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celebrating greyhounds

Spring 2004

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WILLIAM SHUMAKER

editorial comments

By Cindy Hanson

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Cindy Hanson
Adoptions Editor: Mary Bauer
Features Editor: Dana Provost

Copy Editors: Jill Allen, Alice O'Hearn, Ann Penfield, Susan Tanona,
Laura Tidwell, Lynda Weikowitz, Tiffany Whitt, Karyn Zoldan

Editor Emeritus: Marcia Herman

Data Base Librarian: Ellen McCracken

Webmaster: Lori Kriz

Regular Contributors: Jim Bader, DVM, Nancy Beach,
Jack and Amy Corrigan, Bruce DeKing, Laurel E. Drew,
Kathy Hoynes, Lee Livingood

Art Director: Zographix, Inc.

Veterinary Advisors: Jim Bader DVM, Rodger Barr DVM

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence concerning editorial matters such as letters to the editor, submitting magazine articles, artwork, photos, writer's guidelines requests (please enclose SASE), as well as adoption group matters, advertising, calendar photo submissions and orders, donations, subscription service, single copy purchases, and all other business matters should be addressed to:

The Greyhound Project
P.O. Box 5239
Framingham, MA 01701

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What can we find in the open hand, extended?

A pledge. Or a plea, perhaps. For what? Assistance, camaraderie, goodwill, respect, forgiveness?

Sometimes I wonder why making — and responding — to this simple gesture can be so extraordinarily difficult. Are we so convinced that we can get there on our own? Does our vision burn with such white-hot clarity that everything — and everyone — around it just falls away? Perhaps our reticence is borne of a lack of trust, or memories of past slights and cruelties. Perhaps we fear that the admission of need is a weakness.

Is it this fear that causes us to lash out at one another?

At the 2003 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference, Greyhound Pets of America President Rory Goreé likened the Greyhound adoption community to a flock of turkeys aroused by blood in their midst. "How many of us go home at night," he asked, "feeling pecked to death?"

I have a theory about this. In my cynical moments, I wonder if some of us work on behalf of animals because we just don't get along with *people* all that well. While animals can surely break your heart, on the whole, their love is far simpler than that of human beings. People are complicated. Furthermore, working on behalf of retired racing Greyhounds — a breed with a compelling backstory — confers a purpose, a connection to something larger than oneself. Combine that sense of mission with a lack of aptitude (or appetite) for collaboration, and the result can be corrosive. As Rory Goreé so aptly put it, we get *Greyhound warfare*.

Don't get me wrong: Greyhound adoption would not be where it is today without the efforts of a few mavericks and iconoclasts. But as Greyhound adoption enters its third decade, with hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals working to place Greyhounds in adoptive homes all over the world, we have so much to learn from one another.

This issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* contains several articles devoted to cooperation and outreach. Anne Finch of Greyhounds in Need describes her work in Europe, transcending geographic, cultural, and linguistic barriers to build international interest in the adoption of Greyhounds and Galgos. Betty Mercey of GreyhoundsRescue Holland and Nuria Blanco of Amigos de los Galgos in Spain also discuss their work across borders. Rory Goreé provides an update of Greyhound Pets of America's 7x7 program, an ambitious initiative for the growth of Greyhound adoption in the United States. Mary Neubauer and Karyn Zoldan discuss how adoption groups can use advertising to get the word out. And this issue includes a history of the Gilley Girls, the beloved team of Dancing Greyhounds who have traveled all over North America, promoting Greyhound adoption and delighting audiences with their performances.

I extend my outstretched palm, calling softly. Hattie comes to me, head slightly down, tail switching. Ever so gently she places her chin in my hand and raises her amber eyes to me.

Her eyes are filled with trust and hope.





Jack, adopted by Fiona and Nigel Moore of Reichenberg, Switzerland.

Uncle Sam Wants You

Nearly four million federal employees are reached by the charitable program known as the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This annual donation program is open to all charitable organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt under Title 26, United States Code, Section 501(c)(3). Many Greyhound adoption groups qualify. This year the Greyhound Adoption Center (www.Greyhoundog.org) is listed as an unaffiliated local charity while the National Greyhound Foundation (352-628-2881) is listed in the National/International Animal Charities of America section.

It would be nice to see more Greyhound groups making use of this source of donations. Of the four million federal employees who are contacted by the CFC, nearly two million become donors to one or more of the CFC charities. Giving is relatively painless since you can do it by having a few dollars withheld from each of your paychecks during the year, but the charity receives the total amount in one payment.

Applicant organizations must meet the eli-

gibility and public accountability standards detailed in the United States Code of Federal Regulations, Title 5, Chapter 950. The application deadline to participate as a local organization is determined by local campaign officials, usually in March or April of each year. So there is still time to get those applications ready for 2004. Information about how to apply to be a part of your local campaign, including a list of local campaign contacts and local campaign boundaries, is available from the CFC home website (www.opm.gov/cfc).

Patricia Gail Burnham
Via E-Mail

Remembering Suzi

Just got our issue of *CG* and Dick and I are both very moved and appreciative of Suzi's memorial ("In Memoriam," Fall 2003 *CG*). Thank you so much; the picture is adorable and very, very typical of how she was and the words were lovely. Thank you so much from both of us.

Nancy and Dick Waddell
Via E-Mail

♥ U 2

I'm a charter subscriber to *Celebrating Greyhounds* and I want to tell you how much I have learned over the years from your excellent magazine. As a placement rep I've found your information to be invaluable in helping me to make solid placements in the first place, and then to forge the positive bond between adopter and Greyhound.

But there is one thing I have to tell you: I hate your new name. Your cover pictures are always adorable, but what does "*cgmagazine*" actually mean? Anyone can see it's a magazine, but I want to see the word GREYHOUNDS boldly across the top of the cover, not in tiny type under a bland and meaningless title. Whatever possessed you to take out the most important word and replace it with initials, putting you right up there with GQ, KFC, and IHOP? Surely the Greyhound world is a cut above that intelligence level.

I will remain a loyal subscriber. It's just that I've been fretting about this ever since you made the change and had to give you my opinion.

Barbara Willcox
Grass Valley, Calif.



Bernie. Adopted by Dan and Lauren Emery, North Yarmouth, Me. LAUREN EMERY

Down, Girl

I am writing as a subscriber of several years to your magazine who actually contemplated not renewing my subscription this fall. I have noticed over the last several issues that the tone of the magazine has changed and I am finding that there is less and less useful information. When I first started receiving this magazine my husband and I would fight over who got to read it first. This is no longer the case. I used to look forward to the veterinary articles and I have a file folder full of articles I have saved for reference. Sadly this is no longer the case.

I have to admit that when the Fall issue arrived I was delighted by the picture of the puppy on the cover. Once I began reading, I was disappointed. The issue seemed to promote puppy adoption in a way that made me concerned for the thousands of adult dogs in need of homes.

I realize that everyone has different opinions and I may be in the minority but I would welcome a return to a magazine that had interesting and informative stories for the average Greyhound owner.

Lisa Stringer
Chicago, Ill.

Just like our beloved Greyhounds, CG's editorial staff tends to respond much better to positive reinforcement than a whack on the nose with a rolled-up magazine. Instead of telling us what you don't like, tell us what you would like to see in Celebrating Greyhounds. Better yet, if you don't like what you read in these pages, write your own article and send it to us. —Ed.

Smile!

I noticed in the CG issue I just received (Winter 2003) the photo credit on page 7 reads Praveen Mutalik. While Praveen takes great photos, it would have been difficult for him to take this one, because he is in the photo. Actually, the photo is by John Mottern. I remember I asked Praveen to be in the photo. Just for the sake of clarity

Louise Coleman
Via E-Mail

This photograph was provided to CG by Praveen Mutalik by way of Joan Belle Isle. When we asked Joan if Praveen had indeed taken the photo, she recalled that Praveen handed his camera to John Mottern, who snapped the picture while Praveen took his place in the group. Thanks for giving us this opportunity to provide credit where credit is due. — Ed.

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Please send letters by e-mail to the editorial office (CG Magazine, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112). Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also appreciated.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter or photo.

Your Outta Control Puppy

Teoti Anderson

Your
Outta
Control
Puppy



How to Turn Your Precocious Pup into a Perfect Pet!

Your Outta Control Puppy

By Teoti Anderson

TFH Publications, Inc.

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I'm easy. If I find a single tip in a book or video that solves a problem or improves the dog/adopter relationship, then I usually consider that book worth its cost.

While I may be too generous about whether a book is worth the cover price, I am far more demanding about which books I will include in my resource list for my students.

Using that criterion, Teoti Anderson's new book, *Your Outta Control Puppy*, is a gold mine.

Let's talk first about what it isn't. It is not an in-depth book on puppy care. Nor is

it an exhaustive volume on all the training issues related to getting through your puppy's early months. It is not a basic training book. It is not specific to Greyhound puppies. And having the book will not turn your puppy into Lassie.

It is a friendly, amusing, and simple guide to living through your puppy's version of the terrible twos.

It is 151 pages of common sense and behaviorally sound advice in an easy-to-read style.

It is a handbook on understanding, preventing, and solving common puppy issues such as house training, mouthing and biting, leash pulling, crate training, barking, jumping and more.

One of the problems that I often encounter in my puppy classes is that adopters, including many folks who have raised lots of dogs in their lives, have little knowledge of normal puppy and dog behavior. They often do not understand the reasons for common behaviors or attribute them to the wrong causes. Anderson addresses normal puppy behavior and common myths about bad behavior and puts them in perspective with gentle humor.

She focuses on the role you should play in your new puppy's development as well as the roles your family and friends will play. She helps you define and develop the tools and the skills you need to help your pup become a well-mannered and joyful part of your family. And there is an excellent section on the relationships of puppies and children.

There are lots of ways to look at problem behaviors, and Anderson provides plenty of practical approaches and cautions about the things we do to undermine our success. She addresses what is and is not appropriate punishment and how and when to use rewards.

If you are a new or frazzled Greyhound puppy adopter, this could be the smartest purchase you will make. Few books out there handle these basic issues as well.

While most of the advice should be common knowledge to most dog trainers, even trainers may find a tidbit or two that is new and useful — or at least find ways to present the information to students or clients that may be more effective than what you are doing.

Anderson is well qualified to write this book. She is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and the owner of Pawsitive Results, L.L.C. She has been a professional dog trainer for more than 9 years. She currently serves as Vice President of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. She is a licensed Delta Society Team Training Instructor. Anderson and her Pet Partner team of Cody, a three-legged Labrador Retriever, and tabby cat Sebastian earned the national Delta Society Beyond Limits Animal Therapy Team of the Year award for 1999/2000. She assists local and national dog rescue groups with fostering and training consultations and is frequently found bathing new arrivals at GPA/South Carolina.

Your Outta Control Puppy is one of the best new puppy books to come along in some time. Do yourself and your best pal a favor and add this informative and practical book to your essential Greyhound library. ■

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

Greyhound Adoption News



Lucca, Dante, and Tosca, adopted by Lisa and Barry Lewis.

Massachusetts Greyhound Adoption Fund Awards Grants

The Massachusetts Retired Greyhound Care and Adoption Council awarded nearly a quarter of a million dollars in grant funding to Greyhound adoption groups at the end of 2003. Funded through the Retired Greyhound Adoption Trust Fund, the grants are designed to encourage and assist in the adoption of racing Greyhounds that never qualified to race or that have reached the end of their racing careers. The program focuses on Greyhounds bred and/or raced in Massachusetts.

The Council, which operates through the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, is charged with adopting rules and regulations and overseeing the trust fund established by law to fund the program. The trust fund receives 0.5 percent of the funds generated through the live handle from the racetracks located in Massachusetts.

The groups that received funding for 2004 include: Adopt a Greyhound Inc. of Falmouth, Mass.; Greyhound Adoption Service, Inc. of Salisbury, Mass.; Fast Friends of West Swanzey, N.H.; Greyhound Placement Service of New Hampshire; Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc. of Mendon, Mass.; and Greysland Greyhound Adoption of Hopkinton, Mass. Three additional groups will receive awards contingent on availability of excess funds; they are Greyhound Pets of America/Massachusetts, Greyhound Options, Inc. of Ware, Mass., and Greyhound Rescue, Inc. of Gerrardstown, W.Va. All groups receiving grants will be required to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The trust fund helps non-profit Greyhound adoption groups offset expenses associated with kennel space, office equipment, transportation, maintenance, and program promotion.

According to the Council's website (www.state.ma.us/dfa/greyhound/index.htm), the Council will be offering future grant assistance to qualifying organizations. Grants may be awarded at various times during the year, so the Council urges interested organizations to monitor the site for announcements of available grants. The Council may award a number of smaller grants, larger grants, a combination thereof, or grant products or services that are used in the normal course of Greyhound care and adoption.

Florida Panhandle Track Opens New Adoption Kennel

Jefferson County Kennel Club (JCKC) in Monticello, Florida closed for the season in November 2003, but not before establishing a new pet kennel for Greyhounds awaiting transportation to adoption groups.

JCKC owner Steve Andris provides the kennel and a paid staff to care for the dogs. The

volunteers of Southeastern Greyhound Adoption (SEGA)/Tallahassee keep the records, organize hauls to transport the dogs to waiting adoption groups, and pay the costs of food and transportation. Monticello Animal Medical Clinic provides the veterinary care.

Pam Davis of SEGA/Tallahassee reports, "Two years ago, our little group moved exactly 16 dogs to adoption, all from one kennel . . . this year, we're working with all 12 racing kennels and only time will tell how many lucky puppies we'll move into adoption."

Care of the Racing Greyhound Update

Dr. Linda Blythe, one of the principal authors of *Care of the Racing Greyhound* (American Greyhound Council, 1994), has proposed a long-needed update of this invaluable resource, regarded by many as the bible of Greyhound medical care. Depending upon the amount of financial backing pledged by the National Greyhound Association and other sources, the product could be a simple update of the current book based on the latest medical knowledge, or it could represent a major expansion of the book, including new sections that could be very useful for owners of pet Greyhounds.

Dr. Blythe seeks input from all segments of the Greyhound community as to the changes and additions people would like to see in the next edition. All sincere suggestions will receive serious consideration.

If you have any suggestions for the updating of *Care of the Racing Greyhound*, please send them via e-mail to Brett Weeks at major_trekker@msn.com. Please include "Care Update" as a preface in the Subject line of your message.

How You Can Help the Galgos

Suzanne Stack, DVM is organizing an ongoing collection of medicines, medical supplies, coats, and muzzles to be donated to the Spanish Greyhounds. She will send your donations to European Greyhound refuges such as Scooby, GIN (Greyhounds

in Need), SOS Galgos, Alicante, and refuges in Ireland. These places are all operating on shoestrings and will use anything you donate. Please save this notice because the time will likely come when you have something to send.

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

Collars and Muzzles for the Galgos

Calling all adoption groups! The Spanish Greyhounds need your gently used, plastic kennel muzzles, as well as any extra

safety-slip and martingale-style collars and raincoats your group or adopters can spare. If your adopters can supply you with their extra equipment, please gather and box it for shipment. Send it to:

American/European Greyhound Alliance, Inc.
167 Saddle Hill Road
Hopkinton, MA 01748

Donations will be distributed in accordance with the donor's wishes. There is no time limit on this drive. For more information, call AEGA at 508-435-5969 or visit www.ameurogreyhoundalliance.org.



Howie, adopted by Matt and Janet Gibson.

Greyhound Project News



Perhaps this lovely trio is looking for their owners? So are we...their photo came to us with no identifying information. If you know these mystery dogs, please let us know!

It's Calendar Time

The Greyhound Project collects photos for the Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar all year long. Photos for the 2005 calendar will be selected in early April. Photos that come in after the selections are made will be held for the next year.

The address to which to send your photos is:

The Greyhound Project, Inc.
Attn: Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar
P.O. Box 5239
Framingham, MA 01701

Prints of any size are acceptable. It is generally better not to try to enlarge a smaller print. The original is usually clearer and easier to work with. And the calendar staff will have greater success at producing the enlargements than you will.

Please put a label on the back of each photograph you send. The label should include your name, address, the names of the dogs, and the name of the adoption group or other source of the dog. If you got your dogs directly from the racing owner or trainer, that's great; they are just as eligible for the calendar as dogs that are placed by an adoption group.

If you have digital images, they must

have been taken at the highest resolution that your camera will produce in order to be acceptable for printing. Please send us a print of the image as well as a copy of the image on a CD. Be sure to note on the label that the picture is also on CD, and include the file name.

Please label everything. There is nothing more frustrating than sorting through all the photos that we want to use only to find that one of them is anonymous. It's usually one of the really great pictures that we want to use, too.

If you have photos that were taken by someone else, please obtain their written permission for us to use the photos. If the photo was taken at a nursing home or therapy program of some sort, please obtain permission from the program.

The photos for the calendar are selected by a group of Greyhound adopters. The members of the group change from year to year, depending on who is around and wants to come play on the weekend that we gather around a big table and go through the photos. The people looking at the photos generally won't know the people or the dogs in the pictures. They are looking for the images that 'speak' to them.

2003 Dewey Beach Yearbook Available

With the help of lots of people who made it to Greyhounds Reach the Beach 2003 on Columbus Day Weekend, we have put together a limited edition yearbook of photos capturing the memories of the weekend. More than 250 color pictures of the dogs, people, and events of the weekend are included in the 64-page bound softcover book. Get a copy for yourself and share the magic of the weekend with your friends. Quantities are limited. The Greyhounds Reach the Beach – Dewey 2003 Yearbook can be ordered from The Greyhound Project, Inc., 295 Tremont St., Newton, MA 02458. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine Wins Award

The Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA) has honored *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* as the winner of the Maxwell Award for Best Single Breed Magazine in the DWAA 2003 Annual Writing Competition.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine won the award in 2002, 2001, and 2000, and was a finalist for the award in 1999.

Cynthia Branigan's article for the Spring 2003 issue of *CG*, "Dog Tired: How to Save Animals — And Your Sanity!" was a finalist in the Magazine: Editorial/Opinion/Essay category.

Finalists and winners were announced at the DWAA's annual banquet in New York City on February 8, 2004.

Subscription Questions?

Send them to Betsy, our business manager, at subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org or mail them to: *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, P.O. Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701. ■

Emily Heals Herself



Emily, one tough princess. JIM WILLIAMSON

April 2003: After lying pinned underneath a 200-lb boulder for four days in Canyonlands National Park in southern Utah, climber Aron Ralston frees himself by amputating his own arm with a pocketknife.

