



January 28, 2000

Committee members: Mary Ellen Gorske, Sue Cassem, Beth Anne Gordon

The membership committee began with four members. In addition to those above, Maureen Lucas gave input as the changes were first developed. However she was unable to continue on the committee and the three remaining members concluded the study.

The Membership Section of the Greyhound Club of America's constitution (Article 1 - Membership) was studied. There were a number of suggested changes that were received from members of the club as well as suggestions from the membership committee. An excellent survey of Parent Club membership requirements that had been done by David Frei was made available to us for our study. Articles about several parent club membership requirements, published in the AKC Gazette were also helpful.

The committee concluded its study and presents to the GCA Board, the following suggested revision to the GCA constitution, Article 1, Membership. (printed elsewhere in this newsletter)

A few comments about the committees suggested changes. It was important to the committee that GCA membership be open to everyone, of all ages and from all countries, who is in good standing with the AKC. While this was a priority, it was also felt that voting and holding office in GCA be a privilege to the most serious and dedicated fanciers of the breed. The necessity for a quorum for voting was also taken into consideration.

**Section 1** - The committee recommends that we should offer three types of membership;

1) Associate, 2) Regular, and 3) Honorary.

The Associate membership is open to all individuals who are in good standing with the AKC. The availability of this type of membership would allow anyone interested in the breed to join and receive our Newsletter and mailings and be included in activities and committees.

The Regular membership has restrictions relating to country (only U.S. citizens can become regular members), so that quorums at meetings can easily be met. Regular members must also demonstrate dedication to the breed and the AKC breed standard, through years of breed involvement and completion of a Greyhound AKC bench championship title. These are the members who vote on all issues pertaining to the breed standard and club activities and are eligible to hold office.

Honorary membership requirements are much the same as in the old membership section.

**Section 2** - Dues - has remained the same

**Section 3** - Election to membership in part remains the same but where the applicants for Associate and Regular membership are now separate, requirements pertaining to the submission of the application has been split.

Associate Applicants have very few requirements for submitting an application, and no initiation fee is required.

Regular members have the additional requirement of completing an AKC bench Championship title on a Greyhound that they own, and of attending at least one GCA general membership meeting. They also have an initiation fee.

We feel that these changes to the constitution reflect many of the ideas of the membership and will better serve the GCA.

**Suggested Amendments to the GCA Constitution , Article 1 - Membership**

**as proposed by the Membership Committee January 1999**

**Article 1**

**Membership**

SECTION 1 Eligibility. There shall be three types of membership, Associate, Regular and Honorary; open to all persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club.

Associate Membership is open to any person interested in the breed. Prior or current ownership of a Greyhound is desirable but not mandatory. An Associate Member may not vote or hold office, and may apply for Regular membership as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Associate members are encouraged to participate in GCA activities and may serve in any capacity on club committees.

Regular Membership is open to citizens of the United States, 18 years of age or older, who have been active in the Greyhound breed for at least 5 years and have been an Associate Member of this Club for at least one year. Regular members may vote and hold office.

Honorary Membership. The Board of Directors may, at their discretion and by a majority vote, bestow honorary membership upon any person in recognition of their service to the breed or to the Club. Such an honorary member shall be exempt from the payment of an initiation fee and dues. An honorary member who is a citizen of the United States may vote or hold office.

SECTION 2. Dues. Membership dues, in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors, but not to exceed \$50, shall be payable on or before the first of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership. Each applicant for Associate membership or Regular membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this constitution and these bylaws, and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary and shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant.

Applicants for Associate membership shall carry the endorsement of two members, in good standing who have been Regular members for at least two years and who have known the applicant for at least one year. The sponsors may not be members of the same household or immediate family of the applicant, as these terms are defined by AKC regulations. No Regular member may sponsor more than two applicants per calendar year. Accompanying the application for Associate membership, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

**Applicants for Regular Membership shall carry the endorsement of two members, in good standing who have been Regular members for at least two years and who have known the applicant for at least two years. The sponsors may not be members of the same household or immediate family of the applicant, as these terms are defined by AKC regulations. No Regular member may sponsor more than two applicants per calendar year. It is suggested that one of the sponsors shall have visited the premises where the applicant houses their dogs, such visit to have been within two years of sponsoring an applicant. Applicants for Regular Membership must have completed an AKC Bench Championship title on at least one Greyhound in their ownership. In addition, applicants for Regular membership must have attended at least one GCA general membership meeting and their attendance is recorded. Dues must be current and an initiation fee of \$35.00 shall accompany applications for Regular membership.**

The names of all applicants shall be published and sent to the total membership. Applicants may be elected 60 days after their name has been published, at any meeting of the Board of Directors which has a quorum, or by written vote of the Directors by mail if the first Board meeting following the 60 day waiting period does not have a quorum. Affirmative votes of two third of the Directors present at a meeting of the Board or two thirds of the entire Board voting by mail, shall be required to elect an applicant to Associate or Regular membership.

An application that has received a negative vote by the Board may be presented by one of the applicant's sponsors at the next general meeting of the Club and the Club may elect such applicant by a favorable vote of 90% of the members present.