

cgmagazine



celebrating greyhounds

Spring 2008

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ALSO INSIDE:

**The Greyhounds of
Charlie Wilson's War
Treating Allergies**

Who's on First?

Greyhound Adoption, Advocacy, and Racing



Tobey, adopted by Jen and Lloyd Komatsu of Inver Grove Heights, Minn. *PhotoPhetish*

Front Cover Credit:

Osage (Noble Osage), the fawn, was adopted by Herb and Marilyn Golz. Lucy (Noble Rapids), the brindle, was adopted by Toni Willey. Osage and Lucy are littermates, and they were placed by Central Illinois Greyhound Adoption. *Photo by Barbara Karant*

Back Cover Credit:

Fender, adopted by Michelle Lancaster of New Albany, Ohio.

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Crystal Dawn, adopted by Gregg and Jean Davis. *Deanna Davis*

There's something in this issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* that you may find offensive.

What is it? I don't know. It will depend on what you know about the history of your pet Greyhound, the larger context surrounding retired racers as pets, and what you think about all of that.

Like it or not, when you adopted your retired racer, you did more than just acquire a beloved family member. Your decision placed you squarely in the middle of a rich, complex social issue. You know this, of course; it comes up every time someone approaches you and your Greyhound and asks the question: "Is your dog a rescue?" For many, the response to that question is simple and emphatic. For many others, the answer is neither.

The goal of this issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* is to illuminate this larger context. To that end, you'll find articles that explore the "lay of the land" with respect to adoption, the racing industry, the animal welfare/anti-racing movement, and the relationship between them.

What is *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's* place in that landscape? Again, it depends. I can give you my response to that question: I hope that readers view this publication as a place where people who are immersed in any or all of the above three contexts can find common ground. We celebrate Greyhounds as a breed. We cover the Greyhound adoption scene and offer articles of interest to adopters and adoption volunteers. We explore the quirky subculture of Greyhound pet ownership. I like to think we cast a wide net; the story of the Greyhound is compelling, and our understanding of these dogs can be greatly enhanced by paying attention to different perspectives. Everyone who is involved with Greyhounds has a role to play when it comes to Greyhound adoption. We may not always agree with one another, but we do share some goals. If we want to work together, we must make an effort to understand each other. I hope the articles in this issue will further that effort.

Having said that, it's probably easier for me to tell you what I don't see as the place of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. There are three primary "don'ts" that come to mind. First, we don't devote a lot of space to abuse situations. Occasionally, readers have called us to task for not providing coverage of one abuse situation or another. I wouldn't rule out articles on such topics. However, I expect articles in this magazine to move the reader to a better place. In my view, articles about abuse rarely do. This publication is about celebration; we want our readers to be filled with hope and appreciation, not despair and nausea. Second, we don't articulate a position for or against racing. That should be no surprise to our readers, since that information appears in a disclaimer in each and every issue of this publication (look at the last paragraph in small print to the right of this editorial). The issue of racing is extraordinarily divisive in the community of people who have adopted retired racers. I'd like to think this publication speaks to readers of all persuasions; again, it's called *Celebrating Greyhounds*, not *Celebrating Greyhounds While Excoriating Those Whose Beliefs Differ From Ours*. Finally, we don't take on the mission of other groups or publications. Want to check out racetrack results, read up on the dogs winning the big races, or learn more about ownership of racing Greyhounds? Read *The Greyhound Review*. Want to read about track closings, racetrack accidents and fatalities, and pending legislation or regulatory actions impacting racing Greyhounds? Read *Greyhound Network News*. Because those publications do what they do, *CG* does what it does. Sometimes I wonder if anybody has ever complained to Joan Eidinger of *Greyhound Network News* about their publication's failure to include poetry or crafts articles. Does Gary Guccione of *The Greyhound Review* receive photographs of Greyhounds wearing Santa hats? Presumably not — those publications have their missions, and we have ours.

In the spirit of that mission, we offer this collection of articles to fill in some of the blanks in the context surrounding our retired racing Greyhounds. Keep an open mind. We'll all learn something.

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The magazine's purpose is to provide information about Greyhounds as a breed. Recognizing that there are differing points of view on issues such as racing, breeding, and adoption policies, to mention a few, the magazine does not advocate a position on these issues. It will publish articles and reader letters regarding these issues if deemed appropriate. Unless otherwise stated, The Greyhound Project, Inc. does not necessarily agree with materials published herein. Ideas and opinions are those of the writers. No authentication or approval is implied by the editors or publishers, who assume no liability for information contained herein. *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* reserves the right to refuse publication, to edit or modify any material, and hold such material for an indeterminate period. If your Greyhound is ill, please see a veterinarian.

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Casper and Bonnie, adopted by Joanne and Mike Bast of Edgewater, Md.

Search for related Greyhounds continues

Do you have the racing names of Greyhounds that are in the pictures that accompany articles? In the Fall 2007 issue on the bottom of page 33 there is a picture of three hounds. The white and brindle hound is the spitting image of my Sally. Sally's racing name was Task Go Sally Go, her tattoo numbers are 124F/44950, and I adopted her from GPA/Indianapolis on August 19, 2004.

Diane Allen
Fond du Lac, Wis.

I just received the Fall issue and on page 27 there is a beautiful picture of Apache, adopted by Leif Rubinstein of Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y. My adopted Greyhound is Patch, who is the mirror image of Apache. Patch's racing name is One Per Cent. His sire is Million Per Cent, his dam is Quantum Set, and he raced in Rhode Island. I would love to know if these two are related.

Sue Schrock
Via E-Mail

Diane and Sue, if the owners of the hounds in the photographs contact us, we will put them in touch with you. —Ed.

Reader seeks advice

Beckett is my fifth retired racer and I love him dearly. For over four years, he has been with my husband and I and two Italian Greyhounds that he simply loves. He is the most unusual Greyhound I have ever known. The first day we brought him home, he hid under the dining room table for three days. He would slink out for his breakfast and dinner but no petting, no talking, and heaven forbid we try to do both at the same time. Becket has come a long way since those first few days. He is a complete love now toward us and certain people, but there is no rhyme or reason why he allows some people to pet him and not others. He barks his head off at absolutely nothing, but if someone comes to the door, he runs and hides. When I take him for another walk and he sees another dog, the barking starts. I have spoken at length to our veterinarian and our adoption coordinator. Neither of them get it, either. Becket did graduate from general obedience training. The second year he was with us, he went completely blind due to total retinal detachment.

Unbelievably, after many months of treatment, his retinas reattached and he does have some vision. My question is this: Will he ever come out of his shell? Is there something we can do to help him overcome his shyness, or is this just his nature? We love him and would not trade him for love or money, but it pains me so to know that the poor guy is afraid of his own shadow.

Marcia Lichtenberger
Centennial, Colo.

Hero hound update

Our Genie was featured in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* as a Hero Hound ("Genie's Story, Winter 2006 CG). She saved my husband's life by waking me and leading me to where he was lying on the floor, unconscious. We are very proud to let you know that Genie will be celebrating her 20th birthday on May 8. Of course, we will throw a party in honor of our exceptional senior! Genie still is in amazing health. Her vision and hearing are perfect, and she has lost only one tooth. Her coat is bunny soft



Genie, a former CG hero hound, will celebrate her 20th birthday on May 8. Happy birthday, Genie!
Laurie Meehan-Elmer/LMEimages

and shiny, and she still loves to run and play. No one could have ever known that the beautiful 11-year old who found her way into our family would prove to be such a superstar. She is truly a blessing and a gift from heaven.

**Neena Derf
Palmetto, Fla.**

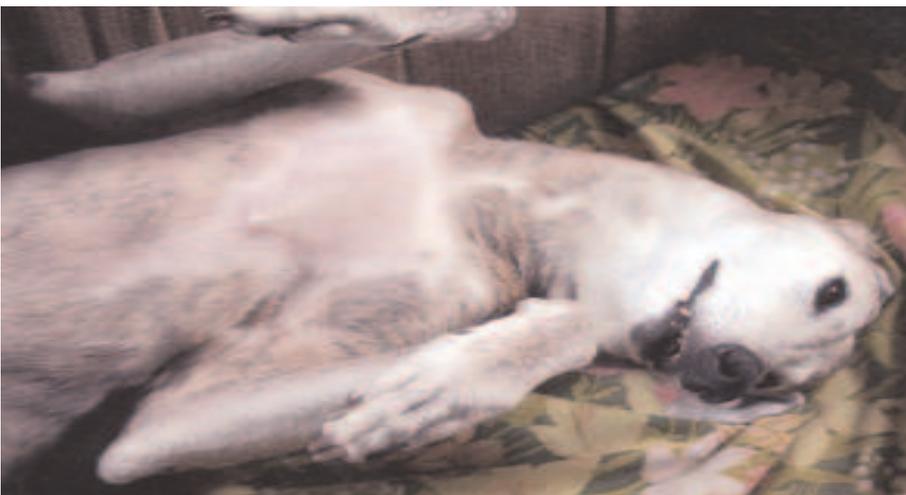
If you have advice for Marcia, send it to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org and it will be forwarded to her. Put "Beckett the Greyhound" in the subject line so that your message stands out from the 200+ SPAM messages for replica watches and enhancement devices that we receive on a daily basis. —Ed.

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 55112. 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. ■

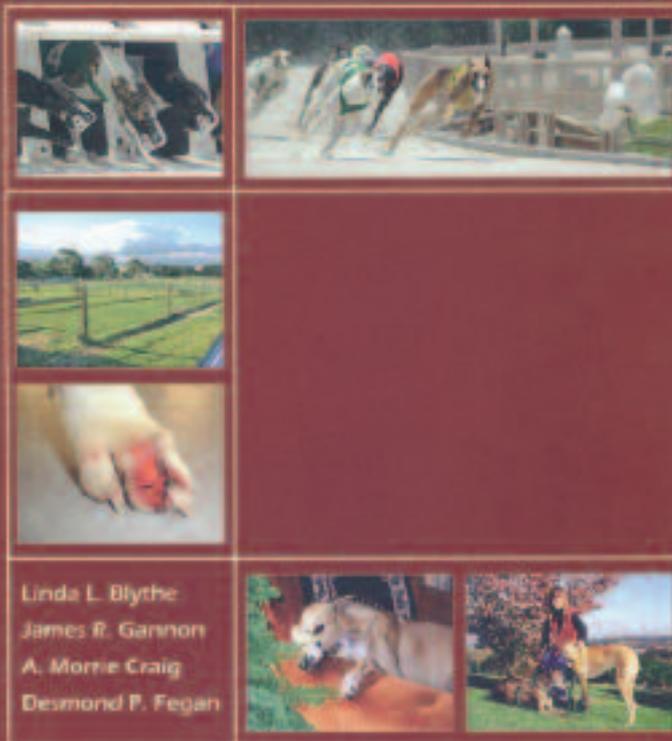


Star, adopted by Mark and Katherine Murtha of Clinton, Pa.



Gracie, adopted by Roseann McGregor of Framingham, Mass.

Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound



By Kathleen Gilley

Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound

By Linda L. Blythe, James R. Gannon, A. Morrie
Craig, and Desmond P. Fegan

American Greyhound Council (2007)

ISBN 097809641456

\$40 paperback, \$65 hardbound

Book Talk: Classic Guide to Greyhound Care Receives Update

We have not covered every medical problem.... Instead, we have presented an overview of the most common and unique medical problems seen in the Greyhound ... to create an awareness of problems that Greyhounds may develop, so that together, with their veterinarians, trainers and adopters can provide the animals with the best possible treatment."

As with *Care of the Racing Greyhound*, the 1994 book by Blythe, Gannon, and Craig that went out of print in 2005, this new edition is chock full of things I did not know (and needed to). Easy reading for a non-professional, it has a tone that clearly indicates that all the authors have a special place in their hearts for Greyhounds before, during, and after their racing careers.

Increasingly we hear that we, in conjunction with a health care professional, are responsible for our own health care decisions. So should we, in partnership with veterinarians, be responsible for the health care of our Greyhounds. This publication will help us meet this obligation. Educating yourself about your Greyhound's health is not about second-guessing your veterinarian; it is about being aware and recognizing that some signs should send you racing to him.

In between purely medical discussions, *Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound* contains information on the different life stages of a Greyhound bred for racing, from psychological changes to feeding and training. Authors Blythe and Craig are from the United States, while Gannon and Fegan are from Australia, so space is devoted to



Shania, adopted by Wendy and Mark Goddard of Goffstown, N.H.

each country's practices.

The first section, "Anatomy, Function and Dysfunctions of Major Systems in the Greyhound," covers the nervous, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, urinary, reproductive, hormonal, cardiovascular, respiratory, and integumentary (skin and hair) systems.

The chapter on the skeletal system will help you appreciate the complicated and delicate build of the Greyhound. It provides a unique opportunity to see inside your ex-racer.

The chapter on the muscular system contains the invaluable "Three-Minute Examination for Muscle Injury." If you have ever had your companion limp in from the yard, or if you are involved in any dog sports (e.g., obedience, agility), you will find this chapter useful. For some adopters, recognizing the existence of a pre-existing condition will

prompt the owner to appropriately exclude the Greyhound from strenuous activities such as free running in dog parks or yards and lure coursing.

The chapter covering the nervous system is as educational about how the normal Greyhound processes stimuli as it is about helping you recognize the signs and symptoms that should prompt you to seek your veterinarian's advice. One essential section describes the different causes of seizures and how often seizures are a symptom of something unrelated to epilepsy.

If this book consisted of nothing more than the section entitled "Stress and Stress-Related Problems," it would be worth having. Imagine a discussion that includes problems such as prolonged rapid panting; loose, fluid stools; excessive salivation; hair loss;

and frequent minor infections. The chapter also includes a list of "typical examples of stress blood tests results" from normal through severe. Understanding, reducing, and treating stress is often critical for a transitioning Greyhound.

The chapter on Common Medications is equally important. When it comes to antibiotics, we often unknowingly "shotgun" our Greyhounds with the most available medication because we do not ask for a sensitivity test. (Sensitivity test results should be back from the lab in 24 hours.)

The money and unnecessary treatment *Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound* could save you and your ex-racer may more than cover the cost of the book. Adoption groups using veterinarians who do not specialize in Greyhounds would do well to supply them with their own copy. Some common areas of misdiagnosis discussed in the book are: enlarged heart, heart murmur, creatinine levels in male Greyhounds, blood test results, and anesthesia.

Other topics include the difference in blood and biochemical values between the Greyhound and other breeds; the use of the jugular vein to draw blood and avoid hematomas; and the importance of fasting for at least eight hours prior to a blood draw or risk falsely high PCV, hemoglobin, red and white cell counts, and protein values. The book contains new and important information about subjects such as internal parasites and what drugs to use.

The section on tick-borne diseases could save many groups and many Greyhounds untold pain in the wallet as well as the heart. There are findings revealed that were not well known as few as three years ago.

The six-step observation procedure and the picture-by-picture soundness examination in the chapter on Routine Examination of the Musculoskeletal System will be of interest to anyone adopting a Greyhound for sports. Many photographs rang my recognition bell. Bandaging procedures are illustrated. In addition, excellent photographs show how to perform a dental examination and how to trim nails.

The book's Greyhound Coat Colors chart may be from Australia as it is different from that used by the National Greyhound Association in the United States.

Unfortunately, the color contrast of the plate is not optimal for recognizing some colors. (There is a site on the Internet that recognizes 60 Greyhound colors and combinations: <http://www.greyhound-data.com/help.htm#coatcolors>.) The book also contains a simple explanation of the differences between tattoos from Australia, Ireland, and the United States.

Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound debunks several widely held myths:

A dropped hip does not affect performance, nor does an amputated tail.

Bald thigh is often not from crate rub and is almost always reversible with age if stress-related, or with medication if the cause is disease or endocrinological.

Attention you folks with fat Greyhounds: "The age at which pets enter their senior or geriatric years is dependent on body weight."

Allowing a Greyhound to lick an infected wound can spread the bacteria systemically.

Mental stimulation such as leash walks and game playing have been shown to reduce signs of senility or cognitive dysfunction.

Acepromazine should not be used in a Greyhound who has experienced any kind of seizures.

One underlined, bolded, and repeated warning the authors want all to know is worth repeating here: "Never use concurrent corticosteroids and NSAIDs as they potentiate ulcers that can bleed and cause the Greyhound to go into shock and die."

If you like a little humor, the book provides that too. An Australian trainer has advice for those transporting Greyhounds. It should, he said, "be compulsory for every trainer to be locked in his trailer, with the same facilities, vent adjustments, and bedding that are used for his Greyhounds, and transported a distance of not less than 10 kilometers at the customary speeds and driving habits."

There is only one subject on which I would criticize this fine work. Considering that I see between 100 and 300 Greyhounds every weekend that we perform, one of the most pervasive problems I see in ex-racers as young as 7 years old and in a majority of those over 10 is lumbrosacral stenosis. The rear legs are weak and tremble, and the thigh muscles are noticeably atrophied. The owner who attributes this condition to hip problems is likely mistaken. A truly fearful dog shakes all over, not just in the hindquarters. And

these athletes are known for their lack of hip problems. I was disappointed not to see this condition explored more in the book. It is often treatable if caught early.

