

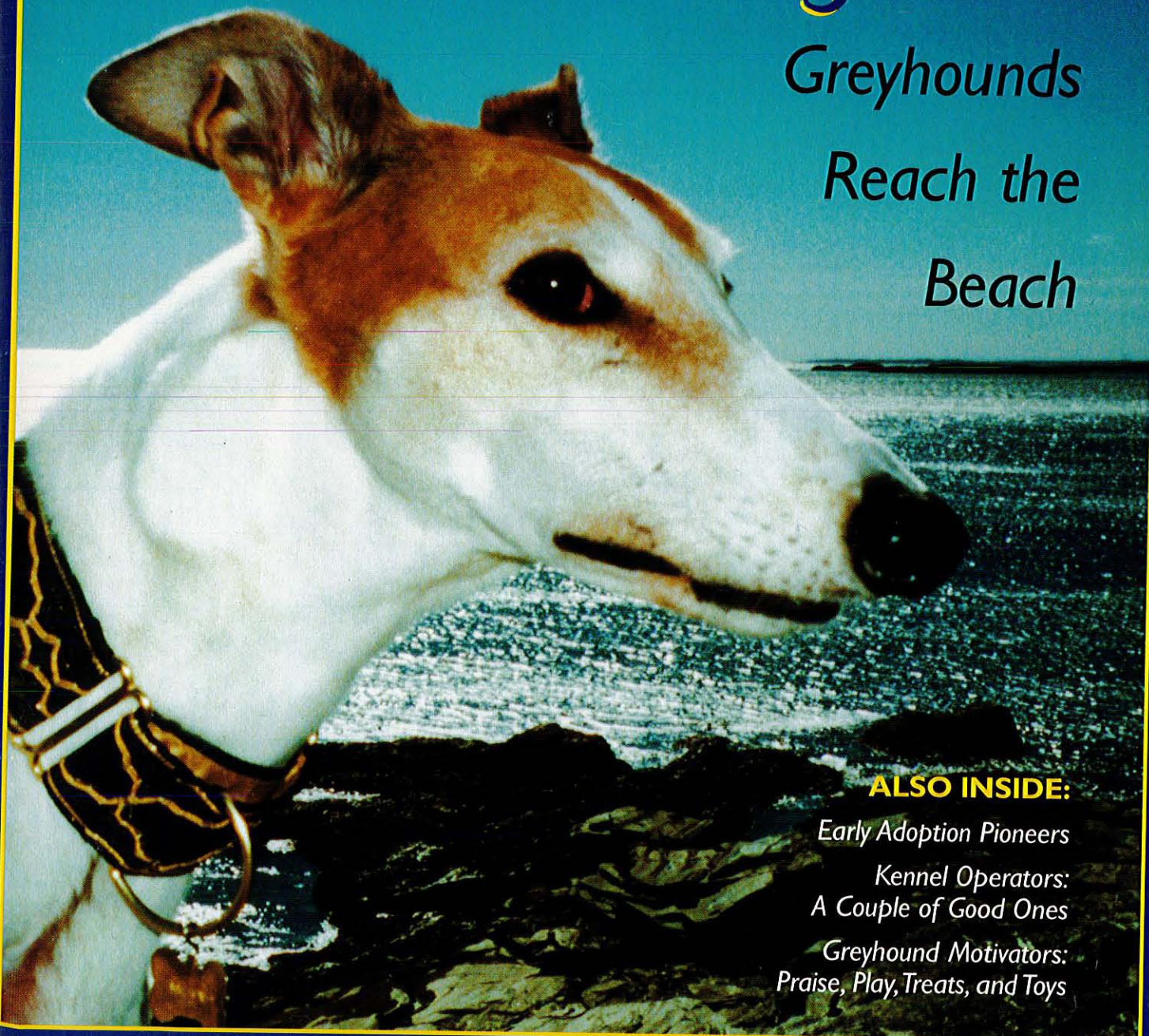
# CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS

THE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2000

## Dewey '99

Greyhounds  
Reach the  
Beach

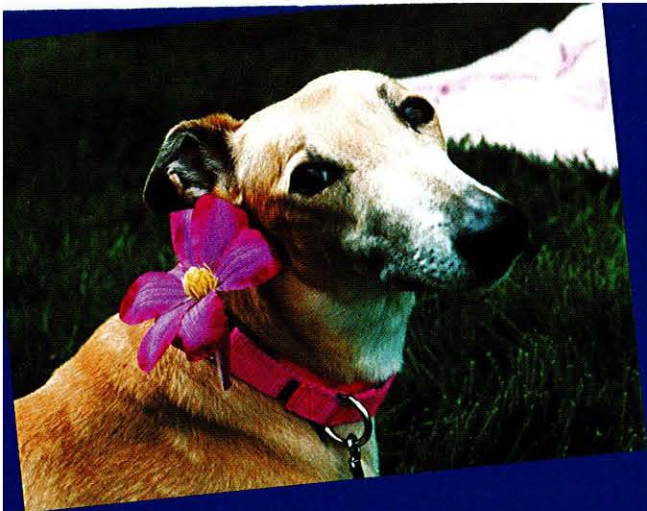


**ALSO INSIDE:**

*Early Adoption Pioneers*

*Kennel Operators:  
A Couple of Good Ones*

*Greyhound Motivators:  
Praise, Play, Treats, and Toys*



Jamie says, "I don't need a hat to show how pretty I am." Photo by Karen Fishella of Illinois.

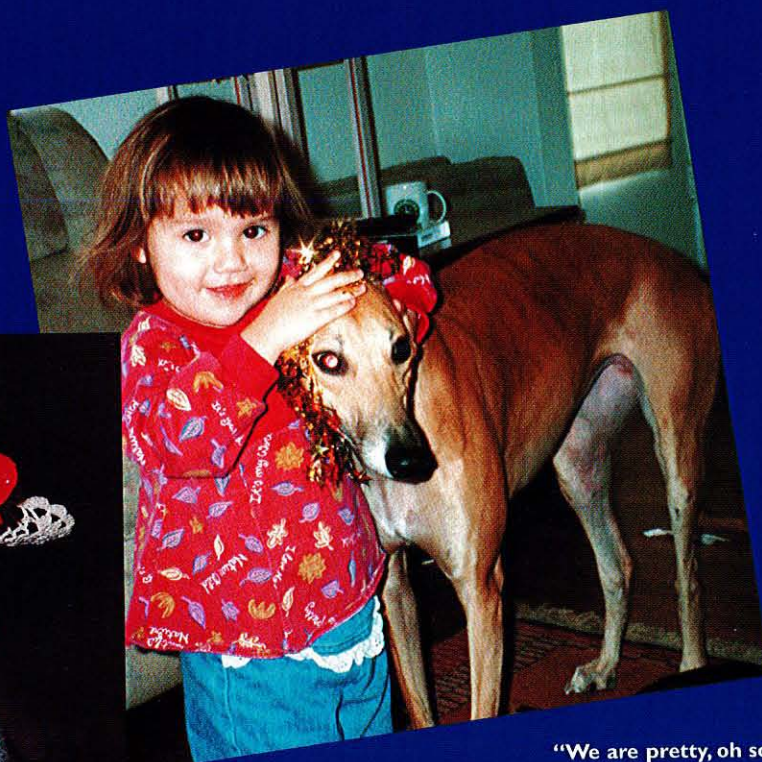


"OK, Mom, I'll wear this hat if you really want me to...." Riza Azner's Charlie-Horse, in Wayne, New Jersey.

# Are We Cute, or What?



"I love to balance things on my head." Round Round Girl, one of Jennifer Baker, DVM's Greyhounds. Dr. Baker adopted her Greyhounds from and is a State veterinarian at Wisconsin Dairyland Greyhound Park.



"We are pretty, oh so pretty!" Photo by June McBride of California.

"I am Cleo, the Queen of the Drells (Wally and Kathy's) household in Worth, Illinois. Photo by Karen Fishella.



The purpose of the magazine is to provide information about Greyhounds as a breed. Recognizing that there are differing points of view on issues such as racing, breeding, and adoption policies, to mention a few, the magazine does not advocate a position on these issues. It will publish articles and reader letters regarding these issues if deemed appropriate.

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**A Moving Experience: Finding a Rental Home** *Jody Frederick and Dave Vinke continue their journey to the West Coast and share their experience in renting a home with three large dogs in tow.*

## COVER

Bernie is an eight-and-a-half year old Greyhound adopted by Lauren and Dan Emery from Maine Greyhound Placement Service. They all live in North Yarmouth, Maine with another Greyhound, Boomer, and Dalmations Pearl and Daisy. Photo by Lauren Emery.

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## CG READERS SPEAK OUT

### About Tice and Shiloh

An obituary in the Fall issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds* was especially moving for me. It featured a dog named "Power Enticement," but I knew her as Tice. She was the first Greyhound I ever met.

I went to Linda Brown's ranch in Acton, California in July of 1994 to apply to adopt a Greyhound. Linda gave my friends Marianne, Susan, and I a tour of her wonderful ranch. She was accompanied by a reserved and dignified dog who gradually made friends with us. I would have gladly adopted Tice, but she was not proven to be cat safe, which was my only requirement at the time. The dog could be maimed, crippled, old, young, any color or size, but it had to be cat safe. I left without a dog that day, but I made a friend.

Two days later I received a call that a very special Greyhound was available. She had lived for a year with a small dog in a kennel after her adoption and had been returned to the ranch. Linda assured me that if a dog is good with small dogs, it would be good with cats. I went back and saw Tice once more, but this time she was with her buddy—a dog who looked very much like her, but taller and bigger boned. Her name was Shy-lo because

she was very shy. But she and Tice were buddies; I realize now that they must have known each other from their racing days. They are within days of the same age and came off the same track in Arizona. Shiloh (as I re-named her) raced for three years, and I'm sure Tice was there with her.

We went our separate ways that day, but when I visited the ranch again with Shiloh, Tice was there and they were able to spend another day together. My years with Shiloh have been some of the most wonderful in my life. She is so beautiful—both to look at and to know and love. But I have never forgotten Tice. Her photo is in Shiloh's album, and I know she is in the hearts of everyone who has known her. Thank you for including her story in your magazine.

Ardi Newton

Panorama City, California

### Adoption Professionals Articles

I was so excited to read your post about the addition of articles for adoption professionals. Our group is in the process of expanding our volunteer teams that work on telephone screening and home visits. I would love to read articles with guidelines and suggestions for new volunteers learn-

ing to screen applicants. Telephone interviews and home visits can be tricky. We recently had a volunteer do a home visit and when he called in his "report," he never mentioned that the lady of the house was expecting within the coming month. We have since talked the applicants into waiting till February or March to adopt a Greyhound, but it put us in a difficult position when the pregnancy issue finally came to our attention. Any good articles you have on hand on this subject would make great reference material for all of us out there trying to place dogs in the "right" homes. I'm sure we're not alone in our need.

I'm trying to put a handbook together for our people who go out on home visits. If you have anything in your file that might help us would you consider mailing me a hard copy or sending an email attachment? Sounds like you can't miss with this grey idea.

Carolyn Flajnik

Herndon, Virginia

*We don't have anything available in our archives (what archives?) although I recall working on a screening procedure during my days as an adoption co-chair. There must be material out there. If any groups have*

### About Therapy Greyhounds

Enclosed are pictures of my girls. They were very good at the studio and hammed it up big time. The two brindles, Angel and Arby, are both therapy dogs certified through Therapy Dogs Incorporated. Since retiring from racing, therapy work has become an important part of their lives.

Eva, the white and fawn girl, is new to our family. She has prospects of becoming a therapy dog and joining Angel and Arby on their visits to the nursing home. Since being returned by her adoptive family, Eva has found a permanent and happy home with us.

Cathy Dudas, Jamesburg, New Jersey



CHAMPION PET PHOTOS, PHOTO BY JACK

*such materials and would like to share, please send them to the editor and we will attempt to publish them.—Ed*

### **About Political Correctness**

Congratulations on the continuous improvements you've made to *Celebrating Greyhounds*. The quality of photographs and writing are really top notch.

I am also impressed that you are courageous enough to buck "political correctness" and print articles reflecting all aspects of the Greyhound world. This includes coursing live animals ("Waterloo—A Coursing Pilgrimage") and the basics of Greyhound race track operation ("Who's on First"). I don't have to agree or support the Greyhound practices that go on in the world, but I value the opportunity to become informed.

Also, I applaud your decision to publish "What Are We Telling Our Adopters," and I thank Megan Robertson for having the guts to write it. We do need to take the blinders off and acknowledge the "dark side" of the Greyhound breed, for the sake of the dogs and their potential adopters. On a similar note, I would like to see more articles regarding the many health problems that afflict our dogs. Greyhound adoption materials commonly make reference to the fact that Greyhounds are bred for health. This overlooks the more common occurrence that their care and feeding is substandard, which I believe explains the dogs' subsequent medical problems.

Keep up the good work and honest journalism.

Loretta Vosk  
Seattle, Washington

*Loretta, you have described my editorial policy and philosophy to a "T." You made my day because I now know that most folks fully understand what we are trying to do. Thank you.—Ed*

I read with a mixture of amusement and umbrage the two letters in the Winter 1999 issue criticizing *CG* for printing the article on the Waterloo Cup written by Pam Davis and me. It was amusing to me that one of the writers dusted off that old histrionic (now politically correct) term "blood sport" to describe a field sport about which she knows

### **"I before E except after C..."**

You might remember that phrase from your school days when you were learning how to spell words similar to believe and receive.

Now that we are adults and are concerned about Greyhounds—racing Greyhounds in particular—those letters might mean something else. The letter "I" might conjure up industry. The letter "E" might conjure up euthanasia. The letter "C" just might conjure up cooperation. One way to conjure up cooperation might be through understanding. That said, you will find in this issue an article or two about industry people.

Yes, there are some who still do the E word: euthanize. Although most of us find this abhorrent, those who continue this practice believe they have good reason to do this. We can only hope they will change their minds. You will find no horror stories in here. You will discover that there are quite a few people in the industry who would never euthanize Greyhounds because they are "excess." Yes, owners and track-related workers do take retired Greyhounds into their hearts and homes and put them on their couches. Those they cannot take home, they place privately or release to adoption groups.

### **Now for the C words: Cooperation and Change**

Cooperation means group spirit. It must come from both arenas. We scratch the surface in the cooperation area in this issue. In the article titled "A Couple of Good Ones," we read about a couple who are kennel operators in the New England area. They managed to allow the author inside their racing kennel (practically an unheard of event). A second article called "Early Adoption Pioneers" reveals that many of the pioneers had their roots in the "I" word—the industry.

My thesis and purpose for including these articles are simple; if we seek out cooperative racing Greyhound owners and their agents, more Greyhounds will be turned over to adoption groups.

As for change, breeding fewer Greyhounds means more can be placed into homes. That is the industry's choice.

### **Let's Add Another Letter—P**

Nothing happens overnight, but we must all plug away and push for change, yet have patience. Finally, a last "P" word. Be prudent. When your adoption group tells you not to contact your Greyhound's former owner, take it seriously. There may have been a kindhearted industry person who put your Greyhound up for adoption when it was slated for euthanization. Please cooperate. That person's job may be on the line.

### **The D Word**

Dewey Beach! This massive event occurs every Columbus Day weekend and gets larger each year. Approximately 1,200 people and at least that many Greyhounds attended this Fall. *CG Magazine* presents a series of informative articles and seminar reports detailing what occurred during Dewey 1999.

### **And Now, the R word....**

Please read and enjoy this issue of *CG Magazine*.

Marcia Herman

### Help for Pancreatic Insufficiency

Some readers may remember that I was Mom to Porsche ("Sharks to the Rescue," Summer 97). We have a new dog now. I have a story to pass along about Lotus that may be of help to someone out there. We have discovered a way to deal with pancreatic insufficiency.

Lotus was very thin when she came to us. We were feeding her extra and a high quality food, and kept waiting to see some weight gain. I couldn't see any progress and took her to the vet to be weighed. I was shocked to see that she had lost six pounds in the six weeks she had been with us. We had a special blood test—a TLI—done and found that she has *Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency*. She needs enzymes to be able to get any nourishment out of her food. Without them she would starve to death. The veterinarian prescribed Viokase-V, sprinkled over her meals. This did work and after about six weeks she had regained up to her original weight at her first checkup here.

This was a very expensive solution, and according to the veterinarian, the only thing that could be done and it has to be given the rest of her life. A less expensive product is Prozyme.

Prozyme developer Marvin Silverman suggests using this as a general digestive aid for any dog, especially older pets or ones with digestive problems. The ingredients are almost identical to Viokase, except that this is plant-based instead of pork-based and is available without a prescription. I did wean her onto it gradually, 3/4 Viokase to 1/4 Prozyme for 1 week, half & half the next week, etc. A few weeks ago we cut the dose to 1 1/2 tsp per meal. She is still doing well and she's up to 66 pounds now.

An excellent mail order source for dog supplies, even prescriptions, is KV Vet Supply. They can be reached at 800 423-8211 or at [www.kvvet.com](http://www.kvvet.com). Their prices are very reasonable. There is a \$40 minimum to avoid a \$5 charge. They fill prescriptions (you must mail them the original prescription). All other supplies can be ordered by phone, on the Internet, or by regular mail.

*Kathy Dubuque  
San Leandro, California*

little and couldn't be bothered to learn from our article. For both critics, let me repeat what they apparently missed in the article: it is not the objective of coursing for the Greyhounds to catch or kill the hare. Rather, they are judged on their skill in pursuing their natural quarry, the hare, which is a wily opponent with far greater turning ability and endurance than the best Greyhound. (Incidentally, Ms. Henning may be surprised to learn that the hare depicted in the article, like the great majority of the hares at the Waterloo Cup, escaped into the natural brush surrounding the field, leaving his pursuers in the dust).

As I have devoted many, many hours to the cause of Greyhound adoption, I take considerable umbrage at Ms. Jones' presumption that I have "little respect for animal life." A natural and inescapable part of animal life that must be acknowledged and

respected is the dual roles of prey and predator. If Ms. Henning honestly believes that every hare has a "right" to a life free of predators, I would suggest that she take up her complaint with the Creator (or, as you pointed out in your response, with the farmers on non-coursing lands who shoot hares as crop-destroying pests.)

Megan Robertson's article "What Are We Telling Our Adopters?" in the Winter 1999 issue did an excellent job of pointing out the intellectual disingenuousness of promoting our Greyhounds as one-dimensional "couch potatoes." Their duality as splendid companions in the home and intense hunters on the field is both an essential part of their make-up and a principal reason that Greyhounds have been prized as pets through the centuries. We do both these magnificent dogs and prospective adopters a considerable disservice by winking

at the reality that there is a hunter not far below their usually placid surface.

Kudos to *CG* for having the journalistic integrity to publish articles that are of interest to a wide variety of "Greyhound adopters, owners, and friends," and not just those that are deemed "politically correct." Those who would cancel their subscriptions rather than using their right index finger to turn to an article of more interest to them are the poorer for their decision.

*John Parker  
Atlanta, Georgia*

I just received my latest issue... as always another great issue. Thank you for the article "Twelve Fewer Dogs." In between tears I managed to read it. Also thank you for the article on Anipryl and Rimadyl. I had an older dog that had CDS and arthritis. I did not have a chance to try Anipryl on him but the last year of his life was a much fuller quality of life thanks to Rimadyl. I also enjoyed the article on vestibular disease as my older Greyhound experienced this twice. I would like to send you an article on my special needs Greyhound. Would you please send me your guidelines by email? Thanks. So glad I get *CG*!

*Sharon via the Internet*

*We are able to send writer's guidelines online (we prefer it, actually), as well as through the mail. Self-addressed, stamped envelope is appreciated from those who need guidelines sent via regular mail.—Ed*

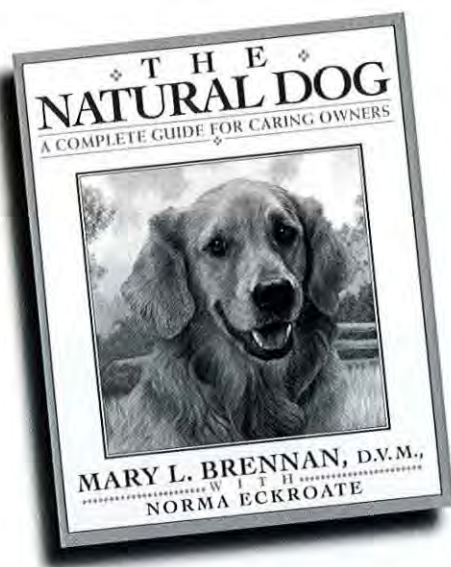
### Corrections to the Winter issue

Page 26: Multnomah Greyhound Park is in Portland, Oregon, not in Washington state

Page 27: The U.K. group is the Wembley Group not the Wimby Group.

Page 30: Update. This year all Greyhound tracks are members of the AGTOA, not 48 out of 49.

*Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Please send letters and photos by mail to the editorial office. Please e-mail letters whenever possible.*



## The Natural Dog: A Complete Guide for Caring Owners

Have you ever wondered whether the commercial dog food you feed is really good for your dog? Have you considered making your own food but you don't know what to put in it to ensure it's balanced? Ever wanted to know whether you should vaccinate annually? Or wished you knew more about natural treatments for parasites and diseases?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should read Dr. Mary L. Brennan's book, *The Natural Dog: A Complete Guide for Caring Owners*. Dr. Brennan is a doctor of veterinary medicine who runs a holistic veterinary practice in Georgia specializing in small animals and horses.

This book covers many topics of interest to dog owners, beginning with choosing a dog, behavior and training, grooming, a large section on diet which includes recipes for special diets you can make at home as well as what ingredients are included in commercially prepared foods. There is a second section on natural veterinary care which includes information on acupuncture, aromatherapy, Bach flower remedies, chiropractic, herbs, homeopathy, magnetic therapy, and more.

Part II of the book deals with common health problems such as arthritis, diarrhea, fleas and ticks, hip dysplasia, hypothyroidism, parasites,

and skin problems to name but a few. Each problem is covered in depth and contains recommendations for natural treatment of the problem while taking into consideration the dog's age, diet, exercise, and other health problems.

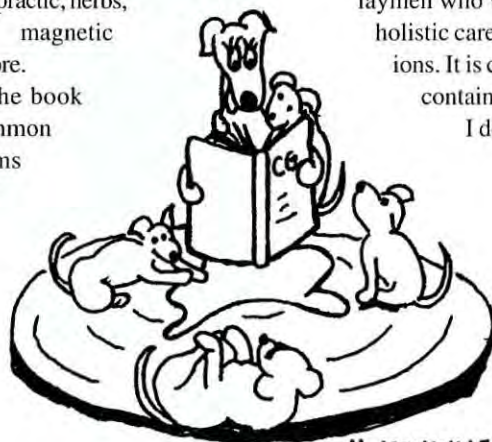
The different treatment options are explained; for example, homeopathy can stimulate the body against specific diseases while acupuncture stimulates the body's immune system and balances the body's energy.

What I like most about this book is the incredible variety of topics and how well the authors explained them. The Diet Section includes special diets ranging from losing weight to reducing allergies to vegetarian; there were even a couple of recipes for healthy treats. There are also recommendations on commercially prepared foods that are good for your dog. Because I have two senior Greyhounds I was interested in the section on special considerations and requirements of the aging dog as well as alternatives to annual vaccinations.