July 2003: Professional cyclist Tyler Hamilton finishes fourth in the 2,000-mile Tour de France, despite having fractured his collarbone in the first stage of the race.

And then there was Emily . . .

One Saturday at the dog park, our sweet Emily spent the last part of the evening lying down. This was not unusual for her, so I thought nothing of it until it was time to leave. She seemed to be favoring her right rear leg, and was biting the nails on that foot. Since I have seen her bite her nails before, I just told her to stop and loaded the furry kids into the truck.

When we got home, she started limping.

I took a closer look at the leg. The outside toe was actually twisted so that the pad, instead of pointing downward, was resting alongside the next toe. It was rotated 45 degrees inward. Emily had lived with us for only a few short months. Was it possible I had overlooked that toe all this time? At first I thought maybe the toe had always been that way and I had just never noticed, since my handling of her foot didn't even make her flinch. The foot looked painful to me, but she had only a slight limp. She had some swelling in the hock area, and that seemed a more likely cause of the limp since the toe did not seem to bother her.

Knowing she had to be in pain, I gave her half a Rimadyl® and started making vet calls, looking for someone to be open. The usual emergency veterinarian didn't answer. I didn't even get his voicemail. (I still think

something was wrong with his line.)

While I was making the calls, Emily showed just how tough she was, and I found out why she had been biting the nail in the park. She grabbed the nail in her teeth and pulled the toe. There was an audible pop, like knuckles being cracked, followed by a second pop just like it. She sighed and looked at me as if to say "You're too slow, buddy!" The toe was back in place. Ten minutes later, she showed no sign of a limp.

As fragile as she looks, so dainty and delicate, I'll never think of her as such again. Our Princess Emily is one tough dog. ■

Jim Williamson volunteers with Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions of Clearwater/Largo, Fla. (www.goldcoastgreyhounds.com) and For the Love of Greyhound Adoptions, Largo, Fla. (www.fortheloveofgreyhounds.org). He and his family adopted their first Greyhound in August 2002. He runs a rescue/adoption group web hosting business (www.petrescuehosting.com).

The Very Fortunate Lucky Bannon



Lucky Bannon. GREYHOUND HALL OF FAME

Lucky Bannon is the latest of the dogs talented enough to be honored in the Greyhound Hall of Fame. Lucky had an excellent racing record, winning the American Derby before he was retired because of injury. He posted a 32-10-2 record of placements in just 50 races. He was also named

to the All-American Team as were several of his offspring.

After his retirement, Lucky went on to be a consistent Top Ten Sire. His descendants include three Hall of Fame inductees and six American Derby winners. Lucky's best-known pups were son Yankee Clipper

and daughter Lucky Terra. Lucky Terra was the dam of Kunta Kinte and the granddam of Perceive and Buzz Off, both Hall of Fame inductees.

Lucky Bannon, a good-looking red dog, was born on September 17, 1967 at the farm of Ed Craig. Sired by Michigan Jack, and out of Valoretta, he arrived in the world with a notable heritage. Michigan Jack was the son of the Hall of Fame dog Julius Caesar* out of My Lucky Gertie. Valoretta was sired by Great Valor and out of Lahoma Judy. Of course Great Valor was by the great Mixed Harmony, another Hall of Fame dog. He was not a huge dog, running at 67 pounds, but he was consistent and far superior to the rest of his litter.

Bob Thomas, the kennel owner, said of Lucky, "He was one of our best. He was probably our smartest Greyhound. He had more track sense than any of our other greyhounds." He went on to state that Lucky's intelligence reminded him of his granddam, Lahoma Judy, who knew instinctively how to avoid trouble on the track and take advantage of openings. Lucky was much the same way in his methods. He was also a late finisher and had great endurance. Many of his offspring were the same, capable of going a distance and with good finishing speed and endurance.

Lucky's best-known pups were son Yankee Clipper and daughters Lucky Terra and Abella. Abella was another American Derby winner. Between 1969 and 1990, Lucky's bloodline produced the following American Derby winners, Abella, Position, Anxious Wait, Prince Proper and Swedish Episode. Quite a heritage!

Lucky Bannon died October 4, 1978 at the age of 11 years. His line, however, will live on for a long time to come. ■

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor.

The Girl



NJ at rest. AVA YOUNG

"You'll never be able to keep that promise." My husband shook his head slowly, pursing his lips as if to keep himself from saying more.

"Yes, I will. I won't even ask to keep her. Please." I tried not to whine because whining was a dead giveaway. I always whine when he's right. The trick would be to say something he had to agree with. Yeah, that would put us on the same side and then maybe I could lead him where I wanted him. "NJ looks thinner every week and she doesn't have an ounce to spare."

Hah! He had to agree with that. No Greyhound just off the racetrack ever has an ounce to spare.

"That's not the point, Joanne."

Who cared what the point was? All that mattered was that NJ Bourne was not doing well at the kennel and needed help. She needed a foster home where she'd be doted on, fed well and given tasty treats, and taught about the real world of houses, positive attention, and stairs. Most of all, she needed training. She didn't stand a chance of being adopted the way she was.

She jumped on and slammed into everyone around her, preferably after a running start. Not surprisingly, most people didn't appreciate being body-slammed by fifty pounds of solid muscle, no matter how cute

the muscle was. NJ welcomed her visitors by nibbling on their arms. This habit soon earned her the dubious nickname "Jaws." One poor kennel volunteer even had NJ use her back as a runway ramp. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

Because of her out-of-control behavior, NJ was spending more and more time alone in her crate, watching the other dogs interact with each other and the volunteers. This semi-isolation only made NJ's behavior worse, which led to more time alone, which led to worse behavior. It was heartbreaking because everyone who spent a little time with her agreed she was basically a sweet dog. She was just . . . exuberant. Like a caffeine-guzzling wind-up toy on crack.

The problem was that Greyhound Rescue already had its hands full. The kennel was full and the volunteers were busier than ever. We cared for the dogs in the kennel, introduced dogs to the public every weekend at meet-and-greets, and filled our homes with new adoptees and foster dogs waiting for homes.

No one had the time, space, or energy that a fireball like NJ Bourne demanded.

Except us.

"We already have two dogs," Jay argued.

"So? I don't want to adopt her. I just want to foster her."

"We'd still have three dogs in the house."

"Not for long. I'll get her trained, fatten her up, and find a home for her within a month."

He couldn't have looked more skeptical if I'd just claimed to be a UFO abductee.

I don't know how things work in your house, but in our house, single-mindedness and repetition win out over reason and common sense every time. In less than a week I was on my way to the kennel to pick up my first foster dog and bring her home.

NJ Bourne didn't have half a clue as to why we were headed toward my car and she sure as sunset couldn't have cared less. All she knew was that she was out of the crate. Her stand-at-attention ears, hip-hop walk, and turned-up tail said it all.

I watched her as she strained at the leash, determined to check out every inch of the parking lot despite whatever I might want her to do. She stood tall at the shoulders and weighed barely fifty pounds. Her base color was orange-gold, and black brindling stretched from nose to tail. Her darting eyes picked up the amber tones in her coat.

Bones and muscle made up the rest of her. The smooth round ripple of her overdeveloped thigh muscles contrasted dramatically with the bony starkness of her ribs and hips. A blaze of white ran from her chin down her neck. She had a delicately small bone structure and virtually no middle. Her legs were long and her feet were on the small side. Her toenails were deep ebony.

I smiled to myself, thinking that Greyhounds are the canine answer to supermodels.

Every once in a while NJ remembered that I was at the other end of the leash and tried to jump on me while snapping her jaws in the general direction of my face. Fortunately, I knew that the snapping sound she made was the Greyhound equivalent of blowing kisses. She was doing her best to express gratitude, not understanding that snapping at people while trying to scale their extremities might create an unfavorable impression.

I was relieved that it was only her behavior that needed straightening out, not her attitude or her heart. NJ would require a lot of work, but it was nice to know that there was a good dog somewhere behind those rather manic amber eyes.

Getting NJ into the back of my sports car was easy: Open the door, pull the front seat forward, and stand back. Driving while using one hand to keep her in the back seat was

tricky, but somehow we made the 45-minute trip to NJ's new home without incident.

It wasn't until I pulled into the garage that I started to wonder how to handle NJ's introduction to my two highly dominant male dogs. What would I do if one or both of them decided they didn't want her on their turf? What if they attacked her? Could I handle the situation alone? And I do mean alone; Jay had left for a three-day business trip the night before, which I considered coincidental only in my kinder moments.

I made it out of the car a microsecond before NJ came tumbling out behind me, tripping over her own four feet in the process. Once she righted herself, she stood still and watched me, white-tipped tail in the air, eager to get on with whatever it was we were doing.

What in God's name was I doing, anyway? I wasn't a dog expert. I was a soft-hearted (and soft-headed) soul about to risk life and limb (not to mention marriage) for a hyperactive hound who, for all I knew, would chew holes in my walls in an effort to tunnel out of her new stalag.

I must have spent ten minutes contemplating first NJ and then the door that led to my kitchen. I could hear my two dogs on the other side, whining impatiently at whoever was in the garage, no doubt wondering why they didn't show themselves and if now was a good time to start barking.

NJ, door, NJ, door . . .

Surely I was making too much of this. We'd had Rappy, an unlikely mix of Border Collie and Pomeranian, for almost ten years. Although loud and stubborn, he was a friendly little furball. Regis was a Greyhound, an 80-lb mass of fawn-colored muscle with eyes that would do an Egyptian cosmetologist proud. He was also a champion who had raced until he was five-and-a-half years old. Regis had lived on the track with other Greyhounds until ten months ago. Certainly one skinny little girl wasn't going to bother him.

I put the leash back on NJ just in case, took a deep breath, and opened the door.

Editor's Note: This article languished in CG's files for several years with no name attached. Efforts to locate the author by repeated queries to the Greyhound List, Greytalk, and other resources were unsuccessful. Finally, a recent Internet search using the terms "NJ Bourne" and "Joanne" produced a hit: a link to the June 2003 issue of Greyt News, the newsletter of Arizona Greyhound Rescue. Sadly, the mention turned out to be an announcement that NJ Bourne had gone to the Rainbow Bridge. We contacted the adoption group, who put us in touch with NJ's former owner. She confirmed for us that NJ Bourne was the dog in the article, and she was indeed the author. She offered the following postscript.

Surprising absolutely no one but myself, we ended up adopting NJ, thus earning our first official title as "Foster Failures" (operative word being "first"). Due more to her newfound stability than to our amateurish efforts, NJ soon calmed down without losing any of her puppy-like energy. She stopped jumping on people, mostly (and then it was just us after being separated for more than an afternoon).

She was full of little quirks. My favorite was her gentle chewing on my jaw line when she judged the usual kisses inadequate for expressing the depth of her affection. She was graceful, sensitive, friendly, and more humanly childlike than any dog I have ever met.

She died at four and a half, suddenly and without warning, at home with me on a bright Florida afternoon.

I go on doing all the things I did before NJ died; create abstract art, take care of my special needs daughter and our (now) four dogs, and run a household.

It just all seems a little paler now. ■

Ava (née Joanne) Young lives in Tucson, Ariz.

Vendors

How to Attract Them and How to Keep Them



Vendors can make your Greyhound event a success.

What Greyhound adoption group could exist without supportive vendors? Perhaps many of you are nodding your heads in agreement, while just as many are saying, "We don't need them." Regardless of your view, the vendor becomes important when it is time to plan an annual event or other fundraising activity.

Requesting Donations

There are many vendors that supply donations for fundraising endeavors. Most ask only that you request a donation well in

advance. Don't expect a positive response if your request comes just prior to the event. When requesting donations, make sure you know each vendor's donation guidelines, and respect them. With over 250 Greyhound adoption groups in the United States, as well as numerous rescue organizations devoted to other breeds, most vendors are inundated with donation requests. We are not always able to comply, but we do the best we can. These donations are typically a gift, generally not the tax write-off that most recipients assume they are.

Getting the Vendor Donations to Your Event (and Taking Care of Them When They Get There)

To attract quality vendors, your event must be appealing on many levels. There are a few ways to make sure your event attracts the kind of attention you want.

Set your date well in advance. Many vendors plan their events a year or more in advance. If you want vendors to attend your event, ask them early!

Advertise your event. Let your prospective guests know that you will have oppor-

tunities for them to shop for unique and wonderful products, as well as to participate in your fundraising activities.

Ask your guests to register in advance. This will give you an idea of how many people will attend the event. Most vendors appreciate this information. It helps them prepare for the event.

Suggest lodging for vendors who must travel a great distance to your event. They may not be familiar with your area. They will need to know what is available near your event.

Let the vendor know what time you expect them to be there to set up and when the location is available for them to set up. Provide a physical address and reliable contact phone number. If something unexpected occurs, vendors will need to have a way to contact someone from your group on the day of the event.

If your event is small, invite only one vendor from each product category. If vendors have to compete with like vendors at a small venue, they will be less likely to return for future events. If your event is large enough to accommodate several like vendors (say, more than 500 attendees), make sure you tell prospective vendors which vendors you are inviting, and who has confirmed.

Make your expectations clear when you invite the vendor. Do not make changes once the vendor has confirmed that they will attend. Vendors have certain expenses that they must consider before booking any event. If you change the plans after they have confirmed, your event may end up becoming unattainable for the vendor.

Provide a reasonable vending location, with level areas and good lighting. Vendors should be placed in high traffic areas to ensure that your guests are aware of their presence. Offer table rental and canopy rental (if needed) for vendors traveling greater distances.

Plan for inclement weather! Planning your event at an indoor location is obvi-

ously the safest way to go. In the event of poor weather, your guests are more likely to brave the elements if they know they will stay warm and dry once they arrive. If you are unable to find an indoor location, set up a large tent at your outdoor venue. The cost is well worth it when compared to canceling an event that has been months in the planning.

Welcome vendors as they arrive. Make sure they are happy with their placement. Ask if there is anything else they need. Plain and simple, people who feel welcome tend to respond in a positive manner.

What to Expect of Your Vendors

In planning your event, your group will incur certain costs. Asking your event vendors to help offset these costs is not out of line. However, your group should not expect vendors to absorb more than is fair. If you ask too much, eventually you will be unable to attract vendors to your gatherings at all. I have heard stories about events that vendors won't touch, mainly because there are too many vendors selling similar items, the event planners treat the vendors rudely, or the group asked for too much from the vendors.

Here are some reasonable ways to ask your proposed vendors to help offset the cost of your event:

Request a set fee for a booth space. Be reasonable, though. If your event is small, you cannot expect a vendor to pay a large booth fee when they may not even recoup the costs associated with being there. Be honest with yourself when evaluating the potential of your event.

Request a product donation for use during or after the event. This is a common request for smaller events. It is acceptable to request that the contribution have a set minimum value.

Do not request a cash percentage of the vendor's sales. Many groups do not consider the cost of the product or the expense of attending the event when making such a

request. Most vendors that I know are not comfortable with this type of request, and some are even offended by it.

You can request that the vendor make a cash or product donation after the event, based upon how they felt they did at your event. Do not ask for an accounting, though; this implies that you feel the vendor is less than honorable. Personally, I favor this method over the others, and I tend to be much more generous than I would if a set amount was requested. I generally donate product based upon my event sales and how well the event coordinators treated me.

Do not ask a vendor to pay the regular registration fee for your event. Keep in mind that your vendors generally will not receive the benefits associated with this fee, as they are not actually able to attend your event. They are part of your event. If a registration fee includes a meal, and the vendor will be able to partake, you can incorporate a fee for the meal in a vendor registration fee. Some groups offer the meal as a courtesy to vendors.

After the Event

Ask your vendors for feedback on the event. What can you do to improve it in the future? Vendors are a great source of information for event planners. We have seen it all, and most of us are happy to lend a hand or offer advice.

Vendors have expectations. To ensure their return to subsequent events, do your best to make them happy! Quality vendors make any event more engaging, and they provide a service to your guests. Many Greyhound owners do not know where to look for goodies for their pups and treats for themselves. By bringing in great vendors, you provide a wonderful opportunity for your adopters and guests. ■

Sue Ross lives with her family and Greyhounds in Washington State, where she is a Board Member of Royal Hounds Greyhound Adoption (www.royalhounds.org). She is also owner of Silk Road Collars (www.silkroadcollars.com), which has helped raise thousands of dollars for Greyhound rescue since its inception in 1998.

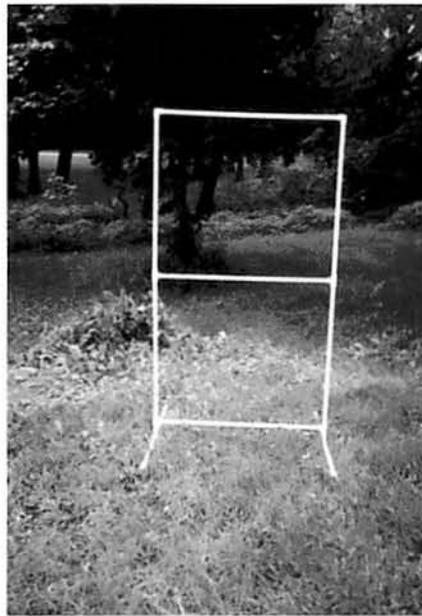
Portable Display

If you do meet-and-greets, you know how challenging it is to have an attractive display. Inevitably, some Greyhound marks your tablecloth or the wind blows your great Greyhound photos off the table. Paper banners are quick to make, but don't last long. To solve these problems, we came up with a lightweight, long-lasting, portable display that can be stored easily and erected in a flash. It is made of PVC and plastic tablecloth fabric, so it's durable and easy to clean. These instructions are for a large standing panel, but we've also had great success with smaller tabletop displays.

Materials Needed

- 4 pieces of standard 1/2" white PVC, cut to 32" for the uprights
- 3 pieces of standard 1/2" white PVC, cut to 36" for the cross-pieces
- 4 pieces of standard 1/2" white PVC, cut to 18" for the legs
- 2 pieces of standard 1/2" white PVC, cut to 2" for the leg connectors
- 2 standard 1/2" PVC "L" connectors
- 6 standard 1/2" PVC "T" connectors
- 4 standard 1/2" PVC end caps
- 4 yards of plastic tablecloth fabric, or a few discount tablecloths. (The kind with the fuzzy backing works best.) Use light, bright, solid colors. Don't use rain slicker fabric as it stretches and distorts easily.
- Photos, vinyl letters, contact paper cut into shapes, or laminated documents
- Adhesive hook-and-loop fabric dots
- A few pound of rocks or sand for coordinating weights (optional)

Instructions



1. Cut the PVC and Construct the Frame

Cut PVC to length for the uprights, cross-pieces, legs, and leg connectors.

