



# Futurity and Maturity Program

## Breeder and Owner Handbook

Greetings,

We hope you find the Weimaraner Club of America (WCA) Futurity and Maturity Program rewarding whether you are:

- An experienced breeder,
- A first time breeder,
- Just considering breeding,
- A new owner or
- A long time Weimaraner owner

And, whether you are interested in field, bench or both.

The Futurity and Maturity program is designed to encourage and reward the breeding of Weimaraners who most closely conform to the approved AKC breed standard and its intent. Such recognition is important to the breed for continued breed improvement.

The program began in 1956 with a Field Futurity followed by a Bench Futurity program beginning in 1957. (Field events recognize dogs based on their ability to find, point and retrieve game, while bench events recognize dogs on their conformation.) The programs, with their rich history, were combined in 1985. In 2011 the WCA Board of Directors appointed a committee of knowledgeable and committed Weimaraner breeders and owners to take a critical look at the program and recommend changes needed to take the program into the future. This program is the result of the hard work of that dedicated committee.

The program not only rewards the efforts of the breeder but also the owners who are responsible for fulfilling their Weimaraners' unique potential. Recognition is also given to the sire for his genetic contribution to the breeding.

The Futurity and Maturity program provides the breeder with the opportunity to nominate their litter which is a statement of faith for their breeding program. The WCA rewards successes in both bench and field venues, with the ultimate achievement being success in both. The Futurity and Maturity Program recognizes the dedication of participating breeders and owners in striving to achieve this excellence.

This booklet is designed for the breeders and owners of Weimaraners interested in the Futurity and Maturity Program. As with many activities, the Futurity and Maturity program uses unique terminology so please read the section called Definitions.

On an ongoing basis the Futurity Administrator is responsible for monitoring the results of the program so any suggestions to improve the program should be directed to the Futurity Administrator. The Futurity Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day management of the program and should be able to handle your questions. See the WCA Website <https://WeimaranerClubofAmerica.org> for the Futurity Administrator's current contact information. Additionally, any member of the Board of Directors is interested in your comments and suggestions for the program. The WCA Board of Directors reviews the program for revisions at least every three years.

Warmest regards,

*WCA Board of Directors*

## Definitions

The following words in bold have specific meaning in the Futurity and Maturity Program. When the word is used in the document it is capitalized to indicate that it is a defined term.

**AKC** – American Kennel Club.

**AKC Registration Certificate** – The document provided by the AKC listing a dog's name, breed, color, sire, dam, breeder, owner, AKC number, sex and date of birth. The Registration Certificate lists the date the certificate was issued. Futurity and Maturity eligibility requires Full Registration, not Limited Registration.

**Bench Show** (or Conformation Dog Show) – A competitive exhibition for dogs at which the dogs are judged in accordance with an established standard of perfection.

**Breeder** – A person who breeds dogs. Under AKC and WCA rules the breeder is the owner (or if the Dam was leased, the lessee) of the Dam when the Dam was bred. This is the person or a person listed on the AKC Registration Certificate of the Get (puppies) and is considered the breeder of record. In the event there are multiple breeders, the first person listed on the AKC Registration Certificate is the person that will receive trophies and awards provided by the WCA.

**Brace** – A pair of dogs (2 dogs).

**Bye** – A single dog in competition.

**Dam** – The female parent of a dog.

**Derby Stake** – An AKC performance standard used in Field Trials.

**Disqualifying Fault** – A condition that makes a dog ineligible for competition. The AKC provides disqualifications that apply to all breeds, see *The Complete Dog Book* for a list of those conditions. The WCA provides the following disqualifying faults in its breed standard:

- Dogs measuring at the withers less than 24 inches, or more than 28 inches,
- Bitches measuring at the withers less than 22 inches, or more than 26 inches,
- A distinctively long coat
- A distinctively blue or black coat.

The Futurity and Maturity Program provides that no cryptorchid (unilateral or bilateral), spayed or neutered dogs are eligible to compete.

**Dual Champion** – A dog that has both a field and bench championship.

**Field Trial** (pointing) – A competition in which pointing breeds are judged on their ability and style in finding, pointing and retrieving game.

**Futurity** – A non-regular competition at a designated specialty show or field trial for young dogs that recognizes and awards dogs who most closely conform to the approved AKC breed or performance standard. The competition requires a series of nominations from a Breeder and payment of associated fees by the Breeder and/or owner of the Get prior to the date on which the Futurity is judged.

