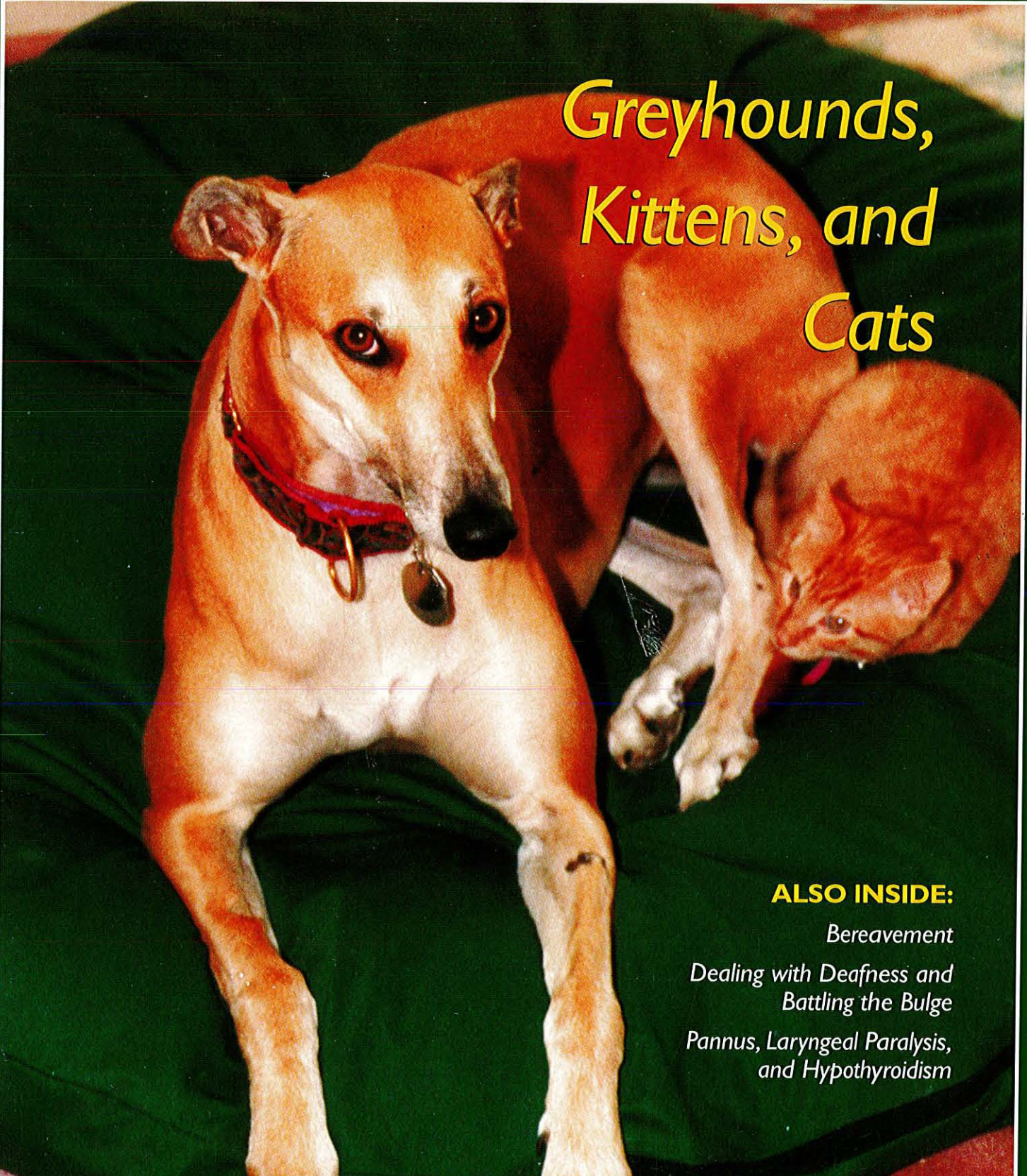


CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS

THE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2000



Greyhounds, Kittens, and Cats

ALSO INSIDE:

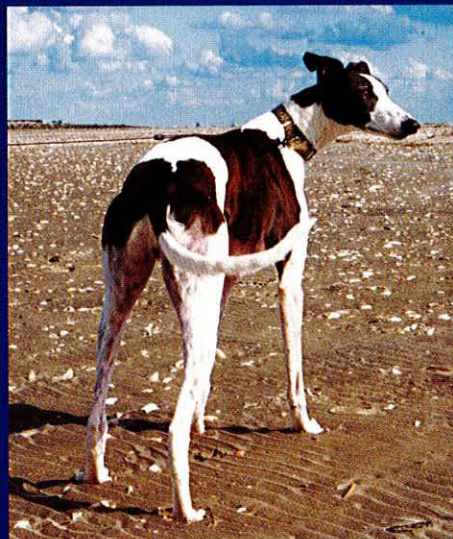
Bereavement

*Dealing with Deafness and
Battling the Bulge*

*Pannus, Laryngeal Paralysis,
and Hypothyroidism*

The 2001 Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar

Calendars will
be available
from your
adoption
group starting
in August



A Greyhound Odyssey



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

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Pancho Dai-Galgo Perez, Racetrack Judges, Difficult Decisions, Hard Choices, and Fundraising for Adoption

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Prey Drive

Just wanted to congratulate you and your staff on another wonderful issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds*. I particularly enjoyed the article "Why Don't We Talk About What Our Dogs Really Are?"

I have a wonderful Greyhound named Shiloh. I wrote about her friendship with Tice a while back. Shiloh was originally named Shy-lo because of her shyness and sweetness. It's like being close friends with a deer—just delightful. She lives with cats and gets along well with other dogs. However, once when I had to board her at Linda Brown's rescue ranch in Acton, California for a long weekend, she took part in the mauling of another Greyhound.



BRET AND VICKY ZIEL



CATHY NORRIS

Kira Series and NGA Pups

I love the Kira story by Patricia Gail Burnham. Through my organization, I have been able to foster puppies from five weeks to up to four months of age. What a joy they were! We finally got our own puppy from Renewed Life for Greyhounds of Holland, Michigan. I love my three adult Greyhounds, but a puppy really is a great bundle of joy.

Cathy Norris
Fremont, Michigan

CG Magazine *always believed that the Kira series would be helpful to those who take in NGA pups or pregnant bitches. I know the series and Ms. Burnham herself have helped me personally even as the series progresses from puppyhood to a more adult stage.*—Ed.

Who's On First

Chicago Regap and Regap of Illinois, Inc. would like to thank you for the extra copies of *CG* each quarter. We all enjoy every picture and article. We are sending a donation to The Greyhound Project for all of your great work.

We are very sad to hear of the passing of Danny Ward. He was such a sweet boy. We are making a donation to The Morris Foundation in Danny's memory.

The article, "Who's on First?" was very informative. We want you to know not only was Greymeadows Farm clean and odor free in 1997, but is kept beautifully clean daily.

Adoption Pioneers

My compliments to the staff of *Celebrating Greyhounds* on the spring issue. It's excellent, and it continues the trend of each issue being better than the last.

I was especially pleased to see the credit given to Ron Walsek for starting organized adoptions in America. He's a good friend and no older than the rest of us.

Bob Jahn
Via the Internet

I loved those vintage photos! Great story. I love those stories about how the Greyhound movement started. Thanks for all your hard work making this magazine such a beautiful piece of literature!

Sandra Hall
Toronto, Ontario

One male grew jealous of another male's female group and led a vicious attack that nearly killed another. I was saddened to hear that Shiloh followed his and the other dogs' lead and joined in the mauling. She has also attacked our resident house cat twice, a year apart, even though she has lived peaceably with this cat since 1994.

So I know that the article was valid and much needed. These wonderful dogs are who they are, and we need to understand this.

Thank you for a very fine publication. With appreciation,

Ardi Newton
Panorama City, California

This issue contains two articles about Greyhounds living with kittens and cats. We hope the articles are helpful.—Ed.

Mary, Jack, and their staff work tirelessly to keep it clean and odor-free. We have been adopting out Greymeadows Farm Greyhounds for the last five years. We visit Greymeadows every summer with adopters and with our personal Greyhounds. It's such a pleasure to see the smiles and excitement of being "home" on their faces.

We are an anti-racing group. We feel if we are going to help the "industry," we are going to help people who treat their Greyhounds well. We hope more people from the "industry" learn from Greymeadows Farm. They treat their Greyhounds with kindness and respect. Our Greyhounds remember their kindness!

Mona E. Moore, Chicago REGAP
Michelle L. Wagner, REGAP of Illinois, Inc.

Spondylosis

Good call on the Spondylosis article in the last issue. You hit the nail right on the head, and proved that I wasn't imagining the various strange symptoms Beau has been exhibiting lately. Thank you!

Angela M. Brame
Redmond, Washinton

Selling a House when it's Gone to the Dogs

My husband and I recently moved from Ohio to Colorado. With a big move of this kind, some things get overlooked. I packed away my back issues of *Celebrating Greyhounds* without mailing my change of address card. I found a subscription mailing address on the Internet. Hoping this was the correct address and department, I sent my request and continued with our move. Just after two weeks in our new home the Winter 1999 issue arrived with a Colorado mailing label.

The article "Selling a House when its Gone to the Dogs" had a lot of information we could directly relate to. In the month of November we had rearranged dog beds and food bowls, listed and sold a house, packed up all of our belongings, and completed a 1,200-mile journey from Dayton, Ohio to Colorado Springs, Colorado. Maya, our Greyhound, and Nigel, our Lab, made the best of it in the back seat of my Honda Civic. We moved from a house with a dog door. This made staying in hotels for several days

Greyhounds Rule... but what about the Cats?

It's that old prey drive problem again. You fall in love with a Greyhound. You want it desperately. You also have a cat. You are told, "No, not that one. She didn't pass the cat test." Your heart sinks. You go to the next hound. You are told, "Oh, no. Just watch him with this imitation lure. They would both go after your cat." You think, oh, nuts. Are those pre-adoption cat tests really definitive?

The answer is, sort of. They do help raise some red flags, but they are not the be-all and end-all of tests—not by a long shot. I have witnessed cat tests with real cats and with imitation lures. One hound that failed the "live cat" cat test ended up sleeping with cats. The other tested with the "imitation lure" cat test ended up living on a farm with little critters running loose and never harmed a hair or a feather. The bottom line is that you can't always tell. Those tests certainly fooled me. The two articles in this issue about Greyhounds, cats, and kittens may shake your long-held beliefs on the subject. They shook mine.



Much of the success or failure of integrating a high-prey Greyhound into a home with cats depends on how you do introductions. This issue contains two articles on the subject. "Excellent with Cats" outlines how to bring a high-prey, fresh-off-the-track Greyhound into a house that already has cats. "Greyhounds and Kittens: A Mix that Can Match" explains how to introduce a kitten to a high-prey Greyhound already in the home. These are not theoretical exercises. These are true stories outlining specific methods that worked for Kris Metz and Lee Livingood. Doing this is not for everyone; it is for those who choose to go the extra mile to bring and keep those special Greyhounds and special cats in the home.

I admit it. I'm a cat lover and owner. As I type this column, Amber is sitting on my lap, alternately butting her head into my hands, making typing difficult, and then nuzzling my chin. Yes, Greyhounds are my obsession and I adore our three Greyhounds and the five that have come and gone before them, but I must admit we have (gasp!) four cats, too. We will always have at least one cat. Although we will not intentionally seek out a high-prey Greyhound, we won't despair if we discover our next Greyhound is a little too interested in cats.

As we enter our fifth year, *Celebrating Greyhounds* continues to present information on adoptions, medical subjects, fundraising, stories of great Greyhounds, ads, events, and more. Thank you for your continued support. Please let us know what you'd like to see between our covers. If you have an article or photo to submit, want to place an ad, list an event, or get *CG* subscription cards and materials for your group, please contact us at *CG*. Enjoy.

Marcia Herman

an experience. To avoid any nighttime accidents we set the alarm clock to go off every two to three hours to take the dogs out. Because of this, Maya is now house-trained. After three weeks, the four of us are adjusting to our new home and surroundings.

I appreciate CG's quick response to my request. Thanks for the "Selling a House" article. It couldn't have been more appropriate.

Lisa Moran
Colorado Springs, Colorado

The Great Motivators

This letter regards the article "The Great Motivators" by Cynthia Sisson, Spring 2000. Cynthia and others who train their Greyhounds to do tricks; please, a Greyhound has had enough training. Greyhounds are companions. Train your husband to roll over or sit if you want a pet.

We are in our eighth year; we have rescued and placed approximately 1,400 Greyhounds. One question we ask our future adoptees is what tricks they plan to teach; if they plan to teach tricks we tell them to go to the pound and get a dog! Greyhounds are companions!

Jack Brickling
Ex. Dir. Homes for Greyhounds
Richmond, Kentucky

The purpose of the article was about bonding and communicating with one's Greyhound. As we took it, the pogoing and gimme five "tricks" were simply naming what Marshall was already doing naturally. Every Greyhound needs to learn some words, especially come and wait. They are often life or death words and good tricks I want my Greyhounds to know.—Ed.

Acepromazine Caution

Summer is here and so are thunderstorms and fireworks. Many veterinarians prescribe acepromazine to nervous animals. Greyhound and giant breed owners should be aware that even 10 mg (a cat dosage) of this tranquilizer can be too much for a Greyhound. Use this medication with extreme caution or not at all. According to *The Pill Book Guide to*

Epileptic Dogs and Marshall

I wanted to compliment you on the Spring 2000 issue of CG. I especially enjoyed the placement of the article on epileptic Greyhounds next to the article I wrote using my dog Marshall as a model. Some readers may remember from a previous article that Marshall has a mild form of epilepsy and has several seizures a year.

I agree whole-heartedly with Merci's assessment that epi-dogs are basically healthy and can lead long, happy, and fulfilling lives. While all epileptic dogs are different, I noticed a decrease in both the severity and frequency of Marshall's seizures when we started actively training and showing in obedience. For him, keeping active and going places seems to keep his brain ticking along normally. I'm sure all our dogs—not just the epileptic ones—benefit from being kept active both mentally and physically.

Speaking of an active life, I thought I should let readers know that Marshall has now retired from regular obedience competition after earning his CDX this spring. He retired in style by earning High in Trial at the Southern Greyhound Specialty in Fort Worth in his last weekend out. At ten-and-a-half years old, the physical side of obedience is getting a bit demanding for him, although he enjoys it enough that I'm sure we'll enter Veterans classes for older dogs when we have the chance. We still have plenty to keep us busy, with both tracking and pet therapy visits on our agenda.

Cindy Sisson and Marshall (Jim Cruz CDX)
Via the Internet

Medication for Your Dog and Cat (Bantam Books) giant breeds and Greyhounds as well as all older animals may be extremely sensitive to this drug. Instead, try Rescue Remedy, a Bach flower essence which may be used safely for the stressed dog and its equally-stressed human.

Causes of Sneezing (Winter 1999)

Please suggest to people not to think that inward and outward unexplained sneezing can be caused only by nose mites, periodontal disease, or seasonal allergies. This is how Danny's condition started.

If the condition returns, get an X-ray if the machine is a new type. Sometimes it's just best to do an MRI of the nasal cavity. It may be nasal carcinoma, which is aggressive. It may present itself as a nasal discharge and/or bleeding from the nostril. Sometimes days later an external tumor becomes visible. This disease progresses so quickly most owners don't have a chance to catch the disease in time to fight it.

Martha and John Ward
Orland Park, Illinois

Sadly, Danny passed away from nasal carcinoma on his eighth birthday—Ed.

Sharing

I thoroughly enjoy your magazine and I'm happy to renew my subscription. You may be happy to know that I share my magazine with a "Doberman person." She has shown and worked with dogs and thoroughly enjoys reading your magazine also. Other breed magazines just don't cover the information you include. Your news is for everyone if you love dogs. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Chris Vetter
Jenison, Michigan

Corrections to the Spring issue

Inside front cover, Round Round Girl's owner is Jenifer Barker, not Jennifer Baker.

Betti Traugh was the photographer for the "Going Home by Air" story on page 9 not Loretta Nickolaus.

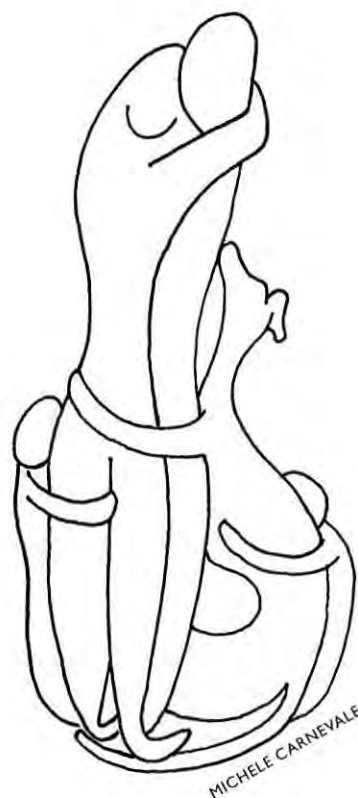
On page 14 the caption should read Piquette, not Giebel. Also, the dog was sent to West Virginia, not Virginia.

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

Flight Plays Lassie

In 1997, a litter of Greyhound pups was born. That's not so unusual, but this litter was different. This was a litter of AKC pups. Only a handful of AKC Greyhounds are whelped in a year. Oddly, non-show quality pups are harder to place in homes than racing pups. Flight (El-Aur Dragon Flight), a white and blue brindle spotted male was one of them. He was a wonderful, loving, friendly dog who just wanted a family to love. When he was a year old, that family appeared.

Heather Michna, a Greyhound-L member, helped us move another dog to its new home in California, and in the process she fell in love with the Greyhounds. After talking to her, I decided this sounded like a great home for Flight, and we met in Arizona to hand him over. Her children, Andrew 13, Meagan 10, Victoria 6, and Leslie 4, loved him from the start, just as Flight loved them. He had a bit more trouble adjusting to the cockatoo. What we didn't know is the depth of the bond that Flight would develop towards the children. The bond became apparent a few weeks ago.



It all began on a Monday morning when Heather was working on the computer and Flight decided he just *had* to have her attention. He whined and paced and poked her "mouse hand" with his nose. Heather, with a sigh, checked his food bowl and refilled it. That wasn't enough; Flight wouldn't stop. She refilled his water bowl. She offered to let him out to play, but he didn't want to do that either and continued whining. Heather went back to the computer and sharply commanded Flight to lie down.

But Flight left the room, then returned within seconds and stood at the door, still whining and crying. He finally gave an odd little yelp—not quite a bark, but high pitched and insistent—a sound that Heather had never heard before. Heather

stared at him and suddenly realized he had the look of Lassie saying, "Timmy's in the well, follow me!"

Puzzled, but willing, Heather got up and followed Flight down the hall to the girls' bedroom where her youngest was still sleeping. Flight walked toward the bed; he stopped and whined. Heather halted, her heart in her mouth as she realized what Flight was telling her. On the covers was a six inch scorpion! A scorpion large enough that its sting could have made her child extremely ill! Grabbing a handy box, Heather used the lid to scoop it into the container and carry it outside without waking her child. She summarily dispatched the scorpion, then sat and hugged both child and dog.

Flight immediately earned special treats and ate steak for supper. He may never win in the show ring, but this very special Greyhound is a winner in all our hearts! ■

Laurel Drew is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds and normally writes a column on Hall of Fame Greyhounds. She took a break from the Hall of Fame series to write about Flight, an AKC Greyhound of her breeding (El-Aur Greyhounds). Ms. Drew is also involved with racing Greyhound adoptions via A Place for Us Greyhounds in New Mexico and researches pedigrees for all Greyhounds.

Most jockeys race for fame and glory or for the monetary rewards that come from winning races. Certain jockeys of the 1930s, however, actually raced for peanuts! These jockeys weren't just monkeying around; they were real monkeys and their steeds were racing Greyhounds.

Try to visualize one of these monkey races. The jockeys resplendent in their colorful racing silks eagerly sit their mounts awaiting the start of the race. One rider leans over in his saddle and nervously begins to groom his steed's neck. Two others screech at each other in an obviously heated exchange. The handlers quickly put some distance between the potential combatants as they reach out attempting to tear the silks off each other.

Suddenly all the riders become quiet, listening intently. The sound of the oncoming lure gets louder. A bell rings. They're off! Tails whipping back and forth and screeching loudly, the highly competitive tiny riders urge their mounts on to the finish line. Following the race, the winner is led by his handler to the winner's circle and presented with a trophy dish of peanuts. The monkey jockey gives a toothy grin for the camera then greedily digs in for a well-earned feast.

It may sound like fiction to us and, obviously, it would never happen in this day and age, but back in the 1930s a few Greyhounds really did have monkey jockeys. I first became aware of this fact on a visit to Lincoln Greyhound Park in Rhode Island. The track had a number of framed photos on display showing these monkey races. Later, on a visit to the Greyhound Hall of Fame in Abilene, Kansas, I saw actual film footage of these races and they were pretty much as I described above.

Racing for Peanuts

Monkey Jockeys of the '30s



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE GREYHOUND HALL OF FAME

If one were to consider the number of tracks hosting monkey races during the 1930s, these races would appear to have been a widespread phenomenon. In reality, however, they were the brainchild of a single couple—Loretta and Charles David. Once their venture was launched, the Davids spent most of the year on the road with about a dozen monkeys and Greyhounds traveling from track to track with their

carnival-type act. After the monkey races proved successful, Loretta David confessed that, had they known just how much work, time and training would be involved in bringing this venture to fruition, they might never have done it.

The secret to the Davids' success was raising the monkeys and Greyhounds together so the animals would overcome their natural animosity, accept each other, and become buddies. The monkeys were imported as babies from Panama. Each represented an investment of about \$2,000 at 1930s prices. It then took approximately two years (while the animals matured) and many hours of work by the Davids before they were ready to bring their act to the Greyhound tracks. Once introduced, however, the monkey races were an instant hit and each track wanted to host them.

The Davids and their unusual entourage traveled together from track to track with the monkeys riding in little cages in the back of their car and the Greyhounds in a more conventional hauling trailer. Since monkeys are tropical animals and subject to pneumonia in cold temperatures, the Davids had to adjust their traveling schedule to the country's weather conditions. In the summer they were hosted by northern tracks but, once winter came, they traveled between those in the southern states. The Davids also had to have a constant supply of peanuts and bananas available for their star performers.

