

# Celebrating Greyhounds

Spring 2014 Online Magazine

**Greyhounds Down Under**

*ALSO INSIDE:*

**Burt Reynolds & the Big Screen**

**A Lure Coursing Primer**



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*On the cover:* Artist and amateur photographer Bea Anderson, of Moyhu, Victoria, captured the cover image of her adopted Greyhound, Tom (Indeed I Am). Anderson is a longtime supporter and foster parent for the Greyhound Adoption Program Victoria. View Anderson's online [photo gallery](#) as well as her [artwork](#).

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*Ebony adopted by Steve and Vicki Dell of Tucson, Ariz.*

# From the Editor



A couple of years ago, I was lying in bed, half-asleep, when a random, unbidden thought ran through my head. “You need a Greyhound.” Actually, it wasn’t so much a thought as a booming voice that seemed to echo throughout my entire being. I immediately woke up, more than a little

confused. A Greyhound? Who needed one? Me? Sure, I liked them. I’d known people that had them. I’d always thought it might be cool to own one, in the same way I think it might be nice to visit Australia someday. A pleasant longing, nothing more.

But the idea persisted. Over the next few days, I found myself looking online for Greyhound adoption

groups in the North Texas area. After all, it couldn’t hurt to just *look*, right?

And then I saw her.

Amy was her name, according to the Greyhounds Unlimited website. She was a gorgeous brindle female. (If I was going to get a Greyhound, I had decided, I wanted a brindle. They’re just neat.) According to her biography, Amy was shy – shy enough that it was recommended she go to a quiet house with no children.

“How perfect,” I thought to myself. I prefer a quiet house, and rarely watch television or entertain at home. At the time I also worked from home, which meant Amy would have constant human companionship (in addition to the one dog, two cats, two horses and a donkey already living there.)

I still wasn’t quite ready to listen to that midnight voice, however, so I waited. I sent Amy’s picture to my closest friends and agreed with them when they told me I was crazy. I told myself it was a frivolous idea. I didn’t need a Greyhound. And I believed every word of it, right up until I filled out the adoption application. A day or two later, I got the call. The adoption coordinator asked

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[www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine)

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me a bunch of questions, and then she said, "Amy was adopted last Friday."

My heart sank. I had waited too long. I almost didn't hear the woman on the other end of the phone, who was still talking. "But, I have another dog for you," she said. She told me of a dog like Amy, a shy, timid soul, who needed a quiet home and a patient, understanding owner. Could I be that person?

I didn't think so, and quickly looked online at another dog she had mentioned, a large, brindle and white male with a perfect report card from his foster parent. He was the one I wanted to meet.

But fate stepped in again. When I got to that weekend's meet and greet, the male was gone. Adopted. For the second time, I was too late. But against the back wall, shaking in fear with her tail between her legs, was the little fawn female. Gypsy was her name, they told me. Did I want to take her for a walk?

We walked around the store and I quickly got a sense for the true scope of Gypsy's issues. She was scared -- scared of my purse (which I quickly set down), scared of walking down the PetSmart aisles, scared

of other people, scared of noises, scared of sudden movements. Her trembling never stopped; her tail never moved.

The first night was rough for both of us. But the next evening, when Gypsy laid down on the floor next to me and tentatively half-roached so I could rub her belly, she stole my heart. That simple act of trust told me all I needed to know – this was my Greyhound. And with that realization, my life was forever changed.

A lot has happened between then and now that has led to me welcoming you to the Spring issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* as its Editor-In-Chief. I now have two Greyhounds, and somewhere along the line, I started fostering, too. As time goes on, I'm sure you'll get to know all about them, and me, through the pages of *CG Magazine*, just as I hope to get to know each one of you, our readers, through your calls, emails and letters. Because although we haven't met yet, I know we all have one thing in common: somewhere, sometime, there was a Greyhound who stole your heart, just like Gypsy stole mine.

*Stacy*

## DISCLAIMER

*Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* is published quarterly by The Greyhound Project, Inc., a nonprofit Massachusetts corporation.

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

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Greyhounds look out of an airplane at University Park Airport on Jan. 17. The Brave Tide Foundation flew in six retired racing greyhounds to be adopted out by Nittany Greyhounds. Photo by Centre Daily Times



Linda Dutrow and Natalie Novak, both volunteers at Nittany Greyhounds, smile as they unload greyhounds from an airplane at University Park Airport on Jan. 17. Photo by Centre Daily Times

# Greyhound Bytes:

News you can sink your teeth into

## Fly the dog-friendly skies

Six Greyhounds took to the air to meet their new families when [Nittany Greyhounds](#) arranged a flight from Orlando, Fla., to State College, Penn., with the help of the [Brave Tide Foundation](#). Since 1997, Nittany Greyhounds has placed more than 2,000 Greyhounds with new owners.

Read about the unique transport at the [Centre Daily Times](#).

## From blood donor to adoptee

The University of Queensland, Gatton campus is internationally recognized as Australia's leading education and research provider in the field of animals, agriculture, veterinary science, food and the environment. They also play a role in Greyhound adoption, giving Australia's Greyhounds a life-saving purpose in the clinic before finding their forever home.

Read the complete story at [The Warwick Daily News](#).

## Australia adoption program names award winners

In mid-March, Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) recognized a number of volunteers and participants for their contribution to the Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program. Awards were given in the categories of industry participant, volunteer, foster carer, and adopter.

Visit [GRNSW's website](#) to read about the winners.



*Watch GPA Tri-State's appearance on MIDDAY With Mike here.*



*Dazzle and Echo, adopted by Rachel Hogue of Germantown, Tenn.*

## Diamond in the Ruff

**Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) Tri-State** and a Greyhound named Jack became celebrities when they were featured on "Midday With Mike," a television show on Channel 14 WFIE-TV, in Evansville, Ind. Host Mike Blake interviewed GPA Tri-State President Kim Kleug for the segment, which aired on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.

The segment is sponsored by Brinker's Jewelers and any dog featured on the segment who gets adopted will receive an engraveable ID tag from them. Mike Blake is the host and GPA Tri-State's own Ben Weber is the producer. Ben and his wife, Kimberly, adopted Drifter (Just Drifting) in October 2012.

The foster Greyhound featured in this segment is Jack (Jack Skellington) and as of March 1, he was getting ready to meet a prospective family! While GPA Tri-State can't say for sure if it was directly a result of the show airing, they received several inquiries and applications after the segment aired. Kleug indicated more segments featuring Greyhounds are planned, and they hope the show will help lead to many adoptions in their area.

*Have you seen a great news story about Greyhounds that you think should be included in Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine? Send it in! Email a link to the news item to **Editor Stacy Pigott**. News items will be published at the discretion of the Editor.*

## College student learns from Greyhounds

At Roseworthy College, through Adelaide University in South Australia, several Greyhounds from the Greyhound Adoption Program live on campus to help teach students about handling dogs and dog behavior. Johanna Aldersey, who is studying animal behavior, decided to foster Barney to try her hand at training retired racing dogs.

Listen to Johanna's audio interview from [ABC Rural here](#) or read the [story here](#).

# News from The Greyhound Project

By Pat Hall and Barbara Redmond

## Introducing Our Adoption Group Outreach Program

Recently The Greyhound Project initiated an adoption group outreach program. The focus of this exciting program is to develop and strengthen ongoing monthly communication with all Greyhound adoption groups, nationally and internationally, regarding upcoming events, activities, and news.

To kick off this program, we sent a survey to all adoption groups in The Greyhound Project database last November. The purpose of the survey was to determine the major successes and challenges facing Greyhound adoption groups today. Here are a few highlights:

### **Top Successes:**

- Longevity – over half of the groups responding have been in operation for 11-20 years
- Large number of successful adoptions – 42% of the respondents placed 1-50 dogs per year; 29% placed 51-100 dogs per year

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- Successful placement of seniors, sick, injured, black, and shy dogs
- Success of various training programs/prison programs
- Handling returns – being there for the dog throughout its life

### **Top Challenges:**

- Economy/Finances including: loss/reduction of grants; decreased donations; increase in cost of vetting; addition of hauling fees; funding for special-needs dogs; and personal finances of adopters – less money to care for their dogs
- How to find and retain good foster homes and volunteers
- Hauling issues - getting transportation for dogs and handling the cost of the transportation
- Public Relations (Public Service Announcements) - educating people about Greyhounds and educating adopters about Greyhound care

As noted in the top challenges above, The Greyhound Project learned that one of the major challenges to adoption groups is getting Greyhounds from racing states to areas of the country where there is no racing. Several groups noted that they had adopters, but no Greyhounds. As a result, The Greyhound Project is researching information about Greyhound hauling. Stay tuned for more information on this project.

If your adoption group did not receive our survey or our January communication and would like to be included in future communications, please contact us at [outreach@adopt-a-greyhound.org](mailto:outreach@adopt-a-greyhound.org) with your name, your group's name, and the email address to receive communications.

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*About the authors: Pat Hall and Barbara Redmond are members of The Greyhound Project Board of Directors.*



*Deb Latham and three Greyhounds pose at Luna Park, with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House in the background. The Greyhounds are Leah (Leah's Victory), adopted by Les and Ruth Westerweller, of Concord West, Sydney, New South Wales, and Peggy Sue (Painted Pepper) and Jed, adopted by Deb Latham and Paul Davison, of North Manly, Sydney, New South Wales.*

**T**he first two Greyhounds to step foot on Australian soil arrived with Sir Joseph Banks, the botanist and artist who accompanied Captain James Cook on the ship the *Endeavour* in 1770. Unfortunately, neither dog made it back to England. The male was given to natives on one of the Pacific Islands as an appeasement gesture and the female, Lady, died on board not long before the voyage's end.

When Australia was settled as a penal colony in 1788, Greyhounds were brought with the First Fleet. They were used as hunting dogs to catch native animals as a meat source. A letter written in 1794 by Elizabeth Macarthur, wife of a prominent early pastoralist, attests that, "with the assistance of one man and half-a-dozen greyhounds ... my table is constantly supplied with wild ducks or kangaroos."

# Greyhounds Down Under

Racing is flourishing in Australia, while adoptions lag far behind.

By Denise Wigney



Beautiful downtown Sydney serves as the backdrop for Pepper and Eve's stroll around town.

Today, Australia, along with the U.S. and Ireland, is one of the three largest Greyhound breeding countries in the world. Most Australian bloodlines originated from English and Irish stock. **Greyhounds Australasia Ltd.**'s most recently published figures in 2011 list 71 race tracks across all Australian states and territories. A total of 2,887

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are often sent to rearing farms to spend the next eight to 12 months running in large paddocks with similar-aged pups. Dogs are "broken in" for racing at 12-16 months of age, and then move to a training facility. Unlike their U.S. counterparts, Greyhounds in Australia are kennelled at their owner's or trainer's property and are transported

litters accounting for approximately 18,000 pups were registered that year, with the majority bred in New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria.

Pups are microchipped and ear branded at 12- to 14-weeks of age for identification, and then

to the track for racing or trialling. Greyhounds may start racing at 16 months old, and, barring injury or poor performance, will continue until the age of 4 and one-half.

Some dogs may race at a number of different tracks, either locally or interstate, during their careers. Races vary from short sprints of 280 meters (306 yards) to marathons of 900 meters (984 yards), with the most common race distances being 400–500 meters (437–546 yards).

### First Adoption Programs

The first recognized Greyhound rehoming program began in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1996. It was started by two veterinary nurses who worked at the Sandown Veterinary Clinic, a Greyhound specialty practice led by the late Dr. Jim Gannon, co-author of *Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound*. In 1998, the administration and



*Hilary (Proven Rumour), adopted by Bea Anderson, of Moyhu, Victoria.*

funding of the Greyhound Adoption Program (Victoria) was assumed by **Greyhound Racing Victoria** (GRV). The Board of GRV, and indeed, the state government of Victoria, is highly supportive of its adoption program. Today **GAP Vic** is a flourishing organization operated from a 40-acre property at Seymour, about an hour's drive north of Melbourne.

