

# cg magazine


celebrating greyhounds

Fall 2003

**ALSO INSIDE:**

**Greyhounds and Freestyle**

**Corns and Warts**



**Adopting a Greyhound Puppy**  
**Are You Brave Enough?**





ANN PETERSON

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# editorial comments

By Cindy Hanson

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I'm willing to bet that when you saw the cover of this issue, you asked one of two questions:

*Isn't she cu-ute?*

or

*Why puppies?*

As for the first question: Well, yes, of course she is. But puppies are also a handful, as any Greyhound puppy owner will tell you. Vicki Bowenschulte makes this point abundantly clear in "Being Vandalized," a diary of her first several weeks as the adoptive owner of a Greyhound pup. In "Preserving Your Sanity," Laurel Drew provides an overview of issues facing the puppy owner. In addition, regular columnists Lee Livingood and Dr. Jim Bader offer advice on (respectively) behavioral and medical issues unique to puppies. The unmistakable message of this collection of articles is that Greyhound puppies are not for the casual, the uninformed, or the faint of heart.

The answer to the second question is a bit more involved. *CG* last devoted significant space to the subject of puppies in the form of Patricia Gail Burnham's "Kira and Friends" series, which ran from Fall 1997 through Fall 2000. "Kira and Friends" chronicled the life of a litter of puppies born to Gail's AKC bitch, Sheena. The series prompted some static from adoptive owners who took *CG* to task for "encouraging" interest in the breeding of Greyhounds when so many adult retired racers need homes.

A lot has changed since then. As the Greyhound adoption community matures, dogs who previously might never have made it into adoptive homes are now living as pets. Stud dogs and brood mamas, broken-legged dogs, and dogs with special medical needs are finding their way to adoption groups and adoptive homes in increasing numbers.

And so are Greyhound puppies, thanks to the work of groups like Greyhound Support Kansas City. GSKC has worked hard to develop relationships with Greyhound farmers. GSKC receives adoption-ready dogs from the farms and organizes hauls to transport them to waiting adoption groups. As Ann Peterson, Kate Bressler, and Sue Burkhard describe in "Where Do Puppies Come From?" in this issue, a byproduct of GSKC's work with the farmers has been the receipt of quite a few puppies – runts, injured pups, and sometimes entire litters from accidental breedings – looking for adoptive homes. As "wholesalers" supplying dogs to the "retail outlets" represented by adoption groups, GSKC has developed a unique perspective on the subject of Greyhound puppies. In their article, Ann, Kate, and Sue discuss how they determine whether an adoption group is up to the challenge of fostering and homing Greyhound pups.

Being entrusted with the placement of pups is an awesome responsibility. In "Placing Pups in Adoptive Homes," Laurel Drew describes how her group (A Place For Us Greyhound Adoption) goes about finding suitable homes for their little ones.

Greyhound puppies are not for everyone. They require special families to adopt them and special adoption groups to place them. That they are the focus of this issue is due to the work of special people like the writers for this issue of *CG*, without whom a lot of pups would face an uncertain future.







ANN PETERSON

### The Hounds of Spring

Just a big thank you for putting a photo of my three Grey babies in the Spring issue. What a surprise when I opened the magazine and right there on page 1 looking back at me were my kids Indy (almost 12), Sweetie (just turned 11), and the big baby boy Puppy (just turned 7). You have made me happier than I thought I could be after living through this long and cold Northeast winter.

**Amy Sheneman  
Cazenovia, N.Y.**

What a surprise to see our soon-to-be 12-year-old Bucky in the Spring 2003 issue on pages 45 and 46. I sent these pictures in years ago...so to all the *CG* readers, if the pictures you sent haven't shown up yet, have patience! Our Bucky also appeared in the 2003 *CG* desk calendar. Locally, he marched

with the family in the America's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit in 2002 with our group, Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan. Bucky appeared live on television. Now the joke around town is "Where's Bucky going to show up next?" Time will tell. Thanks for providing such a great magazine and a place to show off our beloved hounds.

**Ray and Michelle Burr  
Gregory, Mich.**

### Disclaimer, Shmisclaimer

The article about exercising with your Greyhound ("Get in Shape with the Greyhoundisizer!" Spring 2003 *CG*) was interesting. It is amazing what a Greyhound will let someone do to it or with it.

But I am totally amazed, stunned, and disappointed that you printed the pictures that went with the article. They were taken on a

Chicago sidewalk and even though there was no traffic on that street at that time, busy streets in Chicago are just a block or two away. Those pictures showed a Greyhound without a leash and to me even more amazingly *no collar*. I am a volunteer with an organization in the Midwest and the one thing I tell potential adoptees is that if we get any inkling that the Greyhound will be off leash and not in a fenced yard, we will *not* adopt to that person. A Greyhound cannot be off leash if not in a fenced yard. Reminder: Greyhounds are sighthounds. They see for half a mile, and their top speed is 46 miles an hour in 2 strides.

What kind of example is this to show people who have just adopted a Greyhound or interested in adopting and are told the dog cannot be off leash, unless in a fenced area?

**Gail Ann Rohan  
Des Plaines, Ill.**



Regular readers of CG will recognize Ms. Rohan's letter as part of a long-standing tradition: Every time we publish a photograph of a Greyhound in a outdoor setting in which a fenceline and/or a leash are not clearly visible (and even sometimes when they are), we receive a letter scolding us for setting a bad example.

We would not like to think that an occasional photograph – whose larger context or details may have been edited for space and aesthetics – would prompt readers to set aside everything they have heard and read about the dangers faced by a Greyhound who is allowed to roam freely.

Nevertheless, to readers who may have ignored the disclaimer that ran with Diane Swanson's clever article or who may have been inspired by Georgette Granger Wahl's humorous photographs to emulate the depicted activity, allow us to clarify: Do not clean-and-jerk or bench press your Greyhound, use him as an anchor for sit-ups, drape him across your back while you do push-ups, or otherwise use him as a canine medicine ball. Such actions – and the inevitable laughter of your family and neighbors – might disturb his sleep.

Oh, and as we said in the disclaimer, always keep your Greyhounds on leash in an unfenced area. –Ed.

## Irish Greyhounds

I just wanted you to know how much we appreciated the article regarding the welfare of the Irish Greyhound ("The Welfare of the Irish Greyhound," Spring 2003 CG). We have an Irish Greyhound, but she came to us in a rather unusual circumstance. We already had one Greyhound. He is a beautiful Galgo, but he must have been so traumatized (he was found on the border of Spain and Portugal and he has some marks on his sides that look like he may have been shot) that he will only come to my husband and me. This is after being in our home for two years. He is so lovable with us. We got

an email from Personalized Greyhounds, Inc. (where we got Charro) stating they would be receiving three more Galgos in the next week. How could we not have another one? Our only stipulation was this one had to be friendly as our children (ages 24 and 16) really wanted a dog they could also love on. When we went to pick her up, she was with two other Galgos. She was the only one who tested cat safe. Her name was Carlotta. She is a blue brindle and the most beautiful thing you have ever seen. She just loved being loved. As we were looking at her, Peggy Levin said she just didn't look like a Galgo. We investigated closer and discovered she has tattoos in green ink in both of her ears and that is what they do in Ireland. She evidently wasn't that good on the track and was sold to someone in Spain. When she was found, she was in a killing station because she wasn't a good hunter. She was the next dog to be put down. Well, she is a wonderful pet and after reading the article we now have a better idea how our Irish girl came to the United States via Spain. We re-named her Lottie as Carlotta just didn't fit her any more. Keep up the good work. Your magazine is just great.

Cathy Campbell  
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

I enjoyed the articles on the Greyhounds of Ireland. However, I take serious issue with Louise Coleman's assertions that coursing is to blame for the "image problem" that Greyhounds have in Ireland ("Supporting Irish Greyhound Adoption," Spring 2003 CG).

Ms. Coleman wrote: "Greyhounds are seen literally tearing the hare to pieces." Therefore, she claimed, Greyhounds are seen by the Irish public as "murderers."

I have been to a number of coursing meetings in England, watched hundreds of courses, and have never seen any hare being "torn to pieces." I have looked into the gamekeeper's game pouch at the end of the coursing day to see the few hares that were



Brandy (AOK Speed Chic), LCM

killed (on average, 7 of 8 hares coursed escape over a coursing season). None of them were "torn to pieces." Ms. Coleman fails to explain how it is that the muzzled coursing Greyhounds of Ireland can "often mangle" the hares there. It would be difficult if not impossible for a muzzled Greyhound to catch, much less mangle, a running hare.

In addition, these claims make no logical sense. Most members of the public in Ireland know that many breeds of dogs and most cats will catch and kill small mammals and birds if given the opportunity. However, these animals are not seen as "murderers," and are kept as pets in Ireland. Also, coursing is widely practiced in England, yet Greyhound adoption is quite popular there, and the dogs aren't seen as "murderers."

The two Irish authors who wrote accompanying articles in the Spring issue made no mention of coursing as the boogeyman of Greyhound adoption in Ireland. They cited the appearance of Greyhounds in muzzles in public as a big cause of the image problem. American adoption advocates faced





similar problems in the early days of the adoption movement, when the presence of the racing muzzle caused misperceptions of Greyhounds as vicious or aggressive.

Coursing is an ancient and honorable sport governed by strict rules that reflect a respect for the natural prey-predator relationship between the hare and the Greyhound. Coursing is largely responsible for bringing the Greyhound down the centuries to us as a valued and noble companion animal. It should not be falsely accused of causing problems for Greyhound adoption simply for the advancement of an unrelated political agenda.

**John Parker**  
Via E-Mail

### Next Step: Microchip, Ear Tattoos

I was just visiting your website, as I was looking to subscribe to your magazine. It took me by surprise that in order to pay you, I had to become a member of PayPal, a third party, which I totally object to. I've known many people who have become a member of PayPal and have had problems with them in the past and in the present.

I fully realize that this is less work for your company, but it does lock out people who do not want to be part of PayPal. You may want to rethink using this company in the future.

Still I do want to subscribe to *Celebrating Greyhounds*, and I will send you my personal check, which I hope you will accept.

**Joyce Manfra**  
Via E-Mail

*Welcome, Joyce! We accepted subscriptions only by mail until last year, when we finally bowed to an overwhelming number of requests by current and prospective subscribers and added a PayPal link to our website ([www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine)) so that people could order and renew their subscriptions on line.*

*We are pleased to provide a variety of payment options for our subscribers. Our website includes clear instructions for ordering on line or by mail. Membership in PayPal is not and never has been a requirement for subscribing to CG. —Ed.*

### Shopper Needs Help

I am searching for an item that was on three Greyhounds in the 2003 *Celebrating Greyhounds* Calendar. In the July photograph, Bart, Hula, and Sienna are all wearing sunglasses. I am very much interested in purchasing some for my Greyhound, Mystic Melody. She would look great in these! I have looked all over the Internet and I can't find them anywhere.

**Pat Edwards**  
Flagstaff, Ariz.

*Bart, Hula, and Sienna: Tell your humans that if they will e-mail me at [editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org](mailto:editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org), I will let them know how to reach Pat. Thanks! —Ed.*

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

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



# Greyhound Reach the Beach – Dewey 2003

Celebrating 20 Years of Greyhound Adoption



Dewey 2003 will be the ninth year that the Greyhounds have gone to celebrate at the beach (Dewey Beach, Delaware). That's no small accomplishment, in and of itself. But 2003 also marks 20 years of organized Greyhound adoption in the United States as well. That is a remarkable accomplishment – one truly worthy of celebration.

From the beginning, the October gathering of Greyhounds at Dewey Beach has been a celebration. Before it turned into a huge festival of life after racing, attracting thousands of Greyhounds from all over the world, it started as a quiet celebration of Mike and Judy Dillon's wedding anniversary. The dogs made all the difference.

This year Greyhounds Reach the Beach – Dewey 2003 is celebrating 20 years of Grey-

hound adoptions. The Second Annual Greyhounds in Art Show will be twice as big as last year with more artists exhibiting original works in different mediums. Speakers will be giving presentations throughout the weekend at various locations around town. More than fifty vendors will be at the vendor tents with all sorts of new Greyhound goodies, and more will be selling from other locations around the town. There will be both scheduled and spontaneous social gatherings for people and their dogs. People can choose from the Annual Nittany Greyhound Adoption Ice Cream Social to the Beer and Biscuits Ball to morning coffee with New Hampshire Greyhound Placement Service to walks on the beach with Greyhounds everywhere, to just strolling through the town spending time with friends.

The hounds will be blessed on the beach in the morning. The ones that have left us will be remembered at the bonfire at night.

From Friday, October 10th through Monday, October 13th, Greyhounds will be rejoicing and celebrating everywhere at the beach. The high point of the weekend, the Sunday Brunch, will recognize some of the amazing people who have made Greyhound adoption the phenomenon it has become.

For more information about Greyhounds Reach the Beach – Dewey 2003, please visit our website ([www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey)). ■

– Joan Belle Isle



## Fiction for Young Readers



### *End of the Race*

By Laurie Halse Anderson  
Pleasant Company Publications  
Middleton, Wisc. (2003)  
ISBN 1584855320  
\$4.95

When I read this amazingly touching book, I was struck by how different people's views can be on the same subject; in this case, Greyhound racing. In *End of the Race*, the twelfth book in the American Girl *Wild at Heart* series, the main character, 14-year-old Maggie, helps Manny Drescher, the owner of a race track, change his way of thinking.

Maggie and her friends volunteer at Wild at Heart, her grandmother's veterinary clinic. Gran needs all the help she can get from Maggie when a frightened woman brings a badly injured Greyhound, Gingerbread, to the clinic for treatment. The woman leaves without providing her full name or address.

As Gingerbread's fractures begin to heal, Maggie focuses on a new member of Wild at Heart's volunteer team, Taryn, whom she believes is taking over her place in the vet clinic. Meanwhile, Darla, a new student, joins the basketball team, and takes Maggie's place as center.

An emergency at the clinic makes the story more complicated. Someone brings a badly mangled cat to the clinic, claiming that her neighbor's Greyhound caused the injuries. Maggie soon finds out that the neighbor owns three retired racing Greyhounds, including the injured Gingerbread.

Maggie and Gran visit Roselyn, the owner of the Greyhounds, and learn the whole story about how she and her brother Manny own Drescher's Speedway, a Greyhound race-track. Roselyn tells Maggie and Gran about horrible things that some of the owners do to the dogs. She also tells them how she has Manny's driver bring her the injured Greyhounds so she can heal them and find homes for them.

When Maggie finds out that Gran is giving a talk at a veterinary conference near the track, she and Taryn (who has become a friend) go along. Maggie and Taryn make a plan to catch Manny harming the Greyhounds. Gran is unaware of this; she thinks that they are just going to talk to Manny, to see if he will let them open a Greyhound adoption booth at the racetrack. Maggie and Taryn find themselves in some trouble, but the Greyhounds are the winners at the end of the story. Even the tension between Maggie and basketball rival Darla is resolved in a way that benefits the dogs.

*End of the Race* would be enjoyed most by readers who are against Greyhound racing, but it would be a great read for others as well. People may have very different views on Greyhound racing, but this book says

that Greyhounds should be treated humanely, and that they should have good homes and loving families to care for them. Everyone can agree on that.



### *The Good Dog*

By Avi  
Atheneum Books for Young Readers  
New York, N.Y. (2001)  
ISBN 0689838247  
\$16.00

*The Good Dog* takes place in the present in a little Colorado town called Steamboat Springs. This town is special because of a group of about 300 pet dogs that live there. The dogs meet on a hill to discuss problems. These dogs can talk to each other, and can understand words that humans use.





ANNE PETERSON

The main character, McKinley, is a brave, strong, and courageous Malamute. One of the other main characters, Duchess, is a sweet, kind, and amazing Greyhound, much like all Greyhounds that we love. Her owner bought her for racing, and mistreated her. She was a good racer and was rewarded when she won. However, when she lost, her owner beat her.

As the story begins, Duchess has run away again. Her owner has offered a reward in hopes of finding her. McKinley knows that Duchess ran away to escape from her owner, and would never go back if she could help it. An Irish Setter, Redburn, decides that he should replace McKinley as head dog of the pack of dogs in the town. Red-

burn's first task is to find Duchess.

Meanwhile, another story is unfolding in the mountains of Steamboat Springs. A pack of wolves nears the town. A representative from the wolf pack comes to town to recruit dogs to join the wolf pack. McKinley is faced with a decision. Should he run away and join the wolf pack, or should he stay in his safe town with his family?

Avi, author of *The Good Dog*, has written many books for young readers. His other novels include three Newbery Honor books: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *Nothing but the Truth*, and 2003's *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*. Many of his books are about animals.

I really liked *The Good Dog* because I love fantasy books. This book makes it seem that dogs really can understand us and talk to each other. Who knows? Maybe they really can, and someday we will be able to talk to them. I liked everything in this book and I think it would be a great read for all kinds of dog lovers. ■

---

*Ariel Goldenthal is 13 years old, and is in 7th grade at Tredyffrin Easttown Middle School in Berwyn, Pa. She lives in Devon, Pa. with her family and her Greyhound, Roxie. She dances ballet and tap, and loves to take Roxie to the nearby dog park, where she watches her enjoy meeting other dogs of all breeds.*



# Homemade Treats



These tasty treats will delight your Greyhound. They also make great items for Greyhound reunions, meet-and-greets, and fundraisers. We usually sell them with the recipe so people know what is in them and can make them for themselves later.

## Sunflower Dog Treats

### Ingredients

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2/3 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup shelled sunflower seeds (if you can only find salted, rinse well)
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup low-fat milk
- 2 tablespoons corn oil
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- FOR GLAZE: 1 beaten egg

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix two eggs with low-fat milk. In large bowl, mix

dry ingredients and seeds together. Add oil, broth, and egg mixture. Dough should be firm. Let sit 15-20 minutes. Roll out dough to 1/4 inch thick on a lightly floured surface. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters or slice into treat-sized strips with a knife. Brush with glaze. Bake 25-35 minutes until golden brown. Take out and cool. Store cookies in an airtight container.

Makes 20-30 treats, depending upon size.

## Icy Paws

### Ingredients

- 2 quart-sized containers of plain or vanilla yogurt
- 1 small (6 oz.) can of tuna in water
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 24 3 oz. plastic (not paper) drinking cups

### Instructions

Open yogurt containers. If they are full to the top, use a spoon to remove one drink-

ing cup-sized scoop. (These will be frozen as plain yogurt.) Put half of the can of tuna in each yogurt container. Add 1 teaspoon of garlic powder to each container. Mix each container thoroughly.

Use a spoon or an empty plastic cup to scoop the mixture into the plastic cups. Place on tray and pop in freezer overnight. Makes approximately 24 treats.

### Variations

- Natural Flea Prevention: Mix in garlic powder, brewers yeast, and fennel seed.
- Veggie Delight: Mix in cooked peas or other vegetables.
- Chicken Icy Paws: Use canned chicken instead of tuna.
- Potassium Boost: Add a mashed banana.

While you're at it, why not make a batch of treats to donate at your next Greyhound event? ■



## Over-the-Counter Diarrhea Medications



ANN PETERSON

If you've had dogs for any period of time, the inevitable will happen: Diarrhea, or what many of us call "The Big D."

Dogs, being scavengers by nature, will taste-test anything that looks or smells good to them. Unfortunately, some of that stuff isn't good for their insides – or for our carpets. Greyhounds, as sweet and as clean as they are otherwise, are no different. Some are worse than others when it comes to consuming things they shouldn't, and then leaving the result behind for us to clean up.

Fortunately, we don't need to run to the veterinarian every time a dog gets into the trash. If the cause of the tummy upset is minor, we have an arsenal available for purchase without a prescription at local drugstores and feed-and-seed outlets.

These over-the-counter medications should be used only in cases of mild diarrhea. They should not be used for more than two days. Always make sure your Greyhound gets plenty of fresh water when he or she has diarrhea. If your Greyhound is on any medication or has been diagnosed with any chronic disease please consult your veterinarian before administering these medications. Severe diarrhea, or diarrhea accompanied by fever, should be treated by a veterinarian. As always, if you are unsure of what to do, contact your veterinarian for advice.

### **Pepto-Bismol® (Procter & Gamble; generic name: bismuth subsalicylate)**

The original formula for Pepto-Bismol® was invented in 1901 by a New York doctor whose name has been lost in the sands of time. Its original purpose was to treat a type of infant diarrhea called cholera infantum. The treatment was so successful that he approached a drug company called Norwich Pharmacal in Norwich, New York, when he was no longer able to keep up with demand





ANN PETERSON

for the mixture at his home. Norwich Pharamcal started producing the product under the name Bismosal.

