

cgmagazine

celebrating greyhounds

Summer 2003

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Assessing Aggression

How to Plan a Reunion

Weekend Athletes

Greyhounds in Lure Coursing and Amateur Racing



Katy, adopted by David and Kathy French of Woodbine, Ga.

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 8; No. 2 Summer 2003

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editorial comments

By Cindy Hanson

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I really wasn't looking to adopt another dog.

It was a slow time at the adoption center. I wasn't expecting any visitors. Gearing up for a long night of playing with dogs and watching television, I checked the adoption coordinator's desk for the list of dogs to bring up from the kennel.

There were some new names on the list. Three of them were high-octane youngsters, meaty and muscled, caroming off the furniture, tossing plush toys in the air, urinating with wild abandon. The fourth was a scrawny blue girl with no bottom front teeth, a greying muzzle, a flaky coat, and one of the barest butts I'd ever seen. While the others ran circles around the adoption center, she quietly curled up in the far corner and laid her head on her paws, watching me. I wondered what she thought of all this commotion, and what brought her here. Obviously she'd been in a home before.

An hour passed, and the other dogs finally settled down to disembowel their toys. Hannah's position remained unchanged. I patted the couch next to me and called her name. She did not move. *Come. Sit. Walk.* None of the words my dogs knew well provoked a response from her. *Bone. Cookie. Biscuit.*

Treat.

Her head jerked up and her ears pointed to the ceiling. She rose to her feet and slowly approached me, chin trembling. The expression on her face was, I imagine, the same that I would have if I was lost in a foreign land and someone greeted me with "Hey, how 'bout those Minnesota Twins?"

I frantically searched the office and found a stash of biscuits in a drawer. You can guess the rest. That was over two years ago. Today, Hannah is stretched out on a cushion at my feet. She will be 10 years old this summer.

Her transition to my household wasn't uneventful, of course. My two other Greyhounds initially had quite a bit to say about her presence. I also worried about how she would do on our frequent summer and fall hiking trips. Following a narrow trail with two dogs on lead is challenging, but doable; one dog walks ahead, and the other drops behind. How would it be with three? Turns out I needn't have worried; there's plenty of room on the trail for a skinny old girl, right beside her new human companion. In fact, I think that first season of hiking and camping brought us together as a pack. When Hannah snuggled next to me in the tent, nose tucked under the sleeping bag — same as the others — she told me she knew she belonged.

Part of the fun of doing things with our hounds is the opportunity to explore our relationships with them. This issue contains several articles about activities for humans and hounds: Tracy Rudzitis explores the world of amateur racing; John Parker, Bev Dalrymple, and Phil Fitz discuss lure coursing; and Joan Headland describes an unusual travel experience with her husband and Greyhounds. Although each of these articles focuses on the activity, the abundant love and admiration of these authors for their Greyhounds — deepened through participation in these activities — is clear and inspiring.

It's summer. Go outside and have some fun with your dogs. The magazine will be here when you get back.





Lucky, adopted by Neil and Shirley Murphy of Hamilton, Ohio.

Thoughts on Winter 2002

I am writing in response to "PETCO Raises \$54,000 to Help Greyhounds on Greyhound Planet Day" (News, Winter 2002 *CG*). The story indicates the idea of Greyhound Planet Day was the brainchild of Therese Skinner. Therese wrote to the Greyhound List about her idea. I am writing to point out another link to the beginning of this productive effort.

Sandy Jepson is a Greyhound Friends adopter, staff person, and genuine Greyhound advocate. Sandy often does meet-and-greets at the local Shrewsbury, Mass. PETCO. During these events she met Bob Rau, who was the Manager of that PETCO store but went on to become the New England Regional Manager. Bob was moved by Sandy's dedication and obvious love of Greyhounds. He

offered to do whatever he could to help. When I read Therese's post, I immediately thought to talk to Sandy, who in turn talked to Bob Rau — one of a wonderful, fateful series of connections that has given Therese's idea a long reach. You just never know who you will encounter at public education Greyhound events. I would also like to thank Nancy Korman, Greyhound Friends West, for working with Therese to bring the Greyhound Planet Day website information to such remarkable life. The next Greyhound Planet Day will be the weekend of September 21, 2003. Updates will be posted on www.ameurogreyhoundalliance.org

Louise Coleman
Greyhound Friends
American-European Greyhound Alliance
Hopkinton, Mass.

I just finished reading your editorial in the Winter 2002 issue of *CG Magazine* (Editorial Comments, Winter 2002 *CG*). I think Herman is a true Greyhound Hero. He did what I would like to think an alert, concerned, Greyhound would do.

I recently had the ability to spend a week at home with my Greyhound Sierra. It snowed and we spent a lot of wonderful time just cuddled up in front of the fireplace and reading. When I got to the end of your editorial I had to laugh at your last sentence. It just sums it all up, especially the segment on the girls' behavior ("the girls were cockroached on the couch: Hattie stretching and grunting periodically, Hannah softly passing gas"). It is as though you were with us, on my couch in New Jersey, where my Sierra was alternating between cockroaching and gently

passing her odoriferous gift over my way while giving me her toothy smile!

Thanks for a great editorial and a wonderful magazine.

Jan Werner
Via E-mail

I would like to pass along a suggestion for those of you that enjoy the Renaissance Faires but are not able to devote the time or the money needed to have a booth ("Promoting Greyhound Adoption at Renaissance Faires," Winter 2002 *CG*). Check with the Faire in your area to see if dogs are welcome. The Faire in Geneva, Ohio welcomes well-behaved dogs that are on a leash. Taking your Greyhound along when you visit the Faire exposes hundreds (or more) people to the hounds. As a visitor you need not wear period costumes, know the history, or speak like the natives, so the investment in time and money need only be made if you choose.

Remember that it will be a long day and expect large crowds. If it is extremely hot or your Greyhound is shy, this may not be a good place for him. Don't forget to carry water and a bowl, pooper scoopers, and maybe a blanket. Limit yourself to one or two dogs per person so that you can monitor what is going on. If the Faire has permanent benches, choose end seats so that the dog(s) may get comfortable, or carry folding chairs so that you can sit in the back.

Check on the Faire rules. In Geneva, the dogs may go anywhere except the joust. Depending on the rules of the Faire in your area, bringing dogs could limit what you participate in or watch.

Peggy Jordano
Erie, Pa.

Got my newest edition of *CG Magazine* yesterday. Bea Anderson is a very good friend of mine so it was great to see her story in there ("Nero and Honey Go Into Battle," Winter 2002 *CG*), plus Larissa Darragh's one on Greyhound Adoption Program ("Fostering Greyhounds Down Under," Winter 2002 *CG*). A truly international magazine. Well done.

Anne Pirie
Victoria, Australia

Anne Pirie has some fascinating tales of her own to tell. See "Piper's Skinning," in this issue. — Ed.

A Special Birthday Party

On September 19, 2002, there was a celebration in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Nancy Stiefken's 81st birthday, and Greyhound Shelby Roe's 4th birthday. Nancy said, "Why don't you have the birthday party at my house so Shelby and I could celebrate our birthdays together?" Nancy and her husband Chuck have two Greyhounds,

Kix and Maxie, who they adopted from Make Peace With Animals. We adopted Shelby from First State Greyhound Rescue. I bought beef cubes from the butcher and an ice cream cake for the puppies. Chuck put on his chef's hat and did the cooking on the grill for the dogs. The humans had frozen pizza. While Nancy was not looking, Cindy Berger's Greyhound Ramses took her pizza right out of her hand. It was a wonderful day. I look at Nancy when she says she was happy to have a Greyhound and save its life and I think to myself, the Greyhounds saved Nancy and Chuck, too. Life is not over when you are in your 80s; it's only beginning if you have room in your heart for an animal.

Patricia M. Roes
Kunkletown, Pa.

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity. Please send letters and photos by mail to the editorial office. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-Greyhound.org are also appreciated.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter or photo. ■



Grants Support Greyhound Adoption Efforts



Kelly (Lp's Wingman), adopted by Sarah Regan Snavelly of Moorhead, Minn.

ASPCA Partners in Caring Greyhound Rescue Fund

2003 is the eleventh anniversary of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' disbursement of funds to Greyhound rescue and placement groups. The ASPCA Partners in Caring Greyhound Rescue Fund offers emergency and capital improvement grants totaling \$30,000 annually. (Individual grants will amount to \$3,000 or less.) If your adoption group is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been in existence more than one year and places more than 24 Greyhounds annually, you may be eligible for funding. Some past grants have been used for crates and equipment to increase foster homes, pilot projects to increase adoptions via geriatric adoption

programs and expanded use of commercial boarding kennels, building materials to finish off rescue kennels, replacement of food and supplies damaged in natural disasters, and repairs on hauling vehicles. The Fund does not provide money for medical expenses or general operating costs. Contact Jacque Schultz at jacques@aspc.org or 212-876-7700, ext. 4421 to obtain an application. Please remember to leave your address and daytime phone number.

Massachusetts Retired Greyhound Care and Adoption Council

The Massachusetts Retired Greyhound Care and Adoption Council awarded nearly \$260,800 in grant funding to Massachusetts Greyhound adoption groups in 2002. The

Massachusetts legislature established the Council to help boost adoption of retired Greyhounds. The funding helps adoption groups transition retired racing Greyhounds or Massachusetts-bred Greyhounds that never qualified for pari-mutuel races from life as a racing dog to life as a pet.

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

The groups that received funding last year — Greyhound Adoption Services, Inc., Greysland Greyhound Adoption, Inc.,

Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc. Adopt A Greyhound, Inc. and Greyhound Friends West — have entered into contracts with the Commonwealth.

The adoption groups are responsible for the shelter, feeding, medical needs, spay and neuter, teeth cleaning, and the promotion and ultimate adoption of retired Greyhounds. To ensure a smooth transition, the adoption entities assess the dogs to determine what type of environment will yield a compatible home. Each of the entities has a screening process for potential homes.

There is also a post-adoption follow-up process to ensure that the adoption is successful. In the event that the adoption, for any reason, is not successful, the adopting entity will take the Greyhound back into their program.

The trust fund helps adoption groups offset expenses associated with kennel space, office equipment, transportation, maintenance, and program promotion. The groups maintain websites, print or purchase literature, hold functions for prospective owners, and maintain records for each dog. The groups normally depend on volunteers and donations.

Grants from the trust fund will be available during the calendar year of 2003. As grants are offered, the information will be posted at the website for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (www.mass.gov/dfa). Information can be obtained by contacting the Greyhound Care and Adoption Council, Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114-2151 or by emailing webmaster.dfa@state.ma.us

Greyhound Vacation In-Service Opportunity

With so many Greyhound people RVing today, a great way to help is a tour of Greyhound adoption and rescue organizations throughout the states. The volunteers and members of Midwest Greyhound Adoption

(MGA) are willing to host a few more friends in our search for free help. What a great way to help Greyhounds and have fun at the same time. MGA has a kennel near Chicago, Illinois. They take in many broken and special needs Greyhounds, and they always need help. Kari Swanson of MGA writes: "Many people ask to be notified when there is something that needs to be done. I reply, 'There's *always* something that needs to be done.' If you love to travel or are planning a vacation, come out and spend a week here and see what goes on in Greyhound adoption. (Of course you'd have to have no objection on cleaning up poop! That's something we have plenty of around here.) There is a great RV park within walking distance, if you would like to stop by for a few days. Even if you are just driving through the area, come on over and lend a hand." Please contact Kari Swanson if you are interested at Whdog1@aol.com or 630-466-4022.

Visit CG Magazine's Website

Want to know how to submit an article to *CG Magazine*? Wondering who to contact to get a gift subscription donated for your group's next fundraiser? Want to run an ad? Want to subscribe? Go to www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine for answers to your questions about subscriptions, advertising, purchasing back copies, submitting material for publication, donations, and so on. The site includes a current cumulative index of all articles grouped by topic. The site also lists the table of contents for each issue since *CG* published its first issue in Summer 1996.

In time, articles from previous issues of *CG* will be accessible on the website. We will post an individual article to the site if the author has granted us permission to do so and when back copies of the issue in which the article appeared are no longer available. Marcia Herman, *CG* Editor Emeritus, is coordinating this effort.

If you wrote an article that appeared in *CG* between 1996 and 2000 and will grant us permission to post the text of your article to the website, please contact Marcia at greyhound@comcast.net or send a note to her attention at *CG Magazine*, P.O. Box 358, Marblehead, MA 01945-0358.

Grateful thanks to webmaster Lori Kriz for designing and maintaining *CG*'s website.

CG Wants Your Newsletter!

One of the best sources of story ideas for Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine is your local Greyhound adoption group's newsletter. If you see a story that you wish to bring to our attention, please send it to *CG Magazine*...or consider putting *CG* on your newsletter mailing list.

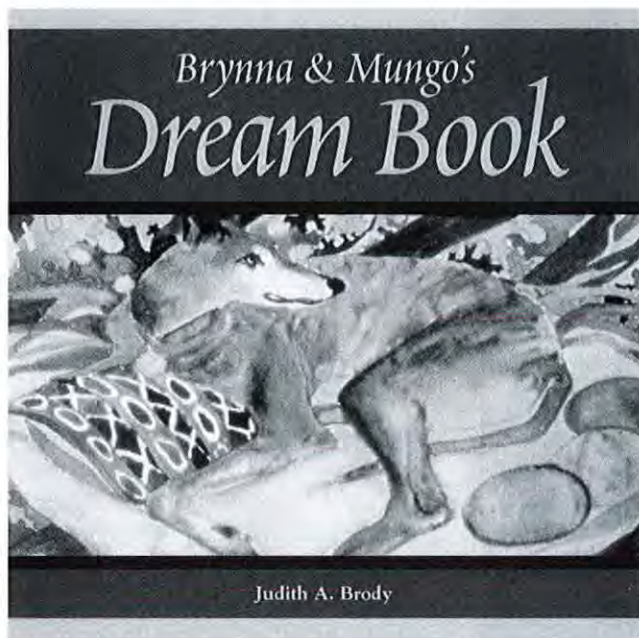
Please send your newsletters, articles, and story ideas to Cindy Hanson, Editor-in-Chief, Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112 or editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org

For more information about writing an article for *CG*, please visit the FAQ section of our website (www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine).

Free CG to Adopters of Senior or Special Needs Greyhounds

Do you know someone who has adopted a special needs Greyhound? If so, tell this Greyhound lover that he or she is eligible to receive a free copy of *CG Magazine*. All the adopter needs to do is send a note to the Editor (see previous news item) that includes a description of that special needs Greyhound and a mailing address. (The special needs Greyhound is one who is at least 7 years old at the time of adoption or one of any age who has a special medical problem at the time of adoption.) ■

Bryнна & Mungo's Dream Book



By Judith A. Brody
Tea Road Press
Boise, Idaho (2001)
ISBN 0970866607
\$24.95

I confess. I judge a book by its cover. The dust jacket of *Bryнна & Mungo's Dream Book* depicts a Greyhound nesting in an oak tree — clearly a unique spin on Greyhound life. I began to wonder if fine art was about to meet *Mad Magazine*.

Bryнна & Mungo's Dream Book is a personal work about the Greyhounds that have filled Judith Brody's life and inspired her art. Rather than a story with a linear narrative, the book is more like a journal, with a series of observations, anecdotes, and life lessons. Its stories are unique but at the same time familiar to anyone who knows the joy of living with a Greyhound.

Brody, a long time California resident, is both the author and illustrator. She has received awards on national and international levels for her various forms of artwork. Her love of the breed began with a kiss from a Greyhound during an adoption interview. Working both in the studio and on location, she paints her Greyhounds with the eye of an artist. Their long, sensual lines drape a series of 14 fluid and dreamy scenes that upon closer inspection are filled with hidden

surprises. The concept of each is unique and amusing. The one-paragraph stories that accompany each piece not only complement the illustrations but provide insight into how an artist views rather mundane, everyday situations and develops them into a one-of-a-kind creation.

Bryнна dreams of a world where bunnies chase themselves, saving her the trouble. Her fear of linoleum is no longer a problem when Egyptian slaves carry her on a litter across the evil kitchen floor. Bunnies can be found in nearly every scene (reminiscent of the artwork in the children's book *Masquerade*). Each work has decorative borders that both frame the image and serve as a complementary part of the overall illustration.

Greyhound owners will enjoy "Me Too — I Love You," a story of a human and canine basking in the joy of sharing a couch. Greyhound artwork fills the walls. And the

ever-present bunnies observe the scene with interest. The composition is modern yet timeless.

The book closes with a section of familiar quotations about dogs, a few bits of standard historical Greyhound trivia, and a list of general canine facts.

Bryнна & Mungo's Dream Book shows that Greyhounds — and art — can be both serious and fun. Greyhounds have filled the artistic imagination for thousands of years. Judith Brody has joined the legions who have fallen under their spell. Her watercolors are the highlight of *Bryнна & Mungo's Dream Book*. This book would make a welcome gift for Greyhound owners young and old and anyone who enjoys the world of art.

Ed. Note: Shortly before this issue went to press, Tea Road Press announced that it would be placing Bryнна & Mungo's Dream Book on out-of-print status. However, the book is available from www.dogbooks.org as well as the following Greyhound adoption groups:

- Greyhound Friends of North Carolina (www.Greyhoundfriends.com)
- The Greyhound Gang (www.Greyhoundgang.org)
- Greyhound Pets Inc. — Idaho (www.Greyhoundpetsinc.org)
- Greyhound Pets of America — California, Orange County/Greater Los Angeles (www.fastfriends.org)
- Greyhound Rescue Adoption Team (www.greathounds.org)
- Greyhounds Only (www.greyhoundsonly.com)
- TLC Michigan (www.tlcmi.org) ■

Kathy Hoynes is an artist and the owner of Greyhound Studies. Her illustrations have appeared in CG Magazine. She has also written several articles for WAG Tales. Kathy, husband Rich, and their greyhound Winston live in Tinley Park, Ill.

Assessing Aggression



Ajax may appear to be aggressive, but he's merely chatty. Colleen Summerfield, Monterey Park, Calif.

Most days I love my work. Designing the right behavior modification program for a family dog or cat is like solving a complex puzzle, because each animal and each family is unique. Aggression cases are the most challenging and the most difficult. They are difficult because so much is at stake for both the dog and the family. They are difficult because the dog is a beloved member of the family and because, in most situations, 99 percent of the time the dog is a loving companion. It is the dog's behavior that other 1 percent of the time that wreaks havoc in the family.

Aggressive behavior is one of the most common behavioral reasons for euthanasia — house soiling and separation anxiety are also near the top of the list. The adopter or adoption group that has to make a decision

to euthanize because of aggressive behavior faces a heart-wrenching situation. The adopter has had to euthanize his best friend. Instead of the comfort and support he might expect from friends and family if his best pal had to be euthanized because of illness, he gets silence or criticism. The adoption group that makes a decision to euthanize after a dog is bounced because of aggression often must do so in secrecy, or face public condemnation from other groups that often have few if any facts. I wish there were some safe place to send dogs that are so behaviorally flawed that they cannot safely live among us, but there isn't. Until there are such places that can offer appropriate long-term quality-of-life solutions, euthanasia is one of the alternatives I sometimes feel I must present to a client.

Evaluating an Aggressive Dog

I think it might be useful for groups and adopters to understand what a behavior counselor looks at when evaluating aggressive behavior in dogs, and how behavior counselors determine what course of action and alternatives we recommend to our clients. Although the approach to determining what recommendations to make vary with the situation and the counselor, the primary objectives are to ensure the well being of the dog and the safety of the family. While many aggressive dogs can be helped, we have to look at the whole picture. This includes determination of the commitment of the family to a treatment program and whether the family has the resources (financial and emotional) to follow the behavior modification program. Also considered are whether the dog can be safely placed in another environment, what resources and expertise the group or new adopter can offer, and what potential liabilities exist for the dog's current family, as well as for the adoption group that decides to rehome an aggressive dog.

How do I approach making what might amount to a life and death decision when a dog is exhibiting aggressive behavior? In addition to a detailed behavioral, medical, and social history, I insist upon a full current veterinary medical evaluation, including urinalysis, CBC, chemistry profile, and thyroid panel. I also ask my prospective client to provide an extensive and detailed history of the aggressive behaviors and when and how they present. I use commonly-accepted criteria for determining the level of risk, the prognosis, and the degree of aggression. Below are some of the questions I use to help determine an appropriate prognosis and/or treatment plan.

Are there minor children living in or regularly visiting your home?

What was the dog's age when the problem first occurred or when the owner/adopter became aware of the problem?

Did either parent or any littermates have similar problems?

Does your dog show signs of fear before becoming aggressive?

On average, how often does the behavior occur? Be specific about the number of occurrences per day, week, month, or other.

Has the frequency or intensity of the behavior changed since the problem started? If so, how?

Does the frequency/intensity of the behavior appear to depend on any specific factors or other circumstances, such as certain people or kinds of people, particular dogs or kinds of dogs, distinct times of day, or places? If so, describe.

