

BASSET HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA

MATURITY STAKES RULES

Revised and adopted by the board of BHCA 1/10/07. The Maturity will become effective for the 2009 Maturity Stakes.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Maturity is to validate the expectations of Basset Hound Breeders from the previous 24 months of Futurity nominations and entries. The maturity stakes is intended to encourage the breeding of the best possible "Basset Hound" and to reward breeders for their efforts. Recognition is also given to the owners in whose hands lie the responsibility of developing the inherited potentialities.

GENERAL:

The maturity stakes will be held immediately following the Futurity stakes at the BHCA Nationals. All financial transactions will be coordinated and reviewed by the BHCA Treasurer. All rules and regulations in regards to the futurity shall apply to the maturity where applicable.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The Maturity stakes is open to all breeders, co breeders co-owners, or owners at the time the dogs and bitches that have previously completed their enrollment in the futurity, according to the futurity stake rules and are listed in the futurity catalog or the futurity section of the catalog under futurity. All must be members in good standing with the BHCA at the time of maturity entry.
2. Maturity entries are open only to Basset Hounds entered in previous Futurity entries recorded from the past 24 months of Futurity Stakes, beginning April 1 through March 31.
3. A list of eligible dogs will be kept by the Futurity Secretary.
4. Individuals are not eligible to enter the maturity stakes as a breeder or co breeder nor allowed to exhibit if they are:
 - A. The Futurity Secretary, Assistant Secretary or members of their immediate family or household are ineligible to participate.
 - B. Judging any BHCA National event held in conjunction with the BHCA national specialty.
 - C. Members of the immediate family or household of the person elected to judge the Maturity.

ENROLLMENT:

1. Any breeder, Co-breeder, or owner of a previously eligible futurity nominated litter may continue their enrollment into the Maturity year and class for which they are eligible. The Maturity nominated dog or bitch must be nominated individually for each year in which they choose to compete. Maturity nominations will become eligible beginning October, 2005.
2. The dog or bitch must be nominated by the nominating breeder or owner, by March 31st of the current Futurity/Maturity year on a form provided on the BHCA website or through the Futurity/Maturity Secretary.

3. In the event of ownership change on the maturity nominated dog or bitch it will be the responsibility of the previous owners to notify the Futurity Secretary within 30 days of that change in order to continue in the maturity.

LATE ENTRIES:

1. The penalty for late enrollment will be an additional \$10.00.
2. Late entries must be postmarked not more than 30 days after the due date. There will be no exceptions.

CLASSES:

1. The maturity stakes will be judged in separate classes each year, divided by dogs and bitches, and the year in which they were nominated. The winners of each of the 4 classes will compete for best in maturity and best of opposite sex in maturity.
2. MATURITY CLASS 1—Dogs and bitches eligible from the prior 12 months futurity competition, and have been born April 1st to March 31st of that futurity year.
3. MATURITY CLASS II—Dogs and bitches eligible from the 24 months prior futurity, born, between April 1st to March 31st of that futurity year.
4. The show entry fee for the maturity will be \$15.00.

PRIZE MONEY:

1. All monies collected from the enrollment fees, penalties and entry fees will be pooled. BHCA will retain 30 % to cover maturity expenses. The remaining will be divided as follows: BEST IN MATURITY - 60% & BEST OF OPPOSITE IN MATURITY - 40%
2. There will be no money prizes given in the four maturity classes.

JUDGES:

1. All BHCA members in good standing are eligible to judge the Maturity stakes. AKC regulations may prevent BHCA members who are licensed judges from competing at the nationals specialty show if they judge the maturity event. BHCA member judges who currently exhibit and participants nominating prospective maturity judges, should be mindful of such constraints.
2. The judge who is selected to judge the futurity stakes, through the futurity stake process, will also judge the maturity stakes and will be listed in the premium list and program of judging.