

As of August 3, 2025

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RFI

Eliminate, better communication, choice to support, pay for a vendor spot

Answer: *The primary reason MCOA established RFI was to ensure that MCOA would no longer be financially liable for rescue operations.*

We are working on enhancing our communication with RFI. Lisa is exploring relocation options to other states, which would allow us to change the RFI bylaws to make them more inclusive.

To meet the requirements of Constitution, the MCOA must provide for the welfare of the breed by supporting Mastiff rescue and since RFI is the acting rescue arm of the MCOA, they are the organization we directly support.

It is important to note that RFI is the 501(c)(3) arm of MCOA dedicated to rescue, not a vendor, like how the Charitable Trust is the health arm of MCOA. Therefore, neither are subject to vendor fees at the National. We have requested a current financial statement to share with the membership.

POLLS

Sharing results

Answer: *The response from each poll will be posted under the new poll every month. Polls and Results can be found on your 'My Account' page in the Member Area.*

ANNUAL MEETING

Reduce length of meeting

Answer: *In previous years, the annual meeting typically lasted about an hour, which was just enough time for each officer to present their report. However, this year and last year, the meetings have run a bit longer due to the board's active efforts in implementing new initiatives. We are committed to maintaining transparency, so we will continue to discuss all the new and exciting developments within the club. Depending on the progress of our ongoing projects, next year's meeting may also extend beyond the usual duration.*

Make lifetime member vote private

Answer: *We have a long-standing tradition of voting for lifetime members as a group, and we see no reason to change this practice.*

NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Ring Procedure – Should be the same throughout the show

Answer: *We have **no** control over the patterns or ring procedures that the judge chooses to use. The judge has the discretion to use any movement pattern they prefer and may change it at any time for any reason.*

Breeders Cup and Tournament – Slow down so bios can be heard

Answer: *Given the low participation in the Tournament Top 10 and Breeders Cup Top Five, we are considering organizing an alternative event. We welcome any suggestions you may have.*

Obedience and Rally – Should not run concurrently with conformation classes at the specialty

Answer: *Due to time constraints at some National Specialties, we have no option other than to run Rally and Obedience concurrently with conformation classes. We always try to run them separately when we can.*

Obedience and Rally – Offer run throughs at the National

Answer: *We plan to organize more performance seminars as time allows. Additionally, due to popular demand, we have decided to reinstate run-throughs at the National on the night of the Regional Specialty.*

We are also considering having Judge Russ Hornfisher conduct a seminar in Ashville.

Moving the national to the fall

Answer: we are currently looking into this. Our recent poll shows that the majority of the club's membership would prefer the National be held in the Fall (**Yes:** 69%, **No:** 31%)

Have some type of fenced in exercise area at the National

Answer: We agree, a fenced in exercise area is a wonderful amenity. We have been lucky to have this available at several previous National Specialties. However, there are several reasons it would be challenging for the club to construct an exercise space, such as hotel negotiations, hauling, set-up, and break down of fencing, and liability concerns.

Reinstate lanyards at the National

Answer: Reinstating identification lanyards is a great idea, and we have been discussing it as well. We are exploring cost-effective methods to achieve this. While wallet-type lanyards have become expensive, we are committed to finding a way to identify new and first-time National attendees, as well as others who should be easily recognizable. We hope that identifying first-time attendees will encourage more members to welcome and approach them.

Delegation of duties – more chair positions so more members can learn how to put on a National

Answer: Currently, we have a long list of committee chairs for each National event. Every year, we ask for volunteers, and while we do receive responses, a certain percentage of volunteers tend to back out. We are always in need of more help at the National. If you are interested in chairing a position or volunteering at the upcoming National, please contact Monica Baughman or Shari Semelroth for 2027, and Mary Dymond for 2028.

Make the National shorter, do more things every day

Answer: The 2026 National will be the shortest one to date, which has led us to eliminate some activities due to time constraints. We are eager to see how this format is received by the membership and would appreciate your feedback afterwards.

The ring steward should not be an MCOA member and should not travel to the National with the BOB winner

Answer: *The ring steward for the MCOA National has traditionally been an MCOA member. Over the past decade, this role has been filled by Jay Dietz, Diane Collings, Liz Simon, or Toni Hyland. We have the utmost confidence in their professionalism and have not received any complaints regarding their conduct in the ring.*

Regarding the ring steward traveling to the show with the BOB winner, it is impossible to enforce such a rule, as we are not aware of who will win BOB.

Background checks on National Specialty judges

Answer: *We have criteria individuals need to meet to be a judge at our National. Please see Motion # 3/17-02.*

Additionally, judges are posted on the National website and in the Premium. If there is a concern about a particular judge, we would appreciate it being brought to our attention prior to the National.

Catalog – Table of Contents (TOC)

Answer: *This is not feasible because the Superintendent finalizes and adds multiple pages to the catalog.*

HEALTH T-SHIRTS

Add option to purchase sweatshirts

Answer: *Great idea, we have sent this request to the Health Committee.*

REGIONAL SPECIALTIES

Increase monetary support for the regional specialties

Answer: *Currently the MCOA offers \$50 to each regional club for one specialty. We will be looking into increasing that amount and frequency after we go over budgets.*

MEMBER BENEFITS

Medallions for new titles

Answer: *We have received numerous requests to reinstate the practice of sending MCOA medallions to members who earn new titles on their dogs. We will explore the possibility of providing medallions or other options for members who already have many medallions and will update you on our decision.*

If anyone is interested in handling the mailings, please let us know.

JOURNAL

Put the Journal online

Answer: *We are currently looking for a new journal editor. We can investigate this more when someone volunteers for this position. If you're interested, please check out the help wanted page on the website and apply.*