**Futurity Year** – Is a calendar year.

**Get** – The offspring from the breeding of the Dam to the Sire.

**Maturity** – A non-regular competition at specialty shows for dogs following the year of their Futurity. Dogs must be nominated for the Maturity when nominated for the Futurity to be eligible.

**Member in Good Standing** –A person who has paid annual membership dues for the current year and who is not suspended from the WCA or AKC membership, nor has any debt with the WCA.

**Owner of the Get** – The owner of the Get as listed on the AKC Registration Certificate. In the event there are multiple owners, the first person listed on the AKC Registration Certificate that is a Member in Good Standing is the person that will receive trophies and awards provided by the WCA.

**Owner of the Sire** – Owner of the Sire when Dam was bred. In the event there are multiple owners, the first person listed on the AKC Registration Certificate that is a Member in Good Standing is the person that will receive trophies and awards provided by WCA. See below:

**Owner of the Sire - Frozen Semen:** If the Owner of the Sire is deceased when the Dam is bred, the owner of the semen shall be entitled to receive the Owner of the Sire trophy provided that the owner of the semen provides proof that the semen was transferred to him/her by valid legal document such as the Decedent's Will or through a duly notarized legal document. If the owner of the semen is, through inheritance, an immediate family member, spouse, son, daughter, they shall be eligible for the Sire trophy provided they are a WCA Member in Good Standing and all other WCA requirements are met. Since they were not the legal owner or co-owner of the sire, the right of transfer does not apply. In no event, however, shall any person(s) be entitled to receive the Owner of the Sire trophy if he/she acquired title to the frozen semen other than through the legal wishes of the deceased owner of the sire.

**Premium List** - A document published by the club hosting an event giving details of the event and providing an entry form.

**Sire** – The male parent of a dog.

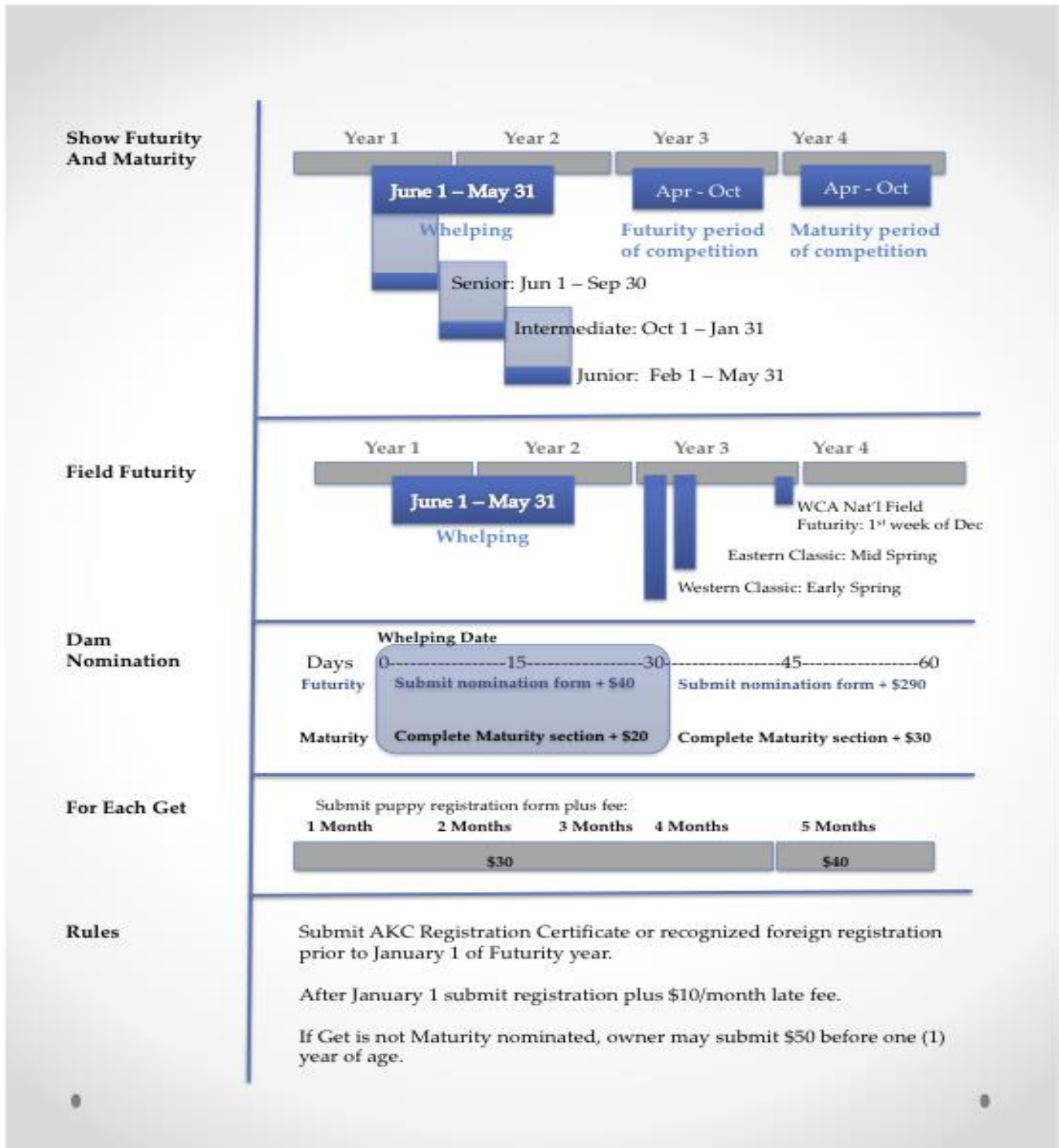
**Stake** – At a Field Trial, a category in which dogs based on their eligibility compete. It may be an age or skill level.

