



Celebrating Greyhounds

Summer 2015 Online Magazine

Battle of the Sexes

ALSO INSIDE:

Adopters Racing Alliance

Greyhounds on Stage

Osteosarcoma Update

Celebrating Greyhounds

Summer 2015
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Honey, adopted by Vivian Diaz.

From the Editor

As we worked on this issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, two of our dedicated volunteer copy editors emailed me to tell me their Greyhounds had been diagnosed with osteosarcoma. A couple of days ago, I cried when I read Alice O'Hearn's Facebook post, telling everyone that she had lost her beloved Kennedy. Barb Williams' Lancelot is still fighting the good fight, but who knows for how long?

Earlier today, I spent several hours helping a friend deal with a severely injured horse. He's bandaged up and fine for now, but there's no guarantee he'll make it. There is no way of knowing whether the wound will permanently affect the tendon and joint; if it does, the prognosis is not good.

These stories remind me that, whether we're talking about Greyhounds, or horses, or people, our time with them is not guaranteed. In the case of

Greyhounds, we know when we adopt them that in 10-12 years, maybe 14 if we're really lucky, we'll have to say goodbye. Sometimes, that moment comes all too soon.

When it does come, it affects people differently. Some choose not to adopt another Greyhound until they feel they've adequately moved on and grieved the last. Some have no choice, when left with a single Greyhound who wilts without a canine companion. And others need to find another Greyhound to adopt right away, opening their heart to a hound that isn't a replacement of the old, but rather a continuation of the circle of life.

In rare circumstances, a person will even swear off getting another dog, to save ever having to go through the pain (and potentially, the extreme expense that can come with end-of-life veterinary care) again. That was me, two years ago, when it came to horses. One year of non-stop veterinary

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Saving Grace

bills with nothing left to show for it made me swear off horses *for good*.

Until last week. I'll make a long story short by saying I am now the proud owner of a beautiful mare who was standing in a killer pen in Oklahoma and less than 12 hours away from shipping to a Mexican slaughter plant. I've named her Grace, because it is only by God's grace that she is still alive.

Three days later, while at a meet and greet with my current foster, a couple showed up with a 12-year-old black Greyhound. They had lost their female a week before, and the male was not happy as an only dog. So with their hearts still broken over their loss, they began to look again.

Whether it takes two days or two years, there is a time — the right time — to move

forward. No one can tell you when that is. You might not even know it yourself or think you are ready until it actually happens. But when it does, the hurt and the pain will turn into fond memories and happy reminiscing, as a new Greyhound, or horse, steals your heart.

Until then, hug your hounds and enjoy every minute. Because life is short and time is not guaranteed.

Stacy

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

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

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Greyhound Bytes:

News you can sink your teeth into



Watch a video of K-9 officer Robin's recovery thanks to the Greyhounds of Hemopet.

Greyhound Blood Bank Helps Save K-9 Officer

MONTEREY PARK, California — When Robin, Monterey Park's newest K-9 officer, was injured in the line of duty, she was in bad shape. Stung by a swarm of bees more than 50 times while pursuing a suspect, Robin's organs began shutting down. The 3-year-old Belgian Malinois needed a blood transfusion to save her life. Thanks to Hemopet, a Greyhound adoption, blood-donating program, she got one. Read more and watch a video about Hemopet at [ABC7](#).

Prompt Veterinary Care Saves Greyhound

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania — Roger, a Greyhound, was rushed to the veterinarian's office at lunchtime in obvious distress. The dog was in a state of shock with no known event to trigger the condition. Veterinarians all stopped what they were doing and concentrated on saving the dog's life. Read Roger's story at the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#).

Stressed-out Travelers Get Pooch Perks at Charlotte Airport

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Charlotte Douglas International Airport travelers have a new way to calm down, with furry volunteers. The CLT Canine Crew program, now roaming the terminal, features eight certified therapy dogs and their handlers, who will visit Charlotte's airport at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on a rotating basis. Read more at [The State](#).

GRNSW Announces Welfare and Integrity Measures

NEW SOUTH WALES, Australia — Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) has announced a raft of measures it is introducing to improve welfare and integrity outcomes in New South Wales Greyhound racing. Among the new measures

is the introduction of a welfare and integrity levy, which will increase litter registration fees and divert a percentage of high-level prize money towards increased investment in re-homing programs and compliance work within the Greyhound racing industry. Read more at [GRNSW](#) online.

Greyhound Owner Banned From Keeping Pets

LONDON, England — A dog owner has been banned from keeping pets after puppies were found living in squalid and cramped cupboards inside his home. RSPCA inspectors visited the address in July last year after receiving reports from concerned neighbors. A 3-year-old Greyhound called Kit was discovered living in a dark cupboard with her four puppies, aged 6 to 8 weeks old. There was no ventilation or food and the cupboard

was covered in urine-soaked newspaper. Read more at the [London Evening Standard](#).

Memorial Planned for Greyhounds Found in Mass Grave

BRISBANE, Australia — A tribute garden and memorial service for 55 Greyhounds whose carcasses were found in bushland southeast of Bundaberg last month is being planned by two Beerwah residents. Nola Murphy and Jo Gregory work at Pets Eternal, a pet crematorium and cemetery south of Brisbane. "We were talking about how horribly tragic it was and how sad it was," Murphy said. "It's like they never mattered. We said, 'We should do something.'" They spoke to their boss, who suggested a tribute garden be created at Pets Eternal's Greenbank cemetery. Read more at the [Sunshine Coast Daily](#).

Greyhound Bytes

High School Calls Off Greyhound Adoption Fundraiser After Animal Rights Group Complaints

LONGWOOD, Florida — A race between high school football players and Greyhounds has been canceled after an animal rights group convinced Lyman High School leaders to call it off. The event was a fundraiser for groups that try to find homes for retired Greyhounds. The spokesperson for the animal rights group said the race was a public relations stunt, and he felt the students were being used to make the dog racing industry look better. Read more and watch the video at WFTV.com.

Greyhound Group Protests Charity Wiener Dog Races in Idaho

BOISE, Idaho — A local dog rescue group says a fundraising dog race is against the law. Greyhound Rescue of Idaho sent a “cease



Watch Greyhounds race high school athletes in a fundraiser that drew criticism from animal rights groups.

and desist” letter to the Boise Host Lions addressing its upcoming wiener dog racing fundraising event in May. The group said the event breaks a law dating back to 1996. Read more at [KLS.com](#).

Short Story About A Greyhound Wins Writing Contest

MEMPHIS, Tennessee — Itta Bena Slim ... sounds to a waitress named Trish like the name of a light beer. Or maybe it’s a cigarette marketed to women. Or a lullaby, “child’s play on the tongue.” Or perhaps it’s the title of a soft tune for slow dancing. But no, Itta Bena Slim is the name of a Greyhound, and Trish’s date for the evening, a middle-aged liquor distributor in Memphis by the name of Duane, thinks Itta Bena Slim is a good bet. Old Willie Graham, who’s sitting next to Trish and Duane

at the bar of the Kennel Club at Southland in West Memphis, isn’t so sure about that bet, and mark his words. A widower and retired dog-trainer himself, Old Willie is an old hand at this: picking a winner — whether it’s a first-place finisher on the racetrack or a brief winning moment for Trish and Duane to share. That’s the setup in “Itta Bena Slim,” a short story by David Williams, sports editor at *The Commercial Appeal* and grand-prize winner in this year’s *Memphis Magazine Fiction Contest*. Read more about author David Williams and his retired racing Greyhounds at the [Memphis Flyer](#).

UK Veterinarians Urge Awareness of Alabama Rot

LINCOLNSHIRE, United Kingdom — A disease that starts as a swelling or skin lesion can be fatal to dogs if it is not diagnosed early.

Dog owners in Lincolnshire and across the country are being urged to understand the warning signs of Alabama Rot — a mysterious illness that first appeared in the late 1980s. Alabama Rot is believed to be caused by toxins produced by bacteria such as *E. Coli* and can lead to renal failure within nine days if untreated. Read more at the [Lincolnshire Echo](#).

Greyhound Wins K9focus Heroes Award

DEVON, United Kingdom — The poignant story of a devoted companion who gave a Barnstaple couple a reason to go on living has won the hearts of the judges for this year’s K9focus Heroes Awards. Ruby the Greyhound, owned by Anne Beer, was chosen as the overall champion from among many

Greyhound Bytes

superb and heart-warming entries. Rescue Greyhound Ruby was winner of the Rescue to Hero category, and she was in good company. The Working Hero section went to police dog Charlie owned by PC Simon Willan. Read more about Ruby at the [North Devon Gazette](#).

Greyhounds Rescued From Kennel Fire

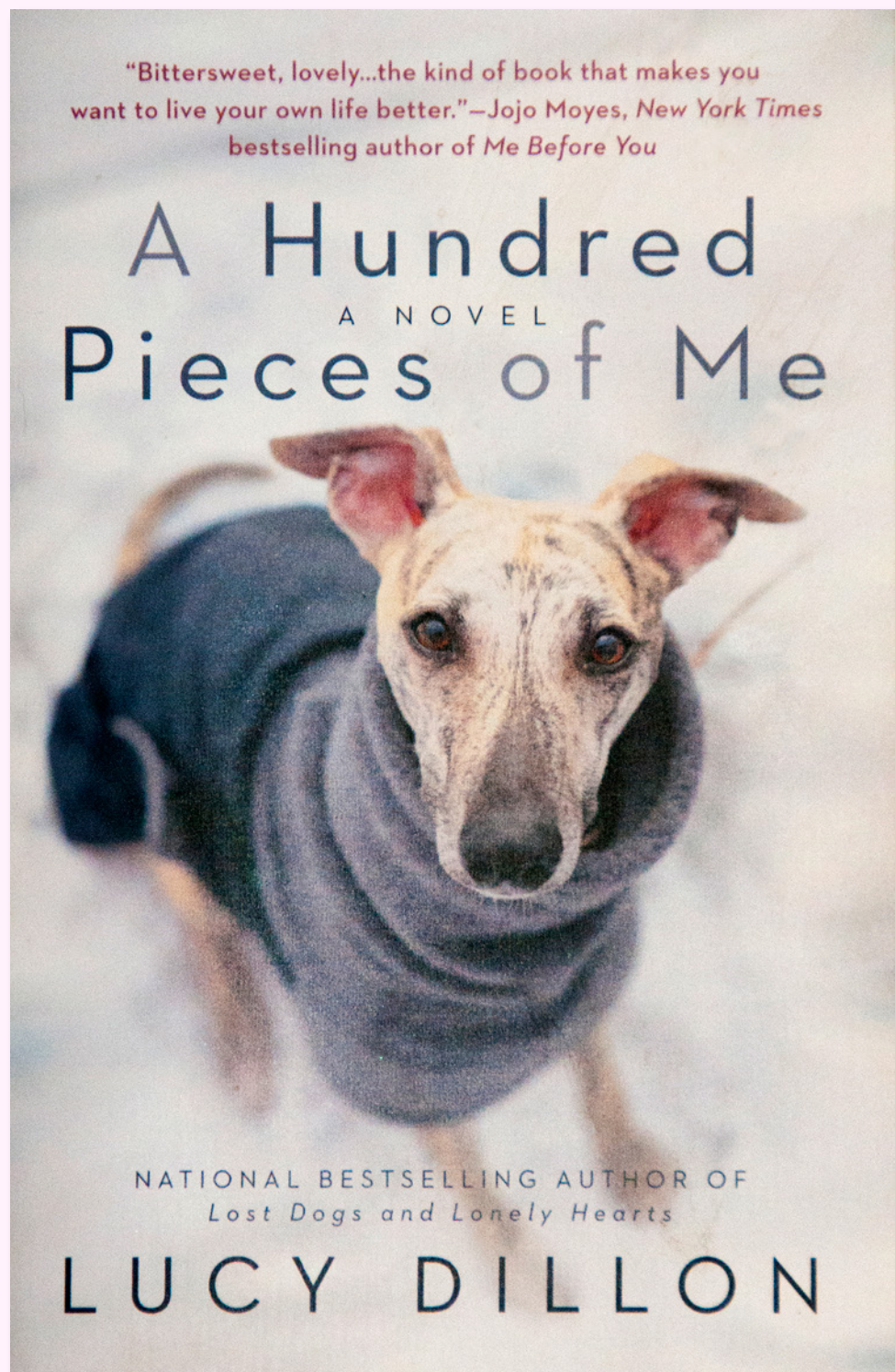
HARWICK, United Kingdom — A local Greyhound trainer has spoken of his horror after finding his kennels on fire and his dogs trapped inside on the weekend. Francis Hill, who kennels seven Greyhounds at his Burnfoot premises, said the blaze was deliberate and that someone must know who is responsible. Read more at the [Harwick News](#).

Animal Charity Donates Toward Greyhound's Care

ABERDEEN, Scotland — A campaign to raise funds for an injured Greyhound took a step forward with a leading animal charity pledging hundreds of pounds towards its veterinary bills. Millie was left in the care of Methlick-based group Give a Greyhound a Home (GAGAH) in January after she severely damaged her paw in a fight with another dog. The 7-month-old dog required 22 metal pins in her leg to straighten her deformed bones and has been left with vet bills which could reach £3,500 (approx. \$5,320 U.S.). Now, Aberdeen charity Dogs Action Working Group Scotland (Dawgs) has donated £500 (approx. \$560 U.S.) to help cover the animal's recovery. Learn more about [GAGAH](#) online.

