

cgmagazine

celebrating greyhounds

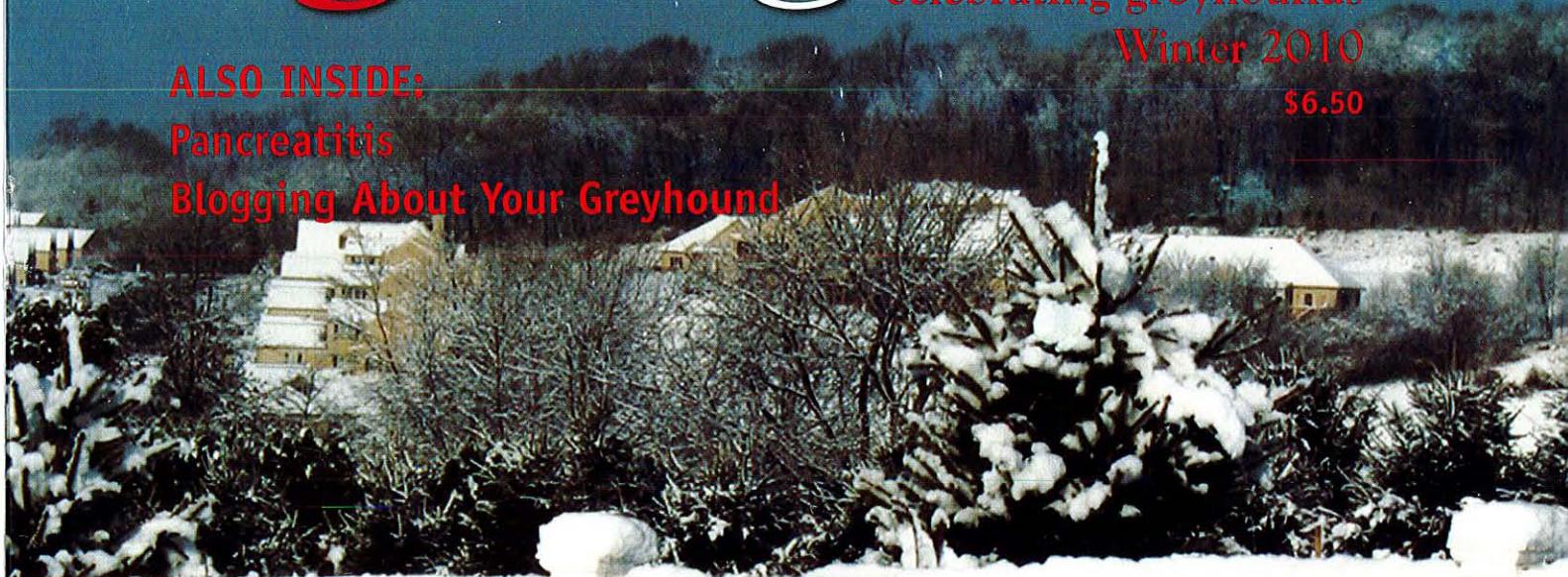
Winter 2010

\$6.50

ALSO INSIDE:

Pancreatitis

Blogging About Your Greyhound



On Their Behalf:
Doing Right By Our
Greyhounds



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

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 15; No. 4 Winter 2010

Front Cover Credit:
Max (FTK Duramax), adopted by Sean and
Christine Burns of York, Pa.

Back Cover Credit:
Donna (SS Prima Dawn), adopted by
Kathy Madej of Anchorage, Alaska.

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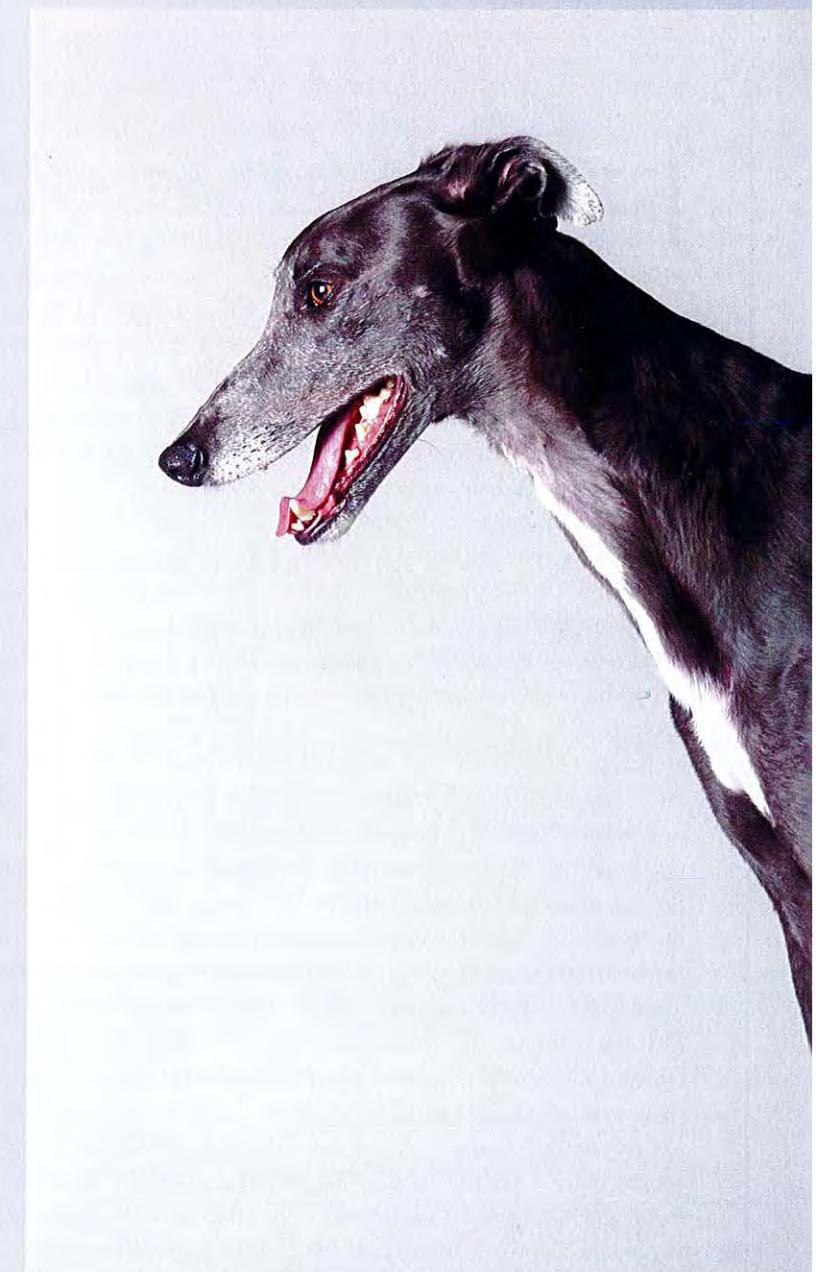
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If you make a habit of reading this column, you might recall that I wrote in the Spring 2010 issue about my adoption of Fred, a one-eyed, almost 12-year old Greyhound with lymphoma. Sadly, Fred lost his battle with age and illness; I said goodbye to him three weeks ago. Since then, I've done many of the mundane things that we do to mark the passing of a loved pet: I washed and rearranged the dog beds so that the space is configured for two dogs, not three. I ordered a memorial urn. I picked up his ashes. I baked the clay paw print thoughtfully provided by the clinic. His collar and lead are still hanging by the back door; I'll attend to them later, I guess.

While I am sad that Fred is gone, I am so grateful for the time that we had. He was a great dog: smart, funny, handsome, engaged with the world, and friendly to everyone. I am especially grateful to Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption who, upon receiving Fred in their program and learning of his cancer diagnosis, made the decision to treat his condition rather than to euthanize him. They engaged a veterinary eye specialist to remove his left eye, bulging and opaque due to glaucoma. They paid for his monthly bloodwork, chemotherapy treatments, and other medications required by his illness. All of this made it possible for an old stud dog to enjoy life as a pet for the very first time.

Because Greyhound owners and adoption volunteers are people with big hearts, Fred's case is not all that unusual. Greyhounds get second chances all the time. Two stories in this issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* illustrate the lengths to which Greyhound people will go to help Greyhounds in need. CG Features Editor Dana Provost adopted a Greyhound who raced in Guam. In "Cartier's Story," she chronicles the frustrating search for an explanation for his mysterious illness. Her research took her around the globe (courtesy of the Internet) and revealed that Cartier was very, very lucky to have even made it as far as he did. In "Justice for Sari and Talca," Michael McCann recounts the details of a notorious abuse case in New England. Two Greyhounds from the Scooby refuge in Spain were brought to the United States, where they were placed in an adoptive home by Greyhound Friends of Hopkinton, Massachusetts. Months later, Sari and Talca were abandoned and left to die by their adoptive owner. Greyhound adoption volunteers, animal control officers, law enforcement, and members of the legal community all worked very hard over a period of years to hold the abusive owner accountable. Though some aspects of these stories make for tough reading, I hope they will inspire you.

Look at the Greyhound resting at your feet. He or she is there because many people worked very, very hard to make that happen. During this season of thanks, while you reflect upon the people and pets who enrich your life, say a prayer for the volunteers who do the hard work of the compassionate. And while you're at it, if you haven't done so already, consider making a financial donation to your favorite Greyhound adoption group.

Happy holidays.



Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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

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Track Closings

We are readers of CG Magazine and always love seeing the photos of fellow Greyhounds. After reading your article about the closing of the Dairyland track in Wisconsin ("Running Out of Dogs: The Closing of Dairyland Greyhound Park," Summer 2010 CG), we wanted to share a photo of Flyer, the happy, retired Dairyland racer who we adopted in March 2009.

Sherri Walchesk and Anthony Young
Woodbridge, N.J.

I received my first issue of CG and was pleasantly surprised to see the article regarding the Phoenix closing ("The Closing of Phoenix Greyhound Park, Summer 2010 CG). In September 2009, seven other inmates and I were selected to train and rehabilitate retired racers, mainly from the Phoenix area kennels. The Arizona chapter of Second Chance at Life, the National Greyhound Foundation, was responsible for contacting the prison and coordinating an inmate partnership program. We've received training from Canine, Inc., a Phoenix-based training facility, in dog psychology and teaching basic obedience: walking on leash, sit, down, and recall, to name a few commands. We have been responsible for the care and feeding, training, and general socialization of the Greyhounds, preparing them to live with an adopted family. A local adoption group, Racing Home Greyhound Adoption, provides the dogs, food, and supplies, and assists in the adoption process. The success we have had has allowed our program to expand from four dogs and eight handlers to eight dogs and 16 handlers. In the past ten months, we have worked with and placed 26 ex-racers in their forever homes. For most of us, this is our first experience with Greyhounds, and it has been an extremely positive one. For more information, visit www.fastdogs.org.

David C. Parker, Jr.
Saguaro Correctional Center
Eloy, Ariz.



Flyer, adopted by Sherri Walcheski and Anthony Young of Woodbridge, N.J.

Queen Victoria's Greyhound

I absolutely loved the pictures of Edwin Landseer's beautiful paintings of Eos ("Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and their Greyhounds," Summer 2010 CG). I couldn't wait to show them to my granddaughter, whose face immediately brightened upon recognition of the artist's name; she studied Mr. Landseer in school last year. Thank you for making our day!

Helen Pickel
Pacolet, S.C.

Medical information for Greyhound owners

I have updated the Greyhound Health packet that many adoption groups and owners reference. Anyone interested in viewing the updated packet can view it at either of the following websites:

www.animalmedicalcentrefofmedina.com/files/vet/21/e369c6e9.pdf

www.greyhoundadoptionofoh.org/Library/2010-greyhound-medical-packet.pdf

Bill Feeman, DVM

Via E-Mail

Dr. Feeman is a CG regular contributor.—Ed.



Snickers (Buzzer Back), adopted by Betty Crumpler of Cherokee Village, Ark.

Buzz Off's offspring

I so much enjoyed reading about Hall of Fame inductee Buzz Off ("Buzz Off, Mom," Summer 2010 CG). I have enclosed a picture of our Buzzer Back (aka Snickers), daughter of Nickelbackbingo and Buzzer Ringer, granddaughter of Dutch Bahama and Buzz Off. We adopted Snickers in 2000 from GPA/Springfield. Mr. Ronald G. Beckner was kind enough to transfer ownership to us, and she has been a delight ever since. We've heard Snickers bark twice in the years we've had her; once when she killed a black snake in the yard, and once when she saw a snapping turtle. We've only heard one roo, and that was when she was asleep and dreaming. She turned 13 years old on July 1; although showing signs of aging, her health is still pretty good. Love your magazine and can't imagine life without a Greyhound.

Betty Crumpler
Cherokee Village, Ark.

Help needed in new Greyhound cancer study

I have started a study on Greyhound cancer, and I am hoping that CG can help me out. All I need is for readers to send me the racing name of the Greyhound and the type of cancer with which it was diagnosed. I will do the rest. Readers, please e-mail your results to handpicked@embarqmail.com.

Shelley Lake
Via E-Mail

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Please send letters and photos by mail to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, Attn: Editor, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also welcome. Please include your home telephone number if you would like your letter to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter and photo.



Tina, adopted by Mark and Melissa Doane of Millstadt, Ill.



Brendan and Zoe, adopted by Rick and Kathy Harrison of Walworth, N.Y.

News for Greyhounds

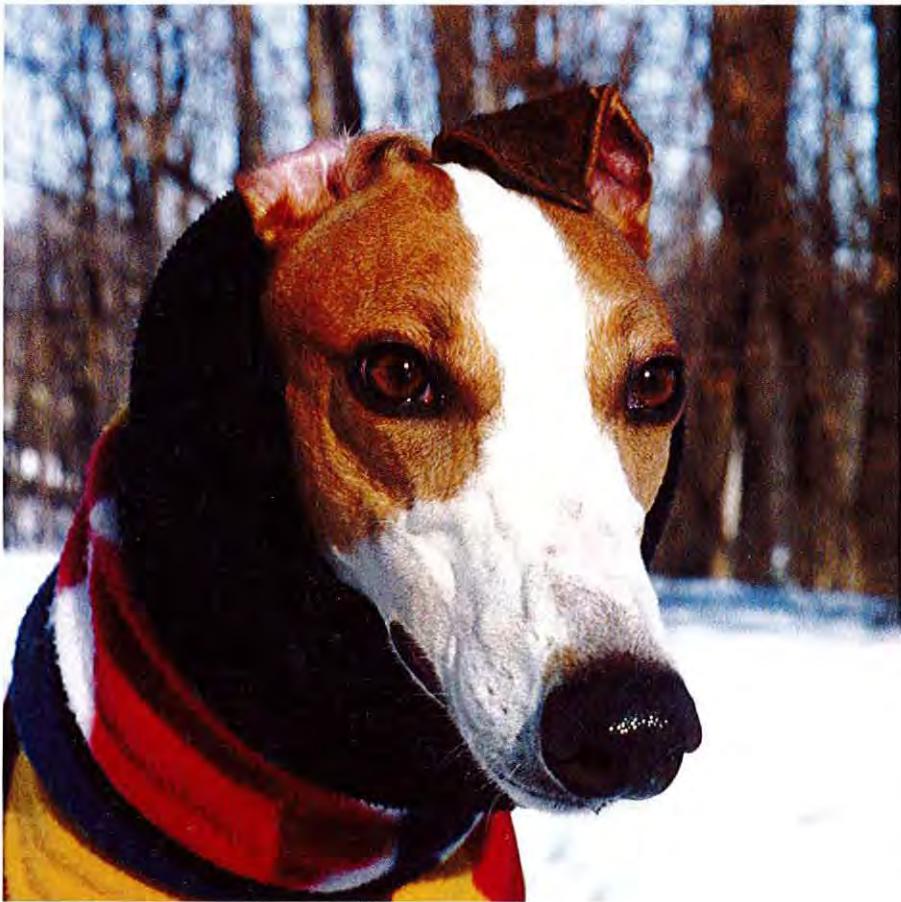
REVISED VACCINATION GUIDELINES RELEASED

In June 2010, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) released revised vaccination guidelines for dogs and cats. From the June 2010 WSAVA publication *Journal of Small Animal Practice*:

The WSAVA Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGC) has defined core vaccines which all dogs and cats, regardless of circumstances, should receive. Core vaccines protect animals from severe, life-threatening diseases that have global distribution. Core vaccines for dogs are those that protect from canine distemper virus (CDV), canine adenovirus (CAV), and canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2). In areas of the world where rabies virus infection is endemic, vaccination against this agent should be considered core.

The VGC recognizes that maternally derived antibody (MDA) significantly interferes with the efficacy of most current core vaccines administered to pups and kittens early in life. As the level of MDA varies significantly among litters, the VGC recommends the administration of three vaccine doses to pups and kittens, with the final dose of these being delivered at 14-16 weeks of age or above. In cultural or financial situations where a pet animal may only be permitted the benefit of a single vaccination, that vaccination should be with core vaccines at 16 weeks of age or above.

The VGC supports the development and use of simple in-practice tests for determination of seroconversion (antibody) following vaccination.



Tex, adopted by Patty Moorhead of Indiana, Pa.

Vaccines should not be given needlessly. Core vaccines should not be given any more frequently than three years after the 12-month booster injection following the puppy series, because the duration of immunity (DOI) is many years and may be up to the lifetime of the pet.

The VGC has defined non-core vaccines as those that are required by only those animals whose geographical location, local environment or lifestyle places them at risk of contracting specific infections. The VGC has also classified some vaccines as not recommended (where there is insufficient scientific evidence to justify their use) and has not considered a number of minority products which have restricted geographical availability or application.

The VGC strongly supports the concept of the "annual health check" which removes the emphasis from, and client expectation of, annual revaccination. The annual health check may still encompass administration of selected non-core vaccines which should be

administered annually, as the DOI for these products is generally one year or less.

The VGC has considered the use of vaccines in the shelter environment, again recognizing the particular nature of such establishments and the financial constraints under which they operate. The VGC minimum shelter guidelines are simple: that all dogs and cats entering such an establishment should be vaccinated before, or at the time of entry, with core vaccines only. Where finances permit, repeated core vaccination should be administered as per the schedules defined in the guidelines.

