

cg magazine

celebrating greyhounds

Winter 2002

ALSO INSIDE:

The Great Greyhound Goodwill Air Tour

Dental Care Made Easy

Successful Fostering

Politics in the World of Show Greyhounds

Greyhounds Helping People
Therapy Pets and Service Dogs



Samson. Carole and Bud Hillwig, Greensburg, Pa.

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 7; No. 4 Winter 2002

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Back cover: Where's Winston? Hidden under his collection of stuffies is Winston, faithful companion of Rich and Kathy Hoynes of Tinley Park, Ill. Photo by Rich Hoynes

editorial comments

By Cindy Hanson

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Several weeks ago, I was sitting here at the computer when I heard barking from downstairs. This is not unusual; Herman likes to give out a whiny yip or two when a neighborhood dog dares to pass by on the sidewalk in front of the dining room window. But this time was different. His barks were short, sharp, deep, and continuing. I stood and looked out my window, which faces the same sidewalk.

There was a body lying on the street corner.

I ran downstairs and out the front door, dialing 911 on my cell phone. I reached the figure at about the same time as two women who had stopped their truck at the sight of the body. The figure lying on the sidewalk was a very frail and elderly woman, clad in slippers and a housecoat. A walker lay at her side.

We determined that she was conscious, but very upset. Her left knee was swollen and bloody. One of the women ran back to her truck for a pillow and directed me to get some ice or a cool washrag. I complied and returned to the street corner to wait for the ambulance.

The paramedics who came to take the woman to the hospital said she would be fine. One of them theorized that she lost her balance trying to maneuver her walker over the curb cut. One of the women with the truck mentioned that she recognized her as a resident of an assisted living facility in the neighborhood.

As I turned home, I saw Herman standing on my front porch, watching us. All I could see were his eyes and his ears, slightly pricked and bent to the left, as usual.

Was I proud of my boy? Sure. Was he a hero? Aw, shucks, I don't know . . . did he really pick up on the woman's distress? Or did her location on the sidewalk just disturb his sense of order and territory?

Whatever one's definition of canine heroism, it surely includes Greyhounds who provide assistance and companionship to those in need. This issue includes contributions from several writers on the subject of Greyhounds as therapy pets. Dana Provost describes her pet therapy experiences with her Greyhound, Stealth; they have been active in pet therapy for a decade. Alice O'Hearn and Lawrence Dudley explain how therapy dogs make a difference for patients, family, and care facility staff. Lyndia Glover explains the process of pet therapy certification, and Ginger McDugle reports on the formation of Helping Hounds Pet Therapy, a Greyhounds-only pet therapy group. In addition, Dr. Lynn Carson explores the potential of Greyhounds as service dogs.

I'd like to think that, under the right conditions, any one of our dogs has the capacity to display behavior that we might call heroism. Some of them are just choosier about when they will rise to the occasion. While Herman was doing his best to alert me to the woman on the sidewalk, the girls were cockroached on the couch: Hattie stretching and grunting periodically, Hannah softly passing gas.

But that's another story.





Prairie Harlow at age eight. Nancy Harlow

Mystery Greyhounds Identified

What a surprise and delight it was to see my Prairie on the cover of the magazine we have loved for years (Spring 2002 *CG*)! About four years ago I submitted the photo, along with others and a cover letter, to be considered for your calendar. I guess the information I provided was lost.

Prairie was the first Greyhound we adopted, coming to us from the Daytona Beach dog track by way of Greyhound Rescue in Elkridge, Maryland. She was emaciated, had emotionless, dead eyes, trusted no one, and went into a panic at the sight of any man. It took three years of love and gentleness before her fears faded. She is now a healthy and happy member of our family.

The picture was taken at our log home in Colorado (which is at 9,000 ft in the mountains) inside a fenced 2 acre play-yard. She had been entertaining herself by flipping her Frisbee in the air and pouncing on it and it was time for a rest amongst the wild Sunflowers and Asters.

Prairie is old and gray-faced now, and spends more time sunbathing than catching

frisbees. She has taught us how noble, loving, and forgiving this wonderful breed is. Most people think a Greyhound's blessing is its speed, but I know differently; their greatest gift is their unfathomable ability to love. I've loved dogs all my life, owned many breeds of dogs, and had come to know many other breeds when working as an Animal Technician for 14 years. Greyhounds are special.

Prairie was the first of many!

Nancy Harlow
Westcliffe, Colo.

Nancy, thanks for solving the mystery! In addition, the unidentified "charming pair" pictured on page one of the Summer 2002 issue is Knight and Rebecca. The photographer is Jini Foster. Long-time subscribers may remember Knight from the cover of the Winter 1996 issue of CG.

Much as we enjoy a good mystery, the best way to make sure that your photograph does not become one is to write your name,

address, and the name of your dog on the back of the photo with permanent ink. — Ed.

Hall of Fame

I was delighted to see the article on Oshkosh Racey (Summer 2002 *CG*). He is the grandfather of one of our Greyhounds. Her name was Nodak Fresca, and we now call her Bailee. She is 5 years old and we have had her for three years. She is a doll and we love her so much.

We are also "parents" to a Galgo named Habano who we have had for a year and a half now. He is quite different from our quiet Bailee. He is so much more vocal and just loves to get attention. Needless to say our "kids" are spoiled rotten!

I am a new subscriber to *Celebrating Greyhounds* and since I got my first edition Spring of 2002 I have asked myself why on earth had it taken me so long to subscribe. I enjoy the magazine very much.

Thank you for the fine work you do.

Linda Clements
Via E-mail

Concerns about Agility

I am the owner of two rescued racing Greyhounds (ages 12 and 9). I have some experience in agility training with my Greyhounds and my German Shepherd Dog. Because of this I feel the need to comment on the recent articles on agility ("Getting Started in Agility" and "Whisper — Agility Champion," Summer 2002 *CG*). No mention is made of the danger our Greyhounds face running an agility course that is not totally enclosed, and they never are. We shouldn't trust a Greyhound off lead, ever! And we should keep being reminded again and again and again. My girl almost got killed after she ran through the tunnel and just kept going. It was irresponsible for the authors of the articles not to address this possibility. A Greyhound publication as polished and sophisticated as *CG* should have

at least included an editorial comment at the end of the articles.

When I adopted my ex-racers, I signed a contract that stated there would be *no circumstance* under which my hounds would be off lead in an unenclosed area. Every book or article I have ever read (other than your articles on agility) stress this fact. I agree that Greyhounds have the ability to be great at agility, but not if every trial risks their lives.

I really enjoy *CG* and I am concerned that Greyhound owners will regard your lack of comment as free rein to do activities off lead. They could lose their dogs because they rely on a publication entirely about Greyhounds to warn them of any danger.

Until they die, the danger of a Greyhound running away exists even if the dog has never shown the slightest interest in taking off. I hope you will make some mention of this in your next issue.

Marjorie Gray
Via E-mail

Ann Bollens, one of the co-authors of "Getting Started in Agility," responds: *I share Marjorie's concern about off-lead Greyhounds. I have never attended an agility training session that has not been held in a fully fenced area — and I would never suggest that anyone attempt to train their dog unless they were in full control of the training environment.*

If you look carefully at some of the photos that accompany our article you can see the fencing in the background. The area pictured contained three main types of agility trial set-up: (1) a fenced ring, inside a building, inside a fenced field; (2) a fenced ring, inside an arena, inside a fenced field; and (3) a fenced ring inside a fenced and cross-fenced field.

The ring fencing is low, not sturdy and has two openings; hence the need to have a protected environment surrounding the ring.

It is possible for a dog to escape the ring, get past the ring stewards, run through the crowd, find the door or arena exit, get through that exit and then find the entry gate into the field. Possible — but certainly not probable.

Off-leash safety is of concern not only to those of us with Greyhounds, but to everyone who has taken the time and effort to get their dog/human team to competition readiness. Each trial environment is made as safe as possible for all breeds. Should you be concerned about the facilities at an agility trial, contact the trial secretary listed on the premium; that individual will be happy to describe the facility to you prior to your registration.

More Thoughts about Spring Articles

After reading Gale Hollstein's story ("After Amputation," Spring 2002 *CG*) and after several leg amputations at National Greyhound Adoption Program in Philadelphia, I wish to elaborate about the difference in how we look at the care issue immediately after surgery. Keeping in mind that our surgical facility treats over 50 Greyhounds weekly and provides ongoing care of 50 to 100 Greyhounds 365 days a year, our perspective may be somewhat different than most veterinary facilities.

Most leg amputations, whether front or rear leg, cost \$800.00. This includes post-operative care until the clinic staff feels it is appropriate to release the Greyhound home. That care is a minimum of 7 to 8 days. That period of time is the most critical post-operatively with regard to getting the Greyhound moving, controlling pain, and having the ability to introduce either IV fluids or transfusion. Our staff would not think of releasing the Greyhound that cannot get up on its own without crying in pain or roll over. Drainage from the wound can often be sloppy. Our staff normally changes dressings on a daily basis, and this can be especially difficult with rear leg amputations.

In reading this article, my wife felt that she would like to have our Greyhound home with us. I of course disagreed and felt that experienced veterinary and kennel staff works better.

David G. Wolf, Director
National Greyhound Adoption Program
Philadelphia, Pa.

The spring issue of *CG* had several articles that gave me some concern: "Bringing Back the Galgos," "Leishmaniasis — How Much Do We Know?" and "Bringing Cissie Home."

The Leishmaniasis article pointed out that the Old World *Leishmania* species found in Spain cause visceral Leishmaniasis in which the protozoa invade the liver, spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow. All we need to do is import one Spanish Greyhound with old world Leishmaniasis and have it bitten by American sand flies to start a chain of infection in this country. I sympathize with the plight of the Spanish Greyhounds and appreciate the good intentions of their adopters, but saving a few hundred Spanish Greyhounds could cost the lives of tens of thousands of dogs in the future if Old World Leishmaniasis is imported along with them and reaches a population of sand flies in this country. The stakes here are very high.

The folks who did a 1,000-mile GUR run to bring a 12 year-old brood matron to a new home were fortunate and so was Cissie. Populations of viruses and bacteria tend to have different strains in different locations. They have evolved slight differences because they were separated by distance. Differences may be great enough so the immunity a dog developed in his home location may not protect him from the same disease in a slightly different form.

Years ago, horse breeders discovered that if they moved a stallion to a new part of the country to stand at stud, the horses



Ibis and Griffin celebrate the season. Gale Hollstein

tended to die soon after the move. We take the same risk when we move really old dogs for long distances. A certain percentage of those dogs will die soon after the trip. Elderly immune systems cope poorly with local variants of familiar diseases.

Patricia Gail Burnham
Via E-mail

Dr. Jim Bader, author of "Leishmaniasis — How Much Do We Know?" and "Bringing Back the Galgos," responds: *I appreciate your comments concerning the importation of Leishmania-carrying Galgos into the United States. The sand fly that transmits Leishmaniasis does not reside in this country. However, visceral leishmaniasis has already been identified in a large number of indigenous Foxhounds. Thirty Foxhound kennels in 20 states and Ontario have confirmed infected dogs. The method of transmission and initial place of infection*

are unknown. (Leishmania in North America, Edward B Breitschwerdt DVM, in Emerging Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases, Veterinary Learning Systems, 2002). Old World Leishmaniasis is already present in the United States, whether we import dogs from Spain or not.

Fortunately, the German drug company Zentaris recently gained approval for miltefosine, an oral medication that has proven to be very effective in treating and curing visceral Leishmaniasis ("German Company Gains Approval for First Oral Drug to Treat Black Fever," Wall Street Journal, June 17, 2002). Miltefosine has been proven to be very effective in the treatment and cure of this disease, which infects about two million people worldwide annually.

I share your concerns about strains of bacteria and viruses existing in different areas of the country. The stress of travel may lower an animal's resistance to disease. Animals that have never been trans-

ported experience more stress than those who are used to travel. Most Greyhounds are transported from farms to the racetracks, and may be transported between racetracks during their career. Because Greyhounds are more accustomed to travel, they do not suffer as much stress. Comparing a dog to a horse is like comparing apples to oranges. Each species is unique and responds to disease and stress in different ways.

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity. Please send letters and photos by mail to the editorial office. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also appreciated.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter or photo. ■

Greyhounds Reach the Beach 2002

Neither Wind nor Rain nor Dark of Night...

... Could keep 2,000 adopters and 3,500 Greyhounds from assembling in the Dewey Beach, Delaware area for the eighth annual Greyhounds Reach the Beach. Motel signs displayed messages welcoming Greyhounds. The biggest Greyhound party in the world was about to begin.

Some of the Dewey veterans began arriving early in the week for a short vacation with their hounds before the festivities of the weekend began. By Thursday, the soggy weather had set in. The residue from hurricane Lili spreading up the Ohio Valley and the meanderings of tropical storm Kyle off the coast converged to bring intermittent rain, drizzle and fog to the beach mixed with occasional clear periods for most of the weekend. The unpredictable weather cleared for most of the day on Saturday and Sunday, leaving puddles and wet sand. But the weather did not stop the party. Greyhounds had come to Dewey Beach to celebrate, and celebrate they did.

The talks, the nail clipping clinic, fashion shows, the ice cream social, the Beer and Biscuits Ball, the blessing of the hounds, the memorial bonfire, the walks on the beach, the Hund Run and the first Greyhounds Reach the Beach art show all attracted large and enthusiastic crowds. To the surprise of the bride and groom, some of the hounds appeared as uninvited guests at a local wedding that took place on the beach on Saturday. Pointy noses attached to Greyhounds of all sizes and colors were everywhere. Two newly adopted puppies stole the hearts of the unsuspecting. Nineteen-year old Suzi held court in her rickshaw on the beach, inspiring everyone. An adopter with a Greyhound diagnosed with terminal cancer attended the Blessing on the Beach; their trip to Dewey was proba-

bly the last vacation they will have together. Digging in the sand, playing in the surf, sniffing, smoozing, or just standing around taking in the spectacle, the hounds had a fabulous weekend at the beach.

The highlight of the weekend occurred on Sunday morning. Betty White, known for her roles in *The Golden Girls*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, and many other television productions, shared her passion for animals with the attendees at the Brunch. Perhaps less well known, but equally important has been her lifelong advocacy for the well-being of all animals through her long association with the Morris Animal Foundation and the Los Angeles Zoo. Before arriving at the Ruddertowne, Betty stopped at the beach to hug as many of the Greyhounds as she could lay her hands on. Charming, gracious and funny, Betty shared the genesis of the episode of *Golden Palace* (the successor to *The Golden Girls*) that focused on her adoption of a Greyhound from the track and the wonderful opportunity that presented to tell the story of Greyhounds needing homes.

Greyhound people adopted the Morris Animal Foundation Greyhound Cancer Fund starting with the second Greyhounds Reach the Beach gathering. As is the case with much of the Dewey weekend, the relationship with Morris Animal Foundation started with a small idea that grew to take on a life of its own. Stephanie Russell donated a Greyhound quilt to be given away at Dewey. It was too nice to simply be a door prize, so the notion of a raffle for the quilt was born. Since the second Greyhounds Reach the Beach, the raffle has grown every year (like Dewey itself), and a number of other groups and organizations have organized additional fund rais-

ing activities designated for the Cancer Fund. This year the Ice Cream Social raffle sponsored by Nittany Greyhounds raised \$369, the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption League Nail Clipping raised \$550, the Circle of Grey luminaries raised \$506, the silent auction and raffle at the Art Show raised more than \$2,000, and the Greyhounds Reach the Beach raffle raised \$5,380. Together with the donations from vendor sales, Greyhounds Reach the Beach 2002 raised more than \$10,000 for the Greyhound Cancer Fund.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach has become a local attraction. People call for tourist information all year to find out when the Greyhounds are going to be at the beach. This year, the activities attracted media attention before, during and after the weekend. Coverage included a feature article in the Fall edition of the *Cape May Lewes Ferry Traveler*, a publication received by everyone who travels the ferry. All of the local newspapers wrote about the weekend, and the television stations carried live interviews from the beach. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Knight Ritter News Service and CNN gave the Greyhounds at the beach space and time.

A phenomenon, an institution, a happening — Greyhounds Reach the Beach is a kind of Greyhound magic that is more than the sum of its parts. It is the magic of hundreds of Greyhounds and the people who are devoted to them all in one place at one time having a good time with their families, their friends and their dogs. It is a magic that transcends current events, bad weather and inconveniences to celebrate the lives we share together.

Joan Belle Isle

Saturday Night with Betty and The Blues Brothers

To welcome Betty White, The Greyhound Project held a small reception the night before the Greyhounds Reach the Beach brunch. Since the Rehoboth Beach restaurant hosting the reception did not allow dogs, Ann Penfield and I left our Greyhounds in the van. Ms. White's arrival was delayed by the weather, and the guests were getting edgy. After 3-and-a-half hours of waiting, Ann and I knew our boys, identical littermates Cullen and Merlin (aka The Blues Brothers), were getting even more restless than the guests. Just as we were leaving to empty the dogs, in walked Betty White and Dr. Rob Hilsenroth of the Morris Animal Foundation.

We all cheered mightily and gave the guests of honor a standing ovation. Ann and I apologetically excused ourselves, telling Miss White we would return as soon as we emptied the dogs. "You have Greyhounds here?" Miss White inquired. "Yes, we sure do," I responded. She asked if we would bring them in when they were finished and I said, "We'll try!" In inimitable Betty White style, she added, "Promise?" "Yes," I responded, wondering how the heck we would pull this off because dogs in a restaurant are a big no-no.

After finding a place for the boys to relieve themselves in the wind and rain (discreetly, because Rehoboth Beach does not allow dogs on the beach or the boardwalk until after October 31), we were ready to try to get the boys into the restaurant. Our attempt to find a point of entry other than the main entrance proved unsuccessful. At that point, two drenched women and two drenched but handsome fawn Greyhounds approached the front door of the hotel, which led into the restaurant. "But dogs aren't allowed in there!" Ann whispered. "I know," I responded, "but follow me. We'll find a way." I knew just opening the door would get someone's attention fast. It did.

A hotel employee eyed the bedraggled group about to enter the elegant hotel with an

odd mixture of horror and amusement. He shook his head no, held up his hand in the STOP position, and met us at the half-opened door: "Sorry, Ma'am. Dogs aren't allowed in here." I pleaded my best case, convincing him that Betty White asked us to bring them to the private reception room so she could meet them. We couldn't disappoint such an important guest, could we?

He mulled it over for a split second. "Wait," he said. "I think I know a way to get you all inside. Follow me." We followed the swiftly-moving gentleman off the landing outside the front door, past the parking garage entry driveway, over a low wall, past some parked cars, through an unlocked, nondescript door at the side of the building, and down a flight of carpeted stairs, one of which had a delectable plate of food on it. The boys ignored it; they were on a mission. They made their grand entrance to cheering and general hoopla. The Blues Brothers were on.

When Miss White saw them, she kissed and hugged them repeatedly and got herself a first-rate dog fix. The boys gladly returned the massive doses of affection. Cameras were flashing. Incredibly, these normally private dogs knew it was time to make a huge public splash. They did every basic trick they knew: sit, down, stay, shake hands, and more. They were well-behaved, entertaining, and adorable.

CG Magazine editor Cindy Hanson showed up at my side with a couple of pieces of meat from the roast beef tray, whispering that the leftovers shouldn't go to waste. The staff packaged a nice take-out container for the boys, who saw it coming and promptly sat, expecting their reward. They had a taste of heaven and also ate very well at their next couple of meals.

When the reception ended, Miss White and the boys exchanged goodbyes as enthusiastic as their rapturous hellos.

The Blues Brothers got their version of an Oscar or Emmy that night. They got a Betty!

Marcia Herman



Zeke. Karen Fishella

The Greyhounds Reach the Beach 2002 Yearbook is Coming

Watch the Spring 2003 issue of *CG* for details about a photographic memory book highlighting the Greyhounds, people and events of the eighth annual Greyhounds Reach the Beach!

GPA/Central Florida Reaches Goal, Acquires New Trailer

After months of fundraising, GPA/Central Florida acquired a new 22-stall trailer and generators. The hauler took its maiden voyage to Virginia and Maryland in early October, followed by a dedication ceremony at Dewey Beach.

Major contributors included the American Greyhound Council, GPA National, Melbourne Greyhound Park, Daytona Beach Kennel Club, GPA/Maryland, GPA/Richmond, Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton-Wentworth (Canada), Northcoast Greyhound Support

(Humboldt Foundation), Calvin Allen, Amanda and Ian Johnson, Elsie Walck, Diane Tothoro, Wild Oats Health Food Stores, Royal Hound Greyhound Adoption, Carla Myers, GPA/Minnesota, and countless others, including many who generously contributed in honor of Gil Gilley.

