

Celebrating Greyhounds

The Magazine

Spring 1999 Vol 4, No.1

Inside

A rainbow of greyhound
colors

Pack Behavior

Dental care for your greyhound,
Greyhounds as service dogs,
and more...



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**A Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners & Friends**

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Kathleen Gilley, trainer of the fabulous *Dancing Greyhounds*, shares her training secrets; Playgroups; Animal Communications; A Special-Needs Greyhound Adopted into a Home with Special-Needs Adopted Children; Coping with a Blind Greyhound; and the usual array of regular features.

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Cover Photo:

Kaszie, adopted by Beth Schatzman of Eureka, California, in September of 1997, is four years old. That wonderful face seems to be asking what "Rainbow Color" he might be. Kaszie was adopted via Greyhound Friends for Life. Photo courtesy Loretta Nickolaus also of Eureka. She adopted her Greyhounds, Sophie and Powder through GPA/California. Both are members of the Northcoast Greyhound Support group.

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Lynda Adame, Nancy Beach, Lisa Bielecki, Kate Bressler, Patricia Gail Burnham, Michele Carnevale, Julia Carter DVM, Jack and Amy Corrigan, Bruce DeKing, Joan Dillon, Laurel Drew, Jody Frederick, Helene Graustark, Tina Kalkstein DVM, Lori Lazetera, Maureen Nelms, Terrill Schukraft, Bruce Skinner

Your Questions Answered



Anesthesia Worries

A few months ago my Greyhound was attacked by a foster dog of mine and had a severe laceration. Because my vet felt she could not suture it under local anesthesia, she did a pre-anesthetic medication of acepromazine. Butorphanol and atropine were also used. At induction, Ketamine-Valium was used (which had been used on this dog at neuter time with no problem two years earlier).

He tolerated this procedure well but when he arrived at home he was unable to use his legs. They were in a tetanic position; he was screaming with pain and was hyperventilating and lying on his side on the floor. His temp was 107 degrees. I could not get him back to the veterinarian right away, so I cooled him with ice packs and ice water and finally brought his temp down to normal. With that his hyperventilating slowed, and after several hours he finally slept and rested. It took him many days to recuperate, but thank goodness we were able to save him.

My question is: what if by some terrible chance he needs anesthesia again?

Nora Star
Kelseyville, California

A: Tina Kalkstein, DVM

Most likely the Greyhound who was anesthetized experienced what is called malignant hyperthermia, which is a severe elevation in body temperature that rarely occurs in anesthetized animals. For some reason Greyhounds appear to get this more often than other dogs but still it is rare.

The body temp elevates to an extreme point, which causes muscle cells to burst amongst other cells. Cooling the

dog is the right thing to do in the home environment but in the hospital a drug called Dantrolene (a muscle relaxant) is the treatment of choice. Just because a dog had this problem once does not make it prone to it again, so there is no need to worry about future Ketamine-Valium anesthesia.

This is a good choice for Greyhounds; we use it a lot here at Michigan State University for our Greyhounds, but as with any dog under anesthesia, we monitor their body temp carefully while under anesthesia. When it elevates greater than 103 degrees, turn off heating pads, make sure they are getting intravenous fluids to maintain blood pressure, and consider cooling them with damp towels along their chest and abdomen and between their legs.

Most dogs under anesthesia (including Greyhounds) will actually get cold not hot, so a heating pad initially is always the right thing to start with. No dog should be anesthetized without an IV catheter for IV fluids.

Helene Graustark, PA, adds:

According to *The Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine* (Ettinger et al.), "Malignant hyperthermia is a rapid, often relentless, progressive increase in body temperature associated with the metabolic heat production due to disturbed intracellular calcium metabolism. The exact mechanism is unknown. Dantrolene is the specific and highly effective treatment for this syndrome." MH may be precipitated by an anesthetic or a neuromuscular blocking agent (a paralytic agent used to stop breathing during endotracheal intubation).

According to Kirk's *Current Veterinary Therapy XII*, breeds predisposed to developing MH include: Border Collie, GSD/Doberman X, Greyhound, Pointer, Spaniel and St. Bernard. While in humans there is a clear genetic predisposition for developing MH, it is unknown if this is true for dogs.

Q: What is a normal platelet level for a 7.5 year old Greyhound? She has a problem with her auto-immune system causing platelets to fluctuate. I would greatly appreciate any info.

Faith
From the Internet

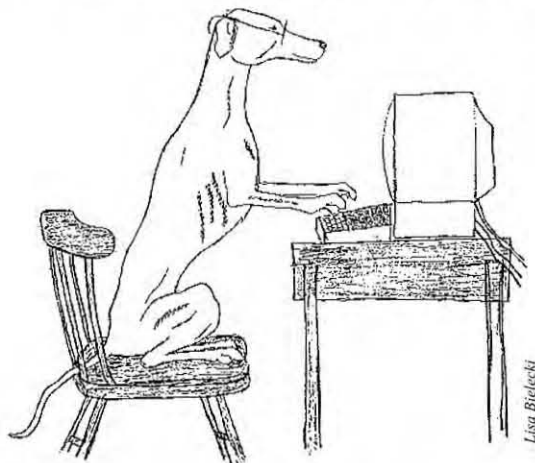
A: Tina Kalkstein, DVM and Karen Scott, Ph.D.

Veterinarians think that the normal platelet count for a Greyhound is actually lower than that for other breeds. Dr. Kalkstein states that she does not get worried about low platelet counts in a Greyhound unless they are less than 100,000/ μ . Although immune mediated destruction of platelets occurs in dogs (probably much more common than the hyperthermia described above), it is not common at all in Greyhound or large breed dogs for that matter.

A good source written in medical lingo is *Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine* edited by S. Ettinger. The numbers I quote are just based on my experience seeing many Greyhound blood tests results as part of the blood donor program here at MSU.

Your Questions Answered Cont. page 7

CG Readers Speak Out



About Clancy

Regarding the story "Clancy," which appeared in the Winter 1998 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds*, I have to point out that the story is not fiction. "Clancy" is non-fiction.

Maddog McDermutt, Wade Rivers and I really did show up in Clancy, in the middle of a Montana blizzard. Maddog showed his dog slides; Wade showed his fish slides; and these two knot-headed enterprising characters graciously allowed me one tune on the banjo.

When I retired from 32 years of teaching high school English, I had fun when I cracked two non-fiction markets with fiction. Apparently I had too much fun. Both my characters got me fired, more or less, then stepped up to take my place. Now, these fictional characters are running around the countryside writing non-fiction, not fiction.

Maddog McDermutt and Wade Rivers really did appear at the Clancy, Montana Elementary School, as well as eleven other elementary schools in 1998. And they're refining their "Clancy" act into



Maddog McDermutt (AKA Robert McKinnon) posing at the Yates Greyhound Farm in Iowa—October of 1998. Photo courtesy of Marcia Herman.

Speak Out Continued on next page

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Please send correspondence for "Your Questions Answered," "House Calls," and letters for "CG Readers Speak Out" to the editor at the address above. The editor will try to respond to correspondence but cannot answer or acknowledge every letter. E-mail correspondence appreciated. Please enclose a self-addressed long stamped envelope if you require a mailed response.

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Writers Guidelines are available from the editor via e-mail or regular mail (please enclose an SASE) to all interested in submitting articles to *CG*. We also welcome article ideas and articles to reprint from newsletters and other sources.

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a three-part writing project for fourth graders with a number of engagements lined up for 1999.

Maddog and Wade graciously asked me to point out this very important distinction. Thanks,

Bob McKinnon
Great Falls, Montana

About Coprophagia

I owned a mixed-breed dog that was coprophagous. Nothing would break Puddles of this habit, including Forbid. Puddles taught our Greyhound Molly to do this, leading me to believe it was "learned behavior." I do believe in some cases it is genetic behavior and possibly done instinctively to check out what other dogs in the area are eating, but this does not explain why they would eat their own stool.

Puddles passed away, but Molly continued with this habit. When our new puppy German Shepherd started to do it, out of desperation, we tried Blue Green Algae after hearing about this remedy from a relative in Georgia. Shortly thereafter, the dogs stopped eating poop. I don't know if it worked because it replaced an ingredient or made it taste unpleasant to the dogs. (I don't know how you could get poop to taste unpleasant!) It doesn't matter. It worked. My veterinarian was surprised that it worked.

Sincerely,
Michael P. Henneberry
Jefferson Valley, New York

About Seizures

May I use your column again?

This time to say thank you to the person who went out of his or her way to mail me an article on seizures that I needed. Unfortunately I lost their address to mail them a personal letter. I'm happy to report that my dog is doing well on her medication of potassium bromide. She has been seizure free since she started the medication. My veterinarian's goal is to keep her that way for at least one year and then to wean her off the potassium bromide. Only Greyhound people would be as thoughtful as this woman was to find

out my home address from you and mail me the article. Thank you and I'm sorry it took me so long to say so. I see in the latest issue that an epilepsy study is being conducted in Texas. While my dog cannot participate, I'm going to e-mail them with our results. My sympathies go to Domino's family on his passing. Carol Reynolds, in writing Domino's story, educated us about his combo of medicine that may help other seizure dogs.

Cindy Burrowes
Blue Point, New York

About a Resource for Thyroid and Other Health Information

In response to Barbara MacHale's letter in Winter 98 requesting information on hypothyroidism and a baseline for blood tests, there is a great book my vet has just received that gives wonderful information on Greyhounds and muscle/joint injuries. It also gives a full table of blood test baselines (pg 33). The book is called *Canine Sports Medicine and Surgery* by Bloomberg, Dee & Taylor. (ISBN #0-7216-5022-8)

Page 32 goes into some detail on hypothyroidism. It is not a hard "medical" book to understand. Having recently had my Greyhound in for thyroid tests and on medication, I had the bad experience of an unknowledgeable vet over-medicating my dog to the point of having kidney problems. To properly diagnose hypothyroidism you will need to have general blood work, a urinalysis and a T3T4 test. The book suggests a TSH stimulation test also. Together these will give a well-rounded result upon which you can base your diagnosis. Keep in mind that all these tests need to be repeated every month until a normal result comes back. If there are still problems, be sure to check the cortisol levels and look for Cushing's. This is not too common but can happen.

My dog's thyroid corrected itself, so now she doesn't need meds. She is on K/D prescription food to help support her kidneys. Having a good Greyhound baseline to work with is a start since they are slightly different than

Speak Out Continued on next page

Speak Out Cont. from previous page

other dogs. The T3T4 will show normal to slightly below normal results for a Greyhound. Just one thing about being sluggish: we had a foster Greyhound recently. Together they were playmates and my dog was not sluggish anymore! As for bald thighs, my other Greyhound was lost in the woods for almost a year before she was caught and I adopted her. When she came she had fur everywhere! Within two months her thighs and belly were bald. The book states that there is no real explanation for this and I believe it. Some were meant to have hair and others weren't. Best of luck to you.

L Rozycki,
Mountain Top,
Pennsylvania

Thanks

Just want to tell you how much I enjoy your magazine. I read and reread every issue and find myself using them for reference often. When my beloved eight-year-old Greyhound, Fanny Rose, was diagnosed with osteocarcinoma, many of your articles from past issues were much help and comfort. I truly believe that the information from *CG* magazine allowed us to enjoy her happy spirit longer. Sadly, we had her put down in our home and arms last April — she was so special and gave much more than she received. Fanny left this earth a better place than she found it.

We have recently opened our home and hearts anew to a little two-year-old brindle named Gracie. She is a real challenge due to her extremely shy and fearful disposition. I again am referring to all back issues for help and suggestions on socializing the shy Greyhound.

Again, thanks for printing such an informative and quality magazine.

Sally Tsakiris
South Berwick, Maine

Enclosed you will find my subscription renewal check. I am sending it out immediately so I don't end up mis-



A Greyhound from "Down Under." Larissa Hubbard, Co-ordinator of the Greyhound Adoption Program in Geelong West, Victoria, Australia, sent us a few photos of Australian retired racers. Shown here is Seren, a "beautiful, gentle, kind, bitch" adopted by Chris Holt.

placing my "only notification" notice. I read your *very informative* magazine from cover to cover and enjoy every article and the photos.

As a volunteer for "Going Home Greyhounds" I really enjoy being able to help other retired racers find new and loving families. They are all so deserving of having a good home and soft cushion for the rest of their lives.

Our two adopted retirees, Sierra and Michelle, send a big "thanks" to your entire staff for the fabulous job you are all doing for the magazine and for helping save the lives of other retired racers.

Rose Hampton
South Park, Pennsylvania

I was recently introduced to your publication, and am very impressed with the variety and quality of the articles that it contains. I am writing to you to request a subscription and back issues if possible.

As a veterinarian and a mother of a six-year-old red brindle, I look forward to receiving future issues. Keep up the good work. You are providing a wonderful service to Greyhound owners and their beloved pets.

Annette D.
Wells, DVM
Mechanicsville,
Maryland

Got the newest edition, and once again, it's a winner! All the articles are great! Loved the photo of Cindy's Marshall with all his obedience awards. He's overwhelmed... (and so sweet!)

Congrats to Kate Crawford and Mandoid, for the MX in Agility. WOW!!!!

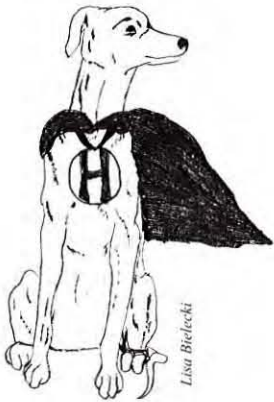
Laurel Drew's article on the old timers from our dogs' past is wonderful. Both Lucky Pilot and Johnny Leonard are in my dogs' pedigrees.

I especially loved Patricia Burnham's article on "Racing and Coursing Greyhounds in the Show Ring." How many of you Greyhound

Speak Out Continued on page 7

We appreciate your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. They may be edited for brevity or clarity. Please send them by mail to the editorial office or, even better, to the editor via e-mail to: greyhound@aol.com.

HERO HOUND



Pipp's Yip!

Saved Some Lives

The year was 1994, and I was thinking about adopting a Greyhound. I had read about them but had never gotten to meet one "live and in person." I spotted an article in the local newspaper mentioning a Pet Expo that was to be held at a local shopping mall over the weekend and that Greyhounds would be participating. There was a whole lot of yapping going on in the mall from all the other breeds. The most impressive thing about the Greyhounds was that they just stood in quiet elegance and leaned on you for more attention. That made the decision for me, as I don't like noisy dogs.

Within a few weeks I had a new little girl living with me. Her racing name had been BL Stephanie (I renamed her Pipp) and she retired from the track at Plainfield, Connecticut. Little did I know how soon after her adoption that Pipp was going to repay me for bringing her into my home.

She had been with me for a few weeks and one evening I had my dinner cooking on the stove (electric) and had gotten comfortable in my chair in the living room to read the newspaper.



Pipp and Jazz King — Their Formal Photo

By Lucy Rusnak

A short time later Pipp let out a very urgent "YIP!"

I looked up to see her standing in the living room with her head lowered and ears straight up just staring into the kitchen. Knowing that Pipp isn't a Greyhound who barks just to hear herself "talk," I got up to see what she was trying to tell me. I discovered that the burner on the stove was shorting out and throwing sparks. I don't know what the result would have been if Pipp hadn't "told" me that something wasn't right in the kitchen. When Pipp speaks, I listen.

Needless to say, she got extra treats that night and I got a gas stove.

In August of 1995 we adopted Jazz King (Racing Name: Ric's Jazz King) as a companion for Pipp. He did try to be a Hero Hound on one of our walks around the block. He saw someone hiding in the bushes and snarled, growled, and barked a warning, but all he really succeeded in doing was ruining the neighborhood children's game of hide and seek.

Pipp currently writes a regular column called "Grey's Eye View" and also

answers questions from the greylorn in "Ask Pipp" in the Discussion Forums for the *A Breed Apart* e-zine.

We recently added a third Greyhound to the pack. Her name is Angel (Racing Name: Santa's Archangel). All three Greyhounds visit three nursing homes per month.



Lucy Rusnak volunteers with Make Peace with Animals and resides in Northeastern Pa. She is an Associate Webmaster for A Breed Apart and also maintains the "Grey Speak" area in the Discussion Forums.



Pipp snuggling in her comforter while off-duty.

Speak Out Continued from page 5

Friends volunteers knew that Barbara Wicklund finished an NGA dog in the show ring? I didn't know that!

My O'Henry and Terry Fletcher's Qui Tam are related, but I won't get into that right now; it's too confusing.

And now you guys even have Maddog McDermutt!!

Kathy Bentzoni
From the Internet

Just had to write thanks to you for your utterly enchanting Christmas story "How the Greyhounds Saved Christmas" in the Winter '98 issue. I've read it to several friends' children and they loved it (they are all "fans" of my Greyhound Hi Falutin'). The parents loved it, too.

I must say I think you ought to publish this story (with added color illustrations) in book form. I found it more charming than "Rudolph" and think it could be a seasonal best seller as well as a great contribution to the "Greyhound Cause."

Kit Merriman
New York, NY



Your Questions Cont. from page 2

Dr. Richard Hill, MA Vet MB Ph.D, DACVIM MRCVS and Karen C. Scott, Ph.D., both from the University of Florida, presented many Greyhound blood values at the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVVC), and at the International Canine Sports Medicine Symposium, both in Orlando, Florida. Their studies showed that the platelet counts ranged from 112,000 to 255,000. These are the values currently being taught to their veterinary students.

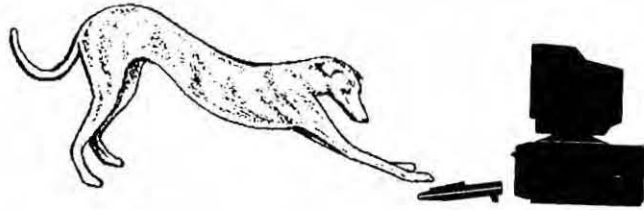


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Site Hounds

by Bruce Skinner



*"Spring is right around the corner.
And your dogs know it."*

Notice the extra little hitch in her get-along? A little more pep in his step perhaps? Is your couch potato warping around her favorite run at top speed?

How about you? Getting that urge to ferret out those magical, winter-made dust bunnies; break out the fertilizer and prep the garden; fire up the lawn mower?

Out with the old, in with the new and all that? What better time to go shopping without cutting into the spring chores?

The current wave of Internet shopping and marketing certainly hasn't passed the Greyhound world by. Many businesses dedicated to supplying Greyhounds and their owners now have an Internet presence of some sort or other.

Has winter taken a toll on the puppies' jackets? Maybe Speedy could use a raincoat or a windbreaker? A number of companies can help you out:

* *Chrisanthemums* (www.chrisanthemums.com), a "home-based, family-run business dedicated to providing high-quality yet affordable products specifically developed for the greyhound and its unique requirements." Distributed through adoption groups and greyhound-related businesses listed on their web site.

* *Toastie Coats & Paws* (www.abap.org/market/market.htm#t) manufactures "...not just a dog coat but a stylish made to order winter coat tailored to fit your Greyhound. Synthetic lambswool lined winter coats & Ultrex raincoats lined with polar fleece."

* *Hound Togs* states that their approach to fitting our "lean, narrow, deep-chested; gorgeously curvy; and so hard to fit" dogs includes using a technical sewing workshop that also does work for NASA.

Visit them at www.houndtogs.com.

Maybe it's you who need some new duds? Check out *Fast Jack Sportswear* (www.fastjack.com). Here you'll find high quality sportswear such as hats and sweatshirts, all adorned with various greyhound logos and silhouettes. Jewelry perhaps? *The Greyhound & Whippet Shop* (www.abap.org/mall/gwshop) sports a wide range of jewelry, as does *Feathered Gems* (www.ddc.com/~kjohnson/jewelry.htm) who makes customized beaded jewelry.

Looking to snazz up your abode a bit? Perhaps some prints, original art, statues, etc. The Greyhound & Whippet Shop (see above) can provide a wide range of prints, paintings, and bronze statues. The very talented Sarah Regan Snavelly of the *Hound's Tooth* (www.dog-art.com) creates fantastic Greyhound art ranging from paintings to sketches to brooches and much more. A must see.

These are just a sampling of what's out there. Check the advertisements at the back of *Celebrating Greyhounds* for more. We'll have more sites for you in the Summer issue. Happy Hunting!



Site Hounds is copyright 1995-99 Bruce Skinner.

Housebreak

Any Dog:

The Permanent

Three-Step Method



Audrey Carr and Lou Ellen Davis.
Chicago, Illinois
Contemporary Books, 1997.
\$11.95.

Reviewed by Laurel E. Drew

Got a new hound? A new pup? A newly retired racer? *Housebreak Any Dog* is a concise yet thorough discussion of how to successfully house train any dog, young or old. It uses a great deal of dog psychology and some memorable anecdotes to make its points. It approaches housebreaking in three logical steps: food and feeding, cleaning, and paper/outdoor training. There is also a special chapter on special problems such as the dog that is acquired at an older age and proves to be a challenge. Much of the book focuses, naturally, on puppies, but even in those chapters is some good advice for people who have adopted an adult dog that may have to stay home for long periods of time and that is not completely trustworthy when obtained.

The first chapter concentrates on the psychology of dogs and also of training. It points out some fallacies about training and advice on how to approach the overall project.

The chapter on feeding discusses what to feed and even when to feed. It explains limiting the time allowed for

eating and the importance of a quality food. It even discusses the importance of limiting their water supply to ensure that no diseases are acquired by drinking impure water. It also alerts you to unexpected sources of water that could either throw off the training schedule or cause diseases that defeat housebreaking temporarily.