These fundamental concepts proposed by the VGC may be encapsulated in the following statement: *We should aim to vaccinate every animal with core vaccines, and to vaccinate each individual less frequently by only giving non-core vaccines that are necessary for that animal.*

A complete report of the WSAVA VGC recommendations may be viewed at www.wsava.org/PDF/Misc/VaccinationGuidelines2010.pdf

The WSAVA is a professional organization made up of veterinary associations from all over the world. Currently there are 76 member and affiliate associations, representing over 70,000 individual veterinarians all over the world.

The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends that pet owners consult with their veterinarian to tailor a program of vaccinations to the needs of their pet. This position is articulated in their December 2009 publication "Vaccinations" (available online at www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/vaccination/vaccination_brochure.asp):

Which vaccinations should my pet receive?

Not all pets should be vaccinated with all available vaccines. "Core" vaccines are recommended for most pets in a particular area because they protect from diseases most common in that area. "Non-Core" vaccines are reserved for pets with unique needs. Your veterinarian will consider your pet's risk of exposure to a variety of preventable diseases in order to customize a vaccination program for optimal protection throughout your pet's life. Talk with your veterinarian about your pet's lifestyle including its expected travel to other geographic locations and/or contact with other animals (such as exposure at kennels, obedience classes, shows, and dog parks) since these factors impact your pet's risk of exposure to certain diseases. For older pets, make sure your veterinarian is aware of any previous adverse reactions to vaccines.

How often should my pet be vaccinated?

For many years, a set of annual vaccinations was considered normal and necessary for dogs and cats. There is increasing evidence to support that immunity triggered by some vaccines provides protection beyond one year while the immunity triggered by other vaccines may fail to protect for a full year. Consequently, one vaccination schedule will not work well for all pets. Your veterinarian will determine a vaccination schedule most appropriate for your pet.



Maddie and Dobbie, adopted by Wendi and Don Cowie of Johnstown, Pa.

What are antibody titers, and do they replace vaccinations?

Antibody titers are blood tests that measure the amount of antibodies in the blood. Following exposure to a disease-causing organism (such as a virus) or a vaccine, the body generates antibodies that help to destroy the organism and prevent or minimize illness if the body is exposed to the same organism again.

Antibody titers do not replace vaccination programs, but in some instances may help your veterinarian determine if your pet has a reasonable expectation of protection against disease. However, there are only a limited number of disease-causing organisms for which antibody titers can suggest your pet's level of protection, and those antibody tests have limitations. Consequently, a higher antibody titer does not necessarily mean your pet will be protected if exposed to the disease, and a lower titer may not mean your pet's protection is lacking.

SAMPLES NEEDED FOR CANINE MELANOMA RESEARCH

The Canine Hereditary Cancer Consortium (CHCC) needs your help! They are studying canine melanoma and are requesting blood samples from any purebred dog to further their research to identify the underlying genetic lesions and biochemical pathways that contribute to this disease.

Melanoma is a form of cancer in which the pigment-producing cells of the skin, melanocytes, multiply in an uncontrolled manner. Canine melanoma can be malignant or benign; malignant cancer is capable of spreading from the original tumor to lymph nodes and distant organs. Once melanoma is established in an organ, additional tumors grow and often ultimately cause the death of the animal. Canine melanoma is frequently malignant when it occurs in the mouth, toes or behind the eyes. Oral melanoma, for example, is a particularly aggressive subtype of the disease, with a 5-year survival rate of 10 - 25%.

The CHCC will provide sample collec-

tion kits and pay for shipping. Requested samples include whole blood (5 mls in an EDTA "purple top" tube) and/or fresh tumor samples. Dogs in remission are eligible to participate in this study, as are dogs who have already had tumors removed.

For further information, collection kits and shipping information, please contact Dr. Roe Froman at the Van Andel Research Institute (office: 616.234.5569 cell: 616.914.0934).

The Canine Hereditary Cancer Consortium (CHCC), headed by Drs. Jeff Trent (TGen), Nick Duesbery (Van Andel Research Institute), and Paul Meltzer (National Cancer Institute/NIH), is an unprecedented alliance of scientists, veterinarians and physicians. The melanoma research will be supported by the recent approval of a 2-year, \$4.3 million federal stimulus grant to the CHCC, which includes TGen and the Van Andel Research Institute in partnership with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, dog breeders and veterinarians.



Digger Dawg, adopted by Faith Gargan of Pt. Pleasant, N.J.

CANINE OSTEOSARCOMA: PROGRESS REPORT AND CALL FOR MORE SAMPLES

Osteosarcoma is the most common malignant bone cancer in dogs and is an important health concern, accounting for five to six percent of all canine cancers. In the United States, 8,000 – 10,000 cases are reported annually. It is a very aggressive cancer and in the majority of cases, metastasis and death follow within a few months or years. The median survival time for dogs treated with amputation plus chemotherapy is 12 months, with only 20% surviving two years.

While osteosarcoma can occur in dogs of any size, some large and giant dog breeds have a much higher risk of developing the disease within their lifetime than other breeds (three to fifteen fold increased risk compared to the average in dogs) including the long-limbed hounds (Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Great Danes, Scottish Deerhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Great Pyrenees and Borzoi) and Mastiff-type breeds (Rottweiler, Labrador Retriever, Flat-Coated Retriever, Golden Retriever, Mastiff,

Bullmastiff, Saint Bernard, Irish Setter and Newfoundland). The average age at diagnosis is seven to eight years old.

Finding the cause of osteosarcoma requires identifying inherited mutations in genes that may make certain breeds, and certain individuals within a breed, susceptible to these devastating diseases. This is a challenging task that the members of the dog disease mapping team at the Broad Institute have been working on for several years. With funding from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, many collaborators worldwide have also contributed to this effort. Identifying causative mutations/genes will subsequently enable the development of DNA tests capable of detecting susceptible individuals, and individuals that may pass these genes on to offspring. This will allow owners/veterinarians to more closely follow the susceptible dogs for tumor occurrence before possible life-threatening symptoms. Identification of the genetic basis of osteosarcoma will also allow scientists to better understand the biology of the disease, which long term may lead to the development of preventative measures and effective new treatments.

OSTEOSARCOMA MAPPING PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Researchers have been working very hard to collect sufficient number of cases and control dogs in the past few years. They are happy to report that they have just analyzed 155 osteosarcoma cases and 120 controls (Greyhounds) with the latest genome-wide screening technology. The results look very promising with one major gene and several additional genes contributing to the disease. Targeted sequence to find the actual mutations is currently ongoing. In parallel, two additional breeds, Rottweilers and Irish Wolfhounds, will also be analyzed this summer. To power these studies even more strongly, the researchers request more cases and controls from all three breeds.

In addition, they would like dogs with osteosarcoma from all breeds since they expect to examine many dog breeds for the presence of the Greyhound osteosarcoma mutations shortly. Therefore, please read on and learn how you can help them succeed in identifying mutations that give dogs the susceptibility for osteosarcoma.

How to participate in the cancer mapping projects:

Investigators are enrolling all purebred dogs that fall into any of the following categories:

1. Have been diagnosed with osteosarcoma
2. Over eight years old and without cancer
3. Have other types of cancer/hereditary diseases (see the comprehensive list at the Dog SNA website: www.broadinstitute.org/science/projects/mammals-models/dog/disease-research/dogDNAorg-hunddnasluse)

Researchers need 5ml (=1 teaspoon) of blood in a purple top tube (EDTA tube). The sample can be mailed in at room temperature, as long as it arrives within a week from the time it was taken. A consent form signed by the owner must be sent in with the sample. The consent form can be found at the Dog DNA website along with more detailed instructions. You can also contact the investigators by e-mail to dog-info@broadinstitute.org. If you are also able to donate a sample from your dog's tumor in addition to the blood please contact the Modiano lab at the



Sweetboy, Gabe, Puck, Carrie, Whiteout, Peoria, and Mully, adopted by Jeff and Shelley Lake of Peoria, Kan.

University of Minnesota by email (lewel001@umn.edu) or telephone (612-626-6890), or email the website contact (lab@modianolab.org). All samples sent to Dr. Modiano's lab will be shared with the Broad Institute and with Dr. Matthew Breen's laboratory at North Carolina State University.

All the information regarding your dog is kept strictly confidential, and the genetic disposition of any dog will never be made public.

CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS MAGAZINE IS ON FACEBOOK!

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine now has over 1,500 Facebook fans from at least 20 countries. The purpose of the site is to connect Greyhound-admiring subscribers (and non-subscribers) to each other and with some of our content, including magazine covers.

Fans have been sharing their thoughts on the magazine and photos of their Greyhounds. Some of the comments we receive on the site will be selected for publication in CG. To join or check it out, go to www.facebook.com/cgmagazine. To those who have joined — please invite others, and keep the feedback and fan pictures coming!

FREE ISSUE OF CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS MAGAZINE TO ADOPTERS OF SENIORS, SPECIAL NEEDS GREYHOUNDS

Do you know someone who has adopted a special needs Greyhound? If so, tell this Greyhound lover that he or she is eligible to receive one free issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. All the adopter needs to do is send a note to the Editor at editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org or CG Magazine, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. The

note must include a description of the dog's special need, the name of the adoption group or other source of the dog, and the adopter's name and mailing address. (The special needs Greyhound is either at least 7 years old at the time of adoption or one of any age who has a special medical problem at the time of adoption.) There is no time limit on this special offer.

MOVING? NEED TO RENEW?

Don't miss a single issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*? Please send your renewals and address changes well in advance to CG Magazine, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701. Address changes may also be sent to Betsy, our subscriptions manager, at subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org. Subscriptions may be renewed online at www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine. ■



Gable Dodge is the Greyhound Hall of Fame's newest inductee. *Greyhound Hall of Fame*

Gable Dodge, the Hall of Fame's Newest Inductee

By Laurel E. Drew

Gable Dodge was a red son of Wigwam Wag, himself a great racer. Dodge, as he was known, was born December 2, 1995, out of CJ Ima Bahama. He was one of 13 puppies. With so many babies, Janna Goebel had to do supplemental feedings of the puppies, as mom just didn't have enough milk. Janna says all the extra handling the pups received may be the reason they were so people-oriented. Whether that's true or not, this was a special litter. Several of the pups did well at the track. And Dodge was a standout.

Harlan Goebel says Dodge was a really dominant dog, though he was never nasty. He had to be the first pup to the door, the food pail, the gate — and the finish wire when he started racing. Harlan adds that he was smart and not laid-back in temperament, but he wasn't overly active, either. He tells the story of a friend of his, Junior, who was supposed to get two pups from the litter. When Junior came to pick them out, he got the puppy bitch right away, but every time he tried to get to the big brindle in the back of the litter, "that little red pup" kept getting in the way.

He tells of how hard he had to work to pass up a top-running dog and admits that in the end, the joke was on him.

Gable Dodge ran mostly at Gulf Greyhound Park, starting his career with some top wins in 1997 — 16 to be exact. He also won the Au Revoir Stakes and placed in the Gordon Wood Memorial and the Ye Royal Race Stake. The next year, Dodge won ten more Grade A races at Gulf, giving him 26 wins before a broken leg sidelined him.

With his winning record, Dodge became a top sire, climbing up the standings from sixth in 2001 to first in 2004. He was among the elite in the standings by capturing that title three times, joining other Hall of Fame sires Rocker Mac*, Downing, Unruly, Dutch Bahama, HB's Commander, and Molotov. Cactus Lonesome was also in this group.

Seven of Dodge's offspring became All Americans, which ties him for the title of most by any sire. Of these, probably the best known are Gable Oscar and Dodgem By Design. Several of his sons went on to produce top racers of their own, as did some daughters. Gable Acadia was the mother of All American Flying Mancini. A look at the website of record for racing Greyhounds (www.greyhound-data.com) shows a huge number of descendants racing today. His impact on the future of racing through his breeding capabilities is already ranking with some of the top sires of the 1960s and 1970s. Gable Dodge himself still ranks fifth on the sire standings. Half the current top sires are from the Gable Dodge family.

Gable Dodge passed away in 2007. For his racing success and his legacy as a stud, he was inducted into the Greyhound Hall of Fame in 2010.

Janna Goebel says Dodge was an outstanding and much loved member of the family. "We have been graced by blessings he and his father and sons have given us," Goebel said. Dodge is not only tops in racing and breeding, but also in loving and being loved. ■

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor.

First Breath

The kennel door closes.

The pet door opens.

Uneasy, furtive looks back.

The turn-out pen fades.

The sandy oval recedes.

Muzzles bang.

Pant, pant. Circle. Pant

Heads down. Eyes anxious.

Waiting. Hopeful. The road

Drones an unfamiliar song.

The van door opens. They spill forth,

Wild, fury toddlers as on Christmas morning.

Muzzles off. Martingales on.

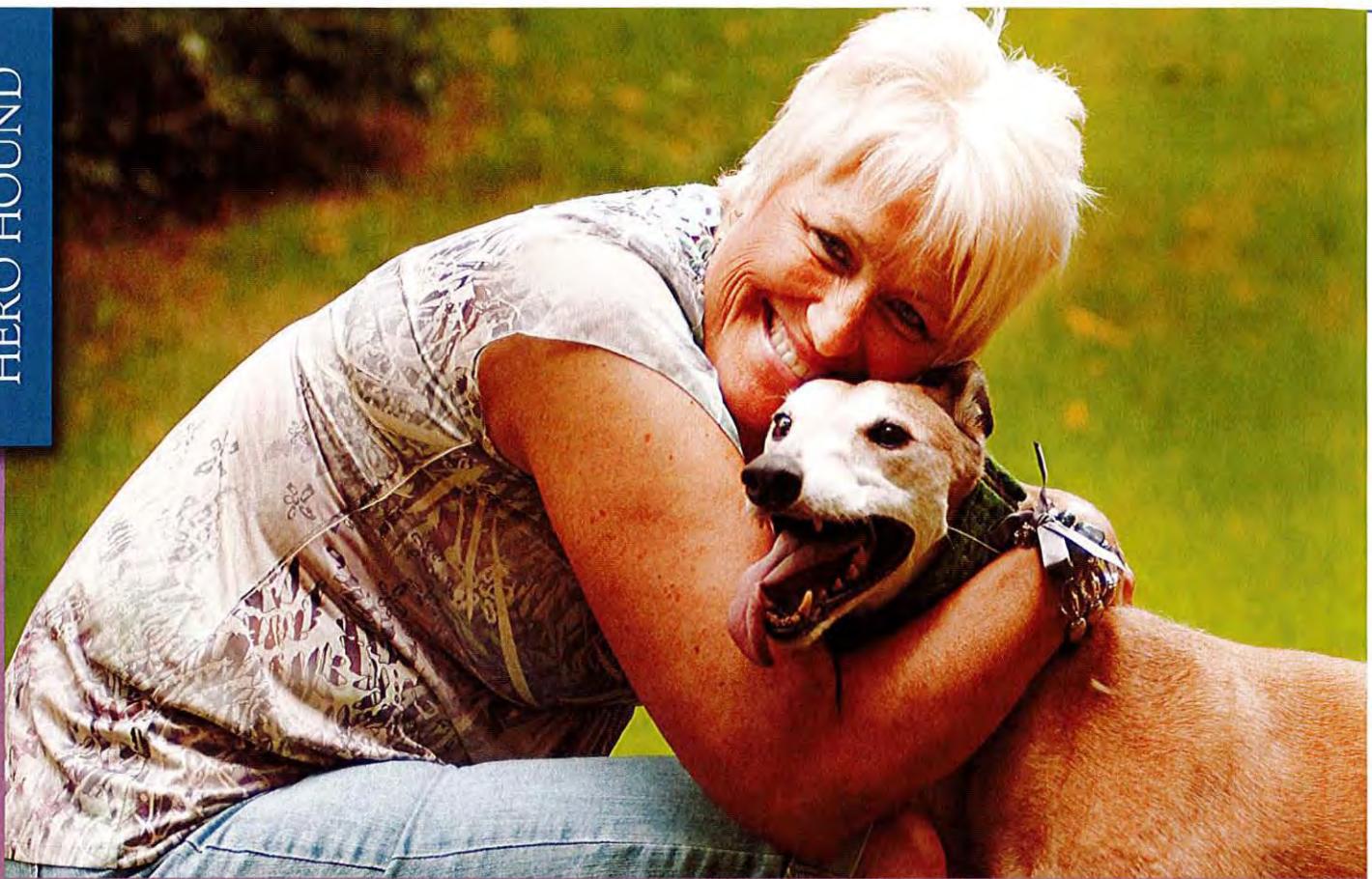
Smile for the camera and inhale

The first breath of the raceless life.

—Mardy Fones



Shiner, adopted by Hilde Roerade of Paw Paw, Mich. Rich Hoyne



Milo's barking saved the life of his owner, Robin Wittner. *Pat Marsalese Photography*

Milo's Persistence

By Robin Wittner, as told to Jackie Bowen

Milo is a retired racing Greyhound who lives with the Wittner family in Macomb Township, Michigan. Robin Wittner has had atrial fibrillation for 30 years, which has caused her to have three transient ischemic attacks (TIAs, or mini-strokes) over the past two years. Robin led a very active life before these episodes, but they forced her to slow down. Although she loved her job at Chippewa Valley High School, her health problems made it impossible to work. As her condition worsened, Robin entered the hospital, where she had four catheters surgically inserted into her arteries to correct the atrial fibrillation.

On her first night home from the hospital, Robin was sound asleep and resting comfortably. Around 4:30 the next morning, Robin and her husband Mike were awakened by Milo, who was making some loud and very peculiar sounds that were out of character for the usually quiet Greyhound. They told Milo to go lay down so they could go back to sleep.

Milo would hear none of it. He persisted in bumping his head on Robin's side of the bed, nudging her and crying out. After numerous attempts to quiet Milo by shushing him and pushing him away with her hand, Robin noticed that her hand was wet. She felt around and discovered that she was laying in a pool of blood.

The femoral artery in her leg had opened.

Mike and Robin applied pressure to the area but were unable to stop the bleeding. Mike called 911, and Robin was rushed to a nearby hospital.

At the hospital, the doctors told her that Milo's actions had saved her life. The persistent Greyhound knew that Robin was in trouble. By alerting them, he prevented Robin from bleeding to death.