How You Can Help the Galgos

Suzanne Stack, DVM is organizing an ongoing collection of medicines, medical supplies, coats, and muzzles to be donated to the Spanish Greyhounds. She will send your donations to European Greyhound refuges such as Scooby, GIN (Greyhounds in Need), SOS Galgos, Alicante, and refuges in Ireland. These places are all operating on shoestrings and will use anything you donate. Please save this notice because the time will likely come when you have something to send.

Please mail medications and supplies to Suzanne Stack, DVM, 16790 S. Avenue A, Somerton, AZ 85350.

PETCO Raises \$54,000 to Help Greyhounds on Greyhound Planet Day

More retired racers will get a second chance at life thanks to Greyhound rescue groups across the country, many of whom will receive funds raised in PETCO stores nationwide the weekend of September 21-22, 2002. The company's three-day fundraiser, in celebration of Greyhound Planet Day, raised more than \$54,000.

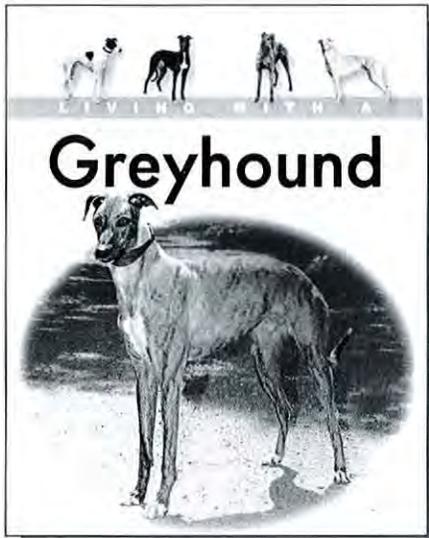
At press time, about 50 Greyhound adoption groups were slated to receive funding from this effort, but organizations were still able to apply for funding through www.petco.com by accessing the PETCO Foundation page.

"We saw a tremendous response from our customer, vendors and associates during this event," PETCO Foundation Director Paul Jolly said. "As a result of their generosity, many more of these beautiful creatures will get a second chance to find a loving home."

The Greyhound Planet website (www.ameuroGreyhoundalliance.org/ghplanet.htm) identifies Greyhound Planet as an international event intended "to raise the public's awareness of the wonder and magic of Greyhounds as pets, educate others on the current status of Greyhounds around the world and to honor those Greyhounds who have left us already." The seed for Greyhound Planet Day was planted by Therese Skinner, who was inspired by an article that she read in the Lexington, Ky. *Herald-Leader*. The article described a group of grade school children who organized a walk, bake sales, and a book sale to raise money to help the Greyhounds. Therese posted a notice to the Greyhound List, urging people to use the media to promote Greyhound adoption. People responded by suggesting a walk for Greyhounds, others chimed in with other events, and Greyhound Planet Day was born. ■



Living with a Greyhound



Cynthia Branigan, Editor
Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
Hauppauge, New York (2002)
ISBN 0764154281
\$14.95

Readers of *CG* know Cynthia Branigan's work well. Founder and President of Make Peace With Animals, author of *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* and *The Reign of the Greyhound*, she has also occasionally contributed to this magazine. Her latest book, *Living with a Greyhound*, is a recent addition to the *Living with a Pet* imprint from Barron's Educational Series. Barron's, widely known as a publisher of test preparation manuals and school directories, has in recent years introduced lines of educational books on many other topics, including pet care. *Living with a Pet* books target prospective pet owners who are trying to select a breed of dog. According to Barron's, the books aim to provide readers a detailed understanding of the title breed's daily needs, special abilities, physical and personality traits, susceptibility to health problems, and the

steps owners should take to ensure a happy relationship with dogs of all breeds. Full-color photographs and sidebar features are other hallmarks of books in this series.

Does *Living with a Greyhound* accomplish its goal? Yes. The book covers all of the basics: the history and characteristics of the breed, the racing life, the adoption process, transition to the new home, grooming and feeding, behavior and training, activities, and health care. The book is packed with gorgeous full-color photographs. It includes interesting sidebars from adopters on topics such as travel, Greyhounds and children, cats, meet-and-greets, lure coursing, Greyhounds as therapy pets, and coping with chronic illness. What's more, *Living with a Greyhound* takes a decidedly international approach to its topic, drawing clear distinctions between practices in the United States, the UK, Europe, and elsewhere with respect to racing, adoption, activities, and medical concerns.

Living with a Greyhound has taken some unfortunate hits from reader-reviewers on websites such as www.Amazon.com. Some have expressed disappointment that the book is not overtly critical of Greyhound racing. Readers seeking adoption information informed by an anti-racing perspective will not find it here. Others have noted that the authorship of the book's material is unclear. Indeed, readers anticipating *Living with a Greyhound* as the latest "Cynthia Branigan book" will find that it does not have the strong personal perspective of her two previous works. However, the book clearly identifies her as its *editor*, not author. Curiously, the book does not list the names of most of its contributing writers (veterinarian John Kohnke, who wrote the chapter on health care, is virtually the only exception).

This omission may be confusing to readers.

Living with a Greyhound is not a "Cynthia Branigan book" in the same sense as *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* or *The Reign of the Greyhound*. Nor is it a position paper on racing. It is a detailed description of what one might expect when adopting a Greyhound. It includes beautiful photographs, nice anecdotes, and an international perspective. It compares favorably to the other books in Barron's *Living with a Pet* series. Seven of the nine other *Living with a Pet* books have focused on breeds that are among the most popular in the United States, according to the American Kennel Club (www.akc.org): Boxer, Dachshund, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Rottweiler, and Shih Tzu. That the Greyhound — which ranks 124th on the AKC's list — should merit its own entry in this series is testament to the breed's growing popularity as a pet. ■

Cindy Hanson is Editor-in-Chief of *CG Magazine*.



Cider. Colleen Summerfield, Monterey Park, Calif.

Mi Casa Es Su Casa



Introduce your foster dog to the sights and sounds of daily living, including stairs. Tuna, adopted by Sara Callen of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fostering can be a great way to ease the transition from track and kennel to home and hearth. It can also be tremendously rewarding for the foster family.

Fostering is not a whim or a hobby. Fostering is not warehousing a dog until someone adopts him. Fostering is a serious undertaking, and it is not without risk to the Greyhound. A dog who shares your home begins to form attachments. Many begin to bond almost immediately. Most have bonded within two to three weeks. Rehoming is more traumatic for a dog once he has begun to bond with someone.

If you are going to foster, look closely at what benefits the dog derives from the foster experience. Be sure those benefits offset the potential trauma. If you cannot promise that the dog is going to be a winner, do not offer to foster.

How do you ensure that the dogs you foster will be winners? Stay focused on your goals — to evaluate the temperament of your foster Greyhound in order to determine what kind of home best suits his needs, and to pro-

vide reasonable training and appropriate world experiences in order to improve his adoptability and prepare him for life in his new world.

It may seem that a few weeks are not long enough to provide any real training. However, your foster dog is learning every moment he is in your care. Every interaction is teaching him something, whether you intend it or not. Use your time and interactions with him to prepare him for his new world. In only a few minutes a day, you can get your foster hound through *Life Skills 101*.

Start on the right foot. Give your new foster hound about 48 hours of downtime to decompress and adjust to his new surroundings. Whether he came from the track or was bounced from a home, you, your family, your routine, and everything in your home are new to him. He needs quiet time to adjust. Keep visitors and household commotion to a minimum. Let him decide how much interaction he wants. Feed him lightly during the first 24 hours.

Do not assume that because he has been bounced that he is housetrained. Don't assume because he was housetrained in someone else's home that he is housetrained everywhere. When he is out of his crate, unless he has just eliminated outside, he needs to be in sight and tethered. He is not housetrained until he has proven to you that he is.

Every Greyhound in foster care needs both crate training and alone training.

At first, he may seem quite willing to rush into the crate because in those early days it seems the only familiar place on the planet. Just because a racing Greyhound lived in a crate at the track does not mean he understands crate training. You are doing a terrible disservice to his future adoptive family if you do not take a few moments a day to teach him to go happily to his crate *on cue* and

remain there quietly.

Alone training, or helping the dog gradually adjust to time alone, helps prevent separation anxiety (SA). If you do not understand the importance of preventing SA, you have never lived with a dog that exhibits profound SA. Many fosters go into a home with working humans and no other Greyhounds. Working on alone training may help identify dogs who are likely to have problems with this situation and may need placement with a family that is home more. Help your foster hound adjust happily to his new world by taking time to do alone training and by making sure your group includes this in their pre-adoption education program for new adopters.

Your foster dog also needs a positive and gradual introduction to his new world. During the first week, begin to expose him to the sights and sounds of daily living — the vacuum, the dishwasher, and other things that are new to him. Use your time with him to identify temperament traits that will help you place him in a suitable home, or that indicate he needs special attention in a new home.

After a few days, gently and slowly expand his horizons to the world outside your house and yard. The more you do this with positive results, the more comfortable he will become with strange people and places — so get started.

All dogs need to understand simple behaviors like down, come, stay, and walking nicely on leash. Introduce these to your foster hound while you are involved in daily interactions such as feeding, grooming, petting, and walking.

A good foster program can be a great way to ensure every retired racer is a winner. ■

Lee Livingood is a CG regular contributor and the author of Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies.

Second Look: At Home With Abe



Zech Horvath with (L-R) Wyattte, Mouse, Abe, Odd Dare, and Betsy Ross. April Horvath

In "The Brass Ring" (Spring 1998 CG), Fred Coppola and Gail Savidant told the story of a very special adoption. At the end of the story, Abe had completed his journey from Portland, Oregon to rural Montana. He was about to begin a new life with Ron and April Horvath, their fourteen adopted disabled children, and their Greyhound, Odd Dare. We thought we'd check in to see how they were doing . . .

I don't remember exactly when Abe came home because it seems as if he's been here forever. I remember that my son Zech and I drove to the Missoula airport to pick him up when he flew in from Oregon.

Since the first minute he walked into our home, Abe has been a gem. Cancer had just taken our first Greyhound, Railrunner, and Abe filled the void for all of us. He came in the door and took over as if he'd always been there. He quickly bonded with Odd Dare, who is a bit of a grumpy old lady. She took to him right away, nudging up to him from the start. She also showed him the ropes: where the kennel is, where to lie down, and how to approach the kids. When I brought Abe home, I turned him loose in the house, and he immediately went from person to person to get acquainted.

Our family has changed a lot since the last article. Since Abe joined us, we've added three

more Greyhounds to our household: Wyattte, Betsy Ross, and Mouse. The Greyhounds get along very well together, always seeking each other out. Another change is that I am now a single parent of 16 children. My husband of 32 years passed away suddenly in October 1998. Three of our children have moved on.

We've experienced other changes, too. We survived the forest fires of 2000, but not without a lot of turmoil. The U.S. Forest Service came and told us we had to leave our home; if the fires got out of control, they could not guarantee that they could get us out. By the time we evacuated, all of the regular boarding kennels were full, and the Humane Society had organized makeshift kennels for the rest. Boarding the dogs was very hard. When I heard about the Humane Society, I thought "No, no, no." But I met the people and spot-checked the kennels; the dogs were very well cared for and babied. Abe was the favorite with the kennel staff, who fought over who got to walk him. Meanwhile, my children and I stayed in a small trailer. After eight weeks, the dogs were thrilled to return home, and so were we. Our family was among the lucky ones and didn't lose anything.

Of all the dogs we've had, I always thought that Abe would be the perfect service dog. His day starts at four o'clock in the morning, and he is with the kids nonstop until bedtime. He is very watchful, a nice walker, and a hugger. He never takes food off the table. He will lie down right next to a wheelchair. When one of my children was incapacitated due to major surgery, Abe lay down right at the foot of his bed.

The trust and unconditional love given by the children and the Greyhounds to one another is truly incredible. ■

April Horvath lives with her family and Greyhounds in northwestern Montana.

Lameness — Diagnosis and Treatment of One Cause



Freesia before surgery, favoring her right hind leg.

The Greyhound is a remarkable athlete. He can run short distances at up to 45 miles per hour. His athleticism allows for damage to bones, joints, ligaments, and tendons. These breakdowns may lead to varying degrees of lameness. This article describes one cause of lameness in a Greyhound.

Hind leg lameness has many causes. The severity and duration of the lameness guide the veterinarian to determine how to approach the physical exam, what tests to incorporate, and the appropriate treatment.

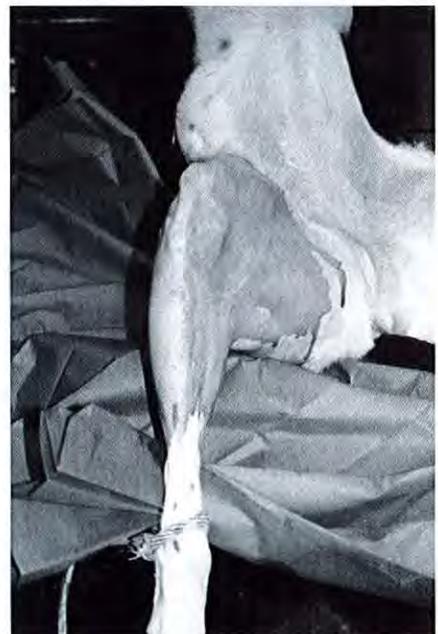
The first step in determining the cause of the lameness is learning its history. How long has the Greyhound been lame? Is the lameness acute, or chronic? Has the lameness been progressive or static? Is it more severe when first rising, does it improve with movement, or is it the same all the time? Does the Greyhound have any history of lameness from the track? How long did the Greyhound race? The answers to such questions will help the veterinarian determine a plan of action.

The second step is the physical exam. Initially, the veterinarian observes the Greyhound walking. (I like to watch the Greyhound walk from the waiting room to the exam room, because both owner and patient act naturally, not knowing they are being examined.) Next, the veterinarian watches the Greyhound stand, checking for any swellings or asymmetry between the legs. Finally, he examines the legs, usually starting with the unaffected leg on the opposite side. This sets a baseline for normal, so differences will be more apparent when checking the abnormal leg. Examination of the affected leg should enable identification of the area of pain. Areas of looseness, swelling, and heat will help isolate the problem.

Once the area is isolated, the next step might include radiographs, ultrasound, a joint tap, or collection of laboratory data. Radiographs help identify bone and joint problems, such as fractures, arthritis, and tumors. Ultrasound allows examination of soft tissue, such as tendons, ligaments, and muscle. A joint tap (placing a needle aseptically into the joint) may help determine the cause of swelling or heat in the joint. Finally, if the veterinarian suspects the lame-

ness is a clinical sign of a more general problem, collection of laboratory data may be the next step. Systemic diseases such as lupus, ehrlichiosis, and polyarthritis, to name just a few, can present with lameness, but have an effect on the whole body. Diagnosis of these conditions requires collection of additional information for laboratory analysis.

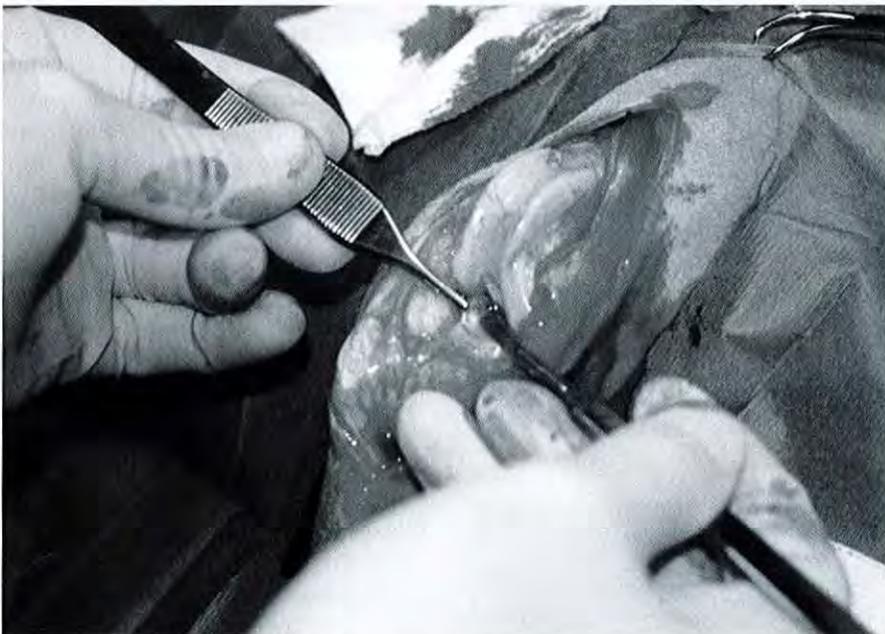
Diagnosis is followed by prescription of a course of treatment. Treatment for joint sprains, tendon strains, and pulled ligaments may consist of rest and anti-inflammatory medications. Fractures may necessitate splinting or a type of internal fixation, such as pins, wires, or plates. Tumors require a biopsy to determine the type of tumor. This might lead to removal by surgery. Presence of a systemic disease calls for oral medication to treat the symptoms associated with it.



Freesia's leg, prepped for surgery.



The initial incision opens the joint.



Removing any cartilage and meniscal damage.

Infected joints usually require long-term antibiotic therapy. Finally, some ligament pulls or ruptures require surgery.

The following case illustrates the process for determining the cause of lameness and treating it with surgical repair.

Freesia, a 7-year-old, spayed female Greyhound, presented with lameness of two weeks' duration in her right rear leg. The owners noticed her limping after she came

in from the yard with their other Greyhounds. The family had just added a Spanish Galgo to their household. The Galgo was much faster and could turn sharper corners than their other Greyhounds. Freesia's lameness was not progressive. Most of the time she would not bear weight on the leg, touching only her toe to the floor. She would not use the leg when first rising in the morning.

Freesia's physical exam revealed pain in

the knee area. She was in the greatest pain during examination of the anterior drawer, which consists of moving the tibia forward while holding the femur in place. This examination checks for rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). The rest of the physical exam was unremarkable.

The differential diagnoses for Freesia were: anterior cruciate strain or rupture; bone tumor (the tumor does not support the ligament, so the veterinarian misdiagnoses a ruptured ligament, but really the bone is soft); torn meniscus (the supporting pad in the knee); and torn cartilage in the knee (*Current Techniques in Small Animal Surgery*. M. Joseph Bojrab. Fourth Edition. Williams and Wilkins, 1998).

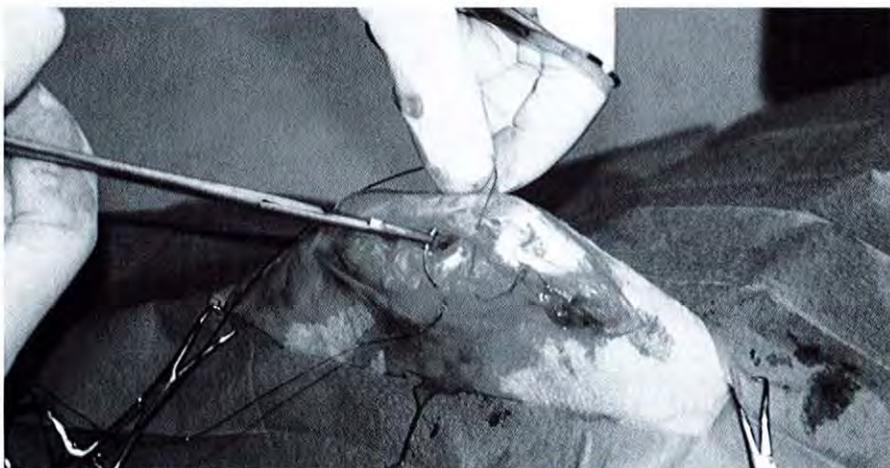
Freesia was sedated for radiographs. These revealed no bony changes, ruling out a bone tumor. While she remained under sedation, Freesia's knee was re-examined. The anterior drawer was more remarkable; no "clicking" in the knee ruled out a major tear of the cartilage or meniscus. This led to the final diagnosis of ACL rupture. Freesia was scheduled for surgery to repair her torn ligament.

There are many techniques for repairing a torn ACL. The procedures vary between veterinarians. If the veterinarian is comfortable with a particular technique, trust the veterinarian to perform an adequate surgery. The procedures may involve a transposition of the tibia (the small bone adjacent to the tibia between the knee and ankle, known as Transposition of Fibular Head Technique), use of a portion of a muscle and tendon from the thigh to replace the torn ligament (Paatsama Technique), or replacement of the ligament with a supportive filament resembling fishing line (Modified Retinacular Imbrication Technique). All these procedures have varying degrees of success. None are perfect with every case, but they will help most patients.

Freesia's knee was treated with the Modified Retinacular Imbrication Technique.



Applying the supporting suture.



Closing the joint.



Freesia's sutured knee.

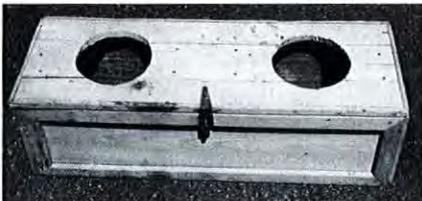
An incision was made on the inside of her knee. The joint was opened to check for any damage that could not be determined with the initial radiographs and physical exam; this process is called arthrotomy. Most dogs with a torn ACL will also have a tear in the meniscus, as Freesia did.