This book is definitely written for laymen who want to learn more about holistic care for their canine companions. It is clear and easy to read, and contains a wealth of information.

I definitely recommend it to anyone who is interested in maintaining his or her Greyhound with more natural care. ❖

*Mauveen Nelms is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.*



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**Article Deadlines:** Spring issue: December 1; Summer issue: March 1; Fall issue: June 1; Winter issue: September 1.

## Hall of Fame Inducts Two More Greyhounds

### EJ's Douglas

Owned and raised by Elwyn E. Jackson of Theodore, Ala., EJ's Douglas has been called the best sprinter of the 1990s. Douglas, a brindled son of Hey Vern and Abigail Girl, was whelped in December of 1990.

EJ's Douglas's home track was Southland in West Memphis, Ar., where he was trained by Bob Marriott of Marriott Kennel. During his traveling years, he was trained by Jesse Wallace of Kerry Patch Kennel at Biscayne in Miami, Susan Hoopes of Dorsey Kennel at The Woodlands in Kansas City, and Jim D'Ambrosia of Elliott Kennel at Wonderland in Revere, Mass.

In 1992, EJ's Douglas went non-stop from Maiden to Grade A, winning eight races in a row. He was second in the Florida vs the World Stake (Biscayne) in his 17th lifetime start.

The next year, he won the National Greyhound Association's Rural Rube Award and was named to the All-America Team and the All-World Team. He set an Arkansas course record at Southland, won the Southland Inaugural, the Woodlands Winter Sprint, and the Irish-American Classic at Biscayne.

In 1994, he joined Hall of Famer JW Rocket One as the only two-time winners of the NGA's Rural Rube Award. Douglas also was named to the All-America Team and the All-World Team for a second time. He won the Southland inaugural for the second time, won the Woodlands Winter Sprint and the Grady Memorial at Wonderland. He set an Arkansas course record and won 26 of 27 starts between Southland and Wonderland.

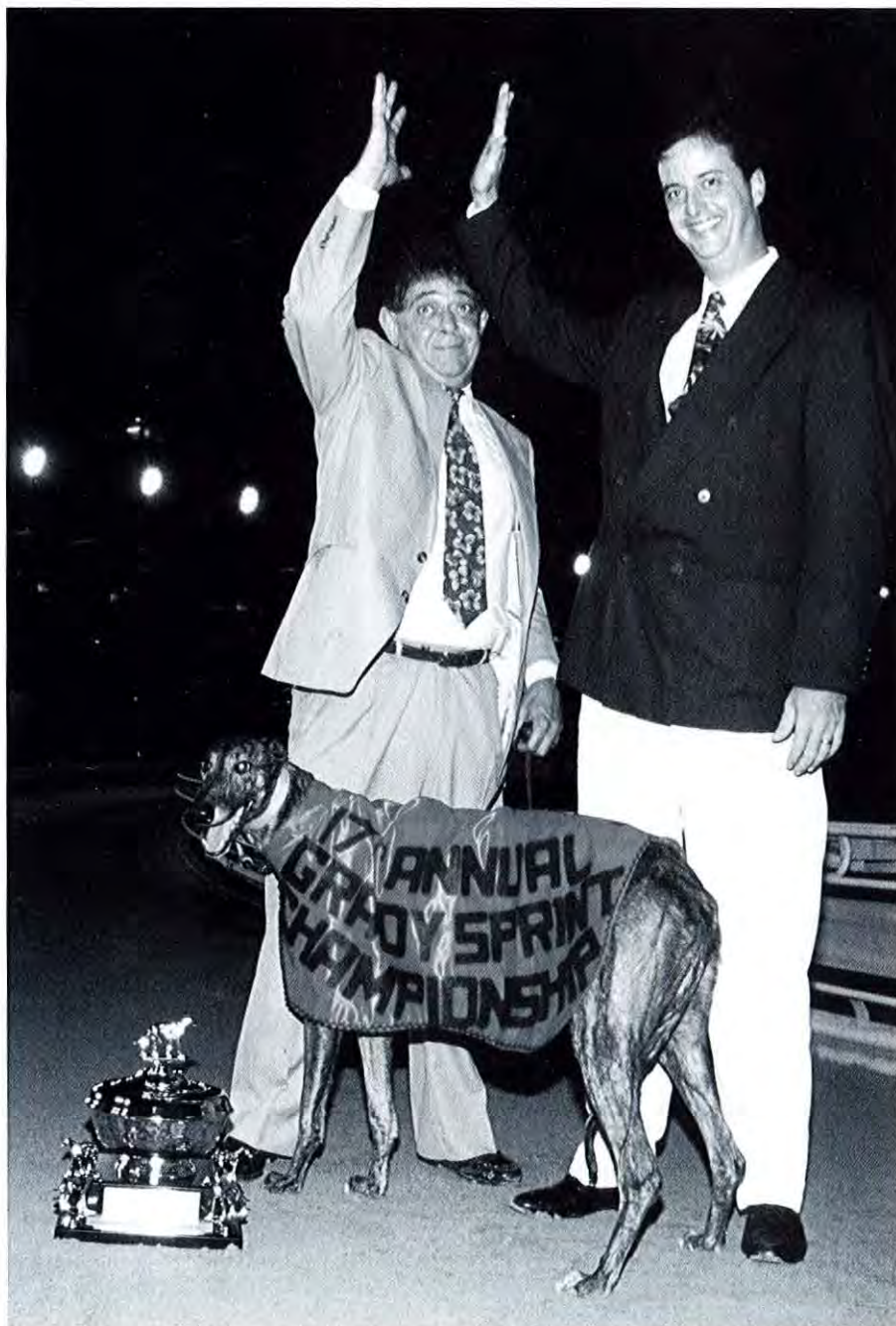
EJ's Douglas returned to Miami/Biscayne in July of 1994 to defend his Irish-American title, but, after winning the first two rounds, suffered an injury in round three that ended his career. He'd won 66 of his 80 career starts.

Southland named a 1999 stake race EJ's Douglas Winter Juvenile Championship. EJ's Douglas was retired to stud at Strickland Sires in Abilene, Kans., where he ranked third in 1998 final sire standings even though he sired at least 500 puppies less than the number one and two sires.

Some of his offspring include Gaffer, winner of the 1998 Tampa Juvenile Stake; Grey's Excalibur, winner of the 1998 Marathon Stake at Tampa and Tampa Derby; RL Annett, Dairyland Au Revoir and Inaugural winner; Praetor, 1998 Hot Box Win-

ner Mile High and Cloverleaf; Kola Cora, Damis and Magic Skipper who have all placed well in various races.

EJ's Douglas, through frozen insemination, is rapidly rising in the Australian sire standings as well.



WONDERLAND

Kennel owner Chuck Marriott (left) and owner Elwin Jackson celebrate following EJ's Douglas' victory in the Grady Sprint.





The #1 sire for four straight years, HB's Commander is the sire of three All-Americans.

### HB's Commander

Out of Akbar and Princess Donna, HB's Command was one of ten puppies whelped on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1987. He was owned by Henry B. Cook of West Memphis, Ar. He began his racing career at Southland Greyhound Park and soon was considered one of the fastest Greyhounds ever to break in at the time.

HB's Commander's racing career ended when he tore his Achilles tendon at age 28 months. After two operations, it was decided to retire HB's Commander to stud.

His first litter of puppies produced HB's Main Man and HB's Whiskey Red, both of which ran solid Grade A at West Memphis. HB's Main Man sold for \$60,000 to a private buyer.

HB's Commander quickly rose to become the number four stud in 1993 and then stood in the number one spot in the country for four straight years, 1994 to 1997.

Of his offspring, two were named All-America in 1995—Twilite Demand as captain and Flying Neptune. Blazing Lady was named to the 1996 All-America Team.

Twilite Demand's record includes victories at the Biscayne Spring Inaugural, the Seabrook Great Race, the Palm Beach St. Patrick's Day Challenge, the Hollywood Invitational and the Palm Beach Silver Bullet. He was second in the Grady Sprint at Wonderland, the Hollywood World Classic and the Biscayne Irish-American and was a finalist in the Colorado Classic at Mile High.

In 1995, Flying Neptune won the Kansas Bred Holiday Stake and the Kansas Bred

Juvenile at The Woodlands, and the Great Kansas Shootout at Wichita Greyhound Park. He was second in the Independence Day Countdown at Wichita. The next year he won the Kansas Bred Sprint at The Woodlands.

Blazing Lady, in 1996, won the Carney Memorial Triathlon and the Fall Classic at Raynham Taunton and the New Hampshire Lottery Stake at Hinsdale. Littermates included Blazing Intrigue, Pioneer Pride and Blazing Desire.

Other outstanding racing Greyhounds from HB's Commander's line were Molotov, who won the Mile High Great Expectations Stake in 1996 and set the 5/16 track record at 30.19; Epic Prince, who won the St. Petersburg Sprint Classic and set the 5/16 track record at 30.30 in 1994; Awesome Memory, who set the St. Petersburg 3/8 record at 37.08 in 1995; Oswald Cobblepot, Galilee, Dixie Zee and Evening Memory.

HB's Commander's sons have established themselves in the sire standings of today. Molotov is second, Evening Memory ranks fifth and Oswald Cobblepot is ninth in the standings through the first half of 1999.

HB's Commander died from a ruptured blood vessel a few days before his eighth birthday. ❖

*Reprinted with permission, Greyhound Review, October 1999.*

*Editor's note: If your Greyhound runs unusually fast, it may well be a descendent of one or more Hall of Fame Greyhounds. I discovered that my youngest pup, an unusually good backyard racer even at seven weeks of age, has 13 Hall of Fame Greyhounds in his lineage. No wonder he is so speedy....*

### Wanted: A Clone or Two of the Editor

Why would *CG Magazine* want to clone the editor? Because if the editor needs to retire, *CG* will not be published!

So, to head off that awful possibility, *CG Magazine* needs an individual or two (or more) right now to learn the task of assembling and putting together *CG*. The ideal person would have an obsession for getting the magazine out and relish taking major responsibility for the magazine. Another major characteristic would be an individual who has approximately 20 hours a week, give or take, to devote to the magazine.

The job does not require desktop publishing; it does require a basic knowledge of word processing and file handling. The majority of the job involves finding articles, art, and photos as well as working with writers and copy editors to create the final article. A computer and Internet access is vital. Having a reasonably good knack for grammar and spelling and knowing when and when not to trust spelling and grammar checks are essential.

The hours are many, so the more hands the better. The editor will provide training and will work hand-in-hand with the brave, hardy souls who come forward and are willing to make a long-term commitment to the job. This is not a short-term commitment because the training will take two or three issues. Only those in it for the long haul need apply.

If you see a description of yourself in these paragraphs, please volunteer. The editor, the magazine, The Greyhound Project, and the readers need you.

For more information, please contact the editor at [editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org](mailto:editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org). Thank you.

## Tasha: The Greyhound Watchdog

When I started looking into the Greyhound breed in 1994, I read that Greyhounds do not bark and are definitely not watchdogs. The non-barking illusion was wiped-out when we went to the adoption kennel where we adopted Cody. I think every dog except Cody and another shy boy was barking! Cody has been with us five-and-a-half years and while he does bark, he limits it to times when the doorbell rings or when dogs walk by on the path behind our house.

In June 1995, we adopted our second Greyhound, Tasha. She was similar to Cody

in the barking department, but she barks at cats and squirrels, too. Tasha maintained her fairly mellow attitude to strangers and visitors until the first week of school one year. That day my daughter and I came home from work and school about 2:00 p.m. and found someone had been in the house. Tasha and Cody were crated that day. When we let Tasha out of her crate, she immediately ran to the basement, where we later discovered someone had broken the street-side basement window and entered our house. I had to hold Tasha back when the police officer came to take our report; she was not going to allow an additional stranger into our house.

Since then, we always let Tasha have run of the house. I found out how well she protects my house when a friend dropped by one day when we weren't home. When my friend rang the doorbell, Tasha ran to the front door barking, jumping, and slamming her feet against the door. Tasha stayed put—feet on the door, looking out the window, barking with hair bristling. My Greyhound-savvy friend told me when Tasha hit the front door it was frightening how ferocious she looked.

So my Tasha is a watchdog who protects my house, thus breaking another stereotype about Greyhounds. This protection is wonderful, especially since my husband often works late or is out of town on business. Tasha has gone on to prove that she isn't just protecting our property. She watches out for us, as well.

One summer we hired two men to build a deck on the back of our house. Tom had been the first grade teacher for both of my children and his friend, Jay, was a kindergarten teacher. These men are people we trust. The dogs both love Tom; he is an animal lover through and through. Jay is very nice, but for some reason Tasha just doesn't like him. One afternoon, while Becky was playing Nintendo, Jay came in the house and talked to Becky before using the facilities. While Jay was talking to Becky, Tasha got up and stood between Jay and Becky, with her hackles raised. Tasha continued to stand between Becky and Jay until he left the house. Although Tasha never harmed Jay, she let him know if he wanted to do anything to Becky, he would have to get past her.

We love Tasha's protective spirit, but there is a price to be paid. We discovered this when the UPS driver left a package and rang the doorbell. In her haste to protect her territory, she punctured Cody's neck because he was between her real target—the UPS man. Since then, we never leave Tasha loose with either Cody or our whippet, Dundee, when we aren't home to referee.

Who needs an alarm system when you have a wonderful, loving girl like this? ♦

*Stephanie and David Russell adopted Tasha on June 14, 1995, from Colorado Greyhound Companions. Tasha is seven years old and lives with the Russell children, Becky and Timmy; another Greyhound, Cody; a Whippet, Dundee; a cockatiel, Sweetie; and a hamster named Yoshi.*



BECKY RUSSELL

Tasha watching a chipmunk.





# Going Home by Air

by Cara Brockhoff  
Do Greyhounds Really Fly?

On August 27th, Pat Toman, past president of GPA/NW and current president of GPA National arrived at the Eureka/Arcata Airport in McKinleyville, Calif., with two newly-retired Greyhounds for Northcoast families.

Twenty Greyhounds and their owners were on hand for the occasion. A loud rooing sound welcomed Pat as she stepped off the plane into the reception area at this small airport where Gate #1 accommodates departures and Gate #2 accepts arrivals.

Both KIEM-TV Channel 3 and KVIQ-TV Channel 6 were on hand for the Greyhounds' arrival as were reporters from the *Times-Standard* and *Humboldt Beacon*. Northcoast Greyhound Support, who had helped arrange the adoptions, was grateful for the publicity. Especially important was that Horizon Airlines will fly future adopted Greyhounds to the Northcoast for a special reduced fee. This one-and-a-half hour trip by air will make adoption much easier for prospective owners who, before, needed to



Greyhounds await deplaning passengers on the reception patio.

drive over eight hours to Salem, Ore., to pick up a dog.

Molly and Harpo (now Horus), who arrived on this flight, are the nineteenth and twentieth retired racers personally placed by Pat Toman in cooperation with Northcoast Greyhound Support. Many of the dogs greeting her were those that were fostered in Pat's home before being united with their new California families. ❖



Pat uncrates Harpo to deliver to him to his new owners, Marty and Sally Burns of Fortuna, Calif., as the *Times-Standard* reporter catches his emergence.



Diane Swartz of McKinleyville, Calif., is delighted that her new adoptee, Molly, appears to be a shoo-in for the next rooing contest, though Ruth (at the right) is a sure contender.



Channel 3's camcorder catches Molly's first California moment on film.

# Early Adoption Pioneers



Story and photos  
by Joan Dillon

**Terry Canary, shown here with her owner Eileen McCaughern in the mid-70s, was probably the Greyhound that started the adoption movement in the United States. As soon as people met the friendly Terry Canary out and about with Eileen, some wanted a Greyhound for themselves. This was a decade before adoption groups began to form. Eileen obliged them by simply going to the tracks and persuading trainers to turn some Greyhounds over to her for placement instead of euthanizing them. Eileen is still placing Greyhounds today.**

**W**hile living in England in 1973, I got to see Greyhounds race at Wembley, White City, and Catford (now that's a misnomer if I ever heard one) stadiums. The races in England were different than those in the United States since there were only six dogs in a race—eight in the U.S. In addition, a couple of the races each night were hurdle races—a sort of Greyhound steeplechase. Although I enjoyed watching these sleek athletes perform, it never occurred to me that these dogs had pet potential. Yet, even then, years before Americans began to accept the notion that retired racing Greyhounds could make a career switch from athlete to couch potato, Greyhound adoption was already a *fait accompli* in England.

As early as 1956, Ann Shannon started placing Greyhounds as pets while operating a sanctuary for retired racing dogs under the auspices of the British Union for the Abolishment of Vivisection. She also developed a network of contacts across the country. Another homefinder (British term

for placement representative), was a teacher, Johanna Beumer, who began placing Greyhounds from the Walthamstow track in London back in 1965. Then, with the formation of the NGRC (National Greyhound Racing Club) Retired Greyhound Trust in 1974, the responsibility for Greyhound adoption passed to the NGRC.

Organized as a registered charity, the Trust had its headquarters in the offices of the NGRC. It provided administrative and secretarial staff to acknowledge donations, handled general questions and correspondence, and placed ads for retired Greyhounds in British pet magazines and on television. It also supplied funds obtained in part from a percentage of the first-time registration fee for a Greyhound, as well as legacies and charity race meetings for the purpose of kenneling Greyhounds pending home placement. The Trust relied heavily on groups of regional volunteers—many of them owners of racing Greyhounds—to do the actual homefinding and to organize adver-

tising campaigns and media coverage to help locate suitable homes. The regional representatives met several times a year at the office of the Trust with representatives of racetrack management and veterinarians.

Another early British homefinder was Gee Lebon, who found homes for Greyhounds retired from the Southend stadium. A Greyhound owner and prolific writer, Gee had a regular column in U.S.-published *Turnout* magazine as well as a number of articles in the U.S. all-breed magazine, *Dog World*. She corresponded regularly with many early American placement representatives generously sharing her fundraising ideas and her knowledge of Greyhounds as pets.

In the United States prior to 1982, it was highly unusual to see a Greyhound anywhere other than the side of a Greyhound Bus or at a racetrack. Although there were AKC Greyhounds, the breed was never popular and yearly registrations totaled only 100-200. Even then, before the establishment of organized adoption groups, there were a few individu-

als scattered across the country who were finding homes for Greyhounds. These folks usually had Greyhounds themselves or were connected with or had contacts within the Greyhound industry from whom they received Greyhounds.

One Maine woman, Cora Eisenzimer, adopted a Greyhound back in 1957 when it was unheard of. Cora was living in Taunton, Massachusetts at the time and heard about Boozer's predicament from her neighbor, "the Greyhound man," when he brought her a basket of tomatoes from his garden. One thing led to another and Cora and her young son Mark became Boozer's proud owners and the Greyhound lived the happy life of a pet for eight years.

Eileen McCaughey of Connecticut first became active in finding homes for Greyhounds in 1974 while horseback riding in Seabrook, New Hampshire with a group that included a dog handler from the Seabrook track. The conversation turned to what became of Greyhounds when their racing career ends and, upon learning that many were put to sleep, Eileen adopted her first Greyhound, "Terry Canary," a two-year-old fawn female, directly from the Seabrook kennel compound the very next day. In addition to adopting a few other Greyhounds directly from Seabrook and from Plainfield Greyhound Park when it opened in 1976, Eileen became active in placing other retired racers.

The first track to promote Greyhounds as pets may have been Seabrook Greyhound Park in New Hampshire. In an issue of *Post Time*, a newspaper distributed by the track to its patrons, dated February 12, 1981, there appeared two articles promoting Greyhounds as pets. The first one titled, "Looking for a Pet? How About a Greyhound" by Elaine Tarmy stated "Many a former Seabrook racer has found a happy home with a family. I, myself, have one I acquired five years ago, and he is a wonderful pet." The second article, "Greyhounds Pampered Says Pauline O'Donnell" stated as follows: "Despite propaganda from anti-Greyhound forces they are very affectionate and love people, especially children. They make good house pets too and owners have become so attached to some of their dogs, they have made them housepets. Such was the case of Yellow Printer, the great Irish/English racer and stud dog whom Mrs.

O'Donnell took into her Hialeah, Florida home after his racing days were over. He remained there until the day he died at 12-years-of-age and was buried under the tree in the backyard." There were also two photos of Greyhounds and children with captions promoting Greyhounds as pets.



**Millie Merritt with Ron Walsek in Florida. In 1982 Walsek formed REGAP (Retired Greyhounds as Pets), the first official adoption group.**

I needed no convincing as to the "petability" of Greyhounds. After returning to the United States I fell in love with my Topaz during a visit to a Massachusetts Greyhound farm in 1979. It was love at first sight for both of us and even though it meant buying her, I had to have her. She cost me \$800, but it was a purchase I never regretted. It's said that every dog owner has one special dog in his or her lifetime; Topaz was mine. She died in 1991, a month shy of her fourteenth birthday.



**Some of the other pioneers in 1984. Front: Sandy Brosnan, Millie Merritt, John Furbush, Joan Dillon. Rear: Debbie Horrocks, Kathy Morrill, Leona LaMotte.**

The American Greyhound adoption movement, however, is really considered to have started in 1982 when Ron Walsek of St. Petersburg, Florida, who worked on a Greyhound farm and at a local track, started REGAP (Retired Greyhounds As Pets). This first all-volunteer non-profit Greyhound

placement organization in the United States was formed to educate the public about the true nature of the Greyhound and to find homes for Greyhounds that retired from or failed to qualify for the racetrack. The idea caught on and other adoption groups started forming across the country.

I first got involved in the actual placement of Greyhounds in the fall of 1982. A chance meeting at my veterinarian's office introduced me to Millie Merritt. I was sitting in the waiting room with Topaz waiting my turn when Millie walked into the room with a leashed Greyhound. We both looked at each other and said, "Greyhound!"

Millie's husband, Jim, was a kennel owner at the Belmont, New Hampshire track and had a couple of young female Greyhounds in his kennel that he thought might make good pets. I contacted Ron Walsek in Florida to see if I could help place them and he referred me to John Furbush, a Maine Greyhound breeder who was actively placing Greyhounds in New England. John didn't have any homes available for them, but he offered some suggestions that included the use of posters. I put a notice on the bulletin board at work and another at the local supermarket. Both resulted in homes and both Greyhounds made wonderful pets.

The following summer the Seabrook track contacted John seeking a pet Greyhound exhibit for the Fourth of July weekend. John called me and asked if Millie or I could help. I brought my Topaz. At one point they had me bring her out on the track to participate in a cake-cutting ceremony. I bet they used at least two rolls of film *trying* to get a picture of her eating a piece of cake. Although Topaz never did eat their cake, that weekend saw the birth of New England REGAP (later GPA/Massachusetts) with the first members being John, Millie, and myself. I continued to be active in Greyhound placement until the fall of 1995.

Some other early Greyhound adoption pioneers included: Gloria Sanders and Cathy Feltych of Iowa; Joan Headland and Carol Osborne of California; Roger Garland of Oregon; Lou Batdorf of Ohio; Lori Graham of Virginia; Betty Rosen of Maryland; Ruth Klastow of New Jersey; June Bazar of Rhode Island, John and Robin Hern of Idaho; Jewell Waldrip of Arizona,



Joan Dillon being interviewed in 1984 at Wonderland by Chris Conangla (WBZ-TV, Channel 4 Boston).