**Versatile Hunting Dog** – A dog bred and trained to hunt and point game, to retrieve on both land and water and to track wounded game on both land and water. AKC recognizes the Brittany, German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Spinone Italiano, Vizsla, Weimaraner and Wirehaired Pointing Griffon as versatile breeds.

**Whelping** – The act of giving birth to puppies or Get.

**Whelping Date** – The birth date of the puppies or Get.

## Futurity and Maturity Dates



## Eligibility and Nominations

### **General Eligibility and WCA Membership Requirements**

- 1) The Futurity and Maturity is open to all American Kennel Club (AKC) registered and AKC recognized foreign registered Weimaraners that have no Disqualifying Faults.
- 2) Breeders of the Get need to be Members in Good Standing when the Dam is nominated and the Get competes. This is with the exception of when a Breeder or co-breeder that was in good standing is now deceased.
- 3) Owners and co-owners of the Get need to be Members in Good Standing when submitting puppy nomination forms and when the Get competes. This is with the exception of when an Owner or co-owner that was in good standing is now deceased.
- 4) The Owner of the Sire is not required to be a member of the WCA for a litter to be nominated, but must be a WCA Member in Good Standing at the time of the event to receive awards. See Definitions, page 3; "Owner of the Sire."
- 5) If a Futurity nominated Get is sold, eligibility will continue to the new owner, provided the new owner or owners are Members in Good Standing (see Change in Ownership of Get).
- 6) To be eligible to compete in a Maturity event the Get must have been eligible to compete in a Futurity event.

### **Nomination of Dam**

- 1) A Dam shall be nominated on or before 30 days after the Whelping Date by completing a nomination form provided by the Futurity Administrator, available on *The Weimaraner Magazine* dust cover and the Website <http://WeimaranerClubofAmerica.org> plus the payment of the \$40.00 nomination fee.
  - A Dam nomination after the 30 days will be accepted for an additional 30 days provided the \$40.00 nomination fee is accompanied by a \$250.00 late fee for a total of \$290.00.
- 2) A Dam may be nominated for the Maturity simultaneously with the Futurity nomination by completing the Maturity section of the nomination form and paying an additional \$20.00 fee.
  - A Dam's Maturity nomination after 30 days will be accepted for an additional 30 days provided the \$20.00 nomination fee is accompanied by a \$10.00 late fee for a total of \$30.00.

### **Get Fees and Forms**

- 1) For each individual Get a \$30.00 fee and puppy nomination form is due on or before the last day of the month the Get turns 4 months old. If the nomination form and fee are not timely submitted Get may be made eligible by submitting the puppy nomination form and:
  - a. Up to the last day of the month the Get turns 5 months old, a \$30.00 fee plus \$10.00 late fee. Or,
  - b. By the first day of the month, which is two months prior to the event date, a \$30.00 fee plus a \$100.00 late fee.
- 2) A copy of the AKC Registration Certificate (Eligibility requires Full Registration, not Limited Registration) or AKC recognized foreign registration must be submitted to the Futurity Administrator.

