

Winter 2005
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celebrating greyhounds

ALSO INSIDE:

Planning for Your
Greyhound's Care

Diagnosing
Kidney Disease

Holiday Stamping Projects

Young Volunteers

The Future of Greyhound Adoption



Lucy, adopted by Mindy Thomas of St. Louis, Mo.

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 10; No. 4 Winter 2005

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Eagle was adopted from GPA/Central New Hampshire by Dan and Lauren Emery of North Yarmouth, Me. Sharp-eyed readers of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* may recognize Eagle's companion as Sara Cahill, who was pictured with Lauren and Dan's Greyhound Bernie on the cover of the Winter 2002 issue. Photo by Lauren Emery

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Dabney, Reo, and Sweetie, adopted by Debbie and Ed Lipartito of Gwynedd Valley, Pa.



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By Cindy Hanson

Greetings from the eleventh annual Greyhounds Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach, Delaware. I am sitting at The Greyhound Project's table in vendor tent #1. It is late Saturday afternoon. It has been raining since before dawn. I feel as though I've been sitting here about that long. I'm tired, my snacks are but a memory, and I'm long overdue for a bathroom break. Except the frantic young woman who asked for directions to the pet psychic (and ran off with my only copy of the Vendor Directory — aargh!), the visitors to my table have been fellow vendors, expressing concern about the deteriorating conditions of the vendor area. I don't blame them. Although I'm directly in front of the tent entrance and some of my magazines are soggy with rainwater, I'm one of the lucky ones. Other vendors near me, whose spaces are in the lower areas of the tent, were standing in several inches of water before the workers came with plywood and two-by-fours to build platforms to get them higher and drier. They've also scattered 50 bales of straw around the three vendor tents to absorb the majority of the standing water.

To put it mildly, the conditions are not ideal. However, none of this matters to the adventurous, slicker-clad shoppers and their Greyhounds who have braved the elements to be with us today. One person after another pops their head through the tent opening, removes their hood, waits while their Greyhound shakes off the rain, and marches off to the nearest table. I also see many people exiting the tent with large bags of merchandise. Clearly, it will take more than the remnants of Hurricane Tammy to dampen the spirits of this crowd.

Optimism makes anything easier. And in this issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, we focus on a group of volunteers whose optimism seems boundless: kids. In "Merit Badges and School Projects: Young Volunteers Tell Their Stories," 18-year old Lindsay Hocker describes the experiences of her colleagues who volunteer for Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption in Rock Island, Illinois. Jim and Dianne Shadle share with us the story of the Keystone Kids, the youth auxiliary of the Pennsylvania-based Keystone Greyhounds/GPA. Their experiences should be inspiring to anyone who is jaded, tired, discouraged . . . or soggy.

This issue also includes several articles that celebrate the joys of Greyhound companionship: "Hello Gorgeous," Arnold Haber's humorous account of a surprising encounter during a walk with his Greyhound; "Conversations with Dogs," Claudia Presto's description of a morning with her Greyhounds; and "The Roaches of Scooter," Jennifer Norton's photographic tribute to her laid-back Greyhound.

It didn't rain yesterday. It won't rain tomorrow. And I just got a big wet kiss from a brindle boy in a yellow raincoat.

Lots of reasons to smile.



Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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What is this dog's name? Only David Campbell of Grand Blanc, Mich. knows.

Kudos for Summer

I had to write and congratulate you on the latest issue. It is one of the best of a series of greyt issues. This is a keeper for future reference and should be required reading for anyone with Greyhounds. Keep up the greyt work.

Brenda Stacy
GPA/Central Florida

You never cease to amaze me! Just when it doesn't seem that CG can get any better, you come out with another fantastic issue. Thanks!

Jane Hightower
Via E-Mail

Greyhounds racing for adoption in a perfect world would be wonderful and every Greyhound would be probably be treated so well as the Greyhounds racing for adoption in your article ("Racing for Adoption") that there would be no need for advocates. If I was the head of public relations company for

Greyhound racing industry what better could I do than Greyhounds racing for adoption? Unfortunately, there are only a few of them, the rest are subject to the mistreatment of any particular kennel, owner, or breeder. Greyhounds perfectly treated do not have internal parasites, heartworm, tick borne diseases or broken hocks. What they are doing for these few Greyhounds is wonderful, but what about the rest?

David G. Wolf, Director
National Greyhound Adoption Program
Philadelphia, Pa.

Thank you, thank you for the article "When Rescue Becomes Hoarding." With 11 dogs (five Greyhounds, two Whippets, and four mixed breeds), we've wondered about this issue. However, the article set my mind at ease that we are definitely not hoarders; it's not just the number of dogs that makes you a hoarder. We don't have children, we live on 13 acres, and we work from home. All of our dogs get lots of daily attention and great care.

We even get VIP treatment at our veterinary clinic because we're so well known there!

Greyhounds do make hoarding easier. My husband and I have been dog lovers our whole lives, but we never had more than three or four dogs at a time until after we adopted our first Greyhound in 1993. Our numbers just grew after that, but we have learned our limits, as the article suggested. When we permanently added a foster Greyhound and a Greyhound puppy to our household this past spring, it was clear that this was all we could handle for a while. Eleven must be our magic number!

Tina Wellborn
Palmetto, Ga.

I just had to write and tell you that you've finally done it. I just finished my Summer 2005 issue and it is simply my favorite issue since I subscribed several years ago. I don't want to list everything I thought was terrific, but let me name just my top three: (1) The entire series on stroke ("Greyhounds and

Stroke" and "Surviving a Stroke"): I have been fortunate and haven't needed this information yet. But the leader of my adoption group has had two of her Greyhounds down to strokes in the last couple of years. Both are back at 100% now. Your information didn't agree completely with her experience but it was pretty close and should be a good starting point for anyone facing this problem. I would only say that with guidance, you can probably avoid having an MRI that will cost between \$1000 and \$2000. (2) "Making Sense of Bloodwork in Greyhounds": Every one of us should put this to use. Not all veterinarians are up on the quirks of our Greyhounds. This article should stay in every owner's reach. (3) "Racing for Adoption": The Greyhound community ought to understand this fundraising effort because there are bound to be those who will question its ethics. This is a tactic we all need to learn about and think through in order to represent it to others. Kudos also for "Doxycycline and Ehrlichiosis," "Things that Go Bump in the Night," "In Memoriam" (which I still can't read) and "More Fun with Greyhound Rubber Stamps." Keep all this great info coming.

Jackie Gribble
Columbus, Ohio

From the recent exchange over weight pulling ("CG Readers Speak Out," Summer 2005 CG), no one can imagine that Laurie Soutar needs my defense of how she treats her dogs. Laurie and I often meet at lure coursing trials. No one's dogs receive better care, and no one is more careful with their dogs. And no dogs enjoy lure coursing more than hers.

As to weight pulling, here's another case where a Greyhound wouldn't pull what it didn't want to pull. A few years ago we placed a big, powerful red male with Independence Dogs, Inc., which trains dogs to pull carts for the handicapped. He went through their training program in record time but when the time came to pull a cart, he just wouldn't do it. So they found him a special job, which he took on eagerly and spent his life happily doing. He assisted a woman who suffered from a form of ataxia that periodically made her lose her balance. When she leaned toward him he pushed her back, and when she leaned away from him, he pulled her back. With his help she was able to walk and resume a normal life. She loved him dearly. But I wouldn't be surprised if the last conscious, smug thought in his life was "But I never pulled that @#%& cart."

CG just keeps getting better. Not just the writing and the photographs, but the attitude. When so many in Greyhound place-

ment are afraid to let these jocks do the athletic things they love so much, CG is exposing the adopting public to what fun it can be to be a Greyhound or to watch them enjoy themselves. I think that's unique among sources adopters have about their dogs, and many of us out here appreciate it.

Bob Jahn
Greenfield, Ind.

Your Summer 2005 issue had an article, "Things that Go Bump in the Night," regarding a Greyhound sensing a child about to go into diabetic shock and raising everyone's attention to this near tragedy. My niece, Crystal, has had diabetes since she was 9 years old and has encountered many "near misses." Recently, she has become active with Dogs for Diabetics (www.dogs4diabetics.com). This non-profit group trains service dogs to help people by alerting them when they are in need of insulin. The organization is in the San Francisco area but is expanding throughout the United States. These service dogs may save another life . . . and we may find another reason to adopt Greyhounds!

Jerry Tucker
Via E-Mail

Dog Needs to Go Out

I enjoy your magazine and thought you might be able to help me. I've had no luck in my search for a greyhound-size patio dog door (one which fits into a sliding-glass door) for under \$400.00. If you or any of your readers know where I can find one, I would appreciate it. My e-mail address is csimmons@bak.rr.com.

Cynthia Simmons
Via E-Mail

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Please send letters and photos by mail to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, Attn: Editor, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also appreciated. Please include your home telephone number if you would like your letter to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter and photo.



Gwen, adopted by Nancy Parsons and Don Doyle of North Reading, Mass. *Patty Woodbury*

Indy Ann was the first bitch to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. She gained entry on her own merits rather than those of her offspring. Annie, as she was called, produced four litters of pups who did well, but did not carry on the family name in the fashion of their mother.