Aleithia Bower of Texas; Gretchen von Schreiner and Jenny Eddy of Vermont; Linda Nordstrom, Janet Gillman, Barri Lambert and Ann Tepper of New Hampshire; Sandy Brosnan, Arthur and Leona Lamotte, Debbie Horrocks, Jane Klorer, Kathy Hopper, Marja Robinson, Hugh Geoghegan and Louise Coleman of Massachusetts; Andrea Starling of North Carolina; and Emily and Wally Griffin of Florida. Many of these folks continue placing Greyhounds today.

**D**uring the 1980's, the Greyhound racing industry was booming. National Greyhound Association membership climbed and more and more Greyhounds were being bred to meet the anticipated demand of new states and new tracks. Since racing Greyhounds always seemed to be pictured wearing muzzles, placing them as pets was not only uncommon, it was news!

As the adoption movement began to spread, newspapers, and magazines published a plethora of articles on the subject. Yet, in the early 1980's Greyhounds were always pictured wearing muzzles and, quite naturally, the public assumed them vicious. Not only did Greyhounds have an image problem to overcome but some of those most outspoken against making pets out of former racing Greyhounds included Greyhound industry employees and owners. They were afraid of liability issues, veterinarians, animal rights movers and shakers, members of the media, and even the general public.

An October 1980 issue of *Animals*, a magazine published by the Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), carried an article titled "Grey-

hounds, Racing to Nowhere." A handler was quoted as saying, "Yeah, look at that, that's a Greyhound. Bred to be killers," he brags, "One of these is better than a Doberman."

In the same article, Dr. Richard Rogers of Harvard University's research lab, an experimental facility in Southborough, Massachusetts reported that as many as 60 Greyhounds had been donated for cardiovascular research the previous year. Dr. Rogers went on to state that the dogs were confined to small cages in groups of two or three and wore muzzles as, "without them, competitive conditioning results in fights and serious injuries." Dr. Rogers would later testify at a hearing held at the Massachusetts State House that Greyhounds were aggressive towards each other and were unsuitable as pets. This was in connection with a bill proposed by the New England Anti-Vivisection Society which unsuccessfully sought to ban the use of Greyhounds



June Bazar, Lincoln Greyhound Adoption Program, Lincoln, Rhode Island, 1985.

in research. "Although they are friendly to people, racing Greyhounds seldom make good pets," the *Animals* article further stated. "Training has ruined their tolerance for every day life with people or other animals."

In an interview with *Turnout* magazine in January 1983, John Hoyt, president of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), made the following interesting statements: "I don't think the humane movement would be quick to condemn the humane destruction of these Greyhounds, though we would certainly insist that it be done humanely. We would rather object to their having been bred for a purpose that was so short-lived it was necessary to destroy them. We would much rather see them humanely destroyed than to see someone attempt to perpetuate them on a farm

for retired Greyhounds for years and years to come." He went on to say, "We're not in the business of trying to help legitimate industries out of business. We're in the business of trying to help legitimate industries perfect their uses of animals. Once the training of live animals was eliminated and we felt that everything possible was being done to assure that the Greyhounds were being humanely disposed of both prior to and after they had lived out their usefulness, Greyhound racing would effectively no longer be targeted for any major actions or endeavors by an animal welfare organization."

The supposed viciousness of Greyhounds was played up in a big way in a January 1983 Revere, Mass. newspaper advertisement paid for by a Vera Curcio of Revere. The 1/4 page ad reprinted a front-page article from the August 20, 1935 *Evening Item* headed "Saugus Man Saves Girl Attacked by Six Greyhounds." The ad in big letters stated "DISASTROUS HISTORY AT WONDERLAND—MUST IT REPEAT AGAIN?? Read the tragic story below and most importantly, attend the Public Hearing on Monday, January 24th at 7:00 pm at the Revere City Hall and let Your Voice Be Heard to 'your' elected councilors that they not create a law allowing Vicious Dogs to be boarded in our City!"

The article in question told of an incident in which an eighteen-year-old girl fell "screaming" into a pack of six unmuzzled Greyhounds which were being walked on leashes by an eighteen-year-old boy and she was bitten by two of them. A garage operator heard her screams, came to the rescue, and was acclaimed a hero as "it took plenty of nerve and courage to battle the savage animals."

In fact, as late as April 24, 1984, Red Hoffman, a publicist at Wonderland for 17 years



Arthur LaMotte of Massachusetts, 1987.

and a respected sportswriter for the *Lynn Item*, was quoted in an article in the *Worcester Gazette* (Mass.), cautioning people against "buying" Greyhounds for pets. In the article he states, "Some people do, but they're trained to kill. Some trainers even feed them live rabbits to try to pump them up before a race." He then went on to say, "They're treacherous and suddenly turn on owners."

During the early eighties television interviews of adoption representatives and adopters with their Greyhounds slowly began to change the public's perception. Tracks began to permit adoption groups to distribute information and have on-track pet

(in Massachusetts) had become part of GPA. REGAP of Connecticut, which was originally interested in being part of the new organization, later chose to remain separate. Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) has since grown to become the largest American adoption organization with chapters and sub-chapters extending from coast to coast and representatives covering almost every state.

Most notable about the mid- to late-eighties, however, was that Greyhounds as pets were no longer considered oddities and more adopters were swelling the ranks of existing Greyhound placement organizations and starting new ones. Until this time, the majority of people placing Greyhounds had direct contact with people in the Greyhound industry. It must be remembered that Greyhounds were extremely uncommon pets at the time and the only way the public was exposed to them at all was through the racing industry.

During the nineties more and more Greyhound adopters became active in promoting and placing retired Greyhounds, causing the adoption movement to spread like wildfire to non-racing states. Within a few years it covered virtually every part of the country except Hawaii plus several Canadian provinces. This growth generally came about in one of several ways:

- established groups spun off sub-chapters and/or affiliates that eventually became independent organizations;
- adopters in a given area got together and started their own local group;
- people working with an established adoption group split and formed a new group because of differences of opinion, policies, conflicting personalities, or some other reason;
- a number of Greyhound tracks started their own adoption kennels.

For a number of years now GPA volunteers have manned a national 800 adoption referral number (800 366-1472) for which they are reimbursed by the American Greyhound Council. This number provides adoption referrals to many different groups in addition to GPA. A second 800 referral number (800-4HOUNDS) is manned by volunteers who are loosely affiliated with Susan Netboy's National Greyhound Network. Both numbers have been responsible for connecting prospective adopters with Grey-

hounds awaiting adoption and have helped increase the number of Greyhounds placed each year. Another factor has also helped to increase the number of Greyhounds being placed as pets. This is the so-called Potato Chip Syndrome. As many adopters have discovered, it is very hard to stop with one once you have adopted that first Greyhound.

The Greyhound adoption movement has grown from one individual placing Greyhounds in 1972 to just a few individuals placing Greyhounds in 1982 when it was commonplace for Greyhounds to be put down when their usefulness was over. There are well over 200 groups that placed more than 18,000 Greyhounds in 1998 (American Greyhound Council estimate). The adoption movement has certainly been a success. With fewer Greyhounds now being bred and the growing number of adoption groups across the country, more and more Greyhounds are now being placed as pets.

This growth has not been limited to the United States and Canada. A number of regional adoption groups have sprung-up in England, including Anne Finch's Greyhounds in Need which, along with European affiliates in Spain, Holland and Germany, devotes its efforts to finding homes for Irish Greyhounds in Spain and the native Spanish Galgos. Adoption groups also exist in Ireland, Wales, Germany, and Australia. Greyhound adoption is becoming a worldwide effort and I personally like to think of it as the second miracle of the loaves and fishes. Hopefully someday soon every adoptable Greyhound will find a loving home. ❖



Emily Griffin, Florida.

exhibits in their lobbies allowing the public to actually meet a Greyhound. It became popular to present a donation check to the group since it generated positive publicity for the track in the local newspaper. Articles told what to expect when adopting a Greyhound and how to go about it. They provided general and historical information about the breed as well as racing information. Success stories in which adopters were interviewed proved especially popular.

By the end of 1986, in addition to Ron Walsek's original REGAP in Florida, REGAP clones existed in a number of other states. In early 1987, REGAP groups in Massachusetts, Iowa, and Ohio called a meeting to form a national organization with one board member per chapter and democratically elected officers and policies. Representatives from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Virginia, Ohio, Iowa, and California participated in this meeting on April 4, 1987, in Oxford, Massachusetts and Greyhound Pets of America was formed. By the end of that year, most of the then-known adoption groups with the exception of Ron Walsek's original REGAP in Florida, REGAP of Arizona, Greyhound Rescue Society, and Greyhound Friends



Cynthia Branigan of Make Peace with Animals in 1992. That year, her book *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* was published. Her book raised awareness and continues to serve as a major resource for adopters.

Cheryl and Wayne Giebel at home with their Greyhounds Bubba, Ranger, and Twosee.



JOSEPH O'CONNELL

Story by Joseph O'Connell

# Kennel Operators

## *A Couple of Good Ones*

I first met Wayne and Cheryl Piquette at the Greyhound Friends Open House in May of 1998. I arrived before the Open House began and was helping set up. A couple in a truck arrived with four muzzled Greyhounds just off the track. Having been a volunteer for Greyhound Friends and having adopted my first Greyhound eight years ago, the sight of four recently-retired Greyhounds was nothing new. I helped unload them. My first thought was that they were in pretty good shape. After unloading, I returned to help with preparations.

When I finished setting up, I took my two Greyhounds, Twister and Dean, to the fenced-in field for a run. On my way back, I noticed a man walking toward the field with one of the Greyhounds from the adoption kennel. I introduced myself as a volunteer and asked him if he was interested in adopting the dog. He told me his name was Wayne and that he wasn't interested in adopting this dog, but that the dog used to be in his kennel.

"I brought him down here a while ago when he retired, and I just wanted to see him again."

It was then I recognized this man as the driver of the truck we unloaded earlier. "Which track do you work at?" I asked.

"Hinsdale," he replied.

"That's funny, because this one is from Hinsdale," I said as I pointed at Dean, my three-year old, white-ticked brindle.

"What's his name?" he asked, looking at Dean.

"Dean."

"Is that Dean Mitchell?" he asked, surprised.

I was taken aback that he recognized what was probably one of the hundreds of dogs that must have passed through his kennel.

"Yes" I replied.

He bent over and started scratching Dean, who seemed to remember this man. "Dean Mitchell," he said. "How are you? How are you, Mouthy? You still Mouthy?"

"Mouthy?" I asked.

According to Wayne, Dean's racing name was Dean Mitchell, and although his call name was Dean, Wayne often called him Mouthy, as he was the most vocal dog

in the kennel. I wasn't aware of this when I adopted Dean the previous May, but after a couple of weeks in my home, Dean became comfortable and began vocalizing nearly any thought that crossed his mind! It had never bothered me that Dean clearly felt a strong obligation to share his thoughts with those around him.

Wayne and I spoke for a short time that day, mainly about Dean and his racing career. Dean retired at two and a half and according to Wayne, they considered retiring him earlier, but gave him more chances. As it turned out, this decision worked out well for me, as Dean became available just as I decided to adopt a second Greyhound.

I also met Cheryl, Wayne's wife, and learned that she too worked at the kennel. The primary reason they were attending the Open House was to see some of the dogs that had been at their kennel. Throughout the day, I saw Wayne or Cheryl recognizing some of "their dogs" and then talking to the adopter about how the dog was doing.

I was surprised that kennel operators



would be so concerned about how their former charges were doing. The stories I previously heard (and “stories” is the best description) usually suggested kennel operators cared little for the dogs in their care. The implications were that the Greyhounds were a commodity and the people involved felt no emotions toward the dogs. However, Wayne and Cheryl did not seem to fit this generalization.

The second time I saw them was at the next Greyhound Friends Open House in October. On that day we spoke much longer and I learned more about their work at the kennel, how kennels operate, and about the Greyhound racing industry. Wayne and Cheryl began working at the kennel two years ago with Wayne’s brother Michael. The kennel was called the MiWay kennel (Michael and Wayne) and it was one of several at the Hinsdale track. We also discussed some of the dogs they had (approximately 100 dogs are in the kennel). Wayne told me about several of them, including one that he claimed was his favorite. According to the couple, they attend nearly every race. They do this to see if their dogs are running properly. Many times, they are able to notice something minor and correct it before it leads to an injury. Speaking with them, I was once again surprised by the genuine emotions they felt for their dogs and the care they provided. As we departed, Wayne and Cheryl suggested I give them a call if I were ever in the Hinsdale area.

A few weeks later, I called and told him I was thinking of taking him up on his offer to visit him at Hinsdale at some point in the next few weeks.

“What did you want to see?” Wayne asked.

I heard Cheryl ask Wayne who was calling. He mentioned my name.

I told him that I wanted to see the dog that he had mentioned was one of his favorites.

“He’s going to Virginia next week,” Wayne said. “He’s winning all of his races here so the owners are shipping him to a faster track.”

“Maybe we’ll come up this Saturday,” I suggested.

“You can’t go in the kennels, you know,” Wayne said.

This I knew; I had no expectations to go into the kennels. I have picked up several Greyhounds at tracks to bring them to Greyhound Friends, and the policy was always the same. Pre-arrange the pickup, sign in at the guard desk at the entrance to the kennels, then wait while the guard notifies the kennel

that someone is at the gate to pick up some dogs. The kennel operator loads the dogs into a truck and brings them to the gate. Safety requirements and insurance regulations are the reasons for restricted access.

Wayne said that Cheryl and he would be at the lower clubhouse at the track from noon until the afternoon races were completed. I told him I would see them on Saturday. I just thought it would be a nice drive on a fall day, and I could watch a few races and see the dogs run.

**W**hen Saturday came, I drove to Hinsdale. I had no idea what to expect. I have been to the races before and while I enjoy seeing the dogs run, I have never bet and find the long delays between each race to be boring. I also wondered if I would recognize Wayne and Cheryl and had no idea how crowded the clubhouse would be.

I entered the clubhouse and immediately heard my name called from across the room. I went over and sat with the couple, who were strategically seated so they could watch the races on a big screen TV or through the large windows.



Let us in!

This was indeed an unusual experience. Here I was, sitting at a Greyhound track, watching the races with a pair of kennel operators.

We spent most of the afternoon watching the races, and for the first time, I wasn’t bored between the races. I spent the time listening to the Piquettes answer all my questions about the different classes, rankings, and listings in

the program. Time flew between races because the Piquettes also introduced me to many people who stopped by our table. Wayne introduced me to each person as a volunteer at a Greyhound rescue league, and although his description was accurate, his explanation as to why I was there changed throughout the day. Initially, I was there to “watch the races,” but by the end of the day, I was Wayne’s friend, “Joe, who is adopting seven Greyhounds to take home today.” Wayne certainly had a way to spark people’s interest.

Wayne and Cheryl cheered for their dogs to win as they watched each race intently and eagerly, despite the fact that they were not betting. Their behavior reminded me of parents watching their child at a sporting event. They wanted their dog to win in each race, but it was also clear they knew each dog’s shortcomings and characteristics.

Before each race, we talked about the dog from their kennel. Not only did they know each dog’s running characteristics and personality, but they also supplied amusing descriptions.

The MiWay kennel dog for one particular race was a large black male. “Look at him,” Wayne said, staring at the dog on the

big screen TV. “He’s got the widest head of any Greyhound I’ve seen. It’s like a big Labrador’s head. He’s got one big, fat head.”

He turned away from the TV, looked at me, and said, “You know what we call him?” “No,” I said.

He looked at me and slowly, he said, “We call him Fathead.”

LOU BARTORE



I always appreciate a nice, clean crate.

A clear explanation indeed, and not too much different from Dean being called Mouthy.

In another race, one of the MiWay females held a slight lead as the pack came down the last stretch. She and the dog next to her were far ahead of the other six dogs. The odd thing was that the MiWay dog kept looking over at the dog next to her.

"See what she's doing?" Wayne said.

"Yes, but why?" I asked.

"She's trying to play with him. She's always trying to play. She could be farther ahead, but she just wants to play."

We spent some time talking about the treatment the dogs received and about other kennels. Wayne and Cheryl were polite in not making too many comments about other kennels. They talked mostly about their kennel and their dogs. Not only do they refuse to euthanize a dog that is retiring, they also refuse to run a dog that shows any sign of an injury. Unfortunately, refusing to run an injured dog is not a practice followed by everyone in the industry. Running an injured dog will typically result in the dog not being able to turn as sharply as a healthy dog. The result is that a dog may be on the inside coming into a corner, and the inability to turn causes the dogs on the outside to be bumped by the injured dog.

The result can be falls and injuries to all dogs involved.

We talked about euthanizing retired Greyhounds. Typically there is a \$15 charge for a veterinarian at the track to euthanize dogs. Rather than euthanizing dogs from their kennel, they personally bring their retired Greyhounds to an adoption group and give them the \$15 per dog. As Wayne said, "If I'm going to pay \$15 to euthanize them, I'd rather give the money to an adop-

tion group that can find a home for them." Despite having heard stories of mistreatment of Greyhounds in racing kennels, I did not go to Hinsdale thinking either good or bad about the couple. My discussions with them made it clear to me they care about their dogs. They seem to be honest people who tell the truth.

The Piquettes take good care of their dogs unlike the people portrayed in the horror stories I had heard about kennel life.

Wayne said that during the winter, when the races are going on, he brings his station wagon to the kennel at the track. He leaves the engine running and the heater on. After each race, he puts his dog in the warm vehicle, drives it to the MiWay kennel, and brings it to its designated crate. He does this because it is warmer there than at the track kennel. He says no matter how well or how poorly a dog has run, he praises it on the way back to the kennel. Many, he said, will put their heads on his right shoulder for scratches while driving back to the kennel. Oddly enough, this is one of the first traits that I noticed with Dean. From the first time I put him in the back seat of a car, his little head rested on my right shoulder. Dean was used



Rabbit? What rabbit?

to Wayne and Cheryl doing this and he expected me to do the same.

As the races wound down, we went outside and watched the final few. Cheryl, however, kept disappearing to find "Joe" who was in charge at the track. I wasn't sure of the problem, but she seemed intent on finding him.

As the last race finished, Cheryl returned to tell us that she had found "Joe," told him that she and Wayne had a visitor from a Greyhound adoption group, and that they wanted to take me into their kennel. Cheryl got permission to take me to their kennel to see all the dogs.

I immediately accepted the invitation, as this was certainly not a common opportunity. We drove to the kennel entrance, signed in, and went to the MiWay kennel.

**A**t the MiWay kennel, kennel life is not so bad. There were approximately one hundred dogs stacked two high. The kennel is long and wide enough to allow a wide walkway with the crates completely around the perimeter. Females were on one side, the males on the other side. A Dutch door separates the two halves. Each half has a separate door that leads to the turnout areas—again, one for the males and one for the females. A six-foot chain-link fence surrounds each turnout area.

Each crate has the dog's call name on it and each is lined with shredded newspaper. The first name that I recognized was "Fat-head" and he was lying inside staring at his new visitor. We walked along each crate and petted each of the dogs. Wayne explained that there were "upper crate dogs" and "lower crate dogs" because some were more willing to jump into the upper crates than others.

Above the top crates were shelves with medical supplies, paper towels, and other necessities. There were refrigerators and storage areas.

Most important was the condition of the kennel. It was painted, very clean, and well-organized. Frankly, this kennel was cleaner and better organized than many adopters' homes I've visited. The turnout areas were also spotless. Wayne and Cheryl explained they believe if the conditions aren't good, the dogs are more likely to become ill and won't run as well.

Cheryl asked if I'd like to see some of their favorites. We swapped between the female and male turnout pens and petted and scratched some of these racers. Yes, they are all lean and solid and as docile and friendly

as any retired Greyhound sleeping on the family sofa. It was also apparent that they adored Wayne and Cheryl. Unfortunately I had to leave to get home to feed my Greyhounds. I had only two Greyhounds last fall, but after seeing Wayne and Cheryl with the 100 in the kennel, I felt kind of envious. It was hard to leave these dogs behind and knew this opportunity to visit a kennel was rare.

I watched as Wayne and Cheryl put the individual dogs back in their crates and then said good-bye. I got into my truck, which was parked in front of the male turnout pen, and started the motor to leave, but it was turnout time and this was a sight to see. With Wayne inside the male end of the kennel and Cheryl inside the female end of the kennel, I sat in the car for the next few minutes watching one by one as each Greyhound raced through the doorways to the turnout area. When they were all out, Wayne came

into the center of the male turnout area, waved good-bye, threw his hands up in the air, and yelled, "Look at all this poop!"

Two months after my visit the season at Hinsdale ended and the MiWay kennel had the most winning dogs and was the top Hinsdale kennel for 1998.

Unfortunately, earlier this year, a disagreement between Wayne and the Hinsdale track resulted in his leaving the track and the kennel being leased to another operator. Wayne's brother Michael is now working at Raynham and Cheryl is working at a different kennel at Hinsdale. Wayne is trying to reenter the Hinsdale kennel operations. I hope he succeeds. I believe all of the dogs would be happier with Wayne and Cheryl around. ❖

*Joseph O'Connell lives in Massachusetts with his Greyhounds Dean (Dean Mitchell) and newest addition, Floyd (Floydian Slip). Twister passed away before the article went to press. Joseph is an engineer and volunteers for local Greyhound adoption groups.*



All done. Fresh beds waiting for dogs to come in.

### Do You Have a Greyhound from Hinsdale?

If you believe that your Greyhound ran at Hinsdale in the past few years, Wayne and Cheryl would like to hear from you. Although there are several kennels at Hinsdale, a majority of the retired Greyhounds that have been placed are from the MiWay Kennel. Wayne and Cheryl remember every dog that has passed through their kennel and have compiled a list of several hundred dogs that they have handled. They are trying to locate all of their former racers to hear how they are doing and to converse with the adopting family. They have asked that you contact them, Wayne and Cheryl Piquette, P.O. Box 447, Hinsdale, NH 03451. Please include your Greyhound's name and, if known, the dog's racing name.