Is anyone (person or animal) in your home afraid of this dog, or do they even appear to be afraid of this dog? Explain who and why.

Is the aggressive behavior unpredictable? (That is, is it difficult to predict when your dog is likely to bite or react aggressively under a given set of circumstances?)

Are there clear warning signals such as tenseness, staring, growling, baring of teeth, barking, avoidance attempts, or other kinds of threats before aggressive incidents occur? If yes, describe.

Does your dog respond intensely to minor occurrences? (That is, are his responses out of proportion to the degree of threat — a "ten" response to a "two" situation?) If yes, give an example.

Is it difficult to interrupt or stop the behavior once it has started?

How quickly does his behavior return to normal after an incident? (That is, does he act as if it never happened, or does he grumble and growl and seem aroused and ready to strike for several minutes or even hours after an incident?)

Along with the information about the nature of the attacks, I need to understand the severity of the attacks. I use Ian Dunbar's

bite hierarchy to determine the potential risk. My client is asked to describe the bites and the total number of incidents at each level, as well as toward whom and at what part of the victim's body the attack was directed. The levels are as follows:

Level One: Harassment, but no skin contact (snarl, bark, lunge, growl, or snap).

Level Two: Tooth contact on skin including bruising, but no puncture.

Level Three: Skin punctured; one to four holes from a single bite but all punctures shallower than length of canine tooth.

Level Four: One to four holes, deep black bruising with some or all punctures deeper than length of canine tooth (indicates dog bit and clamped down), or slashes in both directions from puncture (indicates dog bit and shook head).

Level Five: Multiple-bite attack with deep punctures, or multiple attacks per incident with contact or punctures.

Level Six: Killed victim and/or consumed flesh.

Treating Aggression

At our first visit I review the history, perform a standardized temperament test, and get a feeling for the family and its ability to successfully and safely live with an aggressive dog. I first and foremost make sure the family understands that aggression is often treatable *but is never considered curable*. When an aggressive dog is under stress, it is likely that he may revert to behaviors that have been successful in the past — in this case, aggression.

In general, the prognosis for successful treatment and for leaving the dog in its home is best if the aggression is mild (level one or two), there are no children involved, the dog begins to exhibit the behavior later in life, the behaviors began recently, the triggers are easy to identify and easy to prevent from occurring, and the dog exhibits clear warning signs and returns to a normal state quickly. Unfortunately, if the dog began



Treating aggression can be particularly complicated in a household with children. Fortunately, Dusty Rose is a typical Greyhound and shows no signs of aggressive behavior. Trish Heffernan, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

showing aggression at a younger age, has a long history of aggressive behavior, gives little warning, is unpredictable, can't be interrupted easily, is slow to normalize, or bites at level four or above, the prognosis is poor.

Living in a home with an aggressive dog — regardless of the size of the dog — is harrowing. Anyone who has never lived with a dog whose aggression is serious and unpredictable can't understand the level of stress that the family lives with daily. If there is no way a family can safely live with their canine companion and I do not feel the dog can be safely placed elsewhere, I do include euthanasia as one of the options for the family to consider. And when I do and that is the decision the family makes, I do all I can to help them deal with the enormity of that decision. Then I come home, hug my dogs, and cry. ■

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

The Compounding Pharmacy



The compounding pharmacist can mask foul-tasting medicine in a tasty doggie treat.

Webster's Dictionary defines *pharmacy* as the art, practice, or profession of preparing, preserving, compounding, and dispensing medical drugs. Compounding is the ancient art of pharmacy whereby the pharmacist prepares a customized medication according to a doctor's specifications to meet an individual patient need. In other words, a compounding pharmacist makes medications from scratch, just as they were prepared 2,000-plus years B.C.

In the 1930s and 1940s, approximately 60 percent of all prescriptions dispensed by a pharmacist were compounded right in that pharmacy. With the advent of mass production, compounding began to dwindle. By the end of the 1960s, one was hard-pressed to find a pharmacy that still offered

compounding services.

Thanks to a resurgence of interest in this science in recent years, pharmacy compounding has become a valuable service to veterinarians and their patients. As any pet owner knows, giving pills to your furry friend is not a fun task. Compounding pharmacists have the training and expertise to mask drugs in flavors and forms so your pet has no idea he is getting medicine. The pharmacist can make palatable suspensions and even make tasty doggie treats containing an exact amount of medicine. This makes medicine time a stress-free exercise for both you and your pet.

Flavoring a medicine to an animal's liking is only the beginning of what a compounding pharmacist can do to help you, your Greyhound (and other pets), and your veterinarian.

Veterinarians routinely prescribe human drugs when treating their patients, due to an insufficient supply of drugs manufactured for animals. Drug companies simply don't put a lot of their manufacturing dollars into animal medications because there isn't enough profit in it. Sad for all of us animal lovers, but very true. Furthermore, most mass-produced human drugs have limited strengths and dosage forms. Have you ever tried to cut a 500 mg tablet into ten equal pieces? Your compounding pharmacist can make a precisely tailored dosage just for your pet, ensuring that he gets the exact amount of drug necessary.

Many drugs have been removed from the market due to potential harm to humans, but they remain a safe and effective treatment

for your dog. Your compounding pharmacist can obtain the discontinued drug in its raw chemical form, compound it into the appropriate dose, and continue to provide the drug for your pet. Two examples are phenylpropanolamine (PPA) and diethylstilbestrol (DES). Taken off the human market, they are still very valuable drugs to veterinarians. Both drugs are used to treat urinary incontinence in dogs ("Helping Incontinent Hounds," Spring 2002 *CG*). If these drugs were no longer available for veterinarians to prescribe, many dogs would not be with us today.

What if your Greyhound must take several medications in order to treat a medical condition? Compounding pharmacists can combine multiple drug products into one dosage form. This makes it easier for you to medicate your dog, and often the combination is much less costly than buying two or three different preparations.

What if the drug you have to give your dog has unwanted side effects, such as nausea and vomiting? One of the most exciting developments in pharmacy compounding is the advent of transdermal dosage forms. Simply put, the pharmacist can take a drug in its oral dosage form and incorporate it into a special gel. A thin layer of the gel can then be applied to a hairless surface on the animal (usually the inside flap of the ear works best). The gel is rapidly absorbed through the skin directly into the bloodstream, totally bypassing the gut. Not only can this decrease side effects, but the absorption from the skin directly to the bloodstream often results in much less drug being needed. For example, if a drug is given in an oral dose of 10 mg but 50 percent of it is destroyed by stomach-wall enzymes before reaching the bloodstream, the same drug would need to be administered in only a 5 mg dose if given transdermally.

Many non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can be administered in this way in order to circumvent the gastroin-



Alex, adopted by Jennifer and Randy Cutro of Tampa, Fla.

testinal upset that often occurs in dogs. Greyhounds, as we all know, are particularly prone to arthritic and soft tissue problems, for which NSAIDs are a fairly common treatment. Isn't it nice to know that there is a way to avoid causing a new problem while treating another? Not every drug can be made into this dosage form, but many can. Ask your veterinarian or compounding pharmacist if it is an option for your pet.

Transdermal drug delivery is the reason for the existence of Animal Pharm, LLC, the only "veterinarian-only" compounding pharmacy in the state of Massachusetts, and one of about 25 in the nation. About five years ago, one of my cats, Frasier, almost died from a urinary tract blockage. The medication that was the drug of choice for this condition is one of the most bitter drugs on the face of this planet. I simply could not get the drug into him. Even if I managed to pin him down and force the liquid into his mouth, he foamed at the mouth so excessively that the drug never made it down his throat! He hated me and I feared for his life.

I asked my veterinarian about obtaining the drug in a transdermal form. Their com-

pounding pharmacy said it could be done, and the veterinarian ordered it for me. Frasier's condition improved almost immediately. The only problem was that it cost me almost as much to have the drug shipped overnight from the pharmacy in Wisconsin as it did for the drug itself. I started asking around and saw the need for a veterinary pharmacy right here in Massachusetts, and the rest is, as they say, history. Animal Pharm opened its doors on September 2, 2001, and has been steadily growing since.

Compounding pharmacists are medication "problem solvers." I get such a kick out of going to work every day, knowing I am using my knowledge and expertise to help all those loving companions we all care so much about. A caring veterinarian who works closely with a compounding pharmacist can greatly enhance the health and well-being of both you and your pet. ■

Kathleen Taylor, R.Ph., FACVP is a 1987 graduate of Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and a Fellow in the American College of Veterinary Pharmacists. She is the owner of Animal Pharm, LLC in Scituate, Mass., the sole "veterinary only" pharmacy in the state. She lives in Scituate with three cats and a dog.

Dotti Hi Socks, Just in Time



Dotti Hi Socks. PRAVEEN MUTALIK

She's not very bright. She has several bad habits that were not disclosed when I adopted her. And her ears are bigger than Dumbo's. I've tried to return her a dozen times, but those darn people who gave her to me keep telling me they don't take returns. And now I think I'm stuck with her due to some ancient foreign legend that vaguely drifts about in my head. You know the one: "If someone saves your life, you become hers." Does it count if it was an accident? Maybe I will find a loophole yet.

This is how it happened. Dotti Hi Socks and I have taken to walking for fun and exercise. Most evenings, I pack the little bundle of neuroses up in the van and head off to the local recreational trail for our evening stroll. I figure this has two positive effects: I get in better shape, and Snotti Dotti gets worn out so she doesn't go on any search-and-destroy missions in the middle of the night.

One night I packed the ever-anxious, bouncing demon into the van shortly before dusk and headed down to the park. I decided to park on top of the bluff overlooking the trail instead of down in the trailhead parking lot. This was close to the fountain that Drippi Dotti likes to wade through and would be a nice ending spot for our walk.

I drive a minivan with heavily tinted windows so unless you look very closely (or Dotti is being extra obnoxious) you would not know she is in the van until I open the door and let her out.

I exited my van, carrying my fanny pack and juggling my keys. I headed around the back to the slider door on the passenger side, where I was approached by five males in their late teens or early twenties. One of them was carrying a stack of round plastic kitchen clocks. Very strange. I just ignored them. As I rounded the corner of my van, they formed a semi-circle behind me. One of them started to try to make conversation.

"Are you having fun yet?" he asked, in a slightly aggressive tone. "Nope," I replied as I continued to edge toward the slider and fumble with my keys. "Do you want to have some fun?" he continued. "Nope," I said. Then the dude starts flinging the clocks behind my back into the grassy area next to my van, missing me by about a foot each time. "You sure you don't want to have some fun?" he asked. At this point I thought that he wanted the flying clocks to distract me (maybe they couldn't find any Frisbees, they stole all the clocks, or something) so the others could jump up and grab the fanny pack that was still hanging from my hand.

At this point I finally reached the slider door, found my key, and pulled the door open. I grabbed Dotti Hi Socks by the collar as she jumped out onto the pavement. And

there she bounded, ears standing taller than the fiercest Doberman, tail riding high, lunging and tugging to get to the hoodlums. One of them called out to the others: "Man, she's got a dog — Let's get outta here!" They took off jogging down the bluff. Of course, poor Dotti just stood there, puzzled as to why they were not overcome by her cuteness and giving her the adoration she so deserves.

I called the police on my cell phone, told them what happened, and gave them a description. When they caught up with part of the group about 30 minutes later, they explained they were just "messing around" and were not going to do anything. Since they had not actually threatened me or touched me, there was not much the police could do except take their names and let them know they would be keeping an eye on them.

Dotti Hi Socks and I continued our walk, and I rewarded the little accidental heroine with ice cream afterwards. She's still trying to figure out what she did to deserve that.

Later, I got a call from one of the detectives razzing me about the incident and asking if I had my gun on me at the time (I work for a neighboring police department). I told him I had no need for a gun when Dotti Hi Socks was on the job. ■

Sue Burkhard lives in Benton Harbor, Mich. with Dotti, four other dogs, and four cats. She is an active member of Friends of Greyhound Support Kansas City, and a member of the Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering Planning Committee.

Little Red Wagon Plant Stand

Did you know that there were wagons produced in the 50s, 60s, and 70s with a Greyhound logo? We were lucky enough to find a few of these vintage wagons at estate sales here in rural Pennsylvania. The problem was that the wheels were rusted out and in terrible shape. Our solution? Plant stands, of course.

Materials Needed

- One old wagon
- Four table legs
- Two pieces of wood for cross pieces (size will vary depending on size of wagon)
- Four pieces of wood for the skirt (size will vary depending on size of wagon)

1. The Wagon Bed

Any small child's wagon will work. Remove the handle, wheels, and all the suspension framing. Clean up the wagon bed and then spray it with two or three coats of spar varnish. Set aside to dry.

2. The Legs and Skirt

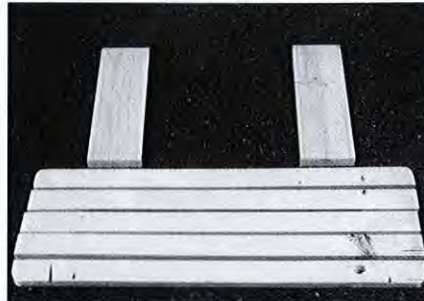
Nothing fancy here. Use some old table legs or buy brand new ones at the home center. Square off the top of the legs to make attachment of the skirt boards much easier.

The skirt boards should be cut so that the finished length and width are equal to or a little less than the length and width of the wagon bed. Attach the skirt boards to the legs with finishing nails or screws.



3. The Cross Pieces and Slats

Cut two pieces of wood for the cross pieces. The cross pieces should be long enough to fit inside the wagon bed widthwise. The width of the cross pieces should be close to the width of the squared top section of the legs.



Cut four to six pieces of wood for the slats. The slats should be long enough to fit inside the wagon bed lengthwise. The width of the cross pieces can vary depending on what wood you have on hand.



4. Sanding, Staining, or Painting

Sand all the wood pieces smooth. If you want the natural wood look, just apply your favorite stain and a coat or two of spar varnish after the stain has dried. Or paint the table the colors of that special hound décor. Add a coat of spar varnish after the paint has dried.

5. Assembly

Place the wagon bed on top of the leg/skirt board subassembly. Mark the wagon bed bottom so that the holes for the attachment screws are centered on the top of each of the legs. Take the wagon bed off the leg/skirt board subassembly. Drill the four holes in the wagon bed bottom.

Use the wagon bed bottom as a template and mark the holes just drilled on the cross pieces. The cross pieces should be positioned directly over the legs. Drill the holes in the cross pieces.

Place the wagon bed on the leg/skirt board subassembly. Place the two cross pieces in the wagon bed. Attach everything with screws through the pre-drilled holes. Arrange the slats on the cross pieces and attach them using small finish nails.



While you are at it, why not make a wagon plant stand and donate it to your local Greyhound adoption group? You'll feel great about it and they will make good use of it. ■

Prairie Beach: How to Plan a Reunion



Prairie Beach guests opened the event by participating in their own version of the Olympic Parade of Athletes. One guest from each state or province was the standard bearer for the group. SUSAN COOK

A reunion that brings together Greyhounds and adoption enthusiasts from long distances offers an important opportunity to strengthen the adoption movement and exchange success stories from local areas.

Last September, after months of planning, an Iowa adoption group that had only existed for about a year held a three-day reunion. Greyhounds and their owners from ten states and a Canadian province attended the event.

The steps followed by Heartland Greyhound Adoption (HGA) to organize and host Prairie Beach: A Gathering of Champions can serve as a tip sheet for other groups thinking about planning a reunion of their own.

Talk of a Reunion, then Action

The idea for a Midwest reunion for those involved in Greyhound adoption began with some initial conversations among HGA members in the summer of 2001. That fall, a handful of Heartland Greyhound members attended Greyhounds Reach the Beach, an annual Greyhound event in Dewey Beach, Delaware, to see a reunion in action.

Plans took flight from there. At Heartland Greyhound's meeting in October 2001, group members approved a plan for a reunion in central Iowa.

HGA president Jorene King of Bondurant, Iowa said she looked forward to an opportunity to strengthen the network of Greyhound adoption groups. "We're a young

group — HGA just officially got started in 2001 — but we've already discovered that we're often so busy with our work to help Greyhounds that it's hard to find time to reach out to other groups. A reunion would give us all a chance to relax, enjoy each other's company, and most importantly, share ideas," she stated. HGA members decided to call their reunion Prairie Beach in a nod to Dewey Beach combined with the Midwest plains heritage.

About a dozen HGA members agreed to lead the reunion organizing efforts. Some were in charge of specific events while others handled larger areas such as sponsorship and registration. The group decided to organize the entire reunion following the timeline

of a Greyhound race day. Registration was called "weigh in" while Prairie Beach's opening event was known as "pre-race conditioning." The first night's snack was called the "night-before-race meal."

Host Site Determines the Rest

HGA members soon learned that the first decision involved in planning would also be the most important: choosing the host site. The host site and its facilities largely determine the types of events you can have and the length of the reunion. HGA members chose the central Iowa city of Altoona as the reunion's host community, then searched within that local area for lodging to accommodate an event with dozens of dogs in attendance.

Altoona, a community of about 10,500 on the east side of the Des Moines metro area, has easy access to interstate highways, spacious city parks, and dog-friendly lodging and campgrounds. As part of an urban area, Altoona still maintains the feel of a smaller town. HGA members gained support for their reunion plans from Altoona leaders and soon reached an agreement with an Altoona hotel to host the event.

Jody Evans, an HGA member from Altoona who coordinated facilities for the reunion, said Prairie Beach organizers worked hard to stress the positives of a dog-related event. "We were able to discuss the success of Greyhound reunions in other parts of the country and stress the responsible attitude of people willing to volunteer their time to find homes for retired racers. We also joined the Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce to help demonstrate our intent to be a responsible community partner."

Evans said that any group planning a reunion must decide the length of the event early. If you are planning a reunion that will span a weekend, you'll require a site with enough rooms to handle reservations for dozens of guests and meeting areas to hold large crowds. A smaller hotel could suffice if



Prairie Beach guests enjoyed the sounds of the Vocal Illusion quartet from the Sweet Adelines during the reunion's ice cream social. SUSAN COOK

there are enough additional hotels nearby to handle any overflow and if enough extra meeting space is available in the immediate area.

A hotel's pet policy is also an issue that must be addressed up front. Some pet policies mean only small pets are allowed; others welcome larger dogs as well. Green space is an item that can't be overlooked. A hotel that offers the amenities you need but is surrounded by highrises, concrete sidewalks, and paved streets probably won't work well for an event attended by dozens of dogs who need time outside.

According to Evans, a well-organized first meeting with hotel representatives can overcome concerns a business might have about so many dogs being on its premises at the same time. As part of your approach:

- Stress the business opportunity created by your reunion and estimate as best you can the expected attendance figures
- Share with the hotel your group's brochures, history, and membership numbers
- Provide copies of your group's insurance policies

- Provide a letter of reference, perhaps from a veterinarian who cares for your group's Greyhounds or from a local pet supply store where you hold meet-and-greets
- Share the reunion schedule of events

Offer a Schedule with Something for Everyone

While Greyhounds can unite adoption groups, dog owners' individual preferences in the events they enjoy at reunions are as varied as the people themselves. Some enjoy relaxing and chatting with other guests, some want to buy Greyhound-related merchandise, some like to enter competitions with their dogs, and others may want to find answers to particular issues facing their dogs or groups. Bounce ideas around and try to determine a schedule that will accommodate a wide range of activity levels and interests.

An important point to remember in your preparations is that a raffle or auction often is one of the most popular events at any reunion or convention. It can double as an important fundraiser for your group. Internet searches,



While Prairie Beach's human guests enjoyed some time for conversation during the reunion's catered picnic, the Greyhounds in attendance used the opportunity to grab a nap. MARY NEUBAUER

combined with in-person introductions in your local area, can identify hundreds of companies that sell Greyhound- and dog-related merchandise. If your group has non-profit status, ask for donations in exchange for tax write-offs and recognition in the reunion program. You can offer the donated merchandise for auction.

Spread the Word

After securing a home for the reunion, HGA organizers needed to find a way to inexpensively spread the word about the event. They ultimately chose a grassroots approach to reach other Greyhound groups

directly while minimizing advertising costs.

By searching the Internet for Greyhound and racetrack websites, HGA was able to identify about 130 adoption groups within 500 miles of the Des Moines area. HGA sent mailings to these groups inviting their members to attend Prairie Beach. Four separate mailings, combined with a few months' advertising in dog-specific magazines, provided an overview of Prairie Beach. It also directed those interested to visit the HGA website at www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org where a linked site dedicated to Prairie Beach was established. The Prairie Beach website provided a full schedule of

events at the reunion, maps of the area, listings of Des Moines community attractions, and the latest details about the reunion as they developed.

Organizers needed to put a face on Prairie Beach by creating a brand identity. A local artist created a logo with a modern touch for Prairie Beach featuring a stylized Greyhound running across the rolling plains.