Milo has a long history of being a "bull-headed mule," according to his family. This time, his stubbornness saved the life of his beloved mom. How did the Greyhound know? Only Milo can answer that question, and he isn't talking. ■

Robin Wittner is a volunteer for Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption of Michigan. Jackie Bowen is P.R. Director for the group.

My Greyhound Has a Sore Belly

By Jim Bader, DVM

Photos by Merri Van Dyke

The Greyhound's body has an infinite number of ways to present an illness, which is why it is difficult to diagnose many diseases from only a physical exam and why laboratory work is important. A Greyhound who is vomiting and depressed might have pancreatitis rather than an intestinal problem. Pancreatitis is a potentially life-threatening condition that can be difficult to diagnose.

The pancreas is an L-shaped organ located in the right front portion of a Greyhound's abdomen. It has two limbs, one on the back edge of the stomach that makes a left turn and another that continues down a portion of the small intestine called the duodenum.

The pancreas has two functions: It produces insulin to regulate blood sugar, and produces digestive enzymes to assist in food digestion.

The enzymes are produced in the cells of the pancreas in a precursor form. These enzymes are normally not activated until they reach the small intestine. However, due to some factors that we will discuss later, the enzymes can become activated while still in the pancreas. The pancreas then begins to digest itself. This is the start of pancreatitis.

Pancreatitis begins in many ways. Some medications make Greyhounds more prone to pancreatitis. These medications include potassium bromide, an anti-seizure medication; certain antibiotics such as sulfa or tetracycline; and also some chemotherapeutic medications, such as azathioprine. Hyperlipidemia syndrome, in which there is too much fat traversing blood, can also make a Greyhound susceptible to pancreatitis. Even a single, very high-fat meal may induce pancreatitis due to a sudden increase in digestive enzyme production to aid in digesting the meal. Once a Greyhound has pancreatitis, he may be predisposed to relapses, which can range from acute pancreatitis to chronic pancreatitis.



The inflamed pancreas is extremely painful.

Acute pancreatitis is the sudden inflammation of the pancreas, while chronic pancreatitis is a slow-moving disease which can come and go for years. Symptoms of acute pancreatitis include vomiting, lethargy, lack of appetite and, usually, abdominal pain (especially on the right side just behind the rib cage). These Greyhounds are really sick and therapy must be instituted immediately. If not, the pancreatitis can progress quickly and possibly cause death. Chronic pancreatitis signs are the occasional lack of appetite, and/or vomiting with no other specific signs. These Greyhounds present as the "just not doing right" patient. When Greyhounds have these symptoms, a full examination, including laboratory tests, is in order.

Historically, diagnosis of pancreatitis based on lab tests has been a challenge. Tests may show an increase in the white blood count due to inflammation of the pancreas. Blood chemistries may show a rise in amylase and lipase; however, because amylase and lipase are also produced by the liver and intestine, elevation of these enzymes may be due to inflammation of those organs. Amylase and lipase are removed from the body through the kidneys; elevation may also be a sign of compromised kidney function. In short, elevated amylase and lipase are not sure evidence of pancreatitis.

A radiograph of the abdomen should be obtained to rule out an obstruction of the intestinal tract causing the vomiting. The radiograph may reveal a cloudy area on the film in the area of the pancreas. This is not a reliable



The cPL test on the left shows a strong positive for pancreatitis. The test on the right shows a negative result.

finding and difficult to interpret. Ultrasound of the pancreas is a better indicator than a radiograph. The veterinarian performing the ultrasound should have extensive training because interpretation of the images is difficult. All of these procedures are a standard for any vomiting Greyhound.

Diagnosis of pancreatitis is less difficult than it used to be because of the advent of new tests. The new, definitive test for pancreatitis is called the canine pancreas specific lipase test or cPL. It is the first to test specifically for lipase that is produced in the pancreas. The test does not detect the lipase produced in the liver or small intestine. Therefore if the cPL is elevated, then the Greyhound definitely has pancreatitis. A cPL test is the best test to diagnose pancreatitis and to monitor response to therapy. There are two options for this test, both offered by Idexx Labs.

The first test is a patient side test called a snap test. It uses a few drops of serum, and within 10 minutes you have a result. The test is interpreted by the darkness of the patient's sample spot. A color darker than the control dot is positive for pancreatitis. The other test is an actual titer or number. This test is performed at the laboratory; results are typically available within one to two days. Levels are matched to known normal dogs. The titer test is useful to monitor the Greyhound's recovery from acute pancreatitis. It is also useful in chronic pancreatitis cases as the Greyhound's cPL levels are monitored to assure the pancreatitis is being kept under control.

Acute pancreatitis is a very serious condition and should be treated as an emergency case. The Greyhound is usually dehydrated

from vomiting, and may be in great pain. The first goal is to address the dehydration resulting from the vomiting. Intravenous fluids are administered to replace the losses from the vomiting and to restore the normal fluid levels needed until the Greyhound starts to eat and drink again. The second goal is to address the pain. Usually a strong pain reliever in the morphine class (opioid) is administered. These steps are usually done while waiting for the laboratory and radiograph results. The third goal is to start feeding the patient again. The recommendation is the patient should be without food for no longer than 48 hours, including the time before the Greyhound sees the veterinarian, because the cells lining the intestine need nutrition to function.

With no food in the intestine, the lining begins to die. This causes the intestine not to work well and complicates the recovery; because the pancreatitis and the intestine both require treatment. If the Greyhound does not want to eat, then a feeding tube may need to be inserted.

Finally, the vomiting is addressed by using medications to calm the stomach, such as Cerenia® or Zofran®. Then the Greyhound is monitored with repeated cPL titers and chemistry values to check the progress of the treatment. The frequency of retesting can be every two to three days or once a week, based on the original severity of the pancreatitis and the veterinarian's clinical impression.

Whether acute or chronic, pancreatitis in the convalescent Greyhound, is managed in the same manner. First, there should be a list on the Greyhound's medical chart indicating the Greyhound has or had pancreatitis and that certain medications should not be

administered. This list should be readily available to the veterinarian (in case there is a relief veterinarian), as well as to the Greyhound owner. This will assist the Greyhound owner when traveling, in case of an emergency. The attending veterinarian can be kept apprised of which medications not to prescribe.

Secondly, the Greyhound should be fed a fat-restricted diet. Since the two methods to induce pancreatitis are a high-fat meal or hyperlipidemia, both need to be avoided. This means making guests aware of the seriousness of the disease and the need to avoid fat-laden goodies.

Finally, the Greyhound's cPL titers should be monitored. It is the veterinarian's judgment on how often to check the titers based on clinical signs and previous cPL results. Also, soon after a diet change or any medication change, the cPL titers should be rechecked.

Pancreatitis is a very serious disease. The acute form is life-threatening and an emergency situation. The chronic form may present as just general malaise. Both can be diagnosed and monitored with a cPL test. The acute form is treated with intravenous fluids and pain management. The convalescing acute form and the chronic form are both treated with dietary management and monitoring cPL levels. The goal of the treatments is to keep the pancreas from becoming inflamed and self-digesting again. This requires vigilance by the owner to ensure the Greyhound does not have an incidence of inappropriate ingestion. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



Petunia enjoys Colorado Greyhound Adoption's Senior Celebration and Adoption Day.

Snoozing and Schmoozing with Senior Hounds

By Susan Henderson
Photos by Denise Fortman

On Saturday, July 31, Colorado Greyhound Adoption (CGA) held a Senior Celebration and Adoption Event for our older adoptable Greyhounds. The event took place at a local park, and all of our adoptable seniors were able to snooze in the sunshine and charm potential forever families.

Like most adoption groups we are experiencing an increase in relinquishments. Many of the Greyhounds returned are older or have special needs. We were already spotlighting seniors on our website and in our newsletter, but we needed to do more. That's when one of our longtime volunteers suggested having an event. One of our board members is designated to help place senior hounds; she volunteered to coordinate the event.

Word began to spread among our dedicated and wonderful volunteers, and soon everyone was excited and contributing ideas. Our foster coordinators and foster families jumped on board to get as many seniors as possible to the event. Our adoption coordinators did the same for potential adopters. We just knew if people met these special seniors they would fall in love.

Volunteers organized a bake sale and donated time to do free nail trims for the senior hounds. Other hounds could get their nails done for a small cost, all of which went to CGA. For those fashion-forward pups who wanted pink toes, we even did toenail painting! An artistically-inclined volunteer designed a special seniors T-shirt, and we



Humans and Greyhounds gathered in a local park for the senior event.

were able to have them made in time to sell at the event. Our store coordinators brought items from the Colorado Greyhound Adoption Store for people who needed to stock up on supplies, or who wanted a T-shirt. Volunteers solicited local businesses and pet stores for donations to be used in a raffle.

During the week leading up to the event, we kept the buzz going by having our senior dogs "talk" on the CGA Yahoo group. Everyone got in on the fun and soon the dogs were talking more than the people. Adopters who originally were not considering a senior hound decided to come see what the excitement was all about.

On the morning of the Saturday event, volunteers arrived early to start the registration and hand out raffle tickets and name tags. The bake sale took up a whole table and included tasty treats. There were brownies, cookies, and homemade marshmallows for the humans, and pumpkin spice petunias,

peanut butter biscuits, veggie crackers, and BBQ bones for the hounds. We had a raffle every hour, and people were able to win gift certificates from local pet stores, gift baskets, dog supplies, blankets, and more. Many volunteers brought their own senior dogs to show how wonderful and vibrant Greyhounds are at any age.

Approximately 75 people and over 30 dogs attended the four-hour event. The weather was perfect. Volunteers were able to visit with each other, adopters got to meet adoptable dogs, and everyone had a great time.

When the event was over, four senior Greyhounds had new forever homes, and although it wasn't intended to be a fundraiser, we raised \$367 for CGA.

So many people helped make this a success; I wish I could name them all. Through the loving and tireless efforts of our volunteers and board members, we've been able to place seniors, special needs dogs, and others

that many would consider unadoptable.

CGA is an all volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization devoted to placement and adoption of Greyhounds. To order a seniors T-Shirt or see more pictures of the event, visit our website at www.coloradogreyhoundadoption.org ■

Susan Henderson lives in Denver, Colo. and is owned by two goofy Greyhounds, Coffee and Daytona.



How did this happen? Talca was one of two Greyhounds starved and abandoned by their adoptive owner, Kevin Schneider. NECCOG

Justice for Sari and Talca

By Michael McCann

Our justice system is the best in the world. It's there to protect the innocent. *Innocent until proven guilty.* Those words are often quoted in one way or another in our country. But until you are exposed to the system, until you have to work within the system, their meaning can be a bit unclear. The innocent can also mean those who have been harmed.

This is a story of how the system works, how incredibly demanding and frustrating it can be for the victims, and for those seeking justice. It's also a story of how, when determined people make a commitment to get to the truth, positive things can happen.



When Animal Control picked up Talca, they didn't know who she was, so they called her Hope. NECCOG

It was the evening of Saturday, October 27th, 2007. A tall, heavy man in a shiny new, black Chevy Suburban rolled into the parking lot of the combined Angell Memorial Animal Hospital and Massachusetts Society for The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) in Boston. He walked up to the desk and announced that he had two dogs he wanted to surrender. The person behind the desk asked him to bring them in. The man replied that he would need help.

When they reached the car, the man opened the door to reveal two skeletal, white-and-black Greyhounds: one so weak she couldn't stand, the other, barely standing, wagging her tail. The MSPCA employee told the man that he would have to get a gurney. He also suggested that an investigation

would be likely, based on the dogs' emaciated condition. He went to retrieve the gurney, knowing that these dogs needed immediate medical attention. When he returned a few minutes later, the Suburban was gone.

Two hours later, a resident of the tiny

He walked over to see what had been thrown from the car. An emaciated white and black Greyhound looked up at him.

town of Killingly, Connecticut watched as a black Chevy Suburban slowed down on the heavily traveled secondary road in front of his house. The passenger door opened and while the vehicle was still rolling, something dropped from the vehicle. It hit the ground hard and seemed to move slightly as the SUV sped off.

The man walked over to see what had been thrown from the car. He was shocked to find an emaciated white and black Greyhound looking up at him. As he reached for her, she wagged her tail weakly.

Eva Longo was the animal control officer

from the Northeast Connecticut Region Animal Control (NECCOG) who responded to the call about the abandoned Greyhound. She wasn't prepared for what

she found. When she got to the house, the family was feeding the starving Greyhound. The dog was now on her feet, and still wagging her tail.

Longo was fairly new to her job. "Oh my God," she thought. "This is Animal Cops Detroit." She had never seen a dog so skinny still alive. She quickly recorded a witness

statement. On her way out, she made a promise to the people who found the dog: She would find the person responsible and make them pay. Worried that the dog might not survive, she immediately drove to an emergency veterinarian. Then she started her investigation.

One of the first things Longo did was to check for a microchip. Sure enough, the Greyhound had one: It traced back to the Scooby refuge, in Medina del Campo, Spain. A call there revealed that the dog's name was Talca. She was one of the last dogs removed from the last racetrack in Spain. Talca had been one of seven hundred Greyhounds remaining when the track closed. Only one hundred dogs made it into adoption. A lucky few of those made it to the United States. The previous spring, Talca had been brought to Greyhound Friends, an adoption group in Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

Longo contacted Louise Coleman, the director of Greyhound Friends, and told her what had become of Talca. Coleman, horrified, told her that Talca had been adopted by a man from Watertown, Massachusetts with excellent references: Kevin Schneider. Coleman also told Longo that Schneider had adopted a second Greyhound, also white-and-black, named Sari. While Longo telephoned the animal control officer in Watertown, Coleman started making phone calls to see if she could find Sari.

Unable to reach Kevin Schneider by telephone, Coleman drove to Schneider's home to question him about Sari's whereabouts. There was no answer at the door. She then called the law enforcement division of MSPCA to ask them to intervene. A cursory search of the yard found no evidence of a dog in the yard, or of a burial. The MSPCA said there was not enough evidence for a search warrant.

Meanwhile, in Connecticut, Longo had been in touch with the Watertown police. At her request, on Thursday, November 1, two detectives went to Schneider's home. Although no one answered the door, there seemed to be someone inside. They were able to see into a screened porch that was covered in dog feces. Their next step was to try to get a search warrant.

By Friday, frustration was mounting.



The effects of starvation and neglect on Talca are apparent in this photograph taken by Animal Control. NECCOG

Where was Sari? Schneider was apparently avoiding the police. Because there wasn't enough evidence to issue a search warrant for crimes in Massachusetts, Eva Longo started the process of getting one issued in Connecticut, which would allow Watertown, Massachusetts police to search Schneider's home. The big problem though, was the Connecticut courts wouldn't be in a position to issue the warrant until Monday, November 5, over a week after Sari's disappearance.

On Sunday, Coleman received a return call from Schneider's girlfriend. She reported that Schneider had told her that he had returned the dogs to Greyhound Friends. But

the girlfriend found out about Talca from a police officer who had questioned her about the dogs. The girlfriend badgered Schneider into calling Greyhound Friends. He told Coleman that he had dropped Sari off at a hospital on the Connecticut/Rhode Island border.

Within an hour, the word went out on Greyhound Internet discussion forums that an emaciated Greyhound was missing, abandoned somewhere between Connecticut and Rhode Island. In the hope that she was still alive, volunteers from all over the region converged on every local hospital.

Within an hour, the volunteers were all

told to return home. June Bazar, head of the Greyhound adoption program at Twin Rivers Greyhound Park knew all about Sari, and she called with the news.

Sari had been abandoned in downtown Providence at the Miriam Hospital — a human facility, not an animal hospital — just an hour after Talca was discarded. A black Suburban pulled up in a dark corner of the hospital, in the pouring rain. A large man was seen exiting the vehicle, lifting

something from the back seat, and placing it under a bush. After the Suburban sped off, a nurse investigated the object. She found a white-and-black Greyhound, too weak to move.

Sari was transported to the office of veterinarian Norman Bazar, June's son. He worked to save Sari. Pat Bromley, a kind volunteer, stayed with Sari for hours, stroking and assuring her and trying to get her to eat. Pat swore that if she survived, Sari would come home with her, never to miss another meal after her starvation. Sari hung on for four days, but at 30 lbs, less than half of her normal weight, she just didn't have the strength to survive. She died on October 30.

Talca, the slightly stronger survivor, was a few pounds heavier than Sari when she was found. She was gaining weight every day. Her attitude was happy, and she loved the regular meals; her tail wagged constantly.

To Eva Longo, Louise Coleman, and the hundreds of people who had been reading the story on the Internet, there was no doubt who was guilty. Those two beautiful dogs had been starved and Kevin Schneider had to pay for the crimes. But, as observers were about to find out, the road to justice is a long one.

The MSPCA started its own investigation. They received witness statements and photographs from Eva Longo in Connecticut, Dr. Bazar, and the Providence police in Rhode Island. Despite this evidence, Peter Gollub, head of MSPCA's law enforcement division, seemed decidedly unenthusiastic about the case. Perhaps he was sensitive about the possibility that the MSPCA had some culpability of its own, as

Schneider had shown up at his headquarters before the dogs were abandoned. He may have been unsure that he could prove a case in Massachusetts when the dogs had been abandoned in other states.

Then Joslin Murphy became involved. A lawyer and former police officer, Murphy

She swore that if Sari survived the starvation, she would never miss another meal.

knew the law. A long-time Greyhound owner, she became one of Talca's most determined advocates. She had friends in the Watertown Police Department and knew the police chief personally. Frustrated with the pace of the MSPCA investigation, she called the police chief and gave him a summary of evidence in the case. The Chief immediately assigned the case to Detective Joseph Kelly, a hard-working animal lover who knew he had enough evidence to prosecute Schneider.

Of the three states, only Massachusetts presented the possibility of a felony conviction. Animal cruelty and abandonment are misdemeanors in Connecticut and Rhode Island. The cruelty shown to these two dogs, in the opinion of people all over the world who were following the case, needed the full attention of the law. They wanted Schneider prosecuted to the greatest extent possible.