LOU BARDORF

*The Kira and Friends series started in Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine in 1996. The story began with the conception of the litter whelped by Ms. Burnham's AKC Greyhound, Sheena. Kira was the tiniest pup of the litter and she became a major focal point of the family and the story. The series describes a variety of everyday events that happened to Kira, her family, and her friends. This is part 12 of the series.*

# Kira's First Halloween

## and Sheena's Surgery

*Story and photos  
by Patricia Gail  
Burnham; drawing  
by Lisa Costello*

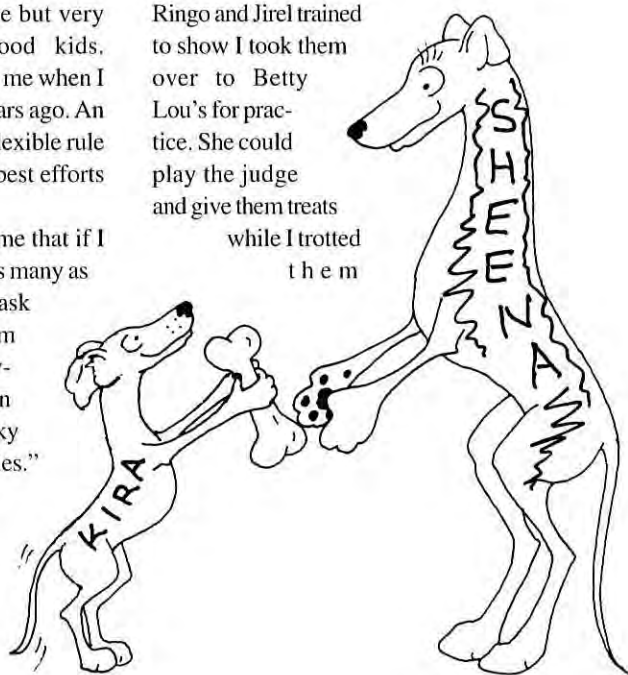
**K**ira loved her first Halloween. For treats I made large round cookies decorated as pumpkins with Lifesavers for eyes, candy-corn for noses and candy orange-slices for mouths. The cookies are conventional sugar cookies with orange glaze but very popular with the neighborhood kids. (Actually they were popular with me when I trick-or-treated in Oakland 40 years ago. An elderly lady served them. Her inflexible rule was one cookie per person. My best efforts couldn't bend that rule.)

Ten years ago it occurred to me that if I made them myself, I could have as many as I wanted. Occasionally children ask me for a second cookie and I am pleased to break the old rule. Having given them out for a dozen years, I am still tickled when a lanky teenager says, "I love these cookies."

The cookies pretty much assure me a good turnout for Halloween and Kira had a fine time running to the door at each ring of the bell to greet the visitors. She quickly figured out the rou-

tine of turning off the lights, opening the door, and handing out the cookies. She also liked that I left some of the cookies unfrosted for the dogs.

In order to get Ringo and Jirel trained to show I took them over to Betty Lou's for practice. She could play the judge and give them treats while I trotted them



around the dead-end street in front of her house. To get enough energy to do that I would stop for a milkshake on the way over and the trio would wait impatiently to be allowed to finish it. Ringo often arrived for practice with a chocolate moustache from reaching for the bottom of the cup.

At first Ringo didn't even want Betty Lou to touch him. Gradually he learned she and I would both reward him with liver if he performed the routines and allowed the judge's examination. Starfleet, who was never going to show, complained impatiently from the car. He wanted to play. One day I gave in and let him practice. He was a natural, posing and alerting for bait and looking his prettiest. How ironic that the dog who would have loved to show wouldn't be allowed because one of his testicles had not quite made it into the scrotum, so he could not qualify.

He did, however, go with Ringo and Jirel to their first dog show. It was a two-hour drive to the Livermore show. I was thrilled Ringo didn't get carsick. Lots of short car trips helped him outgrow his earlier queasiness.

When we reached the show ring, folks who were seeing the puppies for the first time came over to admire Ringo. Jirel and Starfleet might as well not have been there. One and all wanted to admire Ringo and touch him. I don't know what it is about Ringo that makes people want to put their hands on him, but he was a little wide-eyed as one stranger after another came up to him. I asked them to feed him if they wanted to touch him. He survived. He was actually better than Jirel when the judge examined him in the puppy class, but they were happy when their first show was over and we headed home.

Ringo's engaging personality was winning me over. I have owned a lot of Greyhounds over the years, but his view of the world is unique. He is a heart-warmingly happy dog. His clear distinction between friends and strangers makes people feel special when he adds them to his circle of friends.

One day I walked into the humane society thrift store and found someone's unicorn collection for sale. The shelf was full of miniature unicorn figurines in a bewildering variety of types. There were elegant unicorns and whimsical unicorns. My eye ran down the line and stopped at one of them and my mind said "That's Ringo!"

It was a silly white unicorn sitting on his rump, regarding the world with an expectant grin. It sits on the corner of the computer and reminds me of the dog one person who met

him calls the "Sweet Baboo." Sweet is the best adjective for him. Convinced that he could earn treats by allowing strangers to pet him, his opinion of strangers improved. Ringo can be bought with treats.

A lot of people pet him and their most frequent comment afterwards was "He's so sweet." These were people who had only met him for seconds so his sweetness is clearly readable in his face. His combination of happiness, good will, and hesitation translates into "sweet." Nobody ever called Kira "sweet." They called her smart, clever, intense, and even beautiful, but Ringo had the corner on sweetness.



Sheena and Kira at their important photo shoot.

### Sheena Returns to the Veterinarian

I took Sheena back for a second ultrasound in November. This time, instead of a neat white golf ball, the tumor looked like a five-inch white starfish spread across the black of her liver. I was shocked at how much the tumor had grown in two months and by the way it was reaching out in all directions with its radiating arms. I could see why Spode's tumor had been entangled in her vital organs. I could also see that surgery was the only way to keep Sheena's tumor from killing her, so I made the appointment for the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week.

When I arrived home, there was a bulky package in the mail from Pridewood Publishing. It contained a sample of their 1997 Greyhound Calendar and I was astonished to see that eleven of the photos were mine.

They also included a check for the use of the pictures. That check would provide the funds to pay for Sheena's operation. The puppies would be paying for their mother's surgery. I was surprised Midnight and Braveheart caught the publisher's eye instead of Ringo. But Braveheart's self-assurance radiated from the picture.

The Saturday before the surgery we did fun things. I took the dogs to the park for obedience practice. That is their idea of a great outing since they can earn a lot of lamb liver and get to play with me. Sheena's contribution to the training is to lie next to

Kira on the long sit and long down exercises. Sheena never did see any reason to do a long sit, barely managing it enough times to earn her Companion Dog title. Now she settles herself comfortably next to Kira for five minutes of lying down. If Kira is ever in an obedience trial where the dog next to her breaks the sit to lay down, it shouldn't faze her.

After practice we went into the baseball diamond so Kira could run. She and Sheena played their version of tag. Kira ran full-out in big circles that came back by Sheena so Sheena could chase her for the first twenty-five feet of her next circle.

We shared ice cream from Fosters. Kira demonstrated her talent at licking out the bottom of a milkshake cup. She is the only dog I have had with a muzzle tiny enough to completely fit into the cup. Most Greyhound noses will fit into the cup but the fit is so

snug they then can't open their mouth to lick. The usual technique Ringo practices is to put the upper part of the muzzle and tongue into the cup, while the lower jaw stays outside. Kira was a better fit.

On Sunday, Betty Lou came to help me photograph Kira and Sheena. She suggested we do the photo session the following weekend, until I pointed out there might not be a Sheena

to me so it's hard to shoot sharp photos.

In a fit of anxiety, I ran the film through a one-hour developing shop as soon as we finished to see if we succeeded. There was the photo I had wanted. In fact there was a sequence of lovely shots of the mother's and daughter's faces together. I thought they would make a good cover photo for a Sheena-Kira book, but I didn't want them

her to watch television, hoping she would be safe during the next day's surgery. Kira looked startled the next morning when I closed the door on her and left with Sheena. It was only a 10-minute drive to the vet, but I could hardly bring myself to take Sheena into the office and hand her over to the assistant. I asked when the surgery was scheduled. It was scheduled for 1:00 p.m.



Kira happy now that her mom is back home.

to photograph after Tuesday. If the operation went badly, this might be the last chance to photograph the mother and daughter together.

It was an overcast day—the best kind for pictures. The clouds eliminate harsh shadows. Once again, Mr. Everett gave me permission to use his garden for the photographs. He has lived in his house for 50 years and has a lovely garden, complete with a pebbled stream bed crossed by a little bridge. My yard is landscaped for dogs with lawns and fruit trees. His garden provides more attractive photo backgrounds.

Betty Lou held the leashes on the dogs while I threw dog toys and treats to alert them and shot the pictures. Sheena had been through the picture drill before and was bored by the toys, but alert for the food. Kira was fascinated by everything and was a quick, responsive model. The light looked good. The dogs looked good. I hoped the camera was working properly. It had just been repaired after several rolls of film were ruined. I am so near-sighted that I'm at a disadvantage taking pictures. Most of the world is slightly out of focus

to be Sheena's memorial photos. Only the rest of the week would tell.

### Spending Time with Sheena

I took Monday afternoon off from work to spend time with Sheena. It might be the last time I would see her. She could die under anesthesia. She could die during surgery. She could die after the operation from blood clots or kidney failure.

A month earlier her niece went to the vet to have a minor skin tear sewn up and her heart had stopped during the surgery. She was half Sheena's age and in better condition. The anesthetic used on her was isoflurane, which is supposed to be the safest anesthetic for Greyhounds. Even if Sheena survived the anesthesia, they could open her up and find an inoperable tumor like Spode's. I was in a state of near-panic. I offered them Sheena's sister as a blood donor thinking that her blood might be the best match.

Sheena ate an early dinner, since she wasn't supposed to eat after 6:00 p.m. I settled her down on the daybed and lay next to

At 1:00 p.m. I was back at the vet's office, intending to wait while she was being operated on, and found that the time had been changed. A Rottweiler hit by a car was receiving treatment for a broken hip, so I went back to work and worried through the afternoon. At 6:00 p.m. I was back at the vet's office and I was more unnerved when the receptionist sent me into an exam room to wait. Perhaps they didn't want to tell me in front of the other patients that she died. The exam rooms have little triangular built-in seats in the corner. I perched on one and waited, worrying.

Carla Salido came in wearing hospital greens. I hadn't seen her since she did Sheena's C-section. She is tall and slender with dark, curly hair. She said, "The surgery went well. I removed the left liver lobe and the adenoma. But the right liver lobe was inflamed. Removing it would have meant removing almost half the liver and that is about the maximum that can be removed and have the patient survive. So I took a biopsy of the right lobe."

It was good news and bad news. Sheena had survived the surgery and the adenoma had been removed, but she might have another tumor. That was the one thing I hadn't worried about. And I thought I had worried about everything. Sheena couldn't come home until the next day, so I went home to spend a night with Kira trying to fill the space left by her mother.

Kira was ecstatic to see me and came bounding into the house looking past me for Sheena. I was touched, but not as touched as I would be. Several weeks later my neighbors said they heard Kira crying pitifully as they tried to see into the yard, afraid that she might have been hurt. When we compared times, I realized those were the two days when Sheena had been at the vet. What the neighbors heard was Kira crying for her mother. ❖

*The Kira series continues in the next issue. Patricia Gail Burnham is a regular contributor to CG Magazine and is the author of Playtraining Your Dog and of much prose and poetry. She lives with the subjects of the series, some of whom are active in the show ring, in coursing, and sometimes even tracking.*

**A**s an active volunteer for the National Greyhound Adoption Program, I have had many occasions to walk through the kennel to see who's new, who's old, who's coming in, and who's going out to their new home. It was always me who admonished, "Don't catch one's eye; you'll be doomed!"

It had been six months since I lost my two Black Labradors, ("my girls"), and I was quite content being alone with my only Greyhound—my big, bad boy, Hershey Bar. He is quite a handful and I just wasn't ready for another Greyhound. I had also just been promoted at work and had a really demand-

*Story and photo  
by Merci Riccardi*

# Epileptic Dogs:

*Hard to  
Adopt—  
but Hard  
to Resist*

ing job. Plus, we were starting up Adoption Days in the spring where we live in South Jersey and we were really busy planning our First Annual Greyhound Picnic. In other words, I did not want another Greyhound—uh-uh, no way, no how!

One day I brought Hershey to the kennel for his shots, so I was forced to walk through there. Keeping my eyes straight ahead, I trudged through and almost made it through when, WHAM! there I was, looking into the biggest, brownest, saddest eyes belonging to the most forlorn little face I had every seen. They reeled me right in! I noticed the date of arrival on the crate. It was two months earlier. Why was he still there?

Okay, so I disobeyed my own orders. I spent that night tossing and turning, drowning in those eyes. The phone calls were inevitable. First,

I called Sue, my Greyhounds Anonymous person, who could always be counted on to render the sanest opinion. I call her my voice of reason. She was, as ever, a big help. Her solution was to offer to drive up with me to pick him up! No help there. . . .

The call to NGAP was worse. I was told he had come from Florida having severe epileptic seizures, several each day, despite increasing doses of Phenobarbital. Our veterinarians felt it was just a matter of regulating his dosage,

adjusting his medications, and moving him out of a stressful situation into a stable, secure environment. This all translated into a home.

Because I'm a pharmacist and my Hershey is also an epileptic who has been on Phenobarbital for nearly two years, I felt qualified to provide that home. Seizures don't scare me, although you never get used to them because they come with no warning. I am also well aware of the importance of adhering to a strict schedule when it comes to medication.

Our director, David Wolf, has always said there's a home for every Greyhound and I also believe that. But I'm sure Reeses (actually Reeses Peanut Butter Pup) would have had a tough time finding someone willing to put up with the "shake, rattle, and roll" and the dosing schedule. But for anyone considering a hard-to-adopt dog, please don't be scared to take on the challenge. I can't begin to tell you how rewarding it's been! We increased his Phenobarbital to 120 mg twice a day, added Potassium Bromide drops twice a day, and after a T-4 test, added Soloxine to the regimen. The incidence of seizures decreased from two to three times a week (sometimes as many as two a day), down to a mild spell every few weeks. At one point he went five months without a major incident.

To those of you who still have only one Greyhound, I say "go for it!" We all want the perfect dog, the perfect child, the perfect life, but sometimes it just doesn't work out that way. I haven't regretted my decision for even one moment, but no, I don't want a third Greyhound; I will not walk through the kennel, uh-uh, not me, no way, no how!

Oh, all right. It's a year later and I have my third Greyhound. Her name is Princess Hershey Kisses (notice a theme here?). She's a five-year-old red brindle, like Reeses, missing a toe, and is a little gimp. She beats up on her brothers and absolutely rules the roost! Her tail hasn't stopped wagging since the day I got her. Oh, and yes, she's also epileptic. Most people don't realize that these "epis" are basically as healthy as the rest, and with the proper care and correct medicine, they can lead a long and happy life, giving years of pleasure to those of us lucky enough to adopt them. And isn't it cute how I can now sign my name, "Merci & the Twitch Kids?"

As for me, I'm staying away from the kennel; no more, uh-uh, not me, no way, no how.

*Note: an excellent website on canine epilepsy is at [www.cvm.missouri.edu/cen/](http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/cen/). ♦*

*Merci Riccardi is from Brigantine, New Jersey and volunteers for the National Greyhound Adoption Program.*



**Reeses, Hershey, and the latest addition, five-year-old Kisses, on the right.**

*Greyhounds are considered an independent breed for good reason. For thousands of years they've been bred to work without human guidance while hunting game. But because of this independence Greyhounds tend to have opinions about what they want and don't want to do and are regarded as a harder breed to train. Our job in training Greyhounds then is twofold. First we have to teach our Greyhounds how to do what we ask, and second we have to give them a good reason to do it!*

# The Great Motivators

## *Praise, Play, Treats, and Toys*

*Story and photos  
by Cynthia Sisson*

**Tug games are fun motivator for those dogs who will give up a tug toy.**



Let's face it; most of our dogs are going to work best for treats. Now, some dogs are such chowhounds they'll happily work for dry Cheerios™ or dog kibble. Of course, some dogs with more refined palates won't.

Rule number one regarding treats is the more interesting the location, the more interesting must be the treat.

At home I can get away with cheese and dog biscuits (sometimes) but when we go to the obedience-training club, I better have something more enticing, like liver treats, chicken, or cheap steak. A really distracting location—like a dog show—requires top-of-the-line treats, and for them I make a run to the deli section to get some roast beef and sliced chicken or turkey.

The trade-off with treats, though, is if they're really good, they can also be tiny. My dog Marshall will work happily and hard for tiny bits of hot dog, but spit out bigger, uninteresting pieces of food at the club. Quality matters, not quantity. You want to use tiny pieces during training so you can reward frequently.

With hot dogs I'll cut a hot dog crosswise into penny-sized pieces. If we're in a situation where I need to reward a lot (like learning something new or perfecting something boring), I'll cut the pennies in fourths to make truly tiny pieces that can be used for frequent rewards.

Some convenient treats I've used during the year include string cheese, Rollover or



Oinker roll, skinless chicken or turkey pieces, dried liver treats, liver brownies, and honey-peanut butter training treats. In teaching retrieving, I had to pull out the big guns of peanut butter (smear on the dumbbell), squeeze cheese (ditto), and canned chicken as a reward for picking up the nasty thing.

Rule number two of dog treats is if your dog wants it, it can be considered a treat. For some reason Marshall loves French bread, so he sometimes works for baguette pieces. He also loves green apples, pecans, and figs. When any of these come into season we can train with windfalls. Just make sure that your treats don't upset your dog's digestion. You might also want to consider your digestion; if liver nauseates you, don't use it!

**P**raise is an incredibly important motivator. It's the only one you can always access. More than just words, praise is also petting, smiling, and using body language to show your approval. While a Golden Retriever might work happily for a sullen "good dog" and a single pat on the head, most Greyhounds want a bit more than that.

Let's discuss body language first. Smile at your dog. Now really smile at your dog, letting your eyes twinkle and raising your eyebrows. Which does your dog respond to more strongly? You need to mean it when you praise your dog, because they read as much from facial language as they do from words.

Another way you can praise without saying anything is to applaud your dog—either once, to release your dog from what he's doing, or multiple times to tell him what a great job he just did. You can throw your hands over your head as a release, as in "Wow! What a fabulous job!"

Speaking of words, here's just a sampling of the kinds of things I'll say during training: Yes! Fabulous! Yay! Great job! Wonderful! What a smart dog! Magnificent! Best yet! That was excellent! You got it! Looking good! That was perfect! Terrific! Good boy! Whatta job! Wonderful! Perfect! What a smart dog! Handsome boy! Excellent! All right!

Some people like to use one word (often "excellent") as a conditioned reinforcer. That means they have paired the word with treats (saying the word then immediately giving the dog a treat many, many times) until the dog understands the word means a treat is coming. At this point the dog will start reacting to the word in the same way he reacts to a treat (as long as the pairing between word and treat is maintained fairly

frequently). Thus the word itself becomes a reward to the dog. You can read more about this idea in books on learning theory, like Pamela Reid's *Excel-erated Learning*.

**W**hat does your dog love most in the whole world? Lure coursing? You may not be able to carry a lure-coursing field around in your pocket, but you can find ways to motivate your dog using his prey and play drives.

Play with your dog! If he'll play tug with you, great (as long as he'll give up the toy when you ask). I had the opposite problem with Marshall when we started to add play into our training; he wouldn't grab a toy if I held it. He knew too well I was alpha, and if I had the toy, well then it was my toy, not his! We fixed that problem by putting toys on the

that they can be hidden easily, then pulled out as a surprise reward), tug ropes, and even the leash itself. If your dog will play tug, you can use the leash as a tug toy so you always have a toy conveniently at hand.

Watch how dogs play with each other and try to add some of that to your play sessions. When your dog does an especially good job, try dropping down on the ground to roll around with him. The first time you do this he'll look at you like you've lost your mind (as will the neighbors, of course), but soon he'll figure out this is an invitation to play! Some Greyhounds are such lap dogs that you can use lap time as a reward, too. After they've done something especially well, drop to the ground and let them crawl up on your lap for a few minutes of scratching and



**Praise and a key word ("Excellent" for example) create a conditioned reinforcer.**

end of a string (or tied to the end of a six-foot leash when I needed to improvise). That put enough distance between the toy and me so he was willing to make a grab for it.

If your dog has a favorite toy, use it to your advantage. Don't let him play with it until he's bored. Keep it in a special spot and let him play with it as a reward during training or when you're spending special time together. Don't let familiarity breed contempt.

Squeaky toys are great for getting a Greyhound's attention, but you don't have to stop there. You can buy rabbit furs at craft stores. Look in the leather working section. Other toys that sometimes work well are balls (if your dog will chase it and bring it back), floppy Frisbees (which have the advantage



**Are they cool yet? Marshall eyes his favorite treats fresh out of the oven.**



**Marshall pogoing—he's completely off the ground while taking a treat.**

discussion of what smart dogs they are.

Another physical reward is to let your dog give you a hug, with both front paws up on your shoulders. Marshall used to insist on this when he was learning the broad jump exercise (which he thought was pretty stupid). As a reward for doing a broad jump he insisted on being allowed to hug me. For a few weeks I had to change my shirt after our lunchtime training sessions!

You also want to watch what your dog does when he's happy for any reason. Many Greyhounds pogo when they're excited, like when they're getting ready to go for a walk or a car ride. I taught Marshall to jump up vertically on cue (starting with my hand held above my head with a treat, then just an arm swung upward, and finally evolving to simply clapping my hands together). He never considered pogoing (vertical jumping) in the context of doing obedience before I taught him this, but now he does it all the time. Somehow the joy he feels when he pogos of his own free will (like before a walk) has spilled over into his pogoing in the obedience ring. He's happy and pleased with himself when he does it in the ring.

If your dog has a trick he or she is especially fond of, use that as a break in training. I know of one sighthound trainer who asks her dog to "gimme five" during training and between exercises. Anything that your dog is good at and enjoys doing is a good way to break up harder exercises. Now that Marshall's trick is to pogo, he does so after each release from an exercise if he thinks he's done a good job.

The most important thing you can do in training is to make it fun and interesting for your dog. But if you want your dog to be interested in you, you need to be the most interesting thing around. Entertain your dog! Do unexpected things, like skipping while you heel, running away from your dog when you give him a recall command, or suddenly breaking off work to play a game of chase.

One way you can gauge whether or not your dog is interested in what the two of you are doing is to watch his ears. If your dog's ears normally lie flat, you've probably already noticed that when he's interested in something they come up to half-mast, and when he's really interested they come all the way up. Try to do things in your training that bring his ears up and his attention to you. Some trainers even train an "ears" command to encourage their dogs to look at them alertly during an exercise.



**Sometimes a toy on the end of a leash works well, too.**

When your dog is convinced that you are the most interesting thing around, he'll be a lot more interested in playing your games (be they obedience, agility, or whatever). That will happen when he knows that your treats are better than the neighbor's, your toys are more fun to play with than other people's, and you are a lot more fun to be around than anyone else. ❖

*Cynthia Sisson lives in northern Louisiana with her husband, with Marshall, and their three cats. When she's not training her Greyhound, she teaches physics at a branch campus of Louisiana State University.*

## Recipes for Homemade Training Treats

### Frozen Meat Treats

Buy a cheap cut of steak (round steak works well) at the grocery store. Broil for approximately 4 minutes per side (more if thicker), until just pink on the inside. Allow to cool, then slice into 1/4" thick strips or 1/4" cubes. Place treats on a cookie sheet so that none touch, and freeze for several hours until hard. When treats are frozen solid you can transfer them to a freezer bag. You will be able to pull out just the number of treats you want for each training session. Be sure to allow treats to defrost before using them. This recipe also works for chicken breast and turkey breast if you increase the cooking time.

### Hot Dog Treats

Slice a hot dog into penny-sized pieces. For smaller treats, each penny can be cut into halves or quarters. Place on a cookie sheet and bake at 275°F for 30 minutes, until treats are cooked but not crisp. Blot excess grease from treats, then store in the refrigerator. These seem easier on the stomach than raw hot dog. Treats will keep for up to a week if stored in the refrigerator.