The damage was repaired or removed, and the joint was closed. Then a large piece of suture material was threaded between the fabella (the small bone in the tendons on either side of the knee) and the place where the patella (knee cap) attaches to the tibia. This angle mimics the angle of the ACL, but is outside the joint, hopefully minimizing arthritis later in life. Some veterinarians will splint the leg for two to three weeks; others allow the leg to be unsplinted so that the Greyhound begins to use the joint as soon as possible after surgery. An earlier return to normal function promotes the health of the joint, but the owner must be vigilant to prevent the Greyhound from being overactive during the healing phase. Freesia was rested for 4 weeks post surgery, and then allowed limited exercise. Six months after the surgery, she is doing well, and still trying to beat the Galgo.

A torn ACL is a common injury for an athlete. Greyhounds are susceptible to this injury at the racetrack and at home. The Greyhound who sustains this injury will demonstrate sudden lameness, which may be progressive or non-progressive. A thorough physical exam including radiographs will allow an accurate diagnosis. The treatment for a strained ACL is rest. If the ligament is torn, then surgery is the best way to repair the injury. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.

Raised Feeder Storage Box



Space the holes evenly from the edges of the box.

Is the space under your raised feeder being wasted? Do you need a convenient place to put all those necessary Greyhound items? A raised bowl feeder storage box is the answer.

Materials Needed

- Old footlocker or any wooden box with lid
- Metal food bowls (preferably with a 1/8 to 1/4 inch lip or ridge)

Step 1: Prepare the Top

Measure the diameter of your food bowl. Subtract two times the lip or ridge width. This is the diameter of your cutout. Check the size by cutting a hole in a piece of cardboard first. The food bowl should slide easily down into the hole. The lip of the bowl should rest on the edge of the cutout, and the food bowl should sit level.

Next, trace the circles onto the top of the box, making sure to space them evenly from the edges of the box. The spacing will depend on the size and type of your box or trunk top.

If your top is made of individual boards, it may be necessary to stiffen the top with some wooden cleats.

Using a router, jig saw, sabre saw, or a roto-zip with circle cutting attachment, carefully cut out the circles.

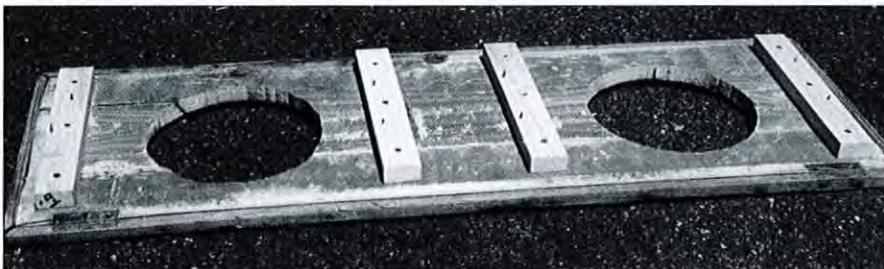
Note: It may be easier to remove the top from the box while cutting the holes.

Step 2: Prepare the Box

It is perfectly acceptable to leave your box as it came. However, you can also opt to line the box with fabric or drawer liners, or even add space dividers to help organize that Greyhound stuff.

Step 3: Add the Finish

Sand all the pieces smooth. If you want the look of natural wood, just apply your favorite stain and a coat or two of polyurethane after the stain has dried. Or paint the box, then add a coat of polyurethane after the paint has dried. Bar top or spar varnish will make the finish last even longer.



This lid has been reinforced with wooden cleats.

Step 4: Final Assembly

Re-attach the top to the box. Place assorted Greyhound things in the box and the food bowls into the hole cutouts.

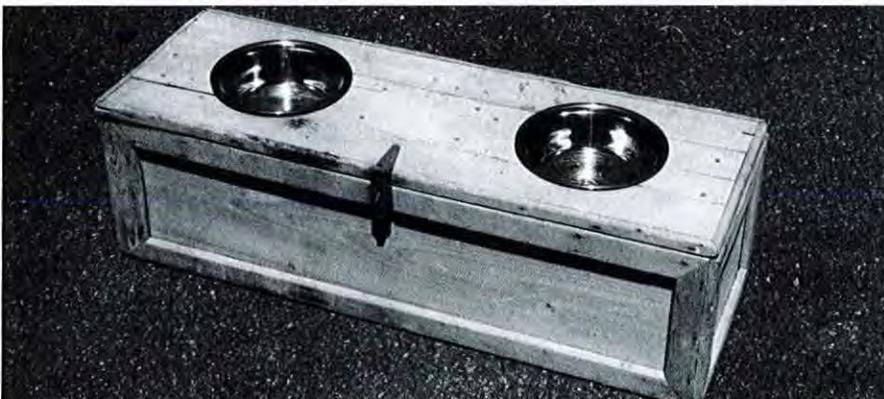
Tips

Tip 1: Make sure there is no food or water in the bowls when opening the top. That can get messy!

Tip 2: We can often find stainless steel bowls with lips at the Dollar Store.

Tip 3: Be creative (and cheap) when looking for your wooden box or footlocker. We find suitable wooden boxes at farm auctions and yard sales. Unpainted-furniture stores and craft stores also have such items.

While you're at it, why not make an extra feeder storage box and donate it to your local Greyhound adoption group? You will feel great about it and they will make good use of it. ■



The finished product.

Nero and Honey Go Into Battle



Honey and Nero.

The morning started off pleasantly as I headed up the fenced paddock with the dogs for our bush walk. We'd had rain. The moisture and the grass growing in the paddock brought an influx of kangaroos from the bush.

Now, don't get the wrong impression about kangaroos. They don't go around looking for people to attack. If given a preference, the 'roo will bolt. But like most wild animals, the 'roo will attack to protect itself if threatened. The kangaroo's main defense against its only natural predator, the Dingo, is to clasp the attacker in its arms, balance on its tail, and rip open the Dingo with the huge toenail of its hind leg. And they certainly can get cranky at times. Our neighbor saw a big old-man kangaroo living around

a swampy area in his paddock next door. He sent his stumpy tail Cattle Dog after it, but when the 'roo headed for the dam, the man called his dog back. If there is water around, a 'roo will go into it. When a silly dog swims out to attack, the kangaroo can grab the dog and hold him under until he drowns.

As we neared the corner of our tree lot, Nero, my 4-year-old black Greyhound, went on ahead as he always does. Honey, my 5-year-old fawn Greyhound, followed at a more leisurely pace. Daisy, my Australian All Breed, followed along behind with me. Suddenly, Honey took off in a flat-out gallop and disappeared from sight. *Nero must have something*, I thought. Chasing after them, I cursed my slow legs and the time it took to see what was going on around the corner.

For a few seconds I couldn't work out what it all was. Out of this struggling mass on the ground, up stood an enormous old-man kangaroo — with two Greyhounds hanging off of him! By the time I reached them, it was a real battle. Honey was hanging on to the butt of the 'roo's tail. Nero was leaping and grabbing wherever he could, and Daisy dodged in and out. At various points, the 'roo had first Honey, then Nero clutched in its front legs.

If I'd had only one Greyhound that day, I probably wouldn't have him now. It was fortunate that the two big dogs were together, because when one Greyhound grabbed the 'roo's tail and threw it off balance, he or she prevented the 'roo from using its back legs to rip the other dog. Suddenly, the Greyhounds — and Daisy — were squashed as the 'roo toppled, falling with them as it held them.

I approached, and the kangaroo stood up. As I tried to circle behind it from about eight feet away, it kept turning to face me. I had this terrible chill of fear; it was as tall as I was. Standing on its toes, it would have been over seven feet tall. With one move, it

I don't know if my hounds were deliberately working in unison, with one pulling the 'roo off balance by grabbing and dragging on his tail...

could have grabbed me with its enormous forearms. I felt utterly useless.

Suddenly, there was a terrible yelping. Honey ran away on three legs. *Oh no! A broken leg or shoulder*, I thought. I called her to me and clipped her lead on, hands shaking, then looked to the others. As I



Honey, Nero, and Daisy recuperate at home. Note the shaved areas where Honey and Nero's battle wounds were repaired.

watched, the 'roo just lay down. Nero backed away. I called to him; almost gratefully, Nero came to me. Daisy decided she would call it quits, too. The dogs were absolutely exhausted, and so was I. The entire episode couldn't have lasted more than three or four minutes, but it felt like hours.

I performed a quick check of the dogs. Both Greyhounds had several skin tears. Nero had a deep hole just behind his elbow, probably from the 'roo's front toenail. We all managed to make it back to the house, where I telephoned the veterinarian. He suggested a thorough examination of their wounds under anesthesia, so I left the hounds in his care. Four hours later, Honey was up and about, with a bit of stitching and a drain. We feared that Nero's deep wound might have pierced his lung or caused rib damage, but X-rays showed all was clear.

In all the fuss, Nero lost his collar, so I went back up in the paddock with Daisy to look for it. When we returned to the main battleground, the kangaroo was gone. I found Nero's collar. I was filled with dreadful feelings of remorse and guilt. I do everything I possibly can to keep my dogs safe. How could I have let this happen to my two beautiful Greyhounds?

We were all so lucky. The wounds the Greyhounds received were almost identical, probably from when the 'roo had clasped them in its arms, digging in with its claws. Fortunately, kangaroos do not bite. Nero and Honey were both rather sore and sorry for themselves for several days.

The veterinary nurse said she had seen some terrible injuries inflicted by 'roos. I don't know if my hounds were deliberately working in unison, with one pulling the 'roo

off balance by grabbing and dragging on his tail, but they could easily have been disemboweled. And so could have I.

My veterinarian told me of one of his clients who was attacked by a kangaroo. She went on her usual morning walk with her dogs to a dam, where the 'roos gathered. Her dogs and the 'roos took no notice of one another. But one day a big male kangaroo grabbed her. Fortunately, she had the presence of mind to twist and turn her back up against his chest. She escaped, but required numerous stitches to close the wounds he scratched in her back as he tried to drag her towards the water. ■

Beatrice Anderson lives with her husband and dogs on 100 acres in rural Northeastern Victoria, Australia. Honey and Nero were both foster Greyhounds who decided they would stay.

The Great Greyhound Goodwill Air Tour



Maggie McCurry and Nail arrive in Washington, D.C. Midnight Blue Studios

On July 1, 2002, veteran pilot Maggie McCurry departed Tucson International Airport in her small private plane bound for El Paso, Texas. Her passengers were Amber and Doodlz, two recently retired racers from Tucson Greyhound Park. Maggie is the founder of Wings for Greyhounds, a non-profit organization that provides airborne transportation services to retired racing Greyhounds in need of homes ("Wings for Greyhounds," Winter 1997 CG). The Tucson-to-El Paso flight was just the first leg of an 8,000-mile, 24-day trip that would take her to 25 cities in 20 states in an attempt to raise public awareness about Greyhound adoption. The following is her account of The Great Greyhound Goodwill Air Tour.

What was I thinking?

We stared in disbelief at the radar map of Texas. Storms hundreds of miles wide covered the state from north to south. We were on the west side, and we needed to travel 800 miles east by evening. Things did not look good.

The first leg of The Great Greyhound Goodwill Air Tour had gone well enough. Amber and Doodlz were transported without incident from the Greyhound Adoption League in Tucson to their El Paso volunteers. Now we were in El Paso, looking at a Texas-sized storm between us and Houston, our next destination.

Since there was a narrow strip of marginal weather along the southwest side of the state, we first flew southeast from El Paso to Corpus Christi, picking our way

around the rain showers, staying low under the weather, and trying not to drift into Mexico by mistake. At a stop for fuel in Del Rio, we checked the radar to find severe weather headed straight for the airport. Once airborne, we watched the airport disappear under a wall of rain clouds.

The weather improved considerably as we neared Corpus Christi, where we landed in bright late afternoon sunshine and a strong breeze. Checking the radar map again, we realized that the sky was clear all the way to Houston, if we followed the Gulf coast. After six hours in the air, we decided that one more hour to Houston was plausible. We arrived in Houston dead-tired, but on schedule. That evening, we watched television as the huge storm pounded the state. Our arrival in Houston under clear skies was the first of many miracles that were to happen over the next three weeks.

The next morning, we returned to the airport to meet the folks from GPA/Houston and our passengers, Dan and Chunk. The local TV station conducted an interview for the evening's local news that would later run repeatedly on CNN. We were accomplishing our goal of promoting the adoption of retired racing dogs.

It was a short flight from Houston to Baton Rouge, where our friends with GPA/Louisiana would receive Dan and Chunk. We flew low to stay below the storm clouds. Texas has a lot of very tall towers; a finger on the map and a good eye kept us from tangling with any of them. Along the way, one of our two navigation radios failed, leaving us with no back-up. Not a good situation. Baton Rouge airport soon came into view. We landed to find the parking ramp filled with Greyhounds and their humans, with banners and cheers welcoming us.



Raffle Man touches down. Midnight Blue Studios

Oh, and more media.

And the left brake was on fire.

It took a lot of begging to get a mechanic to fix the brake on the 4th of July weekend, but no one at Baton Rouge could fix the radio. With 1,000 miles and four more stops to make by Sunday, we convinced a technician from a radio shop in Houma, 100 miles south of Baton Rouge, to look at the radio, if we flew to Houma. By the time he finished repairing the radio, the airport was shrouded in storm clouds, preventing our return to Baton Rouge. Unfortunately, we also missed a wonderful Cajun dinner with Cynthia Cash and GPA/Louisiana (and believe me, Shoney's in Houma was a poor substitute).

An early start the next day took us low over the bayou en route to Pensacola, Florida, where hounds and humans from GPA/Emerald Coast greeted us. This group does a terrific job with the desperately under-represented Greyhounds of the Florida panhandle racetracks. We may have missed our Cajun dinner, but we ate great fish by the Bay in Pensacola.

On day five, Greyhounds Cole and Dancer met us at the airport for their trip to GPA/Atlanta-Southeastern Greyhound Adoption. Once again, the media covered our adventure and at least one curious local pilot asked what we are doing: "Umm, is this, like, a cult?" (I guess maybe we could have said yes!)

The air over Atlanta was heavy with smog, and visibilities were low. Atlanta may not top Texas in the tall towers department, but it does have what appears to be a couple of the world's biggest smokestacks. Descending for the airport and being at eye level with one of these huge things was a new experience, one of many on this trip. *In fact, where is the airport anyway? Aha!* The familiar shape of an airport slowly emerged out of the soup.

After landing, all was quiet in the parking area until the big glass doors to the terminal opened to reveal dozens of Atlanta Greyhounds and GPA members cheering us in. It was quite a reception. Five television stations covered our arrival. I felt like Ari Fleischer conducting a White House briefing

as I stood before a battery of cameras and microphones to talk about the Greyhounds.

The following day, we bid goodbye to Cole and Dancer and our new Atlanta friends as we headed for Charleston, West Virginia to collect Raffleman and Nail for a trip to the Washington, D.C. area. Another early morning departure took us to Frederick, Maryland, where we landed in the smallest airport of the trip, and received the largest reception. Media representatives (including some from *The Washington Post*) swarmed the airport, interviewing the pilots, new Greyhound parents, and adoption representatives. Later, we enjoyed a lunch with members of GPA/Maryland, who presented us with a cake decorated with the Air Tour logo. We left feeling that if people in the D.C. area don't now know they should adopt a Greyhound by now, they never will.

The next leg of our trip involved flying through some of the busiest airspace in the world. Our route to Bridgeport, Connecticut took us over Manhattan. Even with its tragically altered skyline, New York City is still a magnificent sight. The woods of New England slid beneath our wings as we headed for Connecticut to pick up two Greyhounds, Direct Connect and Jersey Turnpike, at Shoreline Star Greyhound Park.

Penny Zwart from Shoreline Star and friends saw us off the next morning with several more Greyhound passengers and a massive seafood platter. We couldn't eat it in the main cabin — our Greyhounds would likely have experienced a gourmet seafood breakfast buffet — so we waited until we arrived in New York City to enjoy the goodies. Our Greyhounds were met in New York by Jacque Schulz of the ASPCA, one of the major sponsors of the Air Tour.

On the morning of July 8, 2002, American television viewers heard about Greyhound adoption. Very early that day, we were whisked into Manhattan for appearances



A warm Washington D.C. welcome. Midnight Blue Studios

on CBS's *The Early Show* and CNN's *American Morning with Paula Zahn*. The Greyhounds, renamed Connie and Jerzee, were a national hit. Connie snaffled the biscuits and almost ate CNN anchor Leon Harris's script on Paula Zahn's show, but other than that, they were models of Greyhound perfection.

Remarkably, after eight days and over 3,000 miles, we were still on schedule. Another crossing of the New York skyline took us toward Concord, New Hampshire, to pick up our new travelers, Lookie and Astonishing, from Linda Miranda of Lakes Region Greyhound Park. Television, radio, and the local newspaper covered our departure from Concord for our short flight to Boston. In Boston, local Greyhounds, owners, and the press welcomed us. That evening, we dined at an historic inn with Louise Coleman and members of Greyhound Friends, Inc. of Hopkinton, the group that received our two passengers.

We pressed on to keep our date in Portsmouth, New Hampshire with Diez and Timmy, retired from Seabrook Greyhound Park. Chris Makepeace, the local REGAP representative, brought our passengers to the airport, and their trip made the front page of the local newspaper.

Next stop: Philadelphia, where we met old friends and made new ones. David Wolf, director of National Greyhound Adoption Program (NGAP), a major sponsor of the Air Tour, did a terrific job of getting the media to cover our arrival. We even provided an interview and photographs to London's *Daily Telegraph*.

Although we planned a day off in Philly, it was not to be. A look at the weather indicated that Philadelphia was going to be hit by storms, so once again we hightailed it to the airport to get out ahead of the weather. Our destination was Pittsburgh, where we found Going Home Greyhounds banners adorning the airport buildings. Jeanne Megrey and members



Maggie with Timothy and Diez in Philadelphia. Nancy Waddell

of Going Home Greyhounds, knowing we had been living in hotels for over two weeks, treated us to a welcome home visit that included a much-appreciated opportunity to do laundry.

The next morning, we were on our way to Indianapolis with Flying Cobblepot and Ivy on board. This was one of our longer flights, so it was a good feeling to report "Over the Speedway; inbound for landing," to the Indy control tower. We were met in Indianapolis by USA Defenders of Greyhounds and Speedway owner Mari Hulman George. Mari is a big advocate for Greyhounds, and the slogan "Race Cars Not Greyhounds" is visibly posted around the famous Motor Speedway. As we arrived at the Speedway for lunch in the Owner's Box, the Indy 500 pace car cruised to a halt beside us.

"Get in," said Mari.

"Me?" I asked.

"Yes, you're going for a ride on The Speedway."

"Wow!" I exclaimed.

It was an even bigger Wow at 140 mph. Stephan, our Indy race car driver, pointed out that this was pretty slow: "In the Indy 500, we do 225 to 240 mph." Co-pilot Val Malutin also got to take a spin on the track and it was so much fun to see Sally Allen, President of USADog, whiz by at high speed. Lunch was followed by a tour of Gasoline Alley, which was filled with practicing NASCAR drivers. In the evening, we were joined by USADog supporters and their Greyhounds for a delightful buffet dinner at the hotel, while we watched our airport interviews on the evening news.

After a morning television appearance with Ivy, we flew north over Lake Michigan to Racine, Wisconsin. Cynthia Zember met us there and treated us to dinner at a lovely lakeshore restaurant. It was nice to

relax by the water after so much flying — but not for long. Off we went again the next morning with Greyhounds Rush and Victoria bound for St. Louis. Cynthia and her mother sent us off with gifts and homemade kringles, a traditional local pastry, which we had to defend against the Greyhounds.

Two groups met us at Spirit Airport in St. Louis: REGAP and Rescued Racers. We met more new friends and old friends, more welcoming Greyhounds, and were treated to another terrific dinner and a lot of wonderful gifts. (I will not have to buy any clothes for about two years.)

Amazingly, at this point in the tour, we had traveled for 18 days, landed at 18 airports, covered over 6,000 miles, and were still on schedule. We were surrounded by adverse weather throughout most of the trip, but clear skies seemed to open up before us. Miracles happened on this tour.

A welcoming committee was there to meet us in Kansas City, where we met Kate



Maggie and NGAP Director David Wolf speak with representatives of the Philadelphia media. Nancy Waddell



Maggie is greeted by actresses Linda Blair and Karlie Warren at the Van Nuys Airport in Los Angeles, the last stop on the Air Tour. Elaine Livesey-Fassel

Bressler and the folks from Greyhound Support Kansas City. The next morning, Fox TV News captured our departure from the airport, and several air traffic controllers told us they had seen our story in the *Kansas City Star*.