On November 17, nearly three weeks after Sari and Talca were dumped, Detective Kelly of the Watertown Police Department, accompanied by an MSPCA law enforcement officer, arrested Schneider. The news of his arrest went out on the Internet, so Greyhound advocates around the world knew the story. They wanted to contribute in some way, and did so by writing letters. These letters became pivotal in keeping Schneider's case on the front burner.

An arraignment is nothing more than the reading of the charges. Typically, the process takes about five minutes. Even knowing that, on November 19, Greyhound advocates came from all over New England — some from a hundred miles away — to the Waltham, Massachusetts courthouse to

watch Kevin Schneider be formally charged with two counts of animal cruelty. Schneider had to walk through a phalanx of angry Greyhound lovers to get to court. His plea: Not Guilty. His pre-trial conference was scheduled for December 27, 2007.

The case of Sari and Talca was followed by hundreds of Greyhound lovers on Internet discussion forums. When one of the larger forums decided to remove information about the case from their site, long-time Greyhound advocate Jordan Graustark set up a web page to keep people up to date on the story. She posted links to every newspaper and television report about the case, as well as the addresses of district attorneys, judges, police officers and the animal control officers in all three states. The resulting flood of mail astounded the officials and helped them keep focused on the case.

On December 6, in Connecticut, with the help of State Trooper Resnick, animal control officer Eva Longo was finally able to obtain a warrant for the arrest of Schneider on animal cruelty charges. Schneider was notified and summoned to Connecticut for his arraignment.

Meanwhile, back in Massachusetts, the case had been assigned to a young assistant district attorney. She did not seem to have a lot of confidence about the case. After speaking with Peter Gollub of the MSPCA, she had even less. She was beginning to show signs of not wanting to pursue it. In the meantime, Joslin Murphy sent letters to all of Schneider's neighbors, encouraging them to call Detective Kelly with any information they might have on the case. Kelly began receiving phone calls from local people telling him that they had seen Schneider kicking the dogs, and offering to testify that the Greyhounds had been left out on Schneider's sun porch for hours, whining and crying.

Then came the e-mail that would make the police readjust their efforts, and increase the prosecutor's interest in the case. One of Schneider's estranged relatives had learned of his arrest. They said that they wanted to see him in jail. As they explained, this wasn't the first time Schneider had been accused of abuse. According to the relative, Schneider had been convicted of child abuse

seventeen years earlier in New Hampshire.

Jordan Graustark retrieved the records from the New Hampshire courts. Sure enough, the evidence was there. Schneider had been lucky in that case because a key witness had not been allowed to testify. Everyone connected with Sari and Talca's case agreed that this could not happen again.

On December 27, over 30 people and one of Boston's largest TV stations were on the scene as Schneider arrived at the District Court in Waltham, Massachusetts for a pre-trial hearing. Observers hoped for a court date with a trial by jury. But the day ended as would many court appearances to come — with a continuance. The proceedings would resume on February 6, 2008.

In the meantime, Connecticut State Trooper Resnick had been in touch with Schneider by mail and by phone to arrange his appearance for an arraignment in

news crew, reporters from two newspapers, and several Greyhound owners and their hounds. Since previous news reports made Schneider out to be the victim of harassment by Greyhound advocates, they watched him in a silent vigil.

Schneider shielded his face with a file folder and walked away.

Although Schneider had been arraigned in Massachusetts and Connecticut, he still had a long way to trial. There was no information coming out of Rhode Island, where Sari had died, and every one of Schneider's court appearances seemed to result in additional delays.

On February 4, 2008, two days before Schneider's scheduled appearance in Waltham, Massachusetts, the district court announced a new date: March 3. Schneider was scheduled to appear in Danielson Superior Court in Connecticut on the same

Connecticut courtroom heard the judge revoke Schneider's bond and issue yet another bench warrant for his arrest. The judge ordered the next bond to be \$75,000. This was getting to be a very expensive process for Kevin Schneider.

On March 11, 2008 Carla Trottier, a Greyhound lover in Massachusetts who had followed the Schneider case and sent many e-mails and letters to the authorities, received the following message:

I just wanted to inform you and all the concerned people in reference to Kevin Schneider who on October 27, 2007 dumped his Greyhound Sari in a parking lot of Miriam Hospital, Providence RI. Sari passed four days later. I just wanted to inform you that an arrest warrant has been issued for Kevin Schneider for the death of Sari.

Sincerely,

Sgt William M. Dwyer Jr.
Providence Police Dept.

Finally, Schneider was to face the courts in three different states.

When Schneider appeared in Waltham District Court on March 17, his new lawyer wasn't present, so the case was put on hold until later in the day. All of the Greyhound advocates waited patiently until nearly noon, when his case was finally called again. Schneider's attorney told the court that he had not been able to find an expert witness to check the evidence and provide testimony for his client. He asked for more time.

The court became aware of Schneider's outstanding warrant in Rhode Island as local police prepared to arrest Schneider and hold him for pickup by the Rhode Island authorities. The Massachusetts judge obtained Schneider's promise that he would show up at the Providence court by 9:00 the next morning.

Schneider's attorney asked that the courts get together and act in concert to have all the charges answered in one court. The Massachusetts District Attorney said that she had been in touch with the Connecticut court, and they were considering such an action. To facilitate this collaboration the judge granted yet another delay, until May 5. The judge also set a trial date of August 21, 2008.

Letters from Greyhound advocates became pivotal in keeping the case on the front burner.

Connecticut court. Although Schneider promised to meet with Resnick, over the next several weeks, he repeatedly failed to appear. On January 17, 2008, Detective Kelly in Watertown arrested Schneider, this time on the Connecticut warrant. Schneider was transported to Connecticut for his arraignment.

Schneider appeared in Danielson Superior Court. Shackled to other prisoners, Schneider faced the judge and received a date for his arraignment in Connecticut: January 30, 2008. He promised to appear. He had to post a \$20,000 bond to be released.

Volunteers like Jen Donley, who had searched for Sari, and Pat Bromley, who had watched Sari suffer and die, had been attending Schneider's court appearances, determined to see that the case wasn't forgotten. They suspected that Schneider was playing the system. On January 30, Schneider arrived at Danielson Superior Court without an attorney. He found a public defender to speak for him, entered a plea of Not Guilty, and received a new date of March 3.

As Schneider exited the courthouse, he found himself face-to-face with a television

date. Volunteers following the case decided to split up — some would stand vigil in Connecticut, and some would attend the proceeding in Massachusetts. If Schneider was to appear, they would be there. If he failed to appear, they would be witness to the consequences.

Thirty Greyhounds were waiting at Waltham District Court in Massachusetts when Schneider arrived on the morning of March 3. Yet another delay ensued. Schneider's attorney withdrew from the case. A new attorney appeared in Court on his behalf. At the request of the new attorney, the proceeding was delayed for two more weeks, and scheduled to go forward on March 17 as a "compliance and election date" (this is when the government provides all of its evidence to the defense attorney, and the court schedules a trial date). At this point, it was unclear whether Schneider would enter a plea or choose to go to trial.

By the time the morning session ended in Massachusetts, observers knew that Schneider had missed his Connecticut court appearance. The volunteers in the

On March 18, as promised, Schneider arrived at the courthouse in Providence, Rhode Island at the appointed time. He was led into the courtroom shackled to other prisoners. He was then scheduled for another appearance on May 19, 2008.

There was every reason that the Rhode Island case might drag on as had the cases in Massachusetts and Connecticut. But this was not to be. There were only a few advocates for Sari in the Providence courtroom that day, but their presence was integral to the course of the case. One of them overheard Schneider's attorney talking with the prosecutor. It seemed that Schneider would receive a "continuance without finding" (CWOF): In essence, this meant that Schneider would go free and pay no penalty. When word of this prospective deal reached Joslin Murphy, she immediately asked for a meeting with the prosecutor. She discovered that the prosecutor had been under the impression that Schneider had no previous record. When she explained the facts to him, Schneider's chances for a CWOF went out the window.

On May 19, 2008, Schneider pleaded guilty to charges of animal abandonment and withholding food and water from an animal. These offenses are misdemeanors in Rhode Island, and Schneider received about as heavy a sentence possible under Rhode Island law: a six-month suspended jail sentence, with eleven months probation. He was also ordered to pay restitution to the Animal Hospital that took care of Sari, and court costs. Finally, the Rhode Island court prohibited Schneider from having any animals in his possession for the duration of his sentence.

It didn't seem like much; after all, Sari had died in Rhode Island. But it was a start. All of the attention that the world of Greyhound lovers had given to this case was beginning to pay off. Every court appearance drew Greyhound supporters. The letters and e-mails were still coming in. The courts knew that this case was still being followed closely. Now that Schneider had been convicted in one state, maybe the others would go quickly too. Unfortunately, the delays and continuances were beginning to have an effect on the volunteers. Each court

appearance drew fewer Greyhound supporters. Still, the letters and e-mails continued. The courts knew that this case was being followed closely.

On August 21, 2008, ten months after the abandonment of Sari and Talca, the Massachusetts trial of Kevin Schneider was to begin. The only state in which Schneider faced felony charges, Massachusetts could put Sari and Talca's adoptive owner behind bars for as long as five years.

One of the Greyhound advocates overheard the defendant's attorney talking with the prosecutor: Schneider would go free and pay no penalty.

Schneider came to court with a lawyer and three neighbors, who were prepared to testify on his behalf. They had seen him walking his Greyhounds on occasion.

Arrayed against him were people who saw a different person, and he was confronted with the reality of his situation. A dozen witnesses were ready to testify against him. They included: Eva Longo, the Connecticut Animal Control Officer who retrieved Talca; Dr. Bazar and Pat Bromley, who had tried to save Sari's life; the woman who had seen him place Sari under that bush in Providence; Louise Coleman of Greyhound Friends; the neighbor who had seen Schneider kicking the two hounds; and the police officers who had arrested Schneider after he failed to show up in court. Also present in the courtroom were people who weren't directly involved but had written letters and e-mails to keep the case alive. And there were the people who had showed up at every one of Schneider's dozens of court appearances.

Schneider took his seat in court just before 9:00 a.m. The judge appeared half an hour later. There seemed to be some issues that needed resolution, so the lawyers talked with the judge at a bench conference out of the hearing of the rest of the people in the courtroom. The judge told the lawyers to

work it out, and returned to his chambers.

At 11:00 a.m. Schneider still sat at his seat at the table in front of the judge's bench, sweating and staring into the distance. Both lawyers repeatedly entered and exited the courtroom, then retreated to the judge's chambers for a short period. Schneider was walked out of the courtroom for a conference.

Eventually, the lawyers returned from the judge's chambers waving some kind of document. The judge then returned to the bench.

Judge Flynn got down to business and addressed himself to the defendant. He told Schneider it was his duty to tell him that he was entitled to a trial, that six jurors would be seated, and that he had the right to say nothing

and make the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prove its case against him. He asked Schneider if he understood all of that. Schneider said that he did. He then asked if Schneider was going to waive those rights. Schneider said that he would.

At that point, Schneider pled guilty to the charges. The judge immediately sentenced him to 18 months in the county house of corrections, with all but 60 days suspended. Schneider was sentenced to 20 months of probation. If he failed any of his probation requirements, he would serve the entire 20 months in jail. He was ordered not to own any companion animals for the duration of his sentence. He was also required to submit to a psychiatric examination and DNA sampling.

Looking at the defendant sweating and twitching at the witness table, one could almost feel sorry for him. Then we recalled the crimes he committed. Kevin Schneider is now a convicted felon. The convictions on lesser charges from other states will now follow him for the rest of his life, as a level two sex offender.

On October 15, 2009, almost two years after the dumping of Sari and Talca and seventeen trips to Danielson Superior Court in Connecticut, Kevin Schneider finally plead-

ed guilty to a charge of animal abuse by abandonment. When Schneider appeared before the judge, he was read his rights and asked if he understood them. The prosecutor then read the story of the adoption, starvation and abandonment of both dogs. Schneider started shaking his head, and the judge called a recess and cleared the court.

When we returned to the courtroom five minutes later, the judge made a point to tell Schneider that he may not like hearing the story, but since he was pleading guilty, he didn't get to disagree with what was being read.

Abandonment is a misdemeanor in Connecticut. Schneider was sentenced to one year of incarceration, which was suspended for three years. He was ordered to submit to a psychiatric evaluation. He was ordered to stay away from the witnesses in the case, as well as Talca and her family. He was ordered to pay \$2,000 to Greyhound Friends, \$1,000 to the local animal control (NECCOG). He was also ordered to pay the veterinary costs associated with the case.

After the statement was read, the defense attorney gave a short presentation that was

very difficult for courtroom observers to hear. From what we could catch, the attorney stated that Schneider believed that when he dropped off the dogs, that "someone would take care of them." The attorney also said that Schneider had been "vilified" for this case by those of us watching the proceedings.

We observed that after every case of that morning, whether the defendant was headed for jail or release, the judge wished each one "good luck." Each one except Schneider.

Following this case, we learned that too many police officers and courts don't take



Talca survived her abandonment and lived the rest of her life happily with Joslin Murphy and her family.



Eva Longo of Northeast Connecticut Region Animal Control (NECCOG) and Detective Joseph Kelly of the Watertown (Mass.) Police Department (center left and center right, respectively) were honored by Greyhound Friends for their actions on behalf of Sari and Talca (lower left) looks on.

seriously crimes against animals. Nevertheless, there is much evidence that people who abuse animals often abuse people, too. Kevin Schneider's case shows us that when the public comes together and puts pressure on officials to insist that they follow through, convictions can happen. There is no doubt that laws in many states need to be stronger. If we put the pressure on our legislators, we can accomplish that. Maybe we can't end animal abuse, but we can help make it rare.

Without the people who constantly appeared in court and wrote letters of support to the police, animal control officers, lawyers, and judges in this case, it is quite possible that Kevin Schneider would have

gone free. People cared, they put the pressure on the enforcement community, and a man was punished.

On September 18, 2008, Eva Longo was named the Connecticut Animal Control Officer of the Year at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Association for her work in the Kevin Schneider case. Longo and Detective Kelly of the Watertown police received the Mickey Award from Greyhound Friends for their dedication to the case.

Talca lived briefly with the family who found her that October day. She found a permanent home with Joslin Murphy and her family, where she lived the very best years of her life. Talca was a very special Greyhound

with a happy attitude and a strong spirit. She passed away in Joslin's arms on September 20, 2010, after a battle with lymphoma. She is deeply missed by all the Greyhound people who knew her and most especially by Joslin, Bobby, Skye, and Harley Murphy. ■

Michael McCann is President of The Greyhound Project.



Barbara Masi, Bullet, and Comet help teach kids about responsible behavior with pets through a program with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

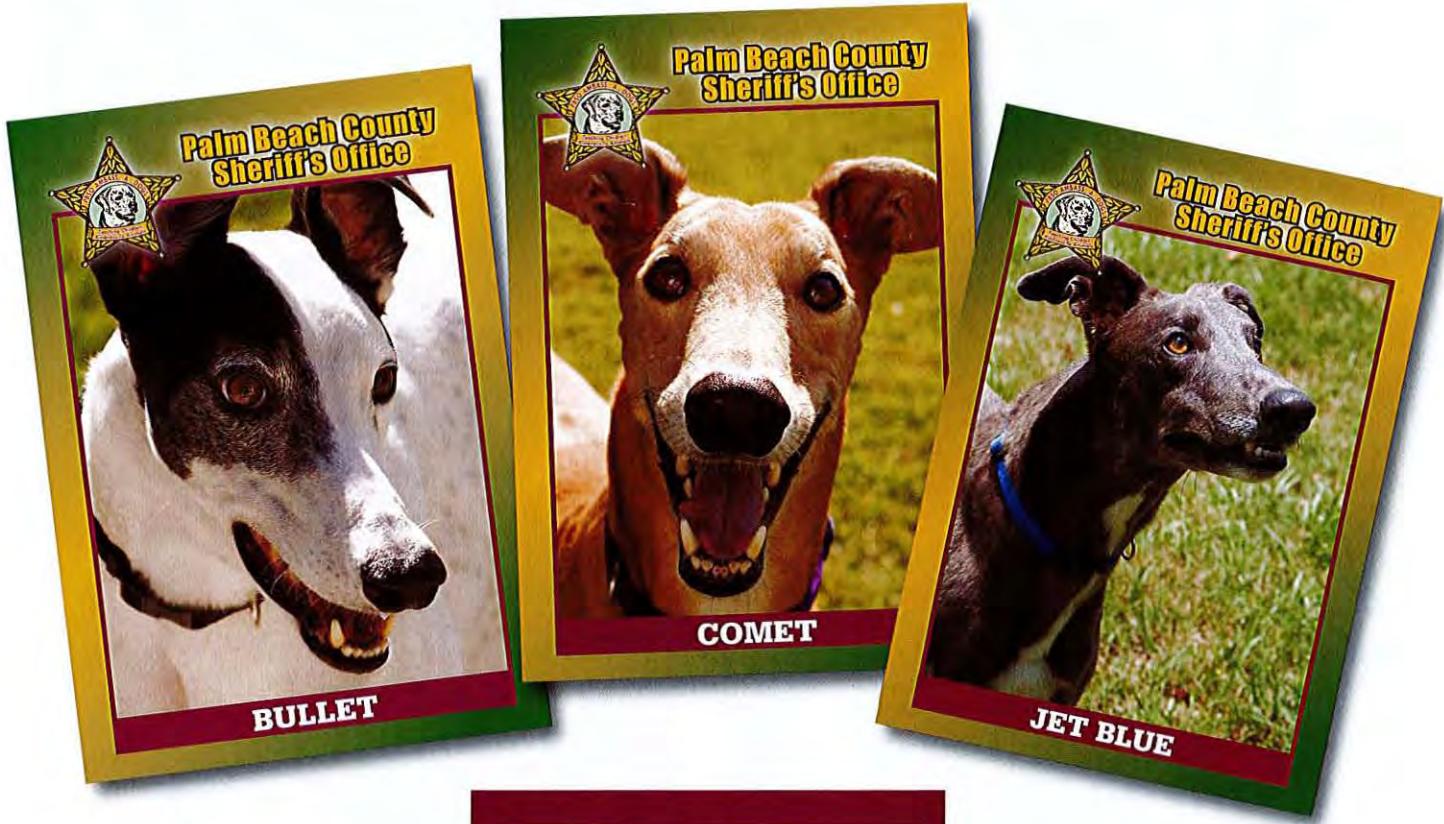
Promoting Animal Kindness

By Barbara Masi

In "The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Animal Kindness Program" (Fall 2008 CG), Barbara Masi described how she and her adopted Greyhounds helped teach children to understand animal kindness and responsible pet ownership. We thought we'd check in to see how things are going. —Ed.