### Peanut Butter and Honey Treats

Combine 1 heaping teaspoon honey with 1 heaping teaspoon peanut butter. When the honey-peanut butter mixture is smooth, add 3/4 cup flour, 1/4 cup oatmeal, 1 egg, 1/4 cup shortening or lard, 1 tsp. baking soda, and 1/4 tsp. salt and mix to combine. Drop in scant teaspoonfuls onto a cookie sheet and bake at 325°F for 8 - 10 minutes. These make small, slightly crunchy treats.

# Dewey '99

One for the Record Book

Story by Joan Belle  
Isle; photos by  
Marcia Herman  
and Sue Williams

*Even the most dedicated Greyhound people  
could not have predicted Dewey '99.*

*More than 600 families—1,000 people and  
more than 1,200 Greyhounds—all  
converged in the resort communities of  
Dewey Beach and Rehoboth, Delaware for  
the Columbus Day weekend.*



A view showing a small percentage of the attendees.

The summer resort season for these Delaware communities ends in October; many of the local businesses are already closed by the end of September. Those that remain open welcome the small army of Greyhound people as they have for the past five years. This year, people came from California, Washington, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, the eastern seaboard states, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Canada, England, Ireland, Wales, and Spain. They arrived by plane, train, bus, RV, minivan, and car. Some families arrived a few days early to relax at the shore; others stayed a few days after most people went home. Included among the attendees were more than 40 vendors with a vast array of Greyhound goodies. For one extraordinary weekend in October, Greyhounds were everywhere.

Dewey '99 continued a tradition—a social gathering for Greyhounds and their friends. Scheduled during the weekend were a variety of informal activities, and attendees picked the ones most appealing to them and their dogs. Although some families tried to do it all, many people chose one or two of their favorites and spent their time with old and new friends.

Two activities on Friday evening were

sponsored by adoption organizations as people began to arrive for the weekend. The annual Greyhound Ice Cream Social, hosted by Nittany Greyhound Adoption, took place at the Southwinds Motel. Greyhound Friends hosted a reception at the Rusty Rudder for Anne Finch and her associates, Dai Lawrence and Miriam Fitzgibbon. Anne is founder of Greyhounds in Need in the U.K. and an advocate for Greyhounds in Spain, and Ms. Fitzgibbon is associated with the Irish SPCA. Dai, a huge, wonderful Welshman, admitted to becoming quite emotional at the sight of all of the healthy, happy Greyhounds assembled for the weekend.

Each “Greyhounds Reach the Beach” day starts with an informal early morning walk. Few sights compare with the one that greeted people as they crested the dune leading onto the beach at the foot of McKinley Street. In all directions the beach was filled with people walking with their Greyhounds: distinguished old warriors with white faces and wisdom in their eyes; young pups—bright-eyed and full of reckless energy; tiny little girls hardly bigger than a large whippet and great big grand boys strutting in the fall sunshine. They came in all the colors of the Greyhound rainbow: stately blacks with white tuxedo bibs, or white

patches, or ticking; majestic whites with red patches or black patches or brindle patches; magnificent blues, brilliant fawns and reds; glorious brindles—dark ones and light ones, red ones and black ones and blue ones. Mixed among the Greyhounds were some of their cousins—the Whippets, Wolfhounds, Chart Polskis, Galgos, Salukis, Deerhounds, and Italian Greyhounds. The Reverend Mary Tiebout from Pennsylvania conducted a “Blessing of the Hounds” as the beach walk ended on Saturday.

With help from the local Lions Club and Coconuts Restaurant, the Tent had a new and more spacious location during Dewey '99. It occupied a large fenced volleyball court with adjacent parking within walking distance from the beach. The Tent was the site of four discussions or presentations on Saturday. Jacque Schultz held a clinic on obedience and behavior. Jacque, a dog trainer and behavior consultant who also works with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in NYC, administers the ASPCA Greyhound Rescue Fund. Leann Forrister from Rescued Racers in St Louis, Missouri, moderated a panel discussion on Greyhound veterinary issues. Among the panelists was the noted veterinary orthopedic specialist, Dr. James Radcliffe. Laurie Rhodes, a certified Reiki practitioner, held a hands-on discussion of Reiki massage for Greyhounds, and Cynthia Cash from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, moderated a panel discussion on fundraising and creative promotion of Greyhound adoption.

Saturday also featured an informal bring-your-own lunch at the Rehoboth High School athletic field where the dogs had the opportunity to run in the fenced field. Additionally, there was shopping at the local outlets and the Greyhound vendors located in the various motels, and trips to other local attractions.

As a busy day drew to a close, Cynthia Branigan conducted an evening Memorial



A partial view of the sold out brunch. Over 600 people attended the brunch.

Service for missing friends on the beach around a bonfire. For many people, the service was one of the most memorable and moving moments of the entire weekend.

Sunday dawned overcast and drizzling, but that did not stop the rendezvous on the beach before brunch at the Ruddertown. The guest speaker, Lynda Adame, administrator of the Internet Greyhound mailing list, talked about the effect the Internet has had on Greyhound adoptions over the past five years. The brunch also featured the annual raffle that raised more than \$2,200 for the Greyhound Cancer Fund at the Morris



Lynda Adame addressing the Sunday morning brunch attendees at the Ruddertown Complex.

Animal Foundation. After the brunch, the vendors opened for business at the Tent.

Tired but happy, the Dewey '99 attendees took home another collection of wonderful memories. One youngster told her mother the Dewey weekend was better than the family's trip to Disneyland.

And now, it's on to Dewey 2000. Planning has already begun. If you are an old-time Dewey attendee, a first-timer or even someone who has never made it to The Beach, let us know what you'd like to see at Dewey 2000. We are looking for suggestions for speakers, topics that would be of interest for presentations and discussions, groups who would be interested in sponsoring activities, and suggestions for changes and improvements that would make the weekend even more memorable. The entire weekend is put together by volunteers. If you'd like to help, let us know.

Dewey 2000 will be October 6-8, 2000, so mark your calendars and start making your plans. ❖



by Joanna Wolfe; photos by Marcia Herman

# The Hounds

## Dew-Dew Run-Run

What if you threw a party and everyone came? By the end of Saturday afternoon of the Dewey Beach Weekend I certainly knew that feeling. The day started early with a walk on the beach. Then Andre (the hound who runs my life) and I were off. We had a demanding list to accomplish before 11 a.m.: signs to laminate, bungee cords to buy, tie-wraps to find, and a gate to make!

What had started out as a way for Greyhound-L Internet list members and the A Breed Apart IRC\* folks to meet each other and their hounds ended up in a free-for-all for everyone attending the Dewey Beach Weekend to meet, eat, and see how they run. With seven gates secured and posted, more than a hundred hounds frolicked on the acre-plus Rehoboth Beach soccer field from noon to nearly 3 p.m. Surely the sunny weather contributed to good attendance. What could be better than lying in the sun, watching your hound run?

As is always the case with an inaugural event, many folks showed up not knowing what to expect. With all the things we'd heard about pack mentality and the stories of escape artists, would our dogs be safe? Between fretting over the likelihood of a fracas and watching out for potential injuries, would we ever get to eat lunch? Anxious owners looked on, biting their lips, questioning their wisdom. Observing the basic safety rules—muzzles mandatory, Greyhounds only—Greyhounds and owners were on their best behavior. A large, wide, lengthy field and diligent dog owners assured safe play and a clean field.

*Continued on page 29*

by Lynda Adame with  
David Savage

# A Euro Welcome

A highlight of Dewey Beach '99 was the Friday night cocktail reception hosted by Greyhound Friends (Mass.) and Louise Coleman. This particular event was held at the Ruddertown complex, a waterfront restaurant and bar in the heart of Dewey Beach. The guests of honor were European delegates representing Greyhound rescue and adoption in Ireland, England, and Spain.

Although the evening air was brisk, the majority of people attending the event congregated on the large wooden deck that spanned the front of the Ruddertown. Louise Coleman warmly greeted each person and provided a few key introductions. I was lucky enough to attend the reception with Joan Belle Isle of the Greyhound Project. To say Joan knows everyone involved in Greyhound adoption is an understatement. Joan introduced dozens of people, including co-author David Savage, a Texan who has taken up the cause of the Spanish Greyhounds by raising over \$12,000 in just a few months. Also introduced were Hal and Karen Hawley (Greyhound Friends Northwest), Peggy Levin (Personalized Greyhounds), Cynthia Cash (Greyhound Pets of America/ Louisiana), and Leanne Forister (Rescued Racers). After allowing time to "shmooze," a BBC-produced video called *Cradle to Grave* (which laid out the plight of the Irish Greyhound in Ireland and Spain) was shown.

The first speaker of the evening was **Marion Fitzgibbon**, President of the Irish SPCA (ISPCA). Ireland is commonly known as the world's foremost exporter of Greyhounds,

selling approximately 10,000 Greyhounds each year at annual auction. These dogs are purchased by the highest bidder—without consideration of the intent for the dog's future. Marion regularly attends such auctions, where she tries to codify a medical history and individual identification for each dog sold. In addition, she boldly fights against the government subsidies given to Irish Greyhound "farmers," and takes on the Bord na gCon (the Irish Greyhound racing industry's "board") as she attempts to secure funds for a retired racer trust fund.

Marion cooperates closely with Anne Finch and recently traveled to Cattolica,

(as she has since its inception in 1991). She travels the Continent, particularly Spain, where the most critical need for intervention exists.

In addition to actual physical rescue of imported Irish Greyhounds from the abominable Spanish tracks, Anne's goals include the education of the European public as to the Greyhounds' wonderful suitability as pets. This task is doubly difficult because in Europe they are commonly believed to be a vicious breed. Anne has written two books, developed a video and given numerous media interviews in an attempt to dispel these myths. An estimated 750 Greyhounds have been rescued and re-homed in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, and England. A few have been rescued in Spain and another 13 have found homes in the United States.

**Dai Lawrence** spoke last. To meet Dai Lawrence is to love him. He is Operations Manager for GIN. An ex-coal miner from Mid Glam, Wales, U.K., Dai is best described as a "gentle giant" who is devoted to Greyhounds.

Dai has an exceptional aptitude for logistical and mechanical problems, which serves GIN well. With limited funding available, GIN is forced to use broken or antiquated equipment that Dai is often able to restore to working order. He is also responsible for transporting Greyhounds out of Spain to other European countries. Those of us involved in Greyhound adoption know what a demanding and tiring task transportation can be.

Dai lives with his wife and eight Greyhounds in Wales, where he also promotes adoption in the local area. I had the distinct



Pancho (right of center) posing for the camera.

Italy, to lobby against the creation of a track there—given the failures of the tracks in Rome and Naples. As President of the ISPCA, Marion cannot focus exclusively on Greyhounds, but it is clear she has done, and will continue to do, all she can.

As **Anne Finch**, the next speaker, reached the microphone, the gathered Greyhounds began a group roo, nearly drowning her out. Anne is the founder and director of Greyhounds in Need (GIN) which is based in Egham, Surrey, England. Anne maintains her job as a registered nurse as she also runs GIN

pleasure of speaking to Dai before he was called away on official business. He is a proud, strong, stubborn man. Not afraid to show his emotions, Dai shed more than one tear as he spoke in awe at seeing so many pet Greyhounds gathered together. To see these dogs accepted into loving homes and accepted by an entire town of strangers overwhelmed him in light of his coming from a country where Greyhounds are not considered suitable as pets.

Unfortunately, **Fermin Perez Martin**, who rounded out the European contingent, was unable to attend the reception. Fermin is the founder and director of the Scooby Association in Medina del Campo, Spain. The Scooby Association runs a refuge for the Spanish Greyhounds, who are also known as "Galgos." Portions of Spain are notorious for their violent treatment of these dogs when their use as hunting animals is over. The good news is the refuge will harbor nearly 300 dogs by late January—the bad news is the refuge is a rented warehouse which is unheated (except when the small portable generator is on), has no electricity, and is simply too small for so many dogs. For the moment it has to suffice, but Fermin and Anne Finch hope to acquire a more suitable refuge. Although Fermin did not attend Friday's event, his sidekick Pancho did. Pancho is a gorgeous, young, white and blue parti Galgo with one blue eye and one green eye. He was friendly and curious even after his exhausting plane ride over the ocean, which impressed those of us who had the chance to pet him. He looked much like an American Greyhound, standing a little shorter and having a coarser body and head.

If ever I am feeling overwhelmed by the situation of the American Greyhound, I take a moment to think of the enormous job that looms ahead of the European contingent. They are years behind the United States adoption movement both in public education and volunteers. However, perhaps with our help they might be able to reach their lofty goals. ❖

*Lynda Adame is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds and is a co-administrator of the Internet's Greyhound-L. David Savage, originally from San Antonio, Texas, has lived in the Dallas area the last 15 years. David graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1982 and has since been employed in the banking/finance field, and the last three years as a self-employed "due diligence" specialist. In addition to his love for Greyhounds, his interests include flying, sports, and history.*

*Continued from page 27*

It was a rare treat for many of the dogs to be off-lead. Some wandered the field, unsure of what to do. Eventually one hound would realize that the leashes were gone and off it would go. The photographer from the *Washington Post* observed they were like a herd of gazelle or a school of fish, unfettered by their speed they moved in concert: beauty... grace... poetry in motion.

But as quickly as they took off, they became winded. Many preferred to lie in the sun or wander among the humans who were happy to make a fuss over them. One observer noted that it was good the retired racers had slowed to a couch potato life: Can you imagine how fast they would go if they were in top form?



**Greyhound list owners Lynda Adame of California and Ellen Schneiderman of Wisconsin. The Internet really does bring people together.**

Early in the afternoon a cameraman from PBS arrived. His mission was to secure footage of our dogs running for a documentary that is partially underwritten by PetsMART. He was eager to get film of the dogs unmuzzled. A newcomer to Greyhounds, he was worried that the muzzles would send a message that the dogs are aggressive. It took only a slight scuffle among some growling dogs for him to recognize the wisdom of the basket muzzles in the event of a collision.

It was a wonderful day for enjoying the sun, meeting old friends, and making new ones. Greyhound-L lurkers (those who read the L, but have not yet actively participated), noted personalities, experts, famous and not-so-famous listers peppered the field as the event unfolded. Slick Vic was there with her hounds and we got to see some of that body art we've heard so much about. Hal Hawley was on hand to help with the gate. Phyllis Nunn and Debbie Agee of Triangle Greyhound Society supplied water and dishes for the thirsty dogs. And, of course, there were plenty of dogs to pet!

Most of the lunches ended up in human stomachs, although there were plenty of four-legged moochers.

By the time it wound down to just six or seven dogs on the field I felt it had been a success. So mark the Dewey Beach event on your calendar (October 6-8, 2000) for next year. Pack a lunch and bring your pooch. Fun, sun, and dew-dew run-run. ❖

*\*ABAP IRC: A Breed Apart Internet Relay Chat meets on-line every Sunday and Wednesday evening from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Details can be found at the A Breed Apart E-zine website: <http://www.abap.org> or <http://irc.abap.org:8080>.*

*Joanna Wolfe lives in Durham, North Carolina. She is an active member of Triangle Greyhound Society and spends what little free time she has promoting Greyhound adoption. When not gushing effusively about her most wonderful Greyhound Andre, she slaves away at Oxford University Press as the Technical Support Manager.*

story by Cynthia A. Branigan; photos by Marcia Herman; art by Michele Carnevale

# Impromptu Affair

## A Blessing and A Bonfire

As we headed down to Dewey Beach on Friday night I found myself experiencing the same kind of anticipation I did as a child heading for a family vacation. We couldn't get there fast enough to suit me, yet packing up our seven dogs, not to mention my mother and her two Chihuahuas, took longer than expected. We didn't hit the road until 4:30 p.m. and, even though we drove south on the New Jersey side of the river, the road was still clogged by the Philadelphia rush hour. Nothing to do but sit back and enjoy the ride.

### On the Road Again

As I came out of the building at a rest stop in Smyrna, Delaware, I noticed my husband Charles talking to a couple with a Greyhound. It wasn't hard to figure out where they were headed. They were coming from a Virginia suburb of Washington and, since they had only learned of the Dewey gathering a few weeks earlier, the nearest accommodations they could find were in Ocean City, Maryland. They had no idea what to expect but just felt strangely compelled to attend. The wife confided that their first Greyhound was so great that she'd like to get another. Her husband, while keen on the dog, was not so keen on adding to the pack. He pointed out that they'd need a bigger car if they were to adopt a second. He looked to us for support for what he thought was a perfectly reasonable position.

We gestured in the direction of our 15-passenger van. For the first time he noticed it, and the seven little faces steaming up the windows inside. "Bought for the dogs?" he gulped. We nodded. Somehow I had the feeling that Dewey Beach was going to be more than he'd bargained for.

Soon we were rolling down the highway in the dark and I searched the radio for music to make the trip go quicker. Reception was poor and the only station with any power was one playing oldies from the '60s; yet it struck just the right chord. We were travelling toward a place that *meant* something, much the way so much of what happened in the sixties seemed to take on special significance. We weren't just going on an ordinary vacation,



Cynthia Branigan welcoming the blessing assemblage.

we were part of a cause; practically a movement, for Pete's sake. "By the time we got to Dewey, we were half a million strong..."

When we reached the small, unincorporated crossroads of Little Heaven I knew we were, literally and figuratively, not far from our destination. Our motel was ablaze in the night and, arriving a few minutes before us was Mary Tiebout, the Unitarian-

Universalist minister who I had invited to conduct the Blessing of the Hounds on Saturday morning, her husband Nathaniel, and their two children. They looked as wiped-out as we were from our five-hour journey, yet they were excited by the sight of Greyhounds everywhere. Although I had tried to tell (warn?) them in advance of what to expect, I realized from the looks on their faces that Dewey is truly one of those you-have-to-see-it-to-believe-it experiences.

Since I never got around to registering for the weekend, I received no welcome bag which would have told us when, exactly, and where, the blessing was being held. Mary feared we would miss it but I was quick to reassure her. "What can they do?" I chided, "Start without us?"

I've learned from experience that Dewey is an impromptu affair and anyone who cherishes strict schedules or structure is likely to be disappointed. Fortunately neither Mary nor I fall into that category and so, acting on a hunch, we followed our noses to the beachfront near the Atlantic Oceanside at what seemed to us like a reasonable hour for a Blessing. What we saw when we arrived brought tears to our eyes.

There before us, in rapt expectation, were hundreds and hundreds of Greyhound-loving people and many hundreds more of the dogs themselves. Perhaps it was just the power of the scenery, the pounding surf, and the wide blue sky, that made the sight so memorable; but I suspect it was more than that.

I know I run the risk of sounding terribly corny, but you could feel the love that everyone had for their animals, and that the



animals had for their people. Ten years ago such a gathering would have been impossible. Too few dogs had been adopted, as too few people knew of the dog world's best kept secret. Now, as we are on the verge of a new millennium, the word is out and the improbable location of Dewey Beach has become our Mecca.

We tracked down the ever-energetic Joan Belle Isle and I inquired about the sound system. I had taped several hymns that I felt were in keeping with the spirit of the day and I expected that the music would signal that the Blessing was underway. Joan handed me a bullhorn. "This is it?" I asked incredulously. "Yep!" she responded cheerfully, as if it was the most natural thing in the world to broadcast animal-related hymns over a bullhorn to hundreds of people and dogs on a Delaware beach. I was game if she was, so I flipped on the cassette player and strained to hear "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all." No matter. This whole weekend was a blessing, with or without hymns.

Not much of a sound system was one thing, but the lack of a podium was something else. Beaches are notably flat, after all, and the diminutive Mary Tiebout would never be seen, much less heard, in the crowd. Again, we improvised. We ascended the steps of the nearby condos and walked across the decks to the end. The owners of the condo were none-too-pleased, but their dog, a hefty black Labrador Retriever, greeted us with licks and wags. Perhaps his owners should have followed his lead.

Apparently I was the emcee, so I took the bullhorn, and, still in the same mood as the night before, said the first thing that came into my head: "Welcome to Dogstock, 1999!" The crowd applauded wildly and I knew I was not alone in feeling that this was a happening of the first degree.

With considerable gracefulness, Mary, in her flowing skirt, slipped off her shoes and climbed out onto a beam that extended from the deck. From her parapet, with the trusty bullhorn held by a kind gentleman from Maryland, she launched into a talk about the value of what we were doing, about the importance of revering all life, and about how exceptionally blessed we were to be in the company of such fine hounds. The common thread in the three



Mary Tiebout blessing an individual dog.

poems that she read was that we have much to learn from our animal friends.

The line quickly formed for the individual blessings and seemed to stretch for a mile. Mary spoke to each dog personally and exchanged a few words with their people. I stood nearby watching the procession when, about halfway through, I looked up. There, only thirty or forty yards offshore, a pod of dolphins was making their way south. Another blessing to an already hallowed morning.

### The Evening Bonfire

Before I left the beach I made contact with Joan to find out where the bonfire for my memorial service would be located. I had been working all summer on a special fire purification ceremony to accompany the service and was keen on having everything be just right. That, of course, was my first mistake.

Joan told me there would be four bonfires on the beach, starting around 9 p.m. and that the memorial service could be held at any one of them. I suggested the northernmost fire, as it would be a little more secluded for such a sensitive topic.

Long around 8:30 that night I decided to scope out the beach to make sure everything was going according to plan. I left my lodging on the northern part of town and, as I reached the beach, looked both north and south in an effort to see the bonfires. Nothing but dark sky and even darker sea. Finally, as I walked south, I saw a small fire and, as I got closer, there appeared to be a dozen or so



Mary Tiebout blessing the animals.

people around it. Not much of a turnout, I thought to myself; but, then again, experience has shown me that anything even remotely connected to the subject of dying or memorials tends to be avoided. Still, I would be glad to conduct the service even for a few hardy souls, so I forged ahead. "Are you here for the animal memorial service?" I asked hopefully. Their blank stares puzzled me until I realized that there was not a Greyhound in sight. Oops, wrong bonfire.

I left the gang of 12 with their mouths agape and decided to drive down to the Atlantic Oceanside, the locus of action, to see if anyone there had a clue about the bonfires. Granted, there was a slight drizzle in the air, but I reckoned it would take more than that to stop a Greyhound gathering. I asked

by Jordan H. Graustark;  
photos by Joan Belle Isle

# Dewey Vendors

## Where to Drop a Bundle

What can I say? I lost control. The array of vendors at Dewey did me in and, upon arrival, I voluntarily surrendered my wallet to the dogs.

There was nothing “Greyhound” that one could not find among the innumerable vendors at Dewey. Virtually every vendor had Grey-wear: sweatshirts, jackets, and T-shirts. My personal favorite was a denim shirt with “Crazy Greyhound Lady” embroidered on the front (how did she know I was coming?). Bumper stickers, license plates, jewelry capturing the Greyhound in every imaginable form, artwork and sculpture, life-size Greyhound statues in bronze and stone... a certifiable Greyhound addict could not walk through the Vendor’s Tent on Sunday without sacrificing November’s mortgage payment.

