

2015 ATIMANA GENERAL MEETING
Civitavecchia, September 19
REPORT BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dear Friends,

Twenty-five years ago, in 1991 and in accordance with the times, the first ATIMANA championship was held in Vichy, France, where the absolute winner was Caligula Di Ponzano. The initiative was the brainchild of the French, Italian, German and Dutch Clubs, which wanted to imitate the ATIBOX Championship for the Boxer breed. I was truly an amazing encounter with the attendance of almost 100 Neapolitan Mastiffs and I had the honor of judging the adult and Best of Breed classes, with so many other people and many friends.

I have great memories from that day: there really was a lot of people and so many friends, including Guido Vandoni representing the SAMN, then its Vice-Chairman.

The following year the second edition of the ATIMANA was held in Holland and it was the turn of Guido Vandoni, together with other colleagues, to judge, Italy being designated as the site for the third edition of the ATIMANA.

Also in 1992, I was elected Vice-Chairman of the SAMN replacing Guido Vandoni, who had resigned. I accepted the position, offering my contribution internationally (I had been judging all breeds for some time and spent more time judging abroad than in Italy), to give the ATIMANA legal status and substance. The SAMN accepted and in April 1993 it invited the Chairmen of the European Clubs to a meeting in Naples. Having been accepted by several of them, the grounds were laid for its official constitution, naming a commission with representatives from the German, French and Italian Clubs, for the definition of its Bylaws. We worked very hard, with great dedication, holding three meetings abroad (all at the same time as exhibitions), resulting, on October 15 the same year, in the official incorporation of the ATIMANA in the presence of the Notary Alfonso Monda of Naples, the first Board being elected and, to be sincere I would like to underline the fact that it was the SAMN that assumed all the costs. On October 30, on the eve of the Third ATIMANA Championship in Naples, I was elected as the first Board Member and our Association officially came to life.

The Third ATIMANA Championship in Naples was a real triumph for the Neapolitan Mastiff, with more than 130 examples in the Ring, many of which had come from abroad, and it really was a huge "Mastiff Breeder" party, with the participation of many private owners, breeders with and without affix, many of them truly historic, but what impressed me the most was the large number of members of the general public interested in the breed.

Virtually immediately, the Board of Governors of the ATIMANA, complying with its bylaws, believed that the holding of just one Annual Championship was not enough. It was necessary to provide Technical-Scientific support to breeders or simple aficionados about the most common health problems suffered by the breed, the main topic being "The longevity of the Neapolitan Mastiff". Consequently, in 1995 in Contarina, at the time of the 5th ATIMANA Championship, the first "International Scientific Conference on the Neapolitan mastiff" was held, giving life to the creation of uninterrupted annual scientific support, thanks to the contributions of outstanding national and international specialists who have given and continue to give their time and experience regarding the problems suffered by the breed and which it continues to suffer. For this reason, on behalf of the whole Board of Governors and mine, we would like to thank all the specialists who, on all levels, have continuously provided us with their valuable technical-scientific contributions for the well-being of the Neapolitan Mastiff, with the hope that these would be followed by both long-term fans of the breed and by newcomers.

As you can see from what I have already briefly mentioned, since then a lot of water has passed under the bridge. We have seen international Clubs appear and disappear. We achieved an all-time Ring attendance record in our championships that will be hard to beat (14th Championship in Mexico, 2004, with 154 Mastiffs), due to that births are on a downward trend in every country, the economic crisis has punished the Clubs, and Italian and foreign breeders have seen so many changes of flag, but our passion and commitment remain unchanged in the promotion of the development, guardianship, protection and safeguarding of the Neapolitan mastiff all over the world, with full and absolute respect of the standard of the Italian breed, without having any direct financial interest of any kind in the breed.

And much more important was the fact that, as everyone will remember, the great contribution made by the ATIMANA with three meetings in New York for the recognition of the breed by the AKC, but this is not a self-celebration, but rather a simple celebration of an important "Jubilee" for the Neapolitan mastiff, for their breeders and for everyone who, for different reasons, has loved and love this old and difficult Italian breed, envied the world over.

I would like this first "quarter of a century" to be celebrated by everyone, absolutely everyone, with joy and commitment: with sufficient criticism to criticize; we have had enough of those wanting to be the first in class without respecting other opinions. But above all, we have had enough of fights outside, or even worse, inside the ring. This is doing the breed no favors and alienates the true lovers of the Neapolitan Mastiff. And to end, we have had enough that some of think that they are the best. A breeder should know how to assess the quality and problems of their own examples before violently criticizing other people's dogs. That's the only way to become a great breeder.

This, our first "Jubilee", is being held in Civitavecchia: an Etruscan and Roman city aligned with the ancient history of our breed.

The organization has been specifically prepared by our friends Emiliano Messina and Rodolfo Antonini, whom we, on behalf of the Board of Governors and of the ATIMANA as a whole, would like to thank once again. Special thanks goes to the SAMN and its Chairman, Franco de Falco Iovane, for having requested with us and obtained the release by the ENCI of the Special CAS, valid for the title of Italian Champion. Just another reason to attend. Civitavecchia is well-worth the trip, full of archeological sites and a rare beauty. We are sure that all of this will significantly contribute to the success of our annual meeting, which this year represents an important milestone for the ATIMANA and for the Neapolitan Mastiff.

In accordance with its bylaws, the Board of Governors proceeded to call this General Meeting by letter dated July 14, 2015, sent to the Club Chairmen, to the Active Members, to the Account Auditors and to the Members of the Board of Governors. According to the Bylaws restated in the Extraordinary Meeting held in 2013, the following have voting rights (one vote each): ATIMANA USA FRIEND-NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF CLUB- Giuseppe Alessandra - Remo Coppola-Steve Cox - Nello Crimaldi - Jesus Mateo Garcia - Diego Garcia Lozano - Jesus Sanchez Pardo - Giovanbattista Waly, giving a total of 10 voters.