From Kansas City, we flew south with 9-year-old Yvonne and 18-month-old Bryce. Both were excellent fliers, and they were excited to meet all of the other Greyhounds waiting at the airport in Dallas. Once again, several television news crews and reporters from the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Plano Star Courier* covered our arrival. Greyhounds Unlimited (GU)

treated us to a Texas-sized dinner, and we received many wonderful gifts. By this time the airplane was overflowing with all of the treasures we had collected along the way, so GU kindly took our stuff and mailed it home for us.

Finally, we turned the airplane west, heading for Pueblo, Colorado. It was a

Providence); Karle Warren (CBS's *Judging Amy*); Kellie Monaco (ABC's *Port Charles*); and actress and animal rights advocate Linda Blair. Linda Brown from Retired Racers and Joyce McRorie from GPA/Los Angeles-Orange County collected our precious cargo, and we all enjoyed a champagne reception at the hotel.

Very early that day, we were whisked into Manhattan for appearances on CBS's The Early Show and CNN's American Morning with Paula Zahn.

long 700-mile flight, but the weather was fair as we crossed Texas and the Oklahoma panhandle on our way into Colorado. The flight was uneventful, but on landing we saw oil all over the right wing; not what a pilot wants to see. We didn't think we would find a mechanic willing to help us on a Saturday, but we did (another miracle) and he fixed what could have become a critical leak.

Our next destination was Albuquerque, New Mexico, with Snooty Tootie and Prince on board. Tootie's new family was at the airport to meet her, along with Greyhound Companions of New Mexico. Once again, the local news channels turned up at the airport to report the Greyhounds' arrival.

Two days later, we were airborne again for the final leg of this incredible adventure. The Phoenix-to-Los Angeles leg was our Victory Flight — a celebration of what we had achieved over the past three weeks. Fast Dogs Fast Friends boarded Classic Greta and Miss Tangle Tamer for the two-hour flight to Van Nuys airport in Los Angeles. What a reception we received there: The Ark Trust, an Air Tour sponsor, ensured an impressive turnout by the Los Angeles media. Our welcoming committee included Gretchen Wyler, president of The Ark Trust; Concetta Tomei (NBC's

The Great Greyhound Goodwill Air Tour was an incredible feat of cooperation by Greyhound people all over the country. Those who provided critical support included Cynthia Cash, who did an amazing job of itinerary creation, logistics, and coordination; our generous sponsors, including PETSMART Charities, the ASPCA, NGAP, The Ark Trust, and all of the individuals who sent checks to help us on our way; everyone who contributed to a spectacular media effort, especially Christine Sever of Atlanta, who did everything possible to get media coverage for the Air Tour; Jaree Donnelly, who created and maintained a terrific website with creative input from Claudia Presto; Joanne Bast, who provided support in countless ways; and everyone else involved. The Air Tour illustrated what the people involved in Greyhound adoption do best. People thousands of miles apart came together around the single goal of promoting Greyhound adoption, and it worked.

And if anyone else asks, "Are you doing this again next year?" I'll scream. ■

Maggie McCurry is a pilot and the founder of Wings for Greyhounds.

Promoting Greyhound Adoption at Renaissance Faires

What is a Renaissance Faire?

A Renaissance Faire or Festival attempts to recreate the European Renaissance period. Faire participants (and some visitors) dress in clothing typical of the Renaissance period and speak and act in a Renaissance manner. There are shops selling crafts, food, and drink; demonstrations, stage shows, and street performers; and parades, jousts, and a Royal Court, all working together to give patrons the illusion that they have stepped back in time.

A Bit of Background (or "It's All Mik's Fault")

On January 6, 1995, Mik and Matt Wilkens adopted their first Greyhound, Ebony. A month later, the Arizona Renaissance Festival (ARF) started its annual season. As they do every year, Mik and Matt attended the Festival. However, like most large Renaissance Faires, ARF does not allow pets, so Ebony had to stay home.

For the first time while attending a Faire, Mik noticed the lack of a key ingredient for recreating a Renaissance atmosphere: dogs. And what better dog to have at the Faire than the noble Greyhound? With that in mind, Mik asked ARF's director for permission to bring Greyhounds to the Festival for the purpose of promoting adoption. Mik's intention was to dress in Renaissance garb, bring a couple of hounds and some literature, and stand outside the Festival entrance for an hour or so each morning. Instead, the director offered to provide a booth for the full eight-weekend run of the 1996 Festival (and promised to build a custom booth if the project was successful).

Mik's group, originally called Lord AAGI's Kennel after the group's original



Greyhound booth at the Arizona Renaissance Faire.

sponsor, Arizona Adopt A Greyhound, Inc. (AAGI), is now known as the Greyhounds of Fairhaven. It will celebrate its eighth year at ARF in 2003. (And yes, we got a custom booth in 1999.)

Why Promote at a Faire?

Renaissance Faires are the ultimate meet-and-greet. Small Faires may attract 10,000 or more patrons over a weekend. Large Faires may attract hundreds of thousands of patrons during a multi-week run. This allows you to expose many, many people to Greyhounds on a personal basis.

Below you will find some basic information about promoting Greyhound adoption at Renaissance Faires and other historical re-enactment events, based on our nearly eight years of experience. But before we get to the dos and don'ts, a caveat: *Faire,*

although fun, is hard work. As a participant at the Faire, *you* are the entertainment. In addition to promoting adoption, you enhance the experience of the patrons. And unlike meet-and-greets, which generally last a few hours, a day at the Faire may be eight to twelve hours long, including travel and set-up time. Working at the Faire requires a lot of time (prior to the Faire's run, during the Faire, and afterward), money, equipment, and a lot of commitment.

Plan Ahead

Do not wait until a month before Faire to plan your promotion of Greyhound adoption at the Faire lest it consume every waking hour of your life. Unless you have several experienced Renaissance Faire participants ("Rennies") who are able and willing to help, you will have a lot of work



Mik Wilkens, founder of the first Greyhound group at a Renaissance Faire, with Rahja, Faire-hound veteran.

ahead of you organizing and educating members, preparing costumes, purchasing and creating necessary items, attending workshops, and so forth. If you don't have a Rennie in your group, or if you don't have access to one, it's time to start visiting some Faires.

Becoming a Faire Participant

In general, there are two types of Faire management: government and private.

Some Faires, usually smaller ones, are run by government agencies such as parks and recreation departments. Getting into these can be fairly easy, since they are rarely juried (auditioned) and often must follow laws that prohibit discrimination.

Other Faires are generally private business concerns. Getting into these can be either fairly easy or very difficult. The largest Faires are almost always juried and may have long waiting lists for entertainment groups. In this case, you may have to appeal

directly to the Faire ownership. Write a description of your group, including your purpose, your experience, and what benefit you will bring to the Faire. You will not provide income for the Faire, so emphasize your contribution to the Faire's overall atmosphere and authenticity. Mention similar groups performing at other Faires. Also, remember that Faire managers are busy people, even in the off-season. Be respectful of their time, and understand that they are doing you a favor by hearing you out.

Faire contracts may be negotiated from two to twelve months before a Faire starts. The type of contract you get can vary; some Faires have guild contracts, others may categorize you as entertainment or vendors.

What Adoption Group Are You Representing?

Okay, you've got a contract. Now it's time to think about the particulars of what

you'll be doing at the Faire, namely which group(s) you will promote. Consider representing all groups in your area. That way, you can provide maximum support to potential adopters, maintain good relationships with all groups, and have a larger pool of potential members from which to draw.

At the Faire, have contact information for all of the local groups. Check with the Faire management regarding their rules for literature distribution and design your flyers or brochures accordingly. Provide information on both local and national adoption resources. Some Faire patrons may live well outside of your local adoption groups' area.

Member Participation

Try to get members to commit to working full days and to participate for the entire event. Although it is possible to split Faire days into shifts, it is not recommended. The problems of scheduling, timing, passes, and the general logistics of working shifts make it more of a hassle than it's worth. In addition, many Faires do not like issuing passes to participants who work for only a single day or a few hours.

In our experience, it is much better to have a small number of dedicated *members* rather than a large number of *volunteers*, who too often think of working with the group as a free day at the Faire with their Greyhound. You will make a far better impression if the majority of your members are there every day. Your members will be more effective at what they do, since they will gain experience and skills more quickly.

Garb and Basic Faire Accent

Make sure your members are in appropriate garb and have at least a rudimentary knowledge of Basic Faire Accent (BFA). A Faire persona is another good thing to have (although not always required) to enhance Faire patrons' experiences.

Many Faires run workshops for participants. These are highly recommended as



All hounds at the Faire must be child-friendly.

they teach acting, BFA, Faire etiquette, and the general rules of the Faire. Workshops may also include costume swaps.

While garb can be purchased, most participants make their own. This can take a bit of time, but is much less expensive than buying it. Peasant garb is easiest, cheapest, and fastest to make, and peasant personas tend to be easiest to play.

Some Faires have very strict costuming requirements for participants; others are much more lax. Authentic period costumes will be accepted at all Faires, while less authentic garb may limit your participation to fewer venues. Therefore, it is a good idea to do your homework when buying or making garb.

No matter the venue, sunglasses, cell phones, pagers, watches, cameras, etc. make a bad impression. Even if not specifically prohibited, leave them at home, or at least keep them well hidden. And don't forget your hound's garb! Use leather leashes and cloth or leather collars; even the most unsophisticated patron will recognize that nylon does not belong at the Faire.

Groups that maintain high costuming and acting standards may not only be asked to return the following year, but may be sought by other Faires. As an example, the Greyhounds of Fairhaven were asked to perform at the San Diego Renaissance Faire because of their performance at the Arizona Renaissance Festival.

Educate Your Members

Your members should know some general history of Greyhounds in the Renaissance (or whatever time period is being recreated at the event). The question "Why are the dogs here?" is not your cue to begin talking about adoption. A better initial response is a brief overview of the significance of Greyhounds at the Faire and in history. Tell patrons that Greyhounds were one of the preferred hounds of the nobility. *Then* explain that you are promoting adoption. Remember, from the patron's point of view, you — like the rest of the Faire's participants — are there to entertain them.

Collecting Donations

While you may be able to collect donations at the Faire (check with the management of the venue before soliciting donations), the real purpose behind promoting adoption at the Faire and similar events is to expose a large number of potential adopters to Greyhounds. If collecting donations is your primary goal, you would be better off taking the money out of your pocket and donating it directly. With the cost of costuming, equipment, and time, working at the Faire can be an expensive proposition, one for which you will probably never get monetary payback. However, if you truly enjoy working at the Faire, you will find that spending time there with your hounds is all the payback you will need.

Taking Hounds to the Faire

A Renaissance Faire can be a very busy, noisy place with lots of distractions. If you have a good booth or pavilion as a base, you may be fine with Greyhounds who are a bit shy. However, it's best to bring only experienced meet-and-greet hounds who are not easily spooked. A spook might panic and cause an unfortunate incident. Besides, it is unfair to the hound. If any Greyhound is getting antsy, nervous, or grumpy, ask the handler to remove it from the public area so that it can rest for a while and calm down. Be firm with your members on this point. Even the best meet-and-greeters and experienced Faire-hounds can get tired after a long day at the Faire.

There is no place at the Faire for a hound who cannot be trusted with children. It is impossible to control the environment well enough to make these dogs safe. Do not allow aggressive Greyhounds at the Faire.

Keep the ratio of hounds to handlers in check. In general, more than two hounds per handler is too many. With more than two hounds, the handler will find it nearly impossible to pay attention to the hounds and the patrons at the same time, let alone talk to the patrons about the hounds.



Greyhounds escorting the Queen at the San Diego Renaissance Festival.

Clean up after your hounds in order to make a good impression on both patrons and participants. Ideally, you will have a place “backstage” where your hounds can go. If so, remember to take them there frequently. Even backstage, clean up immediately.

The Rules

Rules may come from many sources, including the Faire management, your parent group, or your own internal rules. No matter the source, always remember: *Faire rules trump all*. You are a guest of the Faire management. No matter what your rules are, or your parent group’s rules are, the Faire management’s rules override everything. If you cannot abide by the Faire’s rules, you may not be allowed to return. Additionally, you may create ill will that will prevent your group or other groups from being permitted to participate in the

future. It does not matter that you are good people, that you are a charity, or that you are volunteers. *You must follow the rules.*

Typical Faire rules will include costuming guidelines, rules of etiquette, and restrictions or prohibitions on backstage guests and smoking. Some Faires may have additional rules relating to the distribution of literature or collection of donations. These rules often exist to maintain compliance with local laws.

What You’ll Need for a Faire

Besides dedicated members, authentic costumes, basic historical knowledge, and your wonderful Greyhounds, there are a few other items you need to promote adoption and make your days at the Faire comfortable and safe. Here is a partial list:

- Shelter (booth, pavilion, tent, or other covered area)

- Furniture (chairs, benches, and one or two small tables)
- Rugs
- Dog beds
- Water
- Drinking vessels for people and hounds
- Banners or signs
- Baskets, statues, knick-knacks and other items to provide atmosphere
- Ex-pen, crate, or small fenced backstage area for hounds who need a time-out

While most of these items are relatively inexpensive, the total cost can add up. Many of these items can be purchased or donated by the members to help spread the cost. Yard sales, thrift shops, and swap meets are good places to get rugs, furniture, and decorations. Pay attention to the patterns and materials to be sure that they are appropriate for the historical period.

Other Events

Do not overlook events other than Renaissance Faires, especially when starting out. Many communities have Celtic Festivals, Highland Games, and other medieval or Renaissance-themed events. Some Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) events may also be suitable for your group. Having the experience of participating in one or two of these events may make getting into a large Faire easier.

For More Information

Additional information and resources on starting and running a promotional group at a Faire can be found on the Fewterers Guild web site at www.FewterersGuild.org ■

Mik Wilkens, Michael Sheldon, and Marsha Roe are all members of the Greyhounds of Fairhaven, and have participated in several Renaissance Faires throughout the southwest United States promoting Greyhound adoption. Between them, they have twelve Greyhounds (and three spouses) who participate in Faires with them. You can learn more about the Greyhounds of Fairhaven at www.GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org

Fostering Greyhounds Down Under



Debbie, adopted by Julie and Rob Hands through the Greyhound Adoption Program, Victoria, Australia.

The Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP), located in Victoria, Australia, has been adopting Greyhounds since 1997. Recently, our 800th Greyhound entered GAP. We don't have kennels, so we use foster homes exclusively to ready our ex-racers for life in a domestic environment.

We have around 70 foster homes, of which about 30 are active at any given time. Our volunteers are dedicated and work hard to help the Greyhounds adjust to life off of the track. We are perhaps a bit unusual in that we shift our foster Greyhounds around amongst the homes rather than leaving them in one spot. Each GAP Greyhound will usually spend time in three foster homes. We find that this works well for a number of reasons: 1) We are able to expose each Greyhound to as many new experiences as possible; 2) We are able to gain a broad base of knowledge about each dog; and 3) The

Greyhound doesn't become too settled or attached, and adjusts more easily to his forever home. We foster each Greyhound for six to eight weeks before considering it ready for adoption. We find that the majority of Greyhounds cope very well with placement in multiple foster homes. We stabilize those who don't cope as well in a single foster home.

Our aim is to place the right dog in the right home, so it is important that we really get to know the dog during the fostering period. Our Foster Coordinator works closely with each foster home and contacts them on a weekly basis for an update report on the progress of the dog. The close contact between the Foster Coordinator and foster homes enables us to provide the caregivers with guidance and support. This then ensures each Greyhound receives the "education" he needs to make the transition from track to couch.

We have a wonderful sponsor, CopRice®, who provides food for all of our foster Greyhounds. We are also sponsored by Advantage® and Drontal®, so we are able to keep our dogs parasite-free. GAP supplies each foster home with leads, collars, and coats for the foster Greyhound. In addition, each caregiver receives a small weekly gratuity to offset any costs they may incur whilst fostering the dog. We are fortunate in that GAP is fully funded by Greyhound Racing Victoria and we have strong industry support.

Due to the nature of our foster program and the fact that we move the dogs around, it is very important that we achieve as much consistency as possible amongst the caregivers and their home environments. We encourage all of our foster homes to use the same commands and have the same household rules to reduce confusion for the dog (e.g., no Greyhounds on the furniture or beds). We have developed what we believe is a very comprehensive Foster Evaluation Book which travels with each dog and is completed by each foster caregiver. This book also acts as a guide for our foster homes and encourages the caregivers to undertake certain assessments, enabling us to get a fairly accurate understanding of each Greyhound. Upon adoption, we make a photocopy of the book to keep on file and give the original to the new owner. The book becomes an invaluable tool for the adopter as they know what we have done with the dog, and if any problems occurred, what we did to correct them. It also tends to give them a basic understanding of their new dog even before they get him home.

The Foster Evaluation Book consists of several sections. The first page is a Foster Summary with space to record general

Foster Home Co-ordinator:
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____

**GREYHOUND
ADOPTION PROGRAM** 

Foster Evaluation Report

**** PLEASE COMPLETE THE SOCIALISATION WORKSHEETS ****

NAME	EAR BRANDS	SEX	D.O.B	COLOUR	NUMBER

Date of arrival: / / Date of departure: / /

General attitude of dog

Can you **withdraw food** from the dog while it is eating? YES NO
 What is the dogs reaction? None Growls Cowers
 Can you **touch** the dog while it is eating? YES NO
 What is the dogs reaction? None Growls Cowers
 Is the dog a: Big eater Picky eater Normal
 If the dog finished eating before the others, what would it do? _____

How did the dog act towards **adults**? Friendly Aggressive Timid
 Calm Withdrawn Hyperactive
 Comment: _____

How did the dog act towards **children**? Friendly Aggressive Timid
 Calm Withdrawn Hyperactive
 Comment: _____

How did the dog act towards **dogs**? Friendly Aggressive Timid
 Calm Withdrawn Hyperactive
 Comment: _____

How did the dog act towards **cats**? Friendly Aggressive Timid
 Calm Withdrawn Hyperactive
 Comment: _____

Do you have any concerns or other comments to make about the nature of the dog? _____

General compatibility of dog

Is the dog suitable for a home with **adults**? YES NO

Figure A

Is the dog suitable for a home with **children**? YES NO
 Of what age? _____

Is the dog suitable for a home with **elderly people**? YES NO
 Is the dog suitable for a home with **other dogs**? YES NO
 Is the dog suitable for a home with **NO other dogs**? YES NO
 Is the dog suitable for a home with **cats**? YES NO

What sort of home do you feel the dog would be best suited to? _____

General behaviour

When walking the dog on lead, does it? Pull strongly Walk quietly
 Become overexcited

Comment: _____

Could a child or elderly person walk the dog? Yes No
 When travelling in the car, does the dog? Stand Sit quietly
 When in the car, does the dog appear? Settled Nervous
 Comment: _____

Did the dog sleep inside at night? Yes No
 If the dog slept inside, was it? Settled Unsettled Noisy
 Comment: _____

Did the dog sleep outside at night? Yes No
 If the dog slept outside, was it? Settled Unsettled Noisy
 Comment: _____

Is the dog housetrained? Yes No Nearly
 Did the dog show any destructive behaviour? Yes No
 If Yes, what? What was done to correct it? _____

If the dog showed aggression, what action did you take? How did the dog respond? _____

Do you have any suggestions on what work needs to be done with the dog to correct any anti-social/problem behaviours that the dog has exhibited? _____

ADOPTION SUITABILITY / GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE DOG:

Signed: _____ Date: / /

Figure B

Socialisation Worksheet One

Please complete the following as and when your foster dog encounters any of these situations by placing a tick in the box which best describes the dogs reaction. These worksheets should stay with the dog as it passes through the program so that its progress can be tracked and the dog introduced to new situations. It should be noted that even where a dog has 'passed' a certain socialisation criteria you should still work on it to ensure the dog remains comfortable in that situation. Please note any additional comments at the bottom of the form.

Calm: No real response, not worried by the situation in any way.
Anxious: May be timid, but where you believe the dog will improve with familiarity.
Fearful: Shows real fear or aggression when placed in this situation.

Response (c = calm, a = anxious, f = fearful)	1st encounter			2nd encounter			3rd encounter			Comment/ Observation
	C	A	F	C	A	F	C	A	F	
Level Crossing / Train	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Busy Main Road	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Truck/Sem/Trailer	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Motorcycle	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Sudden Loud Noise (eg. Car alarm, horn)	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Rollerblader/Skateboarder	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Bicycle rider	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Footpaths (eg wooden)	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Cattle or other grid	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Busy shopping centre (eg. Local shops)	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Sprinkler	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Lawnmower, whippersnipper, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Chainsaw	<input type="checkbox"/>									
TV, Radio, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Vacuum, Hairdryer, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Stairs	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Windows	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Shiny floors	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Other (pls describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>									

Additional comments/observations: _____

Figure C

Socialisation Worksheet Two

Please complete the following as and when your foster dog encounters any of these situations by placing a tick in the box which best describes the dogs reaction. These worksheets should stay with the dog as it passes through the program so that its progress can be tracked and the dog introduced to new situations. It should be noted that even where a dog has 'passed' a certain socialisation criteria you should still work on it to ensure the dog remains comfortable in that situation. Please note any additional comments at the bottom of the form.