Wherever they went, the Davids' monkey races drew crowds. Luckily for the Davids, not only did their idea prove popular, but both the monkeys and the Greyhounds, as is obvious from actual videos, loved to compete and showed a real desire to win. In fact, the monkeys proved so



competitive they would sometimes get carried away and try to prevent a rival from winning by either jumping onto his back or tearing the clothes off him as he passed. They also used their tails as whips to try to make the Greyhounds run faster.

Worldwide, the Davids were not the only ones to train monkeys and Greyhounds for racing, although they were the only ones in the United States to do so. At various times, monkey races are known to have existed in both Australia and Mexico.

Today, the very idea of mounting monkeys on Greyhounds would be viewed with dismay or, at the very least, considered politically incorrect and would never come to pass. In reading this article, it is necessary to remember that these events took place during the 1930s, a time very different from today. Some Greyhounds (once upon a time) actually did have jockeys. This is not only true but it is a part of Greyhound history. ■

Joan Dillon is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds.

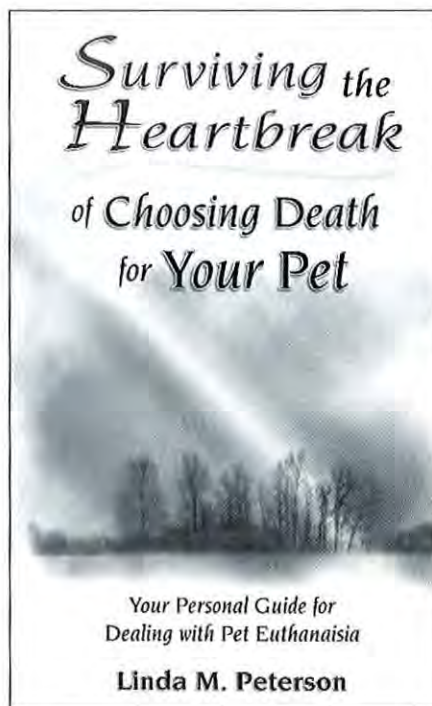
Surviving the Heartbreak

of Choosing Death for Your Pet

Euthanasia. The thought of having to put a beloved pet to sleep—forever—is something most of us try to spend as little time thinking about as possible. We fervently hope that when our pet’s “time” comes, it will happen quickly, quietly—and without intervention.

Sadly, that is usually not the case. Medical intervention can in many cases prolong life far beyond what Nature would have intended, sometimes with good results—and sometimes not. Chances are, if you are a pet owner for any period of time, you will be called upon to make a decision regarding ending the life of your pet.

How do you go about making such a decision, and how can you feel comfortable about making it? In her book, *Surviving the Heartbreak of Choosing Death for Your Pet*, author Linda M. Peterson guides you through making the decision of whether and when to euthanize and how to deal with the feelings you have concerning the issue. Peterson is a clinical social worker who in her private practice runs pet loss support groups and counsels those who have lost pets. She is also a pet lover who has dealt with the euthanasia issue herself and brings her own experiences into play to help others.



Reviewed by Nancy Beach

Published by
GreenTree Publishing

\$12.95 Softcover

The book is especially helpful for those who have an aged pet or one who is terminally ill. It guides you through the feelings you may have as you realize you may be called upon to make the euthanasia decision for a pet and helps you to decide when the time may be right. There are tips on how to acquire the information from your veterinarian to help you to make the decision and what to expect during the euthanasia itself. The book also has a section on how to help children handle euthanasia, decision-making guidelines for emergency euthanasia (i.e., the pet being hit by a car). The book also provides insight into dealing with the sense of loss and other feelings experienced after the pet is gone.

Sometimes people must make a euthanasia decision for a healthy pet with intractable behavioral issues, such as aggressiveness. A special section of the book deals with the issue of euthanizing a healthy pet.

The final section of the book contains a touching meditation you can use when you want to remember all the good times you shared with your departed animal friend. Included is a bibliography suggesting further reading and an appendix with sources for pet loss counseling.

Having this book handy during a pet’s illness can help an owner understand his or her emotions and feel more in control during a stressful time. The tips and guidelines it contains serve as reminders of what to ask the veterinarian and the wide range of factors to consider when dealing with making the euthanasia decision.

The decision to euthanize will always be one of the most difficult issues a pet lover must face, but using a resource like *Surviving the Heartbreak of Choosing Death for Your Pet* can help ease the way. ■

Nancy Beach is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds.

The Best Dog I Will Ever Have is Now a Memory...

Shannon died February 12th—six weeks short of her 16th birthday. Instead of telling you how she died, though, I'd like to tell you how she lived and the profound effect she had on my life.

I adopted Shannon on April 1, 1995, two weeks after she turned 11. She changed my life. I thought I was getting a pet, but it turned out I was actually making a lifestyle choice. I remember the moment on that April day in Abilene, Kansas when I made the decision to adopt an 11-year-old Greyhound instead of a beautiful young boy named Danger. The decision became easy when I asked myself, "What other options does she have?" The answer, of course, was very few.

Shortly after adopting Shannon, I subscribed to an e-mail discussion list called Greyhound-L. Although I subscribed to learn more about Greyhounds, I found a niche. Shannon and I began our campaign to encourage people to consider adopting senior Greyhounds. Mamie joined the crusade in November 1995 when she was almost 12. After Mamie died in 1998, I adopted an eleven-year-old Greyhound named Kitty.

I remember when I was practically the lone voice preaching about adopting older hounds. Now there are dozens of advocates. Rarely does a day go by that someone doesn't post something about his or her wonderful senior Greyhound.

But back then, it was Shannon and Mamie. The antics of these two incredible seniors slowly taught Greyhound-L subscribers that older, geriatric dogs aren't "over the hill." They showed everyone seniors are vibrant individuals, full of mischief and glee and life.

Shannon inspired me to be the host of the e-zine, A Breed Apart's, Special Needs Forum. I have lost count of how many people have e-mailed me asking for help finding them an older or special-needs Greyhound. The one

By Kate Bressler



that really sticks out in my mind was the person who asked me to find "the oldest, sickest Greyhound" I could. Sure enough, a forum reader, Deb Rosenberg, found one.

Old dogs simply move into your life and within minutes you don't remember life without them. I hear it time and time again. They are some of the most gentle, endearing, and appreciative animals you will ever meet.

One comment I hear repeatedly when I talk to people about adopting an older dog is "Oh, I couldn't. I'd get too attached and I wouldn't have an old dog long enough."

Maybe those people are right. I had KittyDog barely a year and it wasn't enough. I had Mamie just over two years and it still wasn't enough. I had Shannon almost five years and it definitely wasn't enough. Then I think, I had my K.C. (KittyCat) for 17 years and even that wasn't enough.

But I know for sure I am a better person having known all these creatures. Shannon and Mamie taught me to measure time in a different way, a way that fills itself more completely with ordinary things. KittyDog taught me to lighten up. K.C. taught me patience.

Last year Shannon helped me endure the devastating loss of my mother. Mom had been sick for some time; she had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer four years earlier and was coming to the end of her fight. Shannon was there with me, staying in my mother's house, listening to me talk about Mom, and soaking up my tears.

The night Shannon died, I saw in her eyes that she needed me to let her go. All I could think was "I can help you. I love you so much and I would do anything to keep you, but I won't make you endure any more." So I took her for our last car ride together in her "Shannon-mobile"—my pet name for the Jeep Cherokee I bought her. I had to buy a new car for her; Shannon always needed to stand up to see where she was going and couldn't do that in my little red Saturn coupe.

I remember so many things.

Shannon chasing and catching a rabbit in the backyard just last year. Shannon trying to get the last word in any telephone conversation I held. Sitting and catching little treats I would toss to her. Playing the "Hunt it Up" game where I'd hide treats and she would sniff them out. The way she would patrol any new yard we visited. The way she slept under the desk when I was on the computer. Her barking when she thought I had been on it long enough. More than anything else, I miss the sound of her voice. I miss these and countless more things about her.

So, I've started a new stage of life post-Shannon. She was my heart dog, my touchstone; she kept me grounded. I still can't quite believe she's gone. For now, I sleep with her collar under my pillow.

Although I don't know who my next dog will be, I know that my beloved Shannon is looking down and thinking, "Thank you for taking a chance on an old Greyhound." No, Sweet Shannon, the pleasure was all mine. ■

Kate Bressler is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds.

In our most desperate moments, when, for example, our veterinarian utters the dreaded word "malignant," or when we reach the anguished decision that the last kindness we can show our dog is to end his or her suffering humanely, it is then that we can relate most sharply to the pain that Kipling is expressing. Anyone who has loved, and lost, a dog knows this to be true; yet sooner or later, almost all of us acquire another. Why? Why do we subject ourselves to what almost certainly will be their passing before our own?

by Cynthia A. Branigan

After all, in most cases I was able to remember if not the adopter, then at least the dog. I could picture the look on the dog's face as he or she was unloaded from the kennel truck. I could remember slipping off the muzzle that was the last vestige of his or her racing life and feeling the relief in the dog's body as it experienced the first taste of life on the outside. Most of all, I could remember handing over the leash to the new owners, wishing them well, and watching the puzzled dog stare at me from the window of a car as they disappeared down the road. They were

On Death, Dying, and Dogs

In 1925 Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem called "The Power of the Dog," which begins:

There is sorrow enough
in the natural way
From men and women
to fill our day;
But why when we are certain
of sorrow in store,
Why do we always
arrange for more?
Brothers and sisters,
I bid you beware
Of giving your heart
to a dog to tear.

There are probably as many answers to that question as there are dogs and people who love them, but I suspect that at the top of the list of why we go back for more, there is a certain undefinable love that we experience with, and from, our dogs that we do not seem to be able to find elsewhere. Some call it unconditional love, some call it loyalty, some call it devotion; but, whatever you call it, dogs excel at it in a way that few others can.

When I began placing Greyhounds in 1988, it was never in my mind that some day, some of those dogs would die. I was, as are most of us in the beginning, caught up in the euphoria of saving lives; that those very dogs would someday meet their demise was not in my consciousness. Now, nearly a dozen years later, I have had an education. Not only have many of those original placements died, but I have also lost some of my own human, and non-human friends, and family members.

As the one in our adoption group who gets the call when someone's dog had died, it was hard for me to hear such news without experiencing a certain amount of grief myself.

embarking on a new life together, one that was filled with promise. To hear that their journey was complete, that the promise had been fulfilled, was quite overwhelming.

The brevity of a dog's lifespan seems cruelly short. Someone once said that the only fault of dogs is that they do not live as long as their owners. On one level this is certainly true and I can remember on more than one occasion wishing that a beloved animal friend and I could live together forever. The truth is, though, it's not going to happen. On the physical plane, neither dogs nor we are immortal and the odds are that, given their relatively short time on earth, our dogs will die before we do. So, faced with this daunting information, what do we do with it?

The challenge for me was to find a way to make sense of this knowledge and even to gain strength from it. After all, the idea of being buffeted by call after call reporting the passing of a pet and of experiencing grief without end, was not only the opposite of the way I wanted to live my life but was also, in a very real way, a disservice to the memory of those animals

Autumn's fate and demeanor were similar to Pennywise's. Sadly, she, too, died at two from kidney disease from an unknown cause. Although never permanently placed, she was well loved by all who met her during the few months she lived after being put up for adoption.

who had died. While they may not have touched my life as deeply as did my own pack members, our lives had intertwined and they were a symbol of all I hold dear. I owed these animals more than sorrow and I knew intuitively that their presence in my life held more meaning than that.

A few years ago we took in a little fawn female by the name of Pennywise. She was beautiful, good with cats, good with children, clean, gentle, and friendly. In short, she was a dream dog and sure to be an easy placement. Pennywise was an extra dog we added to a load and so we put her into foster care until a permanent home could be found.

Not long into her stay, health problems began to develop. There were some digestive upsets, a little weight loss and a general failure to thrive. She went to the veterinarian and all of the traditional solutions were sought. Not until the day that her blood tests came back did we discover the cause of her malady: Pennywise had kidney disease of unknown origin. Poisoning, tick diseases, leptospirosis and other catalysts had been ruled out as possible causes and the veterinarian said the prognosis was poor.

As the information sank in, I felt myself raging at the diagnosis and at the injustice of it all. Pennywise had her whole life ahead of her. She was only two years old, had been spared the fate of many racing dogs, and now she was doomed before she ever had a chance to experience a permanent home or the love of a family of her own. I was not



MARCIA HERMAN

about to take the verdict without getting a second opinion, so we took her to a specialty hospital and had her examined by veterinarians with more advanced degrees. Perhaps they would know a new method of treatment, or even find the original diagnosis to be false. I was looking for a reprieve of Pennywise's death sentence.

It was not to be. Since everything that could have been done for her had been done, our new plan was to keep her comfortable. When the quality of her life deteriorated to the point that there was nothing left but pain, we vowed to end her misery. As I sat with her in the intensive care unit and stared into her eyes, I was overcome by a feeling of helplessness that I could not have found another outcome for her.

Soon I was joined by Nicole, one of our volunteers who works at the hospital. She and I commiserated over the fate of Pennywise, shared some stories of animals we had loved and lost, and stroked the dog's still-silky fur. We were distraught, but, apart from her weakness, Pennywise was calm. From time to time she looked up at us and even gave a faint wag of the tail when we told her what a good girl she was.

During the ride home, I was so overcome that I had to pull the car over to the side of the road. There had to be a way for me to view her passing as something other than a tragedy.

I thought of my last look at Pennywise, her lustrous brown eyes dimming, but still beautiful. I thought of that little wag of her tail and I realized that, in a way, Pennywise was a very

Resources to Help with the Grieving Process

Family and friends. Confide in people who not only loved your pet but are also sensitive to the strong bond that existed between you and your pet. Not every person in your life will be sympathetic over the loss of a pet.

Hold a private or semi-private memorial. Planting a tree in your yard, with the dog's ashes mixed into the soil, offers a way to be greeted by the memory of your pet each time you enter your yard. Garden memorials or memory boxes are another wonderful way to remember a special friend. There are many companies that produce these memorials, from standard urns to original pieces of artwork.

See a pet bereavement counselor. A new and expanding field relating to pet loss is a professional pet bereavement counselor. A bereavement counselor is a professionally trained, compassionate, person who lends a grieving owner a temporary helping hand. Bereavement counselors are valuable after death, but can also help an owner cope with a terminal illness of a beloved animal companion as well. Contact your veterinarian, a local veterinary school, or the bereavement website, www.inch.com/~dogs/grief.html (offered by The American Dog Trainers Network) for information on bereavement counselors or a bereavement help line in your area.

It's Okay to Cry. Maria King, Maria Quintana, Shari Veleba, and Harley King. K&K Communications.

Coping with Sorrow on the Loss of Your Pet. Moira Anderson, M.Ed. Alpine Publications.

Healing the Pain of Pet Loss—Letters in Memoriam. Kymerly Smith, Editor. The Charles Press.

The Loss of a Pet: New Revised and Expanded Edition. Wallace Sife, PhD. IDG Books Worldwide.

Maya's First Rose: A Diary of a Very Special Love. Martin Scot Kosins, Burl Ives (Intro.). Villard Books (out of print).

Pet Bereavement: Help for Grieving Owners. Ruth R. King. King's Medical Information Service.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

Death of a Pet—Answers to Questions For Children and Animal Lovers of All Ages. George J. Koss, Shirli and J.W. Potter; Guideline Publications.

"Oh, Where Has My Pet Gone?" A Pet Loss Memory Book. Sally Sibbitt. Libby Press.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

The Grief Chat is held the first Monday of every month at A Breed Apart's IRC server. Channel #Good_Bye. 8:00-9:30 p.m. Eastern; 7:00-8:30 p.m. Central; 6:00-7:30 p.m. Mountain; 5:00-6:30 p.m. Pacific.

Server: irc.abap.org

Port: 6667-6669, or 7001 (AOL friendly)

Or <http://irc.abap.org>: 8080 on your JAVA enabled browser.

For additional information on what IRC is, how to get setup for IRC, how to set up IRC for AOL, and where to get software, please go to www.abap.org/irc.htm.

OTHER GOOD WEBSITES:

Cyndi Napolitan's wonderful website devoted to Greyhounds and coping with grief: <http://users.desupernet.net/chsr/>.

Terri Onorato maintains the Misty Blue and The Memory Wall websites: www.angelbluemist.com/mistystory.html
www.angelbluemist.com/memory-wall.html
Pet Loss Resources from urns to literature: www.foreverpets.com/FP-Petloss.html.

MEMORIALS:

www.petributes.com—One of a kind ceramic memorials, memory boxes, urns.

www.petfarewell.com/—Tile and mosaic memorials.

<http://members.aol.com/vtcusa/>—Marble gravestones.—Lynda Adame

lucky dog. I had loved her, Nicole had loved her, her foster family had loved her, and indeed, I believe everyone at the hospital loved her. Pennywise did not pass from this world without a trace; she left her mark on everyone who knew her. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have come into contact with her were, even if only temporarily, changed by her. She had the power to open up something in us and to awaken our feelings of compassion and tenderness. Pennywise made us better people and, from that standpoint, her life, although brief, was a success. I saw no evidence that she bemoaned the brevity of her days. To the end, Pennywise lived in the moment and was a model for us all.

In the middle of writing this article, my Fiona, who has had impaired kidney function for the past four years or so, has suddenly gone into a decline. She has seen two veterinarians and a specialist and all agree that her condition is precarious. Her progress during the next few weeks on a new therapy will determine her future.

As she and I are sitting in a veterinarian's examination room awaiting the latest blood test results I realize, once again, how fragile is this life. Every day we act in such a way that would give an outsider the impression that our time here on earth is endless. We "kill" time, we take our brief span for granted, we deny our common fate. It seems that only when we are faced with the inevitable do we admit the truth.

Fiona rests her head in my lap, blissfully unaware of the wonders of technology and how a computer print-out describing the quality of her kidneys can put a number on her remaining days. That same technology can also prolong her life, but only to a point.

The door of the examination room opens and the doctor furrows his brow as he studies Fiona's test results. I hold my breath and silently pray for a miracle. I know she will always be with me, yet I am only human. What I know, and what I feel, are at odds.

Sally and Saint Francis at Hav-A-Heart Adoptions in Michigan. Pharaoh (below) rests in a rock garden. Many people deal with pet loss by setting up areas like this.

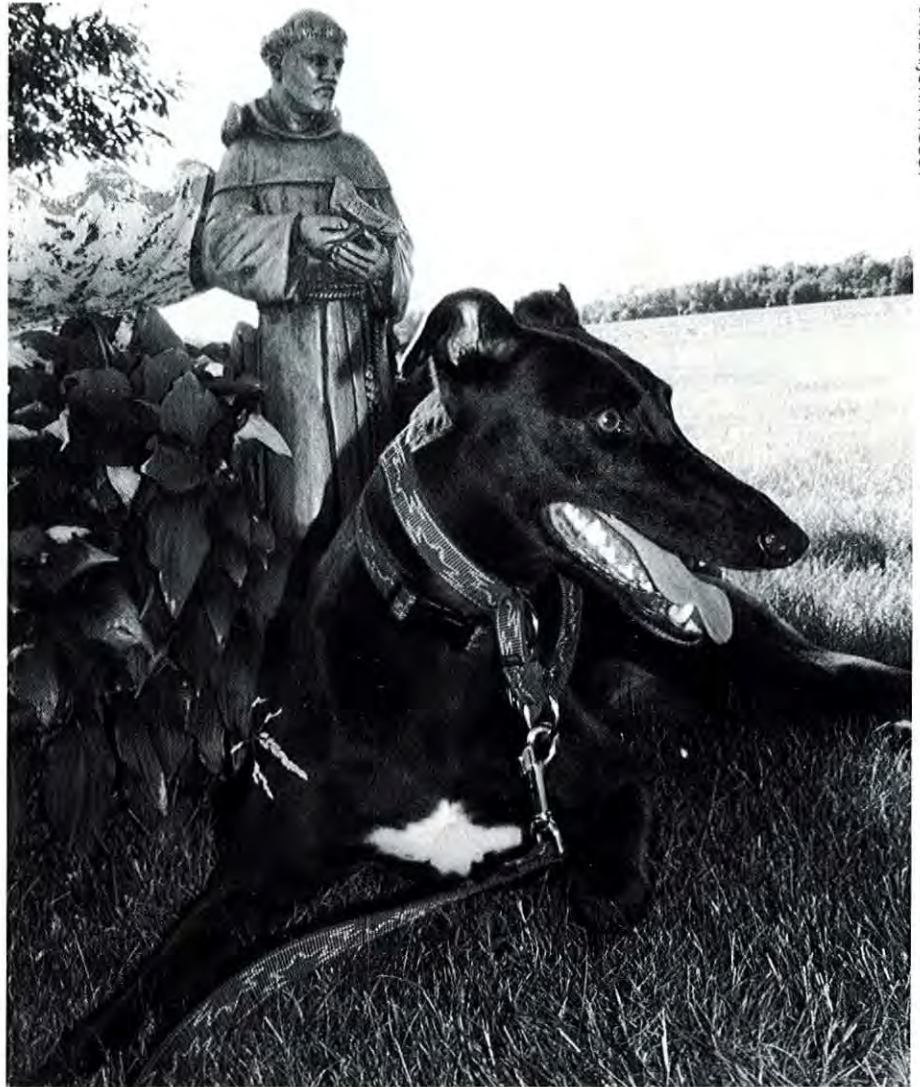
Before the doctor even speaks I can read the concern on his face; he tells me that while there has been an improvement, it is not as great as he would have liked. We will continue treatment and re-test in ten days.

I struggle to see Fiona as an individual, not as part of me, nor as my dog, but as a separate entity. Fiona has her own life, her own journey. For an all-too-brief time we share the path and I can only hope that she has been as enriched by the experience as I know I have been. Ultimately, though, Fiona is part of something greater than just the two of us.

The one thought that kept coming into my head as we were awaiting the test results is that her passing, like the passing of so many others, will not be the end. Fiona is part of me, and will be even as someday I go on to the next thing. To know me is to know Fiona, or King, or Otis or any of the hundreds of other animals whose lives I have been privileged to share. We all influence each other and that connection becomes incorporated into who we are. It behooves us to honor the memory of those who have passed by living our lives in a way that reflects their many gifts to us. For most dogs, that gift is pure love, and by sharing even a fraction of that gift with those we come into contact with, we keep our dogs alive not just in memory, but in action.