Study Finds Dogs Can Discriminate Between Facial Expressions

VIENNA, Austria — Researchers at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna demonstrated that dogs can discriminate between happy and angry human faces, most likely by recalling real human faces to accomplish the task. The study was published on Feb. 12 in *Current Biology*. "Our study demonstrates that dogs can distinguish angry and happy expressions in humans," research author Ludwig Huber told the BBC. "They can tell that these two expressions have different meanings, and they can do this not only for people they know well, but even for faces they have never seen before." Read more at the [American Animal Hospital Association's NEWS](#) or read the abstract at [Current Biology](#).



A Hundred Pieces of Me

A story about living for now that will stay with you forever.

By Stacy Pigott

Lucy Dillon

A Hundred Pieces of Me

Berkley Publishing (Sept. 2, 2014)

464pp.

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Every once in a while, a book comes along that makes you want to live a better life; *A Hundred Pieces of Me* is that book. Ironically, what drew me to *A Hundred Pieces of Me* was the picture on the cover — a beautiful brindle Greyhound in a winter coat. Once I opened the cover, the eloquent writing and well-developed characters kept me reading late into the night, unwilling to put it down until I had finished “just one more chapter.”

A Hundred Pieces of Me tells the story

of Gina Bellamy, whose marriage has fallen apart, leaving her suddenly single. We learn about her through a series of flashbacks as she struggles to make sense of the past and move into an uncertain future.

With a lifetime of memories stuffed into her new, small flat, Gina decides to get rid of all of her possessions except for the 100 things that mean the most to her. Each chapter begins with an item, a red cashmere scarf in one heading, for example, and a calendar date. As the

flashbacks continue, the items tell the story of Gina's life. As she considers each item and remembers the corresponding story, Gina begins to come to terms with her past.

Buzz, the Greyhound, doesn't appear until page 158, when he arrives with a stranger who has come to buy a bicycle Gina advertised for sale. Like a Craigslist story gone bad, the stranger leaves a small deposit and his Greyhound on hold while he takes the bike for a test ride. The stranger does not come back, and Gina is left with a Greyhound.

"Gina was starting to be unsettled by its unblinking gaze," author Lucy Dillon wrote about that first meeting between Gina and Buzz. "It had eyes like black marbles and a white throat like a bib over its brindled gray coat. She kept forgetting it was there; it seemed to have a knack for making itself seem very small."

Left with a dog she neither wants nor knows how to relate to (hence the impersonal "it" when at first referring to Buzz), Gina

tries to give him to local rescue groups. These efforts appear to be unsuccessful as, each time, Buzz comes back to Gina.

Based on her detailed and accurate descriptions of Buzz, it's hard to believe the author doesn't have Greyhounds of her own — according to her biography, she lives with a couple of rescued Basset Hounds. Still, Greyhound aficionados will recognize some of the breed's characteristic personality traits in Buzz, who is shy and standoffish in the beginning. Eventually, he takes to leaning against Gina's legs, growls at her soon-to-be ex-husband, and uses his needle nose to nudge food out of the hands of new friends as he becomes Gina's official foster dog.

One of my favorite passages in the book is when Gina sees Buzz run for the first time. "Buzz seemed to be powered entirely by joy, flexing his racer's muscles for the pure delight of running ... although he was slight, the power in his front legs was plain to see as he arched and stretched, his ears flying backward

and his almost prehistoric jaw open in a smile as he sprinted in wide, ecstatic circles."

A Hundred Pieces of Me is worth reading for the descriptions of Buzz alone, but by the end, you'll feel like you've found a new friend in Gina and the people in her life — Rachel, the dog-rescue volunteer who knows Gina needs Buzz; Nick, a possible new love interest; Naomi, her longtime best friend; and Janet, Gina's anxiety-ridden mother. The book may even encourage you to do a little spring cleaning at home, where, like Gina, you might find that a Greyhound easily tops the list of 100 things that make you who you are. ■

About the author: Stacy Pigott is Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's Editor-in-Chief. She volunteers with Greyhounds Unlimited and fosters adoptable Greyhounds in her Fort Worth, Texas, home. She lives with two, 6-year-old Greyhounds — Gypsy and Greta — and 10-year-old Australian Cattle Dog-mix Jewel.

♂ Ask the Expert: Battle of the Sexes ♀

Tips for making a great choice when deciding whether to adopt a **boy** or a **girl**.

By Deb Levasseur, Certified Dog Trainer and Behavior Therapist

At the **Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program**, I encounter many new adopters requesting a small female. Most of these first-timers believe a smaller Greyhound will be easier to handle and less challenging to manage. Perhaps they have a smaller home or are small in stature themselves and think a smaller hound will be more practical. While on the surface it makes sense, there are actually many more important aspects to consider when adding a new Greyhound to your household.

The difference in size between the female and male Greyhounds is generally about five to 10 pounds, and is usually closer to five pounds. Sometimes female Greyhounds are larger than the males. We have brought up a 62-pound boy and an 80-pound girl. As far as space goes, a few pounds and a couple of inches of height actually make very little difference inside a home or vehicle. As for handling and walking compliance, it all



Autumn, age 4, adopted by Tony Pichler, of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, through Keystone Greyhounds.

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depends on the temperament of the hound. Larger Greyhounds can often be easier to handle for smaller or older people. Besides, let's face it, if a 50-pound Greyhound wants to pull you off of your feet, he can.

Some people believe that Greyhounds are basically all the same and want to select one solely based on their appearance. In fact, Greyhounds can have widely varying temperaments, which can lead to a disappointed adopter if more important factors are not considered. Greyhounds are all very different and unique, and it takes at least two weeks in a home environment for them to even begin to show us their true personality. At that point, the importance of color or looks quickly fades and the significance of personality and fit becomes paramount. Some Greyhounds are very outgoing, always looking for a new adventure, and have lots of energy. Others are timid, shy, and withdrawn. Some are very assertive and bold, while others are

submissive to the core. Some thrive on long hikes and love to go for a daily jog. Others are content with a soft bed, a short daily stroll around the block, or would even prefer an enrichment walk or a fun sniffing game. These are the sorts of things we should consider when choosing a Greyhound; not necessarily his gender or size. I like to ask potential adopters questions, like what are you looking to do with your Greyhound? What amount of daily exercise are you willing to give your hound? Do you currently enjoy daily walks? Do you require a highly social Greyhound? Do you like training dogs? These are all important aspects we should consider before selecting our next canine companion.

So, generally speaking, what are the differences between male and female Greyhounds? The dainty, pretty, tiny girls are usually the higher-energy types. They are very smart little spitfires, extremely cute, and fun to train. They are the perfect hiking and



Miss T (Teasemesomemore), adopted by Keith and Betty Hill, of Mayfield, Kentucky.

exercise companions. If agility training and exercise are your thing, a small female would probably be a perfect fit. The girls also tend to be more independent and not as adoring as those mama's boys. They can blast into our lives like a whirlwind and, if given the chance,

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can be bossy little divas. Many people who have owned both sexes report that the girls are more protective of their space than males, leading to more corrections. Females are usually guilty of taking beds, toys, food, or treats from the boys. They often bump their adoptive brothers out of the way to bolt through the door to pee first or nudge their way in for petting and attention. Since females tend to be more independent than males, they may be a better fit for a working family. One adopter reported that, “The girls are stingier with their love and affection, so when you do get it, you know they really mean it.”

On the other hand, if you are looking for a laid-back, snuggly sort who will adore and cuddle you, then a big boy may be just the ticket. A 95-pound single lady who has fostered several large males told me after adopting a smaller female, “The boys are amazing. I love my girl to death, but the next Greyhound I have will be a big boy.”

One commonly held myth is that males will mark indoors and will be harder to house train than females. This is simply not true. The vast majority of Greyhounds are easily trained within a few days and reliable after about 30 days, with males being as trustworthy as females. In fact, over the years I have probably worked on more house-training issues with females than males. Boys will usually pee against anything, so bathroom training on a leash tends to be easier. Girls need to find just the right spot and may like more privacy and prefer doing their business in a dog run or fenced yard.

Many males are more easily trained to walk nicely on a lead without pulling and can be trained to jump into your vehicle quickly. We all know the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach, and boys can often be easily convinced to do just about anything for the right treat. Girls, on the other hand, tend to work for the joy of learning and praise.

Because boys tend to be less protective, we are more inclined to place them with families with young children. Maternal instinct plays a role in the female temperament, which can be observed by a mother correcting or protecting her pups. It can also make females bossy, protective, and assertive.

Greyhounds, both boys and girls alike, are independent hunters, as opposed to those dogs who were bred to hunt alongside man. This penchant for independence tends to make Greyhounds underachievers in the show ring. However, those who say Greyhounds cannot be trained have it all wrong. All of my Greyhounds were well-trained and learned their basic commands, including sitting, fairly easily. I trained one of my girls up through level 3 obedience. This was indoor off-leash training with no verbal commands. This entailed 10-minute down stays with me out of the room, drops on recall, automatic sits, and figure eights with speed changes — all with no

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leash and no voice. I could never have trained any of my boys to that level.

Males and females generally display different types of intelligence. I once heard someone say, "Boys play checkers while girls play chess," which is a great analogy. Some people believe that females are more intelligent, as they generally learn tricks and commands easier and often have a mind of their own. Conversely, others believe that males are smarter as they tend to be more obedient than their female counterparts. Linda Jenson, who was widely known in the Greyhound community as a race dog owner and a tireless adoption advocate, explained this difference well when she told me that while it is possible to convince a boy he really does not want to misbehave (i.e. chase that cat), once a girl gets an idea in her mind it is nearly impossible to convince her otherwise. So who is more intelligent? You be the judge. Nevertheless, all Greyhounds are a joy to work with and truly enjoy learning when



Lily, a 5-year-old female adopted by Sian Greenock, of France, through Greenfields Greyhounds Rescue in the U.K.

their adopters use a bit of patience and positive training techniques.

It is important to bear in mind that the information in this article represents generalizations based on data I have gathered over the years. There will always be exceptions to every rule, and canine temperament is no different. Many females are laid-back and lazy, while some males are full of energy and strongly independent. One universal truth is that all

Greyhounds are amazing and you cannot go wrong by adopting a male or female hound. So far, I have owned five girls and three boys. I loved them all deeply, and I would not have traded a single one of them for a million bucks. ■

About the author: Deb Levasseur, CBT Canine Behavior Therapist, is the president and founder of Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program based in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Greyhounds on Stage



A local performance of the ballet *Giselle* offers this owner and her Greyhounds the chance to take the stage and raise awareness of Greyhound adoption.

By Andrea Hulshult

The history and lineage of Greyhounds is long and regal. They have been depicted as being part of royalty for thousands of years. The ancient Roman hunting goddess Diana is sometimes portrayed with a hunting dog that closely resembles a Greyhound. Homer had a faithful Greyhound Argos in the epic *The Odyssey*. Greyhounds are mentioned in the King James Version of the Bible. King Canute of England in 1014 passed a law that said the death of a Greyhound was punishable by death — the same as a human. Greyhounds are also



Julianne with her Greyhound, Auggie, and Andrea with her Greyhound, Jax. Photo by Karen Zahneis.

mentioned in several of **William Shakespeare's works**. Being royal, graceful, poised, and elegant is in all Greyhounds' DNA. How could it not be? That is why my 2-year-old blue female Greyhound Jax and I answered a casting call for the **ballet Giselle**. Greyhounds on stage in a ballet? It sounded like a perfect fit.

The **De La Dance Company** in Cincinnati, owned by directors Mario de la Nuez and Meridith Benson, held a casting call for Greyhounds for their February 2015 production of *Giselle*. The ballet *Giselle* is set in 19th century France, where at that time, only royalty owned Greyhounds. Mario and Meridith wanted Greyhounds and their handlers as part of the King's Court. They wanted their ballet to be authentic of the time period. Jax and I and one other owner and her Greyhound became part of the *Giselle* cast.

Auggie and Jax providing backstage therapy to the Giselle dancers. Photo by Andrea Hulshult.





Andrea and Jax backstage and ready to perform. Photo by Ben Hulshult.

As soon as we walked into the De La Dance studio, we were welcomed with open arms. In true Greyhound fashion, when the hounds entered the studio, they were instant celebrities. The dancers were always excited to see the Greyhounds. Anytime they had a break, they would run over and pet them. Jax soaked up the attention and immediately knew she was a little famous. When it was time to practice our entrance, Jax behaved with the poise, grace, and elegance that are her pedigree. She was not afraid of the loud music, being surrounded by dancers in costumes, or the set. The entire studio was constantly surprised by how well-behaved Jax and the other Greyhound were.