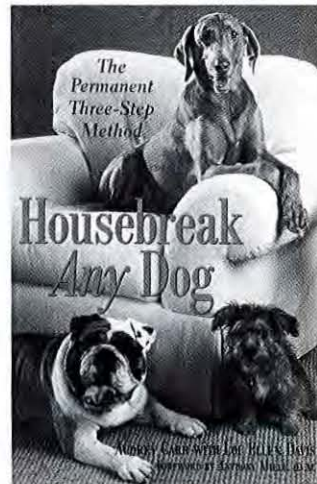
Cleaning is far more important than many people realize. What looks and even smells clean to a human may still be enticing to a dog. Tools and procedures for making sure your home is not partially responsible for your dog's continued "incontinence" are included.

This book stresses scheduling the dog's walks, eating, and drinking for reaching success in an acceptable amount of time. It explains paper training and moving from that to outdoor training in a smooth progression. It stresses consistency. It also provides schedule forms to photocopy for use with your current new hound.

Chapter Nine is probably the most important for Greyhound adopters as it concerns special problems. It discusses

regression, paper ripping, even how to get your dog to eliminate outside when he absolutely refuses to do so — good advice in case of blizzards or downpours.

I would highly recommend *Housebreak Any Dog* to anyone either getting a new pup or getting a recycled hound that has some problems. It is readable as well as informative.



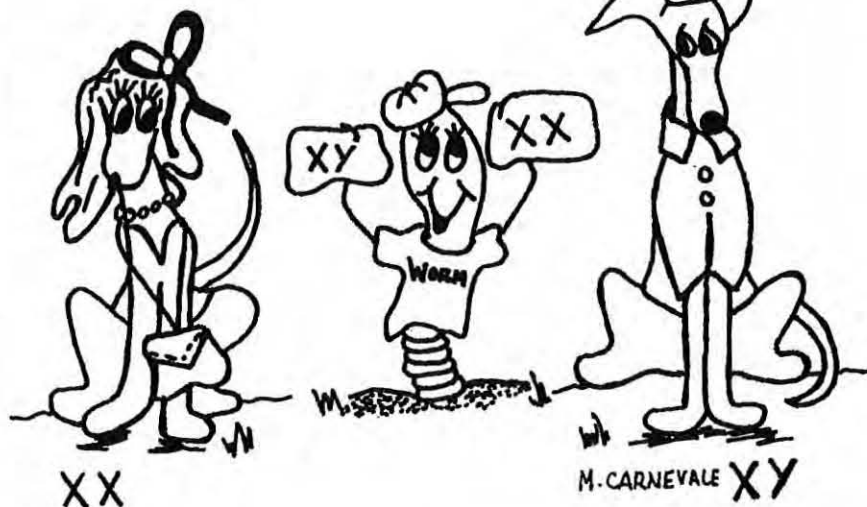


House Calls

by Julia Carter, DVM

Hermaphrodites

True hermaphrodites are individuals that have gonadal tissue (ovarian and testicular) of both sexes. This is never normal in mammals such as dogs, cats, or people but is the norm in the common earthworm. Hermaphrodites can be of chromosomal origin, where abnormalities occur at the time of fertilization, resulting in cells with both XX chromosomes (female) and XY chromosomes (male) in the reproductive tract. Alternately, hermaphrodites can be of hormonal origin, where exposure of the individual to various hormones *in utero* alters the physical development of the reproductive tract.



And what, you ask, does this have to do with Greyhounds? Well, Greyhounds are frequently exposed to various types of hormones during their professional careers. Some of these hormones, such as corticosteroids, are used therapeutically for their anti-inflammatory effects and their ability to temporarily suppress the immune system. Trainers use another group of hormones, known as anabolic steroids, to promote weight gain, recov-

ery from muscle injury, and to prevent bitches from coming into heat. Anabolic steroids work to prevent bitches from cycling because they are derived from male hormones. Another name for these drugs is androgenic steroids. In

some individuals these steroids have psychological as well as physiological effects, promoting increased aggression and vitality, and may actually make some dogs race better, although the legality and general use of them for such a purpose is in question.

However, we do know that female (XX chromosome) fetuses exposed to these androgenic steroids while in the womb have a high likelihood of becom-

ing hermaphrodites (actually they are technically pseudo-hermaphrodites) because the male hormones "masculinize" their reproductive tracts. The result is a chromosomally female Greyhound with either a normal appearance to her external genitalia but

a mix of male and female ducts and gonads internally, or more obviously a Greyhound with confusing genitalia both inside and outside.

The first of these dogs is usually found out when "she" is spayed and the veterinarian finds too many parts. The second is generally discovered as a puppy, but I have not yet heard of these dogs be-

ing rejected by trainers on this basis, so I assume hermaphroditism does not in itself negatively affect performance.

This does not mean that your sweet little girl sleeping in front of the fire is really an "it." The occurrence of hermaphroditism in the Greyhound population is actually quite rare, as far as one can tell. But then, who knows?



HALL OF FAME



Michèle Carnevale

Traffic Officer: Granddaddy of Them All



By Laurel E. Drew

Traffic Officer is known as "The Granddaddy of Them All."

He was one of the earliest Greyhounds to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He was bred strongly on English Coursing bloodlines with several Waterloo Cup winners showing up in his pedigree on both sides (sire and dam). His sire, Meadows*, was an outstanding courser and won or led seventeen out of nineteen courses in a period of two years. He was then imported to the United States strictly for stud duties.

Traffic Officer was bred by A. W. Wilson and was born in April, 1925. He was a huge racer for his time. At a time when male Greyhounds averaged 65 to 70 pounds, he weighed 76 pounds! One of the noted racing men of that era said that he looked like a mother duck chased by her ducklings whenever he took the lead in a race. More often than not, that is exactly where he was, in the lead and winning. After beginning as a coursing dog in 1926 when he won the National coursing Futurity, he went on into both coursing and racing but soon became primarily a racer.

In fact, he became such a success as a racer that by 1927, he was competing mostly in match races. Unfortunately, at that time, track records were not officially kept so no records of all of his wins and times are available. Suffice it to say that he was so successful that by May of 1927, his first pups were on the ground. Traffic Officer would have been only about 20 months old

when he bred his first two bitches. Obviously, at that time, racing and breeding were not considered as incompatible as they are now when dogs are only rarely bred before they are retired from racing.

By the time Traffic Officer was three, he produced his first successful pup.

By 1928, Traffic Officer had produced his first successful pup, Coin Toss, who in 1929 divided the National Spring Male Sapling Cup of the National Coursing Association. Divided means that two dogs owned by the same kennel come to the final race after having defeated all the others in an elimination series of courses. Since they are owned by the same kennel, the last race is usually not run but simply divided equally between them. In 1930, three of his sons divided the National Fall Futurity. They were Patrolman and Patrol Officer (both out of Royal Princess) and Traffic Court out of Princess Finetta. All three, like Traffic Officer, were owned by Pastime Kennels of Dow City, Iowa. These dogs, particularly Traffic Court, would go on to make names for themselves as racers and sires.

One of Traffic Officer's most famous sons, however, was the future Hall of Fame inductee, My Laddie, who would sire the great Hall of Fame dog, Rural Rube. Rural Rube would go on to produce the dam of yet another Hall

of Fame great, Mixed Harmony. My Laddie will be introduced in another installment of this series.

The 1930-31 Greyhound Stud Book of the National Coursing Association has an advertisement for Traffic Officer which is interesting. At that time, he was described as a red dog, weight 80 pounds, and called 'America's Greatest Track Dog'. He is said to have produced 'the best track and coursing dogs that ever raced in this country'. At a time when stud fees generally ran from \$25 to \$50 according to other ads in the stud book, Traffic Officer's fee was \$200! He was owned at that time by Oswald Bros. Kennels in Los Angeles, California.

Traffic Officer not only produced excellent sons. His daughters were also good producers themselves. He was the sire of Gun Ring, who produced Gun, a dog that appears in quite a few pedigrees today. One of his best daughters was Princess Micawber who produced Brave Comrade and Jovial Gesture. While these names may not be familiar to many of us today, they are behind dogs that appear in our pedigrees such as She's A Record, Flying Slipper, Lahoma Judy, and others.

His success as a true courser, prepotent sire, and, of course, being one of the earliest champions of the track are what earned Traffic Officer one of the first places in the Hall of Fame.



Toby and Sara Go for a Ride



Toby and Sara on their best behavior



Toby and Sara jockeying for position

by Pat Hall

Toby and Sara, my two Greyhounds, love to ride in the car. I take them with me whenever I can, and sometimes they make these trips very challenging. I thought I'd share an experience I had recently when I decided to take them on a quick trip to the store to pick up a bottle of wine for my husband Howard and me.

First, a little background information. Until recently I drove a Plymouth Neon. The only way I could take both Toby and Sara with me in it was to put Sara in the back seat that she refused to share with Toby. She would not growl or the like; she would just stretch out across the seat and would give Toby a hard time about letting him get in the back with her. I'd let Toby sit up in the front passenger seat — butt on the seat, front feet on the floor. I know how dangerous this can be. I only did it when I had to, i.e., for trips to the vets and *very* short distances. I have since purchased a new car, specifically for the Greyhounds, so that there's enough room in back for both.

The night we went to the store, I took my husband's vehicle — an Isuzu Rodeo — so that both dogs could lie down comfortably in the back. I invited Toby and Sara to go with me. When I came out of the store, Toby had jumped into the front seat. I told him to get in back (he knows this command), but instead of doing that he plopped his skinny butt down on the passenger seat and put his front feet on the floor and looked at me with a huge grin, saying "Okay, I'm ready Mom." I told him no; he had to get in back. He looked at me like I was talking a foreign language and couldn't understand what I could possibly be saying. I figured to make it easier, I'd just take him out and put him in the back door. Sure. I got Toby out and opened the back door, but he wouldn't get in. (This is all in the dark in a well-populated parking lot). I put his front feet on the inside of the Rodeo and bent down to pick up his rear end. Toby just stayed that way — front feet in, me holding his rear end up in the air. No movement forward.

At about this time, Sara, who'd been watching all of this from the back of the Rodeo, decided to come over and lie down right in front of the door I'm trying to get Toby through. So now Toby can't go forward without running into Sara. He starts to move forward at an angle, going back into the front seat. I tell him "No." I also tell Sara to move (which she doesn't do) and I can't do anything with my hands to get either one of them to move because they are still busy trying to push Toby in. Finally, I give Toby a push and in he goes, falling directly on top of Sara. At this point, Sara figures it's best to move, especially since Toby is sprawled on top of her. They both get up and non-chalantly go to the back of the Rodeo, look at me like "What's the problem, Mom, let's GO" and we peacefully ride home.

What a crew! I have to chuckle. My life would be so dull without these two.



Pat Hall lives with her husband Howard and their hounds in Ayer, Mass.

The Love of a Hound

The story of Daiquiri —

*An amazing Greyhound who
must care for other Greyhounds*

by Anna Roberts



First, Daiquiri took care of Humphrey and then Nappy, shown here with Daiquiri.

Volunteering for Midwest Greyhound Adoption, an Illinois Greyhound rescue group, who would have known that our next foster dog would open our eyes so wide?

During June, 1995, Daiquiri came to stay with us during her transition from the track to a permanent home. We brought Daiquiri to a show to get some exposure. She knew what her duty was; she was a Greyhound ambassador. She walked up to everyone who stopped by and looked up at them with her big, deep, dark, longing eyes. The people flocked to her, commenting on how outgoing and friendly she was, but no one was interested in adopting her. After all, she was nine-and-a-half years old and there were bound to be medical problems.

After watching an entire day of people passing Daiquiri over for the younger adoptees, we decided to keep her. She fit into our house very well and the age was not a concern to us. She was thin and suffered from diarrhea for the first three months. We talked with Joe, her breeding owner, and found out that she was always on the thin side, but he had many suggestions to help her gain weight. Daiquiri was content, but she kind of moped around. She didn't bounce around like the rest of our dogs. She seemed a little "depressed," but a dog couldn't be depressed, could she?

Over the year, we noticed that the only time Daiquiri seemed in a cheery

mood was when she visited Humphrey. He was another Greyhound that no one would adopt because he suffered from grand mal seizures. The two of them had some sort of a connection — soulmates. The moment Daiquiri saw him, she perked up and chased him around the house. Daiquiri had bounce to her step and finally began gaining weight.

As Humphrey's days came to an end, Daiquiri would lay by his side. She just seemed to understand. We were very nervous about bringing Daiquiri by after he passed away. The first time we did, she ran through the house frantically looking for him. When she could not find him, she ran into the family room and started screeching! As we all started to cry, we realized that this was just the start — the depression set in again.

The following Christmas, we decided to bring Daiquiri to visit Joe, hoping that the visit would cheer her up. While we were making arrangements, Joe told us about Nappy. It turned out that Daiquiri and Nappy were owned by the same racing owner, were born one month apart, were part of the same kennel, raced at the same track, were retired together and were sent to the same owner for breeding. It appeared that the first time they were separated was when Daiquiri came to us for adoption.

Joe explained that Nappy was eleven years old and he felt she should

spend her remaining years in a home, not a kennel. When we got to the farm, it was amazing. Daiquiri's eyes just lit up! It was like two sisters reunited. Nappy came home to live with us. Both of the hounds thrived off each other. They were always bubbly and genuinely happy.

While preparing for Daiquiri and Nappy's twelfth birthday party last November, Nappy began acting odd. She didn't seem quite herself. We kept an eye on her throughout the party, but she seemed to be doing okay. The next morning, we brought Nappy to the vet and had some general tests run. The results were normal. Over the next week, Daiquiri seemed to be giving Nappy extra attention. We decided to bring Nappy back to the vet. Further tests were performed and she was diagnosed with lymphosarcoma.

The worse Nappy's health became, the more Daiquiri mothered her. She seemed to be feeding off Nappy's emotions. When Nappy felt good, Daiquiri would ease up on her. On the days that Nappy had trouble, Daiquiri would become anxious and suffered a number of small stress-related seizures. Nappy made it to this past February, but her last week was very strenuous. It was difficult enough to watch one of our dogs deteriorate, but it was heartbreaking to watch Daiquiri slip into depression again. Anticipating Daiquiri's reactions, the vet suggested that she be present

when we helped Nappy pass on. We took her suggestion, but Daiquiri still fell hard. She lay around for weeks and barely ate. There was no bounce in her step, no glisten in her eyes, no sheen in her coat, no liveliness left.

The thought went through our minds that Daiquiri might not make it through this. With a lot of extra attention and a very compassionate vet, Daiquiri has come a long way. We have found that when there is a sick dog for her to take care of, she flourishes. We baby-sit a friend's hounds and the older of the two suffers from seizures. Daiquiri immediately took to her and she seems very content when they spend the week.

Recently a friend's hound became very ill and came to stay with us. What was amazing, was that Daiquiri paid no attention to Jake while he was healthy. When he came to us this time, she instantly attached herself to him. She protected him from the other dogs' roughhousing and seemed to give him moral support. After about ten days, the vet was at a loss and his owner decided that he was suffering too much. When they came to pick him up, Daiquiri kept getting in their way. She was very upset that Jake was going to be taken away. Again, she moped around and refused to eat.

This time we made the connection. Daiquiri needs a dog to nurture. She thrives on being a nursemaid. With some assistance from Kari Swanson (a dear friend and founder of Midwest Greyhound Adoption), she asked Kate Bressler (another dedicated senior lover) to humor our very odd request and go in search of an old, sick Greyhound. Deb Rosenberg spoke up and informed us of Brooke, an eleven-year-old Greyhound that Scott Bruns (founder of Maine Greyhound Placement Service) had recently taken in. She had an enormous fist-sized tumor on her

hind leg that Scott had had removed. Unfortunately, the growth was so large that there wasn't enough skin left to suture. She was left with a large area needing meticulous care so that the area would granulate.

We decided that we would be able to provide Brooke with a good home and Brooke should be needy enough for Daiquiri. Deb and Rick Rosenberg took Brooke to stay with them while the arrangements were made. During this time, Brooke's biopsy results came back. We were told the tumor was benign. Although it hurt to let her go (especially so far), the foster family knew that Brooke was needed.

How in the world would we get Brooke from Maine to Illinois? Due to her medical condition, she was unable to fly which left us with land transport. Fate put us in contact with Betsy Bentz



After Nappy passed, Daiquiri took Brooke into her care.

and the Greyhound Underground Railroad, a group that transports greyhounds between states. While these runs have been performed before, Betsy explained that this run would be a challenge because Brooke would need medical attention along the way. After much hard work, Betsy finalized a relay of good-hearted volunteers.

While my husband and I were a little apprehensive, Betsy reassured us that Brooke's health and safety were her highest concern. Before we knew it, Deb drove Brooke from Maine to Rochester, New York, where Brooke was met by Mary O'Leary and Ann Hess. Mary and Ann drove her to Jamestown, New

York, where Kelly Graham was waiting for her. Kelly drove Brooke to her house in Cleveland, Ohio, and let her bunk overnight for a rest. We picked her up the next afternoon and drove her home from Ohio.

We cannot thank these volunteers enough for making all of this possible. Each of them wanted to keep Brooke, but kept the end result. Not only did the volunteers help an eleven-year-old greyhound get a home, but they've given a thirteen-year-old greyhound a reason to live!

As hoped, Daiquiri has latched on. She takes care of Brooke, making sure that she is safe. She keeps the others from knocking her over. She makes sure that Brooke can eat her food without the others trying to snatch some out of her bowl. The two of them even sleep together. Daiquiri has taken Brooke under

her wing teaching her how to get into the garbage, push around the other dogs, how to get the good treats and how to kick us off the couch for the prime spots. The glisten in her eyes is back and Daiquiri is finally happy!

Who would know that a dog could become attached to another dog? Who would know that a dog could have such deep, intense emotions? Who would know that a dog could suffer from depression? Who would

know that an older dog had so much to give, so much compassion?



Anna and Matthew Roberts reside in Aurora, Ill. with their three Greyhounds (Balmorhea, Daiquiri, and Brooke), a six-month old baby, and a friend who lives in to care for the dogs. The Roberts are senior Greyhound advocates and volunteers for Midwest Greyhound Adoption. Anna says of Daiquiri, "She has been through a lot, including a major dog fight, a minor dog fight, a stroke and some small seizures, but she seems to have put on this earth for a reason and that reason is becoming clearer every day."

Everyone's Gotta Be Somewhere

by Lynda Adame

A simple statement and yet a valuable concept when discussing the pack structure of dogs. It defines the way dogs view their lives in relation to other dogs as well as humans in their household. Dogs are pack animals. In the wild, they form social packs, with one dog leading the rest. I've heard it said that dogs don't care where they belong in the structure, as long as they know where they belong.

Greyhounds, especially retired racing Greyhounds, seem more in-tune to pack dynamics than other breeds of dogs. The vast majority of pet dogs are taken from their mother and siblings at a few weeks of age. These dogs miss out not only on age-appropriate socialization with their siblings but also on the many lessons in dominance and submission that their mother would have taught them. Retired racers, on the other hand, are raised with their mother and siblings and are then moved into larger enclosures where they relate to even more dogs. These Greyhounds are savvy to pack structure, which makes it important for owners to understand the basics that drive a pack.

Most experts agree that three or more dogs are a "pack"...
and that at four (or more) dogs the pack



This interesting pack formed spontaneously at the Minden (Nevada) Craft Fair in May, 1998. Shown front to rear are six-year-old Norris (a male belonging to Adele Cervantez of Reno, Nevada), who just joined an already established pack consisting of Duke, an 8-year-old male and Sunny, a three-year-old female. Duke and Sunny live with Gay and Jim Holst of Silver Springs, Nevada. The peaceful acceptance of a second male is fairly common. If Norris had been a female, the integration may not have happened so easily. This happened at a GPA/ CA Central and CA/ North and Northern Nevada Show N Tell.

dynamics become more complicated and potentially dangerous. In any pack, the standard hierarchy is:

1. Alpha Male (Most dominant male)
2. Alpha Female (Most dominant female)
3. Beta (Second most dominant male)
4. Everyone in between
5. Omega (Most submissive)

This seems straightforward enough, but you might wonder what dominant and submissive dogs are all about.

Dominant and Submissive

Each dog's personality will be a variation in intensity of these two extremes: dominant and submissive.

Dominant dogs are leaders and display the following behaviors when meeting other dogs: erect ears, raised tail wagging sharply, and a direct gaze. They often have their hackles raised (the fur at the base of the neck), and stand tall with their weight shifted to the rear legs. They growl, leading to sharp barks, and typically lift their legs to mark territory.

Dominant dogs aren't superior;

they are simply different, possessing qualities that make them the best leaders and the worst followers. Dominance is nothing more than relative rank. This explains how a dog can act dominant in one situation and submissive in another. In your home, one of your dogs may rank number one. However, when you visit a friend's house, your top dog may suddenly display submissive behaviors. This means that relative to your house, your dog is alpha (or dominant) but relative to your friend's house,

your dog may understand it will never be alpha, therefore it does the smart thing and submits.

Submissive dogs are followers and display the following behaviors when meeting other dogs: eyes averted, ears flattened against the head and tail down. Taken to an extreme, they will roll over to expose their abdomen and may dribble urine. They defer to dogs above them, often giving up food, toys, or a bed to the more dominant dogs. Submissive dogs seem to appreciate knowing they are beneath the lead dog.

Pack Structure

Most packs start with a top dog (some folks refer to this as the Alpha dog) and end with a bottom dog (often

called the Omega dog). Between these two positions lie any number of other dogs. Typically the alpha dog is the largest and strongest dog, most often male, but in the absence of a strong male, a female can manage this position quite well.

