

cgmagazine

celebrating greyhounds

Fall 2009

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ALSO INSIDE:

Adoption fundraising
ideas

Starting a dog park

Hard Times:

The Recession and Your Greyhound



Burl, adopted by Mary Macchia and Jack Williams of Tequesta, Fla.

Front Cover Credit:

Andy was adopted from Greyhound Rescue of New England by Jen and Derek Osojnicki of Cumberland, R.I. Photo by Jen Osojnicki

Back Cover Credit:

After Dakie's careers as racer and blood donor ended, he was adopted by Kate Bressler in Kansas City, Mo. Now that he is retired, he enjoys running around in the back yard. Photo by Kate Bressler

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 14; No. 3 Fall 2009

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Six weeks ago, I became a statistic when my job was eliminated.

When my leader asked me to meet him in the conference room, the thought crossed my mind: *Am I getting laid off?* Several of my co-workers had been let go over the past six months; so far, I'd dodged the bullet. I had no reason to think my job was in particular jeopardy, but times being what they are, I'd be naïve not to consider the possibility.

When I approached the room and saw him sitting with someone I didn't recognize, folder on the table in front of them, I knew.

I sat, stomach churning. They delivered the news, murmuring nice things about my job performance and how bad they felt. I wasn't listening. I'd already jumped ahead to the stack of bills to be paid, contemplating the possibility of losing my house, wondering whether I would be able to keep my dogs.

What about the dogs?

I'm lucky, I know. I don't have a family or aging parents that depend on me for support. But I don't have those resources to draw on, either. It's the dogs and me. And since Pearl and Jethro are retired and lack the opposable thumbs needed to write checks, I can't really count on them to contribute to financial support of the household. I'm the only one who can bring home the kibble.

What if I had to give up the house? Would I find a place that would allow me to keep the dogs? What if I couldn't afford to keep them?

From outside, it's easy to look with disdain upon people who surrender their dogs.

We're moving. Our new place doesn't allow dogs.

I don't have time to spend with her any more.

Our new baby is allergic.

We're getting a divorce.

I can't afford to keep him.

We hear these explanations and take the leash that they hand us. As they drive away, we run through all the usual questions:

Why didn't they find a place that allowed dogs?

How could they not want to spend time with such a sweet dog?

Why is the dog unimportant now that the baby has arrived?

Why isn't one of them keeping the dog?

How could they adopt a dog if there was even the possibility that they couldn't afford it?

They're difficult questions. But I choose to believe that the questions are at least as fearful as they are judgmental. When we ask whether they could have found a new home that allowed dogs, I think we're really asking if, facing the same circumstances, we would be forced to make the same choice. If the answer is No, we're able to reassure ourselves, and that can come out as contempt for the individual who—for whatever reason—makes a different choice.

Hard times beget hard choices. The articles in this issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* acknowledge that fact. Mardy Fones profiles two families whose financial circumstances forced them to surrender their Greyhounds to their adoption group. Michael McCann shares his insights on the increasingly common appearance of "free to good home" Greyhounds on Craigslist, a forum for online classified ads. In the interest of being proactive, Mardy Fones offers suggestions for planning ahead and reducing pet care expenses. Finally, because there are costs associated with rehoming surrendered Greyhounds, Sandy Augugliaro, Joanne Bast, Marcia Herman, and Jen Komatsu share some creative and inexpensive fundraising methods for adoption groups.

As I said, I'm lucky. I found another job within the same company, and my ability to keep my Greyhounds in the lifestyle to which they've become accustomed has continued without interruption. But many of our not-so-lucky friends and co-workers face unimaginably difficult circumstances that impact every aspect of their lives, including their beloved pets. They deserve our compassion, not our contempt.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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Havane, adopted by Manon Bégin of Gatineau, Quebec.

Responses to the Spring Issue

I thoroughly enjoyed Laurel Drew's article ("TalentedMrRipley, aka . . . Twinkie Toes?" Spring 2009 CG). When I saw the pictures of Ripley I thought how much he looks like my own Ronan (Kup's Reisling). The reason for the resemblance became clear as I read that Ripley was sired by Greys Statesman, as was Ronan. Ripley and Ronan are half-brothers! Ronan is 2-1/2 years younger than Ripley, but the physical similarities are striking. I told Ronan his brother is in the Hall of Fame. He appeared unfazed as he seemed to expect no less. As if it were no surprise to him. I, on the other hand, am thrilled to learn about Ripley.

Marcie Kaplan-Herzog
Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Thank you so much for your review of the book *Greyhounds*, by Barbara Karant (*Greyhounds*, Spring 2009 CG). We adopted our two Greyhounds Jake (Dr. Jake) and Brooke (Quasky Pea Brook) from

Greyhounds Only, the adoption group of which Ms. Karant is president. We also volunteer with Greyhounds Only hosting a monthly meet-and-greet and at various other Greyhounds Only events. We think the book is fantastic and knowing Ms. Karant personally, we know of her devotion to Greyhound adoption.

James and Deborah Orth
Via E-Mail

I disagree with much of what Kathleen Gilley has to say about NGA Greyhounds ("Greyhounds — Dispelling Common Myths," Spring 2009 CG). Racing Greyhounds are bred today for the same characteristics Greyhounds have been for many thousands of years: the ability to hunt by sight in open spaces, and to go really fast over relatively short distances. Lure coursing and track racing are ways to enjoy the spectacle of the chase without the bloodshed. To our Greyhounds, they are hunting. The fact that until adoption became popular very

recently, many ex-racers were used to hunt game on the open prairie in the Dakotas and other western states confirms that Greyhounds are hunters. This practice continues today to a lesser degree. Our beautiful and graceful hunters need not apologize for what they are. As Popeye says, "I am what I am."

Dane Kromer
Via E-Mail

It is unfortunate that you continue to publish articles, such as the one by Kathleen Gilley, by those who have never seen a Greyhound — or other sighthound — doing what it was created to do. The article says that Greyhounds are not sighthounds because Greyhounds need only focus on a lure "rarely more than 40 ft . . . that never varies in its path." Gee, even if we leave out that all dog taxonomy before Ms. Gilley identified Greyhounds as sighthounds, what about their depiction in Renaissance paintings or Egyptian tomb paintings? The article



Angel, adopted by Amy and Andrew Dziengeleski of Leavenworth, Kan. *Joanne Bast*

says that Greyhounds were not bred for hunting. The author's limited ideas on "hunting dog" activities evidently extend only to modern uses of "nose hounds" and "bird dogs." That a Greyhound does not "give tongue" or "point does not mean it is, or was, not bred for hunting. Sorry folks, the Greyhound was not bred just to "chase," it was bred to "take." A rifle or bow-and-arrow are not for chasing,

giving tongue, or pointing, either. The article says that Greyhounds aren't bred for speed because if they don't chase the lure under modern racing conditions, they "will not have a career for long." Well, leaving out the evidence of Greyhound speed from bus line logos and the like, if a Greyhound follows the lure, it won't have much of a career if it isn't at least fast enough to stay with the

pack . . . unless it is lucky enough to be recruited for Ms. Gilley's dance team. Finally, the article says that the idea that Greyhounds are sprinters is a myth, refuted by limited examples where Greyhounds jog for a number of miles. That Greyhounds can walk or trot for many miles is irrelevant; the purpose of the hound is to sprint.

Steve Church
Ridgecrest, Calif.

I would like to respond to Kathleen Gilley's article regarding Greyhound myths. Greyhounds are sighthounds. Current racing emulates a coursing-type hunt with a pack of dogs visually chasing prey. Every time a hound engages in a race, he is out to catch that rabbit and is doing it with his eyes. Greyhounds were bred for hunting. Technically, most American racing Greyhounds were not specifically bred for hunting. Nevertheless, the hunt is alive and well in the modern Greyhound. In the Southwest, there are lots of unregistered Greyhounds called "varmint dogs" that are used by landowners to rid their property of unwanted animals, including coyotes, possums, and skunks. These dogs are identical to the track Greyhounds, but they are allowed to catch and kill. Why do you think it has become illegal in this country to train racing Greyhounds on live prey? Greyhounds are bred for speed. Dogs who act out, are nervous, or are generally bad seeds will not last long on the track, no matter how speedy they are. But the fastest dog will usually win the most races. If this didn't matter, then we wouldn't be interested in pedigrees, lineage, and racing statistics. Finally, Greyhounds are sprinters. Extreme bursts of speed over short distances make their specialty sprinting, regardless of their ability to travel long distances at a more moderate speed when in proper condition. At the end of the day, the modern racing Greyhound has a lot in common with his ancestors and their characteristics. We would do well to remember the Greyhound's long and illustrious history in seeking the truth or myth behind this animal.

Sandy Huse
Via E-Mail

I just received the Spring issue and really enjoyed it. Wonderful picture and great articles. However, Kathleen Gilley's article "Greyhounds — Dispelling Common Myths" was inaccurate and displayed the author's lack of knowledge about Greyhound history and sighthounds in general. Greyhounds are sighthounds. Contrary to the article, a sighthound is a dog that hunts by sight, not by scent. It has nothing to do with the ability to "spot game on the horizon" or to see long distances. When a Greyhound is chasing a mechanical lure at a track, it is "hunting by sight" in the same manner it would be if it were chasing a hare. Also, sighthounds are not untrainable. Our Scottish Deerhounds may never win an obedience title (although plenty of others have), but they are well-trained dogs who come when they are called, lay down when told to, and can be walked off lead in the woods. They are no more independent than the average Greyhound.

**Elin Phinzy
Acworth, N.H.**

Kathleen Gilley responds: *My detractors are lacking a sense of humor or they missed the point. Further, personal attacks upon me and my Greyhounds are shameful. Of course, if it were not for that, I might not guess what most of this hostility concerned. Each topic in my article came from an objection to the petability of ex-racers; "Myths" was a humorous response.*

Racing Greyhounds need to be spared from the "what do you expect" mentality, e.g., "They were bred for hunting; of course they are predatory killers." Sighthounds are referred to by obedience people as NOBs (Not Obedience Breeds); my point was that NGA dogs can and will do any sport. I drew a distinction between racing Greyhounds and traditional sighthounds; the former are very people-oriented and affection-seeking. They are bred more for demonstrable ability and tractability than any other breed. Being a successful racer does not preclude the need for skill, brains, and personality. Any trainer can tell stories of fast dogs who, after being bumped or falling the first turn, refused to compete again.

I clearly defined my breed as having originated during the 1940s, and I passionately deny there is any other breed like it — much less "identical" in nature or nurture. It makes no sense to say a trait was "bred for" if it is not tested. No ancestors of my NGA Greyhounds, for the last 70 years, were selected for sight or hunting ability. All carnivores are hunters.

Watching a fun run on a track — with no lure — is a learning experience. Ex-racers exchange glances, then race each other simply for the exhilaration.

Nothing in this lighthearted tribute was intended to be detrimental to anyone or anything. The purpose of a Think Piece is to . . .

My husband and I adopted our Greyhound right around New Year's. We love our retired racer, but we're all still getting to know each other. My father-in-law bought us a subscription to CG as a gift and our first issue came today. I was idly flipping through it and first read Diane Wainwright's article ("The Greyhound Scream of Death," Spring 2009 CG). I was so glad to see it since just last week I heard our first GSOD — I

accidentally stepped on Briscoe's foot while maneuvering around a group of people gathered on the sidewalk. To my embarrassment, he screamed and leapt in the air. I was convinced I must have looked like an animal abuser! Briscoe was, of course, fine (not even limping). I was glad to read that the GSOD is a phenomenon not limited to our own drama queen.

**Claire Zulkey
Via E-Mail**

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Please send letters and photos by mail to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, Attn: Editor, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55113. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also welcome. Please include your home telephone number if you would like your letter to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter and photo.



Orion, adopted by Chris and Gale Hollstein of Fredericksburg, Va.



Maya and Jetson, adopted by Johanna Dragner of Sarasota, Fla.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach: Back to its Roots

Over the years, Greyhounds Reach the Beach has grown and morphed into an event that the organizers never imagined was possible. In 1995, it was a carefree weekend at the beach for a few friends and their dogs. Somehow, 85 people and their 65 Greyhounds showed up, and the event has gathered steam every year since.

At the same time, the town of Dewey Beach has changed from a summer college party destination to a more family-friendly, condominium-based village. When the Southwinds Hotel converted to condos a few years ago, it forced hundreds of attendees to stay in Rehoboth and the surrounding communities. The event became more dispersed, and less as it was intended to be.

In April, the GRTB organizers gathered to solidify plans for this year's event. As always, venues were difficult to find. The economy was a concern, but the event was a go. In late April, the organizers received disappointing news: The Ruddertowne Complex and Crabbers Cove would no longer be available to host GRTB seminars or the Sunday brunch, the biggest event of the weekend. This change had major implications for the event. There is no other vendor in Dewey Beach, Rehoboth, or any of the surrounding towns that is of equal size. The brunch normally seats 500 to 700 attendees. The next largest room in the area can accommodate only 200.

In light of these changes, here's what we're going to do: GRTB is going back to its roots. There will be no registration, no formal schedule, and no brunch . . . just plenty of time to chill out with good friends and great dogs. If people or groups want to organize activities, that would be great. Anyone who wants to announce planned activities can do so on the GRTB message board (www.greyhoundsreachthebeach.com) and on other Greyhound-related Internet sites. Groups have always organized "off-schedule" events during GRTB weekend anyway; the difference this year is that ALL events will be "off-schedule," so please feel free to do what you like.

To some, this change will be a bit of a disappointment. To a lot of us, this will be the best thing possible for GRTB: quality time with our favorite dogs and the people who love them as much as we do, a time for relaxation and fun.

Hey, wait a minute . . . isn't that what Greyhounds Reach the Beach was supposed to be all about anyway? —*Michael McCann*

Greyhound Project PSA Update

The Greyhound Project began airing its first Public Service Announcement campaign in April. Quite a few television stations have agreed to run the announcements. They include:

KFDA-TV in Amarillo, Texas
KZBZ-TV in Amarillo, Texas
KVUE-TV in Austin, Texas
WFAA-TV in Dallas, Texas
KDAF-TV in Dallas, Texas
KSAT-TV in San Antonio, Texas
WCWJ-TV in Jacksonville, Fla.

WKMG-TV in Orlando, Fla.
WFGX-TV in Pensacola, Fla.
WTOG-TV in St. Petersburg, Fla.
WFTS-TV in Tampa, Fla.
WTTA-TV in Tampa, Fla.
WFLX-TV in West Palm Beach, Fla.
KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh, Pa.
WPCW-TV in Pittsburgh, Pa.
WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, Pa.
WNEP-TV in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pa.
WHAM-TV in Rochester, N.Y.

As more stations are added, we will report them here.

FDA Approves First Drug to Treat Cancer in Dogs

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced on June 3, 2009 the approval of Palladia™ (toceranib phosphate), the first drug developed specifically for the treatment of cancer in dogs.

Palladia is approved to treat canine cutaneous (skin-based) mast cell tumors, a type of cancer responsible for about 1 out of 5 cases of canine skin tumors. The drug is approved to treat the tumors with or without regional lymph node involvement.

All cancer drugs now used in veterinary medicine originally were developed for use in humans and are not approved for use in animals. Cancer treatments used in animals are used in an "extra-label" manner as allowed by the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1994.

"This cancer drug approval for dogs is an important step forward for veterinary medicine," said Bernadette Dunham, D.V.M., Ph.D., director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. "Prior to this approval,

veterinarians had to rely on human oncology drugs, without knowledge of how safe or effective they would be for dogs. Today's approval offers dog owners, in consultation with their veterinarian, an option for treatment of their dog's cancer."

While canine mast cell tumors often appear small and insignificant, they can be a very serious form of cancer in dogs. Some mast cell tumors are easily removed without the development of any further problems, while others can lead to life-threatening disease.

Palladia is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor and works in two ways: by killing tumor cells and by cutting off the blood supply to the tumor. In a clinical trial, Palladia showed a statistically significant difference in tumor shrinkage when compared with an inactive substance (placebo).

The most common side effects associated with Palladia are diarrhea, decrease or loss of appetite, lameness, weight loss, and blood in the stool.