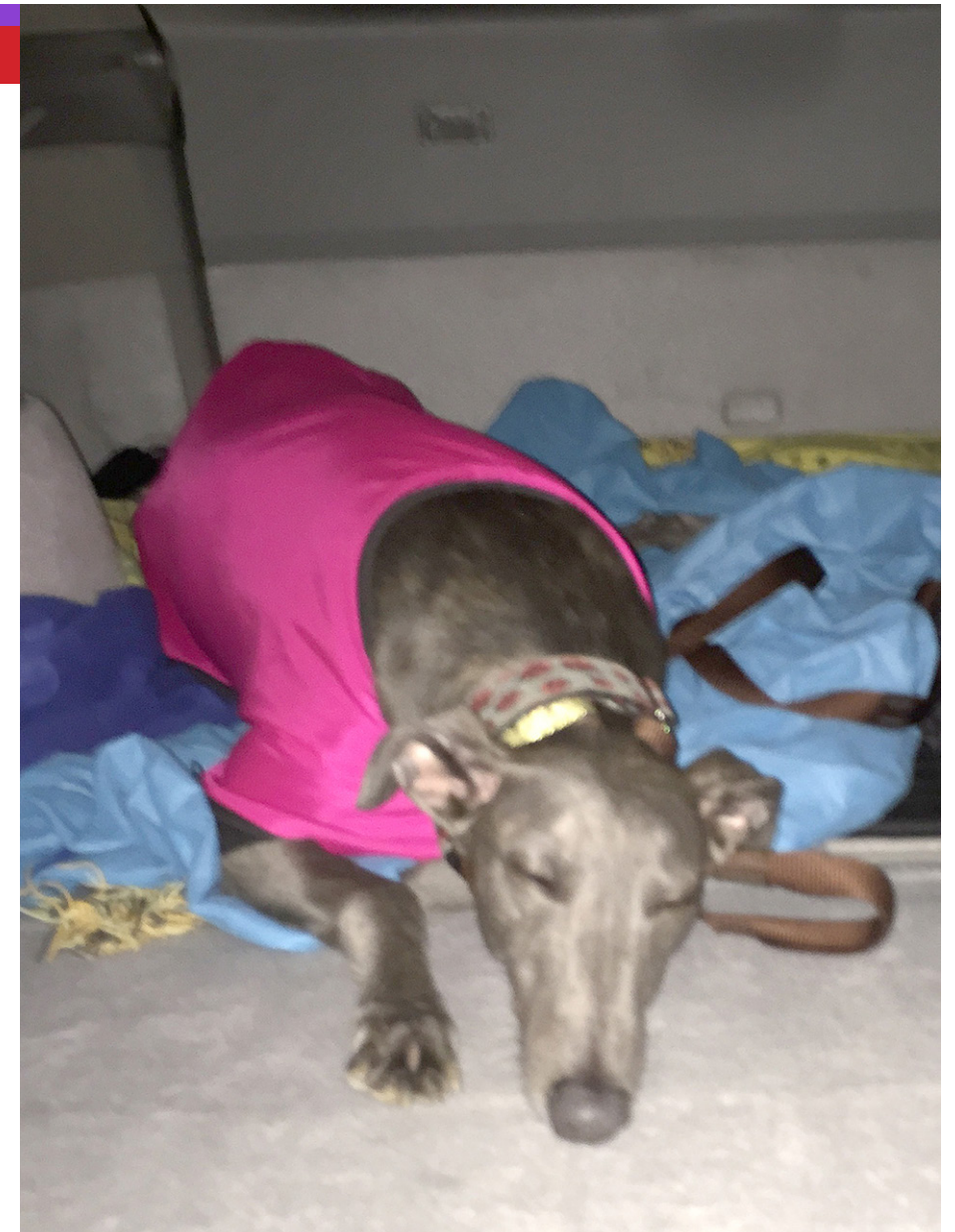
Being at the studio allowed me the opportunity to educate people about the breed — from a historical perspective to a

behavioral perspective. I answered questions such as: 'Why were Greyhounds in kings' courts?' 'Why did they behave so well?' I thought Greyhounds were hyper and needed lots of exercise? By the end of the ballet, the entire studio was educated on Greyhounds, and they were able to see the breed in action.


In true Greyhound style, both hounds acted as if they had been on stage all their lives. There were children, teenagers, and adults in the ballet, and they all loved on the dogs. Some would hug the Greyhounds and some would simply pet them as they walked by, but I believe it was therapy for the dancers to have the Greyhounds there. Even with the long hours of practice, the dancers would always stop to pet the hounds. They could not always stop long, but they stopped,

smiled, and left a little less stressed. After a few practices Jax knew her music and her cue to enter the stage. Her ears would perk up and she would stand poised and ready to make her grand entrance with the King's Court. She wanted the entire studio to know she was indeed part of the ballet.

On opening night at the [Aronoff Center for the Arts](#), I wasn't sure what to expect. I believe I was more nervous than Jax. I was told that the Aronoff usually does not let dogs backstage. Mario and Meridith had convinced them that Greyhounds were not the average dog — and that the Greyhounds involved in their ballet had great manners. There was never any barking, jumping, or a potty accident. Even the stage and theater crew came by to introduce themselves and often stopped to pet the Greyhounds. It was very busy backstage



Jax promptly fell asleep after dress rehearsal. This acting stuff is hard work! Photo by Andrea Hulshult.



on performance nights. Everyone was hustling back and forth looking for costumes, props, and trying to get where they needed to be, but the dancers and crew still stopped to pet the hounds each time they went by. How could anyone resist petting a Greyhound? I think the calm nature of the Greyhounds provided reprieve from any performance stress, anxiety, and nervousness. How could you hug a Greyhound and not feel happy?

I continued to tell many people during the two weeks of performances about Greyhounds. People could not believe they were allowed backstage and on stage. The Greyhounds made such an impression that we were allowed to go out to the theater lobby during intermission to mingle with the audience. As usual, the Greyhounds drew an instant crowd. People in the audience often said that they were amazed and excited to

see the Greyhounds on stage, and how well-behaved they were.

It still amazes me how many people are unfamiliar with Greyhounds and Greyhound adoption and rescue. I was prepared and ready with my memorized Greyhound speech and shared my love of the breed with anyone who stopped by. People have the misconception that Greyhounds are constantly ready to run and full of energy. This is why I love to talk to people about the breed and educate them on the true traits and characteristics of Greyhounds. I also enjoy showing them what wonderful pets Greyhounds make. I handed out cards and brochures from the Greyhound rescue group I am a member of, Greyhound Adoption of Greater Cincinnati, and Jax sealed the deal with a bow. She bows on command — for a treat, of course.

Being a part of *Giselle* allowed me to continue to educate my little part of the world about Greyhounds and provided some stage therapy for everyone involved in the ballet. Greyhounds are such noble ambassadors for their breed. This experience also reminded me that there is much more Greyhound awareness to be raised. I heard from many audience members during the different shows that Jax's ears would perk up during the music. They said it was as if she was really listening to the music. I believe it was her feeling at home in the King's Court and being on stage. She was back to her roots. ■

About the author: Andrea Hulshult resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, and teaches technical writing at Miami University. She has been active in Greyhound adoption for eight years and has two Greyhounds of her own — Jax and Ricky.



Charlie, owned by Kyle Wittet, runs with his duck toy in the snow.

Canine Osteosarcoma: Part 2

Current state of research and new treatments

By Nancy Beach

Amputation, chemotherapy, and hope.

For the last 20 years, those were the only options that Greyhound adopters had when it came to treatment of their pets' osteosarcoma, or bone cancer. Treatments have not substantially advanced and survival rates remain about the same.

One thing that has been changing is our understanding of cancer on a molecular level. As its secrets are unlocked, some forms of cancer that seemed dissimilar at first — such as some types of osteosarcoma and breast cancer — are now being identified as having certain traits in

common, and those traits cross between species. It is hoped that new treatments aimed at exploiting those traits can be used to battle cancer in animals and in people.

Current studies are being conducted by teams that include both veterinary and human medical centers with funding through groups such as the [National Cancer Institute](#), the [Morris Animal Foundation](#), and the [American Kennel Club \(AKC\) Canine Health Foundation](#). One research group founded in 2003, the [Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium](#), is comprised of 20 medical centers across the U.S. Its goal is to design and conduct clinical trials in dogs with cancer to assess therapies that can benefit both canines and humans.

Osteosarcoma's Challenges

Osteosarcoma is an aggressive cancer. In about 90 percent of dogs, the disease spreads microscopically, usually to the lungs or another bone, by the time of diagnosis. The greatest immediate challenge is finding a way to control — or, better yet, eliminate — those stray cells so they do not colonize new sites. Current chemotherapies either can't reach all the cancer cells where they like to hide, or do not target abnormal cells narrowly enough. They also kill normal cells, which can lead to unwanted effects like low white blood cell counts, organ damage, and gastrointestinal distress.

Just as with many other cancers, not all osteosarcomas are alike. This almost certainly means multiple treatments must be developed to effectively attack each form of the disease, and these treatments will need to be tested on each patient to identify which form they

have. In the future, some patients may receive a vaccine while others may get one or more drugs, with or without other therapies.

While a true cure for osteosarcoma is not yet on the table, there is hope that some new strategies may allow our beloved Greyhounds longer, better-quality lives as osteosarcoma survivors.

A Vaccine for Cancer?

Some of the most promising new treatments — the creation of genetically engineered vaccines — use novel ways to harness the body's own immune system to attack and destroy cancer cells.

In an interesting twist, this often starts with a bacterium or virus that would normally make a dog (or a human) ill. The microbes are then manipulated in the laboratory to disable their disease-causing ability.

Some are chosen because of a natural

affinity for tumor cells; they seek cancerous cells to colonize while ignoring normal cells. Others have this feature added in the lab. They can also be outfitted with additional payloads — molecules that can either kill the cancer cell directly, or that provide additional signaling to the immune system that the cell it's hiding in and others like it should be eliminated.

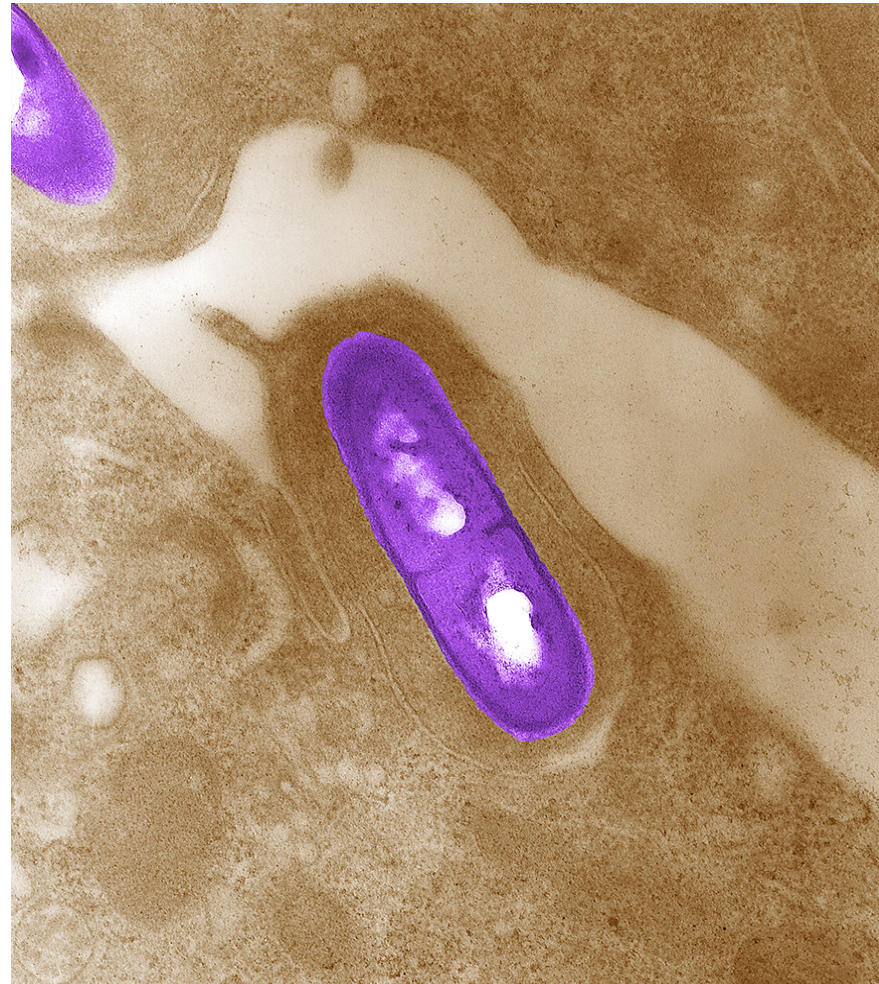
While ability to genetically engineer bacteria and viruses this way is very recent, the idea of using the body's immune system against cancer is not new. In 1898, William B. Coley, a bone sarcoma surgeon at Memorial Hospital in New York, noted some patients survived longer if they acquired an infection while in hospital. He concocted a mixture of killed *Streptococcus pyogenes* and *Serratia marcescens* bacteria and used it on almost 1,000 patients who suffered from an array of inoperable cancers. In 1999, his data were analyzed and compared to modern cancer

treatments. Coley's patients with sarcoma, kidney, and ovarian cancer had higher 10-year survival rates.

Similar findings have been noted in dogs with osteosarcoma, with survival rates doubling in dogs who develop infections at the surgical sites where their primary tumor was removed. Current vaccine technologies hope to build on these findings.

Vaccine Using *Listeria monocytogenes*

Veterinarian Dr. Nicola Mason and colleagues at University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine have been testing a vaccine using *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria to help fight metastatic osteosarcoma cells. *Listeria* was chosen because it produces a strong immune response when it infects a host, and it thrives in low- and no-oxygen environments, which



Listeria monocytogenes is the infectious agent responsible for the food borne illness Listeriosis. This bacterium is bioengineered to render it harmless and then to target a protein on osteosarcoma cells. Photo courtesy of Public Health Image Library (PHIL), Center for Disease Control; Dr. Balasubramanian Swaminathan; Peggy Hayes

are common in tumors. The bacteria are modified to seek out a protein called **HER2/Neu**, which is present in about 40 percent of both human and canine osteosarcomas and 15 to 20 percent of human breast cancers.

A Phase I clinical trial that tests a new drug or treatment on a small group of patients to evaluate its safety and effectiveness began in 2011, eventually involving 18 dogs. All the dogs received the standard treatment of amputation and carboplatin chemotherapy. Starting three weeks after the last chemotherapy treatment, they received the vaccine intravenously three times, three weeks apart.