In my house, I have two permanent Greyhounds, a male (Cody) and a female (Tice). Both dogs display dominant characteristics. When Cody was introduced to our home, it was clear that both dogs wanted top billing. The end result was that Cody was larger and stronger than Tice and was willing to push the envelope of aggression to get the position. Cody became our alpha dog with Tice at the bottom of the pack. Whenever we introduce a foster dog into our home, we disrupt the stable pack structure and the dogs must work out a new pack structure.

In the wild, pack rank remains fairly stable.

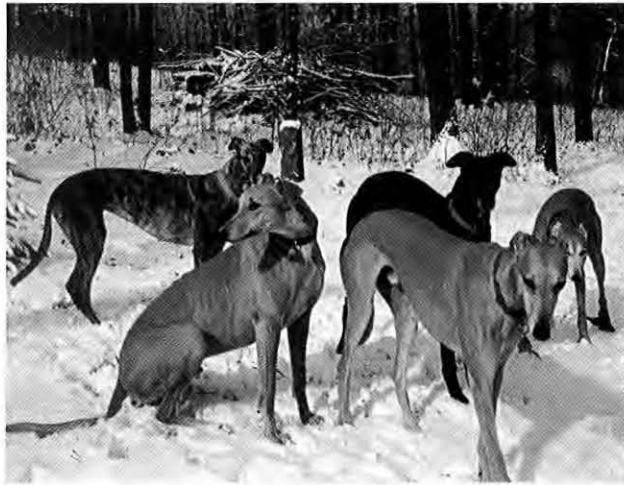
In a household of pets, it can fluctuate wildly. The reasons behind the fluctuations range from bringing in new dogs (such as foster dogs), to a top dog becoming ill or feeble, to a well-meaning owner negatively influencing the hierarchy. Dog packs are not run democratically, and we owners are smart to accept this. Many a dogfight is caused by an owner trying to treat all dogs as equals. This type of situation creates tension in a pack and drives the alpha dog to aggressively maintain his position. You don't want to ignore the lower dogs in your pack; you simply want to support the top dog in his position. Feed him first, pet him first, and offer him attention first. You'll find that there is still plenty of time in a day to bond with the other dogs, and you will help keep your pack structure solid.

Human Intervention

In my own home, I played an integral part in the eventual aggression between Tice and Cody. Tice was my first dog, the queen of the house. Cody was

the new dog, a strong male with a big presence. I'm sure Tice would have accepted Cody as alpha dog much sooner had I supported him in this role. Instead, I felt sorry for Tice and did what I could to make her feel special and important. I fed her first, I greeted her first, I gave her treats first. In short, I did everything wrong and was lucky my dogs were able to work their positions out without resorting to extreme aggression.

Dogs have an intricate series of competitions that establish ranking amongst themselves. These competitions range from posturing to playing to fighting. Dogs are constantly checking to see if the pack rankings have changed. Watching two dogs posture to determine pack ranking is fascinating. In most cases, the more dominant of the



Every pack needs a leader. Can you identify the pack position of Joe and Elaine Skidel's greyhound from their body language? The pack consists of Judy, RJ, Ben Tommy and Amy. Photo courtesy of Elaine Skidel, Port Matilda, Penn.

two will stand tall (almost on his toes), ears erect, tail held high in the air and wagging in a quick flagging motion. He's clearly signaling his intent of being top dog. The other dog will usually stand very still, ears held flat against the head, eyes averted, tail down, clearly signaling that they are willing to hold a lower ranking position. Problems erupt when both dogs display dominant posturing and neither is willing to back down. These events have nothing to do with affection or with cruelty, they are very simple and direct power plays.

Alpha Styles

As you observe dog packs around you and in your own home, you may begin to notice distinct differences in the alpha dogs ruling styles. The two most distinct styles are what I call the benevolent alpha and the pushy alpha.

The benevolent alpha is secure in his position and once the other dogs show him the respect he's due, this type of alpha will allow his subordinates quite a bit of freedom. You rarely hear this type of alpha dog growl; his minions are kept in check by a mere look or body language. The pushy alpha reminds me of the playground bully. He's busy showing everyone what a tough guy he is and is always growling or dominating the other dogs.

Aggression

When talking about pack dynamics, it's appropriate to bring up aggression. Unstable packs are ripe for aggression and even stable packs get their fair share. I encourage all dog owners to do some reading on pack dynamics and aggression in dogs. You'll learn that there are more reasons behind dog fights and pack aggression than a bully alpha dog. If you are experiencing an alpha dog that too freely uses aggression on his other pack members, or have a house with dogfights, you should consider working with a good animal behaviorist. A behaviorist will come to your home and assess your

pack. They will recommend ways in which you can improve the stability of your pack or help point out things that you are doing to de-stabilize your pack. There are some new drug therapies that veterinary behaviorists are using to treat aggressive dogs, such as anti-convulsants, Inderal, anti-depressants, and synthetic progesterone.

"Where do I fit into the pack structure?"

This is an excellent question to ask as humans do figure into the pack struc-

Everyone's Continued page 17

Valentino 7's Story

By Megan Robertson



He's quite an actor. He can jump up on the only piece of furniture he's not allowed on, and act like I'm speaking to that other, invisible Greyhound...

He's a nurse. He will not leave my side when I'm sick.

He's my partner in TV watching and book reading on rainy days.

And he's the greatest, snuggling, nap partner you could ever ask for.

His second favorite thing to do is shopping. His favorite is running with other Greyhounds on Sunday morning, of course. He loves going into any store that will let him. Nordstrom's was our favorite till he got too excited one afternoon and barfed on the floor in the shoe department.

He killed my mom's cat.

He almost killed the neighbor's cat.

He chewed a two-foot hole in the kitchen wall.

He's ruined all the blinds, pawing at the windows.

He managed to get his muzzle off while waiting in the car. The nanny found the basket of the muzzle ten feet from the car; he had tossed it out the window. In fifteen minutes he demolished the interior, seats, seat covers, dash, headliner, and carpets.

He will lick the tears off my face when I cry.

He explodes in the house when he wants to play, ninety pounds of absolutely whacko Greyhound literally bouncing off the walls, barking, tossing toys in the air, with a smile that makes me think I have only loved a few humans as much as I love him.

It hasn't been an easy nine months with my Greyhound.

I didn't know how much work he would be, and how hard it could get, or how far I would go to keep him and find a way for him to be happy.

As you may have guessed, he suffers incredibly from separation anxiety. For the first two months we had him I was able to take him to work with me. A job change meant he had to be at home during the day. We tried everything, leaving for five minutes, then ten minutes, then a half hour, leaving the TV on, leaving the radio on, coming home at lunch, putting him in a crate, putting him in a room full of pillows and toys and blankets. The minute we closed the front door, he began crying and barking, a heartbreaking keen sound, a quiet, sorrowful, horrible kind

of howling that made me cry the first time I heard it, and he didn't stop until we came back.

After his dad moved out, I tried a nanny.

She was a college girl who loved Valentino and was willing to take care of him during the day in exchange for free rent. I gave her the car, the cell phone, the squawker, and a long list of emergency phone numbers, and they spent their days visiting friends and going to parks. It seemed to be working well until I came home from work one day and found a note on the door from the neighbor that said they had Valentino in their garage. The nanny had left the back door open and the neighbors had found him down by the road, cowering, shaking and frozen in fear. She was fired that night.

By mid-summer I was running out of options and beginning to get pretty worried. I knew he couldn't spend his days alone; he is simply too terrified to be alone. He panics and hurts himself, not to mention the condo we are renting. I knew that if I couldn't find a solution, I would have to find another home for him, with someone who could

be home with him every day. I looked at my budget and what I was willing to give up to pay for him to be in day-care and came up with \$20 a day. No double-tall soy mochas; magazine subscriptions cancelled; no movies; lunches at work with food from home — “brown-bagging” *every day!* To my incredibly grateful delight, a place opened up this spring next to my work called *Yuppie Puppy Day Care* that charges only \$12 a day! I can still buy an occasional book!

The Effects of Stress on Valentino

I knew that the stress of being alone was affecting him emotionally, psychologically, and physically, but I had no idea how much. The change in my amazing Greyhound was immediate. Within two days I saw small changes in how he was sleeping, and playing. His tail began to move a bit more often — what a joy to see him wag his tail and jump around with it high in the air. Three months later, he’s a different dog. He is more affectionate, incredibly playful and light-hearted. He comes to me now for affection, instead of just accepting what I offer, and he’ll bring me his toys so I can play with him, instead of playing by himself.

Medically, he’s been pretty easy; the only problems and expenses have been staples and stitches from the cats he’s gotten a hold of. A mystery was solved last week with a phone call to the people who bred him. Occasionally when playing or running, he would stop suddenly, freeze, and start yelping and crying. Alarmed, thinking he was cramping, I’d grab him, rub his muscles, hug him, and it would pass. The phone call was prompted by a particularly fierce episode where he was unable to breathe. *Very scary!* I was told that the only medical records they had were of his vaccinations, but they thought they remembered him, and that it was likely this is why he was retired. They suggested some extra potassium when he’s exercising or playing, cramping being not awfully uncommon in some greyhounds.

When we adopted Valentino I thought I was in a stable relationship, with help to take care of him. I had a

job that allowed me to take him to work, and it looked like a pretty easy road. Many things have changed. It’s been frustrating and hard at times, but the joy he brings to my life, the mornings of laughter at his antics and the snuggling with a cup a coffee, are the invaluable things I’ve learned about respect and love and commitment and trust from him.

I love a million things about him: the way he smells, the way he falls asleep with his lip stuck on his big canine tooth, his eyes rolled back in his head looking like a demented monster, the way he sighs, puffing and blowing out his cheek, so it kind of flutters, the way he goes berserk when a cat is on TV or a squirrel has the nerve to cross his path. I love how funny he is the first time he experiences something, like trying to hide under the car the first time he saw a deer, or under the bed when I vacuum. He barks at his food if I cook something that’s a bit too warm for him, or talk on the phone when he wants some attention. I could fill a book with the things that I love about him and am grateful for.

“I knew that the stress of being alone was affecting him emotionally, psychologically, and physically, but I had no idea how much much much.”

If you have a new Greyhound that you’re having trouble with, please think about changing what you are doing, but not about giving up. These dogs, I think, are very innocent, naïve, and subtle. I believe every “bad” thing that Valentino has done has been because I failed to teach him what was right. He was so afraid that he didn’t know what he was doing, or he was trying to tell me something and I didn’t understand what he was trying to say. We must never stop

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ture of pet dogs. Typically, you’ll have two packs working in your home. One pack is the dog-only pack, with its canine alpha through omega. The second will be the dog and human pack, which will (hopefully) have all humans outranking all dogs. You can refer to yourself as alpha or simply as the leader, but you need to be clear that you are in charge. Your dogs also need to be clear that you are in charge. You supply the food, you set the rules, you decide when aggression or growling is appropriate (if ever) and you give the commands. You are the leader. If you are unsure of yourself in this role or neglect to train the rest of the humans in leadership qualities, you can be setting yourself up for trouble. Dominant dogs are born leaders, and if they live in a pack without a clear leader, they will step into that role. This can be a dangerous situation for humans and dogs alike. If you own a dominant dog that feels he (or she) is the leader of the house, this is a dog that feels it has the right to reprimand those who don’t lease it. Please understand that not all dogs are waiting to take over your household, but you will run across quite a few dominant dogs that will take the opportunity if you give it.

How to make yourself the “Alpha”

You can do a few benign things to ensure that you or other family members outrank the dogs.

Teach your dogs a command and then make them perform that command before they are fed, walked, or given treats. Veterinarian behaviorists refer to this as the NILIF method: “Nothing In Life Is Free.”

In essence, NILIF is:

1. Avoiding circumstances that elicit the aggression, at least temporarily.
2. Maintaining an aloof attitude towards the dog (a crate or baby gate will facilitate this). This will make the dog more willing to work with you.
3. Practicing QUICK sits and

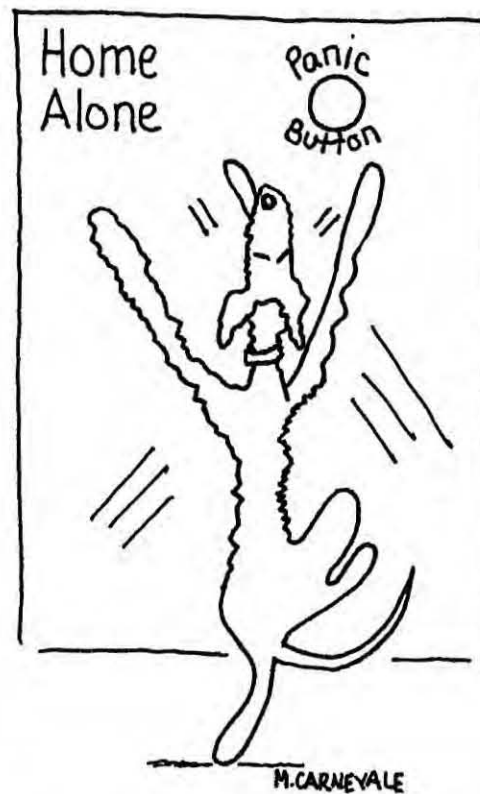
Everyone’s Continued on page 19

Taming Separation Anxiety

By Dr. Cory Ceperich

and

Stacy W. Messinger



When the Slaters adopted Ginger, a three-year-old, ex-racing Greyhound, they anticipated adding a loving new member to their family. What they didn't anticipate was the subsequent need for major home repairs. When left alone in the house, this otherwise affectionate and gentle Greyhound became an implement of destruction, scratching doors, chewing woodwork, and even gouging the dry wall.

Ginger's behavior is symptomatic of a condition known as Separation Anxiety (SA), which sometimes occurs in ex-racing Greyhounds. Of course, all dogs go through a period of adjustment to new people, new surroundings, and new routines; but the transition may sometimes be tougher for Greyhounds. As racing dogs, Greyhounds are accustomed to being constantly surrounded by other dogs and people. When adopted into households where there are no other pets, they quickly form deep attachments to their new owners and often follow them around the house, maintaining close physical proximity at all times. When the owner leaves the house, the dog, unaccustomed to being alone, becomes fearful and panicky and exhibits typical anxious behaviors rang-

ing from excessive vocalization and hyperventilation to household accidents and outright destructiveness. Aside from the nuisance and expense of repairing any damages, the real problem is the risk of injury to the animal, who can suffer cuts and bruises and sometimes even broken teeth.

Some Greyhounds, like four-year-old Casey, display primarily nervous behaviors. Every time Tim and Angela, his new owners, tried to leave the house, Casey would become a complete nervous wreck, pacing and drooling, crying and whimpering. He was even known to chew his way out of his crate on occasion.

There is Hope.

Should you find yourself in a situation similar to Tim and Angela's or the Slaters' there is hope for eliminating your Greyhound's anxiety and consequently the undesired behavior. Above all, bear in mind that this behavior is the result of fear and anxiety rather than spite. The following behavior modification techniques have met with success in treating SA.

First, try taking your dog for a walk or engaging in some other form of ex-

ercise before you leave. Not only does the dog get a good dose of attention, but also the workout will help diffuse its energy level.

Use a crate in the beginning.

Initially, use a crate when you're not at home, but try to limit the time to no more than three or four hours. Try placing an article of your clothing in the crate; the familiar scent can ease the dog's sense of separation. You can also provide a hollow chew bone stuffed with treats to keep your dog occupied. If you have to be gone all day, at work for instance, arrange to have someone take your dog out of the crate midday for diversion. Also, playing the radio or television at a low to moderate volume will help calm your dog by providing the illusion of activity and company in the house.

Because a Greyhound in a new home tends to follow its owner constantly, there should be times, even when the owner is home, that the dog and owner are visually separated. Periodically, Tim and Angela would leave Casey inside the house while they worked in the yard, or they would put him in his crate while they went to an-

other room out of his sight and hearing range.

Don't make a ceremony of leaving.

This signals your dog that you are going, which starts the panic and anxiety. Similarly, don't make a big display when you return because that reinforces the idea that there was indeed something for your pet to be anxious about.

Try practicing false departures. Do all the things you would normally do if you were really leaving, then go out of the house for a few minutes and return. Using a process known as desensitization, you can gradually increase these separations to approximate a real situation, such as a trip to the grocery store. Soon your Greyhound will gain confidence in staying alone and will realize that you'll come back.

Above all, be prepared to devote some time and energy and a lot of patience to this training period. The adoption program staff members can provide information on these techniques. Occasionally, however, behavior modification alone is not enough to solve the problem. Medical therapy (following a thorough physical exam) can be used in conjunction with the behavior modification program.

Drug Therapy

Amitriptyline, a tricyclic antidepressant more commonly known as Elavil, has produced the most successful results. Amitriptyline acts on the central nervous system to calm the dog and decrease the anxiety. The drug is administered in tablet form once each day in the mornings. The usual dosage is one mg. per pound of the dog's weight. In most cases, the animal will take the medicine daily until the separation anxiety has been eliminated, usually two to three months. Then the medication is tapered off and eventually discontinued. Some improvement is normally evident within three to five days. Although the drug is not immediately effective, initially it will tend to make the dog sleepy, which helps to reduce the anxious behavior. Greyhounds generally tolerate amitriptyline well, but possible adverse side effects include sedation (or sometime hyperexcitabil-

ity), vomiting, and diarrhea.

Casey took daily doses of amitriptyline for two months. Adjustments in dosage were able to be worked out between veterinarian and owner by phone. After two months his separation anxiety had disappeared, so his medication was reduced to one dose every other day for a month and then stopped completely. Tim and Angela happily report that Casey is doing fine now, no more pacing, crying or drooling, and no further need for his crate. The combination therapy worked for Ginger as well. Occasionally an animal will require long-term medication, but such cases are rare. It must be stressed that the medical therapy will not be effective unless it's combined with the behavior modification program.

So if your Greyhound is driving both you and itself crazy, don't pull your hair out or get rid of the dog. Consult your veterinarian and your adoption program, and you too can restore peace at home.



Dr. Cory Ceperich, V.M.D., studied veterinary medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and has been a small animal practitioner in Hershey, Pennsylvania, for 13 years. She has a special interest in Greyhounds.

Stacy W. Messinger, Dr. Ceperich's sister, is a technical writer and college admissions counselor in Oklahoma City, where she teaches writing for Rose State College.

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trying to think like them, nor to forget where they've come from, nor their fears and insecurities. There are things I will never know that have made Valentino who he is; things that terrify him (men with baseball hats and weed-eaters) and things that make him leap around in joy. He changes from week to week, and as I learn better what he needs, and what he's trying to tell me, he becomes more and more amazing. I can't wait to see who he'll be tomorrow.



Everybody Continued from page 17

downs for food two-three times a day for 3-5 minutes maximum. You are working for speed and attitude with this and should reward the correct behavior with generous praise.

4. Restricting the dog's privileges and working towards adding more privileges (like free time) as the training continues and their behavior is appropriate.

5. Remembering the NILIF Principle. Continue to ask the dog to perform an activity or command for meals or treats or overt attention.

NILIF can be used on any type of dominant dog, and the length of time you use the entire program will be based on the level of problems you are experiencing with your specific dog.

When giving a command, speak in firm tones. This also applies to reprimanding a dog. No screaming or losing your temper; use a firm, dramatic voice and mean what you say.

Encourage belly rubs for your dogs.

Take your dogs through basic obedience, not because they need it but because this will help bolster your position as leader and will give you the tools to better communicate with your dogs.



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Valentino 7 and Megan live in Bellevue, Washington and go everywhere in a twenty-five year old, lime-green BMW 2002. He came from Arizona via Greyhound Pets, Inc. in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, when he was almost three years old. He was named after an Italian motorcycle racer, Valentino Rossi, not Rudolph Valentino, but all the neighbors insist on calling him "Rudy" because of his clear preference for women. The seven at the end of his name is there because he was my present to myself for having seven drug-free years.

Clean as a Hound's Tooth

by Rodger I. Barr, DVM



Seven-year-old Edna delights these two young ladies with her bright, clean, wonderful smile. Owner Liz Murray of Bennington, Vermont, adopted Edna four years ago from the Racing Dog Rescue Project of Sarasota, Florida. They share their home with another Greyhound, nine-year-old Amos, and a Dalmatian named Apache.

If given the opportunity to alter this “nearly perfect” breed of dog, the Greyhound, what would you change? Perhaps an abundance of fur on the thighs and chest, and no chance of becoming hypothyroid. Not a bad idea. What else? How about flexible bones that bend, but never break? Now we’re cooking! That would be great at the track as well as in adoptive homes. What would you think about the non-existence of separation anxiety? Just think about all the drool you’d be missing, not to mention the other body by-products. All these improvements would be fine and dandy, but if given this rare opportunity, there is only one thing I would change: I would give this fabulous breed a perfect, low-maintenance set of teeth.

The reality of the situation is quite the opposite. This wonderful breed of dog is eminently prone to a lifetime of dental disease. There are many hypotheses to explain the huge amount of pain-

ful, putrid, decaying plaque which these mouths harbor (not to mention the gingivitis and pyorrhea). Suffice it to say that the combination of limited gnawing and chewing opportunities, combined with a high quality, but stew-like diet, lends itself well to plaque formation at a very early age. Once the plaque has a chance to take hold it can result in gum recession and concomitant gingivitis, infection and ultimately, the untimely loss of teeth — often a large number of teeth.

Assuming that when your newly adopted family member arrives, his or her oral cavity has been properly managed, the burden of care now lies squarely on your shoulders. If you or your pet are reluctant to brush or be brushed, the inevitable will be halitosis and the need for regular dental prophylaxis, expensive veterinary bills, anesthesia risks, and the loss of non-replaceable teeth. All avoidable, but requiring

unwavering commitment and dedication.