Seventy-five years after Kipling posed the question of why, despite the risks, we go back for more, I answer: because it is what makes life worth living. ■

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



Pancho Dai-Galgo Perez

Pancho Dai-Galgo Perez seems such a long name for a dog, but when you understand all that he represents and the importance of his presence with us, the name fits just perfectly. What does his name mean? Pancho is the name given to him in Spain; Dai is for the man who found and saved him; Galgo is what he is; and Perez is for Fermin Perez, of the Scooby Refuge, Medina del Campo where Pancho lived after being rescued.

Greyhounds As Companions brought Pancho to the United States from Spain on October 7, 1999. He came with Anne Finch and Dai Lawrence of Greyhounds in Need, who have been working to save Greyhounds in Spain and Ireland. We wanted to have a Galgo (Spanish Greyhound) to draw attention to their work and the terrible conditions these Greyhounds face.

Dai Lawrence of Wales found Pancho in the Spanish countryside. He searches for Galgos who have been turned loose or escaped from their owners. Not viewed as household pets, many of these dogs face a torturous death. Many times they are hung, impaled, or hung and set on fire. Somehow Pancho averted this terrible fate and managed to survive. Were it not for Dai Lawrence, Pancho would not be alive today.



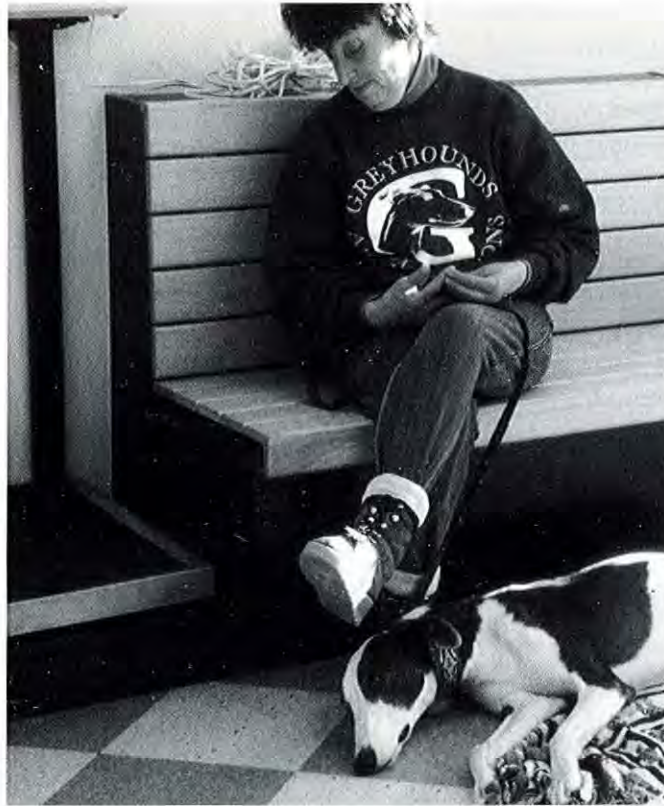
*Story/photos by Pat Colitsas
with Mary Alice Class*

After enduring quarantine in England and an 18-hour trip to the United States, Pancho was brought to the Dewey Beach gathering with the hope of raising the consciousness for the Spanish and Irish efforts. His exuberant personality and beautiful face captured the heart of everyone who met him and many may wonder what has become of Pancho. He lives at home with me.

We at Greyhounds As Companions all love him. Pancho has quickly settled into his title of "ambassador" and we hope you who met him will help us keep alive the effort to stop the atrocities overseas. We encourage all groups and individuals to organize a letter writing campaign targeting the tourist industries of Spain and Ireland. To learn more, log on to the website: www.greyhoundrescue.co.uk. We are willing to share more photos and stories of Pancho with interested individuals and groups. Since his arrival in October 1999, Pancho has gained over five pounds and has shed his original rough coat. Under all the dead hair, was a breathtakingly beautiful chocolate/blue coat with all of his white markings.

Pancho loves life and is quite a character. He is a very fast runner, but not as graceful as the racing Greyhounds we see in the United States. He knows nothing of living in a home and did some very crazy things at first. He got on my kitchen counter and stood in the sink and looked out the window at me in the yard. This was the first of many "NO PANCHO!!" incidents. He was having some trouble adjusting to his new food so I boiled two chickens for him. While the pot of chickens were cooling on the counter, Pancho was again up on the counter drinking the near scalding broth while trying to grab one of the chickens. Finally his digestive system settled down and he began gaining weight. Chicken still remains one of his favorite dishes.

*Pat Colitsas
and a very
contented
Pancho.*



Pancho is between three and four years old and never learned to live in a crate. He was very determined not to be crated and was very angry about being confined. Pancho has a large, deep bark that often resembles a roar. When barking didn't result in his release, he grabbed the crate door with his teeth and immediately became stuck. Before I could get to him, Pancho opened his mouth and freed himself. That was the only time Pancho tried that trick. Currently, he is crated only at feeding time. If I don't let him out as soon as he's finished eating, he dumps his pail of water and howls.

Another struggle was muzzling him. Pancho decided that he was simply not going to wear one of those. He only had to tolerate the muzzle a few times before I realized he would be fine with other dogs. Actually, Pancho is wonderful with other dogs. He lives with 16 or 17 other dogs (many are Greyhounds awaiting adoption) and although each has its own separate space, Pancho has never growled or objected to other dogs walking over, around, or even stepping on him. He is a very tolerant dog and really is a most wonderful hound to have around the house.

Pancho is also slowly learning his manners. He likes to jump on people, mostly me. It's a sign of affection to have him jump on you as he washes your face with his tongue. He is very stubborn and very smart. He can let himself outside into the fenced yard and let himself back into the house. He has the mechanics of the screen door mastered. When it's time to come in the house,

Pancho comes in only if it suits him. Sometimes I have to go outside to get him to come in. Pancho hates to be taken by the collar to be led into the house. He takes my arm in his mouth and follows me inside.

Pancho follows me from room to room. When he is tired he flops down on any small piece of rug, in the smallest spot imaginable. He places his head on my foot to ensure I will not leave without him knowing. At night Pancho sleeps right next to me. He loves to be touched and petted and, yes, he does understand English.

As I live each day with Pancho, it is hard to comprehend that such a treasure was in danger of a horrible death in Spain. To date, we have brought six dogs from Ireland to join Pancho in our organization's effort to educate the public and raise awareness of the plight of the overseas Greyhounds. Today, many dogs' lives are at risk as Ireland continues to export dogs to Spain and now to Vietnam and Singapore. Greyhounds As Companions is greatly concerned over the fate of these dogs. We who live with and love our Greyhounds must stand up and raise our voices loudly to try to help. These gentle animals are suffering terribly. For more information, please contact us by mail, e-mail, or phone: Pat Colitsas, Greyhounds As Companions, 1770 Delaware Turnpike, Delmar, NY 12054; (518) 768-2579; pats1packer@aol.com. ■

I am a racetrack judge. My official title is Board Steward, but we are generally called State Judges because we are state employees. I have been employed by the State of Wisconsin Division of Gaming for more than nine years and have been a judge for more than seven. By law there must be three judges present at each racetrack during every performance. One judge is employed by the track itself. We are all considered regulators and our primary duty is to enforce all of the State Gaming Rules and Regulations, along with any state statutes that pertain to pari-mutuel Greyhound racing.

On any given day, here are some of the specific duties I perform in the order they would occur. My utmost concern at all times is the health, welfare, and safety of the Greyhounds.

I arrive at the track approximately one-and-a-half to two hours before post time. Post time is when the first race is run. There's much to do before race time. My first stop is the paddock. This is where the Greyhounds are prepared before the racing. Also in the paddock area is the racing secretary's office. Here I observe the drawing of races for the next performance we are preparing for, which is usually two to three days ahead of the current day. Each Greyhound has a card with its name and computer number, current racing grade, kennel number, and owner number. All of its racing lines are recorded there. I watch the draw to insure that the cards are shuffled and placed in random order, creating 15 eight-dog races for each performance. Each draw is then entered into the computer and the computer randomly picks their post positions 1-8. The daily programs are then generated from that information. They are, of course, proofed several times before the actual program is printed.

We then proceed to weigh-in the Greyhounds. I oversee the operations of all employees in the paddock area, including the leadouts (or dog handlers), the scale clerk, kennel master, and paddock judge. The dog trainers place a tag on each Grey-

Behind the Scenes

Racetrack Judges



by Cheryl Giebel

LOU BATORF

hound displaying the dog's race number and postposition. The Greyhounds are then weighed-in and must be within one-and-a-half pounds of their set weight, which is their normal running weight. If they are over or under that weight limit it's a judge's responsibility to scratch that dog from racing. At this time, any Greyhounds in borderline condition are examined by the state veterinarian and either allowed to race or not allowed to race (scratched). One hour before the first race is run, the dogs are placed in a large room with numbered crates showing race number and postposition. This room is called the lockout (also known as the jinny pit). They must remain there until their particular race is ready to ensure their security and safety.

After the weigh-in is complete, I (or one of the other State Judges) conduct a track

walk with the State Veterinarian. We walk the entire track surface to ensure that the track is consistent and safe. We also inspect the starting boxes and their respective areas of the track. If anything is wrong, we tell the track maintenance crew to fix the problem before racing commences.

If time permits, I observe and regulate the pre-race preparation of the Greyhounds in the paddock area. This includes weighing the Greyhounds. If they lose a large amount of weight, the veterinarian must examine the dog and see if it is fit to run. During this time the Greyhounds are urine-tested. There is usually no problem collecting urine, as most of them will urinate when they are walked outside, where a veterinary assistant collects as many samples as possible. The samples are sent to a lab for analysis to detect any foreign substances or medications. The Greyhounds are then blan-

*"Come on out and
get weighed. You're
'in' tomorrow,"*

Assistant Trainer

Chris Andes tells

his dog.

The first stop is the paddock where the Greyhounds are prepared before the racing. The racing secretary's office is also in the paddock area.



CHERYL GIEBEL PHOTOS

keted and bertillioned by the paddock judge. Bertillioning includes verifying the Greyhound's ear tattoos, coloring, and sex with an identification card created from their NGA registration paper. It is absolutely essential for this process to be completed thoroughly. This process also requires that the Greyhounds be verified in order according to their racing tag and the racing program as well.

On certain days of the week, after weigh-in I conduct kennel inspections. Some days I inspect bertillions, which involves printing a list from the State computer system of all the Greyhounds for one particular kennel. I then visit that kennel and compare the list with each dog, by reading their tattoo numbers and verifying their color and sex. This is done to be certain no dogs are missing without prior approval or that any new dogs have arrived without appropriate paperwork. The state veterinarian and I also do unannounced weekly kennel inspections without regard to kennel personnel being present. Every area of the kennel is inspected. We make sure the kennel, turnout pens, and kitchen areas are clean, and do not contain any illegal medications or any other items which are not permitted in the kennel. My main concern here is for the health of the Greyhounds.

Sometimes after weigh-in, we conduct hearings regarding rule violations. Three stewards hold the inquiry and decide on any fines or suspensions that may be imposed. Every employee at the dog track is subject to the racing rules, and they must all go through the state application procedure. All applications must be verified for correct information; their fingerprints are sent to be analyzed. Anyone working in the kennel compound, including all dog owners, must also be checked with our national pari-mutuel regulators association to make sure they do not have any outstanding violations in another state.

One of my largest duties is verifying NGA (National Greyhound Association) registration papers, leases, and live lure affidavits (signed and notarized forms that



swear the Greyhound was not trained with a live lure [i.e., rabbit]). Every dog has to have this to race in Wisconsin. We only accept dogs that have been trained in states that have laws that specifically do not allow live lure training. I check health certificates, and vaccinations on every Greyhound that comes to the track. This amounts to hundreds and hundreds of dogs each year. I scrutinize every Greyhound's paperwork to make sure it complies with our regulations. That information is entered into our state computer system so we can track the whereabouts of each dog and its health and training information. We can use this information to create reports to assist us in our kennel inspections and make sure all vaccinations are current.

Another major duty I perform is to observe the live races and determine the order of finish. This involves several steps occurring during each and every race. Three stewards are required to perform these functions. First, I give the order to load the Greyhounds into the starting box. The lure operator then starts the lure in motion and as it trips the starting box open, I use a stopwatch to hand-time the races. This hand-time is used as a backup to the photo-finish computer system. Another steward locks

the pari-mutuel windows so no more betting occurs. We all observe the race for any racing infractions, such as collisions, fighting, playing, or stopping. Some of these infractions require the Greyhound to return to school. (What that really means is that the Greyhound must race in an official schooling race satisfactorily before it can again race in an official pari-mutuel race.) At the end of the race, we look at the image on the photo-finish computer and determine the order of finish. If the finish was close between two Greyhounds, we request an actual photo image be made and sent out for the public to view. We also review a replay of the race. Then, we confirm the order of finish and wagering payouts with the tote (pari-mutuel) computer as well. Finally, we can then declare the race "Official." I also complete a Steward's Summary Report for each racing performance containing the weather and track conditions, the post times for each races, any scratched dogs, all photos, and any other comments as necessary. We record the race results, race time, and final odds in the racing program.

During my daily duties, I am required to deal with many different people in many different positions from dog trainers to mutuel tellers to other racing officials. This requires a good rapport with all of them in order to have the mutual respect needed to insure the integrity of Greyhound racing, and as well as the health, welfare, and safety of the Greyhounds.

At times, this can be a very stressful position, but when that happens I just pop into the Adoption Center to visit the available Greyhounds for an instant stress reliever.

I love working with and for the Greyhounds. I enjoy the responsibility of helping to ensure the welfare of every Greyhound I meet. ■

Cheryl Geibel resides in Wisconsin with her husband, two retired racing Greyhounds, and a semi-feral Pixie Bobcat who thinks she's a Greyhound. Cheryl has recently been chosen to serve as the State Adoption Coordinator for all three Greyhound track adoption centers in the state.

Difficult Decisions, Hard Choices

Any kind of abuse is troubling and difficult to write about. For those who have devoted a large part of their lives and energy to finding homes for excess Greyhounds, the thought of someone intentionally hurting the dogs or allowing them to be hurt is horrifying.

No single issue in Greyhound adoption elicits more emotion, and few issues are more complicated or more difficult. While some people automatically associate abuse with racing, the reality is that cruelty, neglect, and exploitation can happen anywhere—a track, a breeding farm, a rescue/placement facility, or a pet home.

No one really knows how big a problem animal abuse in general, and Greyhound mistreatment in particular, may be. Information on abusive incidents is sporadic and episodic and can be distorted by the media, interested parties or simply in the retelling. With 54 million dogs and more than 150,000 Greyhounds (more than half of which are pets) in the animal population, cases of neglect and abuse are the exception rather than the rule. Nonetheless, they are no less disturbing. Stories of abuse, unnecessary suffering and death of a Greyhound where



Story/photos by Joan Belle Isle



*You decide, a clear case of improper care or is it flea-bite allergy?
Left: Is this acceptable?*

it could have been prevented haunt everyone who cares about the dogs and especially those who have been close to the case.

To begin with, there is no single, clear-cut definition of abuse. What constitutes abuse can sometimes be in the eye of the beholder, especially in cases that may be marginal or subject to interpretation. Not to belittle or demean the importance of the subject, but some Greyhound adoption representatives and Greyhound adopters, for instance, consider the use of crates to be abusive while others consider not using a crate to be irresponsible, if not worse.

As Janet Barrick, an attorney who has done both corporate and dog-related legal work, observed, in borderline cases there is a blurred line between legally actionable neglect or abuse and morally reprehensible behavior. Further complicating the issue, the point at which an individual crosses the threshold into legally actionable abuse or misconduct varies from state to state and from county to county.

Even in clear cases of abuse, the question is “What can be done?” and as important, “Who is legally able to do it?” Some questions include:

- Is there a cause of action? In other words, has there been neglect or abuse that violates the law?

- Who is the injured party? Typically the dog, or dogs, involved have no standing under the law. The injured party may be the state or the county in which the owner lives, or the seller of the dog if the sales contract includes a stipulation that the dog must be properly cared for, but it depends on the jurisdiction and the laws that apply there.

- Who can bring an action? Who represents the state or the county? Animal Control? The Humane Society? Any resident of the state?

- What action can be taken under the laws of the specific jurisdiction and what sanctions are available?

- What other alternatives exist to state action?

- Are there contractual rights that can be invoked and if so by whom?

- Are there licensing regulations that can be enforced, and if so, what are they and how are they invoked?

- What can an individual or an adoption group do in the case of a clear emergency situation, for example, physical abuse of a dog needing immediate attention?

- What are the risks and possible liability exposures associated with pursuing any possible courses of action?

These questions may sound like annoying legalese. They may seem overwhelming—convenient excuses to take no action at all. Asking the right questions and getting the right answers may make the difference between effective action and ineffective outrage. Sooner or later, it could happen to any of us.



You Decide: Is This Abuse?

Situation 1: You walk into a kennel housing Greyhounds. It's dark, dank, and dirty. Dogs are housed two to a crate and some are in crates so small that they cannot stand. Some of the dogs have open sores or other injuries. The exercise areas have hard packed clay with obviously poor drainage and there is an accumulation of dog droppings in them. The dogs do not appear to be underweight and appear to be adequately hydrated, but they are infested with fleas and ticks.

What do you do? Is it abuse? Is it a transient situation? Did you walk in just after a large number of new dogs arrived and just before the overflow is moved to other locations? Is it just after turnout and before

Is there anything wrong with this picture? Two dogs, lots of room, chewies on the floor. It depends on who is assessing the situation. Buddy below: an 11-year-old unneutered male in poor weight.

Is this turnout pen at an adoption kennel clean or not?

people have had the opportunity to clean up? Are the apparently injured dogs under the care of a veterinarian and, in fact, recovering from earlier injuries?

Situation 2: You begin hearing stories that a Greyhound handler that you know reasonably well has begun behaving erratically and that the dogs in her care are not in good condition. You have observed the change in behavior yourself but every time to attempt to find out what's going on you get no satisfactory answer. When you push for information, the person threatens you and warns you to mind your own business.

What do you do? Is this person simply temporarily over-stressed with personal problems, or is there a more serious condition brewing? Is this a case of a person who is no longer financially able to care adequately for the dogs and is too proud and embarrassed to ask for help?

Situation 3: You walk into a kennel and find an injured Greyhound. The dog has plainly been in a fight or a serious accident and has been severely injured. The wounds are not particularly fresh, so whatever caused the injuries clearly happened some time previously. The dog is in obvious pain and is dehydrated. The wounds appear to be infected.

What do you do? Is the dog under a veterinarian's care? Is the dog, in fact, recovering from a much worse condition? Is this a case where the dog's caregiver genuinely does not understand the condition of the dog or doesn't have the money to seek veterinary help?



Situation 4: You get an anonymous call from someone who tells you that his neighbor has a Greyhound chained to a tree in the yard nearby where the dog is left all the time. The person tells you that they do not feed the dog regularly and that the teenage boys routinely torment the dog. You are further told that the dog may also be injured. From the address you are given, you know it is a Greyhound that your group placed several months previously. When you drive by the address you were given, you find you cannot see into the yard but you hear a dog barking and whining in the area. The weather is beginning to change and winter will soon set in.

What do you do? Is this a case of a disgruntled neighbor making exaggerated accusations or is this a placement gone bad?

Situation 5: A local family adopted a Greyhound from your group a year ago and become so enamored of the breed that they adopted another a few weeks later. Then they adopted a third, a fourth and a fifth. You have just discovered from another adoption group that the family has been adopting Greyhounds from them too. Between

the two groups the family has adopted more than ten dogs in less than a year. A vet tech tells you some of the dogs have shown up at her hospital in bad condition and appear to have been in dog fights. They do not appear to be current on vaccinations or other routine veterinary treatment. Now the family wants to adopt another Greyhound.

What do you do? Is this a collector with way too many animals already? Beyond discouraging adding another dog to the household, can or should you do anything about all of the Greyhounds that are already there? Is this a case of abuse or just questionable judgement?

People active in Greyhound adoption have confronted situations like the ones described and more. The dilemma really is what to do.

Before a possible case of neglect or outright abuse arises, do the research. Find out what can be done and how to go about doing it in your area. Find out if there are alternative short of filing a formal complaint. Are there ways to intervene in life-threatening situations? If the circumstances involve a track, a racing Greyhound breeder or trainer, the laws and regulations may be different than if the situation involves a pet owner or a placement facility. In many states, conditions at Greyhound tracks fall under the authority of a state racing commission. In some cases special exceptions to the normal animal welfare laws apply to Greyhound breeding farms. Only state and local laws and regulations define what constitutes actionable abuse, how it is to be treated and by whom. The American Greyhound Track Owners Association (AGTOA), the National Greyhound Association (NGA), the American Greyhound Council (AGC) or a Greyhound placement organization do not have local enforcement authority. Find out if the legal and enforcement framework exists in your area. If it doesn't, start working to change it.

If you find a situation that raises questions of abuse or neglect, here are some guidelines, courtesy of some Greyhound people who have been there.

Truth or rumor. Take all aspects of the issue into consideration. Review the sources. Are they reliable, credible, trustworthy individuals? Have you personally witnessed abusive treatment? Have the rumors persisted for a long period?

Keep a file and take notes. It's impossible to remember all of the details over a period of time. Type or write notes to your file every time you speak to anyone. Keep accurate records of dates, times, names, and what you discussed with each individual.

Check the state and local statutes. Review the law on animal abuse in the state where you live or where jurisdiction would be. This will give you some idea of how the state views animal abuse and the procedure to register a complaint. Make a copy of the statute for your file. You will refer back to it often.

Begin your investigation. Start quietly and ask questions of those you trust or with whom you have maintained rapport. Be alert to names mentioned during your conversations. Ask for phone numbers. Keep digging.

Be careful of other agendas. Many people may have an ax to grind coming forward with allegations but unwilling to take action. Credibility lies in one's willingness to sign a notarized statement or approach someone in authority. Listen to your instincts.

Don't get squeamish. Be prepared to hear details and stories you would rather not know. Don't give up. Keep your objective in mind.