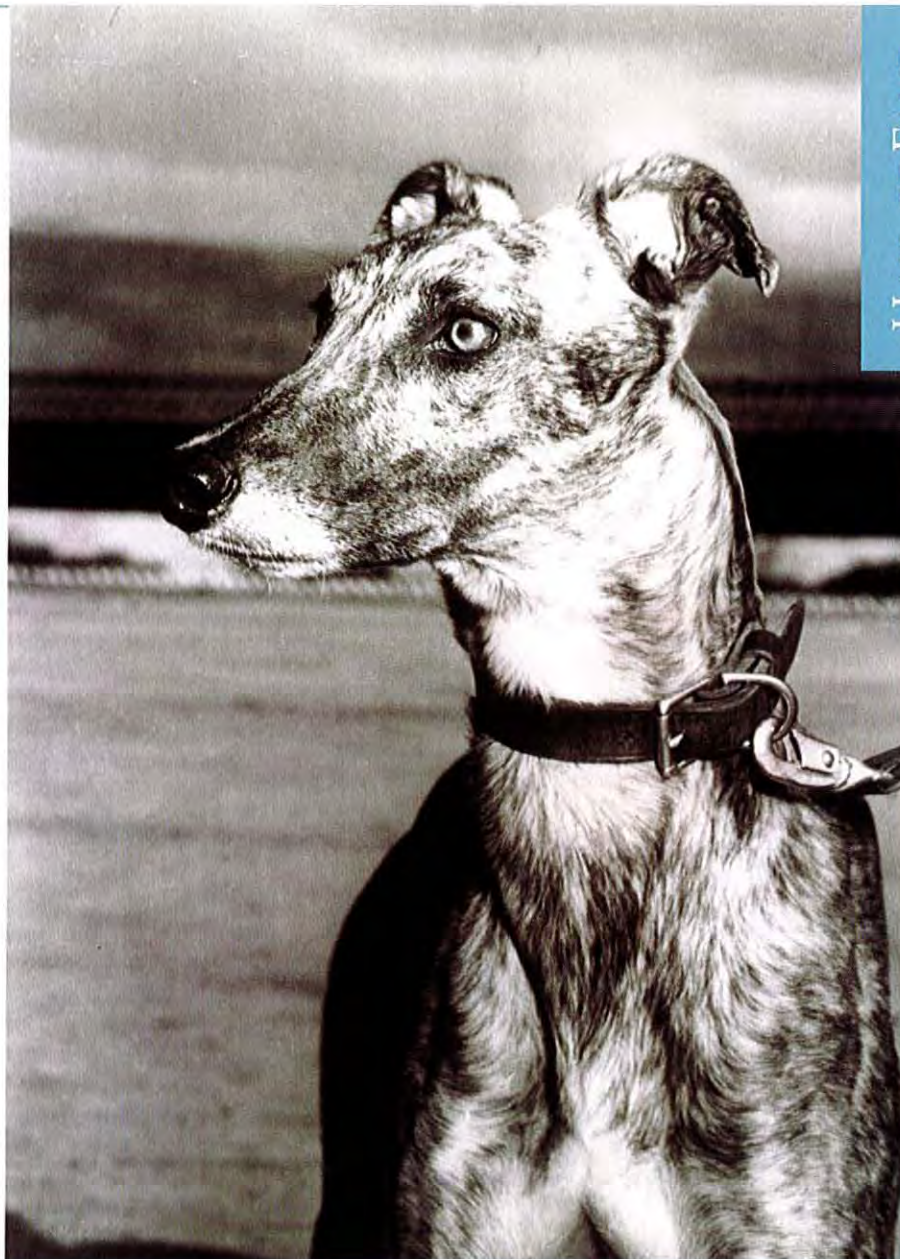
Annie started her career in a rather common way, taking 16 races before she gained the “hot-box” competition level. In fact, Indy Ann acquired her racing owner, Ed Willard, through the toss of a coin — with Annie going to the loser. Once she got the hang of the racing gig, she caught fire. After reaching top competition, she remained on fire, and she never dropped out of that level again.

Indy Ann set speed records regularly at the Caliente and Tijuana tracks as well as at the Phoenix track. She weighed a mere 61 pounds, but was in the money 87 percent of 223 races with 137 of those being outright wins. That achievement has not yet, to my knowledge, been bested.

She preferred racing from the front and had excellent opening speed as well as a great finishing style. Every time she raced, she seemed to improve and soon became adept at coming from behind as well. On July 10, 1956, Annie tied the great Beachcomber’s world record of 99 wins. In her next start, she broke that record. At the tracks, Annie was known as a good honest dog, completely dedicated to the race itself. Her owner said of her, “She was everything you could ask for in a dog, best in all ways.”

In 1955, the Greyhound Writers of America voted her “Outstanding Female.” In 1956, they voted her both “Outstanding Female” and “Outstanding Greyhound of the Year.” In that year, Annie racked up a total of 77 starts with 61 wins, six seconds, and three thirds.

Myron Stone, a Miami racing fan, issued a challenge to Indy Ann in January of 1957. He challenged the gallant bitch to a head-to-head meeting with the best Greyhounds Florida had to offer. Unfortunately, a track injury to her leg (corded muscle) in late 1956 resulted in her running only two races in 1957, after which she was retired. She was just unable to come back from the injury, and Ed Willard thought too much of her to risk her continuing.



Indy Ann. Greyhound Hall of Fame

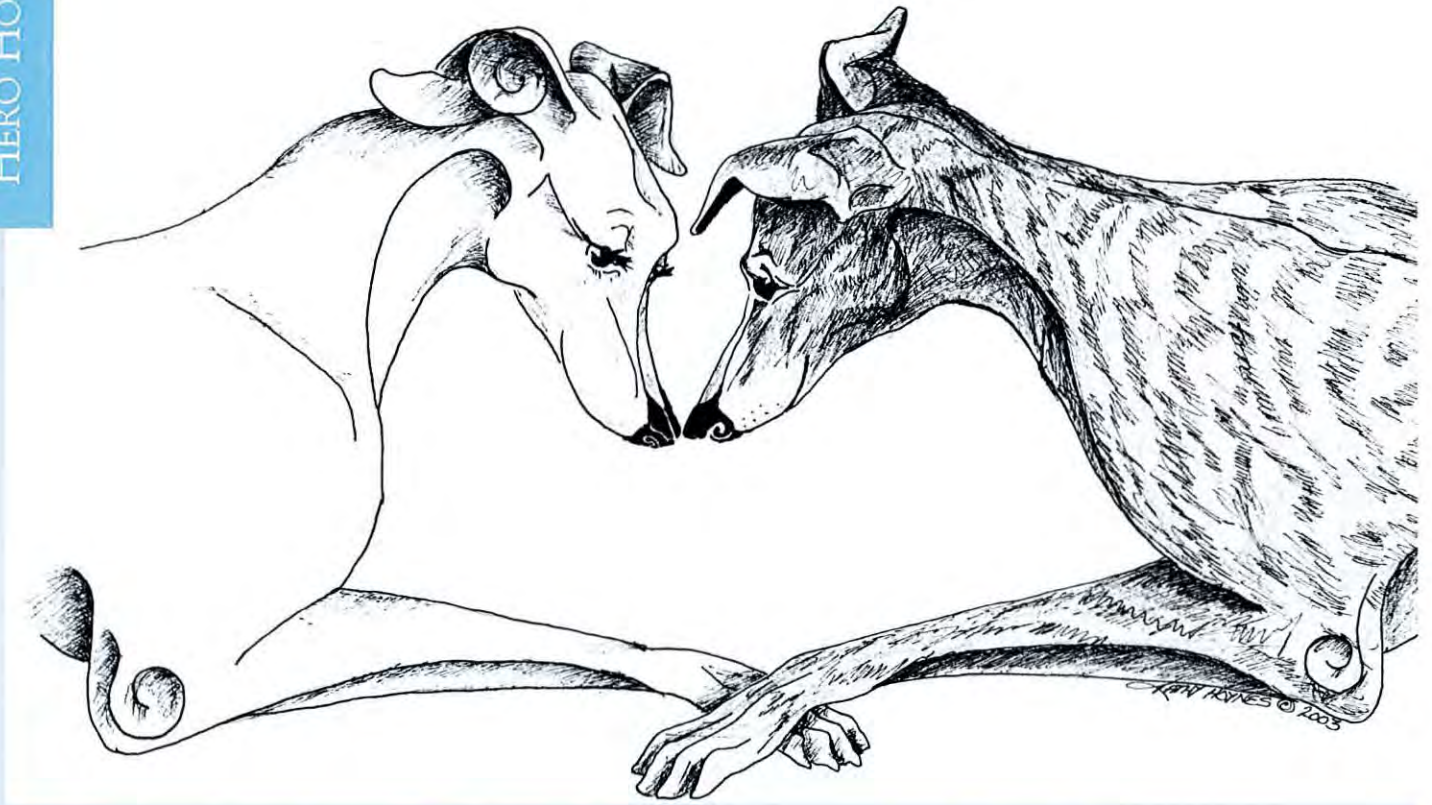
Indy Ann

By Laurel E Drew

Indy Ann, as befit her status, had a regal manner, although she was a very friendly dog. In the turnout pens, she was rather aloof and remained by herself rather than cavorting with her kennel-mates. She did, however, enjoy some petting or a good ear rub. On the track, she was all business and fiercely competitive.

After retirement, Annie produced four litters of pups, several of which went on to superior racing careers. When she died of cancer in 1961, she was living on Ed Willard’s farm in Riverside, California. ■

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor.