There are no shortcuts!

Many gimmicks are available. Rawhides have value but can cause gastrointestinal upsets. Bones are good if your dog will chew them, but they can easily break or crack teeth thus allowing for abscessation and loss of teeth. Milkbones, bones, t/d, etc. are helpful but cannot stand alone to win this battle. There is only one way to maintain a Greyhound’s mouth and that is with a minimum of daily brushing. Twice daily is twice as good. Once weekly is useless. Twice weekly is half as useless. A commonly used adage by your own dentist states: “Only brush the teeth you want to keep.” This is true for Greyhounds also. Everybody has their own style of brushing and their own preference of brushes. It is best to use what you feel the most comfortable with.

Make dental care a routine. Do it at the same time every day and DO IT WITHOUT FAIL. This is a very small price to pay for unconditional love, don't you think?

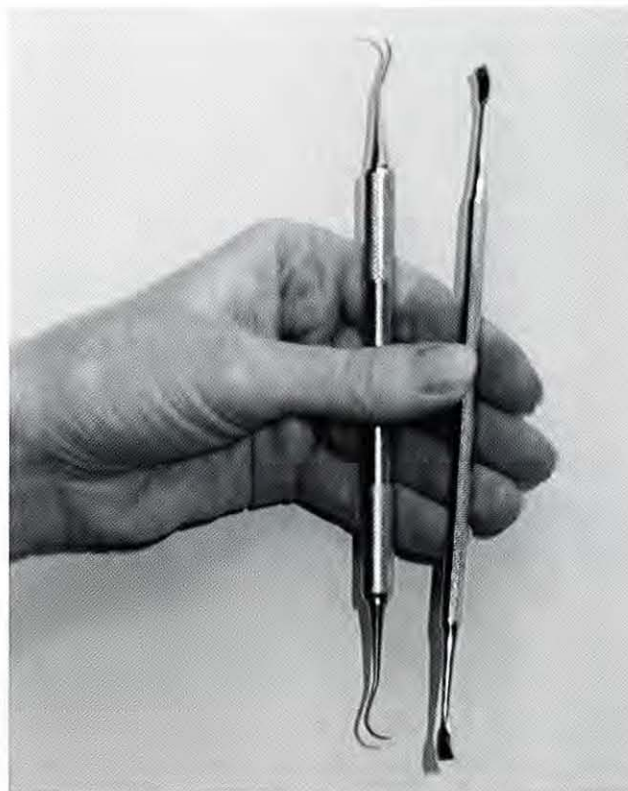
"Tooth or Consequences": Periodontal Disease

If you're not quite convinced yet about the importance of good, regular dental care, I intend to push you over the edge with this final (section of the) article on the subject. Periodontal disease is the term used to describe the broad category of dental disease, including the soft tissue which supports and secures the tooth in the socket. It is estimated that 80% of all dogs have some degree of periodontal disease by the time they are five years old. I submit to you that by the time they are five years old 99.9% of all Greyhounds have moderate to advanced periodontal disease.

When tartar is allowed to build up on the tooth it forces its way under the gum-line, or gingiva, causing gingivitis. Gingivitis is an inflammation of the gingiva. This, by itself, is painful and unhealthy, but there is a more insidious process going on. The gum-line recedes due to the combination of food and bacteria forming tartar which makes its way down to the periodontal ligament, the primary tooth support structure. The end result of this domino effect is the loosening and eventual loss of the affected tooth. Now, if this was the worst that could happen, it would be bad enough.

The fact of the matter is that things can get a great deal worse. Periodontal disease can cause life threatening infections. You read it correctly — your treasured, revered, wonderfully important companions, who love you with all their hearts and souls, can have their already

brief lives shortened even more by oral infection that started with tarter build-up and subsequent gingivitis. A greyhound's oral blood supply is very substantial. This blood supply easily picks up bacteria from an infected mouth and efficiently carries these dangerous organisms to the heart, where valvular endocarditis can occur. Next stop is the liver and the kidneys, where severe infections can also occur with the ultimate damage being organ infection and potential failure. As rapid transit systems go, the cardiovascular system knows no equal.



Although some people scale their Greyhound's teeth with scaling tools such as these, home scaling is not as effective as a professional cleaning under anesthesia. Photo courtesy of Rita Lane, Maine Greyhound Placement Service.

Good, Regular Oral Hygiene

The only way to avoid the above sequence of events is good, regular oral hygiene. Many adopted dogs, although they have had a dental prophylaxis prior to adoption, are already in desperate need of another cleaning within three months. The fact that wonderful people, (who have adopted equally wonderful pets) have failed to maintain their pets' mouths in good shape does not make them horrible people or, for that mat-

ter, even a less-than-perfect home. Much of the blame falls on the racing kennel. The food is stew-like in texture and consistency and does not provide the scaling opportunity which occurs with most dry foods. By the time an animal ends his or her professional career, the damage oftentimes is present. From here we are all fighting an uphill battle.

To start with, most Greyhounds require a thorough cleaning. This includes an ultrasonic scaling, polishing, and fluoride treatment and, if necessary, a new product from the Heska company designed to help clear up the existing infection and allow the gingiva to reattach to the crown of the tooth. Unsalvageable teeth must be removed. Failure to do so will most definitely result in additional anesthesia with all its risks, and follow-up dental care with all its expenses. After the mouth has been cleaned thoroughly, the follow-up care must begin in three days.

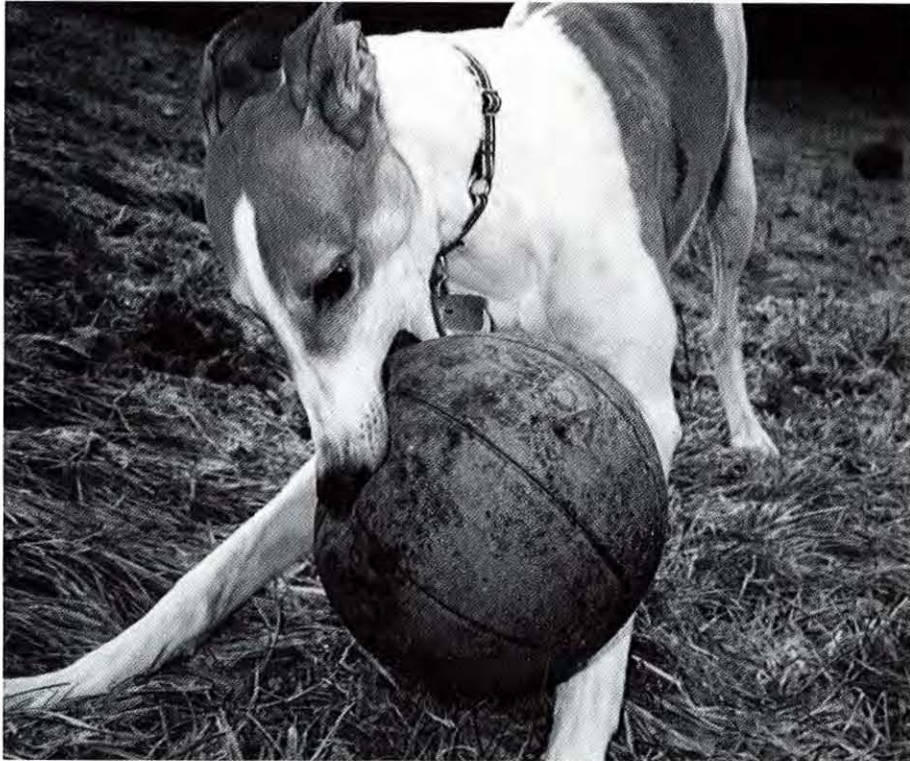
Tarter build-up begins almost immediately — so must you. Make brushing part of your daily routine, do it at the same time every day and do it faithfully. Brushing is critical. Finger brushes, tooth brushes, mouth rinses, time-release oral tablets, Hills t/d, rawhide bones, dental floss, and chew toys all have value, but nothing can take the place of daily brushing. Tooth or Consequences (for those old enough) says it all.



*Greyhound Dental articles by
Rodger I. Barr, DVM. Greyhound News,
1 (2-3) Reprinted with author's permis-
sion. Dr. Barr is also the President of
Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption
in Minnesota and owns several Grey-
hounds.*

Home Dental Care for Your Greyhound

By Lauren Emery



Greyhounds in this day and age may not need their teeth for hunting, but for some activities teeth are essential. Photo courtesy Lauren Emery.

Hopefully all Greyhound adopters reading this have had the importance of home dental care stressed to them by their adoption representative and their veterinarian. The big question is are you doing it? And if so, how frequently and how effectively?

Why all the fuss about teeth?

Dental disease can have a significant impact on your dog's life span due to its affect on the heart, kidneys, liver and respiratory system. It starts with saliva, food residue and bacteria creating plaque on teeth which builds up along the gums, infecting the gums, bones and ligaments that support and anchor the teeth in the jaw. Some stud-

ies have shown that 80% of dogs over the age of two or three have dental disease. One of the hallmarks most of us are familiar with is doggie breath (halitosis). Periodontal disease is progressive, usually starting as gingivitis, an infection of the gum tissue. At this point the condition is reversible with proper care. It progresses to gum recession and eventual loss of teeth. Bacteria enters the bloodstream and can travel to your dog's vital organs.

Most likely your Greyhound had no formal dental care before retirement from racing. The large text *Care of the Racing Greyhound: A Guide for Trainers, Breeders and Veterinarians* devotes only one half page to dental care, and

that's in a chapter on geriatrics, stating that periodontal disease is "not an infrequent problem in the aging Greyhound." Quite possibly your Greyhound already had periodontal disease when adopted and may even have had some teeth missing. Your adoption group may or may not have provided some dental care in its pre-adoption medical package.

Six years ago I adopted two Greyhounds before our group included dental scaling and their dental status was quite different. The two-year-old dog's teeth had very thick tartar build up, but no gum inflammation. Although he probably didn't enjoy spending his second birthday at the veterinarian's get-

ting his teeth cleaned back to their original pearly white, it was a great investment in his health. The three-year-old dog's teeth had a little tartar but he already had gum recession and bleeding with brushing. His teeth were also quite worn from crate chewing.

Brushing is the most important aspect of home dental care.

Brushing is the cornerstone for your dog's home dental program. If your dog's teeth have heavy tartar build up you can't brush it off and a professional cleaning at your vets is needed to give you a clean slate to work with. Ideally your Greyhound should have its teeth

brushed daily or at least every other day with toothpaste formulated for dogs. Don't use toothpaste made for people or baking soda. Your dog can't spit it out. Toothpaste for dogs that has poultry and beef flavors is available at pet supply stores as are rubber finger brushes and pet toothbrushes.

The Sonicare Advantage

I previously used a soft toothbrush for people until I switched a year ago to using a Sonicare toothbrush on my Greyhounds. Automated brushing devices have made home dental care easier and more effective for people, so why not use them on dogs also? The Sonicare toothbrush, with 31,000 strokes per minute not only dislodges bacteria from the tooth surface it helps remove plaque between teeth and below the gum line. Due to its noise and vibration, the Sonicare needs to be introduced slowly and carefully to be accepted by your dog. One of my Greyhounds bolts at unexpected noises but within two weeks both dogs became quite accepting of having this machine in their mouths. I started by using the



The Sonicare toothbrush is very effective with dogs but needs to be introduced slowly. Photo by Rita Lane.

Sonicare to brush their teeth without turning it on, then with the dampening ring in place turning it on for a few seconds in the front half of their mouths. Using this technique a friend has also gotten her Greyhound used to this toothbrush.

Hold your toothbrush at a 45° angle and focus on the point where the gums meet the teeth. I brush the outer surfaces of all teeth and the insides of the bottom front teeth and canines, applying toothpaste two or three times. Dogs' tongues are good at cleaning the insides of most of the teeth.

The Toothpaste Problem

I've heard a number of people say their Greyhounds won't let them brush their teeth. Dogs like the taste of poultry and beef flavored toothpaste so I wonder how hard they have tried. I believe that if the dog is introduced to the process gradually it will accept it as a regular activity. I think the greatest challenge of brushing is to keep the dog from licking all the toothpaste off the brush. The first time I stuck a toothbrush back in my newly adopted Greyhound's

mouth his eyes opened wide and I thought he might bite me. A slower introduction to this new experience would have been prudent as we didn't know each other very well then and he wasn't a puppy. Letting the dog lick toothpaste off your finger and rubbing his teeth and gums at the same time would be a gentle introduction to the process.

***Flossing —
A New Concept in Dog Dental Care***

I'm not aware of any veterinarian who recommends flossing dogs' teeth, (it's hard enough to get people to follow through with brushing), but I thought that if flossing is an important part of human oral hygiene, why not canine also? Many years ago when Minnie the dental hygienist told me I had "floppy gums" from not flossing, I became a flossing advocate. Brushing alone, even with the automated brushes, has limited capacity to get between the teeth where food and bacteria can accumulate. The Dentax Flosser I occasionally use for the Greyhounds was purchased at a chain drug store and was basically designed as a one-handed de-



Flossing your Greyhound's teeth occasionally can help clean between the teeth at the gum line. Photo by Rita Lane.

vice for people. It looks like a little plastic sling shot with a roll of dental floss that is strung between the two ends. I focus on the dogs' problem areas: for one I floss between all the little front teeth and with the other I've used it between his molars.

To scale or not to scale?

I used to scale my dogs' teeth and am evaluating the pros and cons of this. The veterinarian who has been working with our adoption group for five years is becoming board certified in dentistry and is not an advocate of home dental scaling. Without anesthesia it is not possible to clean thoroughly under the gums. Without polishing, the microscopic scratches on the teeth created during the cleaning process will quickly fill in with plaque again. Because I kept the teeth of my Greyhound with periodontal disease looking decent through

home scaling, my general practice vet deferred regular professional cleanings. At age nine I had his teeth done with

find food remains on the back teeth, trapped by the cheeks. After a meal take a look. You may need to massage the

the dental vet. Full mouth x-rays showed five teeth to have root loss from the disease process and were extracted. In an attempt to save two other teeth that had pockets of periodontal disease, two healthy teeth of lesser importance were also removed to make more space. Flouride was applied to his teeth to strengthen the enamel, inhibit the growth of bacteria and desensitize the surfaces of teeth where gums have receded. Would he have lost these teeth if he had had regular professional cleanings? We don't know.

Other concerns

Greyhound adopters should feed their dogs a dry kibbled food. Soft food tends to stick on teeth, promoting dental problems. Even with dry food you may



A photo illustrating a home dental scaling. Photo by Lauren Emery.

dog's cheeks or brush to help dislodge trapped food. Your veterinarian may also recommend a food that was designed to help reduce dental plaque.

I've heard some trainers give bones to Greyhounds in racing kennels for mechanical abrasion of the teeth to help remove tartar. Two veterinarians I know advise strongly against giving your dogs bones. Considering the power of dogs' jaws, they may break teeth or shave off bony splinters that can cause injury to oral and esophageal tissues, GI upset and lethal perforations of the stomach and bowels.

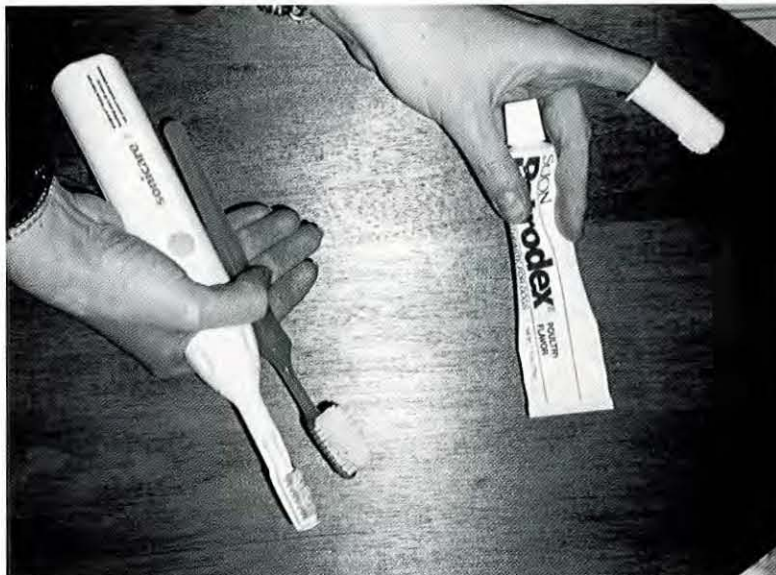
Rawhide chews are promoted to aid dental care but their use is controversial as dogs may choke on them or they may cause intestinal obstruction.

Depending on your dog's dental status your veterinarian may recommend an antibacterial canine mouthwash or some newer products to help control periodontal disease.

Work with your veterinarian.

Proper dental care for your Greyhound is essentially a joint effort between you and your vet. Professional cleanings will be required for optimal dental health.

If you are not already on a home dental regimen for your Greyhound, please look in your dog's mouth today. What you see may surprise or even alarm you. Red, inflamed gums and teeth brown with tartar are two signs you need your vet's help before starting on a home dental program. I'm aware of a number of adopted Greyhounds whose dental care was neglected, resulting in the extraction of twenty or more teeth — that's half of a Greyhound's teeth. Consider that if you had a toothache you'd probably call your dentist right away, but your dog has no way to directly communicate dental pain and essentially suffers in silence. Your dental care efforts will help control the dreaded doggie breath and you will be rewarded by having a happier, healthier Greyhound companion.



Basics for home dental care — toothpaste for dogs, a finger brush, soft toothbrush or an automatic toothbrush, and a flosser. Photo by Lauren Emery.

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Lauren Emery is an officer with Maine Greyhound Placement Service and resides in North Yarmouth, Maine. She is a frequent contributor to CG Magazine.

Rainbow Colors — Rainbow Greyhounds



A wonderful collection of solids and particolours. Owned by Praveen Mutalik of Southboro, Mass. Photo by New England Petography.

By Patricia Gail Burnham

Greyhounds come in a lot of different colors. Because they were always selected for speed instead of color it has long been said that a good Greyhound never has a bad color. Since there were no bad colors, colors were not eliminated from the Greyhound gene pool. And because the breed has existed for millennia, and was crossed with a variety of native dogs, many colors were introduced to its gene pool. They are all still there. Greyhounds come in nearly every known dog color with the exception of merle and black and tan. This makes whelping Greyhound litters great fun as each new puppy can be a different color. It also makes it a bit of a challenge to understand Greyhound color genetics well enough to predict the possible colors in a litter.

Every dog is born with seventy-eight pairs of chromosomes that determine whether he will grow up to be a Greyhound or a Collie. In each pair of chromosomes one is received from the sire and one from the dam. Strung along each chromosome are genes which de-

termine every aspect of the dog. A gene's location along the chromosome determines what characteristics it controls. Coat color is controlled by pairs of genes that are located in eight different locations along the chromosomes. To identify the locations they are given letter designations. The letter designations of the genes that control color are A, B, C, D, E, N, S, and T.

If a dog receives a matching gene from each parent at a location then that gene pair is called homozygous (homo means same and zygos means gene). If a dog is homozygous for a color then it will be that color and can only pass on to its offspring a gene of that color. The exciting part of genetics comes if a dog receives different genes from each parent. If a dog has one gene for black and one gene for sable red, what color will it be? First it is said to be heterozygous (different genes). The color of the dog will be determined by which of the two unmatching genes is dominant over the other.

The most dominant gene controls the dog's appearance.

At each gene location all the possible genes that can fit into that location are called alleles. These alleles are all given the letter of the location that they fit into. The most dominant allele of a series is identified by a capital letter, while the progressively more recessive genes are given small letters with superscripts to tell them apart. Once we have the genes identified we can chart Greyhound colors just like Gregor Mendel's short and tall pea plants.

What do those capital letters mean?

Knowing what the letters mean make genetic terminology easier for the non-geneticist to understand.

The location letters: "A" stands for agouti which is the wild wolf color. (Greyhounds don't have this, but if they did, it would be on the A locus.) "B" stands for black-brown; the recessive bb turns black hairs to brown. "C^{ch} C^{ch}" stands for chinchilla. "D" stands for blue dilution; the recessive dd produces blue

Legend

Sable Red (Homozygous a^y)
 $a^y a^y$



Black carrying Sable Red (Heterozygous)
 $A^s a^y$



Black (Homozygous A^s)
 $A^s A^s$



dilution. E stands for black extension as the genes in this series affect the production of black pigment. "S" stands for spotting; the recessive ss produces white dogs with colored spots. N is a term I assigned for brindle with the recessive nn meaning no brindle. "T" stands for ticking.

What About Those Superscripts?

The superscripts that tell the alleles apart: sable means black and is indicated by "s," so A^s is black. Sable red is called yellow (indicated by "y") so sable red is a^y . Chinchilla is "ch," so $c^{ch}c^{ch}$ produces the Chinchilla effect. In the spotting series: "i" stands for Irish marked, "p" stands for particolor, and "w" stands for extreme-white.

Genetic Color vs. Appearance Colors

One difficulty in discussing colors is that owners use color terms that describe the dog's appearance instead of its genetic coloring. Genetic red brindles are referred to as black brindles if they have a lot of stripes, or seal brindles if the brown color is a dull brown instead of red. But whether the red is dingy, brown or hardly shows at all, these dogs are still genetically red brindles.

The Color Genes and What They Do

The Unmodified Colors: Black, Red Sable, Red Brindle

A Locus — Black and Sable Red

All Greyhounds are one of two basic colors: black or sable red. These are determined by gene pairs at the A location. The genes that will fit into the A location are A^s (black) and a^y (sable red). A^s is dominant to a^y , so the sequence is written from most dominant to most recessive as A^s , a^y . At each locus a puppy receives one gene from each parent. If a puppy has $A^s A^s$ genes it will be black. If it has $A^s a^y$ genes then it will again be black because the black A^s is dominant over a^y sable red. If the puppy receives an a^y gene from each parent then it is $a^y a^y$ and is sable red.