GAP Vic is run by three full-time, two part-time, and three casual staff. The property can hold 60 Greyhounds. All dogs spend at least four

weeks in foster homes before being matched with adoptive homes. GAP Vic has had more than 5,600 dogs pass through its doors over the years and currently rehomes approximately 360 Greyhounds annually. All dogs are fully vet-checked, neutered or spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped. They also have their teeth cleaned and are temperament tested prior to placement.

The **Greyhound Adoption Program (NSW), Inc.**, was co-founded in 1998 by Denise Wigney and the late Kerry O'Flynn and became fully incorporated in February 1999. This volunteer-based program is not funded by the racing industry. It relies on membership fees, donations, and fundraising efforts to cover operating costs. GAP NSW does not have its own facility. It rents kennel spaces for newly acquired dogs, but relies mostly on foster homes to help Greyhounds adjust to pet life and to continue the assessment process of each dog.

## The Adoption Scene Today

In 2014, there are many Greyhound adoption schemes throughout Australia, with industry-funded and -operated programs in each of the six Australian states — Queensland, NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia. In addition, there are numerous breed-specific, volunteer-run programs, including **Greyhound Rescue, Friends of the Hound, Greyhound Safety Net, and Greyhound Angels**. A number of Greyhounds are also rehomed annually by other welfare groups, such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Animal Welfare League, as well as local council pounds. Some racing Greyhound trainers choose to rehome their dogs privately. However, the Australia Bureau of Statistics estimates the country's population at just more than 23 million, much lower than that of the U.S. and Canada. **The Animal Health**



*Elle, Sarge and Jack, all wearing their Greenhounds collars, were adopted by Laraine Frearson, of Narara, Central Coast, New South Wales.*

**Alliance** reports that 39 percent of households already own dogs and 29 percent own cats, meaning many more Greyhounds are bred by the racing industry than can be rehomed. On estimate, fewer than 1,500 Greyhounds are rehomed by welfare groups annually. The sad fact remains that many dogs are euthanized at the end of their relatively short racing careers.

### **Muzzling Laws**

The public image of Greyhounds has been hampered for many years by regional or state-wide muzzling laws. With the exception of Northern Ireland, Australia is the only country to

require pet Greyhounds to be muzzled outside their homes.

Fortunately, the situation is slowly improving, with most states now amending legislation to allow individual, temperament-tested Greyhounds to be muzzle-free. Muzzle-exempt Greyhounds are identified by a special collar.

In some states, the muzzling-exemption assessments are carried out by racing industry-funded programs. In NSW, Greyhounds are enrolled by their adoptive owners in the **Greenhounds program**. The owners complete a six-week, in-home workbook with their dogs, which are then assessed by accredited Greenhounds assessors.

### **Activities**

In addition to being great family dogs and companions, retired Greyhounds in Australia take part in many sporting and community activities, just as they do in other parts of the



*A green collar is used in the states of Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia to signify that the Greyhound has been temperament tested and is legally exempt from muzzling. Photo by Larissa Darragh*

world. The GAP Vic launched the Prison Pet Partnership in 2007. Inmates at Dhurringile Prison, a minimum-security facility, foster the dogs for six weeks. The program was so successful in Victoria that it was expanded to the Tarrengower women's prison. Since then, other states have established similar programs, with GAP NSW working with the Greyhounds As Pets (NSW) and Greyhounds as Pets (Western Australia) partnered with the Hakea Remand Centre in Perth. The partnerships benefit everyone involved, with more Greyhounds able



Most greyhounds that go through the Greyhounds As Pets program are retired racers. Rosie, a GAP graduate, is no exception. She successfully made the transition from racer to much-loved pet just over a year ago. At the 2013 GAP Christmas get-together, Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) was on hand to witness an extraordinary moment when two parts of Rosie's life met for the first time. Watch as GRNSW talks to Rosie's former owner/trainer Michael Hooper and her current owner Natalie about Rosie and why she is such a special part of both their lives. Produced By GRNSW for Greyhounds As Pets.



*Tripper, adopted by Bea Anderson, of Moyhu, Victoria*

to be integrated into pet life and the inmates themselves developing skills, confidence, and pride during their rehabilitation.

Many Greyhounds around the country take part in regular visits to hospitals and nursing homes through programs such as the Delta Society Australia Pet Therapy program. Such visits bring comfort and happiness to sick children or adults and seniors. Greyhounds make the perfect visitation dogs because they are

calm, gentle, and the right height for a patient in a bed or wheelchair to pet. A number of Greyhounds have also been placed as residents in aged-care facilities throughout Australia, and a few are being utilized as reading therapy or "story" dogs in classrooms.

Retired Greyhounds are increasingly being seen in competition in obedience, agility, rally obedience, and even tracking. ■

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*About the author: Denise Wigney is a registered veterinary practitioner who works at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney. She adopted her first retired racing Greyhound, a blood donor named "Lady," 31 years ago and has been committed to the breed ever since. Denise is president of the Greyhound Adoption Program (NSW), Inc., a volunteer-run organization she co-founded along with the late Kerry O'Flynn in 1998. She also lectures veterinary students on the medical and clinico-pathologic idiosyncrasies of the Greyhound.*



# A Heaven for Galgos

**The Scooby Animal Shelter, in Spain, works tirelessly to protect and shelter Galgos and stray dogs and cats.**

By C. Guillermo Couto, DVM, dipl. ACVIM, Couto Veterinary Consultants

In Spain, Galgos (Spanish Greyhounds) have traditionally been used for hunting hares, the main source of protein for the country folks. In small villages, good hunting Galgos were treasured, and were loaned to neighbors in exchange for produce, food, and other goods. Although country folks still use Galgos to hunt, competitive lure coursing has become popular in areas with flat terrain, such as Castilla, Andalucía, and Extremadura, under the auspices of the **Federación Española de Galgos**. In this competition, a line of spectators walks the fields to “spring” the hare. Two Galgos, each

wearing either a red or a white bandana, are walked around the field by a handler until they spot a hare. They are then released simultaneously, using a rapid release leash, to chase the hare. Officials on horseback score the Galgos based on speed, maneuverability, turning ability, and performance. The race, as it is called, must last at least 55 seconds and ends when the hare is either caught or escapes. Some of the races last four or five minutes and the judge usually terminates the race if it lasts more than seven minutes (Galgos are not sprinters, as Greyhounds, but rather long-distance runners).



*Rescued Galgos at Scooby Animal Shelter.*

The Campeonato de España de Galgos de Campo, “Copa de S.M. El Rey” is held every January, and attracts lots of fans. In 2013, the finals were held in Medina del Campo, where Liona, a petite dark brindle female, won the cup.

## **Scooby**

The **Scooby Medina Shelter** was created in 1987 to provide protection and shelter to the stray cat and dog population in the area, and to care for a large number of Galgos. The approximately 25-acre shelter is located near Medina del Campo, Valladolid, Spain,

the national capital of Galgo competitive lure coursing. As a matter of fact, in downtown Medina there is a statue of a galguero with his Galgos, ready to chase a hare.

Scooby receives **financial help** and international support in many different ways, including veterinarian and non-veterinarian volunteers from several countries who donate their time to help care for the animals. Scooby takes in close to 1,000 animals (dogs, cats, horses, cattle, goats, sheep, and other animals) each year, and places an equivalent number. Approximately half of the dogs are Galgos. Most dogs go to the Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium, but also to the United Kingdom, the United States, and several other European countries.

I was born in Argentina and have lived in Ohio for the past 30 years. I happen to like Greyhounds, Galgos, and other sighthounds, in addition to all other creatures. I visited Medina

del Campo in 2001 after a friend told me of a Galgo shelter that could use my help. I spent a couple of days with Fermín Pérez, Scooby’s Director, and was bitten by the Scooby bug.

Shortly thereafter, I started to visit Scooby on vacation, first with my wife Graciela, and then with my two children, Jason and Kristen. Since 2007, I have been bringing students with me, and have visited Scooby two to four times per year. The instant gratification for an animal lover at Scooby is indescribable; I am





*More than 200 veterinary students have made the trip to Scooby.*

at peace with myself after helping so many of my patients, a feeling that is very difficult to communicate to others. As we always tell the students during their orientation, at the end of their rotation at Scooby they will be exhausted, but with their batteries fully charged! For the more than 70 students who have made the trip, the experience is hard to beat. The most

important issue, for me, is that American students realize that one can practice high-caliber medicine and surgery with very little means. It makes them really appreciate what they have at home.

In 2008, with my friend and colleague Dr. Pablo Gómez Ochoa, we started a rotation for students

from the University of Zaragoza, and have had joint U.S./UZ rotations several times a year. We have brought more than 200 students and dozens of colleagues, who have in turn returned to help animals at Scooby. The students stay for one week and, under the direct supervision of faculty or veterinarians, collaborate on all the clinical activities that take place during

12- to 15-hour days. The students cohabitate in a dormitory, thus creating an atmosphere where they can cross-pollinate socially and professionally. Every day they participate in the following clinical activities:

- Physical examination
- Sample collection (blood, urine, feces)
- Participation in diagnosis and therapeutic decisions
- Diagnostic techniques (hematology, biochemical profiles, etc.)
- Administration of drugs
- Spay and neuter surgeries

Thanks to several industry partners, the faculty involvement, and the shelter's Health Advisor Board, we have conducted clinical research projects with student participation. By participating, students become familiarized with the scientific method and are able to get a thorough knowledge of the clinical research environment.



Watch the slideshow to see more images from Scooby Animal Shelter, courtesy of Dr. C. Guillermo Couto.

*hematology analyzer LaserCyte (IDEXX Laboratories)*

- *Use of domperidone in the treatment of canine visceral leishmaniasis*

In addition to students, we invite colleagues from Spain and other countries, such as Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to join us. During some of the rotations, we have had as many as 25 veterinarians, and were able to spay or neuter five to six dogs at a time. At the

end of the day, we discuss the cases we saw and two to three times a week, we hold a seminar during dinner for the students and veterinarians. We also engage in ample social activities like having breakfast, lunch, and dinner together almost every day.

## **My love affair with Scooby**

My first thought every time I arrive at Scooby is: how long will it be before I can get back? During our rotations, we spay and neuter a lot of dogs and cats (from 25 to 100 per visit), do other surgeries, internal medicine, and anything else that is needed. The camaraderie among students, veterinarians, and Scooby personnel is fabulous!