This is a book that should be read slowly, perhaps five pages per sitting. Start at the beginning, and read it before your Greyhound experiences problems. I plan to reread sections many times. It will be in the same vehicle transporting any Greyhound of mine to a veterinarian.

If you want to become more active in your Greyhound's health care, buy this book; it may be the only book your Greyhound cannot live without. It is available through the National Greyhound Association, 785-263-4660, www.ngagreyhounds.com. Five dollars of every sale are earmarked for Greyhound adoption. ■

K.L. Gilley and her husband, Gil, spend ten months of every year traveling all over North America in a mobile home with their six Greyhounds, who perform and promote Greyhound adoption as the Singing and Dancing Greyhound Comedy Show (formerly known as the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhound Drill Team).



Dove (AA's Blitzler) and Kit (Silver Skittles), adopted by Sandy and Jim Volschow of Woodville, Ohio.



Ah-choo! Could playing in the grass aggravate your Greyhound's allergies? Sabrina (Tyville Madison), adopted by Bill and Terri Royea of Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada.

House Calls: I've Got an Itch!

By Jim Bader, DVM

Spring is a wonderful time of year. The birds are returning, flowers are blooming, and your Greyhound is itching. Atopy, or allergies, is a very common condition affecting Greyhounds. Why does your Greyhound itch when he has atopy? What other conditions need to be ruled out before a diagnosis of atopy is made? How are allergies/atopy controlled and managed?

Atopy is an abnormal immune response to anything in the Greyhound's environment. It can be something the Greyhound eats, inhales, or touches. Any of these stimulants can elicit an allergic response, and the response is the same regardless of the stimulant to which the Greyhound is sensitive.

When the allergen enters the Greyhound, the allergen elicits production of the IgE antibody. The IgE antibody starts a cascade of events leading to deregranulation of mast cells. Mast cells contain granules containing histamine (humans take antihistamines for allergies). The skin may become reddened, thickened, and pruritic (itchy) from the stimulation of the histamine. Whether the allergen enters the body by being inhaled or eaten, the skin is the target organ for the pruritis (and remember, the ears are an extension of the skin).

The skin has just a few ways to respond to numerous conditions and diseases. The pruritic Greyhound may not have atopy, but some other condition that needs to be ruled in or out. This is done by a thorough history and physical exam. The Greyhound is examined from tip of nose to tip of tail, and a history is obtained. Has there been a food change? Is the pruritis seasonal? Are skin lesions present? Is there a potential contact with non-domestic animals? Have there been any other changes, such as a new dog bed or new laundry soap? All changes in the Greyhound's environment need to be considered for a diagnosis.

After a complete history, which may take longer than the physical exam, the veterinarian will examine the Greyhound. Does the skin show redness, pustules, and sores? If there is hair loss, is it generalized, localized, or symmetrical? Are there fleas or flea dirt (feces) on the dog? Many Greyhounds have two problems: a flea infestation and atopy. The flea infestation is treated, but the Greyhound does not improve clinically. The hair and skin are examined for saliva staining (a reddish brown discoloration of the hair and skin that indicates the Greyhound has been

licking repeatedly). The ears are checked for discharge, redness, and irritation.

Next, the diagnostic tests begin. First, other diseases need to be ruled out. A skin scraping is performed to rule out an infestation of mange, including demodex and scabies. A Woods Light is used to check for a fungal infection, such as ringworm. Only about 20 percent of ringworm infections illuminate under black light, but sometimes the fungal organisms can be examined on the skin scraping or cytology. The cytology is performed by using a cotton swab and brushing it over the Greyhound's skin to obtain cells and potential organisms. The swab is then brushed on a microscope slide and stained to illuminate a potential infection. Possibilities include a bacterial infection, a yeast infection, Malassezia, ringworm infection, and mange missed with the skin scraping. The ears are examined with a cotton swab. The same potential organisms may exist in the ear as well as on the skin. If tests are inconclusive, further tests may be indicated. These may include a skin biopsy to confirm the diagnosis of atopy, but biopsies do not indicate the cause of the atopy. Only allergy testing involving an intradermal skin

test or a blood test can confirm the identity of the particular allergen(s).

If the tests indicate a concurrent or primary disease, the Greyhound is treated appropriately. Demodex and scabies are treated with amitraz dips. Malassezia and ringworm are treated with a topical or oral medication such as ketoconazole. Bacterial infection is treated with antibiotics, which may be determined by a culture and sensitivity. If the Greyhound does not improve, then there may be two conditions present, with the concurrent disease masking the underlying atopy. If the concurrent disease is treated but the Greyhound does not improve, further diagnostics are indicated.

Intradermal skin tests involve shaving the Greyhound and injecting small doses of allergen into the skin. The injection sites are then examined for swelling that would indicate a positive allergic response. The intradermal test is the standard test supported by veterinary dermatologists. It does not test for food allergies.

The other allergy test is a blood test. The Greyhound's blood is tested at a specialty laboratory for IgE antibodies to inhalant and food allergens. Levels are reported as nega-



If a hypoallergenic diet is the answer to your Greyhound's food allergies, beware of unauthorized snacking. Commander, adopted by the Samitt family of Putnam Valley, N.Y.



Whisper, adopted by Danielle Ring and Jim McNerney of Falls Church, Va.

tive, borderline, or positive. Antibody levels may correlate with the Greyhound's allergies, but studies have indicated the intradermal skin test results and the blood test do not agree with all allergens. Both tests have advantages and disadvantages.

The intradermal skin test needs to be performed by a veterinarian trained to perform and interpret the test. Test results are available within 30 minutes of starting the test. The Greyhound should be off all oral and topical allergy medications for two to six weeks before the test. Any veterinarian can perform the blood test. It takes only a few minutes to draw, and test results are available in about one week. The blood test can establish food and inhalant allergies. The Greyhound can be on any medications, as the medications are not supposed to interfere with the test results.

The allergy test results allow the veterinarian to have an allergen vaccine compounded by a laboratory. The vials contain various concentrations of the allergen that will be administered to the Greyhound on a preset schedule. The idea is to sensitize the immune system to block the allergen before the IgE antibody has time to degranulate the mast cells. These vaccines are effective in most cases, but in some cases the dog will still need other management medications.

The goal of managing atopy is to alleviate the clinical sign of pruritis and any secondary

skin disease. This may be accomplished with antihistamines, such as diphenhydramine and chlorpheniramine; tricyclic anti-depressants, such as Doxepin and amitriptyline; or corticosteroids, such as prednisone or triamcinolone. Other supplements may be added too. Fish oils high in Omega-3 fatty acids have been shown to block some of the inflammatory cascade leading to pruritis, so these may be used in addition to any other medications. Another consideration is a food trial of a hypoallergenic diet. There are many hypoallergenic diets, but these require strict adherence to the prescribed diet for eight to twelve weeks. Any inadvertent indiscretion with any other food or treat will null the food trial.

Antihistamines block some of the effects of the histamines released from the mast cells during the allergic process. These are not as reliable in the Greyhound and may only work in about one quarter of the cases. Tricyclic anti-depressants have very strong antihistamine action, but also modify behavior. The behavior modification may be just as important as the antihistamine effects. If the Greyhound is itching dramatically, the behavior may mimic an obsessive-compulsive behavior, so even though the atopy may be blocked by the medications, without behavior modification, the itching may continue. All of these medications are safe for long-term use with little potential side effects for liver or kidney damage.

Corticosteroids are very good at eliminating the clinical signs of atopy. They block the inflammation cascade at several levels and give almost immediate relief. However, corticosteroids carry many more side effects and are not healthy for long-term management. Side effects include increased water consumption and urination, so the Greyhound may start having accidents in the house. Over the long term, corticosteroids can damage the liver irreversibly and shorten the Greyhound's life. Corticosteroids may be used over the short term to alleviate the clinical signs while a long-term treatment plan is instituted, but should be considered only after a discussion concerning the potential side effects of the medications.

Atopy is a complex disease that can be difficult to manage. A treatment that is effective for one Greyhound may be totally ineffective on the next Greyhound. The management of atopy is a cooperative effort between the Greyhound, the owner, and the veterinarian to discover the treatment modality that is most effective for the Greyhound's comfort, as well as that of the owner. Patience is necessary as it may take several attempts to ease the pruritis, but once the goal is achieved, maintaining the Greyhound's comfort is usually less burdensome. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.

In “Motorcity Merrie’s Last Race” (Spring 2005 CG), racing owner Ken Strawbridge described the day that his Greyhound ended her racing career and began her life of retirement. Recently, her adoptive owner contacted CG to let us know how Motorcity Merrie (aka Priscilla) was adjusting to her new life. —Ed.

Priscilla was shy when she first arrived, but she wanted my attention. At feeding time, she waited patiently for the bowl to be put in place. When she first saw my backyard, she slowly walked the entire yard around the fence, then took off running as if she was at the track. You could see that running made her happy; running with the other Greyhound felt like competition. Afterwards, she slept on the floor on her dog bed.

She has changed since then. When she gets up in the morning, she dances around the bedroom, bumping me in the behind to move me along faster. At breakfast, she bunts and snorts at me until I get to the kitchen, then hops up and down for her meal, front feet off the floor. After that, she races around our half-acre, chasing (real) rabbits and the occasional deer at the fence. When it’s time to rest, my bed is hers while I’m at work; when I’m home, the couch will do.

Looking out the window while lying on my bed is one of her favorite things, especially in the summer. I open the window and her little nose wiggles to smell all that’s going on outside. Not a day goes by when she doesn’t experience something new. She amazes me.

When it’s time for a ride or a walk, look out! She loves to hear the words “load up,” and she knows when the basement door opens (her harness and leash hang there) that we’re ready to go. Her stuffy is always in her mouth when she heads for the door; I have to try and grab it as she runs out the



Priscilla, aka Motorcity Merrie, now prefers the couch.

Second Look: Motorcity Merrie’s Life After Racing

By Mary Beth Rhodes

dog door. She loves to throw her toys up in the air and grab them. She loves to go for rides and is great on long trips. She has even traveled by boat to Mackinac Island for the Lilac Festival.

Her ears are happy ones when she hears the key in the front door and Mom is home from work. There is never a day that she doesn’t greet me with a kiss. What more could you want? I’m very lucky to have such a wonderful little girl in my life. ■

Mary Beth Rhodes and Priscilla live in Negaunee, Mich.



Jason Eberhard's participation in the NGA Pet Transfer Program was the beginning of a journey that reunited Pretty with her son Cody. Here, Pretty is on the left; Cody is at right.

She's Pretty, and She's Mine: The NGA Pet Transfer Program

Story and Photos by Jason Eberhard

On the morning of June 15, 2005, I sat at work anxiously awaiting a call from the Greyhound hauler that was about to arrive at Shoreline Star. I had met haulers many times before without much ado, but this one was much different — my newest adoptee was aboard. She was the mother of my first adopted Greyhound, Cody. The call finally came around 10 a.m. and the hauler told me he was about 30 minutes away. I replied that I would be there as soon as possible since it was about a 45-minute drive from my place of work. I ended up arriving at the track before they did.

After exchanging paperwork he opened up the crate door. This little Greyhound face popped out and right away I knew it was my girl, Pretty. Before seeing her this first time I actually didn't know what she looked like, but she was described to me as a beautiful female, white with brindle spots. She certainly fit her name. I was so nervous at this point I had trouble putting the martingale collar on her, but once everything was secured we took a little walk and headed home for the reunion with her son.

When they met, it was fairly typical of two Greyhounds meeting — a lot of sniffing and checking each other out. There was no dramatic moment and they seemed to not pay much attention to each other at first, but over time you could see that they definitely had a special bond with each other. I don't know if they knew they were related or even remembered each other, but the way they acted together was definitely different than how they acted with other Greyhounds.

When we walked on the street, people would often stop and ask me if they were related. I was always proud to say they were mother and son. Inevitably the next question was always, "How did you find her?"

The truth is I didn't actually find her; she found me.

It all started with sending a letter, some pictures, and a blue slip to Cody's former racing owner, Gary. When Gary registered Cody with the National Greyhound Association, the registry for racing Greyhounds in North America, he indicated that he was Cody's owner. By sending a blue slip to Gary, I was asking him to transfer ownership of Cody to me.

Cody had already been with me for about a year. I had procrastinated sending the blue slip because of stories I had heard about never getting a response or owners being rude. However, a friend who owns racers encouraged me to do it as she enjoys getting letters and pictures and wishes she would get more. Eventually, I sent off the letter and blue slip and received a very nice letter from Gary thanking me for the update and photos and providing some additional information on Cody and his littermates. We exchanged e-mails and began to correspond regularly with each other.

One day Gary asked if I had ever considered adopting a second Greyhound. He explained that Pretty was still on the farm, and he wanted her to find a couch. He thought my home and town looked nice, and that Pretty would like it here. He had once planned on keeping Pretty for his own pet, but he lived in a place that didn't allow pets, so she was still happily living life on the farm.

Surprise, shock, and excitement would not begin to describe what I felt. Of course I

said Yes. Cody's blue slip had put the wheels in motion to get her to me.

Questions I am often asked are, "What is a blue slip?" and "How do I contact the owner?" A blue slip is officially called a Greyhound Pet Registration. It is not a requirement to adopt a Greyhound. The form is not legally binding, and it does not make you any more or less an adoptive owner of your pet. But it is a nice thing to have, and

your name will be on record at the NGA as owner of the Greyhound. This can be helpful if your Greyhound is lost without any other form of identification, if the person who finds the dog knows to check for tattoos. A phone call to the NGA to check the tattoo numbers for ownership could reunite you quickly.

Some might argue that racing owners don't care and will never send you anything



Pretty, home at last.



Pretty and Cody, up to no good.

back. Though that may be true in a few cases, my experience is that the vast majority will at least send back the signed slip. Others will write a letter or e-mail back to you, send puppy pictures, or even send a check along to cover the cost of the certificate. One owner told me she uses refrigerator magnets to put up the many photos she receives of her adopted racers. On her last vacation she traveled around to visit some of her racers in their new homes as well. But I've also had owners tell me they wished they got more blue slip requests and others who are sad because they have never received any.

Obviously every letter sent isn't going to result in being able to adopt your Greyhound's parent, sibling, or offspring, but you never know what it may bring. At the very least you may brighten someone's day and make a friend in the process. To think I would have never had the opportunity to adopt Pretty had I not sent that letter makes me sad. I sent Gary new pictures of her and Cody each month, and he would always tell me how much he enjoyed getting the pictures and comment on how good they looked and how happy they were. He has also asked if I would adopt another one of his hounds when I'm ready.

Sadly, my Pretty passed away on January 27, 2007 due to complications from osteosarcoma. She was 12 years old and with us just shy of two years. It was far too short a time together. Hopefully, her story will inspire someone else and her legacy will live on. ■

Jason Eberhard lives with his Greyhound Cody in South Salem, N.Y. and is active with his local Greyhound adoption group.



The author framed the certificate that he received upon registering Cody in the NGA Pet Transfer Program.

How to Obtain Your Greyhound's Pet Registration

The first step is to contact the NGA either by phone at (785) 263-4660 or through the Forms page of their website (<http://www.ngagreyhounds.com/forms/>). Click on the Form link under the Pet Transfer heading. The Pet Transfer Form is available as a PDF file. The form requires you to provide the Greyhound's racing name, right and left ear tattoos, and your name. When you have completed this part of the form, send it to the racing owner of record (if you do not have this information, the NGA may be able to help you) with a note asking him or her to sign the form in the space provided and to return it to you. I always recommend to people that when sending off a blue slip to be signed, it's nice to include a letter and some photos of the Greyhound in your home as well as a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the slip.

When you receive the signed slip, mail it — along with the \$30 fee — to:
National Greyhound Association
P.O. Box 543
Abilene, KS 67410

For the fee you will receive a Certificate of Registration that is suitable for framing. You also have the opportunity to designate an adoption group to receive \$10 of the fee. The certificate reflects your pet Greyhound's racing name, pet name (if you have provided it), identifying information, and two-generation pedigree. Most importantly, it designates you as the adoptive owner of your Greyhound. — *Jason Eberhard*



Cheryl King of Heart of Texas Adoption is too busy to pay attention to the photographer; that's her in the HOT t-shirt, chatting up another prospective adopter at a meet-and-greet. *Cindy Hanson*

Greyhounds in the News

Cheryl King of Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption Named Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year

West Palm Beach, Fla. (November 19, 2007) — The American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) announced that it has selected Cheryl King of Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption Inc. (HOT) as its 2007 Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year. The award recognizes individuals who are dedicated to placing former racing Greyhounds into qualified homes as pets.

"We received numerous nominations for people who deserved to be recognized as the Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year," said Richard Winning, president of the AGTOA. "Selecting only one winner was extremely difficult from such a dedicated group of individuals. After a great deal of deliberation, Cheryl was selected for her personal sacrifice and 24-hour-a-day commitment to these wonderful pets."

Cheryl King has been involved with Greyhound adoption since 1992 and has placed more than 1,000 Greyhounds in homes as pets. She will be recognized on March 17, 2008 at the AGTOA annual meeting in Las Vegas. The AGTOA will donate \$500 to HOT and pay for travel expenses for King and a guest.

Nominations for the 2008 Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year will be accepted between April 1 and September 30, 2008. Anyone involved in Greyhound adoption can be nominated for the award. For more information about the award, visit www.agtoa.com or call Dennis Bicsak at (561) 615-3916.