Bismuth is a basic element (Bi on the periodic table of the elements) and a heavy metal. It has many applications in medicine, cosmetics, and metallurgy. The bismuth part of Pepto-Bismol® is thought to have the main anti-diarrheal effect; it has a weak antibiotic action and can coat and protect the lining of the intestines. It is also thought to neutralize toxins that are released by some forms of bacteria.

Salicylates are naturally-occurring chemicals found in fruits, trees, and vegetables. The best-known salicylate, acetylsalicylic acid, is the active ingredient in aspirin. It was originally an extract of salicin, a chemical found in the bark of the willow tree. The salicylate component of Pepto-Bismol® is thought to reduce inflammation and calm the intestinal tract. Veterinarians sometimes use bismuth subsalicylate as part of a three-drug treatment for gastrointestinal infections caused by the *Helicobacter* organism, which

can cause ulcers in both dogs and people.

A typical dose of the regular strength Pepto-Bismol® liquid product would be .1 to 1 ml per pound, three to four times a day. (Fifteen ml, or 1 tablespoon, of this product contains 262 mg of bismuth subsalicylate). If using the regular strength tablet form, one-quarter of a tablet is used for every 20 pounds of body weight, three to four times a day. (One whole chewable tablet or one caplet contains 262 mg of bismuth subsalicylate.) Read your product labels carefully; different brands of bismuth salicylate can contain different concentrations of the active ingredient. Maximum Strength Pepto-Bismol®, for example, contains twice as much as the original regular-strength formula.

Bismuth subsalicylate can be given either with or without food. It may change stool color to a gray-black or greenish-black, which should not be confused with blood in the stool. It should not be given to dogs with pre-existing bleeding disorders, since the salicylate component can thin the blood and make it less likely to clot. It should not be

given with tetracycline, as it can interfere with absorption of this antibiotic. If your Greyhound is taking tetracycline, give it at least two hours before giving bismuth subsalicylate. Avoid giving aspirin, since it is also a salicylate, and the two products together could result in an overdose of this compound.

### **Kaolin and Pectin**

Kaolin and pectin compounds are very old diarrhea remedies that are less frequently used than in the past, as more effective remedies are now available. Kaolin is a clay-like, naturally occurring substance composed of aluminum silicate. Pectin is also a naturally occurring substance taken from the inner rind of citrus fruits or from apples, and is often used to thicken home-cooked jams and jellies. Together, kaolin and pectin work to coat the intestines and improve the consistency of stool, making it less watery.

Kaolin and pectin compounds are available at veterinary supply houses and feed-and-seed stores. The typical kaolin/pectin



mixture, such as Kaolin-Pectin from Duravet, contains 90 grams of kaolin and 2 grams of pectin per fluid ounce. The typical dose for a dog would be 1 to 2 ml per kilogram of body weight, every four to six hours.

The only known side effect for kaolin and pectin mixtures may be transient constipation if too much is given. Kaolin and pectin may also interfere with the absorption of the antibiotic lincomycin and the cardiac drug digoxin. Administration of kaolin and pectin and these drugs should be separated by at least two hours.

When one thinks of Kaolin and Pectin, Kaopectate® (Pfizer) is the brand name that comes to mind. However, Kaopectate has been reformulated. The liquid variety now contains bismuth subsalicylate, just as Pepto-Bismol does. The caplet variety contains a product called attapulgite, a clay-like powder similar to kaolin. Unlike kaolin, however, no information is available regarding the use of attapulgite in dogs. When choosing an over-the-counter medication for your Greyhound, always remember to read labels carefully.

### **Imodium® (McNeil-PPC Inc.; generic name: loperamide)**

A relative newcomer to the over-the-counter diarrhea remedies, Imodium (loperamide) works differently than Pepto-Bismol or kaolin and pectin. Instead of coating the intestines or absorbing toxins, it works by reducing the activity of the muscles of the intestines, which slows down the rate at which material passes through. It also allows greater fluid absorption from the intestines since material is moving more slowly.

Loperamide is an opiate drug, related to morphine and opium. Opiate drugs have several useful qualities – they can reduce pain, cause sedation, and calm the activity of smooth muscles such as those in the intestinal tract. Loperamide's particular chemical structure makes it less likely to cause sedation than other opiates, and has a greater effect on the intestinal tract.



ANN PETERSON

A typical dose would be 0.05 to .1 mg per pound up to three times per day. Imodium comes in 2 mg tablets and in liquid form that contains 1 mg of loperamide per 5 ml. Read the labels of all other types of branded and generic loperamide to determine the strength of that particular product.

Due to loperamide's method of action, it should not be given to dogs who may have an infectious cause of diarrhea, since the slowing of the intestinal tract delays the toxins produced by some bacteria from being flushed from the body. Since opiate drugs affect many systems of the body, use them with caution in dogs with hypothyroidism, Addison's disease, respiratory illnesses, and kidney and liver disease. Dogs who have shown sensitivity to other opiate drugs should not receive loperamide. If your dog takes Anipryl® (Selegiline HCl) for either Cushing's disease or canine cognitive dysfunction, consult your veterinarian before giving loperamide. ■

*Nancy Beach is a CG regular contributor.*

### **Sources:**

Procter & Gamble's Pepto-Bismol information website: <http://www.pepto-bismol.com/history.htm>

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*The Veterinary Drug Handbook, Fourth Edition.* Donald C. Plumb, Pharm.D. Iowa State University Press, 2002.

*Handbook of Veterinary Drugs, Second Edition.* Dana G. Allen, DVM, MSc, John K. Pringle, DVM, DVSc, Dale A. Smith, DVM, DVSc. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1998.

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## Ten Essentials for Raising the Perfect Couch Potato



Uh-oh ... time for puppy class? ANN PETERSON

I love teaching puppy classes. Teaching puppy classes is a lot like being a grandparent. I get to have all the fun of being around puppies of all sizes and descriptions, but I get to send them home at the end of an hour. I also get to smile and say *I told you so* a lot.

I wish everyone who got a puppy had the sense to run – not walk – to the nearest “puppy kindergarten” class. While it is never too late to train or untrain a dog, the first 20 weeks of your puppy’s life are the most critical in terms of influencing future behavior. Even a poor class, as long as it is safe and

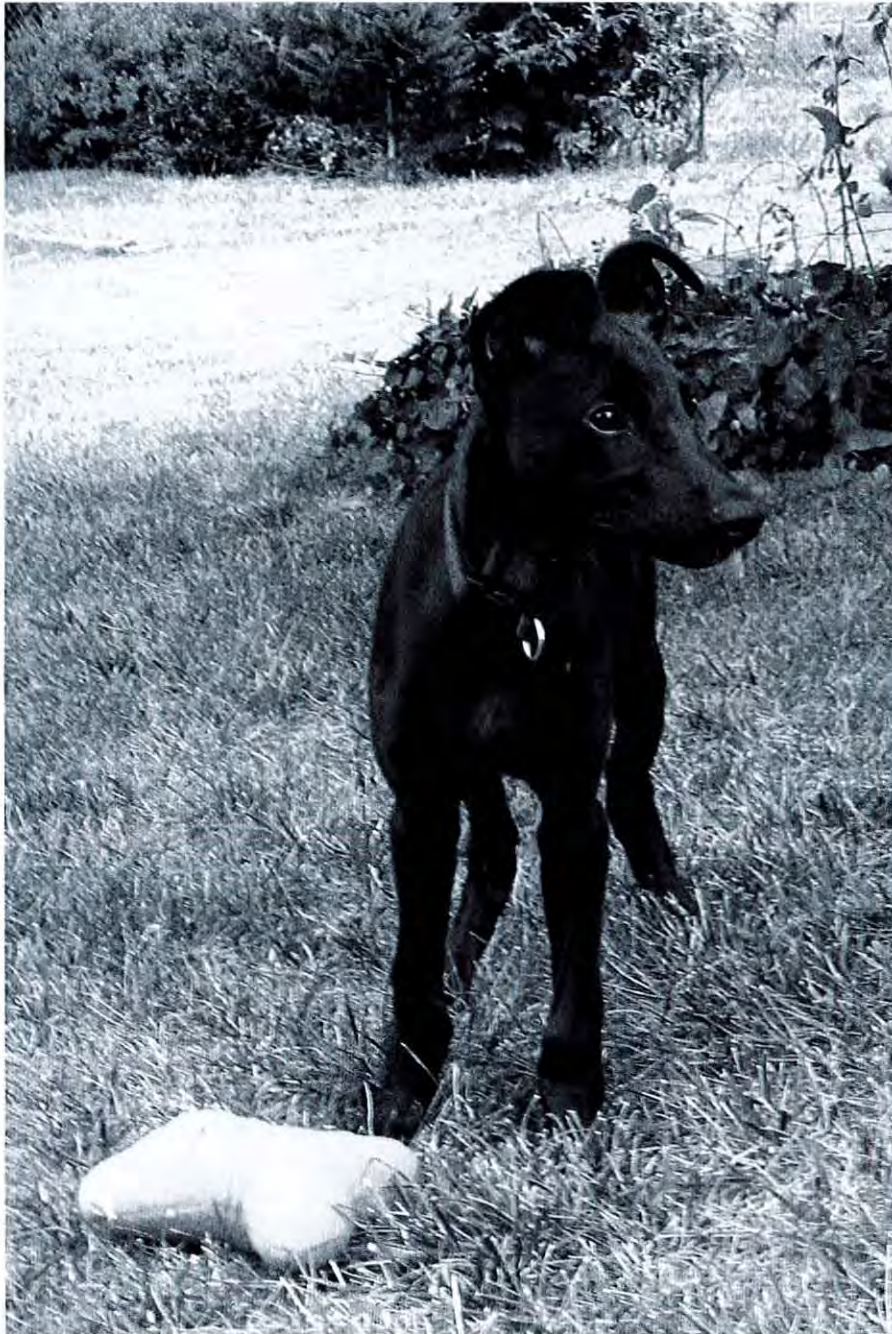
fun, is better than no class. If all your puppy gets out of it is a chance to interact safely with other puppies and an opportunity to meet people, it is worth the cost and your time.

Many folks still believe you shouldn’t start formal training until a dog is about 6 months old. By then they have an out-of-control adolescent and they’ve lost the most critical socialization opportunities. Many breeders and veterinarians continue to advise against early puppy training because of concerns about exposure to disease or because of lack of knowledge about newer, dog-friendly training methods. However, the benefits of

training early and often far outweigh the limited potential of exposure to disease in a well-run puppy class.

What brings people and their adolescent dogs running to a training class? The list rarely changes: mouthing and biting, jumping up, pulling on leash, won’t come when called, doesn’t pay attention, and out of control. All these problems could be modified if not avoided by taking a puppy class, understanding a few basics about puppy behavior, and intervening with appropriate management and training techniques before the undesirable behaviors are well-learned.





A puppy's job is to keep his eyes on you. ANN PETERSON

To help you survive your Greyhound's puppyhood, I've condensed those basics into ten essential concepts.

**1. Either you are training your puppy or he is training you.** We tend to view dog

training as something we have to do to our dogs rather than what it really is: a series of interactions each and every day. Nobody with children thinks *Oops, I have to stop whatever I'm doing and go train my child.*

Training our children is simply what we do all day, every day; it's called child rearing. You simply incorporate life's lessons into your regular daily activities and interactions. Our dogs learn from every interaction with us. They have nothing else to do except watch us and decide what works. So think carefully about what you are teaching and decide who is going to do the teaching.

**2. The keys to a well-behaved dog are quite simple – impulse control, self-control, and frustration tolerance.** Nearly everything that gets our dogs into trouble stems from their lack of impulse control, self-control, and inability to tolerate frustration. There are a number of ways to teach your puppy to wait patiently for what he wants, and to help him understand that life is full of frustration and having temper tantrums won't change that. Any good training class or book should give you specific techniques to help you teach these critical skills. Just remember to make your formal training sessions fun and keep them short (one to three minutes for a puppy).

**3. If he ain't lookin', he ain't listenin'.** It's as simple as that. His job is to pay attention to you. He'll learn that all the good stuff comes from you and his job is to keep his eyes on you.

**4. Teach him to say *please*.** Nothing good happens unless he says *please*, which means sit and look at me and wait until I give permission. Other key behaviors are *watch me, down, stay, walk nicely, and come*. If you teach only these, you will have a well-behaved dog who is welcome everywhere. Control his access to rewards so everything he values appears to come from you, and through you, or at least you can make him think they do. What are some examples of how to get him to think you control the universe? If you drop something and you know you can't get it before he does, point to it and say, get it. If he wants to go out for a walk, you decide if and when that happens. Let him learn the leash doesn't go on until he sits calmly and



waits for you to attach it to his collar. Let him learn the door doesn't open until he sits politely and waits for you to allow him to go outside.

**5. Provide a variety of positive life experiences.** To properly socialize your puppy, he needs to meet hundreds of people and go to a hundred places before he's five months old. If he is still going through his puppy shots, pick your experiences carefully. Carry him if you must, or let him watch from the safety of your car, but get him out there. Carefully seek out places and experiences that will provide him with opportunities to interact with infants and young children, people of differing backgrounds and appearances, and well-mannered dogs of all ages. Keep plenty of extra-tasty treats handy to make all these new experiences happy ones. If you want an outgoing, confident dog, these learning experiences need to continue for life.

**6. Learn to speak dog.** Learn as much as you can about puppy and dog behavior so you know what he is trying to tell you. Learn what normal behavior is at your puppy's stage of emotional and physical development so your expectations are reasonable. Learn about the Greyhound's personality, then use your puppy's natural abilities and instincts to make training fun and easy.

**7. Dogs do what works.** Everything boils down to this simple truth. If something pays off, the puppy will do it again. What do all dogs work for?

To get good stuff to start.

To keep good stuff from ending.

To get bad stuff to stop.

To keep bad stuff from starting.

If you are seeing behaviors you don't like, then something – you or the environment – is rewarding your puppy. Practice makes perfect. The more frequently your puppy gets to do the undesirable behavior, the better he learns it. So stop letting him practice. Manage your puppy with gates, tethers, exercise pens, safe areas, and other



Your puppy will learn from those around him, including other dogs. ANN PETERSON

management tools, so he can't practice. Identify what is rewarding your puppy for the inappropriate behavior and remove it. If the reward is no longer available, the behavior will cease.

**8. There are no quick fixes or magic wands.** Training doesn't happen overnight. Consistency and practice are the keys to a well-trained, well-mannered dog. Reward the behaviors you like and ignore or manage the behaviors you don't like (as long as they are not dangerous) while you teach your puppy how to behave appropriately. Focus on what you want instead of constantly trying to deal with what you don't want. Don't rely on punishments. They can damage your relationship and, because they are so hard to do properly, they often don't work anyway.

**9. Timing is everything.** You have only one-half to one second to reward or click a behavior if you are using a clicker. The same is true of punishment. If you don't catch the behavior as it is about to occur or just as it begins, and catch every time it occurs, chances are punishment will not be effective. Timing is your most important training tool.

**10. Build a winning relationship.** Investing in your relationship will build interest and pay dividends tomorrow. Protect your dog and pay attention to his needs and concerns so he learns to trust you to look out for him. A winning relationship ensures he will trust you and look to you for guidance in all situations. A winning relationship helps him cope calmly with anything that is happening around him.

Learn to watch him as much as he watches you. You can't catch him doing it right if you aren't watching. Take time to learn what is rewarding for your dog, not what you think is rewarding. If you can't name his favorite games, toys, activities, and treats, you aren't paying enough attention.

Teach him to work for a living. Give him a reason to wake up in the morning. Keep his body *and* his brain busy. Find lots of fun things to do together. Learning and social experience are lifelong processes. Physical, mental, and social activities are as important for our dogs as they are for us. I recommend that dogs under the age of 2 take classes at least twice a year. Dogs over the age of 2





Puppy training will help you get the dog you deserve. ANN PETERSON

benefit from continuing learning and social experiences as well. Consider a class in agility, flyball, or freestyle. Try to expose your adult dog to one or more of these opportunities at least once a year. Get involved in breed-related activities such as lure coursing. Consider doggie day care or organize a puppy play group to keep him well-socialized with other puppies and dogs.

Don't be afraid to spoil him if he's earned it.

If you incorporate these basic guidelines into your daily interactions with your puppy, to paraphrase the London, England Metropolitan Canine Unit, you'll get the dog you deserve. ■

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

## What to look for in a puppy class

- Find an experienced instructor who specializes in training companion dogs. Look for someone who has been training people to train their dogs for at least a few years. If possible, go to someone who has experience with sighthounds. These folks are not easy to find. See [www.retiredracinggreyhounds.com](http://www.retiredracinggreyhounds.com) for more information on choosing a trainer. Click on Training and Behavior.
- Look for a safe and healthy environment. Make sure there is no access to a common water dish at the puppy class level. Areas for potty breaks should be free of excrement. The trainers should enforce immediate cleanup

of all feces to prevent exposure to possible disease. Classes should include controlled free play to let puppies of similar age and size learn to interact appropriately and safely. The classes should be limited to puppies under about 4 months of age. The area should be well controlled so loose dogs or out-of-control children cannot wander into the class area.

- Have fun. At this young age, everything needs to be fun and positive. Observe the instructor's puppy class before committing. If you see or hear anything you don't like, look elsewhere.



## Pick of the Litter

Ten Essential Resources for Raising the Perfect Greyhound



ANN PETERSON

Few people buy training books because they have a delightful, well-behaved puppy and they want to learn more. Most people go running for a book after they realize they have a furry shark with a mouth full of needle-sharp teeth and the living room carpet will never look or smell the same again. One caution about puppy-specific books – the techniques that work well if implemented consistently when a puppy is young are not necessarily the same techniques that are needed to retrain or untrain an out-of-control adolescent or young adult. What works quickly with a 3-month-old puppy may take far longer or be woefully inadequate with a 6-month-old adolescent.

There are many dog training and dog care books out there and my husband swears I own most of them. Most training books, whether the title indicates it or not, are geared toward training puppies rather than older dogs. Many are specifically aimed at new puppy adopters and are only applica-

ble to the issues presented by puppies. Some of these are comprehensive and delightful. Others leave me wondering what planet these writers live on.

The list that follows is anything but exhaustive. It is a small sampling of the puppy-specific books, videos, and pamphlets I've found most helpful for my puppy class students. These works are reflective of modern, scientifically-based understanding of dog training and behavior. Since many of us learn better by watching, I've included a few videos.

One book on my list of favorites, *Your Outta Control Puppy*, is so new I've just received my copy. I'm so excited about what I've seen so far that I may dub this *the* essential guide for surviving puppyhood. (Look for a review in an upcoming issue of *CG*.)

Some of the books are written by dog trainers rather than by writers and are published by small independent presses so they may not be polished or easy to find in the average chain bookstore. Their content makes them well worth finding. If the big boys like Amazon or Borders don't have them, look for them at my favorite source for dog books – Dogwise ([www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)).

Anderson, Teoti. *Your Outta Control Puppy*. TFH. 2003. Paperback, 157 pages. \$12.95

Bailey, Gwen. *Perfect Puppy*. Reader's Digest. 1995. Hardcover, 192 pages. \$19.95

Burmaster, Corally. *Puppy Kindergarten Video*. The Clicker Training Center. 2002. Video, 40 minutes. \$29.95

Debititto, James, Hodgson, Sarah and Sexton, Kira (Editor). *You and Your Puppy: Training and Healthcare for Puppy's First Year*. Howell Book House. 2000. Paperback, 272 pages. \$14.99.

Dunbar, Ian. *After You Get Your Puppy*. James and Kenneth. 2001. Paperback, 157 pages. \$12.95

Hodgson, Sarah. *Puppies for Dummies*. Howell Book House. 2000. Paperback, 329 pages. \$19.99

Pryor, Karen. *Puppy Love: Raise Your Dog the Clicker Way Video*. Sunshine Books. 1999. Video, 30 minutes. \$24.95

Rutherford, Clarice and Neil, David. *How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With, 3rd Edition*. Alpine Publishing. 1999. Paperback, 168 pages. \$11.95

Scidmore, Brenda and McConnell, Patricia. *Puppy Primer*. Dog's Best Friend, Ltd. 1998. Paperback, 65 pages. \$11.95

Walton, Joel. *Positive Puppy Training Works*. David and James Publishers. 2002. Paperback, 92 pages. \$12.95.