NOTE: Do not glue PVC. This will allow you to pull apart for easy transport and storage.

Place one "L" connector on each end of one crosspiece (36"). Insert an upright (32") into the other side of each "L" connector. You should have an upside-down U shape. Place one "T" connector on the open end of each upright (32"). The vertical opening of the "T" should face inward. Insert a cross-piece (36") between the two "T" connectors and parallel to the top crosspiece. The shape should now be a square.

Insert the remaining uprights (32") into the open end of the "T" connectors. Place one "T" connector on the open end of each lower upright (32"). The vertical opening of the "T" should face inward. Insert a cross-piece (36") between the two "T" connectors

and parallel to the top crosspiece (36"). The shape should now be two squares.

Insert a leg connector (2") into each lower "T" connector. Place an end cap on one end of each of the four legs (18"). Insert the other end of each leg (18") into the horizontal part of a "T" connector. You should have a straight piece with end caps on each end and a "T" connector in the middle. Place the leg subassembly vertical "T" connector opening over the short leg connector (2") of the vertical section of the display frame.

2. Measure and Sew the Skin

Measure your frame side-to-side and top-to-bottom. Cut a piece of plastic tablecloth fabric to be the width (side-to-side measurement) plus 2 inches and the height (top-to-bottom) multiplied by 2. Fold the fabric with right sides together and sew a 1/2" seam on each of the two sides, leaving the bottom open. Here's where you will be thanking yourself for taking the time to find the tablecloth fabric with the fuzzy backing. It's much easier to sew.



3. Turn Skin Right Side Out and Test Fit

There is no need to hem the bottom of the skin, but you can if you want. Clip the corners, turn right side out and test fit over your PVC frame. Adjust as necessary.

4. Decorate Skin

Now for the fun part. Decorate your display with vinyl letters, photos, or other elements. We found the longest-lasting elements to be laminated photos and documents. We attach them to the display using adhesive hook-and-loop fabric dots so that it's easy to swap them out later. The vinyl letters available at office supply stores look great, but can be pricey. Contact paper can be cut into interesting shapes and letters much less expensively. Another idea is to sew a pocket of excess tablecloth or other fabric to the display to hold brochures.

5. OPTIONAL: Sew Coordinating Weights

If you have additional tablecloth fabric, we advise taking the time to sew a few rectangular bags, turning them right side out and filling halfway with rocks or sand. The size is not too important. We had good luck with finished bags that were 8" x 12". After filling a bag halfway, fold over the open edges and sew the top of the bag closed. This will make an attractive weight to hold your display when the wind blows.

Using Your Display

Because you did not glue the PVC components, you can disassemble the display for transport and storage. The skin itself serves as storage for the PVC parts and any loose photos or brochures that you use with your display. When it is time to use the display again, simply pull the parts out of the skin and re-assemble them.

Why not construct a few panels for your local adoption group? It's a great project and your group will make great use of it. ■



Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places



Cooper, adopted by Michelle and Doug Hamilton of Dallas, Texas.

Everyone who has adopted a pet and instead found himself with a project understands the realities of living with a problem dog. And if that problem is aggression, he may have learned all too well the realities of the legal and financial liabilities that accompany an aggressive dog.

Adopting a Greyhound or any other dog or puppy whose temperament has not been tested is like walking into a sporting goods store, picking out a gun, and taking it home without knowing if it's loaded or where the safety is. For years, adoption was mostly

about getting as many dogs as possible off the tracks and into loving homes. Screening was aimed at finding good adopters and weeding out bad ones. The focus was almost entirely on the adopter. But adoption is actually a triad. If any of the elements in the adoption triad fail, the process can fail. If more than one element fails, the process will most likely fail. If all three elements fail, the process will surely fail.

The first element is the provider of the dogs. This is the track kennel that places its dogs or sends them to adoption groups for

placement, or the adoption group that places the dog with the public. Some kennels and groups are incredibly good. Some do little more than sell dogs out of the back of a van to unknowing and unprepared adopters. The groups who are trying to do it right are the soul of the adoption business. The ones who are simply moving dogs are hurting us all, but more importantly they are hurting the dogs.

The second element is the adopter. These are ordinary people who have a variety of reasons for adopting and a wide range of

dog experience levels. Sometimes we are so focused on the dogs we ignore the needs at the other end of the leash. Few people take on a Greyhound intending to screw up or to bounce the dog if he or she is inconvenient. We need to be more sympathetic and supportive of those who are not prepared to deal with a problem dog. At the same time, we need to do a better job of keeping problem dogs out of the average adopter's hands. We need to get much better at preparing adopters for living with a retired racing Greyhound and identifying adopters that will find any inconvenience a problem, impulse adopters who will tire of caring for a dog, and those adopters who are simply unsuitable to live with a pet rock.

And last, we have the third element, the dogs themselves. Compared with other breeds Greyhounds are considered soft; that is, they are usually compliant and easy to live with and, with appropriate pre-adoption education and support, are suitable for first time adopters.

But that does not mean all Greyhounds are perfect.

Greyhounds can range from spooky beyond belief to in-your-face social. Or from mellow, sensitive, and interactive to doesn't care if you are on the planet as long as you feed him. And, yes, sometimes the range includes serious behavior problems or even severe aggression.

We all like to believe the only dogs that bite are those other breeds out there. And because of the gentle compliant nature of Greyhounds that is largely true. Greyhounds have a very low incidence of human aggression. However, I can tell you the most serious bite I have personally witnessed was from a 9-year-old female Greyhound. She had savagely bitten a visiting teenager in the face when he leaned toward her to pet her. I was asked to evaluate this dog after the incident to determine if she could be safely rehomed. During my temperament test, she responded to the resource-guarding test by

brutally and without warning attacking the hand that reached toward her. Had I used my own hand, I would have suffered serious and perhaps permanent injuries. In the years I have been conducting temperament testing, it was the most aggressive response I have witnessed to this test.

Not all Greyhounds are as perfect as we sometimes want to believe. Sometimes it is the dog that is the problem, or sometimes the dog is simply a problem in that environment/home. And that is why temperament testing is critical.

One of the ways we can do more to put the right hound in the right home is to test the temperament of every Greyhound before he is placed in a home. Ideally, every Greyhound's temperament should be tested before he leaves the track.

Temperament testing isn't about which Greyhound loves to have her belly rubbed or which Greyhound prefers the hedgehog to the pink bunny. And it certainly isn't about gender, size, looks, or how photogenic a dog is. It is a series of tests performed in a specific way that evaluates several critical areas. Temperament testing can give a clear profile of the dog that will help you make the best choice about which home is best for each dog.

Temperament testing must be done according to recognized and validated methods. Temperament testing using an acceptable, standardized test can identify many serious aggression issues before a Greyhound leaves the track or adoption group. It can determine with relative certainty the Greyhounds that are most likely to bite. Just as importantly, temperament testing helps profile a dog's basic temperament — not just the superficial traits. These tests have been developed over the past two decades and are in use in most of the top animal shelters in the country. The correct techniques must be taught to ensure the tests are performed properly and safely. Anyone who has watched the television show *Animal Precinct* has seen some of the elements of

the test being performed.

What kinds of things does temperament testing evaluate?

Sociability. How much does this Greyhound like, want, and need people? That's what adoption is about — forming a bond. If a Greyhound isn't capable of that, he is not what most adopters want.

Control/Frustration Tolerance. How well does this Greyhound accept restraint or handling? Every Greyhound at some point in his life will be hugged, held, or restrained. And you can bet the hugging will begin within the first few hours.

Play Intensity. Does he engage in play? How quickly and how roughly does he engage in play? Would this Greyhound be a safe choice for a home with young children or elderly people?

Guarding Potential. How does this Greyhound respond to intrusions while he is eating or when he is in a preferred space or in possession of a valued item?

Responsiveness. How important is our approval? How quickly does he respond to training?

Family Life. How does he interact with or react to cats, babies, toddlers, and strangers? How will he handle separation from his new family, and other daily events?

Does this mean that only perfect Greyhounds should be placed for adoption? Of course not. But it does mean evaluating responses objectively and using temperament testing to place each Greyhound appropriately. As an adoption group, it means being brutally honest with adopters about each dog's strengths and weaknesses. It means knowing enough about training and behavior to determine which problem behaviors can likely be rehabilitated. People have a right to know if they are taking on a project. It means providing good follow up and support to those adopters who are willing to take on a project. And sometimes it means accepting that a particular Greyhound may be too aggressive to be safely placed in a pet home.



Toad, adopted by Linda Miranda of Stanstead, Quebec, Canada.

If you are an adoption group, placement profiling using standardized temperament testing can aid your adoption efforts. It can:

- Identify and clearly communicate a Greyhound's strengths and weaknesses to the receiving groups or potential adopters.
- Identify Greyhounds who might present a risk to foster families or kennel workers.
- Identify where to best house a specific Greyhound in your kennel facility or foster system.
- Determine which Greyhounds cannot be safely placed at this time.
- Enable you to better describe each Greyhound's personality to prospective adopters and help them select a match based on something other than looks.
- Allow you to counsel prospective adopters about potential training or behavioral issues.
- Help identify resource and follow up needs for each Greyhound and adopter.

If you are an adopter, standardized temperament testing and placement profiling can help you get the very best Greyhound for your lifestyle and family situation. You should insist that your new best friend has been appropriately screened so that you are getting a pal and not a project. If the Greyhound does have issues, you should be fully informed, willing, and able to work with those issues. If the group you are working with isn't testing temperament using standardized validated methods, before you add that new family member, read Sue Sternberg's excellent book, *Successful Dog Adoption* (New York: Howell Book House, 2003). She'll walk you through the steps you need to take to ensure the dog you are looking at is the best choice for your family.

Temperament testing is not without controversy. If a Greyhound is aggressive, your group must then decide what to do with that dog. What resources can you commit to rehabilitation? How many special needs dogs

can your group absorb before you are turning away behaviorally sound dogs? What liabilities are you willing to assume by placing a potentially aggressive dog with the public? These are tough questions. Each group has to determine for itself what choices fit within its placement philosophies.

So how can you learn more about temperament testing and placement profiling? To help adoption groups and track kennel personnel learn how to conduct temperament testing and placement profiling, I am developing a series of workshops using standards developed specifically for retired racing Greyhounds.

These tests and methods are adapted from the only validated, proven method of temperament testing in use today, Sue Sternberg's Assess-a-Pet™. You can learn more about how Sue's methods are changing the bounce rates at shelters and how her programs have been developed at www.suesternberg.com. While her work is geared to the shelter dog and is not Greyhound-specific, her videos and publications are invaluable learning tools.

A few months ago, I launched GreytPals as an attempt to provide a comprehensive approach to the business of placing the right hound in the right home and to serve as a resource to folks involved in Greyhound adoption. The only requirement is that you and your group be committed to placing the right hound in the right home and that you be willing to share your experiences and expertise with others. To learn more about the temperament testing workshops and the GreytPals program, visit my GreytPals web site at www.greytpals.org and sign up for the newsletter.

Temperament testing is the vital link in the adoption process between head and heart. It is the key to putting the right hound in the right home. It is the way to look for love in all the right places. ■

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

The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds

Ambassadors for Greyhound Adoption



Gil and Safire, airborne.

The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team is the only traveling Greyhound comedy show in the world. The team is non-sponsored; their activities are supported by a single retirement pension. Their goal is to promote the adoptable Greyhound and to educate the public about responsible pet

ownership. They have performed at Greyhound and all-breed events, animal shelter fundraisers, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, library programs, and two television programs airing on Animal Planet.

Gil and Kathleen Gilley, who were born in Panama, and Marlene Stachowiak, sta-

tioned there as a military wife, began dog training with drill teams in the late 1970s. Their venues included schools, orphanages, provincial fairs, and companion dog training classes for the Panama Canal Kennel Chapter and Club Canino de Panama.

Eventually, Marlene returned to the United States, established Jae-Mar's Academy of Dog Obedience in Augusta, Georgia, and became an AKC obedience judge. Later, with a civil war in progress and an invasion impending, the Gilleys sought asylum in the United States. They moved into a motor home with the dogs they brought from Panama: two Dobermans and a rescued Saint Bernard. Although the new continent needed exploring, winters were spent helping Marlene teach dog obedience classes and conduct therapy dog work.

What About a Greyhound?

In 1992, Kathleen found the toll-free telephone number for Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) while giving seminars on responsible traveling with dogs. There was no room in the family, but the Gilleys wanted to learn about the breed. The Dobermans had agility and speed. The Saint Bernard gave affection. Could a Greyhound do it all? The Gilleys took a course offered by the Iowa Greyhound Association that included working on a Greyhound farm. Yes, there would be a Greyhound in their future!

When their Saint Bernard died a year later, the Greyhound hunt commenced. Kathleen knew her first Greyhound could be the right one . . . or the last one. Sweetness (lovingly known as Sweet) catapulted herself into the family. In less than four months, the dark brindle Sweetness was doing advanced obedience and retrieving. She also taught Kathleen the joy of Grey-



One of Safire's signature moves.

hound dancing. Sweetness was almost as loving as she was funny, bossy, loud, impatient, and demanding. The family joke was that Sweetness minded Kathleen's business more than her husband did.

The Team Forms

When one of their Dobermans passed on, the Gilleys sent a letter to the adoption program at the Birmingham Race Track: "Dear McGregor Greyhound Welfare Center of Birmingham, Alabama, do you have a black, 5- to 7-year-old who would be good for therapy dog work?" Enter Chubby. Gil finally had his own Greyhound and an annual trend began: The Gilleys dropped by the Greyhound Welfare Center each spring to show off Chubby.

After three and-a-half years, Kathleen

acquired her "love at first sight" Greyhound from an Iowa classroom farm — 8-year-old Mandi. She was to have been one of the original Dancing Greyhounds, but she succumbed to breast cancer just before their debut.

In early 1996, Waco (Wayki Breaky Heart), another black Greyhound and the second dog Kathleen had admired on that same Iowa farm, came into the Gilleys' lives. At five years old, she had been released from brood duty after one litter. Later that year, as the Gilleys passed through Birmingham, they learned that GPA/Northern Alabama was hosting the GPA National Convention. The hosts issued an invitation to the Gilleys: "Would the Girls put on a little entertainment program?"

The Debut

Gil and Kathleen Gilley "loaned" Marlene Stachowiak a Greyhound for the debut performance of the Dancing Greyhounds in Birmingham in 1996. Marlene handled Wayki, Gil handled Chubby, and Kathleen handled Sweetness. The team was named, uniforms were purchased, and old routines were remembered. Sweetness, as she was to do for the rest of her life, put on a solo performance that left hearts aflutter, eyes moist, and the audience breathless. She had plotted the coup d'état that would take over the Gilleys' lives for years to come.

That weekend in Birmingham, Marlene met her own Greyhound, Sage. Marlene and Sage traveled with the Dancing Greyhounds in the southeast until Fall 2000, when health concerns intervened.

The Girls Hit the Road

Since their debut in 1996, the Dancing Greyhounds have performed in 28 states and three Canadian provinces. They have traveled almost a quarter of a million miles, averaging 25,000 each year. They perform for about 25 organizations each year.

A typical Dancing Greyhounds gig includes a performance or two by the Team, a seminar or problem-solving forum on topics such as No Fear/No Pain Methods of Discipline or Fostering 101, nail trimming, and contest judging. In addition, the Gilleys usu-

ally help the event host(s) with set-up and clean-up tasks on the day of the event. In the days before or after the event, the Gilleys have provided additional community education on Greyhounds, such as visiting grade schools to teach children “dog etiquette” and how to behave around dogs, performances for civic groups, and therapy dog visits to medical, detention, and youth centers.

Who determines what activities are included in the performance itself? According to Kathleen, these decisions are up to the Greyhounds. No two shows are the same.

Gil and Kathleen have a suggested agenda, but the Girls decide what, if, and who. The most hotly contested positions are that of the “superstar” and the wildly impromptu comedian. For example, during Sweet’s final years of performing, Kathleen wanted her to cut back on her extreme gymnastics. Sweet’s revenge was to improvise outrageous mini-shows of her own. She would pull a six-foot foam fun noodle out of the prop bag and parade it around the ring in the middle of the show. If ignored, she would shred the noodle. She appeared stage center and barked at Kathleen when Kathleen was performing with another. She snatched purses and hats from the audience with which to make a victory lap, forcing Kathleen to stop the show and chase her.

The Team has never accepted invitations from organizations that charge fees for their attendance. They have not charged for their services, although they have accepted donations of all sorts (one special donation consisted of 42 after-picnic pizza bagels). By 2003, the entire Team consisted of donated ex-racers. Silk Road Collars donated their show collars. Jae-Mar’s Academy provided their leashes and early shirts, Palm Beach Kennel Club gave them their first embroidered uniforms, and Steve and Monique Moore donated attention-getting Greyhound decals for the Gilley’s motor home and car. The distinctive Dancing Greyhound shirts have come from Greyhounds Galore, Sarah Jones, and others.

The Dancing Greyhounds have been designated Celebrity Dogs for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital since 1999. The same year, Gil and Kathleen were awarded Honorary Life Membership in Greyhound Pets of America.

What Makes a Gilley Girl?

According to Kathleen, the answer to the question, “What makes a Dancing Greyhound?” is “The bad girls . . . monsters, maniacs and muggers.” But there have been some exceptions. Chey (Mousetail) became



Sweet takes a bow.

obsessed with Kathleen and adopted the Gilleys at first sight. At 17 months, she was even underage. Donated to the Gilleys by GPA/Greater Orlando, she is now 9 years old. Her specialty is jumping over a line of five standing Greyhounds, Evel Knievel-style. This act has gotten Chey's photo in more newspapers than any other feat. She is still sure that no one could ever love Kathleen as much as she.

Another case of "love at first sight" occurred when Kathleen looked into the eyes of Pasta Ann during a brood farm tour in Wichita, Kansas. Six months later, Jodi Dotson and friends presented 5-year-old Pasta Ann to the Gilleys at the GPA National Convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Safire was tailor-made to be a Gilley Girl. The Gilleys were invited to view her, whereupon she pounced upon everyone in sight. GPA/Florida-Southeast Coast donated her to the Gilleys at the age of four and she instantly became Gil's companion. She has been featured in several dog magazines for her jumps over Kathleen and Gil's arms while they hold hands, and for her leap from a sit position to over six feet into the air. Safire turns nine this year.