The sabling in sable red is an overlay of black guard hairs over a red coat. Belgian Tervurens are heavily sabled. Collies are generally more lightly sabled. Most red Greyhounds are sable reds. The easiest place to find the sable guard hairs is on the edges of the ears and the eyebrows, and black hairs will appear there in even very lightly sabled dogs. These black hairs are the test of whether you are looking at a sable red or an ee red. In heavily sabled dogs the black hairs also appear on the sides of the neck, the top of the head, the tail, and in the body coat.

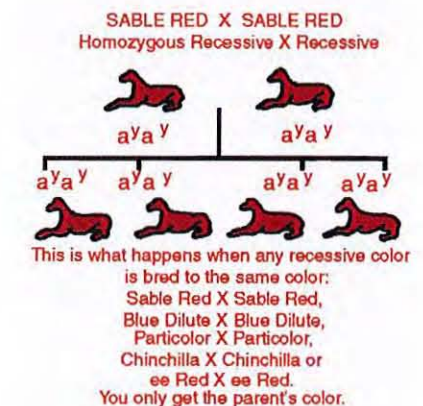
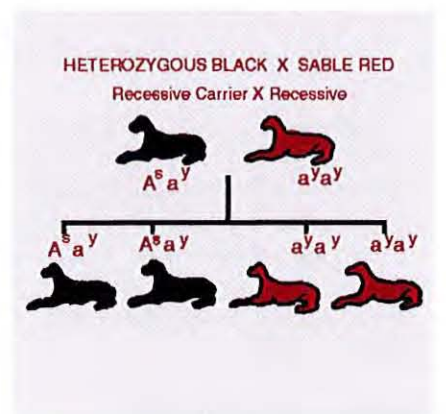
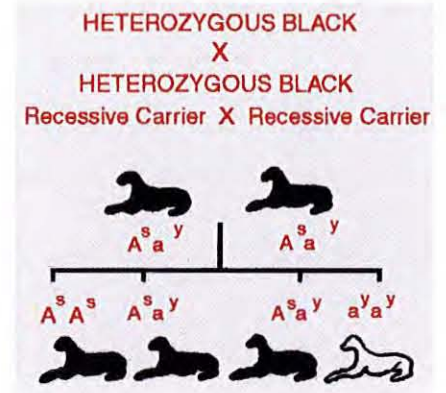
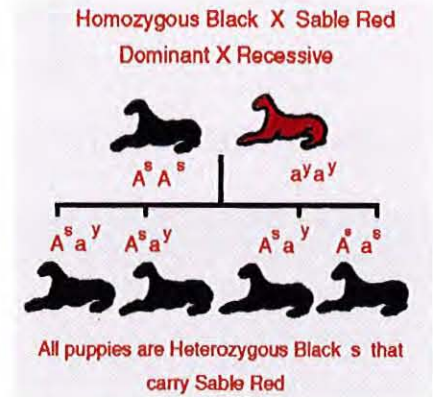
The color charts to the right diagram breedings between:

1. A homozygous black and a sable red. All the offspring are black but carry sable red.

2. A breeding between two heterozygous blacks (like the carriers produced in the first breeding.) Twenty-five percent of the puppies are homozygous black; twenty-five percent are sable red, and fifty percent are heterozygous black.

3. A breeding between a heterozygous black and a sable red. Fifty percent of the puppies are heterozygous black, and fifty percent are sable red.

4. A breeding between a sable red



A Colors Primer

1. Greyhounds are either basic black, sable red or red brindle colors.



Black and blue. Both are A^s for black. Blue is modified by the dd for blue dilution. Photo by P.G. Burnham



Sable Red. Note the black eyebrows and ear edges. Photo by P.G. Burnham



Red Brindles come in many variations. Photo by P.G. Burnham

and a sable red. All the offspring are sable red.

(These same charts could be used to chart the results of breedings at any of the other color locations by substituting the dominant and recessive colors from those locations for A^s and a^y. Instead of A you can use D and d, or C and cch, E and e, S and sⁱ, or s^p or s^w, N and n, or T and t.)

Brindle and Non-Brindle

All Greyhounds are either brindle or non-brindle. The dominant gene N produces brindling. So a dog that is either NN or Nn will be brindle. The recessive gene nn produces no brindling. And stripes add up. If a dog has two genes for brindling (NN) it will have more black stripes than a dog with a single brindle gene. This is my first correction to Clarence Little's book *The Inheritance of Coat Color in Dogs* (Howell Book House, 1967).

He assigns brindle to the E location, but that is an error. Brindle can't be on the E locus because the most re-

cessive ee at that locus can conceal brindle by blocking the production of black pigment. The recessive ee would not be able to conceal brindle, if brindle were a more dominant gene on the same locus.

The Modifying Genes

There are five pairs of recessive genes and one pair of dominant genes that can modify the basic black, sable red or red brindle colors.

The recessive modifiers are bb liver dilution, c^{ch} c^{ch} the paling gene, dd blue dilution, ee the black blocker, and sⁱ, s^p, s^w for white spotting. The dominant gene at each of these modifier locations (B,C,D,E and S) has no effect on the basic black, red brindle or sable red. It is the recessives at each location that modify the basic colors. So, let's take them in order.

(bb) Liver dilution

The liver modification genes will change black into liver, sable red into

liver factored red and red brindle into liver brindle. The dominant BB or Bb allows black pigment to be formed. But when a puppy receives two b genes (bb) the black pigment is changed to liver (brown). The dog will have a liver pigmented nose and amber eyes. If its basic color would have been black it will be dark liver. If its basic coat color is red brindle then it will be liver brindle (Dark liver stripes overlying a peach colored coat.) If its basic color is a sable red, the red hairs will not be affected, but the sable guard hairs will be liver colored. (This is my second correction



Cocoa, a bb dilution, is owned by Lisa and Dave Nolet of Altamonte Springs, Florida.

A Colors Primer

2. Examples of (bb) liver dilution

to Little. He doesn't show liver as an allele in Greyhounds, but I have seen enough liver and liver pigmented Greyhounds to assure you that it does exist in the breed.) In Australia they call the livers "dun."

(*c^{ch}c^{ch}*) The Paling gene

The dominant CC or Cc^{ch} gives full pigmentation where red dogs look red. The recessive c^{ch} (ch stands for chin-chilla) is the modifier that creates yellow fawns, silver brindles and other colors in which the reddish brown areas of sable reds, ee reds, and red brindles are lightened to yellow, cream or silver colors. This gene doesn't affect black hair or black pigment and it doesn't lighten eye color. The paling gene c^{ch} is frequently seen in racing Greyhounds (and show Whippets) and rarely seen in show Greyhounds.

(*dd*) Blue dilution: photos on page 31

Dominant DD or Dd allows black, sable red or red brindle color to remain unchanged. But the recessive dd combination modifies black hair color and pigment to blue (which is actually dark grey). Having two dd genes also changes sable red to blue fawn and red brindle to blue brindle.

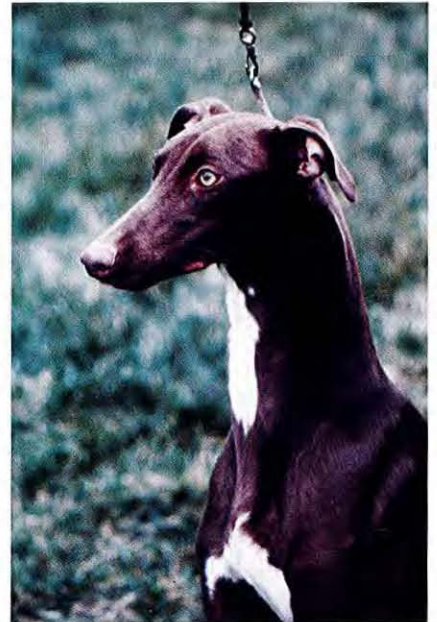


Liver-nosed red. Note nose color and amber eyes. This dog is a sable red modified by bb for liver. Photo by P.G. Burnham

(*ee*) The black blocker: photos on page 31

The dominant gene at this location EE or Ee allows black to be expressed in the dog's coat (if other genes, like black, or brindle or red sable or masking, call for it.) But the recessive ee genes block the formation of black hair pigment even if black or brindle genes are calling for black hair. The dog will still have a black nose and eye rims but he won't have a black hair on his body. There are a lot of breeds whose identification depends on their being ee. Golden retrievers, Irish setters, and Weimaraners are ee and if they were EE or Ee they would be black because they are A^sA^s for black. What keeps them from being black are the ee genes that block the formation of black hair pigment. When a dog can't put black pigment into its hair, it ends up red (or blonde) even if it has genes calling for brindle, or black, or black masking. The ee reds have rather a bald expression because they lack the dark eyebrows of a sable red.

The ee gene has accounted for considerable confusion among Greyhound color geneticists because of ee's ability to conceal genes for black and brindle. Most red Greyhounds are sable reds a^aa^a. Only a small number of Greyhounds are ee reds. Two sable reds bred to each other will only produce more sable reds. And two ee reds bred to each other will only produce more ee reds. But when you breed an ee red that is masking a hidden brindle or black gene to a sable red who is EE or Ee you can get puppies that are Ee or ee. And since Ee will not block the production of black pigment, our two red parents can have puppies that are red, brindle or black, much to the owner's surprise. Extensive records of red x red Greyhound breedings have always shown a small number of black and brindle puppies that show up among the expected red puppies. These are not due to owner er-



Liver with liver nose and amber eyes. This dog is a black dog modified by bb for liver. Photo by P.G. Burnham

ror as some of the studies have said. They are due to one of the parents being ee red while the other is a sable red.

(*S, sⁱ, s^p, s^w*) White Spotting

The dominant S produces whole colored dogs that have only small areas of white on the chest, neck, and toes. The next gene sⁱ is called Irish spotting and it produces a dog with a white chest and neck ring and possibly white front



Pink-nosed bb liver red. Note the eye rims and lip color. Sara, owned by the Sulkis Family of Bethany, Conn. Photo by Marcia Herman.

A Colors Primer

3. Examples of (C^{ch}) yellow dilution and of white spotting



A yellow fawn, Peaches, another unusually-colored Greyhound owned by the Sulkis Family of Bethany, Conn. Photo by Marcia Herman.



Elaine Summerhill's yellow fawn brindle.

legs. Basenjis and Collies have a lot of this pattern. The next most recessive gene s^p is called particolor and produces a dog that is mostly white with colored patches on the head, rump, back and sides. The most recessive gene of this series s^w is called extreme white spotting and produces a dog that is predominantly white with little head color (sometimes just colored ears) and small or no areas of body color.

Extreme white spotting is connected with occasional hereditary deaf-



A classic example of extreme white-spotted ($s^w s^w$ with ticking T). Polka, owned by Eileen Saks of Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

ness in dozens of dog breeds, the Dalmatian being the most famous. White hair color causes deafness because white hair is caused by the absence of pigment within the hair shaft. What a dog, or for that matter a person, hears with, deep in the inner ear, are modified hairs. Those hairs need color pigment to maintain their health. When the receptor hair cells atrophy there is no way for sound to be transmitted from the dog's inner ear to its brain.

The Genetic Greyhound Colors

The genetic Greyhound colors are: Black; Sable Red; Red Brindle; Liver; Liver nosed Red; Liver Brindle; Yellow Fawn; Yellow Fawn Brindle; Blue; Blue Fawn; Blue Brindle; ee Red; White; and White spotted with any of the above colors.

Multiple Modifiers

What makes up the wide variety of Greyhound colors is that one dog may have several different modifiers acting on his coat color. So a dog could be $a^y a^y$ for red, with modifiers for dd blue dilution, and $c^{ch} c^{ch}$ for the paling gene and the result would be a pale fawn dog. Or a dog could be $A^s A^s$ for black with modifiers for ee and $c^{ch} c^{ch}$ and the result would again be a pale fawn dog. For example: Weimaraners are geneti-



Yellow fawn half-and-half. He is $a^y a^y$ with $e^{ch} e^{ch}$. This combination turns red hair yellow and no effect on black. Note the black mask. Photo by P.G. Burnham

(Tt) Ticking

In the case of ticking it is the dominant gene that causes the effect the locus is named for. The dominant T al-

A Colors Primer

4. Examples of (bb) blue dilution and breeding results



Blue brindle puppy. Photo by Loretta Nickolaus.

cally black dogs that get their silver color from a combination of bb blue dilution modifiers and $c^{ch}c^{ch}$ modifiers and Irish Setters are genetically black dogs that become red through the action of the ee modifiers.



Blue Fawn. A sable red modified by dd for blue dilution. Rich Bergman Photos, El Cajon, California.

What can parents and offspring tell you about a dog's genetic color?

In order to chart colors on Greyhound breedings you have to determine a whether a dominant colored dog carries the recessive genes. Any dog that produces a recessive colored puppy is proven to be a carrier for that recessive gene. Also any puppy from a recessive colored dog has to be a carrier for that recessive.

When I bred Little Tiger to Sheena they were both red brindles. I knew that Little Tiger had to carry the recessive for

particolor because his dam was particolor so she had to give him one of her particolor genes. I knew that Sheena had to carry blue dilution because her mother was blue and could only give her a blue dilution gene. When the litter was born it contained red brindles, blue brindles, sable reds, blue fawns and particolors. From those colors I knew that both Little Tiger and Sheena were carriers for blue dilution, white spotting, and non-brindle.

Additional hints about genetic colors are that a whole colored dog with a lot of white on his chest, neck and toes is very likely carrying one gene for white spotting. Black brindles, which are red brindles with lots of black stripes, if they were born from more lightly marked red brindle parents, often received a brindle gene from each parent NN and all their offspring will be brindle. The more brindle genes you have, the more stripes you end up with.



Blue NGA fawn with dark muzzle. Apollo, owned by Hilton Quinones, Brick, New Jersey. Photo by Michele Carnevale.

Some breeding results are:

1. Breeding two parents of the same recessive color together will produce only that recessive color. So two blue dilution parents can only produce blue dilute puppies. Two white spotted parents can only produce white spotted puppies. Two liver parents can only produce liver puppies.

2. If two non-recessive parents ever produce a recessive colored puppy, both parents must be carriers of the gene for



An ee red shown by Gail Burnham. Photo by Mike Kidster, Calimesa, Cal.

A Colors Primer

5. Examples of (ee) black blockers, genetic reds, and birth to adult colors



An adult red still showing the black mask — common in pups, unusual in adults. Isis, owned by Robert Carr, Leeds, New York.

puppy is an adult, but sometimes they keep the mask into adulthood.

All the blue dilutes, that is blue, blue fawn and blue brindle are born a pale silver color and they are difficult to tell apart at birth. The solid blues, and the stripes on the blue

brindles, will darken with time. The blue fawns will change to a rose grey color. All blue dilutes are born with pale blue eyes which darken with time.

To identify the rare livers, look for liver nose pigment and eyes that tend to be greenish when young. Also the

Newborn puppy colors



The typical coffee color of newborn sable reds a'a'. As the litter nears one year of age, their colors vary from yellow to red fawns to red sable and red brindle. The dam is red brindle; the sire is red fawn. Both are NGA stock.

Adult-like colors



Cullen, the pup centered in the photo on the bottom of the page, is shown here at four months. He remains this light yellow-orange color at ten months of age. Both puppy photos by Marcia Herman, Hamden, Conn.

that recessive. So if two red brindle parents produce a red, or a white spotted, or a liver, or a fawn, or a blue dilute puppy, then both parents are carriers for that recessive trait.

3. Two sable reds bred to each other cannot produce blacks or brindles. Likewise two ee reds bred to each other cannot produce blacks or brindles. BUT a sable red bred to an ee red can produce occasional blacks or brindles.

Birth Colors

Newborn Greyhound colors are strikingly different from their adult colors. First time breeders are often baffled when identifying newborn colors. The only two Greyhound colors that don't change between birth and adulthood are black and solid white.

Sable reds are born dark brown, strong coffee colored, and lighten to red in a few weeks. They nearly always have black masks when they are less than eight weeks old. Most black masks are gone by the time the

liver pigmented reds are born blond instead of coffee colored like the sable reds.

The recessive ee reds are also born blond. They will have black nose pigment and their coat will darken and redden with time. The key to identifying an ee red is that they cannot have a single black hair on their body. Their eyebrows and ear fringes will not have the sable red's identifying black hairs.

Red brindles, like the sable reds, will lighten with time. As they grow their stripes get farther apart and the red ground color between the stripes lightens and reddens.

Greyhound folks tend to refer to white dogs as particolours. They rarely bother to distinguish between the true particolours and the extreme white spotted dogs. At birth they both often have pink noses, eye rims and foot pads which turn to black as the puppy grows.





A Very Black Brindle: Dottie.
Photo courtesy Lauren Emery



A collection of white particoloreds with their Labrador housemate. Roxie, Taser, Dakota-Blue, and Xandingo. Owned by Gayle and Gary Stephan, La Habra, California.



A fawn to silver brindle her showing $c^{ch}c^{ch}$ genes. Molly, owned by Emily Fontanella, Kensington, Conn. Photo by Marcia Herman.



The very unusual Pierre, owned by Mary Ann Moore of Brentwood, Missouri, is probably a dark red brindle with multiple modifying genes likely mixed with other mysterious genes. Note the unusual light eyes on this non-dilute hound.



Silver Brindle. Skylar, owned by Cassie Wyland, Eureka, California. Photo by Loretta Nickolaus.



A striking red brindle, white-ticked particolored. Huckleberry, owned by the Berger Family, Orange, Ca.



Blue Brindle Particolored. Nose and eye rims are dark grey instead of black. Photo by P.G. Burnham

Shedding Light on Greyhound Grooming



Tucker is an unusually hairy Greyhound. Brush this type of heavy-coated dog before bathing. Photo courtesy Marcia Herman.

by Maureen Nelms

I'm sure you're thinking this is going to be an exceptionally short article. After all, how much is there to say about grooming a Greyhound? A daily two minute going over with a soft bristle brush, then once a week with a rubber currycomb and trim the nails. Bath when soiled — usually not more than twice a year. Hah!

What's with white Greyhounds?

Those of you who do not own white Greyhounds will likely not be aware that the white hair sheds more than any other color. To those of you who do own white Greyhounds — my condolences. You may think it only appears that white Greyhounds shed more, since obviously white hair is easier to see. I have a black and a fawn Greyhound as well as a white one, and neither color sheds anywhere near the quantity of hair that the white one does. I have even saved up the hair from all three dogs on occasion and compared the quantities —

believe me, the white ones shed more.

Two weeks ago I decided to try to avoid some of the seasonal shedding and remove loose hair from all of my dogs before it arrived on my work clothes. I used a small, plastic flea comb and went over all three dogs. I got a fair bit of black hair, a modicum of fawn hair, and virtually no white hair. Great, I thought, this must mean that my white dog had already shed out for the year, and I would not have to worry about being coated for the next few weeks.

Hair, Hair Everywhere

Unfortunately, the flea comb simply loosened every hair on his body. I awoke in the morning brushing fluffy white Greyhound cobwebs off my face. There was hair in my eyes, up my nose, in my mouth. My carpet appeared to have cotton balls dropped in various spots. My black dog wandered through the house sprinkled with white hair. I noticed that the white dog's beautiful

royal blue ultra-suede collar was looking decidedly feathery. Argh. Okay, I thought, I'd better give him a good brushing this morning. I grabbed the brush (kids, don't try this at home) and started going over him. Did I think to go outside to do this? I did not. Did I think to do it on the linoleum? I did not. Did I think to put down newspaper, something, anything, to catch the hair? No. I brushed him on the green carpet. Three minutes later it looked as if a down pillow had exploded in my living room. Amazingly, my dog was not bald. Having already made such a mess, I determined to complete my task and get rid of all the hair. After ten minutes, the quantity of hair floating around the room had increased to the point that it was difficult to see. Poor Boone was standing almost up to his elbows in fluff. Hair was still coming out but I felt sure I'd gotten most of it. Releasing him, I headed for the vacuum, wishing I could have used it directly on the dog.

For the next several days, there was very little white dog hair in the house. I congratulated myself for getting most of it out in one attempt. Today, however, I see Boone's blue collar is looking downy again, alabaster filaments are appearing on my carpeting, and my pillow case, once dark green, is again turning white. Maybe this time, I'll take him outside.

Greyhound Grooming Tips

Nails

Overly long nails can be painful for dogs and can cause injury especially when running. Ideally, nails should be kept short enough that they do not click on the floor when the dog is walking.

Many Greyhounds, particularly those with solid black toenails, do not like having their nails cut. I find that clipping nails while the dog is lying down is the easiest way to go about this. With the dog lying (and hopefully sleeping peacefully) on its side, I begin with the back foot that is on the bottom (i.e., if the dog is lying on its right side, start with the right hind foot).

Use a good pair of sharp clippers.

Do not use the guillotine type of clipper as these tend to squeeze the nail before they cut it, causing pain. Don't hold the dog's foot too tightly. Often in our quest to avoid nicking the quick, we concentrate too much on holding the foot and nail absolutely still, not realizing that we are cutting off the blood supply to the dog's toes in the process. Snip just the tips off each nail. The next foot done should be the other hind foot. My experience is that dogs do not mind having their hind feet done as much as their front feet, so I get the easy toes clipped first.