Calm: No real response, not worried or interested in the other animal.
Interested: Shows curiosity, but does not try to grab or strain toward it, worth working with.
Keen: Displays definite interest in the other animal, not safe off lead or unmuzzled.
Very Keen: Shows real prey drive and aggression to the other animal - would do anything to get to it.

Response (c = calm, k = keen, VK = very keen)	1st encounter				2nd encounter				3rd encounter			
	C	I	K	VK	C	I	K	VK	C	I	K	VK
Large livestock (horse, cow)	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Med livestock (sheep, goat)	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Small animals (rabbit, ferret)	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Chicken, duck, peacock, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Cage birds (budgie → cockatoo)	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Aquarium fish / goldfish	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Dogs - Large/Giant	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Dog - Medium (lab, be'er, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Dog - Small (not moving)	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Dog - Small (moving)	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Cat - not moving	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Cat - moving	<input type="checkbox"/>											

Additional comments/observations: _____

Figure D

OBEDIENCE COMMANDS

Please complete the following:

Have you worked on teaching the dog **Heel**? YES NO
 How has it progressed? _____

Have you worked on teaching the dog **Stand**? YES NO
 How has it progressed? _____

Have you worked on teaching the dog **Free**? YES NO
 How has it progressed? _____

Have you worked on teaching the dog **Sit**? YES NO
 How has it progressed? _____

Do you use a **Halt** when teaching the commands? YES NO
 Are there any other general obedience commands you have taught the dog? _____

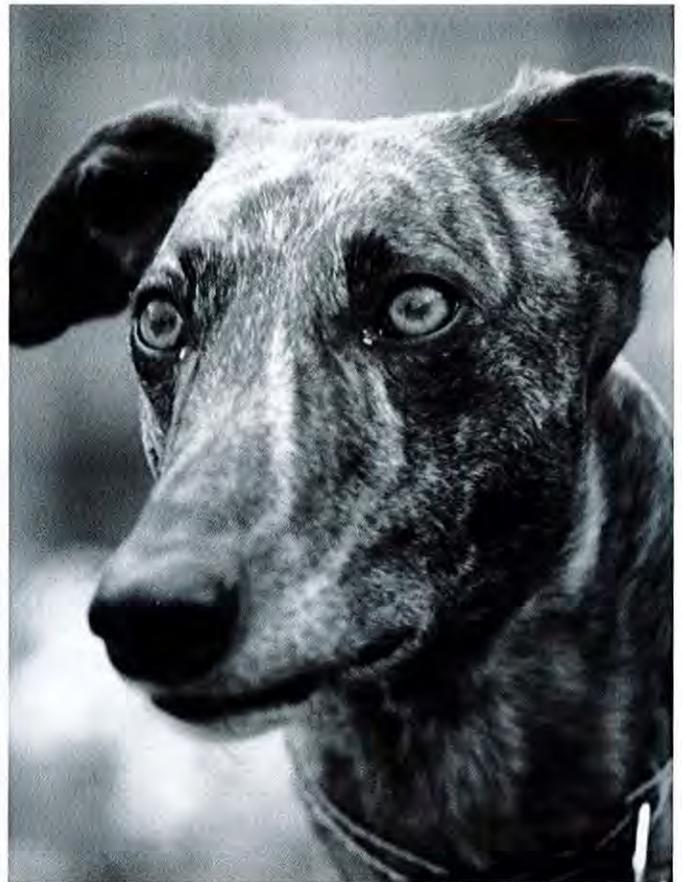


Figure E

Rosie, adopted by Julie and Rob Hands through the Greyhound Adoption Program, Victoria, Australia.

information about the dog (age, sex, retirement date, identifying marks), dates of medical care (worming, vaccinations, flea treatment), foster home history, and current location. Following that is a Weight Chart that enables GAP to set a weight goal for the dog and record his progress against it. Additional pages allow the GAP staff and volunteers to note general observations about temperament and health made in the pre-foster assessment at the kennel as well as to make personal notes about the Greyhound for the benefit of his new owners.

Next, the book includes a description of emergency situations, basic first aid for Greyhounds, and the telephone number of a local veterinary clinic. An Equipment Checklist allows the foster caregiver to verify the receipt of the Greyhound's gear: lead, collar, coat, muzzle, food, and any additional equipment. Each caregiver completes this checklist when the dog arrives, facilitating the smooth transfer of the dog from kennel to foster home and between foster homes.

The remaining 20 pages of the book consist of a five-page profile called a Foster Evaluation Report. This profile is duplicated for and completed by each of the foster homes caring for the dog. The first section of the Foster Evaluation Report is a checklist that enables the foster caregiver to record the results of general attitude testing and observations about the dog's general compatibility and behavior (Figs. A and B). The next section consists of Socialization Worksheets. The first worksheet enables the caregiver to note the dog's exposure and reaction to new situations ranging from motorcycles and lawn sprinklers to vacuum cleaners and stairs (Fig. C). The second worksheet is a place to record the dog's exposure and reaction to animals of various sizes and activity levels (Fig. D). Finally, the book includes a section for the caregiver to summarize the dog's progress in learning basic obedience commands, such as Heel, Stand, Free (a release command), and Sit (Fig. E).

We work very hard to give our Greyhounds the best possible chance to find a

forever home. As well as assessing each dog, we encourage our foster caregivers to begin teaching each Greyhound basic obedience commands. At the completion of the fostering process, we find that our dogs adjust quickly and easily into their new and final homes. While we do get returns, as most groups do, these are kept to a minimum because of the initial work that goes into matching the right dog with the right home.

Slowly, Greyhounds in this country are becoming more accepted as pets. There are seven Greyhound adoption agencies in Australia that work very hard to place Greyhounds into homes and to educate the public about the wonderful nature of the breed. Greyhound adoption is still a very new concept here, and we are many years behind our cousins in other parts of the world, but we are trying hard to catch up! ■

Larissa Darragh is Coordinator of the Greyhound Adoption Program in Victoria, Australia.

Therapy Dogs Make a Difference



Stealth and the staff. Back row, left to right: Dana Provost and Lawrence Dudley. Front row, left to right: Michael Nicholson and an unidentified nurse supervisor. Alice O'Hearn

For Patients and Visitors

By Alice O'Hearn

It was quiet in the lobby of the rehabilitation hospital. Visiting hours were over and most of the patients were asleep in their rooms. My husband and I wearily signed out on the visitor log and returned our visitor passes. It had become a nightly ritual after working all day to visit my mother, who was recovering from a broken back.

The only person in the lobby, other than the receptionist, was a young boy who looked to be about nine years old. It was

apparent he had been in an accident. He had a halo on his head to support his broken neck. His right arm was in a cast. He was wearing a back brace and both legs were suspended in steel cages. His frustration was obvious as he attempted to maneuver the electric wheelchair with his one good hand.

The double doors from the corridor opened. A pretty blonde woman with two magnificent Greyhounds strode into the lobby. The dogs made a beeline for the young boy. I held my breath, not knowing what would happen next.

The woman reminded her dogs to be gentle, and they were. The small white Greyhound stood to the side and observed, but the larger black Greyhound slowly and steadily approached the wheelchair. He pointed his slender nose in the direction of the boy's halo and began to methodically sniff the hardware from the top of the boy's head to the tip of his toes. The dog then took a step back and paused as he looked deep into the boy's eyes. He took two steps forward, leaned over the arm of the wheelchair, and rested his head on the one part of the boy's body that was unencumbered by apparatus — his bare chest, directly over his heart.

To my amazement, the dog held that position for what seemed an eternity. The boy slowly lifted his good hand and rested it on the dog's head. The boy's lips turned upward in a tentative smile. Without a single word spoken, the Greyhound expressed his love, compassion, and understanding.

For Staff

By Lawrence Dudley

I have been a rehabilitation technician for 14 years and have worked at the Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Las Vegas for ten years. Not long after it opened, the hospital announced that it would be instituting a therapy dog program. I heard about such programs through television and magazines, but I never saw one in action. I was very curious and a little anxious.

Any trepidation I felt was immediately alleviated when I first saw Stealth, a certified therapy Greyhound. His gentle nature and liquid black eyes stole my heart. I was optimistic that the therapy dogs would help the patients, but I totally underestimated the impact they would have on the entire hospital.



Ginny. Sue Bulsza, Doylestown, Pa.

I look forward to Thursday because it is therapy dog day. As I make my rounds, I tell my patients that the dogs will be arriving in the evening. When the dogs and their handlers walk in, the somber hospital atmosphere turns electric. It reminds me of when

As the dogs and handlers go from room to room, the patients talk to the handlers and dogs of course, but they also talk to each other. The conversations often last long after the four-legged visitors have gone. This social interaction speeds the healing process.

The staff benefits equally if not more from the visits. Caring for patients can be exhausting work, and a visit from a therapy dog can rejuvenate your soul.

I was a child and the ice cream truck came to my neighborhood. As soon as the tinkling music was heard, the quiet street suddenly teemed with happy children and adults. The therapy dogs with their jingling collars have the same effect. Staffers come from behind their desks and patients and visitors filter into the hall. Each person wants to stroke the soft fur of a therapy dog or share a story about a beloved pet.

The visits have benefited many patients not only in spirit but in body as well. One particular patient comes to mind. He was a law enforcement officer involved in a traumatic accident in the line of duty. His extensive injuries required many surgeries and even the slightest movement was painful for him. We were concerned that the pain would hamper the recovery of his mobility. That's where the rescued Greyhound

became the rescuer. On his very first visit with the patient, he approached the bed, expecting a pat on the head. The patient fixed his eyes on the Greyhound's face and with much determination slowly extended his hand to rest upon the dog's head. There were beads of perspiration on the patient's brow from the extreme effort, but there was also a dazzling smile on his face.

The staff benefits equally if not more from the visits. Caring for patients can be exhausting work, and a visit from a therapy dog can rejuvenate your soul. It's not often I have a bad day, but on one particular evening I was not at my best. As the dogs and their handlers stopped to visit me, I knelt on the floor as one dog came to my side. As I unloaded my troubles into his pricked ear, he laid his soft head on my shoulder to comfort me. His intuition astounded me. I kissed the top of his head as I hugged him. When I stood up, my attitude was much brighter and I was able to focus on caring for my patients.

Although we've had many breeds of dogs visit in the last ten years (and we love them all), we currently have seven Greyhounds who visit weekly. Their gentle nature, tall stature, and body awareness make them the perfect therapy dog. The therapy program benefits everyone. The patients, staff, handlers, and dogs all enjoy it. In addition, the exposure is beneficial for the Greyhound rescue effort. Over the years, several hospital workers, patients, and visitors have adopted Greyhounds after being introduced to the breed through the therapy program. The therapy dog program truly is a winning program. ■

Alice O'Hearn is a copy editor for CG and has two certified therapy Greyhounds, Sierra and Riley. Lawrence Dudley is a Rehabilitation Technician at Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Las Vegas, Nev.

Stealth, Therapy Veteran



Stealth visits patient Amanda Micale at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Center.

Greyhounds are the ultimate therapy dogs. Their ease of training coupled with a gentle demeanor make the breed an excellent choice. This is a story of one Greyhound who has abandoned his “couch potato” retirement status to devote time to loving others in ten years of service as a therapy dog. His name is Stealth.

Stealth was the first Certified Therapy Greyhound in Nevada. Several local television and cable stations have filmed him doing his therapy work and our local newspaper featured him in several articles. Stealth’s therapy work over the years has made him an excellent ambassador for the adoption of retired racing Greyhounds. He is responsible for not only the adoption of many Greyhounds, but for their certification as therapy dogs as well. With 273 Certified Therapy Dogs, Nevada ranks fourth in the United States. Most of the therapy dogs are in Las

Vegas. There are currently 190 Greyhounds certified nationally with Therapy Dogs, Inc.

How Stealth Became a Therapy Dog

Almost a decade ago, I adopted my first Greyhound, Stealth. Right after I adopted him, I took him in to see the veterinarian for a checkup and the doctor’s wife happened to be in the office. She belonged to a local canine therapy group that tested all types of breeds for certification into the program. She remarked on Stealth’s demeanor and said he was an excellent candidate to become a therapy dog. That’s all the encouragement I needed to go forward and find out what was involved to make this a reality. Imagine helping and sharing your Greyhound with others while getting quality one-on-one time with your dog. Life couldn’t get better than that.

What is the Process to Become a Therapy Dog?

My first step was to get Stealth certified as a therapy dog with a local canine therapy organization. Some of the rules have changed over the years. At the time, the process involved sending a letter to the local canine therapy organization to request getting him tested. They sent me information on the testing requirements. Because of Stealth’s racing background, he was already well socialized. Therefore, I did not feel Stealth needed formal obedience training to pass that component of the therapy test. After a few practice sessions, I felt he was ready to be tested.

Testing Day for Stealth

Can you get any more nervous than the day you get your first adopted Greyhound? The answer to that question is yes. We went through the test, step by step. He was doing wonderfully, until — we came to a road-

block. Stealth had to be put in a sit, down, and stay position. What? I must have overlooked that part of the test. A Greyhound stay? I could put him in a down position allowed for Greyhounds by the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen test — but stay? Every time I started to walk away, he would hesitate for only a moment and then follow me. He had no idea what stay meant. We failed the test. Disappointment engulfed me. Both Stealth and I were heart-broken. How could this *perfect* Greyhound fail at anything? The tester/observer said that we could retest on the portion we failed in one month. She was a dog trainer and gave me some pointers on how to put the word “stay” in Stealth’s vocabulary. She said if I consistently and diligently worked with him every day he would be ready in time. She stated, “He did so wonderfully on all the other points that he will make an excellent therapy dog.”

The Retest

A month later, we were ready to be retested. I placed Stealth in a down-stay and walked about 16 feet. It was grueling. The seconds slowly ticked by. The tester/observer directed me to reassure him into the stay, since he looked like he was ready to get up. So I did. After what seemed like hours, she calmly said, “Recall your dog.” I said, “Stealth, come here.” And he did! I started crying as I exuberantly hugged the tester/observer. I then jumped up and down, yelling, “He passed! He passed!” On my way home, we stopped at a hamburger joint. Elated, I told the drive-through attendant that my Greyhound had just passed his therapy dog test. She shared my excitement and gave me two extra hamburgers on the house in congratulations to Stealth. He ate both of them with gusto.

Stealth Goes to Work

Stealth took his new job to heart — literally. Throughout his tenure, he has provided emotional support to numerous patients throughout the Las Vegas area. His weekly visitations have included the local county hospital, University Medical Center, and more frequently the Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital. During his younger days the visits to UMC took three hours. We were allowed into every department in the hospital, quite a feat since allowing dogs in hospitals was new to Las Vegas at the time. Several of the patients were quite taken by seeing a Greyhound in person. He made some patients cry out in sheer enjoyment of petting a real Greyhound. He would lay his head on their chests, gaze up into their faces, latch on to their eyes, and reach into their souls. His eyes would communicate, “I am here now. It’s okay. I feel your pain and I will do my best to ease it.” Tears would roll down the patients’ cheeks as they felt Stealth’s endearment. They hugged and caressed him. He just had that quality about him, unexplainable at times.

If Stealth felt it was okay for Allie to visit the patient, he would let her go next to the patient’s bedside as he leaned up against her to reassure her.

Only once in all our years doing therapy has Stealth had a negative reaction to a patient. This patient was terminally ill and in the last stages of cancer. Stealth slowly approached the bed before abruptly backing away. I tried to get him closer to the patient, but he remained sure-footed and stuck. The patient said, “Oh, honey, it’s okay, he’s scared. Don’t push him if he doesn’t want to visit, I understand.” It broke my heart.

To this day, he knows his way around the facilities, knows who to visit and for



Ashley Davis, a participant in Clark County Library’s Reading to Rover Program, shares a story with Stealth.

how long. He’s gotten over his negative reaction to the terminally ill. It is truly astonishing to see Stealth in action.

When I adopted my second Greyhound Allie, both of them became certified as a therapy dog brace team (two dogs on a coupler lead). It was extraordinary to see Stealth with Allie during hospital visits. Many times I would watch Stealth work his magic, not only with the patient, but also with his companion Allie. She was a nervous and shy girl. Stealth knew that. He would approach the patient’s bed and stay there for a bit until it was Allie’s turn. He would then let her go to the patient’s bedside only if he felt the patient was “safe”. If the patient was very sick, abrupt, loud, or harsh, he wouldn’t let her by the bed. Allie, who was much smaller than Stealth, could hide behind him and would only peek out from beneath his protective chest. If Stealth felt it was okay for Allie to visit the patient, he would let her go next to the patient’s bedside as he leaned up against her to reassure her. It was very subtle, but I saw this interaction between them many times. They were quite a team.

Stealth currently works with our county library’s Reading to Rover program. Children who have trouble reading aloud are paired with a therapy dog who is nonjudgmental about reading skills. Now that he moves a bit more slowly, this job is definitely more suitable for a super senior like Stealth. He listens to the child so intently with his head in their lap, occasionally drooling on a page or two or lifting his head and forcing it under the child’s hand, signaling him or her to pet him. He is able to make the children laugh from the sheer joy of having a reading companion who is so focused on their actions. It is definitely a match made in heaven.

Throughout our years of service, Stealth and I have become more than a team; we are now joined as one. He has become my heart dog. Sharing the love of our combined hearts with patients is the greatest joy. If we can take away a moment’s pain from someone who is hurt, sick, or lonely, we will have achieved what we set out to accomplish ten years ago. ■

Dana Provost is CG Features Editor.

Therapy Pet Certification

Certification is very important when doing pet therapy work. Certification of a handler and dog indicates successful completion of testing or evaluation by a qualified member of a therapy pet organization. Certification gives the handler confidence that he or she is ready to begin visiting any type of facility: Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, Alzheimer's units, veterans centers, and other health care facilities are among the most common. Certification generates documentation that the handler can show a state health inspector, if requested to do so, while visiting a facility. Finally, certification by a therapy pet organization usually means that the pet will be insured while on official therapy visits.

Before a handler and dog can represent a therapy pet organization on therapy visits, they must meet strict requirements. Each therapy pet organization has slightly different requirements for certifying a therapy team. For example, to become a certified therapy team with the Oklahoma City Chapter of Paws For Friendship, Inc., a handler and dog must complete an evaluation process. A team evaluator meets the handler and dog and puts them through their paces (typically, at a local PETsMART) as follows:

1. Is the dog walking on a loose leash without pulling?
2. Does the dog walk politely through a crowd of people?
3. What is the dog's reaction to being petted all over by a stranger? How does the dog react when the evaluator touches his ears, head, neck, body, legs, and tail? Does the dog pull away? Does the dog demonstrate shyness or aggression?
4. Will the dog allow the evaluator to squat down and hug his neck? Does the dog pull away?



Dennis Adams's Greyhounds, Tex and Lion, demonstrate appropriate behavior when they are petted by a new friend, Ginger McDugle

5. How does the dog respond when the evaluator gets close to his face?
6. Will the dog tolerate being petted by other strangers, including children and store employees?
7. Does the dog attempt to jump up on the person who is petting him? A therapy dog must not jump up on people.
8. Does he become aggressive or shy when another dog approaches him? Does he greet the other dog in a polite manner? A therapy dog must get along with other pets.
9. Does the dog obey the handler's verbal commands: sit, down, stay, and come? Obedience is very important in a therapy dog, especially the larger dogs. The handler must be in complete control of the dog while on a therapy visit. Although completion of formal obedience training is not required, the handler must have taught the dog these basic commands.
10. Is the dog well-behaved during the evaluation process? Or does he whine and pull to leave?
11. How does the dog react to an approaching shopping cart, merchandise dolly, or forklift? What does he do when someone drops something that makes a sudden loud noise? Does he jump and try to run, or does he merely turn to observe what made the noise? Therapy dogs must be able to tolerate strange sights, sounds, and pieces of equipment such as metal food carts, patient carts, and cleaning equipment.

12. Does the dog display confidence in the handler to protect him while these strange and unusual pieces of equipment are nearby? The dog will always look to the handler for reassurance.
13. How do the handler and dog interact with each other and with others during the evaluation? A therapy team must like people and be able to interact well with people of all ages.
14. What tone of voice does the handler use to speak to the dog? Is it a soft, kind voice, or a harsh, gruff voice? The handler must be kind to the dog on visits.
15. Does the dog show signs of stress during the evaluation? Therapy visits can be stressful, especially when therapy work is new.
16. Do the handler and dog appear to have a close bond? They must work as a team while visiting. Does the handler pet the dog and talk to him during the evaluation?

