

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. 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. Any incidental out-of-pocket costs incurred by the VCA for this program will be reimbursed by the FMC.

Early in 2015 the VFMP established a website to clearly separate our program from the VCA. The website has all forms necessary to successfully nominate a litter and also an individual puppies into the program. The committee decided to add an email entry system with the availability to use PayPal to remit all fees. The hand written and US Mail option is still available. However, if the PayPal option is chosen a \$2.00 additional fee is required. The website location clearly indicate the PayPal and Non Pay Pal features under the "Buy Now" button.

All forms and rules together with the committee names and addresses will be posted on the Futurity Maturity Program website [www.vizslafuturitymaturityprogram.com]. The forms will be in PDF downloadable format. All forms and or updates will be promptly posted to the VFMP Website.

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.

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 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, Sept. 2015.

<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 hopefully be held during the “VCA National Show and Companion Events” week.

The nominating process will work as follows:

A litter should be nominated before the litter is whelped. The cost to nominate a litter is \$30.00. However, a grace period of two weeks to accept late nominations is offered. A late fee of \$15.00 is assessed for these late nominations making the total \$45.00 to nominate the litter. 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 PayPal option – During 2015 the VFMP initiated our website for informational purposes. Also included on the site is the option to submit all nomination forms (litter, individual puppy, judge nomination) electronically. Also we have provided to our nominators a feature that they requested. That feature is the PayPal feature for ease of payment of all fees. Utilizing the PayPal feature adds an additional \$2.00 to each submission.

Traditional US Mail - Is still available for use. Simply print the forms from the website and submit thru the US Mail. 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, perhaps the 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 time you nominate a litter the breeder/nominator can take advantage of the right to nominate a judge. The top FOUR (4) non-winning 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 expenses incurred are the responsibility of the FMC and will not be paid out of any designated prize money.

A ballot will be compiled from the current top FIVE (5) nominated judges and the four carryover judges 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, 3 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 sent to the Vizsla News Group List, posted on the VFMP Website and Face Book page.

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 to 30 months dogs

Over 30 month dogs

The 1st place winners compete for the **Best Maturity Dog**.

18 month to 30 months bitches

Over 30 month bitches

The 1st place winners compete for the **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 only once in a Futurity Event.
2. To compete in the Maturity Division the exhibit must have been nominated under the rules of the program
3. 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 (18 months). A maturity nominated Vizsla has the opportunity to compete during the ensuing 3 years after obtaining eligibility.
4. Eligibility to compete in a future Maturity event: the dog/bitch must have been eligible to compete in a Futurity Event. It is not a requirement that they actually did compete in the futurity event.
5. *A portion of the forfeited maturity nomination fees may be transferred to the reserve fund to avoid future increases in nomination and entry fees.*
6. 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% of the prize pool for a total of 20% of the Futurity prize pool.

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

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

Grand Futurity Winner receives the remaining 30% of the Futurity Prize Pool.

Maturity:

Best Maturity Dog and **Best Maturity Bitch** each receive 40% of the Maturity Prize pool for a total of 80% of the Maturity Prize Pool.

Grand Maturity Winner receives the remaining 20% of the Maturity Prize Pool.

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 a 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)

Michelle Rochester 775-745-0454; Joyce Tischler 716-627-9858