Little black Mist ran beside Kathleen, bouncing shoulder high, in a turnout pen at Melbourne Greyhound Park in 1999. Donated to the Gilleys by GPA/Central Florida, Mist will be 7 years old this year. Her specialties include leaping three times her height and leapfrogging with Safire.

In 2000, Kathleen met NC Beauty's brother and thought she had seen Wayki's ghost. She asked friends to track the litter on Internet racing sites to locate a female. One was found in Florida. An anonymous friend, Sarah Jones, and GPA/Central Florida united to "confiscate" her. Tammy Farrington fostered the girl until the Gilleys arrived. Beauty (affectionately known as Boo-Hoo) is the only team member selected sight unseen. She shares Wayki's bloodlines and personality. Also known as "Grrr" for



Mist shows off with Kathleen.

her volcanic burps, she is Kathleen's cohort in comedy. Beauty is an all-around performer and retriever extraordinaire. She too, will be 7 years old this year.

The newest Dancing Greyhound is Moon Mountain Casey (KC). In early 2003, after a performance for a GPA chapter, Kathleen took an unsuspecting ride to the Pensacola Greyhound Park kennel compound. There, she was set upon by a monstrous maniac who mugged everyone in sight. KC was donated to the Gilleys by GPA/Emerald Coast and broke the "Only Blacks and Brindles Need Apply" rule by being white-ticked with brindle patches. KC is now 4 years old.

Why all females? Being lighter with finer bones, they are more agile for leaps and spins ... and more will fit into bed on cold nights.

Memorable Performances

The priority of each show is to demonstrate the happy, fun-loving nature of the Greyhound. The performances have changed over the years. Drill team routines became warm-up exercises. Each Girl introduced

new acts, many of which were lost when the originator passed on. Sweet's slam dance and Wayki's Pink Bunny dance are now gone. Chubby was the mathematician; she delighted schoolchildren by barking the answers to addition, multiplication, and subtraction problems. After Chubby said goodbye, there was silence. One day, Pasta offered, but then it was quiet again for over a year until KC volunteered. Mist perfected the "leap for the stars." Safire made an art out of kamikaze high jumps. Beauty retrieves with gusto. Chey is in charge of tennis ball impersonations.

All performances have their moments. One that combined terror with hilarity was a black-tie humane society fundraiser in Huntsville, Alabama. The T-shaped stage was the same level as the dinner tables, the dessert was crême brule, and the mayor's table was three inches from the edge of the stage. Gil sent Miss "Never-Call-Me-Late-for-Dinner" Chubby down to the end of the catwalk. Sure enough, she stopped at the mayor's table and peered into the crystal dish. After hearing several hundred audible



Gil, Kathleen, and the Girls.

gasps, she glanced back at Gil, smirking, and resisted temptation.

At the same event, a Pomeranian stood in for a Greyhound in the “dog-stealing” act with amusing results. Practice sessions had been uneventful. During the show, the Pomeranian was positioned at the T point of the stage. When Wayki ventured down the catwalk to “steal” him, the Pomeranian hit the deck and dug his claws into the carpet. Wayki picked up his leash and gave a tentative tug to no avail. When she determined he was not going to cooperate by being “stolen,” she gave one good yank and gently dragged him back down the catwalk, spread-eagled, like a dust mop. The audience could not imagine how this had been so cleverly orchestrated. (The Pomeranian was no worse for wear.)

The most embarrassing event was a GPA Fun Day. Sweet began a series of jumps for each one. With an evil grin, Sweet initiated one of her favorite terrorist games — trying to grab the brim of Kathleen’s hat. Sixty-two pounds moving through the air at 30 mph encouraged Kathleen to hurry. A mis-step landed Kathleen flat on her back. Sweet promptly turned around and sat on her. Breathless and overcome with laughter, Kathleen had to be rescued before the show could proceed.

One of the oddest venues was the Guardian Angel Basset Bash and Waddle. Imagine the “roo” that arose among the 1,000 Basset Hound attendees when the five Dancing Greyhounds closed the show with their new signature sing-along. One Basset

tried to join the show and one foster hound offered to adopt Kathleen.

Offstage Life

Prime performance periods for the Gilley Girls have always been Spring and Fall, when most Greyhound adoption groups hold their events. From June through August, the Gilleys volunteer with the National Forest Service and the Greyhounds assist with trail patrols. Winters are devoted to events in the Southeast.

How do the Gilleys live in a motor home year-round with five hard-core, egomaniacal, canine diva-goddesses? Kathleen explains, “The total immersion of close proximity, 24/7, rarely being away from each other longer than three hours, blurs the lines between Greyhound and human. It is

a physical and mental relationship few can conceive." Simply put, living in the same "crate" makes good bedfellows.

When the Gilley Girls are on the road, they stay in prime physical condition with mile-plus leash walks three times a day. The Team arrives at dates a day early to allow for relaxation time. They stay the night of the event for the same reason. Road time is no more than three hours without a leg stretcher and distance rarely exceeds 200 miles per day. A two-hour mid-day lunch break and nap is mandatory, and there is no night driving. Since morning walks are in a different place than evening ones, life is full of new and exciting sights, smells, and people to meet. Many five-minute meet-and-greets happen when curious folks stop them in state parks, nature trails, or parking lots.

Water is available at all times with extra inducements to hydrate in drier areas. The calmer dogs eat twice daily. Energy burners get three or more Purina ProPlan Per-

formance meals a day plus nutritional supplement milkshakes. Routine dental care, nail trims, ear and coat care are provided in house.

The impact Greyhounds have made on the Gilleys is incalculable. Kathleen arrived in this country with a suitcase and two dogs. When Gil's retirement came through, he arrived with a suitcase and his dog, Sweetness enabled the Gilleys to understand the dislocation of the past — she became their bridge to the future. Sweet established the Dancing Greyhounds and paved the way for nine others. The Team provided the Gilleys with a purpose and a focus — they were no longer strangers in a strange land.

The year 2002 was a twilight zone for the Gilleys. Gil was diagnosed with cancer, and the Gilleys cancelled much of their performance schedule while he underwent treatment. In the meantime, Pasta and Sweetness passed away. The very future of the Dancing Greyhounds was in question.

Surely the Team could not survive the loss of its founder and driving force. As Gil became stronger, the Gilleys planned to pay tribute to folks caught in the cancellations of 2002 and those who had been supportive in spite of it.

As the Dancing Greyhound farewell tour began, the Girls' anticipation and enthusiasm became contagious. The result? The finale has been postponed. The Team has been re-christened "The Singing and Dancing Greyhound Comedy Show." Although Gil's health and the age of the Girls will not allow the continued "different-state-every-weekend" schedule, the Dancing Greyhounds will continue to promote laughter, love, and an appreciation of the Greyhound spirit for as long as they can. ■

Gretchen Gold is a pseudonym for a shy writer who has seen more performances of the Gilley Girls than practically anyone else. For more information about the Gilley Girls and their upcoming performances, visit the Dancing Greyhounds website (www.geocities.com/petsburgh/8332).



Chey jumps a line of Gilley Girls, Evel Knievel-style.

Greyhound Pets of America's 7x7 Initiative



Everyone involved in the adoption process plays an important role. Here, GPA volunteer Carole Zubro introduces the dogs to a Petco employee at a meet-and-greet. BONNIE JEFFERS

In May 2002, Greyhound Pets of America announced an ambitious goal to end unnecessary Greyhound deaths by the year 2007. Dubbed "7x7," the program's features included the naming of national and regional coordinators to manage geographic distribution of Greyhounds and establishment of the toll-free GREAT (Greyhound Relocation Effort Assistance Team) line, a resource for persons with Greyhounds in need of placement. Details of 7x7 were outlined in the News section of the Fall 2002 issue of CG Magazine.

In the almost two years that have passed since GPA's announcement, what has been accomplished?

Originally dreamed up in a hotel lobby by a group including Pat Toman, then-President of GPA, 7x7 includes four key elements: (1) Increasing the ability of our chapters to manage local and regional transports; (2) Creating new adoption programs in "virgin" territory; (3) Facilitating world-class training for our chapters as well as other interested adoption groups; and (4) Creating an environment where *Greyhound welfare, not warfare* is the way we all operate. Properly implemented, these four elements will enable Greyhound Pets of America to place or assist in the placement of 7,000 Greyhounds annually by the year 2007. In other words, a home will be found for every adoptable Greyhound.

Despite the rocky economy last year, GPA saw a 4 percent increase in adoptions, with over 4,500 Greyhounds placed in homes. We are on track to be at 5,500 adoptions for 2003, only 1,500 short of our 2007 goal. But for GPA, this isn't just a numbers game. We are committed to making every adoption a quality placement. If we get to only 5,500, but that number represents 5,500 solid adoptions, that would be better than meeting the goal of 7,000 with 1,500 questionable placements.

The notion that 7x7 is a GPA-only program is a myth. Finding homes for every adoptable Greyhound is not something that GPA can do alone. It is a job for all Greyhound lovers who work day-in, day-out to find homes for this wonderful breed.

Why would we even attempt something like 7x7? Those of us who are actively involved in Greyhound adoption have heard it from the casual passer-by: "Your dog is lucky he was adopted." While great strides have been made, we know that adoptable Greyhounds still fall through the cracks. What can be done about those who are not being adopted?

Pat Toman and I discussed this on many occasions. We looked at the numbers. We looked at various groups and their methods of operation. And we looked at a big picture — the whole United States. We discussed our findings with the other officers of GPA and worked on the concept of 7x7 for several months. Eventually, the four key goals became clear. If we had a cooperative environment, proper training, greater awareness, and more assistance with transportation, we could realize an increase in adoptions without sacrificing quality.

That is 7x7 in a nutshell.

In the almost two years since we announced 7x7, the increase in the number of Greyhounds placed into adoptive homes has been our greatest achievement. There have been other successes as well. GPA helped pay for two trailers and one van. Today these vehicles are helping us move Greyhounds into areas that just two years ago were undeveloped for Greyhound adoption. Being able to transport Greyhounds to the people who want them is invaluable.

GPA has welcomed five new chapters or sub-chapters since the inception of 7x7. Three of these are in previously unserved areas. We also have several more new sub-chapters in the works.

Many of *CG's* readers may have heard about the North American Greyhound Adop-



Alane Shultz, Vice President of Greyhound Pets of America, proudly shows off GPA/Central Florida's new trailer.

tion Conference held in September of 2003. Formerly known as the GPA National Convention, we changed the name to indicate that the conference is open to all responsible adoption programs. Our ongoing goal is to offer better speakers, better training, and better information. I believe that last year's attendees came away energized and able to be more effective within their adoption programs. The 2004 conference will be even better. We plan to provide training in the areas of home visits and potential adopter interviews. We are also trying to line up someone to speak on the business aspects of adoption programs.

Not every aspect of 7x7 has been a suc-

cess, and we have had to make some changes. For example, the national and regional coordinator initiatives haven't been the success that I initially thought they would be. Each adoption program already has someone who works with trainers and owners. It became evident that creating a "Greyhound coordinator" in each geographic area would result in stepping on toes. For similar reasons, the GREAT line hasn't taken off as we had hoped. The GREAT line started out with the publication of my personal cell phone number. I must admit I was concerned that I would get numerous calls, and my wife was worried that my cell phone bill would be outrageous. I guess one could

say that it's a good thing I haven't received as many calls as expected. Or it could be we still have a long way to go to establish trust among all interested parties. We'll keep working on that.

The four goals of 7x7 have not changed. We continue to strive for a cooperative environment, proper training, greater awareness, and more assistance with transportation, so as to increase adoptions without sacrificing quality. Initially, we concentrated on the creation of new groups and meeting the transportation needs of our chapters. We have also funded many other aspects of our adoption programs, provided air conditioning units for kennels and fencing for turnout pens, and helped out with emergency funding for track closures.

Over the past year we have begun to focus on training and the creation of an environment where we all operate according to the credo *Greyhound welfare, not warfare*.

It is gratifying to see the renewed focus, cooperation, and camaraderie that are prevalent among our chapters today. People are excited and energized. Talking with individual chapter members, I see a new awareness and a new confidence that the Greyhounds will be the winners in this campaign to enhance adoption numbers, quality, and services.

At the 2002 GPA National Convention, the American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) donated \$20,000 to GPA in support of 7x7. This money is earmarked for transportation and new chapter needs. Funds will also be used to bring world-class speakers to the 2004 conference.

Every dime received by GPA goes back into our programs. In the last two years, we have been able to pump over \$35,000 into our programs. The officers of GPA believe that if the national organization has money, our chapters are the ones who should benefit. After all, their members are the ones working daily to achieve our goals.

This year we introduced the Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund. We established the fund, already seeded with \$25,000, to assist chapters with the often exorbitant medical expenses incurred in caring for injured Greyhounds. Chapters may request help in the form of either a grant or loan from the fund.

We are currently looking for ways to further finance our initiatives without jeopardizing funds that might otherwise go directly to a local group. GPA is in the process of selecting a national fundraising coordinator to help us locate the funding to make 7x7 a continued success. We are also actively seeking new sources of money, and we would like to encourage people to donate either to GPA or specifically to the injury fund. However, we do not want them donating money they would otherwise give to their local group.

We also encourage trainers and owners of racing Greyhounds to donate to either GPA or to the injury fund, or to provide a direct contribution to any adoption group that takes their retired racers.

Success for 7x7 will not happen overnight, but we do have some short-term goals. One of our goals for 2004 is a substantial increase in public awareness about Greyhounds and Greyhound adoption. This year we intend to hit selected local markets as well as national markets with a media campaign. The focus of the advertising will be the availability and suitability of retired racing Greyhounds as pets. Our new public relations coordinator will be working to help us meet these goals.

Of course, GPA will continue to establish adoption programs where none currently exist. By expanding the reach of GPA, more Greyhounds will find a family.

We also intend to make *Greyhound welfare, not warfare* a goal to which everybody is committed. The only factor that can undermine 7x7 is the hardest hurdle to overcome — the human factor. We must realize that if

we continue to bicker, the Greyhounds will suffer, and 7x7 will never become reality.

The human factor is the biggest challenge that I see. If we truly believe in the Greyhound and the mission of adoption, then we should be able to overcome our differences and put our egos aside. It saddens me to see some of the debates and e-mails that freely flow over the wires. The Internet is a helpful tool, but its use sometimes seems to be damaging to the environment of cooperation that is essential to our success.

Everyone can support 7x7 by performing quality adoptions and increasing awareness of the availability and desirability of these dogs. It is amazing how large an impact one can make by simply finding a new place to hold a meet-and-greet. People must appreciate and respect the job of everyone else involved in the adoption process: the meet-and-greeters, the people who bathe and wash the Greyhounds, the pooper scoopers, the foster home volunteers, and the adopters. If we can work together, we will make a huge difference! I also encourage everyone to think before they react. It takes only one nasty e-mail message or debate on the Internet to bring down the strongest group or individual. No one person is more important than another when an adoption is completed. Greyhound placement is a team effort.

Another major way to support the goals of 7x7 is to never adopt out an unaltered Greyhound. Period. To do so potentially exacerbates an already overwhelming problem. I have two untattooed Greyhounds that my wife and I adopted as puppies, the result of home breeding between two retired racing Greyhounds. There are already millions of unwanted pets in America. We do not need to add to these numbers.

If we all work together, we can build a world where we can achieve the goal of Greyhound welfare. ■

Rory Goreé is President of Greyhound Pets of America.

Spreading the Word



Anne Finch (front left) and colleagues visit with some Greyhounds who are bound for adoptive homes.

Outreach has been the main thrust of the work of Greyhounds in Need in the last decade. Before that, I was homing Greyhounds in the UK and campaigning politically on the home front. In 1991, when I first went to Spain and uncovered the sad plight and suffering of thousands of Greyhounds, the work assumed a new course and broke new ground. Outreach became essential. I desperately needed more help than the UK alone could provide. We were already overrun with too many ex-racers ourselves. Furthermore, the UK's restrictive anti-rabies laws make importation cumbersome and expensive. I sought alternatives to solving the futures of those dogs whom we hoped to rescue from Spain. That required imagination, courage, a lot of hard work, and some cheek. I dreamed of finding sympathizers and adoptive families on the opposite side of our quarantine barrier in countries where Greyhounds were hardly known. This meant selling the case of Spain's unwanted Greyhounds and Galgos — some not in good

shape — by eliciting the sympathy of countries who would not have entertained Greyhound racing in the first place and had enough dog problems of their own. This was not going to be easy.

B.I. (Before the Internet)

How did we do it in 1991 before any of us had even heard of the Internet? I am not sure which one of my many approaches abroad bore the first fruit, but the following was one of the earliest. Arising from articles I was writing in defense of the Greyhound within the sport in the United Kingdom, I was approached by a German magazine to share some thoughts on the disadvantages of professional Greyhound racing with gambling. In Germany, some enthusiasts race their sighthounds (Afghan Hounds, Whippets, Sloughis, Borzoi, and Salukis) just for fun on weekends at amateur tracks. Most preferred to keep it like that and not introduce betting. So I learned something interesting: Sighthound clubs existed, suggesting the possibility

of an interested audience who might be sympathetic towards the Greyhound. Furthermore, they published magazines! I sent them our 1991 report about the rescue of the first four Mallorca Greyhounds, appropriately translated into German, and the wheels started to turn. Next, I found a Swiss sighthound magazine and contributed to that in French and German. I also discovered a German rescue group called Windhund in Not. My address book and mail circulation started to grow.

International Coup D'Etat

In this work, one thing leads to another. Doors close as others open and help seldom comes from where one expects it. Melanie LeMay, an American living on Ramstein Air Base in Germany, contacted me to adopt a Greyhound. After much discussion, we sent Ben. He was soon followed by Dave. Eventually, 100 American families adopted Greyhounds from England and later, from Spain.

Melanie spoke fluent German and arranged meets-and-greets. She introduced



A gathering of Swedish adopters of Irish Greyhounds at Tammsvik, the largest sighthound show in Europe, July 2003.

us to a formidable lady, Ellen Poppendick, who was president of her local sighthound club. Others at this time were contacting me from various parts of Germany; among them, Veronike Erley, Moni Fleischmann, Norbert Witzmann, Celia Holmgren, Birgit Mueller, and Ute Rasschke. All not only adopted from us, but assisted in the huge rescue effort in Spain. They took in and cared for many dogs. Later, some adopters formed groups of their own.