The only side effects were mild nausea, vomiting, and fever, which quickly resolved. Fever was considered a positive sign that the vaccine was stimulating the immune system as desired.

Compared to a control group of 11 dogs

who received amputation and chemotherapy but not the vaccine, most of the vaccinated dogs lived significantly longer. The median survival rate in the control group was 316 days. In the vaccine group, 12 of the 18 patients showed no evidence of metastatic disease, and their median survival rate as of November 2014 had not been reached.

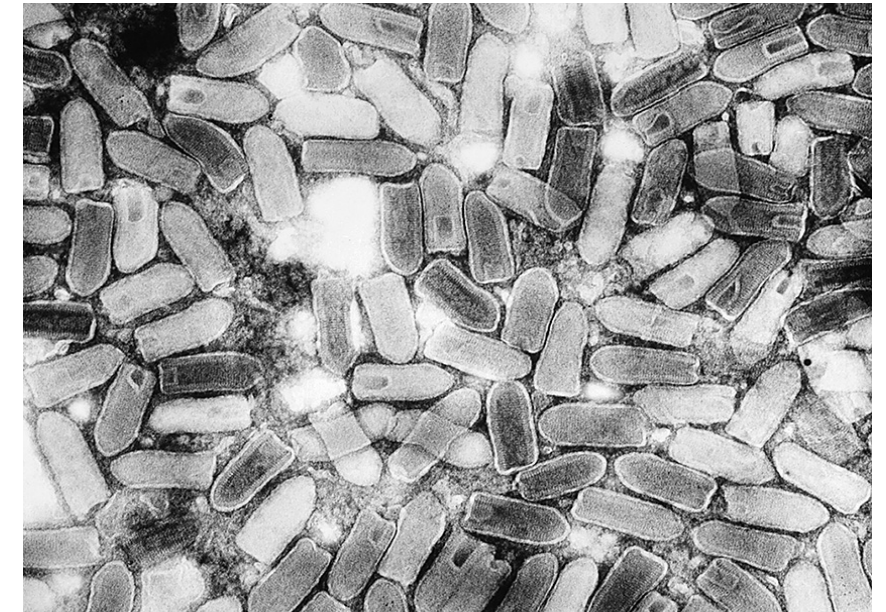
These results were encouraging enough to warrant another trial, this time using dogs who could not be given traditional amputation and chemotherapy treatment. This ongoing trial's objective is to determine the effectiveness of the vaccine against the primary tumor.

Mason reported early findings of the second trial at the American Association for Cancer Research's annual meeting in Philadelphia on April 20. The treatment consists of two doses of radiation to the primary tumor site on consecutive days and then vaccines once every three weeks, for a

total of eight vaccines. As of this writing, of the 10 dogs that were enrolled, six were still alive, with four being euthanized — two for pathological fracture and two due to spread of the disease. Five of the 10 remaining dogs showed stable disease, with no further spread at the time of writing, good quality of life, and use of the affected limb. In the one remaining dog, the tumor appeared to have completely regressed and the bone lesion healed. Median survival time for treated dogs was listed at 285 days, compared with 136 days for dogs treated with radiation therapy alone.

This vaccine has moved on into human trials, with the Food and Drug Administration giving the parent company, **Advaxis Immunotherapies™**, clearance to do so in January. Patients with osteosarcomas, breast, gastric, and esophageal cancers that express the HER2 protein are eligible for treatment.

Vaccine Using Vesicular Stomatitis Virus



The vesicular stomatitis virus is responsible for causing mouth sores in livestock, but has become a valuable tool in laboratory research. Photo courtesy of Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Fred. A. Murphy

Veterinarians Amy LeBlanc, Sara Allstadt Frazier, and colleagues at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), in conjunction with researchers at the Mayo Clinic, have been studying a vaccine using the vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), which causes mouth

sores in animals. It is widely used in laboratory studies and the **Mayo Clinic** has used it to develop a **vaccine** that is being tested in people with liver cancer.

The virus seeks out cancer cells and replicates inside them, killing the cells. Additionally, it has a foreign gene inserted into it that produces a protein called interferon-beta (INF-beta), which elevates the body's immune response.

Studies done at UTK in 2012-2013 with the VSV vaccine on a small group of dogs with lymphoma or multiple myeloma showed no significant adverse effects from a single dose of the vaccine. Two vaccines were used, one that produced canine INF-beta and another with the human version. Dogs given the human INF-beta version showed a dramatic but variable remission of their disease.

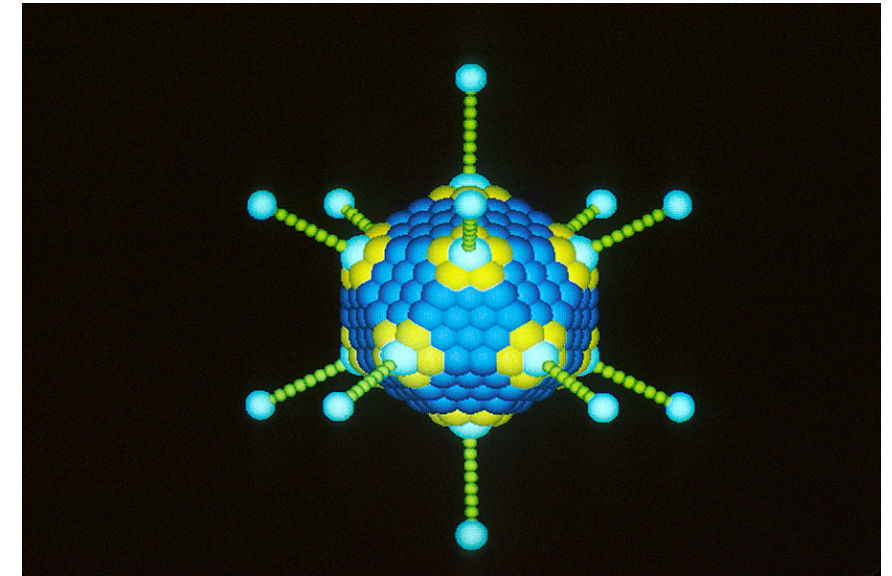
Ongoing studies will include **dogs with osteosarcoma, T-cell lymphoma, and multiple myeloma**. Further testing will use multiple

doses of the vaccine to see if a positive response can be sustained. Dogs in this study must remain at the university for 10 days after vaccine treatment and can be on no other therapies.

Vaccine Using Canine Adenovirus Type 1

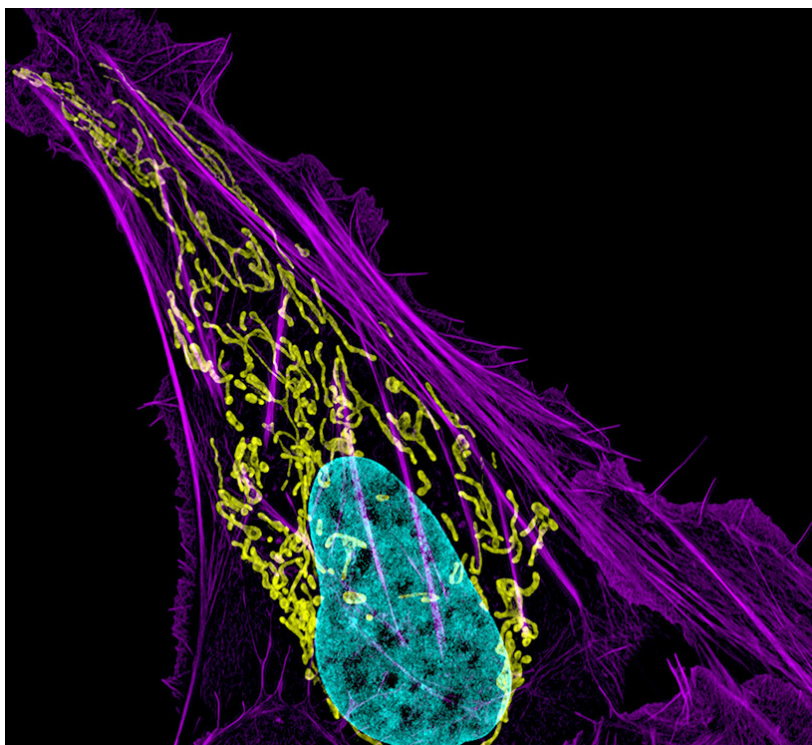
Veterinarian Bruce Smith at Auburn University is also using genetic engineering to create an osteosarcoma vaccine aimed at killing cancer cells outright, with a possible immune response as a secondary consideration.

Smith and David T. Curiel, a professor of radiation oncology and cancer biology at Washington University's School of Medicine in St. Louis, have been working together for more than 20 years to formulate effective virus-based treatments for cancers that will work in both humans and companion animals.



*Simplified 3-D computer rendering of an adenovirus
Photo courtesy of the National Cancer Institute Visuals
Online; Dr. Richard Feldmann.*

Smith is using canine adenovirus type 1, which is responsible for canine hepatitis and is already used in hepatitis vaccines. Curiel's lab alters the virus to seek out cancer cells and replicate inside them only, leaving normal cells alone. The rapidly replicating virus bursts the walls of the cell, killing the cell and releasing the new copies of the virus to seek out and invade other cancerous cells.



Osteosarcoma cell with DNA in blue, energy factories (mitochondria) in yellow, and actin filaments, part of the cellular skeleton, in purple. Photo courtesy of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health; Dylan Burnette and Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz

In late 2006, a Greyhound named Pretty was one of the first four dogs to receive this vaccine at Auburn. Pretty, who was also treated with amputation and chemotherapy,

survived two years and four months past diagnosis, twice the usual survival time. The initial results were encouraging enough for Smith to secure an \$118,848 grant in 2013 from the AKC Canine Health Foundation for a two-year trial.

Just as in Mason's study, dogs enrolled also receive the standard treatment of amputation and carboplatin chemotherapy, in this case six cycles. The vaccine is given intravenously one day after amputation and chemotherapy starts 30 days after the vaccination.

The **study** is ongoing and will enroll up to 20 dogs. A first-year report submitted in February 2014 to the Canine Health Foundation noted that all six dogs in the study at that time tolerated the vaccine with no complications.

At least one of the dogs in the study – a 10-year-old named **Gary—is a Greyhound**. Gary completed his chemotherapy on January 30, 2015 and as of May 2015 was showing no

signs of his cancer spreading.

Very early results show that some dogs in the trial are responding better to the vaccine than others, so it is likely there will be a need for further research to target this treatment toward those individuals who respond best.

Drug Therapies

As has been traditionally done in cancer research, current drugs that are approved for use for one type or set of cancers are being further examined to see if they can be used effectively against others. Clinical studies are currently under way for several medications to gauge their effectiveness against osteosarcoma:

Toceranib (Palladia): This oral medication disrupts the function of a group of proteins called receptor tyrosine kinases. These receptors live on the surface of cells and are important for cancer growth. Toceranib is approved for use in canine mast cell tumors,

and has seen some informal, off-label use in dogs with other types of cancers, including osteosarcoma. Multiple veterinary medical centers, including those at The Ohio State University (OSU) and Pennsylvania State University, are studying its effectiveness on osteosarcoma lesions that have spread to

costing several hundred dollars a month for an average-sized Greyhound — targeting dogs in which the drug will work can save owners money and spare the dogs who won't benefit from suffering its side effects. In the study, owners will give their dogs Toceranib three days a week and will have repeat visits

“To imagine we will find a simple solution to this I think doesn't do service to the true complexity of the problem. Cancer is part of our genetic inheritance.”

*Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD, PhD, Pulitzer prize-winning author of
The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*

the lungs. Additionally, blood-testing will be performed to identify biomarkers that can predict which dogs will respond best to this **therapy**. Toceranib has been effective in about half of dogs being treated for mast cell tumors. Since the drug is expensive — typically

to the participating clinics for rechecks. The most-recognized side effects of this drug are gastrointestinal problems: loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, or bleeding.

Rapamycin: This antibiotic was discovered in a soil sample collected on Easter Island.

Originally developed in the early 1970s as a treatment for fungal infections, Rapamycin was later found to have immunosuppressive properties and is currently used in patients with organ and bone-marrow transplants. It also inhibits the growth and development of cancerous cells. The National Cancer Institute and the Morris Animal Foundation are sponsoring a multi-site study to see if Rapamycin slows or stops the progression of osteosarcoma. The drug is given by mouth five days a week for a month.

Tetrathiomolybdate™: This is a copper-inhibiting compound used in Wilson's disease, a genetic illness in which too much copper accumulates in the body. Copper is a key factor in new blood vessel growth. Cancers often develop their own vessel networks, and interfering with that process can slow or stop their growth. Studies in people have shown TM to slow or suspend growth in breast and

lung cancers. Given orally, it prevents copper absorption in the stomach and intestines. University of California, Davis and OSU researchers are testing the drug in dogs with osteosarcoma who have already been treated with amputation and chemotherapy to see if it will prevent the spread of the disease to the **lungs**. One major side effect of this compound is anemia, so dogs will have their blood monitored.

Ways to Help

While biomedical professionals are hard at work making discoveries and testing new drugs and techniques, it can be hard to sit on the sidelines and wait. Here are a few things Greyhound owners can do to get actively involved in the fight:

- Get your Greyhound involved in a clinical trial. If your Greyhound recently was diagnosed with cancer of any kind, the



Even on three legs, Charlie enjoyed running in the snow. Photo by Kyle Wittet

Veterinary Cancer Society lists current clinical trials in a searchable database, filterable by species, type of cancer, and location of the participating medical center(s). Contact information and details of the trials are available there. Many of the trials offer treatment for free or at a

substantial discount. Some trials require a referral from a veterinarian, so if you are interested in enrolling your Greyhound in one, you may need to contact him or her first. Others have open enrollment.