Many hotel rooms were converted into mini-stores and led to scenes reminiscent of the famous stateroom scene in the Marx Brothers’ *Night at the Opera*. How many people can we cram into this little area at one time before we’re ringing up sales in the bathtub? But one just couldn’t pass by a single window display without stopping in to “talk hound” and check out all the goodies. As I pulled into the parking lot of the Atlantic Ocean-side, I was immediately drawn into Personalized Greyhounds and Greyhound Pets of America/Maryland’s wonderful displays.

Around the corner were Jen Howard’s handmade Greyhound crafts, and Chris and Lynda Seed’s collection of wall hangings, jewelry, and all kinds of other irresistible Greyhound “stuff.” I happened to be staying between the Seeds and Jen Howard, and down the hall from three other vendors. I knew I was in *deep* trouble before I even unloaded the car.

Across the street, I found myself kidnapped and held hostage by Kathy Johnson and her Feathered Gems jewelry. When she finally released me (about two pounds lighter in the wallet), I was bound, gagged, and dragged into Sue Ross’s Silk Road Collars. Kody promptly plopped himself on a dog bed



while Giselle Guy and I schmoozed and Sue hypnotized me; the next thing I knew, I was outside the room holding a bag of leads and collars. I had *ka-chinged* without even a clue!

Downstairs to Sue King’s Toastie Coats & Paws.... This was my safe haven, because Sue and Dana are my buddies. I knew they’d protect me from spending my November car payment. Outside to Greyhound Placement Service of Maine’s trailer full of goodies.... Once again, I was led astray and a fool and her money were once again parted. But at least I escaped with a cool Greyhound doll—a relatively benign pocket-picking.

To the next hotel I fled, right into the waiting arms of Karen’s Kollars. They had come all the way from Washington State to torment me. I was once again plucked dry. But at least

my dogs would have soft, flashy collars draped around their necks for our walks.

Back across the street to a new venue, and numerous new predators to separate me from my paycheck. Greyhounds Galore not only flaunted the Crazy Greyhound Lady shirt that had to have been made especially for me, but decals of Greyhounds and Italian Greyhounds. (Of course they had much more to offer, but I managed to escape relatively unscathed.) Other wonderful vendors offering funky jewelry and beautiful artwork were down the hall, and again, the magnetic force pulled me in.

But the *piece de resistance*—the ultimate Greyhound fanatic’s source for every conceivable *objet d’hound* and bankruptcy—was the Vendor’s Tent. It was a warm, rainy day, and I could swear there was steam rising from the ground inside the tent; perhaps it was from the scuffling of hundreds of feet around the 40-plus vendors’ tables. One had to take an analytical approach to make it through the entire tent and catch every single item in sight. Being a native New Yorker and having had the experience of elbowing my way through Fifth Avenue department stores during the holiday season, I was truly cut out for the job.

I pulled on my SWAT gear, and off I marched—right into a life-size Greyhound granite statue being auctioned off by one of the adoption groups. After extricating myself from the granite needle-nose, I was immediately drawn to an item I hadn’t yet seen: Greyhound socks! *Ka-ching!* Moving on, I saw countless items of clothing and jewelry. Here I was able to find a wonderful pin resembling my Arielle, right down to the big smile and the feathered tiara. Fast Dog cloth-

ing company was down the aisle, and of course I *had* to have one of their sweat-shirts with the needle-nose logo on it.

So many items to ponder... so many ways to empty my bank account.

And then I was in *real* trouble: Golden Hounds Jewelry. A new design caught my eye and I knew my November credit card payment was about to go by the wayside. I was bound, gagged, and absolutely forced to buy myself a 14K necklace! Oh, cruel, cruel world it is.

Around the corner, past more coats, T-shirts, dog toys, gourmet dog yummys, artwork, jewelry... such an array of craftsmanship! Beautiful pewter handmade jewelry (of Greyhounds, of course) and collage pins (some even offering to include a picture of your own dog) really caught my eye. I did, however, manage to make it to the exit about two hours later—defeated, humbled, in awe, and broke.

By the end of the Dewey weekend I had amassed about 15 pins (my weakness), two necklaces, numerous sweat-shirts and T-shirts, a cool Greyhound fanny pack (handy for holding poop bags), new collars and leads, dog yummys, and so much more my memory fails me. I believe they call it "Post-Dewey Stress Disorder." What mortgage payment? Auto loan installment? Bah! Bills? Do I have bills waiting? ❖

*Jordan H. Graustark is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.*



everyone I encountered and was met with the same response: we're looking for it ourselves. I decided to follow the crowd and suddenly came upon a huge gathering of people and hounds standing in a rough semi-circle in the dark. I tapped on someone's shoulder. "Do you know where the bonfire is?" Without saying a word he pointed to a large, damp, pile of logs. The crowd was getting restless and, I feared, impatient. Charles and my mother caught up to me and I explained the predicament. I knew what had to be done.

I entrusted my elderly mother's care to a friend, and Charles and I went to work. As there was no kindling to get the fire started, we tore up the small cardboard box that carried our supplies for the service. The photographer for the *Washington Post* was quick with sarcastic suggestions until I proposed that he help. As I expected, he offered no further comments. Little by little, people in the crowd came forward to assist and, in what seemed like an eternity but was, in fact, probably only 15 minutes, the fire took hold.

I stared out at the group that probably numbered 500 people, and easily twice as many hounds, and faced the next challenge. How on earth could I be heard over the crashing of the surf, the crackling of the bonfire, the howling of the wind and, most of all, to a circular crowd?

That bullhorn from the morning was starting to look pretty good, but, unfortunately, it was nowhere to be found. People were waiting, the fire was roaring and it was showtime. I cranked up my trusty cassette player and, against the strains of an Indian raga, walked in a circle around the fire and shouted. Even at that, only a fraction of the group could hear me at any given time.

But from where I stood, something miraculous began to happen. The people closest to the fire got the gist of what I was trying to do, and passed it along to those standing behind them. Even those who never heard a word somehow seemed to be pulled in by the meaning.

There are some things in this world that transcend convention. The lack of a sound system, the lack of an already-lit fire, the fact that many present were not really there for the memorial service at all, but for a more general assemblage, did nothing to dampen the spirits of the participants.

We distributed candles to the group, and, as people began calling out the names of



**Bless them all, large and small.**

animals they had lost, the proceedings quite naturally took on the feeling that was intended, a sacred rite. Later, as we distributed paper and pencil and requested that those same names be written down and then placed in the fire for purification, the crowd was quiet and thoughtful as they scribbled names, and their most private thoughts. To my mind, it was a success and any obstacles along the way were mere details. We had the five necessary elements: earth, air, water, fire, and Greyhounds.

### The Next Day

I saw Joan Belle Isle the next day and she explained that an emergency the night before had caused her to miss the bonfires and memorial service. "So, how'd it go?" she asked innocently. "Fantastic" I told her truthfully. "Even the lack of amplification and the distinct possibility that there wouldn't be a fire didn't detract."

Without missing a beat, Joan responded "Well, I knew if anyone could pull it off, you could." Thanks, Joan. And, by the way, have you ever considered a career in politics? *Cynthia Branigan will be back at Dewey Beach next year to conduct a memorial service with a bonfire and sound system.* ❖

*Cynthia Branigan is the author of two books on Greyhounds: the best selling Adopting the Racing Greyhound and the award-winning The Reign of the Greyhound, A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs. She is also president and founder of the adoption group Make Peace with Animals, based in New Hope, Penn.*

story by Carla (Sage)  
Benoist; photos by  
Kathleen Walsh; art by  
Michele Carnevale

# Reiki Reaches

## the Beach

I'm interested in alternative healing methods, for myself and my four-legged companions, so I was thrilled when I read on the Greyhound-L that Laurie Rhodes (founder and owner of the Berry Best Pet Bakery) would be giving a Reiki seminar and demonstration at this year's "Greyhounds Reach the Beach."

I corresponded with Laurie online and mentioned that I was just starting to read Diane Stein's *Essential Reiki*, recommended by another friend. It seemed to me that Reiki might be highly complementary to healing methods which I was already studying (I'm a novice at T-touch with Linda Tellington-Jones). I also attended my first animal communication seminar this year. I am fortunate to have a wonderful, holistic veterinarian, so I know that new methods and techniques will at least be treated with respect, if not integrated into my animal family's treatment.

Laurie Rhodes became interested in Reiki when one of her friends used it to help a foster Greyhound. The foster had come from a very neglectful home and had a lot of issues; Laurie not only saw the dog's response to the treatment, but also felt its power herself.

Although Reiki is centuries old, it was new to me. Reiki has been described as "an ancient Japanese system of hands-on energy healing, a simple, non-invasive treatment which relieves stress, promotes balance and enhances a deep sense of calm. Advanced Reiki includes techniques which accelerate the healing process and allow Reiki to be applied over long distances." ([www.oso.com](http://www.oso.com), AllThatMatters, Healing Techniques, Reiki.)

I talked to Laurie about the stiffness my 10-year-old Greyhound, Cedric the Sidekick, was experiencing. He had some racing injuries that were not serious, but had been exacerbated by his being tied outside for the first three years of his "retirement." When I adopted him in December of 1997, it was a challenge for him to get up after a snooze. Cedric has benefited from acupuncture and is taking ArthriEase™, a glucosamine combination, and another natural anti-inflammatory. The home treatments and therapeutic massage have helped

fenced), where my somewhat sedentary Cedric was bowled over by a herd of galloping beasties. Although he was shaken and a little scraped, after a short nap we stiffly made our way to the seminar tents. At this point I figured Cedric could really use some Reiki.

When we finally arrived, we found both sides of the big tent were filled with people listening to or watching different speakers. On the Reiki side of the tent, people sat in small groups with their dogs, watching and listening and waiting their turn. Laurie Rhodes began by explaining that Reiki does no harm and that it works as a complement to regular veterinary treatment and benefits physical, behavioral, and mental concerns. She went on to say that those seeking Reiki treatment for themselves or their pets should find someone they are comfortable with locally. Laurie shared a couple of her own Reiki experiences and the experiences of those using Reiki with animals. She also talked about how animal communication comes into play in Reiki.

She touched on the importance of Reiki for our four-legged friends because they absorb so much of the atmosphere around them: our stress, grief, and garbage. She talked about the basic ideas of healing touch and about the Japanese relaxation techniques that allow the Reiki energy to flow through the practitioner. It is very important to me that Reiki is a healing modality in which positive, healing, universal energy—however individuals name it, according to their belief systems—flows *through*. In other words, the practitioner is not using or depleting his or her *own* energy. But this article is not meant to be an



Snug was always happy if he had his plush bed or his plush toys.

him tremendously. I was eager to see if Reiki could help him further and was thrilled when Laurie invited us to participate in the demonstrations.

Saturday afternoon we were supposed to be at the Reiki seminar by 2:00 p.m. Unfortunately, we were running a little late since we had taken the boys to the lunchtime fun run at a local school field (big and well-

in-depth piece on Reiki. There are books and teachers for that. It is simply a report of what I saw and experienced with Reiki at Dewey Beach this fall.

Laurie was on her knees in the cleared area at the front, working gently on a reclining Greyhound and talking with the dog's person. Another woman who had enough Reiki training to be able to give treatments was assisting by working with some of the Greyhounds toward the back of the lecture area.

I have to mention Snug. Snug was a very beautiful and special Greyhound. Dark and handsome, with a Roman nose, he and his "foster Mom," Kathleen Walsh and his brother, Phoenix, made a bittersweet and meaningful journey to Dewey. They came to "Greyhounds Reach the Beach," and to the Reiki seminar so that Snug could receive Reiki and so he could experience and receive joy and love from Dewey attendees. You see, after a very hard life, Snug came into Kathleen's life to be her special angel. Snug was dying of cancer and came to Dewey to experience the beauty of life before journeying to the Rainbow Bridge.

Kathleen's eyes were filled with tears and there was a gathering around the regal boy on the blanket, with everyone speaking softly, petting, and giving love. There was also a reporter from *The Washington Post* who seemed fascinated by what he saw and heard, about Reiki, Greyhounds, and Snug.

With Cedric lying at my back, I spent one of the most intense half-hours of my life. I joined with the other people and hounds who surrounded Snug as he lay on his blanket visiting with us. The outpouring of love and concern was palpable. The woman who was helping Laurie give Reiki treatments spent some time with Snug; I administered very gentle *T-Touch* while she worked. I sang to him, very softly. Cedric and I shared a granola bar with him and sadly bid him farewell. The amazing thing regarding the time I spent with this astonishing hound is how what I received



Snug snuggling.

from him so far exceeded what I gave. (Although Snug passed away about a week after Dewey, he will live in the hearts of those he touched forever.)

When it was Cedric's turn for treatment, I explained to Laurie what had happened to him at the playground, and that he was more stressed than usual. She placed both hands on Cedric; immediately he was restless, fidgeting, as energy obviously began moving. Without force or coercion, Laurie kept her hands on my big boy, very focused, changing hand positions periodically.

After a few minutes, she removed her hands

briefly, at which point Cedric carefully laid down and placed his head in her lap to receive the rest of his treatment. By the time she was through, he had almost gone to sleep.

Laurie then made arrangements to see our other Greyhound, Harley, who has a crushed foot and a limp, at Berry Best Bakery's temporary Dewey shop. Harley's response to the treatment was similar, and perhaps more intense, than Cedric's. I've rarely seen my boy more relaxed. In both cases, my Greyhounds' well-being was visibly enhanced. In both cases, I actually felt it.

What I saw and felt during the Reiki sessions at Dewey Beach made me comfortable and enthusiastic about pursuing the study of Reiki to integrate this ancient, oh-so-simple, and beneficial healing method into my life. I suggest that anyone who is interested in Reiki for themselves and their companion animals take Laurie Rhodes' advice—find someone with whom you are comfortable. It certainly made my first experience with Reiki a pleasant and enlightening one. ❖

*Carla (Sage) Benoist resides in Exeter, Rhode Island with her husband, Buck, two Greyhounds, Cedric and Harley, and several other pets.*



by Leann M.  
Forister; photo by  
Marcia Herman

# Medical Seminar

## Issues found in Pre-adoptive Hounds

**D**ewey 1999 had many activities, ranging from light-hearted frivolity to more serious discussions regarding issues facing both domestic and international adoption groups.

The medical seminar at Dewey was a very successful discussion of medical issues faced by both adoption groups and individual adopters. The purpose of this panel discussion was to determine what major medical issues in pre-adoptive Greyhounds must be addressed before adoption groups can place Greyhounds in homes.

In order to achieve an overall picture, individuals from adoption groups in various regions participated. In addition, we had the privilege of having an international voice as well. Anne Finch and Dai Lawrence of Greyhounds in Need, based in England, represented the Spanish Greyhounds and Marion Fitzgibbon of the Irish SPCA represented the Irish Greyhounds. This was an eye-opening experience for all of us. It seems that although we have many, many problems here in the States we are still light-years ahead of our international counterparts.

Adoption groups confront a variety of medical issues, some common to all and some limited to a particular region. Issues facing most groups include tick-borne disease, low platelet count, parasite infestation, over-inoculation, bad teeth, and broken legs. Regional occurrences include spinal injuries, ear infections, Alabama Rot, Valley Fever, and laryngeal paralysis (resulting from the continual harsh pulling of the Greyhound's collar and neck).

One particular issue my veterinarians and I in St. Louis are studying is thrombocytopenia or low platelet count. Greyhounds appear to have a lower than normal platelet count. Normal canine counts range from 200,000-250,000. We have found that

the male Greyhound platelet count runs from 150,000-180,000; female counts tend to run lower, ranging from 120,000-150,000.

We have discovered that several factors influence the platelet count, some of which are stress, heat, and possible tick disease. Our theory on the different levels between males and females may be that the females are coming off hormone suppression drugs



**Dr. James Radcliffe making a point during the seminar.**

which, coupled with the stress of transportation, could further deplete the platelets.

Our protocol is to not neuter males with a platelet count lower than 110,000 and to not spay females with a count lower than 150,000. In addition, the platelet level also affects clotting times; we require that Greyhounds clot within three minutes. If these criteria are not met, the Greyhounds go into a foster home

and are re-tested several weeks later. In most cases, the platelet level rises and clotting time decreases to acceptable levels.

Our international guests had quite a different story to tell. To best describe the difference, consider the analogy of a *M\*A\*S\*H* episode: they are operating in triage mode. They have few qualified medical personnel, minimal medical supplies, and limited facilities. They deal with multiple broken legs (on one dog), no vaccinations, mange, leishmaniasis and transportation/kenneling issues. Compounding all the medical issues is a lack of Greyhound knowledge in the general population, which leads to a lack of willingness to help. Few people know or understand the plight of these dogs, so there is a very small network of volunteers to do what hundreds of volunteers do here in the States.

**O**ur resident medical expert, Dr. Radcliffe, gave insight into possible causes and treatments and prognosis as each panel member discussed a particular medical issue. Dr. Radcliffe is very familiar with Greyhounds as he works with Lou Batdorf's group (GPA/Wheeling). His insight was most helpful. We also learned that he is one of the leading orthopedic veterinarians in the country. His straightforward and down-to-earth approach made a potentially dry subject very informative and enjoyable.

In addition to addressing the panel's issues, he answered many questions from the floor regarding individual Greyhound medical, behavioral, and nutritional problems and needs. Each question was addressed with sincerity and a genuine concern to identify and/or correct the problem.

This panel was the first step in determining the variables and factors associated with specific medical conditions. It was an excellent opportunity to collect baseline data and

by Cynthia Cash

begin to see if there was any correlation between sex, age, regions, and specific medical problems in Greyhounds. By defining what types of medical problems adoption groups face, we will be able to create a database of information that will allow adoption groups to better prepare financially for these types of medical incidences in the future.

The discussion also brought to light the need for a general repository of medical information for Greyhound adopters. I saw much interest and hunger for knowledge on almost everyone's face. Many people want to know how they can help their Greyhound but don't know where to begin to get the information.

Unfortunately, until recently, the health of Greyhounds was not a priority issue. For example, we are just now beginning to study geriatrics in Greyhounds. It is my hope that this will be the start of what could be a priceless collection of information available to all adoption groups and adopters alike.

To paraphrase Dr. Radcliffe, only you know your Greyhound. It is up to you to educate your vet on your Greyhound's health and behavior. If your Greyhound is "not acting right" keep talking until someone listens. When it comes to your hound, you are the expert!

If you or your group have any prevalent medical issues that I can include in our data, please contact me at: Leann Forister, 10929 St. Henry Lane, St. Louis, MO 63074; gdoglady@yahoo.com. ❖

### Panel participants:

- Dr. James Radcliffe, DVM. Town & Country Animal Hospital/Wheeling, WV
- Leann Forister. Rescued Racers/St. Louis, MO
- Peggy Levin. Personalized Greyhounds/Camp Hill, PA
- Elaine Skidel. Nittany Greyhounds/Port Matilda, PA
- Lynda Adame. GPA/Southern CA
- David Wolf. NGAP/Philadelphia, PA
- Louise Coleman. Greyhound Friends/Hopkinton, MA
- Anne Finch. Greyhounds in Need/United Kingdom
- Dai Lawrence. Greyhounds in Need/United Kingdom
- Marion Fitzgibbon. ISPCA/Ireland

# Promoting Greyhound Adoption Seminar

**Moderator:** Cynthia Cash

**Panel:** Louise Coleman, Anne Finch, Phyllis Nunn, Kathy Bentzoni, David Wolf, Ellen Schneiderman

### Moderator's Discussion

**1. Airport Advertising Update.** The seeds for the ASPCA and Greyhound Project's Airport Advertising Campaign were first sown at the Dewey Beach gathering two years prior. The campaign got off the ground in January 1998 and was completed in the spring of 1999. Airport advertising companies nationwide donated unsold advertising space. For the cost of the artwork, adoption groups could "adopt" or sponsor their local airport. Over 200 billboards were produced. PetsMART generously donated \$10,000 to produce 62 of the ads. The advertising space for these types of billboards, also called dioramas, costs \$1,000 per month on the average. Since these dioramas have a lifespan of four years, the potential value of this campaign is clearly in the millions.

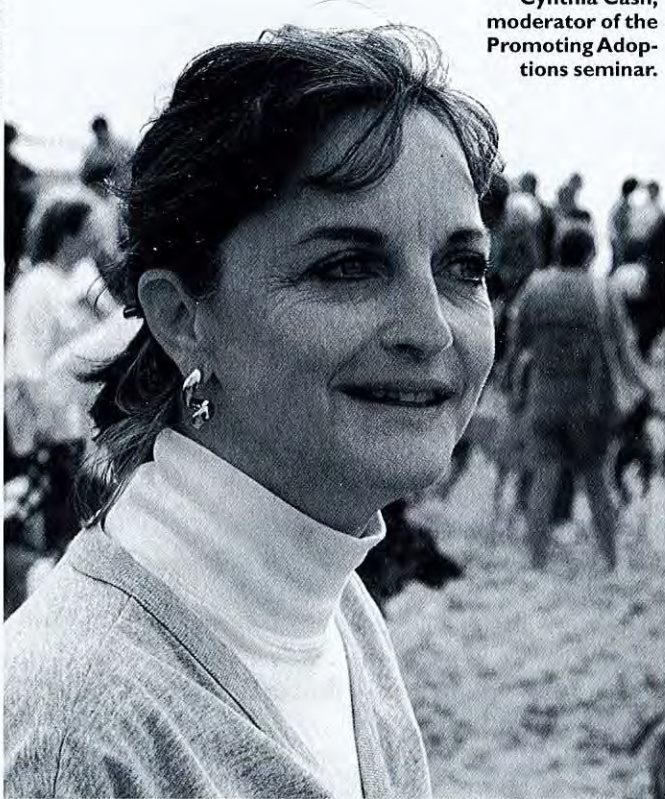
### 2. New Ideas for This Year

**A. Alumni Publications.** Most alumni publications feature write-ups on the lives of their alumni. Some offer a short blurb, some a cover feature story. How interesting is your life? I guarantee given the rescue/adoption focus, it's a bit different than your fellow graduates. To generate interest, simply call the editor, ask questions, then follow-up with a bio and picture of you and your Greyhound(s). The target market, i.e., college graduates, is excellent and the audience probably larger than you thought. With my three colleges and one sorority, my story (should it be deemed worthy of print) would potentially touch 240,000 readers.

**B. Blessing of the Animals Events.** Many religious denominations as well as communities conduct a formal "Blessing of the Animals" event. It's a perfect forum to promote Greyhounds as pets. Find out what your church or community has to offer. This year let's be at every one possible.

**3. Other Groups' Successful Promotion Ideas.** Because several groups across the country have come up with some very creative promotional ideas, yet did not have a representative attending the Dewey gathering, I had contacted them earlier by phone and then briefly presented their approaches to the group. They are:

**A. Shamrock Greyhound Foundation,** Louisville, KY; Rebecca Steinbrenner, 502-499-7923. **Art Auction for Animals.** By going through the current "Celebrity Directory" and selecting animal-friendly names as well as contacting local artists, the group collected many donations for the auction. Richard Pryor sent a signed photo to which he added "Save the Greyhounds." Mary Tyler Moore and Alan Alda both sent signed scripts of their TV shows. Carol Burnett sent two self-drawn sketches. Martha Stewart sent three signed cookbooks. The



**Cynthia Cash,**  
 moderator of the  
 Promoting Adop-  
 tions seminar.

response was surprisingly overwhelming and the auction netted a substantial sum. **Change the Size of Your Donation Jar.** By simply investing \$6.99 on a 10-gallon aquarium to use as a donation jar at "meet and greets" the groups daily donations have increased from \$10 to \$15 per event to \$75 to \$90 per event. **Local Printing Company Donations.** Many printing jobs are run on a size format smaller than a standard size of paper. The excess is often cut off and thrown away. Although the adoption group had to supply the artwork, a local printing company donated its efforts in turning this otherwise waste copy into 27,000 color glossy handouts for the adoption group.