Get professional help. You may need the help of private investigators, attorneys, veterinarians, or other professionals to establish and prove your case.

Have a strategy. Do your research and identify where and with whom you need to file your complaint.

Prepare your complaint. Be as specific and detailed as possible. Cite names, dates, and places where the abuse occurred. Attach statements, veterinary reports, photographs, affidavits, and legal citations. Be professional in your thought process. Have an attorney review your documents for content and other possible legal ramifications.

Don't give up. Be persistent—not a pest—just persistent. Talk intelligently and factually to the agency handling your complaint. Stay calm—polite but firm—in your conversations with officials. The quickest way to get a valid complaint ignored is to sound fanatical.

If you decide to pursue a case of suspected abuse, be prepared. Be prepared for a long tedious, frustrating journey. We live under a system of laws that affords certain protections to everyone, the saintly as well as

the morally bankrupt. You may find yourself dealing with an enforcement bureaucracy whose responsibility is to protect the individual from wrongful accusations as well as to protect the animals. Be prepared to lose your anonymity. If you are filing complaints, you need to take responsibility for the allegations. There is nothing frivolous about the issue or the consequences.

Be prepared for criticism—lots of it. Some people will accuse you of being an extremist who goes too far. The most recent tactic being used by some people associated with Greyhound racing is attempting to discredit anyone looking into abuse in the racing environment. They will typically accuse you of being an animal rights ideologue affiliated with PeTA and other extremist groups. Others will accuse you of being a coward and not going far enough. Consider all of the possibilities, including the risk to you and your organization and make certain you are adequately protected.

Do not assume that the only source of retaliation is industry-affiliated. Placement groups and/or individuals accused of mishandling the dogs can be equally offended and confrontational. Be prepared to discover that your community's standards on abuse are very different from your own. Be prepared to pay an emotional price for your decision. Everyone on the front lines working with abuse victims—child abuses, battered women, animal abuse—runs the risk of becoming embittered by the experience. Be prepared to be courageous. Taking this road is not for the faint of heart.

Armed with information, a strategy, and a clear expectation of the path in front of you, you can act. You can make a difference.

The policy of The Greyhound Project, Inc. has been and continues to be neutral on issues relating to Greyhound racing. It is not our policy, however, to be neutral on the issue of abuse. ■

Joan Belle Isle is the president of The Greyhound Project. She has two Greyhounds, Gwen and Hal.

Money, Money, Money

Finding homes for Greyhounds costs money—sometimes a great amount of money. That's not a big surprise to the people who are placing the dogs.

Transportation, spay/neuter, blood work, tick disease screening, heartworm testing, inoculations, teeth cleaning, medications, copying applications and promotional literature, telephone calls, postage, dog food, and kennel costs all add up to a lot of money. Multiply these costs by the large number of Greyhounds in the adoption network. Add in the occasional extraordinary expenses—a broken leg, a stubborn infection, rehabilitating a really sick dog—and the cost becomes even more impressive. From kennel to couch, the average cost to place a pet-ready Greyhound can be as much as \$300 to \$400 even with donated or discounted services and lots of volunteer time.

Adoption donations don't come close to covering all of the routine expenses, much less extraordinary costs and emergencies. That means that every adoption group needs to raise additional money in other ways or face the inevitable consequence—walking away from a Greyhound who needs help.



Contrary to some opinions, non-profit does not have to mean poverty or struggling and juggling from one bill to the next. Look at the major charitable organizations in the community. They all have to work hard at fundraising. They all have to set priorities and sometimes make tough decisions about their programs, but none of them is facing bankruptcy. On a smaller scale, Greyhound adoption organizations can be equally financially stable. It takes planning, work and a lot of creative fundraising.

For any non-profit organization, but especially for small grass-roots activities, fundraising needs to be viewed as a full-time undertaking as important as the primary mission of the group. In the Greyhound rescue world, many volunteers have difficulty with this concept. Raising money may seem less noble than working directly with the dogs, and it is certainly less rewarding. Handled effectively, however, it makes the difference between being able to take in one more dog, fix one more broken leg, respond to one more emergency or having to walk away.

Ideally, every adoption group should have a person, or several people, whose primary role it is to handle fundraising. These are the people who research fundraising ideas, plan and organize fundraising projects and activities, and recruit the vol-

Desi and Queenie are pictured at an annual fun run with their owner, Sue Carbaugh. Runs and walk-a-thons are popular fundraising events. The Greyhounds helped non-Greyhounds this time. This run benefited the Dumb Friends League in Denver, Colorado.

unteers. They are familiar with the resources available in the community or know where to find them. They specialize in knowing:

- which kind of fundraising events and activities work best in their area,
- which churches or fraternal organizations have function rooms that can be used for fundraising events,
- where the open spaces are that can be used for an outdoor event,
- where to get chairs, tables, tents and other supplies,
- which retailers and veterinarians will display donation canisters, and
- who will promote fundraising activities.

Cowboy Oliver and owner Wendy Klaus in the Greenfield (Pennsylvania) Pet Parade, also a fundraising benefit. This one benefited Going Home Greyhounds.



The need for funding is as endless as the number of Greyhounds who need homes. Let's face it, every organization regardless of size grapples with limited resources. Every organization makes trade-off decisions every day based on resources it has or expects to get. On a simple practical level, a volunteer involved in setting up a fundraising activity probably isn't available to help with the dogs at the same time.

The solution is a plan—a strategy—that serves as a guide for the day-to-day activities. Start with a realistic assessment of what your organization can reasonably expect from adoption and other donations. Then estimate what you need to cover all of the organization's expenses. The difference is the minimum amount you need to raise through some other fundraising vehicle. Consider both short-term operating requirements and long-term capital needs. If a holding kennel is on the wish list or renovations to an existing kennel are on the "must do" list, they should be included in the fundraising plan.

With a strategy you and your fundraising team can lay out a plan—the what, when, and who does it list. A plan doesn't have to be a long detailed exercise. It should tell the organization approximately how much money needs to be raised and generally how it can be done.

Your most valuable assets are your adopters, their friends and families. They are your volunteers, your support system, and your providers of resources, ideas, and frequently, regular financial contributions. Most people want to help in some way. They want to make a difference. Stay in touch with your adopters. A regular newsletter is the most obvious way. Make sure they know about planned activities and events. Ask them for support, ideas, and suggestions. Never underestimate the power of a direct plea for help or simple thank you to those who do help.

The single most important part of successful fundraising is planning and preparation. Few things are more disheartening than investing time, energy, and hard work in a fundraiser only to find it did not produce the results expected or worse, that it actually lost money.

Although no fundraiser is guaranteed to succeed, the time spent on the planning and preparation can stack the odds in your favor. Before committing to a fundraising activity, take a good hard look at it, the work involved and the expected benefits. Some activities

sound good, but take more time and resources than your group may have. Be realistic. Use your resources wisely—that's mostly your volunteers, but it also includes other people and groups in the community.

If you are continuing fund-raising historically successful for your group, take a fresh look at it from time to time. Is it continuing to be valuable? Are there ways to make it more productive? Continuing to do the same thing just because it's always been done that way may not be the best use of people and time.

If you are looking at a new fundraising project, this is when you start getting answers to questions. What do you need to make it work? Do you have the volunteers you need when you need them? How much

time will it take? When do you need to start working on it? Do you need special permits or permissions? Is there a place suitable for the activity when you want it? Where can you get the supplies and other things you need?

Talk with other people or groups who have tried the same kind of fundraiser both in your area and in other parts of the country. The most important question is not how much money they made, but what kind of problems they encountered. What did they learn and what would they do differently the next time? Don't re-invent the wheel if you don't have to.

Don't overlook the small, seemingly mundane sources. Donation canisters, pet food receipts, recyclable cans and bottles can all represent small but consistent income. Similarly, don't dismiss the long-term possibilities, either. A campaign for inclusion in wills or pursuing foundation grants may require a longer time to produce results, but may be worth the effort if they fit into a group's long-range strategy.

The ever-popular annual reunion. This is the Team Greyhound registration table stacked with sample copies of CG Magazine.



Publicize your fundraising events and activities to the whole community using every outlet available. People don't have to be Greyhound adopters to support your organization. Develop an index of every newspaper, radio, and television station in the area. Find out their deadlines and how to submit material. Don't forget the small community newspapers and local access cable operations. Send press releases, follow up, and build a relationship with people who handle community interest areas. After the event, send a follow up article or announcement and a thank you to the people who have promoted the event. Use posters and flyers where they will reach people who might be interested.

Send your announcements to other Greyhound adoption groups, other breed rescue

groups, and local kennel clubs and be prepared to return the support. If you have space at a promotional show such as home show that has a program of exhibitors get listed in the program. If the people you are working with on an event—crafters, travel agents, church and fraternal organizations for instance—have newsletters, send them your announcement.

Promote your fundraising events early and often. With the increased tempo controlling most people's lives in the 21st

Century, the message probably needs to be repeated more than three times.

Fundraising activities serve a dual purpose—raising money and promoting Greyhound adoption. Use the opportunities to assist the dogs and your organization. The more effective the promotion for your fundraising, the more information about Greyhounds, Greyhound adoption and your organization gets into the community.

Fundraising takes many forms from big events or projects to small individual activities. Here is a list of all kinds of fundraising ideas collected by Joan Dillon for what was intended to become a fundraising guide. The project turned out to be a little too ambitious for a single publication. *Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine* is beginning a regular column on fundraising to bring its readers more information on the ideas on this list and others.

If your group has successfully sponsored any of these or other kinds of fundraising activities, please write to The Greyhound Project, Inc., 295 Tremont Street, Newton MA 02458. We can all learn from your experiences. Thank you. ■

A List of Ideas

Silent Auction
Auctions
Online Auctions
Holiday Dinner Parties Benefit
Dance or Dinner Boat Trip
Craft Fair
Dog Wash
Car wash
Bake Sales
Bowl-A-Thon
Walk-A-Thon
Golf Tournament
Bingo
Las Vegas/Casino Night
Seminars
Rabies Clinic
Reunions
Gift Wrapping

Trick or Treat for Donations
Shovel Brigade
Christmas in July
Santa/Easter Bunny Photos
Grocery Store Receipt Programs
Soda Bottle/Can Collection
Yard/Tag Sales
Derby Doggy Fashion Show
No Bake Bake Sale
The Non Ball
Meet 'n Greet
Craft Fair Table
Festival Participation
Flea Market Participation
Food Concession
Grand Openings
Festival Participation
Outdoor Flea Market
Home Show Participation

Guess How Many
Break the Balloon
Doggie Gem Bingo
Drop the Coin in the Glass
Straw Pull
Tombola
Buy a Brick Campaign
Cookbooks
Raffles
Breed-Related Merchandise
Catalog Sales Canisters/
Collection Boxes
Donated Vehicles
Membership and/or Annual Appeals
Wills
Memorial Donations
Adopt an Expense
Newsletters
Holiday Pet Stockings

Chocolate/Candy Bars
Entertainment Books
Flower Bulbs
National Affinity Cards
NGA Pet Certificates
Pampered Chef Fundraiser
Paw Prints or Breed Silhouettes
PetsMart's Project Pet
Shopping Days
Preview Shopping Day for Store
Openings
Tote Board Donations
Tupperware Fundraiser
Charity Nights
Corporate Matching Funds
Grants
Direct Mailings



My story began in January 1999 when I first heard about a little Greyhound named Excel, thanks to Marilyn Wolkovitz of Greyhound Adoption Service in Salisbury, Massachusetts. I can't say why I desperately wanted to adopt this dog, especially because there are so many other wonderful adoptable Greyhounds available. At one point Marilyn had the most handsome blue male available for adoption; he was even cat-safe. Having cats, this was a plus. Although I was tempted to take him, I had to wait for my Excel. There was just something about Excel I thought special.

by Kris Metz

Living in Staten Island I wasn't able to see her race, but I checked the National Greyhound Association race results each week to see how she was doing, waiting for the day she would grade-off. So many times Excel was at the brink of grading-off, then she'd come back and win a race. She was not a great runner. She'd bounce back and forth from D to C. She never did make it to Grade B, so I kept waiting for her to grade-off and retire.

During this long waiting period, Marilyn and I talked a lot about whether or not Excel would be cat-safe, something I knew

Excellent with Cats



*Why did you bring that one home?
Sissy is hissing at Excel.*

would be an issue, because I have four cats (Mooie, Terror, Sissy, and Bitty). We wondered if Excel would be a very dominant female who wouldn't get along with my other Greyhound girls Hollywizz (Sly Heather) and Phoebe (Cheyenne Phoebe).

On August 12, 1999 Excel, at long last, had officially graded-off. I was doing my own version of happy dances in the house—my little girl was retiring!

A week later Excel arrived at Marilyn's kennel, a very happy-go-lucky Greyhound. Except for a scruffy, flea-bitten coat, Excel was in perfect health. I knew Marilyn would give Excel a couple of days to settle in and then cat-test her. After so many months of waiting, I didn't think I could wait to hear the results. Finally Marilyn called to give me the bad news. Excel's initial cat tests were not good. She stared at the cat and if the cat moved, she lunged for it. My heart sank. So many months of waiting and hoping turned into disappointment. But Marilyn did cheer



me up a bit by saying she would retest Excel in another week.

I didn't have any long-term experience in training dogs so I knew I had my work cut out for me. When I adopted Holly she just wanted to play with the cats and after a couple of "no kitties," Holly never bothered them again. Phoebe on the other hand, didn't want anything to do with the cats and would walk in the other direction. I sent a post to the Greyhound-L asking if it was possible to train a high-prey-drive dog to co-exist with my cats. To put it mildly, most of the responses I received were discouraging. Most told me I shouldn't even try to bring Excel home. Other people wished me luck and gave me some very helpful suggestions. What to do?

Well, I knew I had some time before I made my decision; Marilyn was going to videotape one of Excel's cat-test sessions and send it to me so I could see Excel in action. When I viewed the video I saw Excel in all her glory—leashed, muzzled, whining, and, sure enough, lunging toward one of the test cats. I also saw Excel taking commands well from Marilyn. She succeeded in getting Excel's attention away from the cats, so there was a glimmer of hope! I knew in my heart I couldn't let Excel go to another home without at least trying to cat-train her.

So, on the day of Hurricane Floyd, Holly, Phoebe, my Mom and partner in crime with all our animals, Jan Metz, and I took the five-hour trip to Salisbury, Massachusetts to meet Excel. What a great day—hurricane and all—to finally meet Excel in person!

Holly and Phoebe seemed fine with Excel, although Holly much preferred the handsome black Greyhound, Krybaby who has since been adopted. While we were at the kennel Marilyn cat-tested Excel one more time so we would know what to expect. Off we went back home with our new, not-so-cat-safe Greyhound. Plus, she would be the third female Greyhound in the household.

All right...
where are
those cats?
Note Bitty at
Excel's right.

I took a solid week of vacation and worked with Excel. I leashed her to me every day and muzzled her. I was calling her Hannibal Lechter (from the movie *Silence of the Lambs*) because her muzzle reminded me of the mask Hannibal wore in the movie. I walked Excel around the house, letting her go into rooms where the cats were. When she spied a cat, she went into her stalk position. At those times, I growled "no kitty" and squirted her with a water gun. This instantly broke Excel's concentration and I praised her. I set up Excel's crate so that she would see into the kitchen and made sure she saw the cats being fed their breakfast and dinner. Then I fed the other Greyhounds. Excel got her food last.

About the third day of training, I started feeding the cats, this time with Excel right next to me, still muzzled and leashed. Two of my cats love to start their breakfast on my kitchen counter. As the cats ate their breakfast, I gave Excel a couple special treats with the hope that this would help her associate the cats with good things. Around the fourth day, I took off the leash, keeping the muzzle on. I let her roam around the house, keeping a constant eye on her. Three times Excel tried to chase one of my cats, and each time I was right on her growling "no kitty" with a simultaneous squirt of the water gun.



*Terror and
Excel very
happy
together.*



The instant Excel stopped I took her muzzle in my hand and had her look me in the eye and again firmly said “no kitty.” Then I ignored her for approximately five minutes, which I believe helped a lot, as Excel is a very people-oriented Greyhound. To be ignored is the ultimate punishment for her.



*Bitty and Excel are
now very happy
together, but during
their first two weeks I
needed to constantly
supervise them.*



Two weeks later Excel was walking around my house, no longer muzzled and no longer leashed to me. I still didn't trust her uncrated if no one was home, but she had come a long way from that lunging, stalking demon I first met. I believe the best test for Excel was when we came back from Dewey Beach the next month. Excel saw the cats as they greeted me at the door and totally ignored them!

Excel has been with us since September 17, 1999 and gets along very well with Holly and Phoebe. In fact, I never hear any growling among the three girls. Excel thrives on love and attention, follows me and my first shadow, Holly, from room to room, and is a true lap dog. When there isn't a lap to lie on, Excel has been known to use Phoebe as a pillow. We are very happy with our little girl and, best of all, she has learned to co-exist with our cats. My only problem now is trying to find a little room on my bed at night. It's not so easy sleeping with four cats and three Greyhounds in a full-size bed! ■

Kris Metz resides in Staten Island, New York and is a first-time contributor to CG Magazine. Kris is happy to report that Excel has been perfect with her cats and the crate has been retired till the next Greyhound joins the household.

**Story/photos
by Lee Livingood**

I know I must be out of my mind to bring a kitten into a home with three dogs. Kokopelli, a three-month-old kitten, joined our clan less than two weeks ago. Let me introduce the others. First is our pound puppy, Clancy, a nine-year old Sheltie/Beagle/something mix. Chaco is a five-year-old retired racer we adopted two years ago. Our newest retired racer is three-year-old Cheyenne who's been with us for four months.

Because there is a lot of misinformation about Greyhounds and cats, I thought this would be an ideal opportunity to talk about how to mix the two. The keys to successful dog/cat relationships are management, patience, supervision, and careful planning. With the right approach, even some high-prey Greyhounds can learn to live peacefully with cats.

The first step, before you get a cat, is to evaluate the temperament and personality of

Kittens & Greyhounds

A Mix that Can Match



your dogs. What training do your dogs have and what will they need? A reliable down/stay is essential. The better trained your dogs are before you introduce a small animal, the less you'll have to resort to corrections or punishment to prevent trouble. When you're bringing a cat or kitten into your home, you have the responsibility to your dogs and the kitten to make it a safe and pleasant experience. So train early and often.

If your dog seems to have a really high-prey drive, ask yourself if you're ready to commit to this challenge. If your dog has had no experience with a cat, try to evaluate her reaction so you know what you're facing.

Take her to pet stores and watch her reaction to toy dogs and small puppies. Walk her past the cat/kitten adoption areas. If you have a friend who has a dog-savvy cat, try an introduction—safely leashed and muzzled, of course. It isn't fool-proof, but at least it's an indicator. Don't count on your adoption group's evaluation unless it included exposure to a real cat. Many groups rely on reactions to furry mechanical toys that move and squeak. Any dog will tell you this isn't the same thing.



*Within days the dogs,
even high-prey Cheyenne,
and the kitten had settled
into peaceful co-existence.*

*But that doesn't mean
I don't supervise carefully.*



While her reaction to prey is important, so are other issues. Does your dog guard her food, toys, chewies, or sleeping spaces? If she does, how are you going to retrain that behavior and/or protect the cat? Don't forget how curious cats are. You can bet the kitten will poke his nose somewhere where it doesn't belong. Kokopelli jumped into Cheyenne's food dishes to play in her water bowl the third day he was here. If she had food guarding issues he could have become the kitten formerly known as Kokopelli before anyone could have intervened.

The second step is to look at the physical layout of your home and think about the ways you are going to manage the environment to keep your kitten and your dogs safe. Think about where you're going to put the litter boxes—yes, boxes. Young kittens need to be able to get to boxes easily and quickly or you may find yourself with a housetraining problem. But dogs love to snack in litter boxes—gross, but true. How are you going to keep the dogs out of the litter box? Where can you put the kitten's food dish so he has easy access but the dogs can't steal his food? Kittens need a variety of toys to help with their physical and emotional development, but many toys are small enough to present a choking hazard for your dogs. How are you going to manage bedtime if the dogs aren't crated?



Whenever you can't supervise, you must separate. That means even if you are only going to the bathroom, the dogs and kitten must be separated until you are absolutely certain the cat is safe. Are your dogs accustomed to being crated or can you create a safe room for the cat when he has to be alone? A safe room is my preference. I keep toys that aren't dog proof in the safe room for Pelli when he's home alone.

The third step is to do research to find the best cat for your home. Do you want a kitten or an adult cat? Consider the pros and cons of each.

A kitten is more likely to accept the dogs readily. An older kitten or cat who has had no experience with dogs or had a bad experience might run every time one of the dogs approached. This can trigger a chase response from the dog. A cat who lived peacefully with dogs is less likely to react fearfully. Kittens tend to make noises that are quite exciting to predators. They are more than a little active and are fascinated by anything that moves—like wagging tails. Chaco is less than amused by that particular activity. A cat can be fed in a high, out-of-the-way place where even Greyhound noses can't reach. A kitten may not be able to access those areas to get food. Kittens are small and easily harmed. An older cat may have learned some offensive and defensive behaviors to keep out of harm's way.



*Don't let this touching
interaction fool you.
If the kitten bolts,
Cheyenne will be on him
like a duck on a June bug.*

If you live alone, enlist the aid of a helper. Now confine the kitten to his safe room so the dogs can smell and hear him but can't see or touch him. While the dogs are sniffing at the door, offer the dogs really, really great treats. Have someone do the same with the kitten. If the cat is frightened, offer the treats further from the door. Make the presence of the other animal a good thing.

When everyone is comfortable, prop the door of the safe room open about an inch. Use doorstops (and leashes if necessary) so the dogs can't push their way in and the kitten can't get out. One by one let the dogs and kitten see each other and get almost nose to nose if they're ready. Don't go any farther until everyone is calm and the cat shows no sign of fear. Open the door a bit further, but make certain the cat can't get through the opening. Continue to reinforce calm behavior (from both the cat and dogs) with really special treats, praise, petting, and toys.

After the kitten is comfortable with the sounds and smells (this could take minutes or days), confine the dogs to the area (after you've secured the litter box, unsafe toys, and the like) and let the kitten roam the house again.