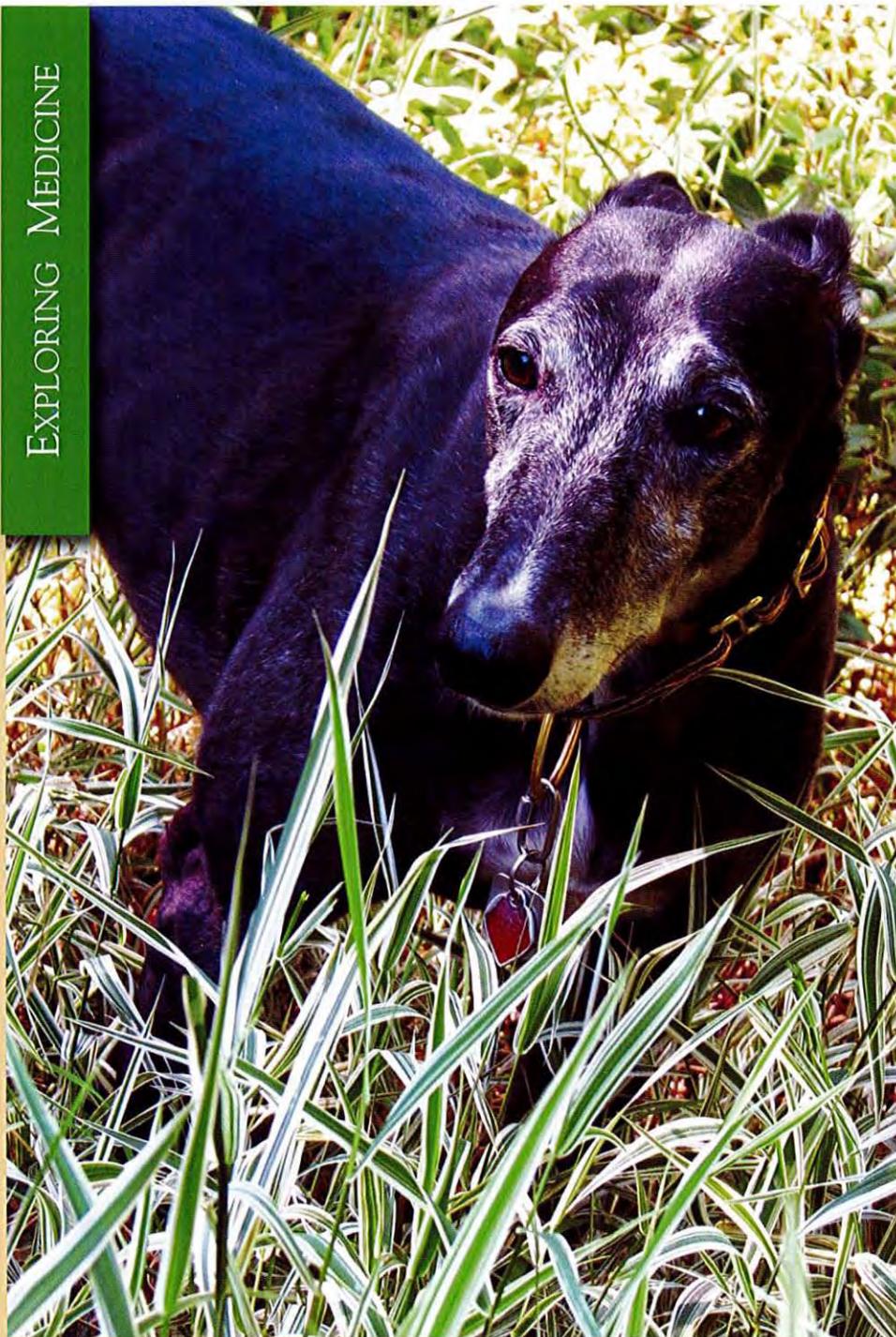
Palladia is manufactured by Pfizer Animal Health Inc., New York City.

Moving? Need to Renew?

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Caitley and Dixie, adopted by Chris and Seth Spanier of Rapid City, S.D.



Eagle, adopted by Dan and Lauren Emery of N. Yarmouth, Me.

MRSA — Is Your Greyhound at Risk?

By William E. Feeman III, DVM

MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) is a term that many people have become familiar with in reference to human medicine. Several human hospitals have experienced problems with MRSA infection following surgeries. Can animals who visit these hospitals carry MRSA? A May 11, 2009 article in the *New York Times* (“Therapy Dogs May Fetch Hospital Germs”) reported on a Canadian study that detected the presence of hospital infections on therapy dogs after visits to patients in hospitals or long-term care facilities. One of the dogs — a Pug — had MRSA on its fur, most likely the result of spending time in patients’ beds and being kissed repeatedly by two patients. The other dog — a Greyhound — had a hospital infection on its paws, probably after shaking paws with several patients. The study’s findings, which were reported in a letter published in *The Journal of Hospital Infection*, suggests that therapy dogs can easily become carriers of infection. In light of this risk, this article intends to familiarize you with MRSA and the risk it poses to your Greyhound.

MRSA is a specific strain of bacteria that has developed a resistance to penicillin and cephalosporin antibiotics. Some of these bacteria have also developed resistance to many other antibiotics making them difficult to treat. MRSA was first diagnosed in humans more than 40 years ago but has become a more serious problem in the last 10 to 15 years.

MRSA can infect both humans and animals. The majority of patients that are infected with MRSA have had a recent hospital stay or a recent invasive procedure (e.g. surgery). The infection can affect the soft tis-

sue, skin, or bone. Symptoms of MRSA vary based on the part of the body that is infected but do not look significantly different than any other infection. Although only a small percentage of infected patients ever become sick, MRSA can result in pneumonia or sepsis (infection of the blood stream). Most patients clear the bacteria naturally without ever knowing that they were infected. Though they may never have become sick, they are now "carriers" with the ability to transmit the MRSA to another susceptible human or animal.

Sick patients are diagnosed with MRSA by culture and susceptibility testing. The culture should state that MRSA testing is required so that special culturing methods may be pursued.

Testing of carrier animals is not routinely recommended unless a patient (human or animal) develops recurrent MRSA infections or if multiple patients (human or animal) with exposure to the pet develop MRSA infections. Carrier animals are difficult to diagnose as the bacteria could be

residing in any number of tissues. The current recommendation if testing is pursued is to perform cultures on nasal and rectal swabs with the understanding that a negative test result can not completely rule out an infection at another body source.

Patients sick with MRSA should be treated with antibiotics based on their culture and susceptibility results. Treatment is not currently recommended for carrier animals as it is not proven to be effective and could allow for increased antibiotic resistance. Topical therapies such as chlorhexidine baths can be pursued but will not address the primary source of the bacteria.

If a carrier animal needs to be treated, preventing reinfection of the pet with frequent hand washing and avoiding high risk contact (e.g., saliva) is the best method as the animal should clear the bacteria naturally in a few weeks. The carrier animal can be kennelled at an outside facility if multiple family members are undergoing treatment for MRSA and controlling exposure of the pet is difficult.

MRSA can be spread both from a pet to a patient and from a patient to a pet. If you have a therapy pet, you will find out what policies the hospital you are visiting has in place to reduce the risk of transmitting MRSA. Ideally, pets should not interact with patients known to be infected with MRSA. If interaction is necessary, use of physical barriers such as gowns, gloves, and masks is recommended to reduce the risk of infection. Hand washing is recommended for patients both before and after interacting with a pet. Pets should not be allowed on bedding unless a washable and disposable barrier is in place. Patients should minimize interaction with the feet of pets (e.g. shaking paws), as this practice may transmit bacteria. Bathing pets in a chlorhexidine shampoo following visit may help control any superficial bacteria to which your pet may have been exposed. ■

For more information on MRSA:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_MRSA.html
www.mayoclinic.com/health/mrsa/DS00735

Dr. Feeman is a CG regular contributor.



Amtrak Amp, adopted by Judy and Mike Dillon of Denton, Md.

Son of a Dog



Jacqueline K. Howard

Son of a Dog

By Jacqueline K. Howard

CreateSpace (2008)

ISBN 1440452049

\$9.99

Son of a Dog

by Jill Allen

Son of a Dog is a lighthearted look at the journey endured by Celeste to get the dog of her dreams. As a young girl, she is given a dog by her parents, only to have it placed in a new home several months later. Heartbroken, she vows to have a dog of her own one day.

Thirty years later, she meets two Greyhounds in the waiting room of her veterinarian and falls in love with the majestic creatures. She researches the breed and is finally able to adopt one when she and husband Klaus move into their first house.

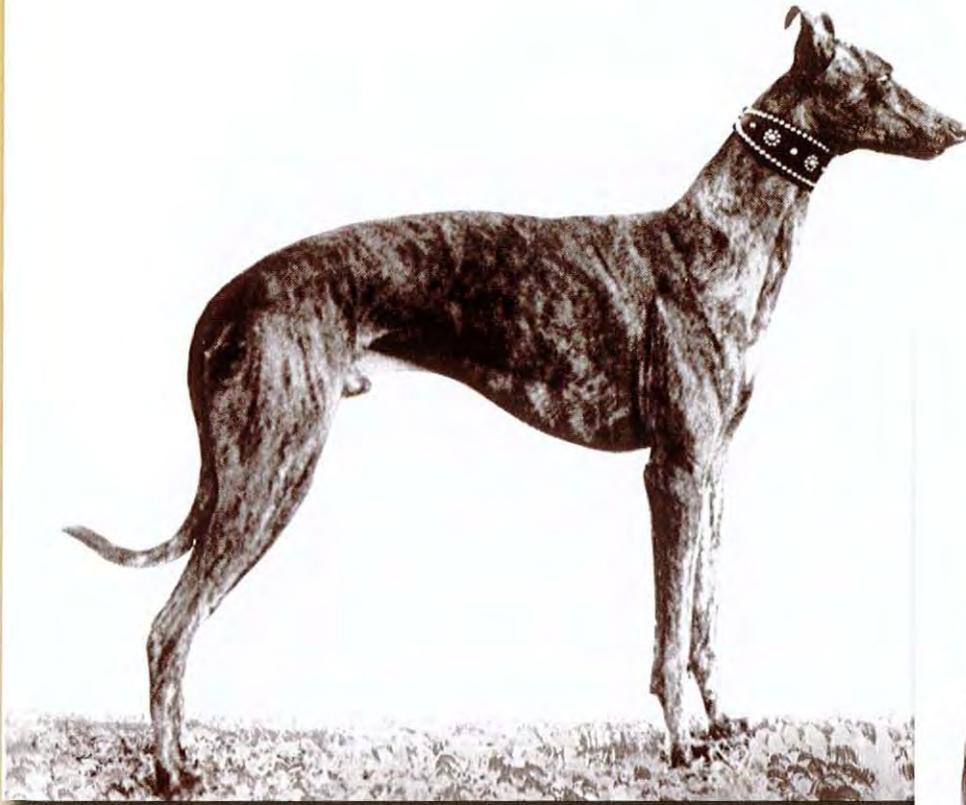
Max, a young brindle, joins their family of six cats, much to the chagrin of the felines. At first, he is timid and unsure of his new-found home life. But he soon blossoms into a relaxed, albeit mischievous, member of the family. Max discovers the joys of a comfortable couch, despite Celeste's best efforts to keep him off the furniture. During a visit to see Santa at the local mall, Max gets loose and races around the stores. He is finally captured in Victoria's Secret, much to Celeste's relief and embarrassment. Max and the cats nearly cause Celeste to be arrested for murder due to a broken vase, a cut paw, and a poorly timed visit from a neighbor. Many more amusing adventures ensue, bringing about the exclamation "Son of a dog!" when Max has had yet another escapade. The story is told in a series of vignettes that illustrate each adventure instead of the usual method of storytelling in chapters.

The book provides a very general overview of some of the issues involved in adopting a Greyhound, such as the challenge of separation anxiety and the importance of closing gates and doors to avoid escapes. The book also illustrates the importance of researching the breed thoroughly before making the decision to adopt. It is not, however, an instructional guide for the future owner. The story will be most enjoyed by current Greyhound owners who may see some of their own hound's behavior reflected in Max.

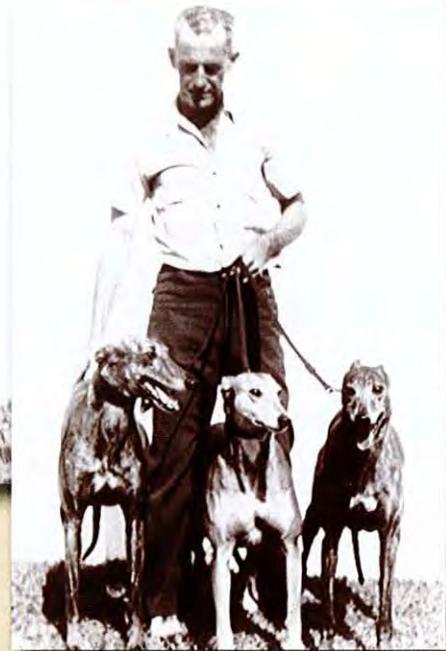
The author has loosely based the story on actual events with real-life Greyhounds Max and Pilot to show the world what sweet, gentle creatures Greyhounds are. In addition, a note from the author highlights the plight of many racing Greyhounds worldwide.

This is a charming, funny story about the adventures of one retired racing Greyhound in his new home. ■

Jill Allen is a CG copy editor.



My Laddie was inducted into the Greyhound Hall of Fame in 1965. *Greyhound Hall of Fame*



All in the family: My Laddie (R) and Lady Gangdrew (center) pose with their son, Rural Rube (L), as Rural Rube's owner, Bud Carroll, looks on. *Greyhound Hall of Fame*

My Laddie, Sire of Champions

By Laurel E. Drew

My Laddie was one of the outstanding sires of his day. Among his offspring were Hall of Famers Rural Rube and Fern Nature, as well as many other successful hounds. The sire of My Laddie was the great Hall of Fame dog Traffic Officer, and the dam was Katty Darling*. Katty Darling was an Irish bitch from top racing and coursing blood.

Whelped in May of 1929, My Laddie came from Iowa and was owned by F.W. Jones, who also owned Katty Darling*. Some of his littermates were Fast Friend (dog), Darling Kitty, Kitty Darling, and Madge Dingwall (bitches). He was a well-muscled brindle and ran in some of the top stake races of his day. His name was well known at the track, on the coursing field, and in the kennel as well.

At that time, racing was held in California, and My Laddie won the \$10,000 Baden Stake Championship Sweepstakes. He defeated the elite of the country and established a national track record of 31 and one-fifth seconds for the five-sixteenth distance. He was always a danger when he ran. But his son, Royal Rube, was even better.

Rural Rube was born from one of the Lady Gangdrew litters, as was Fern Nature. They went on to produce excellent pups as well. My Laddie crossed well in the breeding shed with Kiche and Lucky Roll bitch lines. My Laddie's daughter, Never Fail, was mated to Lucky Roll and produced Hall of Famer Never Roll and his brother, Never Happy. Never Roll went on to duplicate My Laddie's feat of producing two Hall of Fame offspring: Lucky Pilot and Real Huntsman, as well as numerous other successful pups. Rural Rube went on to become one of the icons of the breed.

My Laddie was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1965. He lives on through his numerous offspring. ■

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor.



Mickey, adopted by Lynne Peters of Arlington, Mass.

Free to Good Home: Greyhounds on Craigslist

By Michael McCann

Jet and Rocket had been in their adoptive home for three years. The two big brindle boys were truly part of the family. They enjoyed couch time — when they could get away with it — and got walked often in their neighborhood. Their family had taken to heart what their adoption group had told them: "Don't trust them off leash." Jet and Rocket loved their family, and with two teenage boys, a mom, and a dad, they never lacked for attention. That is, until recently.

Things seemed to be changing lately. There weren't as many walks. Some of the furniture was being removed from the house. There was a lot of shouting and tension in the air. Jet and Rocket didn't know it yet, but their lives were about to be disrupted in a big way.

Jennifer and Peter were Jet and Rocket's adopters. They were going through tough times. Their house, the first they had ever owned, had been purchased a few years earlier with a variable rate mortgage. When they bought it, they understood there was a possibility that they could refinance in a few years when the rates were lower and their income was higher. But when it came time for the mortgage interest rate to re-adjust, the new payments were almost double what they had been paying. Peter had been laid off. Jen's salary could not cover the mortgage and feed the family, too. They were losing control of their lives. Now they were going to lose the house.

They searched but could not find a rental that would take two large dogs. With only a week left before they had to get out of their house, they made a very difficult decision. The dogs had to go.