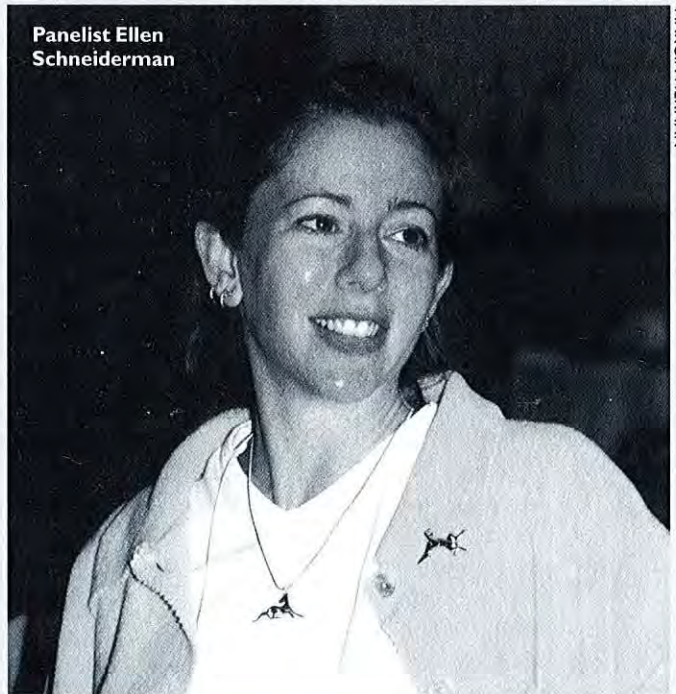
- B. **Second Chance for Greyhounds,** Grand Rapids, MI; Donna Lakin, 616-349-5104. **NASCAR Sponsorship.** The PR firm of Pedigree Dog Foods, offered the adoption group \$10 for every lap completed by Ernie Irvan, their driver, in an upcoming NASCAR race. Ernie completed 200 laps, giving the adoption group \$2,000 and a great deal of high-profile press and media coverage. **Billboard Advertising.** A local outdoor advertising company donated one year of prime space. Although the adoption group had to pay for the artwork (\$1,000±), they found it very worthwhile, both in ensuing adoptions and overall promotion. **Community Cable Channel Studio.** By using the local community-owned cable's studio, the adoption group made a talk-show video that included interviews with a veterinarian as well as with past adopters. It was aired locally as a Public Service Advertisement. **Public Service Announcements.** Whenever possible the adoption group makes use of the PSA requirements for both TV and radio.

- C. **Greyhound Gang,** Kanab, UT; Claudia Presto, 435-644-2903, Greygang@presto.org. **Enter all Contests.** Even though a contest may have nothing to do with Greyhounds or even dogs, enter it, and relate it to Greyhounds. Claudia once entered a "Most Disorganized Office" contest sponsored by *Entrepreneur Magazine*. She took a picture of her office, accented by various stacks of paper all centered on Slim, her adopted Greyhound. She won the first prize, a new computer system, and also enjoyed a plethora of publicity. She also entered a Real People Contest sponsored by MTV and won one week of airtime on MTV in which she told the story of her involvement in Greyhound rescue and adoption. **Website.** Claudia attributes much of her success in adoption promotion to her website. She encourages all groups to make their website as cool, as interesting, and as informative as possible.
- D. **Wings for Greyhounds,** Los Angeles, CA; Maggie McCurry, 818-769-9248. **Media, Media, Media.** Maggie and her rescue/adoption work have been featured on the *Animal Planet*, *Discover Channel*, *Fox News*, and local *Los Angeles News* multiple times now. She encourages adoption groups to keep pursuing any and all media contacts. Because many of us stumble over the process of writing press releases, she has offered to help anyone in need. Her phone number is listed above and her email address is WEFLYM@aol.com.

#### Panel Discussion

1. Louise Coleman, Greyhound Friends, Hopkinton, MA, 508-435-5969
- A. **Fashion Show.** Various fashion designers were asked to donate a design for both a fashion model and an accompanying Greyhound. Both dog and model dressed in matching ensembles and walked down the runway while the audience bid on each design. This coming year the event will be held on March 16 in a Manhattan art gallery. Bill Blass is the Co-Chair. Contact Greyhound Friends for details.

**Panelist Ellen**  
 Schneiderman





- B. **High Tea.** Featured at the Ritz-Carleton Hotel in Boston, this event promoted Greyhound adoption by sponsoring a High Tea complete with scones and Greyhounds on-leash. The event is usually on St. Patrick's Day and the plight of the Irish Greyhound is highlighted. One year the guest speaker was Marion Fitzgibbons, president of the Irish SPCA. Last year the event was picked up by National Public Radio.
- C. **Horse/Sporting Events.** Louise has found that horse shows, polo matches, and the like, offer a great target market to promote adoption.
2. Anne Finch, Greyhounds In Need, Surrey, England, 01784-436845; email: jill@greyhoundrescue.co.uk. Since 1991 Anne has been valiantly fighting to rescue the Greyhounds racing in Spain. As you can imagine the obstacles are enormous. This past year two Spanish racetracks closed leaving a total of 500 to be placed. Anne further explained the situation overseas and the massive effort it took to save these dogs.



LORETTA NICKOLAUS

The Northcoast Greyhound Support Group manned the phones for a PBS station fundraiser at KEET, Eureka, California. Notice the Adopt-a-Greyhound poster in full view on the far left of the phone bank table.

3. Phyllis Nunn, Greyhound Friends of North Carolina, Oak Ridge, NC; 336-643-0233.
- A. **GREYT Greyhound Pet Expo.** This past October the group put on its first annual Pet Expo. It was patterned after Charleston's Humane Society Expo. They rented the Greensboro Coliseum for one day. All the local rescue organizations were invited to participate as well as several animal product vendors. Thirty-five booths were filled with a mixture of vendors and rescue organizations. Throughout the day exhibitions were held in obedience and agility, as well as demonstrations by the police department's canine unit. Attendance was estimated at 5,000. Plans for next year are to expand to two days, secure corporate sponsorship, and to include a Pledge Walk open to all local rescue organizations.
- B. **National Greyhound Awareness Week.** This spring the group will sponsor the first annual Greyhound awareness week. They will help any participating group across the country work with the media in promoting this event.
4. Kathy Bentzoni, Make Peace With Animals, New Hope, PA; 215-862-0605.
- A. **International Greyhound Center.** Located in Doylestown, PA, which is heavily frequented by tourists, the center provides information on Greyhound adoption. Visitors are encouraged to interact with the volunteer Greyhounds as the dogs lounge on sofas in a home-like setting. The center is open Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 5. As a rule there are three people and as many as six Greyhound ambassadors to greet visitors. Center volunteers also participate in all local community events such as parades.
- B. **Fundraising Promotional Events.** The adoption group also sponsors an annual tennis tournament and 5K race; both generate funds as well as promote the dogs as pets to a larger public.
5. David Wolf, National Greyhound Adoption Program, Philadelphia, PA; 215-331-7918.
- A. **Outdoor Advertising.** Beginning last year in Florida with two billboards near racetracks, NGAP has expanded to 12 such boards and has enjoyed a great deal of advertising coverage.
- B. **Magnetic Automobile Signs.** Because vehicles are constantly on the road somewhere in the country transporting rescue Greyhounds, NGAP has produced magnetic signs for the car door that read "Greyhound Rescue in Progress." Any adoption group or individual can purchase these signs for a nominal fee.
- C. **Media.** Although the group has received extensive media coverage, NGAP still tirelessly continues to send out press releases to generate more coverage.
6. Ellen Schneiderman, GPA/S.E. Wisconsin; 414-884-8838.
- A. **Greyhound-L Internet List.** With Lynda Adame in California, Ellen manages an Internet discussion list designed for Greyhound adopters and other enthusiasts to share information. Medical issues, adjustment problems, general info, and often rescue situations are discussed. This massive networking combined with the speed of the Internet has solved many problems and brought the nationwide adoption community much closer together.
- B. **Greyhound Underground Railroad (GUR).** Georgia's Renee Vander Beke and Missouri's Betsy Bentz organized a loose-knit group of Greyhound-loving volunteers from across the country and launched the GUR in 1997. GUR transports Greyhounds long distances by motor vehicle to the dogs' new homes. GUR coordinators post upcoming runs on Greyhound-L, seeking volunteer drivers. Visit <http://members.tripod.com/~ksgibbons/gur/home.htm>. ♦

*Cynthia Cash is a landscape architect and an adjunct professor in the same area at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where she lives with her adopted Greyhound Peaches (Miss May of 1998, Greyhound Project calendar); her adopted Doberman Keno; and Thumpurr, a newly-acquired retired Somali show cat. For several years, Cynthia has coordinated a large number of the rescue hauls that were a result of track closings around the country. She also spearheaded the Greyhound Project and ASPCA's airport advertising campaign. She works locally when needed by the GPA/Louisiana chapter, and is currently working with a group of Greyhound advocates towards releasing Greyhounds being used in medical research.*

by Jacque Lynn  
Schultz

# Training Seminar

## Dog vs Greyhound

Just because Greyhounds are dogs doesn't mean all dog-training methods commonly used with other breeds will be as effective with Greyhounds. After all, if Greyhounds were just like other dogs, you could teach them to sit in minutes! My goal is to present four common humane training methods and examine how effective they are in training retired racers.

Before going any further, let's dispel the myth that dogs want to please us. The fact is, most dogs live by the motto, "What's in it for ME?" Dogs, like their owners, are opportunists. If doing what is asked brings rewards, the behavior is more likely to be repeated. The first step in any training is to ascertain what is rewarding for your dog.

At the top of most lists would be food treats—the stinkier and richer, the better. Kibble may serve as a low value reward when the dog is hungry but under distracting circumstances or in longer training sessions, you may need to bring out the big guns—hot dogs, liver, cheese. Even the aloof Chow Chow can be lured into sustained eye contact when the lure/reward is leftover filet mignon. But food isn't the only reward.

For most Retrievers, a tennis ball is nearly as desirable as food. For Terriers, a squeaky fur-covered mouse will float their boat. And for a few dogs, soft praise and a smile will be all they need to keep focused and working. These are probably the dogs about which "love to please" was first coined. Once you have constructed your top ten list of rewards or motivators including toys, treats, touch, and activities, you are now ready to choose a training method—or two.

With a treat in one hand, lure the dog into a pre-determined posture. For instance, when teaching "sit" via the lure/reward method, you would lure the dog to follow a food treat up and over his skull with his eyes. Doing so would tilt his chin up and, in most dogs, cause his rear to tuck into a sit position. This is accomplished without touching the

with an "okay" to let him know he's done working for the moment.

As soon as possible, proceed to the point that the lure does not need to be in your hand any longer. Now, the luring motion has become a hand signal, but the lure itself is out of sight (in a pocket, behind your back, on a table) until time for the reward. From

here, move to a variable reward schedule, rewarding very few times, rewarding for only the best efforts or when commands are carried out in new environments or under distracting circumstances. You can choose to fade out the hand signals in favor of verbal commands or use either of them depending on the situation.

Lure/reward training is my method of choice for most of the dog training I do. However, I have not always found it effective with Greyhounds—particularly when trying to teach "sit." One reason is many Greyhounds seem to have a hard time finding, and following, food in hand. The lure does not seem to be a big enough impetus to fold one's body into a sitting position. This may also be due to the level of muscular discomfort, prior sit-averse training, or lack of early instruction in the command. All three theories have been voiced at one time or another.

Lure/reward is very effective for teaching stair climbing. Place food on steps just out of the dog's reach, allowing him to get some but moving others up yet another step, until he reaches the top where a jackpot—several treats—awaits him. Up is easier to teach than down, probably because most of a Greyhound's weight is over his forelegs and gives him the feeling that he is being pitched forward down the



The big sit at treat time. Tippy, Arnie, and Dakota sit for Dodd Slawson.

dog and begins to create a kinesthetic memory for the dog that can subsequently be linked to a command. When luring into the same position becomes reliable, name it (i.e., sit). Now, precede the luring with the command. Lure, reward, and release the dog

stairs. Teaching “down the stairs” is best handled as a two-person job because many Greyhounds will take a shortcut and try to leap off the stairs mid-flight. At their size, one handler is easy to take along for the ride. Stopping to eat a treat on each step slows the dog down and makes sure he takes every one. Station one handler at his side while the other stands in front of the dog, backing down the steps while laying out the treats.

Another method of training employs waiting until the dog does a natural posture you would like to put on command. As the dog engages in the behavior, name it and reward it. Rewarded behaviors will be repeated. As the dog begins to paw at or circle on his (or your) bed and collapse, say “down” and give a reward when he is prone. This kind of training can work well with fearful dogs who worry about any kind of movement around them or shut down when handled, and dogs who are too stressed to take food in a lure/reward setting.

The handler’s timing must be impeccable in order to insert the command when the dog is in the act of performing the behavior. Rewards must be readily available. No telling the dog to hold that thought while you race off to the kitchen to get goodies; the reward will be too late. It can only be useful for teaching “sit” if your Greyhound sits in normal circumstances such as in the backseat of a car or bathtub. If you’ve never caught him sitting, you will need to try another method.

**A** training method currently all the rage is clicker training. This method, adapted from wild animal and marine mammal trainers, shapes a behavior using a conditioned reinforcer such as a clicker. First, you set up a positive connection between the conditioned reinforcer (the clicker sound, squeak of a toy, whistle toot, or the word “yes”) and the reward (usually a food treat). Click, treat, click, treat, click, treat. Repeat the pattern until the dog immediately looks for his reward when he hears the sound.

Now decide what behavior you want to shape and break it down into small parts. Wait until the dog gives you the first part of the behavior (a little luring might be in order) and click to indicate immediately to the dog that particular behavior is worthy of rewarding. Treat as soon as you can. The timing of the reward is not as critical because the click



**A sit on the stairs!**

has already marked the behavior and promised a reward will follow. The dog may offer up several behaviors trying to get the reward again. Eventually he will happen upon the right behavior and you will click and reward again. Soon the behavior will become fixed and ready to be named or expanded.

You will ask more from the dog in subsequent successions before clicking. By chaining together behaviors, you will soon have built a complete behavior sequence such as teaching the dog to respond to a sneeze by running to the bathroom and returning to you with a Kleenex.

The problem with clicker training for Greyhounds is that it depends on an animal offering up lots of behaviors so the trainer has the opportunity to click the desired ones and begin to mold them. Unlike more active breeds such as Border Collies and Retrievers, the placid Greyhound throws few extraneous behaviors. He stands quietly awaiting direction, some so patiently that they fall asleep on their feet. In my 12 years or so at the ASPCA, I have only seen that feat accomplished by one other breed of dog—another sighthound of course!



**Jacquie Lynn Schultz ponders a question.**

**T**his last method of manually placing the dog in the desired position has fallen out of favor with many training professionals over the last decade. Using physical manipulation and gravity by putting pressure on weak points, you build a muscle and mental memory in the dog. Once the pos-

LEROV JORDAN

MARCIA HERMAN



Another variety of sit.

ture is achieved, it is named and rewarded. A "sit" may be attained by applying pressure just below the hips or in the case of Greyhounds, behind the stifles (knees), with

one arm while rocking the dog back with the other arm around the neck or on the forechest. This method can also be used with dogs unwilling to be lured down the stairs.

Their feet will be moved one step at a time for them.

The larger and stronger the dog, the more difficult this method is. Some dogs will completely shut down when physically handled in this manner. With a skittish dog, acclimating him to being touched behind the knees before applying any pressure will prove helpful. While seldom my first method of choice, it has proved useful when training some of the Greyhounds that have come through our shelter.

There are many humane methods for training dogs; I've only touched on four here. Retired racing Greyhounds have lived lives quite different from other dogs so their new handlers may need to employ a creative mixture of methods to achieve their training goals. The important thing to keep in mind is that it can be done. Yes, even sits and stairs can be accomplished with enough patience and creativity.

*Jacque Lynn Schultz is the Director, Special Projects, Animal Sciences, ASPCA, New York, NY.*

## Collar And Muzzle Drive

*Remember the paper drives in school? Well, Greyhound Friends of North Carolina (GFNC) is sponsoring a collar and muzzle drive to send to the Scooby Refuge in Medina, Spain. When Anne Finch from Greyhounds In Need joined the Dewey Beach gathering this fall, she told of the Spanish situation and of the perpetual obstacles involved there. Winter is the season that the hunters relinquish their hounds to the Medina refuge. This year, over 300 are expected. The Scooby Refuge is truly a bare-bones operation with no heat in the winter and the dogs housed there are often unmuzzled due to the lack thereof. Collars of surrendered dogs may be a piece of rope.*

*Most adoption groups in this country replace the wide plastic kennel collars used at the farm or at the track with nylon safety-slip collars immediately upon arrival of new dogs. These plastic kennel collars can be recycled to help the Spanish dogs. So can some of the muzzles. Adoption groups rarely*

*use the wire muzzles, muzzles in poor condition, or broken muzzles. GFNC is planning a "muzzle-mending party" to piece together as many as possible.*

*Should your group have any old kennel collars or muzzles (wire, bad plastic or even broken plastic) please consider this opportunity to reach out and help the Spanish greyhounds by joining in this recycling effort. Perhaps you have a volunteer that would be in charge of gathering these items. Once enough are gathered to justify shipping, just box and send to: Greyhound Friends of North Carolina, P.O. Box 514, 2908 Oak Ridge Rd., Oak Ridge, NC 27310.*

*GFNC plans to ship supplies to their affiliate in Barcelona on an ongoing basis. Therefore, even if old collars and muzzles have been thrown away in the past.....STOP.....gather and send to GFNC. They will take it from there. There is no time limit on this drive. For more information call GFNC at 366-643-0233. Please visit the Greyhounds In Need website at <http://www.greyhoundrescue.co.uk>.*

## Oh, my aching back...

While Greyhounds as a breed tend not to suffer from the arthritic degeneration of the hips to which other large breed dogs are prone, they do appear to have a higher than average incidence of spondylosis deformans, or arthritis of the spine. In this condition, bony spurs called osteophytes form around the ends of vertebral segments, as if trying to bridge the disc space. This occurs particularly in the lumbar vertebrae (the lower back, behind the ribs).

This is due primarily to two factors. First, the segments of the spine associated with the ribs are supported by a connective tissue band that runs from the top of the rib on one side of the body to the top of the same rib on the other side. The band of connective tissue acts to stabilize that spinal segment and the associated intervertebral disc, making the thoracic spine much less susceptible to degeneration. Second, the lower back of Greyhounds is subject to tremendous strain in flexion and extension during racing, as the back arches and flexes to extend the length of the stride. This predisposes Greyhounds to premature degeneration of the discs between the vertebral segments of the spine. The body then responds to pain at a particular intervertebral space by trying to stabilize that space with new bone, creating osteophytes.

As a result, Greyhounds from middle to old age commonly have pain along their lower back, loss of muscle tone to the hind legs, and weakness or loss of neurologic function to the hind limbs. The Greyhound's human companion may describe this as an unwillingness to go up and down stairs, get up on the couch, or jump into the car. Alternately, wobbly hind legs, occasional stumbles and falls, particularly with the rear end going down, or scuffing and toe

dragging of the hind feet are other manifestations of spondylosis.

Veterinarians diagnose spondylosis by outlining a history of hind limb disability, by physical exam of lower back pain, observing muscle wasting in the hind limbs, and by noting scuffed rear toenails and/or loss of the dog's knowledge of its hind feet and their position in space. This is called conscious proprioception. A simple test for this reflex is done by supporting the dog's weight while turning first one, then the other hind foot over so the tops of the toes are in contact with the ground. Normally, dogs will immediately correct this abnormal stance.

Radiographs (x-ray images) of the spine are also critical to confirm spondylosis deformans, as well as gauge its severity, and pinpoint, the vertebral segments that are involved. In severe cases, where there may be compression of the spinal cord or nerve roots by osteophytes, a myelogram may be recommended to isolate the area of compression. A myelogram is a radiograph taken after dye has been injected into the space around the spinal cord. Surgical decompression may be required to return nerve function to the hind limbs.

In most cases, treatment is a matter of adequate management of the individual Greyhound's disability, as there is currently no way to reverse the effects of spondylosis deformans. Anti-inflammatory agents such as aspirin, Rimadyl®, Etogesic® and glucocorticoid steroids can offer significant pain relief and increased mobility to dogs with relatively mild degenerative changes. Nutraceuticals such as

the chondroitin sulfates, glycosaminoglycans, perna mussel, and shark cartilage can increase the viscosity of the small amount of synovial fluid that exists within



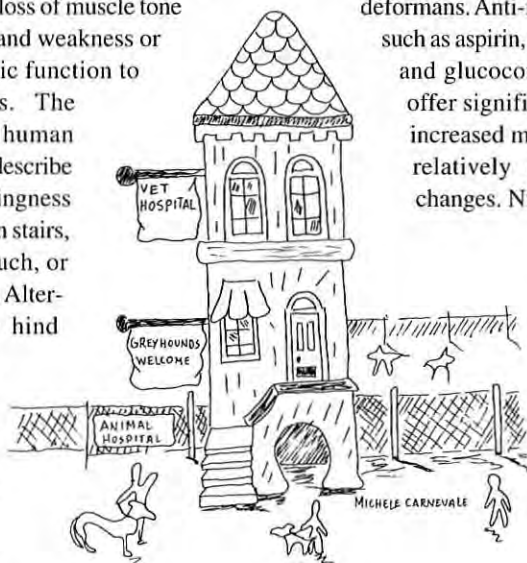
MARCIA HERMAN

the intervertebral spaces, as well as increasing the health of cartilage covering each vertebral segment. This can slow the continued degeneration of the joint and give comfort and greater mobility to the dog, but oral forms of these compounds take a long time to achieve an effect—perhaps as long as six weeks or more. There is an injectable form of glycosaminoglycans called Adequan® that takes effect more quickly and is widely used in performance horses.

In older dogs with significant loss of muscle mass in the hind limbs, and associated weakness and falling, anabolic steroids are sometimes used to help maintain muscle mass and strength. Anabolic steroids, however, can also increase the mass of the heart muscle, sometimes to the point of disease, and so must be used with care.