Now you're ready to introduce them face to face. Introduce one dog at a time. Confine the other dogs or have someone take them away from the house. Leash the dog and the kitten. Put the dog in a down stay (with someone holding the leash or tie the leash to an immovable object). Bring the kitten into the area, but keep him far enough away that no one is fearful or overly excited. Begin rewarding calm behavior. Gradually bring them closer until they can get nose to nose and remain calm.

Consider how the different breeds of cats are likely to fit with the personalities of your dogs. Many people don't realize that different breeds of cats have very distinct personalities and activity levels. Research cat breeds so you can choose one most likely to fit into your home.

If possible, expose the cat or kitten to a cat-friendly dog and watch the reaction. Some animal adoption agencies are set up to accommodate this. Many shelters and animal welfare groups foster their cats—most foster homes have both dogs and other cats. Try to find such a group. Look for rescue or shelter groups who can help you make good choices. If you are getting a kitten, make sure the kitten is exposed to a variety of people and situations—including dogs, if possible.

Step four is to introduce your new family member a few weeks before his arrival. Tune up your training to improve reliability. Decrease the amount of attention your dogs get to below the level it will be when the kitten arrives. That way the dogs will perceive the arrival of the kitten as something that increases good attention.

Both cats and dogs use their sense of smell to communicate. If circumstances permit, a few days before you bring your kitten home, take a towel (or similar object) your dogs have slept on to the breeder or foster home and return with a towel that has the scent of the cat.

The Big Day—Formal Introductions

If possible, bring the kitten home to an empty house. Let him have an hour or so to explore his new digs, find his litter box and his food, play with some toys, and get settled. This will also allow his scent to spread through the house.

As soon as the kitten arrives, begin to get him used to being in a harness and on a leash. Start with really short sessions (a minute or less) and reward heavily. Work gradually so he learns to accept the harness and leash.



Chaco isn't quite certain what to make of our new resident but has decided if the kitten ignores him, he'll happily ignore the kitten.



This is easy while the cat is being cautious. As soon as the cat decides it's safe to move about or play, things get more interesting. Put the dog in a down stay while she watches the cat move about the room. Reward and praise her heavily. Use petting and praise to calm her.

Do the same with each dog in turn. When all the dogs are capable of behaving calmly, repeat with all dogs present.

Gradually allow more interactions and don't forget to reinforce good behavior.

How long will it take to incorporate the new family member? It depends. It's important not to rush. Because our kitten is confident and lived with a dog, two of our three dogs had lived with a cat, and our dogs are reasonably well trained, we were able to progress through the introductions in less than an hour. However, you have to be prepared to take it as slowly as necessary. You can use these steps to introduce your resident cat to a new cat or kitten as well.

Some Tips to Make Life Easier

- Avoid holding the cat above the dogs' heads. This tends to stimulate prey drive.
- When the cat's been away for a few days (for hospitalization or boarding), watch them all carefully. The dog may react very differently to it when it returns and they may need to be reacquainted briefly.

- Three's a crowd. One dog may be safe alone with a cat, but it may be lethal to try it with multiple dogs, especially if any of the dogs has shown even moderate prey drive behaviors toward the cat during introductions. Dogs will often pack when something initiates a prey response. Never leave a kitten of any age home alone with any dog.

- Spare the rod. Don't rely on punishment. If used too often it causes the animal being punished to associate bad things with the presence of the other animal. If you are relying on punishment, it means you've rushed through the introductions, and/or you aren't adequately supervising and separating.

- Don't discourage swatting. If the cat swats at the dog when the dog gets too curious, don't scold him. Don't allow the dog to escalate her behavior. Have the dog sit or lie down instead.

- If you must punish, punish remotely. If the dog chases the cat, use a remote punishment like an air horn (not a great idea with multiple animals since all animals are punished), a squirt gun, or a remote control citronella collar. If you punish, it must occur as close to the beginning of the behavior as possible—preferably when the dog is about to chase rather than after she is already chas-

ing. Any punishment must be followed by an opportunity to be reinforced for a behavior that is incompatible with chasing, such as a down stay.

- Don't be afraid to start over. If the chasing continues, back up in the introduction process and work through the process more slowly. Do more work on reliable responses to down and stay. Use a leash to manage her so she cannot chase the cat.

Most of all, have fun. We are! ■

Lee Livingood is a professional companion animal trainer and writer. She focuses on teaching household manners and problem solving using positive reinforcement and related motivational techniques. She calls her style of training Win/Win Learning. She does seminars and workshops on the use of positive reinforcement in training. Her first book, Running With the Big Dogs: The Gentle Art of Turning Your Retired Racing Greyhound into Your Best Friend has received excellent reviews from Greyhound groups and other trainers. It is available online from Dogwise, 4M Dog Books, and the SitStay GoOut Store. Her second book, Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies, will be released in September by Howell Books.

Kira and Friends

The Holidays with Sheena

The night Sheena was gone, Kira was very clingy, supervising while I made the pickled carrot salad that would be expected at the family Thanksgiving dinner. I didn't want to do any cooking the night Sheena was to come home. It was strange to go to bed without her. Kira snuggled into bed, heart to heart, with her head on my shoulder. I'm used to having a bigger dog snuggled in next to me. Kira felt too small to take her mother's place.

The next afternoon was "Free Sheena Day." She had the same long incision down her abdomen I saw on Spode. She was eager to get home, but she was one very sore dog. I helped her into the car, as she climbed very carefully into the back seat, and helped her out at home as she stepped down very tentatively. She had been gutted and sewn up and it obviously hurt. Kira met her with a face full of small kisses, rejoicing in her mother's return. Sheena looked pleased and greeted her briefly before heading out to the back yard to see what had been going on in her absence and to let the other dogs know she was back.

She ate a small dinner while I fed the other dogs. She drank water without being frantically thirsty, and we all went to bed. The world is divided into people who will share a bed with a dog and those who wouldn't dream of it. For those who do sleep with dogs, Greyhounds are the perfect bed dogs. They are so smooth-coated that their 102°F body temperature is easily shared. Their silken coats make them wonderful for snuggling. Rather late in life I discovered how things feel to the touch is important to me. Like the feel of silk fabrics, the feel of the silken Greyhound coat, the softness of their ears, the warmth of their bodies, the mysteries of their intricate paws all attract me.



Kira giving Mom a kiss.

LONG BEFORE Sheena was born, I flew to New York with Christopher and Love to show them at Madison Square Garden. I was sharing a motel room with Dr. Elsie Neustadt who had been showing Greyhounds since the 1940s. She and her husband had both been famous psychiatrists for decades, having left Europe before World War II. Now she was a widow and a spry 83 years old. She plied Chris and Love with yogurt-covered raisins from a snack suitcase she brought. She wasn't traveling with a dog, and when it was time for bed, she invited Chris to sleep with her, but both dogs slept with me that night.

Eight years later, I flew to Long Island for a Greyhound specialty. Elsie invited me to share a room with her again. This time I had not brought a dog and she was showing a red brindle bitch named Sprite. Sprite was Sheena's cousin and looked a great deal like her. I was missing Sheena and was glad to see Sprite and help take care of her.

By this time Elsie was 90 and walking with difficulty. We attended an ostentatious club dinner and when we went back to the motel for the night I joked about getting Sprite to sleep with me. Sprite was friendly and did rest briefly on my bed but when Elsie got into her bed, Sprite joined her, crawled under the covers, and snuggled up against her owner. And I thought, "If I live to be her age I hope there will still be a Greyhound to sleep against. It's not a bad way to age." Sprite was Elsie's last Greyhound.

NOW SHEENA slept curled up in my arms as she had for nearly nine years and, if the operation had been successful, perhaps she could continue to sleep there for several more. She twitched and dreamed a little as the after-effects of the anesthetic faded.

The next day I took her with me to the family Thanksgiving dinner. She waited in the car through dinner and I brought her a few treats. I belong to a large family of competitive cooks and it's difficult to find anything to bring to a family dinner that will actually get eaten. My cousins make dinner rolls that will melt in your mouth. I slipped a couple to Sheena and she approved. It was a good Thanksgiving and I was thankful for Sheena's survival.

She liked her prescription ID—a food designed to whet the appetite of ailing dogs and cats—and ate well for the next week. She was still very sore, but I decided to drive Sheena and Kira to the mall for a slow walk. By the time we left, Sheena had increased her pace and was walking more like her old self.

However, Sheena has yet to get back to her pre-puppy speed. When she was pregnant, we jogged around Sunrise Mall. It's

an enclosed mall, so there aren't any interesting outdoor stores to investigate. We jogged the perimeter at Sheena's choice of pace—a brisk trot. As she got heavier, I kept waiting for her to slow down but she never did. We last jogged the morning of the day she went into labor. Now she walked with a kind of stately dignity, as if she could leave all the bouncing around to Kira.

A week after the surgery Dr. Barrett phoned me to say they were concerned about the inflamed liver lobe that remained. He prescribed 1,000 mg of the antibiotic Keflex and 10 mg of prednisone daily to try to head off future problems with that liver lobe. The prednisone was tapered off to 5 mg every other day, but it still made her fat.

EARLY IN December I got a call from Rick Boyd asking if I could attend a recording session. Rick is what I call a country western singer, and what he calls a “cowboy singer and guitar player.” He is also a songwriter. The first time I went to hear Rick play in the city of Folsom, I took Star along to keep me company and Rick got to meet his first Greyhound. After that when he played at locations where it was possible to take dogs, I took various combinations of Greyhounds.

I was his oldest fan, having first heard him several years earlier when he was playing at the downtown farmers' market. I was just blown away by his music. He was too darn good to be a street performer. I loved to stand in the crowd and hear people say in amazement, “He's good. He's really good.” And he was. He made me wish I knew how to be a music promoter, but mostly he made me want to listen to him.

I interviewed him for an article and stood at many street fairs and farmers markets to listen to his own brand of musical magic. It didn't hurt that, not only could he sing like a professional, play a mean guitar, and write touching songs, but also he is a genuinely nice human being. I took to following him around with a tape recorder, so I could play his songs on long drives. I was pleased to



Ring the bell,
Lancelot.
Oops.

hear that he received a recording contract and that he would be coming out with his very own cassettes and CDs.

However, the recording company was driving him crazy during their recording sessions, trying to make him sound like a run-of-the-mill country western singer. The result was he now froze up in the recording studio. He needed his audience in order to sing, so I agreed to be part of the audience. Sheena could come along and wait in the car where I could check on her frequently. Winter is the only time that I routinely leave dogs in cars in California. Our winter temperatures average about sixty degrees and overcast. In the summer, the car is air conditioned, but it is too hot to park the dogs.

NOT LONG after the recording session, longtime friend Betty Lou called to ask me if I would photograph Spode and Lancelot. Usually she asks me to photograph her dogs only once in each dog's life, so I trotted right over with my camera and some red and green fleeces for backgrounds. We were doing Christmas card photos, so I hung a fleece over a fence and she posed the dogs.

It's always a joy to photograph her dogs because they are so well-trained and are able to do lots of interesting things for the camera. I took photos of Lancelot kissing Betty Lou and of Spode kissing Lancelot while Lancelot protested. They each held Christmas stockings for the camera. My favorite photo, however, was of Lancelot ringing his silver bell. He would hold the bell by its ribbon and swing it back and forth to ring it. He got so carried away swinging the bell, that it swung up and wrapped its ribbon around his muzzle. I clicked the shutter while he sat there baffled



at his predicament. He was a dog with a very expressive face. We finished with a family shot of Betty Lou with both dogs.

BY CHRISTMAS, Sheena had healed and I grappled with removing her stitches. When Betty Lou removed Spode's stitches she said it was like a blanket binding stitch and indeed it was. The row of stitches looked formidable, but it was all a single strand of interlocked thread. That meant I didn't have to cut every single stitch the way you do with individually tied stitches. I could cut the thread every three or four inches and pull it out along the thread line. This was Sheena's third major abdominal surgery. I began to wish for a zipper. ■

Patricia Gail Burnham is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine and the author of Playtraining Your Dog.

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

A Champion in the Ring

In June 1996 the first Greyhound earned the titles of Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) and Utility Dog Excellent (UDX). The OTCH is a title that rewards precision. It requires that a dog earn 100 points by taking first or second placements in Open B and Utility B classes. The UDX is a title that rewards the consistent performer. It requires that a dog qualify ten times in both Open B and Utility on the same day. Our new titleholder is OTCH The Merry Prankster TD, UDX owned and trained by Julie Hill. Her call name is Lily. She finished her OTCH at the age of six. Lily is a red bitch rescued from an animal shelter as a puppy. Lily earned 101 OTCH points from April 1994 to June 1996 with six first places in Utility and five first places in Open B. She was High-in-Trial at two all-breed trials and at the Greyhound Club of American Specialty in 1995.

The following is an interview with her trainer, Julie Hill.

Q: How did you acquire Lily?

I adopted her from a Denver area animal shelter. I was on my lunch hour in downtown Denver and happened to pass by a corner where the shelter had set up an Adopt-a-Pet booth. I was in the market for a dog, had always wanted a Greyhound, and when I saw her, I immediately fell in love with her confidence and cockiness.

Q: How old was she?

She was eight weeks old when I adopted her and she does not have ear tattoos. She was the only Greyhound puppy up for adoption. I asked whether or not she had littermates and was told no. When I adopted her, she had a respiratory infection that took sev-



**Story/photo
by Patricia
Gail Burnham**

eral months to clear up, and I am guessing that was why she was at the shelter.

Q: What made you decide to get a Greyhound?

My two favorite breeds of dogs are Bloodhound and Greyhound. I love the way both of these breeds look. I admire and am amazed by the Bloodhound's scenting ability and the Greyhound's speed. I also love the Greyhound's elegance, gracefulness, and gentleness.

Q: What other obedience dogs had you trained?

Lily is my first dog. Five months after I adopted Lily, I bought a show-quality Bloodhound, so I've actually been training two dogs at the same level from the very beginning. Even though Lily and Lark are the best of friends and I can't imagine not having either one, training two dogs has been very difficult.

Q: What training methods did you use?

My training methods changed a great deal over the course of Lily's career as I learned what I was striving for and how to achieve it. She spent the first year of her life in pet classes, where I allowed her to develop a lot of bad habits. When I moved from Colorado to Washington, I enrolled her in a competition class that was taught by an instructor who emphasized ring preparation and procedure, attention, and proofing as a means of attaining consistency and reliability. After three years with that instructor, I trained for

a few months with an instructor who emphasized attitude, willingness, and enjoyment. Since I've been in Louisiana, I've been on my own and have learned so much about dog training from Lily and Lark. I am demanding and insist on correct responses, but keeping their attitude up is just as important to me. I learned with Lily that if she were not happy, she would not perform. I use a lot of food, play, praise, and random releases to keep them interested and animated. I break the exercises up into their component parts and work on the pieces more than I work on the whole, although I probably should work more on the whole. I reinforce with food every behavior that I want, and when possible, ignore unwanted behaviors.

Q: What advice would you offer to other owners who are interested in training Greyhounds? The advice that I would pass on to other Greyhound owners is the lessons that I've learned from my mistakes with Lily. First, watch the great handlers and dogs (no matter what breed) to get a clear picture of what a perfect performance is and work toward making your dogs fit that picture. Second, don't make excuses for your dogs. They are just as capable of working well as any other breed. Third, be gentle, respect your dogs, and make it fun. If you are not smiling when you train and your dogs tails are not wagging, there is probably a problem with your training relationship.

Q: What was the most difficult part of the OTCH?

The most difficult part was overcoming Lily's signal exercise problem. It plagued us from the very first time Lily went into a Utility ring until the show before she finished her OTCH.

Q: How do you keep her motivated when she is showing?

During the week before a show, I try to make sure that Lily makes the right decisions. She hates to be wrong and it really deflates her. For example, I put dowels out for her go-out spot the first time that I send her so that she will not have a bad go-out that I will have to fix. If she does make a mistake, I ignore it, but the next time I will somehow steer her to the right choice. Outside the ring at a show, I toss toys for her, play tug-of-war, feed her, and do set-ups and releases. Inside the ring, I cheerlead actually more than I feel comfortable doing. Whether she is right or wrong, I praise her. I really believe she always gives me everything she is capable of giving on any particular day.

Q: How old was she when you started to show and when she earned her OTCH?

She was two and a half when she first showed in Novice and had just turned six when she finished her OTCH.

Q: Do you have any favorite stories or incidents that occurred during her training and showing?

My favorite stories come from the Open ring. Lily was a much better Open dog than Utility dog, but something always seemed to go wrong that cost us a high score. The first incident occurred the second weekend of showing Lily in the B classes. On Saturday, she won Utility for her first points, but came around the high jump in Open. On Sunday, she failed signals, but was really nailing her fronts and finishes so I was very hopeful about her chances of getting her Open first. After her Utility run, another dog had diarrhea in the ring. It was an outdoor show on

grass and it was difficult to clean thoroughly. The clean-up crew did the best they could to scrape it up. They sprayed the area, then covered it with shavings.

When we went into Open, my spirits soared. Lily heeled near perfectly, trotted out of her drop (walking out of her drop was her worst Open problem), and did a near perfect retrieve and retrieve over the high jump. When I went to set her up for the broad jump, she balked. I had to set her up right where the diarrhea spot was. Being the ever-fastidious Greyhound that she is, she refused to sit near the soiled area. I begged her. I pleaded with her. I tried to bribe her, but to no avail. She squinted her eyes, pulled back her lips, and refused to look at me. I moved from our usual sixteen-foot set up spot to the eight-foot mark. She still refused to sit. The look of disgust and disdain on her face was hysterical. I swear I could practically see her gagging. I envisioned our blue ribbon flying out of my grasp as I continued to try to convince her to sit. I moved back behind the spot to the ring barrier, and still she would not sit. Sweat was streaming off of my brow as I wondered why the judge did not excuse us. She told me to try the eight-foot mark again and finally, ever so reluctantly and slowly Lily sat—at a 90-degree angle to heel position. But it was a sit, so I left her there. She jumped the jump cleanly and easily and had a perfect front and finish. First place and High-in-Trial was a 198, second was a 197-and-a-half, and we won a runoff for third with a 195-and-a-half, after losing three points for misbehavior for her reluctance to sit. Our Open first would have to come another day.

Another favorite story is also about a blown Open first, although by this time, Lily already had the required three first places. Lily loved people and applause and at an all-breed show and trial in Mississippi, she was convinced that it was her moment. She had heeled really nicely, did a nice drop, and nice retrieve. As we set up for the retrieve over the high jump, the dogs started gaiting

in the Group ring across the aisle. The applause was thunderous as Lily sailed over the jump. The crowd roared as she snatched up her dumbbell as quickly as anyone had ever seen. With a quick scoot, she was at warp speed as she soared back over the jump. In one-and-a-half strides, there was no time to stop at the wall that was me in front of her. She springboarded off of my shoulder, flying straight up into the air and knocking me back several feet, then settled down into a decent front. We lost three points for that performance, bringing us down from a tie for first place and High-in-Trial at 198 to an also-ran at 195.

Q: When and where did she earn her Tracking Degree?

Lily earned her TD in Washington a few months after her UD in the spring of 1994.

Q: How did you find tracking training as compared to obedience training?

I really love to track when the dogs are working well, but feel totally helpless and frustrated when problems occur. Lily is a frivolous tracker, tracking when and if she feels like it and quitting when it gets too hard.

Q: Are you training for the TDX?

I have trained her for the TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent), but don't know if I will ever enter her in a test. It is very hard to track in Louisiana because of the heat and the bugs. In Seattle, Lily tracked well when I had random food drops on the track. In Louisiana, you cannot put food on a track that has any length of age because ants immediately swarm to the food. I tried to put a lot of articles out and teach her that an article equals food, but her drive is not the same as when she found the food herself. I still have a couple of ideas to try before I give up, but I am not particularly optimistic. ■

Patricia Gail Burnham is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. (Since this was written Lily has earned her Novice Agility title as well.)

How Ears Work:

A canine ear can be divided into three main parts: the external ear (pinna or auricle), the middle ear, and the inner ear.

The external ear, which is many different shapes in different breeds, is the part of the ear that traps sound waves—the beginning of the hearing process.

The middle ear focuses and processes those trapped sound waves. The middle ear consists of the tympanic cavity, the eardrum, and the auditory ossicles. The auditory ossicles are a series of tiny bones: the hammer (malleus), the anvil or saddle (incus), and the stirrup (stapes). These tiny bones transmit the sound waves to the inner ear.

The inner ear is made up of the cochlea and of canals that are fluid-filled tubes filled with tiny hairs. The cochlea collects the sound waves that cause the fluid within it to vibrate. The tiny hairs that line the cochlea react to this movement and convert the movement to electrical signals. These signals are passed to the brain via the auditory nerve. The brain then translates these messages into distinguishable sounds.

My 13-year-old Greyhound, Cajun, has begun to lose his hearing. Initially we weren't sure if he had a hearing problem or simply wasn't paying attention. He wouldn't always come when called, especially if we were in another room. We began watching him more closely and realized that he sometimes came when called because he saw our other Greyhound leap from the couch and trot into the next room. When we

Dealing with Deafness

in an Older Dog

by Maureen Nelms



were in front of him he appeared to hear us, but we realized he might just be reading our lips, so we began to test him. We stood behind him and spoke to him. If we were no more than five feet behind him, he heard us. Any farther and there was no reaction. Then we tried standing in front of him and speaking. His reactions to this were less conclusive. Again, we were unsure if he wagged his tail because he heard us or because he could see our mouths moving and assumed we were speaking to him.

We particularly noticed that he heard nothing at all when he slept. Cajun appears to sleep much more soundly than before. We are not sure whether this is due to old age or the fact he can no longer hear as well and is not disturbed by outside noises. To avoid startling him, we wake him by moving in front of him and speaking to him, first quietly, then louder until he finally responds. We also gently put weight on whatever he's lying on, usually the couch or bed, so he feels the movement without actually being touched. If he's touched while sleeping, he leaps up frightened and, as often as not, falls back down. This is something that has begun to happen within the last six months.

*A close-up of
Cajun's external ear.
All appears to be normal.*



DAPHNE DANIEL

We check his ears regularly and they look fine. However, we took Cajun to the veterinarian to rule out an ear infection or dirt/wax build-up that we couldn't see. The veterinarian made a closer inspection using an otoscope. No infection or dirt were present.