Although I witnessed lots of events and stories at Scooby that are recorded in my memory, the one that had the biggest impact on me was Bianca, or Amelia, as Fermín calls her. On Dec. 9, 2008, Fermín called late at night to tell us he had just found a dog tied to a tree near Málaga. He believed she was dead, but he was bringing her in anyway. Pablo, the students, and I met him at Scooby after midnight, and found out that Bianca was alive, but near death. The thermometer did not record her temperature. She weighed 12 kilograms (approximately 26 and one-half pounds). Also, she had almost no



*Bianca was near death when she arrived at Scooby.*



*Bianca with Dr. Pablo Gomez Ochoa (left) and Dr. C. Guillermo Couto, 820 days after her arrival at Scooby.*



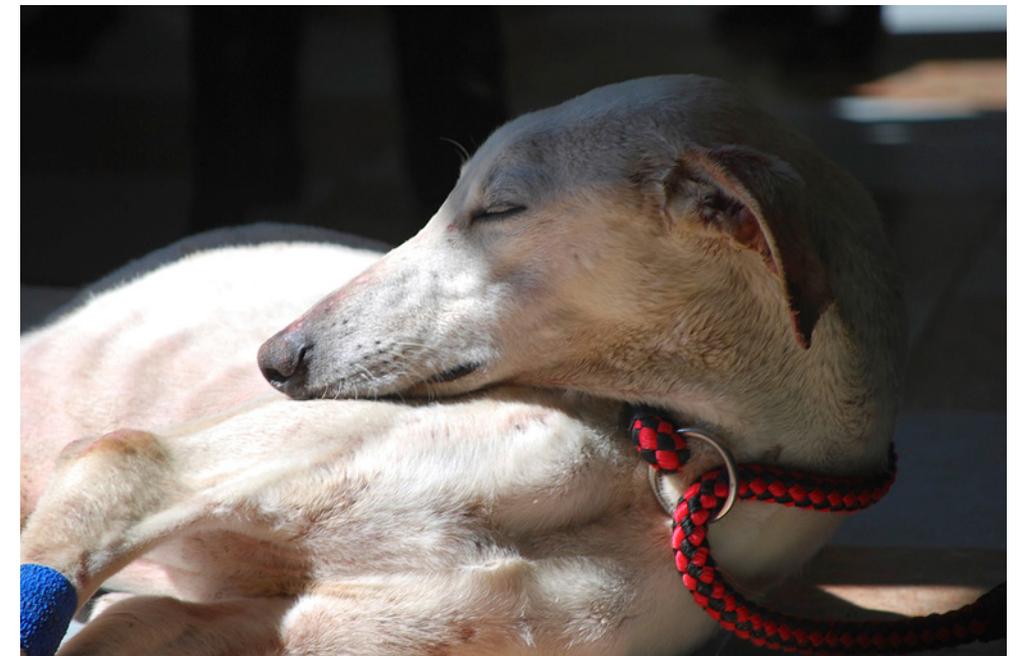
*Dr. Couto and Olivia, a Galga.*

pulse, and did not respond to stimuli. She had pus coming out of her mouth and her vagina, she was severely anemic, and she had very serious kidney disease.

We discussed at length what to do with her and, realistically, euthanasia sounded like the best option. However, we said, “Let’s give her until tomorrow.” We set up an intensive care unit and treated her as aggressively and with the same care as we would have dispensed to a patient in Ohio. Much to our surprise, the next day she stood up, and a short time later, she ate! To make a long story short, she had three serious infectious diseases—ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, and leishmaniasis—she was in kidney failure, was anemic, and had an extremely low platelet count. We treated her accordingly, and *Chubby*, as I now call her, is the queen of the shelter. The satisfaction I derive from seeing her every time I visit Medina, and the fact that she runs to me when she hears my voice, is impossible to describe. If these experiences do not charge our batteries, we have a serious problem.

All I can say is, “Gracias Fermín!” ■

*Dr. C. Guillermo Couto is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in the specialties of Internal Medicine and Oncology. He co-authored the best-selling Small Animal Internal Medicine textbook, now on its fifth edition, and has published over 150 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals and 150 book chapters. He has 35 years of experience in clinical and comparative hematology, oncology, transfusion medicine, and clinical pathology, and is an expert in Greyhound and sighthound medicine.*



*A Galgo basks in the sun within the safe walls of Scooby*

# The Scooby Animal Shelter Students

## In Their Words

At the end of a Scooby rotation, students are asked to write essays describing the impact the rotation had on them, both personally and professionally. Here are some selected excerpts:

“My experience at the animal shelter, Scooby, in Medina, Spain, was both thrilling and inspiring. My time at Scooby introduced me to the veterinary medical practices and approaches of different countries and also raised my confidence about my own knowledge and skills in veterinary medicine.”

“I am so proud of what we accomplished at Scooby, especially using only what we had available. I believe that the essence of shelter medicine is improvisation. We needed to hang fluid bags but had no hanging stands, so we improvised and hung the fluids using shower hooks in the locker room. We needed to keep our animals warm

post-op but didn't have bear-huggers and a warm recovery room, so we used blankets, heat lamps, and snuggled the dogs together so they could keep each other warm. At Scooby we did not have all of the equipment we have at OSU, but we were able to provide our patients with excellent care all the same.”

“Scooby is truly an amazing place. Everyone I met, no matter what their role at the shelter, had such a love of animals that was motivating their work. It didn't matter what country they were from or how they were trained. Even through a language barrier, the commitment was obvious – the goal of every person at Scooby was to care for whatever walked, crawled, flew, or somehow made it to the shelter. The trip to Scooby was the best experience that I have had in vet school. I was able to practice surgery, wound care, emergency medicine, and

even ultrasound. The variety of medical and surgical cases helped me develop confidence in my skills, and my plan is to return to the shelter to volunteer again as soon as possible!”

“I have volunteered at shelters since the sixth grade, but my previous experience did not prepare me for what I encountered at Scooby. The sheer number of animals, as well as the diversity of animals, was overwhelming. The most amazing part is that although the shelter is pieced together, both logistically and physically, it functions amazingly well. The dedication of the staff at the facility is apparent, and the work of the international group of veterinarians was inspiring. Seeing all these veterinarians sacrifice their vacations for this altruistic cause has encouraged me to continue to do work like this in the future.” ■

*A student reflects on her experiences at Scooby.*



# The Many Faces of Fear

Learning how to read the subtle signs of fear can help you create a more confident Greyhound.

By Deb Levasseur CTB

**W**e may think we can recognize fear in our Greyhounds, but can we really? There are many obvious signs of fear, such as cowering and hiding, but there are also a multitude of more subtle signs. We will examine scenarios inside and outside the home that can cause undue stress on fearful dogs. We will also explore fearful body language and training methods to increase your Greyhound's confidence.

Consider this scenario experienced by one of my clients: "The other night we had guests over. He went to my friend for a petting and looked to be enjoying it thoroughly, but then started growling at her."

To help understand this behavior, consider the following. Have you ever been woken up by a noise in your house at night and went to investigate? Why did you go check it out? Most likely it's not because you were

*Leaning over and petting a dog on the top of the head can be an intimidating and frightening experience for a dog. Brie, adopted by Krystal Freake and Lorraine Breau, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, from the Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program, visibly expresses her displeasure at being petted on the head. Photo by Meaghan McLaughlin-Collins*



*When Dax first arrived at the Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program, he was fearful of many things. Adopted by Benoit Morin, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, he has since blossomed into a sweet and very well-adjusted dog.  
Photo courtesy of Deb Levasseur*

comfortable with the noise. A bump in the night compels us to investigate in order to confirm or allay our fears. This is similar to our case of the growling dog. The dog was not asking to be petted; he was investigating a frightening intruder. When the dog approached the discomforting intruder, his concerns were confirmed when she touched him. If the visitor had simply ignored him and let the dog sniff her without unwanted affection, he would have felt much better about the situation and gained some much-needed confidence with strangers.

We must be very careful when interpreting our Greyhounds' behavior, as humans often react very differently than dogs in stressful and intimidating situations. Our brains and thought processes are much different. It takes training, discipline, and outstanding observation skills to be able to identify what

the dog is thinking, and even then, we never know for sure what is going on in the dog's mind.

A similar scenario can occur when dogs meet strangers outside of the home. Have you ever had your Greyhound hide behind you when being approached by strangers? This is an obvious sign of fear, but even if your Greyhound stands still, we should not assume that he wants to be petted by newcomers. We should remember that dogs, like humans, do not always want people handling them or standing too close to them. Try standing too close to a stranger and see what happens. How would you feel if a stranger walked up and stuck his head into your car?

One of the issues we deal with as Greyhound owners is that many people treat dogs like toys instead of the emotional and unpredictable animals they are. If we let our

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Greyhound have some control of his personal space and his interactions with strangers, he will be better adjusted and more confident. Of course, this means that we have to speak up for our Greyhound because he cannot do this for himself. If we have a Greyhound that is fearful of strangers, we should advise people not to pet him, even if he seems tolerant of the interaction.

Learning to read our Greyhound's body language takes time and training, but it is essential to creating an environment where he feels comfortable and safe. In order to properly assess if your Greyhound is feeling fearful, observe his entire body.

First, concentrate on his face and take note of a hard look in his eyes or a tightly closed mouth. Observe whether your Greyhound is blinking excessively, yawning, lip-licking, or avoiding your gaze when you approach

him. Notice if he has tense body muscles, if his shoulders are lower than normal, or if his body weight has been shifted either backward or forward. A tail can speak volumes for some dogs, so be aware of a tucked or slowly wagging tail. A sudden interest in sniffing the ground or himself may also indicate discomfort. Your Greyhound may also show these fear signs in various sequences, so be alert for patterns of nervous behavior.

Sometimes, when trying to help a fearful dog gain confidence, owners use techniques that backfire, particularly during training and new greeting situations. For example, it is inadvisable to have strangers ask the dog to approach them for a treat. This is a conflicting and stressful situation for the dog that can often result in a bite. A better technique is to gently toss the treat toward the dog with no strings attached. This creates a positive



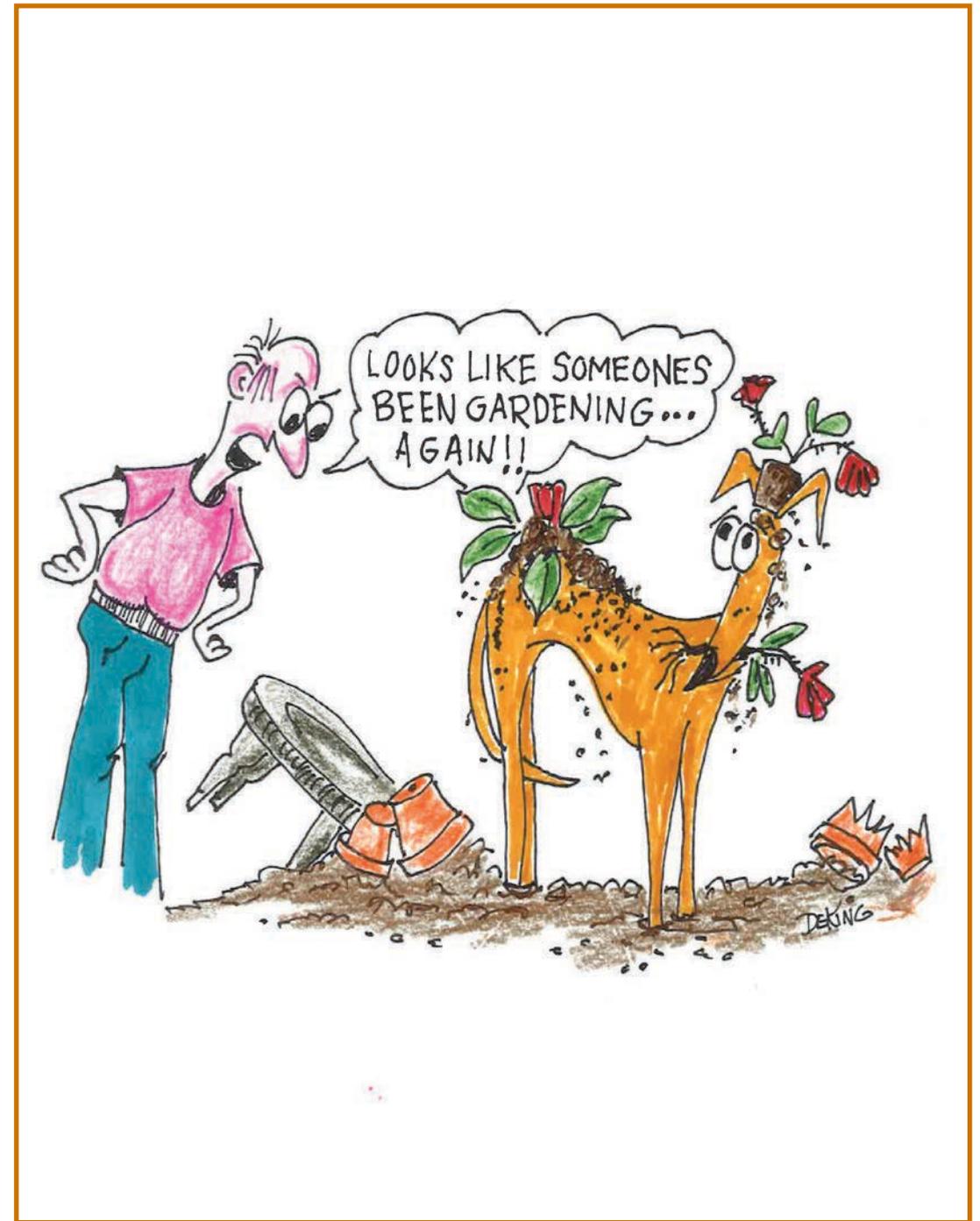
association for the dog (strangers mean tasty treats). Completing this same, positive, association 60 to 80 times, builds a strong foundation to increase his confidence.

