

## **JUNE MATARAZZO – INCUMBENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD**

I have been a GCA member for twenty-five years. In the past five years, I have attended and exhibited at seven GCA Specialties. Over the years, I have attended, volunteered, and usually exhibited at more than twenty other Eastern and Western GCA Specialties, winning three of them. Attending board meetings is a very high priority of mine; it is an important commitment, which every board member should honor. By missing a board meeting, you miss not just a meeting, but also a valuable opportunity to see first hand the state of the breed and the fancy. I have attended and contributed to every board meeting of the current board, as well as every board meeting during the prior four terms I have been privileged to serve on GCA 's Board in various capacities.

I do not support an open stud book for the Greyhound breed. This is an issue I have watched change and evolve and get more heated and divisive over my twenty-five years in the breed. It isn't even the same issue debated a few years ago. It's used now as an excuse to trash GCA, AKC, the board, our dogs, and our standard. It has degenerated into a political issue by people who hold the welfare of the breed less important than their own agendas. The NGA registry does not offer benefits to AKC's registry or to GCA as a club devoted to the preservation and protection of our Greyhounds. We know now to be less casual with the mingling of gene pools and less casual with access to the AKC stud book.

I have seen what change has done to the sport of purebred dogs. Gone are the halcyon days of Bill Brainard, the Farrells, and Dr. Elsie, when order reigned and integrity was never questioned. Attitude. Ethics. Respect. Sportsmanship. We need those same values today. New members need to be educated in the way business should be conducted, and old members need to show the way. Breeds are being specifically targeted for moral issues. The only way to protect GCA's healthy future is to keep it functioning according to its constitution, bylaws, and code of ethics. As an AKC parent club member, we must also abide by AKC's rules, regulations, and policies. My main concern is the future of GCA and I have the advantage of time spent in the sport to give me a larger perspective on the issues critical to GCA. One thing I know, we must never return to the "old way" of doing business. It's a new world today. When even our very rights to own dogs are being challenged, we need to look for new ways to protect our breed and our club.

We have to learn from the current turbulence. Change is always difficult, but it can be used to bring people together instead of into factions. If I am re-elected, I will do my best to support this. I am committed to GCA's future strength and unity, and I promise not to abandon that commitment mid-stream. If re-elected to office, I would like to revisit some of the issues this current board has discussed, but not been able so far to devote itself to. For example, I would like to see a GCA Yearbook or a reprinting of additional copies of GIA. I would also like to see the proposed membership amendment which did not pass in 2000 revisited. Clearly, there's a big hole there. These projects should involve all members and encourage a healthier atmosphere for the Club and put the membership in a more positive mode.

My involvement in the sport of purebred dogs started in the mid-sixties. How a Doberman in obedience turned into 35 years of Afghans and 27 years of Greyhounds, I still ask myself. Throughout this time, I've belonged to all-breed clubs, parent clubs, breed parent clubs, breed regional clubs, and a coursing club. I served five consecutive terms and three intermittent terms as a board member of Ox Ridge KC, an all-breed club. I have served four terms as a board member throughout my involvement with GCA. If I am re-elected to my current office as GCA Board member, it will be my fifth term in GCA Board office. I have years of experience in every aspect of the sport, from show committees to ring stewarding to judges' education to conducting many seminars to mentoring to packing trophies in the dark at midnight to grounds keeping. Most important to me, however, will always be breeding and exhibiting.

It is a bit odd to find myself in an "elder statesman" role in GCA, but the club and the breed need for those of us with so many years and so much experience in the breed to bridge the past and the future. If you aren't part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Thank you.