Next on board was Switzerland. I met Renate Schmidlin, a Borzoi owner, after a dog show in London. I struggled terribly with my school certificate German to make myself understood and convey the message. Over a year later, a dog called Jessie from Valencia found her way to Switzerland to the home of Evelyne Bader. Evelyne later formed New Graceland, a homing group assisting the Greyhounds and Galgos of Spain.

Other countries followed. We received adoption offers from Belgian sympathizers who had read of our work. Among them were Danielle Forrest, Sandrine Fedorowicz, Katia Vanhauwaert, Mireille Broeders, and Josephine Van den Bergh. Josephine is now the most prolific home finder in Europe. In just under four years, she found homes for 2,400 Greyhounds from Spain, Italy, and Ireland. In Holland, Hans van der Steen, an intuitive and colorful devotee with ten Grey-

hounds, introduced us to several sympathizers including Resy Haanen, Ima Venema, Margaret Gijbels, who adopted one of the first Spanish Galgos, and Betty Mercey, who later founded Greyhounds Rescue Holland. All helped greatly in our initial work. As they gathered adopters and supporters around them, they became strong in their own right. We encouraged them to be independent and to raise funds for themselves so we could invest our resources and explore new climes elsewhere.

Our German contacts led us to Birgit Laminger and sighthound lovers in Austria. Marisa Lehen adopted a Mallorca bitch and started a support group in Luxembourg. Catherine Madry, who already had a rescued Podenco, offered help and drew supporters around her, eventually forming *Lévriers en Détresse* in France. It was warming to see these contacts spreading the word further afield and we were glad to provide the material to get them started. Our website (www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk) is laden with reports, bulletins, and educational matter dating back to 1994. We are pleased to share it, appropriately credited. At this moment, new Swedish supporters are creating a Greyhound rescue website utilizing our material.

We have never felt the need to form any type of federation of groups, rather encouraging independence and a character of their

own, so that they grow to their full potential and make their own decisions. We frequently cooperate, lean on each other for help, offer financial assistance when appropriate, and invite each other to events — but we work separately.

Uniting Animal Lovers

In addition to circulating publicity among sighthound lovers, I also targeted general animal welfare groups. We received invaluable help in the way of television, press, and magazine articles from *Animaux en Péril* in Brussels and from *Société Protectrice des Animaux (SPA)* in France. Johanna Wothke and her German organization, *Pro Animale*, brought a massive concentration of effort to the Greyhounds in Ireland and Spain by providing buildings, manpower, and adoptions, with financing she elicits from publicity in her magazine. The UK's National Canine Defence League, now called Dogs Trust, has done much to heighten awareness of the plight of ex-racers. Chief Executive Clarissa Baldwin is a faithful friend of the



Melanie LeMay and her group from the U.S. military in Germany were among GIN's first adopters abroad, from 1992 through 1994.

Greyhounds and a personal friend of many years. She formed the Greyhound Forum in 1994, born out of a large meeting she and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) called in London following much adverse publicity from all of us including our scandalous reports from Spain. The Forum is a committee consisting of representatives from both welfare and the racing industry. For several years it has provided a table in London and Dublin around which all parties can discuss Greyhound welfare.

The northern countries of Europe are now well informed. We are currently in the early stages with Scandinavia. Generally, the Scandinavian countries do not have a stray dog problem. We gained entry into this region through the sighthound clubs and their supporters, who were moved and angry to hear of the abuse in Spain. Twice I have been to the wonderful summer Tammsvik Show where 1,000 pampered Greyhounds, Salukis, Borzoi, and Whippets converge for a weekend of camping and showing with their owners. It is the largest sighthound show in Europe. With our not-so-perfect rescued dogs, we have been warmly welcomed there twice. It has been a very healing experience.

With some easy prompting, supporters in Finland and Sweden introduced me to their press and animal welfare groups. There is always the chance to sow a seed that might later bear fruit. Being just a "back bedroom" charity and doing this work in our spare time, we cannot give this valuable pioneering publicity work the attention that a larger professional charity can. Nevertheless, potential home offers are coming in daily from Sweden.

Planting Seeds Everywhere

The media and written word (often in translation) were the best way to spread information to the public. We also sought personal contact at every opportunity. I maximized each chance to meet someone who



Loading up dogs at the Rome track, October 2002. INOX CORNISH

might be interested in our work. This meant trips abroad, to London, and to Birmingham for Crufts, the biggest international dog show in the world. Working with the Retired Greyhound Trust at its booth at Crufts in the early days brought more supporters to add to our database.

We have published two or three newsletters each year since 1994. We have translated them into French, German, Dutch, Spanish and, more recently, Italian and Swedish. Our mailing list has now reached 6,500 with 30 percent outside of the United Kingdom. At times, we have heated discussions about whether hard copy newsletters are worth the cost. Our growth rate rather answers that question, although keeping up with the positive responses is becoming more the cause for concern.

From the beginning of our campaigns abroad to introduce the Greyhound as a pet, we wanted to provide educational information about adopting an ex-racer into the home. This was especially necessary in countries where even animal welfare groups had almost no experience with the breed. Our guidelines, questionnaire, adoption forms, health advice, and other litera-

ture have been translated into eight languages. I am mildly amused, many years later, when I surf the Internet and find familiar words appearing before me! In 1995, Ringpress Books asked me to write the first book on Greyhound adoption in the UK, *Pet Owners Guide to the Greyhound*. Kynos Verlag translated it into German. Next followed the retirement section in Ringpress' wonderful publication, *The Ultimate Greyhound*.

I saw education of the handlers at the dog tracks and hunters as another essential part of outreach. As an amateur, it took me two years to research and produce a two-hour video in Spanish on proper care for the racing Greyhound, from cradle to grave. We donated over 1,000 copies to all Greyhound trainers at the four tracks in Spain, to the Federación Española de Galgos (FEG) for distribution to their members, and to rescue associations and individual galgueros with whom I came in contact. It is still in demand (albeit not in large numbers) and being marketed in Spain by the FEG.

The language of animals is universal. We speak on their behalf, pleading their cause, describing and illustrating their situation,



Wink, adopted by Rachel and Gary Simmons of Connecticut. CLAIRE SYGIEL

and how we can help. We convey their plight to the groups willing to cooperate in Northern Europe, and hearts open. Along come the offers of adoption, transport, fundraising ideas, voluntary help, and skills such as photography, veterinary care, computer work, artwork, sewing, selling merchandise, and the rest.

Ongoing Crisis

In the Internet age, with the ability to distribute information with a click, we arrive at the biggest European Greyhound emergency this decade: The 2002 collapse of the dog track in Rome with 370 stranded Greyhounds. News came from supporters of the Italian Greyhound rescue group, Adopt Center Italy. They could not cope alone with such numbers. We put the word out to European sympathizers. By that time, there were over 20 groups and individuals in Northern Europe rescuing Greyhounds from Spain. We sent many letters over the Internet in

several languages, soliciting support. We made a special plea at the International Greyhound Forum in Dublin in August 2002. Finally, three groups offered to take dogs besides us: *Lévriers en Détresse* France, GIN Germany, and New Graceland Switzerland. The operation was mostly conducted in Italian, which put a huge strain on my memory of the language from studying music and Italian opera libretti 40 years ago! It was a nightmare of a task because of the politics in Rome following the track's liquidation, which led rescuers on a not-so-merry dance for five traumatic months. Towards the end, even Greyhound Friends North Carolina, in spite of us not having targeted American groups (for reasons of distance), picked up on our plight, realized the mammoth task we faced, and travelled to Rome to lend their support.

What is our next task? For the Spanish Greyhounds and Galgos, the drive to change must come from within Spain. For this, we

need to spread the word about caring. Where better to start than with Spain's own animal lovers? They need encouragement, strength, and fortification. GIN and Greyhound Pets of America have initiated a new project, Paws Across the Pond, aimed at providing practical aid, boosting morale, and transmitting confidence to supporters who are Spain's hope for a change in attitude toward animals. The plan is to pair each of the many Spanish refugees with a sister group abroad that understands and will support them. Our project is still in the early stages.

The Internet is invaluable. Language is a hurdle. Growing pains are inevitable as new, strange, and at times awkward alliances form. With patience and perseverance, a valuable network of animal awareness could encompass and embrace the Greyhounds and Galgos of Spain. We spread the word and change happens. ■

Anne Finch is founder and former trustee of Greyhounds in Need U.K.

Across Borders — A Galgo Rescue



Galgos at a Madrid refuge wait for homes.

Every year at the end of the hunting season, thousands of Spanish Galgos are put to death or fall victim to cruelty that I shall not describe here for the sake of compassion. However, thanks to continuous media campaigns and various requests to the authorities carried out by international bodies as well as by domestic animal welfare groups, public awareness of the situation has increased.

In January 2003, our rescue group received urgent messages prompting us to react to a predictable massive rejection of Galgos in a dog pound 60 km (kilometers) away from Madrid. We were anxious to save as many as possible, but our financial

resources were limited. The message was spread all over Europe to groups devoted to Galgo welfare. As a result, the English charity, Greyhounds in Need (GIN), came up with relief. They offered not only material resources but also encouragement to undertake the rescue of as many dogs as we could handle. So we did — and succeeded in rescuing and preparing 43 Galgos for adoption.

It was hard and pressing work accomplished during our free time. It became a part-time job. Madrid is a large city of approximately five million. Traffic is heavy. We often found ourselves stuck in traffic

jams with our cars full of dogs on our way from the dog pound to the refuge, the veterinarian, or to our own flats where we took sicker dogs to provide better care. It was our priority, however difficult, to procure the best for the Galgos.

In the beginning we had a bad experience. Compelled by urgency, we placed the first 14 Galgos in a private shelter run by someone who bred Salukis for show. It was an idyllic place — a green field with kennels. It was exactly what our Galgos, who had just come out of darkness, needed. As time went on, the people who ran the shelter were more and more reluctant to let us visit.



Medical supplies donated to Amigos de los Galgos by GIN are evidence of international cooperation.

Eventually we found out the kennels were dirty and cold, and the marvelous field surrounding the kennels was for the Salukis, not the Galgos. We were frustrated and suffered deeply knowing that the Galgos were not kept to our expectations.

We began to search for a more suitable place for the next group of dogs we were to receive. We found another kennel that was not ideal, but gave us the freedom to visit at any time and walk the dogs in a big open courtyard. For about a month and a half, we boarded dogs at both places.

One day the Saluki breeder arrogantly asked us to let him adopt one of the purest bitches, Mora. He wanted to use her for breeding. I became furious. We had an intense argument that prompted me to immediately move 14 Galgos out of his kennel into the other kennel that already housed 16 of our Galgos. It was 24 km away. I made two trips in my Seat Ibiza (a 2-door hatchback) with seven dogs in the car each time.

Mora has since been renamed Pandora by her new family in France.

Later, we received an emergency call concerning four stray Galgos found in downtown Madrid. Someone opened the doors of a van to let them run away. (We understand that more were released in this manner, but we were only able to catch four.) It was a Saturday night, so we took them back to our flat until the next day when they joined the others in the refuge. These four dogs were in very poor condition.

Until April, we went to the dog pound to pick up Galgos nearly every week. The whole rescue took more than three months. My flat was used as a clinic for recovery and careful treatment when necessary. Some days we shared our private life with as many as nine Galgos. We got to know the dogs: Rulo needed surgery after being seriously injured in a fight for food; Cariñoso had a strange intestinal problem that caused unending diarrhea and alarming thinness.

Although medical tests showed nothing, we thought he probably rejected dried food. I decided to bring him home and cook for him until his departure. He drastically improved.

All of the dogs were vaccinated, treated for parasites, micro-chipped, and tested for Leishmania and tick-borne diseases. Eight had mange and three required treatment for Ehrlichia. They received daily treatment at the boarding kennel.

We went to the kennels every afternoon and weekend. The sanitation was poor. We wasted vast amounts of energy fighting with the people in charge, demanding more food and cleaner conditions but to no avail. We decided to do it on our own. We cleaned the kennels to our liking and gave the 43 Galgos extra food every day after taking turns with them for walks in the open field next to the facility.

The dogs were eventually transported to the north of France, where the French organization, Levriers en Détresse, distributed the Galgos to different towns for adoption. The truck used to transport the dogs was superb and fully equipped. The drivers, Laura and Kevin, made the long haul from England to load the Galgos at the Madrid refuge, then to unload them in France, then returned back to England.

In general, people in Spain are not prone to loving animals and do not understand or sympathize with what we do. Sometimes, we are thought to be complete fools. This rescue mission was entirely sponsored and encouraged by GIN. They also provided us with other essentials, such as medical supplies and coats for the cold, rainy winter. GIN referred us to Levriers en Détresse and helped arrange to get the dogs to France.

The experience illustrates the effectiveness of internationalizing our efforts. Thanks to GIN and Levriers en Détresse, all 43 dogs found caring homes with French families. ■

Nuria Blanco works on behalf of the Galgos at Amigos de los Galgos in Madrid, Spain.

GreyhoundsRescue Holland

Sowing the Seeds

Four years ago when we adopted Djara, our Spanish Galgo, we had no idea what the future would bring.

The pictures and stories of the Spanish Greyhounds and Galgos moved us in such a way that we decided not long afterward to start our own organization. We contacted our friend Anne Finch. She was happy to hear that we wanted to become a Greyhounds in Need (GIN) affiliate. We named our organization GreyhoundsRescue Holland and have been an official organization for three years. We started placing dogs in January 2002. Within our first year and-a-half, we placed more than 75 dogs and gathered more than 400 supporters.

People ask us all the time, "Why . . . why do you do this? Don't you make it too easy for the Spanish people? You rehome the dogs they don't want anymore, so why should they change?" This is a logical question. People do not realize, however, that more than 12,000 dogs per year are exported to Spain. Many thousands do not survive, so the 70 dogs we have saved are just a drop in the bucket. Every life we can save is one fewer life in pain. We also support the refuges in Spain; not with money but with materials such as food, blankets, leashes, and supplies.

In Holland, there is still a lot of prejudice against the Greyhound/Galgo. People think the dogs are nervous, eat cats, and need to run all day. We try to convince the public that there is no lazier, more relaxed breed. For instance, we hold a photo contest to see who has the biggest couch potato. We post the winners on our website (www.greyhoundsrescue.nl/).

Another problem is that Holland is a small country with many animal shelters filled with dogs. People ask why we bring



Pia Delwel adopted Ayla from GreyhoundsRescue Holland.

dogs to Holland when our own shelters are already full. We try to explain that the living conditions in a Dutch animal shelter are like

a four-star hotel in comparison to the refuges in Spain where the dogs get no medical treatment, live outside, and have to fight for food.

Our organization has no refuge center in Holland. We work with Far from Fear, a German organization. The dogs we rehome come from the Spanish organization, Asociacion Para La Liberacion y Bienestar Animal (ALBA), located in Madrid. The dogs go from Spain to foster homes in Germany and Holland where they learn about family life, cats, children, and other dogs. When people want to adopt a dog they must go through an adoption procedure. If everything is okay, we start looking for a dog that will fit their family situation. It is an intensive way of working, but it proves to be successful since we only had two returns where the dog and people did not get along with each other.

Every two months we organize an event like a group walk in another part of Holland, sort of a meet-and-greet, where people can talk to each other. We have a quarterly magazine (not as beautiful as *CG*) with stories, pictures, and news. People who support us for (at least) 12.50 euro per year receive our publication. We also have a sponsorship program for companies and now are able to put money aside to buy our own van so we can drive emergency supplies to Spain and bring dogs back. We do this now with private cars, which is difficult. We still need 15.000 euro but we have saved 10.000 euro already. At least twice a month we have a booth at fairs, dog shows, or exhibitions to inform people about the dogs, sell lovely Greyhound promotional items, and collect donations.

Stichting GreyhoundsRescue Holland thanks all its volunteers and hopes to help more dogs. People who want to support us or want to adopt a dog in the Netherlands or Belgium are always welcome to contact us at info@GreyhoundsRescue.nl or visit our website (www.GreyhoundsRescue.nl). ■

Betty Mercey is one of the founders of Stichting GreyhoundsRescue Holland.



Djara, the Galgo who inspired the founding of GreyhoundsRescue Holland.

Dylan Goes Home

When the year 2002 began, we never would have known that we wanted a Greyhound. We have two Jack Russell Terriers, so why get another dog? Then I read something about Greyhounds in Spain. I looked on the GreyhoundsRescue Holland website and saw the most terrible things that people did to dogs. I read further about adoption. That was the turning point; my husband and I chose to rescue a Greyhound.

We knew nothing about these dogs so it was a very big adventure.

We picked out Dylan. When we took him home we thought, *What a big dog*. But he was so sweet and his eyes begged for love. When we take him out for a walk, everyone melts because of the look in his eyes.



Dylan with Cher, a Jack Russell Terrier.

In the year since we got him, many things happened. We had to work on his behavior. In the beginning we thought, *Okay, he had a bad time in Spain so leave him alone*. That was wrong because he thought that he was the boss. We worked hard to let him know we are the bosses in the house. I must say, he learns quickly. His behavior improved.

I never knew Greyhounds could be so lazy. Jack Russell Terriers are very busy dogs. Not Dylan. Give him (or let him take) the couch . . . no sound. If he can steal something, he will. In the beginning, everything that he could eat was gone. Now I know to put things up high so he can't reach them.

Some people ask me if I have regrets for taking this dog. No way. You should see how happy Dylan became this year. When the Jack Russell Terriers are gone, I want to rescue another Greyhound.

And Dylan, I hope he has a very long life with us. ■

Frans and Astrid van der Heijden live with Dylan and the Jack Russell Terriers in Beverwijk, The Netherlands.

Advertising Adoption Groups



Advertising can take many different forms and be affordable through volunteer efforts. Last summer, HGA members used a Fourth of July parade float and in-person appearances by several Greyhounds to spread the word about adoption.

Marketing executives have good news for Greyhound adoption groups and other community organizations looking to promote a cause: Advertising doesn't have to be expensive to be effective.

"Before any small organization decides to buy advertising, its members should brainstorm other ideas that may not cost anything at all," said Joe Hrdlicka, a marketing executive who began his professional career in the world of politics where local campaigns use grassroots marketing efforts to help fledgling candidates gain name recognition and stretch their small campaign treasuries. "One-on-one interaction can probably do the most to promote any cause and there are some economical ways to capitalize on even those simple meetings."

Hrdlicka, the Iowa Lottery's vice president of marketing, pointed out that some of the essentials from the political world —

campaign buttons and stickers — and those from marketing and sales arenas — monogrammed shirts with company logos and sales vehicles featuring company names — are subtle, everyday reminders that reinforce a name or message simply by display. "Even without big budgets, local groups can incorporate those same tools into their marketing efforts," he said.

