



**A.T.I.M.A.N.A.**

CITY OF PORTO VIRO

OCTOBER 3, 2009

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TO THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ATIMANA'S GENERAL MEETING

Generous friends, dear friends, dear mastiff lovers,

After 1993 and 2002, our championship comes back to Contarina di Porto Viro, upon the request of the City Syndic and Vice-Syndic. This request is an honor and it has been promptly accepted by the Board of Directors. Many times, dog authorities ask our Club to organize our annual manifestation, the true and proper world championship for the Neapolitan mastiff; this time, city administrators have made this official request. This proves, on the one hand, the feeling of this city towards dogs, and on the other, the consideration for ATIMANA owing to its seriousness and commitment at an international level, for its long-standing efforts for the protection and development of this very old and important Italian breed.

Consequently, the entire ATIMANA is greatly thankful to the Syndic Geremias Gennary and the advisor Doriano Mancin, who are passionate dog lovers, and acting as first citizen, he has made the request to hold our 19<sup>th</sup> championship here, with financial support, as well, with a perfect result.

I personally wish this collaboration to continue over time, so that the City di Porto Viro will become a fixed rendezvous at an international level for the Neapolitan mastiff, since its geographic location benefits both foreign and Italian exhibitors.

We also want to thank our friend Ettore Crepaldi and the entire staff of the Delta Dog Group for having materially impeccably organized this annual meeting. We want to give our affectionate thanks to our friends and colleagues Judges Lorene Cantarella and Jesus Sanchez Pardo for having agreed to be judges.

For the first time in ATIMANA's history, this year there is no Italian judge for the most important classes. It is not a coincidence, but the determination of the Board of

Directors, as well as a demonstration of the real internationality of the breed and of ATIMANA itself.

Today, in fact, the Neapolitan mastiff is not only a national heritage, but that of the world dog lovers who are successfully breeding it respecting the Italian standard. This is the worth of ATIMANA, and above all, of the affiliate clubs and specially "Mastiff Lovers" around the world who focus on producing quality rather than on the market.

To end this first part, I am very pleased to announce that the Italian Club, the SAMN, has officially asked to re-join ATIMANA, and it is a pleasure for all of us. Yesterday, the Board of Directors approved the re-affiliation which, according to the bylaws, shall be determined by the General Meeting. Therefore, I would like all delegates to express their favorable vote and welcome the SAMN.

The Board of Directors, in accordance with the by-laws, has called this General Meeting with a letter dated on July 23, 2009, sent to Club Presidents, Members of the Board, Account Examiners and all the members of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

The official delegates, representing several clubs which we cordially greet, are the following:

Australian Club	1 delegate
Czech Club	3 delegates
Colombian Club	-
Finish Club	1 delegate
Mexican Club	4 delegates
Norwegian Club	1 delegate
Portuguese Club	1 delegate
Slovenian Club	1 delegate
Spanish Club	4 delegates
Hungarian Club	4 delegates
Venezuelan Club	1 delegate

Pursuant to the by-laws, the acting members and the 6 delegates of the Italian Club are added, to total 33 votes.

On the organization side, unfortunately the sad notes have come back. On the one hand, we have been in contact with Central American countries through our friend Filippo Carrasi, as well as with East Europe, but no additional affiliations have occurred, and on the other hand, the balance of club payments to ATIMANA has shown a deficit for the last four years, and it has been growing. I think it would be useful for everyone, and especially for the new Board of Directors we will choose today, to accurately specify the deficit at the end of the year.

We have gone from an asset balance in 2003 totaling 124.48 Euros to a liability balance of 5,915 Euros in 2008, which has been growing as follows:

Year 2004 – liability of 511.60 Euros  
Year 2005 – liability of 1,815.49 Euros  
Year 2006 – liability of 1,485.26 Euros  
Year 2007 – liability of 3,085.25 Euros

This is due exclusively to the lack of payment of membership fees and the resignation of some clubs, like France, Germany and the USA, which have left due to economic reasons, while annual expenses, despite the rise in costs, have always been kept around 5,000.00 a year, which is a ridiculous figure for such a complex activity we have carried out.

Therefore, the new Board of Directors that will be chosen today must find ways to receive contributions that will allow us to go ahead, without raising membership fees since under the current crisis and based on past experiences, the clubs could not be able to afford them. Some clubs have resigned due to financial reasons. So, this is an urgent issue to be finally solved by the next Board of Directors, in order to ensure the continuity of our activity, which is appreciated around the world, as a result of our scientific and sport successes over the last 15 years.

On the sports side, we still recall the beautiful images of the Greek Temples of Paestum, at which Neapolitan mastiffs coming from several countries have been watched – they were 10. According to both colleague judges and many fans of our championships around the world, the level was very high, especially for female dogs, which were almost ideal. Consequently, the success on the technical side is fully confirmed.