During greetings, children and adults have a tendency to offer their hands for the dog to sniff. This is actually a rude and strange behavior in the eyes of the dog. If the dog wants to sniff, the person should stand with their side facing the dog and keep their arms at their sides. It is important to never stare or lean over the dog, as this is often interpreted as an intimidating behavior by the dog. Although we often have a tendency to pet dogs on the top of their heads, it is less threatening to them to be petted on the chest or under their chin.

We should always be respectful of dogs instead of expecting them all to be instantly friendly and outgoing. We need to learn how to be well-mannered in the eyes of dogs if we expect them to be polite in return. Learning more about canine body language will help bridge the gap between our two very different species. Learning about your Greyhound and how he communicates will better his life and make your relationship more fulfilling. ■

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*Deb Levasseur is a certified trainer and dog behavior therapist, as well as the president and founder of the [Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program](#), based in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. For more information on this subject, a two-hour, live seminar on canine body language is available. For more information, [email deblevasseur@rogers.com](mailto:deblevasseur@rogers.com).*



# The Scoop on Poop

Pay attention when you pick up the yard; your Greyhound's poop can be a good indicator of his health.

By Mary Pat Parkhill, with contributions by Ellen McCracken and medical facts by Peter Betz, DVM

**I**t was a beautiful afternoon for a get-together with my friends, human and canine. We sat on the deck with tea and homemade butter cookies, watching our dogs romp around in my large yard. I looked at Yvonne and asked, "So what do you think? Is an orange color something I should be worried about?"

Kay chirped in, "But, you are feeding them pumpkin and sweet potato, aren't you?"

After taking a dainty bite of cookie and sip of tea, Yvonne spoke up, "Still, should it be *that* orange?"

I shook my head and said, "Maybe we should

post that on the bulletin board. After all, that is the favorite topic there."

Excrement, also known as poop, stool, turds, BMs, and the ever-popular poopsicle when found in winter, is a common topic for dog owners. It can be an emotional issue because of our cultural embarrassment with the subject. Taboo or not, it is a strong indication of the health of your Greyhound. According to Dr. Peter Betz of the Flemington Veterinary Hospital in Flemington, N.J., you need to watch for three specifics: form, color, and content. Some changes mean nothing. Other indicators should have you calling the vet's office immediately.



*Don't turn your back on the socially taboo subject of poop.  
Photo by Stacy Pigott*

## Form

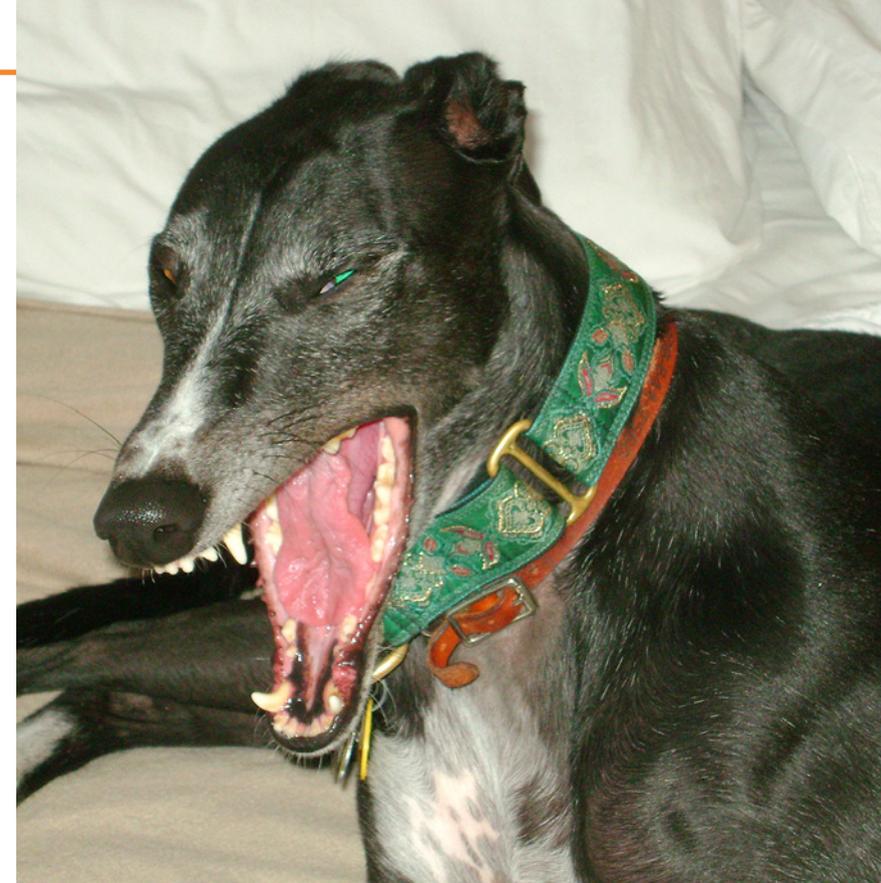
Posters on one Internet Greyhound bulletin board have developed a descriptive “potato scale” for poop form, ranging from potato soup to mashed potatoes to Tater Tots to Idaho bakers. The most common cause for concern is “the Big D,” diarrhea, a popular topic in the Greyhound community because it is so common. Runny stool can be caused by disease, parasites, and many other things, including excitement, running like crazy when the dog is normally quiet, new food, and sitting in the back of a truck riding around on a cold day. If your dog is bright, alert, and showing no other symptoms, then there is no need to rush to the vet.

Simply start a bland diet of white rice with boiled chicken or chopped beef. Use one part meat to two parts rice. Let the dog go four to six hours without food, then start with portions smaller than a golf ball, more like a Swedish meatball. Have the food warmed to body

temperature and feed in half-hour increments. Cold food adds stress to an already upset stomach. Keep it small, simple, and frequent. Remember, after your Greyhound has a bout of diarrhea, its bowels are empty. Do not expect output too soon. It can take three to four days before you can expect formed stool to return.

Many people swear by pumpkin, but because it contains fiber, there can be a corresponding increase in room-clearing, wallpaper-peeling Greyhound gas. You will also want to stay away from sugar and preservatives, as they tend to cause more diarrhea and digestive upset.

A vet visit is in order with black, tarry stool, prolonged diarrhea, or when diarrhea is accompanied by other symptoms such as lethargy, vomiting, or depression, to name a few. Black, tarry stool indicates blood in the small intestines. Prolonged diarrhea can lead to dehydration. Check your Greyhound’s gums for “refill” time. Press your thumb against the gum;



*It may not be a polite topic of conversation, but knowing how to properly evaluate dog poop can help keep your Greyhound healthy. Emerald, adopted by Mary Pat Parkhill, of Ringoes, N.J.*

it should return to pink in 1.5 seconds. If it takes longer than 2.5 seconds, your Greyhound could be dehydrated.

If your Greyhound has the opposite problem and is acting constipated, or the stool is so formed it “bounces,” Metamucil® is recommended. It is a myth that the more

formed the stool, the better it is for the anal glands. There is no correlation between a clogged anal gland and soft stool. A muscle does the expressing, and if you have a problem, then firming up the stool will not help.

## Content

Content is perhaps the most fascinating poop topic. Late one night I was outside with my flashlight in hand, looking around, when my neighbor called over, "Is everything all right?" I nonchalantly answered, "Yes, I am just looking for Brindle's poop." Since I foster many Greyhounds, I have to be on a constant lookout for worms. Cleaning the yard at 10:30 p.m. does not really fit my schedule, especially if the foot finds the treasure before the flashlight does. However, a regular clean-up "scoop du jour" keeps the worm problem down.

Two varieties of worms are easily seen



with the naked eye: tapeworms, which resemble rice, and roundworms, which look like long spaghetti strands. Dronsit or Cestex will take care of the tapeworms, while Panacur® will handle other worms.

Microscopic examination is needed for whipworms, hookworms, and roundworms.

(Note: You can have roundworms without the easily visible spaghetti strands.) Strongid will work on hookworms and roundworms, but not whipworms. It also takes a microscopic evaluation to discover giardia and coccidia. Most of these organisms do not pose a major threat, but should still be addressed.

Another reason to get up close and personal with content is to look for undigested food or foreign objects. If you see either, contact your veterinarian in case of disease or damage. Dogs will attempt anything in their quest for the edible, ranging from television remotes to pantyhose. I had a gaggle of Greyhounds visit for a playdate. One owner suspected her dog ate the stuffing from a damaged toy, but she wasn't sure. Later that day, after cleaning up the yard, I was able to tell her yes, her little girl did indeed eat the stuffy, as I had just scooped up the evidence.

## Color

Color does not hold as much diagnostic information as form or content. Color can change from day to day. As long as you aren't missing any red crayons, a bright red color in the stool is "frank" blood and indicates large bowel upset. If you see it occasionally, there is no immediate cause for worry. New food, Nylabones, or constipation could be the cause. If it is persistent, see your veterinarian.

## Collection

If you need to take a stool sample to the veterinarian, a clean, dry, waterproof container with a tight-fitting lid is recommended. I like to use old prescription bottles that have been cleaned and dried. Tongue depressors or wooden Popsicle® sticks from the grocery store are excellent tools to transfer the poop to the container. Gloves, clothespins, protective

goggles, and hazmat suit are all optional, as are the accompanying sounds of gagging, wooing, or disgust.

To get right down to the bottom of things, use good common sense, develop a sense of what is normal for your dog, and do everything in moderation. ■

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*About the author: Mary Pat Parkhill has authored several articles for Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. She is currently rewriting her first novel to self-publish. Living with her in Ringoes, N.J., are Greyhounds Opal, Tanzanite, and Emerald, and chickens Eeny, Meeny, Miney, and Mo.*



*Marie Woodhull (left) and author Mary Pat Parkhill with her Greyhounds (left to right) Opal, Tanzanite, and Emerald.*

# WESTMINSTER WINNER

GCH Grandcru Phelps Insignia topped all other Greyhounds at the Westminster Kennel Club's Dog Show, earning Best of Breed honors.

By Stacy Pigott

First held in 1877, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is America's second-longest continuously held sporting event, behind only Thoroughbred racing's Kentucky Derby. It is arguably the most popular dog show among the general public, as dog owners across the world tune in to watch the show on television and cheer on their favorite breed.

Greyhounds have been well-represented at the event, holding records for the most group wins at 13, the most consecutive group wins at seven (1931-1937), and

the most consecutive group placements at 11 (1930-1940). This year, Greyhound enthusiasts watched as GCH Grandcru Phelps Insignia, better known as Freckles, took the coveted Best Of Breed title on February 10 in New York.

Freckles was handled by Rindi Gaudet, who is also listed as breeder along with Melanie Steele. The two women share ownership of Freckles with Amy Phelan. *Celebrating Greyhounds* caught up with Steele after the show to find out more about Freckles.



*Freckles shows off her show-ring presence.*

# Q&A

**Celebrating Greyhounds: You and your husband, Jack, have been showing dogs since 1984, but got started with a Weimaraner. How did you end up with Greyhounds?**

**Melanie Steele:** The handler who was showing my Weimaraner at the time was also campaigning the top Greyhound in the country and we fell in love with him, so we purchased his granddaughter, Belle (Ch. Helicon Lighthearted). Belle is the dam of two litters which produced nine Champions. She was the featured American Kennel Club (AKC) Greyhound on Animal Planet's *Breed All About It* and was the queen of our home until she died at 13 and-one-half years old.