Carol Van Der Hart, who works as a media account supervisor at Strategic America, a Des Moines-based marketing and communications agency, also stresses that a strong communications program can be effective without costing a lot.

"Grassroots efforts don't require a lot of out-of-pocket costs, just your time," she said. "Don't overlook an enormous resource at your fingertips: the talent pool within your own group. Members of community groups come from many different backgrounds and

professions and are willing to give their time and talents to a worthy cause."

Heartland Greyhound Adoption (HGA), a group based in central Iowa, has borrowed many of the homegrown ideas Hrdlicka and Van Der Hart described to economically champion the cause of Greyhound adoption. HGA's efforts can serve as brainstorming fodder for other groups hoping to stretch advertising and public relations dollars.

The Basics

Hrdlicka and Van Der Hart agree that in-person visits with Greyhounds will do the most to define your group in the public's eyes and solidify the need to find homes for retired racers. But Van Der Hart said that while the information provided during those visits is invaluable, it's also essential to provide something that people can review later as a reminder.

"While you've got their attention, give them a flyer they can take home or direct them to your group's website," she said. "Maybe they'll think about it and decide to adopt!"

HGA's drive to define itself began with work to produce a group logo and slogan. The HGA logo, featuring a stylistic Greyhound blended into a heart imposed over an outline of the State of Iowa, was designed by an artist who is a HGA member. The group's slogan — Off The Track & Into Your Heart — was developed by another HGA member who donated her time and efforts.

HGA President Jorene King of Bondurant, Iowa, said she is constantly surprised and pleased by people's generosity in helping the group.

"I think we're an extremely talented group in terms of the creativity group members bring to HGA projects," she said. "I also think other groups will discover similar help

and talents within their memberships."

HGA has developed a small brochure that members regularly hand out at events. It provides a brief history of the Greyhound breed, discusses today's Greyhounds, and lists recommendations for people considering adoption, gives a description of the adoption process, and furnishes contact names along with the HGA website and e-mail address. An HGA member designed the brochure at no cost. The only expense to produce brochures is photocopying and printing, and discounts are often available for nonprofit groups.

Another member arranged for free web server support of HGA's website at www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org. A handful of others donate their time to design and maintain the site, which provides information about HGA and the dogs currently available for adoption.

Corporate Attire

Sales staffers in the business world often wear clothing and drive vehicles emblazoned with their company's name and logo. That same company information can be printed on everything from pens and notepads to golf balls and key chains. While HGA cannot afford to buy such items for promotion, members have been able to coordinate their own purchases of HGA merchandise at reasonable rates through local vendors. HGA members now can buy sweat-shirts, polo shirts, denim shirts, and caps embroidered with the group logo. Members also have worked with local companies to economically buy car window stickers and ballpoint pens featuring the HGA logo and website URL.

"The group merchandise really gives us a unified look when we go to public events and the window stickers on members' cars



Greyhounds can be their own best ambassadors, especially in a quiet, well-behaved group. HGA members regularly use group walks in busy parks during the spring and summer to spread the word about the need to find homes for retired racers.



Community groups often can negotiate reduced advertising rates. Advertising on public buses in the Des Moines, Iowa area has been an affordable option for HGA.

advertise HGA every time they're on the road," King said. "Group members are proud to show their support for HGA and we have been able to achieve low prices in our merchandise by pooling individual orders and making larger purchases."

Public Appearances

Van Der Hart stresses that public appearances are one of the easiest and most economical ways that groups can promote a cause. She also said that there are nearly unlimited opportunities for appearances by groups dedicated to helping animals, allowing the animals to be their own ambassadors. Some appearances that HGA members and Greyhounds regularly make include:

Appearances in local parades in the summer and fall. Thousands of people along parade routes offer valuable opportunities to spread the word about your group. While some HGA members and their dogs ride on the floats, other members walk parade routes and hand out brochures to the crowd. In addition to creative float themes, each of the group's parade entries has prominently displayed HGA's website URL. Supplies for decorating the floats have been purchased for \$30 or less and HGA members decorate the floats themselves.

Pet therapy sessions at local nursing homes and hospitals. Greyhounds' gentle, quiet nature makes them ideal candidates for visiting nursing homes and hospitals to interact with patients. An HGA member whose Greyhounds are certified for pet therapy coordinates the visits.

Visits to local libraries. Libraries offer regular story time sessions for children and many have display cases where local groups are invited to provide educational materials. HGA members schedule story time sessions where they read a book about Greyhound adoption to the children and give them a chance to meet and pet Greyhounds. HGA members also designed materials for library display cases.

Appearances on local television and radio stations. While there are no federal requirements for public-service programming, many stations still track their of public service broadcasts and are happy to feature information about Greyhound adoption. HGA members and the dogs available for adoption have been featured on both local television news and radio broadcasts. HGA members provide the stations with brochures to respond to audience inquiries for more information.

Meet-and-greet sessions at local pet supply stores and booths at local pet-related trade

shows. Meet-and-greets with Greyhounds in attendance are a natural way to catch the public's attention and inviting displays can attract even more notice. At each HGA meet-and-greet, group members display banners featuring the HGA logo and website, provide brochures to visitors, and display whimsical photos of Greyhounds and their families.

Group walks at busy parks. A happy group of Greyhounds always attracts a lot of attention and HGA walks allow the quiet, gentle dogs to be their own best ambassadors. HGA members wear group apparel and provide brochures to interested folks along the way.

Advertising Can Be Economical

In addition to the grassroots marketing efforts HGA regularly undertakes, the group purchased some advertising in central Iowa. But even then, investigation of different forms of advertising allowed the group to stretch its resources. While newspaper and magazine advertising costs hundreds, if not thousands of dollars for a single ad, and television and radio spots require extensive production time and costs, HGA found another innovative way to get its message out to the public.

Buses providing public transportation through the Des Moines Metropolitan Transit Authority feature large side and back ads. HGA negotiated a reduced rate as a non-profit group and placed billboard ads on city buses for two months during summer 2003. And, even after the group's contracted display period ended, MTA officials continued to occasionally display the ads at no cost to help support a local cause.

"Our experience is proof that with creative thinking, adoption groups can afford a marketing campaign," King said. ■

Mary Neubauer works in public relations and is a member of Heartland Greyhound Adoption, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization in central Iowa promoting the adoption of retired racing Greyhounds. She and her husband Rhett Routh live in Clive, Iowa, with their two adopted Greyhounds, Rescue and R.J., their adopted Jack Russell terrier, Ricky, and often times, a Greyhound in foster care with HGA.

Power to the Public Service Announcement



Xena, adopted by Lynda Sykes-Hannam. DAVID ROBINSON

A public service announcement (PSA) is a short spot that radio and television stations broadcast at no charge. It is through PSAs that broadcast stations fulfill their obligation as outlined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to serve the community and public interest. PSAs often publicize community events and health or safety tips. Non-profit organizations place the most PSAs, but commercial organizations may also promote events, non-profit activities, and social causes via PSAs. For the sake of this article, PSAs will be limited to radio.

Greyhound Karma

When Maggie McCurry of Wings for Greyhounds met Ed Asner while walking her Greyhound in her then neighborhood of Brentwood, Calif., little did she know what impact that meeting would have on her future efforts. As frequently seen in the world of Greyhound adoption, a string of karmic events occurred: A veteran advertising professional volunteered to write the dynamic copy. Asner agreed to read the public service script. A friend of a friend offered the use of a local recording studio. The only out-of-pocket expenses were the cost of CDs (estimated at \$1.85 each) and postage.

Since Wings for Greyhounds serves a nationwide adoption demographic, McCurry opted to send CDs to major markets and researched radio stations with the greatest wattage. Anticipating that the contact information available might not be current, she addressed the CD to the generic title of station manager or program director. In doing so, McCurry performed a great public relations faux pas. Though she never followed up with the recipients of the CDs, her PSA seemed to take on a life of its own. Radio stations called her



Red Rock, adopted by Betty De La Rosa, Westminster, Calif.

to ask for copies. The PSA received play in major and minor markets, college radio stations, and national public radio. By the time this article goes to print, it will have probably played on Animal Planet radio. McCurry even received e-mail from a woman who heard the Wings for Greyhounds PSA in Switzerland.

So about now you're thinking that there are no Hollywood celebrities within a 1,000-mile radius and your target audience is local and regional. What can your local adoption group do?

Do Your Homework

As with any event or meeting with the public, be prepared. Assign a committee or team to brainstorm a list of pertinent steps, estimate a timeline, and follow through. You can use the Internet, local phone books, or entertainment listings to compile a list of radio stations to which you will submit your PSA.

Write the Script

Write 15-, 30-, and 60-second scripts. (See the sidebar for a sample script donated by Holger Enge.) You can modify this script for your particular group or create your own. Rather than choose an event that has an end date, craft a message with an indefinite shelf life.

Find Voice Talent

This is crucial and should not be left to ego. McCurry recommends, "If you're in a major market and want Betty White or another prominent animal loving celebrity, write a script that sounds like something a celebrity might feel comfortable saying. Don't hesitate to start with the big talent. It never hurts to ask."

For smaller markets, determine what local or regional public figures are animal lovers. Stay away from controversial personalities, athletes of ill repute, or political party figureheads who may use your platform to promote their own, or worse, alienate your audience.

If you're in a really small market, consider sending the hard copy script to an animal-friendly disc jockey at the biggest local radio station. Try to hand-deliver the script with Greyhounds in tow. Who can resist that kind of special delivery? Contact each radio station to determine in what format they want the PSA. They may just prefer to receive the script, but airtime will be limited to a single radio station (do not expect the other radio stations in town to air a PSA voiced by a personality associated with their competitor).

Other ways to find voice talent are to contact a local college radio station, a school of broadcasting, or propose a project for PSA development to a communications or public relations class. The latter is ideal for creating press release fodder by developing strategic partnerships and building new audiences for Greyhound adoption.

Write a Cover Letter

Whether you're sending a hard copy

script or CD, be sure to include a cover letter with compelling facts about Greyhound adoption, your mission statement, proof of non-profit status, and why this PSA should have air time. Mention that the CD includes 15-, 30-, and 60-second PSAs. Don't forget to include your current contact information, such as phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

Determine the Reach

If you're seeking nationwide play, follow McCurry's method of submitting the PSA to major market radio stations and Internet radio. For major markets like Los Angeles/Orange County where hundreds of radio stations exist (with frequently changing call letters and management), consider first researching the station's demographics and wattage before submitting the PSA. You can often find this information on the station's website or by contacting them directly. A station's website often lists its programming, so you may find a talk show host or DJ who supports animal causes. Make note of this information for future contact. When investigating demographics, never assume that only college students listen to college radio. College radio stations' programming is often diverse, capturing a non-mainstream audience who support a variety of causes.

Follow Up

If at all possible, follow up with the radio stations regarding your PSA. Sometimes a simple phone call will cinch the airplay needed. Following up also ensures that the CD or script made it to a particular decision maker's desk. This is the time to ask when you might start hearing it, how many times a day it will be played, whether will you receive any statistics as to the number of times it plays, and other burning questions.

Have Reasonable Expectations

Don't expect your PSA to hit the air-

waves immediately. It often takes time to get into the rotation, but once the station begins to play your PSA, you could hear it for weeks or months. You might see a rise in your website hits or adoption inquiry calls. Always try to ask how interested parties heard about your group.

Say Thank You

Be sure to send thank you notes to everyone who helped put the PSA together and promote it. Include special thanks to those involved with the project on your website and in your newsletter. If the CDs were donated by a local store, be sure to list the

manager's full name and store address. List the radio stations that aired your PSA, and provide their call numbers. Return the favor of demonstrating generosity by praising those individuals and companies who made the success of your PSA possible. ■

Karyn Zoldan is a CG copy editor. In 1998, she was swayed to adopt her first Greyhound by a billboard in the Oakland Airport featuring a toothy-grinning, stocking cap-wearing Greyhound. She explored their web site and completed an application 15 minutes later. Now she lives happily ever after with two huggable hounds in Tucson. She would like to thank the following for their time and expertise in contributing to this article: Maggie McCurry, WingsforGreyhounds.org; Holger Enge, Cockroachfarm.com; Shel Horowitz, FrugalMarketing.com; and Rise Birnbaum, Zpr.com.

Sample PSA

Date: _____

Client: _____

Product: PSA — Canine Rescue and Adoption Service

Title: "Couch Potato" (Revision-1)

Code: _____

Credits: Writer — Holger Enge

Producer: _____

Announcer: _____

Studio: _____

Medium: Radio

Length: 30 seconds

ANNOUNCER: "Thinking about a dog for your family? Here's one breed you may not have considered — a Greyhound, a retired racing Greyhound — affectionately known as "The 45mph Couch Potato!" Every year Greyhound tracks across the U.S. close and thousands of healthy young Greyhounds are forced into early retirement. Gentle, loving dogs that make ideal family pets! They require very little exercise! They're clean, quiet and trained to get along with other dogs and people! To learn more, check out our website, www.yourURLhere.com, or call: (area code) (telephone number)."

Racing the Fire

The Evacuation of Operation Greyhound



The Operation Greyhound kennel was spared, but the fire came close. This is a view of the valley from the Palmatiers' property.

October 26, 2003 started out as usual — a whining Greyhound needed to relieve himself. It was 4:00 a.m. My husband, Bob, went into the kennel and walked outside with the Greyhound. He saw an orange and black sky and knew the fire was nearby. He could smell the fire, too.

Bob returned from walking the dog and woke me up. I confirmed the fire, but told him it was far enough away from us that we could go back to sleep. We've lived in Crest, California for 12 years. We knew the probability of a fire was great, but what transpired that fateful day was something bigger than we had ever imagined.

We began Operation Greyhound 12 years ago. We bought four acres, chose the highest house on the lot (barking noises travel upward), converted the three-car garage into a kennel, and turned our bedrooms into

offices and catalog rooms. We had 28 dogs when the forest fires broke out. We usually have only a few volunteers to help out on the weekends. Once word got out about the fire, every volunteer wanted to help. Everyone made a heroic effort to make it up through the canyon, negotiating roadblocks while seeing fire all around. Our volunteers are the most amazing people.

Bob began communicating with a highway patrol officer who had adopted a Greyhound from us (what a great connection to have). His area of patrol was on Interstate 8 near the exit closest to our home. He promised to let us know if the flames jumped the freeway. If that happened, we would have to evacuate.

We began to gather essential supplies and assign dogs to vans and drivers. We crammed as much as we could into the vans:

40-lb bags of dog food, medical supplies, collars and leads, bedding, photo albums of our adopters and rescued Greyhounds dating back to 1992, hard files, and as many copies of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* as we could save. Some items in our catalog room were left behind, but our volunteers did an outstanding job saving as much as could fit into the vehicles. Bob videotaped every part of our house for insurance purposes. He also backed up all of our computers. Me? I cried as I gathered everything near and dear to Bob's and my heart. *This is it*, I thought.

All of the vehicles were positioned for a quick getaway. We had nine vehicles, including four vans and a pickup truck into which we loaded all of the ex-pens and airline crates. We made individual lists for everyone with every driver's cell phone numbers in case we got separated.

Ashes were sprinkling down and the air was full of smoke. We could see the flames sprouting up from a lookout mountain. We planned to head approximately 10 miles south to Jamul, where volunteers had invited us to set up our temporary kennels on their property.

The call to evacuate came at 3:30 p.m. We muzzled the dogs, placed them in the vans, and proceeded to Jamul in a caravan. Traffic was gridlocked. There are only two roads that lead down our mountain, and one was closed because of the fire. We waited our turn in line to get down the mountain. The trip took 30 minutes. The usual time is six minutes.

We must give praise to the firefighters, police, and highway patrol for their organized and informed evacuation orders. They gave us plenty of notice to get out safely.

We drove to Jamul with the fire all around



Bob and Bruna Palmatier converted their garage into a kennel to hold up to 23 dogs for Operation Greyhound.

us. We could not understand how we would be safe in Jamul, but we were assured that a firebreak protected the property. When we arrived at our destination, we set up the crates and the ex-pens in the dark. Volunteers helped us set up and then many took Greyhounds home with them. One volunteer took eight greyhounds home with her, assuring us she could place them in foster homes. Bob and I slept outside with the dogs.

Early the next morning, we received word of an impending evacuation from Jamul. A benefactor offered his home in La Jolla, approximately 30 miles northeast of Jamul and near the ocean. We accepted his offer. We lined up foster homes for the remaining

dogs, drove to La Jolla, and stayed there for two days before we were allowed back into our neighborhood. All the while, we never knew if our home would be one of the 50 percent that burned to the ground.

Before we arrived, our highway patrol friend told us that our home had survived the fire, but we had to see it with our own eyes. As Bob and I drove to our home and saw it still standing, we were overwhelmed with relief and gratitude. We could not believe our luck — a home had burned to the ground just 200 yards away from ours.

We purchased a generator and began to clean up the soot and ash. Wonderful people brought us gasoline, water, and food. Ten

days later, our electricity and telephone service were restored.

Natural disasters happen all over the world. We received warnings about the fires. Our thoughts are with those unfortunate people and organizations who don't receive advance warnings. We were lucky. ■

Bruna Palmatier is the president and founder of Operation Greyhound, which has been in existence since 1991. She is a flight attendant for an international airline. She has nine Greyhounds and a Borzoi. Her other interests include her husband, family, grandchildren, koi ponds, and fine gourmet cooking. Bruna and Bob offer their sincerest gratitude to everyone who assisted them during this stressful time, especially the volunteers who helped with the evacuation and sheltered the dogs, and the firefighters.

Living with Isabel



After the storm, Rotor and Star tentatively explore the back yard.

In the Tidewater Area of Virginia, we watch the weather closely during hurricane season (June to November). Unlike earthquakes in my native California, hurricanes give you a warning that they're coming to visit. Personally, I'm not sure I always like that warning. It gives you time to prepare, but it also gives you plenty of time to procrastinate.

On September 6, 2003, Hurricane Isabel showed up on the radar screen. My husband Greg wondered if Isabel would make landfall in our area as a Category 5 hurricane (winds greater than 155 mph). The first year we moved to Virginia, we remained in our home during Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd, which were both tropical storms by the time they reached us. Both brought wind, rain, and flooding. Isabel was already a Category 3 (winds 111-130 mph) and growing when we started to pay attention.