During 2015, the Mexican Neapolitan mastiff Society (SOCIEDAD MEXICANA DEL MASTIN NAPOLITANO - SMMN) and the Society of Neapolitan Mastiff Aficionados (SOCIEDAD DE AFICIONADOS AL MASTIN NAPOLITANO - SAMN) have filed their membership applications and paid the respective fees, in addition to Mr. Juan Manuel Guzman Carrillo as Active Member, Chairman of the Mexican Club SMMN, officially recognized by the Mexican Dog-Breeding Federation. The Board of Governors examined such applications in its meeting held on June 11, 2015 in Milan, evaluating them very positively and, therefore and in accordance with the bylaws, they are submitted to the General Meeting for approval, together with those of Emiliano Messina and the lawyer Rodolfo Antonini, dated 27/07/2015.

After the calls to the Meeting and of the Board sent on July 14, on the 20th of the same month Dr. Nello Crimaldi and Mr. Giovanbattista Waly resigned as both Active Members and Board Members. Therefore and according to the bylaws, today the General Meeting must proceed to replace them in the Board of Governors and that means until 2017. We would like to thank both of them for what they have done for the Neapolitan Mastiff.

Regarding the sporting profile, there were 63 examples registered in the 2014 ATIMANA championship held in Rome, the same number as entered in the 2014 World Championship in Milan, despite the reduction in the number of Neapolitan mastiffs present in the most important National and International

Canine events (for example, only 29 Mastiffs were registered for the World Championship in Helsinki and only 23 appeared, and 22 registered and 12 appeared in the European Championship held in BRNO).

Thank-you to all the Mastiff Breeders who brought their best examples to be judged by Guido Vandoni and Steve Cox, whom I would like to thank on behalf of the ATIMANA for their careful and timely work.

In addition, I would also like to thank the friends of the Mollosia Cultural Association for their perfect organization of the event, with special attention being paid to the welcome given to both guests and speakers. It is a real shame for those who are absent as they have missed a significant moment, a great atmosphere and socialization that is very rarely seen in dog exhibitions.

On a Technical level, the level of the Mastiffs has been good. In addition to careful and punctual judging in the different classes, I would like to mention the presence of a veteran, which is a good sign of a long life for our Mastiffs.

The International Scientific Conference was also very interesting, with the topic: "Ovulation anomalies in the Mastiff". On this subject, a report was submitted by Dr. Enrico Giordano, veterinary and enthusiast of the Neapolitan Mastiff, who provided valuable and very relevant information on this topic, followed by a series of questions and answers by the participants. ATIMANA and all the participants would like to thank Dr. Giordano for his contributions.

Regarding the organizational profile, the Board would like to apologize if the website of the ATIMANA is not updated; personally I would like to make my own apologies and I have always made it clear that I am absolutely ignorant in questions of modern technology. There was a meeting in Milan in virtue of the World Exhibition, in which the Board Member Giovanbattista Waly was also present, with our friend Giovane Matrone, who has always taken care of the financial elements, the maintenance and updating of the site, which he has done ever since it was activated. There have been misunderstandings, certainly not imputable to the ATIMANA or to him, which have been immediately "clarified". Therefore, henceforth the site will be updated, and we would like to thank our friend Giovanni for everything he has done and will continue to do for the ATIMANA.

This afternoon and, as usual for us, the 21st INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ABOUT THE NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF will be held, which has undergone changes, as explained in the letter sent to all of you on July 31, 2015. There are 2 topics that will be covered: the pathological and healthy management of newborns and the elimination of caesarian section in bitches and causes of infertility. The speakers are Prof. Angela Polisca and Ricardo Zell, respectively, both from the Studies of Veterinary Medicine Department of Perugia. On behalf of all of the ATIMANA, I would like to thank them for the time they have taken out of their busy schedules to cover these very interesting and topical aspects.

Now our thanks to a "True Mastiff Breeder" and Great Artist: Massimo Vinattieri, who, as was mentioned last year, offers and will continue to offer a valuable sculpture of his to the absolute winner of each ATIMANA championship.

Lastly, but no less important, our thanks to the Chairmen of the Clubs, to the enthusiasts and fans, to our sincere friends who, over these last 25 years, have made it possible to annually hold our championships in 11 different countries on three continents, due to their great commitment and financial support. Thanks to them, the ATIMANA has truly become international, acting as an example for other Italian and foreign Breed Associations, following in our footsteps and which have even asked us to allow them to use our bylaws.

Dear friends, this is a very brief summary of what has been done over the last year. Of course more can be done, we can do better, but it is always more difficult to find enthusiasts and active members who work with real commitment and not just talking about it, with a unique spirit to serve and care for the Neapolitan Mastiff, which has always characterized us. Tomorrow, we will all be celebrating the first Jubilee of our championship, an important milestone for the rebirth of the activities of the ATIMANA, both nationally and internationally. The re-affiliation of the SAMM that, as was mentioned, at the beginning was the first to sign the official start of the ATIMANA and of the Mexican Club with a proven history of improving and disseminating the Neapolitan mastiff in its country, are the first and extremely positive signs. This depends on us, on all of us, who really love the Neapolitan Mastiff, and we must think more about the welfare of the breed rather than our own benefit, putting an end to that and even worse, fights, which have nothing to do with the true passion, with true dog lovers and which always alienate the Judges and true enthusiasts of the Mastiff.

THE CHAIRMAN

Giuseppe Alessandra