

MASTIFF EYE UPDATE AS OF 6/9/87  
by Jeanne Cook, Golden, CO

As evidenced from results listed below, Mastiffs have several eye problems. These problems affect their sight in varying degrees, including night blindness, tunnel vision, partial and total blindness.

We held an eye clinic during the M.C.O.A. National Specialty this year and 23 Mastiffs were examined. I received the results on 20 Mastiffs, as follows:

- 7 clear
- 2 clear, with old retinitis scar. Not a problem.
- 2 clear, with extra eye lashes
- 1 clear, with cloudy area
- 1 PPM (Persistent Pupillary Membrane) and detached retinas
- 1 PPM 3 small areas of retinal detachment; and possible CRD
- 1 CRD many small retinal folds, no detachments
- 1 CRD (Chorio-Retinal Dysplasia) with multiple small detachments
- 1 CRD (severe) and PPV (Persistent Primary Vitreous)
- 2 cataracts in both eyes
- 1 Entropion, distichiasis and cataract

In Colorado, we have been examining our Mastiffs since April, 1984. These Mastiffs have been from national lines, so this isn't just an isolated problem. When the above is combined with results we've collected since 4/84, the results (of 53 Mastiffs) as of 6/9/87 are:

- 25 clear
- 2 clear, with old retinitis scar. Not a problem.
- 3 clear, with extra eyelashes
- 1 clear, with discoloration on outside of iris
- 1 clear, with spots of discoloration .
- 1 clear, with cloudy area
- 2 clear, with mild ectropion
- 1 retinal folds (may disappear with age) \*\*
- 1 retinal folds and specks
- 2 retinal folds and questionable CRD (Chorio-Retinal Dysplasia)
- 1 PPM (Persistent Pupillary Membrane) and detached retinas
- 1 PPM 3 small areas of retinal detachment; and possible CRD
- 5 CRD (Chorio-Retinal Dysplasia)
- 1 CRD (severe) and PPV (Persistent Primary Vitreous)
- 1 PRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy)
- 1 Entropion, distichiasis and cataract
- 1 cataract, PPM & corneal scar from PPM
- 3 cataracts

\*\* One Mastiff (with retinal folds at 4 months) was rechecked (at 19 months) and found to be totally clear. Whereas, another Mastiff still had the retinal folds it had when checked as a pup).

(Taken from exam sheets, these results don't necessarily reflect all the Mastiffs listed in the national C.E.R.F list).

All breeding dogs should be examined. And just as sire, dam and ancestor information is important in any breeding program, litter-mate information is also valuable. It is important for the welfare of the breed to identify the problems.

A board-certified canine ophthalmologist quickly and painlessly dilates and examines the eyes. You remain with your dog during his examination. All findings are confidential.

Canine Eye Registration Foundation, Inc. (C.E.R.F.) issues a registration number to clear-eyed dogs over 1 year old (valid for 12 months since conditions can change).