If the handler and dog successfully complete the above evaluation, then they qualify to become certified with our therapy organization. If you are interested in volunteering with your Greyhound, join a therapy pet organization that offers certification. There are many good organizations that always need more volunteers, and most Greyhounds have a temperament very well suited for pet therapy work. Our local chapter now has two certified Greyhounds, Dakota and Kianne, who visit nursing homes with their handlers on a regular basis. ■

Lyndia Glover is Coordinator and Team Evaluator of the Oklahoma City Chapter of Paws for Friendship, Inc., an international, nonprofit, volunteer therapy pet organization. For more information about Paws for Friendship, send e-mail to pawstherapydogs@yahoo.com

For more information about becoming certified as a therapy pet team:

Delta Society's Pet Partners® Program screens and trains volunteers and their pets for visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools, and other facilities. They offer training through hands-on workshops and home study courses. Therapy teams are tested for skills and aptitude before becoming Pet Partners. Delta Society provides liability insurance for Pet Partners volunteers and referrals to facilities seeking pet therapy. There are over 5,400 Pet Partners teams in all 50 states and seven countries. Contact Delta Society at (425) 226-7357 or visit www.deltasociety.org

Therapy Dogs Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide registration, support, and insurance for members who are involved in animal-assisted activities. These activities include, but are not lim-

ited to, visits to hospitals, special needs centers, schools, and nursing homes. To become certified, a dog/handler team must pass a required Therapy Dogs, Inc. test administered by a tester/observer, who then accompanies the team on a minimum of three observations at a facility. Therapy Dogs, Inc. has more than 5,000 members in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Contact Therapy Dogs, Inc. at (877) 843-7364 or visit therapydogs.com

Therapy Dogs International (TDI) is a non-profit, volunteer group that provides qualified handlers and their Therapy Dogs for visitations to institutions, facilities, and any other place where Therapy Dogs are needed. Therapy teams must pass the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test as well as TDI's own evaluation. TDI is the oldest registry for Therapy Dogs in the United States. Contact TDI at (973) 252-9800 or visit www.tdi-dog.org



Wicca, KO, Blondie, Sydney, Doc, Oakley, Peter Tom, and Whippets Midnight and Cowboy. Scott and Anne Buckley, Brentwood, N.J.

Helping Hounds Pet Therapy

New Careers for Retired Racers



Snoopy visits with Hayden. Jerry Jacoby

Helping Hounds Pet Therapy is an organization of volunteers and their adopted retired racing Greyhounds who provide pet visitation therapy. We visit nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and care centers for persons with Alzheimer's disease. We also work with special needs children and at other events by special invitation.

Helping Hounds was established in 1997 when Jerry and Elaine Jacoby moved to Memphis, Tennessee with their Greyhounds, Angel and Dempsey. In New York, Jerry and Elaine had been involved with a pet therapy group that was part of Long Island Greyhound Transfer (LIGHT). They called Mid

South Greyhound Adoption Option (MSGAO) at Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis, Arkansas to inquire about therapy groups in the Memphis area. When they learned MSGAO did not have a pet therapy group, they started one using their dogs and recruiting other Greyhound owners who had adopted through MSGAO. American Transitional Care was the first facility that Jerry and Elaine visited with Angel and Dempsey. Soon, other Memphis-area nursing homes and assisted living facilities began to request pet visitation from the Greyhounds. Sandy Bird, assistant director of MSGAO, helped Jerry recruit new volunteers from former and new adopters. Jerry

became volunteer coordinator for the pet therapy program, Helping Hounds Pet Therapy.

As Helping Hounds grew, it needed funding to continue its work. In 2000, the organization received a \$1,000 grant from a local organization. This money funded shirts and bandanas for the volunteers and dogs in the program to identify them when they work at a facility or a special event.

In early 2001, Helping Hounds became a 501(c)3 organization. The logo (a Greyhound racing over the Rx symbol) became a registered trademark. Jerry became the Director of Helping Hounds, and Elaine was Secretary/Treasurer. Other volunteers

formed the Board of Directors. At the same time, MSGAO decided to refocus its efforts on adoption of the retired racers at Southland Greyhound Park. The group officially severed ties with Helping Hounds in late 2001. Many volunteers continue to work for both groups.

In early 2002, Jerry and Elaine left the Board of Directors of Helping Hounds and moved to Leesburg, Florida to be closer to family. They began visiting a nursing home in Leesburg two months after their move.

We have had some wonderful experiences on our visits to different facilities. Several times, nursing home residents who are unable to respond have reached out to our Greyhounds or talked to the dogs despite not having spoken in months. One child at Hope House stopped talking when his father died, but would talk to a Greyhound that visited the day care center. Some of our volunteers have had Alzheimer's disease patients tell them about a beloved pet they remember from years ago to the amazement of visitors, who confirm that the pet did exist. At a Shelby Residential Vocational Services house, Dee Barrett and her hound Foley visited a young man who was curled in a fetal position. The house therapist gently forced the young man's hand and arm into a position to pet Foley. After several minutes, the young man's hand relaxed and his fingers moved in an effort to stroke Foley's soft coat.

We don't always get such dramatic results; we seek any kind of reaction. Sometimes residents tell us they don't want to touch the dog, but ask, "Can you just bring the dog to the door so I can see him?" A resident at one nursing home refused to pet my Greyhound, Keefer. However, she followed us around the entire time we were there. "That's the ugliest dog I've ever seen," she said repeatedly. "Why would anyone want a dog like that?" She always smiled when we left, and she never did pet Keefer.

Once I stopped to speak with a woman sitting in her wheelchair in the hallway,



Cheryl Ramsey and her Greyhound Ellie make friends with Benjamin and Brianna. Jerry Jacoby

A man walking down the hall told me I shouldn't waste my time, since she could not talk. After he passed by, she looked at me and said in a clear voice, "I can talk, and I don't like him."

One child at Hope House stopped talking when his father died, but would talk to a Greyhound that visited the day care center.

In addition to the response from the residents, we get wonderful reactions from the visitors and staff of these facilities. Becky Neeley, recreational therapist at Methodist Hospital's skilled nursing facility, was so impressed with Linda Carlin's hound Henri, she adopted two Greyhounds. She is now assistant director of Helping Hounds. Becky visits the skilled nursing facility and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center's spinal cord injury unit with her

hounds, Wubba and Miss Ashley.

In 2000, my son Jordan received Honorable Mention for his 4th grade science fair project that measured the effects of petting a dog on a person's blood pressure. Jordan found 20 people to participate in his project, including some nursing students at the University of Memphis. His grandmother, a retired nurse, taught him how to take a blood pressure reading. He recorded each person's blood pressure, then brought Keefer into the room and had the subject pet the dog for about five minutes. He then rechecked the blood pressure. He found that 63 percent of his participants had lower blood pressure after petting Keefer; 16 percent had no change; and 21 percent showed an increase in their blood pressure. Helping Hounds continues to use Jordan's project as part of our display at different shows promoting the benefits of pet therapy work.

Helping Hounds currently has approx-



Shilo is the center of attention at Camp Livitup, a day camp for children with disabilities. Ashley Lucket

imately 45 volunteers visiting 50 facilities in the Memphis area. Facilities visited by Helping Hounds include three Memphis hospitals, Hope House Day Care Center for children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, and many nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the Memphis area. We have ten facilities on our waiting list, including a facility that requested visitation every day of the week! We try to assign each volunteer to a facility near his or her home. The visits take approximately one hour each month. Several of the facilities have more than one volunteer visiting each month, and many of our volunteers regularly visit more than one facility.

When new people join the program, an

experienced volunteer team makes the first visit with the new volunteer and Greyhound to evaluate the dog and give tips on working with the residents at the facility. The facility's activities director and the volunteer set up a visitation schedule and stay in contact.

In many instances, the visits are family affairs that give families an opportunity to include children in community service activities. Many volunteer organizations will not allow children under the age of 12 or 14 to participate, but children of all ages can work with Helping Hounds. When I asked Jordan why he enjoyed going with me to visit at Bright Glade Convalescent Center, he said, "Sometimes we are the only ones who visit some of these people.

It's important, Mom."

Helping Hounds continues to grow. In addition to the volunteers in the Memphis area, Helping Hounds has independent chapters in Paducah, Kentucky led by Larry McCullough and Hot Springs, Arkansas led by Marge Newburn. With Jerry and Elaine's move to Florida, Helping Hounds now has a presence in four states. We continue to recruit volunteers to provide for the facilities requesting visitation.

Three Greyhounds are now in training to become certified therapy dogs through the Delta Society. The Greyhounds' owners are looking into training and certification requirements for the dogs and the handlers to become certified as therapy teams for national emergency crisis response.

As with all non-profit organizations, Helping Hounds continues to face the challenges of fundraising. We are working with a grant writer to find funding to create and maintain a website to promote Helping Hounds. And of course, we have administrative expenses, such as postage for our quarterly newsletter, office supplies, and computer equipment needs.

Helping Hounds is dedicated to providing volunteer pet visitation therapy free of charge to those in need of the unconditional love and acceptance of a Greyhound. We are blessed to have the opportunity to do important and rewarding work with these wonderful dogs. ■

Ginger McDugle and her son Jordan live in the Memphis area with their Greyhounds, Snoopy and Harmon Killebrew; Peanut, a Rat Terrier mix; and two cats, Dipsey and Curly. Keefer, her first Greyhound, recently succumbed to bone cancer; Ginger is the former director of Helping Hounds, and was a trustee on the first board of directors.

From Racetrack to Service: An Option for Retired Racers?



Fargo and Siobhan Fromm.

Meet Fargo and Indy

Fargo, a retired racing Greyhound, loves to work. He is constantly volunteering to help his partner — and everyone else with whom he comes in contact. Fargo provides balance and stability while his partner is walking and standing. His delight in retrieving and carrying all sorts of objects, and opening all sorts of doors, keeps life entertaining. Fargo is determined to be a successful helper.

Indy (short for Independence) was a special request from a special client, Norman. After meeting Fargo, Norman asked for a big, gentle Greyhound to assist with balance, momentum and retrieval to compensate for a rare brain affliction. Indy and Norman enjoy getting out and about, and have developed some unique trout fishing techniques. Indy carries the bait bucket to

Norman's favorite trout stream and helps him maintain his balance on the uneven ground. Indy even knows when the fish are biting. During one fishing adventure, Norman set up two fishing lines. The fish began biting on both lines and as Norman was reeling in the first catch, Indy ran to the second line and held it down until Norman could bring in the second fish. Indy is a wonderful fishing buddy and brings a great deal of joy to Norman.

Fargo and Indy are Greyhound service dogs. Though Greyhounds frequently serve as therapy dogs in nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and hospitals, they are not commonly found in the role of service. Can Greyhounds work as service dogs? The answer is yes. Amazing Tails, LLC, Incorporated and Canine Working Companions, Incorporated are programs that successfully train and place Greyhounds to work as service dogs for the disabled and the hearing impaired. Amazing Tails trained Fargo and Indy, who are working with their human partners by providing support with walking and retrieving objects. Canine Working Companions, a service dog training program in New York, has placed at least ten Greyhounds with disabled partners.

Greyhounds can be a perfect match for a person with a disability. Their low level of activity makes them easy companions. They are gentle, sensitive, beautiful dogs with pleasing personalities. But before placing a Greyhound into service training, adoption groups should thoroughly understand the scope of service work for dogs and the training and placement guidelines. Key issues to consider include the types of services provided by dogs; the length and time for training; housing during training; and

placement options for dogs that do not make it through training. If adoption groups and service dog training programs have a clear understanding of what Greyhounds can do as service dogs, then they can begin collaborating to move Greyhounds from racetracks to service.

Who Are Service Animals?

Service animals are versatile, reliable assistants for people with disabilities. Approximately 54 million Americans (about 20 percent of the population) are disabled with conditions such as blindness, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, hearing loss, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, paralysis, and other less visible disabilities. With an aging population and increasing numbers of individuals with chronic illnesses, everyone should understand how service animals can help improve the quality of life for people with different types of disabilities.

The Delta Society and Assistance Dogs International are two of the professional organizations that serve as advocates for service animals and their owners. The Delta Society offers a clear description of service animals in conjunction with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and defines a service animal as any animal individually trained to assist a person with a disability with one or more activities of daily living. This can include guide, mobility, sound alert, seizure alert and emotional support work. Their work is handler-focused and benefits their handlers who have disabilities. Federal law generally permits qualified people who have disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals in all places of public accommodation. Dogs are the most common animals used in this type of service



Shady and Kyle. Amy and Don Connolley, Vernon, N.J.

work. Preferred breeds for most service work are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds and some mixed breeds.

Types of Services Provided by Dogs

Guide dogs for the visually impaired were the first service dogs in the United States. Morris Frank with Buddy, the German Shepherd, founded the pioneering guide dog school (The Seeing Eye) in Morristown, New Jersey in 1929. Currently, about 1,400 dogs a year are placed with visually impaired users by the nine institutions that belong to the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools. These dogs are trained to guide their owners in their daily activities.

Dogs providing assistance for the physically disabled have been in existence since the mid-1970s. There are approximately 135 service dog training programs in the United States. These dogs are trained to help their owners with tasks of daily living. These tasks include assistance in dressing, retrieving and carrying items, and opening doors. These dogs can also help individuals with mobility and balance problems by providing support during movement.

Dogs for the hearing impaired are usually rescued from shelters and humane societies. These dogs are trained to alert their owners to ringing telephones and doorbells,

crying babies, smoke alarms, and other important sounds. Many programs in the United States train dogs to provide these special services to the hearing impaired.

Seizure alert dogs have an uncanny ability to recognize the signs of an oncoming epileptic seizure. At present, researchers do not know how dogs can determine oncoming seizures and perform as seizure alert dogs. Service dog trainers believe that the typical seizure alert dog appears to be more excitable than other service dogs and needs to be very involved with his owner. Often these dogs are rescued from shelters. Seizure alert dogs tend to develop a signal, which could be a touch of the paw, a whine, a bark, or a push. This signal alerts the owner to an oncoming seizure, allowing time for both the owner and dog to reach a safe place before the seizure occurs.

Individuals with invisible disabilities (asthma, heart disease, diabetes and psychiatric disorders) also need assistance. For example, service dogs that help people with asthma are considered alert dogs. These dogs will often retrieve inhalers and alert to triggers that may start an asthma attack. These dogs are trained to bring the phones to their owners during an attack and will often help their owners sit upright to help them breathe more easily until help arrives. Service dogs are also trained to assist people with psy-

chiatric conditions such as agoraphobia, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These service dogs can alert to panic attacks and help individuals get to safe places, often enabling individuals to leave their home after months or years of confinement. The dogs also serve as calming and normalizing agents when people experience anxiety attacks. Some dogs are so sensitive they can alert to changes in mood and provide a great deal of support in cases of bipolar depression.

Benefits of Service Animals

There has been a significant amount of research on service animals during the last decade. Service dog ownership has been associated with diminished levels of depression and loneliness along with increased self-esteem, tolerance and independence. There are many reports from owners documenting the life-changing benefits of service dogs. Most service dog training programs present their clients' stories on their websites or in newsletters and annual reports. A common theme throughout these stories is how service dogs provide new and exciting options for their owners including increased independence, self-esteem, and the ability to establish new social contacts. Most important, owners describe the unconditional love, support and companionship that their service dogs provide.

One of these stories is found on the website of Amazing Tails (www.amazing-service-dogs.com). The featured service dog is Fargo the Greyhound. Fargo's trainer and owner, Siobhan Fromm, has problems with balance and mobility. She describes her first year with this remarkable service dog.

Living With Fargo

"I get a lot of interesting reactions from people as I work with my strikingly handsome Greyhound by my side: 'What a beautiful Great Dane' being the most common. Well, at least I know what a *greyt* dog I have.

Fargo came from a racetrack and the life he leads now is worlds away from what he used to know.

“During the past year, Fargo and I have learned a lot about each other. He has helped me learn things about myself and my physical capabilities. Fargo has always insisted on walking to my right. It took me quite a while to realize that I often drift that way when I walk and he is keeping me on a straight path. He often insists that I let him carry packages — maybe because he knows that I will probably drop them and make him pick them up. When I am having a good day, Fargo’s attitude is clearly ‘Do it yourself!’ and he is happy to stand back. If Fargo thinks I am doing too much, or if he knows that a bad day is coming, he is right by my side and ready to help. I have learned not to argue with Fargo.

“Fargo’s favorite activity is grocery shopping, perhaps since he knows that it is my least favorite. Fargo loves to show off in public; when he prances down the store aisles with a box of cereal or package of paper towels, he is a definite showstopper. At the office, he loves to hit the elevator buttons and carry my papers. He has attended executive meetings with State officials, but also enjoys lounging poolside at a friend’s house. Finding a place for this big boy to be ‘out of the way’ in a restaurant can be a bit of a trick, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. Fargo is my balance, my support, my energy, my partner and my friend. I could not ask for more in a service dog.”

Training Service Dogs – The Amazing Tails and Canine Working Companions Experience

Amazing Tails prepared Fargo and Indy for their important role as supportive caregivers. Founded by Joan Bussard and Siobhan Fromm, Amazing Tails is dedicated to training dogs to assist people with physical disabilities, including service dogs, support dogs, hearing dogs and seizure alert dogs.



With her Service Dog In Training vest, Lulu can go everywhere with her owner, Robin Peters of Sarasota, Fla.

Many service programs prefer puppies that are donated or bred to meet their needs. Often these programs rely on volunteer raisers to socialize the puppies. After a year, the volunteers return the puppies to the training facility, where they live in a kennel during an additional year of service training. Amazing Tails has a unique approach to service dog training; it utilizes dogs that are rescued from shelters within the age range of one to three years. (Fargo and Indy came from Greyhound Friends of Hopkinton, Mass.) Amazing Tails also prefers to keep the dogs in a household environment with an assigned trainer and not in a kennel during the training process.

When a dog is accepted into the Amazing Tails program, it learns the basic obedience commands. Once the dog demonstrates a mastery of basic commands and is comfortable in public, trainers teach the dog specific skills that will be needed by the client. Most important, the training uses techniques that are positive and motivational. The goal of training is to show dogs that working can be fun and satisfying.

Canine Working Companions has been training and placing Greyhounds in service

since 1992. Rona Browning, a trainer for Canine Working Companions, has worked with several Greyhounds. Canine Working Companions has very good working relationships with several Greyhound adoption groups. These adoption groups know which Greyhounds appear to have the best temperament for service and work very closely with Canine Working Companions to place the appropriate Greyhounds into service training.

Canine Working Companions has a training program similar to that of Amazing Tails. Dogs selected for training are placed in foster homes to participate in basic socialization. Next, the dogs return to Canine Working Companions to complete their training. Canine Working Companions carefully places dogs by requiring owners to participate in intensive interviews. All owners must also complete an in-depth training program with their dogs.

Siobhan Fromm and Rona Browning have found that training Greyhounds is not like training other breeds for service. Greyhounds need to be tested for temperament and placed in foster care or trainers’ homes for socialization before training begins. Both

trainers have found that Greyhounds tend to take more time to learn a task. The Greyhounds that take to training love their work and are happy to be doing their jobs. Both trainers have found that dogs who love to work are the best service providers. Dogs of any breed will not work successfully if they do not like what they are doing.

What happens to Greyhounds that do not make it through the training? Greyhounds who do not make it through the training program at Canine Working Companions are adopted by their foster homes or placed in other homes. The staff at Canine Working Companions conducts intensive interviews and home visits to ensure that all of their adopted or service dogs are placed in appropriate homes.

Issues to Consider When Using Greyhounds as Service Dogs

Some believe that Greyhounds, as a breed, should not be used for service work with the disabled. A common perception is that Greyhounds are not as successful as other breeds at mastering the training. The breeds traditionally used for assistance work are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and German Shepherds. However, even these breeds have problems with assistance work. Most programs have a high percentage of dogs that do not make it through training. There are many reasons for high dropout rates, including temperament issues and genetic health problems. These reasons are not unique to Greyhounds.

Another perception is that the body build of a Greyhound will not accommodate the demands of service work. But the right Greyhound can successfully assist its owner with certain tasks. Fargo and Indy were matched with owners who have balance problems and need help with picking up objects and support when walking. Good placement considers the needs of the dogs as well as those of the owner; for example, neither Amazing Tails or Canine Working Companions will

place a Greyhound with an individual in a wheelchair because of the risk of damage to the dog's delicate feet and nails. Furthermore, not all service dogs are providing assistance for mobility problems (the most physically taxing service work). Some service dogs provide seizure alert and others are trained for the hearing impaired, duties that are often less physically demanding. Canine Working Companions has placed two Greyhounds with hearing-impaired owners.

The Greyhound who is a candidate for service is most likely a former racer. Is it right to steer the Greyhound into a second "career," or should they retire as pets? Not all Greyhounds are suited for service. The ideal service Greyhound is a friendly, confident, young dog with a stable temperament that enjoys his work. It is important to remember that dogs that are placed in service are very valuable animals to their owners. They share every moment of their owners' lives. They receive love, constant companionship, and the best veterinary care, grooming, and nutrition. The training that service dogs receive can be worth as much as \$15,000 to \$20,000. Reputable service dog training programs ensure that their dogs are only placed with responsible and caring owners. A life of service work for Fargo and Indy has been happy and rewarding.