As is the case with most adopters, Jen and Peter had signed an adoption agreement. They had promised to return the dogs to the adoption group if for any reason they couldn't keep them. But all they could remember about the adoption was a smelly, packed kennel that their dogs had come from. Their hounds had been in cages, and they were determined that they weren't going to send their dogs back to a place like that. They were sure they could do better. So they went on line and logged on to Craigslist.com. Their write-up was short:

Free to good home. Two sweet, healthy, six year old Greyhounds, both brindle in color. These dogs are up to date on their shots, love to go for walks, and rides in the car. We would love to see them stay together but will consider separate adoptions. We have to move, and can't take them with us.

Jen and Peter were sure they would get just the kinds of responses they wanted.

They were wrong.

Within minutes of posting the dogs on Craigslist, they started getting messages.

You must have adopted your dogs from an adoption group. Bring them back there, they can do a better job.

I can't believe you're trying to get rid of your dogs on Craigslist. They're going to end up with an animal abuser, or in medical research. Take them back to the adoption group, where at least they know what they're doing.

A day went by, then two. All Jen and Peter seemed to be getting from the Craigslist ad was harassment. But they were determined that their dogs would never spend another day in a kennel. One of their neighbors, an avid hunter, said that he might be willing to take the hounds in to teach them to hunt raccoons. Jen and Peter were thinking it over when they got this response to their Craigslist ad:

Hello. I was reading about your Greyhounds. My husband and I love Greyhounds. We recently lost our fourteen year old female to cancer, and have been thinking about getting another one, or maybe two would

be better. We live in a large home with a fenced yard, and love to walk in our neighborhood with our dog. If we sound like the kind of family you're looking for, please call us.

The next day, the nice couple from Craigslist came by the house, which was now filled with packing boxes and discord, to meet Jet and Rocket. After fifteen minutes, Jen and Peter were sure that this was the right family for their hounds. They handed over their adoption paperwork and vet records, said their tearful goodbyes, and watched as Jet, Rocket, and their "new family" drove off into their future.

Jen and Peter were so relieved to be able to focus on putting their lives back together without worry that they never followed up on the dogs. They had intended to call, but they were happy to believe that Jet and Rocket were living in the lap of luxury in their new home with the nice couple they had just met.

The story behind the story

Over the years we have seen many instances where a friend would call and tell us that they'd seen a newspaper ad: "Free to good home, retired racing Greyhound. Good with kids, wonderful dog, we just can't keep him anymore." We would call and often could get the person who placed the ad to release the dog to us. Usually the dog had come from an adoption group and the families had signed contracts promising to return the dog if they couldn't keep them. When we would ask why they didn't bring the dog back to the group, sometimes it was because the family had adopted the dog when they lived in another part of the country. They were not part of the Greyhound community on the Internet and didn't know any of the local adoption groups. More often, the answer was "We really love him and don't want to see him in an adoption kennel."

It seems like an odd answer. They love the dog so much, they would rather have him go to a complete stranger without references than to an adoption group who took him from the track, kept him safe, fed, vetted him, then trusted these people to give the hound a good home. It doesn't seem to occur to them that the adoption group can and will repeat the process to find the dog a new home.

When online Greyhound community Greytalk.com introduced its Greyhound Amber Alert Forum in October of 2004, concerned people started to write to us with stories of abandoned or unwanted hounds. When they were in our area, we'd try to recover them. If they were somewhere else, we'd find a person or group in that part of the country to handle it.

In the spring of 2007, as the economy started to show signs of strain, Craigslist was becoming the Greyhound dumping ground of choice. Jet and Rocket made two of the earliest appearances on Craigslist. The adoption group had been in touch with the family regularly, especially since they had said that they might not be able to keep their two Greyhounds. The group assured the adopters they would take the dogs back. The family, on the verge of losing their house, didn't want — or maybe couldn't afford — to make the hour-long drive to bring the dogs back to the group. So they placed the ad on Craigslist. They described Jet and Rocket as six years old and "free to good home."

Someone read the notice about Jet and Rocket and re-posted it on several Internet Greyhound chat boards. Soon, dozens of people were writing to the family. All the messages they received offered criticism or unwanted advice: "You must have signed a contract. Call your adoption group and they will take the dogs back." The family ignored all of those messages. But when they got a message from a non-judgmental prospective adopter, they grabbed at the lifeline.

When people are stressed financially or their marriage is in trouble, they seem to need to have control over something. Deciding to rehome the hound instead of returning him to the adoption group is an exercise of control. These people are making critical decisions under extreme stress; when they make the decision to part with their hound, an important factor in that decision is the need to feel in control of something. *Anything.*

When we respond to an advertisement for a free Greyhound in a newspaper or on Craigslist, our intention is to do what is best for the dog. Few Greyhound owners under stressful situations can do due diligence when rehoming their Greyhound. Due diligence



Lance, adopted by Carol Sahlfeld of Dallas, Texas.

includes checking references, making sure the new adopter is educated about the special needs of Greyhounds, making follow up visits and phone calls and, most importantly, being able to offer a place for the hound to come back if the new adoption doesn't work. Good adoption groups are excellent at all of this. Anxious, worried individuals focused on their personal crises are not.

Recovery of a dog under these circumstances can be tricky. If you recover a Greyhound from someone who places an ad, you have the right to make decisions for the dog once he is in your hands. Whether or not you turn around and surrender him to a responsible adoption group for rehoming is up to you. But first, you have to get them to give you the dog. Here are some suggestions.

1) When you find a Greyhound listed on Craigslist, or any other internet site, try to avoid lecturing the author of the listing. Suggesting that they surrender the dog to an adoption group will be viewed as meddling, and will most likely be ignored. Empathy and understanding will get you the dog. Criticism may put

the dog into a more difficult situation.

- 2) Save the questions! *Where did you get him? Is he up to date on his shots?* These are legitimate questions, but asking too many of them is a sure way to raise red flags in the mind of the person giving away the dog. If you want to get that hound into a safe situation, bite your tongue and try to make a good impression. Focus on selling the fact that you will be an excellent provider for the hound. Tell them about your experience with Greyhounds. All your questions will be answered when they trust you, without your having to ask.
- 3) If you don't think you can handle recovering the dog yourself, refer it to an adoption group you trust. They may have a person dedicated to the task.
- 4) Don't worry about the follow-up calls. Over the last couple of years we have recovered 35 Greyhounds from Craigslist alone. Only one former adopter has called to find out about her dog. When she did, she was thrilled to find out the hound was doing well in a terrific home. None of the others called, even after

they had promised to call with additional information, such as veterinary records.

Reputable adoption groups make a lifetime commitment to each hound they place into a home. If they have a return clause in their adoption agreement, that group should be in touch with every adopter periodically to make sure that the hound is still doing well and to keep the lines of communication open with the adopter. Keeping in touch is good for the group's image as a caring organization, can provide helpful information to new adopters and lets the adopter know that if there is a problem, the group is there to help.

As for Jet and Rocket, the group that placed them was one of those caring, in-touch organizations. The two nice people who recovered them made sure they got back to their group, who placed them in new, loving homes. At last week's check, they were both doing great. ■

Michael McCann is president of The Greyhound Project and moderator of the Greyhound Amber Alert Forum on www.greytalk.com.



Rory, adopted by Sharon Smith of Carmel, Ind.

It Happens

I awaken at 4 a.m.
when I hear my dog whimpering.
I get out of bed, slowly,
rubbing my eyes, trying to see
in the fragmented moonlight
coming through the venetian blinds.
Nikkie's standing in the corner,
holding her front right paw up.
I sit on the floor beside her,
petting her, saying, "Good dog,"
over and over. I rub her paw,
trying to bring the feeling back.
This has happened once before,
so I know what to do. Finally,
she puts her paw down.
I never imagined I'd be sitting
on the floor with a dog at 4 a.m.,
but it happens. Your life changes.
Believe me. It happens.

—Arthur Winfield Knight



Kirby, adopted by Russ and Dana Laggan of Livonia, Mich.

Surrender Stories: “Sometimes You Have to Make Choices”

By Mardy Fones

Adoptions are down and returns are up. It's a fact of Greyhound adoption nationwide. As groups are coping with this economy-driven double whammy, it's easy for volunteers to get jaded, to blame adopters.

Yet, all surrendering owners have stories. And they have their regrets, too. They should have planned better, saved more, started searching for a new job sooner, or spent less. Even in Greyhound adoption, hindsight is 20/20.

Being critical, even smug is a common response to returns, as is pronouncing “I'd sleep under a bridge before I'd surrender my Greyhound.” The inadvisability of taking your dog into such dangerous circumstances notwithstanding, Greyhound adopters are people, too. They misjudge. They practice denial as a coping mechanism. And they fall victim to the same economic forces that are kicking the legs out from under major corporations, governments, and adoption groups alike.

Rather than demonize surrendering adopters, try to offer some compassion or empathy. Consider the circumstances that have led to the return from their point of view.

When Good Times Go Bad

Dustin and Laurie Kesterson adopted Luvn Pam in 2007. The young couple had just bought a house with a fenced yard. Both had good jobs, she in accounts payable at a Nashville, Tennessee television station, he in inventory control for a jewelry repair center.

Pam slid smoothly into their lives, providing a focus for Dustin that was new and welcome. "Pam gave me a lot of responsibility and we're talking about a guy who had a houseplant one time and it didn't last long," says Dustin. "I loved everything about her — feeding her, playing with her. My favorite thing was coming home and she'd be so excited to see me and I'd go outside and throw the squeaky for her."

The couple had their first child, Alex, in June 2008, and Pam took it in stride. "Pam was great with him. The first night she was a little curious, so she looked into the bassinet and that was it. She was never interested after that," says Dustin. Optimistic about his new life as a dog owner and father, Dustin had taken out a loan so he could learn to fly.

Like many people, the summer of 2008 was a financial turning point. "My boss came and said the economy is falling and jewelry isn't a necessity. He said I'm going to have to make some cuts," Dustin said. "The next thing you know, he cut me."

The couple couldn't make the house and loan payments on one salary. Dustin started applying for jobs, even as the couple put their house on the market and started cutting back. "I don't know how or why, but I just didn't see Pam moving with us," he said.

"We were lucky. Our house sold in three months. The next thing I knew, we were signing papers." They surrendered Pam to Greyhound Pets of America/Nashville, the group from which she was adopted, in November. Another family adopted Pam in late December.

"Maybe I could have been smarter about it all. I thought we couldn't afford her. I knew she wouldn't be happy in an apartment," says Dustin. "You have to weigh your options and decide what's the right thing to do at that moment."

In early 2009, Dustin finally got a job repairing telephones. His earlier optimism has been replaced with caution and pragmatism.

"You get a crash course in reality when something like this happens. When we adopted Pam, it wasn't our intent to return her. I still miss her," says Dustin. "Sometimes you have to make choices and they're not always the ones you want."

Two Houses, Two Hounds, No Job

Chronic back problems led Kim Hollis, a sales representative and driver for a snack food company, to lose her job in early 2008. Even so, she and her partner, Kerry Goodall, thought they'd be okay. Their home included children ages 10 and 11, and two Greyhounds, easy-going Zimmer Martinez and needy Okie Chuckie.

"We had two houses — one we lived in and one we rented. The people who were leasing to buy the other home got into a financial bind, so we ended up with Kim not having a job and two house notes," said Kerry, who works at an eye care center in Franklin, Tennessee.

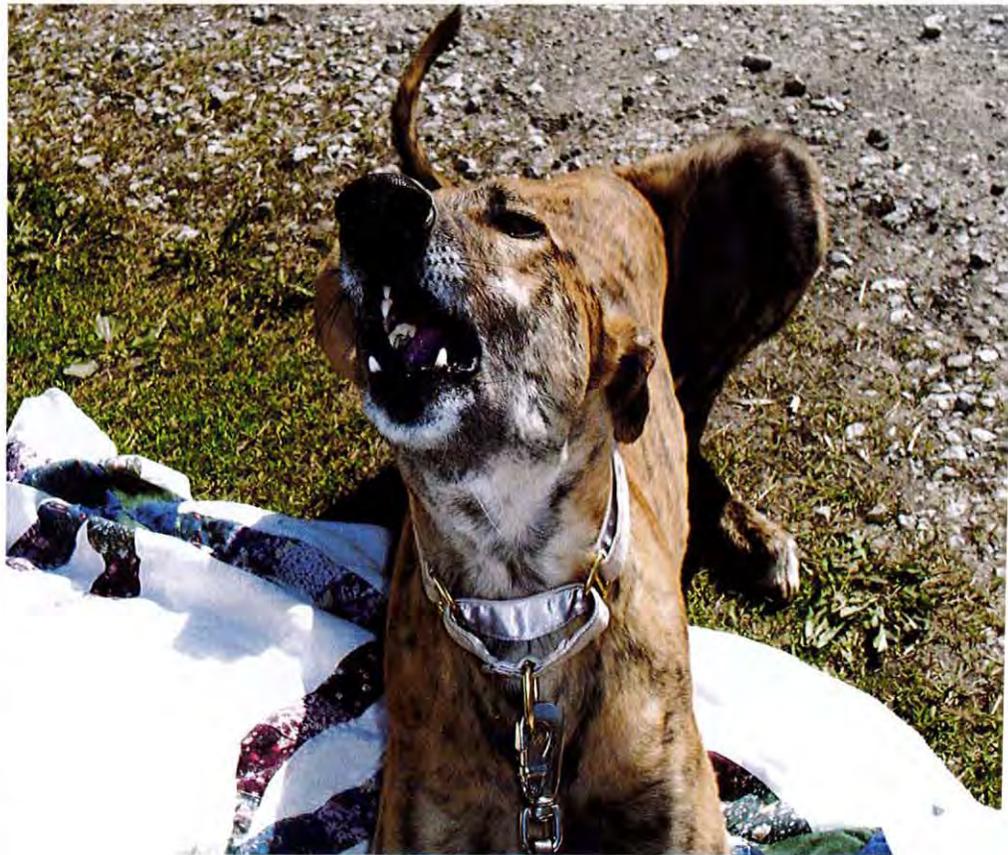
The family started cutting back and looking at options. Kim's father, a real estate agent, helped them sell the house they were living in, albeit at a loss. For a while, they

lived with family while they sorted out their financial affairs. Kim looked for work. The upheaval took a toll on the dogs, especially Chuckie, who became progressively more difficult. His anxiety was affecting Zim who was grooming excessively.

"Chuckie wasn't happy. He needed more attention than we could give him, a home where someone would be there with him all the time. Giving him up was one of the hardest things we ever did and certainly not the first thing we thought of," says Kerry. Chuckie eventually settled in with a family with a stay-at-home mother.

Kim is now working as a restaurant manager. The couple moved into the house they had leased for sale. Zim has returned to his carefree self. "We never thought about taking Chuckie to the pound," says Kerry. "One of the top reasons we adopted from a Greyhound association was the safety net that they provide for Greyhounds. We knew if something didn't work out, that they could go back to good hands." ■

Mardy Fones is a volunteer for GPA/Nashville.



Quebec (Flying Quebec), adopted by Jeff and Shelley Lake of Paola, Kan.



Jack, adopted by Jeff and Patty Erdman of Robertsville, Mo.

Caring for your Greyhound on a Budget

By Mardy Fones

Owning a Greyhound can be a pricey proposition. That's because they deserve the best, plus the extras. But in these tough economic times, most Greyhound owners are looking for ways to reduce costs.

That doesn't equal scrimping on kibble or cutting out treats. It just means looking for the most economical ways to give your hound what he needs — a good, loving home. Try these budget-savvy strategies:

Switch Dog Food

Hounds do best on high-protein foods, so shop price and content. Look for foods with at least 20 percent protein. To get the most bang for your kibble buck:

- Search manufacturer's websites for discount coupons.
- Comparison shop for the lowest price.
- If samples of your hound's favorite food are available, augment your supply with a bag or two every time you stock up.
- If you and a group of friends buy the same food, ask the local distributor for a bulk discount.

To avoid gastrointestinal upset when changing foods, never switch brands suddenly. Mix the old and new brands over a week or so, gradually increasing the amount of the new brand.

Raw-feeders also have options for extending their food-buying budget:

- Shop discount grocers like ALDI for inexpensive turkey burger.
- Talk with wholesale meat processors about bulk purchasing.
- Check out ethnic meat markets and grocers where prices can be lower and the selection broader.
- Watch for seasonally discounted foods such as eggs in the spring.
- Stock up on staples such as canned mackerel and salmon at places like Big Lots and Dollar General.