Cyanide Brothers to the Rescue

By Mike Bouska

During the 2004 hurricane evacuation of the Greyhound Pets of America/Greater Orlando kennel, littermates Cyanide Billy and Cyanide Andy were fortunate to end up together in the foster home of Mike, Renee, and Amanda Bouska. As all of Central Florida prepared for the arrival of Hurricane Frances, so did the Bouska family. During the busy pre-hurricane activities, Mike fell and injured his knee. Renee insisted that he see a doctor, so off to the emergency room they went. Returning home later that night, they discovered that their electricity was already gone.

Still without power the next day, the Bouskas turned on the generator that sat outside the window of their computer room. Frances arrived, and the Bouskas went to bed about 2:00 a.m.

The next thing Mike recalls is waking up to Billy licking his face. He realized it was 1:00 in the afternoon, and the house was full of fumes. Meanwhile, as Mike walked through the house searching for the source of the fumes, Andy repeatedly nudged Renee. She eventually awoke, feeling groggy. In his search, Mike found that a fallen tree had broken a window next to the running generator, allowing fumes to spill into the house.

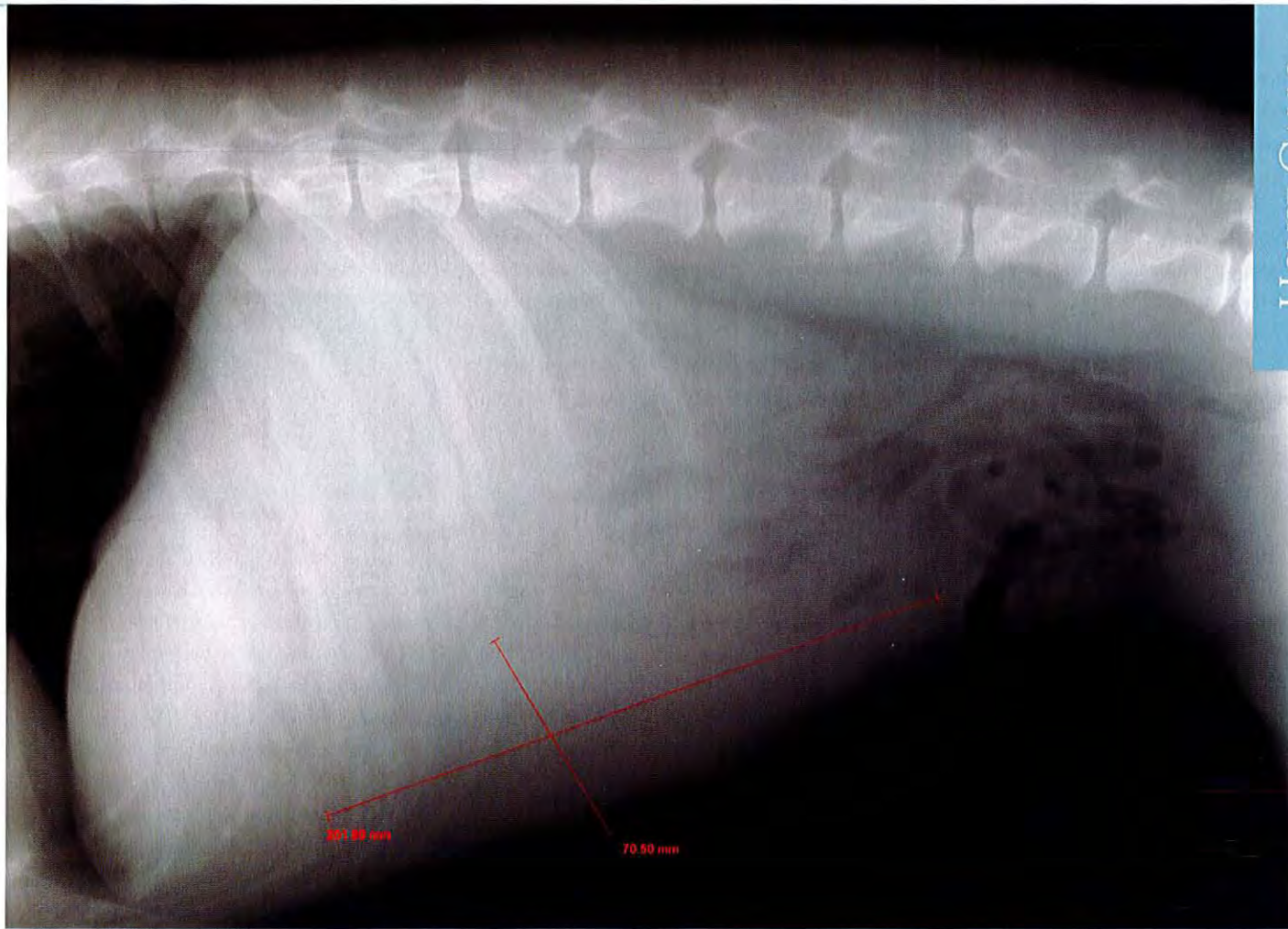
After waking Amanda, the three attempted unsuccessfully to find the family cat and their Chihuahuas. They loaded Billy, Andy, and themselves into the van and started to drive to the hospital. Considering the dangers of driving with carbon monoxide poisoning, they decided to dial 911 instead. The paramedics arrived and determined that Mike, Renee, and Amanda were in serious condition. They were rushed immediately to the

nearest hospital, leaving Billy and Andy to wait in the family van with the air conditioning running.

A member of the hospital staff asked a deputy to go back and check on Billy and Andy in the van. As the Bouska family was discharged, a doctor speculated that a few more hours of exposure to carbon monoxide could have been fatal. When the Bouskas arrived home several hours later, they found Billy and Andy still sitting safely in the van. They also found the cat and Chihuahuas alive and well.

Needless to say, Billy and Andy have become permanent members of the Bouska family.

This article originally appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of Greyt Expectations, the newsletter of GPA/Greater Orlando.



Capri's radiograph revealed a large central abdominal mass.

My Greyhound Isn't Herself

— Capri's Hypersplenism

By Jim Bader, DVM
Photos by Merri Van Dyke

“I’m worried about my Greyhound. She isn’t acting like her usual self. She’s lethargic, not eating well, doesn’t want to go outside, and isn’t play-bowing,” reported the owner. “I’d like to bring her in.”

Capri is a 10-year-old Greyhound who presented the above symptoms. Cause for alarm? This is her story.

Capri demonstrated lethargy, diminished appetite, and general malaise (lack of excitement about her surroundings). The owner reported that in the previous two days Capri had stopped performing her “play-bows” before going into her kennel. A thorough physical exam, including laboratory work, was ordered. The exam revealed that Capri was depressed and had pale gums (mucous membranes). Laboratory data revealed a low red blood cell count (anemia) and a low platelet count (thrombocytopenia). All other functions, including kidney and liver, were within normal range. Palpation of the abdomen revealed a large mass that was not painful.

A radiograph, done to assess the abdomen, revealed an enlarged central abdominal mass. The mass displaced the intestines to the back of the abdomen and the stomach to the front of the abdomen. Further diagnostics included an ultrasound of the abdomen, a profile to assess clotting times, and testing to rule out Ehrlichia. (Capri is tested yearly for Ehrlichia.) The clotting

times were normal, and the ultrasound revealed the mass was the spleen. After discussion, the owner elected a splenectomy (removal of the spleen) for Capri.

Surgical success required that Capri be stable, have red blood cells adequate for transport of oxygen, and have adequate platelets to clot the blood during surgery. This was accomplished through a blood transfusion. Capri received a total of 500 ml of blood throughout the procedure with 250 ml given before surgery, and 250 ml given during surgery. Intravenous fluids were also provided for anesthetic support.

Capri was prepped for surgery, which included pre- and post-operative pain medication. An approximately 30 cm incision was made in Capri's abdomen. With great effort, the spleen was brought out of the abdomen. The blood vessels to the spleen



The incision in Capri's abdomen was about 30 cm long. (The handle of the scalpel in the photograph is about 6 inches long.)

were tied off, and the spleen removed. The abdomen was explored for any other abnormalities then surgically closed. The spleen was weighed — 3.5 pounds — and three large sections were submitted to the pathologist. Capri's recovery was uneventful, and she went home after two days at the hospital. Her anemia and thrombocytopenia were monitored weekly for 3 weeks and monthly thereafter. After two months, Capri's values returned to normal. About one week following surgery, the pathologist reported the diagnosis of hypersplenism.

What Is Hypersplenism?

To gain a better understanding of hypersplenism, we first need to discuss the function of the spleen. The spleen performs several tasks that may change over time or with different conditions in the body. In the fetus, or when the patient is anemic, the spleen produces red blood cells to supplement those pro-

duced by the bone marrow. The spleen's main function after birth is to remove old, tired red blood cells that no longer function well. (The average life of a canine red blood cell is 120 days.) In other words, the bone marrow makes new red blood cells and the spleen removes the old ones. The spleen also stores extra red blood cells and platelets for use in times of crisis such as stress or hemorrhage. In addition, it acts as a filter for the blood, removing blood-borne organisms from the blood. The main organism of concern for Greyhounds is Ehrlichia (see "Introduction to Ehrlichiosis," Winter 2003 CG), but other organisms, such as Leishmania and Hemobartonella, are also filtered by the spleen.