The Benefits of Service Work for Greyhounds

Service dogs are with their owners 24 hours a day. These dogs are an integral part of their owners' lives. The ADA states that a service dog may accompany its physically disabled human partner into any public facility, including stores, restaurants, movie theaters, grocery stores, and into the workplace. Service dogs are also allowed to be with their human partners on airplanes and cruise ships.

Most Greyhounds love being with their owners at all times. Fargo goes to the movies and is very happy to sleep on a mat by Siobhan's feet. He has made quite a few flights

with Siobhan to Seattle, Washington in the passenger's cabin. Greyhounds as pets do not have the opportunity to be with their human owners in this way. This opens up a new world to service Greyhounds, as they provide valued and needed services as unique supportive caregivers for their human partners.

For More Information about Service Dogs and Training Programs

Adoption groups considering placement of Greyhounds into service training programs should know the standards and guidelines for service dog training programs. Contact the Delta Society or Assistance Dogs International for additional information:

The Delta Society
289 Perimeter Road East
Renton, Washington 98055-1329
(425) 226-7357
www.deltasociety.org

Assistance Dogs International
P.O. Box 5174
Santa Rosa, California 95402
(707) 571-0427
www.assistance-dogs-intl.org

For more specific information about training Greyhounds as service dogs contact:

Amazing Tails, LLC, Incorporated
651 Scroggy Road
Oxford, Pennsylvania 19363-1144
(717) 529-1144
www.amazing-service-dogs.com

Canine Working Companions
P.O. Box 2128
Syracuse, New York 13220-2128
(315) 656-3301

Dr. Lynn Carson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health at West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania. She is currently involved in research examining the role and function of animals in health and human service. For more information about this research project or Greyhounds in service work call (610) 436-2138 or e-mail: lcarson@wcupa.edu

Politics in the World of Show Greyhounds

The Greyhound Club of America and the Attempt to Close the AKC Stud Book

It is a controversy that goes back several decades and is now being played out against a struggle for control of the national parent club for show Greyhounds. In July 2001, the Board of Directors of the Greyhound Club of America (GCA) petitioned the American Kennel Club (AKC) to close the stud book to Greyhounds registered with the National Greyhound Association (in other words, racing Greyhounds) and to those Greyhounds with NGA Greyhounds in their pedigree. This article will explore the history of the issue, the arguments on both sides of the debate, and the possible ramifications of the AKC's decision for both the Greyhound breed and its national parent club.

First, a little history, and some definitions of terms: The GCA was founded in 1907 and was officially recognized by the AKC as the national parent club for the Greyhound breed in 1909. Although its membership has always been dominated by Greyhound fanciers active in conformation shows, owners of racing Greyhounds have been members in the past, and the GCA's constitution doesn't limit membership to those interested exclusively in show Greyhounds. Those wishing to be members of the GCA must submit an application, which is then voted on by the Board of Directors after a period for comment by members for or against the application. In recent years, a small but vocal minority of the GCA's 166 members, active in lure coursing and other performance events, have spoken out on the merits of breeding functional Greyhounds able to excel in both the show ring and on the field.

The GCA has as one of its objectives the promulgation and protection of the Greyhound *breed standard*, a detailed description of the physical characteristics of the ideal Greyhound. One historical notion that has been more or less universally accepted is that

the breed standard was originally written to describe an attractive coursing Greyhound. A Greyhound in the show ring is judged on how well he conforms to the breed standard. In theory, the breed standard is unchanging and is uniformly and consistently applied by all licensed show judges. In reality, the standard has many subjective terms that are open to varying interpretations by different judges.

The AKC *stud book* is the registry of purebred dogs that can be registered with the AKC. The term, originated to describe the registry of the first thoroughbred horses in England. It is a bit of a misnomer today because all purebred dogs — not just stud dogs — registered with the AKC are listed there in a magazine format published monthly. When the AKC accepts the registration of a breed previously recognized by another registry, it is said that the stud book has been opened to that breed.

There have long been two registries for Greyhounds in the United States. The National Coursing Association (NCA), predecessor to the NGA, was formed in 1896 and began publishing a stud book in 1906. The AKC was formed in 1884, and Greyhounds are among the breeds it has registered from the beginning.

It has not always been possible to register any Greyhound with either registry. In 1935, the owners of Greyhound racetracks in six states attempted to break the NCA's registry by requiring that Greyhounds racing on their tracks be registered with the AKC. When it became apparent by the late 1940s that the NCA would survive as the primary registry for racing Greyhounds, the track owners abandoned their requirement for AKC registration of the Greyhounds running on their tracks. The NCA then offered to exchange NCA registration papers for AKC papers, but

set a deadline of October 1, 1949 for the exchange. After this date, the NCA would no longer accept registration of Greyhounds previously registered with the AKC. (This ban remains today and the NGA will not accept registration of Greyhounds previously registered with the AKC.)

In retaliation, that same year, the AKC stopped registering Greyhounds registered with the NCA. This ban lasted until 1960, when it was lifted at the request of the GCA. The immediate cause for this change in policy by the AKC was a now-famous litter of Greyhound puppies. A female NGA Greyhound named Steverino, better known as the Greyhound Bus Lines advertising mascot Lady Greyhound ("When Greyhound Bus Had a Real Greyhound," Winter 1998 *CG*), was bred to an AKC Greyhound, Rudel's Victor. The resulting litter became the subject of the famous photo depicting puppies in socks pinned to a clothesline. Famous or not, though, the puppies could not be registered with either the AKC or the NCA because of their mixed registry parentage. The AKC granted the GCA's request, and since then all NCA/NGA Greyhounds could be registered with the AKC, at least until the GCA Board's latest request.

At its meeting during the Western Greyhound Specialty in Lompoc, Calif., on July 25, 2001, the GCA Board voted six to one to ask the AKC to close the stud book to NGA Greyhounds; that is, to stop accepting registrations of Greyhounds previously registered with the NGA, or their offspring. The request has set off a firestorm of debate in the community of Greyhound enthusiasts, and has created deep divisions within the GCA membership.

The precise reasons that the GCA Board asserted in requesting that the AKC close the stud book to NGA Greyhounds are not known,



(a). AKC Greyhound or NGA Greyhound? Answers at end of article.



(b)

because the GCA Board has declined to disclose the contents of its request letter to the AKC, even to the GCA membership. However, a number of the reasons can be gleaned from the individual writings of some of the GCA Board members who support closure, including a white paper sent to AKC club delegates in January 2002 by the GCA president, vice president, and recording secretary.

The reason for closure most often advanced is that NGA Greyhounds are bred only for speed, not to the breed standard. Those advocating closure argue that it will be difficult to maintain the breed standard if the AKC offers registration (and thus entry into the show ring) to Greyhounds whose adherence to the breed standard is a matter of coincidence rather than careful selection.

Those opposing stud book closure concede that few, if any, racing Greyhound breeders consult the breed standard in selecting their breeding matches. But, say these opponents, neither do many show Greyhound breeders, to whom “bred to the standard” is really a euphemism for “bred to win in the show ring.” They contend that this drive to win in the show ring has produced generations of oversized Greyhounds that are well over the weight criteria of the breed standard, are exaggerated in the angulation of their legs, and are thus incapable of running and turning well. They argue that, ironically, the average racing Greyhound often is more moderate and more in line with the breed standard than the average show Greyhound that is supposedly “bred to the standard.”

A second reason advanced by those in favor of closing the stud book is that more and more NGA Greyhounds are placed as pets. Some of those are being released unneutered, registered with the AKC, entered in conformation competitions, and bred. The closure proponents fear that given the disparity in the numbers (fewer than 200 Greyhounds registered with the AKC per year on average versus the 26,000-27,000 Greyhounds registered with the NGA each of the



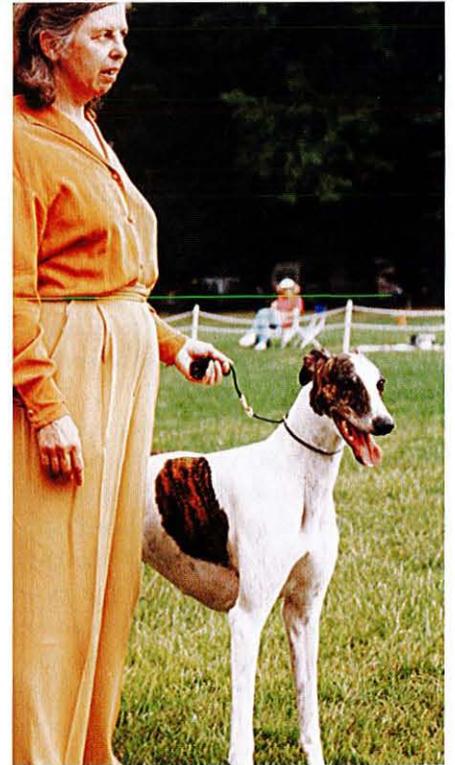
(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

last few years on average) the NGA Greyhounds bred for show ring competition will begin to dominate that venue, causing a dilution in both the value of the show champion title and possibly the look of what they call the "classic AKC Greyhound."

Opponents of closing the stud book scoff at this notion, pointing out that the overwhelming majority of retired racing Greyhounds adopted out as pets are released neutered and are, thus, ineligible for the show ring. They are impossible to breed, so the fear of domination of the show ring or dilution of the show title is unfounded. Those very few

also dispute the Von Willebrand's contentions, arguing that they are based on a sample of Greyhounds from one adoption group and that the standard test for Von Willebrand's disease is not valid for Greyhounds because of blood peculiarities in the breed. (Von Willebrand's disease is a bleeding disorder.)

On the genetic battlefield, the closure opponents point out that AKC Greyhounds have their own particular hereditary health problems, such as bloat and sub-aortic stenosis. They argue that it would be foolish to use registration practices to eliminate NGA Greyhounds and the genetic diversity they could

Greyhound enthusiasts (including this writer) who have publicly criticized the Greyhound conformation community by stating the opinion that it has produced an exaggerated, non-athletic specimen of the Greyhound breed that is unable to run and chase competitively. This theory of motivation has been the subject of much discussion and debate, but there is no hard evidence to support or refute it.

Those who favor leaving the stud book open have formed a coalition to make their own affirmative case in a letter-writing campaign to the AKC and on various Greyhound-related Internet discussion lists. First, they say, it is undisputed that NGA Greyhounds are purebred dogs, and they point to the first element of the AKC's Mission Statement: "Maintain a registry for purebred dogs and preserve its integrity." The closure proponents concede that NGA Greyhounds are purebred dogs, but argue that since they are not bred to the AKC-approved standard, they should not be entitled to AKC registration.

The opponents of closure also argue that those breeders who want to use NGA Greyhounds in their breeding programs to produce moderate, athletic dogs capable of successfully competing in the show ring and in performance events should have the right to do so, and those who don't favor the NGA Greyhound should have the right to make other breeding choices. The closure proponents answer that introducing NGA Greyhound type, or lack thereof, will dilute the classic type that defines the AKC Greyhound.

The procedure by which the GCA Board voted to make its request to the AKC has come to be a significant element of the brief of the opposition. The Board voted on the issue late in the evening of its July 25, 2001, meeting without discussion and without prior notice to the membership that the issue would be taken up. The opponents point out that in 1997, a different Board conducted a referendum by the general membership of the GCA on whether the stud book should be closed. The membership voted 46 to 36

Without the genetic influence of the NGA Greyhound brought to bear by those breeders interested in preserving the athletic functionality of the AKC Greyhound, it is likely that the exaggerations present in the more typical show Greyhound will be amplified by the decreasing diversity of its gene pool.

that are still intact and have the rare owners who are interested in conformation competition, say the opponents, should be allowed to compete and be judged according to the breed standard, letting the chips fall where they may. The more skeptical of these opponents believe that it is precisely this fear of competition that has fueled the movement to close the stud book and, therefore, eliminate the more moderate Greyhound from show ring competition.

A third argument made by the proponents of closure is that NGA Greyhounds have certain genetically-linked health problems, such as osteosarcoma and Von Willebrand's disease, from which the gene pool of the AKC Greyhound should be protected. The opponents reply that NGA Greyhounds do not have osteosarcoma at rates higher than other large breeds, and that in any event, there are non-genetic factors that may pre-dispose some to bone cancer, such as the stresses put on the long bones in racing. The opponents

offer from the small gene pool represented by the AKC Greyhound.

Two other reasons have been offered by some Greyhound enthusiasts as being factors in the GCA Board's decision to ask for closure of the stud book. One is a motivation to express disapproval of the Greyhound racing community by excluding registration of its dogs. This notion is borne out by some statements in the aforementioned white paper of the three GCA officers: "NGA Greyhounds are bred to no standard other than speed, to run faster than other dogs or die," and "AKC Greyhounds don't die if they don't meet the standard." The closure opponents point out that most members of the Greyhound racing community care little about the opinions of the GCA or the AKC, so excluding NGA Greyhounds from the stud book will do nothing to improve their lot.

Another theory offered to explain the motivations of the proponents of closure is that the movement is a backlash against those

against closing the stud book. The Board's unannounced late night vote, say the opponents, thwarts the most recent expression of the will of the membership, which should not be changed except by another similar referendum. The opponents charge that the Board has engaged in an undemocratic grab for power by refusing to hold another referendum on the issue.

In their white paper, the three GCA officers contend that the Board was acting pursuant to an opinion letter solicited by two GCA members from Michael Liosis, the AKC Director of Club Relations, in which he stated that issues such as stud book closure are left to the Board under the GCA's constitution.

These officers also argue that the GCA membership has recently indirectly expressed its approval of stud book closure by electing three new Board members in favor of closure, and in a private petition signed by both GCA members and non-members. At its meeting on January 7, 2002, the AKC Board of Directors imposed a moratorium on the registration of NGA Greyhounds pending a final decision on the GCA Board's closure request. There is debate among Greyhound fanciers as to the import of the moratorium. Some believe that it portends a final decision in favor of closure, and is the AKC Board's way of giving the GCA Board what it wants pending *pro forma* further study. Others believe that it was a compromise holding action worked out by those on the AKC Board against closure to forestall a final vote until after AKC Board elections.

That is where matters currently stand. Meanwhile, deep divisions in both the GCA membership and the GCA Board continue over the issue. The two dissenting members of the GCA Board opposing closure, Corresponding Secretary Beth Anne Gordon and Treasurer Eric Liebes, released copies of the letters they sent to the AKC opposing the actions of their fellow Board members. In May of this year, Treasurer Liebes resigned, expressing his dismay that the GCA Board

has become a one-issue body, deciding all matters in consideration of the stud book issue. The final straw, Liebes said, was the rejection by the Board of the membership application of George Bell, a noted sighthound authority and coursing enthusiast, indicating to him that the GCA is closed to any applicant who disagrees with the Board.

It is anyone's guess what the AKC Board will ultimately decide on the request to close the stud book to NGA Greyhounds. If it grants the request, it will become the only purebred dog registry in the world to refuse to register racing Greyhounds. As a practical matter, this will mean that breeders of AKC Greyhounds who would use NGA Greyhounds in their breeding programs can no longer use them, because the offspring will be unable to be registered with the AKC and thus ineligible to compete in AKC-sanctioned shows. Without the genetic influence of the NGA Greyhound brought to bear by those breeders interested in preserving the athletic functionality of the AKC Greyhound, it is likely that the exaggerations present in the more typical show Greyhound will be amplified by the decreasing diversity of its gene pool.

If the stud book remains open to NGA Greyhounds, it will be business as usual. The NGA Greyhound will likely continue to represent a very small percentage of the Greyhounds brought into the show ring, unless there is a sea change in the physical characteristics rewarded by show judges. However, a small group of breeders will probably continue to use NGA Greyhounds in their programs in pursuit of multi-purpose Greyhounds who can be successful in both the show ring and in coursing or amateur racing.

As for the GCA, its created role as the exclusive enclave of show Greyhound enthusiasts seems secure so long as a Board that wants little to do with NGA Greyhounds or their owners controls the club. That seems a pity, as this national parent breed club might truly fulfill the role its constitution spells out

for it: "To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed."

Ed. Note: The Greyhound Club of America has repeatedly declined CG Magazine's invitations to comment on the stud book issue. ■

John Parker is the president of the Southeastern Greyhound Club and is chairman of the Advisory Board of GPA - Atlanta / Southeastern Greyhound Adoption. He is a lure coursing enthusiast and served as the co-Field Trial Chairman of the 2002 ASFA International Invitational. He lives with his four Greyhounds and two cats in Newnan, Georgia. He wishes to thank and acknowledge Greyhound breeders Patricia Gail Burnham for her contribution of historical and background information and Stacy Pober for the compilation of a wealth of writings and other information on her Web site on the stud book issues at <http://users.erols.com/srs2/akc/>.

Photo Answers:

(a). NGA Greyhound. Ditto Sail On (Sailor) raced at St. Croix Meadows in Hudson, Wisconsin and was adopted by Bekki Drewlo of North Branch, Minn. through St. Croix Meadows Adopt-a-Greyhound. Cindy Hanson

(b). NGA Greyhound. CC Cher (Cher) raced at St. Croix Meadows in Hudson, Wisconsin and was adopted by Jim and Nancy Wallace of South St. Paul, Minn. through St. Croix Meadows Adopt-a-Greyhound. Cindy Hanson

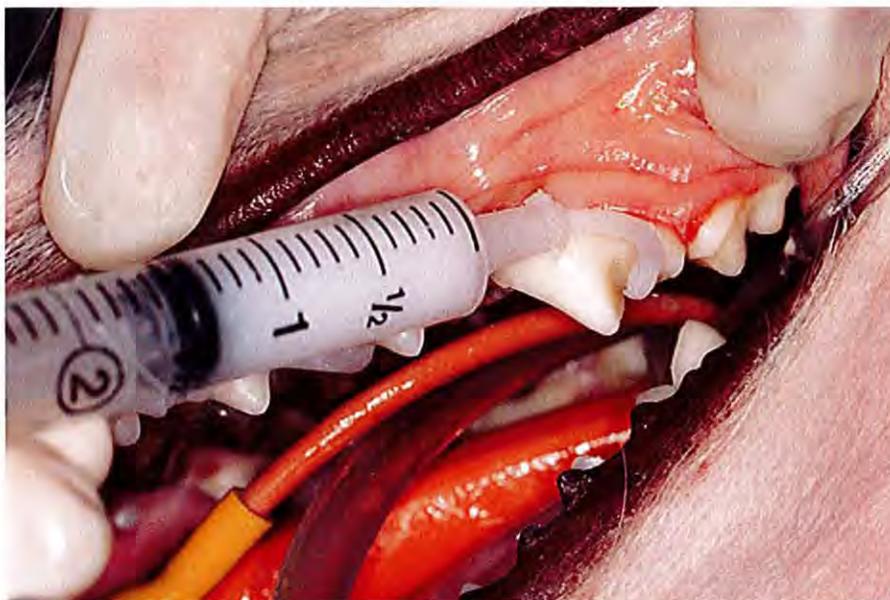
(c). AKC Greyhound. Ch. Gerico's Chasing the Wind, 1999 Best of Breed at Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Marcia Herman

(d). AKC Greyhound. Ch. Tova Touch The Sky, a participant in the 1999 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Marcia Herman

(e). NGA Greyhound. Desireless (Lucy) raced at St. Croix Meadows in Hudson, Wisconsin and was adopted by Bob and Cathi Taylor through St. Croix Meadows Adopt-a-Greyhound. Cindy Hanson

(f). AKC Greyhound with Mary Trubek. Marcia Herman

Slip-Slidin' Away with ProVSEAL™



A veterinarian completes the initial application of ProVSEAL™ after a professional dental cleaning. Castle Beach Company

Over the years, I have emphasized the critical need for daily brushing of teeth for our Greyhounds ("Clean as a Hound's Tooth," Spring 1999 *CG*). Undoubtedly, the greatest flaw in this noble breed lies in this tendency towards dental disease. Treating the hound whose gum recession, exposed roots, and advanced gingivitis are the product of neglected dental care is a frustrating uphill battle.

Those days may very well be gone. A new product is available, and preliminary results suggest that it is a huge breakthrough in the battle against chronic dental disease. No longer will guests enter your home and wonder what that smell is! The product is ProVSEAL™. It was developed to enhance and extend the benefits of professional dental prophylactic treatments. It helps prevent bacteria and tartar from adhering to the teeth, especially those teeth where gum recession

has exposed the root of the tooth. The root has no enamel, and debris may cling to its exposed surfaces.

ProVSEAL™ began in 1990 as a project of Les Long and Ron Dunton, two recreational sailors who were interested in developing a coating that would reduce drag on the hulls of boats and discourage barnacles. The boat coatings were not successful, so they turned their focus to preventing bacteria from attaching to teeth. They succeeded in developing the OraStar® technology: the application of hydrophobic (water-resistant) materials to negatively-charged hydrophilic (water-attractive) substrates. (Substrates are surfaces or materials upon which organisms can grow.) They began the patenting process in 1995. The following year, Ron's wife Terry pointed out that humans can brush their own teeth, but dogs and cats cannot. Might the new technology benefit our pets? Successful

clinical trials on rats, dogs, and cats followed, and ProVSEAL™ is the result.

