



GREYHOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

March 2002

Dear Greyhound Club of America member:

As an AKC Parent Breed Club, we must operate according to AKC's guidelines and as set forth in our Constitution and Bylaws. GCA's Board has been working very hard in the past year to conduct the club's business within those standards.

GCA's members are now asked to vote on a proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 2 (Voting) of the GCA Constitution, duly submitted by petition by Patricia Gail Burnham. Copies of the current Article IV, Section 2 of our Constitution and of the proposed amendment may be found in the "Official GCA Ballot Section" below.

This proposed amendment **would reverse the current voting privileges and processes as they are detailed in our Constitution and Bylaws, and as they have existed for years.** It would empower the general membership to make motions and vote in person at meetings with a quorum, or by mail on ALL matters concerning the club's business except the vote to fill a vacancy on the Board.

To protect its Parent Breed Clubs, NO club Constitutional amendment, even if approved by the requisite two-thirds of the members voting, can be implemented until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC. So we asked for an opinion and ruling up front from the AKC. **Per the two enclosed letters from James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary of AKC, "It makes no sense to have a Bylaw provision making every item of club business a matter for a vote of the general membership. This is not practical ... and would make the regular conduct of business by the club virtually impossible. Thus, AKC would not approve such a provision in a member club's Bylaw, particularly a club with a nation-wide membership."**

If the outcome of this proposed amendment is preordained, why are we taking this to a ballot of the membership? Our Bylaws specifically state that the Board must consider the petition and submit it to the members with recommendations of the Board for a vote. We are doing precisely that.

The GCA Board recommends a "NO" vote on this proposed change to the GCA Constitution.

This "NO" recommendation is being made for the following reasons:

1. The change to our Constitution that this petition would require **would not be acceptable to AKC**, which has the ultimate authority to accept or reject any part of our Constitution (as per Mr. Crowley's enclosed letters).
2. The change that this petition would require is **against the recommended method of voting within a National Club** according to Roberts Rules of Order and the advice of AKC Director of Club Relations Mr. Michael Liosis (as per his letter of June 5, 2001 and unanimously adopted by the GCA Board at its meeting in July 2001).

3. This change would be in **direct conflict with various other articles of our Constitution** dealing with voting.
4. The financial impact for our club to potentially have to mail out a ballot on any and all motions could be devastating. One ballot sent to the entire voting membership at this time costs approximately \$200.00. If ballots were sent for every motion requested of the membership, the **cost would be prohibitive**.
5. Mr. Crowley observes that the change this petition would require would **enable regional factions to exercise disproportionate influence** when they have the numbers at a specific meeting.

Your vote counts!! Send it in today!!

Sincerely,

GCA Board of Directors
Greyhound Club of America

**Official GCA Ballot Section:
Proposed Constitutional Amendment
to Article IV, Section 2 (Voting).**

Please read all the enclosed documents before voting.

The complete current content of GCA Constitution/Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2 (Voting) is reproduced in its entirety below. Immediately below the current content of Section 2 is the proposed amendment to Section 2, also reproduced in its entirety. The proposed changes are in underlined bold face, so that you can compare them more easily.

Entire CURRENT GCA Constitution and Bylaws: Article IV, Section 2 (Voting)

"Section 2. Voting. At the annual meetings, general meetings or at a special meeting of the Club, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the annual election of officers (delegate) and directors and amendments to the constitution and bylaws (and the standard for the breed) which will be decided by written ballot cast by mail."

**Entire PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO GCA Constitution and Bylaws ;
Article IV, Section 2 (Voting)**

"Proposed Amendment to the GCA Constitution" from Patricia Gail Burnham
"Add the following paragraphs to Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution. Revise to read as follows:

"Section 2. Voting. At the annual meetings, general meetings or at special meetings of the club, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the annual election of officers (delegate) and directors and amendments to the constitution and bylaws (and the standard for the breed) which will be decided by written ballot cast by mail.

"Since the function of the board of directors is to conduct the business of the club in accordance with the will of the general members that they represent, the general membership has the power to vote on any matter concerning the business of the club with the exception of voting to fill a board vacancy. (The vote to fill a vacancy on the board is to be performed by the board.) In the event of a disagreement between a ballot of the general membership and a ballot of the board of directors on the same issue, the matter is decided in favor of the ballot of the general membership. At a general, special or annual meeting where a quorum is present, any member of the club in good standing may make and second motions and may vote on motions pertaining to any business conducted by the club. Ballots of the general membership may be conducted at general, annual or special meetings, or by mail.

"A motion voted on by a mail vote of the entire general membership will not be put to the membership for another vote on the same subject until five years have elapsed, except to resolve a tie in the initial vote."

Instructions for Voting:

Please read all the documents enclosed and then vote "YES" or "NO" to the question on the ballot below. Each voter, after marking his/her ballot, shall seal it in the small pre-addressed return envelope that is addressed to the Recording Secretary and return it via mail. It is important that this process be followed to ensure validation of the member's vote. Any return ballots that cannot be verified by name for membership status will NOT be counted. To be valid, all return ballots must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 22, 2002.

**The GCA Board recommends a "NO" vote
on this proposed change to the GCA Constitution.**

Cut along this line, complete ballot, fold and insert in preaddressed return envelope.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

INDICATE VOTE WITH X. VOTE FOR ONE CHOICE ONLY.

QUESTION: DO YOU VOTE TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GREYHOUND CLUB OF AMERICA?

_____ YES

_____ NO



THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

JAMES P. CROWLEY
Executive Secretary

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E-Mail: jpc@akc.org

February 20, 2002

Ms. Rose Mary Conner, Recording Secretary
Greyhound Club of America
28 Rocktown Rd., Amwell Ridge Farm
Ringoes, NJ 08551

Dear Ms. Conner:

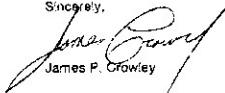
This concerns the proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 2 of the GCA Bylaws.

The Bylaws of dog clubs, as is true of most public and private organizations, places responsibility for the general management of the club in the hands of a Board of Directors. This is particularly reasonable for a club with a national membership. Specific items that are handled on a regular or annual basis or that do not necessitate immediate action, e.g., elections, Bylaw and breed standard changes are the responsibility of the general membership.

It makes no sense to have a Bylaw provision making every item of club business a matter for a vote of the general membership. This is not practical when the entire membership only meets once each year and would make the regular conduct of business by the club virtually impossible. Thus, AKC would not approve such a provision in a member club's Bylaw, particularly a club with a nation-wide membership. The Board is still ultimately responsible to the membership through the election process.

If this proposed amendment were adopted by the GCA, it is unlikely that it would be approved by AKC.

Sincerely,



James P. Crowley



THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

JAMES P. CROWLEY
Executive Secretary

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February 28, 2002

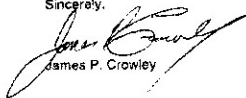
Ms. Rose Mary Conner, Recording Secretary
Greyhound Club of America
28 Rocktown Rd., Amwall Ridge Farm
Ringoes, NJ 08551

Dear Ms. Conner:

This is a follow-up to your telephone call in regards to my letter of February 20, 2002.

The general management of a club should be in the hands of the Board of Directors. Making every Board decision on every matter, subject to a vote of the membership, the proposed amendment would negate the authority of the Board and its ability to carry out the business of the club and would therefore not be approved by AKC. I apologize for not being more definitive in my original response.

Sincerely,



James P. Crowley