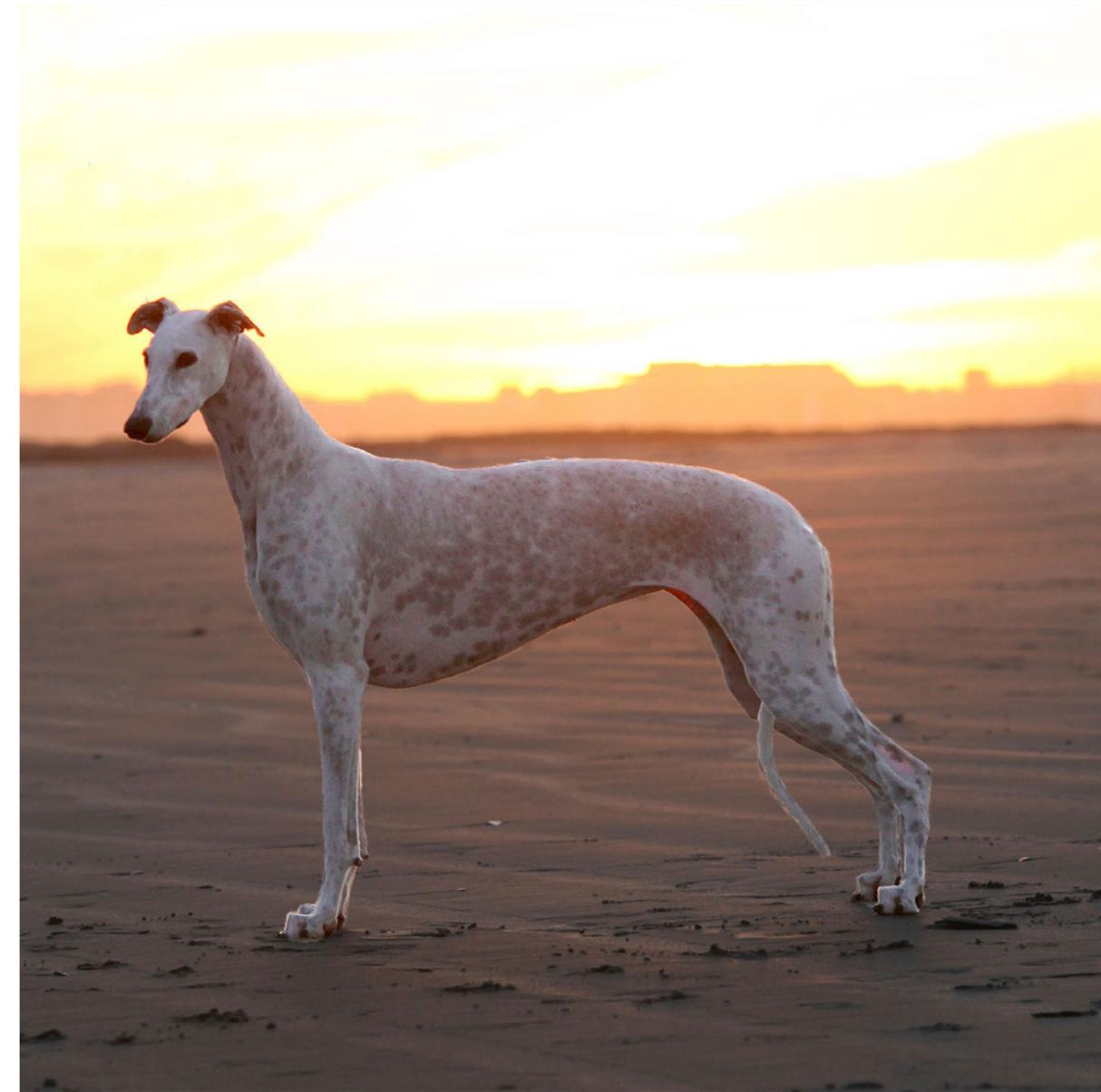
**CG: In 1994, you established GrandCru Kennels to focus on breeding Greyhounds and**

**Scottish Deerhounds. What was your first big success as Greyhound breeders?**

**Steele:** Maddie's (Ch. Helicon Madrona) litter produced three multiple Best In Show winning bitches here in the United States, and a Best in Show winning dog overseas. That was pretty remarkable in one litter and a first for me.

**CG: One of Maddie's daughters is Era (MBIS MBISS Ch. GrandCru Clos Erasmus), the dam of Freckles. That's three generations of this family you have owned. What similarities or differences do you see in Maddie, Era, and Freckles?**

**Steele:** Era and Freckles have much more outgoing temperaments than Maddie did, as she was reared in another environment, but is a bit more like most Greyhounds in



*GCH Grandcru Phelps Insignia, aka Freckles, was the top Greyhound at the Westminster Kennel Club Show this year.  
Courtesy of Melanie Steele*

# Q&A

personality. Maddie was *on her own mission* most of the time, but a wonderful, loving girl in her own way.

**CG:** Era accumulated a fantastic show record in a short period of time, including winning Best of Breed at Westminster in 2010. When such a brilliant show career started, you must have been excited about her potential as a brood bitch. How did you select a sire?

**Steele:** I wanted to breed her back to her grandsire, but most of the semen did not arrive in time from the United Kingdom, so I wound up using two sires on that litter. I had some semen from a dog who was bred in Russia, but owned and shown in Italy. I had planned to use him with a line-bred bitch I had at home, but since

I had enough stored semen to do both of the breedings, I used a little of the Grandsire and a full breeding unit of the Italian dog. We got eight puppies sired by the Italian dog and three sired by the Grandsire. Freckles is sired by the Italian dog, Fionn Clann Paramount At Sobers.

*“Swift as a ray of light, graceful as a swallow and wise as a Solomon, there is some basis for the prediction that the Greyhound is a breed that will never die.” ~American Kennel Club*

**CG:** Many breeders say when a special dog is born, they have an air about them, even as puppies. Did Freckles show she was something special from the time she was born, on July 5, 2010?

**Steele:** She was unlike any of the others in the litter. One of my mentors early on told me that if you find yourself with one puppy who is truly different from all of the others, it is best to hang on to it, since it easily could be one of the best you have ever bred.

**CG:** Freckles sure showed that at Westminster! She seems to be the perfect show dog, who knows what she is supposed to do and, more importantly, loves it. Her presence was amazing. Has she always had such a strong show-ring presence?

**Steele:** Her mother had that temperament in spades. Freckles' personality is primarily the result of what she had to work with, and Rindi's work and training. They have a very special bond which is evident in the ring, just as Rindi has with most of her charges.

# Q & A

**CG: What is Freckles' personality like away from the show ring?**

**Steele:** She is very sweet, wants to be loved 24/7 and loves to be with others. She likes to run; play with the other dogs; sleep on the bed when she is at Amy's (co-owner Amy Phelan's) house in Dallas, Texas; and on the sofa at Rindi's and my house.

**CG: Does Freckles have a favorite toy or treat?**

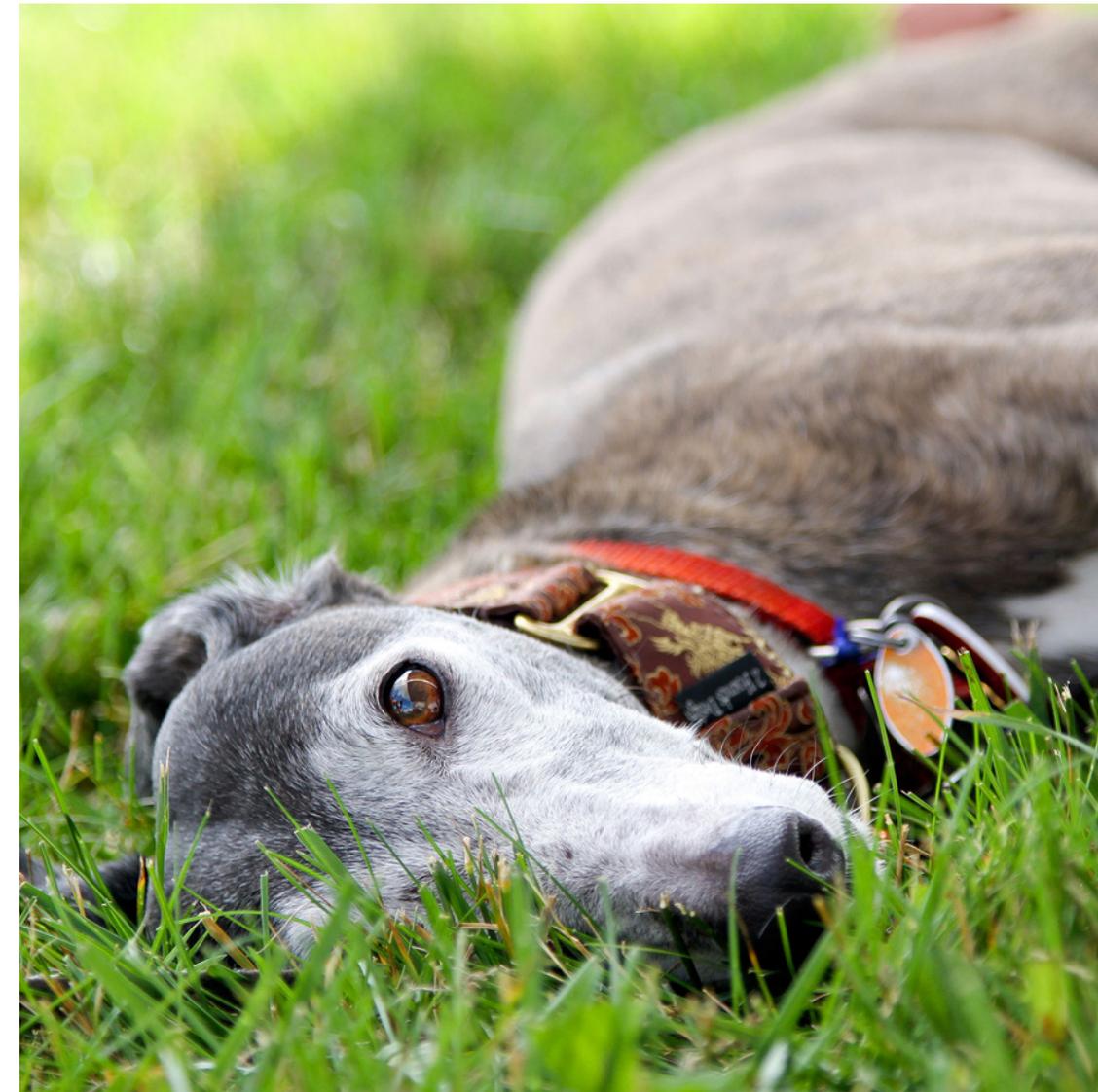
**Steele:** Cheeseburgers. She gets one every time she wins the Greyhound Specialty, which she has done twice now.

**CG: What's next for Freckles?**

**Steele:** Freckles will be shown the rest of this year and then we will breed her when she comes into season after her retirement. ■

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*About Jack & Melanie Steele: To date, Jack and Melanie have owned or bred more than 75 Champions in the Hound, Sporting, and Terrier Groups. Their concentration is in Greyhounds, and they have had six different Greyhounds achieve No. 1 status in eight of the last 10 years. Their dogs have won the coveted Pedigree Award five times. They are very proud of how well their dogs have done in conformation competition, but are even more appreciative of their dogs' temperaments and their lives beyond the conformation rings. Some have gone on to win agility titles, obedience titles, coursing titles, field trial titles, and Canine Good Citizenship designations. Jack and Melanie and GrandCru Kennels are members of several breed and show associations, and endorse the mission of the American Kennel Club and the AKC Registered Purebred Dog. They support the AKC Canine Health Foundation's work for the health of our dogs.*



*Pippi, adopted by Michelle and Mitch Ridlon, of Richmond, Va.  
Photo by Gyeong Park*

# Getting Started in Lure Coursing

You and your former racing Greyhound can get started in lure coursing by following a few simple steps.