Since the original article appeared in the fall of 2008 describing the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Animal Kindness Unit, we have expanded the program to include much more in support of the animal/human community. Our original program targeted elementary school students and was received so enthusiastically by students, teachers, and parents that we determined a need to go further.

We have established a relationship with South Tech Academy, which offers a veterinary assistant program, to help with the development of a middle and high school program — addressing at a deeper level issues such as dog fighting, the importance of spaying and neutering, animal cruelty, and euthanasia. I felt the program would be more



readily accepted by the older students if it were created by their peers, and the teacher of that program was kind enough to have the students use this as a project during the school year. I have seen a draft of the work in progress by the students, and it is excellent. The program should be ready to bring to the high schools in early 2011.

The Greyhounds are still my mainstay with the Animal Kindness program. However, one of my Greyhounds, Bullet, was diagnosed with extraskeletal soft tissue osteosarcoma, and he is on light duty while he undergoes chemotherapy. I have an 18-month-old Irish Wolfhound puppy in training for the program, but he can be a little intimidating for the younger students. As a result, I am evaluating the dogs coming into the Greyhound kennel for adoption, and I am considering "fostering" one to see if he or she fits the program while Bullet is recuperating.

The PBSO has begun a weekly radio program — "Animal Radio Frequency" (ARF) — that addresses many animal-related issues. Topics of recent programs have included: dog food and supplements; Reiki; wild mustang rescue; birds; pet CPR; cats; and domestic

Animal Kindness Dog Safety Program

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Animal Kindness Program uses the gentle retired racing Greyhounds (Bullet, Comet and Jet) in their programs for children at schools and camps and for adults in the community.

Animal kindness, the anti-tethering law, and the "Dogs Don't Fight" issues are emphasized in the program, along with proper dog care and what to do if you are challenged by an aggressive dog.

Children learn how to act around dogs, the reason for area leash laws, proper animal ID techniques and what to do if they witness a dog fight.

PERSONAL MESSAGE

Bullet, Comet and Jet urge all children to take good care of their family pets and to never leave their dogs alone in the car. They want the children to know that a pet can be their best friend if they take proper care of it.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
www.pbso.org

violence and its impact on pets. It is wonderful working with all the animal advocates in the community to put this program together.

In addition, I work with animal shelters and breed rescues as much as I can. I act as liaison for those who have pets they can no longer care for and those who can take them in. I help reunite lost pets with their owners,

and I try to help people who need resources (for example, food or veterinary care) for their pets. Our goal is to keep pets and their people together whenever possible.

Not everyone should have a Greyhound, so I often refer people to another breed rescue when the fit isn't quite right for one of our dogs. PBSO holds adoption events at its headquarters a few times a year. This enables non-Greyhound people to adopt from a reliable shelter — one that does the paperwork right and the follow-up too.

In this challenging economy, the need to help people and their animals is greater than ever. Programs similar to ours in Palm Beach, Florida need to be established in all parts of the country. Many people contact me for information about how to get something started in other states. Let's hope they have the same success as we have had in promoting animal welfare. ■

Barbara Masi is President of GPA/Florida-Southeast Coast.



Bella enjoys life in the big city.

Bella Takes Manhattan

By Sara W. Davis

Living in New York City is always an adventure — sharing a 600-square foot apartment with my husband is easier than you might think, and adding a Greyhound just makes everything even better.

When we decided earlier this year that we were ready for our first dog together, we approached the search for the perfect dog as we approach almost everything — he checked out every dog we passed on the street or that our friends owned, and I started doing research. We knew we wanted to adopt an adult dog and when a friend mentioned Greyhounds, we were intrigued.

Like many people who aren't familiar with the breed, we were concerned about energy levels, size, fragility, and timidity. After some researching and realizing we had initially bought into some myths, we found Greyhound Friends of New Jersey. We went to a meet-and-greet and had a great time with all of the volunteers and dogs. At an open house in April, we spent some time with a number of dogs before Linda Lyman, president of Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, said she thought she had the perfect dog for us in the back. Out came KT Britta, now Bella, who leaned against our legs and promptly stole our hearts.



Bella takes in the view from the window of her rented SUV.

Bella has destroyed every Greyhound myth we have heard. High energy? No, she's generally sleeping — she even fell asleep about an hour after arriving home for the first time with police sirens blasting by, and slept through the Macy's Fourth of July fireworks only a couple of blocks away. Timid? No, not timid, either — after just a few months with us she'll allow almost everyone to pat her and will walk calmly through crowds in Times Square and Grand Central Station.

Walking a Greyhound in New York is always an adventure. Walking any dog in this city is quite an experience, but when you have a breed that not many people have seen, walks get a lot more interesting. Believe it or not, New Yorkers can be just as open and talkative as residents of any other

area, and have no qualms about stopping to ask about Bella. In the area we live in I've only ever seen one other Greyhound, so we're a novelty. People with dogs of all sizes and shapes, as well as people without dogs, will stop and ask about Bella.

There's a lovely lady at the nearby garden center who met Bella on her first weekend here and was just flabbergasted that Bella didn't know what cookies were all about. When we ran into the same lady a couple of months later, she exclaimed how nice Bella's coat had become, the fact she had learned how to sit, and how she loves cookies, of course.

New York can be a little intimidating to anyone — I can only imagine how it must seem to a dog, with all of the sights, sounds, and smells. Despite it all, Bella manages to

weave her way through the large crowds. She is allowed on some trains, and she definitely causes a stir in the station, where almost every other dog we've seen is small enough to fit into a carrier.

Having seen so many dogs of all breeds, sizes, ages, and energy levels living in the city, we were not worried about having a dog of our own in Manhattan. Sure, she wouldn't have a yard to run in or feel grass beneath her paws, but we knew she would have a pretty good life. The only thing that made us hesitate at all was hearing that Greyhounds really thrive on routine. Matt and I both work full-time in the hospitality industry, so some nights one of us will be home at 5 p.m., some nights neither of us will be home until after 7 p.m., or we'll swing by quickly for dinner and a walk and leave again. No problems —

Bella takes it all in stride. She has the run of our bedroom (where her crate is) when we're not home, and her only protest at being left alone in the evenings is to pull things off of my bedside table and take them into her crate.

The three of us have even had a number of weekends away from home. So far, Bella has been in a variety of cars, taxis, and trains, and even on a ferry. She's been left alone crated in hotel rooms and has never caused a bit of a problem, even when another dog was barking nearby. She's snoozed under restaurant tables and at outdoor bars, but her favorite experience so far seems to be the trip with the rented SUV that allowed her to fully stretch out and look out of the window. We even caught her roaching as we were driving along!

One recent weekend we took her up to Connecticut for a house-and-dog sitting weekend. Bella handled the three exuberant Golden Retrievers and aged terrier with

aplomb, only causing a stir once or twice when someone invaded her bed. The only thing that seemed to disturb her was the lack of noise, which meant at night she was on the alert every time an owl hooted.

I was surprised to learn recently that some groups won't adopt to anyone without a fenced yard. While we certainly understand the importance of not letting Bella off leash unless in an enclosed area, she is a fantastic apartment dog. When she gets the occasional urge to do zoomies, she's adapted to doing them on our bed, between our bed and the living room sofa, or out in our building's hallway. Sometimes we think she has some excess energy to expend, so we take her to one of our many nearby dog parks, only to have her saunter around and greet people instead of run, or just stand next to one of us and watch.

One of our favorite parts of having a Greyhound is that no matter where we are, we become breed ambassadors. In our build-

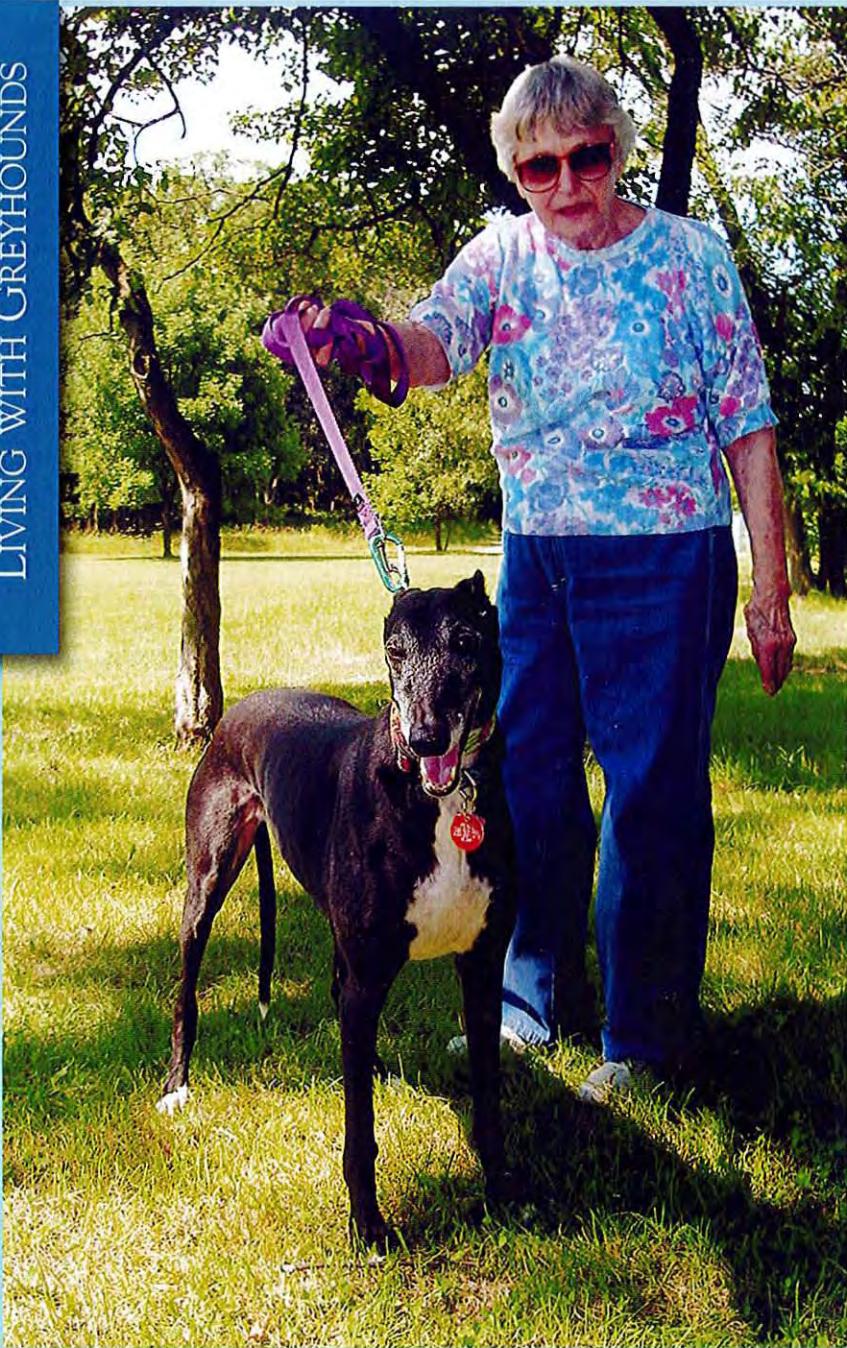
ing elevator, on walks in the neighborhood, on trips, and in the parks, we always get questions and comments. We have so much fun countering the myths! Of course, Matt and I are not the only ones to have discovered what great city dogs Greyhounds make. There is a terrific group of NYC Greyhound owners with whom we have met up a couple of times. What fun to meet Greyhounds of all ages, sizes, energy levels, and personalities!

Although we are new to Greyhounds, we are hooked. We are constantly impressed with how well Bella handles everything that we throw at her and seems to be perfectly content to just go with the flow. We are having so much fun as more of her personality comes out and watching her learn and grow. We can hardly believe that she hasn't always been a part of our lives and look forward to many years together. ■

Sara Davis lives with Matt and Bella in New York City. To read more about Bella's adventures, visit www.greymdays.blogspot.com



Fred (Fry That Spam), adopted by Cindy Hanson of St. Paul, Minn. *Kate Bressler*



Does Mom need a Greyhound? Janice Brinegar's mother Loretta with Peace, her "foster dog."

The Accidental Foster

By Janice Brinegar

I have been crazy about Greyhounds for years. I did my research and was sure that this was the dog breed for me. I adopted my first Greyhound about three years ago from REGAP of Illinois. Once I felt comfortable having a big dog in my house (Greyhounds aren't really that big, but I have always had small terriers), I started thinking about and hoping to add a second hound to my family. Unfortunately, my 79-year old mother was not too happy with the idea of adding a third dog to the house. I already had a Wire-Haired Fox Terrier and two parrots, in addition to my Greyhound Luka. Mom felt it would be too crowded and crazy with a third dog.

Every time REGAP took in new hounds, I would look at them and find two or three that caught my fancy. I even looked at the dogs available on other Greyhound rescue group websites. I always found a few that I would have loved to adopt. I just couldn't help myself.

A few times, I even inquired about specific hounds. I guess I like to torture myself.

My friends started adopting older mama dogs. First, Barb and Sue adopted Gypsy. She is a sister to their hound Lunar Star; they share the same parents but come from different litters. My Luka is really sweet on Gypsy. Todd and Lisa added mama hound Daisy to their pack. While Rita was adopting Take a Chance on Me, she asked if I wanted to go to our kennel when she picked her up. I had my eye on a beautiful black and white "cow dog," but he was adopted before we could go to the kennel.

When I went to pick up Chance with Rita and her family, I brought Luka along for the ride. Upon arrival, REGAP director Mona Moore had one question for me: "When are you adopting another hound?" Well, I thought, *the one I liked is adopted*. I suggested another dog but Mona felt she was too young to live with Mom.

"I have the perfect dog for you," says Mona. She momentarily leaves and comes back with the most beautiful black Greyhound. Her name is Grey's Pitch Black, and she is 8-1/2 years old. She ran more than 170 races and had one litter of pups.

Mona introduces her to Luka, who stands frozen in the middle of the room. He has a look of panic on his face; he thinks for sure he is being returned. I reassure him that he is

going to meet a new friend. Pitch Black sniffs him and walks around the room. She ignores the cats and small dogs on hand to test the hounds.

Mona's husband George offers to give Pitch Black a quick bath and put her in the back of the Jeep.

What is Mom going to do? Just tell her Pitch Black jumped in the back of the Jeep and you didn't notice her. No, I can't do that to Mom. I start to brainstorm. What to do? I can have Mona call the house when I am at work and ask for me. When Mom tells her I am at work, she will start talking about Pitch Black, telling her how black dogs stay at the kennel so much longer than the rest and how she really wants to find a foster home for this sweet mama dog. Mona is the supreme Greyhound salesperson. No one can say no to her.

The plan is set. I tell Mona to lay it on thick. Fingers and toes are crossed.

The day of the call arrives. I am anxious. What if Mom says No? I won't have any wiggle room. Better rethink the plan. How about this: Mona is bringing hounds to our local Greyhound veterinarian. She can bring Pitch along, and I will make sure I am there with Mom. Mona needs to drop off the paperwork for Rita's new dog. I love to drive. I will tell Mom that we are going for a drive with Luka, and we need to stop and pick up paperwork for Rita. I see Rita at the meet-and-greets, so this all rings true — so far.

The day we are to meet is cold, windy, and icy. I pull into the parking lot, and there

is Mona with an SUV full of hounds. I'll bet she could use some help getting them all into the office.

"I'll just wait in the Jeep," says Mom.

My heart sinks. No!

"Mom, Mona will be disappointed to know you were here and didn't stop and say hello." I get the door for Mom, and we help Mona walk the pack of hounds inside. Mom sits down.

Mona says to my Mom, "Could you do me a favor and hold her leash?" She extends Pitch's leash towards her. "I just brought her along to get her out of the kennel. She has been there so long she is getting depressed."

"I think she has lost weight since I saw her a few days ago," I add hopefully.

Mom takes Pitch's leash. Almost on cue, Pitch puts her front paws on Mom's shoulder and gives her a big kiss. Did Mona say something to her, like "You really need to lay it on thick and show some extra sweet loving?" Pitch stands next to Mom the entire time we are there.

After a few minutes, Mona mentions fostering and asks Mom if she will consider fostering Pitch.

Mom says No.

I look at Mona. Mona keeps talking.

After a few seconds I ask Mom why not.

"Well, what if Luka doesn't like her?"

"They have already met, and he is fine with her," I reply. "I think you need to get Luka and bring him in to meet her."

Mona tells Mom that if she takes Pitch

home and it doesn't work out or is too much for her, she will come right out and pick her up. I tell Mom that I will take the next day off from work. I have the weekend too, so if it doesn't work I can take her back.

"Well, OK."

We load Pitch Black into my Jeep and drive home. When we arrive with Pitch, Luka gets a case of the zoomies, and my Fox Terrier checks her out. As I sit in the living room, I hear Mom talking to Pitch: "This is your home now. You don't need to be afraid. We love you and will take care of you."

This is looking good.

Two months later, Pitch's name is now Peace. My Mom rubs Peace's ears and tells her how lucky we are to have her. This is the perfect time to ask.

"Mom, can we keep her?"

"What do you mean, keep her? She's our dog."

"Ummm . . . no, she's not. She belongs to REGAP. We are just fostering her."

"This is our dog and she isn't going anywhere," Mom replies. "She belongs to us."

I tell Mona to send over the paperwork; this girl is forever in our hearts and home.

Postscript: Mom knew she was set up but went along with it and is happy she did. Peace is the most loving, beautiful girl, and I have never been happier. ■

Janice Brinegar lives in Oak Lawn, Ill. with Greyhounds Luka and Peace and volunteers for REGAP of Illinois.



Peek-A-Boo, adopted by Elise and Richard Woolfort of Saint Charles, Mo.