Most of the authors in the list above have also written other books on family dog training, behavior and/or care. As your wild child leaves puppyhood behind, look for additional books by the same authors. Along with other works by the authors mentioned above, round out your Greyhound library with these indispensable books on health-care, relationship, and training.

Carlson, James and Griffin, Liisa. *Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook, 3rd Edition*. Howell Book House. 1999. Hardcover, 535 pages. \$29.95.

McConnell, Patricia. *The Other End of the Leash*. Ballantine. 2003. Paperback, 288 pages. \$13.95.

Miller, Pat. *The Power of Positive Dog Training*. Wiley. 2001. Paperback, 242 pages. \$18.99. ■



## Greyhounds on the Home Front



We received the call on the evening of Thursday, March 13. Joe Berlejung, a member of the National Guard, was being deployed on a 30-day training mission. He was scheduled to leave in just three days. Joe is the proud adopter of two Greyhounds from Shamrock Greyhound Placement: Streak and River. He asked if we could help him find temporary homes. He was prepared to kennel them if necessary but felt, as we did,

that 30 days was too long to stay in a kennel. We did not know if we could find anyone on such short notice, but agreed to do what we could.

Shamrock foster coordinator Jean Varble and I immediately began calling our adopters and volunteers. We thought of one family who had discussed the possibility of fostering, but they were uncertain about the commitment. Could they really give up the dog

in the end? We explained this situation's unique circumstances and the fact that these dogs already had a loving home. Matthew and Marci Wray of New Albany, Indiana, and their Greyhound Lester agreed to help. They arranged to take River on Saturday morning.

Joe arrived at the Wrays' home early Saturday to meet the family who would be caring for River while he was gone. He brought toys, a bed, food, medical information, and his e-mail address so he could receive updates about River. It was an emotional goodbye for everyone.

Streak was safely deposited at Jean Varble's home until we could move him to a foster home. Joe did not get to meet the family before he left, but he trusted that Streak would be in good hands. Marylynne and David Kitson of Brandenburg, Kentucky and their Greyhounds Jack, Lanna, Olive, and Diva offered to care for Streak. As a former military family, they welcomed the opportunity to help a soldier. Marylynne explained, "We decided to foster after hearing about the many dogs of all breeds that were surrendered to shelters because their owners had no place to put them while called up for Reserve duty. I refused to believe, with all the adoption agencies around, that this could possibly happen to Greyhounds. David retired from a military career and I'm an Army social worker, so military members hold a special place in our hearts. Since Greyhounds already own such a huge piece of us, the decision to foster during this emergency didn't take a great deal of thought. We don't often get the opportunity to help two of our favorite groups at the same time."

The boys certainly missed Joe while he was gone, but they enjoyed their little vacation. Streak spent a relaxing month on a rural Kentucky farm. Being a city boy, he must have loved the opportunity to chase the wildlife



and commune with nature. River, on the other hand, had a busy meet-and-greet schedule during his stay. The Wrays are very active adoption volunteers for Shamrock Greyhound Placement in southern Indiana. Lester was happy to share the spotlight with River and teach him about promoting Greyhound adoption.

Joe e-mailed us weekly as he only had one opportunity a week to do so. Each time, he thanked the Shamrock Greyhounds for their help. He was so relieved not to have to worry about the boys while he was gone. On March 18, after settling in at Fort Bragg, Joe wrote, "Please extend my appreciation to those who stepped up to the plate at a moment's notice. I often heard that expression 'Support Our Troops' and wondered what that meant. Now I know. Thank you Shamrock!"

Joe was scheduled to return home on April 11. He emailed us on April 6 to confirm his plans. He was very anxious to get home to his Greyhounds. "I don't know what to say," he wrote. "Jennifer, you and Shamrock really saved the month for me. I am sure I would have flipped out had I continued to struggle with figuring who would watch my boys. Thank you very much. When this mess is over I will raise my hand more often to help a Greyhound who is in need."

Shamrock Greyhound Placement is very proud of our adopters and the support they offer to each other. We always tell potential adopters that they are adopting more than a dog; they adopt a family as well. Joe, Streak, and River now have an extended family in the Kitsons and the Wrays.

Americans helping Americans, and Greyhound adopters helping Greyhounds in need. Way to go, guys! ■

*Jennifer Watkins is the chairperson of Shamrock Greyhound Placement in Louisville, Ky. She shares her home with four Greyhounds, a rescued Borzoi, and two Italian Greyhounds. Shamrock is celebrating their fifth anniversary this summer.*



### Ditka 1991-2003

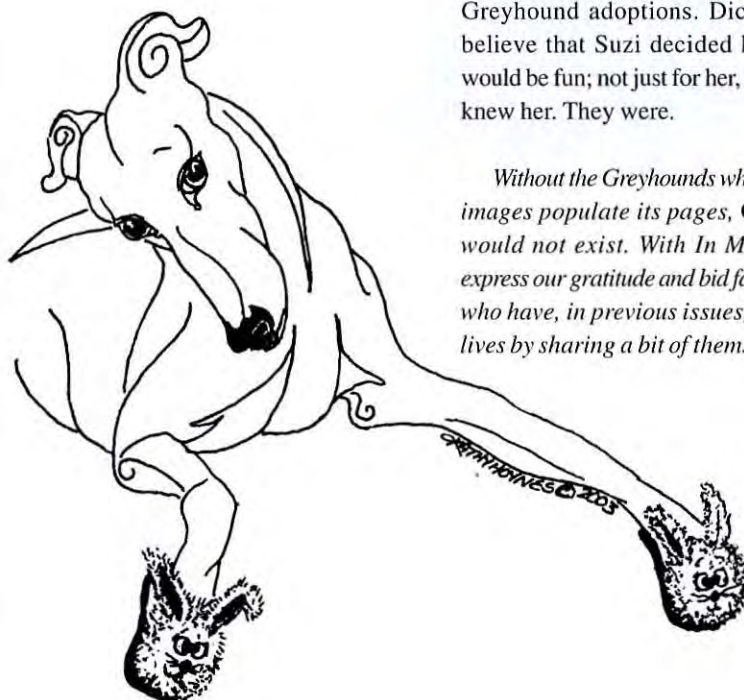
Owned, loved and sorely missed by Jim Bader and Merri Van Dyke and family. Ditka joined the family in December 2000. After Ditka was featured in "Neurologic Disorders Affecting Greyhounds" (Fall 2002 CG) he did well for a few months, but eventually began to experience difficulty climbing stairs and walking. He is greatly missed by his human family as well as his canine brothers and sisters.



### Suzi (Sue) 1983 - 2003

Perhaps the longest-lived Greyhound in the United States, Suzi was featured in "Saved by the Bus" (Winter 2002 CG). She is greatly missed by Dick and Nancy Waddell and her Greyhound family, Kelvin, Tess and Dasher. Suzi came to them from Greyhound Friends West by way of Greyhound Friends of N.J. Over the five years she lived with the Waddells, she did indeed make lots of Greyhound friends as well as friends for Greyhounds. She was so much more than an "old dog"; her personality inspired funny stories and was responsible for many Senior Greyhound adoptions. Dick and Nancy believe that Suzi decided her last years would be fun; not just for her, but for all who knew her. They were.

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





## Puppy Health



Cracker Jack and her nine puppies.

Raising healthy puppies is a difficult but rewarding service. There is no greater joy than watching puppies from birth to adoption. Raising healthy puppies requires following some simple guidelines, and using common sense.

Birthing healthy puppies begins with the brood bitch. Adoption groups caring for puppies may not have the opportunity to become involved at this stage. The care of the bitch involves proper nutrition and preparation for the whelping process. The brood bitch requires a well-balanced diet to ensure healthy puppies. Most high-quality national brand foods meet the requirements. For the

last three weeks of pregnancy and during lactation, the brood bitch requires four and one-half times her actual maintenance requirements. These requirements are best met by feeding puppy food. Puppy food contains extra calories and mineral requirements, and may eliminate the need for further supplementation.

Preparation for the whelping process involves setting up a whelping box, monitoring the bitch's activities, having supplies ready, and knowing your veterinarian's emergency procedures. Ideally, you know the breeding date of the bitch. The gestation

period is about 63 days, but varies from 57 to 65 days. Introduce the bitch to the whelping box about five to seven days before expected delivery. This box can be any box of adequate size. For a Greyhound, the whelping box should be about 6 feet long on all sides, with three sides about 1 to 2 feet high, and the remaining side about 6 inches high. The height of the sides allows the bitch to enter and exit the box, while keeping the puppies in. Some breeders use a children's plastic wading pool for a whelping box.

Place the whelping box in a warm, draft-free room that has easy access to the outside





Cracker Jack nestles in her whelping box, just prior to delivery.

for quick turnouts. Line the box with easily changeable, absorbent material for easy cleanup. Most breeders use newspapers. Allow the bitch to eat and sleep in the whelping room so she is settled before the whelping.

The bitch's change in activities prior to whelping varies with the individual. A bitch may stop eating about 12 to 24 hours before delivery. Her temperature may drop to about 98-99° F a few hours before delivery. Others may have a clear mucous vaginal discharge for one to four days before delivery. In other words, expect the unexpected. Do not leave the bitch unattended for as long as several hours as her due date approaches.

A few supplies are essential. You cannot have too many dry, clean towels. Use these to dry off the newborn puppies. Hand towels work very well for this. You can also use the hand towels for cleaning the whelping box. Also have available a heavy thread or dental floss for tying off a bleeding umbilical cord.

The final requirement for care of the bitch is to know your veterinarian's emergency

procedures for day/night care. The bitch may need a caesarean section. Three o'clock in the morning is not the time to discover your usual veterinarian is not available. Contact your veterinarian ahead of time. Discuss with him the indications, when he would like to be contacted about the bitch in whelp and, if a c-section is needed, whether he will require extra hands to revive puppies. Determine whether the bitch should be spayed at the same time, if a c-section is needed. As a veterinarian, my experience is that it is always nice to have everyone on the same page. Indications for a c-section are: constant contractions with no progress; extended time between puppies, with the bitch acting distressed; the bitch sleeping without contractions and not passing puppies; and the bitch's non-responsiveness to oxytocin shots, indicating uterine inertia. Most whelpings are uneventful and routine, but always be prepared for the emergency.

The natural whelping process is very straightforward. The bitch's contractions

force the placental sac into the birth canal. This will appear as a bubble in the vaginal area. Further contractions cause the sack to rupture, and the puppy enters the world. The puppy may present either forward (nose and two front feet) or backward (tail and two hind feet). Sometimes the shoulder or hip area is difficult for the bitch to pass. She may need some assistance; gently pull the puppy in an arch towards the bitch's feet, not straight out. Once the shoulders or hips pass, the puppy is delivered. Dry him thoroughly if the bitch does not want to lick him, and tie the umbilical cord if the bitch does not want to chew it. The puppy should nurse. This process gives the puppy colostrum (antibody-containing milk essential for early health) and stimulates the bitch's production of oxytocin, which will cause further uterine contractions and help her deliver more puppies.

After delivery, weigh the puppy, check him for a cleft palate (hole in the roof of the mouth) and any other physical defects, and identify him in some manner (nail polish on a toe or a yarn collar). Be sure that he has nursed. A healthy puppy dies for only two reasons: he starves or he gets cold.

Weigh the puppies every day or every other day to monitor growth. If a puppy is falling behind the littermates, he may need supplementation with milk replacer. You can administer this with a nursing bottle, a syringe, or a feeding tube. If you use a feeding tube, have your veterinarian instruct you on its use, as you run a risk of getting the milk replacer in the lungs and killing the puppy.

If you have a large number of puppies, tube feeding is the most convenient. A red rubber feeding tube is measured from the tip of the nose to end of the ribs and marked with tape. The tube is inserted down the puppy's esophagus, with the tape entering the puppy's mouth. If the tape does not enter the mouth, reinsert the tube, as you may be in the trachea. Once you are assured the tube is in the stomach, deliver the milk replacer to the stomach and then flush the tube with





The puppies will be ready to explore the world before you know it.

a small amount of air to clear it. The length of the tube should be checked every day or every other day as the puppy grows, because the tape will have to be moved farther up the tube.

Puppies require warm temperatures for the first 2 to 3 weeks of life. The puppy's body contains about 80-85 percent water, and he is not able to regulate his body temperature. He can achieve only ambient room temperature, so a warm light or heat lamps or pads are necessary. The puppies should be kept at 85-90° F for the first two weeks. This means the whelping box area (not nec-

essarily the room) should be this warm. The whelping box should also have a cooler area, about 80-85°F, in case a puppy feels too warm and must crawl to a cooler area. Monitor the heat lamps and pads to avoid thermal burns to the puppies or to the bitch's skin. If it feels too warm on your forearm, it is too warm for the dogs.

At 2 to 3 days of age, a veterinarian may remove the dewclaws. This is not a requirement, but some people prefer dogs without dewclaws. The veterinarian removes the dewclaws and cauterizes the area with silver nitrate. This is a good time to have the vet-

erinarian examine the puppy if you have any concerns about the animal.

At 3 to 4 weeks of age, ask the veterinarian to examine a stool sample for parasites. He will check the fecal sample for worms, such as roundworms or hookworms, and for coccidia, which is a protozoan parasite. If indicated, he will prescribe the proper medications. Pyrantel pamoate is the usual treatment for deworming. A sulfa-based drug is the treatment for coccidia. Ask the veterinarian to recheck the stool in three weeks, regardless of the result of the initial fecal check.

Six to seven weeks of age is the time to start weaning the puppies. Warm a gruel of softened puppy food and milk replacer, place it in shallow dishes, and set it down with the puppies. The first few times the puppies will just walk through the gruel, getting very messy. As the puppies play and groom each other, they ingest some of the gruel off their hair. The puppies soon figure out what the food is about, and start expecting the food three times daily. Once the puppies are eating well, remove the bitch from the whelping room. The bitch's milk will dry up in five to seven days.

Vaccination schedules vary with each veterinarian and area of the country. Administration of the first distemper/adenovirus/parainfluenza/parvovirus/coronavirus (leptospirosis) vaccine should occur at about 6 to 7 weeks. Boosters are required every three weeks until 16 to 17 weeks of age. Administration of the rabies vaccine may occur any time after 12 weeks, but typically at 17 to 20 weeks. Some veterinarians wait until 6 months of age, as this is when their county or state requires the dog to be licensed. Lyme vaccinations are given at 12 and 16 weeks, and bordetella (kennel cough) are given at 12 to 16 weeks.

Puppies at 10 to 12 weeks of age can be spayed or neutered. At this age, the puppies have a much shorter recovery time from surgery, heal more quickly, and have fewer



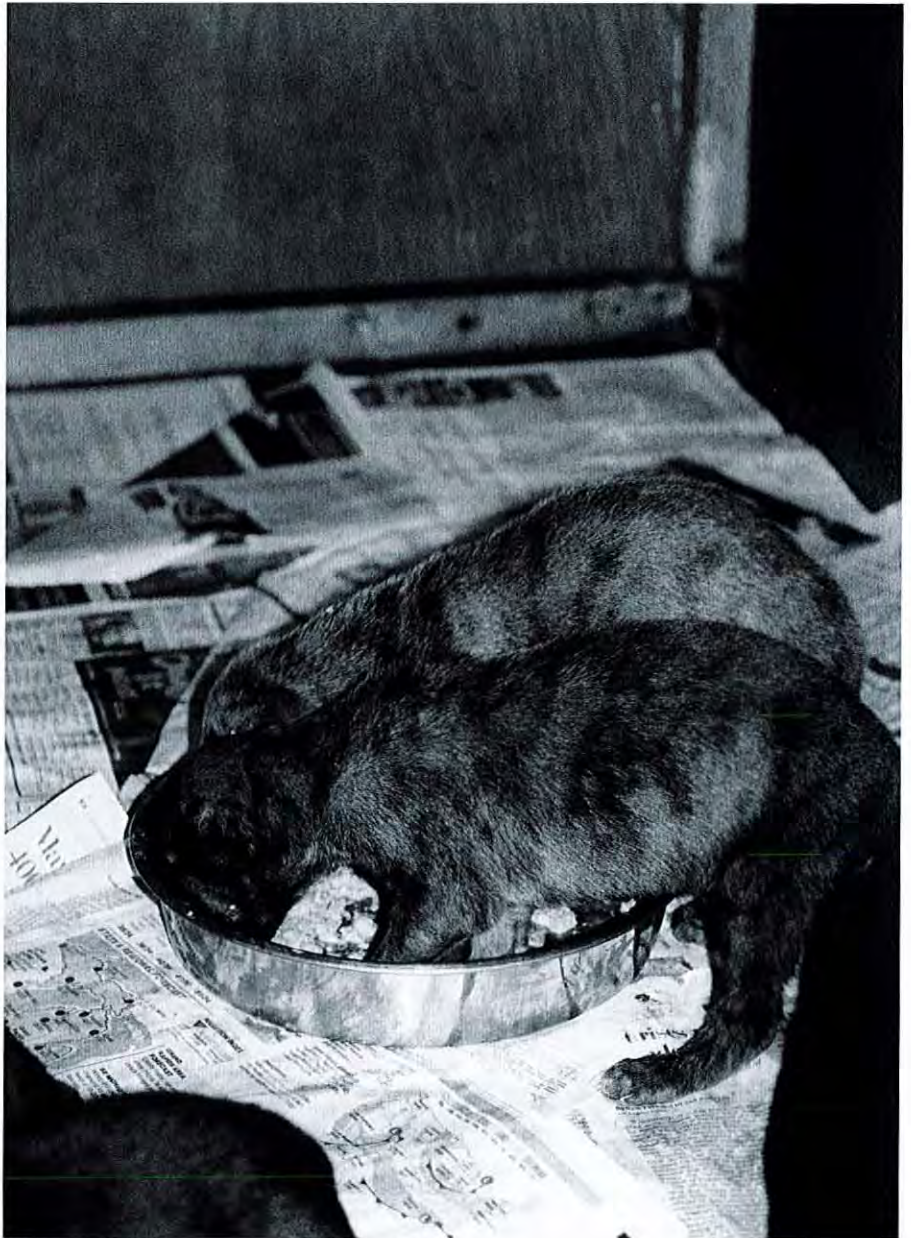


Measuring and placing the tape on the feeding tube.

complications than do older dogs. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines indicate spaying and neutering can be performed at 8 to 16 weeks of age. There are no health issues concerning growth or development, and if a bitch is spayed before her first heat, and thus does not develop mammary tissue, her risk of developing mammary (breast) cancer drops by 95 percent. The early spay may save a life.

There is a new option for neutering male puppies. Neutersol® (zinc gluconate neutralized by arginine) was recently approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration as the world's first injectable neutering drug for puppies 3 to 10 months of age. When injected into the testicle, Neutersol® causes the testicle to shrink and not produce sperm.

Monitoring the puppy's weight and activity every day gives the caretaker an indication of the puppy's health. If a puppy becomes depressed, does not eat, has watery diarrhea, or loses weight even though it is eating, your veterinarian should examine him. Always bring in a fresh stool sample and records of the puppy's weight, any changes in diet, and medications. This information will assist the veterinarian in diagnosing the puppy and instituting treatment. If the litter is older, try to provide as much history as possible, including a description of the conditions in which the puppies were raised, nutritional status, and any observations since you have owned the puppies. I treated a litter of Grey-



Weaning puppies will make a mess of their gruel at first.

hound puppies infested with intestinal worms that caused anemia so severe that the puppies needed a blood transfusion. This was very unusual; their original living conditions and lack of care necessitated serious treatment.

Raising a litter of puppies is rewarding but time consuming. The puppies require constant monitoring the first few weeks of

life to ensure proper growth and health. Recordkeeping is a must to track subtle changes in the puppy's condition. Know your veterinarian's emergency policy. Preparation will calm some of the chaos and enable you to cope in an emergency. ■

*Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.*



## Pilot Learns to Pee

Pilot is a stunning red fawn boy of 25 months. He has all the eyeliner, graceful poses, sulks, and deep enigmatic stares that either mean he is mentally working out his own theory of quantum mechanics or is about to fart. He's very bright for a Greyhound – no slams intended. He knows *come, sit, down, heel (sort of), find, share the couch, drop, get, quit smearing Science Diet on the wall, and damnit if you don't bring the remote back you'll think castration was a walk in the park and I mean it*. But at heart he is a fretful little geek. We all remember the trauma caused when the neighbors left new, and different, and strange garbage cans by the side of the road; when the bait dogs across the street barked at him; and when a horse stared – *stared!* – right at him. Were Pilot a human male, he would have toilet paper stuck to his shoe, the latest computer, and pepper spray on his key chain (when he could find his keys).