Ideally, Cajun should have a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) test—the only way to truly test a dog's hearing. Since this test is not available to us within driving distance, we may do without it. Our veterinarian clapped his hands loudly behind Cajun. He reacted. But did this mean he could hear or did he feel the air vibrations? We saw this wasn't going to give us any definitive answers.

Our veterinarian suspected arthritis in the tiny bones of Cajun's middle ear (see first sidebar). Since he has arthritis throughout his spine, this is certainly a possibility. The arthritis would cause the movement of these bones to be slow or non-existent, reducing his hearing and eventually causing total deafness. There is no cure for this problem.

The veterinarian recommended we purchase several different types of whistles, starting with a special dog whistle pitched above the range of human hearing. Cajun may be able to hear sounds in one range while being oblivious to others.

As his hearing diminishes, we find Cajun follows us more than ever. Greyhounds often shadow their people around the house, but Cajun's pursuit increased to the point where we were continually tripping over him whenever we turned around. Understanding why he follows us reduces the annoyance.

We have started to teach Cajun hand signals as a way to communicate over a distance. When he is in the yard and much too far away to hear us, a wave of our hands will usually get his attention, after which we can give him the signal to come. This also works inside the house although it requires us to be in the same room. We have not yet been able to teach him a hand signal for stop-and-wait. He insists on running in our yard. In addition to his deafness, Cajun also has calcification of the spine that causes decreased control of his hind limbs. As you can imagine, running when you do not have proper command of two of your four legs can cause mishaps. Occasionally Cajun loses control of one or both of his back legs due to speed, and down he goes. Sometimes he can get up on his own, sometimes he can't. You would think he would slow down to minimize the chance of falling but apparently that hasn't occurred to him. This is why we need to teach him the "stop-and-wait" hand signal.

The biggest hurdle we face is how to communicate with Cajun in the dark. We have a large parcel of land and every night Cajun goes outside for his last potty at 10:00 p.m. My husband accompanies him but we don't keep him on leash as he usually goes only as far as the nearest bush. With my husband trying to keep track of two loose Greyhounds, something was bound to happen and eventually it did. My husband raced into the house yelling he couldn't find Cajun. We both grabbed flashlights and ran out to search for him. Fortunately it was only a few minutes before we found him merrily sniffing from bush to bush about 400 feet from the house. It's a good thing

Ear Problems & Preventative Care:

Untreated ear infections can cause deafness. Visually inspect your dog's ears weekly. They should be free of dirt and wax and should not have a bad odor. The ears should not be overly sensitive to touch.

Infections of the outer ear often produce a discharge and foul odor. There may be irritation, redness, and heat. The dog may shake its head, scratch at its ears, or rub its ears with its front paws.

Middle and inner ear infections are generally the result of untreated outer ear infections. All ear infections require veterinary care to determine the cause and correct medication to cure the problem.

To prevent infections check your dog's ears weekly and clean them regularly, wiping them out with a clean cotton-ball dampened with mineral oil. DON'T use cotton-tipped swabs as you could injure the ear if the dog moves suddenly. You may need several cotton balls and a helper to hold the dog if the ears are particularly dirty.

the gate was shut; who knows where he might have traveled? Since then, he wears a battery-operated collar with small flashing lights. Now we can see where he's going. We are also trying to teach him to respond to a flashing porch light. We want him to know this is his signal to come. So far we aren't sure whether he is coming because he sees the flashing light or because he has finished his business and wants to come inside. Time will tell. ■

Maureen Nelms is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.

Hounds Battle the Bulge

Is your retired racing Greyhound's girlish or boyish figure going to pot from taking this couch potato thing too seriously? Has the time come to start the battle of the bulge? Be objective. Look at your dog: Does it have a nice tucked up abdomen? Feel your dog. Can you feel the outline of the ribs, especially toward the stomach? Some people observe the "Three-Rib Rule." If you can see three ribs on a Greyhound, the dog is at about the right weight. If you adopted your Greyhound hot off the track, most likely it was a tad on the thin side for a pet, but it should still have a svelte figure in its retirement years. Not sure if your Greyhound is the right weight? Please refer to the body condition chart provided by Ralston Purina. Strive for number five.

As we get older, gravity takes its toll but the Greyhound physique should still be recognizable in an older dog. On average, Greyhounds tend to have a low percentage of body fat: 16% compared to 35% in mixed breeds. Barring any medical problems, the major cause of obesity in dogs is overfeeding - primarily treats. Unless your Greyhound has grown fingers and can open the cookie jar, the main reason it's getting chubby is you: what you're doing (over feeding) and not doing (not providing enough exercise).



The first Greyhound I ever met was a sweet fawn girl who was so obese she looked like a garbage can on sticks. With that long Greyhound head she was a bizarre looking dog. Fortunately I haven't seen anything that extreme since, but there are many hounds that seem to be wrapped in insulation under their light fur coats. Looks aside, obesity can have undesirable side effects. An overweight dog is a poorer surgical risk and more likely to develop diabetes mellitus, cancer, heat stress, liver malfunction, and other problems. Obesity is a serious complicating factor in canine heart disease. If your dog has sustained any significant joint injury to its extremities, on or off the track, traumatic arthritis can result and will be aggravated by increased load bearing on the joint. Degenerative arthritis that develops in an older dog will also be aggravated.

If your Greyhound seems to be a bit thick in the middle, look at what you're feeding him/her. How many treats per day are you giving? What size and how many? Is the lunch biscuit almost as big as a meal? Maybe you need to cut back to fewer smaller biscuits. How many table scraps do you give? A whole slice of pizza? Don't kill the dog with kindness—just a little bite will do. Has

your dog trained you to feed him or her from the table? Look at how much you feed your dog for breakfast and dinner. Some people don't even measure. You may need to cut back the amount you feed for the main meals. How much you should feed depends on the brand of food, height of the dog, and activity level. Talk to your vet about your dog's weight. The vet may recommend a specific dog food or even run tests to see if a medical condition is causing weight gain. Raw vegetables can be good low-cal snacks but don't overdo. Be especially careful with older dogs and any dog that show signs of reduced kidney function. The high phosphorous level in veggies can be very detrimental to impaired kidneys.

I've seen a video of an Irish racing Greyhound training on a treadmill, but the most practical thing for most of us is to just go out for a walk. Most dogs and humans can benefit from an exercise program of brisk walking. If your Greyhound is really out of condition, start with a 10-minute walk when the weather is cool and build up to a comfortable level. If you will be walking on a paved surface, the toe pads have to acclimate as well. The dog's nails may need to be clipped, as they should not touch the ground when standing or the toes may splay.

The walks will help the dog's cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems as well as stimulate its mind, and your dog will have a great time sending and receiving pe-mail. I still remember the man who took care of his friend's Greyhound and was anxious to know why the dog was totally exhausted after he'd take it for daily two-hour walks. The breed was not designed for this. We all look forward to our daily half-hour walks here and I know it keeps our four dogs trim. During the November deer-hunting season, we can only romp in the woods on Sundays and we are apt to pack on the pounds unless I cut back on the food a bit or we go to the park. Although we have an acre-and-a-half fenced yard, what the dogs do in it isn't enough to keep them in shape. One benefit of putting your dog on an exercise program with you is that it can help your cardiovascular system and raise your good cholesterol (HDL). It works for me. Now, if I could only keep my hands out of the potato chip bag, I'd be as trim as my Greyhounds. ■

Lauren Emery is a frequent contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.



Macy of Greyhound Acres Adoption & Rescue, New Hartford, New York looking very noble and in trim condition. All ribs are visible.

Alice (far left), owned by the Brockhoffs of McKinleyville, California, is in nice condition for a "mature" retired racer.

PURINA[®] BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

<p>1 EMACIATED Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.</p>	
<p>2 VERY THIN Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.</p>	
<p>3 THIN Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.</p>	
<p>4 UNDERWEIGHT Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.</p>	
<p>5 IDEAL Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.</p>	
<p>6 OVERWEIGHT Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernable viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.</p>	
<p>7 HEAVY Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be absent.</p>	
<p>8 OBESE Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.</p>	
<p>9 GROSSLY OBESE Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.</p>	

This Body Condition System was developed and tested at the Purina Pet Care Center and has been documented in the following publications:
 Lafayette DP Body Condition Scoring and Weight Maintenance, Proc N Am Vet Conf (Jan 10-11, 1993), Orlando, FL, pp 290-291
 Lafayette DP Kelly RL, Schrick DA Estimation of Body Fat by Body Condition Score, J Vet Med 1994; 71: 514
 Lafayette DP Kubiak CA, Lawler DE, Kelly RD, Schrick DA Obesity Management in Dogs, J Vet Clin Nutr 1994; 1: 59-65

We heard things like “they are sighthounds; they hunt their prey by sight” or “they can spot a rabbit at a distance of half a mile.” Those of us who have one or more hounds know very well that they can zero-in on the most comfortable spot on the bed from any distance. The eyes of a Greyhound are amazingly sharp as well as wonderful windows into the emotions and heart of a hound. Unfortunately, a gaze into those beautiful eyes can sometimes reveal things that should not be there, indicating that something is wrong.

A couple of years ago I was looking over Skipper, the oldest of my Greyhounds, when I noticed a slightly opaque film covering a portion of his left eye. Thinking that this was the start of a cataract, I took Skipper to our veterinarian. He looked at it, said it might be *pannus*, and suggested a consultation with a veterinary ophthalmologist. Because the appointment with the veterinary ophthalmologist was not for another three weeks, I started researching pannus. The following is what I have learned from dealing with pannus in Skipper.

Pannus is an immune disorder where the body thinks the eye is a foreign object and attacks it. This reaction of the immune system is manifested as a thin opaque film on the eye. Pannus is also known as Uberreiter’s disease. It usually starts in the corners of the eye and, if untreated, spreads over the cornea, eventually leading to blindness. Frequently, in addition to this thin opaque film, you will notice a mass of blood vessels that have spread into the cornea. You might also notice your pet scratching the eye, or that the eye appears red and irritated. However, not all these symptoms necessarily mean that the pet has pannus. Mechanical irritants in the eye, a physical defect of the eyelid, tear deficiency, and so on could cause these irritations.

A Closer Look at Pannus

Story by Praveen Mutalik;
photos by Marcia Herman



Pannus is a subclass of superficial keratitis. Superficial keratitis is common in all species and is characterized by corneal vascularization and opacification, which may be due to edema, cellular infiltrates, pigmentation or fibroplasia. If ulceration is present, pain, manifest by epiphora and blepharospasm, is an outstanding sign. Unilateral keratitis frequently is traumatic in origin. Mechanical factors, such as lid conformational defects and foreign bodies,

should always be eliminated as possible causes since improvement will not occur until they are resolved. Ulcerative keratitis may be complicated by secondary invasion by bacteria, and in horses by saprophytic fungi. Bilateral superficial keratitis may be immune mediated or associated with a lack of tears, conformational defects, or infectious agents.



Molly at six with full-blown pannus. Note the classic blood vessel overgrowth moving towards the front of the eye and the gray fatty matter. Dr. Charles Stuhr takes photos of Molly's eyes with a Kowa Fundus, a camera specially designed to photograph eye conditions. An anesthetic is applied topically with a proparacaine-loaded cotton-tipped applicator to numb each eye so Molly won't feel the actual cortisone injections.

A specific chronic superficial keratitis (Ueberreiter's disease, pannus) is a bilateral, progressive, proliferative, superficial keratitis that begins laterally at the limbus and eventually extends from all quadrants to cover the cornea. It is most common in German Shepherd Dogs. Specific therapy for superficial keratitis (SK) consists of topical antibiotics, antiviral or antimycotic agents when appropriate, removal of mechanical irritants when present, tear replacement when deficient and corticosteroids when immune mediated. The latter may have to be continued indefinitely and the frequency varied depending on the response.

Interstitial Keratitis (IS) is a deep involvement of the stroma and is present with all chronic and many acute cases of anterior uvetis. The corneal neovascularization is deeper and less branching than in SK. If the endothelium has been disrupted, corneal edema is often marked. Systemic diseases such as canine hepatitis, malignant catarrhal fever, systemic mycoses and septicemias that localize in the eye, are causes for bilateral or unilateral IS. Therapy is directed at the anterior uvetis, the systemic infection or both.



Ulcerative Keratitis (UK) may be superficial, deep, deep with descemetocele, or perforating. Pain, corneal irregularity, edema, and eventually, neovascularization are signs of ulceration. A dense, white infiltrate at the ulcer margin indicates strong leukotaxis and bacterial involvement. To detect small ulcers, topical sodium fluorescein may be required. In dogs most ulcers are mechanical in origin. All ulcers have potential for secondary bacterial contamination or endogenous enzymatic "melting" of the stroma. Therapy for superficial ulcers is usually medical, and consists of topical antibiotics, topical atropine for iridocycloplegia, and correction of any mechanical factors.



If I suspect my pet has pannus, what next? Your veterinarian will administer a series of tests and a thorough eye examination to determine if the pet has pannus. He or she will determine if there is a foreign body in the eye causing the irritation. If so, the veterinarian will irrigate the eye with a sterile saline solution to remove any foreign body. If nothing is found, the veterinarian will look at the insides of the eyelids to see if there is a physical defect (a growth or imperfection) that is causing an irritation to the eye when the pet blinks.



After a short time more proparacaine is applied to each eye directly from the bottle. Once the eyes are totally numbed, Molly receives an injection in each eye of triamcinolone, a cortisone designed to reduce inflammation and slow the progressions of the pannus.

Assuming there is no physical defect the next thing to test for is “dry eye.” This test determines if there is a problem in tear production causing the eye to not produce tears. The test for dry eye is simple. The veterinarian inserts the end of a strip of sterile blotting paper between the lower eyelid and the eye. After about thirty seconds, the veterinarian removes the strip and checks the length of the wet portion of the paper. This will show if there is a problem in tear production. If this is the case, the veterinarian might ask you to use artificial tears and hope that the problem will go away in a week or two. If the problem is not “dry eye, at this point it is reasonable to suspect the dog has pannus.

If it's pannus don't panic. Although pannus cannot be cured, it is controllable. The treatment consists of either eye drops or an ointment of a corticosteroid. However, there are some very important steps that need to be taken before putting these drops in the pet's eyes. One of the most critical steps is to check the eyes for active corneal ulcers. If there is an active corneal ulcer it **MUST** be treated first before beginning to treat the pannus. This is because the corticosteroid medication might actually cause blindness if there is an active ulcer.

The test for corneal ulcers is also very simple. The veterinarian will apply a dye onto the eye of the dog, and after a few seconds wash the eye out with saline. Next, in a dark room the veterinarian will shine a light into the eye of the pet. If there are active



corneal ulcers, they will absorb the stain and will be highlighted by the light. If there are no corneal ulcers, then the veterinarian will prescribe some pannus medication. If corneal ulcers are found, they have to be treated with a different medication and must heal completely before any treatment for the pannus can begin.

Pannus medications consist of either eye drops or eye ointment put into the pet's eyes. The medication may be a combination of antibiotics and corticosteroids or just plain corticosteroids. Initially, when our Skipper was diagnosed with pannus, we used a combination antibiotic and corticosteroid called Neoperdif. However, Skipper was allergic to the antibiotic (he developed a pink ring



around the eye) so we switched medications and used only a corticosteroid. The medication Ax-Dex worked very well and soon we had the pannus under control. We have since switched medications to a generic corticosteroid (sodium dexamethasone) which also works very well. If the pannus cannot be controlled by a corticosteroid, there is yet another option available. The drug cyclosporin (an anti-rejection drug which suppresses the immune response) is used. This drug is more expensive than the sodium dexamethasone but is effective in instances where the corticosteroids don't help.

*Well, that wasn't too bad.
May we leave now?*

The most important thing to remember about the application of the medicine is not the *quantity* but the *frequency* of application that will give the best results. For example, suppose your veterinarian tells you to use three drops of the medicine in the eye every day. Rather than putting all three drops in the eye in the morning, spread this out over the day; one drop in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Initially the medicines may have to be applied every day. Once the pannus is controlled the frequency might lessen to a drop every other day or even once every two to three days. It is important, however, to be very conscientious about applying the medication faithfully during the initial treatment. During the early days of Skipper's pannus, we were using the eye drops every day. After we had the pannus under control, we extended it to every other day, and finally we were using the medication just once or twice a week.

What to avoid: Ultraviolet (UV) rays seem to encourage the growth of pannus, so keep the dog out of direct, harsh sunlight whenever possible. This is particularly important when snow covers the ground and the sun reflects off the snow. Monitor the pannus by shining a light in the eyes of the pet to ensure that it is not getting worse. If it does seem to be getting worse, talk to your veterinarian about increasing the dosage.



For More Info on Pannus

The following is by no means an exhaustive list but it's a good start:

The Merck Veterinary Manual, available online at amazon.com. Remember to click through www.adopt-a-Greyhound.org/treats/books-amazon.html so that The Greyhound Project, Inc. can profit from your purchase.

Care of the Racing Greyhound: A Guide for Trainers, available online at amazon.com. You can also purchase it through the National Greyhound Association (NGA) at <http://nga.jc.net/supply.htm> or by telephone at (785) 263-4660.

Sharon Toolan has constructed a wonderful web page on pannus that has much more information. It includes links to various articles written by veterinarians about pannus. View this page at www.geocities.com/heartland/hills/2620/pannuspannus.html.

Pannus is most common among German Shepherds and not common in Greyhounds. [According to veterinary ophthalmologist Dr. Charles Stuhr of Animal Eye Clinic, Wilton, Conn., racing Greyhounds are now rated the second most likely breed to develop pannus. German Shepherds remain at the top of the list.—Ed.] However, if you suspect pannus in your Greyhound, draw your veterinarian's attention to it since he would not expect to find it in one. While we are dependant on our veterinarians for the medical needs of our pets, we as owners must be aware of the daily routine and condition of our pets and any deviation from these should be looked at carefully. With regular care there is no reason why your hound won't be able to spot that rabbit from half a mile away. ■

Born in India, Praveen came to the U.S. in 1981 as a student. Now a software engineer working at Stratus Computer Inc., he lives in Southboro, Mass., with his wife Karen. Their three Greyhounds, Annie, Daisy, and Rufus, were all adopted through Greyhound Friends Inc., Hopkinton, Massachusetts. Also in the Mutalick household are two Italian Greyhounds, Buddy and Lily, three parrots, four canaries, and more than 30 assorted finches. Praveen's hobbies include gardening, photography, amateur astronomy, and scuba diving. He says "The dogs are not a hobby; rather they are a love." Skipper has passed on but lived a long, happy life with the Mutalicks.

Emily Fontanella of Kensington, Connecticut adopted Molly July 1997.

Laryngeal Paralysis Diagnosis

When I adopted the big, white and black, six-year-old Greyhound named Moo (MoolaMania) in March of 1997, I received more information about him than many adopters get. He was born and raced within 20 miles of my home and had been a long-time favorite pet at the adoption kennel. Moo's history included some minor medical concerns, like hypothyroidism, for which he was medicated. He'd also had a number of infrequent seizures over the years, which required attention but no treatment. I was also told Moo couldn't tolerate the heat. Judged too big to be fast on the shorter local tracks, his trainers hoped to send him to Florida to compete in longer races. Moo's heat intolerance kept him in the moderate weather of Wisconsin and led to an early retirement.

I took Moo home in March, which was still winter in the Midwest and my energy-saving household temperature of 65 degrees kept him comfortable. He settled in easily with my other Greyhound, Penguin, and had no real adjustment problems. As the weather warmed up, I started to notice his heat intolerance. He seemed to pant excessively after moderate exercise. Walks around the neighborhood left him breathing hard long after Penguin had recovered. At first I attributed his symptoms to his large size (85 lbs.) and being out of shape, but as the spring and summer wore on and we continued to walk daily, he didn't seem to get any better. During this time his seizures were more frequent and with his vet's approval, I started him on a low dose of phenobarbital. We were also working to get his thyroid supplement dose right.



Story/photos
by Katie Traxel

None of these problems alone was especially alarming, but I had lost a young Greyhound unexpectedly to cancer six months earlier, and I was having a hard time dealing with Moo's seemingly unending symptoms. Once we got the seizures and thyroid level stabilized, I was sure the breathing difficulty was a sign of lung cancer or serious heart disease. In August of 1997 I took Moo to a veterinary cardiologist for consultation.

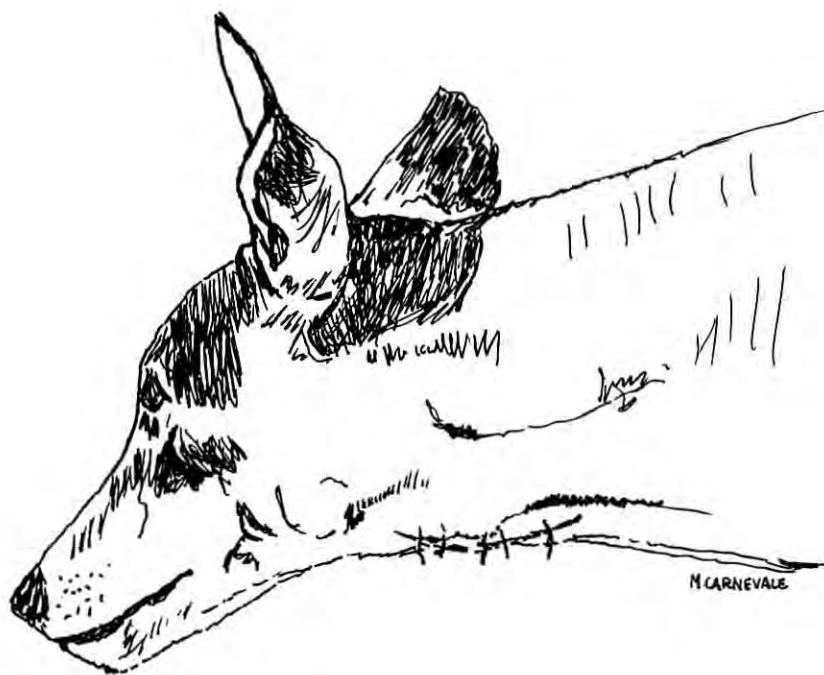
The cardiologist performed a sonogram on his heart and took a complete set of chest x-rays and concluded that, aside from a very slight murmur, Moo's heart and lungs were fine. Greatly relieved I chalked his symptoms up to just being characteristic of him. I let Moo set his own exercise agenda aside from daily walks, which he tolerated fairly well. We didn't walk in very warm, humid weather, and the rest of the time he played or ran as much as he could. Periodic blood work showed his thyroid levels were good and stable. I gradually lowered his phenobarbital levels to a minimum and he remained seizure-free. I was feeling pretty good about Moo's health and was reassured by the fact that his dam (mother) was still alive at 14 years of age.