Cartier came from Guam to live with Dana Provost in Las Vegas, Nev. Arica Dorff/Pet'ographique

Cartier's Story

By Dana Provost

I promise to take care of you forever and ever. — The adopter's pledge

Some Greyhounds have special needs, and some even arrive with a medical condition that is a mystery. Such a Greyhound found his way to my home, and neither of us knew how many lives he would touch during the course of his journey.

He came off the Guam racetrack after it closed in November 2008. He was rescued one evening in a torrential rain storm late that December. He had probably been roaming the streets and jungle since the track's closing. A military wife found him and planned to keep him.

The Greyhound was emaciated, and something was severely wrong with his foot. His right back hock and foot were very swollen and soft to the touch, with pustules and pockets of fluid around his ankle/hock area. He refused to eat and was very depressed. He was definitely more than she could manage, so she decided to turn him into the local rescue group, Guam Animals In Need (GAIN).

The Greyhound was assessed by GAIN's veterinarian, Dr. Malakooti. He felt that the dog's medical condition warranted euthanization. One of the volunteers, Noni Davis, pleaded with Dr. Malakooti to let her nurse the dog back to sufficient health to enable travel to the United States. Dr. Malakooti agreed; if the dog was able to travel to the U.S., he would be more likely to find an effective treatment for his condition than he would in Guam.

Noni stayed with the Greyhound night and day trying to lift his depression and encouraging him to eat to build his strength. He received frequent visits from a family that showered him with the love and attention he needed. He came around wonderfully, but because of his medical condition the family was unable to adopt him.

Due to the high cost, Dr. Malakooti ran no tests on the dog. Guam had no appropriate laboratories, and sending samples to Hawaii for analysis would have been very expensive. Nevertheless, he chose to treat the Greyhound with Baytril® and Rimadyl® although there was no clear diagnosis for his ailment. After six weeks, the Greyhound was ready to travel, and on February 18, 2009, he left Guam to come to the U.S.

He was one of four Greyhounds that came to the U.S. from Guam that day. He was received by the Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC) in La Mesa, California, an organization that had taken in several other Guam Greyhounds with medical conditions.

Upon arrival at the adoption kennel, the Greyhound was assessed by GAC's veterinarian, Dr. Candy Lewis. He continued to be depressed, and his hock/foot was still quite swollen. He was taken to the kennel's veterinary clinic for observation and testing. The laboratory workup gave the clinical explanation of his swollen hock/foot as an idiopathic soft spot with pitting edema. Two slides and approximately 0.1 ml of straw-colored, hazy fluid were drawn and submitted for testing. A direct smear and cytopsin slide were prepared. Results indicated the presence of no fungal elements, no sepsis, and no bacteria engulfed by inflammatory cells.

The Greyhound remained in GAC's ken-

nel, making several visits to the veterinary clinic for evaluation of his swollen/hock condition. Back at the kennel, volunteers stayed with him to ease his ongoing depression. At this point, GAC felt the dog wasn't going to get any better and needed to go into the adoption program as a special needs placement.

I have been an adoption placement representative with GAC for almost 18 years. I heard about this Greyhound through the kennel and learned that he was placed into the group's sponsorship program due to his condition. (The sponsorship program offsets the medical expenses of special needs Greyhounds; sponsors send monthly donations to a dog's sponsorship fund and, group representatives write letters and send pictures to the sponsor on a monthly basis.) I learned from two of my friends that they were sponsoring this Greyhound. It seemed like such a coincidence, as I was considering adopting him.

I asked GAC's adoption profiler about adopting him, and if he thought this Greyhound would be a good fit for my pack. He told me that my home would be fine for this hard-to-place dog. I found out that the tests performed by the kennel had produced no diagnosis other than that the condition was recurring. They had no course of treatment other than the one the Greyhound had received in Guam: Rimadyl® and Baytril®, with the addition of Rutin, a bioflavonoid supplement.

The Greyhound, renamed Cartier, came to his forever home on June 14, 2009. I hoped the information that I began gathering after his arrival would assist my veterinarian in finding the cause of his mysterious medical condition.

Every two or three weeks Cartier would vomit, become depressed and listless, and refuse to eat. He became feverish. His foot turned pinkish and warm to the touch. His foot/hock swelled to almost three times the normal size. After a day or two, his foot/hock began to drain. Fluid leaked from the pustules, from between his toes, the bottom of his foot, and from the soft tissue spot on his hock. Even after this leakage — and some-

times his foot leaked like a sieve — his foot/hock would not shrink to a normal size. In the absence of a diagnosis, I started referring to this as an "episode" when describing it to other people and medical professionals.

My investigation began. I was constantly amazed at how many people were following Cartier and his progress here. A friend, who was involved with writing about the Guam Greyhounds that came to the U.S., had many resources that helped me to uncover Cartier's history. Dr. Suzanne Stack found out that I adopted Cartier and placed me in contact with Dr. Malakooti, who treated Cartier while he was in Guam.

The first person I contacted was Dave Davis of Guam Animals in Need (GAIN). He knew and personally handled each one of the rescued Guam Greyhounds, and was present for the shipment of every Greyhound that left Guam. (I learned later that his wife, Noni Davis, was the person who pleaded with Dr. Malakooti to save Cartier's life.) Dave filled me in on Cartier's rescue, and told me they remembered Cartier well.

Dave said they knew of his hock problem, and also knew his chances for a happy outcome were better in the U.S. Dave was able to provide me with Dr. Malakooti's medical records for Cartier. He was also able to provide me with Cartier's racing name: Whata Nugget.

Knowing Cartier's racing name enabled me to investigate his lineage on the Greyhound Data website (www.greyhound-data.com). Cartier was born in Australia. His siblings raced in Australia, but Cartier was sent to race in Guam. Since there are no minimum or maximum age limits for racing Greyhounds in Guam, he probably started running at an early age and continued until the track closed in November 2008, when he was 7 years old.

In August 2009, Cartier was examined by my veterinarian, Dr. Neil Patton. I provided him with Cartier's medical records from Guam and GAC. Upon review of the medical records, Dr. Patton could not shed any further light on Cartier's condition. He offered several hypotheses, including chronic circulatory condition caused by an obstruc-

tion of some kind; a bite from a Guam insect that had never healed; and a racing injury that had healed improperly.

Cartier also had a few blood-like skin tags on his right inner thigh. Dr. Patton suggested they be removed and biopsied to see if they would offer a clue to his medical condition. They were removed, and the veterinarian also biopsied his inner thigh close to the bone.

Biopsy results were negative for cancer. The inner thigh sample was healthy muscle tissue. With nothing else to go on, he suggested maintaining Cartier's current medical regimen.

In September 2009 I started eight-year-old Cartier on a holistic regimen. He was treated by Dr. Caroline O'Sullivan. She aspirated the soft spot and took x-rays of his hock. No bacteria or broken bones showed up in the test results, which ruled out infection or an improperly healed track injury. She initiated acupuncture treatments and Chinese herbs, and I continued investigating Cartier's past.

I contacted Noni Davis, who told me the story of Cartier's rescue in Guam. She told me of his depression and his swollen foot/hock. She reported that an employee of the Guam Greyhound Racetrack in Tamuning, Guam remembered Cartier and his swollen foot but had no information about what caused it. She told me that he raced with a swollen foot and, according to the track employees with whom she spoke, received no treatment for his condition. She had no further information about Cartier prior to his release from the track or before his rescue. She also told me that once he got to the rescue group, the Despain family spent a lot of time with him to try to help lift his depression and speed in his recovery.

I contacted the Despain family in Guam. Mrs. Despain said that her youngest daughter had bonded with Cartier. Her daughter remembered petting him, and described him. She said that she remembers that he "didn't jump wildly or bark" when the crate door was opened, and that she was able to "pet and love on him right away." When she told her

daughter that Cartier had been adopted in the United States, she was delighted. The Despain family adopted two Guam Greyhounds and later made a job-related move to China.

I contacted Shirley Miller of GAIN to learn more about Cartier. She remembered Cartier, and how worried everyone was about him and his future, but had no new information about his medical history or condition to offer me.

Several people who helped him in his journey in the United States contacted me directly. Barbara Davenport from Homestretch Greyhound, and Susan Netboy and Pat Gaetz from Greyhound Protection League all remembered him as a special needs Greyhound, but were unable to give me further information about his medical condition. They were happy to learn he was getting special care.

I continued with Cartier's acupuncture treatments, medications, and supplements. I began keeping a daily journal of his progress, taking his temperature every day, noting his



Tyler, Carrie, and Marcus, adopted by Brian and Deanna Swartzfager of Columbia, Md.

moods, eating habits, and overall health. I made very detailed entries before and after each "episode."

In November 2009, Dr. O'Sullivan felt Cartier had healed enough to discontinue his weekly acupuncture treatments. He continued the remainder of his medical regimen. Cartier's episodes were less frequent, occurring every six to eight weeks rather than every three weeks, but they were just as regular. Cartier was happy and healthy in all aspects of his life except for his foot/hock condition. Although we had no explanation for his condition, it seemed to be fairly well-controlled with the current medical regimen. He was seen by Dr. Patton periodically for assessment and annual shots. I continued his treatment. The overall consensus was that Cartier was doing well.

In March 2010, a few Greyhound owners who used holistic services referred me to Robert McDowell, an herbalist based in Australia who specializes in treatment of animals. I e-mailed McDowell thinking that because of his location, he might be familiar with Cartier's ailment. He responded, telling me that while he had not seen anything like Cartier's condition, he thought it might be a circulatory issue involving the lymph system. He suggested an herbal regimen.

Before I could start the herbal treatments McDowell recommended, Cartier developed further complications. In April, he was diagnosed with kidney disease.

I decided to make one last effort and contacted Dr. Guillermo Couto of Ohio State University's Greyhound Health and Wellness Program. After I relayed all of Cartier's medical information, Dr. Couto offered a diagnosis of "swollen leg syndrome." He explained that he had seen this condition in other ex-racing Greyhounds and that there seemed to be no known cause or cure.

After Dr. Couto consulted with Dr. Patton, Cartier was placed on the diuretic spironolactone to help manage his episodes. We treated his kidney disease with additional medications and a special diet. Despite treatment, Cartier's kidney disease worsened over the next several months. He was hospitalized and tested, and we learned he was losing protein through his urine. We suspected he was losing protein through his weeping

foot/hock as well.

One month after his diagnosis of kidney disease, Cartier went into acute renal failure and passed away en route to the emergency veterinary clinic. Whether his foot/hock condition contributed to his kidney failure is unknown. Without more information about Cartier's condition and history, the unknown values in this case study will remain so.

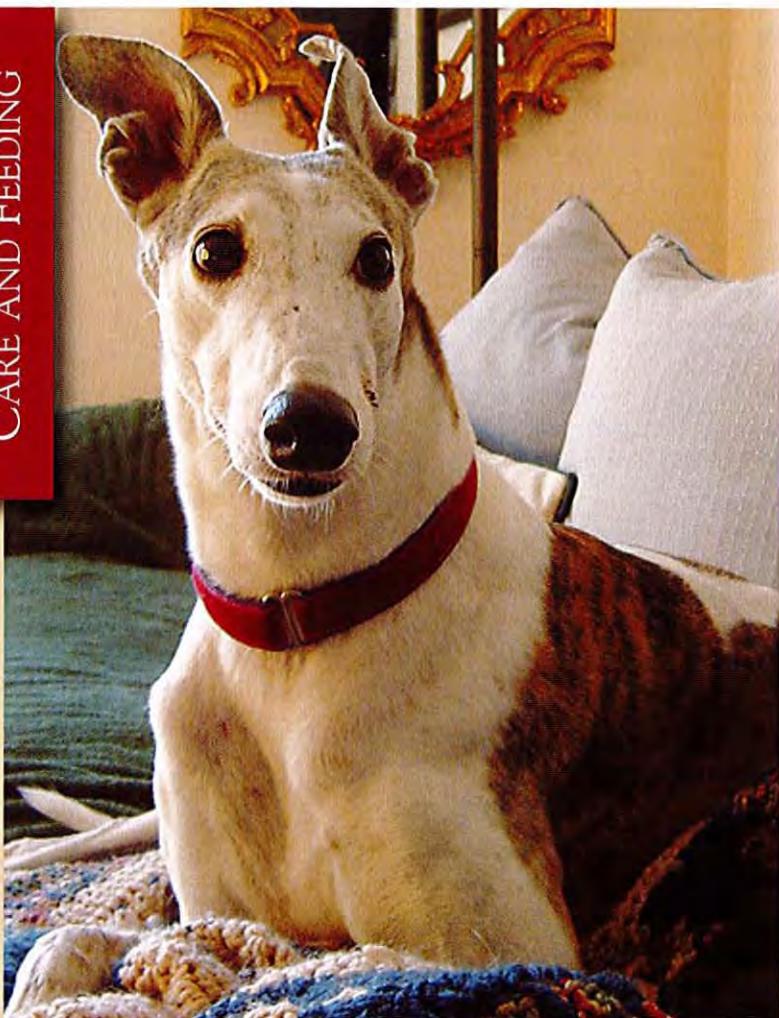
I believe all the research was worth it. I would do it all over again. If sharing my story will help another Greyhound that has this

medical condition get help sooner, then the research served its purpose. Cartier was a very special Greyhound because of all the challenges he faced and all the people he touched that I learned about during my quest for information to help him. ■

Dana Provost is Features Editor for CG Magazine. In September, Petfinder named Dana the winner of their "World's Best Pet Parent Contest." Guam Animals in Need (GUAM) received the \$10,000 grand prize.



Jade, adopted by Barbara Celli of Tampa, Fla.



Maggie, as graceful in death as she was in life.

Maggie's Final Journey

By Eileen Wesson

I took her in a year ago to have her put down, but while I was checking in at the front desk, she perked up, looked around the room, checked out the other dogs, and started to do her "happy-to-be-Maggie" dance. So we went home.

Last night was different. She had a hard time breathing. Her chest kept swelling up and she cried all night long. I lay down next to her trying to comfort her. I couldn't make the pain go away. She let me know she couldn't do this any longer. I smoothed her face with cold cloths and told her stories through the night, stories about her racing career. She didn't race for very long in Mexico and I wasn't able to read her tattoos, so I was never able to look up her track record. I just made up those stories that night.

The veterinarian's office opened at 8:00 a.m. Jim and I were there with Maggie before the doors opened. This time the nurses put us in a room as soon as we walked

in carrying her. They brought us blankets to pad the examination table. We lifted Maggie up and laid her on her side facing me. She was the easiest of my four adopted Greyhounds to care for. No problems. No complaints. She did anything I asked her to do. Now I wanted to make this easy for her, as she'd done for me for more than 10 years.

The veterinarian opened the door to check in on us.

"I'm Dr. Goldberg. I'm going to go get everything we need." Someone new — I hadn't met this kind man with a beard and blue eyes. How did he know it was time? He didn't know Maggie, and he didn't know me.

The room smelled of cleaning agents. Antiseptic spray stuck to the soles of my shoes. Smells of bleach and liver treats filled the 10 by 10 foot room.

This doesn't get easier for me. I feel numb. My cheeks are wet and chapped. Most of my animals go this way. I wish we could help people leave this way, too. No one needs to suffer or hurt when it is time to go.

The walls are full of signed, happy pictures of cat and dog owners expressing gratitude for all the good times they had with their beloved pets. Some of the dogs are dressed in costumes. Halloween costumes for dogs and their owners are big this year. I wish I had Maggie's picture taken when she was dressed up as a Big Mac. I wish I'd taken her to more places where she could have run over 45 mph and felt the wind on her face without a muzzle. I wish there was a dimmer in this room. There's an annoying hum in the overhead fluorescent light. It's too bright.

The light catches Maggie's name on her maroon velvet collar. I had a cape made to match it for walks on cold days. I lean in and press her into my chest. I can feel her heart beating. Her eyes are staring into mine.

"Shhh, stay. Good girl, Maggie," I whisper. "You are the best girlie ever."

Dr. Goldberg has come back with paperwork to sign. He apologizes for asking a lot of questions.

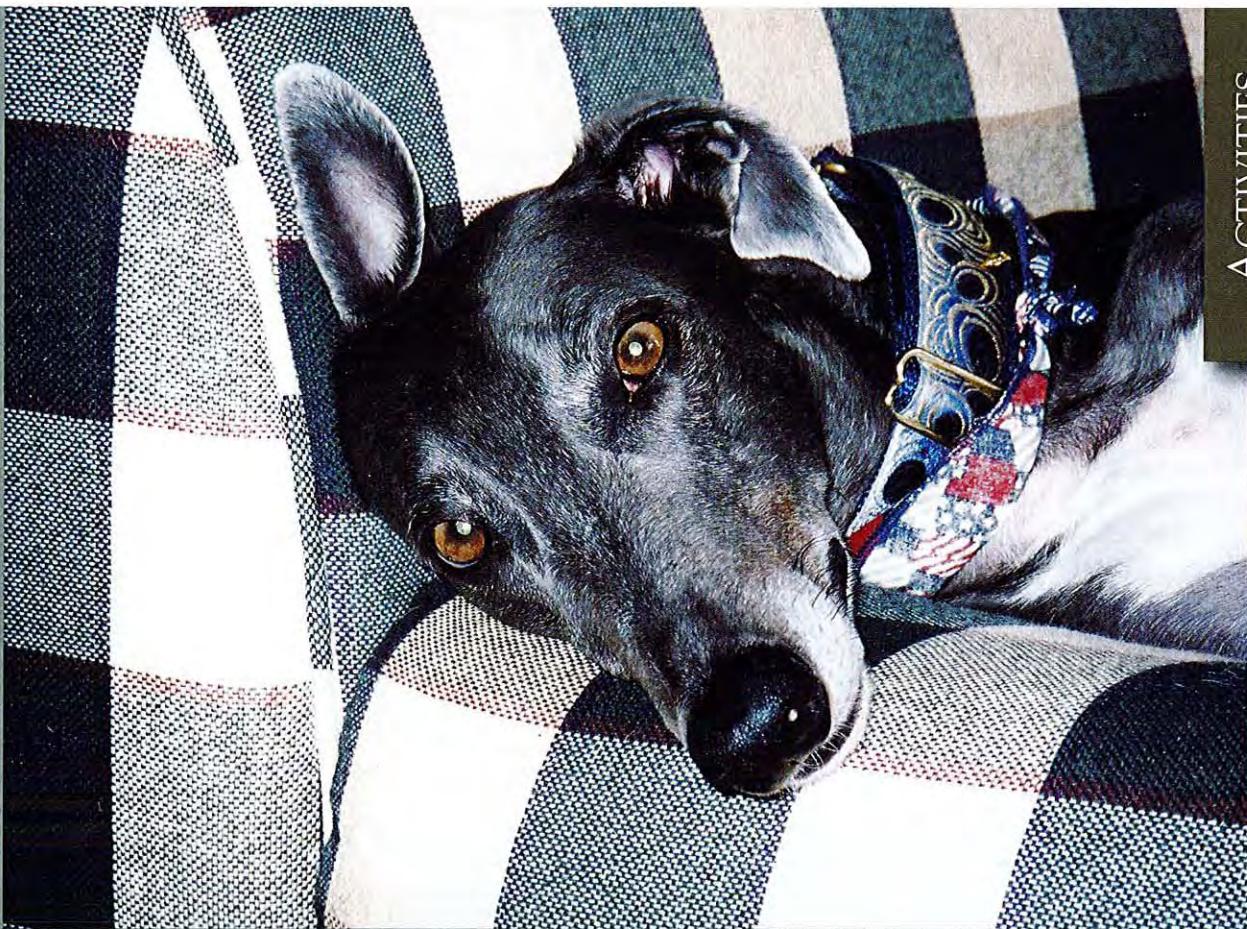
I hold Maggie, sign the papers, and block that awful overhead light from shining into her eyes. My jacket smells like Maggie, butter, and wheat. Her heart starts to slow down and her body softens.