- Make a donation to the cancer charity of your choice. Veterinary teaching hospitals,

the [Morris Animal Foundation](#) and the [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) all offer ways to give money to cancer research.

Reasons for Renewed Hope

The founding of the Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium in 2003 has helped connect human and veterinary researchers in a much more organized and comprehensive way, helping to speed discoveries that will benefit both dogs and their owners.

With most large dogs contracting osteosarcoma at around the age of 8, it is possible that within the next canine generation or two, therapies being developed now could lead to Greyhounds approaching a normal lifespan despite their diagnoses, and living a good quality of life in those extra years with a minimum of side effects from treatment. Cancer will always be with us, but step-by-step, inroads are being made. ■

About the Author: Nancy Beach is a university technical support analyst and recovering journalist with an interest in human and Greyhound medical issues. She is a longtime retired-racing Greyhound owner who lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina., with her husband Martin Roper and 11-year-old Greyhound Tough.

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Retired racer Katie curls up on her bed seven days after her amputation surgery. Photo by Steve Uyehara.

ADOPTERS RACING

ALLIANCE

A unique group is bridging the gap between racing and adoption with one very special Greyhound.

By Stacy Pigott

Ownership syndicates have always been a part of racing, but a unique venture is bridging the gap between racing and adopters. Formed in late 2014, the Adopters Racing Alliance comprises 25 members — primarily from the Greyhound adoption world — who have a vested interest in the promising young dog Never Quit.

The Adopters Racing Alliance was the brainchild of Neil Roepke, a Greyhound enthusiast from Columbia, South Carolina, who adopted his first dog in 2010. Like some

first-time adopters, Neil had no reason not to believe the anti-racing rhetoric he found when researching the breed.

“I believed all of the lies; I believed all of it — hook, line and sinker,” said Neil, who was initially against the idea of adopting a Greyhound. “I wasn’t going to adopt some broken-down Greyhound that’s been forced to breed, abused, terribly treated, and the whole thing.”

Fortunately, Neil’s wife and daughter persisted, and the family soon found themselves

with a new dog, adopted through [Greyhound Crossroads](#). That dog quickly became “one of the greatest joys of my life,” Neil said. But there was one problem — her fun personality and loving nature didn’t jive with the persona of an abused animal.

“I was sitting at the kitchen table one morning, just looking at her, and thinking, ‘There’s no way that this dog has been mistreated.’ So I found the breeder and called him up, and mispronounced her name. He corrected me right off the bat. We had a nice



conversation and we've talked a lot since then. My eyes were opened by that dog."

A couple of years later, Neil began volunteering with Greyhound Crossroads. One of the ways he contributed was by hauling dogs, many of which he picked up from the racetrack. He also helped at meet and greets, talking to the public about Greyhounds and, naturally, racing.

"You spend all these Saturdays at meet and greets and you're on the front line. You get told what a horrible person you are and that your dogs are abused," Neil said. "You stand there and have to be polite and you have to refute all of that, and I thought, you know, I want to go through with it one time. I want to see what it's really like, so I can really refute it. What really interested me in owning a dog was going through the learning experience

more than anything else."

Neil started to make inquiries about owning a racing Greyhound. One thing he knew for certain is he didn't want to just have his name listed as owner on some random dog he shared as a silent partner. He wanted the whole ownership experience; he wanted to learn. Even the arguments of those who tried to discourage his involvement did not dissuade his interest. Eventually, he decided it might be fun to bring a few friends on board, so they could own a dog together. Then, a chance phone call changed everything.

Neil was helping to search for a lost Greyhound whose plight was posted on Facebook. The dog had been adopted out through Lesley Ezkovich, president and founder of [It's A Grey Area Greyhound Adoption](#), near New Orleans. Neil called Lesley to learn more about the loose dog, and happened to mention he was in the market

for a race dog. As the conversation continued, Neil tossed out an idea that had been stirring in his head: What if they could get more adopters involved in racing? What if they started a syndicate?

"Neil just basically said, 'I wonder if we could get a dog bought?'" Lesley recalled. "I have racers, and I've owned racers for years. He said, 'What do you think it would cost?' I gave him what I thought was a general budget. We just chatted back and forth, then we were on the computer and we rolled with it."

Within a day, Lesley had contacted breeder Bob Crossland. While Bob isn't actively involved in the adoption side of Greyhound racing, he supports adoption groups and is always willing to answer adopters' questions about the racing industry. In fact, several adopters have bought racing dogs from his Crossland Farms. Lesley had already purchased

several dogs from Bob, and knew he would be on board with the new venture.

Sure enough, Bob agreed, and had a candidate in mind. The dog, **Never Quit**, aka “Clint,” was whelped Nov. 1, 2013. By the young sire PG Tiger, Clint is out of Sunsands Eve, from Harland “Mooch” and Dixie Olson’s kennel.

“If the pup turns out and goes to the racetrack and they get to watch that dog on the Internet or if they’re lucky enough to be at the racetrack one night when he’s running, it’s a lot like watching your kids play ball,” said Bob. “I’ve been doing this for 25 years and I had a dog win a race today at Palm Beach. It never gets old. I think this is really going to turn into a good thing if this dog turns out to be a decent dog. I think you’ll see the Internet blow up and that’s what they’ll



Never Quit, aka “Clint”



be talking about. You'll hear people saying, 'When are you going to do this again?'"

With experienced partners and a dog ready and waiting, Neil began syndicate members. To get the word out, he turned to Facebook, starting a group called, "Racing For Adoption."

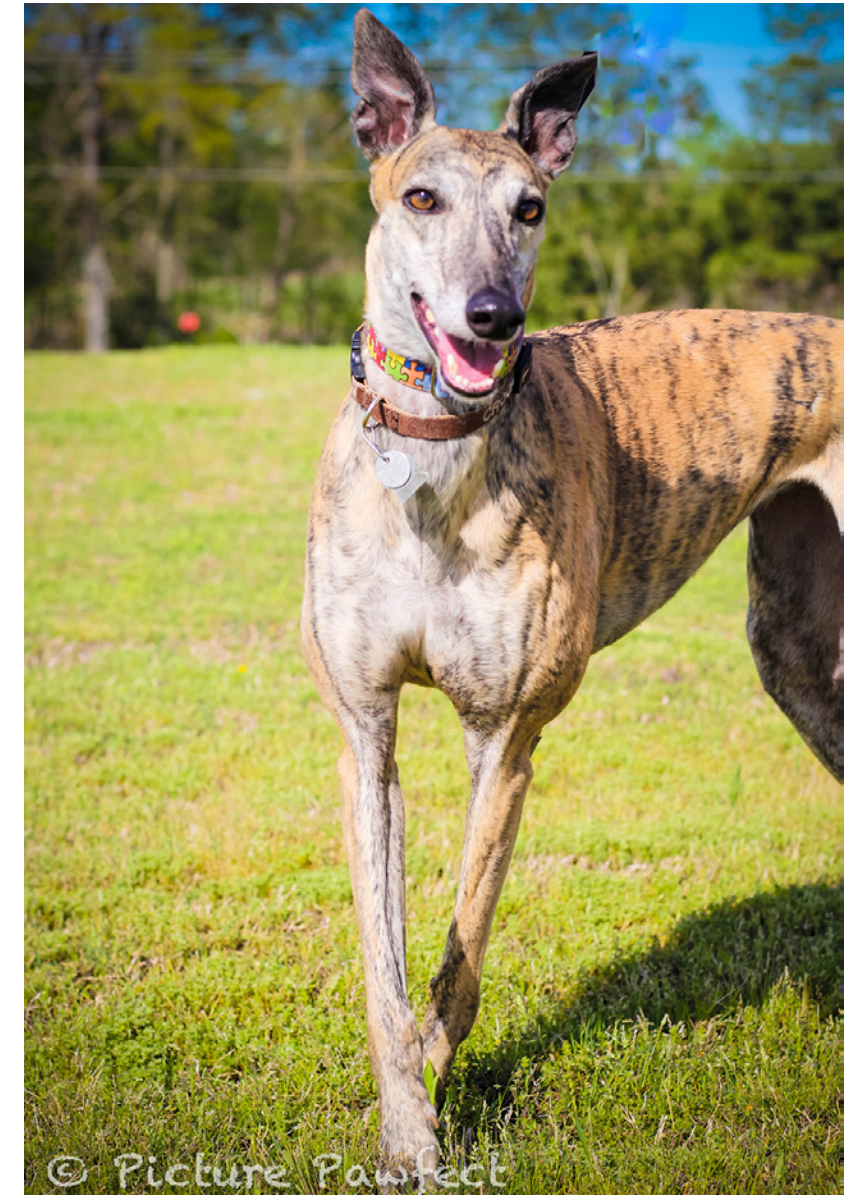
"Within 48 hours, we had all of the commitments we needed," Lesley said. "We were just shocked. And most of them were people who hadn't ever owned [racing] dogs."

"I didn't think we were going to get enough people together, and that it was really going to be like pulling teeth to get this dog," Neil admitted. "As soon as we posted [the Facebook page], it just kind of blew up. I think it was two and a half days later and we were full."

The syndicate was considered "full" when it had reached 25 members. By the third day, they had a waiting list. Members with

experience racing dogs generously stepped aside to give others a chance to own their first dog. The 25 members represent 17 states and Canada, and include a few experienced owners as well as many adopters. Some have years of experience with Greyhounds, while others are new to the breed. Many volunteer with adoption groups, some compete in lure coursing, some have shown Greyhounds, and others use Greyhounds as therapy dogs. The one thing they have in common is a deep love of the breed and a desire to learn about Greyhound racing.

With a dog bought and a fully funded syndicate ready to go, Neil and Lesley then tackled the legal issues of setting up the syndicate by enlisting the help of Jan Vazquez, of Buffalo, New York. Jan is the business manager for an architectural firm, while her husband is president and chief executive officer of a major not-for-profit



Crooky (Kiowa Cat Crook), adopted by Linda Hall, of Mocksville, North Carolina, through Project Racing Home.

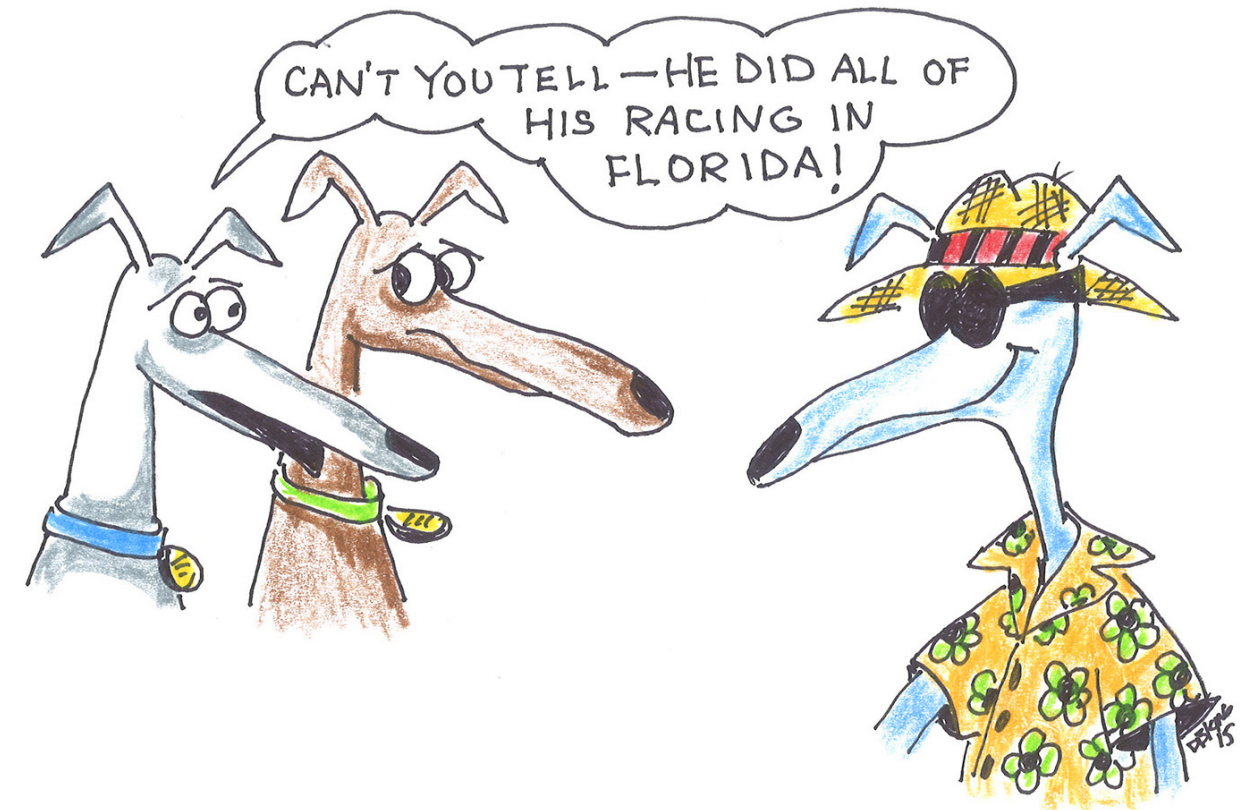
agency. Together, they helped untangle the web of legalities surrounding syndicates and racing dogs. It was also a labor of love for Jan, who adopted her first Greyhound in 2003 and got her first glimpse into the racing world in 2012. After visiting Abilene and getting behind-the-scenes tours at the racetrack and a Greyhound farm, Jan took the next logical step and bought a racer.