New Resource for Greyhounds with Cancer

PR Newswire (Nov. 14, 2007) — When Jack Stephens, DCM, founder and president of Pets Best Insurance, was diagnosed with throat cancer, he received emotional support from his small dog, Spanky. Recognizing that cancer now claims the lives of one in every two dogs and cats who are 10 years or older, this cancer survivor set out to find a way to

assist companion animals diagnosed with this disease.

Effective immediately, all pets diagnosed with cancer in the United States are eligible for a free cancer consultation from Oncura Partners, a national pet cancer specialty firm with the costs underwritten by Pets Best Insurance. Pet families are not required to have a policy with Pets Best Insurance, but their consultation request must come from their veterinarian.



Cindy, adopted by Lynne Peters of Arlington, Mass.

Pets Best Insurance recognizes that the key to successful cancer treatment is an early diagnosis and effective treatment regime. Sadly, qualified cancer specialists are not always available locally. This may cause pet owners and their local veterinarians to not seek specialized treatment. Or the costs may be high and the travel time prohibitive for some pet owners.

With this new initiative, local veterinarians are encouraged to visit the Pets Best website and click on a special site created by Pets Best, or go directly to www.petcancerfoundation.org to obtain the free initial consultation from a board-certified veterinary oncologist who will identify what treatments are the most effective for each specific cancer. Although the Pet Cancer Foundation website is for pet owners, the consultation can only be provided to a licensed veterinarian. The site, however, does provide information on cancer in pets for consumers.

This effort by Dr. Jack Stephens and Pets Best Insurance is in addition to the pledge of \$1 million to the Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) canine cancer cure campaign made in July 2007.

Correction

“Lessons for Children” (Winter 2007 CG) was written by Jill Allen. We apologize for the error.

Moving? Need to Renew?

Don't miss a single issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*! Send your changes of address and subscription renewals well in advance of your move or expiration date to *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, Attn: Subscriptions, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701. You may also submit your address change via e-mail to subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org, and renew your subscription by visiting our website: www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine. ■

A Message From the President

By Michael McCann

As I sit here typing, I have four Greyhounds laying around me in various stages of relaxation. Cavan is curled in the corner, Allie cockroaching on the bed, Whisper is eyeing me, hoping for an early dinner, and Maggie, our ten-year-old foster, is wagging her tail in her sleep. This is just the latest version of our pack; the ashes of five more Greyhounds are buried under a tree in our yard.

My wife and I were already in our forties when we started adopting retired racing Greyhounds. They have become an enormous part of our lives. We know that many of you reading this have had much the same kind of experience; somehow, they quietly, little by little, take over your life.

We are a passionate crowd, we Greyhound people. We have strong feelings about our hounds, the way they should be fed, and dressed, and cared for, how they should be adopted and by whom. We are proud to think of our hounds as the products of a long history, and often refer to the royalty that once owned the ancestors of the four-legged potato laying on our couch. We know too, that once upon a time, us common folk were not allowed to own them. Isn't it wonderful that we can now?

Today, if you own a Greyhound, chances are he's a retired racer. The adoption effort that started in earnest in the early 1980s has made it possible for tens of thousands of people worldwide to have a connection with this ancient, sweet, noble breed. That effort was a direct result of the fallout from the news that Greyhounds were being used by the racing industry, then destroyed at the end of their careers.

The Greyhound racing community has come a long way in the last thirty years in its attitude towards the dogs. Today, thanks to the efforts of so many people in the racing and adoption communities, most retired racing Greyhounds now end up in adoption. But racing supporters and detractors, it seems, will never see eye to eye.

Whatever feelings we have about the history of our hounds, their history does include racing. That history, their lineage, and track records are well documented. Those same records are helping Dr. Couto at The Ohio State University, The Morris Animal Foundation, and others to research the cause of canine cancer, and may in the future provide the basis for a cure.



Will Shumaker

Since 1992 the mission of The Greyhound Project has been to “promote the welfare and adoption of Greyhounds by providing support and information to adoption organizations, adopters, and the public.” In order to promote our mission, we publish *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* and provide two free copies of each issue to every Greyhound adoption group. We also publish the Celebrating Greyhounds desk and wall calendars each year and offer them to all adoption groups at our cost, so that groups can use the profits to further their own adoption efforts. Our website (www.adopt-a-Greyhound.org) is used by people worldwide to learn about Greyhounds and find local adoption groups; it includes the most comprehensive list of Greyhound adoption groups found anywhere. Since 1998 we have sponsored an airport advertising campaign in which more than 350 large illuminated posters promoting Greyhound adoption have

been displayed in over 60 airports in the United States. Through matching grants, The Project supports Morris Animal Foundation cancer research studies and The Ohio State University Greyhound Health and Wellness Programs and has raised over \$250,000 in these efforts. In 1999, the Project accepted responsibility for the Greyhounds Reach the Beach event in Dewey Beach, Delaware, which has become the largest gathering of Greyhounds and their adopters in the world.

We at The Greyhound Project are acutely aware of the passionate feelings on all sides of the issues surrounding our hounds. Had we taken sides regarding any of the hot button issues, we would not have been able to accomplish what we have done thus far. We continue to publish *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* as a neutral voice that we hope will entertain and enlighten those on all sides.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine will soon enter its twelfth year of publication. It has always been our intention to publish a magazine that all Greyhound lovers could appreciate. Our writers and editors, just like the board members of the Project, come from varied backgrounds and hold diverse viewpoints on Greyhound issues. What we all have in common with our readers is love for our magnificent Greyhounds. We hope that you will continue to support our efforts to entertain and enlighten. After all, it's all about the hounds. ■

Michael McCann is president of The Greyhound Project.



Bella, adopted by Tina and Ken Supple of Pittsfield, Mass.

Eight years ago I wrote an article for *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* describing the structure of the Greyhound racing business (“Who’s On First?” Winter 1999 *CG*). As a systems analyst, I knew that I needed to understand how Greyhound racing is put together and how the pieces interact before I could come to any conclusions. If my goal was to make a difference for the dogs, I needed to know how the system worked. It took me a long time to figure out the Greyhound racing business: who is responsible for what, and who to approach for information or action.

Let’s start at the beginning.

Greyhound racing is part of the gaming industry. Gaming is an \$80 billion segment of the economy that includes everything from casino and riverboat gambling to charity bingo run by churches. In 2004, gaming broke down into these segments:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Casino and card rooms | 39% |
| Tribal gaming | 25% |
| Lotteries | 28% |
| Racing and sports wagering | 6% |
| Charity gaming | 2% |

In the same year, gaming as a total segment grew approximately 7 percent, but horse and dog racing, under growing pressure from other forms of gaming, actually decreased.

Under the gaming umbrella, Greyhound racing is a pari-mutuel. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines a pari-mutuel as “a betting pool in which those who bet on competitors finishing in the first three places



Dexter, adopted by Linda and Duane Dupie of Fredericksburg, Va. *Linda Dupie*

Who’s On First Now?

The Greyhound Racing Industry Explained

By Joan Belle Isle

share the total amount bet minus a percentage for the management.” *Encyclopedia Britannica* describes a pari-mutuel as a “method of wagering introduced in France about 1870 by Parisian businessman Pierre Oller. It became one of the world’s most popular methods of betting on horse races.”

Amateur vs. professional

Although this article focuses on the Greyhound racing business in the United States, amateur and professional Greyhound racing can be found around the world. The primary distinction between amateur and professional is that professional racing is usually subject to some level of government regulation and typically involves betting. Amateur racing, on the other hand, is unregulated in any meaningful way and betting, if it occurs at all, follows its own rules. Regulated Greyhound racing can be found in Mexico, Spain, England, Ireland, Australia, Vietnam, and Macao, as well as in the United States. In addition, plans are currently underway to introduce Greyhound racing on two or more islands in the Caribbean.

Unregulated racing runs the gamut from widely publicized amateur coursing events to sub-rosa match races and unsanctioned track racing. It is likely that amateur competitive events take place in most countries. Unregulated track racing takes place at “flapper” tracks in the U.K. and is rumored to occur in some parts of Canada, Brazil, and South Africa as well as other countries. Match races tend to be the least public form of unsanctioned racing.

In the Beginning

Greyhound racing in the United States has its roots in open field coursing at the beginning of the 20th century. Open field coursing events featuring Greyhounds as well as other sighthounds are documented throughout the West and Midwest as early as the late 1800s. The National Greyhound Association, which grew out of the National Coursing Club, was established as a registry for coursing dogs in 1906.

In 1907 Owen Patrick Smith, who is generally recognized as the person most influential in launching Greyhound racing as it exists today, organized the Intermountain



Will Shumaker

Coursing Association and built a small circular track near Salt Lake City, Utah, where his artificial lure was introduced. The lure was a stuffed rabbit skin pulled around the track behind a motorcycle. In 1910, Smith patented an overhead arm that carried the artificial rabbit, trolley-like, along the track. But it was not until 1919 at Emeryville, California when Smith introduced a new device, a motorized four-wheel cart that carried the lure on a rail around what is generally recognized as the first Greyhound racetrack in America.

When Smith’s operation moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, bookmakers were allowed to take bets. From Tulsa, Smith moved on to East St. Louis, Illinois where night racing was introduced. Smith built the first Florida track in 1922 and introduced night racing there in 1925. He then moved around the country and helped set up tracks in Kentucky, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and Montana.

Greyhound racing grew fastest in Florida. The Hialeah operation closed down in 1926, but other dog racetracks were established at St. Petersburg in 1925, Miami in 1926, and Sanford-Orlando and Miami Beach in 1927. The West Flagler Kennel Club became Miami’s second track in 1930 and a track opened at Tampa in 1932.

By 1930, many dog tracks were highly suspect because of illegal bookmaking and organized crime. In 1932, states began to control the gambling by legalizing pari-mutuel betting — first in Florida and then in Massachusetts

two years later. Two major tracks opened in Massachusetts the following year. During the next several years, seven more states legalized betting on Greyhound racing.

Greyhound racing reached its peak in 1992, when attendance approached 3.5 million and nearly \$3.5 billion was bet on 16,827 races at more than 50 tracks. Since then, revenue has dropped by more than 50 percent and more than 15 tracks have closed. Other forms of legalized gambling have had a major impact on the business.

There are now 35 Greyhound tracks in 13 states and Mexico: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Tijuana, Mexico. Greyhound racing is also legal in at least two states that do not currently have operating Greyhound tracks. Idaho, Maine, North Carolina, Nevada, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington all passed legislation banning dog racing during the 1990s and were later joined by Pennsylvania. Tracks in Iowa, Rhode Island, Arkansas, and West Virginia now rely heavily on revenues from slot machines, and card rooms are major contributors to the revenues at a number of Florida tracks. In other states, Greyhound track owners and dogmen (people who work “hands on” with the dogs) have joined forces to lobby for legalized slot machines, video lottery terminals, and other types of gambling at tracks but so far have had no success.

Greyhound Racetracks

Much of the breeding, training, and moving of Greyhounds around the U.S. is intended to supply dogs for racing at one of the remaining 35 Greyhound racetracks.

Although large national or multinational corporations such as Delaware North based in the U.S. and the Wembley Group based in the U.K. own several tracks, local corporations and business people own most of the tracks in the United States.

Regardless of ownership, Greyhound racetracks are local businesses controlled by state, county, and local laws and regulations. Unlike most other types of businesses, racetracks depend on individual states specifically authorizing their operation and, in most states, the authorization must be renewed on a regular basis. A state or county authorizes a fixed number of racing days for a track. The track must hold races for exactly the number of racing days specified in order to retain its license and continue business. The scheduling of the racing days is usually at the discretion of the track. For example, a track that is granted 120 racing days can hold races for 120 days over the course of a year, or can hold racing twice or three times a day or any combination that totals 120 racing sessions.

The track provides the location where the dogs race and the staff to operate and maintain the facility, including handling betting and payout. It contracts with racing kennels to provide a specified number of qualified Greyhounds for each race during

the racing season. It may also lease the kennel space in the racing compound to the racing kennels holding bookings there.

The tracks do not own or operate Greyhound racing kennels. Their control over the kennels is limited to whatever may be specified in the terms of the kennel booking agreement and kennel lease. The terms will vary from track to track and state to state.

Historically, the tracks have taken a hands-off position relative to the racing kennel operations and have only been interested that the number of dogs for which they have contracted is available for the races. There have been long-standing disputes between some tracks and the dogmen over racing conditions, purse distribution, and a variety of other issues. The track's leverage in controlling a racing kennel is the cancellation of bookings, which effectively puts the racing kennel out of business.

Of the 34 tracks in the United States, 12 (35 percent) are located in the state of Florida. Almost 66 percent of all the tracks in the U.S. are located along the East Coast, 14 percent are in the Midwest, and 20 percent are in the West.

Approximately one quarter — 23 percent — of the tracks in the country officially operate for only a part of the year. Unofficially, reduced racing schedules and periods when no races at all are scheduled have the same effect on dogs becoming surplus as seasonal closing.

Originally, seasonal tracks operated on a circuit with at least one other track. When one track closed, the other opened. A track in New England might run during the summer, while a companion track in Florida would operate in the winter months. In some places, schedule sharing still occurs. But more recently, seasonal tracks tend to be the end of the line. Typically when a seasonal track closes, 250 or more dogs are surplus, which means they are not good enough to move to another track and of no interest to their owners for breeding. In the Fall, Belmont (The Lodge), Wonderland, Seabrook, and Hinsdale close in New England at the same time that Ebro, JCKC, and several other tracks close in Florida.

Regulations and Revenues

The regulations that govern the conduct of racing and provide for the welfare of racing Greyhounds vary widely from state to state. Those regulations are generally administered by state or county racing commissions, which are typically run by political appointees who may or may not know anything about racing. The quality and effectiveness of the commission staff depend on the policies set by the commission and language of the statutes and regulations under which they operate.

The actual language of the statutes and regulations notwithstanding, the enforcement of animal welfare codes is inconsistent and variable at best. In some states, racing



Treat, adopted by Matthew and Carrie Noar of Roanoke, Ill.

commission personnel aggressively enforce racing regulations; in others they are conspicuously silent. Some states, such as Wisconsin, require tracks to fund and operate an on-site Greyhound adoption program as a condition for granting racing dates. Other states have only minimal regulations that may not be enforced at all. Regardless of the regulations that apply to active racing dogs at a track, those protections do not generally extend to dogs off the racing roster or outside of the track. In some states Greyhounds are classified as agricultural animals exempt from the animal welfare laws commonly applied to other dog breeds. It is unclear without additional research exactly how the agricultural classification affects the welfare of the dogs.

The track revenues from betting are apportioned according to state pari-mutuel laws. Other track income from concessions and non-wagering sources is not included. The laws typically designate the percentage of the total amount bet (known as the handle) that goes to bettors, the purses for the first four placing dogs, the track, and the state. Some states allow Greyhound racetracks to simulcast Greyhound and horse racing from other tracks. Simulcasting lets bettors wager on races in other locations as well as the ones taking place locally. Depending

on the state, simulcasting income is typically handled under a different set of rules from those that apply to local wagering.

In addition to simulcasting, some states have authorized other kinds of gambling at Greyhound racetracks. Several tracks in Florida operate card rooms where card games are played. The track in Rhode Island allows slot machines, and the tracks at Council Bluffs, Iowa, Wheeling, West Virginia, and West Memphis, Arkansas operate full-fledged casinos. Until recently, to keep tracks from becoming nothing more than betting parlors, the states usually required that live racing take place at the facility where other kinds of gambling is allowed. Depending on the location, some portion of the revenue derived from these other gambling activities is added to the handle for the dogs thus making the "racino" tracks among the highest paying in the country at this time.

This description is a bit oversimplified and the structure will vary from state to state. The salient point is that the revenue is the money bet and can vary from day to day and week to week. Over the past decade, as states around the country approved various alternative gaming activities such as casinos, the Greyhound racetracks unable to add other gambling attractions have faced increasingly stiff competition. Since 1991, 23 Greyhound

tracks have closed and several more have reduced racing to a seasonal schedule.

The AGTOA

The American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) is a trade group composed of many, but not all, of the tracks in the U.S. AGTOA, founded by Florida track owners in 1947, became a national organization in 1960. The primary purpose of the organization is improving the business of dog racing from the perspective of the tracks and track owners. Membership in the AGTOA is open to all lawfully licensed Greyhound racetracks whether they are individuals, partnerships, or corporations. Recent changes in the membership fee structure have been implemented to attract and retain member tracks. Originally the fee for membership was based on a percentage of revenue so the more profitable tracks paid more for membership than the less successful ones. Membership is now a flat fee regardless of the track's revenues.