I feel something moist dripping onto the back of my hand. I think it is Maggie at first, and then I notice tears dripping from Dr. Goldberg's beard as he leans in with his stethoscope to listen to her heart.

"She's gone," he says.

I want to ask for a replay. No, wait — how could she go so quickly? The other dogs gave me a chance to talk to them and say thank you. Maggie was as graceful in death as she was in life. No problems. No complaints. Just a sweet dog. ■

Eileen Wesson lives in Studio City, Calif.



Paige, adopted by Joy Riley of North Wales, Pa. *Barb Carnahan*

Blogging About Your Greyhound

By Carrie Noar

Blogging is a trend in the online community that has been gaining a lot of popularity. A blog is a journal that is kept online where others can read it. Blogs that are written about dogs are a growing niche of that community.

The reasons that people choose to blog vary. Some people like to entertain others with amusing anecdotes. Others like to bring certain issues to people's attention. Some blogs only share photographs. Still others like to give things away and review products. It's a wonderful creative outlet for many people.

Greyhound blogs have a wide variety of offerings. There are blogs that share the daily lives of Greyhounds. Some showcase Greyhounds in need of homes. There are blogs that show how Greyhounds are living exciting lives in retirement. Some blogs even chronicle the difficult struggles of some dogs' experience.

I started my blog after my first Greyhound passed away and I'd recently adopted another. I wanted to continue some of the activities that I'd enjoyed doing with my first. I'd been active on several message boards and shared many funny stories about life with Treat, my first Greyhound. When she passed away, I realized how many funny stories we'd had together, and I still occasionally remember one that I've forgotten for a while. My new hound, Bunny, was only eighteen months old when she came home with us. I realized that I didn't want to regret not telling her sto-

ries, and I didn't want to lose any of them.

There was a blog that I greatly admired, Life With Dogs, which stars a Greyhound named Nigel, and it inspired me to give blog writing a try. I found it was an outlet that I really enjoyed. I wanted to share the funny stories about our hounds' lives with others, and I also wanted to show other people who aren't knowledgeable about Greyhounds what they are like and what wonderful pets they are.

If you are interested in writing a blog, it's not difficult to do. There are several websites that offer free blog hosting. These allow you to set up your blog relatively easily and get started without a lot of trouble. Blogger (www.blogger.com) is a very popular blogging platform. Wordpress (www.wordpress.org) and Typepad (www.typepad.com) are also well-known blog hosts that many people use. There are differences in what each of them offers, but the choice of which to use is mainly a matter of personal preference. Even if you don't consider yourself to be very computer-savvy, these sites are all very user-friendly. None of them requires you to have a lot of computer or online knowledge to get started.

After you've chosen a host and set up your blog, you'll want to choose a direction for your blog. Do you like to tell amusing stories about your dogs? Are you active in some sort of activity with your dogs that you want to share with others? Are there certain Greyhound issues that you'd like to tell people about? Do you like sharing photos of your dogs with people? Each blog is unique, because everyone brings to it his or her own experience, opinions, and talents.

It helps to include photos in your blog, but it's certainly not a requirement. Photos help to keep the reader's interest and illustrate the story you're telling. Even if you didn't get a photo of an actual event, sometimes a photo taken at a different time can work with the entry if it helps to describe what you saw. It takes time and practice to get good photographs, but it is worth the effort. Photos seem to help the readers to identify more closely with what you've written.

Often people get discouraged with writing a blog because they don't get comments or feedback from others about what they've

written. There are some good ways to attract people to your blog. One of the most important is to write well. Some blogs are written with dogs as the authors. Many people do accept "dogspeak," but if you use that, make sure that it's not so difficult to decipher that people are turned off. Writing without punctuation and capitalization probably won't win you many readers, either.

Posting regularly will help you to gain and keep readers. Some blogs are updated every day. Some are updated only once a week or even less frequently. If people know that you always update your blog on a certain day, they will be more likely to keep track of your updates. Predictability is a good thing when it comes to attracting readers.

When you start writing a blog, begin by asking your friends and family to follow your blog. Also, find some other blogs that you like and begin following them. Often, they will check to see what your blog is like out of curiosity and follow you back. Don't be shy

about leaving comments for others if you hope to have the favor reciprocated. Sometimes it seems as if blogging communities are well established, but I've found that most of them are more than happy to accept new people into their circles. You can also use other online tools to share your blog with the world. Facebook and Twitter are both good ways to let people see that you have a blog and that it's been updated.

The main thing to remember about blogging is to have fun with it. It's a great creative outlet for many people. It's also a fun way for people with similar interests to meet each other online and share ideas. Blogging can also be great exposure for Greyhounds. If it's something that you've been thinking about, don't be afraid to give it a try. ■

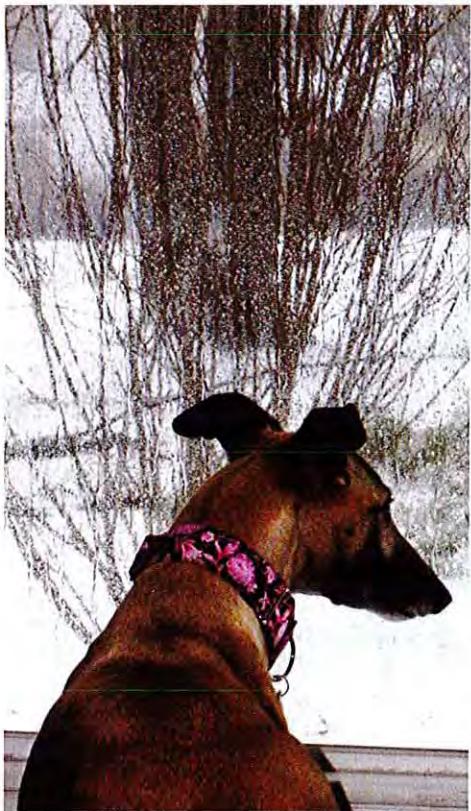
Carrie Noar is a CG copy editor. Visit her blog, "Tales and Tails," at www.houndstooth4.blogspot.com



Oscar and Gus the rabbit, adopted by Cathy Yu of Chicago, Ill.

Greyhound Blogs Worth Reading

By Carrie Noar



Madison, adopted by Susan Reeker of Hamilton, Mo.

There are a handful of Greyhound blogs on the Internet that will appeal to most tastes. This list of some that I know can give you an idea of what you might want to try if you'd like to start your own blog. Even if you decide that writing a blog isn't for you, you may enjoy these websites. Also, don't be afraid to search on the Internet. There are often new blogs cropping up that are fun to read.

Life With Dogs (www.lifewithdogs.tv/) stars Nigel the Greyhound, his two Labrador housemates, and a big white cat. Sometimes this blog is unbelievably funny, other times there are current events posted that pertain to dogs and different dog issues. Sometimes there are amazing photographs and other times hilarious Photoshop cartoons. You never know exactly what you'll get when you visit this blog, but it's definitely worth a look.

Never Say Never Greyhounds (www.neversaynevergreyhounds.blogspot.com/) will make you see your Greyhounds in a different light. These Greyhounds compete in agility and lead very active lives. Watching them in action is a lot of fun and may change your ideas about what your hounds can do in retirement.

Hiking Hounds (www.hikinghounds.blogspot.com/) will give you ideas about things that you can do with your Greyhounds while enjoying the great outdoors.

Aragon Greyhounds (www.aragongreyhounds.blogspot.com/) features some AKC Greyhounds who compete in various types of shows. If you've ever been curious about AKC Greyhounds, this blog is an opportunity to see what some of them are like.

Greyhounds CAN Sit (www.greyhoundscansit.blogspot.com/) is an interesting blog about a Greyhound and a Pig Dog (a dog used for hunting pigs) who live in New Zealand. They have various adventures that are fun to read.

Jet's Agenda (www.jetsagenda.blogspot.com/) is a blog about a Greyhound and another dog who live in Australia. Barbie the Greyhound is often learning new tricks and commands and displays her talents on video. If you visit this blog, be sure to look for the video of Barbie doing "commando."

Greyt Days (www.greymdays.blogspot.com/) chronicles the life of a newly-retired Greyhound named Bella and her adventures in New York City (see "Bella Takes Manhattan," in this issue).

Cult of the Greyhound (www.cultofthegreyhound.blogspot.com/) is a photo blog with some really amazing Greyhound pictures. You'll find yourself looking closely at a lot of them and wondering how the shots were captured. Often the expressions on the Greyhounds' faces are highly entertaining.

House of Carnivores (www.houseofcarnivores.blogspot.com/) is proof that Greyhounds can coexist peacefully with cats. Argos the Greyhound lives in harmony with four cats, even though the cats don't always get along with each other.

Sweetheart's Story (www.sweetheartsstory.blogspot.com/) tells of a Greyhound who was found abandoned in a back yard. This blog shares her story of recovery as she is being nursed back to health. It is difficult to believe that anyone could leave a dog in the condition in which Sweetheart was found. Some of the pictures are difficult to look at, but seeing her as she blossoms back to good health makes this blog feel like a Cinderella story.

Finally, Tales and Tails (www.houndstooth4.blogspot.com/) is our chronicle of everyday life with three Greyhounds and one German Shepherd. We approach life with a dose of humor and hope that we can entertain with stories that most people can relate to while showing what wonderful pets Greyhounds are.

Hopefully, this list will lead to you writing your own blog or discovering some blogs you will enjoy reading. ■

Santa Takes a Greyhound

Story by Barbara Sabatini

Illustrations by Bruce DeKing



After loading up the last bag of food for the reindeer, Santa picked up a piece of paper from the floor of the feed store. Written in large black letters, with a drawing of a Greyhound at the top, it read: "Nothing delivers as fast as a Greyhound."

"They may be fast," thought Santa, "but those big buses could never compare to my reindeer for speed." The man in red laughed at the thought of the Greyhounds actually being those skinny, tall dogs. They would not be able to carry anything more than an envelope or two. Surely the note was talking about Greyhound buses.

Returning to the Toy Shop and his hardworking elves, Santa heard sneezing and coughing in the distance and followed the sounds. When he came to the barn, he realized his beloved reindeer were making the noise.



... or Twelve

Seeing Comet, Santa asked: "What has become of my healthy, strong traveling companions? What am I to do without your speed and power to get all these packages to the children of the world?"

Comet turned toward the other reindeer and lowered his antlers in disappointment.

Santa sat on a bale of hay, put his head in his hands, and took a deep, long breath. Looking up again, his eyes were sad and worried.

"I'm sorry my wonderful reindeer are sick. I am unsure how I can make my deliveries this year with you unable to fly."

He put his head back into hands and shook his head.

Santa did not know what to do. He could not cancel delivery of presents to the many waiting children. Readyng himself to go back to the elves at the Toy Shop and announce the possible cancelation of Christmas, he stepped back and scratched his white beard.

"Wait a second, my dear friends. I think I may have the answer to our problem."

The man with rosy cheeks continued.

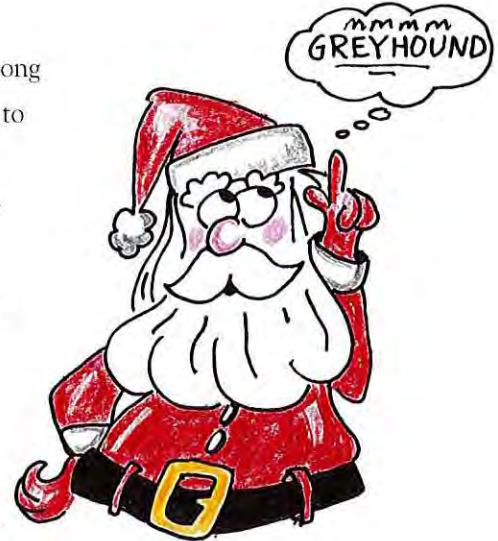
"When I was at the feed store, I saw a note about deliveries being made by Greyhounds. It seems those big buses can deliver packages all over the world. I'm sure they could carry lots and lots of toys. With a little Christmas magic, I'll bet we can get some of them in the air to reach children far away even faster. They are not as handsome as you reindeer, but it sounds like what we need right now."

Santa got on his snow scooter and headed for the village. He found the sign about the Greyhound at the store. Santa went in and spoke to the woman working behind the counter.

"Good evening, young lady. It is my understanding that you are in charge of the Greyhounds."

"Yes, sir," she replied. "I help rescue retired racers from the track. We are always looking for good homes for our dogs."

"Oh, I'm afraid I have not made myself clear," Santa said. "I am looking for the Greyhound buses. The ones that can possibly help me deliver presents this holiday season."



The young woman came out from behind the counter and put her small hand on Santa's arm.
"I'm sorry, sir. There aren't any Greyhounds with four tires and a bunch of windows around here. I only have four-legged Greyhounds who stopped running years ago and have become full-time couch potatoes."

Santa wondered how he would explain his failure to deliver Christmas presents this year. As he thanked the woman for her time and information, he turned and almost tripped over a tall, thin, slightly graying Greyhound before him.

"This is Tex," the woman said, introducing the handsome Greyhound. "He and his pack haven't run in a lot of years, but some things you just don't forget. I think if you are willing to give them a try, these Greyhounds will run again to help you deliver the children's presents."

Before Santa could agree or disagree, he was surrounded by 11 other Greyhounds.

Pooka was the youngest of the pack. She was dark black with eyes that melted his heart. Darby and Derby were energetic brothers whom Santa could already tell were going to be hard to keep focused.

Cindy and Lucy were complete color opposites . . .

white with black, and black with white.

Tess, Raisin, Lola, and Cleo were assorted colors, each beautiful and sleek.

Shiloh, Rubio, and Tex finished up the group. These three old boys had seen a lot of races and had a lot of scars. Grey fur covered many of the dogs' muzzles, but each Greyhound had a heart bigger than you would think could fit in such a skinny body.

Unsure how these thin dogs could lift his heavy sled, Santa thought he would try to line up the 12 Greyhounds in four rows of three each.

The reindeer and Greyhounds spent hours together teaching and learning . . . kind of.



Flying off the ground was a new and scary experience for the Greyhounds. The Greyhounds knew how to "fly" around a racetrack, but that was inches off the ground, not feet. Lucy and Tess found themselves jumping into the air, only to flip upside down with their long ears and even longer tails hanging downward. The boys were trying to be brave, but this adventure was far different from any they had ever had.

Tex started off slowly but picked up speed as he ran down the snowy path. Before long, he had all four paws off the ground and was gliding through the winter air. What all the others did not see was that brave Tex had kept his eyes closed until he heard the cheering below. A sigh of relief filled the proud canine.

Santa and the reindeer told the retired racers that all they had to do was believe in themselves and the magic of the Christmas season, and they would be able to do anything. Tex was glad that included flying.

When the night finally came for the big rehearsal, the Greyhounds were ready. The elves were ready. The ill-feeling reindeer were ready. But Santa was not so ready. The jolly old guy was glum as he sat in his workshop.

"I'm not used to changes or lightning-fast drivers!" Santa told his trusted elves. He gave a deep sigh as he felt Tex lay his long, thin muzzle on his lap.

"My pack was given up because we got too slow on the racetrack," Tex said. "We were called 'losers.' Now we have a chance to be the perfect speed for you and all the children waiting for their presents. This is our second chance to be winners! It will be a change for all of us, Santa."

Santa chuckled as he followed his new friend outside.

Pooka checked over her pack and gave a proud wink to Tex and Rubio standing tall in the back. Their collective "roo" was soon replaced by the sound of paws crunching snow that grew louder and faster.





Santa kissed Mrs. Claus. Each Greyhound gave an elf a wet lick that soon froze and then melted, leaving a heart-shaped mark on their rosy cheeks. Climbing into the full sleigh, the jolly man gave the Greyhounds a wink and a whistle, and off they flew.

Soon Santa let out an excited "Ho, ho, ho" that shook the icicles. Rudolph looked up into the night sky as the swiftness of the 12 Greyhounds mixed stardust with snow dust and created a blanket of light that lit their way through the dark. Rudolph's nose began to glow as he ran underneath the pack.

Stories are still told today about the night the Greyhounds saved Christmas. Santa whistled and sang all night long. The dogs moved so gracefully, they appeared to be gliding on ice.