Hypersplenism is a very poorly understood disease. Most of the reason for the enlargement is conjecture; the underlying cause is not known. As the condition progresses, the spleen, for some unknown reason, enlarges to about five to six times its normal size. As it enlarges, it begins to trap more red blood cells and platelets — more than the bone marrow can produce. (Remember, one of its functions is to store extra for an emergency.) Anemia results. The anemia then causes the spleen to produce more red blood cells. The spleen continues to enlarge as its red blood cell production increases. As a result of its increased size, the spleen produces more red blood cells, but the enlarged spleen traps even more red blood cells, creating a vicious cycle that results in a general malaise. The anemia causes the Greyhound to experience intolerance for exercise, loss of appetite, and lethargy.

Care Following Surgery

After the spleen is removed and the Greyhound has recovered, several precautions should be taken to protect the dog's health. She should be protected from exposure to tick-borne diseases. In addition, if blood transfusions are needed in the future,



The spleen was removed from the abdomen.

the donor must be screened for all blood-borne pathogens and the blood obtained from a canine blood bank. Any signs of sickness should be taken seriously as the Greyhound has lost the ability to filter pathogens from the blood.

An enlarged spleen can be a scary diagnosis for a Greyhound owner. Only a biopsy can confirm the cause of the enlargement; it may be benign or malignant. Once an enlarged spleen is discovered, surgery is the usual treatment of choice but it does have some risks. With proper support, however, the outcome is usually favorable. Capri resumed play-bowing two weeks after surgery; two months later, she continues to do very well. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



The enlarged spleen weighed about 3.5 lbs.

Canine Flu Story Greatly Overhyped By Media, Fenwick Says.

An internationally recognized expert on infectious diseases in Greyhounds says recent media reports of a canine flu epidemic have “greatly inflated the significance” of the scientific paper on which the reports were based.

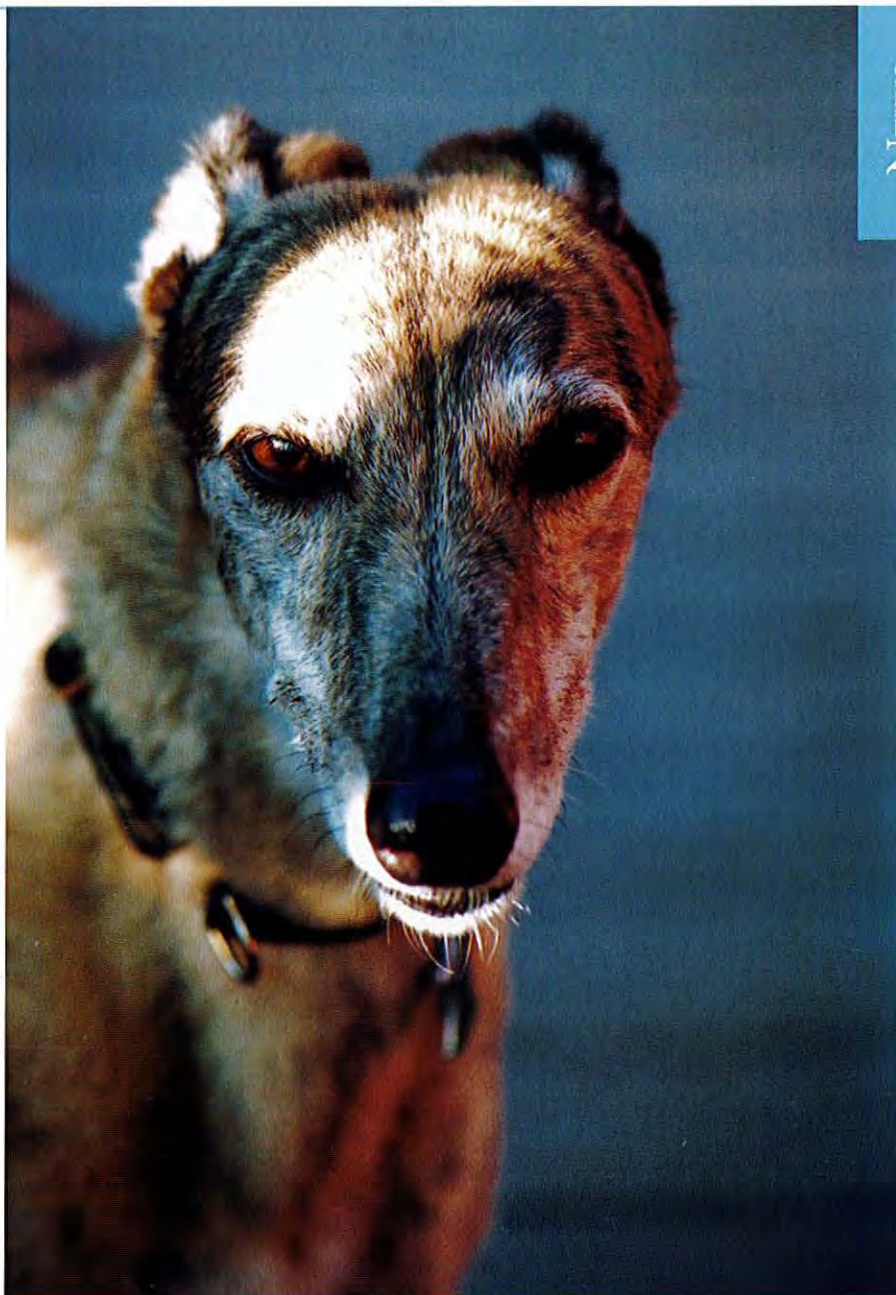
Dr. Brad Fenwick, Vice President for Research and Professor of Infectious Disease Pathobiology at Virginia Tech, has specialized in the study of disease in racing Greyhounds. In a letter being sent to Greyhound tracks and kennel operators, Fenwick said there is no scientific basis for the “hysterical tone” of recent media reports. Fenwick wrote the letter at the request of the American Greyhound Council (AGC), an organization formed by track and kennel operators to promote Greyhound health and welfare.

“There is no killer dog flu crisis in Greyhound racing,” Fenwick wrote, “or outside it, for that matter.”

The media reports were triggered by a research paper published in the current issue of *Science Magazine* suggesting that a respiratory disease observed in Greyhounds at several tracks since 2004 is closely related to the equine flu virus. The paper also raised the possibility that the canine flu could be transmitted to humans because it had crossed species from horses to dogs.

Contagious respiratory diseases among dogs are nothing new, and Fenwick said this one appears no more serious than common kennel cough. The vast majority of Greyhounds exposed to the canine flu recover completely, with many not even requiring treatment, he said. Evidence shows that most of the dogs that become infected with influenza do not show any symptoms. Where rare fatalities have occurred, they have been due to bacterial complications arising from failure to treat soon enough or with the correct antibiotics.

What disturbed him most about the media reports, Fenwick said, was the suggestion that this canine flu could be transmitted from dogs to humans and that Greyhounds or the [racing] industry are somehow responsible for the outbreak. It is possible, he said, that this virus was circulat-



Cindy, adopted by Lynne Peters of Arlington, Mass.

Greyhound News

ing undetected in the pet dog population for some time and only became recognized when it caused problems in the Greyhounds, since even a mild respiratory disease is of special concern in a canine athlete.

“There has never been a single recorded instance where the disease was transmitted from a horse to a human,” he noted, “so it is irresponsible in the extreme to suggest that this should be a cause for concern among the general public or pet dog owners.”

Fenwick advised industry members to prevent the spread of any contagious diseases among Greyhounds, including prompt consultation with qualified veterinarians, the use of appropriate antibiotics, more frequent checking and observation of dogs, extra cleaning and sanitation measures, and isolation of ill dogs away from healthy animals.

(From the American Greyhound Council, www.agcouncil.com)

Greyhound Pets of America Honors Branigan

Cynthia Branigan, long-time Greyhound adoption advocate, received the GPA Founders Adoption Excellence Award from GPA President Rory Goreé at the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference in Tampa on September 3, 2005.

Branigan is founder and President of Make Peace with Animals, and author of several books on Greyhounds, including *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*.

The GPA Founders Adoption Excellence Award was introduced in 2005 with the purpose of recognizing those who have made a sustaining effort to the welfare and adoption of ex-racing Greyhounds. Branigan was the first recipient of this annual award.

The trophy will be displayed in the Greyhound Hall of Fame in Abilene, Kansas.

Art Theft at Greyhounds Reach the Beach



Untitled, Kent Roberts

The organizers of the 2005 Greyhounds in Art show at Greyhounds Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach, Delaware are asking Greyhound owners to help them recover two paintings that were stolen from the show.

The Greyhounds in Art show was located at the Sunnyside Restaurant in the Ruddertowne Complex. According to organizers, the paintings were stolen between Saturday night, October 9 (the night of the Artists' Reception) and the following day.

One of the missing paintings, "She's a Dream," is a 24" x 36" acrylic Greyhound

portrait by Lynn Roick. The second missing piece, by Kent Roberts, is an 18" x 24" acrylic of nine Greyhound heads after the style of Andy Warhol.

The 2005 Greyhounds in Art show was the fourth art show at Greyhounds Reach the Beach. Proceeds of sales of the art featured in the show benefited The Greyhound Project Canine Cancer Fund of the Morris Animal Foundation.