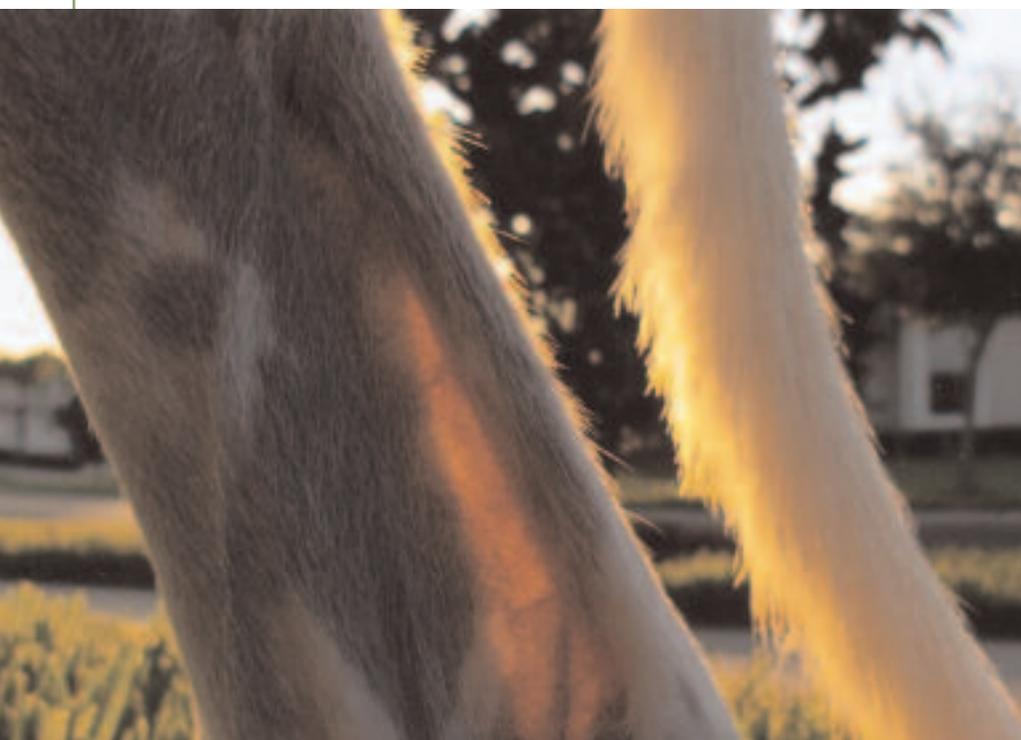
The Dogs

The average Greyhound racetrack needs 800 to 1000 active race dogs to fill the typical racing schedule. The typical session or card consists of between 12 and 18 races involving eight dogs each. Tracks schedule one or more sessions each day during the racing season. Some year-round tracks cut back on the number of sessions at some times during the year because weather or other predictable factors are known to reduce attendance and betting. Some seasonal tracks rely on simulcasting as the primary source of income; to retain the right to simulcast while minimizing the operating expenses associated with live racing, they compress the number of sessions they are required to run into as short a period of time as possible.

Normally a healthy Greyhound races every third or fourth day, but there are cases where the rotation is shorter.

Owners

Owners of racing Greyhounds are the source of the dogs needed by the tracks. The Greyhound owner is the titular or registered owner of the dog. Because of favorable state and federal tax laws, ownership of racing



Will Shumaker

Greyhounds, like thoroughbred racehorses, can be syndicated to investors who are not involved directly with the dog in any way. It is the owner, or his/her designee, who arranges for breeding, training, and leasing of the dogs to a racing kennel. A lease can cover the entire racing life of the dog or be limited to a specific track or period of time. The terms of the lease or the owner's other instructions determine how the dog is to be handled at the end of its racing career.

Breeders

An owner can also be the breeder of the dogs. Breeders, also referred to as farmers, can breed their own Greyhounds and/or provide the facilities for the mating of other people's dogs. In recent years, use of frozen semen and artificial insemination under the supervision of a veterinarian has become increasingly popular. DNA testing of the puppies before registration to verify the breeding is now required.

After breeding, the farmer can also provide housing and care for the breeding stock, care of the bitch through whelping, and early care of the puppies. Greyhound farms can be found in nearly every state, but the largest concentrations are found in Florida, Texas, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arizona, and Colorado, where large parcels of open land and an agrarian environment exist. In many cases, especially among the larger and most successful breeders, Greyhounds are a family business passed from generation to generation.

Trainers

After the puppies have developed and grown at the breeding farm, they begin more formal training. If the breeding farm is not equipped with a training track, the dogs can be moved to a farm that has such a facility and specializes in the early training and development of racing Greyhounds being prepared for the track. When the dogs are between 18 months and two years of age, they are moved to a track racing kennel where their training continues with trainers who work for the racing kennels. Racing kennels at higher-level tracks usually have one or more assistant trainers as well. The trainer is the person who works most closely with the dogs on a day-to-day basis.

Racing Kennels

The racing kennel is the kennel with which the track contracts to provide dogs for racing and which contracts with the dog owners for a supply of dogs to fill their track commitment. It is essentially the middleman in Greyhound racing. A racing kennel can be operated by an owner/breeder/trainer using his or her own dogs, dogs leased from other owners, or a combination. Depending on where the dog finishes in a race, racing kennels receive a percentage of the money bet on races in which their dogs participate.

Generally, it is only the first four placing dogs that earn purse money. The exceptions are stakes race finals and very rare tracks that pay a "lead out" fee for each dog who finishes a race. Tracks that pay "lead out" fees typically are low-end tracks that need to offer an inducement to attract racing kennels and dogs.

Typically, the owner of the dog receives a percentage of the purse earned and the racing kennel retains the balance out of which the expenses for maintaining the dogs are paid. At lower grade tracks owners may only be paid on purses from Grade A and B races. Because the purses are a percentage of the money bet on the race, the actual amount earned by even the most successful dog is unpredictable.

The racing kennel operator decides when a dog is no longer suitable to race at the track at which he or she has a booking. In many, but certainly not all cases, the dog's owner also gives the kennel operator the authority to decide what happens to the dog at that point. If a dog cannot compete successfully at one track, it is not unusual for it to be moved to a lower grade track where it can continue to race. In some cases, the dog is moved to a booking at a different track controlled by the original racing kennel operator. In others, the dog is leased to a different kennel. If a dog is moved several times during its racing career, an owner may lose track of where the dog is or who has control over it.

One of the most confusing aspects of the racing world is that the same people or company can perform all of the roles described above, or they can be filled by three or more separate, unrelated entities.

The NGA

The National Greyhound Association (NGA) is primarily a registry for racing Greyhounds similar to the American Kennel Club (AKC) for purebred dogs. Membership is voluntary but is required to register dogs. The NGA is the only registry for Greyhounds recognized for racing in the United States. Use of the registry is limited



Miss Jane, adopted by Joe Fellows and Bonnie Hayden of Marstons Mills, Mass.

to members and associate members. Both types of membership require application and character references. Both members and associate members pay litter and individual registration fees to register the dogs. The fee schedules are different for the two classes of members, but the status of the owner has no effect on the registration of the dogs.

Membership is open to anyone interested enough to want to join. According to the fee schedule published in *The Greyhound Review*, the official publication of the NGA, application for membership costs \$100 and annual dues are \$70. Breeding, owning and/or training Greyhounds is not a prerequisite for membership. Alternatively, membership in the NGA is not required to work directly or indirectly with Greyhounds at breeding farms or at Greyhound racetracks, including owning or operating a racing kennel.

In order to race on tracks in the U.S., a Greyhound must be registered with the NGA. The NGA will cross-register Greyhounds from Bord Na gCon (Ireland), the National Coursing Club of England, and the Australian and New Zealand Greyhound Associations.

The NGA's members govern the organization through its nine-member board of directors. Each director represents and is elected from a geographic district consisting of a number of states. The directors meet quarterly and the minutes of the proceedings are published in *The Greyhound Review*. A small full-time staff in Abilene, Kansas manages the NGA's day-to-day operations.

Although compliance with some of the policies adopted by the NGA — policies on issues related to ownership, breeding, training, and caring for racing Greyhounds — is voluntary, requirements for responsible care and owner responsibility for the welfare of their dogs are a part of the organization's by-laws. The real leverage that the organization has is the denial or revocation of membership and the associated litter registration privilege based on the bylaws and other rules of conduct adopted by the membership of the organization. The NGA takes disciplinary action an average of six to eight times a year. Members have been expelled from the organization permanently.

Over the past several years, membership in the NGA has declined as the economic pressure on Greyhound racing has increased and some of the older members of the profession have retired. At a high around 7,000 members in the 1980s, the current membership is now approximately 3,000.

Less frequently mentioned Greyhound owner and breeder associations exist in a number of states where Greyhounds are bred or raced. Texas, Florida, Iowa, Oregon, and other states have such associations. Among the purposes of these groups are advocating favorable legislation and business regulations for the owners and breeders.

The AGC

The American Greyhound Council (AGC) is a non-profit organization formed in 1987 for the purpose of "providing for the welfare of racing Greyhounds and for the betterment of the Greyhound racing industry." Five members of the AGC come from the NGA and five come from the AGTOA. A small deduction for purses for each race and matching funds from participating tracks fund the AGC.

The AGC funds the Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) 800 adoption referral telephone number, a Greyhound farm inspections program, veterinary symposiums, and a direct grant program to adoption groups,

among other activities. Important research conducted at Kansas State University into the causes of Alabama Rot; nutritional and athletic performance research conducted at Florida State University at Gainesville; research and development of new vaccines to treat canine influenza at Kansas State University, Florida State University, and the University of Virginia; and the publication of *Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound* are among the work supported by the AGC.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines an industry as "a distinct group of productive or profit-making enterprises." In many respects everything discussed in this article is an oversimplification of a very complicated, fragmented "industry." Greyhound racing — the conditions, the operations, the welfare of the dogs during and after racing — can be vastly different from one state to another and even from one track to another in the same state. The frustration we all feel from time to time in effecting change and improving the welfare of the dogs is complicated by the structure of the environment. Hopefully this helps clarify the major elements and gives people a starting place to accurately and effectively focus their efforts. ■

Joan Belle Isle is past president of The Greyhound Project.



Will Shumaker



Pippa, adopted by Wendi and Don Cowie of Johnstown, Pa.

Greyhound Advocacy and Adoption — A History

By Susan Netboy

Looking Back

Today, as we lovingly indulge our pet Greyhound's every need, care for foster dogs, and schedule time for meet-and-greets and all the other tasks involved in Greyhound adoption, it's difficult to imagine that less than two decades ago 50,000 of these magnificent, docile creatures were summarily killed every year. Those were the days when the climate was such that George D. Johnson, Jr., then-executive director of the American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA), could unabashedly say to *People Magazine* (Sept. 23, 1991): "The animals must be disposed of. It's an economic thing." At the time, there was not a breed of dog in America who was more in need of advocacy than the racing Greyhound.

Astoundingly, for the first 70 years of dog racing that was the prevailing attitude held not only by those in the Greyhound racing industry, but also by the majority of humane societies who considered the Greyhound to be a dangerous, unadoptable animal. Consequently, dog pound incinerators in the vicinity of dog tracks were choked with the bodies of unwanted Greyhounds; research facilities were provided a steady supply of victims donated or sold by members of the dog racing industry; and the services of kill-truck drivers were in constant demand. At some tracks, the bodies of losing dogs were stacked up in plain view outside the kennel compound. Few outside the racing industry knew, and no one cared.

During the 1980s, the betting public had become enthralled with the speed of the long dog. Politicians and state governments also had a stake in the sleek racing dogs — cash and lots of it. Wallowing in campaign contributions from wealthy track owners, legislators instituted an open-door policy to any racing lobbyist who came calling. State governments reveled in the newfound source of revenue for state coffers — never giving a moment's thought to the Greyhounds who just kept dying.

Society was primed for the meteoric rise of dog racing in America. At its height in 1990, 61,000 Greyhounds were brought into the world to keep a steady stream readily available for North America's 60 dog tracks. Everyone involved was making money and the overbreeding of racing Greyhounds was the lynchpin to success. Sadly, the silence of the animal welfare community had provided the industry with an unfettered path to

unprecedented overbreeding and nationwide expansion. But the heightened interest in Greyhound racing invited a new kind of breeder into the industry's midst — the small-scale Greyhound breeder. The kind who developed a personal relationship with their pups. The kind whose income did not depend solely on the success or failure of their most recent litter. The kind who, eventually, could not stomach euthanizing another healthy three-year old dog that they had raised from puppyhood. The kind whose advocacy for the racing Greyhound would contribute to a movement that would ultimately bring a multi-billion dollar industry to its knees.

The Advent of Greyhound Advocacy and Adoption

During the latter half of the 1980s, a few fledgling advocacy/adoption groups emerged in various parts of the country. Their strug-

gles included creating interest in the Greyhound as a pet and refuting misconceptions about Greyhound temperament. Money was not the least of their challenges. These were folks who by and large had no connection to the racing industry and wanted no part of it, except for the dogs. Having seen the worst, they spoke about the plight of the racing Greyhound. It was a time before there was pressure from the industry to expunge the words *rescue*, *save*, and *advocacy* from their vocabulary. A time when everyone involved in Greyhound adoption considered themselves advocates for the dogs — including the handful of Greyhound breeders who were pushing for reform.

The pro-adoption breeders ultimately opted to form a new Greyhound adoption organization, but their numbers were few so relationships were fostered with rescue organizations outside the industry. The big hurdle would be to obtain permission and



Bosha, adopted by Barb and Jim Heisey of Lebanon, Pa.

financial support from the Greyhound racing industry. The industry was quick to recognize the dangers posed by adoption and the intrusion of outsiders, but slow to grasp the fact that its very survival would depend on its response to this new concept. If this fledgling effort for industry-supported adoption was to be considered, concessions would have to be made. In return for an annual grant of \$1,000 per chapter, each adoption group would have to agree to operate in support of the industry and issue no negative quotes about greyhound racing to the news media. This stipulation became known as “neutrality” or what one might call “the thin grey line” between those whose focus would be strictly limited to finding homes for Greyhounds, and those who believed that little change would occur without the freedom to speak about the stark realities facing tens of thousands of racing Greyhounds. Ultimately, everyone found a niche where their efforts could make a difference.

In the early 1990s most members of the racing industry were complacent with the status quo. They took care of business in the same way they had for generations: Separate the chaff from the wheat and get rid of it in the most expeditious manner. After all, you couldn't succeed in Greyhound racing with a farm or kennel full of losers; besides, there had been no negative consequences to that business model for decades. But times were changing . . . Greyhounds were seen walking on leash down city streets, wagging their tails, offering kisses when greeting strangers, and romping with children in backyards. Some were even graying from the novelty of old age. The public began to take notice that racing Greyhounds were not just a commodity; they were loving, affectionate pets.

But it wasn't just the general public who began to notice.

The Mainstream Media Gets Involved

For 70 years the dog racing industry had enjoyed a free ride completely beyond the scrutiny of the mainstream press. Sports writers had extolled the attributes of the day's big winner and written glowing promotional pieces about their local dog tracks. The subculture beneath the glitz and glamour of the

clubhouse had never been explored. Now, the press was brimming with curiosity. Fueled with press releases, statistics and information provided by Greyhound advocates, inquisitive reporters were beginning to ask questions for which the industry had no viable response. The most stinging inquiry of all: “What is the fate of the tens of thousands of Greyhounds that aren't adopted?”

Over the next five years, hundreds of adoption articles appeared in newspapers across the country, and each included a reference to the number of Greyhounds that were destroyed annually. Major pieces focusing on the plight of the racing Greyhound appeared in *Life Magazine*, *The Miami Herald*, *Inside Edition*, *CBS News*, *People*, *National Geographic*, *Penthouse*, *CNBC*, *The Boston Globe*, *CNN*, and the *Associated Press*. Greyhound abuse cases were headline news. The public's long slumber was finally over; unfortunately, the nightmare for the majority of racing Greyhounds would continue for many years to come.

Attitudes began to change within the racing industry as more people came to recognize that the old way was no longer acceptable. In some areas of the country, trainers began to hold onto dogs until they could be taken in by an adoption group. And although the industry's miniscule financial support for adoption was limited to industry-friendly groups, it did indicate that the racing industry was beginning to come on board.

The tipping point in terms of major industry change occurred in 1992. The public outrage that surfaced after the discovery in Chandler Heights, Arizona of 143 Greyhounds shot to death shook the industry to its core. This, along with a number of other high-profile Greyhound abuse cases — Key West, Yuma, Coeur d'Alene, Cherry Lake, Tucson, Summerfield, Dowling Park, Ballinger, and Pensacola — seared the plight of the racing Greyhound into the public consciousness. It also forced William Georgantos, then-president of the American Greyhound Council, to issue the following declaration to his people: “We must face up to reality. We have a terrible image. And we can't expect that image to be whitewashed by rhetoric or tokenism” (*The Greyhound*

Review, June 1992). Roger Caras, president of the ASPCA, was the first to test the sincerity of that statement. The ASPCA came away with an AGC grant of \$100,000 that was earmarked for adoption groups irrespective of their position on greyhound racing.

The Greyhound Adoption Movement Flourishes

Adoption organizations of all stripes — those with industry ties and those beyond the industry's reach — flourished and multiplied throughout the country. Everyone pulled together for the sake of the dogs, especially during track closings and other crises. Although we all feared that retribution might be taken out on the dogs, the threat that adoption groups who dared to speak out would not have access to Greyhounds proved utterly ineffective. The reality was — and is — that trainers need to move losing dogs in order to make room for potential winners. An increasing number of trainers welcomed the opportunity to be a part of something genuinely positive for the dogs. And a few true industry heroes emerged; people who would hold dogs for adoption regardless of cost, inconvenience, and pressure to opt for other alternatives.