Back home in their beds later that night, the Greyhounds were proud of their great accomplishment. Some curled into tight circles. Others were on their backs with legs straight up in the air. All dogs were glad to be back in the warmth of their home. Before long, many of their long legs were running in place as they dreamed of their very special journey. All they had to do was believe in themselves and remember that you can be a winner without ever coming in first. ■



Barbara Sabatini lives in Menifee, Calif. with Greyhounds Lola, Nairobi, Sparky, and Shiloh. She volunteers for Operation Greyhound. Bruce DeKing is a CG regular contributor.





Komet and Joey, adopted by Kristine and David Barr of Arlington, Va.

The Future of the Greyhound

By Alan Jordano

Over hundreds, if not thousands, of years, the hunting/racing Greyhound has survived famine and plague. It has survived two World Wars and countless regional conflicts. It did so by doing what it does best: Running as a hunter, or as a racer for entertainment. Today as I read of the closing of more Greyhound tracks and the possibility of many more in the years to come, it seems that the one thing that the hunting/racing Greyhound may not be able to survive or outrun is the political, financial, and ideological pressures to end Greyhound racing.

Consider the following: The current retired racer is a sub-breed unto itself, just as with the AKC Greyhound. They are not the same dog, and understandably so. They are bred for entirely different purposes. While the AKC Greyhounds I have met at local dog shows may not be representative of those from all breeders, they clearly lacked the socialization and personality traits we take for granted in our retired racers. These are key features that make them such great pets. The complete range of characteristics of the retired racer that we love so much are a direct result of the breeding, care, training, and discipline that come from their racing heritage and genetics, going all the way back those hundreds or thousands of years to when they were used as hunting dogs.

So what happens to the racing Greyhound as a sub-breed if racing comes to a complete end? Judging by those I have asked, it seems that very little thought appears to have been given to this question. Let's look at a couple of possibilities.

There has never been any incentive to breed Greyhounds as pets since so many were available directly from the tracks. Will pet shops take notice if racing ends and begin requesting Greyhounds through their supply network? Will we begin to see Greyhounds turn up in large quantities in puppy mills? Will private breeders step in and begin breeding Greyhounds for profit as well? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, will the same standards be applied to keep the racing Greyhound as it is today, or will the emphasis be on quantity and profits?

The answer is most likely a mixture of both. The good breeders will do their best to maintain the heritage of the racing Greyhound. Sadly, many Greyhounds will likely be bred simply for profit as long as the demand exists. The end result will likely be a degradation of the sub-breed as a whole over time and the eventual disappearance of the dog we know as the racing Greyhound. Is this what we really want to see?

Over the last 15 years, I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with some of the owners of racing Greyhounds, racing kennel staff, and handlers of racing Greyhounds in West Virginia and Kansas. I also had the opportunity to visit a Greyhound farm. While there have been exceptions, the majority of the people I have met have been good, hard-working, and car-

ing people. I watched kennel staff reduced to tears as they came to visit their racers as they were being released to us for adoption. There are some in Wheeling, West Virginia whom I consider to be dear friends. Whether we as individuals like it or not, the very people who are being forced out of work by the track closings have done an outstanding job maintaining the racing Greyhound in both form and function and are directly responsible for the fine pets we have today.

Equally important is the fact that they clearly cared about their dogs on a personal level. It was more than just a business to them. If Greyhound racing disappears entirely, I believe these will be the people in the best position to maintain the racing Greyhound as a breed. But they cannot do this, without some type of support process in place. There have to be incentives — financial and otherwise — for them to undertake this challenge.

Some will say that the racing Greyhound will always be around. The next time you watch the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, listen to how many times the announcer speaks of a current breed that came from breeding stock that no longer exists today. It can happen, and it just might happen to the Greyhound, if we are not proactive.

What is my stake in this issue? My sole interest is love for a breed of which I knew very little 20 years ago. Once introduced to the retired racing Greyhound I, like many of you, spent many hours working to find homes for retired Greyhounds. Countless Greyhounds have entered and left our home and our lives as dogs we helped to transport, live as foster dogs, or be our personal pets. Each had its own unique personality. Yet for all of their individual differences, they were special in the same way. Their racing careers did not make them special; one ran only a grand total of four races. They were special because of their heritage and breeding. They are unique to the dog world and touch all of us in ways we can never explain. We cannot afford to lose that. We need to ensure that this sub-breed continues to run like the wind for many years into the future.

Knot Rite

William Agosto



knotrite@mindspring.com

© 2008 William Agosto

"I haven't given up racing altogether."

I would like to urge everyone — individuals, organizations, and politicians — to slow down, take a deep breath, and look at the larger picture as it pertains to Greyhound racing, the racing Greyhound itself, and what happens to the breed if racing is discontinued on a national level. Those who oppose Greyhound racing now have the momentum and may be reluctant to pause for fear that the momentum will be lost. This is all supposed to be about the dogs, is it not? Can we not pause the efforts to end racing and take some time to utilize some of the people who know the racing Greyhound so well to help develop and implement a plan to guarantee the racing Greyhound's survival? We will also have to re-set our own thought processes. The days of the low-cost adoption will come to an end. We will all have to do our part and be willing to pay more to cover the expenses involved in breeding Greyhounds as pets.

The bottom line is simple. If we do not act and start planning now, the day may come when we will be speaking of the racing Greyhound, even as a pet, in the past tense. That would be a very sad day indeed.

Alan Jordano lives in Erie, Pa. and volunteers for GreySave of Northwestern Pennsylvania.



Lacy, adopted by Maureen Christensen of Summerset, S.D. *Alisa Abernathie*



Cheyenne and Nell, adopted by Justin and Amy Wolf of Indianapolis, Ind. *Amy Wolf*

YOU'RE INVITED

Sunday, December 5

Annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic

Palm Beach Kennel Club

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

Center Drive Pavilion

John Prince Park

Lake Worth, Fla.

Bring your Greyhounds and enjoy the camaraderie of other Greyhounds and their owners. Fun for the whole family with hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks provided by the Palm Beach Kennel Club. Sign up for additional side dishes. Raffles, games, prizes, 50/50 drawing, and Greyhound-related items available for purchase. This is a Greyhounds only event. Please RSVP to Rose Walker. Volunteer help with the event will be most welcome.

Contact: Rose Walker, (561) 595-8065 or rosew101@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 5

Fashion Jewelry Party

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption Inc.

12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Warehouse Accessorized

Transit and Maple Roads

Williamsville, NY

Contact: Gail Vaughan, (716) 634-9686

Saturday and Sunday, December

11 & 12

14th Annual Craft Show and Pet Expo

Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, Inc.

9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to

4:00 p.m. Sunday

Garden State Exhibit Center

Somerset, N.J.

Annual fundraiser offers a wide variety of vendors with gifts for two- and four-legged friends.

New, larger venue in convenient location.

Spectacular raffle, professional Santa photos.

Greyhounds available to pre-approved adopters.

Contact: Ellen Ganopoulos, (973) 759-0461 or

RedReeper@aol.com

Saturday, January 8

Fourth Annual Run for the Animals and

Family Fun Day

GPA/Florida-Southeast Coast Chapter

Presented by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's

Office

7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Micanopy Pavilion

Okeeheelee Park

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Benefit for GPA/Florida-Southeast Coast, A Second Chance Puppies and Kittens Rescue, and Busch Wildlife Sanctuary features 5K run, 5K walk, 1-mile family and dog fun walk, and events all day for dogs, children, and adults. Vendors, rescue groups, CPR demonstrations, agility events. A fun-filled day for all.

Contact: Barbara Masi, (561) 688-3981 or animalkindness@pbso.org

Sprint, live auction, raffles, nail clipping, used book sale, food, and greyhound vendors. The Gilley Girls Singing and Dancing Greyhound Musical Comedy Review will be on hand to entertain. This event features everything canine. The IHB Community Center is adjacent to a pet-friendly community park with walking paths around a lake.

Contact: Claire Tyler, greymomcrt@cfl.rr.com

Saturday, February 26

GALT's Annual Greyt Gala

Greyhound Adoption League of Texas, inc.

6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Frontiers of Flight Museum

6511 Lemmon Avenue

Dallas, Texas

Annual benefit dinner featuring celebrities, athletes and silent auction.

Contacts: Shannon Forrest, (817) 449-3544

or shannon.forrest@flightsafety.com;

John McQuade, (214) 215-8216 or

jmcquade@swflandhome.com

Saturday, March 19

Benefit Concert by violinist Aurelian Fort-Pederzoli

GPA/Las Vegas

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Charleston Heights Performing Arts Theater

Las Vegas, Nev.

Ticket information available at www.gpalv.com.

Contact: Judy Currier, (702) 392-8822 or

greyhounds@cox.net

Friday through Sunday, April 15-17

Spring D.I.Y. Dewey

Dewey Beach, Del.

Small friendly gathering of Greyhounds and their people, all for the dogs. This event is not sponsored and there is no group affiliation; everyone pitches in.

Contact: Liz Dunbar, (410) 679-1042 or

secondwindgh@comcast.net;

www.DeweySpring.info

Sunday, January 16

Winter Gathering

GPA/Nashville

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tennessee Livestock Center

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Food, games, vendors, fun run.

Contact: Jan Bornstein, (615) 269-4088 or

janbornstein@aol.com; www.gpanashville.org

Sunday, February 20

Woofstock Festival and Reunion

GPA/Central Florida

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

Indian Harbour Beach Community Center

1233 Yacht Club Blvd. (Yacht Club Blvd. and

South Patrick Drive)

Indian Harbour Beach, Fla.

Woofstock is an annual fundraiser for GPA/CF.

Activities include hound games, Couch Potato

Activities

Blogging About Your Greyhound	Win 10	37
Saving Lives: A Day in the Life of a Blood Donor	Spr 10	17
Your Greyhound: Coming Soon to a Screen Near You?	Sum 10	43

Adoptions

Another New England Track Closing:		
Déjà Vu All Over Again?	Sum 10	25
Anticipating the Storm: The United Pathfinder Project	Sum 10	41
A Beginner's Guide to Meet-and-Greets	Fall 10	19
The Closing of Phoenix Greyhound Park	Sum 10	29
A Day in the Lives of Vic and Tory	Fall 10	32
Eastern New Mexico University Adopts Greyhound Mascots	Fall 10	23
Guarding Against Lost Greyhounds: Lessons from the Amber Alert Forum	Spr 10	41
Justice for Sari and Talca	Win 10	17
The Mascots' Roommate	Fall 10	31
Placing the Mascots: The Adoption Group's Perspective	Fall 10	28
Running Out of Dogs: The Closing of Dairyland Greyhound Park	Sum 10	32
Snoozing and Schmoozing with Senior Hounds	Win 10	15
Student Volunteers at Project Racing Home	Spr 10	36
Track Closings: A View from "Below"	Sum 10	37
Who Are We? Characteristics of Greyhound Adopters	Fall 10	13

Care and Feeding

Maggie's Final Journey	Win 10	36
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Crafts

Boo Boo Booties	Spr 10	44
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Exploring Medicine

Canine Transfusion Medicine	Spr 10	15
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Fiction

Santa Takes a Greyhound	Win 10	40
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Hall of Fame

Buzz Off, Mom	Sum 10	24
Fern Neture, Greatest Bitch of the 1940s	Spr 10	5
Gable Dodge, Hall of Fame's Newest Inductee	Win 10	10

Hero Hound

Bruno, Friend in Need	Sum 10	10
India — More Than a Sighthound	Spr 10	9
Milo's Persistence	Win 10	12
Paige Plays Lassie	Fall 10	8

History

Celebrated Merry-Go Round Greyhounds	Fall 10	37
Hounds of the Conquistadors	Spr 10	28
Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and their Greyhounds	Sum 10	8
Researching Your Hound's History	Fall 10	34

House Calls

Help! My Greyhound's Stomach is Huge!	Sum 10	14
My Greyhound Has a Sore Belly	Win 10	13
Your Greyhound's Inheritance	Fall 10	10

Humor

Alex vs. Stairs	Spr 10	33
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Living with Greyhounds

The Accidental Foster	Win 10	30
Bella Takes Manhattan	Win 10	27
Cabin Fever	Spr 10	30
Experiencing the Loss of a Greyhound	Fall 10	42
Moving to Ireland	Spr 10	24
Sassy and Maya, Oakleaf High School's Mascots	Fall 10	40
Today's News	Sum 10	11

Medical

Behind the Scenes at a Canine Blood Donor Program	Spr 10	19
Caring for Greyhounds with Broken Legs	Sum 10	18
Cartier's Story	Win 10	32
Flu Happens	Spr 10	22

Poetry

Finding Sanctuary	Fall 10	27
First Breath	Win 10	11
Reassurance	Sum 10	23
Yerington, Nevada	Spr 10	29

Reviews

Greyhound Blogs Worth Reading	Win 10	39
Greyhound Videos Reviewed	Sum 10	46

Second Look

Promoting Animal Kindness	Win 10	25
Still Visiting the Bloodmobile	Spr 10	11

Think Piece

The Future of the Greyhound	Win 10	45
What You Don't Know Can Hurt You	Sum 10	12



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The logo for Greyhound Greetings features a detailed black and white sketch of a greyhound's head on the left. To the right of the dog is the company name "GREYHOUND GREETINGS" in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the company name is the website address "www.greyhoundgreetings.com". Underneath the website is the slogan "HAND-MADE CARDS & GIFTS" in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the page are two phone numbers: "(720) 252-4330" and "(877) 252-4330". A large, stylized five-pointed starburst shape is positioned at the bottom left, containing the text "Check out our new products!".

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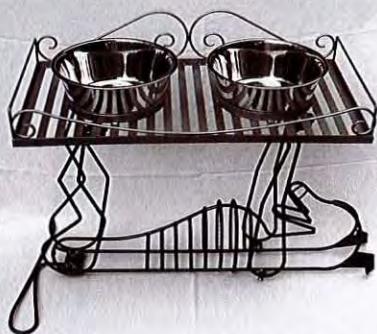


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Deadlines:

Spring issue: December 1st Summer issue: March 1st
Fall issue: June 1st Winter issue: September 1st



Fred (Fry That Spam) 1998-2010

Fred's adoption by Cindy Hanson was chronicled in Editorial Comments in the Spring 2010 issue of CG. After successful careers as a racer and stud, Fred found himself homeless at the age of 11-1/2 due to a farm closing in Texas. He was moved to Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption in Minnesota for placement as a pet.

Unfortunately, while he was vetted in preparation for adoption, he was diagnosed with lymphoma. NLGA decided to give Fred a chance and administer chemotherapy while he was in foster care. Fred responded very well to treatment, and his lymphoma went into remission. He had a great spring and summer chasing squirrels, chewing marrow bones, barking at neighborhood cats, hanging out with Greyhound housemates Pearl and Jethro, and walking around the lakes and parks of the Twin Cities area. Fred even traveled with Cindy, Pearl, and Jethro to the Greyhound Event of Michigan and Greyhound America in Abilene. He took his final journey in September, with Cindy by his side. Fred was a great dog; he will be missed.



Gabe (Ibindigo) 1998-2010

Gabe came to Shelley Lake's home as a foster in 2002 after breaking a toe at the Woodlands earlier that week. That first night, he jumped up into bed with Jeff and Shelley and gave them nibble kisses for twenty minutes. Shelley looked at Jeff: "I guess he isn't leaving?" "No!" Jeff responded.

Pictured on page 3 of the Fall 2007 issue of CG, Gabe shared eight wonderful years with the Lake family. He was their sweet, silly, singing boy who never knew anyone he didn't love. He also brought their shy boy, Buck,

out of his shell. As racers, Buck and Gabe had been kennel mates; Buck was so happy when Gabe came home. Gabe was not the healthiest boy, though; his ailments included laryngeal paralysis, lumbosacral stenosis, corns, hypothyroidism, heat stroke, and chronic arthritis. With the addition of probable osteosarcoma in his left elbow, Jeff and Shelley sent their silly weasel to the Bridge. Gabe is free from pain now and running free with Buck. He will live on in their hearts always.

Impala (Alice) 1997-2010

Adopted and loved by MaryAnn Walters and Steven Martin, Impala continued to be a Hero Hound long after her story ("My Friend Alice") appeared in the Fall 2002 issue of CG. Pala kept two Greyhounds company during their old age and illnesses. After TT developed osteosarcoma, Pala lay next to him on his bad days. When Happy Jack fell down and couldn't get up, she barked until MaryAnn came running to help him up. Pala enjoyed long walks and cross-country skiing; in summer she was a sun worshipper, lying in the river with the sun on her face, lolling in the sand on the beach. Before she came to live with MaryAnn and Steven she was a best friend to her previous owner, Pat, who passed away. Impala went by many names, but Pal was the most accurate. She was sad when an old doggie friend of the family disappeared two winters ago; she insisted on continuing to take her afternoon naps at his house. She seemed to be waiting for him to come back.



Talca 2002-2010

Talca joined the Murphy family in March 2009. They loved her instantly. She was a spirited little girl, social and full of fun. The house was never quiet when she was around — she followed them everywhere, and let them know quite loudly when she was hungry, when she wanted to go out, when it was time for a walk, and when she wanted attention. She used her nose as a

tool, nudging their hands to encourage pats and ear scratches. She had soft, warm ears; a round, furry belly; and a beautiful, expressive face. She smiled a lot, and always seemed to be happy. Her tail never stopped wagging. The pain of losing a beloved hound is excruciating, but Talca's loss was particularly difficult. She was a friendly, happy dog who deserved so much more than she was given in her short life. The Murphys will forever be grateful to Michael McCann for bringing her to them, and for his unwavering dedication to the pursuit of justice for Talca and her sister Sari.



Toby (Pat C Drop Zone) 1997-2010

Toby was pictured with his "sister" JAMS Aleya on the inside cover of the Summer 2010 issue of CG. He was what some adoption groups call a bounceback; through no fault of his own, he was returned to the adoption group by his previous adopters. He got his forever home with Carole Buckman in 2003, at the age of six and a half. He was such a good boy; sweet, low-key, laid-back and very happy. He shared his home with three female Greyhounds and seemed to love having his own harem. At the age of 13 and a half, he suffered a stroke or vestibular disease. Although there was a chance of recovery, Carole knew he would not have a life of quality, and that was of the utmost importance. She was fortunate to have Toby be part of her family for 7 and a half wonderful years. He is greatly missed and will always be her one and only Momma's Boy.

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

Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine

The Greyhound Project

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