By John Parker



Lure coursing is a field sport which simulates the ancient sighthound sport of coursing, the chase of the hare by the pursuing hound. In this case, the hare consists of white plastic bags attached to a continuous loop or drag line that runs through a series of pulleys to simulate the zigzag path of a rabbit on the run. No wagering is involved; the dogs run for fun and the occasional ribbon or trophy. Lure coursing is not merely a race. Greyhounds and the other participating sighthound breeds are judged not only on speed, but also on enthusiasm during the course, agility in making turns, how accurately they follow the path of the lure, and their endurance in completing the course.

This article is intended to provide a series of suggestions for getting your former racing Greyhound started in lure coursing. Hopefully it will help you avoid some of the pitfalls common to lure coursing newcomers who leap right in without adequate preparation. It is not intended to be an exhaustive treatise on lure coursing. It is based on my own experience, numerous discussions with veterans whose experience far exceeds my own, and the experiences of a number of Greyhound owners whom I have had the pleasure of mentoring in their rookie year.

## **Right and wrong**

There is most assuredly a right way and a wrong way to get started in lure coursing



with a Greyhound. The right way is to do your homework, get your Greyhound fit, and take it slowly. The wrong way is to make no preparation then take your soft couch potato and throw him into competition his first time out.

The wrong way scenario typically goes like this: The new adopter hears about lure coursing and decides to take his Greyhound to a practice or a field trial. He figures that since his former racer runs in the backyard, he's ready for the

lure coursing field. At the field trial, some veteran coursers try to give him unsolicited advice, but he feels they're talking down to him so he ignores them. He runs the Greyhound, who has never seen lure coursing and is entirely unfamiliar with the movements the lure makes. The dog tries to take a turn at too high a speed, gets hurt, and the now surprised adopter is upset. He blames the sport of lure coursing, the host club, or the veteran coursers whose advice he chose to ignore, when in reality, it was his own lack of preparation that got the Greyhound hurt. Don't let this happen to you and your Greyhound!

### **About injury**

First, a word about injury potential is in order. As with any athletic activity, lure coursing does hold some risk of injury to your Greyhound. It involves all-out running that is both more intense and more exhilarating than any free running your Greyhound will do in the backyard. Letting

*This Greyhound is overweight and not fit for running in lure coursing. Note that she has lost the tuck-up at her waist and that her excess pounds obscure her shoulder line and muscle definition.*

your Greyhound try lure coursing is analogous to letting your child participate in youth sports. The fun comes with both risk and responsibility. It is your responsibility to know your dog's fitness level and to be attentive to his condition before and after he runs. To put the injury risk in perspective, a Greyhound free running in your backyard also runs the risk of injury. If your yard has trees, rocks, holes, stumps, or other hazards, the injury potential there may be greater than on the more controlled environment of a flat or gently rolling pasture that has been converted to a lure coursing field. Although you can't completely eliminate all risk of injury (in lure coursing or even in free running), following the suggestions below can certainly help reduce that risk.

### **Background check**

If you think you might be interested in taking your Greyhound lure coursing, start by doing a little background research. Jot down his ear



tattoo numbers, then contact the [National Greyhound Association \(NGA\)](#) by phone at 785-263-4660 or [email](#). Ask them to give you your Greyhound's registered name, his certificate number and his volume number. You will need this information later to get your Greyhound certified to participate in field trials. Also, ask the NGA folks to give you the name, address and telephone number of your dog's registered (former) owner. Look up your Greyhound on [Greyhound Data](#), where you can find his racing weight and at least part of his racing record.

Then, give the former owner a call. You'll no doubt have a lot of questions to ask him, but make sure you ask the following:

*Although these Greyhounds each have slightly different body types, they are at proper weight and fitness for lure coursing. Note that each has a defined tuck-up at the waist, and muscle definition in the shoulders and along the flanks.*

- What was your Greyhound's racing weight?
- Did your dog sustain any racing or other injuries during his career? If so, what were they?
- Was your Greyhound ever ticketed, or penalized, for interference or fighting?

If the former owner was not personally involved with the Greyhound, he may not have the information you request. If that's the case, ask for the name and phone number of the racing kennel to which he leased the dog and the name of the trainer. Call the trainer and ask the above questions. If you are not able to read the tattoo numbers, or if the NGA doesn't have the requested information, don't despair. You can still enter your Greyhound in lure coursing trials using a Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) number obtainable from the [American Kennel Club \(AKC\)](#). Go to the AKC's website to learn how to obtain a PAL number.

### **A must: the veterinarian check**

Any injury history you learn about your Greyhound from his former owner or trainer should be discussed with your veterinarian. If you are unable to find out anything about your dog's history, a trip to the veterinarian for a thorough physical examination is a good idea. Discuss your lure coursing plans with the veterinarian. Ask him to determine whether your Greyhound has any musculoskeletal, cardiac, or pulmonary problems that make full-speed running inadvisable. While you're at the veterinarian's office, weigh your Greyhound. Ideal lure coursing weight is no more than three pounds over racing weight. If you are unable to determine your dog's racing weight, take a good and honest look at him; you should be able to see the outline of at least the last two ribs, and he should have a defined tuck-up at his waist. If you haven't been able to resist the urge to fatten up that skinny Greyhound,

it's time to put your Greyhound on a diet and get that weight off. Running an overweight Greyhound, at lure coursing or at play, puts undue strain on joints and muscles and can cause injuries. Maintaining a proper running weight will help make your Greyhound healthier and live longer, whether you go lure coursing or not.

Next, take a look at his toenails. Overly long nails are the primary cause of toe injuries in the lure coursing Greyhound. Your Greyhound's nails





*This dog's nails are too long for lure coursing. Nails should always be trimmed for lure coursing so that they do not touch the floor when the Greyhound is standing on a hard surface.  
Photo by Stacy Pigott*

should be kept trimmed short enough so that they don't touch the floor when the dog is standing on a hard surface. If you're timid about trimming nails, take your dog to a groomer for a pedicure. To avoid the risk of soreness or infection, don't trim nails within three or four days of a lure coursing run.

### **Conditioning**

With your Greyhound at or near his ideal weight and his nails trimmed, you're ready to assess the state of his conditioning. How much running, to the point of reaching that fully extended double-suspension gallop, does he do each week? If the answer is less than

two or three times per week, some additional conditioning is advisable. Ideally, conditioning should take the form of roadwork alongside a country road, running on lead behind a bicycle or vehicle. But let's face it, that's unrealistic for the majority of Greyhound owners living in an urban or suburban environment. If your own residence doesn't have suitable running space, take your Greyhound to a fenced athletic field, a park, or a friend's yard and throw a ball or Frisbee (or whatever else he'll chase). Start with 10-15 minute sessions and building up to 25-30 minute sessions. Take frequent breaks to let the dog's breathing slow down. That will also help prevent him from getting bored with the chase play. In addition to a good gallop two or three times per week, brisk walking of one to two miles per outing is good cross-conditioning for a Greyhound and is a favorite conditioning method of Irish coursing trainers.

By following the above steps, you'll be ready for part two, coming up in the Summer edition of Celebrating Greyhounds. There we will discuss the running procedures and protocols involved



*Watching your Greyhound enjoy the chase in lure coursing is a great way to spend a weekend with your dog and fellow Greyhound enthusiasts. Photo by Cindy Frezon*

in taking your Greyhound to his first lure coursing event. ■

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*John Parker adopted his first former racing Greyhound in 1994 and has owned Greyhounds of all types since then. He is the President of the Southeastern Greyhound Club and Chairman of the Advisory Board of its adoption program, GPA-Atlanta/Southeastern Greyhound Adoption. He has been actively involved in lure coursing since 1995, is a member of the Coursing Hounds Association of the Southeast and the Apalachee Coursing Club, and has served on the Boards of the National Lure Coursing Club and the American Sighthound Field Association. John and his wife Laura live with their 12 Greyhounds and 2 Whippets on SummerWind Farm in Newnan, Ga.*



# Stealing the Big Screen

Actor Burt Reynolds rarely gets upstaged, but a Greyhound may have done it in the new family-friendly movie *Hamlet & Hutch*.

By Carelton Holt

I was at my desk writing a short-film script for [The Georgia Film School](#), an eight-week seminar my company puts on annually for budding filmmakers. I own a video-production studio in Marietta, Ga., where we produce films, commercials, and any other type of visual storytelling you might imagine. When the phone rang, I had no idea it would set into motion an exciting and beautiful filmmaking journey that would include a cast and crew of about 100 professionals, Greyhound adoption, a family's struggle with Alzheimer's, and Burt Reynolds. Yes, *that* Burt Reynolds.

The call was from Cas Sigers, a young, up-and-coming screenwriter in Atlanta. Cas and I

have worked together on several commercial projects and often discussed working together on a film, so her call was no surprise. But her question certainly was, "So Carelton, do you want to get together and make a dog movie?" I replied, "A dog movie. Funny you should ask, I happen to have a great dog story in mind!"

It is no secret that my wife, Eda, and I are actively involved in one of Atlanta's Greyhound groups, [Southeastern Greyhound Adoption](#). Our story surrounds a program we are involved in called Greyhounds Giving Back, where volunteers bring Greyhounds to hospitals and nursing homes for therapy. I know everyone who participates in programs like these across



*Hamlet & Hutch will be available on DVD in May.*

the country can relate to how amazing the therapy is for all involved — patients, dogs, and volunteers.

Eda and I shared with Cas several heartwarming stories of how Greyhounds were able to bring joy to so many. Especially touching were the stories surrounding Alzheimer's patients. It is a genuine moment of happiness when, at the very sight of a beautiful Greyhound, residents who barely speak during the week break out of their shells and tell stories about their own dogs and families with great enthusiasm. Sadly for many, the Greyhound and volunteer are their only visitors, as some residents have no family at all.

Cas, Eda, and I all knew there was a beautiful story here, ripe for the picking. I outlined a rough idea and Cas went to work on the screenplay. Two weeks later, I received the first draft of *Hamlet & Hutch*, a movie about

a family struggling to deal with the impact of Alzheimer's and how the unconditional love of a child and a Greyhound brings the family together.

The story takes place in north Georgia, where a single mother, Tatum, and her 9-year-old daughter, Liv, struggle to deal with the sudden presence of Liv's grandfather, Hutch, who has been forced to give up his Shakespearean acting career in New York and move in with the girls due to early-onset Alzheimer's. The family adopts a Greyhound, Hamlet, and things seem to be going well until Hamlet ends up in the hands of unscrupulous thieves who plan to return him to the dog-racing world. I'll have to cut the synopsis short here in order to preserve the ending, but it is a beautiful, family-friendly film with an uplifting lesson for all.

So, with script in hand, we set out to cast

the film. Since Atlanta has become such a filmmaking center, we knew most of the roles could be filled by very talented local actors, but we needed a few big names to help the film's commercial success. An easy choice was



*The human stars, from left to right, Elizabeth Leiner, Burt Reynolds and Emma Rayne Lyle.*

Teri Vaughn, a beautiful actress from *The Steve Harvey Show* and numerous film roles. Teri is Cas' business partner, so we knew we had her in the bag. A surprise actress was Cassie Davis of Tyler Perry's *House of Payne*. Cas and Teri showed her the script and the fun and funny role suited her to a "T," so she was in. Even so, we still thought we needed another big gun. Despite being an independent project with a limited budget, we knew one of the lead roles needed to be filled by a well-known, immediately recognizable actor.