Everyone shared a common goal: To save as many greyhounds as possible. We all became a part of a movement that over the next 15 years would unfold as the most successful single-breed rescue effort in history. With adoption numbers rising, and a decline in industry profits forcing a decrease in breeding, fewer Greyhounds were being destroyed. The racing industry boosted financial support for track adoption programs and emphasized its concern for the welfare of the dogs. In spite of these efforts, redemption remained elusive; evidence of Greyhounds in research facilities, and other cruel means of disposal, continued to surface.

By the mid-nineties, it was evident that Greyhound racing had more to worry about than its tarnished image. The entire gambling industry was changing. Indian gaming, riverboat, and off-shore gambling were booming. Dog racing profits were down from one end of the country to the other, and the downward spiral was apparent at all levels of the industry. Dog tracks and breeding farms

NATIONAL GREYHOUND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

were cutting their losses and shutting down. The expansion of simulcast venues failed to adequately reverse the downward trend. Now the press was focused on the financial decline of the dog racing industry. Double-edged as it may have been, Greyhound adoption provided the only positive publicity the industry had experienced in years.

The Great Divide

The racing industry experienced a certain amount of relief as the century came to a close. The press had tempered its focus and adoption stories had become passé. But the self-described animal-rights community, who had no connection to Greyhound adoption and had previously stayed out of the fray, still smelled blood in the water. A frontal assault was launched in the year 2000 with a ballot initiative to ban Greyhound racing in Massachusetts. Racetrack owners from all over the country poured millions of dollars into the campaign. Although the initiative failed by a razor-thin margin, it forced everyone in the adoption community to further refine their positions. Some stood shoulder to shoulder with the industry in vocal opposition to the ban; others lent both vocal and financial support in favor of the initiative. Eventually, the middle ground and the comfort of “neutrality” were erased: Everyone was pigeonholed as either “pro-racing” or “anti-racing.” And the rhetoric was ramped up on both sides of the issue.

A Look at the Future

The industry was right. The 21st century did bring change, none of it beneficial to Greyhound racing in America. Additional track closings have reduced the number of dog tracks to 34. The industry’s assertion that “nearly all ‘adoptable’ greyhounds are adopted” continues to be undermined by the discovery of Greyhound bodies and the disappearance of designated pets from race track kennels. The interminable haggling over numbers and terminology drones on. However, the final chapter will not be written by either “pro-” or “anti-” factions, but rather by the very force that once served as an excuse for killing Greyhounds — the harsh, cold-hearted reality of bottom-line economics.

The live-racing product that brought so much wealth to a few, and so much misery and death to hundreds of thousands of Greyhounds, is nearing the finish line. The goose that laid so many golden eggs for Greyhound breeders is now laying poker chips and slot machines for track owners whose interest is money, not Greyhounds. It is only a matter of time before state governments change gambling laws and release the racing Greyhound from its servitude to state government. Casino patrons are, at least, willing victims of corporate greed and state budget deficits.

As greyhound lovers, should we not all welcome that day? The day when we no longer face the heartbreak of saving some and leaving others behind. The day when the Greyhound no longer needs the voice of an advocate because he has the same chances for a long and happy life that every other breed enjoys. When that day comes, the magnificent Greyhound will — as it has for centuries — survive the transition to grace our sofas and bring love and joy into our lives. ■

As a founding member of Northern California Sighthound Rescue, Susan Netboy became involved in Greyhound rescue in 1986; she briefly worked with Greyhound Pets of America in the late 1980s. Her first encounter with the Greyhound racing industry evolved out of an effort to obtain the release of racing Greyhounds from Letterman Army Institute of Research and eleven other research facilities in California and Arizona. In 1991, she founded the Greyhound Protection League, a national advocacy voice for racing Greyhounds and Greyhound Friends for Life, a California Greyhound rescue organization

The Greyhound Protection League, founded in 1991 by Susan Netboy, is a national all-volunteer greyhound advocacy organization that provides a voice for racing Greyhounds (www.greyhounds.org).

Greyhound Network News, founded in 1992 by Joan Eidingler, is a Greyhound advocacy newsletter that provides a synopsis of news stories of interest to Greyhound advocates and adopters (www.greyhoundnetworknews.org).

Save the Greyhound Dogs, founded in 1994 by Scotti Devens, is a volunteer organization that focuses on legislation and education (www.savethegreyhounddogs.org).

Citizens Against Greyhound Racing, founded in Pennsylvania in 2000, is an all-volunteer organization focused on education and legislation (www.nogreyhoundracing.com).

Grey2kUSA, founded in 2001 by Carey Theil and Christine Dorchak, is an organization focused on banning Greyhound racing (www.grey2kusa.org).



Sophia, adopted by Sandy and Jim Volschow of Woodville, Ohio. *PawPrints*

Greyhound Adoption: An Industry Perspective

By Gary Guccione

Greyhounds are wonderful pets that also happen to be extraordinary athletes.

The latter is something that owners of the sporting breed have known for centuries.

They knew it in ancient and medieval times when the breed was an instrument employed to catch prey for the family's survival.

They knew it when the Greyhounds were first brought to the plains of America's midwest in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for hunting purposes and to protect farmers' crops.

They knew it when oval track racing was introduced by the father of Greyhound racing, O.P. Smith, at Emeryville, California in 1919.

They've known it for nearly a century since then, as Greyhound racing has ridden a roller coaster of struggle and expansion, successes and failures, growth spurts and recessions, through to the present day.

Yet for most of those nine decades — and for centuries preceding it — the owners and caretakers of this noble breed were oblivious to the first half of our opening statement: that Greyhounds can also be wonderful pets.

Unquestionably, many of our ancestors who dealt with the breed knew on a very personal level that their

Greyhounds — when not catching dinner, winning a field-coursing contest, or pursuing an artificial lure in a racetrack event — also elevated the quality of their owners' lives, soothed a little of the savage beast in each of them, and were special companions that pushed back the darkness of depression and loneliness. But the idea of the breed itself being not merely a source of sport but the ideal pet for the whole world was inconceivable back then.

At least, that was the thinking until the latter part of the 20th century. Then, with the birth of the Greyhound pet phenomenon, the old mindset about the breed and its role on this planet began a radical transformation — one that also took place in Greyhound racing itself.

It is safe to say that nothing in the sport underwent more of a revolutionary change in the last 30 years than the attitude toward the role Greyhounds play as pets. But that's exactly what happened — and continues to happen.

The change began slowly at first, with a few enlightened owners and racetrack managers. The two major organizations in racing — the American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) and the National Greyhound Association (NGA), representing the owners and breeders — began to share the vision soon after, forming the American Greyhound Council in 1987.

AGTOA and NGA sometimes disagree on issues, but both organizations found common ground in the truly valid cause of Greyhound adoption.

The adoption movement gained further momentum, and professional owners and breeders of racing Greyhounds saw their former speedsters settle comfortably into their new roles as couch potatoes and family pets. *Just maybe this could work*, they surmised.

The conversion to this new way of thinking is still happening today, one person at a time.

From a pure business and professional standpoint, embracing the Greyhound adoption movement was the practical thing to do, in the face of evolving public attitudes toward animal welfare. But once Greyhound racing embarked on that path, rolled up its sleeves and got involved, it was glaringly obvious to most everyone in the sport that this was also the *right* thing to do.

Industry programs supporting adoption came one step at a time. First there was mere lip service, then passive endorsement, followed by active involvement, which ultimately led to varying levels of sincere commitment. Racetracks began sponsoring their own adoption programs at their facilities or, at the very least, formed working relationships with adoption groups in their areas or regions. Racing commissions and state legislatures in many jurisdictions joined the effort as well,

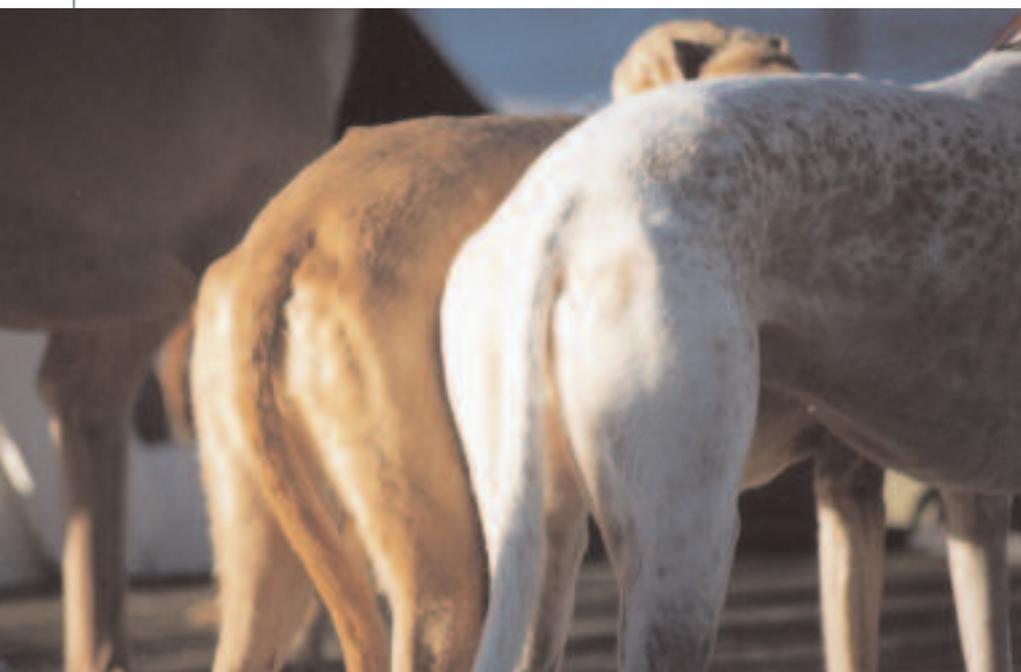
passing regulations to make it more difficult for Greyhounds to fall through the cracks and miss out on the good life after racing.

When the AGC jumped into the picture, it immediately made the promotion of Greyhound adoption its top priority, which it has remained ever since. As with other entities in racing whose aim was to encourage adoptions, AGC's focus was twofold: First, to work hand-in-hand with adoption groups toward the goal of more quality pet placements; and second, to communicate with and educate its own people — the owners, breeders and trainers — about the need to take moral responsibility for their Greyhounds beyond their racing careers.

The AGC initiated a wide number of programs to promote adoption over the years, including the sponsorship of parade floats to convey the message that Greyhounds make great pets: production of promotional videos; funding of a toll-free adoption number; direct allocation of funds to local and national adoption agencies; and an emergency pet-hauling program. Today, by far the largest portion of the AGC's budget is dedicated to Greyhound adoption — more than \$130,000 has been allocated annually in recent years, mostly in the form of grants issued directly to local adoption organizations. This funding supplements the \$2 million spent annually by racetracks and kennels at the local level to support their adoption programs.

Nothing here should suggest that the AGC, the racetracks, or Greyhound racing itself could have begun to adequately address the adoption issue without the more than 300 Greyhound pet agencies in North America. At every opportunity when rubbing shoulders with the adoption community, those of us in racing need to express sincere, heartfelt thanks for what you are doing for the Greyhounds. This project could not succeed without your energy and drive. Those of who have seen those qualities at work in the adoption world know it's an indescribable, dynamic power.

The AGC is responsible for numerous other Greyhound welfare projects — not the least being the publication of the *Care of the Racing Greyhound* textbook in 1994 and its sequel, *Care of the Racing & Retired*



Kate Lowell

Greyhound, in 2007. Other current AGC projects include a national farm inspections program, GHRIN (Greyhound Health Research & Information Network), funding for canine or Greyhound research, development of more effective vaccines, oversight of the International Greyhound Research Database (available online on the AGC's website), sponsorship of veterinary symposia, and development of a uniform injury-reporting system.

The NGA joined in supporting the adoption effort many years ago — and not only through its involvement with the AGC. A pet registration program, initiated in 1995 with a portion of the proceeds going directly to adoption organizations, has been helpful in a number of ways. The Association's monthly publication, *The Greyhound Review*, contains regular columns and feature articles by pro-adoption writers, both in and outside of the industry. The NGA registry, on a daily basis, assists adoption agencies by providing information on Greyhounds and owners to help facilitate adoptions efforts — solely at the NGA's expense. In the area of animal welfare, the NGA took a much stronger, proactive stance more than 20 years ago by issuing punitive rulings — including lifetime banishment from the sport — against those individuals who were found to be negligent or irresponsible in how they cared for Greyhounds under their stewardship.

In spite of all the changes and the progress made in the last 25 years, there remains much to do, and most people in the industry recognize that. The vast majority of racing Greyhounds are now experiencing a quality life after racing — but not all. Presently, greater attention is being focused on some of the smaller tracks and regions where there's a surplus of Greyhounds and an inadequate safety net.

Greyhound racing has been jolted by some severe downturns that have impacted the adoption picture. An explosion of gaming, sporting and entertainment competition in America — in the form of lotteries, casinos, poker, NASCAR, and so forth — has been the key factor in forcing the closure of more than 20 tracks in the last two decades.

These trends obviously cause grave concern to those in the sport as they look to the



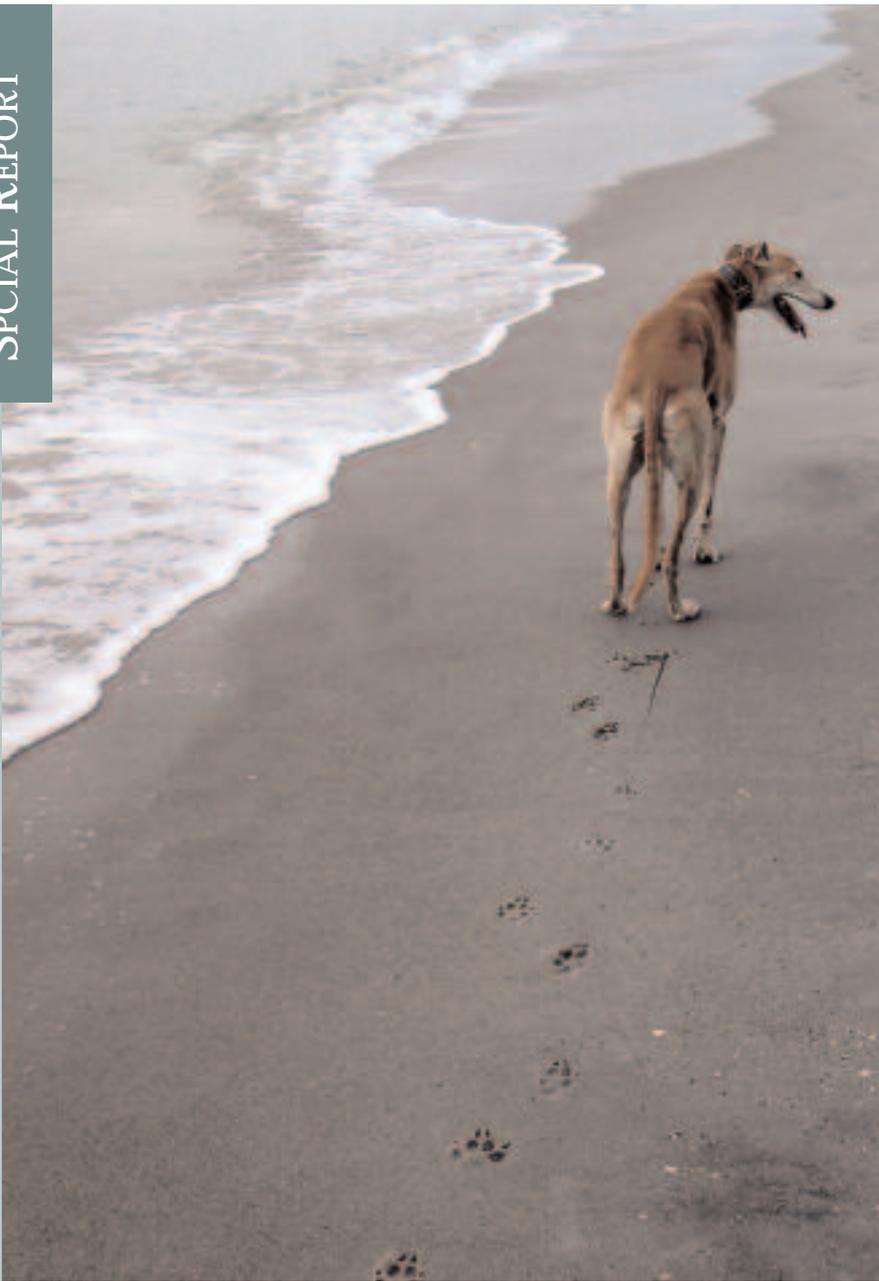
future, but one of the byproducts of this downsizing has been a drastic decline in the number of Greyhound pups whelped each year. In the 1990s, the number of breedings dropped by about one third. Around 2000, they began leveling off. Since 2004, breedings have plunged by another 38 percent. As a result, individual registrations with the NGA have dropped from more than 39,000 in 1992 (15 years ago), to 28,000 in 1997 (10 years ago), to about 20,000 in 2007. There are no indications that this trend will reverse itself any time soon.

Meanwhile the number of adoption organizations, people working for adoption, and available homes is heading in the opposite direction. At some point (soon, we all hope) the numbers will intersect, and everyone's ultimate goal — the placement of 100

percent of all adoptable Greyhounds into loving homes — will finally be realized.