When bacteria colonize on teeth, they form soft plaque. A few varieties of bacteria are able to adhere to the surface of a clean tooth by secreting an insoluble glycans material. Other varieties of bacteria then attach to the first ones, and the plaque builds and hardens to form tartar.

When tartar is allowed to build up on the tooth, it forces its way beneath the gum line (gingiva), causing inflammation, or gingivitis. This, by itself, is painful and unhealthy, but there is a more insidious process going on. The gum line recedes due to the combination of food and bacteria forming tartar. Tartar then makes its way down to the periodontal ligament, the primary tooth support structure. The end result of this process is the loosening and eventual loss of the affected tooth.

How does ProVSEAL™ guard against dental disease? ProVSEAL™ is a food-grade wax treated with OraStar® technology so that it is positively charged. This then attaches electrostatically to tooth surfaces, which carry a negative charge. When applied to teeth — even wet teeth — ProVSEAL™ forms a hydrophobic (water-resistant) barrier that is thinner than a human hair. Because the bacteria that normally adhere to the surface of a clean tooth are unable to attach to this barrier, they cannot colonize, and plaque will not form. In simple terms, ProVSEAL™, when applied to the teeth, acts like Teflon® on a cooking pan.

The manufacturer recommends an initial professional dental cleaning to remove plaque and calculus (hardened plaque), and to clean the area below the gum line. The cleaning is followed by application of the extra-strength, professional ProVSEAL™.

The professional application is designed to last two to four weeks. However, to be on the safe side, after one week the pet owner should begin weekly application of ProVSEAL™ Sealant Gel with the easy-to-use ProVSEAL™ Home Care Kit. The Home Care Kit lasts a long time, depending on how much product you apply. Generally, you can count on the kit lasting a minimum of one month and probably much longer, even if you are overzealous in your use of the product. (I am now going nine months on my original jar at home, where I am treating my four Greyhounds.)

The sealant gel in the Home Kit is approximately the consistency of petroleum jelly, and can be applied in a few seconds with a finger or a swab. (The Home Care Kit includes handy, disposable applicator sticks.) The gel need not be rubbed into the teeth and gums because the electrostatic attraction ensures that it will adhere to the teeth. You need only apply the product to the outside of the teeth; the pet's tongue will take care of the inside area. Because the gel will spread itself to areas that you may inadvertently miss, its application is extremely simple, even for uncooperative animals.

ProVSEAL™ forms a barrier that remains protectively in place until it is mechanically removed. Once the sealant is applied, daily shedding of micro layers of wax, as well as bacteria and food material that have adhered to it, prevents most tartar accumulation. Regular reapplication keeps an interface of wax between the rough, exposed root and the despised, putrid material so determined to stick to it. Chew toys and dental biscuits will not remove the barrier because they tend to work the chewing surfaces of teeth rather than the gum line, where ProVSEAL™ is most effective.

Brushing is not recommended for several hours prior to application, or 24 hours after. Fluorides and foaming agents used in dental products are electrostatically negative. If ProVSEAL™ is applied immediately



The ProVSEAL™ Home Care Kit, Castle Beach Company

following a brushing, the gel attaches to the toothpaste residue as well as the tooth itself, resulting in wasted product. (An alternative is to rinse your dog's mouth after brushing, and prior to application of ProVSEAL™.)

In most cases, the severely inflamed gums disappear after the ProVSEAL™ application, and you can tell immediately that brushing is much more fluid than in the past. For extremely bad teeth, it may be wise to begin the at-home treatment one week following the professional application, with follow-ups every three to eight days for life.

The manufacturer recommends that the professional ProVSEAL™ be applied at four-to six-month intervals, and following every professional dental cleaning. Nevertheless, older or high-risk animals with less-than-perfect mouths can also benefit from this outstanding new product. According to the manufacturer, if bacteria — even anaerobic bacteria — are trapped beneath a layer of sealant, they are denied nutrients, and thus will cause no further harm.

This amazing substance is not meant to replace the need for daily brushing. It is merely an aid in the battle against daily disease. If you already brush your Greyhound's teeth daily, and your beloved pet has wonderful teeth with no gum recession, this product is not critical for you and your pet but

may help to prevent future trouble. On the other hand, if you need help in the war against this difficult, chronic, and debilitating problem, ProVSEAL™ could be the cavalry whose arrival you've been awaiting so patiently. ■

Reference: www.provseal.com

Rodger Barr graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1975, and began his love affair with Greyhounds the same year. He has presented seminars to breeders and veterinarians on the subject of sighthounds and their medical and surgical peculiarities since the late 1970s. He placed his first Greyhound in 1976 and has been active in Greyhound adoption ever since through GPA (as a member of their original Board of Directors) and most recently through Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption (as founder and current president). He has bred, owned, trained, and raced Greyhounds for over 25 years, and has tried to show the racing industry by example the correct way to manage the Greyhound retirement issue. He is the founder of Foley Boulevard Animal Hospital and has been caring for Greyhounds for over twenty-five years. He lives in Hudson, Wisconsin with his wife Donna, who adopted that first Greyhound he placed in 1976. Rodger and Donna share their home with four Greyhounds and one French Bulldog. A shorter version of this article appeared in the Spring 2002 issue of Chasing Tales, the Newsletter of Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption.

A Meet-and-Greet Field Trip

Pikeville College Students Visit Almost Heaven Greyhound Adoption



Amanda Lafferty (left) and Alexis Fanelli encounter Clay, one of the adoptable Greyhounds at AHGA. Steve Budney

My two aging Greyhounds, Carin and Pascal, died just after I accepted a new job at Pikeville College in Pikeville, Kentucky. I put their picture in my office, and it attracted inquiries from both students and fellow faculty members. I explained what happened to them and assured everyone that I fully intended to get another Greyhound once my wife Heidi and I settled into our new home. That came true when we adopted Henry in October.

It was very apparent that the subject of Greyhounds was generating some interest when an article about Henry appeared in the college newspaper. One of my colleagues then suggested a field trip to an adoption agency. The more I thought about it, the more merit the idea had. Why not introduce students to these unique dogs? Not only would it be a good experience, it might sow

the seeds for a future adoption. I located an adoption group and asked if they would be interested in hosting a meet-and-greet for the interested students. Their response was an enthusiastic "Yes!"

On March 30, ten students and members of the Pikeville College faculty visited Kate and John Shue of Almost Heaven Greyhound Adoption (AHGA) in Cross Lanes, West Virginia. The Shues are committed Greyhound owners who have 13 hounds of their own in addition to the dozen or so who are available for adoption at their facility. For most of the students, this visit was their first introduction to Greyhounds. Thirteen friendly Greyhounds crowded out of the door onto the porch to make it a memorable introduction indeed. These hounds were real crowd pleasers and they definitely played to their audience. Each dog proceeded to

find his or her own person upon whom to focus, and that attention was lavishly returned.

Between introductions, Kate told us how they got started in the adoption business. West Virginia's Tri-State Racetrack is just a couple of miles down the road from Almost Heaven, and the Shues have worked closely with the track since 1997 to place Greyhounds in caring homes once their racing careers are over. John also transports dogs to adoption groups in other states. The first Greyhound placed by AHGA was Fuz-face Eddie, also known as Stimpy. It's hard not to notice that Kate and John have racing trophies in their home. They have raised and raced Greyhounds and told me that sometimes they have used their winnings from stakes races to keep their operation going and help other hounds.

After getting acquainted with the house hounds, the students went outside while the dogs available for adoption were turned out



Darrell Riffe (left) defends himself while Jody Damron encourages some playtime. Steve Budney



Tonya Milam, Daniel Schnopp-Wyatt, and Amanda Lafferty (L-R) meet the Shues' pet Greyhounds. Steve Budney

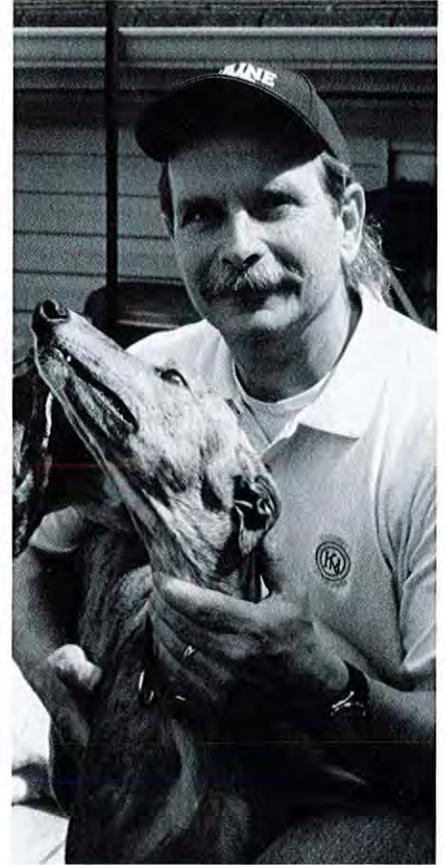


Amanda Lafferty (left) and Alexis Fanelli meet Montana Lil, while Nicole and Daniel Schnopp-Wyatt meet another of the Greyhounds. Kate Shue looks on. Steve Budney

to run. For many, it was their first taste of Greyhound exuberance up close. The experience was positive. "I had no idea that Greyhounds were so well-behaved and easy to get along with," said junior Amanda Lafferty. In fact, if there was one lasting impression, it was that Greyhounds were so

friendly towards people that they were meeting for the first time. Other students voiced similar responses; they could not help but be impressed with the winning personalities that the dogs exhibited.

Overall, the trip was a great success. The students came away with a greater under-



Shelly the Greyhound found a home with the author, Nicole Schnopp-Wyatt

standing and appreciation of Greyhounds and their temperament. Although none of the students adopted at this time, the trip was an investment in the future. At this writing, a meet-and-greet at the college is in the planning stages.

There is a final footnote to all of this: The students who visited AHGA urged the author to adopt a small, friendly female named Shelly who won everyone's affection. She now lives in Kentucky with fellow Greyhound Henry and two Brittany Spaniels. ■

Steve Budney is Assistant Professor of History at Pikeville College in Pikeville, Kentucky. He lives in the Kentucky hills with wife Heidi, Greyhounds Henry and Shelly, and Brittany Spaniels Eva and Hobbes.

living with greyhounds

By Nancy Waddell

Saved by the Bus



Nineteen year-old Suzi Waddell at home in Ocean City, N.J. Nancy Waddell

I am sure it was never her intention to be stuck to a blue Ocean City, N.J. municipal trashcan for close to 20 minutes. It was, after all, January and very cold. If I remember correctly, the weather person said the temperature at the shore was in the mid 20s but with the wind chill, it was around seven degrees. No dog in her right mind would want to be out in that kind of weather, let alone adhere to a trashcan at the entrance to the beach.

I had taken Suzi, our 19 year-old Greyhound, out to do her morning ablutions. We were dressed for warmth. I bore a striking resemblance to a rainbow-hued Sta-Puff Marshmallow Man and Suzi wore her heaviest coat, a muted teal number with fleece lining. We crossed the street to the entrance

to the beach, which conveniently offered a trashcan for doggie deposits. Both of us moved quickly, more mindful of the cold and wind than of our advanced years and arthritic twinges. I could no longer feel my nose. I had wrinkled it when I first stepped outside, and I swear it had frozen in that position. How must Suzi feel with her wet coal-black nose? No, we weren't going to linger; it was that cold.

Neither of us had reckoned on the exciting and ostensibly newsworthy scents that apparently abounded at the beach entrance that morning. Of course, I couldn't smell them because I no longer had a functioning nose. On the other hand, Suzi became engrossed in what every dog eventually does — sometimes much to our consternation —

sniffing. Her little black nose twitched and quivered and ranged here and there on a search for even more odiferous information.

I recall urging her, "Do your business, Suzi," but I doubt if she could hear me with the wind whipping my words away. And even if she did hear me (Suzi is selectively deaf as well as old), she probably couldn't understand what I was trying to say through two layers of knitted scarf wrapped around my face and mouth. Nevertheless, I cajoled, coaxed, and eventually pleaded with my Ancient of Days to finish what we'd come outside to do. I know I was thinking — for probably the three thousandth umpteenth time — that Greyhounds are sighthounds. That's what everyone told me. The books I'd read on the breed concurred, and that's



Summer. Karen Hoyle, Excelsior, Minn.

how they were announced at Westminster. So why did mine spend so much time sniffing?

In addition to her nose, Suzi's tongue is always exposed to the weather. That's because she can't keep it in her mouth. With only one tooth in her lovely face, her tongue tends to dangle out one side or the other and if she wants to use it, well, stand back. It never ends up anywhere near its intended target and too often involuntarily swipes objects better left unnamed. So it was that morning. Determined to sample an apparently intriguing taste, Suzi swiped her tongue at the only green spot of dried brush near the sand path. Instead of hitting her intended target, her tongue went sideways, immediately sticking to the blue trashcan.

Nose quivering and hind end wobbling, she started to back up. I was filled with visions of grade school recess in the middle of winter, of skin left on the basketball pole and blood gushing from the victim's offended appendage. I pushed Suzi back toward the can. Her eyes shot up at me, asking: What are you going to do now?

Like any good mother, I did the first thing I could think of. Kneeling in the sand and

bending over her, I began to blow what I hoped was hot air toward Suzi's ice-trapped tongue. This did nothing more than irritate her further. She started to swing her head from side to side to get away from my breath. Now, not only did I have to keep her from backing up, I had to calm an ancient Greyhound determined to imitate a disgruntled elephant.

By this time, we had attracted a small crowd of construction workers and newspaper delivery persons, all of whom were watching our drama play out. If they had been discussing our dilemma amongst themselves, they didn't offer any suggestions or solutions. Nevertheless, it was obvious that the sight of a large female senior citizen trying to detach the tongue of an even more senior — albeit much smaller — canine from a blue trashcan was a novel form of entertainment.

I have no idea how long we remained in that position, hearing mumbles from the crowd and almost literally frozen in our tableau of helplessness. I do know that not only my nose was frozen, but my cheeks, fingers, toes, and knees no longer felt cold.

In fact, they no longer felt anything. I was determined to get us out of this without hurting Suzi, but I had no idea how. Perhaps I would have to wait hours or longer for the weather to warm up. Unthinkable. But if it had to be done, I'd do it.

But then we were assaulted by a smell I will forevermore associate with salvation: diesel fuel. A full-sized yellow school bus loaded with children screeched to a full stop. Out hopped the driver, who shouldered her way through the six or seven men standing around. She walked right up to us and poured her entire 16-ounce cup of steaming Hazelnut Supreme coffee onto the inside of the trashcan, on the exact spot opposite Suzi's captured tongue. In a second, Suzi's tongue was free and flailing perilously close to the trashcan again, hoping to get a taste of the deli's finest brew. I captured my compliant doggie in my arms, profusely thanked our liberator, and stumbled home with as much dignity as I had left. ■

Nancy Waddell is a frequent contributor to CG and a volunteer with Greyhound Friends New Jersey.

you're invited

Saturday & Sunday, December 7 and 8

Greyhound Friends of N.J. Craft Show and Pet Expo

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday

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Contact: Linda Lyman, 856-751-5134 or Lelyman10@comcast.net

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Apollo. Sarah Regan Snavelly, Moorhead, Minn.

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carpet worn and soft as my Greyhounds, who
turn their heads as if for scent
conquering the stairs
and their differences
to share the glorious
bone-baking
solar
gift

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Introduction by Susan Netboy



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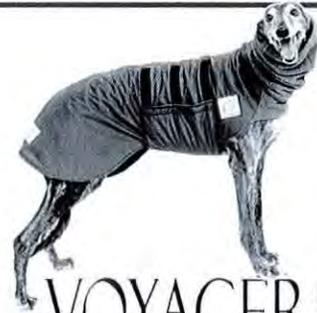


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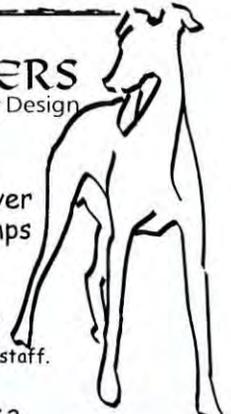
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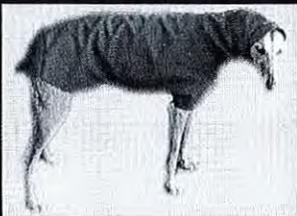
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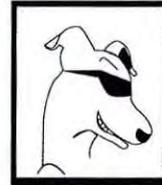


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Molly 1995-2002

Loved and missed by Bob and Annette Callahan of Cape Coral, Florida. She was one of the Hero Hounds featured in "Molly and Sarah Put Smiles Back on Depressed Owner" (Winter 1999 *CG*). Diagnosed with osteosarcoma in August 2001, Molly lost her fight with cancer on August 13, 2002. She had good quality of life this past year with treatment. Molly was very special to us and there really are no words to describe how very much we miss her. She was high-spirited and so devoted to us. She brought out the love in everyone who knew her. It was through Molly that we found our passion for these gentle Greyhounds. Her sister, Sarah, and other companions Sean-Michael and Stacey continue to miss her, too. We hope to see her on the other side some day.



Pretty Boy 1992-2002

Owned and adored by Eileen McCaughern of Bethany, Connecticut. He was featured in two articles in the Fall 1998 issue of *CG*: "FCE: Fibrocartilaginous Emboli" and "Pretty Boy's Triumph Over FCE." A successful racer until the age of five, he was adopted from his racing owner and joined his previously-adopted littermate, Maggie, and other housemates. One month later, Pretty Boy was stricken with FCE. Defying all medical odds, Pretty Boy rose and began to walk again in six weeks, demonstrating his undeniable courage and determination to get up, live, play and run again in his own unique way. He lived another five years. Pretty Boy's exceptional drive to overcome all odds made him a special hero to all who knew him.



Patches 1988-2002

Owned and loved by Dan and Lancy Kussman, Patches was adopted from the Greyhound Adoption Center in San Diego, California in 1997. She was featured in "Aging Gracefully" (Summer 2001 *CG*). Although Patches lost one eye and battled arthritis, her cheerful spirit and outgoing ways captured the heart of most everyone she met. She was a favorite in the neighborhood and at Show and Tells. Patches created fond memories for those who were privileged to know her, and she is greatly missed.



Sweetness 1990-2002

The founder of the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds, Sweet was Gil and Kathleen Gilley's first Greyhound. They adopted her in 1993. Her first public performance was at the Greyhound Hall of Fame in 1994 at the invitation of the National Greyhound Association. In 1996, she anchored the debut performance of the Dancing Greyhounds at the Greyhound Pets of America National Convention in Birmingham, Ala. She was a Celebrity Dog for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She appeared in segments on Animal Planet in 1995 and 2001. She logged 163,666 motorhome miles, performed in 26 states and three Canadian provinces, promoted adoption at 16 racetracks, and did shows at countless schools, nursing homes, hospitals, libraries, animal shelter fundraisers, and Greyhound picnics and gatherings. In her early years, she specialized in gravity-defying jumps and leaps. As a senior, she took up the fun noodle chase and the dog stealing the "basket of gold," and she continued to critique everyone's performance at the top of her lungs. She was as loving as she was sassy, funny, condescending, demanding, loud, impatient, and innovative.



Turbo (Quiet Wyatt) 1989-2002

Owned and loved by Fred and Marcia Hecker, Turbo died after a brief but valiant struggle with soft-tissue sarcoma. He was featured in "Turbo Stays With a Sitter" (Winter 1998 *CG*) and "Turbo Visits the Hall of Fame" (Summer 1999 *CG*). He loved car rides and hotel beds, fresh-caught trout sautéed with butter, cheeseburgers, and jellybeans except for the orange ones. He could launch his soccer ball at one end of the yard and field it before it landed at the other end, but he could grow roots right through the concrete sidewalk if he didn't want to go where we wanted him to go. He'd catch popcorn and goldfish crackers on the fly — until he figured out that we'd give them to him even if he didn't go to all that trouble. He had the thick, soft, silky fur of a mink, and a dear white face that reflected every thought and feeling. We'll miss the music of his collar and the rhythm of his nails on the floor, his soft sleepy sighs, and the "pet me pet me" butts from his head. Our house is now empty, but our hearts will always be full.

Cappuccino

Readers of the Fall 2002 issue of *CG* will recall his Great Escape, chronicled by Joe Adamczyk in "Cappuccino's Run." This Kamikaze Hamster had many adventures and misadventures, but despite widespread predictions of a violent end and against all odds, he passed away quietly in his sleep shortly after the Fall 2002 issue of *CG* went to press. His life was short, as are those of all hamsters, but full of more adventures than any small pet rodent could reasonably expect.

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