Treat Tricks

Let's be honest here. If a treat comes from your hand, your hound is happy. To maximize your ability to spoil your hound without stressing your budget:

- Break store-bought treats into small pieces.
- Treat with popcorn.
- Offer small chunks of fruit (no grapes or raisins, please, because they can be toxic for canines) or vegetables or mini-marshmallows.
- Use your hound's regular kibble as treats or use a sample bag of a new food.
- Shop at frequent discounters such as Big Lots where name brand treats are sometimes available at a discount.
- Check manufacturers' websites for coupons and sample offers.
- Skip expensive chewies; spread peanut butter inside a Kong, add a few bites of kibble, and freeze it.

Better yet, make your own treats. Mix oatmeal, a bit of oil, and leftover meat. Add enough water to the mix, and then pat it into a baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees F for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cut into treat-sized bites and store in the fridge.

Be a Savvy Consumer

When you visit your doctor you want to know about alternative approaches. The same is true at the veterinarian's office. You can save money (and even safeguard your dog's health) by knowing the local requirements for immunizations. Over-immunizing can be expensive and can compromise Greyhound immune systems or cause allergic reactions that mean extra veterinarian trips.

Every state or municipality has different requirements for rabies immunizations. For

instance, some require a dog to be immunized for rabies every three years, others, annually.

Check into county or municipality-sponsored rabies clinics (call your local health department for dates.) These can be a good option, but remember you and your Greyhound will be standing in line with all manner of dogs and cats, so be prepared to safeguard yourselves.

Veterinary clinics also vary in the immunizations they recommend and may even try to sell you packaged "deals." Be a wise consumer — know what your Greyhound really needs and when. For instance, if you don't board your dog, an annual bordatella vaccination may be unnecessary.

Practice Prevention

Keeping your hound fit is the best way to save. For instance:

- When multiple dogs play together, muzzle everyone.
- Avoid dog parks and doggy daycares where your hound can pick up parasites and diseases or be injured in rough play.
- Learn to trim your dog's nails and save on grooming costs and reduce the chance of a torn nail.

- Brush your Greyhound's teeth to cut down on dentals. Either buy doggy toothpaste and a brush or just slip a cotton sock over your hand, wet one corner, dip it in baking soda and give your hounds' choppers a gentle but thorough scrubbing. Giving marrow bones or rawhide chips to gnaw on once a day can help.
- Never, ever skip monthly heartworm preventative. Treating a dog for heartworm is expensive, stressful for the dog, and can be fatal. If you can't afford the packaged quantity, ask about buying singles or share a box with a friend.
- Check out online companies for discounted heartworm preventative.
- If you're in a budget bind, be honest with your vet: say you can't afford it.
- Ask about alternative treatments or low-cost medications.
- Be willing to do nursing. Ask your veterinarian to teach you how to do things like change bandages and take your dog's temperature.
- When faced with a big bill, ask to post-date checks or if you qualify for other financial considerations, such as a frequent customer discount.
- Comparison-shop the cost of services at



Shelby, adopted by Laurie Conroy of Pittsburgh, Pa.

different Greyhound-savvy veterinarians.

- If you happen to live in the city where your state's veterinary school is located, see if they offer discounted services. For a list of veterinary schools, go to the education section of the American Veterinary Medical Association's website at www.AVMA.org.

Comfort and Cost

We all know how much Greyhounds like soft beds, but not everyone knows they don't have to be expensive.

- Shop Big Lots, Sam's Club or Costco for low-cost dog beds.
- Pick up washable comforters at thrift shops or yard sales.
- Use coupons to buy foam rubber or memory foam at fabric stores or upholstery supply houses, or online. Cover it with a comforter and secure it with a fitted twin sheet. (This is a great solution for the back of the car/van.)

- Check the local futon store for free or low-cost used or damaged futon mattresses.
- Scavenge couch cushions from businesses that do upholstery.

Flea Prevention

Unless you live in an area where fleas and ticks are a year-round problem, use preventatives only during the spring and summer or when you see these pests.

- If buying a whole box is too costly, ask your veterinarian to sell single doses. Better yet, split a box with a friend.
- Call around to different stores and vet clinics for the best prices.
- Check out online sources for discounted preventatives.
- For the occasional infestation, use topical, Greyhound-safe products such as Adam's Flea Spray. ■

Mardy Fones is a volunteer for GPA/Nashville

IF THE WORST HAPPENS . . .

Make providing for your hound an equal priority with paying the rent and feeding your family. Planning ahead and knowing your resources can help keep your Greyhound in your home.

Most financial planners recommend that you have in savings at least six months worth of living expenses to carry you through financial setbacks. When you plan, be sure to include the cost of your dog's food, veterinary care, plus extra for those unexpected expenses.

If moving into an apartment or rental home is in your future, start identifying places that allow pets now.

- Talk with friends, family and other Greyhound owners who rent for recommendations.
- For help in finding pet-friendly housing, visit www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/renting_with_pets_the_online_resource_for_rental_managers_and_pet_owners/finding_animal-friendly_rental_housing/animal_friendly_apts.html.
- If a landlord is reluctant about renting to you because of your dog's size, take your dog to meet him and direct him to websites about Greyhounds as pets.

If your Greyhound needs care you can't afford, ask your vet to submit an assistance request to the American Animal Hospital Association's (AAHA) "Helping Pets Fund" (the submitting vet must be AAHA accredited) To learn more, visit www.aahahelpingpets.org/how_it_works.html.



Gracie, adopted by Jules and Desmond Pieri of Lexington, Mass.



Bleu, Rusty, and Belle, adopted by Kevin and Kris Parker of Eldersburg, Md.

The Penny War Fundraiser

By Jen Komatsu

Is your adoption group looking for new ways to fundraise? Well, whose isn't? Our group, Minnesota Greyhound Rescue, worked with a local school to run a very successful fundraiser and we'd like to share how we did it. Look for a connection to one of your area schools. Do you have an adopter who is a teacher or administrator? Might there even be a school with a Greyhound for a mascot? Even if you don't have an obvious connection, it wouldn't hurt to approach some schools with your proposal and see if one of them will participate. Our fundraiser was organized by our event coordinator, Alycia Knabenshue, who teaches art at Wayzata West Middle School.

Make it a fundraising game. At Wayzata West, we organized a Penny War. This works well for older elementary children, and junior and high school students. Divide the students into teams: some schools already have a "team" structure set up, or you can use groups of homerooms, wings of the school, or any other way you can think of to divide them. Each team is competing with the others to raise the most change for Greyhounds. Every day, kids bring their change and drop it into their team's jars. Here's the twist: any paper money in your jar counts against your team. So, to sabotage the other team, kids can drop bills into the other team's jars. This can cause some teams to have negative totals during the Penny War (since change counts positive, and bills negative), but of course all the money is positive for the Greyhounds! At the end of the week, the team with the biggest total — change minus paper money — wins the Penny War.

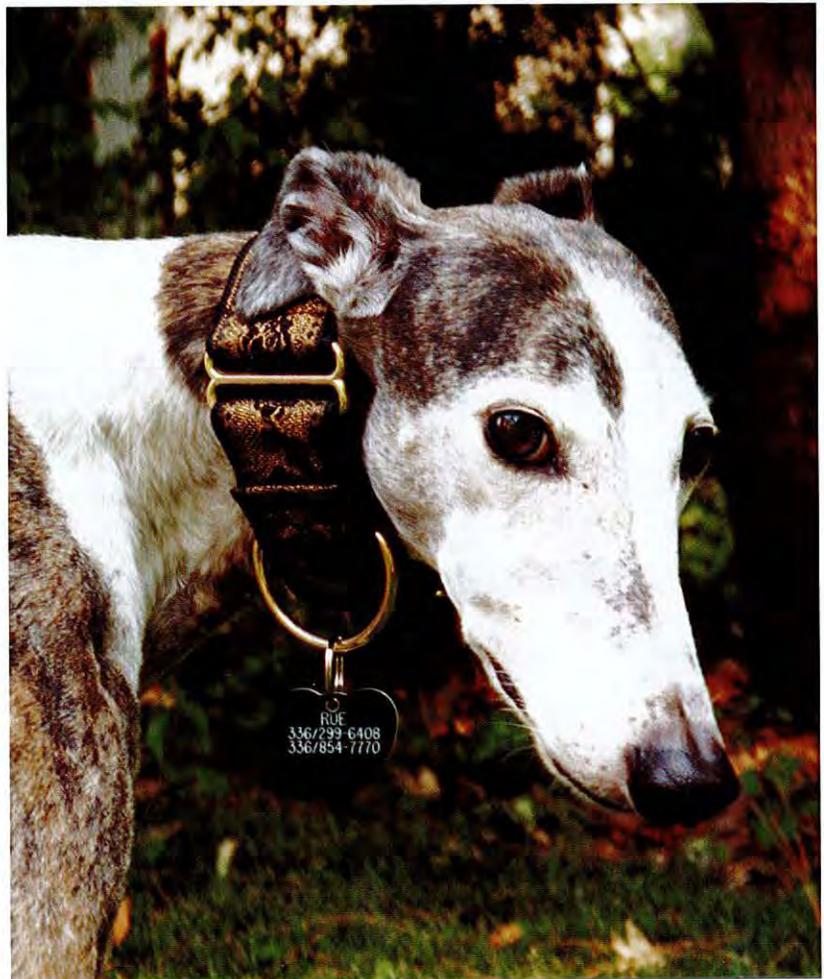
Make it fun and educational. During the week, arrange with the school to bring in some well-behaved dogs to meet the students. We did this first thing in the morning, before classes began for the day. The kids were absolutely thrilled to see the dogs and ask questions about them, and the first-hand experience made them want to help the group.

Involve the students in other ways. For our fundraiser, some kids in the audio/visual classes made a short video about Greyhounds to show on the morning announcements. We've continued to show this video during our festivals and other events. For younger kids, you can hand out Greyhound coloring sheets and word finds. And be sure to bring business cards to pass out, so that kids can go home and look at your website. Maybe a dog or two will find a family as a result!

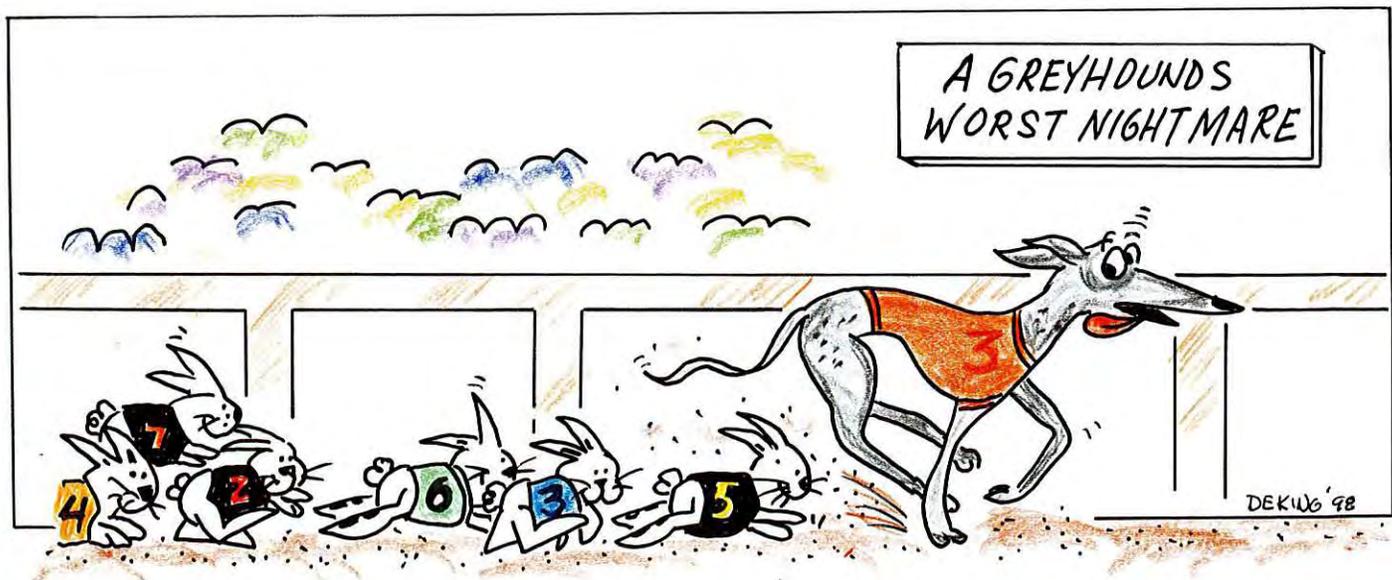
Give the kids a reward. Our winning team wanted to have the honor of giving a pet name to one of our fresh-off-the-track adoptable dogs. We received CPR Kates Corner from Dairyland just as the fundraiser was ending, and she had a nice outgoing personality, so we brought her in to the school and let the kids choose a name for her. After much debate, the little fawn girl was christened Waffles. The kids felt like they were helping her get started in her new life.

All you really need for this fundraiser is a willing school and some volunteers to bring their dogs. With pretty minimal effort, it can make a big impact for the Greyhounds. We are grateful that our school kids collected over \$1,000 for Minnesota Greyhound Rescue! Not only that, but the kids who got to meet and hug our Greyhounds will remember them forever, and we might just have created some future Greyhound adopters. ■

Jen Komatsu lives in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. with husband Lloyd, Greyhounds Palu, Crisco, Tobey, Annie, and Chester, and Miniature Schnauzer Abby.



Hope, adopted by Gwen and Charlie Brown of Greensboro, N.C.



North Coast Greyhound Connection (NCGC) has always offered our adopters an adoption package and a membership with their adoption. The expenses associated with adopting a Greyhound always exceed the adoption fee. To help new adopters with these expenses, we have created a supplemental adoption package. For a price of \$100.00, the package includes:

- One raised feeder
- One double-fleece, snooded Greyhound coat
- Four toys
- Four poop bags
- Membership in NCGC, which entitles the member to receive NCGC's quarterly newsletter and discounts on anything NCGC sells

These are things that new pet owners will need for their new friend anyway. Why not have them buy from us? Especially when 100% goes to help Greyhounds!

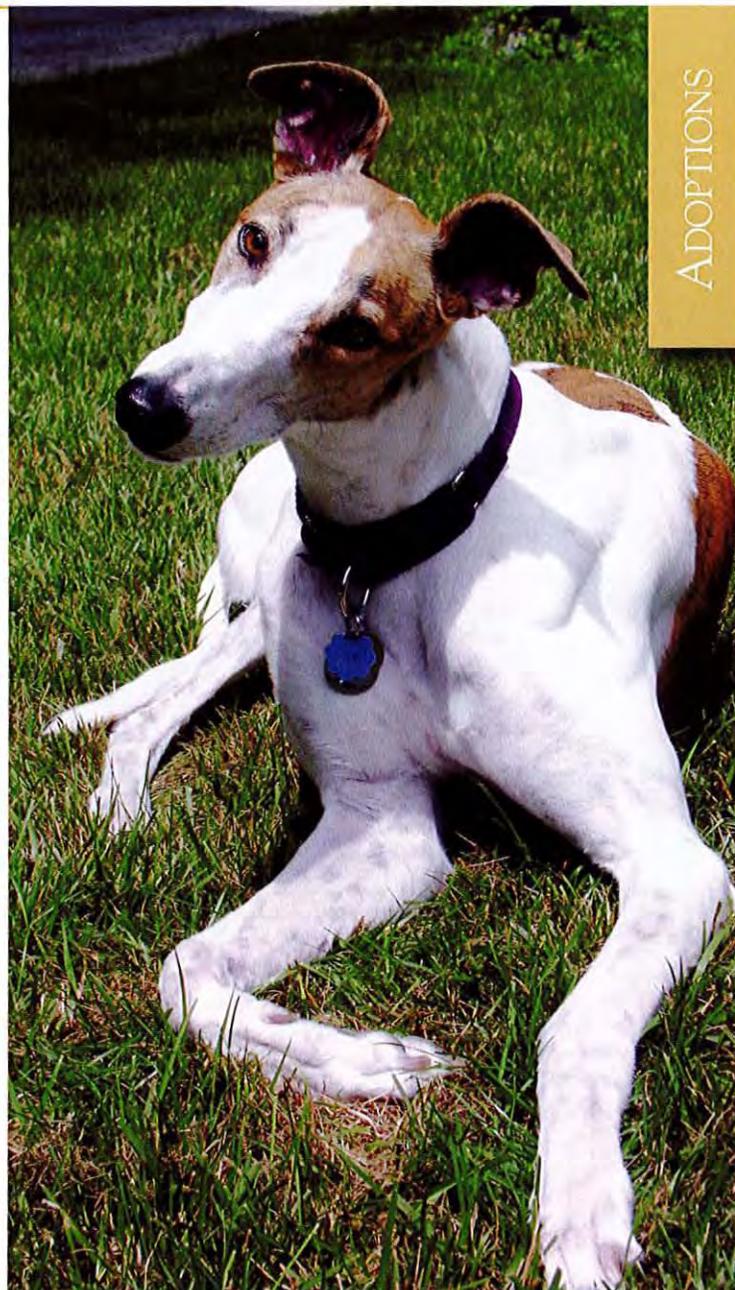
Like many adoption groups, NCGC sells merchandise to raise money. We are lucky to have creative volunteers that make items for us to sell. For example, we sell raised feeders that are made and donated to NCGC by volunteers. We also sell double-fleece snooded Greyhound coats that are also made and donated by volunteers; nearly 90% of the fleece used to make the coats is also donated. The coats sell for \$65.00 to members, and \$70.00 to non-members. Almost all the money NCGC collects on the sale of coats is profit, and all of it goes into a fund to help broken-legged Greyhounds.