We decided that the lead male role of Hutch would be best, so we set out to find an actor willing to play this proud and vulnerable character. After going through many candidates, negotiations, and stress, at the very last minute we made a deal with Burt Reynolds of *Smokey and the Bandit* and *Deliverance* fame. We are so thankful to Burt, as he made himself available

on our modest budget due to the beautiful role that was so different from his typical charming, laughing Burt Reynolds persona. Burt is not young and has lost a lot of mobility due to his early stuntman days, but his fans will not be disappointed; he still has it in the acting department. We are proud to have him in the film.

Casting the remaining humans was going great with the amazing local talent. Viewers will especially adore the child actress, Emma Lyle, playing the part of Liv. Her effervescence is so powerful people will find themselves smiling widely at nearly every one of her scenes. But we still hadn't cast the role of the Hamlet, the dog. We knew we wanted a Greyhound, but few professional trainers work with Greyhounds. Eda insisted our own dog Turbo, the smartest of our six, was up to the task. I fought the idea tooth and nail, since the dog appeared in so

*Emma Lyle and Turbo*





*Burt Reynolds and Turbo share a moment during a particularly touching scene.*

much of the film. I didn't want to put that kind of pressure on my wife or the dog, in the event he couldn't do the many things the role demanded.

We contacted Jen Bachelor, a friend and

trainer whose dog Seven had appeared in Mark Wahlberg and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's blockbuster film *Pain and Gain*. We knew her dog could pull it off, but the 10 days required of the dog to complete the film were more

than her regular work schedule or our budget would permit, so it was back to our Turbo. Eda was totally confident and I warmed up to the idea and loved the thought of the role being played by our own Greyhound. Though I tried to hide it from Eda, I was plenty nervous due to the reality of knowing the cost associated with Turbo not being able to do everything. We were on a tight schedule and didn't have the luxury of doing take after take of anyone, including the dog.

Well, as so often is the case, my wife couldn't have been more right. Eda and Turbo knocked it out of the park. Eda was patient, calm, and perfect as the handler and Turbo was nothing less than a star. He was a huge hit on both sides of the camera and made about a hundred new friends, or should I say, fans.

One scene that stands out in particular was near the end of filming. Turbo and Burt were

sitting on the deck of a beautiful mountain cabin overlooking a magnificent view. The scene is a pivotal moment in the story, where the stubborn and proud Hutch is confiding his deepest feelings to his new best friend, Hamlet. Burt was brilliant, showing his amazing talent for range, and shockingly, Turbo responded as if he understood every word and subtle nuance of the scene. About 40 crew members were crammed into the cabin and all were simply speechless at the wonder of the moment. Burt will probably want to kill me for saying this, but his amazing performance of that scene was actually upstaged by Turbo. It is a truly magical moment in the film and makes the entire price of admission worth every penny.

Turbo continued to amaze everyone, often nailing his parts in a single take. I know everyone reading this already knows how amazing Greyhounds are, but I only wish you

### **39 Celebrating Greyhounds**



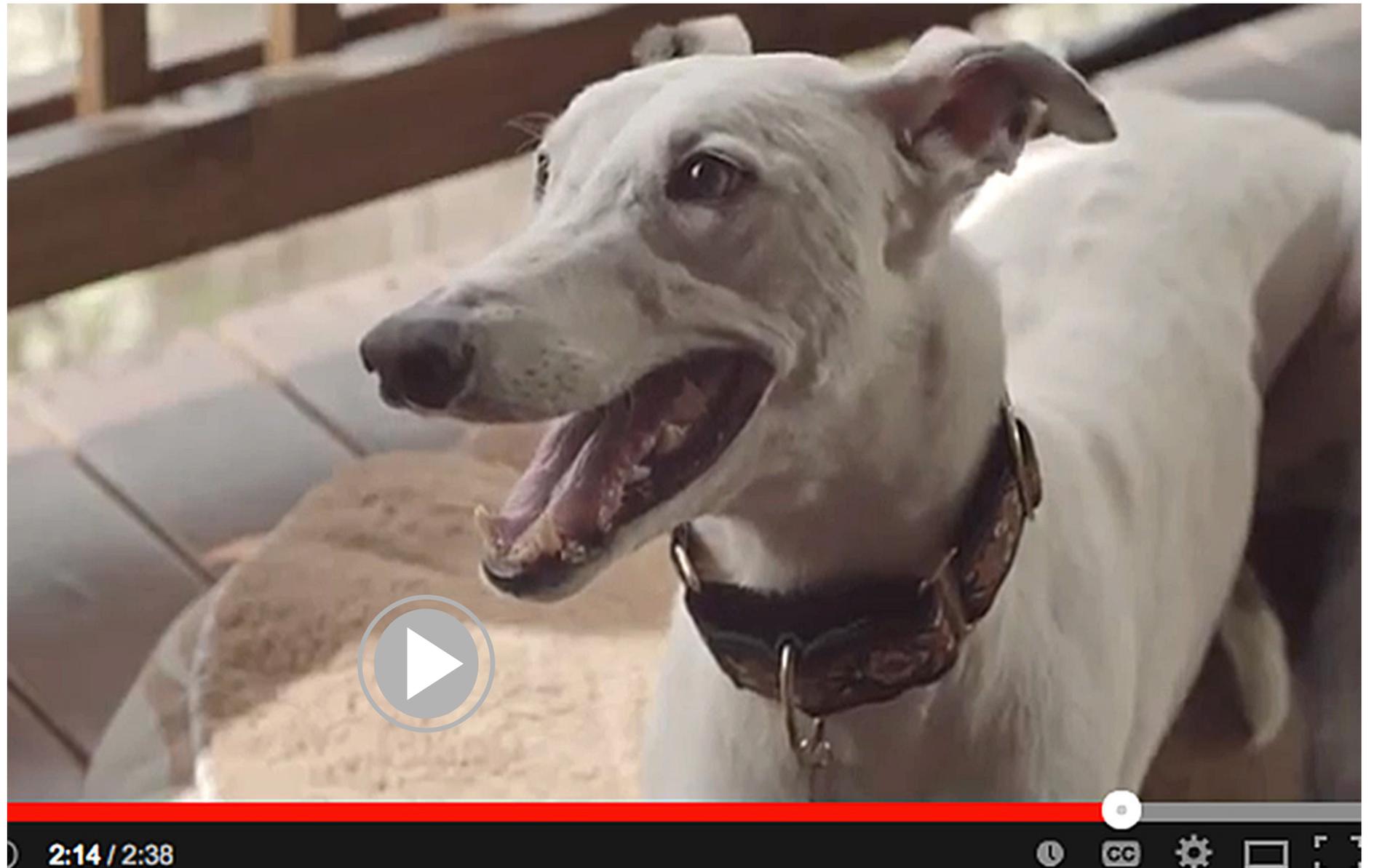
*View the slideshow to see more photographs from the filming of Hamlet & Hutch.*

could all have seen Turbo at work. It truly elevated my already high opinion of this wonderful breed. So, if anyone who tells you Greyhounds can't be trained, I know a lot of us who beg to differ.

*Hamlet & Hutch* has been picked up by two distributors for both U.S. and international distribution. Its video on demand release is scheduled for April 1, 2014, on DIRECTV, Comcast, Cox, Time Warner, Bright House,

AT&T, Verizon, Suddenlink, Charter, Mediacom, Dish, Blockbuster, iTunes, Amazon Instant, and Vimeo. Hamlet & Hutch should be available through most major DVD retailers on May 13, 2014. We are hopeful it might find itself on one of the family-friendly television networks as well. In the meantime, check out the movie trailer at right. ■

*Carelton Holt is founder of Granite Digital Imaging, LLC (GDI), the parent company of GDI Films, North Atlanta Studios and the Georgia Film School. With a love for filmmaking and Greyhounds, it was only natural for him to make a film surrounding this incredible breed. Eda Holt is a Board Member of Southeastern Greyhound Adoption and has been a passionate supporter of Greyhound adoption for more than 16 years. Eda and Carelton came up with the story for Hamlet & Hutch based on their personal experiences with pet therapy at assisted living facilities.*



# A Dog's Perspective

A collection of poems written from the canine point of view offers a light-hearted, fun read.

By Ellen Schneiderman

*I Could Chew on This: And Other Poems by Dogs*

By: Francesco Marciuliano

San Francisco: Chronicle Books (2013)

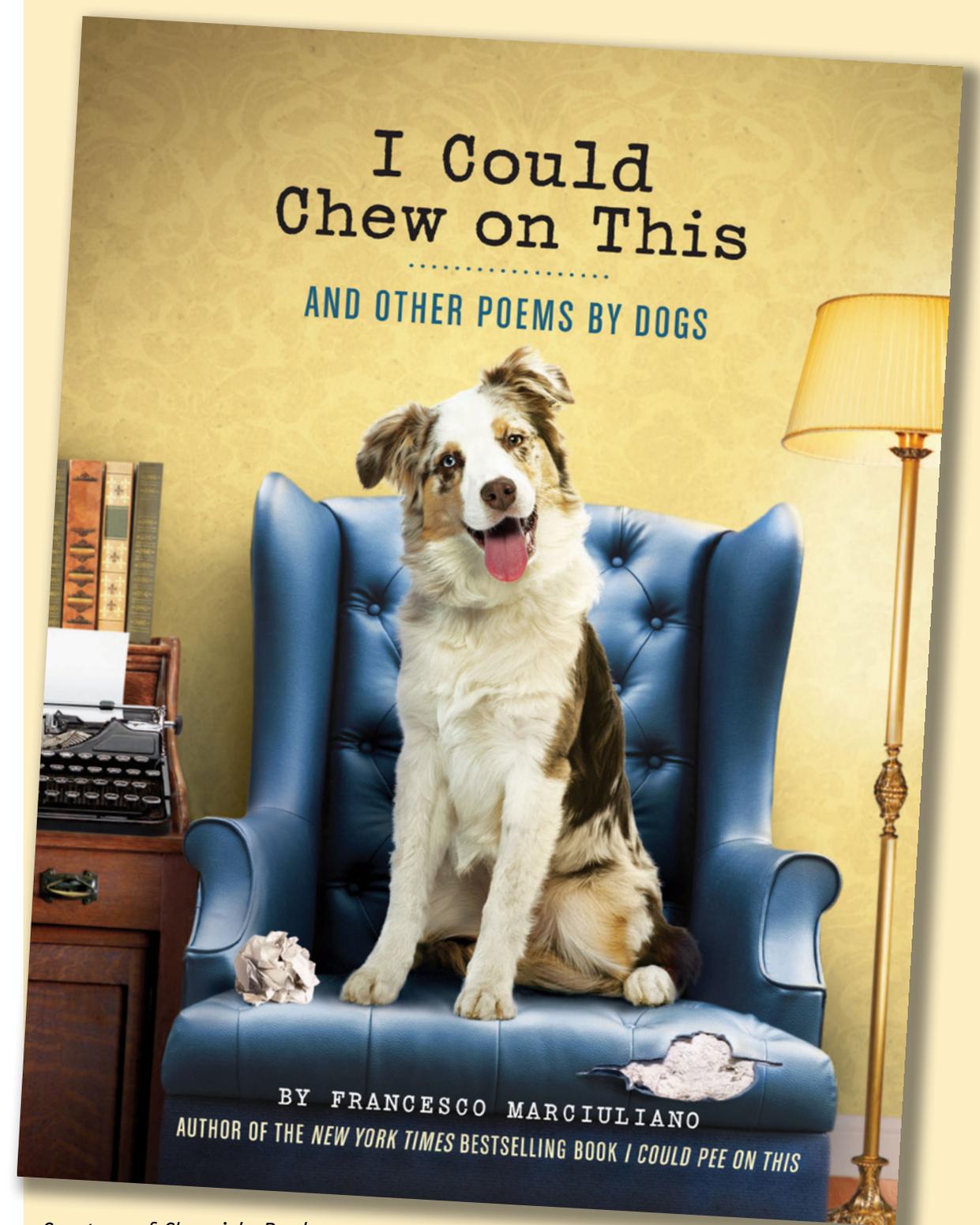
ISBN 978-1-4521-1903-8

\$12.95

Some of you are likely familiar with Francesco Marciuliano, author of the well-known comic strip *Sally Forth* and the *New York Times* best-seller *I Could Pee on This: And Other Poems by Cats*. *I Could Chew on This: And Other Poems by Dogs* is the author's canine follow-up to his cat book success.