I want to thank the colleague judges Novaresio, Sinko and Staderini for their optimal work and also thank all mastiff lovers, both foreign and Italian, who were present with their best specimens, and have contributed definitely to the success of our 17<sup>th</sup> Championship.

What to say about the organization, which was supervised by our friend Enzo Rago and his Salernitan Dog Group. It is the first time I have seen such a beauty at the archeological site of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century A.C., which was the scenario of the ample and perfectly built rings, with a magnificent hospitality, interrupted by the rain Saturday night, which prevented us from fully enjoying the great music in a narrow room, so it was not very pleasant. But this was a great idea and the music was great, too.

We all thank for this all those who have invested their efforts and resources in the success of the event. Thank you, Enzo, thanks to you and your team. I personally wish with all my heart that an event like this may be repeated, because Paestum is unique and full of history, and because your enthusiasm and generosity was unique.

Also the scientific and technical side was fully confirmed during the annual international scientific conference on the Neapolitan mastiff and at the international conference on the origins and development of the GREAT MOLOSIDS at the Mediterranean Basin.

The active collaboration with the Veterinarian Medicine School at the University of Naples – which together with other public administration organizations has sponsored our annual meeting – has triggered a series of scientific participations that have deeply interested the audience and were translated into several languages.

---

I want to express our deep gratitude particularly to the speakers Professor Vincenzo Perreti, Marco Russo, Pippo Borzachiello and the most gentle Monica Isabella Cutrignelli, who, on the general topic Medical Points of View on the Neapolitan mastiff have dealt, respectively, with: The Neapolitan Mastiff DNA seen through the chromosomes; the Neapolitan mastiff through X-rays; reproductive aspects and diagnosis; The Neapolitan Mastiff, a defense dog ... but at heart; Management; Nutritional Handling of the Neapolitan Mastiff during its first year of life. All the reports were topical and aimed at creating the "Semen Bank", a task which has been carried out by our friend Dr Nello Crimaldi, who coordinates scientific conferences, on behalf of the ATIMANA.

Also, the lecture by Prof. Felipe Cesarino, well known in the mastiff environment, has aroused interest at the conference dealing with Molosoids, since he has written two interesting books on this breed. The speaker, based on recent archeological findings, has placed the origin of these dogs to 3 or 4 thousand years ago, moving it from this Mesopotamic area to Northern Africa, which further explains its development at the Mediterranean Basin. Then, the interesting speech of our colleague and friend Jesus Sánchez Pardo followed, who spoke about the Bordeaux Bulldog, which has explained the recent creation of this French breed originating from the Neapolitan mastiff.

The above took place in a friendly room at the Ariston Hotel in Paestum, where all the participants could admire a personal demonstration by Master Pier Giovanni Staderini devoted to the Neapolitan mastiff, which has been greatly successful not only among the audience, but among many hotel guests, which is also a promotion of our particular breed.

Dear friends, this year the mandate of the ATIMANA's Board of Directors expires, and all of us must choose a new one. Therefore, it is the duty of the whole Board to make a brief summary of the developments for the last 4 years; all our annual reports have been comprehensive and authentic and have always underscored the shadows and lights of ATIMANA's activity, always for the benefit of the Neapolitan mastiff worldwide.

Despite the four-year success of our annual scientific conferences, always attentively listened to, which have dealt with the major diseases of this breed, sometimes with the best specialists in different topics as speakers, I think only a few International Associations have an extensive bibliography, which I wish could be transcribed (in Italian and English) at our website, so that all mastiff lovers may have it. A proof of it is also today's conference that has just ended with the very interesting reports by Professors Vincenzo Peretti and Monica Isabella Citrignelli from the Veterinary Medicine School of the University of Naples, which have dealt with the topic "Genetics and Feeding of the Neapolitan Mastiff", which is an interesting topical subject on the breed at an international level.

We want to thank the two speakers of today and all the previous speakers over the years, as well as the irreplaceable Dr. Nello Crimaldi, who with passion, high competence and uninterestedly has been - and I wish he will continue to be - the true "Scientific Soul" of ATIMANA.

To conclude, we would have to say a lot more about the activity we have carried out. I think that all of us are aware of it, and that there are many friends among us that we must remember and thank. In the name of the Board of Directors, I thank all of you, and I will not name anyone, in order that nobody will be excluded. Thanks to all of you, but especially to mastiff lovers, since you are the true jealous guardians of the breed. ATIMANA is just a tool made available for a careful qualitative and healthy development with an absolute respect for the Italian standard.

THE CHAIRMAN  
Mr. Giuseppe Alessandra

Contarina di Porto Viro, October 3, 2009.