- If a copy of the registration certificate is not on file with the Futurity Administrator prior to January 1 of the year of competition, a \$10 per month late fee must accompany the submission of the AKC Registration Certificate.
- 3) Get not made eligible by their Breeder for the Maturity may be made eligible for the Maturity by its owner with the payment of a \$50.00 fee before the Get is 12 months of age.
  - 4) Breeders are notified by the Futurity Administrator of the puppies' and owners' eligibility to compete by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month following the Whelping Date.
  - 5) Breeders are also notified of the Get's eligibility to compete, including Owner membership status, during January of the Get's Futurity Year.

### **Form of Payment of Fees**

- 1) All fees required under the Futurity and Maturity program may be made by check, or Visa, MasterCard, Amex or PayPal. This does not include entry fees for events as that form of payment is determined by the club hosting the event.
- 2) All fees are to be paid in U.S. funds.
- 3) All fees are nonrefundable.

### **Submitting Forms and Date Determination for Deadlines**

- 1) Forms may be submitted by email.
- 2) When fees are paid by credit card, forms may be submitted by fax or U.S. mail (email is not secure). If not submitting forms by fax or U.S. Mail, call the Futurity Administrator to give credit card information.
- 3) Dates for determining fulfillment of deadlines are determined by the:
  - a. Postmark for U.S. Mail
  - b. Date sent for all overnight carriers,
  - c. Sent date for emails and
  - d. Fax date for fax submissions.

### **Change in Ownership of the Get**

- 1) At the time puppy fees are paid the owner is the person listed on the puppy nomination form.
- 2) If there is a change of ownership, a copy of the AKC Registration Certificate (Eligibility requires Full Registration, not Limited Registration) or AKC recognized foreign registration certificate listing the new owners must be on file with the Futurity Administrator on or before the date of closing of the event.
- 3) At the time of competition, ownership determination is consistent with AKC requirements.

## Bench Show Futurity and Maturity

### **Events**

- 1) Three Bench Show Futurities and Maturities are held in different regions of the country each year. The regions are:
  - a) Eastern – Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.
  - b) Central – Arkansas, Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.
  - c) Western – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.
- 2) The WCA holds a Futurity and Maturity in conjunction with the National Specialty each year. The location of the National Specialty determines whether it is considered the Eastern, Central or Western Futurity and Maturity. A local Weimaraner Club applies to the WCA to host a Futurity and Maturity in the remaining regions in conjunction with its local specialty show.
- 3) The WCA asks that the local Weimaraner clubs hold the event during the months of April through October.

### **Futurity Classes**

- 1) Senior – Get whelped on or after June 1 through September 30.
- 2) Intermediate – Get whelped on or after October 1 through January 31.
- 3) Junior – Get whelped on or after February 1 through May 31.

### **Maturity Classes**

- Classes are divided by sex only

### **Entries and Entry Fees**

- 1) Eligible Get may be entered in each Bench Show Futurity in the appropriate year provided the Get has not been awarded Best Dog or Best Bitch in a Futurity. Eligible Get may be entered in each Maturity in the appropriate year provided the Get has not been awarded Best Dog or Best Bitch in Maturity.
- 2) All Get entered in the Futurity or Maturity must be entered in one of the regular or non-regular conformation classes provided by the local host club in the premium list or the National Specialty.
- 3) On the AKC approved entry form in the space provided for “Additional Class” write Senior Dog/Bitch, Intermediate Dog/Bitch, Junior Dog/Bitch, Maturity Dog or Maturity Bitch, as appropriate.
- 4) The \$30.00 entry fee for the Futurity or Maturity is in addition to the Specialty show entry fee and will be required to accompany the submitted entry form for the Specialty show.