The next priority was to line up speakers and this is where the strength of HGA members' community involvement was apparent. An HGA member with ties to Iowa State University extended a speaking engagement invitation that was accepted by Dr. Claudia Baldwin, Associate Professor at ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. Another HGA member had connections to the American Sighthound Field Association and made a speaking engagement offer that was accepted by Kent Standerford, one of its regional directors. Still another HGA invitation to speak was accepted by Cindy Hanson, editor-in-chief of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*.

"We wanted to make sure that Prairie Beach would be educational for those attending as well as entertaining," King said.

As plans developed for specific events, sponsorship and vendor activities were also underway. Brochures about Prairie Beach were produced and distributed. Some local businesses provided donations to support Prairie Beach while others agreed to discount necessary supplies. Letters were sent to vendors of Greyhound- and dog-related merchandise and several businesses accepted invitations for vendor booths at Prairie Beach.

Begin Planning Months in Advance

The HGA organizing activities for Prairie Beach demonstrate that an event attended by dozens, if not hundreds, of people and dogs require months of planning. Many meeting halls, hotels, and conference facilities having bookings months in advance, so the search must begin early. And, as with any volunteer activity, the work for the reunion

should be spread out among enough people so that no one feels overwhelmed. Monthly meetings, followed by weekly updates as the event approaches, can keep plans on track. Consider the various areas you will need to address:

- **Finance:** How will your group pay for the advance reservations you need to make and supplies you need to buy?
- **Registration:** How will guests register to attend your event — through the mail, over the telephone, or via the Internet? What sort of information should guests be given in advance — schedules, maps, programs, speaker bios?
- **Facilities:** In addition to a host site, what requirements will your reunion have? Will you need meeting rooms, tables and chairs, microphones, decorations, podiums, and multi-media equipment for presentations? Will you need signs along streets marking the way between event locations or transportation between events? Will you need alternate rain locations for your events or your entire reunion?
- **Events:** Strive for a mix of events for guests' varying ages, activity levels, and interests. Assign a group member to oversee each event. Don't forget meals because with all the activities, people (and dogs) will get hungry!
- **Vendors:** How many vendors will you want at your event in relation to the number of guests expected? What merchandise do you want them to sell? What fee will you charge for vendor booth space? Will you require vendors to make a donation to your raffle or auction?
- **Government affairs:** Local officials should be informed about your event and kept apprised of developments. What permits or prior authorization will you need?
- **Public relations:** A well-planned event won't succeed if people don't know about it. How will you spread the word about your event — through a website,

advertising, e-mail campaign, listings in dog-related publications? Prepare brochures and posters to distribute in advance. You may want to develop a logo for an easily identifiable look. Don't forget a local media campaign as your event nears.

- **Sponsorship:** Planning a major event involves expense. Finding sponsors can help alleviate some of the cost. Pet supply companies, veterinary practices, pet food distributors, and local businesses can derive valuable exposure to new customers by becoming sponsors of your event.

In the final month before Prairie Beach, organizers worked together to identify the small details that still needed attention. Children at a day care owned by an HGA member decorated milk jugs that were stuffed with plastic bags and used as waste clean-up stations at Prairie Beach events. HGA developed a list of "good guest guidelines" that were sent in advance to all registered Prairie Beach guests, advising them of helpful supplies they could bring to the hotel plus health and safety issues they should consider for their dogs. Group members made signs identifying specific reunion events that pointed the way along streets leading from the hotel to a local park.

The Event Arrives

When your reunion arrives, planners must remain focused. You'll need a registration table with enough staffers to quickly check in guests and distribute registration packets containing programs, maps, schedules, nametags, and maybe even some dog treats.

Each event manager will need to work with your reunion's facilities coordinator to make sure all supplies are ready and that the event can start at its specified time. Each event should have clearly marked signs and you may want to make decorations too. To help guests keep on track, take time at the end of each event to announce the next event and starting time.

You may want to assign a group member or two to take photos or shoot video during

the reunion so you can document the activities and share photos afterwards.

Your reunion will fly by but your careful planning should pay off in fun and entertainment for all. Heartland Greyhound's planning yielded an event with an opening parade of athletes, helpful speakers, an auction of Greyhound-related merchandise, an ice cream social with entertainment from a vocal quartet, two complimentary breakfasts, a catered indoor picnic, live lure-coursing demonstrations, and a bonfire memorial.

Relax a Little, then Regroup and Analyze

Within a few weeks of your event, your planning committee should regroup, review notes, and analyze both the successes and the areas that need attention. You may have decided whether or not you want to continue your event for another year. That decision will need to be made quickly so facility reservations and other planning can begin anew.

If you decide to continue, you'll have a year of valuable experience to build on, giving you a jumpstart on your next reunion. If your reunion was a one-time event, sit back, enjoy your memories and photographs, and congratulate yourselves on a job well done!

HGA members followed up the regroup-then-analyze strategy and currently are working on plans for the next Prairie Beach, scheduled for September 2003 in Altoona.

"We addressed so many details last year that this year's planning is going more quickly," King said. "We know we have a lot of work to do, but we're looking forward to another weekend dedicated to Greyhounds — and their owners." ■

Mary Neubauer works in public relations and is a member of Heartland Greyhound Adoption, a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization in central Iowa promoting the adoption of retired racing Greyhounds. She and her husband Rhett Routh live in Clive, Iowa, with their two adopted Greyhounds, Rescue and R.J., their adopted Jack Russell terrier, Ricky, and often times, a Greyhound in foster care with HGA.

The Buddy System

Providing Support for New Adopters



Nittany buddies with their Greyhounds.

A major objective of all Greyhound adoption groups is to provide education and support to ensure successful adoptions. For many adopters, the education begins at a meet-and-greet or an Internet website. Much of the in-depth education of new adopters occurs before the adoption actually takes place. Home visits, adoption manuals, and well-known publications such as *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* and *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* are proven tools for educating new adopters.

Providing continuing support can be a more difficult task for the adoption group. This is especially true when a significant number of dogs are being placed over a large

geographical area and with limited volunteers. As volunteers with Nittany Greyhounds and as retired educators, we developed a system to address this difficulty based on a practice used by Pennsylvania schools known as mentoring. Mentoring pairs a new teacher with an experienced one whose role is to assist the new teacher through the first year. Our system, the Nittany buddy system, is designed to accomplish the same goal by providing each new adopter with a seasoned one — someone who has experience with adopting a Greyhound. The mentor shows the novice the ropes by patterning and training them. The mentor has been through the process, be it teaching children or dealing

with the adjustment of a new dog into a household. Mentors offer advice and guidance with problems as they arise.

Each new adopter is asked if he would like a buddy to help him through the initial adjustment period after the adoption. This offer is made at the time of the home visit, or by phone or e-mail. The potential adopter is told what kind of help he can expect from his buddy. To date, no one has refused the offer of a buddy. The new adopter is assigned a buddy, usually from his geographical area. In some cases, we assign a buddy who has a dog with a similar personality or a dog from the same kennel, owner, or trainer. The local adoption representatives are most

familiar with the volunteers who have offered to serve as buddies, so they are in charge of new recruits. The buddy keeps in touch with the adoption representative by e-mail or telephone to report on the progress of adjustment and any problems encountered by the adopter. Buddies can do much to lighten the load of a busy adoption representative.

Our group uses a very casual approach. An immediate goal for Nittany Greyhounds is to begin keeping a written list of buddies and their characteristics, such as location, types of Greyhounds, and issues they could handle. If, in the future, we have a buddy coordinator or our program grows, this would be very useful. Many times we just go with a gut feeling of which people would make a good match.

Who makes a good buddy? A good buddy is someone who is reliable and will follow through with contacts, e-mail, and phone calls during and after the initial adjustment period. A good buddy is a friendly, outgoing person with good people skills. He is Greyhound savvy and loves the breed. We look for the volunteer who has a soft approach, someone who is non-threatening to the new adopter. We also look for good listeners, as new adopters often have much to share.

Just as with the mentor-teacher relationship, the experienced adopters who act as buddies need some informal training. They are expected to make the contact, provide support and encouragement, answer questions, and be a listening ear for all the brags and good news. Buddies are encouraged to personally invite the new adopters to adoption group events. Currently, we do not have a formal buddy training program. The adoption representative simply visits with the new buddies and sets expectations about their role, about what kinds of problems they should address, and when they should involve the representative. For example, Nittany buddies always refer separation anxiety and health problems to the adoption representative, who is more equipped to deal with

these issues. There are cases, however, where the buddy may remain involved if he chooses to help or feels comfortable with the situation. If the task of being a buddy becomes too complex or too involved, some volunteers might burn out. We like to make this an easy, pleasant relationship for both parties.

The response to the Nittany buddy system has been extremely positive from both sides. Many experienced adopters have become buddies to more than one new adopter and new adopters have in turn requested to serve as buddies. The new adopters have reported that they are comfortable sharing their experiences and concerns with their buddies. Once a new adopter has positive contact with the buddy, in many cases they request to do the same for someone else. Our new adopters are a valuable resource as they have just recently gone through the adjustment period with a new Greyhound.

While working together, some of the Nittany buddies have become close personal friends. Some get together weekly for walks and visit the local dog park. Others do meet-and-greets together and have even shared condos at Dewey Beach.

One of our recent adopters was sight-impaired. Since neither she nor her husband is able to drive due to vision problems, the buddy drove them to the kennel for the adoption. The family's dog guide was also included so he could be part of the process of picking the appropriate Greyhound. Following the adoption, the buddy also helped arrange transportation for meet-and-greets, fun walks, and even obedience classes.

Nittany Greyhounds recently completed an adoption that presented some serious separation anxiety issues. The dog could not be crated, as she repeatedly harmed herself by trying to escape the crate. In this case, two Nittany buddies and the adoption representative successfully worked through the problem. One buddy lived in the neighborhood and the other buddy recently faced similar problems with a new dog. The adopter related

very well to the buddies and their suggestions, and was comfortable communicating about her successes and failures. With suggestions coming from several different perspectives, the adopter was able to find strategies that worked for her dog. While she was a bit reluctant to share her problems and concerns in the beginning, we found that as we worked together with her, she became much more open and willing to share information about the problems she was facing. That dog is now a happy couch potato and the adopter is a Nittany buddy to someone else.

An unexpected benefit of the buddy system has been to increase the involvement of both new and experienced adopters. New adopters are sometimes reluctant to take part in adoption group events not knowing how they will be received or how their dogs will react in a new situation. This reluctance has been overcome by having a buddy there to welcome them. The buddy often invites the new adopter to participate in Nittany Greyhound events like the annual picnic, fundraisers, meet-and-greets, and our monthly fun walk. Buddies, having invited their new charges, also attend more events. We are finding that the Nittany buddy system is increasing satisfaction for new and experienced adopters alike.

Adopting a retired racing Greyhound can be a scary experience, especially if you take seriously all of the dos and don'ts you read concerning Greyhound adoption. We feel that the buddy system is an effective tool in making the adoption a less stressful experience for everyone involved. It has also provided our group with the unexpected benefits of personal friendships and greater involvement. ■

Dianne Shadle and her husband Jim are retired educators who travel in a motor home for several months a year with their Greyhounds Runner, Farrah, and Paulo. Dianne and Jim serve on the board of Nittany Greyhounds in Port Matilda, Pa. Dianne is Nittany Greyhounds adoption representative for the greater Harrisburg, Pa. area.

Story and Photos
by Joan Headland

Dazzle and Skyler Take the Ferry



The ferry waits to take Dazzle and Skyler from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland.



Skyler and Dazzle enjoy the view from the door of the RV.

When we first considered the idea of vacationing in Newfoundland, one of our major concerns was how the trip would be for our dogs. We have two Greyhounds: 5-year-old Dazzle and 3-year-old Skyler. We enjoy taking them with us when we travel in our recreational vehicle (RV) and won't consider leaving them anywhere while we vacation. We started gathering information

through the Internet so that we could be properly prepared.

Other than flying, the only way to get to Newfoundland is by ferry. There are two ferries to Newfoundland — one lasting five and-a-half to six hours, the other lasting 13 to 14 hours. We decided that the longer trip was out of the question for Dazzle and Skyler, so we concentrated on the shorter trip departing from North Sydney, Nova Scotia and arriving in Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland. The following is a description of our experience traveling by ferry with our Greyhounds.

Pets are not permitted on passenger decks. Kennels are available without charge and are located on the left and right side of the ship on the number four deck. To ensure the security of pets during the voyage, padlocks are available on payment of a deposit or you can bring your own padlock. Animals can be taken from the kennels to the number three car deck to relieve themselves. The owner is responsible for cleaning up after the pet.

We spoke with several people who had taken their dogs on the ferry to Newfoundland. One told us that when she went down

to her RV to walk the dogs in the afternoon, she just stayed there and did not return to the passenger deck. Another assured us that one of the staff members would let us go to our vehicle as often as we liked. The more we talked with people who had traveled on the ferry, the less concerned we were.

In July, after several months of planning and making reservations, we packed up the RV and headed out. We drove east from Arizona, making short stops along the way to visit friends and family. Two weeks later, we arrived in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, where we stayed overnight in a KOA campground.

The next morning, we awoke at 5:00 a.m., walked the dogs, disconnected the RV water and electric, and headed for North Sydney, Nova Scotia to catch the ferry to Newfoundland. We were required to be there an hour before the ferry's scheduled 9:00 a.m. departure. We had been warned that there would be heavy fog in addition to only one lane of traffic going over Seal Bridge. It was only 52 miles, but we did not want to risk being late. We arrived at 7:00 a.m. with ample time to walk and feed the dogs and to have our own breakfast in the RV.

This was our first time taking our RV on board a ferry, so we weren't sure what to expect. We were directed into a pre-boarding lane. The lanes were narrow and our RV is wide, so we were a little nervous navigating our way to the boarding plank.

Many people were out of their vehicles walking around, but since we had no idea of what to expect, we stepped outside only briefly, to take a few pictures (I would have taken much more time had I known that we would be told over the loudspeaker when we needed to return to our vehicles). Eventually, we were directed to the lower deck, where we waited while many trucks were loaded. Finally, we drove on and parked.



Skyler and Dazzle guarding the Citadel, an historic site in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

With the dogs leashed, we left the RV and headed in the same direction as everyone else. A crewmember directed us to the elevator, informing us that the dog kennels were on the deck above. Though it was their first elevator ride, Dazzle and Skyler behaved like pros even if they didn't quite understand the earth moving under their feet.

As we understood it, passengers with kenneled dogs would be able to visit them every couple of hours and walk them. If we left them in the RV, they would have to stay there for the entire trip. We thought the kennels would be best for the dogs considering that the stay would be over six hours, including time for disembarking. A crewmember on deck four showed us to the kennels and explained that he would bring us to the kennels so that we could take the dogs out.

Dazzle went into a crate immediately, turned around a couple of times, and laid down. Skyler refused. We tried pushing and shoving and coaxing Skyler to get into the crate, but it wasn't going to happen. As it turned out, Skyler was smarter than we were because the crate was neither tall enough nor long enough for him. Since the kennels

were no longer an option, we had no choice but to return the dogs to the RV.

It was warm inside the RV and the fumes from the ferry engines added to the discomfort. We turned on the ceiling fan that runs off of the house battery. Then, since we figured that it would be best to push the warm air out of the RV instead of bringing in the nasty fumes, we quickly reversed the direction — and blew the fuse. We knew we had no time to look for a replacement because it was time for us to move to the passenger deck, so we hoped for the best.

We were not pleased about leaving the dogs in those conditions, but we had no choice. Since they are accustomed to being left in the RV for two or three hours, we felt sure they would just sleep. Many people had dogs in their vehicles and we were pretty certain that it would be okay.

After about two hours, we couldn't stand it any longer and began to look for a crewmember to escort us to our RV. We were directed to the purser's office, where we were told that passengers could access their vehicles only at scheduled times. We would have to wait another half hour.

Finally able to check on the dogs, we descended in the elevator, leashed the dogs, and asked the crewmember in charge if we could take them up to an open deck to get some air. On deck three, Dazzle and Skyler looked all over for grass and trees between the cars and trucks. Finding none, they declined to relieve themselves. We returned

them to the RV, gave them some loving and a treat, and returned to the elevator.

Both elevators were locked. We resigned ourselves to the fact that we had missed our chance to return to the upper deck and returned to our RV. A crewmember spotted us and directed us to the stairs, where we climbed two flights to the passenger deck.

We ate lunch, chatted, walked out on the open deck, and kept an eye on the clock, waiting for the next time that we would be permitted to take the dogs for a walk. Around 1:45 p.m., we were again escorted to the deck where we had parked our RV. We took the dogs for another walk. This time, because they had been waiting for hours, they relieved themselves.

We had planned to stay in the RV for the rest of the trip, even though we knew it was against the rules, but the crewmember in charge was waiting for us (perhaps she had gotten into hot water for leaving us behind earlier).

We docked in Newfoundland at approximately 2:30 p.m. and were off the ferry within half an hour. We drove to Grand Codroy RV Camping Park for our first night in Newfoundland. We had traveled 65 miles by land and 107 miles by sea in one very long day. We were pleased at how nice the campground was, but mostly we were pleased that it was not moving and that we were all together again.

After two great weeks in Newfoundland, we returned to Port aux Basques to catch



Skyler and Dazzle resting in the RV.

the ferry to North Sydney, Nova Scotia. By this time, we felt like seasoned ferry travelers. We got in line to board the ferry and return to the mainland.

We had decided ahead of time to ask to park on the open deck so that the dogs would have better air. Not knowing whom to ask (we were not *that* seasoned), we asked every employee we saw. We asked the woman at the booth as we entered, the man who gave us the tag saying our propane tank was closed, the man who took our boarding pass, the man who directed us to move forward, and, finally, the man who made the decision about where we would park.

We saw other RVs go on board to the closed lower vehicle deck and we hoped that we would get the open upper vehicle deck. We had certainly expressed our desires and concerns to enough people.

When our turn came, we were pleasantly surprised at the extra attention we received. Not only were we parked on the open deck, but the crew made certain that our RV was the last one under the overhang. This allowed our RV to be sheltered from the elements, while allowing plenty of air to flow through the windows. The crewmembers paid close attention to providing room for the steps to come down as well as room for us to get in and out with the dogs.

We were comfortable leaving the dogs in the RV this time and both Dazzle and Skyler seemed to be relaxed. We ascended with the other passengers, ate breakfast, and enjoyed the ferry ride. When it came time to walk the dogs, we had no problems and no concerns. Even the fog and the foghorn caused us no concern, with people talking about how close we were to where the Titanic had gone down. We docked, disembarked, and drove to a KOA Campground where we stayed the night.

Dazzle and Skyler fared the trip to Newfoundland very well. They especially enjoyed a couple of enclosed areas where they could stretch out and run. The Newfoundland parks



Indy, adopted by Anne Ter Meer of N. Richland Hills, Texas.

have signs that read "Please stoop and scoop," and some even provide bags for picking up after your dogs. We found Newfoundland to be a very dog-friendly and people-friendly place.

If you ever have an opportunity to visit Newfoundland, don't pass it up. The people and the scenery are fantastic. And if you

are traveling by ferry with your dogs, be sure to ask to be parked on the open vehicle deck. ■

Joan Headland has worked with Greyhound adoption since 1985 and was a volunteer for Greyhound Pets of America from 1987 thru 2001. She adopted Dazzle from GPA/OC-GLA and Skyler from GPA/Arizona. She currently lives in Central Arizona and travels with her Greyhounds several times a year via motor home.

By Lauren Emery

Remembering Our Greyhounds



Do you visit your Greyhound's final resting spot and share your thoughts? Bernie stops for a visit in the woods at a canine friend's grave that is marked by a hand-hewn heart shaped stone. LAUREN EMERY

A Greyhound Prayer

*When I die,
Let it be as a pet
So that someone
Will remember me.*

—Kathy Porter

Do you remember when your adopted Greyhound first came into your life? Did you vie with family members for the privilege of holding the beautiful creature's leash on walks? Did he use your antique chairs as chew toys, shred newspapers for entertainment, and pee on the woodpile by the stove? Soon this exotic stranger adapted to his new life in your house, learning house manners and

routines. And when you weren't looking, he made himself at home on your couch and snuggled into a cozy corner of your heart.

At the start of your adventure together, the last thing on your mind was his death. Some of us have been fortunate to have shared many years of our lives with our adopted Greyhounds, while death took some too soon — some way too soon. A number of our Greyhound companions have succumbed to the effects of age or illness and some to accident or injury. Many of us have had the opportunity to plan how and where our ailing Greyhounds would leave the earth; for others, the death of our dog came as a complete shock. With Greyhound adoption

having mushroomed a number of years ago, it seems that so many of our needle nose friends have died. With their average lifespan being 12-14 years old, odds are that most of us will outlive our Greyhounds. Each death will be a loss and create a void, but all will have enriched our lives with many memories. Although we may eventually adopt another Greyhound, each has left unique paw prints on our heart.