We also have become dealers of products that we believe benefit our dogs. For instance, we are dealers for two different dogs. And since we take in a lot of seniors and broken-legged Greyhounds. NCGC is a dealer for Petzlife Oral Care Products and Longevity™, products made for canine teeth and joints. As dealers for the products we sell, we are able to sell to our members below retail. For non-members, we add \$5.00 to the price. We make a little money and they save a little money.

We also offer memberships at an annual cost of \$20.00 for individuals or \$35.00 for families. Our members learn that their membership saves them money in the long run and the fee is more than offset by the discounts they receive. Members with current memberships continue to receive discounts on products we sell.

To serve our new adopters, we have bundled the raised feeder, coat, and membership into a new adopter package. The package also includes toys and poop bags (NCGC purchases these items in bulk at very low cost). About two-thirds of our adopters buy our package. With the membership alone, NCGC brings in between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each year. Sales of the adoption packages brings in about \$8,000 to \$9,000 each year. ■

Sandy Augugliaro is President of North Coast Greyhound Connection.



Cara, adopted by Mike and Joanne Bast of Edgewater, Md.

Adoption Packages for New Adopters

By Sandy Augugliaro



GPA/Electric City raised \$3,000 for Greyhound adoption with the Greyhound Rescue Ride.

Riding for Ex-Racers: GPA/Electric City's Fundraising Ride

By Marcia Herman

GPA/Electric City, based in Anderson, South Carolina was recently pleasantly surprised when our group was named a co-beneficiary of a Greyhound Rescue Ride organized by a couple we didn't know! Steve and Lisa Alexander, also of Anderson, have two passions: Greyhounds and cycling. They have two Greyhounds of their own. They wanted to give back to the animal community and they chose our group and the Anderson County Humane Society, a small group that offers low-cost spay/neuter clinics to folks who need assistance paying for this veterinary service.

On June 27, 92 bicyclists showed up for a bike ride that started at 7:00 a.m. in 94 degree heat. How did the Alexanders accomplish this feat? With a lot of work, a well-organized plan with timelines, and lots of good, civic-minded friends (tennis buddies and a couple of co-workers) who are willing to volunteer.

Approximately four months prior to the ride, Steve spoke at a meeting of the Greenville (SC) Spinners, a large cycling club. Cyclists in South Carolina are a civic-minded group who like to support charitable causes while riding. They were enthused with Steve's proposal; so Steve began planning the ride in earnest.

Steve checked around for local facilities to be the event's home base but was stymied when the rental charges

were prohibitive. However, the local YMCA, which has a beautiful park with cooking facilities, picnic tables, paved parking lots, rest rooms, and even a fenced-in ball park for any dogs that might want to run around, offered their facility – at no charge. Another important plus was that this park is convenient to I-85 and is just off a major state highway. This made it easy for people to find.

At about the same time, the Alexanders found sponsors for the ride. Several small local businesses donated a sum of money, usually a minimum of \$35, for a total of \$700. In turn, the donators' business names were printed on the back of the shirt as advertising. These funds made it possible to buy T-shirts and food for the event. The front of the shirt has the group event name on it and a colorful, appropriate logo designed by Steve. Tom Dye (DyeDesigns), a friend of Steve's, turned the design into a digital format for printing.

Once the home base was reserved, an avid and extremely helpful cyclist friend of Steve's, Bob Luppino, created three rides consisting of 25, 40 and 64 miles (a metric century) and posted it on a cyclists' rides web

site. The routes were all circular; they began and ended at the YMCA facility. As the routes were being created, Steve created a three-fold flyer. Then he contacted us and told us about his plan. After we recovered from the shock of having a pre-planned major fund raiser handed to us on a silver platter, Steve gave us the flyer for proofreading and tweaking. Steve printed 800 copies of the flyer, which included a mail-in pre-registration form. Six weeks before the event he put them on windshields at a popular cycling venue. Steve didn't appear just any old night; he appeared there the night the club rides together and flyered lots of vehicles in one fell swoop. He also distributed copies of the brochure to all bike shops in the Clemson-Anderson-Greenville areas.

As the GPA/Electric City webmistress, I posted the flyer on our website, linked the ride routes from the cyclist's ride web site to our website, and the ride was born. Twenty cyclists pre-registered by the cutoff date two weeks before the event and paid a \$25 fee; people who didn't pre-register paid a fee of \$30 the morning of the event.

After the pre-registrations came in, the

nail biting started. We needed to purchase enough food and drink to supply the rest stops along the ride route and the lunch after the ride. How much food should we purchase? When same-day registration increased our rider total from 20 to 92, we knew we had under-estimated. Fortunately, there was time for the volunteers to run over to Sam's Club after the ride start and purchase the right amount of food to stock the rest stops and feed the riders after the ride. In South Carolina, "hot dog plates" are very popular fund raisers; it was popular that day, too.

To show the cyclists our appreciation, we assembled a "Line of Gratitude" at the ride start. About 15 Greyhounds and their owners and some folks from the Humane Society and their pets gathered at the starting point. As the ride began, the crowd cheered the riders on to the sounds of cowbells, shouts of "Thank you!" and a variety of Greyhound-related thank you signs, all prepared by the Alexanders and their devoted crew.

Rest stops need two volunteers, refreshments, and comfort facilities. Additionally, each rest stop had to make a head count to be sure all riders were accounted for every



Cyclists gather at the ride start.



Volunteers from GPA/Electric City and the Humane Society formed a "line of gratitude" at the ride start to express appreciation for the participants.

step of the way. The Alexanders found a local business, a church, and a generous friend that were willing to let the cyclists stop in their parking lots, have a sports drink and snack, and use their rest rooms. The organizers supplied the refreshments, paper goods for eating and for the rest rooms, trash bags, cleaning supplies, and the volunteers to do the serving and cleanup work. When the last cyclist came in, the rest stop volunteers cleaned the place inside and out. They then returned to the picnic site at ride start to help cook and serve.

We were grateful that the skies were partly cloudy, the roads were dry, and all riders came back safely. Despite the heat, the cyclists had a wonderful time while participating in a humanitarian ride. The only "to do differently" would be to choose a cooler season or to start the ride at the crack of dawn so that it ends well before noon. This well-oiled machine worked beautifully despite the heat, netting over \$2,000 to benefit Greyhound adoption. ■

Marcia Herman is a volunteer for GPA/Electric City and former editor-in-chief of CG Magazine. The Hermans have three Greyhounds, two cats, and love to go RV-ing with them.



Steve Alexander (L) coordinated the Greyhound Rescue Ride, and Bob Luppino (R) designed the routes.



GPA/Maryland volunteers raise money for their group by wrapping gifts at a local bookstore.

Gift Wrapping for Greyhounds

By Joanne Bast

A fundraiser that has proven successful for GPA/Maryland is volunteer holiday gift wrapping. Many individual stores and shopping malls offer these volunteer opportunities. In our case, we gift wrap at a bookstore and wrap books, compact discs, games, and other merchandise purchased there, upon presentation of a store receipt. A work table and all the necessary gift wrap supplies are provided by the store: holiday wrapping paper, scissors, tape, and a donation box. GPA/Maryland supplies the volunteers to staff the gift wrap table for the designated period of time. Gift wrapping is a free service provided to customers who purchase items in that store. If customers make a voluntary donation, it is collected in the donation box and the proceeds go to GPA/Maryland. In our case, the store requires that three volunteers be present at all times.

The biggest hurdle is scheduling enough volunteers to cover the entire block of time as well as having backups available on short notice in case of inclement weather or illness. The store makes signs that are posted at the registers identifying us as the volunteer gift wrapping group of the day. Public announcements are made by the store staff throughout the day that direct customers to the free gift wrap service and mention GPA/Maryland as the volunteer gift wrappers.

Volunteers are encouraged to wear GPA/Maryland and/or holiday attire. The time spent wrapping can be used to educate the customers about Greyhounds as pets and Greyhound adoption. We also have informational brochures



Oliver, adopted by Betsy Fritsch of S. Portland, Me.

on adoption available if requested. Depending on the store or mall, you may be able to have a Greyhound there. We are not, since there is a coffee shop located within the book store and health department code prevents the dogs from joining us. To help generate discussions and questions about Greyhound adoption, we place smaller meet-

and-greet photo boards on an easel behind us so customers can see how Greyhounds adapt to life after racing. One of our volunteers has an almost-life-sized stuffed Greyhound that we stand near the table. At first glance, some folks think it's real. It's only upon closer inspection that they realize it's stuffed. It's a good conversation starter.

Don't let your volunteers be intimidated if they can't gift wrap. Schedule them with folks who can. When it gets busy, the wrapping-challenged volunteer can take over dispensing tape or getting wrapping paper ready for the next item to be wrapped. Gift wrapping at a book store is relatively easy since most of our wrapping involves books. Customers tend to be very patient and appreciative of our efforts. While some of the customers are frazzled, most are very friendly, and it's fun.

We have been participating in this event for a number of years now. In fact, our regular wrapping volunteers look forward to it and

consider it one of their holiday traditions. The customers use the time spent wrapping gifts to ask questions about Greyhounds in general or about our greyhounds in particular. It's a great educational opportunity for exposure to an audience that may not have previously considered Greyhound adoption. We have even had customers approach us who were not interested in having their purchases wrapped, but heard on the announcement we were there and wanted information on Greyhound adoption. Many of them make a donation anyway and we are often amazed at the generosity of some people.

Holiday gift wrapping is an easy and effective way to raise funds to help your adoption group. It's an enjoyable experience and, if you're lucky enough to be wrapping at a book store, there's plenty to read during the occasional slow times. ■

Joanne Bast is a volunteer for GPA/Maryland (and a fairly good gift wrapper).



Lincoln, adopted by Eileen Neary of Natick, Mass.



An Unconventional Plan for a Greyhound Park

By Tammy Rhoades and Randy Wischart

The Hill's Bark Park in Richmond, Indiana was the result of hard work by Greyhound owners who wanted a place where their dogs could run.

When our Gordon Setter Nashville died, we decided to adopt a retired racing Greyhound without knowing anything about the breed. After reading several books, we thought we understood what we were getting into. We adopted 6-year-old Abby, who had been owned by a 90-year-old man for two years. Abby was fine with two walks a day and a noon potty break. She was so well-behaved and considerate that we began to expect her to help wash dishes and mop the floor (knowing in our hearts that if she could, she would have gladly done so).

Then we decided Abby needed a companion and adopted Maggie. We thought all Greyhounds were like Abby. Big mistake. Maggie was neither well-behaved nor considerate, unless you call considerate whining all night even when Tammy slept beside her. Nudging us all night long with a wet nose while we tried to sleep. Or pinch-biting our hands as we tried to put on her lead. Whereas Abby seemed content to hang out with humans, Maggie clearly needed something more.

Greyhounds like to run. They like to socialize with other Greyhounds. However, even our consistent commitment to four walks a day to compensate for our lack of a large fenced-in backyard wasn't cutting it. Abby and Maggie needed a place to run where they could socialize with other Greyhounds. But we couldn't afford to adopt more Greyhounds or buy a house with a large running area.



Greyhounds wait at the entrance to the park.

Soon we formed a friendship with two families and four Greyhounds. Maggie and Abby knew when the weekend had arrived and they could walk with their Greyhound friends, Sibyl and Gooch. No sleeping in for these Greyhounds. They knew that if neither of us was getting ready for work, then a walk with their friends was a possibility. Whether it was turning around and running into a wet nose, nudging a hand, or getting too close to the front door and having both Greyhounds run to where their leads were kept, we got the message. They were ready to play.

Knowing the Greyhounds loved to run with their friends, we were on the lookout for fenced areas where they could run loose. We found an area that seemed perfect. It was a fenced area used as a baseball diamond for part of the year while sitting unused most of the time. It was located outside the city on a road that was not well traveled, thus giving us some privacy. Abby, Sibyl, Gooch, and Maggie heartily approved of this field and grew used to the weekly visits to run and play. Soon Daisy, Maggie's sister, joined the group as well.

Everything was going well. We were good stewards of the property, picking up after our Greyhounds and taking care to make sure none of them decided to dig holes. It became a routine to which we all looked forward until we underestimated the power of the written word.

We knew that our neighbor down the block worked for the local newspaper. Tammy had been pestering him to write an article about our local Greyhounds, and Greyhound rescue in general. One snowy winter day, he relented to the pressure. (We think he had begun to look out his window before leaving his house to make sure the Greyhounds weren't coming, Tammy in tow, waiting for an opportunity to plead the need for an article.) So he arranged for a photographer and wrote the article. No one thought anything of his throwaway line, "If you'd like to see the Greyhounds run, they meet at the FOP ball diamond south of town every Sunday morning around 9:00."

The coaches of the teams that played on the field apparently subscribe to the local paper. On the Sunday following the day the article was published, our numbers had grown to three vans with seven Greyhounds. When we rolled into the parking lot at 9:00 that morning, we were met by a committee that was far from welcoming. As we got out of our vans, they were ready for us. Ignoring the pleading eyes of our Greyhounds, they outlined the reasons we could not use the field for Greyhounds. We were left with no option other than to leave, tails tucked between our legs, figuratively for us and quite literally for the Greyhounds.

So our group began walking in the local

gorge, in a local park, and around our neighborhoods. Many stopped us and allowed us to tell our story. Having seen the joy the Greyhounds obviously felt while running, we knew we had to find another fenced field.

The bad news was that no such place existed in town. We sometimes visited a dog park that was 45 minutes away, but we longed for a place closer to home. So the crusade to raise funds for a local dog park began. Gathering a group of friends who owned dogs, Greyhounds and otherwise, we formed a plan.

This ad hoc group began the publicity campaign for fundraising through the local foundation and scheduled a meeting with our mayor. We explained how a dog park could improve the quality of life in our city of Richmond, Indiana. A dog park could be a draw for a person/family/prospective company who may be considering Richmond for relocation. It would also allow dogs to develop their socialization skills, thus helping to curb any bad behavior that may cause them to land in shelters. It also allows dog owners to network. In addition, we pitched the idea that if the city would provide the land, we would do the fundraising for the equipment and fencing. The mayor agreed that if we purchased necessary supplies and equipment, the city parks department would take care of the installation and maintenance of the



Are we there yet? Maggie the Greyhound displays her excitement about going to the dog park.

equipment and the site. From there, we began the process of choosing the site.

Over the course of several months Tammy and her friend Linda loaded up our four Greyhounds and walked different locales each week. Richmond, a city of about 40,000, has several city parks and a long trail along the Whitewater River leading to the abandoned Gennett Recording Studio and Starr Piano Factory, where jazz artists such as

Hoagy Carmichael, Tommy Dorsey, and Louis Armstrong once recorded their music. We walked several different venues and found a few that likely had potential. We reported three sites that seemed like good options for the mayor and superintendent of the parks department to consider. For Tammy and Linda, the priorities were an open area with easy access for residents and ample parking. But the mayor and parks

department had already listened to complaints from some local citizens worried about barking and waste removal, so their choice was an area at the reservoir, close to the water, and in a space that formerly housed a motorized car track and sand volleyball court. It was the group's third choice and they could not conceal their disappointment.