The process of coming to terms with his burgeoning hormones merely foreshadowed what was to come. He is no longer scared by his appendages and has not bitten his pee-pee since that first incident sent him screaming bow-legged down the hall to cower in his crate. However, the whole business of marking forced him to confront a new challenge. Pilot, always a squatter rather than a leg lifter, finally obeyed some obscure genetic compulsion to mark various bushes, walls and fire hydrants as his very own.

One day while out on a walk, Pilot was suddenly fascinated by a fire hydrant. This was not unusual; he's often left "p-mail" by his admirers and I know that he is a slow reader. This time, however, he walked around the fire hydrant several times, clearly agitated.

For a moment I thought it was a Dear Pilot letter from one of the bitches. But then



Marking the hydrant is still a distant dream for this little fellow. ANNI PETERSON

he moved close to it, shut his eyes, and leaned on it. His right leg (the one on the side away from the hydrant) twitched. He lifted his leg slightly. Nothing happened. He leaned harder against the hydrant, a look of frustration on his face.

By that time I figured out what he was trying to do. "Other leg, Pilot," I suggested. He ignored me, as he often does. It's a guy thing. "Other leg and pee."

Nothing.

This went on for several minutes until Abe, the alpha male and experienced in the ways of the world, came over and peed on his head. This little maneuver was repeated time after time in the following days.

Finally, today, he figured it out. Sidle up

to hydrant (how clichéd – I mean, really!), lift the leg next to the hydrant, and pee. Unfortunately, since he's been a squatter all his life, his aim was remarkably bad. He soaked both front legs and his belly before Abe could pee on his head. Not a drop hit the hydrant. And he has not yet figured out that only a short anointing is required; he was completely out of ammunition for the trip back past it on the way home. Ah, but the look of satisfaction!

"Today I am a dog. I pee!" ■

*Cyn Mobley lives in East Tennessee with her pack. She has retired from the Naval Reserve, the practice of law, and getting up in the morning and now writes full time as CA Mobley and CW Morton. Her Greyhound Chronicles books are available at dog-books.org.*



## Where Do Puppies Come From?

Greyhound Support in Kansas City (GSKC) is a support group that works with farms, owners, breeders, and trainers to bridge the gap between them and adoption groups. In 2002, GSKC moved 542 dogs into adoption programs. Thirty-five of these dogs were puppies younger than 14 weeks.

Puppies have brought whole new challenges to the goal of moving dogs. These challenges include getting the word out that we will take any puppy, regardless of condition; finding adoption groups that are prepared to handle and screen puppy adopters, and take responsibility for the entire life of the puppy; and safely moving puppies from farms to adoption groups that may be several hundred miles away.

### “Oops” Litters

Why are puppies available? Where do they come from? We hear about puppies for several reasons. Some of them are products of unregisterable breedings. The National Greyhound Association (NGA), the registry for racing Greyhounds in the United States, requires DNA registration of both the sire and dam of the puppies. Every breeding, whelping, and litter has to be registered and verifiable through DNA testing. If this cannot be done, the litter cannot be registered to race. In the case of unregisterable breedings (or “oops” litters), the sire is not known or registered, or a female accidentally comes into contact with a male and is bred but the breeding is not registered. When an unregisterable breeding occurs, we usually get the entire litter of puppies to place.

Sometimes we will receive a single puppy. Occasionally, one puppy in a litter has a birth defect, an illness, a broken bone from an accident, or is the runt of the litter. We also receive puppies from people who obtained them from a breeder and then decided that



ANN PETERSON





ANN PETERSON

while puppies are cute, they are also a lot of work. GSKC hears about these puppies from the many contacts we have formed with owners, breeders, and trainers. These people come to us for help, or are referred to us. As

word spreads about our ability to place pups, more people contact us.

When someone contacts us about puppies, our primary concerns are the age and health of the puppies, and the status of the

mother. If the puppies are younger than 6 weeks, we try to work with the breeder to keep the mother and litter together until the puppies can be weaned. If this is not possible, we make other arrangements. If a puppy is sick or injured and needs medical care, we take him immediately.

Our next step is to arrange safe transportation for the puppies from the farm to foster homes in the greater Kansas City area. From there, we begin to assess their needs. Some puppies need immediate medical attention; others need only routine care. We rely on foster families that are experienced with puppies and can deal with whatever medical problems exist.

After the puppies are in our hands and we have assessed their needs, we must find adoption groups capable of handling and placing them. An adoption group that receives puppies for placement from GSKC must meet several criteria. First, it must be an established adoption group with at least one year of history and 501c(3) non-profit status. It must conduct home visits for all adoptions and provide follow-up support for adopters. It must accept all returned dogs without exception. Finally, it must have a spay/neuter contract.

### **On the Road Again**

When we have a new puppy or group of puppies, we typically first contact groups with which we have placed puppies in the past. Once we determine where the puppies are going, we arrange safe transportation for them. We have found that puppies 6 to 8 weeks old are the most difficult to move safely. Puppies 9 weeks and older seem to handle the moves better and with fewer problems. If the puppies are older than 14 weeks, we might consider putting them on a hauler with an exceptionally experienced driver. Otherwise, volunteers must transport the pups by car via a GUR run (see "What is a GUR?" Spring 2002 *CG*). The puppies are always crated during the move.





When her hands aren't full, Ann Peterson takes wonderful photographs. Most of the puppy photographs in this issue of *CG* are her work.

Before we arrange to transport puppies, we ensure that their vaccinations are current. We also identify and address any medical conditions they may have. Our major concern in the moving process is dehydration. Puppies often won't drink on the road due to stress and upset. To combat this problem, we make sure all GUR drivers have water and puppy formula. We require them to stop every two hours and offer the puppies water and/or formula. We also have used canned food, which contains a lot of water. GUR drivers must carry extra shredded paper, paper towels, wet wipes, and trash bags to clean up the puppies and their messes.

When the puppies arrive at their final destination, the receiving group must check the puppies for hydration, then put them to

bed. We ask that they not have "show and tell" or lots of visitors upon arrival. The puppies are worn out and stressed from their trip and need rest.

The more puppies we handle and move, the more we learn. As we gain experience, we re-evaluate our procedures. One of our major concerns right now is identification. Since most of the pups we receive have not been tattooed, they have no form of permanent identification. Our concern is that if a puppy ends up in a shelter or is found running loose five years down the road, an adoption group might not take it because there is no way to determine if the dog is a purebred Greyhound. We used to request that adoption groups taking our puppies microchip them, but we found that not all groups did this. In

the future, we will microchip all puppies before releasing them to other groups.

We never wanted to get into the puppy business. Our major concern was moving retired racers into adoption. However, as we learn about puppies in need, we rise to the challenge and move them safely to groups that can place them in loving homes. ■

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*Ann Peterson lives in Kansas City with her husband and Greyhounds Emmy, Claire, and Polar Bear. She is Secretary/Treasurer of Greyhound Support in Kansas City and works for Mill Creek Animal Clinic. Sue Burkhard lives in Benton Harbor, Mich. with her Greyhounds Whisper and Dotti Hi Socks. She is Vice President of Greyhound Support in Kansas City. Kate Bressler lives in Kansas City with her Greyhounds Bojack and Lizzie. She founded Greyhound Support in Kansas City in 1998 to help move retired, injured, and/or unwanted Greyhounds off racing farms and kennels into adoption groups across the United States.*



## Placing Pups in Adoptive Homes



A tired puppy is a good puppy. ANN PETERSON

For many years, adoption groups rarely got pups to place in homes. That is slowly changing. Our adoption group, A Place For Us Greyhound Adoption (APFUGA), has had more experience with puppy placement than many groups. We have placed four litters of pups plus several individuals, and expect another litter to arrive soon.

I have been involved with Greyhounds for over 30 years and have several litters of AKC show Greyhounds. I have plenty of experience with all ages of pups and have encountered lots of unexpected problems. With this experience and our group's love of puppies, we have developed a generally successful approach to placing Greyhound pups.

### How It Works

First, we try to ensure that the puppies are 8 weeks old before we take them. This is not always possible, but it is best for the pups if they can stay together, preferably with their dam, during this formative period.

When the pups arrive, they come to my home. I have a good kennel facility and large puppy yard. I raise my own pups there, so I know it is safe and suitable.

After we receive the puppies, we check their weight and general condition. We immediately have them examined by a veterinarian. If they are old enough, they get a dose of Panacur for worms and possible giardia. In addition, if they have not yet been vaccinated, they receive whatever injections are required at their age. In our area, they get their first shot (parvo) at 6 weeks of age, then a DPP (distemper/parvo/parainfluenza) at 8 weeks. Veterinarians tend to use slightly different protocols in different areas of the country. If you can find a veterinarian willing to give low-cost vaccinations or if you can buy the vaccines and administer them yourself, you will save money. Suffice it to say, our pups





Puppies play while waiting for a home. ANN PETERSON

receive a complete series of shots before they leave here.

APFUGA prefers to hold puppies as a litter, whenever possible, to provide a better-socialized and even-tempered puppy. According to both knowledgeable dog psychologists and my own experience, pups should remain with their dam and siblings for at least eight to 12 weeks. The time from when they get their milk teeth until at least 3 months of age is when they learn the most about bite inhibition, how to play and pull their punches, and proper puppy etiquette. There is no better trainer than the dam. She will let the puppies know if they are too hard with those sharp little teeth.

We call weanling pups little piranhas, and we are very firm about how they use their teeth. What may be a cute but annoying nipping and biting problem at 6 or 7 weeks can turn into serious biting if not controlled early.

We try to enlist the children of friends who we trust with pups to acclimate the puppies to children and the things they do. In considering potential adopters, we look closely at the relationship the children in the family will have with the pup. We do a lot of training with the potential adopters as well as with the puppy. When possible, we have the family come and visit several times before they actually take the pup home, so that all are well-acquainted with each other's quirks.

### Matching Pups with Adopters

Finding adopters who want a pup is usually pretty easy. The trick is finding the right people for the puppy. We are as careful in our placements as if we had bred the pups ourselves. Potential adopters *must* be willing to make the commitment of time and effort to the puppies. We look for homes with work schedules that fit the puppy's needs; people who are willing to do the basic manners training that is necessary; dedicated folks who don't mind potty training; and families who will spend the time and energy needed to train and socialize a puppy. As anyone who has raised a puppy will attest, it is a big job.





ANN PETERSON

We conduct home visits for potential adopters. We pay particular attention to the needs of the puppies and potential hazards in the home. For example, we check for children's toys or collectibles such as dolls and teddy bears that might get little pups into trouble easily. We advise carefully about housebreaking, exercise, and sunshine. We stress the importance of stopping bad behaviors right away. For instance, that puppy may be cute when it stands with its front paws on the kitchen counter while you cook, but this behavior can lead to troublesome counter surfing later in life. We stay in close contact with puppy adopters because problems and bad habits can crop up so suddenly. Puppies learn quickly, and they need to learn the right stuff.

Usually, most puppies are spoken for by the time they are 12 weeks old. Because of the shot regimen, we don't like to send them

to their new homes until they are 4 months old. They receive a rabies shot at that age and the final parvo vaccine about a month later. (Again, this might vary according to your local veterinarian's protocol.)

We prefer not to spay or neuter pups this young because of the possible effects on their growth and potential for problems in later life. Additionally, the boys may not have both testicles in place at this young age. Testicles *can* take as long as eight months to firmly descend. We work very closely with the local adopters to make sure all pups are appropriately spayed or neutered. We require a large extra deposit for an unaltered pup. This money is refunded when we receive the veterinarian's statement that the procedure is complete. We know this is not foolproof, but so far, we have had no problems. We require each adopter to sign an agreement that covers

retrieval of our dogs if the contract is broken.

Unless we know the adopter personally, when a pup is leaving for another state, we try to hold him a little longer and then alter him before he leaves. If we must alter a pup early, we choose the veterinarian carefully. We wait as long as we can – at least until 4 months of age – and we keep in close contact with the adopters.

Where do our adopters come from? Many have had one Greyhound and want to try raising a baby. We talk at length with local people and spend lots of telephone and Internet time with those from out of town. If we are adopting out of state, we ask someone from that area to do a thorough home check (thank goodness for all the adoption groups). We provide the group with a copy of our home visit checklist.

If, for any reason, the adoption does not work out, we take the puppy back immediately – no questions asked. We will retrieve a puppy from anywhere with a GUR run (see "What is a GUR?" Spring 2002 *CG*). Fortunately, we have not had to do this.

We give our adopters lots of puppy advice and try to keep in close contact with them so we can solve problems before they become major. I am assembling a manual for new Greyhound puppy owners, as there are many things to be considered and addressed when you have a very young Greyhound.

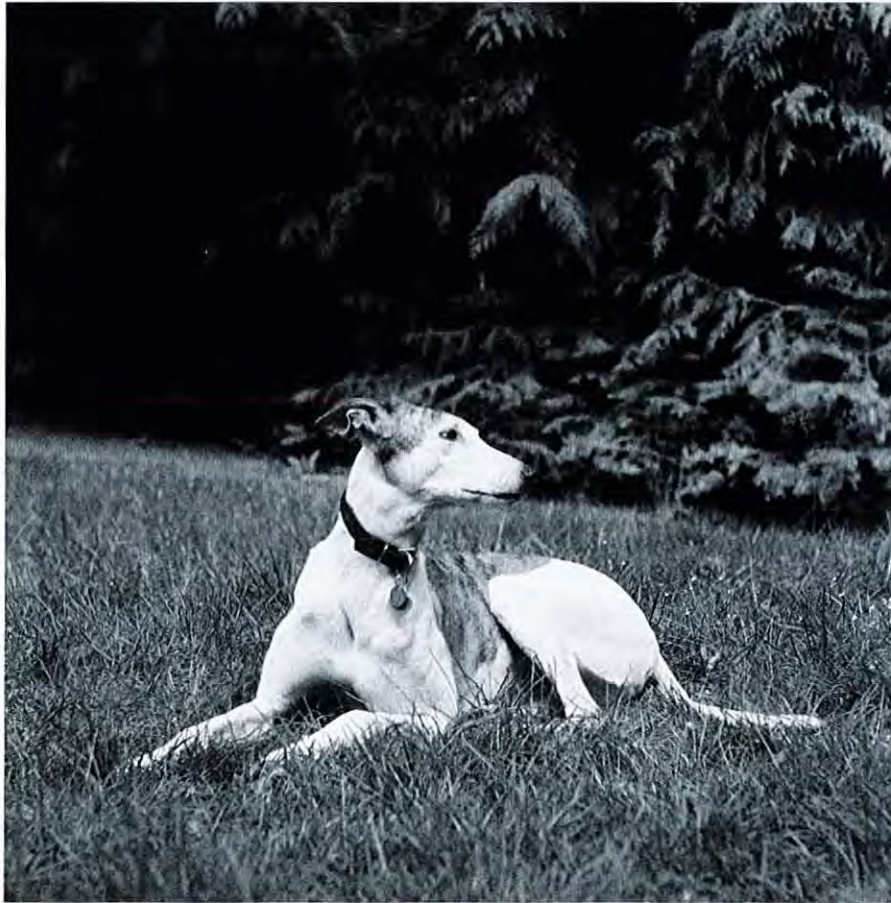
Greyhound puppies are fascinating and wonderful, but they do have a high activity level – at least for short times. They spend a lot of time sleeping, but are very busy when awake. It is important to give them lots of love, good food, and exercise. Because, as we all know, a tired puppy is a good puppy. ■

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*Laurel E. Drew's involvement with Greyhounds began with a rescued Greyhound. She has been raising and training Greyhounds for show, obedience, and lure coursing for over 30 years. She has had top winning Greyhounds in all of these activities. She has been active in Greyhound adoption for many years, the last seven as head of A Place for Us Greyhound Rescue, Inc. in New Mexico. Laurel is a CG regular contributor.*



## Where There's Smoke...



Blake. LILLIAN MARSHALL TESTART

*In "Brave Blake" and "Lily's Story," owners share stories of how their special Greyhounds saved them from fire.*

### Brave Blake

By Lillian Marshall Testart

Blake, a special-needs Greyhound, was featured in the gallery on the Greyhound Pets Inc. website. His picture, chin on a red patterned bed, stirred childhood memories. Smitten but unsure, I continued to peruse websites, waiting.

In March 2000, the dog on the red bed was mentioned on a chat list about special-

needs hounds. The post was from the year before. How could this handsome boy have been waiting so long? Inaction gave way to decision, and I phoned his foster mom. Adoption application submitted, inspections done, I found myself driving to Washington to meet my intriguing subject. Blake headed west from Idaho, transported by the volunteers of Greyhound Pets.

At the kennel, Colleen gave me his lead, and together we sat under a tree and chatted. It was May 14, barely two months since my first inquiry. Adoption complete, we set off on the drive home. Though I described every-

thing I saw, trees, deer, ferries, gulls, and ocean, Blake remained impartial throughout. Finally home but shy of entering, he decided we should sit behind bushes in the backyard. He watched the house as I carried on with soothing chat. Suddenly he headed to the door, strode inside, found his bed, and we began our history.

A few months later, an open gate gave Blake freedom. The concerned call from Greyhound Pets sent me home in a flash to collect a contrite Blake. I knew his shell had cracked when at the next chance he simply stood inside the door, waiting patiently for permission to cross the threshold. The year passed pleasantly as he helped dig my grandson Sebastian's pond and plant the garden. We played hockey, soccer, and frisbee, but he remained stoic, affection not part of his lexicon.

I began to think Blake would do well with a Greyhound sibling who might help him come out of his shell. Although the dogs on the website were magnificent, Blake needed to meet the new friend before we adopted. On September 13, 2001, Blake, granddaughter Ila, and I traveled to the Greyhound Pets Inc. Annual Picnic in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Martha helped us find a sister, Danger Please, a sprightly girl of 4 just off the track. The happy foursome headed home.

And so it was that a few days after returning home, with rain imminent, I brought in the deck cushions. I placed them on the floor against the patio doors, with a strict reminder to myself that when I retired I would put them up away from the floor duct.

About 5:30 a.m. Blake's barking awakened me. I was not alarmed that he was up, only annoyed that he wanted me out of bed. I called him back, but he persisted. I tried to ignore him but he would not be quiet. I crawled sleepily down the stairs. The smoke alarm at the height of that landing was silent.



There was an acrid smell. Blake began to talk as he saw me. His feet planted, face glued to my slow progress, his talk urged me awake and forward toward him. His nose pointed to the melting chair cushions by the door. As I grabbed the cushions away from the heat duct, he did not flinch, just stood by quietly. I sat beside him on his bed, both of us panting as we waited for the melting cushions to cool, and we thanked the day that Auntie Martha put us together.

### Lily's Story

By Barbara Grilli with Steve Bumpus

On a hot, sticky night last June, Steve Bumpus and a friend were doing their best to keep cool in his St. Petersburg, Fla. home. (Steve's mom, Barbara, was out of town.) The air conditioner was acting up, and though the house contained only two humans, a Greyhound, and a Dalmatian, things were getting as stuffy as a crowded elevator.

In hopes of getting some sleep, Steve turned the air conditioner back on, along with some ceiling fans. He then went to bed. Outlaw, his Dalmatian, and Lily, his 5-year-old Greyhound (adopted through GPA-Largo six months before) followed along as usual and settled in beside him on his waterbed.

In the early hours of the morning, the ceiling fan in the kitchen overheated. Thick smoke from the electrical fire quickly filled the house as everyone slept. Lily woke Steve by continuously jumping on the waterbed, as Outlaw assisted by barking and jumping. "I woke up and went to open my bedroom door and got a blast of smoke in my face," recalls Steve. "I yelled to wake my friend and broke a window. I lowered the dogs out of the window and then crawled out after them." When the household members were all present and accounted for outside, Steve hooked Lily's and Outlaw's collars together and waited for the fire department.

Aside from some minor smoke inhalation, both humans were unhurt – thanks to some



Lily and Outlaw. STEVE BUMPUS

fast thinking from a couple of heroic fire dogs: one who looked like he'd be right at home posing on a fire truck, and one who bore a striking resemblance to a certain logo on a bus.

The events changed Steve's life in unexpected ways, as he later reflected: "Without them waking me, I have no doubt that I would have died from smoke inhalation. It was an extremely smoky fire, and it had been quite some time from when we got out to when the fire department got there.

