatory – the person who has the legal authority to sign all of the dog's MSCA paperwork) and a co-owner.

5. The MSCA has updated the Code of Ethics (www.maremmaclub.com/code-of-ethics).

6. The MSCA now has Code of Ethics Enforcement Guidelines governing CoE members

(www.maremmaclub.com/msca-coe-guidelines).

7. Soon you will be able to select "Full Registration" or "Limited Registration" for individual puppies. Full Registration indicates that any offspring of the puppy are eligible for registration with the MSCA. Limited Registration indicates that no offspring of the puppy are eligible for MSCA registration. This will allow breeders to have more control in their selection of future breeding prospects. The breeder will be able to change Limited to Full registration at any time during the life-time of the dog.

8. Make sure your MSCA forms are complete! Incomplete forms will be returned to you.

9. Full contact information will no longer be listed on the MSCA Membership list – information will be limited to Farm Name, Name, City and State, and any additional contact information as submitted for a Breeder's Listing only.

10. Starting in 2016, Board of Directors will serve a term of 3 years. Board of Director positions will be staggered for elections so that no more than 3 positions will be open for election each year.

11. Late Registration Fees and Penalties will start to apply in 2016! Breeders will have 1 year from the litter's date of birth to submit litter registration. After 1 year, an additional fee will apply. After 3 years, you will have to submit an additional \$100 penalty

and petition the Board of Directors to register a litter. After 5 years you will have to petition the Board of Directors to register an individual dog.

12. People who have been suspended or banned from MSCA membership will soon be listed on the MSCA website for full transparency on non-compliance issues with the MSCA Bylaws and Code of Ethics, as well as false claims of MSCA membership and affiliation.

*****Please watch the mail!*****

The updated and revised MSCA Constitution and Bylaws will soon be mailed to MSCA

Members to be voted on for approval.

Current MSCA Bylaws regarding amendments:

ARTICLE VII
Amendment Process

SECTION 1. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and to the Standard for the Breed may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by twenty percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors at its next meeting and **must be submitted to the members** in the following newsletter with recommendations of the Board by the Recording Secretary **for a vote of the membership.**

SECTION 2. The Constitution and Bylaws or the Standard for the Breed may be amended at any time provided **a copy of the proposed amendments has been mailed in the newsletter by the Recording Secretary to each member** on the date of mailing, accompanied by a ballot on which **he may indicate his choice for or against the action to be taken.**

Dual-envelope and eligibility procedures described in Article IV, Section 4(d) shall be followed in handling such ballots, to assure secrecy of the vote. Notice with such ballot shall specify a date not less than 30 days after the date of mailing by which date the ballots must be returned to the Recording Secretary to be counted.

The favorable vote of 2/3 of the members in good standing who return valid ballots within the time limit shall be required to effect any such amendment.

MSCA Committees - Volunteers needed!

...Sponsored by the MSCA Education Committee

Get connected – get involved. The MSCA needs YOUR help to get things going! Volunteer positions on MSCA Committees are always available to club members. Experience is not necessary, but you should be responsible, have time to participate actively, and able to meet important deadlines. Descriptions of each committee are listed below. Contact the club President or Committee Chair if you are interested or have any of the committees.

Fundraising Committee: come up with creative ways the club can raise money to fund educational programs and activities. This would be a great opportunity to have some creative fun to benefit your club and to get better acquainted with fellow members. Interim Chair: Deborah Reid (debir1966@hotmail.com).

Education Committee: develop educational programs and materials that recognize the Maremma Sheepdog as primarily a livestock guardian dog and encourage breeders to select Maremmas that possess the appearance, soundness, temperament, natural abilities and personality reflected in the breed standard, and to educate owners on the care and management of their Maremma Sheepdogs. Compose and distribute educational information not only about the Maremma Sheepdog, but also about breeding, rearing, training, managing and owning livestock guardian dogs. Chair: Deborah Reid (MaremmaEducation@gmail.com).