However, in order to gain broad support, we had to accept this location as a compromise. The next year was followed by fundraising. The Wayne County Foundation agreed to set up an account where donations could be made. Within a year, the group had the support of the local parks department, a promise from Hill's Pet Nutrition for a substantial donation in return for naming rights, and lots of donations from local dog owners who warmed to the idea of having a place for their dogs to run and play. Students from Vaile Elementary School, Test Middle School, and Richmond High School got involved by decorating cans to be left at local businesses for donations and sorting zip codes for letters mailed to potential local donors. The students also designed our letterhead



Blue, adopted by Jen Polaha of Bethlehem, Pa.



Lady Mine (aka Ladybug), adopted by Anne Hicks and Cheryl Miller of Charlotte, N.C. *Anne Hicks*

and joined in a radio talk show to pitch our cause. In addition, the group sold Longaberger® baskets as a fundraiser and participated in the local Alternative Gift Fair with Greyhounds as part of the booth at a local church lobby.

As a result of these fundraising efforts, we now have a local dog park located in a city park nestled between a reservoir and a playground — pretty nice for what we once thought was a compromise location. Fundraising for phase two has just been completed. Planned changes include a larger area (nearly double the original acreage), the addition of agility equipment, and another watering station.

Our basic message is this:

- (1) Greyhounds need to play with one another, socialize, and run regularly. Greyhounds know their own breed and enjoy playing with one another. Their form of play involves lots of running and chasing, a very different kind of play from that of most other breeds.
- (2) Greyhounds need a large fenced area where they can play, but if you don't

have such an area, this doesn't have to be a deterrent from adopting a retired racer.

- (3) Owners of Greyhounds are great friends and seeking out other Greyhounds can lead to lasting friendships – for both owners and Greyhounds.
- (4) It is possible to generate funds for a dog park. Many people agree that having a public dog park in which dogs can run, play, and socialize is a great benefit to a community. Local foundations, businesses, local government, and dog owners can all be counted on to help.

And on Sunday mornings? You guessed it. You can indeed come to the Hill's Bark Park to watch the Greyhounds run. The number of Greyhounds continues to grow as we find more Greyhounds in our community. Sadly, Sibyl, Gia, Eric, and Abby have passed away, but Molotov, Tia, Wonder, Tattoo, and Cairo have since been welcomed into our three families. As many as 12 retired racing Greyhounds gather each Sunday morning around 9:00 for what Tammy has called Greyhound Worship Service. As a direct

result of the creation of the dog park, four families and seven Greyhounds now meet regularly, sometimes at one of our houses, where the humans eat and drink while the Greyhounds run and play, sometimes at a local frozen yogurt establishment to celebrate a Greyhound birthday.

After being kicked out rather unceremoniously from the ball diamond, the Greyhounds have their dog park. Yes, other breeds enjoy the park as well and the Greyhounds love to have other dogs take turns serving as chase dogs. But we all know that this will always be a Greyhound dog park, for without the persistence of the Greyhound owners, there wouldn't have been a dog park at all. ■

Tammy Rhoades and Randy Wisheart are educators who live and work in Richmond, Ind. with two cats and two Greyhounds. They adopted Maggie from Greyt Rescues in Crawfordsville, Ind. and Molotov from USA DOG based in Carmel, Ind. They are frequent visitors of the Richmond Bark Park.



Hmm . . . I thought I put these away! Penelope examines her recently exhumed toys.

Penelope's Paybacks

Story and photo by James E. McIntosh, Ph.D.

Penelope is the second of three heart-stealing Greyhounds with whom we've had the privilege of sharing our home. From the beginning, she has wowed us with a personality more engaging than that of any animal I have known. She most definitely has a mind of her own. And to top it off, she suffers from separation anxiety and a whopping case of thunder phobia. The latter concern cost me many sleepless nights and a few dollars, until I overcame the problem with a product designed to alleviate her fear of our monstrous Texas thunderstorms. Though she sleeps through them now, she still accurately forecasts their arrival with nervous barks and whimpers.

The separation anxiety has been a whole different matter. She has never liked being left alone without her humans. Even our first Greyhound and Penelope's companion, MacGreygor, couldn't ease her anxiety. Penelope is my constant shadow, rarely allowing me to leave a room without following close behind.

During her first couple of years with us, she would repay us for our trips to the grocery store, post office, or workplace. Some paybacks were destructive in nature and others just downright funny. All of her paybacks have reinforced our awareness of the remarkable intelligence of this very special Greyhound.

In our early days of living with Greyhounds, the dogs were routinely barricaded in a large living room while we were at work. One exit was blocked by a closed door, and the other with a heavy-duty wooden baby gate. This seemed to work, at least at first. One evening I came home from a full day at work and let both dogs outside to relieve themselves. Then they were quickly returned to their gated area because we had a dinner date with friends. After dinner, we invited our friends over for coffee and to meet our beautiful Greyhounds. When I opened the door from the garage to the kitchen, a cheerful Penelope waited to greet me, ears erect, tail wagging. How did she get out?! I walked through the den, now generously littered with chewed up magazines, and discovered her escape route. She had literally crashed *through* the wooden baby gate, completely destroying it. And, to add insult to injury, she was mightily pleased with her shenanigans. MacGreygor stood by with an equally satisfied expression on his face, enjoying his unexpected and dramatic gift of freedom. Needless to say, large, all-wire crates were quickly added to the McIntosh Greyhound room inventory.

During a trip to Denver, Penelope's separation anxiety manifested once again. MacGreygor had been left in a Dallas veterinary hospital. He was being treated for a case of extensive oral papillomavirus (from which, sadly, he never recovered). Since we were spending a great deal of time visiting my mother at a nursing home, Penelope was confined to her crate in the basement of a strange home. It is important to note here that the wire crate was of the folding, travel type. When we returned home after our first day at the nursing home, Penelope met us at the door. *Déjà vu!* How did that mischievous hound get out of her crate? The old adage, "seeing is believing." This powerful dog had literally pulled the front panel (with the door) inward just far enough to crawl over it and then make her hard-won escape. That night I reinforced the crate with cable ties. When we returned the next evening, she was still in the crate, but she had managed to bounce it a foot across a tiled floor. It now sat next to a closet door upon which hung my topcoat and sport coat (full of my scent). Not

being content just to be near my clothing, she had pulled portions of both garments into the crate and chewed them beyond repair. Payback, big time!

Penelope is similar to other Greyhounds in that she loves stuffed animals. Especially — very small ones, like Beanie Baby birds and Audubon stuffed sound birds. Several of these little critters used to sit on the back of a sofa in my study, all gifts from my family.

These stuffed toys fueled Penelope's supreme payback. One Saturday in January, we were gardening in the front yard. Penelope watched from a large front window, occasionally barking her displeasure at not being allowed to join us. She was truly alone in the house, since her buddy MacGreygor had passed away and we had not yet adopted another dog. It was a perfect opportunity for mischief. At one point, I went back into the house to check on her, as it had become far too quiet. As I entered the house, I saw Penelope carrying one of the Beanie Babies out the patio door into the backyard. I told her to drop it, which she did. I picked up the toy bird and carried it back to its proper place in the study. Lo and behold, I discovered that three additional stuffed birds were missing.

I went to the backyard and started searching for the pilfered toys. At first, I found none. Not a trace: no stuffing, no tatters, nothing. Ah ha! The game is afoot! A careful and thorough search of the entire yard yielded nothing. There were not even any areas of recently disturbed soil. Then, in a garden covered with wood chip mulch, I noticed a small spot that appeared to have been slightly disturbed. I cleared the mulch and dug down six or seven inches before finding one of the missing birds, a bright pink flamingo Beanie. It appeared that our devious Penelope had carefully covered up the dirt with wood chips so that her purloined treasure would not be detected. Further searching eventually led to a similarly concealed "bird grave" containing an Audubon loon.

The *pièce de résistance* was the third and final bird, an Audubon robin. It took a lot of time and effort to find this missing bird. One of our gardens under a large Sycamore tree was still covered with fall leaves. My previous cursory glances had revealed nothing

unusual. Upon closer scrutiny, I noticed that some of the leaves had been disturbed. Sure enough, under the leaves was a small area of recently turned soil. As I dug into the soil, my fingers inadvertently pressed on the robin's sound button. The unexpected robin call completely startled me and I quickly yanked my hand out of the hole.

After a good laugh at myself, and making sure that my wife hadn't seen my less than macho reaction, I retrieved the robin and placed all three birds on a tree stump to dry out. Then I went back into the house to get my camera and document this amusing event. Upon returning, I found Penelope sniffing her stash as if to say, "What gives? I thought I had buried these." After this picture was taken, she quickly grabbed the loon and tried to carry it off in an obvious attempt to rebury it. She was determined to have the last word.

It didn't take us long to recognize that Penelope needed a new companion. We soon adopted the perfect buddy: Fonzi, a large and beautiful red male Greyhound. His presence has given her a companion and helped reduce — but not totally eliminate — her prankish behavior. My wife and I and Fonzi are still occasionally the butts of her mischief — and we wouldn't have it any other way. ■

James E. McIntosh, Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Sciences, Baylor College of Dentistry, Texas A&M Health Science Center in Dallas. He does volunteer work for Greyhounds Unlimited in the Dallas area.



Side Button Greyhound Sweater

By Terri Royea

Knit a ribbed, buttoned sweater to fit your fast friend! Fashioned in one piece and started out knitting in the round, the turtleneck increases to a chest gusset for a better fit. After the chest gusset is complete and cast off, short row shaping completes the turn down the torso. The body of the garment is knit flat. The sweater includes a buttoned belly panel for ease in donning and removing the sweater. It is knit in a broad rib (the belly panel is a 1" by 1" rib) to accommodate a range of chest sizes.

Size Ranges

To fit chest measurement:

M 26 – 28 inches

L 28 – 30 inches

XL 30 – 32 inches

Length (base of neck to tail):

M 28 inches

L 30 inches

XL 32 inches

(You can adjust the length to fit your Greyhound. After you have completed the side decreases, there is a section of straight knitting that you can adjust to your measurements.)



Materials

- Bernat Natural Blends “Wool Blend” 100g (3.5 oz) 240 yds/216 m (or other worsted weight yarn that will match gauge):

M	L	XL
2	3	3 skeins

Note that the variegated colourways of this particular yarn have less yardage per skein; make sure to calculate for this.

Use a machine washable wool blend yarn for warmth and durability.

- 18mm buttons of your choice:
- | M | L | XL |
|---|---|-----------|
| 3 | 3 | 4 buttons |
- Three stitch markers
 - 4.5mm (US 7) [or size needed to achieve gauge] circular knitting needle; 16” for neck, 24” or 32” for body.

Gauge: 17 st and 20 rows = 4” in stocking stitch

Abbreviations:

inc = increase (I used a M1 lifted strand increase)

dec = decrease

ssk = slip next two stitches knitwise to right needle, then knit together

k2tog = knit next two stitches together

RS = right side (of garment)

WS = wrong side (of garment)

Instructions:

[The instructions are written for size M; adjustments for larger sizes will be displayed within the following parentheses].

Collar: Cast on 68 (76) (80) stitches. Place marker and join in round, being careful not to twist stitches. Begin K2 P2 rib around. Rib for 8 (9) (10) inches.

You may make the collar as long or as short as you prefer. Garment length is taken from the first collar increase, so the collar itself may be as long or short as you wish. You

could even knit an extra-long collar that could double as a snood on those chilly days.

First collar increase: inc 16 (18) (20) stitches evenly until you have 84 (94) (100) stitches. You may incorporate the increases into your K2 parts of the rib. Rib 10 (11) (12) more rounds.

Second collar increase: inc 10 stitches evenly. You will have 94 (104) (110) stitches. Work 6 (7) (8) rounds even.

Set out chest gusset stitches: Set out with markers 14 (16) (18) stitches for the chest gusset. The end-of-round marker will be in the middle of these stitches. Depending on how you placed your increase stitches, you may have to adjust the markers a stitch or two to the left or right to make sure your center back is exactly halfway from the gusset. Count it out.

Remove the previous end-of-round marker. The right gusset will now indicate the new beginning/end of round.

You are going to work the gusset stitches in stocking stitch, increasing on the inside of the gusset markers. While working the chest gusset, you may wish to begin to knit the first two sets of P2 stitches on either side of the gusset to make a nice, broad stocking stitch section in which to do your short row shaping and side decreases after completion of the chest gusset.

Begin gusset increases: slip marker, knit 1, inc 1 stitch, knit to 1 stitch before next gusset marker; inc 1 stitch, then continue working back of sweater in established rib to end of round. Work two rounds even.

Repeat these inc rounds every third row twice. [100 (110) (116) stitches]

Work inc rounds every other row 7 (8) (9) times. [114 (126) 134] stitches]

You may wish to work a K1 P1 rib for the last five or six rounds of the chest gusset to prevent it from rolling up when the sweater is being worn.

Next round: work even around to the second chest gusset marker. Remove marker, then cast off the 32 (36) (40) gusset stitches. Work to end of round.[82 (90) (94) stitches] You are working flat now. Work WS row.

Begin short-row shaping: Knit 4 stitches, slip next stitch purlwise. Bring yarn to front of work and slip stitch back to left needle. Bring yarn to back of work. Turn, purl back. Turn. Knot to wrap, knit this and wrapped stitch together, then wrap next stitch and continue in this manner until you have wrapped the 11th stitch, purred back and then work to the end of the row. (A good short-row tutorial may be found at www.stitchdiva.com/custom.aspx?id=143).

Repeat this short-row shaping on the WS (purl side) in the same manner.

Cast on belly band: At the end of the next WS row, place a marker, then backwards loop cast on 28 (34) (40) stitches. [110 (124) (134) stitches] Turn work. Knit 4 stitches (keep these 4 stitches in garter stitch to create the buttonhole band) and K1 P1 rib to marker. Slip marker, inc one stitch at each end of body section every other row three times. [116 (130) (140) stitches]

Belly Panel Length and Buttonholes:

M panel will be 8" long. Buttonholes can be placed at 1", 4", and 7" points.

L panel will be 9" long. Buttonholes can be placed at 1", 4.5", and 8" points.

XL panel will be 10" long. Buttonholes can be placed at 1", 3.5", 6.5", and 9" points.

Buttonhole can be made on a RS row in the 4 st garter section by: K2, YO, K2tog.

Work 6 (7) (8) rows even.

Begin side decreases: Work belly panel stitches, slip marker then decrease one stitch at either end of body section. I like a SSK on the right-hand edge and a K2tog on the left-hand edge of the body section. Dec every other row for a total of 15 times. [86 (110) (110) stitches]

At the same time, continue working the ribbed belly panel, placing buttonholes evenly and cast off the 28 (34) (40) belly panel stitches in rib when the length is 8" (9") (10"). [58 (66) (70) stitches]

Work in established rib until length measures 23" (25") (27") from first collar

increase. (This measurement can be tweaked if your hound is longer/shorter than this. The tail/rump shaping takes 3.5 to 4 inches.)