The organizers of the art show reported that the art show committee and the employees of the Ruddertowne complex were devastated and deeply troubled by the theft. At press time, the management of the Ruddertowne complex were working diligently with the Dewey Beach police to track down the culprits.

The organizers seek the help of the greyhound community at large in their attempt to recover the stolen artwork. The art show committee, an all-volunteer group, has established a reward of \$100 per painting for information leading to the recovery of the stolen work. Anyone who comes across these paintings should contact Praveen Mutalik (mutalik@charter.net) or Karen McDonnell (goldenhound@efortress.com). Lynn Roick (lroick@rogers.com) and Kent Roberts (KentRobertsArtist@comcast.net) are offering additional rewards of their own.



"She's a Dream," Lynn Roick

The Dewey Beach Police Department can be contacted at (302) 227-1110.

For more information about the stolen artwork, visit <http://www.skipper-systems.com/theft>

Greyhound Documentarians Need Your Help

The Rehoboth Beach (Del.) Film Society is working with Teleductions, a Wilmington-based firm, in the production of a feature-length documentary about Greyhounds.

The premiere screening of this film will take place at the Tenth Annual Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Festival's Opening Night in November 2007.

The Film Society is seeking suggestions and/or assistance from people who own or are interested in Greyhounds. They need information regarding contacts in the Greyhound community, possible funding sources, and strategies for publicizing the project.

They are also looking for interested Greyhound owners, Greyhounds Reach the Beach supporters, and adoption volunteers to serve on an unofficial advisory committee.

Those interested in serving on the advisory committee, making a donation to support the project, or providing useful information should contact the Rehoboth Beach Film Society Office at (302) 645-9095.

Research Volunteers Needed

If your Greyhound has recently been diagnosed with Glomerulonephritis (<http://www.VeterinaryPartner.com/Content.plx?P=A&A=1352>) please have your veterinarian contact Dr. Guillermo Couto at The Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital (OSU-VTH). He is currently conducting research on this disease in Greyhounds. The number for The OSU-VTH is 614-292-3551.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine Logowear Available

The best-read Greyhound owner can now be the best-dressed! White cotton t-shirts featuring the *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* logo in red and black are available at www.cafepress.com/cgmagazine.



Merit Badges and School Projects: Young Volunteers Tell Their Stories

By Lindsay Hocker

Taylor Thompson and Hope Huston began volunteering for QCGA to fulfill their high school's service requirement. Taylor (right) holds retired brood Moonshine, and Hope holds Moonshine's daughter, also named Hope.

Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption (QCGA) is blessed with many wonderful volunteers, including several teenagers. QCGA's teen volunteers began volunteering for a variety of reasons, but the one thing that keeps bringing them all back is their love for the dogs.

"One day, my friend took me to the Greyhound kennel before volleyball, and after spending time with them, I just couldn't stop," says Jessica Scheckel, 14, a freshman at Alleman High School in Rock Island, Illinois. "I took one look into the dogs' eyes and I just fell in love." Jessica began volunteering on Saturday mornings in the summer of 2003. She was presented with the QCGA Junior Volunteer Award at QCGA's 2004 Annual Reunion.

Before Jake Krouth, 19, a 2005 Rock Island High School graduate, went to see the Greyhounds, he wasn't sure if he would want to volunteer. By the end of his visit, he was hooked. "They're really neat dogs, and fun to be around," he says. Jake started in February of 2004 and volunteers on Monday nights. He says the best part about volunteering is "knowing that I helped a great animal on its way to a forever home."

QCGA is in Rock Island, Illinois. The kennel usually houses 30 to 40 retired racing Greyhounds from the Dubuque, Dairyland, and Geneva Lakes racing tracks. Volunteers are always needed to care for the dogs. Turnouts

are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day. During this time, volunteers feed the dogs, let them outside, clean their crates, do laundry, wash dishes, medicate dogs, clean the outside run, brush the dogs, bathe them, and, of course, shower the hounds with affection.

Joseph Stofen, 17, a junior at Central High School in Davenport, Iowa, has helped out at the kennel for over six years. Joseph says, "When my first Greyhound

died, our vet told my mom about a QCGA open house and six years later, here I am." His mother, Janet Stofen, is president of QCGA's board of directors. Joseph often helps with turnouts. He also helps with meet-and-greets, trips to the veterinarian, and whatever else needs to be done. Some of his favorite tasks, however, are playing with the dogs and giving baths. While seeing a favorite dog adopted is bittersweet, he says, "It's great to see adopters who really care



Jake Krouth with four of the Greyhound girls in the turnout area.



Jessica Scheckel with Roxie.

about their dogs."

Courtney Hanson, 14, an eighth grader at John Deere Middle School in Moline, Illinois, wanted something extra to do over the summer. Because she loves animals, she decided to start volunteering Wednesday nights at QCGA in June of 2005. After volunteering for a few weeks, Courtney realized she could receive her Girl Scout Silver Award by completing a 30-hour project at the kennel.

For her project, Courtney was in charge of a contest at the 2005 QCGA Reunion. The reunion is a fun way for Greyhound lovers to get together and celebrate a successful year of QCGA adoptions. Over 100 Greyhounds were in attendance.

In the contest, Greyhounds competed for the winning title in categories such as longest tail, oldest, best kisser, most obedient, and barkiest. Courtney chose the 19 categories and designed certificates to award to the winners. She was also in charge of finding judges and supervising the contest. Courtney painted bones on Mason jars and filled them with treats to give as a prize to each winner.

Tylor Fowler, 13, an eighth grader at Williams Intermediate in Davenport, Iowa, also began volunteering in June 2005. His grandparents, Ellie and Paul Bowe, volunteer



Joseph Stoefer with Big Dog Barkin' in the swimming pool.

on Wednesday nights and convinced him to come along. "My grandma thought it would be good for me to be doing something instead of playing video games," Tylor said, laughing. He says he really enjoys meeting the new dogs and he thinks it's funny how the Greyhounds smile. Tylor plans on volunteering next summer and during other school breaks. He helped out at the 2005 QCGA Reunion as well.

Many of the teens start volunteering because the school they attend requires students to complete volunteer service hours in order to graduate. One such school is Pleasant Valley High School (PVHS) in Bettendorf, Iowa. PVHS has a Service-Learning program in which students are required to complete a total of 30 hours of service by the end of their sophomore year. The PVHS website lists QCGA as a place where students can complete their volunteer hours for the program.

Both Hope Huston and Taylor Thompson began volunteering on Saturday mornings in October of 2004 to complete their Service-Learning hours. They are now 17 and seniors

at PVHS. Hope and Taylor decided to volunteer at QCGA because Taylor had a Greyhound at the time and both have always been interested in helping out at the kennel. Taylor and Hope really enjoy socializing with the hounds and taking them on walks. Hope's 14-year-old sister, Sydney, is a freshman at PVHS and has also decided to



Courtney Hanson cuddles Elaine.



Author Lindsay Hocker bonds with Beluga Bear in the turnout area.

complete her volunteer hours for Service-Learning at QCGA. Alleman High School also requires that students volunteer and Jessica Scheckel has been able to fulfill that requirement at QCGA.

All of the teen volunteers confessed that they have fallen in love with the breed and hope to one day have Greyhounds of their own. ■

Lindsay Hocker, 18, a 2005 Rock Island High School graduate, attends the University of Iowa. She began volunteering at QCGA in September 2003. Lindsay is an employee of the Quad City Animal Welfare Center in Milan, Ill., and a South of 20 correspondent for The Rock Island Argus and The Dispatch.



The Keystone Kids are GPA/Keystone's youth auxiliary group. They held their first fundraising event at a Gander Mountain store.

The Keystone Kids

Involving Young People in Greyhound Adoption

By Jim and Dianne Shadle with assistance from Kathy Campbell
Photos by Dianne Shadle

The Keystone Kids are a dynamic group of young people who will be the next generation of adopters, volunteers, and advocates for retired racing Greyhounds. Keystone Greyhounds/GPA, like other Greyhound adoption groups, has had young volunteers since its inception. These active young folks have participated faithfully in many activities related to Greyhound adoption.

Participation in the group, however, was on an individual basis. Rikki Campbell conducted face-to-face interviews about Greyhound adoption and retired racers for a school research project. Rikki also placed donation jars at various business establishments in her hometown of Hershey, Pennsylvania. Caroline Kaschak held a dog-theme birthday party and requested donations for Keystone Greyhounds rather than gifts. In addition, Caroline inspired her Brownie troop to devote one of its sessions to baking peanut butter diamonds for a Keystone fundraiser. Zach and Nate Ottens did their part by marching in numerous parades and helping set up local Greyhound Planet Day events in 2004. They also regularly attend Keystone's monthly hound walk, The City Island Strut. Caroline Campbell worked tirelessly during a three-day search for a lost Greyhound. She became attached to numerous foster dogs and learned to be genuinely happy for them when they found their forever homes. Allison Halat donated all of her birthday money to Keystone Greyhounds, while Annika Harder sacrificed many of her favorite stuffed animals to the

numerous foster hounds who passed through her home. Several young people have taken their Greyhounds to school to promote adoption and attended countless meet-and-greets. In addition to participating in local events, all have attended either the Greyhounds Reach the Beach (Dewey Beach) or Greyhounds in Gettysburg gatherings and have witnessed first hand the bigger picture of Greyhound adoption.