Newsletter Committee: The goal is to inform the membership of the activities of the MSCA, collaborate on design and content of articles and work with other MSCA Committees to publish information. Contact: Deborah Reid (debir1966@hotmail.com)

Health Committee: The MSCA Health Committee is looking for those members who have a practical and demonstrated interest in canine health issues in general, and the Maremma Sheepdog in particular, and those whose knowledge would benefit the Committee (whether it be traditional medicine, alternative medicine, or other area of interest - professional or hobby). The Health Committee's primary goal is to provide health-related information to our membership and encourage the breeding of healthier Maremma

Sheepdogs to live longer and healthier lives by identifying health issues and promoting education to improve the health of our dogs. Information will be gathered to help breeders, owners and Maremma Sheepdog enthusiasts to understand the health concerns of the breed, health testing, and other pertinent health information. Chair: Colleen Williams (gelbvieh@uslink.net).

History Committee: looking for members who have an interest in researching the history of the Maremma Sheepdog breed, particularly here in North America. Chair: Michael Mills (mgmills520@q.com).

MSCA Rescue Committee: The MSCA Rescue Committee is looking for members and volunteers all across North America who would like to be involved in rescuing Maremmas in need. The purposes of the Rescue Committee is to provide for the rescue of Maremma Sheepdogs in all areas of North America and to provide rescue liaison with other clubs and organizations when purebred Maremma Sheepdogs come into their Rescue. Chair: Deborah Reid (debir1966@hotmail.com)

Maremma LGDs: Keeping Them Healthy Organically

by Laura Tarbet

*(*Always consult your veterinarian and applicable local and state laws concerning vaccinations*)*

Where to begin with a subject with such a huge scope? The beginning? Most stories begin there, and as I go along I do intend to share my own experiences. I will share links to documents and other sites as well as research and books and magazines. These references will be at the bottom of each article. Hmm,... let's see...

As someone who was born and raised in this lifestyle I wanted to raise my own kids in like manner. When we began losing large numbers of expensive and valued livestock to predation I eventually located my first Maremma. She was awesome. She was 4 and a half months. She weighed 70 pounds already. She was a different kinda dog. She taught me a lot. We lost her to a silly game she would play with the horse. They would get the fence between them and charge at each other than jump back at the last minute. Well, she knocked over the beehive. She was stung to death.

(continued)

Five days later we had located two more Maremma. Rain was registered, Thunder was purebred. Rain seemed to love and trust me on sight, and stepped royally into the back door of the van upon my gentle request. Thunder needed references and verification but I had children at my side so I couldn't be too bad, and Rain trusted me. She stepped hesitantly into the van behind Rain and proceeded to shake and shiver for a few miles. The previous owner was aghast that those gals accepted us. She said they had never let anyone but them near them and had to be chained when company was expected. That night we arrived home after dark, late, so they spent the night crated in the barn. The next morning early I put them out on tethers, and went inside to quickly feed my 'brood' some cereal and get back out to show the new Maremma around. When we came out our chickens were lying dead all over our homestead, all around the outside perimeter, and within a foot of the outer reaches of our new Maremma! Predators don't take long to find out you're unprotected, and I had just learned just how busy our dearly departed lone ranger Maremma had been!

Fast forward to August of 2007, Rain died from her rabies booster. With my own children's adverse vaccine reactions experience I began to also research canine vaccines. It's been a long and varied process and is continually evolving. That said, the evolution is currently in the direction of natural and organic precepts.