In the spring of 1999, Moo was eight-and-a-half-years old—past the point when some people consider Greyhounds old. All of a sudden, his heat intolerance seemed markedly worse. Going outside briefly left him panting. Short walks in moderate weather left him panting for 45 minutes after Penguin had recovered. The household air conditioning was set at 68 degrees, and he still spent much of his time fully stretched out, breathing hard. Again, I was very concerned. I wasn't sure whether to try to walk him back into shape or let him just lay around. We repeated all the blood work and found that his values were normal, including thyroid level. Urinalysis was normal. I was concerned his heart murmur had worsened, so we returned to the cardiologist in July. The cardiologist repeated all the tests of two years ago and assured me that "whatever is wrong with Moo, it's not his heart or his lungs."

I wasn't sure if I felt better or not at this point. I was almost sure something was wrong with my dog, but we couldn't figure out what it was. Even Moo's vet, Dr. Rebecca McCracken, one of the most experienced Greyhound veterinarians in the country, was stymied. No one was discounting his symptoms, but no one was sure how concerned I should be, including me. I was telling my tale of woe to some Greyhound friends via e-mail when one of them suggested that Moo's symptoms seemed similar to an adoption dog they knew. That dog had been diagnosed with laryngeal paralysis!

I had never heard of laryngeal paralysis, so I made a beeline to the veterinary textbooks and Dr. Becky. She was familiar with the condition in horses but had seen it only once in dogs. We did some research and made some calls. Another Greyhound e-mail friend mentioned there was a "canine laryngeal paralysis" e-mail list [To subscribe, go to www.onelist.com

Moo (left) fully recovered 10 weeks after the operation. Moo (below) just after surgery.



www.onelist.com and subscribe to LP@onelist.com] and home page [www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/8335/index.html]. I subscribed immediately and consulted the experienced folks there. I found several web sites that were helpful, especially one published by The Southern California Surgical Group [<http://petsurgery.com/laryngealparalysis.htm>] that included a diagram. The symptoms fit. It looked like we had a probable diagnosis!

Laryngeal paralysis involves the larynx which is the voice box located in the neck. It consists of muscles that move cartilage, which opens and closes to produce sound (voice) and prevents food and water from going down into the lungs rather than the stomach. In a normal dog, the cartilage can open and close with every breath, and close with every swallow. When the dog has laryngeal paralysis, the larynx does not open fully when the dog breathes or close fully when the dog swallows. The condition is progressive, getting worse over time as the openings get narrower. There are a number of different possible causes including heredity, injury, or congenital defect. It can occur in any breed, but older dogs of larger breeds seem more prone to the condition.

The symptoms can vary. Some dog owners report the first symptom they noticed was a change in the sound of the dog's bark. I've never heard Moo bark. Other symptoms can include noisy breathing or asthmatic-like wheezing. According to one textbook, a mildly affected dog may fatigue easily and breathe noisily with exertion during racing, heavy work or overheating. Voice changes (e.g., hoarseness) may be present but are often not noted. Affected dogs can often cry and howl normally. Severely affected animals exhibit stridor (noisy inhalation), cyanosis (insufficient oxygen in the blood evidenced by bluish tinge to gums), and dyspnea (difficulty breathing) with mild exertion or excitement. Gagging, regurgitation, and collapse may also occur. Signs are often first noted or become worse in hot weather. [*Current Veterinary Therapy IX, Small Animal Practice*, ed. Robert W. Kirk, W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, PA, 1986, ISBN 0-7216-1500-7, p. 789]

All this sure sounded like my dog, and the stories of other subscribers to the e-mail list were frightening. As the disease progressed undiagnosed, dogs would collapse from a lack of oxygen. Some owners thought their dogs were having seizures, but in reality it was their desperate attempt to get enough air. I watched Moo's ever-increasing struggle to breathe normally and decided, along with his vet, that we had to pursue this diagnosis or at least rule it out.

To diagnosis laryngeal paralysis, the dog is sedated just enough to allow him to relax. He's propped on his chest and his mouth opened and the larynx can be seen, usually with the help of an instrument called a laryngoscope. The cartilage of the larynx is observed to see if it opens and closes naturally. Moo's vet and I sedated him one evening and took a look. It was obvious his larynx was paralyzed.

We had a diagnosis; the next step was treatment. The treatment is surgery to recreate the opening so the dog can breathe. The most common surgery is arytenoid lateralization or laryngeal tieback. The cartilage is tied to



M CARNEVALE

one side, increasing the size of the opening. Dr. Becky referred us to the University of Wisconsin's Veterinary Teaching Hospital where Moo was seen by one of the soft-tissue surgery professors. Dr. McAnulty confirmed the diagnosis and kept him for surgery the following day. He warned me of possible side effects, including aspiration pneumonia, coughing, and difficulty eating for some time after surgery. He also advised me there was nothing I could have done to prevent this condition and even if we had diagnosed it sooner, we probably would have waited until about this point to do surgery. Sometimes the condition can be controlled for a while by keeping the dog quiet, but eventually surgery is necessary. Dr. McAnulty also warned me that to protect Moo's larynx after surgery, he would never be able to wear a collar again, only a harness. He would also have to have his food and water bowl elevated and be watched carefully as he learned to eat and drink again.

Moo had the tieback surgery Friday morning and came home Saturday afternoon. He had a long incision in his neck and was feeling pretty sorry for himself, but the difference in his breathing was amazing. For the first time in years, he lay quietly and breathed normally. He could even breathe

with his mouth closed, the first time I had ever seen him do that.

It took a couple of weeks for him to learn to eat and drink without coughing and gagging. He still sometimes sounds like a very old man clearing his throat first thing in the morning, and he's had one mild bout of aspiration pneumonia that was easily treated with antibiotics. His incision healed without incident and all the hair has grown back.

As I'm writing this,

Moo is 10 weeks post-op. The change in his breathing and attitude is amazing. He has energy and pep again. After three weeks of restricted exercise following surgery, he is taking walks again and building up his stamina. He plays and throws toys around. The most amazing change: he now gets cold! He seeks out warm places and will even sleep under the covers—this from a dog who was never cool enough before. Not all dogs have such an uneventful surgery or recovery and the experience of the surgeon and condition of the dog can certainly affect the outcome. Without the surgery, however, the outcome would have been tragic.

I consider both Moo and me fortunate to have been steered in the right direction toward finding a diagnosis. We are also fortunate in having an open-minded veterinarian in Dr. McCracken and a skilled surgeon in Dr. McAnulty. I'm looking forward to Moo living at least as long as his mother, who died peacefully last year at 15 years of age. ■

Katie Traxel is a volunteer and adoption representative with Greyhound Pets of America/Wisconsin and lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin with her Greyhounds Moo and Penguin and a cat named Jane Byrne. To support the animals, she is a Training Coordinator for the Department of Comparative Medicine at a major pharmaceutical company.

Anyone who has had pets for any period of time knows how hard it can be to make decisions when it comes to their health care. Sometimes the more information you find out about a pet's condition, the more confusing it is. You find veterinarians can have differing opinions about diseases and treatments. So what's an owner to do?

If you have a specific disease or condition you are trying to learn more about, one thing you can do is go to a seminar given by someone who is considered an expert in that area. So that's what this Greyhound owner did. There has been much controversy over the last few years about hypothyroidism in Greyhounds. Concerns and questions include the seriousness and number of occurrences of it; should every Greyhound have its thyroid levels tested, and if so, when and how much should we supplement if necessary?

To try to get to the bottom of this issue, I attended a seminar on November 6 and 7, sponsored by the Yorkville (Illinois) Kennel Club, featuring Dr. W. Jean Dodds, director of HEMOPET animal blood bank in Irvine, California. Dr. Dodds has done extensive research into the problem of hypothyroidism in dogs and has developed some theories about its occurrence.

I was surprised to learn that, in most cases, hypothyroidism is caused by the dog's own body attacking the thyroid gland, thereby destroying the tissue so it no longer functions. Dr. Dodds estimates that 80 percent of hypothyroidism results from this process known as autoimmune thyroiditis. She also believes dogs must be genetically susceptible to autoimmune problems in order to develop them. There are triggers that can start the autoimmune disease process—such as exposure to viruses, sex hormones, stress, environmental pollutants, chemicals, and some drugs.

Thoughts on Hypothyroidism

By Nancy Beach



LIZ BERTUCH

How can we reduce the load on their immune systems so they have the best chance possible to stay healthy?

Dr. Dodds' advice to breeders was to try not to breed individuals with suspected autoimmune problems. She stated that some day we may have tests for genetic markers that indicate susceptibility to autoimmune disease, but in the meantime, it is up to breeders to be cautious. For our current pets, she made the following suggestions:

- Feed whole, natural foods when possible, or a high-quality kibble that uses Vitamins C and/or E as preservative agents instead of chemicals like ethoxyquin, BHA or BHT.
- Foods with the least amount of chemicals in them are best.

Lantana and Dakota seem quite relaxed. Neither hound shows classic signs of "bald butt," but the dog in the lower part of the photo shows a thinner coat on the belly. Hair amounts in Greyhounds are variable and appear different on many parts of the body.

- Reduce the frequency of vaccinations if you have an animal you believe may be susceptible to autoimmune disorders. Vaccines obviously stimulate the immune system, and it may not be necessary to vaccinate older dogs as frequently as most of us have been told. Dr. Dodds recommends



MARCIA HERMAN

Luna was totally bald in this picture taken before beginning her thyroid replacement therapy. In time, the medication worked for her. She is not fully filled in, but now does have more hair.

Kira shows a tiny amount of hair thinning, but it appears as a dark area on her thigh.

that after one year of age, a dog be given the distemper/hepatitis/parainfluenza/killed or modified-live parvovirus booster every three years until old age. After the age of 10, boosters are generally not needed and might be inadvisable if obvious aging or disease is present. If your dog is at high risk of exposure to parvovirus, boosters of this vaccine alone, either killed or modified-live virus, may be needed. She also uses only the killed-virus three-year rabies vaccine for adult dogs and gives it separated by at least two weeks—preferably three to four weeks—from any other. Rabies vaccines, however, are regulated by state law.

- Do not give bordatella, corona virus, leptospirosis, or Lyme vaccine unless those diseases are endemic to the dog's geographic area or kennel. She noted the leptospirosis vaccine being used today is obsolete and ineffective against most strains of leptospirosis occurring today, so there is no point in giving it. (A new vaccine is in the process of being developed). In a handout on vaccine protocols, Dr. Dodds states the frequency and selection of vaccines is a matter of professional judgement and veterinarians vary in their recommendations. Dog owners should discuss the advisability of giving these vaccines with their own veterinarians.

- Reduce exposure to environmental toxins.
- Give drugs only when necessary.



PATRICIA GAIL BURNHAM

The seminar I attended was for all dog lovers, and thus only covered the situation of sighthound hypothyroidism very briefly. At her HEMOPET facility, Dr. Dodds keeps 150 retired racing Greyhounds to be used as blood donors for her blood bank. Naturally their blood has been very thoroughly tested to make sure they are suit-

able donors. They are only kept for about a year, then adopted by families. Hundreds of sighthounds have been tested there. Dr. Dodds' concludes the thyroid levels of healthy sighthounds are typically in the lower end of the normal reference ranges for dogs and may even be slightly below the low end of the reference range.

Katie has a tiny bit of hair thinning on her thigh.



ANDREA MARTEL

The reason for this is genetic selection. Fast, slender hounds don't require high levels of thyroid hormone—they just do not need to produce that much. Therefore, it is important to look at the overall health of the patient, not just rely on the results of a thyroid panel when determining whether a sighthound will benefit from thyroid supplementation. Interestingly, the bald thighs seen on a lot of Greyhounds does not necessarily mean that the dog is hypothyroid. There are a number of hypotheses about why some Greyhounds have bald thighs, but the true reason(s) have yet to be determined. Furthermore, Dr. Dodds recommends sighthounds and geriatric dogs should be dosed at half the typical rate (.1 mg per 20 pounds of body weight twice a day instead of the usual .1 mg per 10 pounds) if they are to receive thyroid supplementation.

I came away from this seminar with a pretty good feeling about my Greyhounds and the knowledge that hypothyroidism is not as prevalent a problem as I feared. I feel more confident about what I should do if one of my dogs develops a problem in the future. I also made the decision that once any new dogs I get are settled in and appear to be in optimum health, I will have my vet do a baseline thyroid panel. That way, if we are considering hypothyroidism as a problem sometime in the future, we will have something to compare a new thyroid panel to and can look for changes.

Going to a seminar can enlighten you tremendously about health concerns you may have for your dog. Kennel clubs, universities vet schools, and even some SPCAs offer educational programs for dog lovers. They are usually reasonably priced, and going to one may help you feel a lot more confident about caring for your pet. ■

Nancy Beach is a regular contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.



About HEMOPET

Many Greyhound owners know Dr. W. Jean Dodds' name as she is the founder and director of HEMOPET, a non-profit blood bank and laboratory in Irvine, California. HEMOPET keeps 150 ex-racing Greyhounds at the facility to use as blood donors.

After being extensively tested to assure its suitability as a blood donor, a dog is admitted to the closed colony at HEMOPET (the dogs are not allowed exposure to others outside the colony in order to protect them from contracting blood-borne diseases). The dogs typically live two to an enclosure and can see the other dogs in the colony through the chain link sides.

Each dog gives a pediatric unit (250 milliliters) of blood every two to three weeks. The blood is drawn from the jugular vein in a three to four minute procedure during which the dog has been trained to sit quietly; no sedatives are used. Once finished, the dog is praised and given a snack. The dogs donate blood for about a year and are then adopted out. Male hounds are available through HEMOPET for a donation of \$175, and females are available for \$200.

The hounds are also therapy dogs. Every three weeks mentally and physically handicapped individuals are brought in from the surrounding county to walk, pet, and bond with the dogs. There are other volunteers who come on a regular basis. Visits from others who wish to tour the facility are also welcome. For more information, call (949) 252-8455.

HEMOPET also serves as a testing facility. Thyroid panels, tests for Von Willebrand's disease, and vaccine titers for distemper and parvovirus can be performed there. Dr. Dodds herself will provide interpretation of the thyroid panels to help guide your veterinarian in treatment if necessary. Instructions on how to prepare a blood sample for a thyroid panel are available from HEMOPET at the above number.

Dr. Dodds says she hopes to move the HEMOPET facility to a larger location and expand her colony of Greyhounds from 150 to 300. HEMOPET is continually sold out of the blood products they produce, so it is clear there is a need for greater capacity. Thanks to the existence of HEMOPET and the donations of the hounds, the lives of many pets in need of blood have been saved.

Healing Pause a.k.a. Heeling Paws

Gabby and Butch mingle with members of the audience as Karen performs throaty tunes on her clarinet. Moving from person to person, Gabby stops to say hello, shake a hand, and offer some love. Butch prefers to find one special friend, introduce himself with a subtle nudge, and settle down beside him.

Sound a bit compromising? Maybe a little like a scene in a singles bar? It's actually taking place in a nursing home in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The clarinet player is Karen Johnson, a former police officer who volunteers her time playing for the residents. Gabby and Butch are her adopted Greyhounds. Together they are providing "Clarinet therapy."

"I love music and music should be shared," says Johnson. "And I have these beautiful dogs and they should be shared, too."

Beau, one of Johnson's first Greyhounds, responded to music in a way that inspired her to combine her passion for both music and dogs into a rewarding volunteer effort.

"Beau would actually dance. He would drop to the floor and roll around while I played. He was really moved by the music," she explained. Beau, hailing from a background of abuse, was initially withdrawn, but music drew out a side of him that was dramatically enhanced whenever she played. He especially loved the song "Misty."

Beau and Gabby began accompanying Karen to the SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation Center in Portsmouth about two years ago. The reception was overwhelming, and as their popularity grew, so did interaction between the residents and their Greyhound companions. "The dogs have the greatest relationships with the patients," says Cory Gray, Director of Recreation at SunBridge. "Especially Gabby."



Story/photo by
Kimberly Ripley

The guys, as Karen refers to her Greyhounds, assume the role of stereotypical married couples. The males, Beau and his predecessor Butch, took on the character of the passive husband, while the female, Gabby, would perform her social responsibilities, and circulate the room. Gabby would actively seek ladies or gentlemen in need of her healing touch.

Though Karen's dogs aren't certified, there is a process through which dogs train to receive certification. One such program that both trains and utilizes certified therapy dogs is Cheney Troupe. Located in Chicago, Cheney Troupe is a non-profit organization that provides therapy dogs for volunteer efforts in hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare facilities. The training ensures the dogs are capable of handling

contact with wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and other signs of disabilities that can sometimes be intimidating to animals. Scored on a pass/fail basis, dogs who fail generally show agitation or aggression when facing these situations. Incorporated in 1991, Cheney Troupe was co-founded by Ann Rohlen and Cathy Lawler. The group is presently comprised of 150 volunteers. One hundred of them are people; 50 are dogs.

Cheney Troupe Executive Director Amy Hardwicke states, "The dogs love their work. They know when they are going to one of the facilities. One minute they're lying in a back seat, and as soon as they approach the building they wag their tails and can't wait to be let out."

Many dogs from mixed breeds to AKC-registered breeds are used at Cheney Troupe. For now the most common breeds are Labs and Golden Retrievers. Although Greyhounds are not currently involved in Cheney Troupe, it's only a matter of time before one is brought in for training. Hardwicke acknowledges Greyhounds have an uncanny ability to relate to people.

Karen Johnson reflects, "They can sense that some of these people are needy." Volunteerism has and always will be a noble cause. Inviting dogs into the realm of volunteering has multiple merits. The dogs' gentle mannerisms prove advantageous to the sick, elderly, and physically or mentally challenged, and also a reciprocal form of giving takes place. The dogs benefit as well. In the case of formerly abused Greyhounds like Gabby and Butch, they not only gained a good home through adoption, but have been rewarded with the unique opportunity to become integral members of society... and pioneers in the fine healing art of "Clarinet therapy." ■

For more info contact: Cheney Troupe Executive Director Amy Hardwicke (312) 280-0266; Karen Johnson (603) 436-8742; SunBridge Recreation Director Cory Gray (603) 431-2530.

Kimberly Ripley is a freelance writer who lives in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. A wife and mother of five children, she enjoys traveling as well as writing.

In 1914, Swedish immigrant Carl Eric Wickman began using his seven-seat Hupmobile to transport miners between their homes in Alice, Minnesota and the open pit iron mine in Hibbing, two miles down the road. He charged 15 cents one-way or 25 cents for a round-trip ride. The miners gladly paid—if they didn't want to walk. The only other option was a horse, which cost over a dollar. In 1921, Wickman acquired several new buses that were referred to as "Greyhounds" because of their sleek design and gray color. In 1930 the company officially became The Greyhound Corporation, and the "running dog" became the company's trademark.

At the new 11,000-square-foot Greyhound Bus Origin Center in Hibbing, the 85-year history of Greyhound Bus Lines is told through audio-visual presentations, pictorial displays, an extensive collection of artifacts and memorabilia, and a fleet of restored buses.

I discovered the Greyhound Bus Origin Center last summer on a Memorial Day weekend road trip. After a long day of hiking in northeastern Minnesota, the hounds and I drove through Hibbing, Minn. on our way back to St. Paul. Naturally, the street signs for Greyhound Boulevard—featuring silhouettes of a running Greyhound—caught my eye. We followed the signs past Bennett Park and came upon a construction site with a sign announcing the Center's upcoming grand opening celebration. The next day, I contacted the Center's director, Gene Nicoletti, to see if he would be interested in having live Greyhounds attend the festivities. He gave an enthusiastic "YES," so the visiting dignitaries, veteran Greyhound bus drivers, transportation enthusiasts, and Hibbing boosters attending the July 10 Grand Opening Celebration met some very special four-legged guests.

Fleets of Greyhounds at the Greyhound Bus Origin Center



Text/photos by Cindy Hanson

The grand opening festivities included a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the Center, a parade through downtown Hibbing, and a banquet at the VFW Hall. The hounds made quite an impression; they spent much of the day posing for the cameras and being hugged and petted by all. Several of the older guests recalled Greyhound Bus Lines' late 1950s and 60s-era mascot, Lady Greyhound, who served as the bus line's mascot for almost a decade. They wondered if the hounds present at the celebration might be her descendants. In fact, the hounds were so busy providing "photo opportunities" that the museum closed before we could get inside!

The ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Robbie takes a break inside the museum.

One of the celebrants takes her turn at a photo opportunity with the hounds.

We returned the next day to take the tour ourselves and see what all the excitement was about. The all-volunteer Center staff was very welcoming to the hounds and graciously invited us into the museum. The museum traces the history of Greyhound Bus Lines from its origins to the present. The emphasis, however, is on the 1930s era, when bus riding was considered most exciting and glamorous. When we entered the Center lobby, the first thing we saw was a 1930s ticket window. A short walk down a hall hung with photographs brought us to the museum's restored 1914 Hupmobile. Surrounding the display are glass cases filled with model buses, tickets, photographs, vintage bus driver uniforms, artifacts and other memorabilia, and interpretive signs that tell the story of Greyhound Bus Lines.

After viewing a short video presentation called "The Greyhound Story," we perused the display devoted to Lady Greyhound and her role as "famous living symbol" of Greyhound Bus Lines. We then entered a large garage filled with restored buses and a display depicting World War II-era departures and arrivals. The museum's buses include a 1927 White Bus, a 1936 Super Coach, a 1948 Silversides, a 1950 Cruiser (currently under restoration), and a 1956 Scenicruiser, in addition to the Hupmobile. Upon exiting the garage, we found ourselves back in the



lobby, where a driver's hat and mock bus driver's seat invited us to create our own photo opportunity.

The Center has a swell little gift shop with lots of Greyhound-related merchandise. If you happen to be traveling through Minnesota, the museum is certainly worth a stop.