The board of directors of Keystone Greyhounds/GPA realized it had some exceptional kids performing outstanding individual acts to promote and support Greyhound adoption. What if all this energy, creativity, and commitment were combined? With this idea the Keystone Kids organization was created.

We had numerous goals in mind when we organized the Keystone Kids into a group. Foremost was to channel the young volunteers' energy in a positive way during Keystone's events. Even though they were present, the kids were often not directly involved in Keystone activities. We thought they would be bored and not challenged unless they had a specific purpose. By providing jobs for them, we could channel their energies and keep them interested and involved.

We also wanted our young people to be advocates for Greyhound adoption among

their peers, and to get the Greyhound message out to schools. Not only did we want the kids to share the message of how wonderful it is to own a Greyhound, we wanted them to share the many other ways young people can help adoption groups. With community service a growing focus in schools, helping a local Greyhound adoption group is a great fit.

When we asked the kids their thoughts on what they could do, fundraising was at the top of their list. The idea of holding events such as bake sales, dog and car washes, and raffles appealed to them.

Two of our adult volunteers stepped forward immediately and offered to organize our young people into a group and to serve as chaperones. We created bright yellow shirts embroidered with our Keystone logo so the Keystone Kids and their chaperones would be easily recognized at events.

The fledgling group made their debut at the Keystone Greyhounds/GPA first annual picnic. This was a huge undertaking and would be the perfect venue to utilize the kids' energies. They brainstormed about how best to use their talents at the picnic. The Keystone Kids were introduced to everyone at the picnic, and given their bright yellow tee shirts and a certificate. We photographed their smiling faces. The bright yellow tee shirts seemed to be everywhere. The children passed out name tags, helped with registra-



Nellie Kurtz has her nails painted courtesy of the Keystone Kids.

tions, served yogurt sundaes to the hounds, participated in the Greyhound games, delivered the raffle prizes to the happy winners, painted Greyhound toenails for donations, and led the memorial walk. Their debut was everything we had had hoped for, and more.

About a month after the picnic, the Kids decided to organize their own event. Their first solo effort was a fundraiser held as part of a meet-and-greet at our local Gander Mountain store. They arrived early and, with the help of the chaperones, set up the area and displayed their wares. They sold baked goods for humans and hounds, Greyhound



The Keystone Kids served yogurt sundaes for the dogs at Keystone/GPA's first annual Greyhound picnic.

gel bracelets, Greyhound beanie babies, martingale collars, and our group's Greyhound cookbook. The Kids held a raffle for a family basket filled with great prizes including tickets to Hershey Park, game boards, gift certificates to Friendly's restaurant, and other great family stuff. They even managed the money — with supervision. We were astounded when we counted the money in the shoebox at the end of the day. The Kids had raised over \$66.00 at their first formal event!

On August 19, 2005, two Keystone moms and five of the Keystone Kids were guests on Greyhounds Make Great Pets, the Internet radio show devoted to issues of Greyhounds and Greyhound adoption. Although they were a bit nervous, the guests represented Keystone Kids very well.

Success creates success, and plans were already underway for future outings. The next event was a fundraiser at Sam's Club, where the Kids sold sodas and baked goods, and helped cook and sell hot dogs and hamburgers. They also presented a program about the Keystone Kids at Greyhounds Reach the

Beach. Afterwards, they sold hoagies, chips, and sodas to raise funds for our group. In the late fall, they served yogurt sundaes to the hundreds of dogs who attended Woofstock, an all-breed rescue gathering in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As a special thank you, the chaperones are planning a special holiday gathering for these dedicated Greyhound advocates.

The future looks bright for our Keystone Kids. At this time they number 13, and range in age from 2 to 16. We expect this number will grow as our adoption group grows. The group has been very successful in achieving the goals of participation in our events and fundraising. We are working on ways to emphasize our third goal of the Kids' spreading the word about Greyhound adoption to their peers. We will promote and encourage class visits this school year. We hope that the Keystone Kids will take their Greyhounds into their own, as well as other, classrooms. Keystone will donate a children's Greyhound book to the library of each school where the Kids promote Greyhound adoption. We are

also looking for suitable locations for our young volunteers to conduct informational sessions on Greyhound adoption. These could include dog shows, family fairs, scout meetings, and churches. Other promising locations are local libraries, which often sponsor reading promotion events.

In addition to the fundraising, and all the other work the Kids have done for Keystone, perhaps their most valuable contribution is the enthusiasm they bring to our events. This enthusiasm is genuine, and rooted in their love of the breed and their belief in what they are doing. What a sight it is to see the Keystone Kids doing their Greyhound thing. ■

In April of 2004 Dianne and Jim Shadle founded Keystone Greyhounds/GPA along with several dozen loyal volunteers. They are currently the president and treasurer of the organization. They have been involved in Greyhound adoption for the past six years and have five Greyhounds of their own. Kathy Campbell is a board member and is the proud owner of four Greyhounds.



The Keystone Kids served yogurt sundaes for the dogs at Keystone/GPA's first annual Greyhound picnic.



Athena, adopted by Donna and John Kindler of Annapolis, Md., and Bonnie, adopted by Mike and Joanne Bast of Edgewater, Md.

“What Kind of Dog is That?”

Effective Presentations to Elementary School Children

By Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D.

“I thought Greyhounds had to be gray—you know, like on the side of the bus.”
 “What kind of dog is that?”
 “It’s a Great Dane, I think.”

“No, it has spots so it’s gotta be a Dalmatian.”

“You should feed her more. She looks too skinny!”

These are a few of the comments and questions from elementary school children (5- to 12-year-olds) when they see Greyhounds. What follows are practical suggestions and resources for making presentations to children that are informative, professional, and well received both by students and educators. We have posted a PowerPoint presentation containing over 30 photos of Greyhounds at the Monica’s Heart Greyhound Adoption web site, <http://www.monicasheart.com/>. Nonprofit individuals and groups who work with retired racers are permitted to use the presentation and to make copies of it, providing that the text is not altered and the credits page remains intact.



Bill (Dr. Revenue), adopted by Patti Graber of Isanti, Minn.

Establish Appropriate Goals

Presentations to children should promote the goals of humane education, including responsible animal guardianship and respect for all living things. Since most Greyhound adoption groups have a working relationship with personnel in dog racing, it is important to avoid the pro/anti-racing debate. At the other extreme, it is equally important to avoid sentimentalizing the breed and implying that it is ideal for everyone. The great advantage of working with children is that common misconceptions about Greyhounds can be addressed very early, something that helps to promote responsible adoptions in the community. Most of the teachers who accompany the children during the presentation will admit that they were uninformed or misinformed about the breed. One teacher said, "I always assumed that they were mean because they wore muzzles," while another remarked, "They are nothing like what I expected — hyper, high-energy dogs that are difficult to control."

Know Your Audience

When working with children, it is inappropriate to "talk over their heads" or "talk down to them." Speakers with extensive experience presenting to adults may not know how to achieve this with a young

audience. The script of the presentation we have posted explains retired racers in terms most children can understand and emphasizes facts that would be of interest to children (e.g., retired racers have tattoos). This informative, quick-paced program takes about 20 minutes. Be certain to rehearse the presentation and read it in an expressive voice prior to sharing it with children. Volunteers from Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoptions and Going Home Greyhounds have used the presentation and found that it



Magic, adopted by Carla Johnson of Browns Summit, N.C.

was effective in attracting and sustaining children's attention, even in a large group.

Collaborate on the Presentation

If you would like to bring a Greyhound to the presentation, enlist a volunteer with a Greyhound that is a registered therapy animal. Work with the school personnel to be certain that none of the children are allergic to dogs and that every child has parental permission to participate. Bring along some of the items pictured or mentioned in the presentation — a Greyhound coat, muzzle, martingale collar, or brush. Most people are very surprised by the rainbow of colors seen in the breed, so consider showing the official color chart for Greyhounds (a copy is posted at <http://www.recycledracers.org/FAQ/chart.html>). You might want to show the children your group's web site or share the visiting dog's "family tree" and racing record from the National Greyhound Association. Shortly before the presentation is about to end, let the children know that they will each have a turn to pet the dog if they wish as they exit the room. Don't mention this too soon or they will be distracted! Remind them to be very gentle since some children may be accustomed to rough-housing with their own dogs.

Consider Personalizing the Presentation

You may want to substitute photographs of retired racers from your group. For efficiency's sake, gathering photos for the pres-

entation could be combined with another project, such as producing a calendar. The project even can become a fundraiser if owners pay an entrance fee to have their pet's photo considered for inclusion or "vote" for their favorite photos from an assortment on display by making a contribution to the organization. If you burn the presentation on a CD, be certain to insert your group's homepage and web address. As a finishing touch, I like to distribute a two-sided copy with the adoption group's information (e.g., website address, schedule of upcoming meet-and-greets) on one side and a coloring page on the flip side (see Enchanted Learning at <http://members.enchantedlearning.com/cgi-bin/uncgi/search?key=greyhound> for a free diagram of a Greyhound).

Know Elementary School Policies

For security reasons, most schools require visitors to report to the office, sign in and out, and wear a visitor's badge. Schools often require a criminal record check, child abuse clearance, verification of a negative tuberculosis test, and — assuming that a Greyhound will accompany you — proof of liability insurance and evidence of up-to-date vaccinations for your dog. In the role of humane educator, volunteers need to comply with the school's rules and regulations and conduct themselves professionally at all times. It is critically important to keep what is seen and heard at school confidential.