## **Order of Judging**

- 1) Dog classes are judged first beginning with the Junior class, then Intermediate followed by Senior, providing 4 placements for each class.
- 2) The first place winners in each of these classes will then compete for Best Dog in Futurity.
- 3) The judge will then judge the bitch classes beginning with Junior, then Intermediate followed by Senior, providing 4 placements in each class.
- 4) The first place winners in each of these classes will then compete for Best Bitch in Futurity.
- 5) After judging of dogs and bitches is complete, the Best Dog and Best Bitch in Futurity will enter the ring together with no further judgment taking place.
- 6) The judge will judge Maturity dogs providing 4 placements. The first place dog is Best Dog in Maturity.
- 7) The judge will judge Maturity bitches providing 4 placements. The first place bitch is Best Bitch in Maturity.
- 8) After judging of the dogs and bitches is complete the Best Dog and Best Bitch in Maturity will enter the ring together with no further judgment to take place.

## **Judges**

- Judges are selected following the procedures for selecting judges for the National & Sectional Show events. See the separate document *Judging Selection for WCA Bench Events*.

## **Instruction to Judges**

- Appendix A contains a sample of the letter sent to each judge judging a Bench Futurity and Maturity.

## **Disqualifying Faults**

- The judge is responsible for dismissing from competition any dog with a Disqualifying Fault.

## **Handlers**

- Open to both professional and amateur handlers.

## **AKC Rules**

- The AKC rules for Dog Shows applies to the Futurity and Maturity events unless contrary to the provisions of the WCA Futurity and Maturity Program.

## **Protests**

- Any protest regarding eligibility or misconduct is handled as provided by the AKC *Dealing with Misconduct* replacing AKC officials with WCA President, Executive Secretary and Futurity Administrator with regard to notification.

## Field Futurity

### Events

- The Field Futurity events are a stake held during the:
  - Eastern Classic
  - Western Classic and
  - National Field Trial.

### Stakes

- 1) The stake requires a minimum of 4 starters. If there are not 4 starters, the stake is cancelled and entry fees refunded.
- 2) The event may be run on continuous, multiple or single course.
- 3) A blank pistol, .22 or .32 caliber, must be used. The use of .22 crimps or shotguns is not permitted.
- 4) Bitches in season may compete in the Field Futurity but will run last and will not be braced with a male.

### Entries and Entry Fees

- 1) Weimaraners eligible to compete in the Futurity may enter and compete in all of the Field Futurity Events regardless of placements at prior Field Futurities.
- 2) The entry fee for a Field Futurity is similar to the entry fee charged for a Derby stake.

### Judge

- 1) Judges are selected following the procedures for selecting judges for the National & Sectional Field events. See the separate documents *National Field Championship Rules and Regional Field Classic Rules*.

### Instructions to Judges

- 1) Judges are to use the current AKC standard for judging a Derby stake as the basis for Field Futurity judging; however, each brace or bye will run for one half hour.
- 2) Four placements and Awards of Merit may be awarded at the discretion of the judges.
- 3) The First Place dog is the Field Futurity Winner.

### Handlers

- 1) Open to both professional and amateur handlers.
- 2) Horseback handling is permitted.

### Disqualifying Faults

- 1) No cryptorchid dogs (unilateral or bilateral), spayed or neutered dogs, or any dog with a Disqualifying Fault under the Weimaraner Breed Standard may compete in any Futurity.

## **AKC Rules**

- The AKC rules for Field Trials applies to the Field Futurity Stake unless contrary to the provisions of the WCA Futurity and Maturity Program.

## **Protests**

- Any protest regarding eligibility or misconduct is handled as provided by the AKC *Dealing with Misconduct* replacing AKC officials with WCA President, Executive Secretary and Futurity Administrator with regard to notification.

## Trophies and Awards

### **Breeder**

- 1) Breeder of the Best Dog and Best Bitch in the Bench Show Futurity or Maturity receive:
  - a) Breed figure on a walnut base.
  - b) \$100.00 check in the mail.
- 2) Breeder of the Field Futurity winner receives:
  - a) Breed figure on a walnut base.
  - b) \$100.00 check in the mail.
- 3) If there are additional persons listed as Breeders on the AKC Registration Certificate, they may purchase a breed figure on a walnut base from the WCA for cost plus shipping.
- 4) Host clubs may provide additional awards or trophies.