Then go on to the front feet. Start with the foot that is underneath as it is much more difficult for the dog to pull that leg away when it's lying on it. If your dog will allow it, you can then flip the dog over so it's lying on its other side, which leaves the final foot on the leg now underneath the dog. If the dog is on the couch, then flipping it over may not be possible. The final foot generally takes the longest. The secret is to

go slowly, talk to the dog, do not squeeze the foot. If by some chance you should cut the quick (i.e., cause the dog's nail to bleed), a teaspoon of flour or cornstarch will generally stop all but the worst bleeders. One can always keep on hand a product called Kwik-Stop, made especially to help stop bleeding toenails.

Cut your dog's nails every couple of days, just taking a tiny bit off each nail until the dog trusts you and will allow you to do it in a shorter amount of time. Generally clipping once a week should keep nails in good shape.

If your dog is uncomfortable having its nails clipped, you should try to spend time handling the dog's feet (I give little foot kisses), without actually trimming the nails. Give the dog a treat as you handle its feet and nails so it looks forward to this procedure. A veterinarian or groomer can do the nails for you in the meantime.

The Dremel Grinder

Another possibility is to use a Dremel tool (grinder) on the dog's nails. Buy these from a hardware store, as grinders specifically made for canines and sold in pet stores are generally much more expensive. You want to try to get one that is fairly silent as the noise may bother some dogs. Work for only a few seconds per nail, as the grinding generates heat that can be painful. You can do the ends of the nails as well as forming them slightly on the sides. Remember: grinders can also nick the nail's quick, so be careful. You can also use a manual file; I prefer a fine rasp from the hardware store, but this is definitely more labor intensive.

Bathing

Only bathe your Greyhound when it's soiled. Unless your dog has rolled in something disgusting, or has become odoriferous, it does not need a bath. Generally bathing once or twice a year is more than sufficient to keep the average Greyhound clean and odor free.

Ideally, you should bathe your greyhound inside, in your bathtub. If for some reason you wish to bathe the dog outside, providing the weather is warm and a hose run from the inside taps so

that you have warm water for washing and rinsing, this will work too.

An alternative to the bathtub is to put your dog outside on the patio and use buckets of warm water to wash and rinse it. Make sure to brush your dog before its bath to loosen and remove hair; otherwise, the bath will do that and you'll have hair clogging up your drains and making a general mess. Remember to always use a shampoo formulated for dogs — *do not* use human shampoo. Rinse until you're sure the dog is soap free, then rinse again, to be sure to remove skin irritating soap residue.

Some Greyhounds "melt" in relaxation when bathed in water that's a bit too warm. If you haven't bathed your Greyhound before, make sure that you have an assistant to hold the dog just in case. This is not dangerous providing you ensure the dog does not injure itself when it sways; some hounds fold totally.

Once you have rinsed the dog well, use a large towel to blot excess water, followed by a second towel to rub them down. Dry between the toes. Do not wash faces with a hose. If the dog's face is dirty, clean with a damp wash cloth.

Clean the external ear parts and the canal with mineral oil on a cloth-wrapped finger. Cotton-tipped applicators are a bit more tricky because you may go too deeply and injure the eardrum.

Dental hygiene is important.

Buy a toothbrush and canine toothpaste for your dog and brush your dog's teeth daily. Electric toothbrushes work well. Beef knucklebones given monthly will also keep teeth and gums in good condition. Sterilized marrow bones available from most pet shops are not advised. Any bone may cause slab fractures of molars, causing pain to both the dog and your bank account.

Many people believe that knuckle bones should only be fed raw as any cooking can cause them to splinter. I personally boil mine for ten minutes to kill any bacteria. However, you may wish to discuss this with your veterinarian before deciding whether to feed bones raw, boiled or not at all.



Kira 7:

Star Trek with Greyhounds

by Patricia Gail Burnham

On the first weekend in August, my Greyhounds have a standing date to meet Klingons, Ferengi, Star Fleet officers, assorted aliens, and thousands of *Star Trek* fans. The occasion is the annual *Star Trek* convention in San Francisco.

Star Trek fans are as devoted as dog show fans.

Every weekend of the year a *Star Trek* convention takes place somewhere in the country. At these events, actors from the various *Star Trek* series answer fans' questions, tell stories about their experiences in filming the shows, and sign autographs. The conventions are six hours long, lasting from noon until evening. Interspersed among the speakers are special events like the costume contest, an auction of *Star Trek* merchandise, previews of new science fiction television shows, and fast paced music videos featuring Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock, Q, Captain Piccard, and others of the *Star Trek* universe. And if there is still time to fill between speakers there is a dealer's room where booths sell a bewildering variety of science fiction items. You can buy *Star Trek* uniforms and insignia, phasers, videos, jewelry, Klingon weapons, starship models and posters. I am particularly fond of the Bajhoran earrings.

As a long-time fan of both dog shows and *Star Trek*, my first visit to a *Trek* convention accompanied by dogs

was five months before Kira was born. A woman that I had long wanted to show for was judging Greyhounds at a show halfway between home and San Francisco, on the opening day of a two-day *Star Trek* convention. Leonard Nimoy (Mr. Spock) was speaking on the second day and he is one of my favorite *Trek* actors.

So it seemed reasonable to leave the dog show after an early show time and drive on to the convention to buy a ticket for the next day. What I hadn't counted on was that Sheena, *Star Traveler* and I would be at the convention for five hours, meet hundreds of fans, and have James Doohan, (Engineer Scotty from the original series) admire the dogs. It was also unexpected that there would be Greyhounds and Klingons on my next Christmas Card.

The San Francisco convention is held at the Masonic Temple, whose main architectural feature is a large marble entryway. When *Traveler*, Sheena and I arrived we found the portico filled with fans who were lined up



Kira seems to be saying "Omigosh!" Photo by P. Gail Burnham.

waiting to get the actors' autographs. And while dogs were not allowed in the carpeted auditorium, they were welcome in the entryway. They were more than welcome. They were admired, petted, discussed and fussed over. They had a fine time. And when they got tired there was a nice cool marble floor to lie on for a rest.

Photo opportunities: *Star Traveler*, *Kira*, and *Sheena* meet *Star Trek*

We arrived to find Max Grodenchik (Quark's brother "Rom" from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*) doing autograph duty and it was surprising to discover that, without all his Ferengi buck-toothed makeup, he was a decidedly handsome young man.

Even when I am at conventions without the dogs, I don't collect autographs myself, but like to watch the actors interact with the fans. So I gener-

ally stand near the head of the line, but off to one side, to watch the stars and the star-struck fans meet. The fans in the autograph lines wait for an hour or more and a couple of distinctive looking dogs relieved the tedium of that wait.

They loved Traveler's full name of Star Traveler. After introducing the dogs to dozens of folks I started explaining that Sheena and Traveler were really aliens in costume for the costume contest. That went over well. The actual costume contest was scheduled for later in the day, and a fair number of the fans were dressed like their favorite characters.

After several hours of meeting and greeting people, we went back to the car to retrieve my camera. The light on the entryway was good. The marble backgrounds were very Star Fleet like, and the costumes were irresistible. The folks in costume were used to being photographed but they were a little surprised when I lined them up and then handed them the dog's leashes. And Sheena was rather surprised at being handed to a Klingon. But the resulting picture of Traveler and Sheena with two

Old Style Klingons, one Star Fleet officer and a Star Fleet Marine was so fetching that I used it on my Christmas card for 1995. The caption read: "Star Traveler and Sheena at Star Fleet. Wishing You Happy Holidays. Live Long and Prosper. Make it so!"

Non *Trek* fans may have been a little baffled, but most folks loved the cards and some passed them on to other friends to share the fun.

The last speaker of the day was James Doohan (Scotty of the original series.) A favorite with the fans, he is one of the few actors from whom audience members request hugs. And he gives them. By this time Sheena and Traveler were ready for a nap on the

marble floor while I watched Jimmy sign the last of hundreds of autographs. As Mr. Doohan rose to leave he came by to say, "Beautiful dogs." Then he was gone and the convention was over.

Meeting the Next Generation

So when Kira was seven months old I loaded her and Sheena and Starfleet in the car and headed for San Francisco to meet the puppies' first Klingons. I was very pleased with their nonchalance as they walked into the crowd and saw their first aliens. Fans in the crowd remembered us from the previous year and loved the puppies' names of Starfleet and Kira. Most of the



Starfleet with the Starfleet. Photo courtesy P. Gail Burnham.

fans understood that red-furred Kira was named after the red haired Major Kira from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

One of our old style Klingons from last year was present, so I gave him a copy of the Christmas card with his picture. He was amused. And I recruited a couple of new style Klingons for this year's photo. (New style Klingons have the bald foreheads with ridges that first appeared in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.) This time Sheena was tranquil as I left her with the Klingons for the photo. The puppies were startled, but the Klingon ambassador sweet-talked them and knelt down to appear less intimidating. Later I also took puppy photos with a squad of Star Fleet officers,

and yet another set of Klingons.

There was a major entry of Klingons attending. Partly this was because the first speaker was the best known Klingon of them all, Michael Dorn (Commander Worf). In his honor the local Klingons had entered the costume contest as a group. They took second. The winner was a new contestant, a stunning version of the "Predator" in the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie of the same name. Third place went to the Cylon, a silver mechanical man from *Battlestar Galactica*. Perhaps next year, when the puppies are old hands at this, I can pose them with the Predator or the Cylon. Or even with the Predator AND the Cylon.

A Successful Out-of-this World Public Awareness Day

By the end of the day Kira and Starfleet had met hundreds of people, many in unusual costumes. They met a young man in a mechanized wheel chair, the first they had seen. *Star Trek* conventions attract a goodly number of wheel chair bound fans. By the end of the day Starfleet stretched out on the floor and Kira climbed into my lap for a nap. And if

the fans found her cute when she was awake, Kira curled up for a nap was irresistible as she attracted attention and kind comments. Then it was into the car for the two-hour drive home. The dogs slept all the way.

We will go back next year. It has become an annual event. The dogs have fun. The fans have fun. And the interaction is good for both groups. A lot of people get to see that Greyhounds are friendly. And the dogs get to see that even people in alien costumes are friendly.



The Kira series will continue in the next issue.

Greyhounds in Nursing Homes

By Lucinda Custer with Kay McNelis

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoptions in Pennsylvania has placed two retired racers in nursing homes. Arby lives at Arbutus Park Manor in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Rosie spends her days at Huntingdon Manor, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Each situation is handled a little differently, but both seem to be working out very well. Pet therapy provides many positive aspects for everyone, young and old. Having a pet can promote feelings of security, warmth, love, and companionship.

Arby's Story

Arbutus Park Manor (APM) and its administrator, Dave Camblin, were in favor of trying pet therapy at Arbutus. Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoptions brought in several Greyhounds to mix with the residents to see which would fit in best as a pet at APM. APM was searching for dogs that are intelligent, easy to train, have manners, are large, personable, and love initiating.



Libby — Lucinda Custer's daughter — poses with Arby when she was crowned "Queen of Hearts" at a Valentine's Day celebration. Photo supplied by Kay McNelis.

After learning of the plight of the Greyhounds through the Internet and from an avid dog lover who lived in one of the Arbutus cottages, the APM staff did some research and asked questions about adopting a Greyhound. Attempting to locate an agency in the immedi-

ate area led Arbutus staff to Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoptions, which has a representative in Johnstown.

Finding the Right Greyhound

Altoona representative Judy Richards and Johnstown Representative Jim Hollis brought several dogs to the manor. We all watched the dogs to see which, if any, were comfortable in a nursing home setting. Friendliness, patience, and calmness were essential qualities. It was also important that a large dog did not frighten the residents. A four-year-old, gentle, blue brindle fit the bill during her first exposure to the manor residents.

She rested her head on the lap of a resident who was husking corn on the sun porch. We then took her on a tour of the facility. She showed no fear of elevators, vinyl flooring, or any of the residents she encountered. This girl had the job!

The residents and staff of Arbutus

Manor held a "Name the Dog" contest, and when their new friend officially arrived, she was given the name "Arby" (short for Arbutus).

Everyone Got Involved

The staff made signs that read KEEP DOOR CLOSED — DOG IN RESIDENCE. Some of the residents made coats, scarves, blankets, and dogbeds. Jim, Judy, Kay, and I inspected the outside fenced area where Arby would play and relieve herself. Her room is in the activities department, which leads to her outdoor fenced area and where she can go into the Alzheimer's Unit, which is also a secure area. After her arrival, Jim Hollis made frequent contact with us and frequently visited Arbutus Park Manor to make sure all was well. Sure enough, Arby was happy and adjusting to her new life.

Arby has won the hearts of the nursing home's residents and staff with her calm, easy-going manner. She brings lots of smiles and warmth to the manor. She is an automatic sensory stimulation for residents especially when she touches them with her moist nose or kisses their hands. She gets responses from residents who respond to nothing else that you offer them. She provides the residents who partake in Arby's care with a form of exercise and socialization. She also provides motivation for some residents when she participates in various activities. The APM Activity Department oversees much of her care. Nursing, maintenance, and housekeeping staff assist also in her daily/nightly routine.

The hard work and dedication of the staff who cares for Arby pay off many times over when you see the resi-

dents calling and reaching out to Arby, who happily reciprocates. She has definitely been a spirit booster and has improved the quality of life for the residents at Arbutus Manor.

Rosie's Story

Rosie, Huntingdon Manor's greyhound, spends her day at the manor, mixing with the residents and making rounds with Activities Director Ellen Miller. Instead of residing full time at the manor, she goes home with Ellen at night and on weekends. Ellen says that, like Arby, Rosie is the highlight of the day for the residents and staff at Huntingdon Manor. She is leery of the vinyl flooring but is managing to visit with patients in the ac-



Rosie. Photo by Eileen Miller.

tivities area, where she plays with them and willingly stands for lots of petting.

The right greyhound can work very well into life in a nursing home. They get plenty of attention, and they are full of love and devotion for these large "families." Both homes are very careful that residents who come in contact with the dogs are gentle with them, and that they are people who really like dogs. Both ladies tell us that many residents who were skeptical of a dog in their home have become some of Arby and Rosie's most ardent admirers.



Lucinda Custer is Activities Director for Arbutus Park Manor, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Kay McNelis is an adoption representative for Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoptions of Altoona and Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Both Arby and Rosie retired from Wheeling Downs through GPA/ Wheeling Downs under the direction of Lou Batdorf.

GREYHOUND LESSONS

by Elizabeth Kelly
and Yukon Botu

1. Sleeping crossways on the bed is actually pretty comfortable.
2. Being rubbed gently around the ears by someone who loves you is heavenly.
3. Drink lots of water.
4. When your back is to the wall, use it for leverage. (This works particularly well on the bed.)
5. Stretch often and hard enough to make your muscles quiver.
6. Put the past behind you and live for the day.
7. Allow children to hug and kiss you; be very gentle and patient with the aged.
8. Always turn and smile when you pass someone.
9. Worship, adore, and obey your master.
10. Frolic in the water, lie on your back on fresh mown grass, and get first dibbs on the down comforter.
11. A cat can be a very good friend.



Lulu —

The Home-Trained Service Greyhound

By Robin Peters

I have degenerative arthritis of the knees and spine. I have already had a total of three surgeries on my knee and spine and the future isn't bright; looking forward to a knee replacement and maybe more spinal surgery that I will avoid at all costs. Some days aren't so bad; other days, I don't even want to get out of bed. And then there are those days that I just get out of bed,

take some pain medication, and try to deal with life as it presents itself to me. I can't bend like other people. For instance, I never put groceries in the bottom of the cart; I use the child's seat. Getting up from a chair is painful, getting out of the car is painful, getting up from a low commode is almost impossible.

I had just had another surgery on my knee in February. It was not successful and the only other surgery left to perform is a knee replacement. My



Lulu on duty. Photo by Robin Peters.

orthopedic surgeon has said that I should wait at least until I am fifty, so I have a while to go as I am forty-two. My surgeon also recommended that I not aggravate the arthritis by avoiding hills, inclines, steps, and bikes. The bike part was easy (don't own one), but the hill part was another story. I live on a very steep hill because my home is elevated. I was devastated, but then, one day, about eight weeks after my knee surgery, I went for my first walk. I began to notice that when Lulu gently

pulls me while walking, and while going up the inclines and hill, that there was little or no pain. She generated significant relief of the pain with this gentle tugging, so I decided to investigate further in how to enlist her to help me on a day to day basis.

I went through all the proper channels and in effect, I personally trained Lulu for my use.

I am what is known as an Owner-Trainer of a Service Dog. Lulu, as a Service Dog, goes *everywhere* with me and is allowed access to every place to which I have access. She had already passed basic obedience (she was first in her class) and she is a quick learner. She has mastered commands such as left, right, a perfect sit, down (cute ones that the kids enjoy like paw, over or sit up), stop, stay, hold, forward, and the hardest one in a grocery store - *leave it*. She is an expert at "leave it," especially

at the meat counter and cookie aisles. Sure, she sometimes gets spooked by a shopping cart, or gets a little excited when she smells the bakery, or when she sees me put a roast into the shopping cart, but we deal with it. We are also learning to deal with the occasional child that swoops down on her demanding to be allowed to pet her.

Training Lulu

Once she spooked because a bathroom stall door squeaked, so I just kept opening and closing it, showing her that it was not going to hurt her. And of course, there is my favorite story when she was in the bathroom with me where there were multiple stalls, and she peeped under each side just to see who was on the other side. I almost fell off of the commode laughing so hard — a peeping Greyhound!

Lulu still pulls me gently on my bad days, and even my in-between days. On good days, I give her a “No pull” command and she walks very gently.

My life is extremely full. Lulu has an official “Service Dog In-Training” vest, black with large red lettering, an identification card to show people who she is and what she is doing, and a large patch on the top of her vest that says “Don’t Pet Me — I’m Working.” Yes, we do get confronted, but we deal with that also. I keep a copy of the Americans with Disabilities Act with me at all times and explain to whoever is trying to deny me access, that it is the same as denying a person in a wheelchair access. I sometimes have to quote the various statutes, but we are ready at all times.

Lulu still has not mastered retrieve and this is one thing that she must learn to do. She also has a difficult time holding a “Stay,” but since I need her to walk with me, we don’t use it very often. But probably the hardest one of all is getting her to “Down-Stay” on a cold linoleum floor. She will stay down on a carpet, but those hard surfaces, well they just kill her. To date, she has sat through nine restaurant meals with my husband and me, been in the grocery store countless times (the manager even gives her scratches), pharmacies, ice cream stores, and various local malls. She has



Lulu off duty. Photo by Robin Peters.

never been denied access after we have explained the situation.

And at home, it is wonderful that she follows me into the bathroom every time, because I can use her as support when trying to arise from a low commode.

Sometimes people will ask, “Why do you need a service dog?” because my handicaps are not visible. I don’t walk with a limp, just some stiffness, so people don’t seem to understand. The pain is on the inside. We also get a barrage of questions like, “Are they training Greyhounds to do this now?” or “I thought that Greyhounds were stupid!” or “That is a great way to find something to do with them after they are done racing.” Our personal favorite, “It’s a shame that she retired to work again.” We try to answer people as politely as possible, but sometimes even I don’t have that much patience. However, we continue to show people on a daily basis how wonderful Greyhounds can be and how they can change your life.

I hope that I have enlightened some people who presently are owned by a Greyhound and have a physical disability. Lulu is truly a phenomenal dog, and once she gets over those two huge hurdles — “Retrieve” and “Down-Stay” on hard surfaces — she will be the ideal service dog. We are now work-

ing on Clicker Training, using the click and treat method, which is beginning to help her learn retrieve and “Stay down.” Sometimes at home Lulu can be a spoiled little girl, but put that vest on her, it’s as if someone said “*ShowTime!*” I do believe that she actually likes to perform for me.

The one thing that I can say about Lulu and my relationship is that, in addition to being the love of my life, she allows me to *have* a life.

Could I do it without her? Sure. Would it be hard? Yes. Would I deal with it? Yes. But why should I when she fits my needs perfectly? Besides, when that vest comes out, she does such a beautiful happy dance, how can I deny her the pleasure of helping me?



Lulu was adopted from the Racing Dog Rescue Project in Sarasota, Florida on May 6, 1996. She was six years old on December 22, 1998. She shares her home with Robin and her husband and doctor Leslie, and a Burmese named Macska. Lulu is the goodwill ambassador in Sarasota with her Service Dog duties, and she charms everyone she meets. She truly is a walking billboard for the gentleness, cleanliness, friendliness, and most of all, the well-behaved breed of Greyhounds.



Little One apparently thinking "Did I do that!?!?" Graphic by Michele Carnevale.

Thinking Like a Dog

By Stef Brandon

Several years ago, I finally began to understand how my dogs think. The most compelling example of this occurred one evening during a time I was having difficulty housebreaking our youngest dog, Little One. We adopted her at four months of age so she never had any racing training; in fact, she had had no training at all. Always finding Little One's puddles after the fact, I had done what all training books say not to: I scolded her anyway out of my own frustration. One evening while tending plants, I spilled a bit of water on the floor. Little One came to me at just that moment for some love. She spied the water, looked up at me, and fled. I suddenly saw in one of those serendipitous experiences we humans only occasionally have just how my Little One thinks. The Pavlovian connection had been made: "Bells ring, I salivate; water on the floor, I get scolded." The cause-effect aspect of the problem was lost on her. She was not aware that making the

water was wrong; only that its presence on my floor — no matter where it came from — meant punishment for her. To her, creating the water and its presence on the floor were two discrete activities. The only time to effectively correct a dog who is soiling your house is *to catch it in the act*. This notion, as well as some other things I've observed in my dogs, has helped me understand a little about how they think.