"This was also the event that finally helped me to be sure that I wanted to get into the veterinary field. I had been giving this serious thought for quite some time. I needed to be sure I could give the level of devotion I feel is necessary to have to this field before I got involved in pursuing it. I know now for sure that there is nothing I would rather do with my life than try to help animals in need,

and what better way to do so then through working in the field of veterinary medicine? I am now enrolled in school, working my way toward a degree in veterinary technology."

"I know," Steve added, "that there is a great need for people to help Greyhounds who have retired from racing. I know that I owe my life in part to my retired racer. I look forward to the day when I have the opportunity to start to repay that debt by volunteering my skills to help Greyhounds in need." ■

*Lillian Marshall Testari lives in Vancouver Island, Wash. with Greyhounds Blake, Please, Poodle mix Hari, and her cat, Margaret Thatcher. This article originally appeared on the website of Greyhound Pets, Inc (<http://www.greyhoundpetsinc.org>). Barbara Grilli has been writing for Homeward Bound, the Greyhound Pets of America/Largo newsletter, for the past year. This article originally appeared in the 1st quarter 2003 issue. Steve Bumpus lives in St. Petersburg, Fla. with Outlaw and Lily.*



## What is Canine Musical Freestyle?



Cody and Diana demonstrate the Go Around.

Canine Musical Freestyle is dancing with your dog. It is a relatively new dog sport. Freestyle is very much a team sport; the handler and dog work together doing tricks and moves choreographed to music. I'll let you in on a well-kept secret: Absolutely no two routines are ever the same. Guess what?

That's OK! Unlike obedience competition, freestyle appreciates creativity and a flair for the unusual. Your dog may come up with new moves of his own right in the middle of your performance. Just about any move that is safe for you and your dog is acceptable in freestyle.

All you and your dog need to get started in freestyle is an eagerness to learn and have fun. Freestyle is easier when your dog can listen to and follow basic commands, so some obedience training is a plus. Your local dog training clubs may include members who are involved in freestyle or perhaps they can refer you to people who could help you get started. Everyone I have ever met in the freestyle world is outgoing and eager to help anyone who needs it – from beginners to top performers who have appeared on television.

### Getting Started

Start by learning moves with your dog. The moves you teach your dog are, in fact, tricks: Spinning to the left or right, sitting, lying down, giving paw, bowing, backing up, jumping, heeling, and weaving through your legs are all moves or tricks that you can put to music. Sometimes the most dramatic move is actually no movement at all. A moment frozen in time can take your breath away. Like most trainers, I take advantage of everything my Greyhounds do naturally and put them on a command – from bowing, to putting their heads down, or even picking up objects that I drop. You would be surprised how many tricks you discover naturally.

While you and your dog are learning these tricks, watch the way your Greyhound moves and begin listening to all kinds of music. Picture the two of you moving to different songs. Then try moving to a song and see how it fits both your personalities. Freestyle participants have many theories about how to choose a song. Some suggest choosing the song that fits your dog's movements. Others say the song should fit the handler. Still others say it should fit both of you.





Cody leaps over Diana.

A word of warning to anyone choosing a fast song for a dog who is young, inexperienced (that goes for the handler, too), or gets the “zoomies” when excited. When Cody and I started in freestyle, a professional trainer told me to choose a fast song so Cody would look good. I wrestled with this idea for a while. Taking the advice of the professional, I picked out a song that fit his 40 mph heeling: *The Hamsterdance Song* (© 1997, Abatis International). You do the math: One hyperactive, semi-trained Greyhound puppy + several fast tricks + heeling at 40 mph + a very fast song to pump him up even more = one out-of-control puppy having a free for all.

It took me approximately a year to get Cody’s head screwed on right. When I chose a slower song, *My Maria* (© 1973 B. W. Stevenson), I got Cody under control, and we started improving and enjoying freestyle once again.

The first song you choose should be one that will not create any problems for you. It may not show you or your dog at your best, but it should allow you to build control and confidence and have a positive experience.

Choreography is your next concern. It includes putting your tricks to music, adding some dance steps, and using your hands or props as you move around the dance floor.

It is actually harder than it sounds, but with a good imagination, some music editing, and the help of some friends, you will be on your way in no time. You don’t have to be Fred or Ginger, but if you can move to the music, it will make a difference in your routine.

### Dancing Greyhounds

Just how do Greyhounds do in freestyle? Greyhounds have been bred to run and hunt, so the moves that Border Collies and some of the other breeds do almost naturally will take some time for a Greyhound to learn. Freestyle is not a natural sport for Greyhounds; it is possible that you may have one who really would rather have a dental than dance. However, barring medical or physical problems, you can probably get your couch potato off the couch, grab your dancing shoes, and have lots of fun. Generally, you just need to find the right motivator for your dog. For some it is food, toys, or praise. For others, touching them and acting like a crazy person will get them going.

I was having a problem motivating Bob, my first freestyle Greyhound. I sought advice from the only Greyhound expert I knew: Kathleen Gilley, of the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team. Kathleen told me to convey excitement with my voice and my movements. She cautioned me that people might think I was insane. I seem to remember her mentioning that she practiced this technique on an abandoned road somewhere.

Bob is extremely food-motivated. Freestyle allowed him to express his silly side and get treats doing it. When Bob started to slow down, Cody started doing moves on his own. Cody was learning from watching Bob. It was a natural transition from dancing with Bob to dancing with Cody. Cody’s motivators include treats, squeaky toys, balls, and a good game of rough and tumble. Most importantly, he loves happy talk and to be touched. Cody earned his Beginners Canine Musical Freestyle Title in October of 2002.



Cody takes a bow.

### Practice Makes Perfect

Practice is important. Work on your tricks in as many different places as you can. You may feel awkward in the beginning, but the more you and your Greyhound practice in different environments, the easier it will be to perform or compete. Bob, Cody, and I have practiced tricks in front of a Harley Davidson store, at a state trap shooting competition, in the grass at Dewey Beach, and on a small stage at a children’s park. You and your dog will become accustomed to the different surroundings, noises, and surfaces. This is valuable experience.

A big part of freestyle is the costume; you want to look good out there. As a general rule, when in competition, the dogs can only wear something around their necks, such as a fancy collar. The human partner wears an armband. (The Innovation division, in which “anything goes,” is an exception.) For a non-competitive event, wear something safe and eye-appealing. We humans go with the theme of the song. It does not necessarily require spending big bucks on a costume; your attic might just hold the perfect outfit. Visit your local thrift store; you won’t believe what you can do with a \$1.99 vest or a \$3.99 white sportcoat.

You can perform freestyle in many different locations. Try presenting at nursing homes as part of a therapy visit. Go to schools, reunions, fairs, expos, or any other fun event



where freestyle will make people happy. If you care to get more serious about freestyle, you can enter competitions. Scheduled events take place around the world and competition is friendly. Teams compete for titles and qualifying scores, not against other competitors. This seems to be true even at the upper levels of competition. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of the best: Carolyn Scott, Linda Farr, Attila Szkukalek, Donelda Guy, Diane Kowalski, and Mark Christi.

### Freestyle Organizations

Three major organizations – all formed in the 1990s – promote canine musical freestyle. Each organization sponsors demos, seminars, and competitions. Each confers its own titles. Each has a website full of contacts and information to help you get started, and each organization has its own e-mail list.

I belong to the World Canine Freestyle Organization (WCFO), and it is the organization with which I am most familiar. Its mission is to promote the joys and fun of responsible pet ownership through musical canine freestyle, both as a sport and an entertainment medium. The WCFO's founder, Patie Ventre, has opened freestyle to the world and the organization is even certifying judges in Europe and Japan. The WCFO website is <http://www.worldcaninefreestyle.org>.

The Canine Freestyle Federation (CFF) also promotes canine musical freestyle. CFF information can be found at <http://www.caninefreestyle.org>.

The third and newest freestyle organization is the Musical Dog Sport Association (MDSA). The MDSA's Carolyn Scott and her Golden Retriever, Rookie, were the first team I saw perform freestyle. I was so impressed I got the chills. Visit the MDSA website at <http://www.musicaldogsport.org> for more information about their organization. ■

*Diana Cognigni is a volunteer with Rainbow's End Greyhound Rescue in Harveys Lake, Pa. Anyone with questions about canine musical freestyle can contact her at [greyhounds@juno.org](mailto:greyhounds@juno.org)*



### Sparky, Spanish Dancer

When I signed up for my first clinic in musical canine freestyle, my Galgo, Sparky, had just turned 8 months old. I was more than a little apprehensive; my eager-to-please puppy was turning into an easily distracted adolescent. But freestyle looked like a lot of fun, so I thought it was worth a try.

I had so much fun doing freestyle that Sparky was much more at ease than in our obedience classes. And it was easy. Sparky and I have tried a variety of dog sports, but I can tell by his posture that he has the most fun doing freestyle. We practice every day, and he offers dance moves throughout our day.

I still consider myself a beginner. Sparky has all the talent (Dog, 10; Handler, 3!). I hope to give competition freestyle a try soon. Our local club, the Freestyle Fanatics, has been very encouraging. With their support, you may see us competing soon. BEVENE GODAU, ROYAL OAK, MICH.



ANN PETERSON



## Greyhound, Come Dance With Me



Mary and Nexus side-step to the left. This move is a great audience-pleaser and covers lots of ring space.

BRESNEHAN PORTRAIT STUDIO

I was introduced to Musical Freestyle and Heelwork to Music while I was attending an advanced obedience class. One evening before class, I watched as one of our instructors practiced her routine for a musical freestyle competition. The synchronized beauty of this rhythmical human/canine

interaction was mesmerizing. Our class was practicing maneuvers and it suddenly became clear to me that putting these maneuvers together with music would make training more fun and interesting. I was inspired to create my own musical freestyle routine.

Musical Freestyle is simply a combina-

tion of dog obedience and dance whereby the rhythmical interaction between the handler and dog is showcased, demonstrating the handler's relationship with the dog. Each choreographed presentation is a reflection of the talent and skill of the dog and handler. It is the sharing of a personalized interpretation of music and dance. Movements include traditional turns, weaves, jumps, and send outs, as well as other innovative moves such as circles, pivots, serpentines, and spirals. Heelwork to Music, another form of freestyle, differs in that it focuses on the dog's heeling abilities while performing patterns synchronized to music.

In freestyle competition, one to three judges evaluate the performance on the basis of technical and artistic/choreographic elements as presented in a creative manner. Technical execution emphasizes content of the program, precision, flow and timing of the movements, difficulty of the movements, and attitude and enthusiasm of the team. Artistic impression focuses on choreographic creativity, interpretation of the music, synchronization of handler and canine movements, interactions between dog and handler, and spectator appeal.

When I became interested in musical freestyle, I was training two retired Greyhounds, both of whom had earned their Companion Dog (CD) titles. Clonbrin Mick, my blue 3-year-old, was easy to work as he was a quick learner and remained focused on me. He moved smoothly and shifted gracefully from one transition to the next. Mick connected with me, taking all his cues from my leg movements, moving quickly and elegantly, totally in sync with my foot movements. It was clear that he found our dancing together as enjoyable as I did. We performed at charity events and the audiences truly enjoyed his fancy footwork. Sadly, Mick





The ultimate goal of canine freestyle is to strengthen the extraordinary bond between the handler and dog. BRESNEHAN PORTRAIT STUDIO

was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma and he was never able to perform in competitions.

Skiddy Geisha, also known as Shelby, is a charismatic brindle with a playful yet haughty personality and the ability, although not always the willingness, to follow my freestyle cues. Another interesting facet of Shelby's personality emerged when she was in the show ring. This fun-loving diva suddenly became creative in her efforts to flirt with her audience, much to their delight and amusement. Unfortunately, Shelby suffers from a neurological disorder that forced her to hang up her dancing shoes. She now enjoys a well-deserved retirement in the comfort and style all Greyhounds appreciate.

Following Shelby's retirement, I adopted 3-year-old Sunrunner Nexus, a blue brindle Greyhound who had suffered a foot injury at the track. He had a good racing record and showed a keen desire to please. I immediately began training him and within nine months he had earned his CD title. His track injury prevented Nexus from continuing advanced obedience, so I directed his training toward

freestyle. It was my goal to title Nexus in the Beginner On Leash division at the World Canine Freestyle Organization (WCFO) North Central Regional Musical Freestyle Competition scheduled in March of 2003 at the Chicagoland Family Pet Show.

In preparation for the competition, we continued training in an intermediate level obedience class where we focused our efforts on maneuvers and heeling. Nexus mastered pivots, quarter turns and half turns, side steps to the left, backing in a straight line, and right-sided heeling. He found circles, side steps to the right, and holding a stance somewhat problematic. With intense training, Nexus soon mastered these movements as well. To broaden our repertoire of steps, I even gave Nexus the chance to create totally new steps by letting him continue a movement without my direction.

Varying the pace is critical to a successful program. However, quick, sudden changes in movement confused Nexus. I discovered it was necessary to work more slowly and use exaggerated steps to accommodate him. By slowing the pace, Nexus became more confident and was able to focus more attentively and achieve smoother transitions.

### Finding the Perfect Song

Selecting music for the competition was more of a challenge than I had anticipated. I wanted something with audience appeal. Since virtually any type of music or medley of selections is acceptable, my choices were unlimited. I also wanted to find a piece that fit within the time constraints of 1:30 to 2:15 ± 15 seconds for the division I entered. I did not want to edit my music because I feel it is imperative to preserve the integrity of the music so that it remains a complete piece with a definite beginning and end. I find it disconcerting to cut a piece of music at an inappropriate point only so it fits within the time constraints of the competition.

Selecting a musical composition for Nexus was still another challenge because his

behavior is somewhat of a paradox. He is an effervescent, lively, and enthusiastic dog. Therefore, my initial choices were songs with upbeat tempos. When put on lead and at the sound of the music, however, Nexus became cautious and intense. His gait became deliberate. It was time to seek a second opinion. Call it sarcasm or constructive criticism, but my husband's forthright comment, "All you do is bounce around and the dog just hangs there," made me realize I needed to select slower music. After more searching I found a perfect piece of music – "My Sweet Baby Greyhound" by Nancy Simmonds (© 1988) – that was more in keeping with my dog's natural movement. This slower music required more controlled movements and worked well with Nexus. He became more confident and showed a spirit in his movements. Nexus now felt secure in what he was expected to do.

### The Choreography

Before I actually began to choreograph my routine, I played my song over and over again, listening to the words, the melody,



Cha Cha Cha! Nexus watches Mary's cues as they step forward and back. BRESNEHAN PORTRAIT STUDIO



the instrumentation, and the rhythm until the music became a part of me. I copied the words and began putting together my thoughts for our routine. Many ideas were my own, but I also found that dance performances, music videos, and even commercials were great sources of inspiration.

To begin my choreography I just danced and isolated combinations I liked. All the while, I considered the movements Nexus was capable of executing. I incorporated forward, backward, side-to-side, diagonal, and circular movements, as well as pivots and turns. I combined these into an artistic and flowing arrangement. Heeling on either side and changes in speed offered me both the balance and versatility I needed to make my program more interesting. The repetition of maneuvers in different areas of the ring helped me make use of my space.

I staged my performance ring – a 40' by 50' rectangle – and imagined where the judges would be positioned. This allowed me to choreograph my routine in the direction that would most enhance my program without detracting or obscuring the judges' view. It was important to showcase Nexus and his beautiful movements. We practiced in this area. Several mirrors were positioned along one wall. I observed our movements and adjusted the routine accordingly. Most importantly, I tried to make the process fun for Nexus and me.

### Costume Selection

Now that we were on our way to the competition, it was time to take a break from work and have fun putting together a costume. The costume is an integral part of the performance so it was essential to choose a costume that would enhance my interpretation of the music and bring character to my routine. Our first competitive performance was held late on a Friday morning so I chose a casual look. A more sophisticated look for our second performance Saturday afternoon seemed appropriate.



A dramatic finish (especially for anyone who mistakenly believes that Greyhounds can't sit). BRESNEHAN PORTRAIT STUDIO

Costuming dogs is not permitted, but decorative collars and leads are acceptable. For both performances, Nexus wore a silver and blue buckle collar with a row of rhinestones. A silver and blue lead complemented his collar.

### The Final Event

Practice makes perfect, but it seemed like perfection was a long way off the day of our competition. I tried to keep my excitement and nerves in check so Nexus would remain calm. It worked; he was ready. One last-minute check and then we stepped into the ring. The music played and it all came together. Nexus qualified and earned his

Musical Freestyle Title in the Beginner On Leash Division.

This is not the end. While Nexus is enjoying a short break from training, I'm searching for new music and planning our next competition. I really love this sport. But it is more than a sport. It is an artistic performance that showcases the beauty of synchronized movements of a handler and dog. One performance is the culmination of weeks and months of serious training; the manifestation of an extraordinary bond between human and canine and a display of their love and devotion to each other. ■

*Mary Simpson and Nexus live and dance in LaGrange, Ill.*



## Still *Excel*ent With Cats



Excel and his feline friend, Terror. KRIS METZ

*In "Excellent with Cats" (Summer 2000 CG), Kris Metz described the successful adjustment of her new Greyhound, Excel, to a household including three other Greyhounds and four cats. Initially behaving as a "lunging, stalking demon," Excel settled down to a peaceful co-existence with her housemates, feline and canine.*

*Is Excel still doing well with the kitties? We asked Kris to give us an update.*

In September 1999, Excel joined our home. I am very thankful Marilyn Wolkovitz of Greyhound Adoption Service gave me the opportunity to adopt such a special Greyhound. Excel has given us so much joy and happiness. But I must confess, those first few weeks were not fun. Teaching Excel the number one rule of the house – that my cats, Miss Mooie, Terror, Sissy, and Bitty are off-

limits – was very difficult. If Excel were to stay, there would be no chasing, lunging, nipping, or attempting to eat kitty. I am happy to report Excel learned her lessons well, and she has been perfect with the cats. Excel sleeps with Terror just about every night, and sometimes they are back to back. Bitty thinks Excel's leg is just perfect for rubbing up against when she wants attention, and poor Excel never knows what to do or where to look. When Sissy and Terror chase each other right past Excel's needle nose (which they frequently do), Excel doesn't flinch. Sadly, our beloved Miss Mooie passed away in October 2002, at 22 and a half years of age. The day Ms. Mooie went to sleep, the Greyhounds and cats were very quiet. I believe they felt the sadness in the house.

I realize I took a big chance bringing a not-so-cat-safe Greyhound into my home. I believe that with the right amount of training, patience, and supervision, a not-so-cat-safe Greyhound can become "cat friendly."

In November 2002 I adopted a fourth female Greyhound, Jet (Sav's Blue Light). I am happy to report Jet was cat safe from the beginning, but that didn't stop me from using the same training technique I used with Excel. I feel you can never be too comfortable with the Greyhounds and cats interacting. I walked around the house with Jet muzzled and leashed, leash around my waist and water gun in hand. Any time Jet even looked at the cats, I gave her a squirt with the water gun and the firm "no kitty" command.

Now I consider all of my Greyhounds – Hollywizz, Phoebe, Excel, and Jet – to be "cat safe." That does not stop me from continuing to watch and monitor the Greyhounds and the cats. When the Greyhounds play with their squeak toys in the house or when they come in from outside, I watch to make sure they don't think the cats are something to chase, squeeze, or shake. What I find interesting is Phoebe (the one considered most cat-safe by the adoption group) once in awhile will leap very close to a cat with a silly expression on her face, looking to chase. The firm "no kitty" command stops her immediately.

Would I do it again? Absolutely. Excel is truly a beautiful Greyhound, and she has given my family and me close to four heart-warming years of love and affection. ■

*Kris Metz resides in Staten Island, N.Y. with her parents, Jan and Tom Metz; Greyhounds Hollywizz, Phoebe, Excel, and Jet; and her cats, Terror, Sissy, and Bitty. She works as a legal secretary for a Manhattan law firm and devotes her all-too-brief free time to making custom Greyhound coats to raise money for various Greyhound adoption groups.*



## Preserving Your Sanity

And That of Your Puppy



At 3 weeks, the puppy begins to develop a personality. LAUREL E. DREW

So you just acquired a Greyhound puppy! No matter what the age, 3 weeks or 5 months, there are still some basic rules to follow if you plan to preserve your sanity around a Greyhound pup. The following hints and advice should help both of you to learn about each other, set up a “pack,” and grow in experience and knowledge without going totally nuts.