### **Owner of Get**

- 1) Owner of the Best Dog and Best Bitch in the Bench Show Futurity or Maturity and Owner of Field Futurity winner receives a WCA walnut plaque. If there are additional persons listed as Owners on the AKC Registration Certificate they may purchase a WCA walnut plaque from the WCA for cost plus shipping.
- 2) Rosettes are awarded to all placements in Field and Show Futurity and Maturity events.
- 3) Rosettes are awarded to Best Dog and Best Bitch in the Bench Show Futurity.
- 4) A medallion with neck ribbon is provided for placements in the Field and Bench Show Futurity and Maturity events.
- 5) Host clubs may provide additional awards and trophies.

### **Owner of Sire**

- 1) Provided the Owner of the Sire of the Best Dog in Futurity, Best Bitch in Futurity, Best Dog in Maturity, Best Bitch in Maturity or Field Futurity Winner is a member in Good Standing with the WCA on the day of the event, the Owner of the Sire receives a breed figure on a walnut base. See Definitions, page 3; "Owner of Sire."
- 2) If there are additional persons listed as Owners of the Sire that are members of the WCA in Good Standing on the day of the event they may purchase a breed figure on a walnut base for cost plus shipping.

### **Hat Pins**

- Futurity and Maturity hat pins are available for purchase from the National Office. Only owners of the Get that received Best Dog in Futurity, Best Bitch in Futurity, Best Dog in Maturity, Best Bitch in Maturity or Field Futurity Winner may purchase a hat pin.

### **Placing in Field and Show Futurity/Maturity**

- Breeder of Get placing in Field and Bench Futurity or Maturity receives an additional photo engraved plaque. To receive the award a dog must have defeated at least one dog in both the Field and Bench Futurity or

Maturity. If there are additional persons listed as Breeders on the AKC Registration Certificate, they may purchase a photo engraved plaque from the WCA for cost plus shipping.

### **Winning Best Dog/Bitch in Futurity or Best Dog/Bitch in Maturity and Field Futurity Winner**

- Breeder of the Get winning Best Dog/Bitch in Futurity or Maturity and winning the Field Futurity receives a bronze breed statue. If there are additional persons listed as Breeders on the AKC Registration Certificate, they may purchase a bronze breed statue from the WCA for cost plus shipping.

## Appendix A - Letter to Judge

To: The Judges of our Show Futurity and Maturity

You are not to anticipate what the dogs will look like in the future. Instead, you are asked to judge the Futurity to the best of your ability, following the standard for the Weimaraner breed and according to your concept of what a Weimaraner should look like when he is the age of the class you are judging.

We encourage that equal consideration be given to each of the classes regarding Best Dog in Futurity and Best Bitch in Futurity realizing that the more youthful dogs will be less mature, and provided those points of immaturity are normal and appropriate for this breed at that time in development, they should not be penalized.

Since handlers may range from novice to professional, and because this is a breeder's Futurity, we would hope that you would place emphasis on the selection of a superior specimen and have considerable tolerance for the novice handler.

Depending on whether the Futurity is held in April, May, June, July, August, September or October our Futurity Dogs will range in age from:

- Juniors will range in age from 10 to 20 months
- Intermediates will range in age from 14 to 24 months
- Seniors will range in age from 18 to 28 months

Dogs and bitches shall be judged separately in this order:

1. Junior dogs--placing 1, 2, 3 and 4.
2. Intermediate dogs--placing 1, 2, 3 and 4.
3. Senior dogs--placing 1, 2, 3 and 4.
4. The first place winners of the above classes will then compete for Best Dog in Futurity.
5. Junior bitches--placing 1, 2, 3 and 4.
6. Intermediate bitches--placing 1, 2, 3 and 4.
7. Senior bitches--placing 1, 2, 3 and 4.
8. The first place winners of the above classes will then compete for Best Bitch in Futurity.

After the judging of Dogs and Bitches is complete, the Best Dog and Best Bitch will enter the ring together with no further judgment to take place. For the benefit and interest of the spectators, the judge will then ask the handlers to exhibit his choices in a brief and suitable demonstration.

The Maturity follows the Futurity judging. Classes are divided by sex only beginning with dogs. The placements will be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>. The first place dog will be BEST DOG in MATURITY. All eligible bitches will follow. The placements will be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. The first place bitch will be BEST BITCH in MATURITY. After the judging of Dogs and Bitches is complete, the Best Dog and Best Bitch will enter the ring together with no further judgment to take place. For the benefit and interest of the spectators, the judge will then ask the handlers to exhibit his choices in a brief and suitable demonstration.