Dogs exist almost entirely in the present, an exclusive present which is very alien to us. They can determine only the simplest forms of cause and effect; there is no "If this ..., then that...", or as my husband is fond of saying, "They're not much into planning ahead." Humans cannot help but think ahead and back, and discover relationships between various aspects of our reality. Humans learn very early how a thing that happens at 8:00 a.m. (neglecting to make our bed) will cause a negative reaction at 10:00 a.m. (mommy

checks to see how well we've done our daily chores). Dogs do not. For this reason, dogs require only an initial correction. Punishing after the fact or continuing punishment for any length of time is only confusing. Dogs' very present sense of the world associates correction with whatever they are doing at the moment. If they are doing nothing wrong, we are teaching them that punishment is given arbitrarily and whimsically, not in response to a specific behavior. So, correct, go about your business, and within a short time, resume your normal, day-to-day relationship with your Greyhound.

Another thing I've learned is that dogs require consistency to be happy and secure; and happy, secure dogs are a pleasure to be around. Predictability goes back to basic survival instincts. The other night on a PBS nature show, an animal behaviorist studying the habits of African elephants in a variety of different environments, said about one

group in a desert habitat, "You can almost set your watches by them; around 4:00 p.m., after the hottest part of the day is over, they begin to make their way again in search of water."

Predictable behavior is instinctive in our domestic dogs too. We've noticed that our dogs, all five, follow the daily routine whether we do or not. For example, whether or not we are ready to go up to bed at 11:00 p.m., our dogs queue up at the gate to the family room door, nose to tail, waiting for us to turn off the TV and turn in for the night. If we don't go at once, they pace and become agitated and restless until we do. Once upstairs in our room, to keep order, each has his or her own bed, a habit we have instilled in them so they do not keep us up all night playing musical beds. But, they too are most comfy in their own spots and each goes to his or her own place readily every night. Regularity is the key to their happiness — what is regular means predictability and security. There's a lesson here about boarding. If you can find a reliable and affordable house/pet sitter, your pets will be happier and better off at home in their own environment and on their own routine while you are away.

If you've lived with a dog for any time, you know some ways that they communicate — tail wagging, barking, and crying. However, I've observed that Greyhounds communicate with more subtle signals as well. Typically, I see friends' dogs go to the door and bark or scratch if they want to go out. At the very least, they go to the door and point. My Greyhounds offer much less obvious clues to their desires. I frequently mistook their gentle presence near me as a sign that they wanted petting, only to hear within a few minutes the familiar sound of running water in the next room. One must watch closely for greyhound signals. My oldest moves her eyes side to side in the direction of the backyard when she needs to go out; with her I must make eye contact to know what she wants. My male stands close and knits his brow into a look of real consternation. Neither of these dogs makes any noise at all. My brindle pants anxiously when she needs to go out.

And all dogs, including Greyhounds, are always watching us; but they watch so unobtrusively that humans rarely notice. This habit goes back to pack mentality — follow the lead of the alpha dog. If we're alpha, it's our lead they must follow. I have observed that my dogs always know when I am finished dressing in the morning and, therefore, when it is time to go downstairs. I wondered how they always arose and headed for the bedroom door at the correct moment. I finally realized that they watch how many passes I make in and out of the closet and the bathroom and only arise when I leave the bathroom for the last time. How do they know it is the last time? I flick the bathroom light switch off on my way out.

This next observation may seem nuts, but I believe dogs can read the expressions on our face and detect a deceit. It may be that there is also a scent, a look around the eyes or in the corners of the mouth. I'm not sure. But mine know if I am laughing with them or at them. If I laugh at them, they stay where they are, crouch, and put their ears back. When I laugh with love rather than ridicule, even if the laughter is at their expense, they know it and come for love, tail wagging and ears up. I have come into a room in silence, smiled at my big, soft male, and he has come from my husband's caresses to greet me without my uttering a word. And I have seen and heard countless stories of new own-

ers who did all the right things, used the right tone of voice and the right gestures to acclimate a new dog to their household, but failed miserably until their own nerves at the newness of it wore off. Since they look to us to provide alpha security, dogs respond negatively to our anxiety, and we can't hide it. Dogs know what we're thinking based on subtle facial expressions, as well as our scent and touch.

I am no animal behaviorist, to be sure. These are stories based merely on my twelve years of Greyhound ownership, my experience at the kennel of an adoption group for Greyhounds where I do volunteer work, and some casual reading. But there are lots of great books by professionals on Greyhounds and training. Of course, there is the Greyhound adopter's Bible, *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* by Cynthia Branigan. Some other sources I would recommend are Patricia Gail Burnham's book *PlayTraining Your Dog*, Caroline Coile's *Greyhounds: A Complete Owner's Manual*, and *Your Dog*, the newsletter published by the Tufts Veterinary school. This last one is the best of its kind that I've seen. Still, the real fun of dog ownership is learning together with your pet. I'm convinced that owners' observations can reveal a lot about their pets. If you really watch your dog and see the world through its eyes, you will discover a faithful, loving companion.



The Brandons. Little One is on the far left and is being held down by Peter Brandon. Stef is a frequent contributor to *CG Magazine*.

Custer's Greyhounds

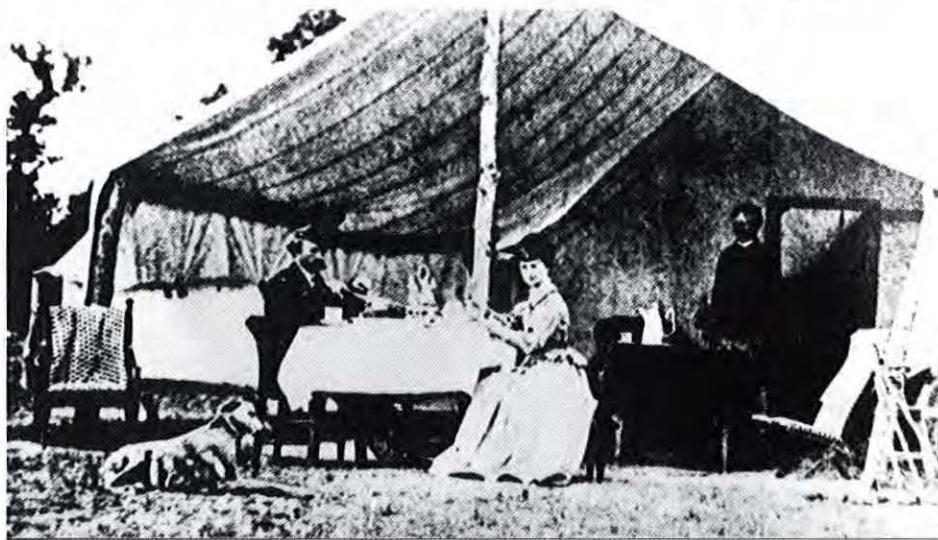


Photo courtesy of the Greyhound Hall of Fame: General and Mrs. Custer dining on the Kansas prairie. [Note the Greyhound — possibly Byron.]

By Joan Dillon

History has not been kind to General George Armstrong Custer. Yet, this often-vilified cavalry officer and Indian fighter who met his Waterloo at the Little Big Horn River in Montana in 1876, evidently had some redeeming qualities. He was devoted to his wife Elizabeth (Libbie) Bacon Custer, who defied her parents to marry him and then followed him to army camps and forts across the western plains. He was also a dog lover and often traveled with a pack of several breeds including Greyhounds. While stationed in Kentucky between assignments in Kansas and the Dakotas, Custer wrote a series of articles for *Galaxy* magazine entitled "My Life on the Plains." These were later compiled into a book from which the following excerpts were taken.

"I had several fine English Greyhounds, whose speed I was anxious to test with that of the antelope, said to be — which I believe — the fleetest of animals. I was mounted on a fine large thoroughbred horse. Taking with me but one man, the chief bugler, and calling my dogs

around me, I galloped ahead of the column as soon as it was daylight, for the purpose of having a chase after some antelope which could be seen grazing nearly two miles distant.... That such a course was rashly imprudent I am ready to admit. A stirring gallop of a few minutes brought me near enough to the antelope, of which there were a dozen or more, to enable the dogs to catch sight of them. Then the chase began, the antelope running in a direction which took us away from the command. By availing myself of the turns in the course, I was able to keep well in view of the exciting chase until it was evident that the antelope were in no danger of being caught by the dogs, which latter had become blown from want of proper exercise."

Custer then sighted his first wild buffalo and was determined to kill it. He pursued it relentlessly and soon outdistanced his Greyhounds. When he came alongside for the kill, however, the buffalo attempted to gore his horse, which veered to avoid the attack. This

caused Custer's revolver to misfire and he killed his horse instead of the buffalo. Luckily for Custer, the buffalo didn't stick around. Two of his Greyhounds overtook him at this point and Custer describes their reaction as follows:

"Their mute glances first at the dead steed, then at me, seemed to inquire the cause of this strange condition of affairs. Their instinct appeared to tell them that we were in misfortune. While I was deliberating what to do, the dogs became uneasy, whined piteously, and seemed eager to leave the spot. In this desire I sympathized with them, but whither should I go? I observed that their eyes were generally turned in one particular direction; this I accepted as my cue, and with one parting look at my horse, and grasping a revolver in each hand, I set out on my uncertain journey."

Following a tour of duty in Kentucky, Custer was again assigned to the West — this time to the Dakotas. It was

from Fort Lincoln in June of 1876 that he left his wife behind and headed to Montana and his date with destiny. Libbie Custer was then thirty-four years old and would survive her husband by fifty-two years. To supplement her army pension, she lectured and wrote magazine articles and books about her experiences on the frontier with her husband.

In *Tenting on the Plains*, Libbie provides several entertaining tales about Byron, a Greyhound who was jealous of her and who disliked sharing Custer's affections.

"We had a superb Greyhound called Byron, that was devoted to the General, and after a successful chase it was rewarded with many a demonstration of affection. He was the most lordly dog, I think, I ever saw, powerful, with deep chest, and carrying his head in a royal way. When he started for a run, with his nostrils distended and his delicate ears laid back on his noble head, each bound sent him flying through the air. He hardly touched the elastic cushions of his feet to earth, before he again was spread out like a dark, straight thread. This gathering and leaping must be seen, to realize how marvelous is the rapidity and how the motion seems flying, almost, as the ground is scorned except at a sort of spring bound. He trotted back to the General, if he happened to be in advance, with the rabbit in his mouth, and, holding back his proud head, delivered the game only to his chief. The tribute that a woman pays to beauty in any form, I gave to Byron, but I never cared much for him."

"As soon as the General tossed himself on the bed, Byron walked to him and was invited to share the luxury.... Byron answered this invitation by licking his host's hand, and turning in the most scornful manner on me, as I uttered a mild protest regarding his muddy paws.... Such an exasperating brute, and such a tormenting master, were best left alone. But I was tired, and wanted to lie down, so I told Eliza that if she would stand there, I would try the broom, a woman's weapon, on his royal highness. Byron wouldn't budge, and

growled even at me. Then I quite meekly took what little place was left, the General's sense of mischief, and his peculiar fondness for not interfering in a fight, now coming in to keep him silent. The dog rolled over, and shammed sleep, but soon planting his feet against my back, which was turned in high dudgeon, he pushed and pushed, seemingly without premeditation, his dreadful eyes shut, until I was nearly shoved off. I was conquered, and rose afraid of the dog and momentarily irritated at my defeat and his tyranny.... "

"One day we heard shout upon shout from many a soldier's throat in camp. The headquarters guard and officers' servants, even the officers themselves, joined in the hallooing, and we ran out to see what could be the matter. It was our lordly Byron. Stately and superb as he usually was, he had another side to his character, and now he was racing up from camp, a huge piece of meat in his jaws, which he had stolen from the camp-kettle where it was boiling for the soldiers' dinner. His retreat was accompanied with every sort of missile — sticks, boots and rocks — but this dog, that made himself into a 'greased streak of lightning,' as a woman described him, bounded on, untouched by the flying hail of the soldiers' wrath. The General did not dare to shout and dance in sight of the men, over what he thought so cunning in this hateful dog, as he was not protected by the friendly walls of our tent; but he chuckled and his eyes danced, for the brute dropped the hot meat when he had looked about to discover how close his pursuers were, and then, seeing the enemy nearing him, picked it up and distanced them all."

Some of Custer's letters to Libbie also mention Greyhounds. The following is from a letter penned on July 19, 1873:

"Regarding the dogs, I find myself more warmly attached to Tuck than to any other I have ever owned... She comes to me almost every evening when I am sitting in my large camp-chair.... First she lays her head on my knee, as if to ask if I am too much engaged to notice

her. A pat of encouragement and her fore-feet are thrown lightly across my lap; a few moments in this posture and she lifts her hind-feet from the ground, and, great, overgrown dog that she is, quietly and gently disposes of herself on my lap, and at times will cuddle down and sleep there for an hour at a time until I become so tired of my charge that I am compelled to transfer her to mother earth; and even then she resembles a well-cared for and half-spoiled child, who can never be induced to retire until it has been fondled to sleep in its mother's arms.... Tuck will sleep so soundly in my lap that I can transfer her gently to the ground and she will continue her slumber.... As I write she is lying at my feet. She makes up with no other person."

Another letter dated July 15, 1874 also mentions Tuck.

"As I write, the dogs surround me; Cardigan sleeping on the edge of my bed; Tuck at the head, and Blucher nearby."

Tuck was also with Custer as he traveled toward his date with destiny. One of the last letters that Libbie received, written on June 12, 1876, states:

"Tuck regularly comes when I am writing and lays her head on the desk, rooting up my hand with her long nose until I consent to stop and notice her. She and Swift, Lady and Kaiser sleep in my tent."

What happened to Custer's Greyhounds? One report has them sent back the night before the battle to the supply train with one very lucky soldier. Another has them in the care of an orderly by the name of Kelly who later settled in Dodge City, Kansas with some of Custer's hounds. Did Tuck mourn her lost master? We would like to think so.



Joan Dillon is CG Magazine's Subscription Manager as well as a regular contributor.



by Jack
and
Amy
Corrigan



Fancy Collars

Making a decorative sighthound collar takes less than 30 minutes. The results are stunningly chic for a very low cost — as low as \$3. However, finding the supplies can take weeks and will be your biggest challenge. We have some tips and hints that will help make your quest painless and successful.

Materials Needed

- * 1-inch welded D-rings, O-rings or oval rings
- * 1 yd by 1-inch nylon webbing
- * 1 yd decorative ribbon



- * Polyester or other strong thread (don't skimp — the cheap thread can rot and fail)
- * *Optional, but recommended:* 1 slider to allow the collar to adjust in size
- * *Optional lining:* 1 yd satiny 1-inch ribbon or 1/4 yard of satiny fabric

Collar Steps

1. Figure webbing length.

There are two parts to the collar, a long piece and a short piece. The short piece holds the ring that holds your hound's tags. The long piece has the optional slider that can be used to adjust the collar size. The short piece will always be 10". The length of the long piece must be figured.

You want the rings to just meet when the piece is held around the neck just behind the ears, as shown in next photo.

Measure your hound's neck just behind the ears. This is usually 11-14 inches (12.5 inches on average).

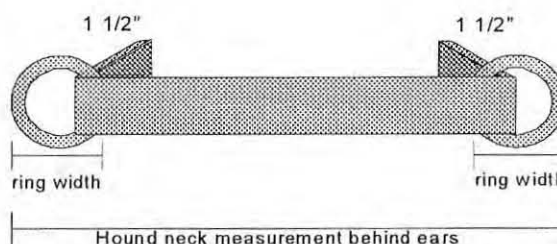
The webbing length should be:

No Slider:

$$\text{web length} = \text{neck size} + 3 - (2 \times \text{ring width})$$

With Slider:

$$\text{web length} = \text{neck size} + 6$$



2. Prepare webbing.

Cut 10-inch piece of webbing for short piece and proper length for long piece.

Optional Lining:

Some say that adding satin as a lining for your collar will reduce hair loss from chafing. I like adding it because I get a broader choice of colors. One method is to stitch 1-inch satiny ribbon to one side of the webbing. My preferred method is to press a 3-inch strip of satiny fabric, wrap it around the webbing and stitch into place. The decorative ribbon will cover the raw edges. The lining serves a functional purpose only on the long piece. However, you can also add it to the short piece for a more consistent look.

Sew decorative ribbon to webbing with two lines of stitching running as close to the edge of the ribbon as possible. The very fancy ribbons with gold and other rich colors look very good. Don't be afraid to go for a braid or other ribbon with texture. They end up looking quite rich. You will need to add the decorative ribbon to both pieces for a consistent look.

3. Attach rings to long piece.

If You're Using a Slider:

Make a 1-and-a-half inch fold around center post of slider, with decorative ribbon side out. Sew into place with a several rows of straight stitches. Cover raw edge of webbing with a

line or two of satin stitching.

Feed the raw end through one ring, then through the two loops of the slider, leaving a long raw end. Make a 1-and-a-half inch fold through a second ring. Secure with several lines of straight stitches. Cover raw edge of webbing with a line of satin stitching.

If You're NOT Using a Slider:

Make a 1-and-a-half inch fold through one ring. Secure with a few rows of straight stitches. Cover raw edge of webbing with a line or two of satin stitching. Make a fold through a second ring. Take the assembly to your hound and verify that the rings will just meet when the webbing is looped around the neck just behind the ears. Adjust the fold as necessary. Secure with a few rows of straight stitches. Cover raw edge of webbing with a line or two of satin stitching.

4. Attach rings to short piece.

Loop this webbing through both of the existing rings, with the decorative side out. Overlap the ends of the webbing by 1-and-a-half to 2 inches.

Leaving the top end of the overlap free, secure the webbing with a few lines of straight stitches. Cover raw edge of webbing with a line of satin stitching.

Insert a ring onto the free end. Secure the free end of the webbing into place with a few lines of straight stitches. Cover raw edge with a line of satin stitching.



Why not make an extra collar or two and donate them to your local adoption group? They'll appreciate the donation and you'll feel grey!

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The Hard Part — Finding Collar Hardware

Finding appropriate hardware is the most important step in creating a safe collar. We have found it to be quite a challenge. We did learn a few tips on our quest, though, and are happy to pass them on to you.

* **NEVER use unwelded craft store D-rings.** The unwelded brass d-rings commonly sold in craft and sewing stores are not strong enough for collars. We have talked to people who have tried using them and the rings give way under typical greyhound pressure.

* **Recycle, recycle, recycle.** The easiest way to get the hardware for your new collar is to scavenge it from an old, worn sighthound collar. The hardware is usually very good — it's the webbing that starts to fray and look old.

* **Break the chain.** A good source for rings is welded chain, which can be purchased by the foot at most hardware, home, and farm stores. Buy one foot of chain with 1-inch welded links (usually less than \$1). Then cut every other link. The result is six great rings — enough for two collars.

* **Plastic-maybe.** The black plastic D-rings and slides seem to be strong enough, but we have not tested them extensively. They are readily available and are used in many outdoor applications with good results.

* **Outdoor sewing mail order.** The best source for hardware is mail-order catalogs geared to outdoor fabrics. Here are some sources:

* **Frostline Kits**, 2525 River Road, Grand Junction, CO 81505, phone: 1.800.548.7872, www.frostlinekits.com — Metal hardware

* **Outdoor Wilderness Fabrics, Inc.**, 16415 Midland Blvd., Nampa, Idaho 83651, phone: 208.446.1602, fax: 208.463.4622, www.owfinc.com — Hardware

* **Quest Outfitters**, 2590 17th St., Box B, Sarasota, FL 34234, phone: 800.359.6931 — Hardware

* **Rockywoods Outdoor Fabrics**, 4221 W. Eisenhower, Loveland, CO 80537, phone: 970.663.6163, www.rockywoods.com — Plastic and metal hardware

* **Seattle Fabrics**, 8702 Aurora Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98103, phone: 206.525.0670, fax: 208.525.0779 — Hardware

* **Textile Outfitters**, 735 10th Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0B3 Canada, phone: 403.543.7676, www.justmakeit.com — metal and plastic hardware

* **Wy'East Fabrics**, 1345 19th St. NE Salem, OR 97301, phone: 503.364.8419, fax: 503.391.8057, www.wyeastfabrics.com — Plastic hardware

Morris Animal Foundation

Canine Cancer Studies:

Fundraiser Update

According to two recent Morris Animal Foundation sponsored surveys, cancer is "the leading cause of disease-related death for dogs and cats in the United States." We at The Greyhound Project, Inc. did not have that information when we decided to raise money for the Foundation's canine cancer studies. We just knew that lots of Greyhounds are victims of various forms of the dread disease and wanted to do something about it. So, we set aside \$2,500 as a matching fund, and in March 1998 asked the Greyhound adoption community to support this initiative by donating to Morris Animal Foundation for canine cancer studies, then we crossed our fingers and hoped.

Your response has been great! Between March 1998 and the end of November, your donations totaled \$2,946. The Greyhound Project, Inc. has matched your contributions up to the full \$2,500 pledged. Thank you for your generosity and for sharing our belief that, working together, we can do more for the Greyhounds.

Founded in 1948, Morris Animal Foundation sponsors humane animal health studies, including in recent years nearly forty that address canine cancer, with an additional nine such studies approved for this year. These studies of melanoma, leukemia, lymphoma, oral

melanoma, osteosarcoma, genetics, chemotherapy and other drug therapies are paving the way to earlier diagnosis and more effective therapeutic treatments. One day, perhaps, these studies may lead to the solutions we all hope for – the prevention and cure of cancer. The Foundation's sponsorship of these studies, however, is dependent on donations. That is why The Greyhound Project, Inc. begins its second matching fund raising initiative.

Effective March 1, 1999, The Greyhound Project will match your donations to Morris Animal Foundation canine cancer studies, up to a total of \$3,500. That's right! We've increased the amount of our pledge for this year. And all we ask is that more of you step up to the plate and give! It is so easy and it is tax deductible.