To hasten that day, Greyhound racing emphatically embraces the constant need for open communication and cooperation with the adoption world, while also stressing those same principles to every individual involved in the sport. We seek the very same goal, so why not work together? Cooperation has gotten us this far already. It is what will carry us and our beloved Greyhounds down the homestretch to the finish line, and on to the retirement couch and a happy life after racing. ■

Gary Guccione is executive director of the National Greyhound Association.



Cowboy, adopted by Deanna Davis of Port Charlotte, Fla.

Greyhound Adoption: How Did We Get Here?

By Ellen Schneiderman

Fourteen years ago my husband Andrew and I adopted our first Greyhound. It was a fairly simple process, uncomplicated by competing adoption groups or an overabundance of information. It went something like this:

- 1) Andrew, not a dog person, met a friend's Greyhound and liked his quiet manner.
- 2) I, the confirmed dog person, mentioned Greyhounds to a friend who put me in touch with the local GPA chapter.
- 3) Six weeks later we brought home Robby (JFT Comin Thru), the world's most perfect dog.

There was no Googling of anything. Google did not exist. There was one local adoption group as well as the adoption program at the local racetrack.

Times and circumstances have, of course, changed. Over the past 15 years the number of Greyhound adoption groups has grown substantially. Additionally, the birth of organizations that support adoption efforts has affected the overall Greyhound landscape. It is difficult to imagine any of this remarkable growth occurring without the communication, networking and advertising capabilities made possible by the Internet.

In the late 1980s aside from a smattering of independent groups, the emergence of three major greyhound organizations — Retired Greyhounds as Pets (REGAP), National Greyhound Adoption Program (NGAP), and Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) — began to shape the future of the adoption effort. All three of these groups had a broader than local presence. REGAP and GPA formed chapters in various states nationwide, while NGAP out of Philadelphia shipped dogs to approved homes across the country. All three took a very active role in promoting ex-racers as pets, albeit with slightly different techniques. REGAP and NGAP took a strong anti-racing stance, while GPA chose to take a position neutral on racing. Regardless of politics, what seems quite clear is that the ability of the larger groups to bring organization and much-needed publicity to the Greyhound adoption effort changed the face of grey-

hound adoption as well as the fate of thousands of dogs.

Since its formation over 20 years ago, GPA has roughly doubled in size every decade. The nine original chapters have grown to 54. GPA estimates it has 10,000 members nationwide, and it is the largest single breed adoption program in the country. REGAP and NGAP have remained smaller yet vital components in the adoption picture. The fact that these three dynamic groups gelled at roughly the same time and with similar goals gave rise to a huge influx of new adoption groups nationally and internationally.

By the mid-1990s, a new adoption group seemed to pop up about every other week. These groups were formed not only because of affiliations with groups such as GPA and REGAP, but sometimes in spite of them. At the first Greyhounds Reach the Beach event in 1995, Joan Belle Isle of The Greyhound Project gave a talk about the evolution of adoption groups. Among those of us in attendance it became known as the “begat” speech as it went something like this:

“Group A begat Group B, and the president of Group B left and begat Group C . . .” You get the idea. Since then, much “begetting” has occurred. Groups have formed and disbanded, sometimes with high drama and missing money. Other groups have opened to fill specific niches: GPA Senior Sanctuary, which places senior Greyhounds and retired racers over the age of seven, and Team Greyhound, which places Greyhounds trained in Ohio correctional facilities, are two. Still other once-small groups, such as Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption and GPA/Wisconsin, have steadily grown in size and influence.

Not at all coincidentally, the mid-1990s was also the time that many of us got online and started connecting with other enthusiastic Greyhound owners worldwide. The importance of the Internet in facilitating Greyhound adoption awareness is unquestionable.

Before there was much of anything else online, there was rec.pets.dogs. This Internet newsgroup was the premier resource for information about all dog breeds, includ-

ing Greyhounds. As more people joined the newsgroup, splinter groups broke off to form their own e-mail lists, among them the Greyhound List. Love it. Hate it. Read it all or delete with abandon. No matter how you slice it, Greyhound-l, or “the L,” has been a major force in the Greyhound adoption community. Initially, a small band of no more than 60 subscribers emailed incessantly about all things Greyhound: Pineapple juice as a cure for coprophagia, to crate or not to crate, males vs. females . . . all topics worthy of frank discourse. In the early days, few questions went undiscussed. List membership grew to several hundred subscribers within its first year. Ten years later, membership was up to about 3,000.

More than anything, “the L” brought people together. It was on the Greyhound-l that Dewey Beach was born, friends were made, and adoption groups found support and started networking. Countless groups began fundraising based on successes reported by other adoption groups. When a track closed, the need to move dogs was immediately posted on the Greyhound-l. Ehrlichia



Feather and Gayla, adopted by Barb and Pete Misosky of Johnstown, Pa.; Mustang, Hershey, Nikki, and Rosie, adopted by Linda Lyman.

question? Ask on the Greyhound-l. Of course, it wasn't and isn't all rosy on the Internet. We newbies quickly learned that not everything or everyone is what they claim, and the mere fact that you have a Greyhound does not necessarily mean you're a good and honest human being.

As more and more people gained Internet access and Internet savvy, individuals and adoption groups put up web pages. More email and message boards were formed and more connections were made. While the Greyhound-l remains vibrant and vital, other online services now exist; Greytalk and Circle of Grey are just two. Google "Greyhound Adoption" now and you'll get a staggering 179,000 results. Certainly at the heart of it all are individuals who are driven to find homes for dogs, but without the Internet it is hard to imagine Greyhound adoption being where it is today.

It is also hard to imagine Greyhound adoption being where it is without the support of various groups who provide assistance to adoption groups but do not actually place dogs themselves. Adoption groups have many needs, and three of these needs are critical: Information, money, and dogs.

The Greyhound Project was formed in 1992 to provide information about Greyhounds to adoption groups and to the public. As adoption groups have grown in number, so has the influence and reach of the Greyhound Project. For many of us the Greyhound Project is best known for organizing Greyhounds Reach the Beach, producing the Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars, and publishing this magazine. The Project was also the first group to produce a non-partisan national advertising campaign promoting Greyhound adoption, placing display ads in airports. In short, they are a powerhouse.

Adoption groups never have enough money; fundraising is an ongoing struggle. Fortunately, everything Cara Brockhoff touches turns to gold, and Greyhound adoption groups reap the benefits. Founder of Northcoast Greyhound Support, Cara has turned fundraising drudgery into FUN-draising with style, wit, and ingenuity. Through eBay auctions, direct sales from her website (www.northcoastgreyhounds.net), and vending at Greyhound events, NCGS has raised

thousands of dollars for hundreds of Greyhound adoption groups. In 2007 alone, NCGS gave away over \$44,500.

For those of us in states with one or more racetracks, it is hard to imagine that any Greyhound adoption group would have difficulty finding dogs to place. But for groups in non-racing states, obtaining dogs can be a logistical nightmare. The need to transport dogs "from where they are to where they ain't" spurred the formation of Greyhound Support of Kansas City. Rather than placing dogs directly with adopters, Greyhound Support moves retired, injured, and/or unwanted Greyhounds out of racing farms and kennels and to adoption groups, primarily in non-racing states. They match dogs with groups, then arrange large hauls to move the dogs. Since its inception in 1998 Greyhound Support has moved over 3,500 Greyhounds to adoption groups nationwide.

Fifteen years can bring a lot of change. When Robby came to live with us in 1994, most people we met had never seen a

Greyhound. Now when I'm out and about with my current hounds, Kacy, Mike, and Gracie, we often hear "I know somebody else with Greyhounds!" With the involvement of the early adoption groups, the undeniable influence of the Internet, and thanks to the advocacy and backing of support groups, Greyhound adoption has come a long way. Here's to the past, present, and future. ■

Ellen Schneiderman has served on the boards of GPA National and GPA/Wisconsin and is co-owner of the Greyhound List. She is President Elect of her local PTO board and is also a board member of her school district's Educational Foundation. She is a trainer and educator with the Birds of Prey program at the Schlitz Audubon center. To pay the bills she works for her family's commercial real estate development firm and as a dog trainer. Ellen shares her blissfully crazy life with husband Andrew, daughter Rhyann, son Morgan, Greyhounds Kacy, Mike, and Gracie, cats Vinnie, Baxter, and Callie, and Nibbles the hamster.



Nick and Lady, adopted by Debbie Gilpin of Scranton, Pa.



Penny and Max, adopted by Jan Naumer of Sedona, Ariz.

Seeking to Understand

By Cynthia Branigan

In April 1987 I adopted King (Low Key Two), my first retired racing Greyhound. While I searched in vain for information concerning the care and feeding of this unique breed, I also sought details about what his life had been like at the track and about what was tantalizingly referred to in general dog books as his breed's long and regal history. To my way of thinking then, and now, it is impossible to have a full appreciation for Greyhounds if you don't know about their recent and ancient history.

In those pre-Internet days, there was precious little information available on any of the above topics. The one publication that I thought might shed some light was *The Greyhound Review*, the monthly magazine of the Greyhound racing industry. More out of desperation than anything else, I signed up for a year's subscription.

I would be less than candid if I didn't admit that initially, apart from the fabulous photos, I took little enjoyment in the magazine. First of all, there seemed to be an awful lot of emphasis on numbers, mainly those involving racing speeds. Numbers have never been my strong suit. And with no frame of reference, the difference between tenths of a second meant nothing to me. Secondly, who were all those people in the photos holding awards? Not only did I not know them, but I wondered what they did to share in the dogs' achievements. Finally, there seemed to be an assumption in the magazine that the readers already knew about basic care and feeding, and there were no insights into the breed's history. In short, I was disappointed and didn't renew my subscription.

It became clear to me that if I wanted to know more, I'd have to do my own research. After gaining experience by running an adoption group for several years, and by doing a lot of investigation, I felt I knew enough to write *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*. The first edition was published in 1992.



The April 2006 cover of *The Greyhound Review* featured Greys Callibrator, a female who won the first Derby Lane Million Dollar Race that year.

During the years I researched the book, I spent quite a lot of time at the Seabrook, New Hampshire racetrack. A trainer named John Ard took me under his wing and explained everything from how the dogs were fed to what their daily routine was like. Chris Makepeace, Seabrook's adoption coordinator, took me to some schooling races and tried to explain what the trainers wanted to encourage or discourage in the dogs. What previously had been a blur was beginning to come into focus.

Around this same time, I was also doing research for *The Reign of the Greyhound: A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs*. While I had uncovered such facts as dogs of the Greyhound type appeared in art as far back as 6000 B.C., I was also interested in learning more about the various present-day activities of Greyhounds: coursing, showing, and racing. And where better to get racing information than at a racetrack?

I remember well the day in 1988 when I went to Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Fla. It was a matinee, and the stands were full of senior citizens enjoying the races and the warm winter sun. Derby Lane is an imposing,

art deco-style edifice, and as the oldest continuously operating racetrack in the country (it opened in 1925), you get a feeling of history as soon as you enter the building. Derby Lane epitomizes Greyhound racing done right. Not only are the grounds perfectly manicured and the employees friendly and helpful, but most importantly, the track itself is kept in optimum condition for the dogs.

I knew that my Greyhound King had been Grade AA for many years before I adopted him, and so I was curious about exactly how he achieved such a thing. Apart from speed, what distinguishes a champion racing dog from an average one? My interest in the intricacies of racing had nothing to do with gambling; it had to do with researching how and why Greyhounds run. So that day in 1988, I sat down on a bench with a program and tried without success to decipher the endless strings of numbers. Then I watched even more numbers change on the tote board. As a person with no aptitude for statistics, none of this meant anything to me. I watched race after race and all I could say was that, in the end, one dog would win.

Had it not been for the intervention of a

kind woman who somehow recognized my confusion, I might today still be thinking that all there is to racing is eight dogs running around an oval. As it turned out, the woman was Dolores Connick, and she and her husband Clarence were the trainers of a famous dog of the time, P's Rambling. It's common for trainers to come into the stands to see their dogs run, and so she did on that day. With the ease of someone well-versed in the sport, Dolores took the time not only to explain what the numbers on the program meant, but also to point out particular dogs and explain their racing strategies.

Some left the starting box fast, then burned out. Others were crowded at the first turn. Still others gave a surge of speed at the end. Dolores helped me understand that the dogs needed not only to be fast, but also smart. When that sank in, it enabled me to appreciate my King, and other racing Greyhounds, on a whole new level. In fact, Dolores also enabled me to see trainers in a new light as it is they who, like other good coaches, coax the best performances out of the athletes in their charge.

Although I may not have read much in those *Greyhound Reviews* from the year I subscribed, I kept them because of the photos. When I went back to have another look, I was able to understand and appreciate the



Dolores Connick was a well-known Greyhound trainer in the 1980s, most notably of P's Rambling. She was a knowledgeable and friendly presence at the track.

content in a way I hadn't before. For example, there was the moment when I saw Dolores in the magazine and realized I knew her. I went on to read the article about whatever competition her dog had won and could actually envision how she helped make it happen. Then, as I got to know the pedigrees of various dogs for whom I found homes, I might notice that a littermate to one of those dogs had been elected to the All-American Team, or had won an important stakes race. In other words, at the end of my research I not only gained material for *The Reign of the Greyhound*, but I also developed an appreciation for the achievements of the human and canine participants in racing. To think of racing dogs as mindless robots, doing only that for which they were genetically programmed, is to sell short both the Greyhounds and their trainers.

It is now 20 years since that afternoon at Derby Lane, and not only do I read *The Greyhound Review*, but I write a monthly column for it. Nearly four years ago, I pitched the idea to Executive Editor Gary Guccione that I'd like to write a column called "From the Home Front" that would deal with adoption and other humane issues from a non-industry perspective. It seemed to me that those involved in racing needed to see things from our point of view, the adopters. They needed to know the hardships adoption groups sometimes face, the ways in which we can work together to streamline the transfer of dogs, and even the sometimes silly delight we take in our dogs' behavior. It would be my way of talking to the industry instead of talking about them.

By learning about the minutiae involved in Greyhound adoption, the racing people could develop a more holistic understanding of their own dogs. They needed to know that their dogs do not simply disappear from the face of the earth when the truck pulls away from the racing compound. Someone will take the time to screen potential adopters and purposely choose ones who they feel will provide their dogs with the best possible home. Their dogs will be extensively vetted and then go on to enrich the lives of families across the country. They needed to understand that their dogs' lives as racers are but one aspect of who their dogs are.

To my delight, Gary agreed. More incredibly, though, he has never once restricted what I had to say, or how I said it. As a long-time freelance writer, I can assure you that being on such a long leash is rare indeed. On everything from how to improve kennel sanitation, to how to promote adoption, to giving industry folks a behind-the-scenes look at the hard work adoption workers do to find homes for their racing dogs, I've placed the column's emphasis on communication and cooperation. In fact, this spring, I will be devoting one of my columns in *The Review* to *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* and recommending that those within the racing industry subscribe to this valuable publication.

Nowadays, what do I find interesting in the *Review*? Gary Guccione's column, "Footnotes," is a freewheeling account of various happenings in the Greyhound world, including some events related to adoption. "Track Talk" details what's going on at various tracks around the United States, including ones where your own dog may have raced. And in Managing Editor Tim Horan's regular column, "The National Scene," he opines on subjects ranging from how to boost attendance at tracks, to comparing Greyhound racing to horse racing, to an analysis of the Derby Lane Million (yes, that's right, one race in which a million dollars of purse money is distributed among the 16 final contestants). The *Review* regularly updates its readers on the latest health advances or studies affecting Greyhounds. Even something as prosaic as accountant Mark Battersby's column called "Taxes and Finances" makes you realize that those in the industry have to do a lot more than simply feed and water dogs. By learning about the minutiae involved in Greyhound racing, we can develop a more holistic understanding of our own dogs.

Our dogs do not simply appear fully formed at the doorstep of an adoption group. Someone took the time to research the pedigrees of our dogs' sire and dam and purposely chose parents who they felt would produce sound, tractable, athletic offspring. Our dogs were extensively trained, and then competed as professional athletes. I believe we need to see that our dogs' new lives as companions are but one aspect of who they are.



Before Gary Guccione became Managing Editor in 1972, *The Coursing News* combined both coursing and racing information.

The National Greyhound Association is willing to send a sample issue to the first ten CG readers who request one via e-mail at Review@NGAGreyhounds.com. In fact, as of January 2008, *The Greyhound Review* will also be available online. My advice? Give the magazine a try. At the very least, you might just come away with a greater appreciation for your Greyhound's professional achievements. What's more, you might develop more of an appreciation for those people who had a hand in making your dog who he or she is today.

Surely much good can come from seeing all sides of a subject. ■

Cynthia Branigan is the author of the best-selling book Adopting the Racing Greyhound and the award-winning book The Reign of the Greyhound. She is the founder and president of Make Peace with Animals, an all-volunteer adoption group that has placed over 5,000 Greyhounds since 1988.



Winnie and Mia walk around the neighborhood while on a break from filming *Charlie Wilson's War*.