The Center is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under. (Hounds are free; ask nicely and the staff will probably let you bring yours in with you.) The Center is open mid-May through September, and open by request for special groups during the off-season. For more information, call the Center at (218) 263-5814. ■

Cindy Hanson lives in St. Paul with her Greyhounds, Herman and Hattie. When they're not sharing the couch, they're out exploring the back roads of Minnesota, looking for offbeat tourist attractions and new places to camp and hike.



*All aboard!
The hounds check out
the 1936 Super Coach.*

*Herman contemplates
a new career.*

Shaker Shelf and Leash Holder

Can't find that leash? Tired of untangling those matted piles of leashes? Just need a place for your hound's things? Then this shelf and leash holder is for you.

We give instructions for a three-peg leash holder but you can easily alter the dimensions to accommodate the number of pegs desired.

Materials Needed for a Shaker Shelf and Leash Holder

Note: Dimensions may need to be adjusted depending on size of shelf desired.

- One 6" x 3/4" x 24" shelf
- One 10" x 3/4" x 24" back piece
- Three 3" shaker pegs



Step 1: Form the Shelf

Cut shelf stock to final dimensions listed above. Sand smooth with medium grit. You can get fancy here if you desire. Try routing a decorative edge on the shelf. Be sure to leave the edge that attaches to the back piece square.

Step 2: Form the Back Piece

Cut the back piece stock to final dimensions listed above. Sand smooth with medium grit. You can also get fancy here if you desire. Try routing a decorative edge on all four edges of the back piece. If you will be using a router to cut the dado in the next step, however, wait until after that operation before routing the edges. If you will be using a table saw with a dado blade, rout the edges first to help minimize tearout.

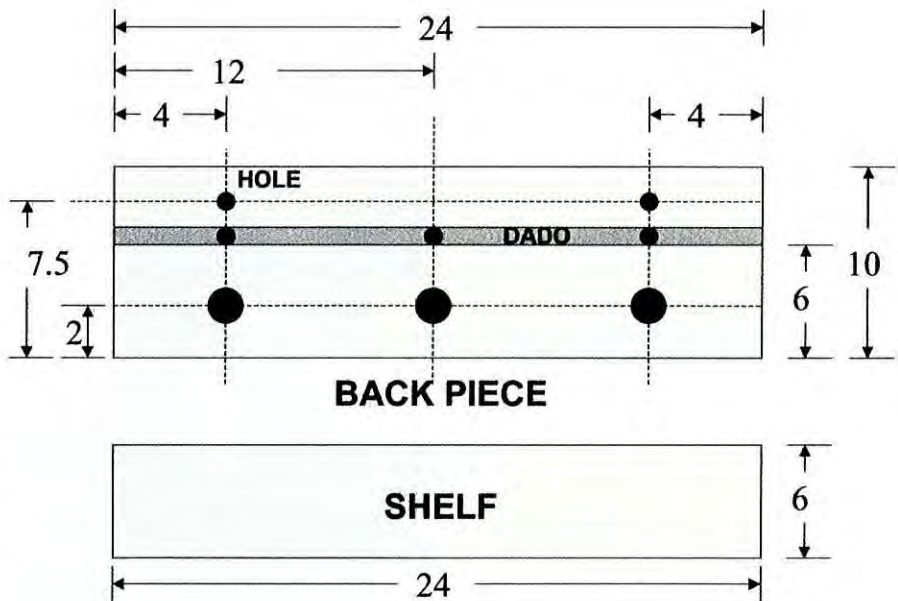
Step 3: Milling Operation

Lay out the location of the dado on the back piece. Place slightly above the middle of the back piece. It should be 3/8" deep by 3/4" wide and run the entire length of the back piece. Use a router or table saw to mill the dado.

Step 4: Drill All Holes

Lay out the two mounting screw holes. Note they are 16 inches apart to align with standard wall studs. The location can vary depending on your mounting location. Drill the two holes using a drill bit equal to the diameter of the screws.

Lay out the three shelf mounting holes. Mark the holes inside the dado. This will ensure the holes are centered in the dado. Drill the three holes using a drill bit equal to the diameter of the screws.



Lay out the three peg-mounting holes. Drill the three holes using a drill bit equal to the mounting diameter of the pegs. Dry fit the parts to ensure a good fit.

Step 5: Finish the Parts

It is easier to finish the back piece and shelf prior to assembly. Sand the pieces lightly with fine grit sandpaper. Apply stain or paint as desired. Apply three coats of polyurethane, letting each coat dry and sanding lightly with 220 grit sandpaper between each coat.

Hint: Drill holes in a scrap piece of wood to hold the pegs upright while applying the finish.

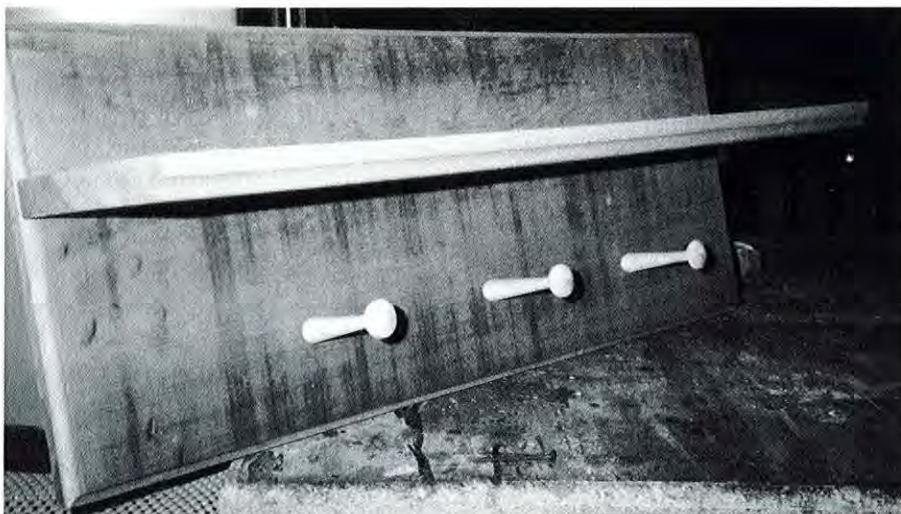
Step 6: Assemble the Shelf

Fit the square shelf edge into the dado. Attach the shelf using screws from the back through the holes you drilled in Step 4.

Apply glue to the pegs and insert them into the holes.

Place the shelf/leash holder on the wall. Use two screws to mount to the wall.

Why not make an extra shelf/leash holder and donate it to your local Greyhound adoption group? You'll feel great about it and they will make good use of it. ■



Greyhound Manor Crafts, P.O. Box 206, New Berlinville, PA 19545; (610) 367-9551; www.greyhoundmanor.com; bark@greyhoundmanor.com.

Morris Animal Foundation Update

The numbers are totaled! Between March 1, 1999 through the end of February 2000, The Greyhound Project's \$3,500 matching fund pledge to Morris Animal Foundation and its Canine Cancer Studies turned into over \$17,000. Congratulations and thank you to everyone!

We are already into our next year of fundraising. We've renewed our pledge to match your donations up to a total of \$3,500, but we are counting on you to do your part as well.

You know from our articles that cancer is the leading disease-related cause of death among dogs. However, there is good news. Promising developments in chemotherapy, gene therapy, and vaccines are being made every day. Morris Animal Foundation is currently conducting 21 humane health studies on canine cancer, including four new studies this year. The Greyhound Project is a co-sponsor of one of them. It is a two-year study of a new form of intravenous gene therapy to deliver the canine endostatin gene to tumor blood vessels in dogs with existing soft tissue sarcoma. The hope is this therapy will successfully inhibit tumor growth.

So, if you haven't donated before, do it now. If you have donated before, do it again. Donate in memory of a dog you've lost or because you love the dog you have. Then hound everyone you know who has a hound, Grey or otherwise, to donate as well. It's easy. It's tax deductible. Just send a check to Morris Animal Foundation, Canine Cancer - The Greyhound Project Account, 45 Inverness Drive East, Englewood CO 80112.



Jordan Mebane accepting her first award from DWAA President and noted author Mordecai Siegal.

pose of collecting this data is to determine if certain breeding lines tend to produce a large number of dogs with osteosarcoma.

Young CGWriter Jordan Mebane Wins Dog Writers' Awards!

The results are in. Jordan Mebane was the darling at the Dog Writers' Association of America's (DWAA) annual awards banquet on February 13, 2000 at the Southgate Hotel in New York City. Her article "From the Mebane Couch" (*CG*, Summer 1999) won top accolades in two categories—the Editorial/Opinion Piece/Essay category and the DWAA Junior Writer Award category. So, thirteen-year-old Jordan walked away with two top awards, two Maxwell medals around her neck, plus a nice check awarded to best young writer under the age of 18.

What's so unusual about that? A great deal. The category Jordan entered was not for young writers. She competed in an adult category against an unknown number of adult entrants who appeared to be delighted she received the awards.

Her article described her family of eleven. Her parents Bob and Candy Mebane currently have six sons (four adopted) and three adopted daughters, including Jordan. The household has many animals including five Greyhounds. Like most of her siblings, Jordan's special Greyhound, Blue, was thought to be a special needs Greyhound. Luckily, the veterinarians discovered he had a severe ear infection that was treated and cured.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine was also nominated as a finalist in the Single Breed Category. The magazine received a certificate of recognition for excellence in its category. The Greyhound Project congratulates and thanks all who made *CG's* recognition possible. ■

Greyhound Health Study

Renewed Life for Greyhounds, Inc. has received a grant from the Gannett Foundation to study the health of all Greyhounds and the incidence of various diseases, such as osteosarcoma. The questionnaire is to be filled out for all Greyhounds, deceased or living, healthy or diseased, NGA or AKC.

RLfG has the survey on-line at our web site www.renewedlife.org, where it may be filled out on-line, or printed out and returned to RLfG, 185 Panther Drive, Holland, MI 49424. The questionnaire may be distributed to friends, included with newsletters, passed out at reunions, and the like. Please pass this information on to all Greyhound contacts and take a few minutes to fill the survey out for your own Greyhounds.

Osteosarcoma Dog Death Research

If your dog died of osteosarcoma, please contact Laurel Drew at elaur@twrol.com or 1905 Gun Club Rd. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105-6408. Please list the registered name of your dog and/or ear tattoos, sire and dam if known, date of death and age at death if known. This information will assemble a pedigree database research project. The pur-



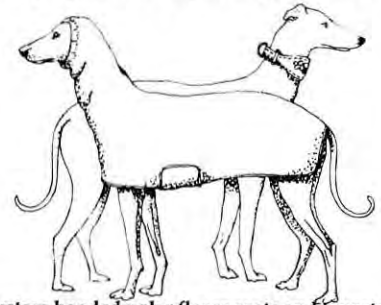
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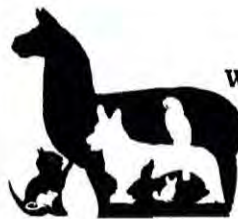
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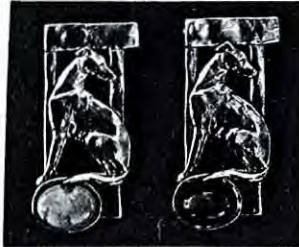
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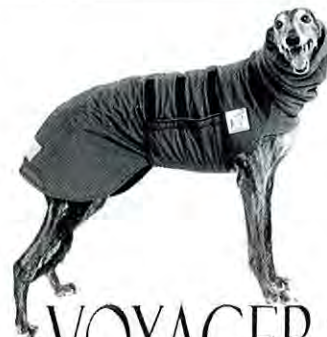
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June through December

Coursing practice the 1st Sunday of the month

Lehigh Valley Coursing Club
Lehigh Valley area, Eastern Pennsylvania
Contact Rita Linck: 610-770-1582;
LinckR@dnb.com.

Saturday, June 3 through Sunday, June 4

2000 ASFA International Invitational

Black Forest Coursing Park
Vollmer Road & Tahita Road, Colorado Springs, CO
The American Sighthound Field Association's
23rd Annual International Invitational All Breed
ASFA Lure Trial. Consult the Premium:
www.asfa.org; Colorado Lure Coursing Association:
www.xylem-web.com/clca.

Saturday, June 3rd (rain or shine)

Doggone Walkathon 6

WAG—We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.
Cheshire Canal Bike Path, Lock 12 Park
Cheshire, Connecticut; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fundraising walk and picnic. Contact Terry
Smith: 203-577-2048; tws0815@aol.com.

Saturday, June 3

Millenium Homecoming Reunion

Personalized Greyhounds, Inc.
Pinchot State Park, Lewisberry, PA
(Harrisburg area). 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Gilley Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team
will appear at our 5th Reunion covered-dish lunch-
eon. Vendors, Chinese auction, nail clipping, and
numerous contests. Contact Cheryl Kovaly:
cherylkovaly@yahoo.net; www.pGreys.org/events.

Saturday, June 3 (rain date Sunday, June 4)

Open House and Greyhound Reunion

Greyhound Rescue of New England, Inc.
200 Providence Road, Mendon, MA
Noon to 4 p.m.
Greyhound items for sale, food, and lots of
Greyhound chatter. Contact Michelle Chiasson:
508-478-1617; adopt@Greyhoundrescuene.org.

Saturday, June 3

2000 Greyhound Festival

Greyhound Pets of America/Minnesota
Spooner Park, Little Canada, MN
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Food, vendors galore, contests, raffles, playing,
and a ton of fun is what you will find at Minnesota's
largest Greyhound gathering; please come join in!
Contact Robin Krautbauer at 763-785-4000, x6;
ghsma@uswest.net.

Friday, June 16 through June 18

Greyhound America Gathering

Abilene, Kansas
Sponsored by Race the Wind Greyhound Adop-
tion. The Gilley Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team,
live auction, silent auction, raffle, and a tour of the
NGA. Other events include a Friday night get-
together at the bowling alley, a Saturday morning
schooling races, a tour of Strickland Sires, a Sunday
morning breakfast with the Greyhounds at the Hall
of Fame, and more. Visit [www.access-one.com/
rescott/agg2000.htm](http://www.access-one.com/rescott/agg2000.htm). To RSVP, contact Paula Scott
(paulaspups@access-one.com) with your arrival
date and number of people and hounds in your party.

Saturday, June 17

Summer Blast 3—A Bark In The Park!

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption
Legion Park, Hollidaysburg, PA; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Games, Greyhound wares, food, vendors, lots
of fun for hounds and their humans! Contact Rich
Stoehr: 814-695-3607; rrs110@aol.com.

Friday, June 23 through Sunday, June 25

3rd Annual Great Lakes

Greyhound Gathering
St Joseph/Benton Harbor, Michigan
Friends, food, and fun abound. Many vendors,
games, auction, and raffle with great Greyhound
goodies. Proceeds go to the Morris Foundation
Canine Cancer Fund. Contact Connie Cassidy:
616-429-6598; ccdancer@cybersol.com.

Tuesday, July 4

Elmwood Park Fouth of July Parade

76th Ct. and Fullerton, Elmwood Park, IL
Starts 8 a.m. Everyone welcome.
Contact Mona Moore: regapofillinois@
yahoo.com.

Saturday, July 15

Greyhounds Are Great

Retired Greyhound Trust, United Kingdom
To celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary, the
Retired Greyhound Trust is planning this national
Greyhound awareness and celebration day and
urging Greyhounds everywhere to "rise from their
cozy beds and take to the streets, helping us to
spread the message that 'Greyhounds are Great.'"
The day will be the climax of a Greyhound spon-
sored walk, which ends at Bellevue Greyhound Sta-
dium near Manchester. Call: 0181 335 3016.

Thursday, July 27

Greyhound Club of America Western Specialty

Ryan Park, Lompoc, California; Starts 8:00 a.m.
Specialty breed dog show including obedi-
ence. Other sighthound breeds will be in atten-
dance. Contact Specialty Show Chairman Mary
Ellen Gorske: 209-524-1388; Kenmar@jps.net.

Saturday, July 29

Fun Day and Fun Dog Show

Priory High School (off Topsham Road)
Exeter, Devon, England; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact Sandy Slater, Dolphin Cottage, Long-
drag Hill, Tiverton EX16 5AQ, Devon, U.K.,
Telephone: 0188 425 4727.

Saturday, July 29

Plainfield Pets/Rainbow's End Annual Reunion

Ann & Gary Whitney's house, Harvey's Lake, PA
12 p.m. to when everything runs out.
Greyhound games and costume contests. Call:
570-822-9815; 570-639-2612;
dake@ptdprolog.net

Friday, September 1 - Monday, September 4

Canadian National Specialty/

The Great Canadian Triathlon
Greyhound Club of Canada
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show for all sighthounds. CGC test, cardiac
screening clinic, frozen semen collection. Contact

Laurie Soutar: 519-458-8429; sirius-supply@
sympatico.ca.

Saturday, September 2

Greyhound Club of America National Specialty

Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY; 8 a.m.
Specialty breed dog show including obedi-
ence. Banquet, seminars, auction. Contact Carla
Hofmann, Assistant Show Chairman 606-987-
0932; Chborzoi@aol.com.

Saturday, September 9

Fourth Annual Woolstock 2000 Pet Walk

Greyhound Friends of North Carolina, Inc.
Greensboro Country Park; 9 a.m. to noon
4301 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC
Any walker who contributes \$25 or more will
receive a goodie bag and event T-shirt. Grand prizes
will be awarded to three participants with the most
contributions. Leashed pets of all breeds are wel-
come. Contact Linda Landry: 336-282-9348; pnf-
tarbaby@aol.com.

Saturday, September 9

Third Annual Picnic

Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption
Lions' Shelter, Central Park, Roseville, MN
Featuring the Gilley Dancing Greyhounds
Drill Team, food, fun, raffle, auction, and Grey-
hound stuff galore. Contact NLGA at 612-754-
9754 or Christine.Canard@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Saturday, September 16

Open House

Animal Haven Clinic
822 E. Main, Farmington, New Mexico
This open house will include demonstrations of
various animal treatments and veterinary techniques
and a meet-and-greet with obedience demonstrations
by A Place For Us Greyhound Adoption. Contact Dr.
Rebecca Raichels or Dr. Susan Moreland: 505-325-
8829; raichels@outerbound.net.

Saturday, September 16

Reunion Picnic

Greyhound Pets of America/Oklahoma
Hunters Park, Tulsa, OK; Noon to 4 p.m.
Contact Cheryl Holmberg: 918-492-8282 or
GPA/OK: 918-712-1775; www.gpaok.com.

Saturday, September 16 (rain date Sunday, 9/17)

WAG's 8th Annual Games & Gathering

WAG (We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.)
Wharton Brook State Park, North Haven, CT
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Games, vendors, good food, lots of dogs, peo-
ple, and fun! Contact Ellie Goldstein: 203-288-
7024; audice@aol.com.

Saturday, September 16

Annual Greyhound Festival

Greyhound Placement Service of New Hampshire
Hillsboro County Fairgrounds, Hillsboro, NH
Events include an obedience demonstration,
many vendors, photo and children's art drawing
contests, and games for families and their Grey-
hounds. Contact Anne Buckley: 603-679-2851;
abuckley@ultranet.com. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Boxcar Josie (Josie) 11/91 - 1/00

Owned and loved by Art and Sharon Stefanski of Chesterton, Indiana. The courageous and dignified Josie lost his battle with osteosarcoma on Jan. 9, 2000. His story appeared in the Fall 1999 issue of *CG*. His battle lasted 37 months from the original diagnosis, even overcoming an amputation in August 1998. Everyone loved him—children, his groomer, numerous veterinarians, folks in the nursing home we frequented, and many dog companions.

Josie's favorite activities were posing for the camera, going on trips to Michigan, savoring a Chinese almond cookie and most importantly, being "Big Brother" to Pilot.



Shannon



Pilot

Josie

J.D. Stone Pilot (Pilot) 12/93 - 2/00

Sadly, Josie's companion Greyhound, Pilot, unexpectedly succumbed to osteosarcoma on Feb 3, 2000 less than a month after Josie passed away, still grief stricken over losing Josie. Pilot initially was shy, scared, and unsure of everything, but in time he gained confidence and became quite a watchdog and protector.

As it was put to the Stefanskis so meaningfully, Josie and Pilot were together in life as buddies, even though it was short lived, and now they are together forever at the Bridge. To view Josie and Pilot's websire please visit <http://community-1.webtv.net/SAS Stefanski/JOSIEandPILOT/index.html>



Danny

Shannon 1984 - 2000

Owned and loved by Kate Bressler of Gladstone, Missouri. Shannon was adopted at age 11 on April 1, 1995 and died six weeks short of age 16.

Shannon was crowned Ms. Greyhound at the 1999 Abilene Greyhound Gathering. She was always very athletic and dearly loved the tunnels in the agility course that was set up during the very first Abilene Gathering. Until just a few weeks before she died, she was still running around her makeshift track in the backyard.

Shannon was pictured in the very first issue of *CG* (Summer 1996). Kate writes that that picture is her favorite and is on her desk at work. She was also pictured with a story called "The Glass is Half Full" in the Winter 1998 issue.

Shannon and her now deceased Greyhound companion Mamie were the inspirations of the online A Breed Apart Senior Forum (Please see "The Best Dog" in this issue for details on this extraordinary pair of Greyhounds and the Forum). Please visit www.abap.org/junkie.htm for more about Shannon and senior Greyhounds.

As one adopter of a senior Greyhound wrote upon learning of Shannon's passing, "It is because of Shannon and Mamie that Duke is here in my home. I would have never considered adopting a nine-year-old dog if it hadn't been for the role model that Shannon and Mamie provided."

Danny (Superave) 11/91 - 11/99

Died on his eighth birthday of nasal carcinoma. Owned and loved by Martha and John Ward of Orland Park, Illinois. Danny was from Bridgewater, MA. He was titled "Ambassadog" by some of the Greyhound rescue groups because of his untiring ability to work the crowds at Meet & Greets and every day of every town festival. Danny loved nursing homes because it meant a chance to crawl in bed with someone. His eyes looked straight into everyone's heart. Conversations were difficult because he understood every word or hints of things to come. Everyone in the neighborhood knew Danny, and it was fun during parades or walks to hear people yelling his name. ■

*Igor at eight is a dapper hound
who is "Puttin' on the Ritz"
during a Halloween contest.
He and his lady companion Taz,
dressed as a Spring bride
in the contest, were both
adopted from Plainfield
Pets/Pennsylvania
by Christine Zongilla.*



Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine

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