Our household is a busy place, with Greyhounds Rotor and Star, and daughters Margaux and Charlotte. We have always been prepared for miscellaneous emergencies. With Isabel, we had to decide whether to stay or leave. Would Isabel remain a Category 3 storm or higher? All information led us to believe that Isabel was growing stronger and heading straight for us. Our home is half a mile from the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River and only nine feet above sea level, so flooding was our biggest concern. According to the local flood maps on the Chesapeake city web site, if Isabel hit at a Category 3, we would have some damage and probable flooding to the first floor. A Category 4 storm would mean definite flooding to the first floor, but more than likely no other damage. Category 5 would mean we would get a new house the hard way — total

devastation. For the sake of the dogs and the children, we decided to leave.

Ten days before Isabel's arrival, I was ready to pack up and move out. We searched the Internet and found a Holiday Inn in Charlottesville, Virginia, willing to take us all, including the dogs (the pet charge was \$10.00 a day, per dog). We gathered the dogs' health records. We also reserved space at a local kennel, hoping that their cinderblock building would remain standing upon our return, even if our home did not. If both home and kennel were devastated by the storm, we planned to send the dogs and children to stay with my parents in Fresno, California.

We bought supplies, including bottled water (at least one gallon per person/dog per day), canned food for the humans, 90 pounds of dry dog food, and three cases of canned and assorted treats. We thought about



Greg and Michele Curth, daughters Margaux and Charlotte, and Greyhounds Rotor and Star, in a quieter moment.

what power we would need. Most area hardware stores were sold out of generators 10 days before the storm. We got the last generator of a shipment of 50 on September 13, and I felt like I had won the lottery. In the meantime, we lived for the National Hurricane updates, which are posted daily to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website at 5 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. According to the models, Isabel was still tracking our way, though possibly downgrading.

If we still wanted to leave town, how could we do it in one car? We wanted to take things with us that we could never replace: The remains of Shelby, our first Greyhound; original artwork by Kathy Hoynes; the girls' birth announcements; my massive cross-stitch collection; our diplomas; Navy memorabilia; photographs and videos of the kids. Our list was two pages long and growing. We reserved a rental trailer for September 15, two days before Isabel's planned arrival. The task of packing would be daunting, but we planned to be finished and ready to evacuate bright and early on the morning of September 16.

We felt we were ahead of the game.

On September 15, we received a glimmer of hope. NOAA downgraded Isabel to a Category 2, predicting landfall on the Outer Banks of North Carolina on September 17. This was approximately 100 miles from our home in Chesapeake, Virginia.

We began to consider staying. Star had tripped on the deck stairs, requiring stitches in one leg with lots of bandaging. Charlotte, our youngest daughter, had come down with a cold. When NOAA predicted Isabel would be a Category 1 at landfall, we decided to stay put.

From the beginning of our watch on Isabel, the dogs could sense our excitement. They did not like to be left alone. I think it was hardest on Rotor. Star had to see the veterinarian every other day to have her wound checked and bandage changed. I had to start taking Rotor with us because if I left him behind, he worked himself into a bundle of nerves. Both dogs have been with us for over three years, are generally quite settled, and get plenty of attention at home. During our preparations for the storm, Rotor would follow me into the bathroom and refuse to leave. Star was always under foot and begging for attention. They kept us within sight at all times, which was unusual for them.

On September 17, Greg used the rented trailer to haul bagged dirt to act as sandbags in case of minor flooding. We cancelled our hotel reservation. We felt we had enough supplies to ride out the storm. We went to bed hoping that we had made the correct decision.

Thursday morning came early. Greg turned on the battery-operated radio and began to make breakfast. At 8:00 a.m., news reports indicated that Virginia Beach — 10 minutes from us — had lost power. We lost power at 8:03 a.m. Greg fired up the camp stove and finished preparing scrambled eggs for us on the front porch. Rotor and Star paid close attention to the activity from their beds in the living room. Normally, if Greg makes breakfast and there are leftover eggs, the dogs get a treat. They waited in anticipation.

The winds had started, but the rains still were not heavy in our area. This meant that Rotor and Star would still go outside without much prodding. We knew that once the rains and thunder started to move through, the dogs would become very nervous. Rotor and Star are thunderphobic. Star hides in our upstairs closet during storms. She spends so much time there during the summer that we have a dog bed in the closet for her.

We decided to stay on the first floor. We knew if there was severe thunder, we would never get Star out of the closet. We put up a baby gate so the dogs would remain with us downstairs. The dogs settled in the den. Rotor lay in his favorite place in front of the couch, putting his nose up to be rubbed now and then. Star watched the girls from the middle of the room. In case of an emergency, what was our plan? Over the past few years, we have trained the dogs to go into our laundry room in case of an emergency. This would be the safest location in case of a tornado, and because they associate the laundry room with walks, they go there quickly and willingly. The humans would be across the hall in the half bath.

We were glued to our radio. Reports were coming in that many people had lost power — upwards of 150,000 homes, soon to be over 500,000. The winds started to blow, with gusts in excess of 50 mph. By lunchtime, the winds were in full force. Our home backs up to a wooded area, so watching the trees sway was surreal. The 90-ft pine trees looked like cotton swabs bending just short of their breaking point. One minute they would be upright, and the next they would be completely hidden behind the house next door. Our 45-ft river birch was like an ostrich feather pom-pom; at times, it appeared to touch the ground. The wind stripped leaves off the tree at an alarming rate.

Radio reports repeatedly warned us to remain indoors and stay away from windows. Although this was sensible advice for avoiding flying debris, we had to take the

dogs outside for breaks. Once the rains came, the dogs wouldn't go out without a human to accompany them. We coaxed them towards the sliding door, across the deck, and into the yard with the winds and rain whipping around us. Finally, they did what they needed to do and ran back to the door. Star balked at the door a couple of times, but the offer of biscuits enticed her back in.

The winds picked up to 65 mph, with gusts in the low 70s. This doesn't seem like much on paper, but when the house shakes, you take notice. In the afternoon, a microburst (a powerful downdraft associated with thunderstorms) occurred 50 feet from our back fence. It snapped five trees in half. Then Greg yelled at me to look out of our side window. One of two maple trees started to uproot. The ground swelled and moved with the wind. The root ball appeared to have a pulse. Then our other maple started to lean.

We were so lucky that it was just the trees. It could have been so much worse. It was very sad to watch the first one completely uproot. The second was leaning, but our Gumball (Liquid Amber) tree held it up. Thankfully, three years before we had removed two injured Loblolly Pines. We can only imagine where they might have ended up had we not.

Late that afternoon, the winds started to die down as Isabel moved inland. We prepared dinner on the camp stove and fired up the generator for a little television. The dogs settled in around us as if nothing much was going on outside. Rotor stationed himself off the right side of Margaux's highchair, waiting patiently for her to toss something tasty over the side. Star pounced on a plush toy. She was wound up, but there would be no walk for the next couple of days, due to debris and unknown dangers.

When Star doesn't receive her daily walk, she runs through the lower level of the house, every once in a while stopping to bark and make sure everyone is paying attention to her. As she did this, Greg and I noticed that her

bandage wasn't quite right. Upon further examination, it was clear that she had been licking and chewing at it; so much so, that she had torn out the stitches. Fortunately, we had veterinary supplies; we rewrapped the leg and hoped for the best until the clinic reopened.

I had been warned that when nightfall comes after the storm, there is an eerie blackout effect. I was not prepared for just how black it was. We put Margaux and Charlotte to bed early and settled in ourselves. The dogs were happy to be back upstairs; Rotor hit the favored bed, and Star headed to the closet. The winds picked up again, and the rain came down very hard. We worried about tornadoes, but we heard no warnings on the radio.

Our power came back on at 7:30 the next morning. We ventured outside to help our neighbor cut up a downed tree. The devastation was unreal. The streets were littered with trees and leaves, leaving many impassable. The leaves gave much the same appearance of snow. In our neighborhood of approximately 1,000 homes, many had trees through the roofs, across the houses, and on cars. A large boat was sitting aground in a front yard. A neighbor had three Loblolly pines in, on, or over his house; none of the

trees were his. We wondered if the trees that surrounded us had protected us more than if our home had been out in the open. The dogs headed outside, and we were thankful that they did not want to explore the downed and leaning trees. We didn't walk the dogs for a few days because of the debris. When we did resume walks, we found a large oak tree blocking one of our regular routes. Someone cut a notch in it to allow traffic through. Star initially refused to go through the notch, but eventually did and found that the tree wasn't going to hurt her. There were many new sights and smells for them to explore. We were cautious, because all of the damaged fences meant loose dogs and other animals could be out.

At this writing, it's been almost two months since Isabel came to visit. We have talked about what happened and how very, very lucky we were to walk away with as little damage as we had. Most of all, we are thankful that our family remained safe. Nevertheless, I don't believe Greg and I would risk staying behind during another storm of Isabel's magnitude. There are no guarantees with Mother Nature. ■

Michele Curth lives with her family in Chesapeake, Va.



Although the Curth home was undamaged, their neighbors were not so lucky.

Emergency Pet Preparedness



Oscar, adopted by Carolyn Flajnik of Oak Hill, Va.

The large number of pets left helpless in residential buildings near the World Trade Center after the events of September 11, 2001 prompted the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to implement a nationwide Emergency Pet Preparedness initiative. Their program, which is described on their website (www.asPCA.org), offers the following suggestions:

Post a Rescue Alert Sticker

This easy-to-use sticker will let people know that pets are inside your home, in case you cannot. The sticker must be visible to rescue workers. It must contain 1) the types and number of pets in your household; 2) the name of your veterinarian; and 3) your veterinarian's phone number.

You may obtain an emergency pet alert sticker from the ASPCA. You may also

contact your local pet supply store to determine if they carry similar stickers for purchase.

Arrange a Safe Haven

Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation. *Do not leave your pets behind.* If you do, they may be at risk for injury or even worse. Red Cross disaster shelters will not accept pets because of

health and safety regulations. So it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time.

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities for use in the event of an emergency.
- Check with your local animal shelter to determine if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

Assemble Emergency Supplies and a Traveling Kit

Keep an emergency kit handy for your pets. This kit should contain the following:

- Pet first-aid kit and guide book.
- Canned (pop-top) or dry food.
- Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect).
- Litter or paper toweling.
- Pet feeding dishes.
- Extra leash.
- Photocopies of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires. (Remember that food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit otherwise they will go bad or become useless.)
- Bottled water.
- A pet traveling bag or sturdy carrier, ideally for each pet.
- Flashlight.
- Blanket (for scooping up a fearful pet).
- Photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters).

Choose Designated Caregivers

This is something that should take considerable time and thought. You should make plans for a temporary home for your pets in the event of an emergency. (And also make arrangements for a permanent

home in the event you can no longer care for your pet.)

When choosing a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your residence. He or she should be someone that is generally home during the day while you are at work or has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual. This may work well with a neighbor who has pets of their own. (You may even swap responsibilities depending upon who has accessibility.)

When choosing a permanent caregiver, other criteria should be considered. This is a person to whom you are entrusting the care of your pet in the event that something should happen to you. When selecting this "foster parent," consider people who have met your pet and have successfully cared for animals in the past. Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with a permanent caregiver, so he or she understands the responsibility of caring for your pet.

Additionally, you will want to provide a trust for your pet's financial future. Unlike a will, a trust provides for your pet immediately, and can apply not only if you die, but if you become disabled. You may designate your permanent caregiver as the trustee, or choose a separate person to be the trustee of the funds that you have set aside for your pet's care.

Prepare for Evacuation

Time is of the essence when you must evacuate your home in a crisis. To minimize evacuation time, take these simple steps:

- Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible.
- Make sure all pets are collared with up-to-date identification. Your pet's ID tag should contain his name, telephone number, and any urgent medical needs.
- The ASPCA recommends microchipping your pet for the most permanent

identification. (A microchip is implanted in the animal's shoulder area, and can be read by scanner at most local animal shelters.)

- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home during a crisis.
- Consider your evacuation route and call ahead to make arrangements for boarding your pet outside of the danger zone at the first sign of disaster.

Consider Geography and Climate

You may live in an area that is prone to certain natural catastrophes, such as tornadoes, earthquakes or floods. If so, you should plan accordingly.

- Locate rooms well in advance that offer safe havens. In other words, selected rooms that are clear of hazards such as windows, flying debris, etc.
- Choose easy-to-clean areas such as utility rooms, bathrooms, and basements as safe zones.
- Access to a supply of fresh water is particularly important. In areas that may lose electricity, fill up bathtubs and sinks ahead of time to ensure that you have access to water during a power outage and other more foreseeable crises.
- In the event of flooding, look for the highest location in your home, or for a room with access to counters or high shelves where your animals can take shelter.

Emergencies come in many forms and may require anything from a brief absence from your home to a permanent evacuation. Each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe. The best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared. ■

Is Your Greyhound in Pain?



This Greyhound's refusal to bear weight on the right rear leg is a possible display of guarding behavior in response to pain. (In addition, the toes on the right rear foot are not extended.)

There are many new pain relievers available for Greyhounds ("The Pill and the Patch: Narcotic Pain Relievers for Your Greyhound," Fall 2002 *CG*) and more will be arriving on the market soon. But how can you tell when your Greyhound is in pain? What is pain? Are there different types and levels of pain? This article answers these questions so you can help your Greyhound lead a pain-free life.

Pain is a physiological condition involving nerve receptors, nerves, and the brain. The nerve receptor is activated by a stimulus. The receptor sends a signal via the nerve to the brain that a painful stimulus has occurred. The brain interprets the stimulus and responds accordingly.

Nerve receptors are present in most areas of the body. The receptor responds to heat, trauma, and pressure. When stimulated, the receptor releases compounds into the tissues, causing swelling or redness. The receptor communicates with the nerve, indicating that it has been activated.

The nerve transmits the signal to the brain. The area of the brain that interprets the pain response is called the "dorsal horn." The dorsal horn cells receive all pain stimulation, interpret the stimulation, and form the appropriate response. The dorsal horn cells also become sensitized after pain stimulation. This process is called "winding-up," which means even non-painful stimuli such as a light touch or tepid temperatures are interpreted as painful. This is why after a painful stimulation you do not want any one to touch the sensitive area.

The stimulated dorsal horn cells send a response to the stimulus. Responses could include moving, running, holding up a leg, or biting. Once the receptor ceases to be stimulated, the "winding-up" stops and no further response is necessary. The entire

process from stimulation to response takes approximately one-hundredth of a second.

Pain can be either acute or chronic. Acute pain is a response to an injury or surgery. Chronic pain is a disease. Whether acute or chronic, pain is categorized as mild, mild to moderate, moderate to severe, or severe. Mild pain is associated with conditions such as superficial lacerations, urine scald, or eyelid surgeries. Mild to moderate pain is characteristic of tooth extractions, spay or neuter, and ear hematoma (bruising, blood clotted within tissue). Moderate to severe pain occurs with localized burns, toe amputation, and eye ulcers. Severe pain is associated with pancreatitis, neck disc surgery, and surgery of the chest. Chronic pain incidents are present with degenerative diseases such as arthritis, disc disease, or persistent infection. Chronic pain is more serious than acute pain, because chronic pain will modify the Greyhound's internal reflexes to cause a decrease in kidney and heart function. Decreased blood flow to the kidney, a reduction in the heart's ability to pump blood, and a decreased ability to supply oxygen where it is needed can contribute over time to a general failure of the Greyhound's organs.

How does your Greyhound tell you he is in pain? He may give you many different signals. Obviously, surgery or an acute injury will induce a pain response and should be treated accordingly. If these events have not occurred, what signs will be evident? There are ten signs of acute or chronic pain. Any of these signs alone or in combination may indicate your Greyhound is in pain.

The first two indications of pain are *vocalization* and *facial expression*. Mournful cries, groans, and anxious whining may indicate discomfort. The facial features may indicate a mournful expression, ears may be in the dropped position, or the dog may have a fixed stare.

The third and fourth indications of pain are *body posture* and *guarding*. A dog in pain will often display a hunched back or



This Greyhound's hunched back and dropped ears are possible signs of pain.

lay on his side. Guarding includes protecting the painful area, licking or chewing the area, and limping.

The fifth and sixth indicators are *modifications of activity and attitude*. The Greyhound may become more restless, display reduced mobility, or tremble. His normally pleasant attitude may become aggressive. Where he was confident, he may be fearful.

The seventh and eighth indicators are *appetite* and *house training*. A reduced appetite is very common in a Greyhound who is experiencing pain. The Greyhound may show a 30 to 50 percent decrease in food consumption, causing a loss of 5 to 10 percent of his body weight. The Greyhound may also begin urinating or defecating in the house after being perfectly housebroken for years. This new behavior may indicate a painful condition that needs treatment.

The last two indicators are *grooming* and *response to palpation*. Most Greyhounds in pain — especially chronic pain — will not groom themselves. Their coat becomes dull and matted, and hair loss may occur. The Greyhound appears poorly groomed and unkempt. Finally, response to palpation means that an area that is touched can elicit

a pain response. This response could be crying, running, or biting. These responses are more common with an acute injury than a chronic injury.

Pain is a very complex yet simple response. Each Greyhound may interpret a painful stimulus differently. What may be a moderately to severely painful stimulus to one Greyhound may be a mild to moderate stimulus to another. Medications are given based on pain indicators, response to medications, and cost of the medications. Providing a pain-free life for your Greyhound is imperative. Consult your veterinarian with questions about pain and current treatment options. Remember that no medication is without side effects, and each individual Greyhound may respond better to one medication than another. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.

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Joint Supplements

Glucosamine, Chondroitin Sulfate, and MSM



Nutritional supplements can make your older hounds more comfortable. Unruly Big Red and Smooth Susie, adopted by Elizabeth Strader of Glens Falls, N.Y.

Senior hounds — what could be sweeter, or more special? The old ones are truly a gift, and those who have had the honor of living with a senior hound know this well.

Along with the joy of having a senior hound, though, comes the responsibility of keeping him or her as comfortable as possible in old age. Sometimes even our middle-aged hounds begin showing the wear and tear their bodies have experienced in younger days. Arthritis and old injuries can flare up, making it hard for a hound to get up, lie down, or remain standing for a period of time. Painkillers such as aspirin, Rimadyl®, and related drugs can provide relief, but may not be well tolerated. They can cause stomach upset and possibly liver and kidney problems if taken for a long time. Fortunately, there are some oral medications that have a good safety record and can not only provide relief, but perhaps even slow down the degenerative process that takes place in an older hound's joints. Three of the most common alternatives are described here: glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate, and

methylsulfonylmethane (MSM).

