

Mary Ellen Gorske - incumbent GCA Vice-President

I have been a member of GCA since 1994. However my interest in the GCA and the greyhound breed goes back many years prior. I first attended a GCA specialty in 1980. This was the GCA Western specialty put on with the newly formed Western Sighthound Combined Specialties. I did the premium list and catalog for that show as my husband was the show secretary for this event. I have attended every Western Specialty with the exception of about 5, since 1980. I have attended the Eastern specialty three times, once having the honor of judging the sweepstakes.

I have been active in the world of AKC Pure bred dogs since 1970 and have served as a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Board Member and member in a number of dog clubs. These include Chico Dog Fanciers, Santa Ana KC, Orange Empire KC, GCA, Saluki Club of Greater San Francisco, San Angeles Saluki Club, Galveston Bay Saluki Club, American Saluki Association and Dachshund Club of America. I have served as show chair for all breed shows and specialty shows. I am an AKC licensed judge and a member of the Dog Judges Association of America and the San Francisco Bay Area Judges Association.

Since 1995 I have been show chair for the GCA Western Specialty missing only one year when I judged at Skokloster in Sweden. I look forward to serving in this capacity again after a year or two hiatus. We have a wonderful working team at the Western with many members doing jobs to make the show run smoothly and be an enjoyable event for everyone. One of my great interests, along with working to put on a good event, has been publications. I have been editor of various newsletters for National and local clubs and have edited 3 books for the ASA. I was also the editor for the first ASFA Historical Book published by ASFA. I would like to see GCA begin to think about publishing some sort of annual or bi-annual book so that the history of the breed with statistics can be recorded and documented in a permanent way. I would also like to see GCA encourage performance by AKC greyhounds. As one of the people involved in the beginnings of ASFA and one of their earliest licensed judges, I have promoted lure coursing throughout the country. As show chair for the Western I introduced the coursing classes to that event. With AKC now into lure coursing events, I would like to help promote AKC greyhound coursing. Having said that I strongly believe that the statement in our GCA constitution that commits us to accepting the AKC standard as the only standard by which our Greyhounds are to be judged holds us to do everything in our power to protect the AKC greyhound and its very old and valued standard. I am thus in support of closing the stud book.

I believe the Board needs to work on the constitution and bring it into agreement throughout. This will take a real team effort of the committee to study the constitution and work together on revisions. I would also like to see big strides made in judges education material. This has been started by the appointment of the new JE material committee. In this time of instant judges, when they no longer spend time learning the breed from many breeders and years of study, we need top notch education material to present to perspective judges if we want them to understand the many styles within the breed.

I have dedicated the majority of my adult years to Sighthounds, Salukis and Greyhounds in particular. My formal education included a degree from Marquette University with majors in Chemistry and Medical Technology and a minor in Zoology. I have worked in immunology research and as a marine biologist. I have lived in many parts of our beloved country, born in Wisconsin, moved to California and then to Manhattan in NY and finally back to California.