Was your Greyhound your companion, confidante, comforter, and cuddle-bug? Dogs play many roles in our lives. They give us a reason to get out of bed every morning, get fresh air, and exercise. They can help us connect to other human beings. Exceptionally tolerant, they never complain about our taste in music or our vocal talents and could not care less about our bad hair days. Their sensitivity to human emotions often makes us wonder if they're psychic.

Studies have demonstrated that dogs can impact positively on our physical and mental health. Their presence in our lives can lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglycerides. They can help decrease stress and improve survival after a major illness. No wonder then that the death of a beloved dog can be a heartbreaking and devastating experience. Fortunately, in our society it is becoming somewhat more acceptable to express the grief one experiences with pet loss, especially when supportive family and friends can ease the bereavement process.

Helen Keller, who owned and loved many dogs in her long life, wrote: "What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes part of us." With that in mind, perhaps some of the following suggestions will help those seeking to honor the roles their beloved Greyhounds played in their lives.



We develop special relationships with our canine companions. Fellow couch potatoes Dan Emery and Boomer loved walking miles a day together until Boomer died at 13 with age related problems. LAUREN EMERY

Photographs

When your dog's daily presence is gone, a framed photo taken during a happy, healthy time can be a tangible reminder of the joy you and your dog gave each other. Collage frames, which come in different sizes, allow you to select a number of photos to display. Looking back at old photos of your friend can be good therapy, too. If you don't have your photos in an album or memory book, consider making one specifically devoted to your Greyhound.

Shadow Box and Memory Box

A shadow box is hung on the wall as a three-dimensional picture frame and allows you to display objects such as your dog's collar and tags, hair clippings, dried flowers, and other small mementos. You can also enlarge a photo of your dog and cut it to fit inside the oval shape of the collar. A shadow box can be custom-made by a professional framer or purchased from a frame supplier (e.g., www.frameplace.com). Instead of displaying your mementos, you may choose to store them in a memory box. The Pet Memory Box from www.orvis.com is made of wood. Inside the box is a slot to hold a collar or photos and a section with a magnetic lid to hold the dog's ashes. The brass nameplate on the top of the box's exterior can be engraved

with your dog's name, and a photo can be inserted into the front exterior of the box.

Personal Writings

The sadness and grief associated with a beloved dog's death may overwhelm memories of the joy he gave you. Cultivate memories of the good times and make an effort to look back. To get started, list all of your dog's nicknames. Then share stories of the happy and funny times you had together. Remember your dog's unique personality and habits. Poetry and prose often serve to memorialize your loved one as well. Don't worry about spelling or composition. This memoir should be written to express your feelings first. Refine your writings later if you wish. You will keep the cherished times alive when you re-read these pages and they may help you smile now and in the future.

Memorial Donations

Consider honoring your Greyhound's memory and helping other animals by making a donation to an adoption group, animal shelter, advocacy, or humane organization. If your pet was stricken with cancer, you may wish to donate to the Morris Animal Foundation's Greyhound Cancer Project, which the Greyhound Project sponsors. University pet loss hotlines, staffed by veterinary students,

can offer support during the grieving process and are also supported through donations. If your Greyhound served as a therapy dog, you may want to support the organization of which he was a member. Write a memorial to send with your donation to let the chosen organization know how special your dog was to you.

Web Memorials

There are many websites dedicated to pet memorials. For instance, you may post a tribute to your Greyhound's life with a photo on the Greyhound Memorial Park website (www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pointe/8290/Memorial/). On the Pet Loss Grief Support website (www.petloss.com), you can add your Greyhound's name to the list of beloved pets who have died. Some adoption groups also post memorials of their departed dogs.

Candle Ceremonies

Setting aside a specific time to remember your pet can be therapeutic. Since 1995, the Pet Loss Grief Support observance has evolved into a worldwide ceremony that takes place each Monday evening at 10:00 p.m. Eastern Time (times for other parts of the world are listed on their website). You can learn more about this non-denominational candle lighting ceremony to honor and remember pets at www.petloss.com/ceremony.htm. In addition, the Greyhound Memorial Park website mentions a candle ceremony to remember Greyhounds on Saturdays at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time and a special memorial service at Dewey Beach each year.

Plants

Living plants can be beautiful reminders of those who have died. On Memorial Day, traditionally the start of gardening season in New England, it is a pleasure to select flowers and fill planters with colors that will remind us of our dogs. To honor a red Greyhound with a white bib and toes, create a beautiful pot of annuals such as orange gazanias and marigolds with white petunias and



Framing a remembrance photo of your departed Greyhound taken at a happy time will help keep the good memories alive. Glendower was a beloved Greyhound of Mart and Mary Lapin, who died suddenly with cancer before his eighth birthday. MARY LAPIN

allyssum. For a black Greyhound who wore a red collar, a pot of black pansies and red dianthus would be lovely. Forget-me-nots are easy to grow from seed. Plant a tree as a living memorial to your Greyhound, perhaps including the dog's ashes when you plant it, for years of beauty.

Window Crystals

Many people who have experienced the death of their dog have been comforted by the story of the Rainbow Bridge — a place where dogs who have died go and are restored to health, frolicking until they are joyously reunited with their owners. Consider hanging a faceted crystal in a sunny window in honor of the memory of your Greyhound. They are available in many different shapes and sizes. When the sun shines on the crystal, the rainbows it casts will surprise and

delight, perhaps reminding you of the beautiful energy of your dog's spirit and the Rainbow Bridge where he now plays.

Urns and Gravestones

There are many types of urns and gravestones that you can use to commemorate your Greyhound's final resting place. Urns may be wooden, ceramic, or marble. They may have various emblems and figurines on them and can be engraved. Some have a space for a photo display. Many urns and gravestones may be ordered online. For a simple grave marker, use natural stones. Commercially available grave markers with engraving are made of river stones, slate, granite, and bronze. Glass and porcelain photos of your dog can be included on some.

Regardless of whether or not you add a gravestone at your Greyhound's burial place,

it may be therapeutic to visit your dog's grave, express your love, and speak to him about things in your life. It is possible that the energy may be transmitted to the other side.

"One last word of farewell, Dear Master and Mistress. Whenever you visit my grave, say to yourselves with regret but also with happiness in your hearts at the remembrance of my ... happy life with you: 'Here lies one who loved us and whom we loved.' No matter how deep my sleep, I shall hear you, and not all the power of death can keep my spirit from wagging a grateful tail."

—Eugene O'Neill, *"The Last Will and Testament of An Extremely Distinguished Dog"* ■

Lauren Emery is a frequent contributor to CG Magazine. She has been involved with Greyhound adoption for eight years and is a volunteer and Board member with the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, Me.

Lure Coursing: Two Stories



Junior in hot pursuit. PHIL FITZ

Junior's Story: A Senior's First Meet

By Phil Fitz

On Labor Day 1999, my wife Laurie and I adopted Junior Say Ow, a 5-year-old red fawn male from the Greyhound Adoption League (GAL) in West Palm Beach, Florida. I am a retired coach and teacher from Bellmore, New York. Laurie and I moved to Florida in 1992, the year of the terrible Hurricane Andrew.

Junior Say Ow began his racing career at 18 months of age. He was a dependable, consistent racer who was 48 percent in the money with 22 wins during his 470-race career. His first race was in St Petersburg, Florida, and his career continued at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach,

Florida. Most of his races were Grades B and C, with a few Grade A starts. Junior had his share of minor bumps, scrapes, and injuries, just like any professional athlete.

At 5 years old, Junior entered the adoption program at GAL. He was there for five months. No one seemed to want this ordinary-looking, hard-working, retired journeyman athlete.

On our first visit to GAL, Laurie and I met a beautiful 18-month-old black female named Ruby. We could not take our eyes off of her. But Alice Borchert of GAL called me aside, looked me straight in the eye and said: "In our interview, you said you were a very active person, jogging and biking, quite a robust retired person. Ruby may not

be the Greyhound to meet your needs. Ray and I think that we have another Greyhound that might be more suitable for you. He is 5 years old, raced all his life, and is quite vigorous. Please take a look at him."

Let me tell you, when that bundle of muscle pounced from the upper crate and came straight to me, I took the leash and knew immediately that he was the hound for me. Almost four years have passed since that momentous day. Junior has had a good life with us. He runs with me when I bike three miles each morning. We travel together. We play. You name it — we have done it. Junior has been anything but a couch potato. But for the three years we have been together, Junior has obviously wanted more.

I did some research into coursing. Though I was able to find active coursing groups in central and northern Florida, the dates of their meets conflicted with other events in our lives. Finally, last June, Laurie and I applied for and received permission from the Sunshine Coursing Club of Gainesville, Florida for Junior to participate in a lure coursing Fun Trial.

Three years later, I worried as we drove the 318 miles to Gainesville. Maybe it would be too much for an 8-year-old. Maybe Junior is too heavy now at 69 pounds (three pounds over his racing weight). He handles three miles a day okay, but those jogs are not even close to an all-out pace. I wondered if we were beginning coursing much too late in Junior's life and for the wrong reasons. I rationalized that we would let the dog tell us if he should participate by the way he reacted to the environment. I worried and worried through the night.

Well, in the three years I've spent with this retired racer, never did I witness such excitement. Junior was ecstatic. Every dog at this Fun Trial had some experience at coursing, with the exception of Junior. However, none showed more excitement (with the exception of a few Whippets). To my surprise, there were Ridgebacks, Wolfhounds, and a few breeds I couldn't identify. Qualifying dogs of like breeds were allowed to run in groups of two or three. They were beautiful to watch.

Junior's run was a single, where one sighthound chases the lure. Fourteen sighthounds were entered in the event. Junior was the only Greyhound and the only one who had never before participated in coursing. Laurie acted as the handler, slipping him for the race, because I was afraid that Junior would sense my apprehension.

The first heat did not start well. Junior lost track of the lure and became disoriented

in the big field. He recovered, found the lure, and finished the 780-yard course in good order. The two judges scored him seventh among the 14 participants.

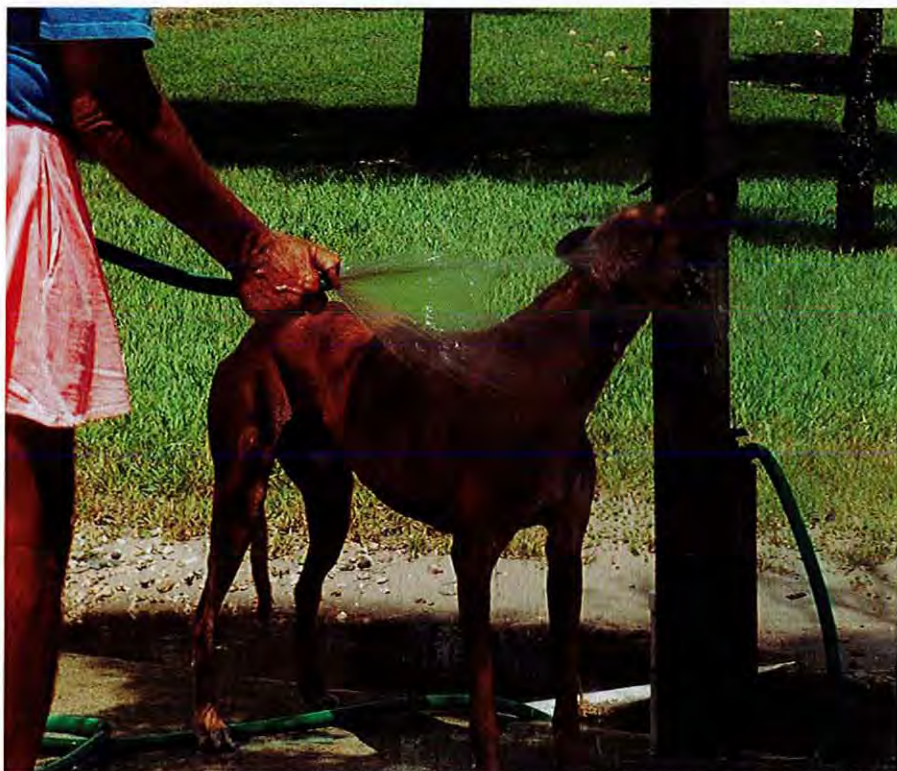
In the second heat, Junior ran the entire 780-yard course and was awarded the highest single score of all entrants in either heat. When the combined points for both heats were computed for the Fun Trials Single Event, Junior Say Ow won second place to an experienced Whippet named Devo.

It is impossible for me to describe the sparkle in the eyes of this retired 8-year-old Greyhound. Of course, even more impossible to describe were the emotions that ran through this old coach's body. Our football and wrestling teams won many games and wrestling tournaments. We had countless county and state wrestling champions during the 30 years that I was an active high school coach. None of these experiences compares to the satisfaction of watching that retired professional athlete succeed in an entirely new venue with such noble courage, determination, and heart.

Since that first run, Junior has earned his Junior Coursing title and placed in several local AKC (American Kennel Club) and ASFA (American Sighthound Field Association) coursing meets. Most recently, he won a First Place ribbon in the Greyhound Veterans' Division at an ASFA-sponsored coursing event in Ocala, Florida.

There is an old adage in Greyhound adoption and rescue that one does not choose a Greyhound — the Greyhound chooses you. Laurie and I feel very privileged and delighted to have been chosen by Junior Say Ow. Junior not only chose me, but he rescued me from an ordinary retirement and introduced me to an exciting and productive life with a truly wonderful animal.

I hope that we will find lure coursing events for Junior with other participants in his age group, so he can run in a group after the lures. Somehow I just know he will simply love that.



Junior cools down after a run. PHIL FITZ



One of Robbie's winning runs at the June 1998 ASFA International Invitational, Lexington, Ky. SHOT ON SITE

Robbie: A Father's Legacy

By Bev Dalrymple

My father, Fred Meas, adopted 2-year-old Robbie from The Greyhound Rescue Society of Sugar Loaf, New York, in April of 1997. At the time, Dad had a Greyhound named Diana whom we had been avidly lure coursing for several years. Diana was rapidly passing her prime and being a huge fan of the sport, Dad decided he needed a younger dog. Robbie turned out to be that hound — and what a fine coursing dog he was.

When Robbie was first adopted, Dad applied to the AKC for an ILP (Indefinite Listing Privilege) number. The ILP number was necessary to make Robbie eligible to compete in coursing events as well as other performance trials. When he registered Rob, Dad insisted that I be documented as co-owner. "If anything ever happens to me," he said, "I can be assured that Robbie gets into the hands of someone who loves him — someone who will always keep his best interest at heart." Just seven months after Dad adopted Robbie, they participated in a coursing event in Mt. Holly, New Jersey.

Dad collapsed and died that day at the field with a massive heart attack. Since then, love Robbie and keep his best interest at heart is just what I've done. I immediately set out to prove to the world in general, and the coursing community in particular, that Robbie was the dog Dad insisted would make folks "sit up and take notice."

I believe that proper conditioning is the single most important thing that can be done for a coursing hound. I have attended events where people have allowed their overweight and generally unfit Greyhounds on to the course for a fun run. I completely understand the desire of these folks to see their hounds stretch out and really run. I have often advised these people to run only a portion of the course without sharp turns. Some have taken the advice and some have not. I watch with my heart in my throat until these dogs are safely back in the arms of their well-meaning, yet sadly uninformed owners.

Each spring, at least four weeks before the first coursing event of the year, I begin Robbie's conditioning routine. The first step is a visit to the veterinarian to assess Rob-

bie's overall health. While I always felt he was in good condition, blood work and a stethoscope are certainly sharper than my eyes. Robbie raced at the track at 64 pounds. If he was over that by more than two pounds, I began checking his weight weekly. If increased exercise did not drop those two pounds in a couple of weeks, I then adjusted his food intake.

Robbie's aerobic conditioning was accomplished through roadwork. I live near the county fairgrounds which contain a network of roads — some gravel, some grass, and some pavement — untraveled by the public. The variety of surfaces helped increase the toughness of Robbie's pads. I held the leash out the window of my van, and drove at 5 to 7 mph, which produced a very brisk trot. The first time I ever tried this, I moved the van very slowly only a few feet. I needed to know if Robbie would be afraid. Gradually, I increased the distance and speed. We started each spring with a half-mile trot per day. As Robbie's fitness improved, he eventually worked up to three miles per day.

Each day I considered many factors: how long ago Robbie ate, the outside temperature, and whether his pads were sufficiently tough to tolerate a longer distance. He grew to truly enjoy the game. When I started the van, Robbie would wag his tail and with an expectant look on his face, urge me to get going. He always wanted to run faster than I felt prudent. Only rarely would I increase my speed to around 15 mph, and only for a very short distance. I never really felt in total control of either the van or him and it worried me too much to do this very often.

(Ed. Note: Roadwork is not for everyone. It is a common approach to training a dog for coursing and, when used carefully and sparingly, can be an appropriate element of a coursing dog's conditioning program. Needless to say, anyone contemplating roadwork with his Greyhound should exercise extreme caution, as the author describes. Use of a motor vehicle is not the only option; a moderately fit recreational runner or cyclist can also cover a distance of three miles at a speed of 5 to 7 mph without much effort.)

After four to six weeks of training at the fairgrounds, I felt I had done everything in my power to ensure safe runs on a coursing field. If I was coursing him weekly, I stopped these workouts. If more than two weeks passed between trials, we would hit the fairgrounds every couple of days.

The day of an event usually began very early. I traveled from 30 to 200 miles to events and occasionally even farther. If Robbie was not going to course for at least six hours after we got up, I would give him his usual breakfast. If he would be on the course sooner than that, he got only a portion of his normal morning meal. I have always fed him a good quality, commercial kibble. His morning meal is dry food only, but at night I add a little something to make it especially yummy—usually a bit of leftovers or chicken livers that I have cooked just for him. I also supplement his diet with a maintenance dose of Glyco-Flex™ and MSM™. I have contin-



Robbie takes a break from training to visit the beach. BEV DALRYMPLE

ued this diet even though he is no longer coursing in hopes that these joint and muscle supplements will serve him well in his golden years. During the day at an event, I always gave him Nutri-Cal™, a high protein paste that replenished the vitamins and minerals exhausted while he was running. I also gave him water with added electrolytes to replace the fluid he lost while panting heavily after a course.

Before he ran, I always bandaged the stop pads on his forelegs. He had the unfortunate experience of torn pads once, and I was determined to prevent it from happening again. Robbie also turned so sharply that his hind toenails, no matter how trim, would dig into his elbows on the front and tear them open. To aid in preventing this, I would slather on a good dollop of petroleum jelly to make the hind nails glance off, as opposed to digging in. After each course, I walked him and gave him only little sips of water until he was completely cooled down. At that point, he could have all the electrolyte water he wanted. Liquids need to move smoothly through the system so that the kid-

neys continue to function properly, guarding against uremic poisoning, so I always walked him until he urinated.

I always covered Robbie on cold days until the start of a course. On hot days, I kept him soaking wet, both before and after a course, knowing that as water evaporated from his skin, it would cool him. When he was completely cooled down, I checked him from head to toes, looking for injuries of any kind that would make him unfit to run further courses. Bumps and bruises, line lacerations, and injured toes and pads are common. Some are not so severe as to prevent more running that day, but others are very serious. I have seen hounds who have broken a leg during an event and it is a sight I will never forget. On any day that I questioned Robbie's fitness, I always pulled him from competition. I could not have lived with myself if I had made the choice to run him and a severe injury occurred. When we finally arrived home after a day of coursing, a big evening meal, a hot whirlpool footbath, and a good overall massage were always the way we ended Robbie's busy day. We came



Although Robbie has maintained the physique of a conditioned athlete, he has retired from the sport of lure coursing. BEV DALRYMPLE

home with ribbons often. To tell the truth, the ribbons meant nothing to Robbie; he reveled in the intense joy of the chase. For me, every time I brought home an uninjured and happy, but tired dog, I felt we had won despite the number or color of his ribbons.

I can't tell you how many special people

and hounds I met over the years of coursing. Coursing people, for the most part, are genuinely concerned about the health and well being of your hound as well as their own. There is always someone ready and willing to give you a hand — helping you bandage a leg, walking your dog if you are occupied,

or holding your hound while you are in the portable potty. I wholeheartedly endorse the sport of lure coursing. For any Greyhound — or other sighthound for that matter — who is willing and fit, it can be wonderful fun.

Robbie always ran with such glee and wild abandon that those who watched couldn't help but be enthralled. At 8 years old, he would still course if I let him, but coursing is not a sport that can be done occasionally. Robbie has not coursed in over two years. His weight is the same as when he was actively coursing and his nails are trimmed as short as possible, but these are only the things I can see. His heart rate and respiration surely aren't what they used to be and his pads are now soft and tender from my carpets and the couch. I would liken it to a marathon runner who has spent six months in front of the television. A runner would no more think of going to a race without conditioning than I would think of turning Robbie loose on a course today. Injuries happen more often as these athletes age, and they are usually more serious. Robbie proved his mettle in 1998 and that's good enough for me.