If you get a pup younger than 8 to 10 weeks, you have a lot of work to do – more than you may realize. Yes, he looks like a cute little helpless critter, but the weeks from 2 to 10 are some of the most formative in a puppy’s life.

A puppy’s eyes open at about two weeks. Because his eyes are very sensitive to light,

you should limit the amount of sun exposure he gets in these first few weeks. At this age, he becomes a lot more active, exploring his world and learning to react to mom and siblings in creative ways. Greyhound pups that find their way into an adoption group this young (and occasionally younger) require special care, handling, and experience. They are not for the inexperienced adoption group or owner. If you get one this young, contact an experienced Greyhound breeder for advice – on a daily basis if needed.

By the time a pup is about 3 weeks old, he is beginning to develop a personality and teeth. Milk teeth develop for two reasons: to start urging the dam to wean the pups and to help pups (who have little jaw power at

this time) to tear up meat in the wild. Those teeth are sharp! Weanling pups are like piranhas. At this age, the pup can see better and will start trying to bounce around and play with siblings.

This is an extremely important time in his life. Pups begin to learn bite inhibition from their mom and littermates. Bite too hard and mom may shove you away or bite you back, usually softly. Bite littermates too hard, and they *will* bite back. This period lasts until they are at least 3 months old, sometimes beyond. If you obtain a Greyhound pup during this time, you absolutely must work on bite inhibition.

Some of the methods I’ve used to keep pups from biting too hard are: 1) taking the pup by the muzzle hard enough to make it uncomfortable, shaking it slightly and saying *no bite*; 2) flicking it on the nose with a finger and saying *no bite*; and if necessary, 3) pushing it away with a hand as the dam might do with her nose. None of this is done harshly, but it is done with authority and as a reprimand. (Greyhound bitches certainly discipline their pups.) The pup might whimper and back off for a couple of minutes, but it won’t last long. As soon as he stops whimpering, invite him over again for some cuddling. Teaching bite inhibition is one of the most important things you can do with a young pup besides giving him lots of attention and exercise.

With older pups (3 months and older) who bite, you can yelp as if you were injured, then walk away and ignore the pup. Since he is eager for interaction with you, he will begin to associate his biting with your leaving and may be less eager to bite the next time.

Do not introduce other dogs or puppies until your pup has received several vacci-



nations, usually around the age of 12 to 16 weeks. Puppy shots can be started at 8 weeks of age. You do not want to risk exposing the pups to infectious diseases. If and when you have visitors, especially with pups younger than 8 weeks, they should spray their feet, shoes (including bottoms of shoes), and legs using a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) to guard against any germs that may come into contact with your puppy. When I have a litter of pups, a spray bottle sits at my front door and at my kennel door and everyone, including me, must spray feet, shoes, and legs before entering.

When your pup is about 3 or 4 weeks old, have him spend time outside in a pen or area in your yard where he can begin discovering the world. Fresh air and sunshine will guard against rickets. We once had a litter of pups arrive here with rickets. Because of the summer heat, they had been kept first in a garage and then in crates inside foster homes. Lack of sunshine plus a poor initial diet caused them to develop this condition. I immediately took them to my veterinarian, who said they needed a high-quality dog food and lots of exercise and sunshine. I housed them in my kennel with access to the puppy yard: a 40 x 40 ft pen with toys and obstacles to climb on and over. Their condition improved in just a few weeks. Most pups do not need fancy supplements; they simply need clean water and quality food.

Allow your pup to stay out in the yard and play as much as he wants after he is 10 weeks old. (Remember that a tired puppy is a good puppy and makes for a happy owner.) We enjoy sitting outside and watching the little ones play. When they decide to nap, we return them to their exercise pen in the house or their kennel box. Be sure your pup has sufficient shade if it is hot outside. If it is cold, set up a big ex-pen in the house near a window where he can play in the sunshine.

Be sure that only pup-friendly neighbor dogs or household dogs interact with your puppy. An adult dog can kill or seriously

injure a puppy if he can reach it through a fence. This is not a major danger, but be aware of the risk.

Weaning can start as young as 3 weeks and takes two to three weeks to accomplish if done carefully. Start by giving the pup a slurry of raw hamburger, baby rice cereal (regular rice will also work, but not instant rice), goat's milk, and an oral electrolyte maintenance solution (e.g., Pedialyte®). Add well-soaked kibble to thicken the mixture. A blender can be used to mix the meal. Reduce the baby rice cereal, then the milk and the meat until the pup is eating straight kibble. I've had pretty good luck with this protocol.

As a pup grows and learns, you can begin training him. Housebreaking comes first, of course. Take him out as soon as he awakens, at any time during the day, after he has eaten, and last thing at night. A pup younger than 3 months will have trouble holding it all night, so be prepared to get up and put him out if you hear him stirring. You can also give your pup a crate large enough to allow him to get away from his waste by using special puppy pads in one area of the crate. This will encourage him to be a cleaner dog when he is grown. Housebreaking a pup is a bit different from an adult due to his smaller bladder capacity. Be patient.

Pups can be trained to *sit* or *get down* at a very young age. Use his dinner to train him. Hold the dinner until he gives you the desired position, then praise the position or action. "*Good sit!*" is a fine thing to say until he starts recognizing the position. Then you can begin using the actual command. Do not feed or reward him until he performs the command. With a meal up for grabs, you will be surprised at how quickly he will learn.

Next comes leash breaking. When I have a litter of pups, I start very simply. Using a small collar and a very light leash (show leads with a martingale collar made for toy breeds work nicely for 3 month old pups), I put a leash on two or three of the pups and turn them loose with their littermates. I let



Pups are friendly, curious, and alert at 4 to 5 weeks of age. LAUREL E. DREW

them drag each other around as I supervise closely so no one gets tangled. This approach takes me out of the picture so that when I do pick up the leash and pull it, they come right along. Their siblings have taught them that resistance is useless. I give treats for little walks, even for only ten feet at first, and they soon walk on the leash very nicely. You may still get the occasional puppy rodeo, with bucking and rearing up and carrying on, but they are usually fairly brief.

If you have just one puppy, put the collar and leash on him and let him drag the leash while he plays. He will soon learn that the leash does not hurt. Pick up the leash and follow the pup around. After a few days of that, begin luring him with a treat while you carry the leash very loosely. Give rewards for a few steps and extend the walk incrementally.

Another approach is to put a leash on the pup and let it drag. Leash your older hound and take him for a walk around the yard. The pup will probably follow. After a few times around the yard (with treats, of course), pick up the puppy's leash and lead it along with the older dog. Eventually drop the older dog's leash and let it wander off while you continue walking with the pup. Remember, lots of treats will make this a good experience.

House manners can be taught around this time, too. To teach a puppy to stay out of the kitchen, first use a baby gate or other barrier, and give a treat if he does not try to come



through it. Reduce and then remove the barrier. Give the puppy a treat if he stays out of the designated area. Almost any behavior with a pup can be shaped or taught using treats and a clicker. I do not use a clicker, but I do reward and make approving noises. This is the age at which the pup usually begins to think his name is "Puppy, no!" Training will help alleviate that problem.

Make it as easy on the pup as possible by not making lots of fascinating, yet off-limits, things available to him. Keep toys on hand for distraction, but limit the number and kind of toys available to him at any one time. Switch toys every so often to keep them new and fresh to him and to make them last longer. Do not leave a puppy alone in the house, or even in one room, for any length of time. If you cannot supervise him, put him in his crate or pen. It is not fair to the pup to correct him for things he does not understand or behaviors for which you cannot catch him in the act.

All during this time, from 8 weeks until 4 months of age, you need to follow an established protocol for vaccinations. Most current vaccine protocols recommend a three-shot series, spaced every four weeks, beginning at 8 weeks of age. The standard puppy vaccination is parvovirus, adenovirus 2, parainfluenza and distemper. At 16 weeks of age, your puppy should receive his rabies vaccination. Your schedule may vary a little according to your veterinarian and location.

Puppies eat a lot. By the time a pup reaches 6 months of age, he is probably eating two to three times what an adult eats. All that food is converted to limbs, necks, and body in stages. He may have a rear that is two inches higher than the front until the front catches up. His neck will grow and then his body lengthens. I call the stage from about 5 months to 9 or 10 months "closet stage." Mentally, I put them in a closet and close the door as they go through some pretty dramatic changes. As a breeder, I need to ignore that and concentrate on the lovely puppy that I



Fresh air, sunshine, and play are essential to puppy development. ANN PETERSON

saw at about 4 months of age.

Feed your pup what he will eat and give him plenty of opportunities to turn that into energy, bones, muscles and brains. Yes, the brains will come. Males are generally slower to develop than females, and sometimes you wonder if they will ever learn anything.

They will be very active at this age, so be patient. A puppy needs lots of exercise and time to wear himself out. If you do not provide an outlet, your puppy will wear you out. Even in winter, give him lots of chances to play outdoors. Pups can stand the cold better than you think. Do not force him to be outside, but if he wants to stay out and play for a half hour or so, let him. He will let you know when he wants to come inside. Romping in the snow is excellent exercise – go romp with him.

The most important thing that you can remember about raising a puppy, especially a Greyhound puppy, is that he is constantly learning. You are making a big commitment

to ensure that he learns the right things. If you are unwilling to spend the time with the pup and to make his learning fun, do not get a puppy. If you are unwilling to clean up spots, get up in the middle of the night, walk around with chewed and untied shoestrings, and pick up torn toys, do not get a pup. If you are unwilling to have your house look like a prison camp as you block and lock things away from a pup, especially the half grown ones, do not get a pup. Puppies are a *big job* and a *huge* commitment. At the same time, they are a joy and delight to watch as they grow and learn. If you are willing to make this commitment, there may be a Greyhound puppy out there looking for you. ■

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*Laurel E. Drew's involvement with Greyhounds began with a rescued Greyhound. She has been raising and training Greyhounds for show, obedience, and lure coursing for over 30 years. She has had top winning Greyhounds in all of these activities. She has been active in Greyhound adoption for many years, the last seven as head of A Place for Us Greyhound Rescue, Inc. in New Mexico. Laurel is a CG regular contributor.*



## Being Vandalized



Is Vandal "kissed by the angels," or will he live up to his name?

*Vicki Bowenschulte and her husband Monty adopted a 7-week old Greyhound puppy on November 9, 2002. They adopted the pup from Greyhound Companions of Missouri (GCMO), who received him from Greyhound Support Kansas City.*

*Lisa Tusing, president of GCMO, encouraged Vicki to keep a journal of her experience. "Being Vandalized" is Vicki's record of her first month as a Greyhound puppy owner.*

Monty recently retired and all I can say is that we must have had a memory lapse, for we have adopted a puppy. We have named him Vandal, which should give you a clue as to how the first week has been. We have also called him numerous other names, such

as The Beast and Hannibal. During this first week, we have experienced a whole range of emotions, from jubilation at getting a Greyhound puppy to fear – of getting a Greyhound puppy. We have laughed at his antics and we have been near tears due to sleep deprivation. I know there are other brave souls that have survived the rare adoption of a Greyhound puppy; this is our tale.

### November 9

We drove to Boonville, Mo. today. Ann Peterson of Greyhound Support Kansas City met us with four puppies in tow. What a brave and dedicated lady she is. One pup was for us and the others went to new homes through

Rescued Racers in St. Louis.

We immediately know which pup is ours. He is, as they say, cute as a newborn speckled pup. Vandal is white with brindle patches, raccoon eyes, and a "kissed by the angels" spot on the top of his head. He cuddles into our arms and kisses us. He is the perfect pup. Our trip home is uneventful as Vandal sleeps most of the way. Are we ever impressed. This is going to be a snap.

Once we get home, the first thing at hand is a turnout for our Greyhounds Bailey, Blanco Diablo, and Harris, and an introduction to their new little brother. We bring the crate with its precious cargo into the house and let the big boys back inside. The crate has





Vandal in action.

been in the living room for a week, so they are used to it. But now something seems different: Wow! A brand new squeaky toy! They crowd around to check out the new addition to our family through the bars of the crate door. Unafraid, Vandal is right at the door to check them out, too.

Everyone finally settles down and it is time for all of us to become a bit more familiar with each other. As a safety precaution, we have muzzled the boys so they will not accidentally hurt the new puppy. We carry Vandal outside and set him down in the grass. Vandal pees and poops outside. Our feet just about do a happy dance. This housebreaking thing is going to be a snap. Only 7 and-a-half weeks old and he is already going potty outside. What a great dog he is!

We have baby-gated the living room so Vandal cannot wander out of our sight. Van-

dal is very cautious when first checking out his new digs. We believe we have puppy-proofed as much as possible, but later, we find ourselves running the lamp cord through a plastic PVC pipe to keep it from being chewed. The living room is a wreck, as Vandal has discovered all the puppy toys. They are all over.

Little did we know that the baby-gated living room would become our total living space.

We are tired after a long day. *Tough*—Vandal wants to play. His play consists of jumping, barking, biting, and chewing anything and everything. We introduce the phrase “Vandal, No!” He growls and barks in response. The more Vandal plays, the longer he is out of his kennel, and the crankier he gets. Where is the sweet cuddly puppy we adopted? We eventually realize that like a

child, Vandal tends to misbehave when he is tired. We kennel him when this happens. After 10 to 15 minutes of whining, crying, and howling (he is in fine voice), he falls asleep.

Quiet. We fall asleep in our respective recliners.

We awaken two hours later to whimpers, whines, barks, and howls. Vandal is awake. Monty and I promised we are in this together: If one of us gets up, so does the other. We open the door to the kennel and out pops the pup. With our eyes barely open, we scoop him up to go out. So warm and snuggly. This is the way we like him. So sweet. Out we go with Vandal in our arms, the boys following close behind. Like women going to the powder room at a restaurant, none of our dogs ever go outside alone. We set Vandal down and he immediately pees and poops. *Good Boy*. Back inside we go.

Vandal now wants to play. He is so cute, and we are so tired.

This is to be the pattern of our lives for the next week.

I do believe Vandal thinks his name is Vandal No No. He is everywhere. He is not in the same spot for more than 10 seconds. He is exploring his surroundings and tasting everything in sight from dog toys (good boy) to furniture, carpet, fingers, noses, and anything that will fit into his mouth (Vandal No No). Monty's poor hands look like he tangled with blackberry brambles and lost.

Vandal made a little progress this first week. He no longer tries to chew his collar with ID tags. He is trying to jump into Monty's lap but has not quite made it. Yet.

## November 15

Vandal has his first appointment with our veterinarian. Vandal has gone from 7 pounds at 6 weeks old to 9.9 pounds at 8 and-a-half weeks of age. He handles the indignities of his physical and his shot much better than I do. We need to come back in three weeks for more puppy shots. Vandal sleeps all the way home from Collinsville.





Vandal cuddles with Blanco.

By the end of our first week as new puppy parents, we are totally exhausted. You cannot just kennel a puppy and leave. Their little bodies have not developed enough to hold it, so when they have to go, they go. There is a lot of clean up time with puppies. I have become quite expert at shredding paper for Vandal's kennel, although he has only had two accidents in it.

### November 17

We sit outside and watch Vandal discovering the fallen leaves, sticks, grass, the soon-to-be-gone mums. This is fun. Investigating all these new things really tires Vandal. He is starting to chase and run with the big boys. We keep a very close watch so he does not get trampled. He met the neighbor's Golden Retriever, Max. Although afraid of Max at first, Vandal quickly learns to run the fence with him. Back and forth, back and forth, enough to make a person dizzy. It is great fun. We are very happy as it tires Vandal out very fast. We then go inside and "kennel up" so everyone can have a nap.

Vandal jumped into Monty's lap today. I hope this isn't the start of something.

### November 18

Things are a bit better this morning. We only had to get up three times through the night. I can even smile. I suppose we could sleep through it, but it is easier to get up and let the boys out than to clean up a messy pup and kennel.

Vandal is becoming braver by the day. Today Monty was sitting in his recliner eating a bowl of macaroni and cheese when Vandal jumped into his lap and began dining with him. Now we are back to eating at the kitchen table.

Do we ever have a smart little boy. I held up a kibble and said, "Vandal, sit." Guess what? He did. I tried it four more times and he sat each time. We are giddy. He is even fairly nice today. That's our boy!

### November 19

We have had Vandal 11 days now and we are all still alive.

Actually, we are doing pretty well. He is now starting to recognize his name and come when we call him, and he sits when I ask him. We will start teaching him the "down" command next. We still get up two to three

times a night, and he continues to cry for about 10 minutes after he is kenneled.

We have discontinued the midnight, 2:00 a.m., and 4:00 a.m. play times.

Monty and I actually left the house today and went to lunch. It was so nice to get away from the kids. Neither of us has ever eaten so slowly.

When we returned, I let Vandal out of his kennel and snapped the leash on him. He actually walked to the back door without me having to tug him along. I do believe there is some hope for him, although he is still biting us, and those little razor-sharp teeth really hurt.

Vandal is like a crawling baby, into everything. How I would love to hold and cuddle him while he is still small. He does not want any part of it unless he is frightened or just woke up.

We are like proud new parents with sappy smiles, watching every little movement of their new child. Silly, I know, but he is our baby.

### November 20

Vandal only got us up twice through the night.

He is growing so fast. He used to crawl under the furniture to go after toys that had rolled underneath. Now he gets stuck and squeals for help to get out. Thank goodness we have a very large supply of stuffed toys, squeakies, and chew bones. When Vandal kills the stuffies, we save the fiberfill. Soon we will have enough for a new dog bed.

I have tried to take photos of Vandal, as he won't be little for long. I picked him up and put him into the small trash can I use to hold the shredded newspaper we use as bedding for his kennel. He burrowed into the strips of paper, turning somersaults. I'll have to try and get a picture, as he is almost too big to fit into the can now.

We see changes just about every day. If we point a finger at Vandal and tell him *no*, he does not like it. He barks and jumps at us.



Vandal now knows where his meals come from. Every time I am at the kitchen counter, he assumes I am preparing something for him. He jumps up and knocks me in the back of my knees, barks, and demands that I fix it faster. This is tough if it is not time for his main meals. Vandal is quite the eater, so we do leave dry kibble in his dish at all times.

### November 23

Our third week with Vandal begins. He is steadily gaining weight and is now 13 pounds.

The worst part of having a Greyhound puppy is the energy level. It is constantly increasing, and so is his biting. The more we correct him, the more he tries to bite us. I realize all puppies go through this, but it still hurts.

The boys try to distance themselves from Vandal's jumping, nipping, and barking. I admire their control and tolerance.

Adopting a Greyhound puppy is nothing like adopting a retired racing Greyhound. We have adopted five retired males that ranged in age from 18 months to 2 and-a-half years. We had some problems with our youngest, who had been in two homes before ours, but our others were easy to incorporate into our home.

Vandal is a totally different story.

### November 26

Today Vandal is 10 weeks old. We believe he has changed a very teeny tiny bit. Yesterday he laid down on one of the big boys' beds and took a two-hour nap. We were afraid to do the same since he was loose, so we just sat and enjoyed the quiet. This was his first nap outside of the crate.

Like all puppies, Vandal sleeps, potties, eats, potties, plays hard, and potties. We have had some accidents, most of which have been in the kitchen on the way to the back door. At least he is headed in the right direction.

Last night we got four hours of sleep – four *consecutive* hours.

Today has been pretty good so far. Vandal has had a lot of playtime. Monty stayed

with him while I went downstairs to do some laundry. Monty has been terrific through all of this. We figured this would be our last puppy, and since Monty is now retired, we would do this together. Adopting a Greyhound puppy is definitely not a one-person job. Vandal has no *off* button, and we can't just leave him in the crate until he grows up.

As I write this, Vandal and I are barricaded in my office. (Monty and the boys need a break.) Vandal seems to like it, as there is a huge container of toys here. I have to stop and laugh as he has climbed into the box and is "dumpster diving" to find just the right toy to occupy him until he is running loose again.

This is the first day we feel we might just survive having a puppy. I won't hold my breath, for Vandal's temperament can change as quickly as the wind.

Vandal woke up only one time through the night. Let's hope this continues.

(It doesn't.)

### November 28

Today we left Vandal kenneled for three hours while we had Thanksgiving dinner with family. We completely enjoyed getting away from the barking, whining, and biting.

Vandal is trying our collective patience tonight. All that energy is rearing its ugly head. Even calm, quiet Bailey has snapped at Vandal. No damage done, thank goodness; just a warning.