"My first two dogs, unfortunately, were the lemons of the litter," Jan said. "It drives me crazy to see the rest of that litter doing so well on the track while my first one, **Beana (Juanna Winsome)** never even made it to official schooling! She was just not interested. She's now living the good life in a wonderful home in New Orleans. The second, **Nike (Victorious Secret)**, finally had her first official race after reaching 2 years of age. She ran

about a dozen races and mostly came in seventh or eighth, with the exception of one second place, for which I earned my first purse check of \$9.78! Nike is now living with her forever mom in Anchorage, Alaska.

"I believe Bob Crossland felt sorry for me and offered to sell me his half interest in a dog he co-owned with Lesley Ezkovich," Jan said.

"I accepted his generous offer and became partners with Lesley in **Gege Takeaticket**. Ticket already had 78 races under her belt and it was nice to have an active racer to watch and cheer for. We recently made the decision to retire her after 118 races, and she was just



adopted by some friends of Lesley. I currently co-own a black male named **Floyd (Darx Ida da Moon)**, born November 2013. Floyd and Clint traveled together from Bob's farm in October to Bobby Parker's farm in Oklahoma to start their training."

Jan and Lesley are partners on another racing Greyhound named Mario. They also founded the fundraising group **Racing PROud**, which has raised more than \$20,000 to directly support racing. Racing PROud has recently extended its financial assistance to adoption groups, as well.

With Jan on board, the Adopters Racing Alliance contacted **United Greyhound Racing** and the **National Greyhound Association**, which both offered invaluable advice. In the end, the syndicate members share in Never Quit's potential earnings, but do not own the dog himself. That doesn't stop the 25 members from enjoying all the best parts of racing, including, hopefully, cheering Clint on at the racetrack and enjoying the thrill of victory. The Adopters Racing Alliance contract addresses Clint's potential stud career, should he be that good, as well as his eventual

retirement and subsequent adoption.

Syndicate members get first option to adopt Clint when he's done racing.

"Our sole goal is not to make money," Lesley said. "Our sole goal is to unite adoption and racing."

Clint made it through his early training at the finishing farm, and joined **Blanchard Racing Kennel** in Florida in late April. Barring any unforeseen setbacks, he is on schedule to begin racing as early as June.

"If everything went great and if the dog goes to the racetrack, it will benefit everybody — the adoption side and the racing side," Bob said. "This doesn't really have anything to do with money. The point is that someone is sitting on the computer and they're saying, 'I wish I could do something like that.' And it comes up that they can do that.

"A lot of [adoption people] are sitting



Quinlan, adopted by Tricia Neves, of San Diego, California, through Greyhound Adoption Center.

on their hands and wanting to get involved. What really gets them motivated is finding out there are other adoption people that are involved. Then they can cut loose and say, 'If they can do it, I can do it,'" Bob said. "The whole deal is just waiting on the pup to see how he's going to turn out. If everything turns out like they hope, everyone's going to have a good time and be excited. I'm sure that down the road when they try to do it again that there will be another 25 people."

And another dog, racing for the Adopters Racing Alliance. ■

About the author: Stacy Pigott is Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's Editor-In-Chief. She volunteers with Greyhounds Unlimited and fosters adoptable Greyhounds in Fort Worth, Texas. She lives with two 6-year-old Greyhounds — Gypsy and Greta — and 10-year-old Australian Cattle Dog-mix Jewel.



Smoke (What's Smokin) was adopted by Nancy Bowden, of Warwick, New York, through Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, where he was a participant in GFNJ's award-winning prison program. / Photo by Amy Roth.



The Bravest Greyhound Ever

A first-time Greyhound owner learns from a patient hound named Byron.

By Aisia de'Anthony



Byron entered our lives seven years ago, almost to the day. Our beloved Basset Hound, Dante, was in his twilight and our little buddy Simon, a double dapple

Dachshund of amazing courage and fortitude, had never been alone. We decided the time was right for another brother. Somehow, that search led us to the incredibly beautiful and gentle retired racing Greyhound. Our lives were changed forever.

Stumbling in — green as the jolly giant — we learned on our first hound, Byron. “Poor, poor, Byron,” we found ourselves saying over and over, year after year. Meeting Byron for the first time, we sat in stunned, frozen silence and awe. We weren’t prepared for his actual presence. Byron measured 30 inches at the

withers and 30 inches from nape to tail. He was like this ginormous square. He was thin as a rail with a totally bald butt and a zebra-striped tail, with and without fur. He had a black velvet coat like a seal, with muscles, tendons, and bones protruding everywhere, without an ounce of fat. When his ears pricked, they made his three-foot-high head even taller. Giant black bat ears loomed over his intensely luminous golden eyes that stared deep into our own, causing a bit of a shudder. With a healthy, underlying spike of fear, we were smitten.

We originally had loved the idea of him coming from a prison program following four years at the track. To us at the time, it seemed strangely logical to move from a kennel of crates to one really big crate with a human companion. Ultimately, we concluded that transition had only masked the ocean-deep fear that dominated our new pet-in-training. Yes, he was one of those — a fearful

Greyhound. In order to be approved, we had provided the adoption organization with mountains of material about us, our lifestyle, family, home, and community. But, I forgot to mention our kitty-corner proximity to the overpopulated and oldest public high school on Staten Island. It never occurred to me that it might be a problem, even after parenting five previous dogs of the bred-to-be-pet variety.

Poor, poor Byron. His first day in his new home was a Saturday. When we arrived home, we found our building surrounded by the screeching sirens of approaching fire engines. Never before! What was the chance of that? But our stoic fellow took it all in stride. *We dodged that bullet*, we thought. What a relief. Then our poor fellow had to endure the next eight horrible hours of our totally dominant Dachshund barking and growling at him. Our adorable 17-pounder had turned into a shrew and was not going to be intimidated by this

big, black, behemoth of a dog. He was simply going to scare him away and preserve his precious territorial rights. Poor, poor Byron, He took that in stride, too, and blinked past Simon as if this proud alpha didn't even exist. Poor, poor Simon had never been so humiliated or insulted.

Everything was going swimmingly by the end of the weekend. Dante's egalitarian presence smoothed the ruffles out of Simon's feathers and coated the place in calm. Then Monday came, and with it, throngs of loud, screaming high school kids poured through our streets. They took over the neighborhood and plowed through anyone in their path. Byron freaked out.

That brought us to the realization that we had no idea what we had gotten ourselves into. We were privately devastated, but thoroughly committed to this poor creature all the more. The nature of Byron's fear revealed that if any kind pedestrian



Byron (left) and Dallas survey the winter wonderland from the warmth of the house.

wanted to say hi and give him a pet, he would instantly break out into stress dandruff. It was amazing to see a snowy coat sprinkling his back in a matter of seconds. If he heard sounds of kids screaming — who knows why they must scream—even a block away, he would tense up and begin looking for an escape route. Sidewalk sounds of every type became his enemy. Shopping carts, rolling luggage, skateboards, baby strollers, and even the sound of footsteps behind him would cause him to cower in fear, spin on the end of his leash and slink back to the door. It was heartbreaking to see this gorgeous, athletic Adonis of a dog shrink and cower to any audible outburst. Our poor boy. What could we do? What didn't we do? Bold as a dog in a doublet, we took action. We set out on what would be an odyssey of tremendous reach, expense, and learning. We did it the hard way, of course, and usually at poor Byron's expense. First visits with the veterinarian and then



Honey and Able, adopted by Vivian Diaz.

various drug therapies. After only a single treatment of valium Byron was rushed back to the veterinarian and put on bloat-watch. He ended up on Clomicalm® for over a year. Once the veterinarian ran out and gave us a generic brand. The formula was different enough to cause a mildly aggressive change in his personality, and Byron got poor Simon shunned from the pack while we were vacationing with friends. Simon was devastated.

We bought the pheromone spray, collar, and electric diffuser. We took him to obedience classes for socialization. He never learned a single command other than stopping and walking. He was too zoned-out, mesmerized by his classmates. He did love to go to class, and even got an honorary certificate for showing up. We hired a private trainer to walk us through the neighborhood and help him get over his fears. We hired a visiting canine-shrink from Manhattan in our

desperation to help poor Byron.

Our bookshelf filled as we read and read some more. Finally, I began to reach out to various Greyhound adoption organizations and heard the same advice. Get him another Greyhound.

Enter, Dallas. At this point we had just lost our beautiful Dante, and we knew no bandage or kiss on the cut would ever take the pain away. Dante was just a truly great dog. He had our hearts and always will. When searching for yet another brother, I was advised to look for a really confident Greyhound with an outgoing personality. The type, unfortunately, that is usually reserved for families with young children, which we did not have. Combing the websites of adoption groups in the entire northeast quarter of the United States, I was looking for Byron's ideal brother and perhaps, his only hope. The one who would help him overcome his fears and free him. Then my eyes fell on Dallas, and I

just knew.

Dallas was a very young retiree. He had torn a tendon in training as a puppy. It was in his hospitalization and recovery where we believe he learned how to cast his come-hither gazes and strike his magnetizing poses. To this day, total strangers are drawn to him and want to give him a pet. Heaven help you if Dallas meets your gaze and you fail to respond. If I'm not constantly on guard with his leash, he will simply insinuate himself in your space. Then you are forced to encounter him, pet him, and shower him with coos and affection. In other words, we found our match and the medicine that Byron needed. It came in the package of a Holstein-cow-coated Greyhound of magical humor and personality. Once again, we were smitten. As an added bonus, we got that bandage, thanks to the good-hearted people of Keystone Greyhounds.

Magically, Byron was taken off all his

medications and chemical therapies. He began to act like a pet. After 14 months of trial and error and trying every natural and unnatural thing we could think of, finally we found the cure. Happiness ensued. We found ourselves now laughing at the antics in our home, in the dog park, or on our dog-friendly vacations with friends and family.

Dallas trained Byron to be a pet, to be inquisitive, and to love to go outside. Yes, outside! But all that expense on classes, private trainers, veterinarians, shrinks, books, drugs, and other therapies was not a total waste. We did learn one very important thing, avoidance. Unlike people, it is not a good idea to expose a fearful dog to the source of his fear. Even today, we keep the high school's bell schedule clipped to our door to consult before mid-day walks. Byron will still cower if confronted by the horrible high-schoolers. Given the reward, the time and expense was a small price to pay in the end, except that all of our learning was



Quinlan, adopted by Tricia Neves, of San Diego, California, through Greyhound Adoption Center.

at poor Byron's expense.

Now we have a lovely pair of mostly adjusted retirees. Everything is great. The Dachshund is now 15 and one-half years old. He is a cancer survivor and a survivor of two ruptured disc surgeries. He even survived paralysis when he was never supposed to walk again after the first rupture at age 4. This month, the veterinarian advised us to be on cancer-watch with him. It is extraordinary that he is cancer-free 14 months after the last surgery. We are starting to see a slight uptick in his calcium, which is upsetting. But, this is typical of the type of thing we know Simon will ignore and plow through, just as he has shepherded the Greyhounds through our streets. It is comical to see his 17 pounds dragging 160 pounds of dogs behind him, making them go where he wants. They, with their sweet and gentle dispositions, comply with grace and dignity, of course.

Throughout our seven years together, it has

not been uncommon for Byron to develop a limp or suffer an inflamed ankle every now and then. We always thought the long and skinny legs of the Greyhound looked almost impossible. It is kind of like watching a jumbo jet lift off the runway, but realizing there really are laws of aerodynamics that support this. That's how it looks when a Greyhound runs. So, in January, the coldest one we ever experienced in New York City, when he began to limp again, we blithely thought, *it'll go away, right?* It persisted, improving and worsening from day to day. Finally, after three weeks it was gone. A month later it was back. Sometimes it was hard to tell which leg was bothering him. Then came the day when he couldn't get out of bed on the first attempt. A week later, it took several attempts. We went to the veterinarian.

Byron received anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving medications. He had X-rays taken of his front ankles. There was nothing remarkable

on the films or in his blood work. His condition worsened, so we tried different medications and finally steroids. We were briefly hopeful when he got out of bed with greater ease, but his limp failed to improve. In fact, it had worsened. The veterinarian X-rayed his shoulders and, a mere 10 days after Byron's 11th birthday, we heard the dreaded word — osteosarcoma. The sound of that word still makes me weep uncontrollably.

Thus began the final odyssey for Byron, our beloved boy with whom we climbed an impossible mountain. Our love for him has deepened because of the depth and breadth of our journey. The failures we subjected him to, and ultimately, the success we found simply in the calmness he now has. He is finally a true pet, a true gift.

We do not know how long Byron will be with us. From now until his final day and for all the ones that follow, we will think of our beloved

Byron and how he won our hearts. His antics have given us many memories filled with hilarity and sprinkled with joy. As he battles through the early stages of cancer, pain, and the beginnings of immobility, we watch in silent sadness. Our hearts openly break as we are awed by his courage. We marvel at this gift of a Greyhound, what he overcame and what he became — the Bravest Greyhound Ever. ■

About the author: Aisia de'Anthony is an artist-designer living in New York City with her husband, Robert, and their three-dog family: Greyhounds Byron and Dallas, and super boss Simon the Dachshund. She thanks the dedicated members of Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, Inc. and their Prison Foster Program, and Keystone Greyhounds of Pennsylvania, for her hounds and their hard work.