In 1998, Robbie (M's Fair Rob, SC LCM CGC) was the #2 American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) Greyhound. That year, he defeated 172 of 328 coursing Greyhounds. (The #1 Greyhound defeated 173.) His crowning glory that year was at the ASFA International Invitational in Lexington, Kentucky, where he defeated all 45 Greyhounds and took Best of Breed. There was not a dry eye among his fans as he came charging to the finish line. We all knew he had done it for my father.

I take solace in knowing that Dad was doing something he really loved when he left us. And indeed, no man has ever left his daughter a more precious legacy than Robbie. ■

Phil Fitz is a retired high school teacher and coach from New York who current resides in Sunrise, Fla. Bev Dalrymple resides in Elmira, N.Y. where she is actively involved with canine obedience training. A volunteer for Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption of Altoona, Pa., she enjoys life with her Greyhounds Robbie and Ed.

Is Lure Coursing For You and Your Greyhound?



Lure coursing is all-out running. SHOT ON SITE

It is a scenario that is all too familiar to those of us with our feet in both the adoption and lure coursing worlds: A new adopter hears about lure coursing and decides to take his Greyhound to a practice or a field trial. He figures that since his retired racer runs in the backyard, he's ready for the coursing field. At the field trial, some veteran coursers try to give him unsolicited advice. He feels they're talking down to him and so he ignores them. He runs his Greyhound, who has never seen lure coursing and is entirely unfamiliar with the movements of the lure. The dog tries to take a turn at too high a speed, gets hurt, and now the surprised adopter is upset. He blames the sport of lure coursing, the host club, or the veteran coursers whose advice he chose to ignore, when it was his own lack of preparation that caused the injury.

Don't let this happen to you and your Greyhound. Do your Greyhound and yourself a favor and make an informed decision

about whether the sport is right for both of you.

As with any athletic activity, lure coursing does present the risk of injury to your Greyhound. It involves all-out running that is both more intense and more exhilarating than any free running your Greyhound will do in the backyard. Letting your Greyhound try lure coursing is analogous to letting your child participate in youth sports. The fun comes with risk and responsibility. It is your responsibility, first and foremost, to know your dog's history and fitness level, and to be attentive to his condition before and after he runs.

How Do You Know If Lure Coursing Is Right For Your Greyhound?

The first question should be: Is my Greyhound fit for the sport? The methods of researching your Greyhound's history and assessing his fitness level are beyond the scope of this article; consult "Lure Coursing Step by Step" (Spring 1998 *CG*) or

<http://www.greyhoundadoption.org/lure-coursing.htm> for a detailed description of history research and fitness assessment.

There are several amusing myths as to why Greyhounds shouldn't participate in lure coursing:

1. Greyhounds that have been retired from racing should just enjoy the good life and not be made to run in lure coursing.

I have yet to meet a healthy Greyhound who doesn't enjoy running and chasing. To them, chasing something *is* the good life. Greyhounds cannot be *made* to lure course; if they enjoy chasing, they will run. If they don't, they won't.

2. Lure coursing will awaken a Greyhound's "killer" instinct and increase his prey drive.

I have known scores of retired racers who go lure coursing, and I have never seen this occur. The only behavioral changes I have ever seen have been in somewhat shy Greyhounds that developed more self-confidence

as a result of getting out among groups of people and dogs, and realizing that running in company is fun. My four Greyhounds live peaceably with two cats, and lure coursing has not changed their behavior with the cats in the least.

3. My adoption agreement prohibits racing my Greyhound.

Most adoption groups mean professional racing by this provision. In any event, racing is a test of speed. Lure coursing is a test not just of speed, but of such talents as agility and endurance. It is the rare adoption group that prohibits lure coursing for its adoptees. If you have an interest in lure coursing and your local adoption group has such a clause in its agreement, consider adopting from another group.

How Do You Know If Lure Coursing Is Right For You?

If you've determined that your Greyhound is fit for lure coursing, it's a pretty safe bet that he will enjoy it *if* you are willing to be his trainer, coach, and chauffeur. Here are a few questions to ask yourself that will help you determine if lure coursing with your Greyhound is right for you:

1. Are you willing to become a serious student of the Greyhound, particularly Greyhound anatomy and physiology?

Taking an active interest in Greyhound anatomy and physiology can help you do everything from spotting and treating even subtle strains to assessing your Greyhound's overall mental and physical status to determine if he should continue in the day's field trial. Most active lure coursers learn to determine how their Greyhound is feeling based on their Greyhound's manner, gait, and stride. They also learn which minor maladies they can treat and which need to be seen by a veterinarian.

2. Do you already have a weekend life crammed full of activities?

Most lure coursing field trials are all-day events, lasting from 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. to 3:00

or 4:00 p.m., during which each dog runs at least twice. You can't really come for half a day and expect to fully participate in the trial, then expect to make an afternoon golf game or soccer match. Lure coursing veterans like to say that the sport is 90 seconds of excitement while your hound is running, interspersed with hours of sitting around and visiting with other sighthound owners. For that reason, lure coursing has a pleasant social element, with many lasting friendships initiated on the coursing field.

3. Are you impatient or do you like instant gratification?

If you are the type of person who takes the fast food approach to life (*gotta have it, gotta have it now*), lure coursing with a Greyhound may not be for you. There is simply too much preparation required to jump right in there without reading the owner's manual. To run a former racing Greyhound safely, you must investigate his history and start him off *slowly*. He needs time to watch and learn that the lure ("bunny") on the lure coursing field moves differently than did the lure ("Rusty") at the track. If he interferes with his running mates, you may need to run him alone for several trials so that he can learn that the game is chase, not bump-and-run. Patience is the key.

4. Are you highly competitive?

Lure coursing involves competition, but the placements and ribbons are just there to add interest for the humans; they aren't the be-all and end-all of the sport. If you tend to get a little caught up in competition, you might want to choose another outlet for that competitive drive. The last thing you want to do is to be competitive at the expense of your Greyhound and run him one last time just for that Best of Breed ribbon when he's had enough for the day.

I hope this article has given you a realistic perspective on what it takes to properly involve your Greyhound in the sport of lure coursing and hasn't scared you off. If your Greyhound is an appropriate candidate for the sport and you are willing to make the investment of time and interest in preparing him, lure coursing can be a wonderful bonding experience with your Greyhound. There is no doubt that you and your hound will enjoy yourselves immensely. ■

John Parker is Chairman of the Advisory Board of Greyhound Pets of America-Atlanta/Southeastern Greyhound Adoption, and is President of the Southeastern Greyhound Club. He is a member of the Appalachian Coursing Club and serves on the Board of the Coursing Hound Association of the Southeast. He lives with his four Greyhounds and two cats in Newnan, Georgia.



At the line: Greyhounds get ready for the tally ho.

A Day at the Amateur Races



Malibu, adopted by Michele Houghton of New Boston, N.H., was the top LGRA Greyhound in 1999 and 2000, and the LGRA dog of the year in 1999.

After adopting my first Greyhound, I spent most weekends at lure coursing trials. I enjoyed it and my dog really enjoyed it. Then I discovered amateur racing, and my dogs and I found a new kind of weekend thrill.

I adopted Haley (M's Maid Betty, FCh, GRC) when she was 20 months old. Although she came from a racing kennel, she never had what it took to compete on the track. Lack of speed was not her problem. Her personality just wasn't tough enough for the life of a track dog. I took her home and began the process of building her confidence and self-esteem. It was just about this time that I discovered amateur racing, so I brought her along to see how she would do. That first day, I saw a side of Haley that I didn't know

existed. Haley began to come out of her shell. She gained a little more self-confidence at each race that carried over to her life at home.

Greyhounds have been bred to chase and hunt. It comes as no surprise that in most cases, your Greyhound will know exactly what is expected of him or her at the event. This doesn't mean that training and conditioning are unnecessary in amateur sports — it means that it can be a lot of fun to work with your Greyhound in a sport for which the dog is highly motivated to participate. I knew that Haley was fit enough to compete her first time out. I spend many hours exercising my dogs — free running, long walks, and even trotting them next to me on my bicycle a couple of times a week.

All dogs must have the correct level of fitness before competing in a race. If they are accustomed to running and playing, injuries may be less likely. Conditioning is probably the most important first step if you are contemplating serious running activities for your Greyhound. Make sure that your dog has not just stepped off of the couch and onto the field. As your dog's protector and advocate, you must be able to objectively judge your Greyhound's condition. Your dog will want to run, and run hard, but you must condition your dog gradually before entering a race meet. It is also important for your dog to undergo a complete physical exam by your veterinarian before competing to identify any previous injuries or current



Although a variety of sighthound breeds compete in LGRA and NOTRA events, dogs only race against their own breed. D.A. BELLENGER

health concerns. Haley had no prior racing injuries, as she had never raced professionally. Don't let that put you off; the conditioning you do with your dogs is a wonderful bonding experience, whichever training methods you choose.

All clubs have practices because they want to encourage new people to come out and enjoy the sport with their dogs. It is in the club's interest to teach new people and new dogs the ins-and-outs of a race meet and you will be cheerfully welcomed to the event. If you attend at a scheduled meet with your dog, you will certainly be put to work helping out with the meet. You will also get a chance to teach your dog about the starting box and let your dog take a practice run down the track in pursuit of the lure. You will have an opportunity to see both the

experienced and the not-so-experienced hounds run. Amateur racing is fun and anyone is welcome to show up and learn more about it.

The day begins early, before dawn. I feed the dogs an early morning breakfast of raw meat and some supplements to ensure they have enough energy to get through the day, but not enough food in their systems to slow them down. Amateur race enthusiasts take the feeding and conditioning of their dogs as seriously as the professional might. It is not uncommon to spend much of the race meet discussing training, conditioning, and feeding ideas with other participants.

After the dogs have eaten their breakfast, it is time to load the car. I keep a large bag pre-packed with all of the racing equipment I need. My equipment list consists of a set of

racing blankets and a plastic racing style muzzle for each dog I have entered that day. The dogs can share the blankets, but if they end up in the same race during the day, they each need a muzzle. All dogs race wearing muzzles because the dogs are very keen on the lure. When the lure stops and the race is finished, the dogs will attempt to maul it. The muzzle ensures that a dog will not be able to grab the lure in its mouth, which can result in a long delay as once a dog has gotten hold of "the pot of gold at the end of the race," it will not give it up willingly and easily.

I also carry a first aid kit stocked with assortment of natural-based skin salves, pad moisturizer, antibiotic ointment, Betadine®, cotton gauze, vet wrap, elastic stretch adhesive tape, and bandage scissors. I pack a few large bottles of water because most fields do not

have drinking water available. As I am rounding up the equipment the dogs are bouncing around me and wagging tails; they know what is happening and they can't wait to be loaded into the car and get on the road.

There are two types of amateur racing venues in which Greyhounds are allowed to compete. Large Gazehound Racing Association (LGRA) formed in 1995 for recognized sighthound breeds other than Whippets. National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA) had its beginnings in the mid 1970s and gradually spread to all parts of the United States and into Canada. In NOTRA, both Whippets and large sight-hounds compete, with the non-Whippet program known as the Other Breeds (OB) program. LGRA is a sprint event, where the dogs run a 200-yard straight track. NOTRA is an oval track, commonly called a U-VAL for its shape. It is a length anywhere from 220 meters to 402.5 meters, depending upon the size of the field available to the club and what the club members want to run.

This day we are off to a LGRA event. I live in the Northeast U.S., where I am fortunate to be surrounded by a number of clubs that sponsor both LGRA and NOTRA race meets. My drive can be as short as one hour or as long as eight hours. For a longer trip, I will stay at a motel or camp on the field if that is permitted. Today we arrive at the field about an hour before the roll call is to begin. LGRA and NOTRA are organizations that depend upon the support and hard work of the participants in the meet. The sponsoring club is responsible for bringing the equipment to the field, but it takes the entire group of racing participants to set up the track, staff the starting box, serve as line foul judges, and handle dogs for others. I find this to be part of the fun, as the day is busy working with the dogs and socializing with the other participants. There is never a lull in activity and often much walking to and from the starting boxes and the finish line and back to the cars with the dogs. Who says you can't be in as great shape

as your dogs? My fitness level has increased considerably since I have owned performance dogs; not a bad side effect.

At both LGRA events and NOTRA events, a variety of sighthound breeds are allowed to compete; however, dogs only race against their own breed, and so the Greyhound only races other Greyhounds. More than one dog from each breed is required to generate an official race meet, and I am happy if I see six or more Greyhounds out for the event. It is a lot more exciting to have good competition for the day and to be able to watch three or four different Greyhound races in each program. LGRA meets are made up of three programs of races, meaning that each dog will run a total of three times in one day. Each race consists of up to four dogs, depending upon the draw and the total number of Greyhounds entered.

Since most meets are held on the weekends, clubs typically hold separate meets on Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes a straight race (LGRA) will be held the first day with an oval race (NOTRA) the next. The makeup of the meet depends upon the club, its membership, and their preferences. Participants are not required to attend both days. Many participants enter only the event that fits best into their schedule.

The first few hours of the race meet are the busiest. It is difficult to juggle the tasks of preparing the track while greeting other participants as cars, vans, and RVs arrive and dogs and people pile out. When I first arrive at the event, I usually spend a little time walking my Greyhound, Haley, and stretching out her legs after the drive. She does the usual sniffing and such until she notices the race equipment on the field; then she freezes, and locks her eyes onto the lure, the machinery, or maybe just the track if it is already set up. She realizes why she is here and starts to tremble in anticipation. There is no more time for socialization once that part of her brain has been triggered, and



Blade and Haley break out of the box at an amateur racing event. STEVE SURFMAN

so we return to the car where she will wait for the races to begin.

Once the track is set up, which means the track has been measured, the starting boxes have been placed at one end, and the finish line marked at the other, the race meet secretary calls for a roll call. I take Haley out of the car again, with leash on, and walk her to the area where roll call is taking place. The roll call is the opportunity for the race meet secretary and assistants to confirm the arrival of pre-registered participants and to add any day-of-meet entries for the procrastinators among us. The hounds are asked to walk up and back in front of the race meet secretary to ensure that the dog is not lame and is able to compete. Assessing your own dog is difficult. If you are in any doubt about your dog's gait, walk him back and forth in front of others, so that they can assess his condition objectively.

Once the final registration of entered dogs is recorded, the race secretary draws the board. Hounds are ranked upon waves (weighted averages of their last three races) with first time entered (FTE) hounds running in the lowest ranked races. This ensures that the highest ranked dogs are competing together and the unranked or lower ranked dogs are competing together. After the first race, the next race is drawn based upon the placements in the preceding race, meaning that in each program, the dogs usually run against different dogs.



Muzzles are required, because if the Greyhound grabs the lure, it will not give it up willingly and easily. **BRYAN RANDOLPH**

If your dog is not running in the first few races, you will be put to work on the field. I try and get my dogs prepared and settled, with my blankets and muzzles out. I write down my dogs' blanket numbers and race schedules, so that I will be prepared for our turn. Then I volunteer as a line or foul judge. Besides the judges and the catchers (those who wait by the end of the track and grab the dogs as they pounce on the lure), there is a box operator and a lure operator. Owners usually walk their own dogs down to the starting boxes. With the box operator's assistance, the dogs are loaded into the boxes, numbers one through four, and the signal to begin is given. The motion of the lure focuses the hounds. The box operator moves the lever to open the box. The dogs leap out, and the race is on. In any racing event, the first dog over the finish line wins. Two line judges stand on either side of the finish line, pen and paper in hand, to record the finish. Concentration is a must as you have only

seconds and many times less than that to correctly note the blanket numbers as the dogs cross the line. The high point race — the race with the highest ranked dogs participating — includes four line judges, two on each side. Two foul judges watch the dogs as they travel down the track. A dog cannot intentionally interfere with another dog as they run from box to finish line. Aggression is not tolerated and may be grounds for disqualification. This is why it's a good idea to practice a new dog by himself and then with other dogs before entering a competition.

The lure operator is responsible for starting the lure moving once the dogs are loaded into the starting boxes. A good operator will keep the lure far enough ahead of the hounds so that they don't slow down or catch up with it while keeping it close enough so that the hounds are actively pursuing the lure.

The lure is attached to a string that is pulled through pulleys in the direction of the finish line. There are no pulleys on the track in LGRA (as it is straight). In NOTRA the pulleys are set up on the turns, out of way of the dogs path, so that the lure will maintain the UVal shape.

When the lure stops, owners retrieve their dogs, walk them out, and cool them down before putting them back into cars, vans, or crates. Allowing the dogs time to cool down and making sure they are walked off sufficiently is as important as making sure they are stretched out and ready to run in the first place. The safety and health of the dogs always comes first and owners will always be given enough time to spend with their dogs.

The first break in the action comes around noon. Over a potluck lunch, the participants review the morning races and recall the highlights. Expectations for the afternoon races are noted and pep talks given to the dogs trailing behind. Lunch is another chance to chat with competitors who you may not have seen since the last meet — an opportunity to relax and enjoy the camaraderie of those who share similar interests.

With one program left to run in the afternoon, the participants return to their stations and the dogs ready themselves for one last try at that first place ribbon. Points are awarded to each dog depending upon their placement in each race. After the three programs are run, the points are calculated for the dogs' placements to be awarded. Practice runs occur while the race secretary tallies the results. Once the placements have been determined, the ribbons and prizes are brought out and the dogs and participants are called to gather round. Each breed running that day is eligible for both race meet points and for title points. In a somewhat complicated system that depends upon the number of dogs entered and the number of dogs defeated, the highest-placing dogs are awarded points that count towards titles. Different titles are awarded in each organization. LGRA titles include Gazehound Race Champion (GRC) and Supreme Gazehound Race Champion (SGRC). NOTRA awards the Oval Race Champion (ORC) and Supreme Oval Race Champion (SORC). The most coveted award of the day is the turtle, awarded to the lowest scoring dog in each breed.

Ribbons are awarded and title points tallied. Participants applaud each hound as the placements are announced. Congratulations are made to both winners and losers and plans for rematches made.

At the end of the day, every Greyhound is a star. The dogs are fatigued, but very happy. The owners are tired, with wind- and sunburnt faces to show for their efforts. The drive back home, or to the motel, is filled with thoughts about the next race meet. Five o'clock comes awfully early.

For more information about amateur racing, visit www.lgra.org and www.notra.org. ■

Tracy Rudzitis lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her Greyhounds Blade and Haley. She is a teacher during the week and a race and coursing enthusiast on the weekends.

Congestive Heart Failure

Diagnosis and Treatment



Timely diagnosis and treatment of congestive heart failure can give your Greyhound more time with loved ones. Annie, adopted by Tim and Jenny Wright from Rescued Racers of St. Louis, Mo.

Congestive heart failure (CHF) is a disease characterized by an enlargement of the heart, causing multiple clinical signs. Although CHF may be controlled with medication, the heart will eventually fail, leading to an acute death or requiring euthanasia. Successful control of the disease requires an understanding of the circulatory system, the effect of medications on the circulatory system, the clinical signs of CHF, and its diagnosis and treatment.

Normal Heart Function

The circulatory system consists of blood vessels to carry the blood, and a pump that circulates it. The heart is the pump. It receives blood from the entire body in the right side. The blood that enters the right side contains

mostly carbon dioxide and very little oxygen. The heart pumps this blood to the lungs, where the carbon dioxide is exchanged for oxygen; the blood then returns to the left side of the heart. The blood on the left side of the heart is then circulated to the body to provide oxygen and pick up carbon dioxide. Finally, the blood returns to the right side to start the trip all over again.

The blood vessels are the pipes that carry the blood. Arteries have small branches called arterioles that lead into even smaller capillaries, where oxygen exchange takes place. This path carries the blood from the left side. The capillaries then lead to venuoles and then veins that carry the blood from the right side back to the heart. The blood vessels do not just carry the blood. They are

dynamic structures that help regulate blood pressure, increase circulation to needed areas of the body (for example, to the intestines to absorb the nutrients from food), and assist in regulating sodium balance. These dynamic structures allow medical intervention to alleviate the clinical signs of CHF.

Diagnosing CHF

The clinical signs of CHF vary with the severity and acuteness of the disease. The Greyhound may present with just exercise intolerance. More severe signs include a progressive cough, dyspnea (shortness of breath), syncopal episodes (fainting), ascites (fluid in abdomen), and cyanosis (blue color to gums). The initial presentation varies with the length of time the heart has been failing,

any underlying medical conditions, and the side of the heart that is failing.

In right-sided heart failure, the Greyhound usually has a cough that increases in severity; he may also have ascites. In left-sided heart failure, the Greyhound usually has dyspnea and cyanosis. These signs, when present, help the veterinarian focus the examination.

When a Greyhound presents with symptoms of CHF, the veterinarian first performs a thorough physical exam. A history is taken, focusing especially on heartworm prevention, as this is the primary cause of CHF in young dogs. The veterinarian listens to the heart with a stethoscope, checks the gums for color, checks the pulses in the hind legs for pulse deficit (the veterinarian listens to the heart with a stethoscope while checking the pulse), and examines the jugular veins for pulses. In addition, the veterinarian palpates the abdomen for fluid. After the exam, testing is in order.