The pendulum swings from the sweetest pup to the emergence of his evil twin. Vandal has a Jekyll and Hyde personality. How I wish the sweet pup would stay. Hopefully the evil one will soon disappear.

### November 29

Today has been one of Vandal's better days.

He woke us up at 2:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. I left him loose to play after getting up at 6:30, and he ate and played.

We resumed resting in the recliners. We

have spent so much time in them they seem to be molding themselves to our body shape.

Vandal finally lay down at my feet. Monty asked if I was going to leave him out or kennel him. He looked so sweet sleeping there that I decided to leave him loose. Monty gave me that *are you sure?* look, and I said yes. We both laid back with our feet propped up and began to relax.

Every few minutes, I had to check on him. Sure enough, Vandal slept like a baby, all cuddled up with Blanco and Harris.

He woke us at 8:30 with a bark and a whine. I could not believe it. He had been a good boy, and now he was asking to go out. We made a successful trip outside.

Monty and I had to go out for a few hours, so we let him out again when we got back. He is such a good boy today. Later, while I was sitting in the kitchen, he actually gave a little whine and nudged my leg. Monty asked if I thought he might want out. I let Vandal out, and he did his business. It was the first time he had asked to go outside.

Only 10 and-a-half weeks old. Today, he is the smartest puppy there is.

### December 3

Vandal is 11 weeks old today. He is growing so fast. His nose is starting to lengthen, and he looks more like a Greyhound. I can hardly pick him up any more as he is getting so heavy. We will see how much he weighs when we go to the clinic Friday for another puppy shot.

Vandal will not be neutered until he is about 6 months old. I was hoping for sooner.

Vandal's days haven't changed too much. He is staying out of the kennel more. He plays hard, then plops down, and drops off to sleep. He will curl up as close as he can to one of his brothers. Luckily, they like to cuddle.

Vandal's evil twin visits a couple of times a day. We could do without the visit. The biting is a bit harder, and poor Monty has the bite marks to prove it. We are constantly correcting him.



Vandal is doing well with his house training. He has even given a little bark or whine at the back door. We have to be attentive or we might miss it.

Vandal's new game now is to go out and potty (lots of praise), then stay out and play when it is time to come inside. He teases us. He will come very close to the door, then turn and run or race past. He is too fast for these old feet to chase. If Monty is the one trying to round him up, I start to laugh. The same occurs with Monty if I am the one trying to catch the little beast. The game gets old fast. Vandal catches on to all of the little tricks we think of to get him to do things we want him to do, like come into the house. Last night I just hooked him to the leash. After about 10 minutes of not wanting to be on lead, he finally peed. A major milestone.

We are either adjusting to the nightly routine or we are getting more sleep than we think. Vandal still goes out a couple of times through the night, but I do think the routine is a little easier.

#### December 4

Today Vandal seems like a different dog, although I know not to expect too much too soon based on the surprise package he left for us in the hall. At least he was on the way to the door.

Monty weighed Vandal this morning: 16.4 pounds. He has more than doubled his weight in almost four weeks. He is growing so much taller. He can reach the top of his crate, where I stack his toys. He also tries to put his front paws on the kitchen counter when I fix his meals. We immediately correct him when he does this, as we do not want him to counter-surf when he gets bigger.

We let him out a couple of times through the night, at 3:00 a.m. and at 6:30 a.m. It does not seem so bad now. Maybe he is teaching us *his* schedule.

Today brought the first snow of the season. We could not wait to see his reaction to the white powdery stuff that was falling



Vandal and Blanco putter on the patio.

like large cotton balls. Out he went. He was pretty sleepy and the snow did not seem to register with him at all. We were disappointed when he came right back inside. How many times did we want him to do just that, instead of having to herd him back into the house? The second time, a bit more snow had accumulated, and we were poised with a camera to capture the moment. He did not disappoint us this time. He went outside and stopped to survey his new surroundings. Like a bunny, he hopped around the patio, sticking his nose into the snow and flipping it up into the air as if to send it back whence it came. We laughed and smiled so much at his antics that we almost forgot to take pictures. The big boys came indoors and Vandal stayed out longer to take in this new experience. What is this stuff? It wasn't much of a toy, as it didn't squeak. It wasn't good to eat, as it disappeared right away. Back and forth across the yard he ran. He was having too much fun to come in now.

Finally Vandal came inside, right up to Blanco who was all curled up in his afghan. Vandal didn't make any bones about where he wanted to be; he proceeded to curl up next to Blanco's tummy and cuddle into his big brother's warmth. There he fell asleep – nice and cozy.

For the first time, we let Vandal have free run of the house today.

He has actually been very good. He tried to cuddle with a quilt in our bedroom that the boys use, but decided that Blanco made a better blanket. I agree, as I like to curl up with Blanco too.

For better or worse, a Greyhound puppy really will disrupt your life. We look forward to watching Vandal grow from a mischievous, gangly pup to the elegant Greyhound that I know he will be. Then, like most parents, we will only remember the good stuff and none of the bad. ■

*Vicki Bowenschulte and her husband Monty live with Vandal, Bailey, Blanco, Diablo, and Harris in Florissant, Mo.*



## Corns and Warts

Definitions, Causes, and Treatments



Corn on digital pad of a Greyhound. STEVEN F. SWAIM, DVM, MS

Corns and warts are keratotic growths that occur most often on a dog's paw pads. Usually, they are painful and cause responses ranging from mild lameness to chronic debilitation. Corns and warts are symptoms of an underlying medical problem. Most treatments for corns and warts are only moderately successful. Since the treatment usually focuses on the corn or wart itself, it fails to resolve the underlying medical cause. Though corns and warts are often mistaken for one another, they are two distinct medical conditions.

While corns develop in all dog breeds, some dogs with corns may not show symptoms. The Greyhound seems to be the breed that is most susceptible and most sensitive to corns. Corns have a hard, cone-shaped core that causes pain and lameness. For veterinarians who do not have extensive experience with Greyhounds or corns, this lameness is often misdiagnosed as other common prob-

lems including arthritis, degenerative joint disease, or nerve impingement.

There are several theories on the causes of corns, the most common being the pressure/friction theory. In this theory, veterinarians speculate that Greyhounds develop corns because they lack a thick fatty layer in their pads used to absorb shock and protect the pad skin. When a Greyhound walks or runs (especially on a hard surface such as pavement) the toe bones rub against the pad skin. Because Greyhounds lack the fatty layer to cushion the toe bone, this constant and concussive force (pressure and friction), causes a hardened area, or corn, to develop. The corn is a normal body response to pressure and friction on the skin, much like the formation of a callus or corn on human feet.

Similarly, a corn can develop if a toe bone is misaligned or has an irregular edge (spur), which can cause pressure on the pad

skin. Misalignment causes corns to develop between the toes, usually from one knuckle joint pressing against the knuckle joint of the adjacent toe. These corns are softer in consistency, but can be just as painful.

Finally, a corn can develop as a result of environmental trauma to the paw pad. The trauma, most often associated with a cut, puncture, or a small foreign body lodged in the pad, causes a lesion in the pad skin, which becomes fibrous and scarred. Thus, a thick and hardened area (corn) develops from an accumulation of scar tissue at the site of the lesion.

By comparison, a wart is a benign tumor of the skin or mucous membrane. Warts are thought to be viral in origin, though there are still questions regarding their etiology (origin or cause). The virus responsible for warts in humans is a papillomavirus (HPV), a double-stranded DNA virus belonging to the papovaviridae family. The virus resides in the bottom layer of the skin and replicates into almost normal-looking skin. Warts do not have roots. They grow in bunched, cylindrical columns on the top layer of skin, giving the surface a raised, mosaic-looking pattern. Sometimes, black dots can be seen inside the wart. These are blood vessels that have grown into the wart and have clotted off. When this happens, they are referred to as "seed warts" because the broken blood vessels resemble small, black seeds.

In humans, warts occur most often on the hands and are not painful. In dogs, warts usually occur on or between the paw pads. If they occur on the front paw, they are called palmar warts because the portion of the front paw that touches the ground is referred to as the "palmar" side of the paw. If they appear on the hind paw, they are called plantar warts

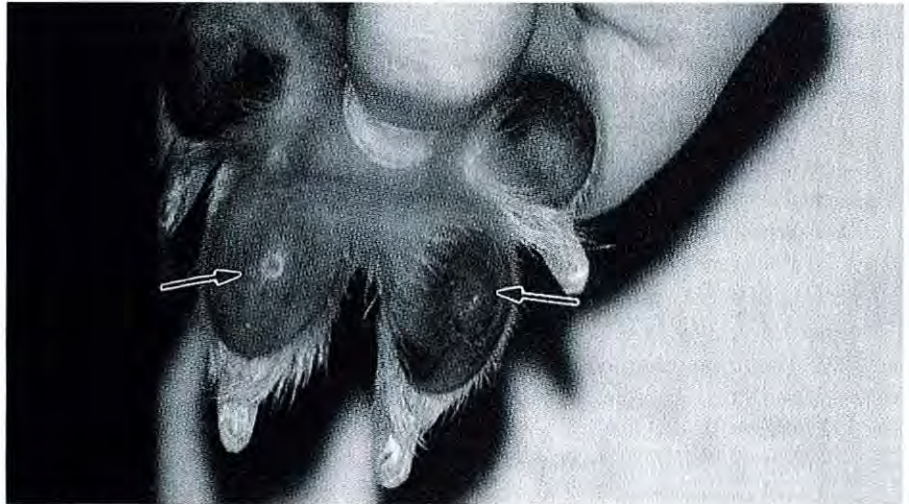


because the portion of the back paw that touches the ground is referred to as the “plantar” side of the paw. These warts are also thought to be caused by the papillomavirus, and are collectively referred to as cutaneous papillomas. Some speculate that a papillomavirus is acquired through a break in the skin while the dog is on the racetrack. Though viral in origin, warts are not thought to be contagious from one dog to another or from canine to human. As with corns, warts can be very painful and cause a discreet thickening of the skin, which explains why these two disorders are often mistaken.

Because they are viral in origin, warts can appear and disappear spontaneously. In humans, the susceptibility to warts and the time it takes for the condition to resolve itself is related to the individual’s immune system. People who have autoimmune-related diseases such as AIDS or are on chemotherapy for cancer tend to have more warts that last longer. The same susceptibility can be hypothesized for dogs with immune-related disorders or conditions (e.g., pemphigus, cancer, tick-borne diseases).

The first step in treating corns and warts is obtaining a proper evaluation. See your veterinarian, ask questions, and discuss treatment options. Corns and warts are often neglected until the pain is unbearable. It is important to keep in mind that painful paw pad problems can become more severe with age and/or neglect.

There are a number of treatments for corns and warts ranging from homeopathic remedies to surgical interventions because treatment effectiveness varies and is dependent on other factors such as the dog’s age, the number of paws that are affected, and any secondary diagnoses, such as immune-related conditions or arthritis. Some owners claim that their Greyhounds’ corns or warts disappear after a single topical application of tea tree oil or a salicylic acid-based product. Some owners have dogs that do not respond well to any treatment.



Corns on the third and fourth toe pads of a Greyhound. AMERICAN GREYHOUND COUNCIL

Though it is beyond the scope of this article to go into the detail of all available treatments for corns and warts, the following section provides a brief overview of some more commonly used treatments. These include the use of supplements to stimulate the immune system, topical removers, various surgical techniques including toe amputation, and a few novel approaches (see accompanying table for brief review of treatments).

Stimulating the immune system with supplements has been known to help the body eliminate foreign pathogens such as viruses and bacteria. Some veterinarians suggest using dimethylglycine (DMG), available in most health food stores. DMG is an amino acid that helps to build and repair tissue, and increase immune responses by assisting with the formation of antibodies to fight invading bacteria or viruses.

Additionally, injectable medicines such as interferons (antiviral agents that inhibit the replication of a wide variety of both RNA- and DNA-containing viruses) and bleomycin (any one of a group of anti-tumor medicines) have been used with moderate success to fight the virus that causes warts. There are many other similar products that can be used to stimulate the immune system and to fight the virus, though this can also be achieved

through a well-balanced, wholesome diet that includes vitamins A (beta-carotene), C, and E.

Treatment with topical solutions has shown moderate success. Most often, a salicylic acid-based formula such as KeraSolv® is used. Dr. Scholl’s Corn and Wart Remover® or Freezone® provide the highest concentrations of salicylic acid. Other topical agents include castor oil, tea tree oil (poisonous to dogs), or ichthammol ointment. Some Greyhound owners have reported positive results using these remedies, but to date, the evidence is limited and anecdotal. There are numerous ways to treat the affected area using salicylic acid. Some individuals claim faster results if the corn or wart is covered with adhesive tape after acid application. Soaking the paw in warm water beforehand will also aid in the absorption of the medicine. Salicylic acid works by killing a layer of corn or wart. Once or twice a week, the dead material is removed using a file, pumice stone, small drilling tool, or razorblade. The dead skin will be softer and easier to remove if the paw is first soaked in warm water for about ten minutes.

Salicylic acid is a very common over-the-counter treatment, but it requires consistent, daily application. If using salicylic acid-



containing products, avoid getting the acid near the eyes or mouth. This becomes a problem for a dog that has a tendency to lick the affected site. In addition, the use of these chemical agents is not recommended for dogs with diabetes or circulatory problems.

Cryotherapy (the use of topical liquid nitrogen) is used with varied success for warts. The liquid nitrogen freezes, then kills the wart. The formed blister then sloughs off within a few days. This treatment method may need to be repeated if the wart returns. In treating corns, cryotherapy works much like salicylic acid, in that it targets only the top layer of a corn and does not penetrate to its deeper core.

Although these procedures are non-invasive, it is important to note that some veterinarians advise against using these methods to treat corns and warts. The products can damage the skin further by causing increased irritation, discomfort, and possibly infection. Additionally, these products only treat the symptoms, and not the underlying cause (pressure/friction, foreign body, or virus). For this reason, corns and warts often reappear.

Surgical techniques are invasive and often reserved for recurrent corns and warts. One technique for removing corns and warts is laser surgery. Laser surgery uses an intense beam of light to cut away or vaporize the growth. In warts, the blood vessels supplying the wart are sealed, thus killing the wart. Laser surgery appears more successful in treating warts than corns because corns have a deep center that is not easily accessible using a laser.

For large, stubborn, recurring corns, amputation is an option. If a corn is located on or near the end or tip of the paw pad, amputation of the tip of the toe, including the nail, has often proved successful. With this procedure, the majority of the pad is left intact and the dog is still able to use the toe to walk and balance. One of my Greyhounds underwent this procedure. More than two years after his surgery, there is no sign of



Ilaria with her Greyhounds. Eleven-year-old Tybalt (far right) has corns on two paws and wears Thera-Paw™ gloves.

lameness and he continues to be pain-free.

If the corn is located in the center of the paw pad, it presents a more difficult problem. Surgery to excise a corn is only partially successful and 50 percent of corns and warts return within one to 12 months after surgery. If a corn reappears, it is most likely due to the inability of surgical methods to correct an underlying mechanical problem associated with misalignment or the pressure/friction theory. Also, paw pads often take a long time to heal since the dog requires the paw to walk, which can cause irritation or re-injury to the site.

Complete amputation of the toe is a moderately effective solution and one commonly used in racing Greyhounds. Amputation may be more appropriate for a dog with a hind paw pad problem since the front legs carry the majority of the Greyhound's weight.

Keep in mind that amputation is permanent and may not always be the best solution. Indeed, some dogs have had devastating secondary effects from amputation in that corns developed on the remaining toes. This result lends credence to the pres-

sure/friction theory of corn development. If this occurs, there is less area over which to distribute the dog's weight and managing the problem becomes much more difficult. Furthermore, surgical techniques involve complete sedation of the animal. This is always risky in sighthounds, such as Greyhounds. For those who are considering surgical management for either corns or warts, please proceed with caution.

At 9 years old, one of my Greyhounds had a hind toe amputated. He is nearly two years past his surgery and has partial weight-bearing ability (about 75 percent) on that paw. This is a dramatic improvement since he was very reluctant to use that paw before his surgery. To date, there is no evidence of corn growth in the remaining toes of that paw.

To my knowledge, there are no data available on the likelihood of corn growth on the remaining toes following amputation, or whether toe amputation of the back toes has a better long-term success rate than amputation of the front toes.

Recently, several studies were published in the *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent*



*Medicine* concerning common warts in children. According to this body of research, duct tape was a more effective treatment method in removing warts than was either cryotherapy or salicylic acid. The studies documented that duct tape, placed over the affected area, acted to deplete oxygen to the wart and kill the growth. The adhesive in the tape then helped to remove the deadened area. Interestingly, not only did the tape-covered warts disappear, but many of the uncovered warts disappeared as well. The researchers speculated that warts deprived of air and sun exposure died without the need for treatment with liquid nitrogen or acid. Furthermore, they believed that the adhesive material itself may have acted to stimulate the body's own overall immune response and increased circulation to the affected areas, thus fighting off all warts.

In my discussions with a number of veterinary surgeons regarding these findings, several of them concluded that the effects of duct tape could be beneficial in treating dogs with warts. Some went further to generalize that duct tape might also be effective in diminishing corns. Beyond those theories listed in the human studies, some veterinarians feel that the occlusive (i.e., serving to close; denoting a bandage or dressing that closes a wound and excludes it from the air) effects of the duct tape retain the moisture of the paw pad and help to soften the corn.

For those interested in using this approach, the veterinarians recommended the following procedures: 1) apply a small piece of duct tape directly onto the corn or wart, 2) make sure that the tape does not cover healthy pad skin, 3) peel the tape off at night and reapply another piece immediately, and 4) continue this procedure for 30 days, and as needed thereafter.

Some veterinarians caution that the human research findings comparing liquid nitrogen, salicylic acid, and duct tape may not be a result of duct tape's effectiveness as much as evidence of the ineffectiveness of the

other therapies. Furthermore, if applied incorrectly, the duct tape may cause damage to the surrounding healthy pad.

Following the duct tape procedure, the results on my dogs with corns (not warts) were as follows: 1) increased lameness on the affected paw for one to two days after introducing the duct tape, 2) significant reduction of the size of the corns with 4 to 6 weeks of daily application, 3) significant decrease in overall lameness and a return to regular physical activities, and 4) re-emergence of corns (though smaller in size) if left uncovered by tape for more than ten days.

Through personal experience, I have found that duct tape was more effective than any other topical agent in reducing corn size and lameness in my dogs. No adverse effects were noted except increased pain and lameness one-to-two days after initial application. This treatment appears most effective if used on a continuous/as needed basis since the corns reappeared shortly after treatment was discontinued.

For those interested in trying the duct tape therapy, here are some helpful hints: 1) Buy good quality duct tape. Some tapes have stronger adhesive material than others. Good quality tape can adhere for days, even when wet; 2) Use a hole punch to cut the tape. A hole punch seems to be the appropriate size to cover most corns or warts; 3) Use tweezers to handle the small piece of tape since the adhesive comes off on your fingers; and 4) You can leave the duct tape on for several days at a time though check it daily to make sure that it has not shifted position on the paw pad. Please keep in mind that, in most cases for corns, duct tape will not present a "cure" since it does not address the underlying problem in those dogs where the pressure/friction theory applies.

Recently, novel approaches for treating corns are being investigated at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Although corns are not related to diabetes, modifications of techniques that are used in

human diabetics to prevent troublesome calluses and foot ulcers are being studied for adaptation to Greyhounds for the prevention of corns. The techniques utilize silicone pad implants and surgical procedures. These procedures seem reasonable since silicone pads are often used by podiatrists to treat human patients affected with corns.

Regardless of condition (corn or wart), it is clear that the Greyhound would benefit from a joint support supplement. An animal with paw pain compensates by shifting his weight to the non-injured paws. In time, this lameness leads to secondary problems, such as degenerative joint disease, arthritis, or other orthopedic and neurological changes. Review several therapies and choose the one that best matches your needs.