Finally, some dogs with spondylosis deformans achieve pain relief and increased mobility with the use of acupuncture. In my experience, the most improvement is seen in dogs with mild to moderate disability, while those individuals with severe muscle wasting or loss of nerve function to the hind limbs respond less dramatically. ♦

*Dr. Carter is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. She wishes to dedicate this article to the late Chaucer Herman, a Greyhound who had this disease. Editor's note: Chaucer was helped immensely by acupuncture administered by Dr. Carter.*



## Part Two: A Moving Experience

*When my husband was offered a great job in a new city, we decided to pull up stakes and relocate to the west coast of the USA. Our new city is San Diego, California, located more than 3,000 miles away from our former home of Ottawa, Canada. After selling our house, contacting a mover, packing all of our worldly belongings into boxes, and driving across the continent with our dogs, the next urgent concern was finding a landlord who was willing to rent a home to a family with three large dogs.*

# Finding a Rental Home

by Jody Frederick

First, I needed to gauge the overall attitude of San Diegans (and especially landlords) towards pets. The Internet is a gateway to information that lets you research a wide array of topics remotely. After plugging some key words (rental housing, landlords, pet policies) into search engines, I found a web site for San Diego dog owners that lists beaches, trails, and parks that allow dogs, recommends veterinarians and pet food stores, and gives information about pet adoption resources. From this web site, it seemed possible San Diego might be somewhat accommodating toward dogs.

Second, I checked out rental listings in the local newspaper to see how many ads mentioned pets. In addition to the classifieds

section of the newspaper, I found two web sites that give information about rental housing in different cities: [www.apartment.com](http://www.apartment.com) and <http://rental-housing.com/user-entryform.htm>.

Third, I tapped into the limitless knowledge available through the list-serve e-mail group GREYHOUND-L and a Usenet message board called [rec.pets.dogs.misc](mailto:rec.pets.dogs.misc). Through these two forums, I was able to exchange e-mail with two San Diego dog owners who were able to provide me with additional information regarding the rental market and the



**Jazz, who recently moved with her owner, Barbara Folkins (also of California) seems pleased that everything is packed and ready to go.**

chances of finding a rental house that accepts dogs. You can also contact the local Greyhound adoption organization to ask about

the rental market in the city and how many Greyhound adopters are homeowners versus tenants.

Finally, we signed up with a rental agency that works specifically with finding rental housing for pet owners. For a small one-time fee, the agency provided us with a list of rental properties that accepted pets.

Before applying for a rental house, I prepared for the anticipated barrage of (relevant) questions about our pets and us. To improve our chances of finding a landlord who would accept our three dogs and us, I compiled a portfolio we could show to all potential landlords. The portfolio consisted of “resumes” for each of our dogs, listing their achievements and certifications. I structured these resumes just like a human resume, providing information on vital statistics (name, breed, age, and size), education (number of training classes and levels achieved), and certifications (Canine Good Citizen and therapy dog certifications). The Greyhounds even had a career history: apprentice, racer, house pet, and therapy dog!

In addition to resumes, I obtained three written references from people who not only knew our dogs and us, but also had credentials themselves. The first and most obvious choice for a reference letter was the veterinarian to whom we brought our dogs for the past five years. He wrote a letter attesting to the health and good behaviour of our dogs. The second was from our next door neighbor who described what it was like to share an attached wall with three large dogs and never hear a peep. He also described the appearance of our house and yard, noting it was well-kept and clean. The final reference letter came from the trainer from whom we took our obedience lessons. She described the levels of training our dogs received and that we are owners who have taken the time to ensure our dogs are upstanding canine citizens. To add a personal touch, we included photos of our dogs, including many of Greyhounds doing what they do best: sleeping! We also enclosed literature and brochures on Greyhounds and the Greyhound adoption movement.

**A**fter applying for a few rental homes without success, it became clear there are some formidable stumbling blocks for tenants with pets. First, many rental units are managed by property management companies with strict rules about pets. These companies often place restrictions on the size and number of pets allowed. For example,

many properties advertise they allow pets, but really only accept cats. The properties that do allow dogs often put restrictions on the size of dog allowed—for example, only dogs under an arbitrary weight limit, such as 35 pounds. The weight limit seems unfair because Greyhounds are the near ideal canine companions: quiet, clean, and inactive. After researching this further, it seems weight limits are probably put in place for liability and insurance reasons to ensure breeds labelled as high-risk (Rottweilers and Pit Bull Terriers for example) are weeded out.

If you find a property you would like to rent, ask the property management company if you can contact the landlord directly. Tell the landlord about your situation and ask if you can show him/her your portfolio. Any training you invested in your dog is sure to pay off at this point. The Canine Good Citizen and therapy dog certifications will win you bonus points because they show your dog is a well-trained and contributing mem-



**Jody and husband Dave with Duffy and Amy while still in Ottawa. Their Standard Poodle, Oliver, joined the family later.**

ber of society. You can also offer to submit a larger security deposit than is required, demonstrating you are willing to compensate for any damage that might occur. Many landlords hire property management companies because they are not in the area or are unable/unwilling to screen applicants themselves. If you can explain your situation to the landlord, you might find one willing to work with you and override the management company’s pet policies.

If you are having difficulties finding a rental house, try to discover his/her reasons for not renting to pet owners. Sometimes the reasons are based on fear or misconception. If you can minimize the fear or clarify the perception, you stand a better chance of success. For example, in San Diego, fleas are a constant annoyance and can be difficult to control once an infestation occurs. To quell this fear, you can show proof that your dogs are protected from fleas by Advantage™ or Program™. If the landlord is concerned about damage, assure him or her you will use crates or ex-pens to confine your dogs to certain areas of the home (preferably in non-carpeted areas) when you are not present. If noise is a concern, discuss the fact that Greyhounds, unlike other breeds, are not known as barkers and then bring up the reasons why dogs bark incessantly. Some dogs bark because they are lonely (separation anxiety) or bored (lack of stimulation). Describe how your dogs do not fit into these categories, and supply references if necessary!

As for our story, I am happy to report we were successful in our quest to find a landlord that would take us and our three dogs. It really pays to have kind, animal-loving family members in your new city who also just happen to be landlords! ♦

*Jody Frederick is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. Part 1 of the great adventure started in the previous issue as Jody and Dave began their journey from Ottawa, Canada, to San Diego, California.*

## Raised-Bowl Feeder

Greyhounds have long necks. Getting their heads down to ground level to eat gives some Greyhounds difficulties. A raised-bowl feeder can make your Greyhound's dining experience more enjoyable by putting their food at a more comfortable level. We give instructions for a single-bowl feeder. By increasing some of the dimensions you can easily make a double-bowl feeder.

### Materials Needed

*Note: Dimensions need to be adjusted depending on type and size of bowls used.*

- Four 2 1/4" x 1" x 17" legs
- Two 2 1/4" x 1" x 15 1/2" rails (long side)
- Two 2 1/4" x 1" x 11 1/2" stiles (short side)
- One 13 1/2" x 1" x 22 1/2" board
- One or two bowls (we used the two-quart stainless steel bowl with about a 1/4" lip around the edge.)
- Four corner braces (made from scrap pieces)

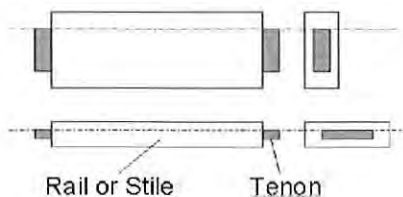
### Step 1: Legs

Cut leg stock to final dimensions listed above. You can get fancy if you'd like. Try a shaker-style tapered leg, a decorative scroll cut or even a turned leg design. Be sure to leave two square faces at the top of the legs for joining the rails and stiles.

Lay out a 1/4" x 1/4" x 1 3/4" mortise on two adjacent sides of the leg. When locating the two mortises, be sure that one mortise will not cut into the other. Cut out the mortises. To cut the mortises use a chisel, a drill, a straight cutting router bit, or (if you're lucky and have lots of tools) a hollow chisel mortiser.

### Step 2: Rails and Stiles

Cut the rail and stile stock to the dimensions listed. The rail and stile length (minus the tenon) will determine how much room there will be for the bowls, so you may have to adjust depending on the bowls you choose.



Lay out a 1/4" x 1/4" x 1 3/4" tenon at each end of each rail and stile. Be careful when locating the tenon to achieve the final desired look. You have two options here. The first option is to have a flush fit between the edge of the rail/stile and the leg. The second option is to have each rail and stile offset with a slight reveal. We chose the second option. Check the fit of each tenon into its corresponding mortise. The fit should be snug.

*Hint: If your mortises and tenons are slightly different in size, number the tenon and corresponding mortise.*

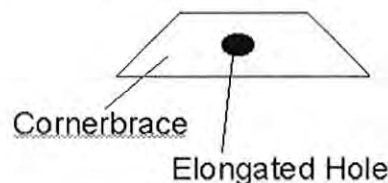
### Step 3: Rail/Stile Leg Sub-Assembly

Dry-fit all the rails and stiles to the legs one last time and make any final adjustments. This is a good time to sand all of these parts before assembling. Apply glue to the mortise and tenons and assemble. Check that the sub-assembly is square, then clamp until the glue is dry. Optionally, you can nail the joint with small brads from the inside of the leg through to the tenon.

### Step 4: Top

You can use either one piece or glue several pieces of stock to the desired final dimensions. Once the top has been cut to final size, place the rail/stile/leg sub-assembly upside down and centered on the "underside" of the top. Mark this position for future alignment. Place the bowls upside down and arrange centered between the rails and stiles.

Make the corner braces now by cutting 45-degree cuts on each end of a piece of scrap stock. Fit the corner braces into the corners to be sure they don't interfere with the bowls.



Use the upside-down bowls as a pattern and trace the outside edge. Drill a hole about 9" from the line inside the circle big enough for your jigsaw blade. Using the line as a

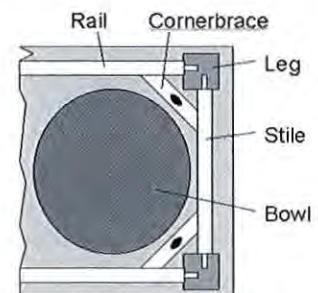


guide, cut out around the circle leaving a space that is about the width of the bowl lip from the line. If you cut exactly on the line, the bowl will drop through the top onto the floor. You must cut inside the line by the width of the lip. Don't get any closer to the line than the width of the lip. It doesn't have to be pretty and you can always fine tune with a file or drum sander.

Check to make sure the bowls lie flat. This is a good time to sand the top.

### Step 5: Final Assembly

Attach the corner braces into each corner. Drill an elongated hole through the corner brace. Center the top over the rail/stile/leg sub-assembly and clamp in place. Attach the top to the rail/stile/leg sub-assembly with screws; start from the bottom and go through the elongated hole in the corner brace. Be sure the screw does not poke through the tabletop surface.



Apply the desired finish to the raised-bowl feeder. We were going for a Shaker look, so we painted the top and stained the bottom. Remember: the top will be exposed to water, dog drool, and food particles. Protective coatings are advised. You can use a coat or two of polyurethane or spar for this added protection. Using 220 grit or higher sandpaper, sand lightly between protective coats for a nice smooth finish. ❖



### Matching Fund Initiative: The Morris Animal Foundation's Canine Cancer Studies

*Wow! Unbelievable! Just Plain Incredible!*

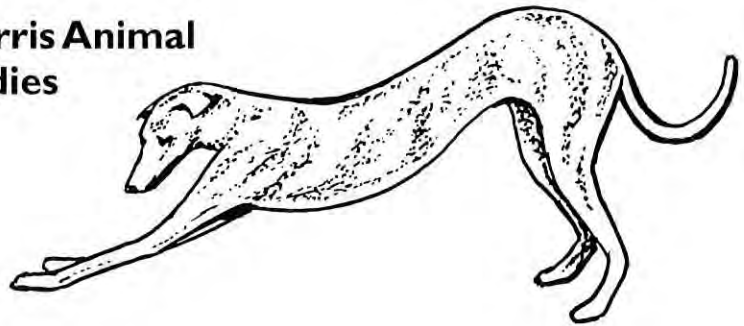
So, do you want to know what all the shouting is about? You, each one of you, is making a difference... and here's how: donations.

In March 1998 we asked the Greyhound adoption community to support The Greyhound Project's matching fund initiative by donating to Morris Animal Foundation's Canine Cancer Studies. We promised to match donations up to a total of \$2,500. Then we crossed our fingers and hoped we would reach our goal of a total donation of \$5,000. You responded and together we exceeded our goal and donated a total of \$6,656. Not bad for a first year effort!

We were cautiously optimistic and decided to *up the ante*. In March 1999, we challenged you by raising the amount we would match to a total of \$3,500. Based on the response from the prior year, a total of \$7,000 seemed reasonable, but the number of good causes needing money is almost endless. Were we being realistic in asking you to donate again?

Oh we of little faith... you've knocked our socks off! You blew right by our \$3,500 goal for you by October 1, 1999, with five months to go in the challenge year. While individual donations continued to come in, the crowd that gathered at Dewey Beach over the Columbus Day weekend pulled off a cool coup by raising another \$2,237. Not to be outdone, Judy Dillon got on the Internet and challenged all her Greyhound-L contacts to give a dollar each by Thanksgiving. A new floodgate opened. In but a few weeks of WEB hounding (pun intended), she'd raised another \$3,000. To all of your donations The Greyhound Project added its pledged \$3,500. As of the December 1, 1999 deadline for getting this article to our editor (with three months left in the challenge year), all of us had raised \$14,145 for Morris Animal Foundation's Canine Cancer Studies. Can you believe it? Twice the goal we set! But that is only the first part of the good news.

As you probably know by now, Morris Animal Foundation sponsors humane animal health studies, including over 40 which



address canine cancer, the leading disease-related cause of death in dogs. 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. A new study is underway and The Greyhound Project (meaning all who have supported this fundraiser) is a major sponsor of it.

Many of you have heard of endostatin, an inhibitor of new blood vessel growth. Scientists have discovered cancerous tumors actually stimulate new blood vessel growth and new blood vessels promote tumor's growth. The study we are sponsoring is using a new form of intravenous gene therapy to deliver the canine endostatin gene to tumor blood vessels in dogs with existing soft tissue sarcoma. Over the two-year duration of this study, investigators will assess the inhibition of tumor blood vessels and the effect on tumor growth. According to one source at Morris Animal Foundation, this is the most exciting and promising cancer study yet.

Now is not the time to rest on our laurels. The two-year cost of this study alone is \$108,900. We need to do more; and so we will.

On March 1, 2000 we begin this third year of the matching fund initiative with a pledge from The Greyhound Project to match donations to Morris Animal Foundation's Canine Cancer Studies up to a total of \$3,500. In addition, we have put together information packages about this fundraising initiative and are asking adoption groups to give one to every new Greyhound adopter. We need each of you to make a donation AND get involved. Don't worry; we'll make it easy and we know you will find it fun and rewarding. All you have to do is contact us when your adoption group is having any

kind of event or when you plan on attending some other event or activity to promote Greyhound adoption.

We'll send you information packets and donation envelopes to hand out at the event. For more information and to receive packages for your event, write to The Greyhound Project, MAF Initiative at P.O. Box 173, Holbrook, MA 02343.

Don't forget to make your own donation. It is 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.

To all who have donated, thank you!

#### **Congratulations! You are a finalist!**

In September, The Greyhound Project submitted the Winter 1998 and Spring 1999 issues of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* (two issues are required) to the annual Dog Writers Association of America writing competition. We were notified by letter in December that *CG* was one of three finalists in the Single-breed magazine Category.

Additionally, teen writer Jordan Mebane was also nominated as a finalist in the Editorial/Opinion Piece/Essay category. Her article "From the Mebane Couch" appeared in the Summer 1999 issue of *CG*.

Congratulations to all. This nomination is indeed an honor but it would not be possible without all the wonderful articles that have been donated to *CG* over the years. The Greyhound Project thanks all writers, photographers, and artists for their submissions.

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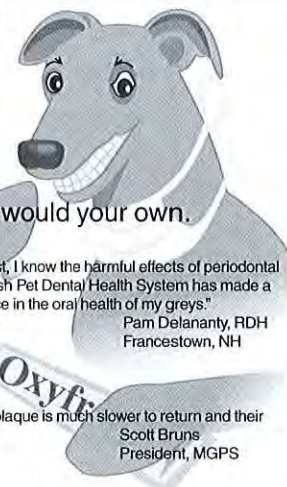
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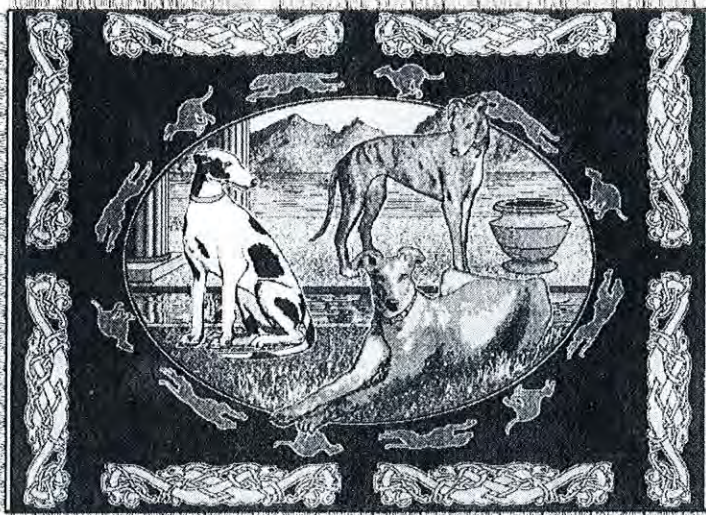
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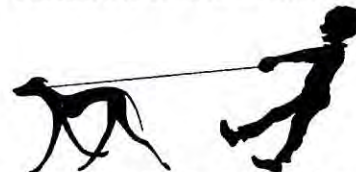
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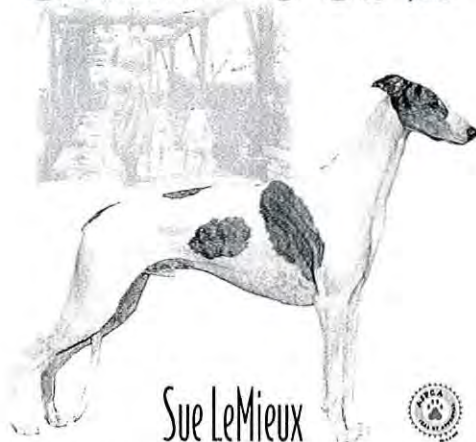
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Huntington Beach, California

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A huge event in a beautiful park. The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhound Drill Team will be performing for us this year. We will also have a drawing for prizes, silent auction, many vendors, nail clipping, organized contests and other fun booths. A Bar-B-Que lunch will be included.

For more information, call Nancy Madigan at 562-693-3450; [nansgreys@aol.com](mailto:nansgreys@aol.com).

Saturday, May 13th

### **Greyhound Adoption Service, Inc. Annual Reunion**

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

Middlesex Country 4-H Fairgrounds

South Chelmsford Road

Westford, Mass.

Family fun with your fastest friend! Fun dog show, events for kids, best dressed dog, raffle, Greyhound products for sale

For more information, call Kim Bowers: 781-641-1577; [kbowers@mfs.com](mailto:kbowers@mfs.com).

Saturday and Sunday, May 13 & 14

### **Greyhound Gathering—Kanab 2000** Greyhound Gang

Kanab, Utah (very near to Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion National Parks)

Two full days of dogs, shopping, hikes, parade, food, dogs, and more dogs in the scenic red cliffs of Kanab, Utah.

For more information, contact Claudia Presto: 435-644-2903; [www.greyhoundgang.com/gathering.html](http://www.greyhoundgang.com/gathering.html); or [greygang@presto.org](mailto:greygang@presto.org). Registration starts January 1st on-line.

Saturday and Sunday, May 20 & 21

### **Spring Open House**

12:00 noon to 5 p.m.

Greyhound Friends, Inc.

167 Saddle Hill Rd.

Hopkinton, Mass.

For info, call 508-435-5969

Sunday, May 21

### **Rescued Racers Annual Greyhound Gathering**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rescued Racers

St. Louis, Missouri

Annual Greyhound picnic with lots of contests, events, raffles, food and a silent auction. Also performing are the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhound Drill Team with Kathleen and Gil Gilley!

For more information contact Leann Forster: 314-423-4126; [gdogglady@yahoo.com](mailto:gdogglady@yahoo.com); or Mindy Copp: 314-230-8790; [mindycopp@prodigy.net](mailto:mindycopp@prodigy.net); or Sheryl Peltz: 14-353-4536; [peltz@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:peltz@artsci.wustl.edu).

Saturday, June 3

### **Greyhound Pets of America – Minnesota**

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spooner Park, Little Canada, Minnesota

The largest Greyhound festival in Minnesota! Huge raffles, games, contests, food, shopping. Something for everyone.

For more information: [Krau0073@tc.umn.edu](mailto:Krau0073@tc.umn.edu); or call 612-785-4000.

Saturday, June 3, 2000

### **Millenium Homecoming Reunion**

Personalized Greyhounds, Inc.

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pinchot State Park

Lewisberry, Penn. (Harrisburg, PA area)

The Famous Traveling Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhound Drill Team will appear and present shows at our 5th Reunion Covered dish luncheon, vendors, Chinese auction, nail clipping, numerous contests for the Greyhounds.

For further information, contact Cheryl Kovaly: [cheryllkovaly@yahoo.net](mailto:cheryllkovaly@yahoo.net); [www.pgreys.org/events](http://www.pgreys.org/events).

Sunday, June 11th

### **Third Annual South Jersey Picnic**

National Greyhound Adoption Program

11 a.m. to p.m.

Estell Manor Park

Mays Landing, New Jersey

Admission \$15/family

For further information, call Merci Riccardi at 609-266-7818.

## IN MEMORIAM



### **Hunk Fishella (left)**

Although pictured on the back cover of Winter 1999, Hunk died this summer at age five because of a seizure disorder. He came to live with Karen Fishella of Orland Hills, Illinois after being attacked by a dog in a previous foster home while seizuring. Over time, Karen's home went from foster to permanent where he lived one year. His seizures became infrequent but returned with a vengeance. He is deeply missed by all who knew his sweet, gentle spirit.

### **Teddy and Ralphie Steiner**

Died at 15 and 13, on the same day in December. Owned and loved by Ed and Jeanette Steiner of Waterloo, Iowa. Teddy

### **Maggie Corrigan (right)**

Nine-year-old Maggie (1990-1999) of complications from pancreatitis on October 29. Owned by Jack and Amy Corrigan, Newberlineville, Pennsylvania. She was their favorite model for Greyhound Manor craft projects and appeared in many photos in the Corrigan's Craft column in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. Most recently, she was shown in the exercise pen column. You can also find her photo on many of the Greyhound Manor craft pattern pages. She was one of a pair of hounds that started the Greyhound Manor craft idea. Maggie was beautiful fawn girl with an extremely outgoing personality, she was a grinner, a smiler, a snuggler, and a naughty slipper eater.



of old-age, Ralphie from a medical problem. Jeanette Steiner was the publisher and editor of *Greyhounds Today* magazine and was the original founder of Teddy's Greyhound Treasures, one of the first ever Greyhound product vendors.

### **Snug Walsh (left)**

Died at 11 on Oct. 16 of osteosarcoma of the hip. He resided in Wall, New Jersey as Kathleen Walsh's foster dog since July 12 and is featured in the Reiki article in this issue.



**Mama Ginger, a newly adopted 10-year-old brood bitch, waits for someone to join her in bed.**

**Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine**

The Greyhound Project, Inc.  
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