



GREYHOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

August 10, 2001

Dear Greyhound Club of America Members,

I feel that an outline and explanation of the business conducted during the Board of Directors meeting at the GCA Western Specialty are necessary at this time, rather than waiting until the minutes are published in the next Newsletter. Of particular interest to everyone, I am certain, are several decisions and /or votes taken at the board meeting. To this end, I am not going to relate all of the business that was discussed during our very long Board meeting on Wednesday evening, July 25, 2001, but intend to address the issues of greatest concern to the Club at this time. Specifically I am referring to the decision to allow any prior votes taken of the general membership to stand and not be declared null and void, and to the votes to

- 1) conduct Club business in line with the GCA Constitution and Bylaws and current AKC directives, and**
- 2) close the Stud Book to dogs of NGA registration.**

The exact wording of the motions which precipitated these votes will be quoted later in this letter. First, I would like to give you some background information as to how and why the above issues were discussed and voted upon at this meeting.

When elected to the Board, Rose Mary Conner and June Matarazzo felt the need for clarification, guidance, and advice in relation to GCA voting procedures and AKC guidelines for proper voting procedures. June knew that many GCA members were unhappy with the GCA practice of voting and re-voting on an issue. Rose Mary didn't understand how or why previous voting decisions on major issues had been made, remade, reversed, and were generally inconsistent with club policy execution. She wanted to write to the AKC for clarification. June joined her in writing a letter.

The letter was sent to AKC requesting guidelines and process clarity on Board and membership voting responsibilities. When I was GCA recording secretary, I too, had placed a phone call to Mike Liosis, the AKC Director of Club relations, seeking

clarification of proper voting procedures, and had been told at that time that we were not following AKC guidelines for conducting club votes.

It was Mike Liosis who responded to Rose Mary and June's letter. In his letter, he very precisely and clearly outlined what the responsibilities of the GCA membership and Board of Directors are in regard to voting practices.

Although many people in the Club have already seen Mr. Liosis' letter, I am enclosing a copy so that you may refer to it as I explain the chain of events as they unfolded at the July 25th Board meeting.

After the minutes were approved and the committee reports read, Rose Mary and June's and Mr. Liosis' letters were discussed. We felt this was an important issue and wanted to address it before other new business. There followed quite a lengthy discussion, as we wanted to clarify exactly what implications Mike Liosis' letter had for the GCA. In particular, his statement that, "Motions made by members which conflict with the Board of Directors general management power, are out of order and if adopted, are null and void." was clearly an issue with significant implications.

In a follow-up conversation between Mike and Rose Mary, made at my request, Mr. Liosis recommended that before the Board declare any prior membership votes "null and void", "given the murky status of so many issues and prior voting patterns", he needed to do further research on each individual vote. After much discussion about the direction we as a Board wanted to take on this matter, it was agreed that we did not want to name previously accepted membership votes as null and void, but to let them stand as they are.

Following this agreement, Rose Mary shared a study she had done comparing the voting powers of the general membership and Board as listed in Mr. Liosis' letter, with the voting powers as they are stated in the GCA Constitution/Bylaws. The comparative study demonstrated that, with only slight variations in language, the powers were the same.

Following further discussion, Shari Mason made a motion that:

"Effective July 25, 2001, these are the issues which will be decided by the GCA membership as set forth in the GCA Constitution and Bylaws and by current directives of the AKC:

*Voting on applicants who have not been elected by the board
Petitioning for special club meetings
Nominating individuals for officer and board positions
Voting for club officers and board members
Participating on committees
Voting to expel a member from the club
Voting on breed standard revisions*

Bylaw amendments and dissolution of the club

These are the decisions that will be made by the Board as set forth in the GCA Constitution and Bylaws and by current directives of the AKC:

All other matters (than those on the above membership voting list) fall under the authority of the Board of Directors, under its general management power."

The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Gorske, put to a vote, and passed.

At this time, discussion followed as to how the membership could express their dissatisfaction with a Board decision. It was agreed that a policy needed to be developed to allow the club membership to petition the Board to reconsider a Board decision with which there was a disagreement. To this end, a committee was appointed to draft such a policy. The committee members are Beth Anne Gordon, June Matarazzo, and Marj Leider.

At this time, the Board addressed other New Business, which will be included in the Board meeting minutes in the next Newsletter.

Before entertaining a motion for adjournment, I asked if there was any other New Business. At this time Mary Ellen Gorske made a motion to "Close the Stud Book to dogs of NGA registration". Quite a bit of discussion followed Mary Ellen's motion. June said she believed that any currently registered Greyhounds and their get would be grandfathered in and not be denied registration privileges. There would be no change in the current ILP process or available venues. I reminded Board members that this vote is only a recommendation that is sent to AKC. As the registering body, they make the final decision. After more discussion, Shari Mason seconded the motion. A written ballot was taken of the members present and the motion passed with a count of six to one.

To review and summarize the above information:

A letter was received from Mike Liosis in response to an inquiry made by Rose Mary Conner and June Matarazzo asking for clarification of proper club voting procedures according to AKC guidelines.

Mr. Liosis' letter clearly outlined the voting powers of the club membership and the Board of Directors. His letter also stated that "Motions made by the members which conflict with the Board of Directors general management power are out of order, and if adopted are null and void".

In a follow-up telephone conversation, he indicated that before we vote to declare any membership motions or votes null and void, each needed to be studied on an individual basis. The Board felt that it did not want to pursue this line of action and

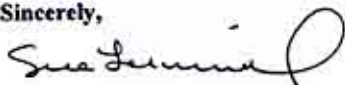
instead agreed to let all prior votes stand. This decision was made out of consideration for the prior efforts of the membership.

The Board then voted to follow voting procedures as set forth in the GCA Constitution/Bylaws and AKC current directives. This was purely a procedural vote, to get the Club back on track, following those directives as they appear in our Constitution. Our next order of business was to appoint a committee to draft a policy that would permit the GCA membership to reconsider a Board decision if they wished to do so.

Later in the meeting, a motion was made, seconded, voted upon, and passed to close the Stud Book to dogs of NGA registration.

I have tried to outline, to the best of my ability, what occurred at the GCA Board meeting on July 25, 2001. The Board's desire in all of this is to bring the GCA back in line with its own Constitution and AKC guidelines. The GCA is an AKC member club and as such, should function under its rules, regulations, and policies. We have spent much time and effort to begin this process, and we have more work ahead of us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for their interest and concern in making the GCA a properly functioning Parent Club and to invite anyone who has any questions or comments to call or email me or any other Board member to express your concerns. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to consider my letter.

Sincerely,



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