Greyhounds Go Hollywood: The Dogs of *Charlie Wilson's War*

By Kathy Helmke

In October 2006, I received an odd phone call. William Berloni of William Berloni Theatrical Animals called to ask if I would be interested in having my Greyhounds appear in a movie. "Suspend all disbelief," he said.

It seemed that director Mike Nichols had decided that Greyhounds would be the perfect accessory for one of the characters in a movie that he was going to direct. He had done theatrical productions with Bill in the past and contacted Bill to see if he could provide the dogs for the movie.

Bill usually works in theater. He trained the original Sandy for the theater production of *Annie* and usually has at least one Sandy touring the United States. He had also been involved with theater productions of *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Wiz*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, to name a few.

Usually Bill deals with shelter animals. He searches the shelters for appropriate animals, then trains them to perform in the project. This time, however, the timeline was too tight. He had to locate dogs who were already trained.

If we were to participate in the project, I would be required to train my two girls for the movie, drive out to California with another trainer, and handle them in the scenes in the movie. All told, I would be committed to the production for about a month.

Bill called me in October. We would need to leave for California in November. Shooting was planned for the first week in December.

In case anyone hasn't noticed, the Greyhound obedience community is pretty small. Add to that the stipulation that the dogs had to be located within a day's drive of Connecticut so that Bill could supervise the training, and the eligible population becomes even smaller.

I had worked as a trainer and training director for a small not-for-profit organization that trained service, hearing, and therapy dogs for people with disabilities, so I did have experience training dogs to work for others. My first two Greyhounds earned Utility titles. The two girls I am currently training and showing are Ch Golightly Brand New Day CD RA NA NAJ JC (Winnie) and Ch Golightly I Want To Talk About Me CD RN JC (Mia). They are currently training in Open and we hope to be able to show them for their CDX (Companion Dog Excellent) titles soon.

Winnie had taken the summer of 2006 off to raise her puppies as well as act as a surrogate mother to four Springer Spaniel puppies. Mia had shown in Novice the summer of 2006 and finished her title with four Specialty HITs (High in Trials). She is currently working on her CDX title and earned her first leg at the Greyhound Club of America National Specialty this past September.

The girls are very different in both looks and personality. Winnie is a blue fawn and a bit of a princess. She ignores other people and is rather aloof, preferring to receive any physical affection from me. She has a group of people she considers her friends, and doesn't pay much attention to others. Mia is a very friendly and outgoing white and brindle parti-color. I always say that her goal in life is to get as much white dog hair on people as she possibly can. Her tail is usually wagging,

and she has been a wonderful obedience dog.

I have to admit that I was skeptical about the movie offer. Who wouldn't be? I wondered if this was some sort of elaborate hoax dreamed up by my friends as a joke. I had commitments. I babysat for my grandson and had an older dog who needed special care as well as two 4 month-old puppies who were at an important stage of their development and needed my attention. I really didn't think I could leave everything for a month. I told Bill that my initial response was No, but that I'd think about it and he could call me back in a day or two after I'd thought it over.

My family was stunned that I'd even consider turning it down. They thought it was too great an opportunity to pass up. They promised to find day care for the grandson and make sure all the dogs were properly cared for in my absence. I let them talk me into it. My life was pretty boring, so I figured this would be an adventure. When Bill called back, I told him to come on up and meet the girls. We discussed what training needed to

be done. He told me to get started.

The name of the movie was *Charlie Wilson's War*. Directed by Mike Nichols, it would star Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, and Philip Seymour Hoffman. This added to the surreal quality of the whole experience. Not only were my dogs going to appear in a movie, but it was a major motion picture. Julia Roberts would be playing the part of Joanne Herring, a wealthy Houston socialite who convinced Texas Congressman Charlie Wilson to fund a covert operation pitting the Afghans against the Soviet Union in the 1980s. It was based on a true story. The dogs would appear with Julia Roberts in the scenes shot in the Herring home.

One of the most important scenes involved the girls walking on either side of Julia Roberts, but never passing her. I had to take my HIT dog and train her how to lag on the wrong side . . . sigh. The stars would not pay attention to the dogs and would give them no commands or encouragement. The dogs just had to walk next to them with no



Kathy Helmke and trainer Bill Berloni conduct a training session with the girls, who are wearing the rehearsal collars supplied by the production.

feedback at all.

My friends were absolutely wonderful in helping me train the dogs. Since the dogs would never be walking with me, I needed to have them rehearse with other people and in different places. Twenty-four different people played Julia for me, and we rehearsed in 19 different locations. If you ever need to ask someone to help you train your dog, it doesn't hurt to ask them to be Julia Roberts's body double!

We trained at least once per day. Some days we were able to train three times with different people in different locations. The dogs really did well, once they got the hang of it. Remember, they had to learn to follow people with no commands and no feedback from

their handlers. I e-mailed Bill a training log each day and he replied with suggestions or changes. Each week, he visited us so we could demonstrate what the girls had accomplished and so the girls could get to know him.

We practiced in the same way that was needed during shooting. Since I was to be their reward once they had displayed the desired behavior, I sat the dogs up next to the stars, then Bill held the leashes until just before the scene was going to start. I walked to the end of the scene in order to be the reward for the girls. Usually, I was within their line of sight. For the most complicated scene, I was two rooms away up a flight of stairs. It was important that the girls feel confident in their surroundings.

The studio sent out some pearl collars for the girls for dress rehearsals. I have to admit that the whole thing seemed unreal until the collars arrived. I found it very hard to shake off the suspicion that this was an elaborate hoax and that I would end up on some reality TV show making a fool of myself in front of millions: *Look at that jerk, she actually thought her dogs were going to be in the movies!*

We left for California on the Monday before Thanksgiving. The trip took five days and was the first time I had ever crossed the entire country. The girls settled into the rhythm of the trip pretty well. The days were long as we drove for about ten hours each day. We stopped to eat and walk the dogs, then drove some more. I traveled with Rob Cox, a trainer who worked for Bill. He was responsible for the two cats that were also supposed to appear in the movie. One of the cats was later cut from the movie, but Tammany appeared in a few scenes in the Tom Hanks character's Congressional office.

I was able to borrow a laptop computer to send a daily e-mail journal to my friends. I told them to feel free to pass it along, as so many people were interested in the adventure. I took photos of some of the surroundings as well, although I was not allowed to take photos while on the set. It was surprising when I occasionally received e-mails from people I had never met asking me to clarify certain things. A friend made a PDF file of the posts, which proved to be a nice keepsake now that the experience is over.

We had a little over a week to practice in the filming location before filming began. We met Mike Nichols, Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks, and the rest of the cast and crew. Everyone was incredibly nice and amazingly supportive. They all referred to the dogs as "the girls" and joked about the liver peanut butter brownie dog treats that I made for them. I actually brought my food processor to Hollywood with me in order to make a new batch of treats for them each day. The girls are pretty fussy about treats, and the liver peanut butter brownies are the one thing that they will consistently eat.

The girls were filmed in an actual house instead of a studio sound stage. This was a benefit because it had the feel of a house instead of an airport hangar. Since we had a



Krimpet, adopted by Jackie Weaver of Perkasio, Pa.

week to practice, the girls felt very comfortable in their surroundings. It became their house. During the first evening of filming, I saw them look around and wonder why all these people were in their house.

The girls had their own trailer at the shooting site, and they had a wardrobe of special collars for each scene in the movie. One set of collars had their names spelled out in rhinestones. The house was decorated with Greyhound art; many of the pieces belonged to Victor Kempster, the production designer, who owns retired racing Greyhounds. It was such fun to poke around and see all the Greyhound paintings and sculptures. Photos of the girls were placed on tables in the house. It was odd to see my dogs' photos in someone else's home. During the photo shoot, the photographer was amazed that I could just put the dogs in position, then ask them to stay there until released. "They're stars!" she kept saying. "The real stars aren't this good!"

Making movies is hard work. Things were constantly changing, and we had to be able to change and adapt as needed. A lot of people work incredibly hard to make something

that seems so simple. Although we practiced a scene one way, we had to do it differently when shooting because it didn't work as well as they thought it would. We started filming at about 6:00 each night and headed home in the early hours of the morning.

I was impressed with the attitude of the cast and crew regarding the dogs. They were concerned for their welfare, asking if noises would bother them or if it was okay to have people smoking in the same room as the dogs (the film took place in the 1980s, when smoking was more prevalent).

The dogs amazed me with their poise and grace under pressure. I have always been very calm while showing in obedience, and that ability really helped keep things on track when things became stressful. The girls kept their focus under difficult conditions, and they never quit trying to do what we asked. I was so proud of them.

Everyone asked me what other movies we had made. They seemed astonished to learn that this was our first. It made me feel good to know that we didn't seem as inept as we felt. Finally, the last day of filming arrived and we packed up and headed home. Since

the cats were filming later than we were, my husband flew out and drove home with us. We arrived home just in time for Christmas.

A few days later, a FedEx truck pulled up outside my home. I received an envelope containing the girls' rhinestone collars and some photos of the girls in their collars and with Julia Roberts. That was one of the sweetest things that anyone has ever done for me. I was just stunned that they took the time to send the package to me.

After the shoot, I eagerly awaited the December 2007 release of *Charlie Wilson's War*. It may still be playing at a theater near you. ■

Kathy Helmke adopted her first Greyhound, Koni Lambchop UD JC, while working as a trainer for Canine Working Companions. She trained several ex-racing Greyhounds as service, hearing, and therapy dogs as part of CWC's Greyhound Project while working there. She became totally hooked on the breed and now competes with her AKC Greyhounds in conformation, obedience, agility and rally.



Paradise and Darcy, adopted by Scott and Brigitte Davis of Temecula, Calif.



Rudy Sings

By Emma Mellon

It's late morning. I'm relaxing in the living room. My younger Greyhound, Lilith, is upstairs in the comfort of her favorite bed and Rudy is sleeping here beside me. His muscular, fawn body stretches across the green tapestry bed. He hangs his long neck off the bed, as Greyhounds like to do. His eyes flutter in dreams and occasionally, his paws paddle in the R.E.M. sleep race.

Bruce Springsteen's *Shenandoah* begins playing on a CD.

Rudy lifts his head and with eyes still half closed, he moans against the drawling fiddles. After a few measures, he inhales, shifts onto his haunches, and throws his head back. His long snout points to the ceiling. His mouth is slightly open, slightly pursed, and his tongue folds back. His eyes look into the distance and his brow furrows with intensity. The moan opens into a full-hearted roo and he sings. Rudy sings.

I've known Rudy was a singer. One day, soon after he arrived, he came close, looked into my eyes and began to roo. Lilith chimed right in. Now, we do it every day. I sit on the bench in the dining room and ask the Greyhounds: "Is it time to roo?" They respond by spinning and bowing and then, we three face into a circle and make a sound that, depending on the day, can be ethereal or chaotic. Rudy sings bass, I do the alto part, and Lil handles the high

notes. When we find our groove, the vibration of our voices rumbles in my chest. The human-dog divide evaporates and we become one joyous sound.

But this song is different. Rudy, the most faithful of companions, is gone from me. He who rarely lets me out of his sight, who is always available for hugs, whose tail wags in constant conversation — he's gone elsewhere, communing like a seer alone with a great unseen.

Time slows. His intensity pulls at me like ocean rhythms, or the voice of wind in a canyon, or the drumming of rain. I close my book and listen. Rudy's voice slides up a minor scale, hovers, falls and climbs again. I hear a longing that has nothing to do with need. This song is large and impersonal, the muscular sound of life living itself and creating more of itself.

I want him to sing forever. Already free of clock and calendar time, he has now escaped even his own routines of sleep and eat, walk and play.

Rudy knows what to do. He leads the way into the deep now.

And I trail along behind him.

Emma Mellon is a psychologist in private practice near Philadelphia, Pa. She usually works with at least one Greyhound in the office.

Nikkie and Jesus

My wife says we ought to feed the dog
before we go to dinner, but I know
she'll just lie there with her sad eyes,
worrying. Will we ever come back?
I tell Kit, "There's as much chance
of Nikkie eating while we're gone
as there is of Jesus showing up
at Taco Loco and having a beer with us."
But we look around the bar anyway
when we get there. You never know.
There's the barmaid with large breasts
and a sweaty looking guy in an undershirt,
but Jesus isn't anywhere in sight.
The dog must be starved.

—Arthur Winfield Knight



Cotati, adopted by Charlie Fransson and Carla Hara of Cleveland, Texas.



Chad the Greyhound learns to conquer his worst fear.

Chad's Turtle Therapy

Story and photos by Diane Wainwright

It started out like a typical Friday afternoon in the fall. I had the day off from work and walked my Greyhound, Chad, along our driveway up to the main road to meet the children as they got off the school bus. Because we live in a very densely wooded community with lots of green space bordering the local lake, we usually encounter a lot of wildlife.

The squirrels were in the street chattering, and they scattered as we turned the first corner. The birds watched us cautiously from the trees waiting for us to pass so they could once again search the dense undergrowth for food. We even saw a bunny sitting silent and still under a bush at the last turn. Chad was content to observe as he walked quietly in a beautiful heel at my side. As we started to climb the last hill, however, we hit a bit of a snag.

In the middle of the road was a turtle, making his way across in the deliberate and awkward manner typical of a turtle traveling on dry ground. Chad cocked his head with curiosity and gave an easy tug on the lead to let me know he wanted to investigate. I felt that he would do no harm to the turtle, so I turned and let him walk toward it. He approached cautiously with his nose sniffing a mile a minute and his ears pricked forward indicating he was on alert for anything suspicious. I suspected the turtle would retract himself, but before he did, my attention was distracted by the kids' bus arriving at the top of the hill.



Is it . . .

At that instant, there was a sharp tug at the end of the leash and I suddenly found myself watching the bus while holding a leash attached to an empty collar. I watched helplessly as Chad ran at full speed up the hill with his tail tucked between his legs.

I screamed his name, hoping he would turn around (he did not), and felt powerless as my heart stopped from fear. It was sheer luck that my eldest daughter, Alyssa, whom Chad adores, was the first child off the bus that day. Chad bowled her over as he launched all 79 of his quivering pounds into the air and jumped into her arms with all his momentum. Alyssa sat on the ground, dazed, as she held on to Chad's neck trying to figure out why he was there without me. By then, I had jogged halfway up the hill and was able to get her attention.

The boys got off the bus and joined their sister. I yelled to them to bring Chad down, so they surrounded him and herded him my way. When we reached one another, I put his collar back on, being sure to tighten it up a bit to prevent another break out.

I told the kids all about the mean turtle and how he taunted Chad before biting him on the nose. Pure speculation on my part, but I think Chad's body language indicated I

wasn't far from the truth.

On the walk home, Chad kept one ear plastered to his head and the other up and roving. His eyes were wide and he gave broad berth to anything remotely resembling a turtle. In his mind this included leaves, large rocks, and sticks. Considering that we live in the middle of the woods, it was amazing he found a safe path home.

Once we arrived home, it was as if nothing had ever happened. Since he recovered so quickly, I assumed our walk on Saturday would be uneventful. But it was not to be. We walked out of the house and as soon as we reached the street, Chad's radar ear went up, his other ear was stuck to his head, his eyes went wide, and he proceeded to dart away from all the leaves, large rocks, sticks, and twigs we encountered. This went on for days and then weeks; so long, in fact, that we gave a name to his behavior: High Turtle Alert.

By the third week, even my husband was annoyed with him. We did some research on how to desensitize him and decided to try immersion therapy. The idea of immersion therapy is to take the object that causes stress and put it everywhere until the dog is desensitized to its presence. We spent days putting

rocks, leaves, and sticks in strategic places around the yard and driveway. We took long walks two or three times a day, but nothing seemed to work. I was beginning to consider it normal for my dog to be wide-eyed with radar ears, panting, and stressed.

And then, one day while out shopping, I found the solution: a hand-painted, life-sized statue of a box turtle. I brought it home, snuck around back, and placed it at the bottom of the steps leading from the house to the backyard. I returned to the front of the house and entered normally, wading through the happy herd of hounds to open the door and let them all outside. As usual, Chad led the pack down the steps toward the yard. I ran out onto the deck behind them to watch the show and I was just in time to see a four-dog pile-up on the steps when Chad put the brakes on in fear.

Chad was in full High Turtle Alert while the other dogs recovered and flowed around him into the yard. None of them even noticed the statue as they went about their business. I walked up behind Chad and said his name quietly. He jumped in the air about 20 feet, contorted himself in a 180-degree turn, and came down shaking and facing me. There was a part of me that felt sad to see



... a turtle? Aaarrgh!

him so scared, and another part of me that was laughing so hard I couldn't see straight.

