

# **FUTURITY - MATURITY (And How They Are Linked)**

I have put together the following list of Futurity and Maturity steps with the hope that this article will answer questions and provide information to all who may have a Futurity nominated puppy or may be breeding a litter which they want to be Futurity nominated.

As always, if you have questions or suggestions, just let me know:

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Step 1: **Bitch Nomination** - (Fee \$10.00) - Form available from me or can be downloaded from the ESAA Website - also published annually in the Newsletter. Must be postmarked (not metermarked) on or before the puppies are born. All breeder(s) of this litter must have been members in good standing of ESAA for the immediate 6 months preceding birth of the litter.

Step 2: **Litter Registration** - (Fee \$5.00) - Form availability same as Bitch Nomination above. Must be postmarked on or before the puppies are 1 month of age. When received by the Futurity Chairman, the breeder will be sent a 2-part Futurity Enrollment form for each puppy containing both the 1st and 2nd Futurity enrollment slips.

Step 3: **1st Futurity Enrollment** - (Fee \$2.00) - Must be returned to the Futurity Chairman and postmarked on or before the puppy is 3 months of age.

Step 4: **2nd Futurity Enrollment** - (Fee \$3.00) - Must be returned to the Futurity Chairman and postmarked on or before the puppy is 6 months of age.

Step 5: **Final Futurity Enrollment** - (Fee \$4.00) - These forms are sent out approximately 2 months before due date to owners of puppies still eligible for the Futurity. The Final Enrollments are due back (in hand) to the Futurity Chairman by the date stated on the form. All owner(s) of the puppy must be members in good standing of ESAA at the time of the Futurity Stake. Notices of membership problems are sent to both the owner of the puppy and/or the breeder of the litter.

**\*\*\* FUTURITY HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL SPECIALTY \*\*\***  
**(when entering the Futurity, follow instructions in Premium List)**

Step 6: **1st Maturity Enrollment** - (Fee \$10.00) - The first year following a puppy's Futurity, the first of two Maturity enrollments is sent to owners of puppies who maintained Futurity eligibility. The puppy did not have to be shown or even entered in the Futurity, but the eligibility to do so must have been in place - this includes returning the Final Futurity Enrollment on time and having correct membership status at the time of the Futurity Stake. The 1st Maturity Enrollment is due back (in hand) by date stated on form.

Step 7: **2nd Maturity Enrollment** - (Fee \$10.00) - The second year following a puppy's Futurity is his Maturity year. These enrollment forms are sent out approximately 2 months before due date to owners of puppies still eligible for the Maturity. The forms are due back (in hand) by the date stated on the form and all owner(s) of the puppy must be members in good standing of ESAA at the time of the Maturity Stake. Notices of membership problems are sent with the 2nd Maturity Enrollment form.

**\*\*\* MATURITY HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL SPECIALTY \*\*\***  
**(when entering the Maturity, follow instructions in Premium List)**

**NOTE: ELIGIBILITY CEASES WHEN ANY ONE OF THE ABOVE STEPS IS MISSED.**

## **Futurity Classes:**

Puppies born in: **Mar - Apr - May will be in the 15-18 Futurity class of the following year**  
**Jun - Jul - Aug will be in the 12 - 15 Futurity class**  
**Sep - Oct - Nov will be in the 9 - 12 Futurity class**  
**Dec - Jan - Feb will be in the 6 - 9 Futurity class**

**Maturity classes** are exactly the same as Futurity, but 2 years later.

On a personal note, let me say that rejecting puppy enrollments and whole litter nominations is the only part of this job that I don't like. It's not easy to say no, and I know how hard it is to breed and raise a litter or have a new puppy and not be eligible for Futurity / Maturity competition. My only peace of mind with this is that I apply the same rules consistently to all and make no exceptions for any reason - and I've heard some good ones.