Editor's Note: Byron was laid to rest April 27.



Byron, Dallas, and Simon.



Thinking outside the Box

Event coordination with a twist can take your group's adoption success to the next level.

By Tammy Wallace

If your adoption group is like mine, you do not place dogs at adoption events. Typical in the world of Greyhound adoption is an application process; many groups also require a home visit. One group I worked with instituted a mentoring program pairing new adopters with veteran adopters to answer any questions. While these adoption practices have succeeded for many groups, they have one large drawback — your group does not garner much interest at adoption events.

Adoption events are where Mr. and Mrs. Smith and the Junior Smiths decide they want a new puppy or kitten. Often these events

are advertised weeks in advance. Participants go for the sole purpose of taking home their next fluffy companions. A group that does not complete adoptions at these events may see little interest from attendees. Some participants may toss a dollar or two into a donation jar, grab some literature about the group, and may even purchase something. More often than not, these groups go home empty-handed and the volunteers become bored. Volunteers who are bored tend to not want to work a booth



Simon, adopted by Donna Wares, of Seal Beach, California, through GreySave. Photo by Gabrielle Humes.

at such events. If these are the only events that an organization attends, then volunteers may trickle away.

One of my greatest pleasures is finding interesting things to do in my home state. When I became the event coordinator for a local Greyhound adoption group, I put that hobby to use to find interesting and fun events in which my group could participate. Some wonderful tools are available for finding these “out-of-the-box” events. Here are a few I’ve used to spread the word about Greyhound adoption in general and my group in particular:

Facebook — While socializing, media sharing, and Farmville are the most used aspects of Facebook, the social networking utility offers one other very useful aspect adoption groups can use. The “Events” link shows different events in the user’s area several weeks, sometimes a month or two, in



Art festivals can be a popular place to spread the word about Greyhound adoption.

advance. The more you use this link, the more personalized the “Events” link will become. It is a great way to select a last-minute vending and public information opportunity, or to plan the next year’s event calendar.

Using this social networking site, I found some fun events for my group to enjoy. We are already booked for an **art festival**, two local Gay Pride events, and are on the list of participants for a local VegFest and Pagan Pride Fest scheduled early in 2016. Another option is to create an event and “invite” the followers of an organization’s Facebook page to attend.

For those who are not Facebook fans, another option is to access the website of your favorite cultural institutions and sign up for their newsletters. This yields the same information on future events and festivals, along with contact information for event organizers.

FindFestivals — Similar to the “Events” link in Facebook, FindFestivals will show various events in a particular state. This constantly updated website covers an entire year. The list shows every event for a given month, along with the location and

a web link for accessing details. This site is good for finding events that lack Facebook pages (smaller community events). With this website, I was able to find several harvest festivals for my group to set up an information and vending booth.



Local farmer’s markets can be a good place to get your adoptable hounds seen by lots of people.

Benefit Luncheons — These events will require a bit more research, but they are a great way to raise funds and get the word out about an adoption group. Restaurants, wineries, wine-tasting bars, diners, etc., hold special benefit luncheons or tastings. Generally, a charity is selected to be the recipient each month and the venue will raise the participation fee by a few dollars that go straight to the charity. In addition, the venue might have some performers entertaining, with all of the tips going to the charity.

I found a local restaurant that participated in this type of community fundraising and wrote in the hopes that we would be the chosen group one month. In addition to the additional participation fee and the performer tips, we were also able to hold a raffle. We raised almost \$700 in only a few hours, with minimal work handing out literature to the brunch participants. Again, this will require

a little research to find venues that participate in this type of community outreach. Check out the webpages for your favorite dining and drinking establishments to find out if they sponsor similar events.

Farmers Markets

— These are handy venues, but event coordinators will need to do a little research because some markets will only allow vendors who sell locally sourced items. However, they generally offer a



Local restaurants may offer fundraising opportunities for groups through benefit brunches or dinners.



Watch a video of Local First Arizona.

nonprofit vending fee. The wonderful thing about Farmers Markets is that they get by with very little advertisement, while attracting large attendance. This means the adoption group

can focus on getting the message out, maybe with some meet and greet dogs to tempt the donation dollars.

LocalFirst — The Localist movement (persuading shoppers to buy local instead of at chain stores) is gaining significant momentum. Almost every state has one, and every one of these organizations offers a nonprofit membership fee. By joining such groups, adoption organizations can participate in Localist events, as well as advertise individual events for free. Our group recently joined the Arizona LocalFirst organization. For our very small membership fee (less than \$60 a year) we are able to advertise our organization, in addition to the items we sell, and take part in events. Each year this organization holds a large festival, where members can have a table (with no booth fee) and reach thousands of attendees. We are also able to advertise our own, smaller events without paying for advertising.

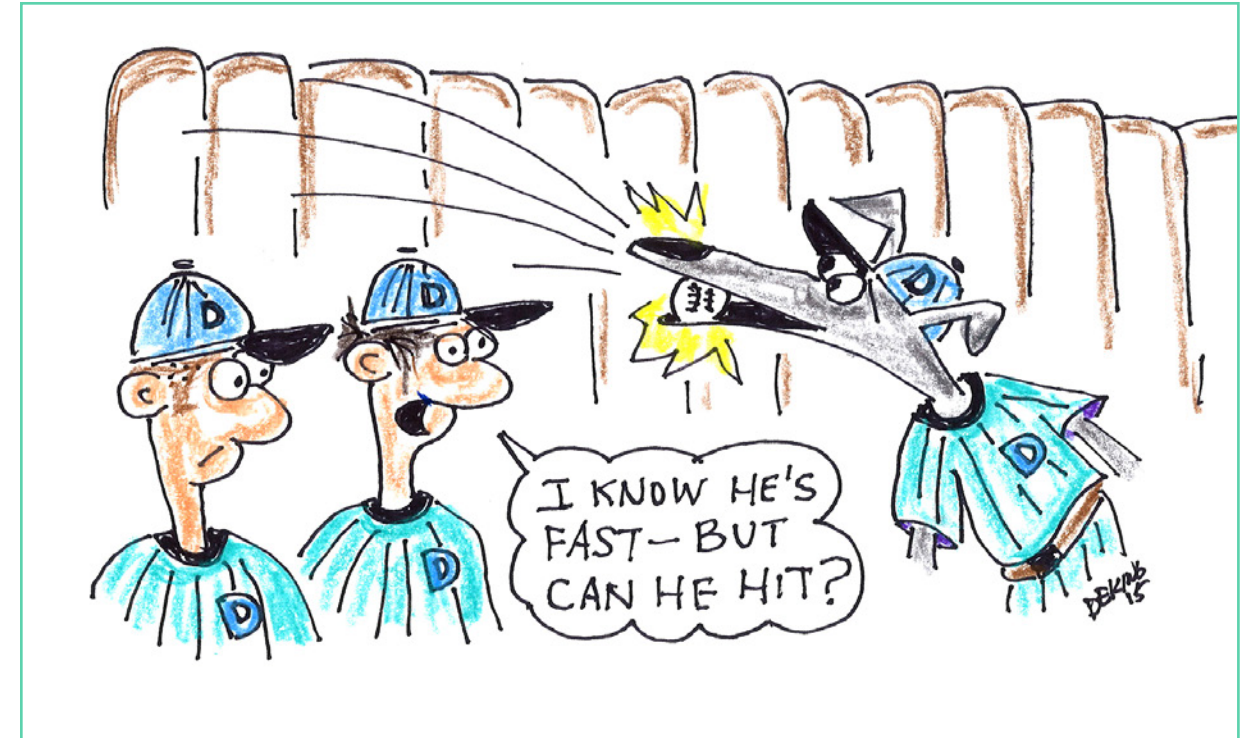
Once an adoption group begins exploring these interesting events and fundraising opportunities, its event coordinator can

network to find other opportunities. Because of our participation at a benefit brunch, my group was asked to be the sole animal rescue selling merchandise at a local pet beauty pageant. We were also asked to be one of the monthly featured charities to have an information table at a local community organization headquarters. The president of our group has also been invited to speak at community events.

One thing to remember: Never be afraid to speak up for your group. One of the event coordinators I contacted was not very open to the idea of allowing a rescue group at the event. It wasn't that they didn't want dogs at the event; they just didn't think their event could be considered an adoption event. Once I explained that the lack of an adoption message made it perfect for us (we could get the word out to people who did not attend for the sole purpose of adopting a dog), they welcomed us.

The beauty of using these tools to find "out-of-the-box" events is that very few of them are straight adoption events. Therefore, attendees do not come with the sole purpose of taking home a newly adopted pet. The groups participating in these types of festivals can focus on getting the message out, and maybe raising some funds, in a fun and different way. Another positive is that it's easy to tempt volunteers to work these outside-the-box events because they are fun, different, and engaging. They are also fantastic ways to increase an organization's volunteer and donation base. ■

About the author: Tammy Wallace, Ed.D., lives in Arizona with her two retired racing Greyhounds, an Irish Wolfhound mix, and two pound kitties.



When she is not working at a local nonprofit or copy editing for Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, she plays tourist in her home state, and serves as the event coordinator for Racing Home Greyhound Adoption and as the walk coordinator for Farm Sanctuary's Phoenix Walk to Save Farm Animals.

Words That Matter

Learn to write engaging and interesting Greyhound biographies to facilitate adoptions.

By Mary Renck Jalongo

Write this down – the words we commit to print carry more weight, even in legal situations. Likewise, the written descriptions of Greyhounds can intensify, maintain, or undermine your efforts to find forever homes for retired racers.

The first rule of effective written communication is to consider your audience and write for them. Think about the main motives for adopting a Greyhound and align your descriptions accordingly.

To help a dog in need.

These adopters want to be truly needed by a dog. They tend to be gentle souls who would embrace a dog others would pass by, such as a brood mama with a grey muzzle, a bonded pair whose owner went into a

nursing home, or a dog with an ongoing medical condition such as seizures or a badly healed leg. With this group, you can play on sympathy somewhat, but it is important to be honest about the limitations. For example:

The tip of Frasier's tail is missing because he wagged it so much and thunked it against things so often that it wouldn't heal — a condition referred to in Greyhound circles as "happy tail." That past injury doesn't prevent him from wagging his tail constantly, though. Frasier is one happy guy.

To fill a void.

These adopters really need a Greyhound, such as the person whose hound has died. You will do them a favor if you steer them away from fur-deep decisions. It is common

to go in search of a dog that looks "just like" one they lost, irrespective of temperament. You are doing adopters a favor by leading them to consider more salient traits if your bio emphasizes the dog's character and behavior, as well as meshing with the photo. For example:

***Playful and Athletic:** Dash just turned four. He is full of energy and does just about everything at warp speed. The kennel staff tell us that he showed promise as a racer but got sidelined when he (literally) hit the wall and fractured his leg badly. After his accident, Dash just didn't want to out run the other dogs at the track. His leg is fully healed--and he has no sign of a limp--but this big guy would be happiest racing around a large, fenced-in yard.*

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To take the plunge.

Bios that help prospective adopters visualize how the Greyhound will behave are particularly important for first-time adopters. Not everyone reading a profile will be Greyhound savvy, so don't make them feel like outsiders or you'll fail at expanding your cadre of adopters. A calm Greyhound can appear to be overly subdued and unenthusiastic to the person who is accustomed to out-of-control dogs that leap up and vocally bowl them over with exuberance. Use a well-written bio to set appropriate expectations for the uninitiated. For example:

Just Right for Empty Nesters: At a fun-sized 55 pounds, Sugar thinks she is a lap dog and is content to lounge on the sofa with you most of the day. She's the perfect lady on the leash and seems to thrive on a couple of brisk walks each day. Sugar probably would do well

as an apartment dog because she is low key, quiet, and has modest exercise needs. Sugar is already house-trained and prefers sleeping in her crate at night. Although she cried quite a bit at first when left alone, that has toned down now that she knows people will come back. Still, she may not be a candidate for a home where she is left alone for long hours while someone is at work.

To fill a niche.

Potential adopters from multiple pet households with other Greyhounds, non-Greyhound dogs, cats, or other small and furry creatures are mainly concerned about fit. If your group will consider a foster-to-adopt situation, be certain to mention it, because this might be particularly appealing to this crowd. Describe any bonds forged during foster care, but include a disclaimer:

Sage's new best friends in her foster home



Malone, adopted by Joan Hassett, of Aston, Pennsylvania, through Greyhound Angels.

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are a feisty Chihuahua mix and a grumpy senior tomcat. We're thinking that she could blend into other multiple pet households, too, if everyone is properly introduced. We have so much confidence in her gentle ways that we're offering Sage as part of our foster-to-adopt program. This means that a suitable adopter can give Sage a home, see how it works out, and then decide whether to keep her or return her to us for placement in another home.

To grow up with their children.

Some adopters are looking for family dogs that will get along well with children. Rather than saying "no children" — which tends to make even those adopters without children wary — be precise about your adoption group's policy regarding children.

Based on years of experience placing retired racers in homes, we think that a family with older, respectful children would be best

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for Tito. At 72 pounds and 20 months old, he is an average size male who never raced and is still full of puppyish energy. The concern is not that he is aggressive; it is that he might accidentally knock down a small child. Tito has been fine with children in closely supervised situations and actually seemed to gravitate toward them at the two meet and greets he attended.

To find a working partner.