Delilah, adopted by Bob and Carole Hillwig of Greensburg, Pa.



Phantom and Allie, adopted by Rachel and Scott Lane of Mendota Heights, Minn.

Be Competent

Presenters have the most powerful and positive effect when they are prompt, cordial, flexible, efficient, enthusiastic, and responsive to the audience. Check and double-check all of the details and arrangements — location of the school, room in which the presentation will occur, start and end time, audio-visual equipment, number of participants, and who is responsible for copying any materials you may distribute. There are four ways to get the presentation ready to show: download it onto the hard drive of your laptop, burn it onto a CD, use a computer that has an Internet connection and bookmark the Monica's Heart site, or, if none of this is possible, copy the presentation onto multiple floppy disks. You will need PowerPoint software unless you are using the website. You also will need a digital projector and all the connector cords. It would be best to have a room that can be darkened somewhat so that the photographs are bright and sharp. You may want to print out an oversized paper copy so that in the event of technical difficulties, the show can go on. I make a color copy on letter paper, insert each page in a plastic page protector, and put it into a three-ring folder, then donate it to the library so that children can study the photographs more closely.

Bear in mind that this presentation may be that first, lasting impression this group has of Greyhounds in general and the adoption

group in particular. Using the advice and resources included in this article will increase your chances for a polished, professional presentation and that you'll hear comments and questions such as these that we've heard from children:

"Are you going to do that show again? I liked looking at those pictures, especially the puppies."

"I'm going to tell my Grandma about Greyhounds when I get home. Her dog died and she might like one of them for her pet."

"Guess what! My Mom said I could get a dog when I'm in third grade. I showed her that book you left and now I'm getting a Greyhound—she promised!" ■

Mary Renck Jalongo is a former elementary school teacher and college faculty member who works with new and experienced teachers at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She volunteers in a variety of school programs with her TDI, Inc. registered Greyhound, Cuddles (DP Cuddle Bear). Nonprofit Greyhound adoption groups are welcome to download the presentation and use it in their volunteer work if credit is given to the author, the photographers, and the two organizations. The photographs were contributed by Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption (Altoona, Pa.) members Kay McNelis and Belinda Cunningham. Elaine Pensensadler of Going Home Greyhounds (Wexford, Pa.) contributed the screen capture, and Nancy and Jack Holland provided advice on the presentation.



Zara and Quincy, adopted by Kelli and Scott Olsen of Parsippany, N.J.

Volunteering:

Saying Yes, No, and Thank You

By Cindy Hanson

In the volunteer world, there are three responses that *everybody* needs to learn to give: *Yes*, *No*, and *Thank You*. That goes for volunteers and those who organize and coordinate volunteer efforts.

Let me explain what I mean.

Say *Yes*. Now that's pretty obvious. If someone asks you to volunteer, say yes. If someone volunteers to help you, say yes.

For volunteers, that means you should look for ways to help. Most Greyhound adoption groups are desperate for help and are thrilled to have more of it. If you're already volunteering, look for different ways to do so. If you've been fostering, consider going to a meet-and-greet. If you've been attending meet-and-greets, consider walking adoption dogs. If you've been walking dogs, consider helping plan next year's reunion. Don't try to

do all of this at once, of course, but be flexible and help where your group needs it most.

Be creative about how you can contribute. Make suggestions. If you have an idea, bring it to the attention of your local group. Think of the bigger picture, too. One of the best volunteer experiences I ever had was when I had to travel for business several years ago. Since I was stuck in an unfamiliar town for the weekend, I called the event line of a local Greyhound adoption group and got the information about the meet-and-greets the group would be hosting on Saturday. I showed up at the mall and waited for a while. Eventually, a van covered with Greyhound bumper stickers pulled up in front of the mall entrance, and a man jumped out with eight Greyhounds. I later learned that there had been a hauler accident in the area during the

previous week — the truck was totaled, the driver was hospitalized, and the adoption dogs all had to be absorbed by local groups. I introduced myself to the guy with the dogs and asked if he needed any help. I got to hold a couple of Greyhounds, spend my afternoon talking to prospective adopters, and even help with a couple of adoptions. I had the best time. I didn't know that volunteer and he didn't know me. I just showed up, offered to help, and he was generous and flexible enough to allow me to do so. He also thanked me profusely, which was so gratifying that I came to the group's meet-and-greet on Sunday and did the same thing. It was a lot more fun than going shopping or riding a tour bus.

Adoption groups need to say *Yes*, too. Be open to suggestions. Keep an open mind

when volunteers come up with new ways to contribute. The creativity of your people is one of your group's greatest resources. Perhaps, if the volunteer at the mall hadn't said *Yes* when I asked if I could help, he may not have completed as many adoptions that weekend.

But it's important to say *No*, too.

Volunteers have to say *No*. Set your limits. Don't try to do it all because when you do, you become irreplaceable, then when you burn out and split, your group suffers. The best thing to do is contribute what and when you really can. Everybody knows somebody who has burned out as a volunteer. Take care of yourself and your colleagues so that doesn't happen. Commit only to that to which you can commit fully, and consider involving other people in what you do or training other volunteers.

Organizers, get used to your volunteers saying *No*, and don't let it panic you. Understand that volunteers are making a choice. If they can contribute, they will. If they can't, they shouldn't. Nobody can say yes all the time. If they say *No* every once in a while, that's healthy. It's not personal. Don't ever tell your volunteers, as a group, that they aren't doing enough. If you don't have the volunteer capacity to accomplish your goals, it's time to revisit your goals. I know of an adoption group whose volunteers go nuts on a regular basis because one of the board members brings in large numbers of dogs with little or no advance warning, then gets crabby because there aren't enough foster homes for them all. Well, it's always good to try to increase your roster of foster homes if your group depends on them, but trying to do that in crisis mode is very stressful. The number of dogs the group takes in should be determined by its foster home capacity, not vice versa. Your volunteers are your resources. Your group's capacity is shaped by those resources. If you don't have enough resources, get some more or do less work.

Organizers, you have to say *No*, too. In most cases, organizers are in begging mode, but they also have to set limits on what the group can accept. For example, if you have someone who is not representing your group well at meet-and-greets or who is not taking good care of your foster dogs, you have to



Adam (I Reckonso Adam), adopted by Joyce Brown of Wichita, Kan. Kay Brown

step in. As a leader of your group, you have the responsibility to ensure that your group stays on track. Your volunteers rely on you to set a direction. Your failure to do this can be demoralizing for the rest of your volunteers.

Volunteers, don't be afraid to hear *No* from your adoption group. Understand the bigger picture. If your suggestion is not feasible or practical, the organizer may say *No*. It's not personal. It may be a matter of resources, direction, philosophy, or fit.

Finally, remember to say *Thank You*. For organizers, this is obvious. Say *Thank You* and say it a lot. It's easy to take volunteers for granted. Remember that they are choosing to give you their time so acknowledge that. Once I attended a meet-and-greet where the host had a guest book for people to sign. It was such a pleasant surprise to receive a personal note of thanks from the host in the mail the following week. (I bet she never has any trouble finding people to volunteer with her.) Thank you notes might not be your style, but a follow-up phone call after the event or an acknowledgement in your group's newsletter can be a really important way to let your volunteers know how much you appreciate what they do. Everybody wants his or her work to be acknowledged and appreciated. Care and feeding of your volunteers is one of your most important tasks.

Do volunteers have to say *Thank You*, too? I think it's a nice idea to thank your organizers for the work that they do. They are probably volunteers too, and would like to be acknowledged by you. I think it's even more important that we be thankful for our volunteer opportunities. Look for, celebrate, and appreciate the things you get out of volunteering. We volunteer because we want to, not because we have to. There are all sorts of great reasons for volunteering for Greyhound adoption. Find the one that resonates with you: Because it's fun, because you enjoy sharing your love of Greyhounds with prospective adopters, because it gives you an opportunity to apply a skill (such as sewing, crafting, writing, photography, or web design), because you like working with dogs, because you like hanging out with other Greyhound owners and their dogs, because you're learning something, or because you like to save dogs. Keep those reasons in mind to motivate you when things get tough (for example, when people are so busy that they forget to say *Thank You*).

If you get burned out from one volunteer job, consider another. I had the privilege of volunteering with the St. Croix Meadows Adopt-a-Greyhound program prior to and during the track's closing. I started volunteering there as a dog walker. Prior to that, I had been a board member and volunteer

coordinator for one adoption group, then a co-founder and vice-president of another one. By the time I started volunteering at the track, I was extremely burned out from dealing with personalities and political differences. I still wanted to volunteer, but I wanted to work only with dogs. So every Sunday afternoon I went to the adoption center during live racing hours and I walked the adoption dogs. That was a great gig for me — I enjoyed it, it was good for the dogs, and the adoption coordinator appreciated the help. I did that for about a year. I later volunteered for other activities, such as working in the Adoption Center, photographing the adoptable dogs and, when the track announced that it was closing and some of the employees left to find other jobs, I volunteered to do the weekend morning turnouts at the adoption kennel. Every Saturday and Sunday morning, I drove from my home in Minnesota to the track in Wisconsin in time to let the dogs out at 7:00 a.m. I put them in the turnout area, freshened their bedding, cleaned their crates, fed them, picked up their poop, washed dishes, mopped the floors, and did the laundry.