Here's all you have to do. Send your check to Morris Animal Foundation and specify that your donation is to go to "canine cancer-The Greyhound Project Account." They'll notify us and we'll match your donation. The address is Morris Animal Foundation Canine Cancer-The Greyhound Project Account, 45 Inverness Drive East, Englewood, CO 80112.



In Memoriam

Porsche – 1987-1998. Died a couple of weeks shy of eleven. Although Porsche and her bone cancer was the subject of an article written by her owners and published in the Summer 1997 issue of *CG Magazine*, ("Sharks to the Rescue" by Jerry and Kathy Dubuque of San Leandro, California), unbelievably, she died from a non-cancer-related illness. Diagnosed in June of 1995, she is considered a long-term Osteosarcoma survivor. Our deepest sympathies go to the Dubuques on their loss of Porsche as well as on the loss of Porsche's male Greyhound companion, Ferrari, five months earlier.



Half on Sheepskin.

Half – March 2, 1988-May 25, 1998. Died of Osteosarcoma. Half was pictured in the Fall 1998 issue as model dog in the article "The Nose Knows" by Lori Lazetera. His nose was a noble one. Halfanhalf was registered with the NGA in February 1990 and raced from 1991 to 1993. Will Schumaker adopted Half via Greyhound Pets of America in St. Petersburg in August, 1993. Half was a willing model for Will's photographic journeys. Some days, Half was a biker dog; on other days, he was a model for a sci-fi movie. On other days, he was Half. He did it all.

YIKES! We Need Help!

There are too few of us trying to do too many things! This handful of volunteers needs a few more willing hands to get the jobs done. That's the bad news. The good news is that we know there are plenty of talented folks out there who want to do something to promote Greyhound adoption, but just haven't yet found their niche. Here is your opportunity.

Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine

The *CG Magazine* editor needs volunteers who are good with deadlines and have e-mail to help with several critical production jobs. We have many wonderful writers but are short on production help.

What *CG* especially needs are a couple of people or even a desktop publishing company that are willing to desktop the magazine

- **Desktop publishers and designers** — must have PageMaker 6.5 on an IBM (PC) platform to set up, arrange (using templates) and input photos and graphics to get the magazine ready to go to press. Volunteers must have time, patience and a sense of humor from mid-December through mid-January; mid-March through mid-April; mid-June through mid-July; and mid-September through mid-October.

- **Copy editors** — to format and edit articles as they come in to the editor. Patience and a sense of humor as above are helpful.

- **Proofreaders** — to proofread the magazine drafts the last couple of weeks

in January, April, June, and September. Computer not required for this task as this can be done via hard copy.

- **Research editors** — to do fact checking on an ongoing basis.

- **Online researchers** — to search the Internet on an ongoing basis for items and articles of interest and get permissions to reprint.

- **Writers, photographers, artists** — to continue providing articles, photos and artwork for our readers.

- **Subscription and Marketing Promotions.** Did you know you could help *CG* grow by distributing *CG Magazine* Subscription Cards to your Greyhound-loving friends and adopters? Subscription cards are available by writing Jini Foster, 561 Edmonds Road, Framingham, MA 01701-1023 or by calling her at 508-877-2253. Jini is also the one to contact if your adoption group would like sample copies of the magazine for your events. We are looking for a creative person to find new sales outlets and to the magazine to the greyhound-owning public through press releases and other announcements

To volunteer for the magazine jobs, please contact our magazine editor, Marcia Herman, via e-mail at greyhound@aol.com or by writing her at P.O. Box 185751, Hamden, CT 06518.

Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar

But that's not all! We also need help with design, development, marketing, and promotion of the *Celebrating Grey-*

hounds Calendar for the year 2000! PC and Internet accesses are useful, but not required.

- **Design and development** jobs may include photo selection and layout, verifying information and writing captions for selected photos, and verifying and updating adoption group listings. The busy time is between March and June when we may need you for about five hours per week.

- **Marketing and promotion** jobs include writing press releases and announcements for the year 2000 calendar, identifying current publications to receive these announcements, distribution of promotional copies, and developing new outlets for the calendar. If one person does these jobs, the time required is about five hours per week.

Adoption Resource Directory

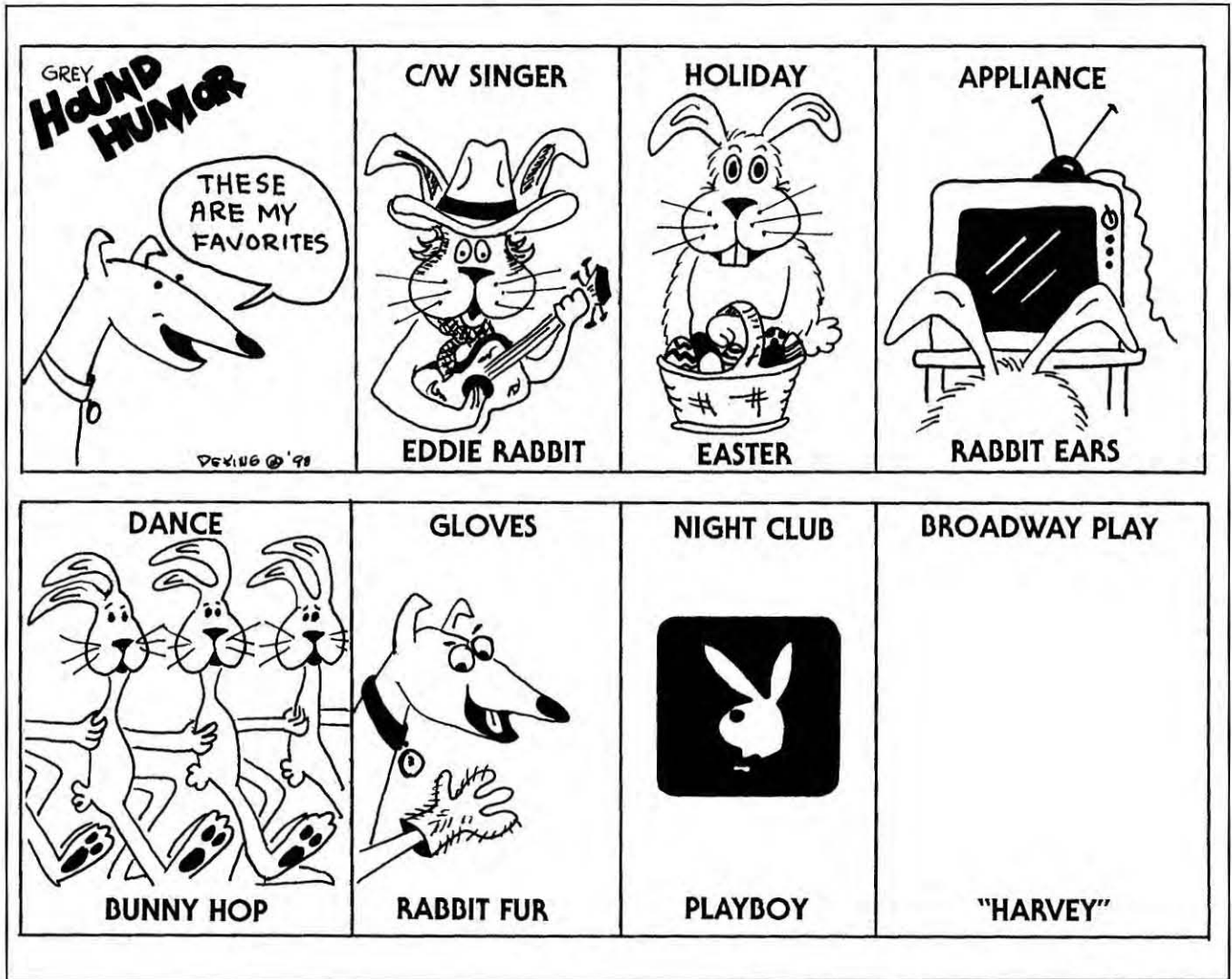
And last, but not least is our Adoption Resource Directory...an update is long overdue! We need help with:

- **Entering and maintaining data** about adoption groups, placement representatives, and support groups, vendors, tracks, and registries.

- **Windows 95 and computer skills needed for setting up and converting existing data.** After initial setup, the time required is just 2 to 3 hours per week.

To volunteer for the calendar or Directory jobs, contact Joan Belle Isle at 617-527-8843 or e-mail her at joanb2@IX.netcom.com.

Come on. Volunteer. It will be fun!



Greyhound Humor by Bruce DeKing, Midwest Greyhound Adoptions

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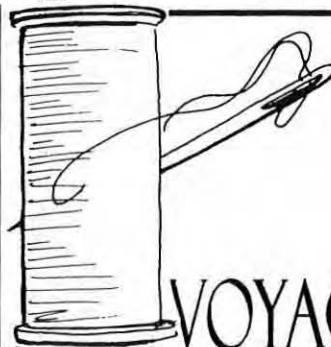


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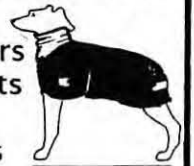
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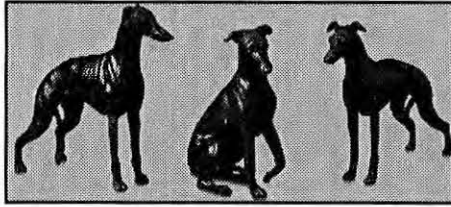
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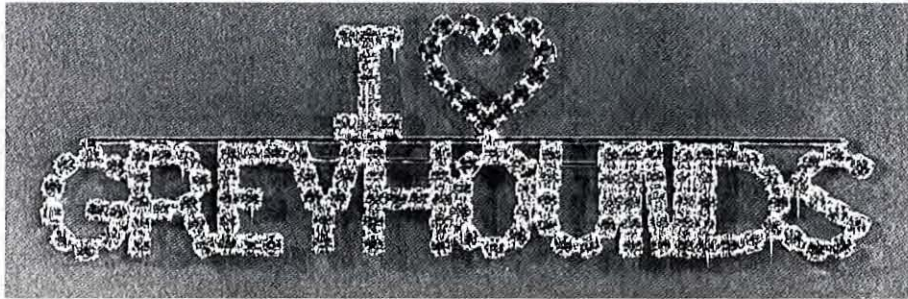
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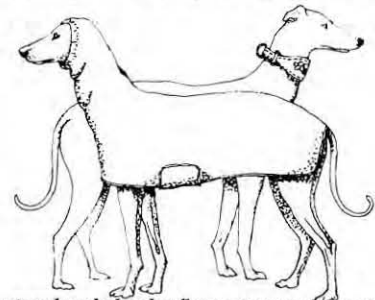


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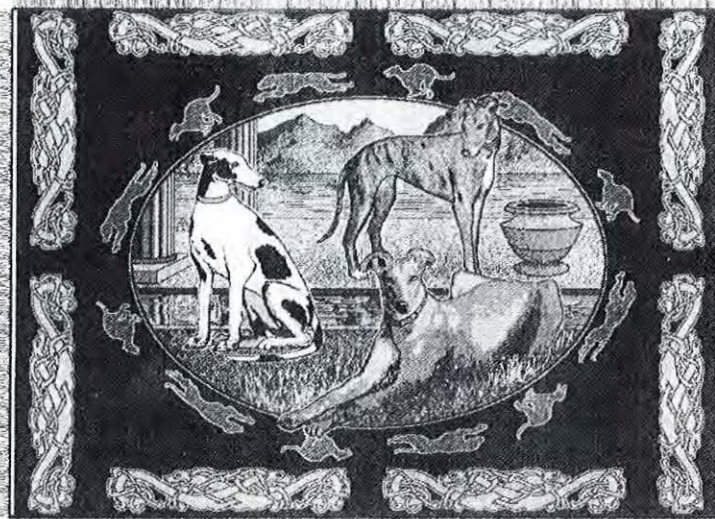
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Proceeds help to support these two non-profit greyhound adoption agencies.
Color image <http://tor-pw1.netcom.ca/~ljseed/greyhound.html>

You're Invited —

First Sunday of the month, March through June, Sept. through Dec.

The Lehigh Valley Lure Coursing Club

Practice lure coursing — 10 a.m. starting time.
Contact for info, directions: Kathy Bentzoni (610) 799-5608 or E-mail xcacers@ptdprolog.net; Rita Linck (610) 777-01583 or E-mail rlinck@ptd.net

First Saturday of the month (not July or August)
Friends of Greyhounds As Pets

Greyhound Stroll

10 a.m. starting time

St. Mary's Georgia

Call David French (912) 576-5232 for more info. Although not a major event, this monthly Stroll has phenomenally increased the number of adopted Greyhounds in the area from one to thirty-five. If you are in the area with your Greyhounds, please join them to promote Greyhound adoptions in that area.

Saturday & Sunday, April 10 and 11

The Albuquerque Whippet

Fanciers Association

Spring lure coursing

Stanley, New Mexico

Includes two JC tests, two AKC lure courses, possibly a Saturday practice

Contact Laurel Drew at (505-873-1729) for details. E-mail: elaur@twrol.com.

Saturday & Sunday, May 1st and 2nd

The Greyhound Gang

Greyhound Gathering — Kanab '99

Hours: unlimited

Kanab, Utah

Dutch oven cooking to fill up your tummies, prizes, treats and all other kinds of yummys. Speakers, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary tour.

For more information, including registration (please register before April 1), accommodations, events, guidelines, contact <http://www.greyhoundgang.com/gather99.htm> or greycang@presto.org. Phone (435) 644-2903

Saturday & Sunday, May 1 & 2, 1999

Greyhound Friends of North Carolina

Sixth Annual Open House

Noon — 5 p.m.

Location is at our kennel: 2908 Oak Ridge Rd, Oak Ridge, North Carolina

Product sales, food & drinks, games, vendors, kennel tours. Owners, friends and Greyhounds and other friendly breeds invited.

For more info, contact the kennel (336-643-0233) or Linda Landry Pnlraby@aol.com or 336-282-9348.

Saturday, May 8

Greyhound Guardians

Fashion Show

Proceeds going to our Shelter Fund.

Lansing, Illinois Country Club

For information, call Peg Bessette at 219-663-1845. E-mail: gh1@netnetico.net

Friday, May 14 (Sandia Dog Obedience Club)

Saturday, May 15 (Santa Fe Dog obedience Club)

Sunday, May 16 (Sangre de Cristo Kennel Club)

Monday, May 17 (Chaparral Kennel Club)

A variety of breed and obedience events

Albuquerque, New Mexico



Jace Onofrio will be the superintendent. You may request entry forms from them via their website at www.onofrio.com/

Sunday, May 16, 1999

Greyhound Adoption Service, Inc.

Annual Greyhound Reunion

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

Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds

South Chelmsford Rd, Westford, MA

For more info/directions, contact: Carla Trotter (978) 667-2789 e-mail: Albmaj@aol.com

Saturday, May 22

Nittany Greyhounds

Second annual "Gathering of the Greys"

11:00 a.m. to when it ends (Rain or shine)

Penn State University Ag Progress Fairgrounds

Route 45, State College, Penn.

For more information, contact Joe Skidel at 814-692-7614 or 814-231-1016 during the day. E-mails are les@scasd.k12.pa.us and Jskidel@eos.hitc.com

Sunday, May 23

Greyhound Pets of America/CA

Woofstock III: Fund raising Picnic

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Poway Community Park

13094 Bowron Rd.

Poway, Cal.

Tickets \$8 in advance or \$10 at the gate

Cost includes picnic, doggie entertainment, contests, raffles, a silent auction, and booths.

For info, call: 619-443-0940 or 1-877-GR8T-DOG (toll-free)

Saturday, June 12

Maine Greyhound Placement Service

Reunion '99

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cumberland Fairgrounds

Cumberland, Maine

(Between Portland and Freeport, Maine)

Open to all greyhounds & adopters

For more information: Lauren Emery (207) 846-5759, e-mail: dwemery@mindspring.com

Saturday, June 12 (rain date June 26)

Greater Peoria Pet Resort, Inc. and

Peoria Greyhound Rescue, Inc.

SIGHTHOOUNDS ABOUND '99: An All-

Sighthound Gathering

9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Peoria, Illinois

Includes agility, lure coursing, flyball, rescue and breed clubs, breed education, vendors, and more.

For details, contact: Lori Reynolds at 309-685-6818 or e-mail: greyhoundsrus@juno.com

Friday evening, June 18, 1999

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoptions Mixer

Proudly announces the upcoming kick off to the Summer Blast on Friday, June 18, 1999. Nineteen-year-old central Pennsylvanian Elvis impersonator Phil McCaulley, recent fourth runner-up in Springfield Ill. National Elvis Competition, entertains all ages with memories of Elvis. Also, Rockin' Robin, Central Pennsylvania's Golden Oldies Number One DJ, will present "Walkin' The Dog." These two individuals performed at last year's Blast where everyone had a great time.

Saturday, June 19, 1999

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoptions

Summer Blast

9:00 a.m. til done

Legion Park

Altoona, Pennsylvania

Food, games, vendors. For more details on both events and for hotel information, contact Richard R. Stoehr, 148 Queen Ann Drive, Hollidaysburg, PA. 16648-9228. Phone: (814) 695-3607 anytime day or night. E-mail: RRS110@AOL.COM.

Friday, June 18

Abilene Greyhound Gathering 1999

A tour of the NGA for early-bird arrivals.

Saturday and Sunday, June 19th-20th

Abilene Greyhound Gathering 1999

Abilene, Kansas

Contact: Paula Scott

1-785-263-1980

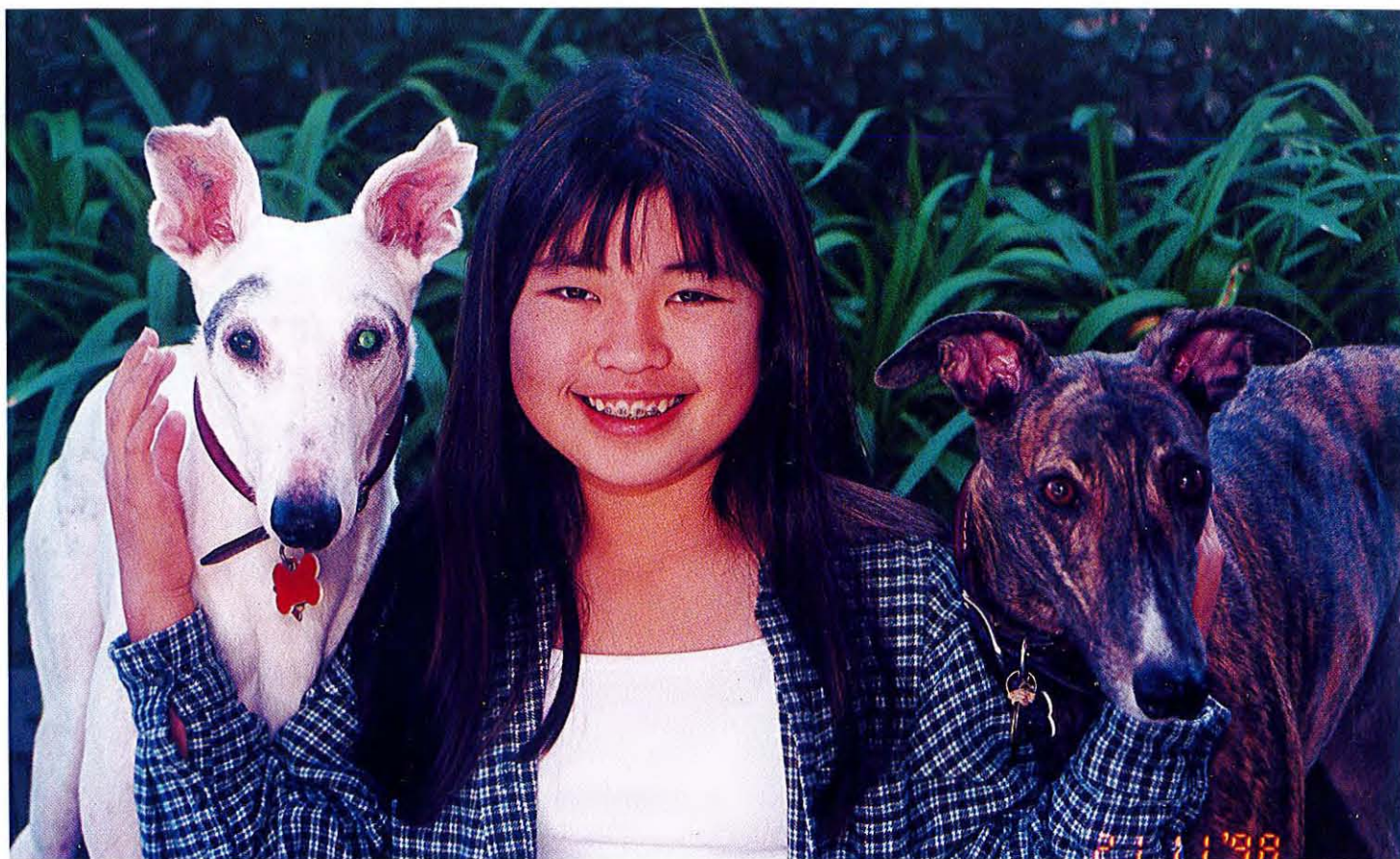
E-mail: paulasups@access-one.com

A visit to the Maurena Riggins farm (the Iruska Greyhounds). Possible visits to one or two of the smaller operations. Hall of Fame tours available anytime with Paula Scott's personal touch. Please bring an item to donate for the raffle and silent auction. Proceeds to TLC Adoption, Solomon, Kansas. Much more in the works.

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It's Spring!! Photo courtesy of Steve, Gayle and Rachel Uythara, Torrance, Cal.