Finally, padding the paws or limiting walks to softer, grass-covered areas reduces pain and lameness, and can minimize the recurrence of corns. Indeed, for humans with corns, protective padding over the affected surface is the most common form of treatment. With this in mind and with the help of orthopedic veterinary surgeons, I developed Thera-Paw™. Thera-Paw™ is a glove with a padded, protective base that helps to comfort and cushion the paw. Thera-Paw™ provides the relief that my dogs need to reduce their pain and lameness, and to allow them to engage more fully in daily, physical activities. ■

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*Ilaria Borghese is an occupational therapist, living in N. J. with her husband, her horse, and five retired Greyhounds. She adopted her Greyhound, Tybalt, in 1998. Now 11 years old, Tybalt experienced debilitating corns on two paws. He inspired Ilaria to create a padded and protective glove for dogs with injured and painful paws. Being familiar with the medical field, Ilaria enlisted the help of orthopedic veterinary surgeons to assist her with designing the Thera-Paw® glove. She went further to uncover some of the reasons why corns occur and what can be done to minimize them. Her search has led her to her newfound passion of canine health and rehabilitation. Each year, she attends numerous veterinary and rehabilitation conferences, and consults with veterinarians and individuals on a variety of canine health-related issues. In talking with a variety of health professionals, Ilaria hopes to finally find a cure for corns.*



# Treatment Options for Corns and Warts

Treatments	Definition	Application	Performed By	Positives	Negatives
<b>DMG, vitamin A, vitamin C</b>	Supplements that aid in stimulating the immune system	Mainly used for warts that are viral in origin	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May target underlying medical condition</li> <li>• Oral administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires long-term therapy</li> <li>• Results are subjective</li> </ul>
<b>Interferons</b>	Antiviral agents	Mainly used for warts that are viral in origin	Veterinarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target underlying medical condition if viral in origin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not as successful as was initially hoped</li> <li>• Requires needle administration</li> <li>• May need to be repeated</li> </ul>
<b>Salicylic acid-containing products</b>	Topical acid that kills cells on contact	Used on both corns and warts	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can aid in managing the size of the growths</li> <li>• Can be used in conjunction with other therapies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not target underlying medical condition</li> <li>• Dogs may lick the agent</li> <li>• May damage surrounding pad skin</li> <li>• May need repeated application</li> <li>• Dangerous for dogs with diabetes or circulatory problems</li> <li>• Some chemicals are poisonous to dogs</li> </ul>
<b>Manual filing</b>	Done with file, pumice stone, or drilling tool	Used on both corns and warts	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aids in managing the size of the growths</li> <li>• Can be used in conjunction with other therapies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May damage surrounding pad skin</li> <li>• Needs to be repeated</li> </ul>
<b>Cryotherapy</b>	Use of liquid nitrogen to freeze, then kill the growth	Used on both corns and warts	Veterinarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can provide extended relief (from one to six months or more)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not target underlying medical condition</li> <li>• May damage surrounding pad skin</li> <li>• May need repeated application</li> </ul>
<b>Tea tree oil, ichthammol ointment, castor oil</b>	Homeopathic and other natural topical agents	Used on both corns and warts	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May help to soften the hardened skin to aid in the removal of the growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires long-term therapy</li> <li>• Results are subjective</li> <li>• Dogs may lick the agents (tea tree oil is poisonous)</li> </ul>
<b>Laser surgery</b>	Uses a beam of light to cut away the growth	Used on both corns and warts	Veterinarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can provide extended relief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not target underlying medical condition</li> <li>• Requires anesthesia</li> </ul>
<b>Surgical excision</b>	Uses surgical tools to cut out the growth	Mainly used for corns	Veterinarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can provide extended relief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not target underlying medical condition</li> <li>• Variable long-term outcome</li> <li>• Slow healing process</li> <li>• Requires anesthesia</li> </ul>
<b>Partial amputation</b>	Uses surgical tools to remove the tip of the toe (including the nail)	Mainly used for corns on tip of pad	Veterinarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can provide extended relief</li> <li>• Can target and remove the underlying medical condition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow healing process</li> <li>• Requires anesthesia</li> <li>• Used only for dogs with corns on the tip of the pad</li> </ul>
<b>Complete amputation</b>	Uses surgical tools to remove the whole digit	Mainly used for stubborn corns	Veterinarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can provide extended relief</li> <li>• Can target and remove the underlying medical condition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow healing process</li> <li>• Requires anesthesia</li> <li>• Variable long-term outcome</li> <li>• May cause corns on other toes</li> </ul>
<b>Duct tape therapy</b>	Uses topical application of duct tape to kill and extract the growth	Used on both corns and warts	Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human studies show significant positive results for treating warts</li> <li>• Can provide extended relief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not target underlying medical condition</li> <li>• Requires constant application</li> </ul>



## Thera-Paw™ to the Rescue

About a year ago, we noticed that Tucker, our 1 year-old Greyhound, was limping and not enjoying his walks as much as before. It took many visits to the veterinarian before Tucker was diagnosed with corns on both front feet. Our veterinarian shaved down the corns and told us to soak Tucker's feet and put boots on his paws when we took him for a walk. Every time we took Tucker for his walk, he wore his winter-style boots (without padding). Needless to say, Tucker continued to limp and did not want to walk far.

Recently, a friend recommended that we visit the Thera-Paw™ website ([www.therapaw.net](http://www.therapaw.net)). Thera-Paw™ is a glove with a padded protective base that helps to comfort and cushion the paw. The Thera-Paw™ glove is used for a wide variety of paw and paw pad injuries, including corns. After numerous e-mails to Thera-Paw™, I decided to buy a pair for Tucker. We missed having him with us on our walks. Thera-Paw™ customer service was fantastic and very helpful. I was not sure of the size to order, so I sent a picture of Tucker's paws. They advised me to purchase the medium size and these fit Tucker perfectly. Well, if Tucker could talk, he would say "Thank you, Thera-Paw™, for giving me my life back!"

The Thera-Paw™ gloves are simple to put on and they conform to Tucker's paws as he walks. He has been wearing them on every walk over the last month and has never limped. He is able to go for long walks with Toby, Tony, and me, which he has not been able to do for almost a year. I highly recommend the use of these gloves and I think they were the best investment we have ever made. We get a lot of comments on Tucker and his gloves. Those who have seen us walking with him, before and after he had his Thera-Paw™, have noticed the great difference in his gait.



Greyhound wearing Thera-Paw™ gloves. ILARIA BORGHESE

While walking, people often tell us about a pet at home with a problem similar to Tucker's. I immediately tell them about his gloves. I hope that by telling Tucker's story, I can help someone who has noticed their Greyhound limping. The Thera-Paw™ website also contains photographs of paw and

paw pad conditions, such as corns. Educating yourself on what to look for might save your Greyhound a lot of pain if you catch the problem early. ■

*Marie Varga lives in Hamilton, Ont. She adopted her Greyhound, Tucker, six years ago. Marie is an active member of Greyhound Lovers Of Hamilton Wentworth (GLOHW).*



# you're invited

Saturday and Sunday, September 6 & 7

## **Tenth Annual Canine Fun Days and Greyhound Reunion**

Greyhound Adoption of Ohio  
Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field  
Route 87 & Chagrin River Road  
Moreland Hills, Ohio

Lure coursing, fun agility, fun dog show, demos, vendors, blessing of the animals, entertainment, giveaways, all-breed rescue row, great food.  
Contact: Linda Perko, 800-269-1148 or RJRJLP@aol.com;  
www.greyhoundadoptionofoh.org

Friday, September 12 through Sunday, September 14

## **2003 National Greyhound Adoption Conference**

Sponsored by Greyhound Pets of America  
Best Western Rime Garden Inn and Suites  
Birmingham, Ala.

The conference is open to volunteers from all adoption groups and we urge greyhound lovers from all walks of life to attend. The meeting will be hosted by GPA/Northern Alabama.  
Contact: Alane Shultz, VP@greyhoundpets.org;  
www.greyhoundpets.org

Saturday, September 13

## **Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption Reunion**

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption  
Rock Island Conservation Club  
Big Island Road  
Milan, Ill.

Reunion of dogs and the people that have adopted through QCGA. All greyhounds and their people are welcome! Fun games, great food, and great vendors.  
Contact: Janet Stoefen, 309-793-4578 or janet@qcgreyhoundadoption.org;  
www.qcgreyhoundadoption.org

Sunday, September 14

## **GPA-NoVA Fourth Annual Picnic in the Park**

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
GPA/Northern Virginia  
Still Pond Community Center  
12700 Franklin Farm Road  
Oak Hill, Va.

Silent auction, raffles, famous GPA-NoVA Greyhound Store, food, games, costume contest, reiki master, animal communicator, professional photographer for portraits, and more.  
Contact: Pam Follett, (703) 538-4926 or PSFol@aol.com;  
Micky Foreman, (703) 830-8216 or MyGreyhounds@usadatanet.net

Saturday, September 20

(rain date Sunday, September 21)

## **Greyhound Rescue Reunion and Fundraiser Walk-A-Thon**

12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.  
Greyhound Rescue of New England  
River Bend Farm State Park  
Uxbridge, Mass.

A fun day of raffles, doggie contests, a silent auction, and the chance to hang out with other Greyhounds and their owners. Call for a sponsor sheet if you'd like to participate in the walk; you'll enjoy even more of the beautiful scenery at this state park, and help the hounds.

Contact: Michelle Tewksbury, 508-478-1617 or greyhounds@qnci.net

Saturday, September 20

## **WAG's 11th Annual Games & Gathering**

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.  
Wharton Brook State Park  
Wallingford, Conn.

Fun, games, learning experiences, vendors, great food.  
Contact: Ellie Goldstein, 877-595-8991 (toll-free) or 288-7024 (local); Audice@aol.com

Thursday, September 25 through Sunday, September 28

## **BeachBound Hounds 2003**

Greyhound Crossroads  
Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Fourth annual weekend of activities for Greyhounds and their families. Pet blessing and memorial, Greyhound marketplace, beach contests, crafts, and beach walks. All owners, groups, and vendors are welcome.  
Contact: Kim Owens, (864) 995-3112 or beachboundhounds@hotmail.com;  
www.greyhoundcrossroads.com

Friday, September 26

## **First Annual Greyhound Golf Tournament**

7:00 a.m. until finished  
Pups Without Partners Greyhound Adoption  
Whitney Farms Golf Course  
Monroe, Conn.  
Fundraiser for adoption group.  
Contact: Penny Zwart, (888)-go-dog-go, ext. 342 or crys1982@aol.com

Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28

## **Prairie Beach: A Gathering of Champions**

Heartland Greyhound Adoption  
Altoona, Iowa  
Join us for our second annual celebration of greyhounds. Greyhound adoption supporters from ten states and a Canadian province attended our inaugural year; now you can get in on the trend! We'll have an opening parade of athletes, informative speakers, an auction of Greyhound-related merchandise, and a unique opportunity for you to create artwork with your Greyhounds.  
Contact: Mary Neubauer, 515-226-0958, maryandrhett@msn.com;  
Eugenio Coco, 515-334-5419, endcoco1@mchsi.com;  
Jorene King, 515-967-6564, joreneross@aol.com;  
www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org

Sunday, September 21

## **Greyhound Planet Day**

The purpose of this international event is to raise the public's awareness of the wonder and magic of Greyhounds as pets, educate others on the current status of Greyhounds around the world, and to honor those Greyhounds who have left us already. For more information and a complete listing of events associated with Greyhound Planet Day, please visit [www.ameurogreyhoundalliance.org/ghplanet.htm](http://www.ameurogreyhoundalliance.org/ghplanet.htm)



Saturday, September 27

**Fifth Annual Reunion**

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Lake Erie Greyhound Rescue, Inc.  
Lagrange Lions Park  
240 Glendale  
Lagrange, Ohio

Silent auction, Chinese auction, door prizes, contests, vendors, and food.

Contact: Sally Hennessey, 440-466-1347 or  
greyhound@ncweb.com

Sunday, September 28

**Fourteenth Annual Greyhound Homecoming and Picnic**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Make Peace with Animals

Valley Road Picnic Site  
Hopewell Township, N. J.  
(2 miles south of Lambertville off Rte. 29)

Greyhound gathering open to all and their dogs.  
Silent auction, vegetarian buffet, vendors, nail trimming, tick testing.

Contact: Jo Ann Fotheringham, Jofother@aol.com;  
www.makepeacewithanimals.org

Saturday and Sunday, September 28 & 29

**Fall Open House**

Noon to 5:00 p.m.  
Greyhound Friends, Inc.  
Greyhound Friends Kennel  
Hopkinton, Mass.

Come join a fall afternoon of Greyhounds! Raffle, silent auction, the not-quite-Westminster Dog Show, Greyhound items for humans and hounds, lots to eat and other activities. Bring your Greyhounds along for some fun and a chance to run in the fenced field.

Contact: Louise Coleman, (508) 435-5969 or  
ghfriend@greyhound.org

Saturdays and Sundays, October 4 & 5 through  
November 15 & 16

**Carolina Renaissance Festival**

Hounds of East Fairhaven  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Huntersville, N.C. (near Charlotte)

The Hounds of East Fairhaven are participants in the Festival, providing educational entertainment about Greyhounds as a breed and their place in history.

Contact: Nancy Lassiter, (864) 231-0868 or  
nan.lassiter@charter.net

Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12

**Las Vegas Age of Chivalry Renaissance Faire**

Greyhounds of Fairhaven  
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday  
Sunset Park  
2601 E. Sunset Road  
Las Vegas, Nev.

For the second year, the Greyhounds of Fairhaven will be promoting Greyhound adoption at the Faire. If you live in or are visiting Las Vegas, come out and meet our most noble hounds.

Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or  
info@GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org;  
www.GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org

Saturday, October 11

**Ninth Annual Las Vegas Greyhound Picnic In The Park**

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Greyhound Pets of America/Southern Nevada  
(Las Vegas)  
Floyd Lamb State Park  
Las Vegas, Nev.

The Las Vegas Greyhound community's ninth annual celebration of Greyhound adoption. Enjoy a relaxing and fun-filled beautiful fall day featuring a grilled lunch, silent auction, artisans, hound games and contests, raffle, and more!

Contact: Jan Valentino, 702-392-5822 or  
info@lasvegasgreyhounds.org;  
www.lasvegasgreyhounds.org

Saturday, October 18

**Ninth Annual Gala Greyhound Gathering**

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
GPA/Wisconsin  
Waukesha County Expo Center  
Waukesha, Wisc.

GPA/Wisconsin's only annual fundraiser. Huge raffle, amazing auction, and stellar silent auction, games, food, vendors, micro-chipping, nail trimming, massage (canine and human). Over 300 hounds and 450 people make this ever-growing event fun and exciting.

Contact: Ellen Schneiderman, 414-351-2052 or  
ejks@execpc.com

Sunday, October 19

**Greyhound PetFest 2003**

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Greyhound Pets, Inc.  
Evergreen State Fairgrounds  
Monroe, Wash.

PetFest 2003 is Greyhound Pets, Inc.'s biggest event of the year and the largest gathering of rescued racing Greyhounds and their owners in the Pacific Northwest. PetFest will feature live entertainment, great auctions, raffles, dozens of booths offering a variety of pet products, services, a dog obedience demonstration, dog costume contest, games and a number of retired racing Greyhounds available for adoption.

Contact: Cathy Munro, 425-742-1388 or  
adopt.greyhounds@verizon.net  
www.greyhoundpetsinc.org

Sunday, October 26

**Fall Reunion 2003**

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Arizona Greyhound Rescue  
Reid Park, Ramada #1  
Tucson, Ariz.

A fun day for Greyhounds and their families. Games, lectures, shopping, raffle, silent auction, food and beverages. Donated items are always appreciated for our raffle and silent auction. Vendors invited.

Contact: Dawn Melichar, 520-275-3585 or  
snowythegreyt@yahoo.com;  
www.azgreyhoundrescue.org



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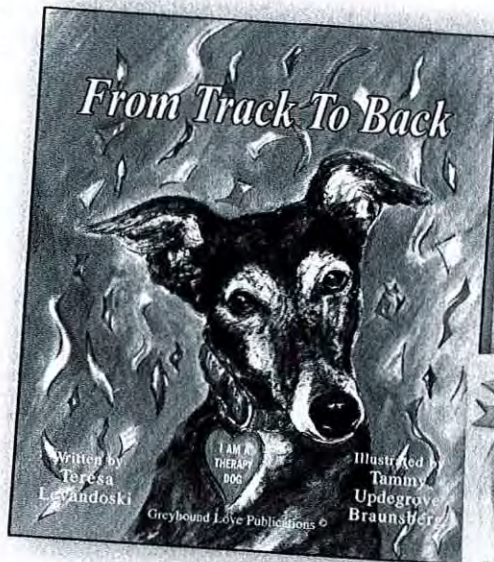


*Greyhound Love Publications is pleased to present,*

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The first two of the series "Greyhound Love" and "The Home stretch" are also available.



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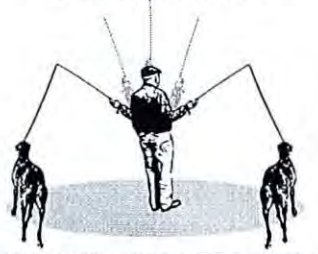
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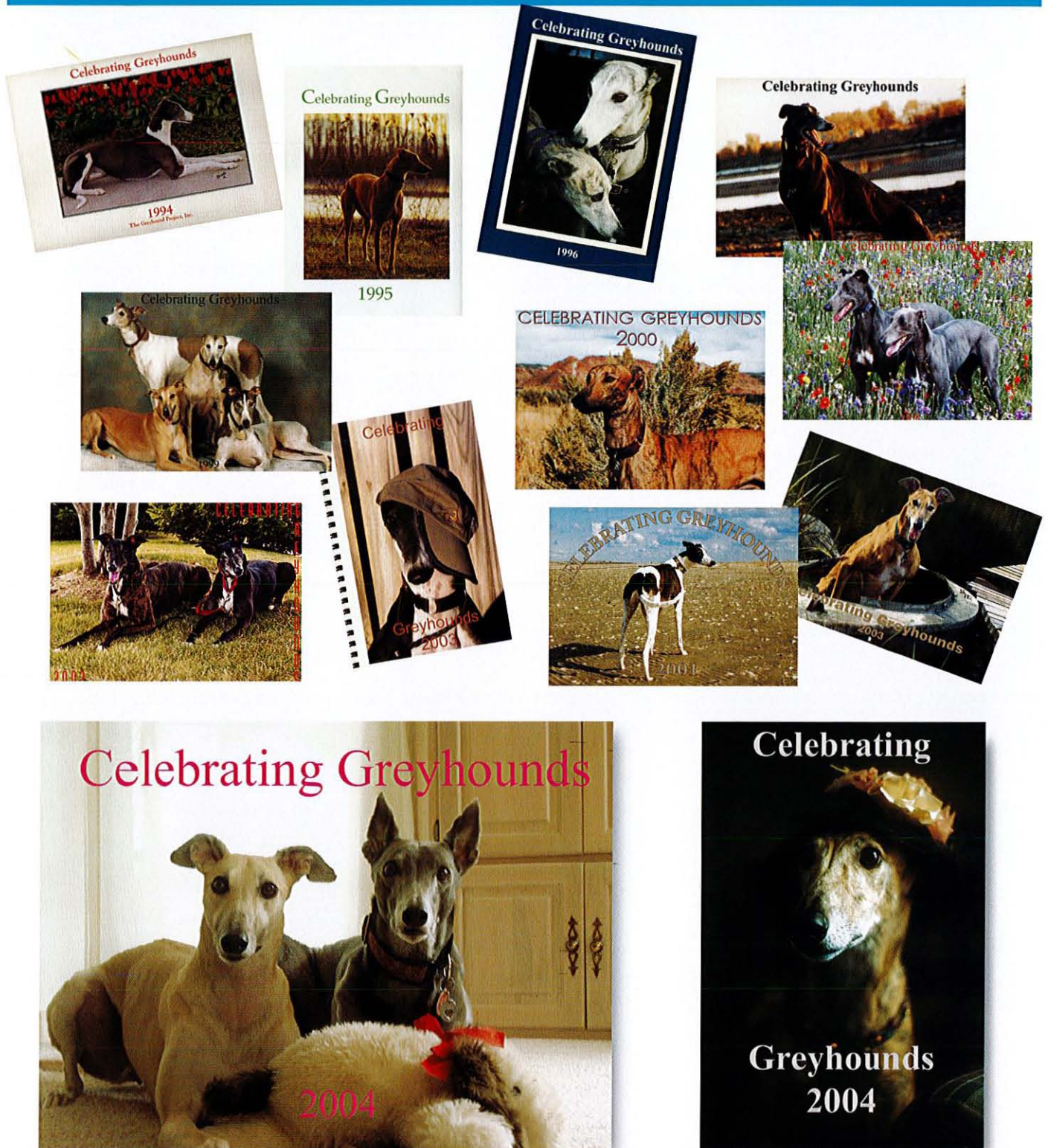
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