

**Mastiff Club of America
Rules and Guidelines for
Sweepstakes, Futurity/Maturity and Non-Regular Classes**

ETHICS: HONESTY AND COMMON SENSE

AKC judges and exhibitors possess and project a commitment to **integrity** and **ethical behavior** that insures the reputation of AKC dog shows as fair and well judged. With common sense, judges and exhibitors can easily avoid situations which might raise ethical questions.

Judges and exhibitors are honest, competent and dedicated. Nevertheless, it is possible to find yourself in an uncomfortable or inappropriate situation. These guidelines **cannot address every situation**; however it can help you avoid improprieties perceived or otherwise.

Obviously, some rules, policies and guidelines are clear. For example:

1) Judges should advise potential exhibitors not to enter under you when their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of unfair advantage. Examples include but are not limited to:

- ...your employer or an employee.
- ...a relative.
- ...a person with whom you co-own dogs.
- ...a person with whom you co-breed dogs.
- ...a person with whom you travel to dog shows.

2) Exhibitors should not to enter under a judge when their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of unfair advantage. Examples include but are not limited to:

- ...your employer or an employee.
- ...a relative.
- ...a person with whom you co-own dogs.
- ...a person with whom you co-breed dogs.
- ...a person with whom you travel to dog shows.

3) No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his immediate household or immediate family has been known to have bred, owned, handled in the ring more than twice, sold, held under lease or boarded **within one year prior to the date of the show**.

These are only examples. The key is to avoid all situations that are likely to give the impression of impropriety. You must do everything possible to keep your reputation above reproach.

A HANDY RULE OF THUMB

There will always be “gray areas” that perplex judges and exhibitors. When faced with such a dilemma, ask yourself whether the situation, however innocent, projects an outward appearance of impropriety. A good rule of thumb is:

**If you have concerns about whether something is inappropriate,
You probably should avoid the situation.**