So there you have it. A terse, short but not so sweet bare bones history of from just where my concerns about Maremma health issues stem. This bears repeating: Sometimes I will include interviews with health professionals I have personally interviewed for upcoming articles, and sometimes there will be links to online sites detailing personal experiences similar to my own, professionals' lectures, others' interviews of professionals, research, and documents any of which may directly and/or indirectly touch on or near human or mammal health issues. Organic used to mean something entirely different to me than it means now. My series of articles will target 'organic' lifestyles of the not so rich and definitely not famous. Ours. With the upcoming movies, though, the Maremma is about to become famous! I invite you to come along with me on my journey of discovery of just how ultimate health is achieved for ourselves and those we love and who love and may even protect us and ours. (to be continued)

BREEDER'S CORNER

... Sponsored by the MSCA Education Committee



Genetics 101, Part 1: Out-crossing, Line-breeding, and In-breeding – Defined!

by Deborah Reid

1. in-breed-ing (*noun, Biology*) the mating of closely related individuals, as cousins, sire-daughter, mother-son, brother-sister, which tends to increase the number of individuals that are homozygous for a trait and therefore increases the appearance of recessive traits.
2. line-breed-ing (*noun, Genetics*) a form of inbreeding directed toward keeping the offspring closely related to a superior ancestor.
3. out-cross-ing (*verb, Genetics*) to cross animals by breeding individuals of different strains but, usually, of the same breed.

In dog breeding genetics, inbreeding is the breeding of two animals that are related to each other. Outcrossing is breeding two animals that are totally unrelated. Since all purebreds go back to a relatively limited number of foundation dogs, all purebred breeding is, by definition, inbreeding – although the term is generally not used to refer to matings where common ancestors do not occur in a four or five generation pedigree.

Breeders use the term "linebreeding" to describe breeding less related individuals. The difference between inbreeding and linebreeding can sometimes have blurred lines and is up to individual interpretation, however given the above definitions, any related breeding outside of direct relatives would be considered linebreeding.

Next issue: Out-crossing, Line-breeding, and In-breeding, Part 2 – COI - Co-Efficient of Inbreeding and What it Means.

Renewing Your MSCA Membership

YOU are the MSCA! Please continue to support your club and renew your membership for 2016. Membership renewal packets will soon be mailed.

Calling for Nominations and Volunteers for the 2016 MSCA Board of Directors!

If you are interested in serving on the MSCA Board of Directors, you may nominate yourself and/or any active MSCA Members.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2016 MSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you would be willing to serve on the 2016 MSCA Board of Directors you must be a full member in good standing with the MSCA for 2015 to participate in this election, both as a candidate or as a voter.

- President
- Vice President
- Correspondence Secretary:
- Recording secretary
- Treasurer
- Board Member at Large

If you would like to nominate someone, please get their permission first and ask them if they have been full members of the MSCA for 2015 (required).

FACTS for Nominees for election or appointment to the MSCA Board of Directors

The Board shall be comprised of a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and either 4, 5 or 6 other persons, whichever number is needed to bring the total to 9, all of whom shall be members in good standing, who shall serve in their respective capacities with regard to the Board and its meetings.

Who is Eligible

To be eligible for nomination to office, a nominee shall have been a full member in good standing of the Club for at least one calendar year at the time of nomination, who are residents of the United States of America.

How to Recommend Nominees

You may recommend yourself or others for possible nomination. You may suggest as many members as you like.

Term

All directors shall serve for three calendar years following the year in which they were elected, which shall commence as of January 1st, 2016. Staggering election seats will begin in 2016.

Board of Director Duties

Board duties include but are not limited to: managing and directing the business and affairs of the Club; determining questions of policy that arise between meetings of the full membership; approving the annual budget for the Club; and attending quarterly board meetings.

Meetings

A meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at least once in each quarter of the calendar year, as close to the beginning of each quarter as possible. Additional meetings may be scheduled by vote of the Board.

Meetings and correspondence of the Board of Directors shall use email, teleconference and social networking. Please be willing and prepared to utilize these venues.

Time Line

Call for Nominations: September 15th 2015

Nominations Close: October 1st 2015

Election Ballots Mailed: November 1st 2015

Election Deadline to Vote: December 1st 2015

MSCA Board of Director Nomination Packets will be mailed with the 2016 MSCA Membership Renewal form.



Find the MSCA on Facebook!



www.facebook.com/maremmasheepdogclubofamerica