Photographs of dogs are interspersed with pages resembling notebook paper or wallpaper. The effect implies a casual scrapbook, contrasted with each poem's text set off in a traditional typeface. It's easy on the eyes and has a homey, nostalgic feel. As nice and charming as the visual presentation is, the poems don't all hit the mark, at least on the initial read. Divided into four chapters — Inside, Outside, By Your Side, and Heavy Thinking — the lead page of each chapter has an accompanying phrase.

**41 Celebrating Greyhounds**



Courtesy of Chronicle Books

For example, Chapter 1, Inside, is followed by:

We were wolves once

Wild and Wary

Then we noticed you had sofas

#### DOG DICTUM

Poems tend to follow the general theme of each chapter. Topics range from intimate to pedestrian, but are all fairly relatable. For instance, the chapter “By Your Side” includes poems about going to the vet, divorce, time spent waiting for an owner’s return, and naming injustice.

The Kindle sample I previewed included, no coincidence, one of the best entries: “I’ve Been Watching.” In 14 short lines, Marciuliano encapsulates the very intimate nature of dog/human relationships. It’s a poem that makes you think about what our dogs see, how they might interpret it, and what advice they might give us. It’s the poem that made me buy the book, without reading more of the preview. Even after reading “I’ve Been Watching” over and

over, it still has impact.

Perhaps because I enjoyed that initial offering so much, the first read through of the other 60-plus poems left me feeling a little cheated — disappointed even. While it’s true that to read this type of book you have to divorce yourself, to some degree, from reason, some of the inclusions, “Food” and “Splash,” in particular, struck me as little more than page fillers. That said, most dog owners with even an ounce of connectedness to their canine companions will relate on some level to most of the poems. The very best poems aren’t really so much about the dogs themselves as they are about us. The poems that ring truest not only capture a particular canine characteristic or penchant, but also reveal something about their human counterparts.

The final chapter of the book, “Heavy Thinking,” contains two poems, “Just a Head’s up” and “Chasing the Rabbit” (which is the only breed-specific selection in the book), that seem

to diverge from the dog-only voice into purely human editorializing. The seriousness of these two in particular contrasts sharply with most of the other inclusions in the book. While they are appropriate to the chapter heading, they seem out of place alongside the quirky and sweet text of other poems in the book.

Is this great literature? No. Is it enjoyable and even thought-provoking? Yes, for the most part. If you’re like me, you’ll find more value in the second, third, and fourth readings than in the first, so don’t let that throw you. *I Could Chew on This* is available in hardcover at your local bookseller as well as online. Most true dog lovers will enjoy it, and it’s priced well for gift-giving to yourself or others.

The book is available at [Chronicle Books](#), as well as at all major book retailers. ■

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*Ellen Schneiderman is co-founder of The Greyhound List and is a regular contributor to CG Magazine.*

# The Perfect Shot

By Kim Ostrander

Nothing makes you desire a new family photo like the addition of a new family member. For Greyhound lovers, adopting a Greyhound is like having a baby and many photographs are needed to document the new addition.

Last spring, when we adopted our retired racer, GoBlue (yes, we are University of Michigan alumni), from [Greyhound Retirement Adoption Care and Education \(G.R.A.C.E.\)](#) we wanted a new family portrait on our mantle. With a Greyhound's angular build, getting a pretty picture of one can take a lot of practice. So, what do you say to the photographer

Talking to your photographer before a photo shoot can ensure that you get the best possible images of your family, including your Greyhound.



*The Ostrander family's mantle-worthy photograph was the result of good planning and a fun photo shoot.*



## The Perfect Shot

who is not familiar with the breed?

We started by asking the photographer to take the time to look up attractive photos of Greyhounds on the Internet. We needed her to understand that their appearance changes from different angles. Here is part of an email to

our wonderful photographer, **Alissa Saylor**. "I only ask because they are very angular beasts and can be tricky to photograph. From some angles they look majestic and regal, from some angles friendly and goofy, and from other angles, bony and demented like the hounds of Hell. Seriously."

Because we wanted our hound to be free of leash and collar in the portrait, we stressed the fact that the shoot needed to be in an enclosed area. The photographer we picked prefers a more wild and organic

setting to suit her artistic style, but she understood that we couldn't risk letting GoBlue off leash. We settled on our backyard with an old painted fence and agreed to let our lawn get a little long. We ended with a discussion about how posed pictures are not really her style and that we also just want to capture our family as it is.

So, with a photographer armed with the knowledge that Greyhounds do photograph better from some angles, and our family understanding that we wouldn't be posing anyway,





make all the difference if you want natural, relaxed images.

Alissa commented that she feels the shoot was successful because

we were natural and playful with our dog and made him interested in what we were doing. She also told us that acting normal is very important, as dogs will feed off of the vibes that their owners are putting out. Alissa adds that this is just as true with kids and their parents and that the attitude going into the session is probably the single most important thing.

In the end, we received beautiful images that capture the zaniness of our family and the love we have for each other and our fur baby. ■

*James, Kim, Sophia, and Tommy Ostrander live in Michigan with their 3-year-old blue Greyhound, GoBlue, and are currently looking to add a Grey girl to the family. Photographer Alissa Saylor lives in Tennessee and breathes life into vintage-style photography on a daily basis. She is often snapping pictures of the chickens she raises in her backyard, but says she would be thrilled to capture Greyhounds again soon.*



# In Memoriam



*Ditto, adopted by Cheryl and Stan Holewinski of Pasadena, Md., appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of CG Magazine.*

## **Ditto (Ditto Assurance) 2002–2013**

Ditto (Ditto Assurance) 2002–2013  
Ditto was always easy-going and adjusted to home life quickly. His first day home, he made himself comfortable in his crate, roached over, and took a nap.

Despite living with a pack of hounds, Ditto liked to be in his room and would give an indignant bark if one of the others got too close, so Cheryl or Stan would tell them to leave him alone. He loved getting lots of attention and playing. When Stan would make dinner and hear a thundering noise in the living room, he would call, “What are you doing, Big Red Dog?” Ditto would then peek out with his toy and wag his tail. Ditto always made sure everyone got a cookie from Cheryl after dinner. Whenever the Holewinskis came home, Ditto would come running with a toy to greet them.

Ditto passed away very suddenly, leaving Cheryl and Stan as gently as he came into their lives.



*Crystal (left) and Eron, adopted by Scott and Maggie Arquilla of Orland Park, Ill., appeared in the Winter 2007 issue of CG Magazine.*

## **Eron (Greys Heron Bay) 2002–2014 Crystal (Greys Crystal Bay) 2002–2014**

Scott and Maggie Arquilla of Orland Park, Ill., adopted Eron in 2005 from REGAP of Illinois. At first, she was quite shy and skittish around other dogs while out on a walk. After 10 months, her sister Crystal became available and the Arquillas adopted her. At that point, Eron assumed her role as the alpha of the pack. The girls loved going to monthly Meet and Greet events at Petco. After their appearance in CG Magazine’s Winter 2007 issue, they became known as the Famous Bay Sisters. Their appearance and demeanor encouraged many visitors to adopt from REGAP. Always up for a walk — rain, shine, snow or sleet — we estimate they might have been on about to 4,000 walks in the eight-plus years we had them. Eron, who never raced, succumbed to osteosarcoma in early January. Crystal succumbed to a malignant thyroid tumor which was removed last summer, but the cancer had metastasized in her lungs. She passed in early February, barely four weeks after her sister. Despite the last month of pain, Eron and Crystal left a legacy of love, smiles, and wonderful memories.

*With In Memoriam, we honor and bid farewell to the Greyhounds whose stories and images have graced previous issues of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.*

# You're Invited



## **Saturday, April 26, 2014**

Pie Social

Greyhound Pets, Inc.

1–4 p.m.

Brightwater Center, 22505 State Route 9 SE,  
Woodinville, Wash. 98072

Homemade pies and silent auction fundraiser.

[www.greyhoundpetsinc.org](http://www.greyhoundpetsinc.org)

[chrisnooney@me.com](mailto:chrisnooney@me.com)

## **Sunday, May 4, 2014**

Spring Fling

Greyhound Options, Inc.

Noon–4 p.m.

Northwest Park, Windsor, Conn.

Free admission, all Greyhounds are welcome. Raffle,  
auction, food, contests, games, and lots of fun.

[www.greyhoundoptions.org](http://www.greyhoundoptions.org)

## **Friday through Sunday,**

### **May 9–11, 2014**

Greyhound Gathering — Kanab

Greyhound Gang

Kanab, Utah

This fundraiser features three days where  
friendships are formed and funds flow to help  
hounds. Events include blur of fur, costume parade,  
canine carnival, yappy hour, hikes, best friends  
tours, auctions, talks, demos, and so much more.

[www.GreyhoundGang.org](http://www.GreyhoundGang.org)

## **Thursday through Sunday,**

### **May 29–June 1, 2014**

Mountain Hounds

Greyhound Friends of North Carolina

Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Mountain Hounds 2014 is a weekend retreat for  
humans and Greyhounds including fun, games,  
vending, catered picnic, seminars, and more. Enjoy

the Smoky Mountains and the company of fellow  
Greyhound owners as we celebrate 10 years of  
Mountain Hounds. Other breeds welcome.

[www.gfncmountainhounds.com](http://www.gfncmountainhounds.com)

[gfnccgreyhound@yahoo.com](mailto:gfnccgreyhound@yahoo.com)

## **Sunday, June 1, 2014**

Gathering of the Hounds

Great Lakes Greyhound of Indiana, Inc.

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Woodland Park, 2100 Willowcreek Road,  
Portage, Ind.

Annual indoor event celebrating the Greyhound.  
Many contests, including best costume, trick, tallest,  
smallest, and more. Group rooing and Blessing of  
the Hounds. Vendors, raffle, and plenty of good  
food. All leashed Greyhounds welcome.

[www.greatlakesgreyhound.org](http://www.greatlakesgreyhound.org)

# You're Invited

## **Friday through Sunday, June 20–22, 2014**

2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

Sheraton Inn, Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Greyhound lovers everywhere are welcome.

<http://gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org/NAGAC.html>

## **Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 2–3, 2014**

Greyt Escape: Kennels to Kouches 2014

Greyhound Trust & Alliance

Wheeling Island Casino & Racetrack,

Wheeling Island, W.V.

Two-day event featuring the Greyhound Wellness Conference with Dr. Guillermo Couto.

[www.greyhoundtrustalliance.webs.com](http://www.greyhoundtrustalliance.webs.com)

## **Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014 (rain date: Sept. 28)**

PetsAffair

Retired Greyhounds as Pets (REGAP) of Connecticut, Inc.

10 a.m.– 4 p.m.

105 Fairwood Road, Bethany, Conn.

REGAP of Connecticut, Inc., will conduct its seventh annual PetsAffair. All money raised by this event directly supports the care of the dogs — food, veterinary costs, and kennel maintenance. This year's event will include a silent auction (10 a.m.– 3 p.m.), tag sale, pet-a-cures, great basket giveaways, great luck contests, pet photos, Greyhound meet and greets, picnic and cookout, bake sale – canine and human – and much more.

<http://regapct.com/petsaffair.php>

[info@regapct.com](mailto:info@regapct.com)



*Katie, adopted by Jennifer and Stephen Bachelor, of Acworth, Ga.*



*Inmates and Greyhounds  
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*Doolin, adopted by Brie Burkhart of Medfield, Mass.*

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[info@forevergreyhoundgifts.com](mailto:info@forevergreyhoundgifts.com)

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