Begin rump shaping: Place marker at center back and decrease one stitch on either side of marker on next 5 RSW rows. (ssk/k2tog) [48 (56) (60) stitches]

Continue center decreases as established and begin decreasing two stitches at the beginning and end of RS rows 4 (5) (5) times. You may work the decreases into the K sections of the rib. [24 (26) (30) stitches]

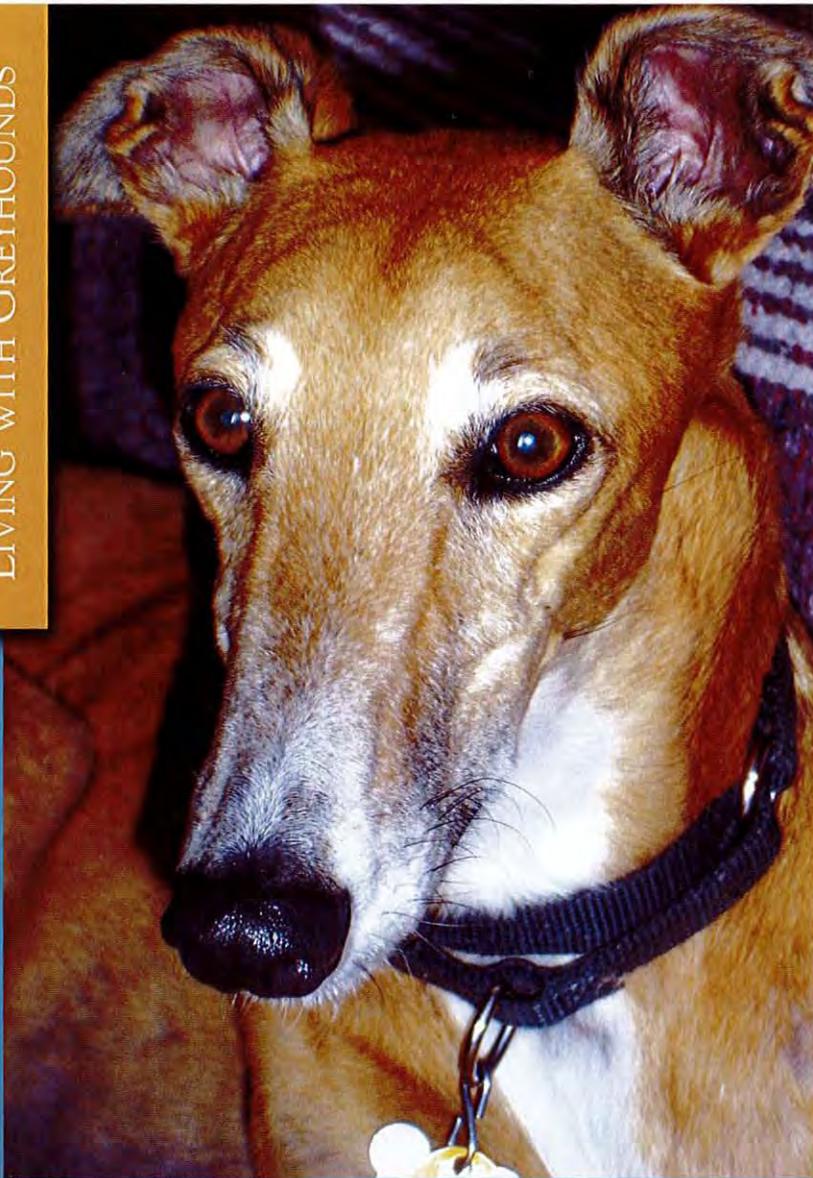
Cast off in rib. Weave in ends. Lay sweater flat, establish button placement, and sew buttons on.

After you have finished a sweater for your Greyhound, why not whip up another one for your local Greyhound adoption group? ■

Terri Royea lives, knits, and blogs in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. She and her husband Bill share their home with Sabrina and Apollo, both retired racers adopted through Chinook Winds Greyhound Rescue in Alberta. Sabrina and Apollo make frequent appearances on Terri's blog, www.terriknits.wordpress.com



Reese, adopted by Will Shumaker of Tampa, Fla. and Jade, adopted by Barbara Celli of Tampa, Fla.



Leland's adoption by Ron and Linda Brown was meant to be.

Leland's Quantum Leap

By Ron Evans

The decision Linda and I have made to share our lives with Greyhounds was no leap at all for Kings, Queens, and families of privilege during the period in human history marked by the writings of the bible verses, the Roman and Egyptian empires and the construction of the world's Seven Wonders. The Greyhound was at the pinnacle of civilization's most honored inhabitants, second only to the male lion. These elegant, loyal, and highly-evolved quadrupeds earned a place in the scriptures of the day, guarded the valuable treasures on earth, and transcended human frailty to glimpse beyond.

So when, on that sunny and welcoming day back in 1994, we decided extemporaneously to wander up the road to enjoy an idyllic Vermont summer along the shores of Lake Champlain in Burlington, we had no clue this would be a life-altering experience.

We arrived early to Church Street, Burlington's outdoor walking mall and social epicenter. Though few locals had ventured out yet, we were about to meet our first Greyhound up close . . . then another, and another. Our chance encounter found us front and center at a Greyhound consciousness-raising parade that was to begin within the hour.

We asked the same naïve questions of all the adoptive families. Why are they so quiet? Are they good pets? Do they need a lot of running? How come they're just standing around so patiently? We were enamored, then amused by the repeated response: "The best pet I've ever had!"

Although Lin and I both grew up with dogs, for our then 21 years together we had only cats. As schoolteachers in Connecticut it was just easier to leave cats alone all day. But living in the Vermont of Norman Rockwell and Warren Kimble meant embracing the essence of American country life. Nubi (Cowboy), Heavy Fuel, and Nyla (Oriental Uno) were our first.

The slate markers celebrating their special place in our lives can be seen when visiting the Kingsley Grist Mill in East Clarendon, one of Vermont's newest national historic sites. The sun-drenched riverbank alongside the covered bridge was a well-earned retirement and final resting place. We lost Nubi in 2003. And when Nyla passed away a few years ago at age 14, Linda was a wreck.

She resorted to walking our friend's Greyhound Noni Marie twice, often three times a week. This "fix" therapy lasted about two months. When the pain didn't go away, we decided it was time to visit the website of our original adoption agency, Fast Friends of Keene, New Hampshire.

Up popped Leland (I Can Feel It). It was love at first cyber-sight.

Tall and stately, handsome as hell and a five-year veteran of the now-closed Hinsdale track . . . we called then and there.

"Leland is still available but he won't be for long," Sharon Thomas told us. "He needs to go to a good home now."

"How would you describe his personality?" we asked. "Well," said Sharon, "he's a real *cowboy*."

The tears ran down Linda's cheek. I knew where we were going tomorrow.

Something very special happens when you follow your heart. We arrived in Keene in the late morning.

Pulling up to a parking spot next door, Linda noticed the proprietor's name in bold letters: EMIL. Linda's grandfather, Emil Bagre, had been the stationmaster for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Back in the days of lifetime employment, Emil's 60 years of service afforded him personal meetings with many celebrities of the day including Babe Ruth, plus the greater notoriety of having met five United States presidents during their terms.

"I've never encountered anyone else with that name," Linda said.

I agreed and we proceeded next door, acknowledging the coincidence.

Our senses were acute, the anxiety high as we walked in. The facility, located in a small industrial park in a cul-de-sac, shared space with the owner's transportation business. We were greeted by one of the adoption volunteers.

"You're here to see Leland, right?"

Our pulses quickened.

"He's a *Nubi*."

"What did you say?"

"You know, he's new here. Just off the track. He's a *Newbie*."

As Linda and I tried at that moment to read each other's thoughts, a series of events were about to unfold that would challenge the rules of animal sensory perception and deductive reasoning.

I'll never forget meeting Leland for the first time and hope that, in writing this account, perhaps you won't either. A majestic fawn, even taller than Nubi, he held a bright blue, circus-style rubber ball in his mouth. He was already out of his cage and playing fetch with several of the volunteers when we arrived



The stress is apparent on Emilee's face as she emerges from behind Big Bear at Fast Friends Adoption in Keene, N.H.



Littermates Leland and Emilee found a new home together.

on the scene. We observed for a while, exercising restraint; Leland did the same. By the time we returned from our walk/run/bonding session outdoors, he had already made up his mind. We were meant for each other.

As we stood in the middle of the kennel discussing the details of Leland's adoption, Linda's eyes were drawn to a second-level crate with two very frightened, chestnut-colored eyes peering from behind a large, white, plush polar bear.

"Is there a dog in there?"

Sharon opened the cage door slowly. Emily is one of our most difficult cases, she explained. She had been malnourished and abused, living with the pain for so long that she was afraid of her own shadow. Having been adopted out twice that year and returned within weeks, her only comfort in this world was — you guessed it — Big Bear.

I've never seen a domestic animal so distraught and withdrawn. Her crate rattled in response to her nerves. Her tail never fell from under her torso. She displayed scars from head to tail.

We all sympathized with Emily, but only one in the room that day knew what needed to be done. A bold and dramatic move was required here and it stunned everyone. Leland took one look at Emily's open crate door, glanced back at us, made the 4 ft jump without effort, sat down, braced himself against the crate's metal frame and looked at us defiantly. The message was clear.

If I go . . . she goes!

So it was. I'll never forget that moment. We all looked at each other in disbelief; racing dogs never invade each other's space.

Leland was right. Emily (Elmtree Emily), now Emilee, needed him to help escape her

prison. Two weeks later we found out they were brother and sister; perhaps he knew all along.

I'll let the pictures tell the rest of the story. ■

A former teacher with the Stamford, Conn. public schools, a board-certified exercise physiologist with the American College of Sports Medicine, and co-creator of the Arthritis Aquatics Advances exercise protocol for the Arthritis Foundation of America, Ron Brown and his wife Linda, a design artist with the Brandon, Vt. Artists Guild have spent the past 30 years restoring and living at the Kingsley Grist Mill National Historic Site in East Clarendon, Vt. Leland and Emilee are making their media debut this year impersonating famous celebrities; you can order their line of greeting cards online at Greytart.com.



Leland and Emilee are so closely bonded, sometimes they seem to be the same dog.



Laurie experienced a serious injury using a retractable leash.

Another Downside to the Retractable Leash

Story and photos by Gini Brown

We received the following letter in response to “The Dangers of Retractable Leashes,” in our Spring 2009 issue. Because its length exceeds our limit for letters, and because it contains a valuable lesson, we are printing it here.
—Ed.

“The Dangers of Retractable Leashes” (Spring 2009 CG) points out what can happen to the dog if its human lets go of the handle of the retractable leash. This is important information, but there is another horror that can result from use of this device. It happened to me — or rather to my beloved Laurie (Manatee Laurie).

I had often used retractable leashes when walking Laurie with my other Greyhound and my German Shepherd because — and this is the only good thing about retractable leashes — they are less likely to tangle when walking multiple dogs. Laurie always walked nicely, as they all did, and for five years we had no problems.

One crisp November day, when we were nearly finished with the walk about only about 10 minutes from my car, for reasons known only to her, Laurie took off at full speed. I braced myself and held on. Laurie hit the end of the 26 ft leash at full force. Though she tended to drift slightly to the right, she didn’t fall or cry out, and we continued our walk to the car. She scrambled into the car and I made the 5-minute drive home without a care in the world.

When I got home, Laurie was totally paralyzed. Well, she could lift her head about an inch. I rushed her to the animal clinic. X-rays appeared normal, so the veterinarian deduced massive trauma to the spinal cord in the cervical area.

I took Laurie home and carried her to the bed next to mine. I kept her clean, gave her high, diminishing doses of prednisone, turned her every hour, gave her water, and propped her front end up so she could drink and eat (she continued to eat and never missed a meal). Luckily, I had retired just three weeks earlier from my job as a nurse at the animal hospital, so I was able to stay with her all the time. I never left her; a friend picked up my mail and anything I needed. The other dogs were not walked, and they made do in the fenced yard.

After several weeks, Laurie's condition began to improve: she could lift her head higher, move her front feet, then turn herself over. And on one glorious day three months after the injury, I was in the next room and Laurie appeared — lurching, bumping into walls, but on her own feet!

From then on improvement was steady and thrilling. Eventually she got back to at least 95%. She never ran again, climbed stairs, or



After the accident, Laurie used a harness on walks. In this photo, she is trying the harness for the first time. She got used to it eventually.

jumped on my bed, and she wore a harness on our walks. We could live with these limitations. Laurie was the light of my life for another seven years.

I just wish I could outlaw retractable leashes. I strongly believe all adoption con-

tracts should contain a promise that they would never be used. ■

Gini Brown was a vet tech for almost 18 years. She lives in Eliot, Maine and just adopted her seventh Greyhound. She also has a Borzoi.



Dakota, adopted by Leif Rubinstein of Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

We received the following letter in response to our Spring 2009 coverage of the closing of The Woodlands. Because its length exceeds our limit for letters, and because it represents a unique perspective on the closing, we are printing it here. —Ed.

I read, with a great deal of interest, the article on the closing of The Woodlands ("Closing Our Hometown Track: The End of The Woodlands," Spring 2009 CG).

First, a little background: I was the senior track veterinarian for the Kansas Racing & Gaming Commission (KRGC) at The Woodlands (WDS) from November 1989 through September 1996. I then assumed the position of chief veterinary officer for the KRGC through October 2008. During my tenure with the KRGC and to this day I have been an outspoken advocate for the adoption programs at Kansas tracks and for Greyhound adoption in general. My first two Greyhounds came from WDS: my precious Evie, and then Geoff. I currently have a sweet Greyhound (Socks) we got from the closing of Wichita Greyhound Park in 2007. Last April, I was asked to foster a litter of eight young pups. My payment for housing this errant breeding for two months was that I got my pick of the litter. Her name is Possum. She has blossomed into the cutest little hound, having never seen a track.

When WDS announced its decision to close, I was told we would have 60 days. Instead, they surprised everybody with a 30-day notice. This shocking announcement significantly affected the livelihoods of hundreds of people, and the fate of hundreds of Greyhounds. The timing could not have been worse, since the adoption community was already inundated with Greyhounds.

Throughout the last month of racing and the ensuing two months, my staff and I — along with local Greyhound adoption group Greyhound Support of Kansas City — worked feverishly to place the remaining Greyhounds. We pleaded with trainers and owners to give us as many Greyhounds as possible, no questions asked. We created an owner transfer form giving ownership over to the KRGC (Kate Bressler's brilliant idea). At the same time, WDS tried every way to minimize the numbers going into adoption and whined and moaned when they were presented with bills for these dogs.



Freeto, adopted by Guy and Jennifer Karth of Blaine, Minn.

The Woodlands Closing Revisited

By D. Bryce Peckham, DVM

During the last few years of racing at WDS, it was not uncommon to put down hounds that suffered career-ending injuries. I was determined that we would not destroy any fractured racers in the last 30 days of racing, regardless of how severe the injury. There were five fractures during that period. We quickly assumed responsibility for these hounds.

I had many phone calls and face-to-face meetings with the general manager regarding the expenses and other bills for adoptees. I was not the least bit amused by the WDS attitude regarding their fiduciary responsibilities. After all, it was their actions that caused the mayhem. I became increasingly irritated with the attempts of the multi-millionaire owners to cut their losses at the expense of the remaining hounds.

In the end, WDS paid for all surgeries, feed, medical, hauls, and other expenses associated with the adoption dogs.

While I was charged with sparring with track management over welfare and expenses, my staff veterinarians D.A. Hogan and Sheryl Brown handled the day-to-day care and placement issues along with the guidance and tireless efforts of Kate Bressler and Ann Peterson to adopt out these hounds.

I will not soon forget this fiasco at The Woodlands. ■



Nicole, adopted by Barb Carnahan of Hatboro, Pa.

Dr. Bryce Peckham is chief racing veterinarian for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission.



Hewy and Susy, adopted by Susan Murkland of Issaquah, Wash.

Sunday, September 12

Fifth Annual Wags, Whiskers and Wine Tasting

GPA/MoKan

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Happy Hour

Independence, Mo.

You and your hounds can enjoy good friends, good ambience, and great wines as the Happy Hour staff shares their vast knowledge of the grape. Add abundant hors d'oeuvres and a heavy dose of MoKan fun and you're in for a treat of an evening. \$25/person; all breeds welcome. Contact: Shannon Henson, (816) 278-9430 or Shannon@gpamokan.org; www.gpamokan.org

Saturday, September 12

Twelfth Annual Picnic

Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Regional Park

2300 Upper Afton Road

Maplewood, Minn.

Join us for a great day of vendors, silent auction, raffle and live auctions, available adoption dogs, barbeque, and more. Blessing of the hounds, hound memorial, and the best entertainment around: the Gilley Girls Singing and Dancing Greyhound Musical Comedy Review.

Contact: Donna Barr, (763) 754-9754 or guber2nac@aol.com

Saturday and Sunday, September 12 & 13

Annual Fall Open House

Greyhound Friends, Inc.

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

167 Saddle Hill Road

Hopkinton, Mass.

Join us for our annual fall open house. Good food, great company (lots of visiting adopted Greyhounds), shopping for humans and hounds, silent auction and raffle, nail trimming, and the Not Quite Westminster Dog Show. Let your Greyhound run in the fenced field. The Greyhounds in the kennel waiting for homes always love visitors, so please stop by. Everyone is welcome with their hounds. Contact: Louise Coleman,

ghfriend@greyhound.org

Sunday, September 13

Annual Fall Picnic

Greyhound Friends of New Jersey

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Duke Island Park

Old York Road

Bridgewater, N.J.

A special day to celebrate Greyhounds. Greyhound owners can bring their dogs to spend the day, enjoy each other, buy special items from the many vendors, and have something to eat all to benefit Greyhound Friends of NJ.