Some potential adopters have a specific job in mind for a new Greyhound. Given that so much time, effort, and money are invested in training these dogs, adopters will want a young, healthy animal that adapts quickly to unfamiliar situations. Adopters seeking a therapy dog will generally prefer a dog that rides well in the car and is physically sound, responsive to training, and unflappable. Some enlightened **service dog groups** have begun training Greyhounds for various psychological

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conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in **military veterans**. For these bios, emphasize the skill set of the Greyhound.

Three-year-old Comet's amber eyes radiate with intelligence and he is eager to please. A health check by a veterinarian indicated that Comet is in good shape overall. The kennel staff indicated that Comet was retired purely due to his lack of interest in racing rather than because of any physical defect. When you talk to Comet, he studies your face and tilts his head with interest. During a recent meet and greet at a home show with lots of lights, music, and action, Comet calmly and confidently interacted with many other dogs and people. He would stride up to those who appeared eager to meet him or hold back a bit if a person or dog seemed shy. After working alongside Comet for several hours, we think that he may have potential for therapy or service dog work.

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Some general tips to consider are:

Stick to observable behavior.

Any time that you put something down in writing, you open yourself up to disagreement from someone who reads it. Replace sweeping generalizations such as “All Greyhounds are...” with something more supportable, such as “Like many Greyhounds...” Also, avoid overselling a particular hound with over-the-top praise such as, “Cameo is the sweetest Greyhound ever.” Instead, use something specific — “We heard that Cameo was a kennel favorite and we can see why; she greeted us enthusiastically, gave each of us a little kiss from the back seat of the van, and then slept quietly throughout most of the four-hour drive home.”

Be the Greyhound.

Imagine that you are this dog and think about what would constitute the ideal living

situation. Would it be a quiet home or an active one? Will there be a doggy companion or not? Should there be one devoted owner or is a bustling family a better fit? Try to visualize the Greyhound in front of you, perfectly placed, and describe that setting to prospective adopters.

Write a headline.

The journalist’s tool of writing a headline can set the tone for a profile and promote



adoptions. One animal shelter reported it got many applications based on the headline “Super Sweet and Quiet.” Given that you could say that about a whole lot of Greyhounds, you may want to try it. Some other potential headlines are: Suitable for

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First-Time Adopters, Comical and Lively, Living with a Cat and Two Tiny Dogs, or Loves the Dog Park. Make sure that your photos support whatever the headline suggests. A headline of “Naughty but Nice” could include a photo of the Greyhound sitting on the bed with a few pilfered household items.

Explain the situation.

One of the Greyhound sites in our area, **Going Home Greyhounds**, originally posted this information: “Enuf has been chosen with a specific family in mind. But matchmaking isn’t an exact science, so check back later in case his status changes.” They later wrote “UPDATE, 3/19/2015: NOW AVAILABLE! Enuf’s status has changed! Although his intended family tried very hard, their lifestyle was not a good match for Enuf. Enuf does not like to be crated or to be left alone for long periods of time. He wants the company of people and other Greyhounds...”

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Mention second (or third, or fourth) opinions.

Try to make the source of opinions about the Greyhound clear without mentioning actual names. A simple “we” may be sufficient if it does represent more than one person’s opinion. If it is a medical opinion, say so: “Trey has a condition called ____ and the veterinarian has prescribed ____ to control it. The estimated monthly cost is about ____.” This lets adopters know, in advance, what they are agreeing to by choosing that particular dog.

Don’t give too much information.

Even indirect references to people or places can lead to controversy. If you routinely get Greyhounds from a particular place and then state the hound “had a very rough start in life,” this could be interpreted as a criticism of your supplier. If a Greyhound is returned and you disclose too much of the particulars, it could be possible to figure out who it was and

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why the dog was returned. You don’t want anyone rushing to judge the previous family.

Give a seal of approval.

When the author of the bio says something complimentary about the Greyhound, it raises the reader’s opinion slightly. National animal shelter studies indicate that big, black dogs (and more recently, brindle dogs) may be **more difficult to place**. It is obvious from the picture that a Greyhound is black. By writing that the hound “has a glossy black coat with white paws and chest that gives him a handsome tuxedo look,” or “has an exceptionally soft brindle coat with dramatic swirls of black, golden brown, and light fawn,” the positives are accentuated.

Provide a progress report. If a dog just isn’t moving, revisit the profile and include items that might tip the scales in a dog’s favor. For example, if the first profile states that a dog is “working on house training” and is now

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completely house-trained or that a dog “tends to guard food” but no longer does this, an update can be a deal sealer. Portray the dog in a truthful, yet favorable light.

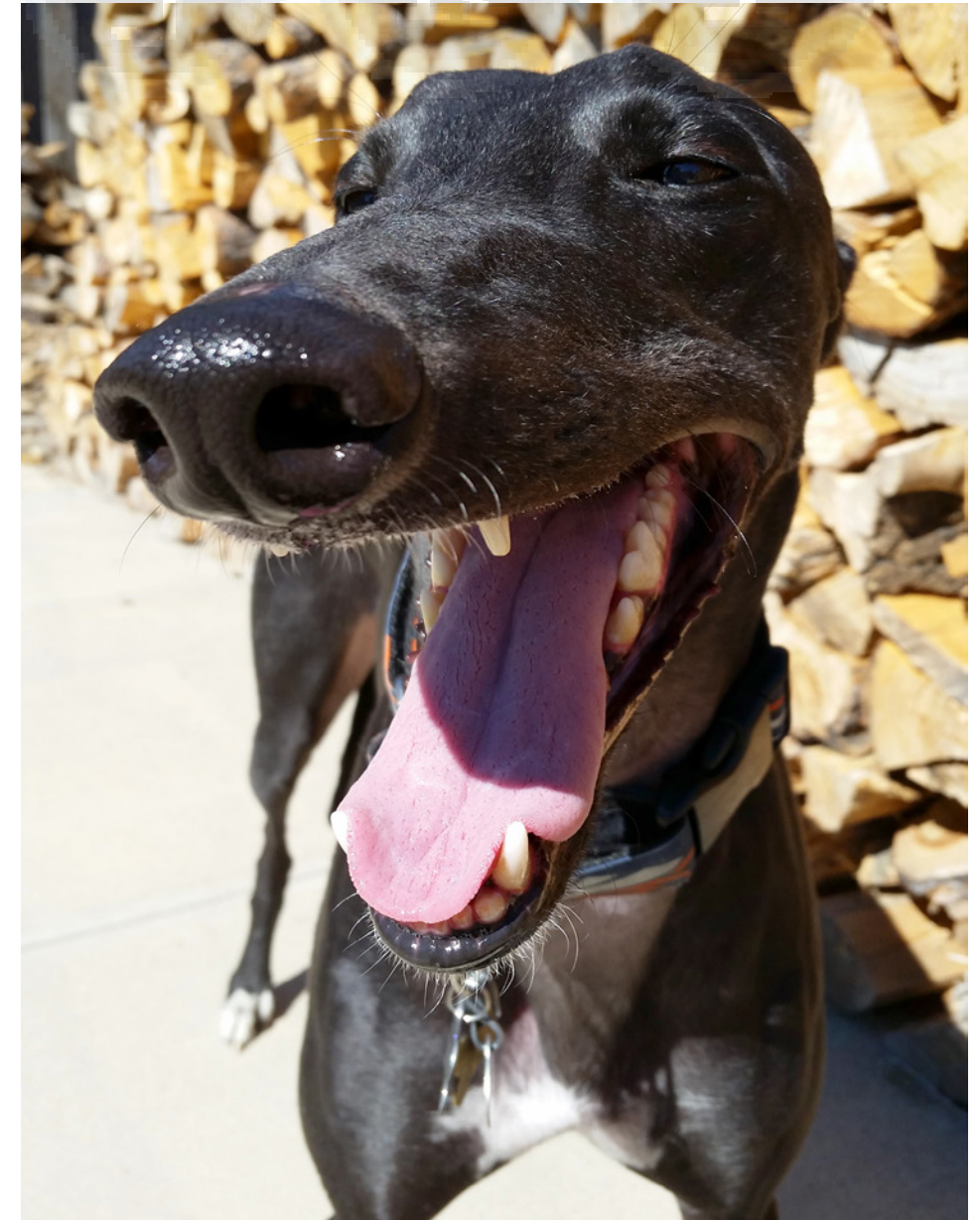
Seek support.

If you just don’t have a flair for writing, enlist the help of volunteers. Give them observational notes, which can be written down or dictated into a voice recorder. Having a template to follow will help volunteers write the bios, which are then approved prior to use. This is a good job for volunteers who want to support Greyhound adoption, but have a work schedule or physical limitations that prevent them from participating in activities such as fundraisers or bathing dogs.

Conclusion

A thoughtfully worded blurb about a Greyhound can generate more inquiries and applications, make your matchmaking efforts more effective, and prevent misunderstandings. Approaching the bios as a powerful tool in your repertoire of adoption strategies can help get a Greyhound adopted more quickly, opening a slot for another retired racer to find a home. ■

About the author: Mary Renck Jalongo is a book author, retired university professor, professional journal editor, and frequent contributor to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. She and her husband have adopted three Greyhounds. The author wishes to thank Kay McNelis, president of Monica’s Heart Greyhound Adoption, for her help and input.



Three-year-old Cliff was adopted by Charlie McCartin and Lyda Ellis, of Greeley, Colorado, through Colorado Greyhound Adoption.

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Join us for the Ultimate Greyt Escape, Greyhound Trust & Alliance (GT&A) in conjunction with the Greyhound Health Initiative (GHI) is pleased to present the 2015 Great Escape: Kennels to Kouches Event and the Sighthound Wellness Conference. The Greyhound Health Initiative with Dr. Guillermo Couto will be presenting the Sighthound Wellness Conference (formerly the Greyhound Health & Wellness Conference) with many special guests. Couto will also speak at the Gala Dinner with Live Auction. "Retired Racing Greyhounds

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www.greyhoundscrossroads.com

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Greyhounds Reach the Beach

Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

Greyhounds Reach the Beach's new central location will offer a food vendor, rest rooms, vendors, adoption groups, small group seminars, nationally known speakers, a Greyhound babysitting area and parking for 275 cars. Additional activities -- from vendor parties to The Greyhounds in Art show to the Nittany Greyhounds ice cream social -- will take place throughout the Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach area.

www.grtb.org

grapehound@gmail.com

November 12-15, 2015

Remember the Greyhound

Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

Remember the Greyhound offers educational seminars, social activities, fun, and games for Greyhounds and their humans! Dr. Guillermo Couto will be one of the featured speakers at the 2015 event.

www.facebook.com/RememberTheGreyhound

Lily (RWC Show Off), adopted by Carole Buckman, of Louisville, Kentucky, through GPA-Louisville.



In Memoriam



Cali Wallace
(June 2001 to December 6, 2014)

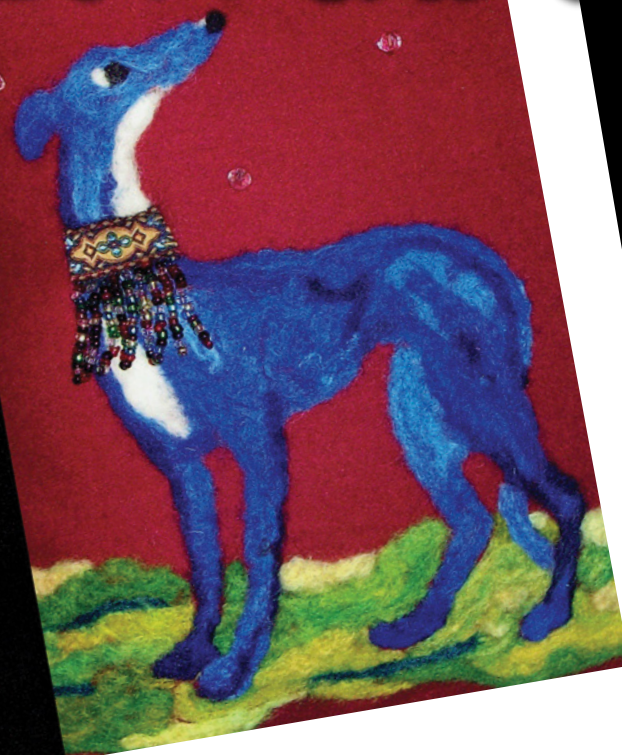
Cali was featured in the Winter 2009 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* in the article "A Less Controlled Life." Cali was adopted by Tammy Wallace, who wrote, "My little wild child. My rebel who didn't walk when she could do zoomies, didn't lick her lips when she could use my lap as a napkin, didn't sleep in a dog bed when momma's freshly made bed would do. The troublemaker who barked at a priest and sneezed when the holy water hit her at an animal blessing, who started unscheduled roo's at gatherings, who just pretended to let me be the pack leader. She had been diagnosed with osteosarcoma the day before Thanksgiving 2014. She lived her remaining weeks with joy and noms and, too soon, left this life as she lived it, on her own terms. She passed away in her sleep, surrounded by her family, both fur and skin. My heart will always be hers."



Halo, age 6, adopted by Tony Pichler, of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, through Keystone Greyhounds.

The 2014 Art Book is Here!

Retired from Racing, not from Life
2014



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All proceeds benefit:

The Greyhound
**HEALTH
INITIATIVE™**



www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org

To find out more visit:

www.retiredfromracingnotfromlife.blogspot.ca



Chile and Ki, adopted by Terri and John White, of Atascocita, Texas, through Greyhound Pets of America-Houston.

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Advertisers please see <http://adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine/advertise.html> for details and ad specifications

Advertising Deadlines

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Questions?

Please contact us at
advertising@adopt-a-greyhound.org
with any additional questions.