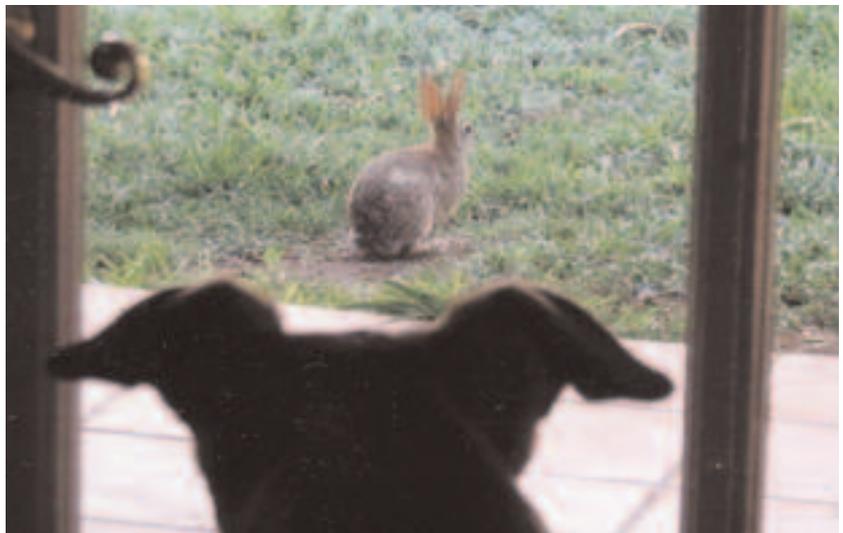
I took him by the collar and turned him back to the statue. I put my hand on it and pushed it, showing him that it wouldn't fight back. His confidence bolstered by my presence, he crept slowly toward the statue, stretching his long neck to push his wriggling nose close enough to sniff the statue.

When the statue didn't attack him, he got a little braver and reached around to sniff its butt. Once again, the statue didn't make a move. I walked away and let Chad snuffle and nudge it so he could regain some courage alone. He must have spent five minutes coming at that statue from every conceivable angle and stance, until he finally deemed it unworthy of attention and busied himself playing with the other dogs in the yard.

I left the statue at the bottom of the steps for the day, and then each day I moved it to another location in the yard. It took about a

week for it to work its magic until one day Chad no longer noticed it and was happy to take our nature walks again without a second thought about turtles. Ain't therapy grand?

Diane Wainwright is the executive director of Greyt Expectations Greyhound Rescue in Maryland. She is owned by Greyhounds Chad, Maisy, Bella, and Lizzie.



Believe, adopted by Bob and Kerry Rehberg of Scottsdale, Ariz.



Use of the Brake-Fast® Bowl has slowed JT's rapid, dangerous eating.

Product Review: The Brake-Fast® Food Bowl

Story and photos by Nancy Waddell

JT eats his food like a vacuum. He inhales, bolts, wolfs — whatever you want to call it — his food. His bowl is empty just seconds after I put it down. It looks like it never had anything in it.

I know eating like this isn't safe for a Greyhound or any other breed. Veterinary journals and Internet sources abound with stories of large dogs suffering or dying from bloat (technically, gastric torsion or gastric dilatation-volvulus) possibly brought about by ingesting as much air as food at mealtimes. These dogs are often rapid eaters.

There was no way I would put our newest family member in danger of developing bloat. I found that telling him to eat like the girls didn't work, especially once Sugar and Smudges decided to emulate him. Over the course of two weeks I tried all the well-intentioned and previously successful suggestions from my friends and other Greyhound folks, but none slowed him down. One failed idea was to place a large rock in his bowl — forcing him to slow his pace while he ate around the rock — then quickly remove the rock when he was finished. Another plan was to divide his meals into three separate servings, but JT seemed to eat even faster to get to the next serving. Then, to make matters worse, Sugar and Smudges decided they'd better eat faster, too, just in case JT was going to get some more dinner. They began scarfing down their food in a most unladylike fashion. Soon, I found myself three dogs deep in the kitchen, all looking at me with soulful eyes that seemed to say, *Thanks for the appetizer, Mom, but we're ready for some real dinner.* I couldn't bring myself to try the last suggestion where I would scatter the kibble over the kitchen or dining room floor, turning JT's meal into a scavenger hunt. I think it probably would have worked, but I just couldn't do it.

Then I heard about the Brake-Fast® Bowl. I had to give it a try, especially since nothing had slowed the big boy down. Of course I was worried about gastrointestinal complications caused by his rapid eating, but like most mothers, I also wanted him to be aware and appreciative of the gastronomical goodness of my cooking. Therefore, I needed to find a way to change JT's eating habits.

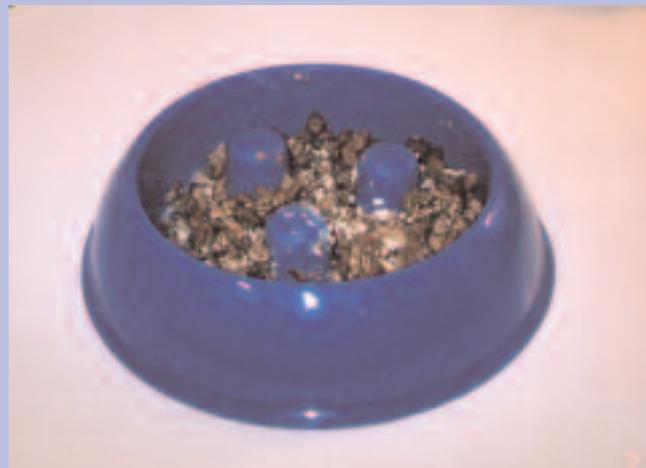
The Brake-Fast® Bowl itself is extremely lightweight and has three towers rising from the bottom. I found I have to specifically measure JT's food; eyeballing the amount doesn't work with this bowl. This is a good thing for me, because it guarantees that JT gets the exact amount of food he should. The manufacturer recommended not putting the bowl on or in a raised feeder, but placing it on a slick surface, which I did. Not only could JT not gulp his food from this bowl, he had to follow the bowl around as it slid on the tile floor of the dining room.

With the Brake-Fast® Bowl, JT is now the last to finish eating. He no longer gulps quantities of air with his food. When the bowl slides under a chair, he grasps it by one of the towers and tugs it out into the open to continue eating. It works for JT and it works for me. Sugar likes it, too, as she follows behind JT cleaning up any flyaway kibble that may have escaped the big boy's lips.

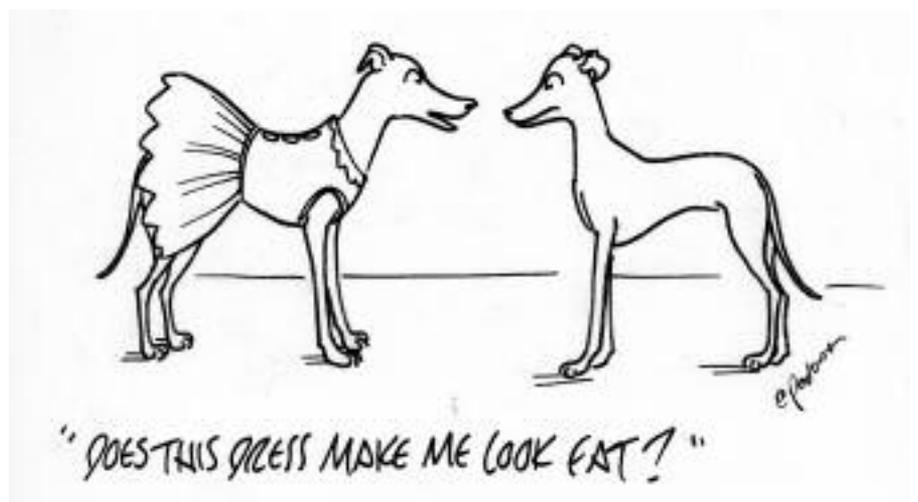
I ordered the medium-sized bowl, which seems to be perfect for a Greyhound. You can check out the bowls on line at www.brake-fast.net. Delivery was quick and the cost of the bowl itself was less than \$15, not including shipping.

Now, if the bowl could somehow be attached to the Pet Roomba® ("Adopt a Roomba," Fall 2007 CG), even the few flying kibble pieces Sugie misses would be history.

Nancy, her husband Dick, and Greyhounds JT, Sugar, and Smudges are all retired and living at the Jersey Shore. She is a frequent contributor to CG.



The Brake-Fast® Bowl has three towers rising from the bottom. To use the bowl, simply place the food in and around the towers.



Thursday through Sunday, March 6-9**Sandy Paws – Greyt Fun in the Sun**

Greyhound Guardians, Inc.

Starts 9:00 a.m. daily

Jekyll Oceanfront Resort

Jekyll Island, Ga.

A fun-filled weekend celebrating Greyhounds. Seminars, shopping, blessing, memorial, walk on the beach, ice cream social, and lots more! Contact: Wayne Baldwin, (904) 725-7558 or boomer0150@bellsouth.net; www.sandypaws.org

Friday through Sunday, March 28-30**Hound Dog Howliday 2008**

GPA/Emerald Coast

DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

Annual event begins Friday night and ends Sunday evening when the Greyhounds are invited to relive their racing days with a fun run on the Ebro Greyhound Track (seniors are invited for a senior stroll around the track). Fun Run not your cup of tea? There will be games galore and vendors, too. Greyhound fellowship, raffles, games, and auctions throughout the weekend. Spring in north Florida is lovely; come join the fun! Contact: info@gpaec.com.

Saturday, March 29**Bowling for Greyhounds**

Grateful Greyhounds

7:30 p.m.

West Babylon Bowling Alley

430 Sunrise Hwy.

Babylon, N.Y.

\$25.00/person includes bowling, shoes, dinner, and dancing in the lanes. RSVP, please. Contact: [Iris Mosher, gratefulgreys@aol.com](mailto:Iris.Mosher@gratefulgreys@aol.com)

Sunday, March 30**Buffalo Greyhound Expo**

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption

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

Grange Building

The Fairgrounds

Hamburg, N.Y.

Shopping, educational displays, Greyhounds and their friends. Contact: Laurie Graziano, (716) 636-0971 or grazilalm@buffalostate.edu

Sunday, April 20**Seventh Annual Grey Day Picnic**

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Linda Ann's Greyhound Rescue

Upper Macungie Park

Route 100

Fogelsville, Pa.

Retired Greyhounds and their families are invited to join us for an afternoon of great food, activities, Chinese auction, blessing of the hounds, vendors, pet photography, and more. This year we will be honored by the presence of the Gilley Girls Singing and Dancing Greyhound Comedy Show. We love all breeds but this picnic is for the Greyhounds.

Contact: Linda Ann, (610) 264-8111 or jlagreys@webtv.net; www.lindasgreys.com

Saturday, May 3**Shades of Grey**

Renewed Life for Greyhounds, Inc.

Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Helder Park

Zeeland, Mich.

A springtime "Greyhounds only" gathering in a beautiful park, held during Tulip Time in Holland (www.tuliptime.org), featuring a huge silent auction and many Greyhound vendors. Come tiptoe through the tulips with your Greyhound, then visit the dog-friendly city of Saugatuck. Makes a great weekend!

Contact: Lynda Hegg, (616) 335-8725 or staff@renewedlife.org; www.renewedlife.org

Saturday, May 3**Kansas City Greyhound Support Reunion**

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Greyhound Support of Kansas City

Jim and Sylvia Pettit's Farm

Private Drive 3482

St. Joseph, Mo.

Raffles, games, contests, vendors, food and drink, an opportunity to get up close and personal with the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds, and much more. Kathleen and Gil Gilley will share their wealth of knowledge about training, grooming, and dental care as well as putting on a great performance with their lively, unpredictable Greyhounds. Contact: Sylvia Pettit, (816) 662-4665 or greytdogs@ponyexpress.net; www.greyhoundssupport.org/reunion

Friday through Sunday, May 16-18**Greyhound Gathering — Kanab 2008**

Greyhound Gang

Kanab, Utah

Three days of celebrating Greyhound love. We go everywhere and do everything with our hounds. Events include a costume parade down Center Street, Blur of Fur run, Yappy Hour with dinner in a natural amphitheatre at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, golfing with your hounds, shopping, auctions, speakers, hikes, and lots of fun. 100% of all proceeds benefit Greyhound rescue. Contact: Claudia Presto, (435) 644-2903 or claudia@greyhoundgang.org; www.greyhoundgang.org

YOU'RE INVITED

Saturday and Sunday, May 17 & 18

Annual Spring Open House

Greyhound Friends, Inc.

Noon to 5:00 p.m. daily

167 Saddle Hill Road

Hopkinton, Mass.

Join us for our annual spring 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, (508) 435-5969 or ghfriend@greyhound.org.

Thursday through Sunday, May 29-June 1

Mountain Hounds 2008

Greyhound Friends of North Carolina

Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Mountain Hounds provides fun and games for humans and Greyhounds. Vending, catered picnic, cookout, contests for Greyhounds and humans. Come enjoy the Tennessee mountains and the company of fellow Greyhound owners. Proceeds benefit Greyhound Friends of North Carolina. Contacts: Lynda Montgomery, (704) 392-7868 or gfnccgreyhound@bellsouth.net; Bob Navarro, (704) 283-1547 or Robert.Navarro@stocksupply.com; www.gfnccmountainhounds.com

Thursday through Sunday, June 2-5

Greyhound America 2008

Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption, Inc.

Sterl Hall

Abilene, Kan.

Event begins with registration at noon Thursday and ends Sunday morning with a farewell breakfast at the Greyhound Hall of Fame. Guest speakers, fun run for the hounds, Greyhound fellowship, raffles, auction, return of favorite activities, a lot of roeing, and much more. Vendors invited.

Contact: Carolea Dick, (316) 772-7351

or carolea@cox.net

Sunday, June 8

Eleventh Annual Picnic

National Greyhound Adoption Program

South Jersey Volunteers

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

Evergreen Woods Campground

Pomona, N.J.

Fun on the beach with Greyhounds! Paddle boats, too. \$15 donation/person.

Contact: Merc Riccardi, (609) 652-5816

or mercibar1@aol.com

Friday through Sunday, June 13-15

Greyhound Adoption Expo

Racing Owners Assisting Racers, Inc. (ROAR, Inc.)

Wonderland Greyhound Park, Revere, Mass. (Friday, Noon to 9:00 p.m.)

Raynham Greyhound Park, Raynham, Mass. (Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Borderland State Park, Easton/Sharon, Mass. (Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Educational, fun time with your Greyhounds. Greyhounds are allowed at all activities. Fun run, Back on Track parade, meet the trainers, pet person volunteer work in an active racing kennel, Greyhound games, Greyhound Fashion Show with prizes, book signings, raffles, silent auction, vendors, speakers, walk in the park on Sunday.

Contact: Linda Jensen, (860) 655-4905

or register@greyhoundadoptionexpo.com;

www.greyhoundadoptionexpo.com

Saturday, June 21

Summer Blast

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

American Legion Park

Hollidaysburg, Pa.

As usual, lots of fun games for Greyhounds and their people, silent auction, Chinese raffle, vendors, and food.

Contacts: Kay McNelis, (814) 942-3145,

or Peg O'Brien, (814) 943-1475;

www.monicasheart.com

Saturday and Sunday, June 21 & 22

Greyt Reunion and Open House

Maine Greyhound Placement Service

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

249 Old Belgrade Road

Augusta, Me.

Kennel tours, vendors, raffles, silent auction, doggy spa, Sara's Kitchen with great food, games, tours of the new onsite clinic, and more. Other dog breeds welcome. Please leash all dogs.

Contact: Sue Sprague, (207) 963-7807

or snsnpups@downeast.net

Friday through Sunday, July 18-20

Greyhound Festival of the Bluegrass

Shamrock Greyhound Placement

Noon Friday through noon Sunday

Clarion Hotel and Conference Center

Louisville, Ky.

Registration fee includes admission to the event, speakers, vendors, games, live auctions. All meals included with fee. Each attending family receives a registration bag filled with lots of goodies.

Contact: Jennifer Watkins, (502) 241-3140

or Jennifer@greyhoundsofshamrock.org;

www.greyhoundsofshamrock.org



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Barley 1998-2007

Featured in “Barley and the Bear” (Fall 2007 CG), Barley lost his battle with cancer in December. While he chases bunnies in heaven, those he left behind will always love him and remember how he touched each of them. Twice, he fiercely protected Ann Deren-Lewis from a bear. They may not have expected this of a Greyhound, but he did it as if to say *What else would you expect?* They will remember him riding in the car, being blown dry, roughhousing with Ann, striking his “superman pose,” and stealing Dad’s pillow. Barley was Ann’s first Greyhound. He came to her family with a Mickey Mouse brindle patch on his hip and an attitude that the world was his. He became part of their family, one that they will never forget. Though the gifts he gave to his family were many, perhaps his biggest gift was to other Greyhounds. By merely being himself, Barley inspired many that he touched to adopt other Greyhounds and make them part of their families. That was Barley’s gift.



Cougar 1994-2007

Adopted by Jeff and Annette Beach at 1-1/2 years of age, Super Cougar (“Cougar’s Courage,” Winter 1997 CG) was born with Progressive Retinal Atrophy. At the time of adoption he was nearly blind, and within six months completely so. Cougar departed in December, two weeks after his 13th birthday. He had a long life for a blind dog that no one wanted. He learned to walk on a leash and he mastered the stairs early on. He learned to share the house and yard with four to five other Greyhounds. He was always the lead dog on walks or on a hike. He was confident, bright, brave, and independent. Cougar loved spending time in his yard. He spent many hours in the hole in the backyard that he dug each spring. He delighted in creeping up on birds and chasing them from the branches of the forsythia bushes. Jeff and Annette would like to thank Cougar for showing them how to live and love, and for letting them be a part of his beautiful life.

Without the Greyhounds whose stories and images populate its pages, Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine would not exist. With In Memoriam, we express our gratitude and bid farewell to those who have, in previous issues of CG, enriched our lives by sharing a bit of themselves with us.



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