The initial testing should include a complete blood count (CBC), a chemistry profile, occult heartworm test, thoracic radiographs, and an electrocardiogram (EKG). The CBC and chemistry profile will help rule out any infectious causes and any underlying electrolyte imbalances (such as the sodium balance previously mentioned). The thoracic radiographs assist in assessing the size of the heart, which side is enlarged, and how much fluid may be collected in the lungs. Finally, the EKG measures the electrical activity of the heart, and also assesses the size of the heart. At larger or referral clinics, an echocardiogram is performed. This is an ultrasound of the heart to assess blood flow, heart enlargement, and valve function; it is also used as a tool to monitor ongoing therapy.

Treatment Options

Once a diagnosis is made, appropriate therapy is instituted. The medications are focused on alleviating the clinical signs and



Emmett, adopted by Amy Wanken of Columbus, Ohio.

returning the body's electrolyte balance. The classes of medications include diuretics, vasodilator therapy, and positive inotropes. The diuretics aid in the removal of fluid from the lungs; one side effect is increased urination. Diuretics also reduce the sodium surplus, allowing potassium to come back into balance. However, diuretics can also cause some deficiencies, so sodium and potassium should be monitored.

Vasodilator therapy causes the right-sided vessels and/or the left-sided vessels to expand in size. Various medications fall into this class, but the most popular are the angio-tensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors).

ACE is a hormone produced by the kidneys that constricts the blood vessels. As the heart fails, it is less able to maintain blood pressure. ACE allows the blood pressure to be maintained. However, as the vessels constrict, the heart must work harder to pump the blood. As the failing heart works harder, it begins to fail more quickly, and more ACE is produced. Left untreated, this continues in a vicious downward spiral. The ACE inhibitors stop this process by blocking ACE,

which allows the arterioles and venules to dilate, thus making it easier for the heart to pump the blood.

The final group of medications, that of positive inotropes, reduce the heart rate and aid in the contraction of the heart. The slower heart rate allows the heart to fill better before contracting. As a result, it is better able to move the blood.

After therapy is instituted, the patient is monitored for alleviation of clinical signs and for symptoms of any toxicity from the medications. A CBC and chemistry profile should be performed about every six months. This will monitor electrolyte levels, any infections that may occur, and any major organ abnormalities. Repeating the ultrasound helps monitor the patient's progress as the medications allow the heart to work more easily. Finally, follow-up thoracic radiographs monitor overall heart size.

CHF is a devastating disease that eventually leads to death. Medical intervention allows the Greyhound to live a comfortable life before the heart fails. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.

Piper's Skinning



Twenty-four hours after the accident.

Piper came to us on the evening of November 18, 2001. Rebecca, my 14 year-old daughter, and I were at our adoption group's holiday party. There was a large white and fawn dog who was totally out of control. One of two brothers taken in by the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP), his name was Pablo. "Not as a gift," I said to a friend, "would I have one of them."

As we were leaving, I checked to see if I needed to take a foster dog with me. "Would you mind taking Pablo?" I was asked. We loaded up this huge, out-of-control dog who also suffered from severe car sickness and

started the three-hour trip home. By the time we arrived, Pablo had become Piper and he had travelled like a dream. Not that I was keeping him, mind you. I already had three dogs and a permanent fourth was not likely.

The next morning, I was out in the yard with the dogs when it happened. Piper was playing with our dog Sam when he ran flat out under the handle of the clothesline. The handle caught him high on the side and ripped off a section of his skin. He had been scalped, peeled; in technical terms, de-gloved. He circled the yard twice, then jumped on the couch. I couldn't believe it. I had lived

here for ten years and always left the handle up high, but Piper was the biggest dog I had ever had in my yard. I looked at this huge, white dog who was suddenly sporting a large red saddle, and I was stunned. Momentarily, I thought I was dreaming; I blinked, but it was still there.

I grabbed my car keys, got Piper by the collar, and unlocked the gate to get to the car. Piper followed me easily. We were both in shock. I got to the station wagon and tried to unlock the rear door, but the lock was stuck. Like a mantra, I was repeating "Oh My God, Oh My God." I went to the front of

the car and pulled the lever to unlock the rear door, returned to the back of the car, promptly put my key in, and locked the rear door again. I returned to the front, pulled the lever again, remembered to not insert the key, and finally got Piper into the car. It seemed to take forever. Ten minutes later, we were with the veterinarian.

Richard had Piper on the table and ready to operate in about five minutes. Meanwhile, I was making frantic phone calls to my Mum to go lock up my gate and put the other dogs away. Then I called GAP to see what to do about my foster dog. I knew it would cost quite a bit, but they gave the go ahead. Two hours and approximately 100 stitches later, Piper was done. Now time would tell.

What time did first was to kill off the flap of skin that had so carefully been stitched back on. We saw the veterinarian nearly every day. On the fifth day, he did some re-stitching in an attempt to keep the skin viable. It failed. It was the most awful feeling to have to sit by and watch Piper's skin shrivel up and die. By the eighth day, Piper had lost most of the skin damaged in the accident. I was practically living in my bedroom, where Piper was confined most of the time, only leaving him when Rebecca was able to sit with him. I returned home after doing some much needed shopping on the ninth day to find Rebecca in tears as the last flap of skin clung to Piper by four stitches. I can do most things, but I couldn't touch this, so back to the veterinarian we went. He removed the flap and bandaged Piper. The wound was huge — an area of open flesh measuring approximately 8" by 8". We no longer eat red meat because of this.

We had to bandage the wound every day, sometimes twice or even three times a day if the bandage slipped. Since the wound was on his side, rib cage, and back, keeping the bandage in place was nearly impossible. We applied Manuka honey on the wound, a layer of paraffin gauze, then ordinary gauze, cotton wool, and self-adherent wrap. We covered



Five days after the accident. The dark patch is dying skin.

the bandaging with an old cotton racing jacket held in place with six nappy pins. Rebecca and I were exhausted after each change of the wound dressing, and so was Piper.

The honey was suggested by one of the veterinarians, Kerrilee Luxford. She had been reading about the successful use of Manuka honey to treat ulcers and bedsores on nursing home residents. We added the honey to the standard wound dressing. We

were lucky that the first thing we tried worked so well. At times it was obvious the wound had shrunk dramatically from one bandage change to another. Using a ruler, we measured each side and found that sometimes the wound had shrunk by as much as an inch or more. It was quite impressive.

We were very grateful that Piper was so calm through all of this. It was very easy to keep him quiet. He showed no inclination



Ten days after the accident, the dead skin is gone and Piper is left with a red saddle.



Three weeks after the accident, the wound is shrinking.



Six weeks after the accident.

to move at all — a bit strange for an 18-month-old dog! As long as Piper had one of us near him, he was quite content to lie around.

Three weeks after the accident, the wound was half its original size. We hoped we could remove the bandages by Christmas. Concerned that as the skin grew back, it might tighten up and restrict Piper's movement, we encouraged Piper to move around a lot more. Rebecca and I would stand at opposite ends of the yard calling Piper to us. We walked him around the neighborhood three times a week. The increasing exercise paid off as the flexibility returned to Piper's skin.

The time had come to move Piper to another foster home. It wouldn't be fair to keep him until February, when GAP resumed operations. I was worried about Piper becoming too attached to us. I also worried that he may have some psychological problems about being here where the dreadful accident occurred. Piper would not walk near the clothesline for weeks after the accident. Just getting out in the backyard for toileting was given a miss for the first week or so. I told all of this to Larissa Darragh, the Adoption Coordinator. But deep inside, our hearts were breaking; we followed our hearts, and Piper stayed. He has his forever home with us. As soon as I knew Piper was staying, I let Larissa know and took over Piper's medical bills.

After six weeks, Piper was allowed to go bandage free. It was New Year's Eve. We were all so pleased. We had to drop sheets around everywhere to catch the "ooze," but we didn't care. After about 12 weeks, Rebecca

and I noticed the healing of the wound had seemed to stall. We decided to cover it again and see what happened. But what to cover it with? I used the last of the gauze and stuck it on with adhesive bandages. Ouch! How to get them off? We used oil on the bandages and they came off easily. But this made Piper's skin oily, so new bandages wouldn't stick.

Finally, we hit on a method that has worked really well. Every night I prepared his little dressing using eye make-up remover pads. I applied three adhesive bandages to a pad, turned it over, put a small section of paraffin gauze in the middle, then sneaked up on Piper and quickly put it on him. Then on went the stretch-racing vest to help it all stick. In the morning, I would again sneak up

on Piper sometime after removing his vest, and pour oil on the bandages. They came unstuck with a bit of gentle rubbing, so Piper was free of them all day. These truly were "sneak" operations; Piper didn't like this at all. He covered and cringed, and I'm not sure if he will ever let us approach him from the side without alarm. But we love him and he loves us. At 16 weeks, Piper's wound was smaller than a 20-cent piece.

After 143 days, the wound was completely healed. Piper now has a magnificent "star burst" scar on his side. In fact, we have registered him as Piper Starchaser on one Agility register. We are planning on competing in Agility with Piper. He can jump like a stag and, incredibly, after all I have done to him, Piper has complete trust in me and tries to do anything I ask. Sometimes that means squeezing through tunnels, leaping through tires, or weaving his massive size (about 86 lbs) around poles.

The scar will always require a lot of care. If Piper has a good old scratch he could bruise himself or even open up the skin a bit. We first applied gel with extract of melaleuca to the scar as it was similar to the honey but not as messy. We now use either emu oil or



Twelve weeks after the accident.



Sixteen weeks after the accident and almost healed, Piper jumps for joy.

aloe vera gel to keep the scar supple. We also apply sunscreen to the scar every day.

Piper is a fantastic dog, clown-like, loving, and loyal. We love him. Over a year has passed since Piper's accident, and I look back and shake my head in amazement that we all survived. It's easy to look back in hindsight and think that I should have been aware of the potential danger of the handle on the clothesline, but the plain fact is that accidents happen. We can guard against possible trouble spots, but we do not always see them until after the event. Piper is alive and happy, and his agility career is progressing well. Piper doesn't blame me for what happened, so I try not to blame myself. It was an accident. We dealt with it and survived. ■

Anne Pirie lives in Victoria, Australia with her daughter Rebecca, four dogs, and three cats. Anne is currently teaching Piper all about agility.



At 20 weeks and three days, the scab falls off, leaving a starburst scar. Piper's recovery is complete.

The Research Dogs at Home

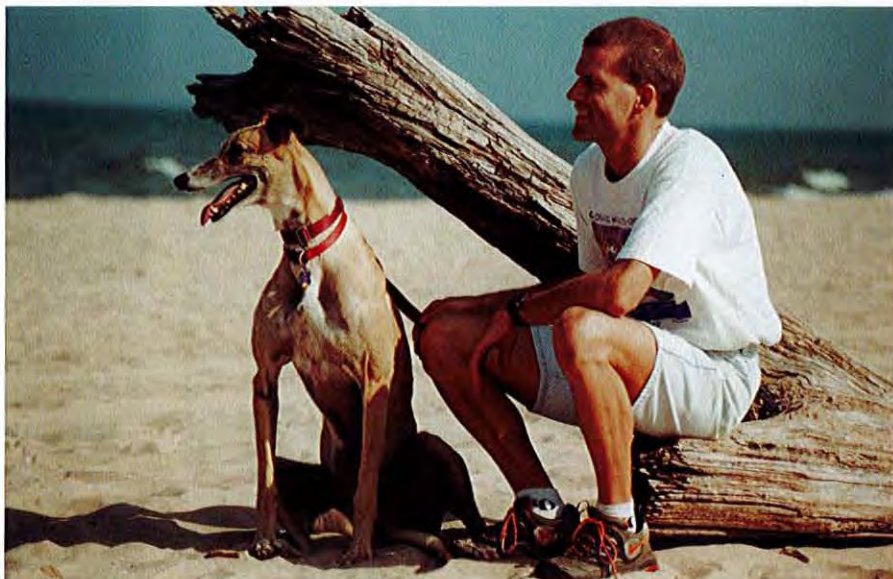
During the summer of 2000, Guidant Corporation released 98 Greyhounds from their Minnesota-based cardiac research facility. After undergoing risky surgery to remove their pacemaker implants, the dogs were absorbed by adoption groups.

The Greyhounds found their way to Guidant through Daniel Shonka, a former Greyhound kennel owner. Representing himself as the head of an adoption group, Shonka offered to find homes for Greyhounds whose racing days were over. Instead, he sold the dogs — without owner consent — to Guidant for about \$400 each. According to St. Croix County (Wis.) Circuit Court records, Shonka received at least \$374,000 for selling dogs to Guidant from 1996 to 2000.

On April 30, 2002, Shonka was charged with four counts of felony theft, three counts of felony theft by fraud, and one count of racketeering. On February 7, 2003, he was convicted of one count of felony theft and one count of misdemeanor theft after pleading no contest to the charges in a plea bargain. His kennel was also found guilty of six counts of felony theft. Shonka was sentenced to two years in prison on the felony charge, but the sentence was stayed and he was placed on four years probation. He was sentenced to nine months in jail on the misdemeanor conviction and began serving that sentence in the spring. He was also ordered to pay more than \$110,000 in fines and restitution.

The Fall 2001 issue of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine featured several articles that chronicled the discovery and release of the Greyhounds, an effort that brought together adoption groups from all over the country.

We wondered how the dogs are doing now.



Duffs Cricket (Renewed Life for Greyhounds)

Cricket, a 6-year-old red fawn female, had previously broken her right hock. I blew out my knee running, so I no longer compete like I did in the past. After hearing Cricket's history, it was simple: One right hock plus one right knee equals two broken-down, retired racers. On February 7, 2001, I adopted Cricket. After her injury the leg was never set; it healed on a curve instead of straight. Trust me, the injury does not slow her down. I run with her on lead through an open field by our house. As I run full speed, she just hits her stride. She runs to the end of the lead and keeps looking back, slowing down just enough for me to keep up. **Larry Jeurink, Jenison, Mich.**



Star Payday (NGAP)

Zeke is doing excellent and he is happy and healthy. When we first got Zeke, it took a little practice for him to learn to go up and down steps and hop into the car. He quickly learned though, and he favors going anywhere and everywhere with us. He is very outgoing and friendly toward people and other animals. It is extremely hard to imagine what his fate might have been. **Jama and Billy Robinson, Norfolk, Va.**



Bohemian Jedi (USA DOG)

We decided to adopt a second Greyhound to join our then 12-year-old, Erin. Several weeks later, we were among several potential adopters receiving an introduction to 15 Greyhounds looking for homes. Joey (Bohemian Jedi), a magnificent black and white 90-pounder, walked up to us with no hesitation, sat down, and never left our side until we took him home. Nor were we deterred when he lifted his leg on my very expensive Coach bag! Sally Allen of USA Dog calls Joey the only hound that chose where he wanted to live. **Lyn Ward, Plymouth, Ind.**



Hilary Hart (GPA/Wisconsin)

We adopted Hilary Hart in June 2000, a few weeks after losing our other Greyhound, Nosey. Hilary fits perfectly into our menagerie of pets, which includes rats, mice, cats, birds, and a chocolate Lab. Hilary is so gentle and laid back. She doesn't bother peering into the cages of the rodents, ferrets, or birds. The cats and dogs have free rein of the house. It's one big happy family. Hilary prefers to lie on the floor. I've tried to coax her to jump on the bed or couch, but the floor is where she likes to be. She sleeps on her back. **Pat Bromberek, Portage, Wis.**



Bart's Mustang (USA DOG)

She arrived at our home in May 2000 as a foster dog. One look at the extremely scared little black dog and we knew she needed a new name. We renamed her Mustang Sally and immediately began trying to win her over. Three years later, Sally is a permanent member of our household. She blossomed into a mouthy, bouncy little dog who will tell you her opinion about anything. She prefers resting her head on feather pillows. She enjoys lounging in the pool in the summer, snuggling with the cat, and running around with our three other Greyhounds. **Kevin and Lisa Stringer, Chicago, Ill.**



Hammerin Howie (Nittany Greyhounds)

My husband, two children, and I were considering adopting a Greyhound. I completed an application and was still deciding when I received a call from Elaine Skidel of Nittany Greyhounds. They had received a dog that seemed a good match for my family and although she knew we had not decided yet, she was offering him to us first. When she said his name was Howie, I took it as a sign because my daughter really likes Howie Dorough from the Backstreet Boys. This was the humble, coincidental beginning of a relationship that would change our lives. Not only did we become Greyhound lovers, spoilers, and advocates, but Howie changed our family. Howie is a beautiful brindle with an affectionate, serious, and quiet personality. He enjoys being outside in our large fenced area and going for walks in the woods. He sleeps downstairs and wanders into my daughter's room at night to check on her. He owns us. **Lenna Neff, Port Matilda, Pa.**



Edge of Goodbye (Rochester REGAP)

Edgee came to live with my family and me on St. Patrick's Day 2002. What a phenomenal addition to my life she has been. At the time, I was home alone during the day recovering from surgery to remove a large brain tumor, and grieving the passing of my little Dachshund/Rat Terrier mix. A co-worker suggested adopting a Greyhound. Marcia Latz of Rochester REGAP recommended reading several books first. Sitting home alone, in a rural setting, just reading about Greyhounds became unbearable. While still reading, I called Marcia back and confessed, "I need a dog now!" Marcia drove right down with Edgee. We're still learning about Greyhounds and about Edgee. She likes other big dogs and enjoys sleeping on the couch. She welcomes all visitors to our home, hoping for lots of petting. She has an expressive face and eyes and is quite theatrical at times. After my near-fatal experience with a brain tumor, receiving Edge of Goodbye in my time of need was a great gift. **Marie K. Hanson, La Crescent, Minn.**



GRB Brontsaurus (Retired Greyhound Athletes)

Zoey's journey into our lives covered a five-year time span. Her story began at the track, then progressed to foster family and adoption, back to foster family, and then our paths merged. She has shown us the joy and excitement of every new day. Maybe she was meant to have so many families because she had so much to give. When Zoey is very happy and excited, she spins in the air like an ice skater. Sometimes she will spin around five or six times. Blowing leaves, snowflakes, and walks in the dark are great adventures. She helps us see and appreciate things that we should never have taken for granted. The excitement of a family member coming home, the thrill of the car ride, and the secure feeling of leaning close together are the things that really matter. Afternoon naps that refresh mind and spirit are a part of life that Zoey seldom overlooks. Perhaps this is why humans need pets – to help us keep perspective. If so, Zoey is an excellent teacher and mentor. **Anne Sorensen, Sheboygan, Wis.**



Star Reaction (NGAP)

My wife Janet, an animal lover, had always wanted to adopt a Greyhound. I adopted Nala without Janet's knowledge and surprised her with this wonderful gift for our second wedding anniversary. Nala stood in the back seat with her head on my shoulder for the entire three-hour drive from Philadelphia to Long Island, N.Y. Upon our arrival, my wife greeted Nala with open arms. After minutes of hugging and kissing, Nala, being a superior athlete and apparently thinking she possessed some divine capabilities, took one look at the pool in our backyard and without hesitation attempted to walk across the water. After her initial surprise, Nala swam to the side where we helped her out of the pool. She quickly settled into her new home and now spends most of her days lounging around the house or the yard with Belle, another dog we adopted the following year. Nala is very affectionate and will do just about anything for a biscuit, except go outside when it's cold. Nala thinks she is a princess, but that's our fault. Adopting her is the best thing we've ever done. **Stephen and Janet Rock, Long Island, N.Y.**

Ed. Note: Star Payday (pg.43) and Star Reaction are littermates.



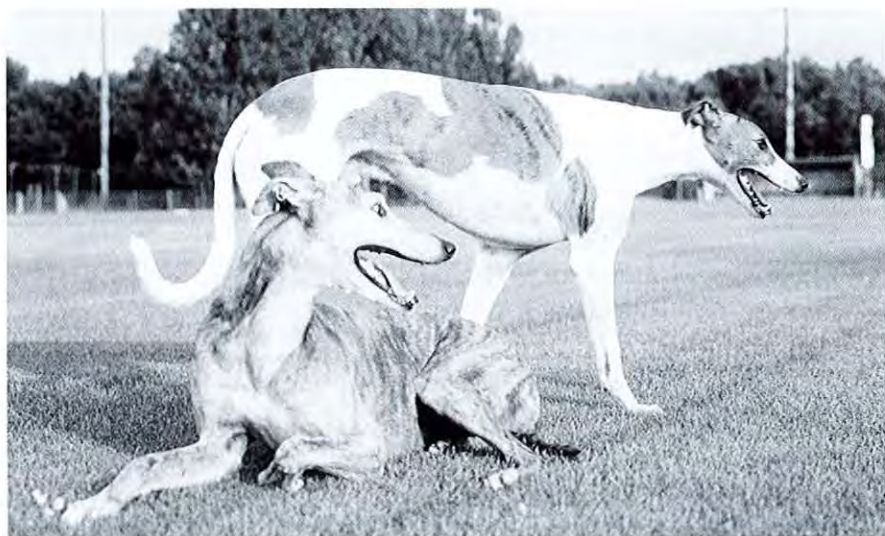
Wind Chimes (USA DOG)

We were looking for a great pet dog and were blessed with the adoption of Windy on March 17, 2001. She enjoys playing with other animals, especially our neighbor's Greyhound, as they get together occasionally in each other's backyards. She is very good with our children, Ariel (age 7) and Caleb (age 3). **Terry and Ellen Pettit, Columbus, Ind.**



Colgan's Hero (Greyhound Friends of N.J.)