Normal joints have pads of cartilage that protect the ends of the bones that form the joint, and fluid that helps reduce friction and wear. Joint injury initiates a self-perpetuating cycle of inflammation, cartilage damage, and poor-quality joint fluid that ultimately leads to irreversible degeneration. Glucosamine, chondroitin, and MSM are found naturally in the body, and supplementation provides higher levels of these substances so the body may heal itself more efficiently.

All of these substances are available over the counter, and are popularly known as "nutraceuticals." This term has been coined to describe a dietary supplement that also has medicinal qualities. They can be given individually, or in combination with one another.

Glucosamine

Glucosamine is a simple amino sugar — a building block that the body needs to synthesize the more complex sugars and proteins that play a role in cartilage formation and repair. It is typically extracted from animal

sources, such as the shells of crab, lobster, or shrimp. It comes in two common forms: glucosamine sulfate and glucosamine hydrochloride. Some researchers and practitioners tend to prefer the hydrochloride form because it is more concentrated and has less sodium content than the sulfate form, but many over-the-counter products use the sulfate. Many popular products also combine glucosamine with chondroitin sulfate (see below).

Glucosamine is a small molecule that is easily absorbed by the body and travels well to the sites of joints. Studies in humans indicate that the administration of glucosamine may relieve pain and even slow the progression of degenerative changes, particularly in the knees. Glucosamine may reduce or eliminate the need to administer stronger pain relievers such as Rimadyl® or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

Typical dosage guidelines for glucosamine in dogs are 500 mg for every 25 lbs in body weight twice a day.

Side effects from glucosamine are rare, and typically involve stomach upset and/or diarrhea. Lowering or discontinuing the dose should resolve the problem. Since glucosamine is a sugar, veterinary advice prior to giving it to a diabetic pet is essential.

Chondroitin sulfate

Chondroitin sulfate is a larger, more complex sugar molecule known as a glycosaminoglycan. It is found in cartilage, bone, and blood vessels. It promotes water retention, thus giving cartilage greater elasticity. It is also believed to inhibit enzymes that break down cartilage. Chondroitin is typically extracted from the cartilage of animals such as cows or sharks. Due to its size, it is absorbed less easily than glucosamine. It is often given in combination with that supplement.

Typical dosage guidelines for chondroitin sulfate are 400 mg for every 25 lbs in body weight twice a day.

Side effects from chondroitin sulfate are similar to that of glucosamine — stomach upset and/or diarrhea. In addition, chondroitin sulfate, which is chemically related to the blood-thinning substance heparin, is known to slightly reduce the effectiveness of blood platelets. While the effect is not clinically significant with the administration of chondroitin sulfate alone, in conjunction with other drugs that affect blood clotting (such as aspirin, heparin, or warfarin), the effect can be significant. If your Greyhound has blood-clotting problems or is receiving medications that affect clotting, the advice of your veterinarian is essential before administering this supplement.

MSM

MSM is an odorless, tasteless, naturally occurring sulfur compound. It is found in many foods, and is stored in nearly every cell in the body, with the highest concentrations found in the joints, hair, skin, and nails. The body needs sulfur to produce healthy connective tissue. Sulfur also has purported anti-inflammatory properties. Theoretically, MSM supplementation can promote natural healing and reduce pain. Dosage varies widely for a Greyhound-sized dog, from only 200 mg per day up to 2,000 mg per day. It is wise to start with a smaller dose and work upwards while observing for any side effects.

Side effects associated with MSM are rare but include diarrhea, skin rash, headache, and fatigue. MSM can be given in conjunction with other pain-relieving drugs if needed; there are no known drug interactions.

MSM was first touted as an anti-inflammatory in the early 1980s by Stanley W. Jacob, MD, of the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, and Robert Herschler, MD, a research scientist for Crown Zellerbach. Dr. Jacob had long been

an advocate of MSM's chemical cousin, DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide), a byproduct of the paper pulp processing industry. DMSO is a chemical solvent that absorbs water and can pass through the skin, transporting some types of medications with it. It has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, and it has been used to treat skin, muscle, intestinal, and urinary inflammation in both humans and animals. It has also been used intravenously in animals to treat heat stroke and to assist in preventing tissue death from lack of blood flow. However, DMSO is not available over the counter due to its potential for adverse reactions. It also has a heavy, garlic-like odor that can be very unpleasant. MSM is considered to be a safer (and much less smelly) alternative. Since its use is based on limited research, its effectiveness has not been well established.

Important Note about Over-the-Counter Supplements

Choosing your oral supplements carefully is important. Since nutraceuticals are considered dietary supplements and not drugs, the Food and Drug Administration regulations are far less strict for them. Not all brands have the amounts of supplements that they claim to contain. Check with your veterinarian for brands he or she may recommend, or visit ConsumerLab.com's website (www.consumerlab.com/results/gluco.asp#results), which has a list of brands they have tested and approved. (ConsumerLab.com is an independent testing firm based in White Plains, NY.) ■

Nancy Beach is a CG regular contributor.

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Harry, adopted by Bob and Patty Tonkin of Brookville, Pa.

you're invited

Friday, March 5 through Sunday, March 7

Sandy Paws — Greyt Fun in the Sun

Greyhound Adoptions of Florida
Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

Pizza party meet-and-greet, blessing of the hounds, beach walk, seminars, Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team, author Cyn Mobley, ice cream social and fashion show, memorial service, raffle, vendors and prizes. Contact: Dayle Kelloway, (904) 725-7558 or boomer0150@msn.com.

Saturday, March 27

Hounds of Fashion — Barks, Bubbly, and the Bard

Presented by Grateful Greyhounds and Long Island Shakespeare Festival
Starts at 8:00 p.m.

Suffolk Community College
Selden, N.Y.

Featuring costumes for hounds and humans from Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, champagne and desserts, scenes from Shakespeare, door prizes, and a celebrity silent auction. Contact: Iris Mosher, mosheri@sunysuffolk.edu

Sunday, April 4

Sixth Annual Greyhound Reunion & FunDay

Greyhound Pets of America/Daytona Beach
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Daytona Beach Kennel Club
2201 W. International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach, Fla.

A fun day for Greyhounds and their families. Hound games and contests, raffles, shopping, a great silent auction, nail trimming, fun runs on the track for retired racers, The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team, and more. Contact: Chris Miller, 386-239-3647 or gpadaytona@cfl.rr.com; www.greyhoundpetsdaytona.org

Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25

Greyhounds in Gettysburg

Triangle Greyhound Society

Gettysburg, Pa. and surrounding area

Greyhounds in Gettysburg is an annual Greyhound gathering in historic Gettysburg. Vendors, ghost walk, strolls in area parks, and a meet-and-greet at the local Harley Davidson dealership. Contact: Joanna Wolfe, 919-219-2417 or www.trianglegreyhound.org/gig

Saturday, April 24

GPA-CNHC Benefit Dinner

Greyhound Pets of America/
Central New Hampshire Chapter
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Puritan Backroom
245 Daniel Hooksett Road (Rt. 3)
Manchester, N.H.

Fundraising buffet dinner with guest speaker Michael McCann, raffle, and GPA store. Tickets are \$25.00/person. Contact: Carolyn Wright, 603-225-2175 or k-s-wright@comcast.net

Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2

Greyhound Gathering — Kanab 2004

Greyhound Gang
Kanab, Utah

A three-day celebration of living life with our hounds — including parade, Blur of Fur run, Greyhound Idol, movies, speakers, auctions, and more. 100% of all proceeds go to help more hounds still in need. Contact Claudia Presto, 435-644-2903 or Claudia@greyhoundgang.org; www.greyhoundgang.org

Saturday, May 8

Tenth Annual Reunion

Greyhound Adoption Service, Inc.
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds
Westford, Mass.

A fun day in the country with vendors, raffle, fun dog show, bake sale, and more. Contact: Marilyn, 978-462-7973 or Homes4grey@aol.com

Sunday, May 16

Annual Reunion

Greyhound Pets of America/Maryland
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Oregon Ridge Park
Cockeysville, Md.

Great day of celebrating adopted Greyhounds — fun, games, contests, food, educational presentations, vendors, prizes, and more. Contact: Mary Helen Sprecher, 410-744-4542 or sprech@gis.net

Saturday, May 22

GEM 2004 Picnic

GreyHounds of Eastern Michigan
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wayne County Fairgrounds
Belleville, Mich.

Rain or shine, we're inside! Food, vendors, contests, auctions, raffles, and fun. GreyHounds + Greyt People = Greyt Times. Contact: Kathy Helm, gryz4me@hotmail.com or 877-GEM-DOGS (877-436-3647); www.gemgreyhounds.org

Saturday, May 22

Second Annual Birthday Party

Greyhound Pets of America-New Mexico
Greyhound Connection
12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Bow Wow Blues
3845 Rio Grande N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M.

Join the people and Greyhounds of New Mexico Greyhound Connection for our second annual birthday party. There will be birthday cake for humans and hounds alike as we celebrate our second successful year. Contact: Candy Beck, 505-897-0427 or info@nmgreyhoundconnection.org

Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23

Spring Open House

Greyhound Friends, Inc.
12 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Greyhound Friends Kennel
167 Saddle Hill Road
Hopkinton, Mass.

Come on over and tour our new kennel facility and meet lots of Greyhounds — those returning for a visit with their owners and those waiting in the kennel for a family to take them home. Food, games, and shopping for Greyhound items (hound and human). Contact: Louise Coleman, 508-435-5969 or greyhndfids@aol.com



Saturday and Sunday, May 29 and 30

It's a Greyhound Life!

Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth (GLOHW)

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Binbrook Fairgrounds
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada

A Greyhound gathering designed to inform, provide shopping opportunities, and create or renew lasting friendships. Contact: Heather Geres, 905-692-5790 or glohw@glohw.on.ca; www.glohw.on.ca

Saturday, June 5

Doggone Walkathon 10 & Picnic

We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc. (WAG)

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wickham Park
Manchester, Conn.

Raise money for the WAG dogs through pledges. Enjoy a walk and have lunch (please bring a dish to share). Contact: Agnes Porell, 869-569-4187 or porell1@aol.com

Saturday, June 5

Twelfth Annual Picnic

Greyhound Pets of America/Springfield, Mo.

3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

2016 S. Arlington Terrace
Springfield, Mo.

Contact: Alane Shultz at 417-883-8156 or agrehound@mindspring.com

Thursday, June 10 through Sunday, June 13

Greyhound America 2004

Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption
Sterl Hall

Abilene, Kan.

This annual gathering is made up of retired racing Greyhounds, the dogs' owners and breeders, and Greyhound adoption groups from all over the United States and Canada. Tours of Greyhound facilities in and around Abilene are planned, as well as networking and a lot of "rooing" from the four-legged attendees. Contact: Judy Sparks, greydogs@swbell.net; www.racethewind.org

Saturday, June 12

Ninth Annual Greyhound Picnic in the Park

Personalized Greyhounds Inc.

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

Gifford Pinchot State Park
Lewisberry, Pa.

Located in a densely wooded park between York and Harrisburg, Pa. We will have our usual Chinese and silent auctions, vendors, music, food, and fun.

Recognition and Awards program begins at 3:00. We reserve this day for our honored Greyhounds only.

No other breeds on this special day, please. Contact: Diane Freundel, 717-737-2609 or dfreundel@aol.com; www.pgreys.org

Saturday, June 12

Monica's Heart Summer Blast

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption

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

Legion Park
Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Lots of fun, games, demonstrations, prizes, vendors. Silent auction, raffle, concession stand. A great start to the summer — fun and socializing for hounds and their humans! Some local hotels welcome your hounds; e-mail for information. Contact: Kay McNelis, 814-942-3145 or houndmom@charter.net; Peg O'Brien, 814-943-1475 or obie@alt3.com

Sunday, June 13

Seventh Annual Picnic

South Jersey Volunteers for National Greyhound Adoption Program (NGAP)

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Atlantic County Park
Mays Landing, N.J.

Raffles, Chinese auction, Greyhound store, games, and more. Contact: Merci Riccardi, 609-266-7818 or mercibar1@aol.com

Sunday, June 13

Fourth Annual GreysLand Gathering and Reunion, and Woolf Walk

GreysLand Greyhound Adoption

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

Hopkinton State Park

Split Rock Area

Hopkinton, Mass.

This year we are combining our Gathering and Reunion with our Woolf Walk, to make the best event of the summer! We'll have lots of vendors, raffles, games, information booths, food for sale (burgers, dogs, and veggie burgers), and a two-mile walkathon to raise money for the GreysLand Gang. Contact: Robin Norton, 508-435-6023 or greys5@aol.com

Friday, June 25 through Sunday, June 27

Seventh Annual Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering

St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Mich.

A weekend of friends and fun to benefit the Morris Animal Foundation. Raffles, auctions, contests, The Gilley Girls, poker stroll, ice cream social, vendors from across the country, and lots more. Contact: Connie Cassidy, 269-429-6985; www.glgg.org



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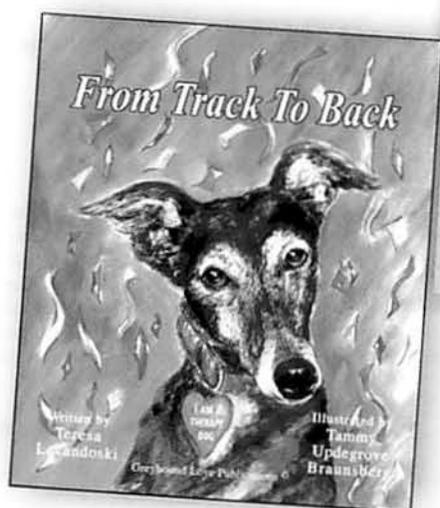


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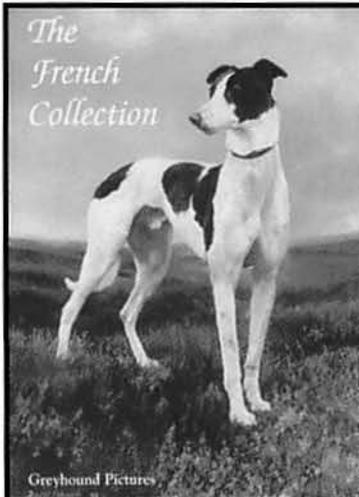
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Spring issue: December 1

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Fall issue: June 1

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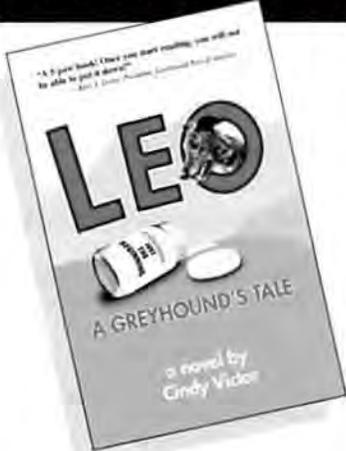


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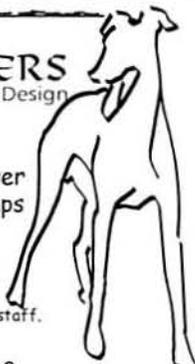


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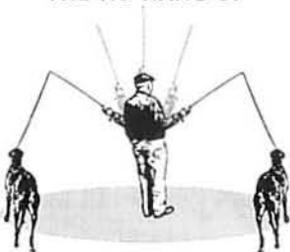


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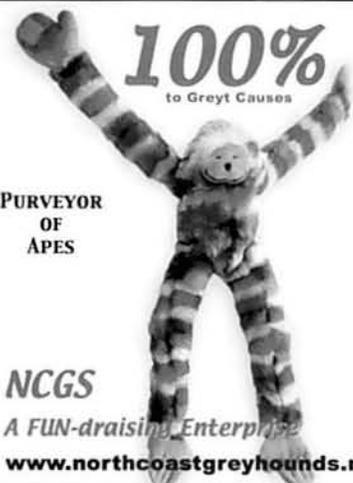


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Ben (Skibbereen) 1995-2003

Owned, loved and missed by Sue and Ed Williams of Perrysburg, Ohio. Ben came to us through Greyhound Companions of Indiana in 1997 at the age of 2 1/2. He was pictured with Dr. Bridges, the director of the Hayes Presidential Center, in the article "Presidential Library Welcomes Greyhounds" (Fall 1998 CG). Ben loved traveling to Dewey and barking at the waves; we missed having him with us this year due to his back problem. Although he is now free from pain, he is greatly missed by his companion Snowy and the rest of the pack. His absentminded humans are amazed to be able to leave a coffee cup and still find coffee on their return, though we greatly miss his coffee-scented kisses as Ben's thanks for the drink.



Jackpot (Jandy Jackpot) 1994-2003

Adopted by Margie and Jim Dugan from Greyhounds Only, Jackpot was pictured on page 10 of the Fall 2000 issue of CG. He was golden fawn, sweet natured, with a laid-back personality and eyes that could melt your heart. After six months of retirement, he turned into a guard dog at home, patrolling the yard and window for anyone who didn't belong. A former Grade A racer and grandson of Hall of Famer Dutch Bahama, he chased all of the wildlife out of the yard. Away from home, Jackpot was Mr. Personality; anyone could walk up to him for hugs and kisses. He never liked toys of any sort, preferring to carry around and sleep with Margie's shoes. One month after his ninth birthday, he started having trouble climbing the stairs. Less than two weeks later, a large lump appeared on the inside of his leg that turned out to be osteosarcoma. Margie and Jim will always remember how lucky they were to have Jackpot in their lives.



Rambo (Ranier Rambo) 1991-2003

Adopted in September of 2002 by Cara and Jerry Brockhoff, Rambo was featured in "A Guy and His Dog" (Winter 2003 CG). In September of 2002, a friend with TEAM Greyhound of Ohio e-mailed them: "I don't suppose you need an 11-year-old stud just off an Iowa farm, do you?" Jerry was living among a family of six senior women in which Cara was the youngest; their five Greyhound girls ranged between 66 and 98 in human years. "I guess we do," they responded. Days later, they flew to Ohio and rented a van to drive Rambo home to California. From the moment he emerged from TEAM's kennel and his lead was handed to Jerry, a special bonding took place that never faltered in the 14 months that BoBo was with them. This enormous boy with such a silly sense of humor idolized Jerry. Their constant and determined togetherness inspired the photographs for "A Guy and His Dog." Two weeks before publication, cardiac hemangiosarcoma stole this special boy from their physical lives. Now and forever, Rambo lives in their hearts.

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



Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine

The Greyhound Project
P.O. Box 5239
Framingham, MA 01701

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