Contact: Patty Comerford, pac173@aol.com; www.greyhoundfriendsnj.org

Thursday through Sunday, September 17-20

BeachBound Hounds

Greyhound Crossroads

"Early Arrivers" activities begin Wednesday; event ends Sunday at checkout

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

We'll be celebrating BeachBound Hounds' tenth anniversary! A Greyhound owner's weekend in a beachfront resort with seminars and workshops, vendors, silent auction, contests, crowning of the King and Queen, Surfside Memorial Service, and opportunities for other adoption groups to raise funds for their own organizations. Almost all activities are designed to allow participation with your Greyhounds. Registration and vending reservations open at www.greyhoundcrossroads.com/bbh.htm Contact: Kim Owens, (864) 995-3112; beachyhounds@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 19

Greyhound Gallivantasia

GREYLong

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Kill Creek Park Beach

DeSoto, Kan.

A wonderfully fun time for the dogs and their owners. The venue is marvelous — lake, sandy beach, and walking trails. Enjoy your Greyhound's antics as they dive in the lake. Food will be potluck and there will be silent auctions and dog collars for sale. Proceeds

benefit canine cancer studies administered by Morris Animal Foundation. Contact: Lori Haberman-Wilson, greylong3@yahoo.com or Lisa Leopold, (913) 522-1215.

Saturday, September 19

Roofest 2009

GPA/Greater Northwest

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Frontier Park

21800 Meridian S.

Graham, Wash.

Auctions, raffles, food, and various vendors will be included in the day's festivities. Retired racing Greyhounds available for adoption to prospective adopters. This event is GPA/GNW's biggest fundraiser enabling the transportation, vetting, and placement of ex-racing Greyhounds into permanent, loving homes. It is free and open to the public. Contact: Julie Van Sickle, (253) 927-5043 or julies_kids@yahoo.com; www.gnwgreyhounds.org

Saturday, September 19

Prairie Beach 2009

Heartland Greyhound Adoption

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Haines Park

Altoona, Iowa

Come celebrate Greyhound ownership and support Greyhound adoption. Speakers, group walk, photos, games, auction, vendors, raffle. Food and drink available for purchase. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a wonderful fall day in the Midwest with your Greyhound. Contacts: Jorene King, (515) 967-6564 or Jody Evans, (515) 967-7122; www.heartland-greyhoundadoption.org

Sunday, September 20

Picnic

GPA/Nashville

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Centennial Park

Nashville, Tenn.

Potluck lunch, games, silent and live auction, vendors. Contact: Mardy Fones, (615) 297-2033 or mafones@comcast.net

Sunday, September 20

Annual Picnic
GPA/Indianapolis
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds
Lebanon, Ind.

Picnic includes silent auction, vendors, games, and contests. GPA/Indy will provide hamburgers and hot dogs; attendees are asked to bring one covered dish to share. Contact: Sharon Murphy, (317) 839-6436; Sharon_Murphy@gpaindy.org

Saturday, September 26

11th Annual LEGR Reunion
Lake Erie Greyhound Rescue
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Campbell Park
35405 Chardon Road
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

Vendors, silent auction, and Chinese auction. Food and beverages available for purchase. Contact: Sally Hennessey, (440) 466-1347 or greyhound@ncweb.com

Saturday, September 26

Greyhound Gala
GPA/Wisconsin
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Waukesha County Expo Center Arena
1000 Northview Road
Waukesha, Wisc.

It's the annual fundraiser you don't want to miss! Bring your hounds for a fun-filled day of raffles, auctions, vendors, and other great activities. Contact: Ellen Paulus, pauprint@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, October 3

Annual Greyhound Gathering
GPA/Springfield, Mo.
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
4024 W. FR 148
Springfield, Mo.

Chili supper and fundraiser for Greyhounds and their people. Silent auctions and treats for the hounds. Contact: Alane Shultz, (417) 883-8156 or agrehound@mchsi.com; www.gpamo.org. Let us know if you'd like to attend!

Saturday, October 3

It's a Greyhound Life
Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton-Wentworth
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Binbrook Fairgrounds
Binbrook, Ontario

A fun day of fundraising to support the ongoing work of placing retired racers in their forever homes. Blessing of the Hounds, guest speakers, silent auction, raffle, shopping, bake sale, BBQ, hot-dog bobbing and lure coursing for the hounds. Contact: Linda Barton, (905) 574-7329 or lbarton@moun-taincable.net; glohw@glohw.com.

Sunday, October 4

Greyt Poker Run
GPA/Greater Orlando
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Seminole Harley-Davidson
Sanford, Fla.

Poker Run for bikes, cars, and people that like to walk. Entertainment includes the MOB, vendors, raffles, 50/50, bike trivia, food, and much more. Pre-register and receive a free t-shirt. Come have fun while helping our retired racers find their forever homes. Contact: Lori Willick, (386) 424-9885 or bikerlor@aol.com

Sunday, October 4

Annual Reunion
Greyhound Companions of Missouri
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Jefferson Barracks/Sylvan Springs Park
Ordinance Shelter
St. Louis, Mo.

Our annual Greyhound reunion features food, merchandise, games, raffle baskets, silent auction items, and fun for all. Greyhounds only, please. Contact: Donna Sander, (314) 378-0422 or sanderdl@sbc-global.net

Friday through Sunday, October 9-11

Greyhounds Reach the Beach
Dewey Beach, Del.

The grand-daddy of Greyhound reunions. See the News section in this issue for more details.

Saturday, October 10

Athletes Helping Athletes 5K
Southeastern Greyhound Adoption (SEGA)
Race Day Registration 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.
Race starts 8:00 a.m.
Barrett Summit Office Park
2015 Vaughn Road
Kennesaw, Ga.

This race will raise funds to support SEGA's efforts to help former Greyhound racers. Your entry fee will be used to transport, then vet and house the retired Greyhounds until they find forever homes. Contact: Vicki Sims, (404) 788-5909 or 5K@greyhoundadoption.org

Saturday, October 17

7th Annual Fundraiser/Reunion/Picnic
Greyhound Lifesavers Inc.
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saluda Shoals Park
Columbia, S.C.

This is our biggest event of the year. All Greyhounds and their humans are invited to join us for an afternoon of food, fun, shopping and socializing. Vendors (collars, artwork, coats), Greyhound games, silent auction. Plans for the 4th annual Ride to Save a Greyhound (usually the morning of the Reunion) have not yet been finalized; visit www.greyhoundlifesavers.org for more information. Contacts: Judy Horton, (803) 957-3866 or jhorton8@sc.rr.com; Joyce Jackson, (803) 429-4209 or jjacwcola@bellsouth.net

Sunday, October 18

Octoberfest
Greyhound Options Inc.
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Dufresne Park, Rte. 202
Granby, Mass.

Free admission, open to all Greyhound lovers, rain or shine. Games and contests, raffle, silent auction, vendors, good food, lots of fun. Contact: Claire Sygiel, (413) 967-9088 or ckerr1@aol.com

Saturday, October 24

Las Vegas Greyhound Picnic in the Park
GPA/Southern Nevada
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tule Springs Park
Las Vegas, Nev.

Picnic lunch, vendors, games, raffles, and silent auction. Contact: Judy Currier, greyhounds@cox.net

Saturday, November 14

Greyhound Wellness Seminar
GPA/Atlanta – Southeastern Greyhound Adoption (SEGA)
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Allatoona High School
Acworth, Ga.

Greyhound health expert Dr. C. Guillermo Couto of The College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University will present a seminar on Greyhound wellness. Contact: Patty Winters, (404) 377-7007 or pwinters@mindspring.com

Saturday and Sunday, November 21 & 22

13th Annual Craft Show and Pet Expo
Greyhound Friends of N.J.
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Somerset National Guard Armory
1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset (Franklin Township), N.J.
Raffle, vendors, digital Santa photos, holiday bake table, GFNL adoption table, and much more. Leashed pets welcome. Contact: Patty Comerford, (732) 566-2266 or pac175@aol.com

Sunday, January 31

Greyhound Community Picnic
God's Greys Greyhound Group
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
7259 Hiawasse Oak Dr.
Orlando, Fla.

All Central Florida Greyhounds and their humans are invited. Property is completely fenced and the Greyhounds can run around to their hearts' content, while the humans enjoy a potluck picnic, games, silent auction, raffle, and shopping for Greyhound supplies. Greyhounds only, please. Bring a small covered dish or dessert to share. Contact: Carol Becker, (407) 578-7496 or godsgreys@mac.com



Jamie, adopted by Tisha Miller of West Palm Beach, Fla.



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Greyhound Love is Teaming up with Northcoast Greyhounds to save more grey lives! Come see Cara's beautiful Jewelry!

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We now have Whippet and Iggy Jammies!

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- Ice Cream Social
- Grey Games
- Speed Run
- Raffles
- Discussions
- Historic Walks
- Costume Contest

April 23 - 25, 2010

For schedule, information and registration:
www.trianglegreyhound.org/gig

Registration Required. Schedule Subject to Change.



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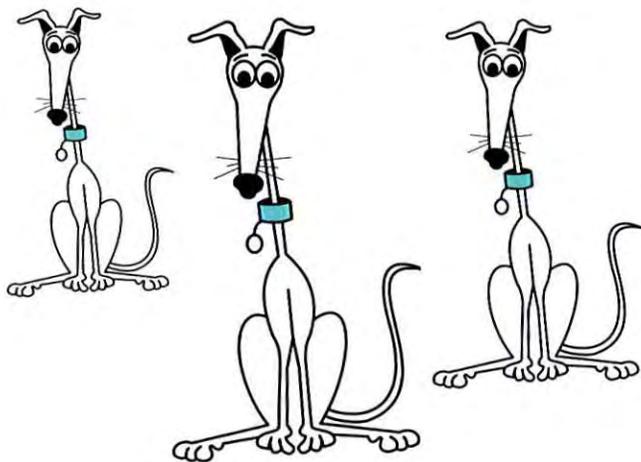
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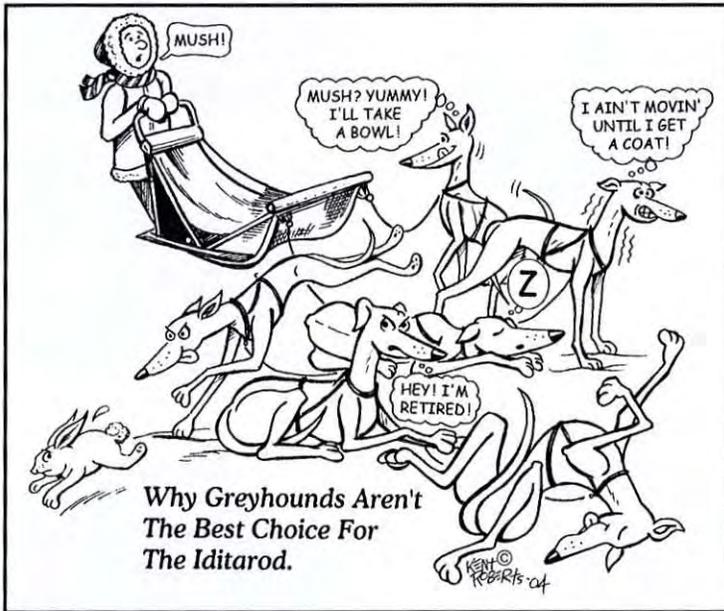

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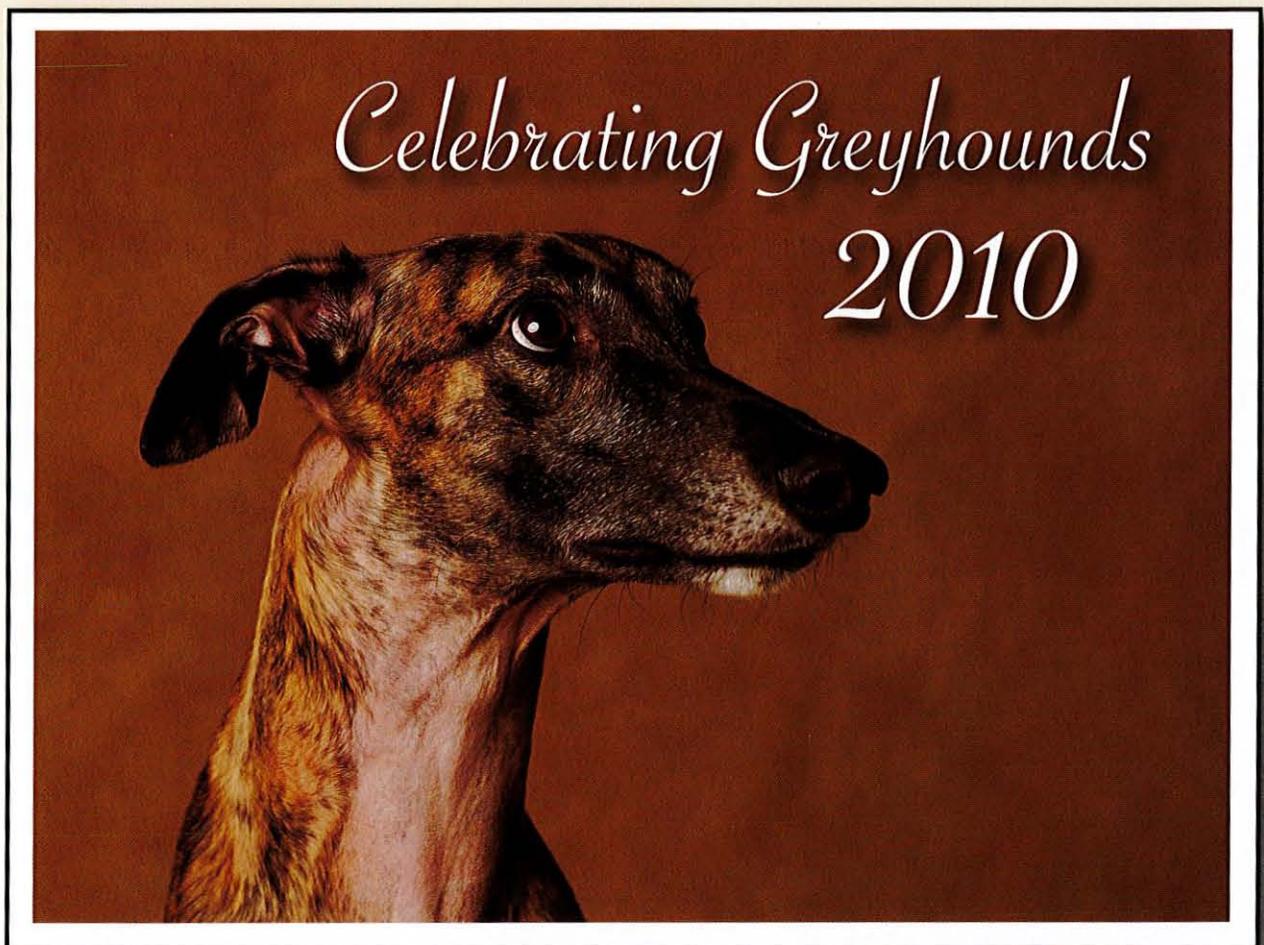
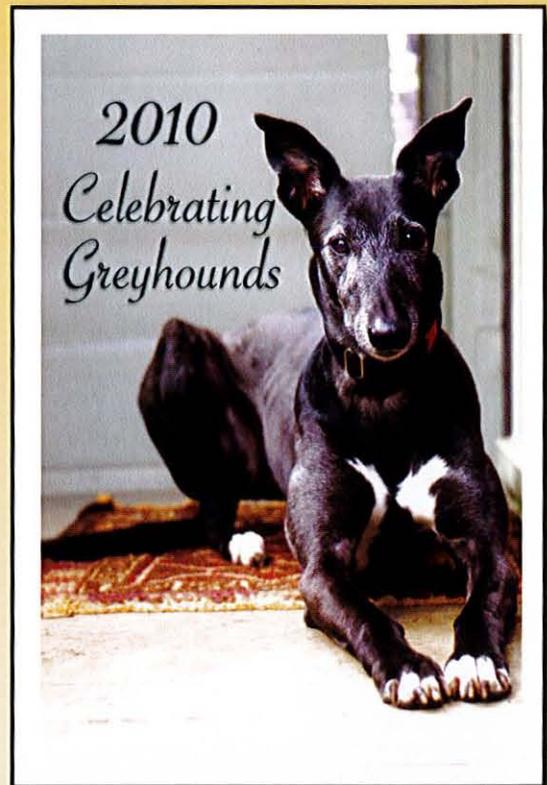
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