Tonight, Hogan lays here, one white-tipped paw touching my feet. He sighs contentedly, his endless brown eyes almost closed. In August 2000, his sigh was less content and his eyes were anxious. Almost 24 inches of the right side of his neck and throat was shaved and the staples closing his incision were still in place. We looked at him and he looked back at us. My husband and I were in immediate agreement that he was home to stay. Tonight, Hogan knows he is one of a pack of well-loved, happy hounds. He plays sweetly and wildly. He welcomes the fosters who come through our home and is a gallant protector of our 13-year-old brood mama, Kelly Belly. He is a blood donor at the University of Pennsylvania. Hogan's Hero is as at home with us and as trusting with us as we are of him. His coat shines, his brown eyes flash, and Hogan's warm, beautiful body leans into us. If there are scars from his previous life, we don't see them. What we see is that tonight, all is right in Hogan's world. **Rose and Dennis Donohoe, Linwood, N.J.**



He B Tuff N Nuff (Rochester REGAP)

After two years, Tigger finally allows us to touch his ears. He sneaks off to his bedroom when a crowd gathers. He has a habit of stealing and hiding shoes to keep us on our toes and around a little longer. He still loves to run and can be seen showing off his sprinting abilities in the summer after the local amateur baseball games. Tigger has done a little straight-line lure coursing and hopes to do more in the future. He still greets a familiar face with a big smile. He's pictured here relaxing in the grass with his roommate, Moorey. **Barry Brown, Rochester, Minn.**

PHOTO BY BRYAN WENDLAND



Husker Dandelion (Michigan REGAP)

I intended to foster Remy. When I was called to get a profile on him for potential matching to an adopter, I realized that I could not let him go. I believe that Remy used to dream of digging big holes and chewing wood — particularly the corners of antique chests, tables, and the rungs of rocking chairs. While in my home, he realized his dreams. He was probably the mastermind behind the Christmas 2000 caper that involved spreading ten pounds of flour and five pounds of brown sugar all over the living room. I walked in and thought it had snowed in the house. Remy will come and get me to straighten his bed when it is messed up — even in the middle of the night. He is one of the sweetest dogs you will ever meet. Remy worked over the camera. It still takes pictures, but there's a tooth hole through the flash.

Larain LaMontagne, Detroit, Mich.



G's Posiedon (Michigan REGAP)

Gigi came to us as a foster during summer 2000. We fostered several dogs before her, but none of them clicked with our big fawn boy, Red, until Gigi showed her pretty face. She is very smart. Within 24 hours of her arrival, she found the food bin and started helping herself. Gigi is a lovable and loving pet and is a great ambassador at REGAP's meet-and-greets. When I walk around the house, it is her needle-nose that is always in my hand. She prances around like a fairy princess. Gigi's favorite thing to do is sleep and now she's right next to me, with her head in my lap. **Tammy Fenner-Lamky, Macomb, Mich.**



Go Rawhide Go (USA DOG)

Rawhide is a big goofball. He chats up a storm. He barks when he's excited, moans when he gets his ears rubbed, whines when he wants to be invited onto the couch, and makes other various snorts, huffs, and sounds that make us laugh and coo. Like many Greyhounds, Rawhide seems to think he's a lap dog. It still surprises me when he climbs on top of me and tries to curl up in my lap. He's a lot of dog when he's lying on your legs! He loves the snow – he sprints around and bounds through drifts with a gleam in his eyes and a smile across his face.

Tiffany Peterson and Dan Morse, Greenwich, Conn. ■

Avatar

By Yvonne Zipter

This is the one we thought didn't need us,
the dog who tosses and catches her own toys,
who finds solace in being pressed
to something firm, whether baseboard
or easy chair, who uncovers joy
with some sense we don't have,
as we move
to the drumbeat of her tail
on the material of our lives.

But now, here she is: a puncture
amid the slender bones
of her forward foot. This is what comes
of hurling through the universe
with no theory of harm. I spray the wound.
The antiseptic is biting. But she stands
perfectly still. Her only comment
is the weight
of her forehead, the flat
of her snout against my breast,
and the velvet of her ear reticent
as a mullein leaf on my chin.

Yvonne Zipter is a much-published poet and the editor of The Skinny: Newsletter of Greyhounds Only, Inc. She and partner Kathy Forde adopted ex-racers Nacho and Yoko about four years ago and their lives haven't been the same since.

Physical Therapy and the Retired Racing Greyhound



Greyhounds will run like the wind when given the opportunity.

Retired racing Greyhounds are unique animals. In their previous lives, they were the elite sprint athletes of the canine species. Some may still try to retain this ability if cats or rabbits run nearby or when they are simply let out in a spacious area. For all of two to three minutes they race around the area and then they look for the nearest couch or soft spot. When running they use tremendous power to gain speeds of up to 42 miles per hour in seconds. Even when they have arthritic conditions and age-related problems, they will try to run like the wind when given the opportunity. I have personally witnessed this in both of my Greyhounds.

When racing, they did so counter-clockwise on an oblong track completing two

turns of varying degrees of curvature and banking. These factors set the stage for differential stresses on bones, muscles, tendons, and ligaments. Tissue, including bone, responded by strengthening when training was optimal. Add track surface conditions, level and method of training, frequency of racing, and age, and you can see that avoidance and correction of minor to major injuries is a constant task for trainers and pet owners alike. On the racetrack, efforts required to prevent and treat injuries must be balanced with consideration of economic factors, especially the time of kennel help and trainers.

With Greyhounds as personal pets, owners give more care to these members of the family. My contention has long been that

many major career-affecting injuries can be avoided by prophylactic recognition and care of minor injuries — often the forebearers of more severe problems. While veterinary rehabilitation facilities are multiplying and can be one avenue for a trainer or owner, use of physical therapy techniques should also be incorporated at home to keep Greyhounds limber and in fit condition.

The first essential is to know the basic anatomy of the Greyhound and the physical examination procedures to evaluate the musculoskeletal system for injuries. This information has been published in detail specific for the Greyhound in the book, *Care of the Racing Greyhound*. Over the past five years, veterinary medicine has placed an explo-

sive interest in physical therapy. Interest is coming from veterinarians who recognize the benefits and from physical therapists trained in human medicine who wish to apply their skills to animals. Educational and training opportunities for both groups increase every year. Physical therapy techniques range from the simple but very effective use of massage and range of motion exercises to the use of sophisticated equipment such as underwater treadmills or shockwave therapy. This article focuses on several of the most common injuries and describes how physical therapy at varying levels can benefit Greyhounds.

The most common physical therapy techniques making major differences following injury or overuse are: In the first 24 to 48 hours after acute injury to muscles, tendons, and ligaments, the therapy of choice is application of cold, or cryotherapy, to the area. After the inflammation and swelling have reduced, massage therapy and passive and active range of motion techniques can begin. Application of heat with hot packs or hot water hydrotherapy, or therapeutic ultrasound 72 hours after acute injury, serves to increase blood flow to the injury and promote healing. Controlled exercise with leash walking or swimming is also beneficial in promoting full range of movement, improving circulation, and reducing muscle atrophy.

Controlled exercise through leash walking on flat or hilly slopes, swimming, and most recently, the use of underwater treadmills in rehabilitation facilities, all accelerate healing, promote muscle strength, and reduce muscle atrophy. Equally important is the physiological effect of weight bearing on bones and the tendon-to-bone and ligament-to-bone junctions. These structures all lose calcium, bone density, and strength when normal weight-bearing stresses are absent. Injured Greyhounds who have reduced or no weight bearing on a limb for a period as short as two weeks will have some reduction of bone strength in the bone



Silky and Ollie, adopted by Loren and Andie Johnson of Bakersfield, Calif.

itself, and in the areas where the ligaments and tendons attach. This loss of bony tissue strength must be considered when planning retraining schedules for returning to athletic performance.

While bone fractures, especially of the hock bones, are the most common traumatic injury reported in racetrack injury surveys, it is the earlier damage to muscles, tendons, and ligaments that often set the stage. In pet Greyhounds participating in coursing or other athletic activity, muscle injuries are more common. They range from simple contusions, bruising or inflammation of the muscle cells (myositis), to muscle sheath tears, to complete tearing of the muscle at its origin, insertion, or within the muscle itself. Minor ligament tears often progress to major tears or disruption without treatment and physical therapy. Initial therapy to all musculoskeletal injuries in the first 48 to 72 hours is the application of cold therapy to decrease local blood circulation, pain, and tissue swelling. This is done with application of hydrotherapy with cold water from a hose, ice baths, or commercial cold packs. One practical method is to freeze water in small

paper cups (i.e., 4 oz). Tear off the top part, and then use them to rub over the inflamed area for 15 to 20 minutes every two to four hours per day for the first 48 hours. Therapeutic effects occur at tissue temperatures between 15° and 19° C (59° to 66° F) and can be effective from one to four cm deep.

Once inflammation of acute injury is reduced, other forms of physical therapy can begin. After 48 hours, massage and passive range of motion should be applied to the damaged muscle, ligament, or tendon. Hand massage should be two minutes of firm rubbing with the palm of the hand, then two minutes of probing and kneading with the fingers for a total of four to eight minutes in each damaged area. With passive range of motion exercises, the affected limb or joint is flexed and extended by the therapist's hands, moving to the fullest level that does not result in a painful response. This is done for ten minutes, three times per day. These treatments should continue over the first week or until the Greyhound is able to start leash walking, bearing full weight on the limb.

While physical therapy can be applied at home, veterinarians and physical therapists



Cher, adopted by Betty De La Rosa of Westminster, Calif.

often make use of specialized equipment. This equipment includes therapeutic ultrasound, pulsating magnetic field therapy, neuromuscular electrostimulation or faradism (muscle contractor units and transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation or TENS units), and low intensity laser therapy. Laser is an acronym for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation. With the latter, the light is monochromatic and does not produce any physiologically significant tissue heating. Its benefits are relief of pain and acceleration of resolution of inflammation and wound healing. Low-level laser therapy has also been used to modify scar tissue. When coupled with passive range of motion exercises, a functional increased range of movement can be obtained. Electrical stimulation increases range of movement, muscle strength and tone, and assists in muscle function re-education as well as accelerating wound healing, reducing edema, and muscle spasm. Neuromuscular electrical stimulation will reduce pain at some

intensities, but it is most often used to strengthen muscles and reduce or prevent disuse muscle atrophy. In Australia, a muscle contractor is often used to strengthen muscles above a joint where there is minor ligament or tendon damage. This prophylactic measure reduces further damage and promotes healing in those latter tissues. Theoretically, by strengthening the muscles, there is less stress on the ligaments and tendons and a reduction of abnormal joint movements that result in damage to both ligaments and bones. It can also be used in one form (iontophoresis) to enhance transdermal transport of medications. All of these therapies are most commonly used with either acute injuries after inflammation and swelling has been reduced (after 36 to 48 hours) or with chronic recurring lesions.

Pulsating magnetic field therapy can be used in both acute and chronic lesions. To constrict blood circulation to an area in order to reduce inflammation and edema, a low frequency to the soft tissues should be used.

The effects here mimic the use of ice packs and massage. Conversely, high frequency pulsating low frequency magnetic field therapy minimizes pain caused by reduced blood flow and accumulation.

For the three additional modalities used to promote healing, the following suggestions are made. Since therapeutic ultrasound produces acoustic vibrations that generate physiological heat in the tissue, it has the ability to produce heat in the deep tissues as well as superficial ones. One should ultrasound over the affected muscle area for five to seven minutes of continuous, or six to 12 minutes of pulsed wave impulses. A gel or coupling medium is required and for optimum effect, the hair over the area should be clipped. On the limbs below the elbow or knee, ultrasound can be applied to the area with the limb in a container of cold water. Five to six minutes of continuous wave or seven to nine minutes of pulsed wave once or twice a day for four to eight minutes is beneficial. Specifics as to the times and anatomical areas can be found in *Care of the Racing Greyhound* or the ultrasound unit owner's manual. A pulsating magnetic field pad or boot set at a high frequency produces an effect of localized heat and massage. Use it for ten minutes once or twice daily for five days and then on alternate days for five to seven more treatments. Laser therapy can also be used on some injuries by trainers who have been educated as to the precautions and optimum usage of this type of machine.

These treatments can be used alone or in any combination, even on the same days. They can be used separately on different days, depending on the availability of equipment and time. When treating twice daily, space the treatment sessions at least two hours apart; a four-hour interval is better. For example, two options for split muscle sheath therapy are as follows:

Method One: Use a neuromuscular stimulation unit (muscle contractor or TENS unit) with ten to 20 contracts in three to four



Application of physical therapy can help keep pet Greyhounds fit.

different locations around the split or tear in the muscle sheath, once or twice daily, for 14 days. After each treatment, apply a heating liniment to the skin, using enough to wet the hair and skin and allow to dry. Do this once daily for five days, then on alternate days five to ten more times.

Method Two: Use a therapeutic ultrasound with iodized oil as a coupling medium and apply the probe over the split or torn muscle sheath and the surrounding area for five minutes, once daily for five days; then repeat on alternate days five more times. If only a coupling gel is used under the probe, apply the ultrasound on the same schedule and then apply a heating liniment as in Method One. Or, if using a magnetic field unit, use high frequency with the coil or blanket centered over the sheath split or tear for ten minutes once daily for 14 days. After

each treatment apply a heating liniment to the skin once daily for five days and then alternate days for five more treatments.

For recurring tendon or ligament injuries, either of these methods of therapy is recommended. The first method applies therapeutic ultrasound in cold or icy water, on low (1.5 to 2.0) setting on continuous mode for five minutes once daily for five days, then on alternate days five more times. After each treatment, dry the area and apply a heating liniment as above. Using a pulsating magnetic field unit, follow the same protocol as above in method two for torn muscle sheaths. Or apply the laser probe, following manufacturer recommendations for settings, directly on the tendon or ligament injury, spacing the contacts at one centimeter intervals, for 30 to 45 seconds on each spot. Do this for a total treatment session of three to

five minutes once daily. After each treatment, apply a heating liniment as above. A third method would be simple daily massage by hand of the affected area for three minutes once daily for ten days using a heating liniment and then repeating the therapy on alternate days ten more times. This therapy would be useful for any of the injuries mentioned above. For these therapies, manually flexing and extending the affected limb ten times, one to three times a day to increase or maintain range of motion is beneficial. The use of vitamin/mineral supplements containing chelated vitamins A and C are believed to be beneficial in the formation of strengthening collagen. The Greyhound should be restricted to walking or swimming only for the first 14 days after reoccurrence of the injury and then gradually returned to its previous activity.



Nero, adopted by Beatrice Anderson of Victoria, Australia.

Recommendation of therapy for all injuries is beyond the scope of this article. Each specific injury needs some judgment as to the type of therapy and retraining schedule. However, resources are available (see references below). *Care of the Racing Greyhound*, available through the National Greyhound Association in Abilene, Kansas, outlines specific therapies for multiple injuries as well as recommendations for retraining schedules specific for Greyhounds. ■

Linda L. Blythe, DVM, Ph.D., is a course instructor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and a course leader of Veterinary Neurosciences and Preveterinary Medicine at Oregon State University. She is a neurologist with an interest in racing animals, especially Greyhounds and horses. She co-authored the book Care of the Racing Greyhound.

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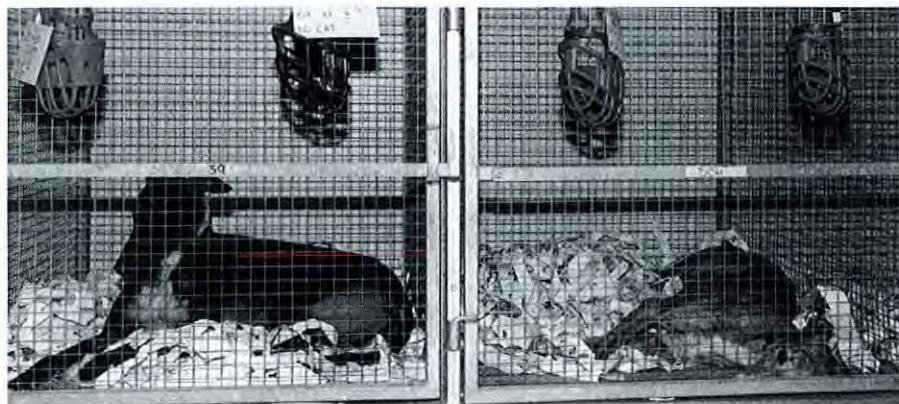
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Crating: How Long is Too Long?



Hounds relaxing comfortably in their racing crates in the Pups Without Partners adoption kennel at Shoreline Star Greyhound Park, Bridgeport, Conn.

Have you ever been in a polite gathering of Greyhound adopters and adoption representatives, only to find that the conversation took on an adversarial tone when the subject turned to crating? Someone says in despair, “Our newly adopted Greyhound just hates being crated. Why? After all, she should be used to the crate from her racing days. How can we make her accept the crate?” Perhaps these owners expect their newly-adopted dog to stay in her crate ten to 12 hours because “she’s new to our home and can’t be left alone.” Do the owners believe that ten hours really isn’t such a long time to go without water or exercise? Or perhaps they think that because she might have come from an adoption kennel situation it’s acceptable to continue to let her wait. Does this couple want their dog back in the crate at bedtime, too? Is the crate used too long and inappropriately?

Another adopter, who views crates from the opposite side and believes that track dogs are basically crated 24/7 except for bathroom trips and a race or two a week (not true), adds in horror, “Greyhounds should never be crated. After all, they’ve been crated throughout their track lives for 23 hours a day. They are pets and family members now. Crating

is too cruel!” Perhaps she’s a lucky adopter who adopted the rare dog who fit right into the household and never did anything unmannerly.

Or, maybe she didn’t adopt the perfect hound and actually started out by using the crate to *confine* her unhouseworthy Greyhound rather than trying to *teach* it the ways of the house. She discovered that when she uncrated the dog, it still didn’t “behave” so the hapless hound went back into the crate. She used the crate as quasi-punishment by confining the misbehaving dog rather than teaching it what she wanted it to learn. This confuses the dog, too, as it teaches nothing. The dog has no clue why she’s in the crate when she’d rather be elsewhere. Even worse, if the dog who behaves inappropriately actually *prefers* the crate, the befuddled owner is reinforcing unmannerly behavior by crating her. The owner may have given up on the crate entirely concluding that crating really doesn’t work. Her hound will be free, uncrated, and dangerously unmannerly because teaching her house manners is much more of a hassle than expected. Expect this dog to be a bounce back.

A third person chimes in with, “What’s the problem? Our Greyhound loves his crate

and voluntarily spends time in it.” Perhaps they use the crate judiciously to teach one desired behavior at a time. This savvy couple knows crates are best used for housetraining (i.e., teaching a dog proper house manners). They know the crate is *the* tool to use for housebreaking (i.e., eliminating in an acceptable place, generally outdoors) if not using the classic method of keeping your dog tethered to your waist until it is housebroken and generally trustworthy.

Additionally, they use the crate to protect both house and dog while teaching differences between inappropriate chewing of animate and inanimate objects and acceptable chewing and playing objects. They know that injudicious crate usage creates a prison, not a school for learning house manners. When the training is finished the couple put the crate away. When these observant owners saw their dog looking for his crate (his den), they took it out of storage and put it where the Greyhound and the humans could be together. Their dog might be among those who had come to think of his crate as refuge during kennel days when living with 40 to 60 other dogs. Once home, these hounds continue to see their crate as a comfy, padded den now – now one loaded with toys – where they can feel safe and happy.

How Long and When to Stop?

Why do so many of us crate for so long in the first place? Probably because our adoption group told us we *had* to use a crate. The declaration, “No crate, no Greyhound for you” is a convincing argument for buying or borrowing and using a crate. The group may say, “Use it for a month. By then, the dog might be trained.” Trained in what? Other groups may give no time frame or guidance. The new adopter is left to his own devices about *how* to accomplish this training and



Hounds in their less comfortable, in-home adoption kennel crates.

decide *when* the crate is no longer necessary. Many adopters continue to use the crate out of habit and familiarity, not out of necessity.

When to stop crating? Simple. Stop when the hound is housebroken and housetrained. By giving the dog the chance to prove he is housebroken, is finished chewing up the couch or drywall, no longer gets into dangerous substances, and is no longer interested in noshing on your antique dining room table.

How about a test? If you're not completely convinced your dog is totally houseworthy even though he shows signs of being so, try muzzling him out of the crate. If, after a few trial periods nothing is amiss, try unmuzzling him for a couple hours in a safe room. Give him a chance to prove he can be trustworthy. Even setting up a video camera for 15 minutes and leaving can prove very enlightening. See what happens.

How long it takes to teach those two major accomplishments depends on the dog and the dog's teacher — generally the owner. Every dog has a different set of needs and time frame for learning house manners. Similarly, every owner has a different level of teaching skills. We have heard of Greyhounds who behave perfectly from day one, and we see people who can teach a behavior in minutes. We have heard the opposite too. Regardless of which end of the spectrum you and your dog live, the two main variables toward

achieving success are you and your dog.

Like any tool, a crate does its job efficiently when used correctly. Even better, odds are high the Greyhound won't be stressed out while learning house manners. Once the teaching tool has served its purpose, the adopter may put it away until the next project — his next newly-adopted Greyhound — or leave it out as an available den and refuge.

Other Considerations

Worried about how your new Greyhound gets on with your other pets? Rather than crating the Greyhound and assuming the worst, consider gating the dog from a room where the cats or small dogs live. Start thinking of muzzles as face crates. If the dog is housebroken, the muzzle is the next step towards run of the house.

Safety within a dog pack can be a huge concern. Three or more dogs equal a pack. The relationships and actions among these dogs are quite different from the relationship between two dogs. In addition, every time a foster dog enters a home with resident Greyhounds, there is jockeying for pack position. Crating or muzzling might be in order.

If a dog is ill, he may need to be separated either by gates, crates, and/or wearing muzzles. Crates can also be used to keep the dog safe at the veterinarian or while traveling.

Comparing Notes

Let's take a look at what three respected non-Greyhound placement groups do, and decide if we are really using crates properly.

The Rat Terrier Club states that an appropriate time frame for crating dogs 17 weeks of age and older is approximately four hours (six hours maximum) and that no dog should be left in his crate for the entire day (eight hours).

Jacque Lynn Schultz of the ASPCA offers another view on www.petfinder.org. She writes, "The rule of thumb for crating is no longer than one hour per each month of age, up to nine to ten hours maximum (the average work day). Each session should be preceded and succeeded by an hour of aerobic exercise." She urges caution and suggests weaning away from the crate gradually. In other words, don't decide to keep your dog in the crate for ten hours one day and allow him the run of the house for ten hours the next. Staying home to accomplish this may mess up your work schedule, but it's a good idea when you are planning a stay-at-home vacation.

Ms. Schultz continues, "Before you can leave your dog confined for the long stretch, be sure you have accustomed him to the crate. A dog who panics when left alone in a crate could do damage to the crate and, more seriously, to himself. And never, never crate your dog while he is wearing any sort of correction collar — it could easily get caught on something in the crate and choke the animal."

Mary Stuart of the Champaign Humane Society states: "No dog should be crated throughout the day and again at night. As a rule of thumb, if you will be away for more than five or six hours at a time, your dog should be left in a confinement area (a dog-proofed room or portion of a room secured with barriers), rather than a crate."

There are no firm answers for every dog and situation. How long is too long? It depends on your hound, your teaching methods, and how you view your crate. ■

Marcia Herman is Editor Emeritus of CG Magazine.

Saturday, June 7

Woofstock 2003

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Adoption Center
Canine Sports Center
4821 Dehesa Road
El Cajon, Calif.

Woofstock is a fun-filled annual party for dogs and their people to benefit Greyhound rescue. Games, raffle and silent auction, great shopping, picnic lunch, doggie confidence course and more. Special appearance by retired Padres Cy Young Award winner Randy Jones.
Contact: 877-houndsavers
or greyhound@greyhoundog.org

Saturday, June 7 (rain date June 14)

11th Annual Greyhound Reunion Picnic

10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Pets of America/Springfield, Mo.
2016 S. Arlington Terrace
Springfield, Mo.

Swimming for people and pets, raffles, silent auctions, sack raffles, Greyhound store, nail cutting, group photo and more. Greyhounds can be off leash if muzzled.
Contact: Alane Shultz, (417) 883-8156
or (417) 887-6439, agreyhound@mindspring.com;
www.gpamo.com

Saturday, June 7

WAG's Picnic in the Park — Doggone Walkathon 9

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.
Lock 12 Park
Cheshire, Conn.

A fun walk with fellow Greyhound enthusiasts to raise money for WAG dogs awaiting adoption.
Contact: Jim Berger, Jr., (203) 325-9727
or (877) 595-8991; jim@bergeradvisory.com

Saturday, June 7

Eighth Annual Greyhound Reunion Picnic and Fundraiser

10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Adopt-A-Greyhound of Central Canada, Inc.
Lilac Hill Farm
1845 Century Road W.
North Gower, Ontario
Contact: Lynda or Chris Seed, 613-489-0654
or info@adopt-a-greyhound.com;
www.adopt-a-greyhound.com/golf/pg2.htm

Saturday, June 7

Annual Festival

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Pets of America/Minnesota
Spooner Park
Little Canada, Minn.

This is the annual fundraising event for our organization featuring raffles, vendors, contests, and of course, lots of hounds!
Contact: Teri Petrin, 651-702-8952
or petrin@worldnet.att.net

Saturday, June 7

2003 Greyt Greyhound Gathering

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Hill Country Greyhound Adoption
McAllister Park
San Antonio, Tex.

Enjoy and meet with other Greyhound owners and friends for fun, food, games, silent auction, raffle, Greyhound items and t-shirts for sale. Public welcome and encouraged to attend.
Contact: Linda Knight, (210) 829-1328;
hcgasatexas.com

Sunday, June 8

Third Annual GreysLand Gathering & Reunion

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
GreysLand Greyhound Adoption
Hopkinton State Park
Hopkinton, Mass.

A day of fun for all Greyhounds and their humans. Vendors, games, raffles, information booths, food, and more.
Contact: Robin Norton, (508) 435-6023,
greys5@aol.com; www.greysland.org

Sunday, June 8

South Jersey Volunteers Sixth Annual Picnic

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
National Greyhound Adoption Program
Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor
Mays Landing, N.J.
Games, raffles, vendors, demonstrations, Greyhound wedding. Donation of \$15.00 per family of 4 and \$2.50 each additional person; lunch included!
Contact: Merci, mercibar1@aol.com
or NGAP at 1-800-348-2517.

Sunday, June 8

Greyhound Friends West Reunion

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Greyhound Friends West, Inc.
French Park
N. Egremont, Mass. (near New York border)
Spring reunion and gathering. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring their Greyhounds. Barbecue lunch, bake sale, huge raffle, games for kids and dogs, goodie bags, dogs available for adoption to pre-approved adopters.
Contact: Nancy A. Korman,
nkorman@ix.netcom.com; www.gfwgreyhounds.org

Thursday, June 12 through Sunday, June 15

Greyhound America 2003

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

Saturday, June 14

Monica's Heart Summer Blast

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption
Legion Park
Holidaysburg, Pa.
Games, silent auction, raffles, vendors, concession stand open for good food. A great start to the summer — fun and socializing for hounds and their humans!
Contact: Kay McNelis, (814) 942-3145,
houndmom@charter.net;
or Peg O'Brien, (814) 943-1475, obie@asdcacat.com

Saturday, June 14

Eighth Annual Homecoming Picnic

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Personalized Greyhounds, Inc.
Pavilion #3
Gifford Pinchot State Park
Lewisberry, Pa.
Vendors, food, beverages, music, contests, Chinese and silent auctions, 50/50 drawing.
Contact: Diane Freundel, (717) 737-2609;
www.pgreys.org

you're invited

Friday, June 20 through Sunday, June 22

Sixth Annual Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering

St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Mich.

A weekend of fun to benefit the Morris Animal Foundation. Pizza party, Woof Studios Dog Portraits, loud and lively auction, poker stroll, ice cream social, contests, raffle, silent auction, beach walk, vendors from across the country, and The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds.

Contact: Connie Cassidy, 269-429-6985; www.glgg.org

Saturday, June 28

Second Annual Spring Fling

Greyhound Friends of N.J.

Atlantic County Park

Estell Manor, N.J.

Contests, bake sale, nail cutting and ear cleaning, food and beverages, vendors, Greyhound boutique, raffles.

Contact: Patty Tustin, (609) 624-9192

or Spotsylott@aol.com

Friday, July 25

Greyhound Club of America Western Specialty

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ryon Park

Lompoc, Calif.

This is a "Specialty" dog show for AKC-registered Greyhounds, with classes offered in Obedience, Conformation and Junior Showmanship. Held in conjunction with the Western Sighthound Combined Specialties, there will be shows for other sighthound breeds on the same day at this location. Lure coursing (for both AKC-registered and ILP Greyhounds).

Judges: Sweepstakes — Mrs. June Matarazzo;

Specialty classes — Mrs. Patti Widick Neale.

Contact: Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, 323-727-0136 for Premium list;

Show Chair Joni Lovci, jlovci@san.rr.com;

Trophy Chair: Sheryl Bartel, 360-422-7804

or sbartel@sos.net

Saturday, July 26

Eleventh Annual Reunion

Noon till ?

Rainbow's End Greyhound Rescue

Ann and Gary's home (call for directions)

Harveys Lake, Pa.

Come relax, share your Greyhound stories, enjoy great food, raffles, lots of free games to play, CGC and TDI testing. Costume contest will begin at 1:00 p.m. with all games following. Cover dish and/or prize for raffle. As always this is for Greyhounds only.

Contact: Ann, 570-639-2612;

Diana, 570-822-9815 or dake@epix.net

Saturday and Sunday, August 2 & 3

San Diego Renaissance Faire

The Greyhounds of Fairhaven

War Memorial Grounds

Balboa Park

San Diego, Calif.

For the third year the Greyhounds of Fairhaven will be promoting Greyhound adoption at the San Diego Renaissance Faire. If you live in or are visiting the San Diego area, come out and meet our most noble hounds.

Contact: Marsha Roe, 602-493-1063

or info@greyhoundsoffairhaven.org;

www.greyhoundsoffairhaven.org

Saturday, September 6

Annual Reunion

11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Greyhound Pets of America/Central

New Hampshire Chapter

Rollins Park

Concord, N.H.

Please join us for our annual GPA-CNHC Reunion.

Last year's reunion proved to be the best ever and we are hoping the 2003 Reunion will be even better! This is a fun-filled day for both humans and hounds. There will be raffles, games, a costume contest, plenty of food for everyone, vendors, and lots more. Come and chat with old friends, make new friends and meet our dedicated volunteers.

Contact: Marina Greene, 603-783-9313;

greyhoundangels@aol.com

Saturday and Sunday, September 6 & 7

Tenth Annual Canine Fun Days and Greyhound Reunion

Greyhound Adoption of Ohio

Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field

Route 87 & Chagrin River Road

Moreland Hills, Ohio

Lure coursing, fun agility, fun dog show, demos, vendors, blessing of the animals, entertainment, giveaways, all-breed rescue row, great food.

Contact: Linda Perko, 800-269-1148 or

RJRLP@aol.com; www.greyhoundadoptionofoh.org

Thursday, September 4 through Sunday, September 7

2003 National Greyhound Adoption Conference

Sponsored by Greyhound Pets of America

Best Western Rime Garden Inn and Suites

Birmingham, Ala.

The conference is open to volunteers from all adoption groups and we urge greyhound lovers from all walks of life to attend. The meeting will be hosted by GPA/Northern Alabama.

Contact: Alane Shultz, VP@greyhoundpets.org;

www.greyhoundpets.org

Saturday, September 13

Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption Reunion

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

Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption

Rock Island Conservation Club

Big Island Road

Milan, Ill.

Reunion of dogs and the people that have adopted through QCGA. All greyhounds and their people are welcome! Fun games, great food, and great vendors.

Contact: Janet Stoefer, 309-793-4578

or janet@qcgreyhoundadoption.org;

www.qcgreyhoundadoption.org

Saturday, September 20

WAG's 11th Annual Games & Gathering

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

We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.

Wharton Brook State Park

Wallingford, Conn.

Fun, games, learning experiences, vendors, great food.

Contact: Ellie Goldstein, 877-595-8991 (toll-free)

or 288-7024 (local); Audice@aol.com

Sunday, September 21

Greyhound Planet Day

The purpose of this international event is to raise the public's awareness of the wonder and magic of Greyhounds as pets, educate others on the current status of Greyhounds around the world, and to honor those Greyhounds who have left us already. For more information and a complete listing of events associated with Greyhound Planet Day, please visit www.ameurogreyhoundalliance.org/ghplanet.htm

Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28

Prairie Beach: A Gathering of Champions

Heartland Greyhound Adoption
Altoona, Iowa

Join us for our second annual celebration of greyhounds. Greyhound adoption supporters from ten states and a Canadian province attended our inaugural year; now you can get in on the trend! We'll have an opening parade of athletes, informative speakers, an auction of Greyhound-related merchandise, and a unique opportunity for you to create artwork with your Greyhounds.

Contact: Mary Neubauer, 515-226-0958, maryandrhett@msn.com;
Eugenio Coco, 515-334-5419, endcoco1@mchsi.com;
Jorene King, 515-967-6564, joreneross@aol.com;
www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org

Saturday, September 20

(rain date Sunday, September 21)

Greyhound Rescue Reunion and Fundraiser Walk-A-Thon

12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Rescue of New England
River Bend Farm State Park
Uxbridge, Mass.

A fun day of raffles, doggie contests, a silent auction, and the chance to hang out with other Greyhounds and their owners. Call for a sponsor sheet if you'd like to participate in the walk; you'll enjoy even more of the beautiful scenery at this state park, and help the hounds.
Contact: Michelle Tewksbury, 508-478-1617
or.greyhounds@qnci.net

Saturday, September 27

Fifth Annual Reunion

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lake Erie Greyhound Rescue, Inc.
Lagrange Lions Park
240 Glendale
Lagrange, Ohio
Silent auction, Chinese auction, door prizes, contests, vendors, and food.
Contact: Sally Hennessey, 440-466-1347
or.greyhound@ncweb.com

Sunday, September 28

Fourteenth Annual Greyhound Homecoming and Picnic

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Make Peace with Animals
Valley Road Picnic Site
Hopewell Township, N. J.
(2 miles south of Lambertville off Rte. 29)
Greyhound gathering open to all and their dogs. Silent auction, vegetarian buffet, vendors, nail trimming, tick testing.
Contact: Jo Ann Fotheringham, Jofother@aol.com;
www.makepeacewithanimals.org

Saturday, October 11

Ninth Annual Las Vegas Greyhound Picnic In The Park

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Pets of America/Southern Nevada
(Las Vegas)
Floyd Lamb State Park
Las Vegas, Nev.
The Las Vegas Greyhound community's ninth annual celebration of Greyhound adoption. Enjoy a relaxing and fun-filled beautiful fall day featuring a grilled lunch, silent auction, artisans, hound games and contests, raffle, and more! Contact: Jan Valentino, 702-392-5822 or info@lasvegasgreyhounds.org;
www.lasvegasgreyhounds.org

Sunday, October 19

Greyhound PetFest 2003

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Pets, Inc.
Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Monroe, Wash.
PetFest 2003 is Greyhound Pets, Inc.'s biggest event of the year and the largest gathering of rescued racing Greyhounds and their owners in the Pacific Northwest. PetFest will feature live entertainment, great auctions, raffles, dozens of booths offering a variety of pet products, services, a dog obedience demonstration, dog costume contest, games and a number of retired racing Greyhounds available for adoption.
Contact: Cathy Munro, 425-742-1388
or.adopt.greyhounds@verizon.net

Sunday, October 26

Fall Reunion 2003

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Arizona Greyhound Rescue
Reid Park, Ramada #1
Tucson, Ariz.
A fun day for Greyhounds and their families. Games, lectures, shopping, raffle, silent auction, food and beverages. Donated items are always appreciated for our raffle and silent auction. Vendors invited.
Contact: Dawn Melichar, 520-275-3585
or.snowythegreyt@yahoo.com;
www.azgreyhoundrescue.org

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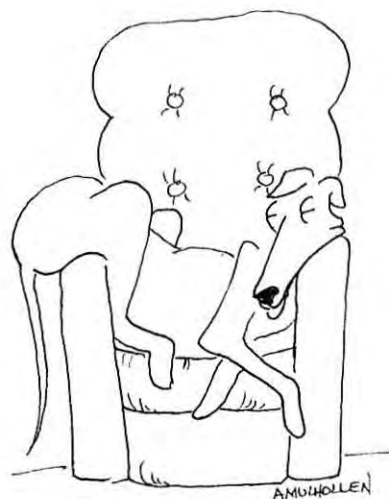
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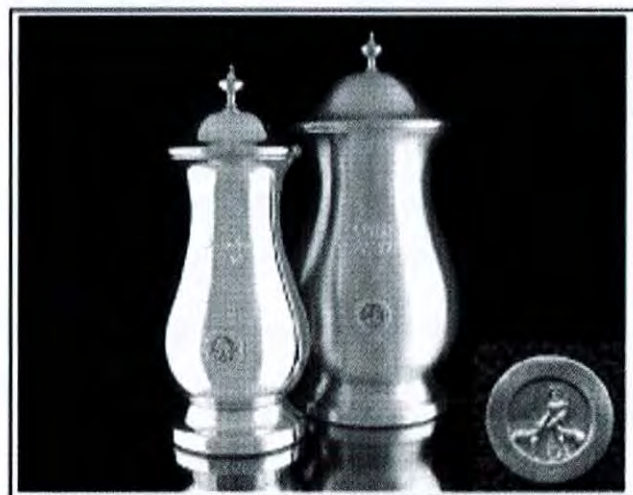
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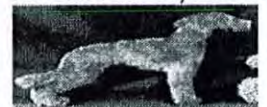
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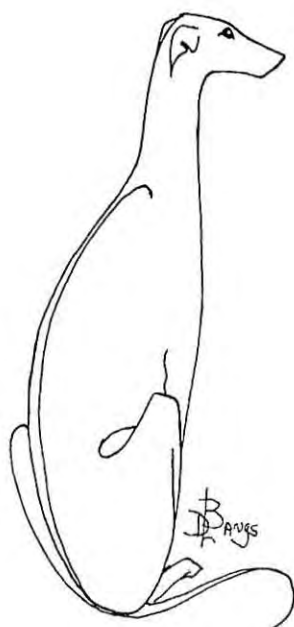
-  Prairie Beach's signature Parade of Athletes
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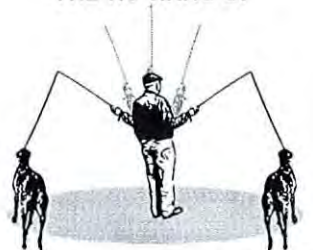
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Cairo (Haus of Lords) 1993-2003

Owned and loved by Carmen Riley and by all who knew him, Cairo was featured in "Will He Ever Like Us?" (Winter 1998 *CG*). He was also pictured on the back cover of the Winter 2000 issue. Cairo crossed the Rainbow Bridge to reunite with his long time Whippet friend Hansonn (aka Brother) following a brief and unexpected illness. Always the gentle soul, Cairo instantly made strangers into friends whether at a show-and-tell, a home visit with potential new adopters, or on a walk. Cairo and Brother are deeply missed.

Scooter 1992-2003

Adopted by Anna Clements of Barcelona, Spain, Scooter was pictured in "The Welfare of the Irish Greyhound" (Spring 2003 *CG*). Retrieved from the Pabellón racetrack in Barcelona when it closed in 1999, Scooter was SOS Galgos' first rescued Greyhound.



Carrera (Penrose Tierra) 1988-2003

Carrera joined the family of Dan and Laney Kussman in 1994, following three years as a racer, and three more years in her first post-retirement home. She was featured in "Aging Gracefully" (Summer 2001 *CG*). Carrera worked tirelessly as a Therapy Dog with the Orange County, Calif. SPCA PAWS group bringing smiles to people of all ages, and getting her fair share of love and hugs for her efforts. She also enjoyed her "other job" — charming the crowds at local meet-and-greets. Carrera was a sweet and gentle Greyhound loved not just by her humans, but also by the cats and a cockatoo with whom she shared her home. Although we are grateful to have had her with us in good health for so many years, Carrera's passing leaves a huge hole in our hearts.



Sophie 1991-2003

Adopted by Stephen and Carol Weinhold through REGAP St. Louis, Sophie was pictured on page 29 of the Fall 1999 *CG* and, post-amputation, on page 56 of the Winter 1999 *CG*. At the age of 11 years and nine months, Sophie was a 45-month osteosarcoma survivor. She was diagnosed in May 1999 and lived a healthy and happy life for an additional 45 months until her passing from causes not directly related to the disease. She was a true Greyhound ambassador, making numerous appearances on television and in newspapers in the St. Louis area. Her sweet disposition and undaunting courage through adversity will keep her forever in the hearts of those that loved her.

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



Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine

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