Some mornings were less fun than oth-

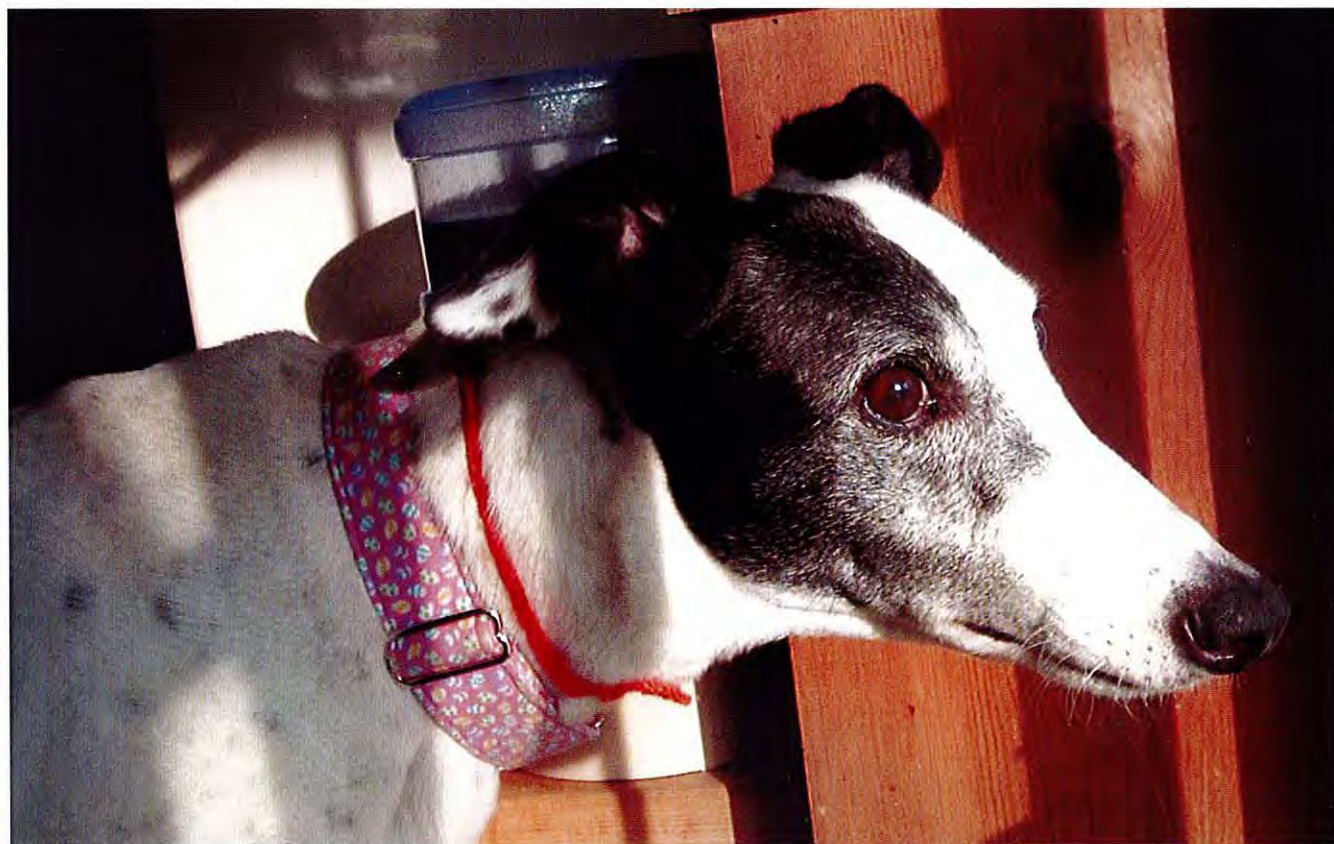
ers. I remember coming in to do the morning turnout on July 5. Not every Greyhound enjoyed the sounds of the previous evening's fireworks. Several dogs needed baths and their crates needed a thorough cleaning, too. As I was on my hands and knees, scrubbing dried dog poop off the walls behind the crates and wishing that I had some help, I remember thinking: *I am so glad to be going through this because it really helps me understand what kennel life is like for the animals and the people who work there.* I was able to see it as a learning experience.

I remember talking to my co-workers (non-Greyhound people) during this period, and when I told them what I was doing on my weekend mornings, some of them would wrinkle their noses and say things like "You get up at 5:00 a.m. on the weekends and drive to Wisconsin to pick up dog poop? What is wrong with you?" For me, at that point, it was absolutely the best volunteer gig. I loved driving to the track, walking into the kennel and hearing the dogs start to bark, preparing their food, going out to the turnout area and being surrounded by all these dogs, whipping their tails and bumping me with their plastic muzzles . . . it was great.

Even though I have three dogs of my own who whip me with their tails and head butt me when they're excited, I still miss that volunteer experience. I don't know how I would feel if I had to get up that early every Saturday and Sunday morning for the rest of my life, but I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to be with those dogs and people, to be there for the track closing, and to learn all that I did. That's what I mean when I say we need to say *Thank You* as volunteers. Appreciate the opportunities that we have.

That people take the time to volunteer at all is amazing. We lead such busy lives, so if someone has a spare weeknight evening or weekend afternoon and *chooses* to spend it making dog coats for sale at a holiday boutique, hosting a meet-and-greet, helping new adopters pick out their Greyhound, writing an article, or hosting a picnic, that's an act that makes the world a better place. To everyone who makes that choice: *Thank You.* ■

Cindy Hanson is CG Editor-in-Chief. This article is a shortened version of a speech she presented at the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference in September 2005.



Keys, adopted by Kathy Campbell of Hummelstown, Pa.



He always pays attention to folks who tell him he's gorgeous. Cash, adopted by Norman and Gail Hill of Reserve, La.

Hello, Gorgeous

By Arnold Haber

I knew that this was gonna be one of those days from the get-go. I had that feeling early on . . . you know, that strange feeling down the back of your neck when you feel stuff's gonna happen. I guess that's why my partner always told me, when you're on the job, you gotta be ready. I was ready . . . or so I thought.

So there we were, my partner Sweets and I, moving down the street, not looking for trouble; not expecting trouble, but ready just the same. That was how Sweets wanted it and how he taught me. You see, Sweets is a Greyhound, and *ready* is his middle name (or would be, if he had a middle name).

We moved slowly down the street toward the corner, Sweets leading the way as usual, just taking our time but set for anything that might come our way. It was a sultry evening, not much action on the streets. The threat of rain hung like a blanket in the air, so you could almost taste the coming rain.

As we neared the corner, Sweets began moving a little faster. Sweets doesn't much care for rain, and he gets a little edgy when he feels it's on the way. We had just reached our first stop — a telephone pole at the corner of the intersection. Sweets checked it out. He was quick but thorough. He covered every leaf of every weed around the pole's base, then stretched his neck up and around until he was satisfied the pole was cool. There's no such thing as being too careful.

In the meantime, I was doing my job, watching the traffic at the corner and making sure the traffic light was working. It was what I was trained to do. After a few years on the job, I knew better than to make dumb mistakes. Sweets never liked it if I made dumb mistakes.

I signaled that the street was clear, and we headed toward our second routine stop: the streetlight by the school.



I understood that this was where this gig could get tricky. You could never tell when a school bus or truck or some fast-moving set of wheels might shoot by, trying to make the traffic light ahead. Sweets had made it a habit to remind me about looking around and up and down before making a move, and his constant complaining always got my attention. He was not one to overlook the possibility of an error in judgment on my part.

Maybe it was the heat or the quiet or the damp, but I sensed that Sweets was hanging back a little. I took the hint and got out in

front. We were almost even with the streetlight. I moved out nice and slow covering the front. I eyed the street ahead to make sure we were clear. That's when things started to unravel . . . and fast.

I heard her voice from somewhere behind me and I froze.

"Hello gorgeous!"

I could feel that Sweets had stopped moving, every muscle tense as he stood at my back. I couldn't move, even though I wanted to . . . even though I knew I had to.

"Look how he's watching me, he's looking right at me. Hi gorgeous," the voice trilled.

Somehow, I found the strength to begin moving. I managed a couple of deep breaths. My eyes were swimming. I could barely see as I turned in the direction of her voice. My mind was racing and my heart was pounding, a combination which made me as weak as a baby.

It's her at last, I thought, my dream girl, the one I've been waiting for my whole life. That's her voice. I started to smile, anticipating the magic moment of our meeting after all this time, all those dreams. The haze in my eyes cleared and I saw that she was beautiful, leaning out the car window at the traffic light...staring!

I tried to think of something clever to say, but I realized that it wasn't me she was staring at. This lovely creature was eyeballing my partner. At the same time, he was giving it all back to her; his ears were up, his nose was wet, and his whole body was at attention.

"He's absolutely gorgeous. Hello beautiful boy, I see you looking at me."

Never mind him, look how I'm looking at you, I said to myself. I wanted to speak but I couldn't get the words out. *Sure, I thought, he's gorgeous, and that makes me chopped liver?* I felt like I took a punch in the gut as I realized that I had become invisible to this vision in the car.

After a few seconds that seemed more like a lifetime, I managed to squeak out a response.

"He always pays attention to folks who tell him he's gorgeous. He's fickle that way."

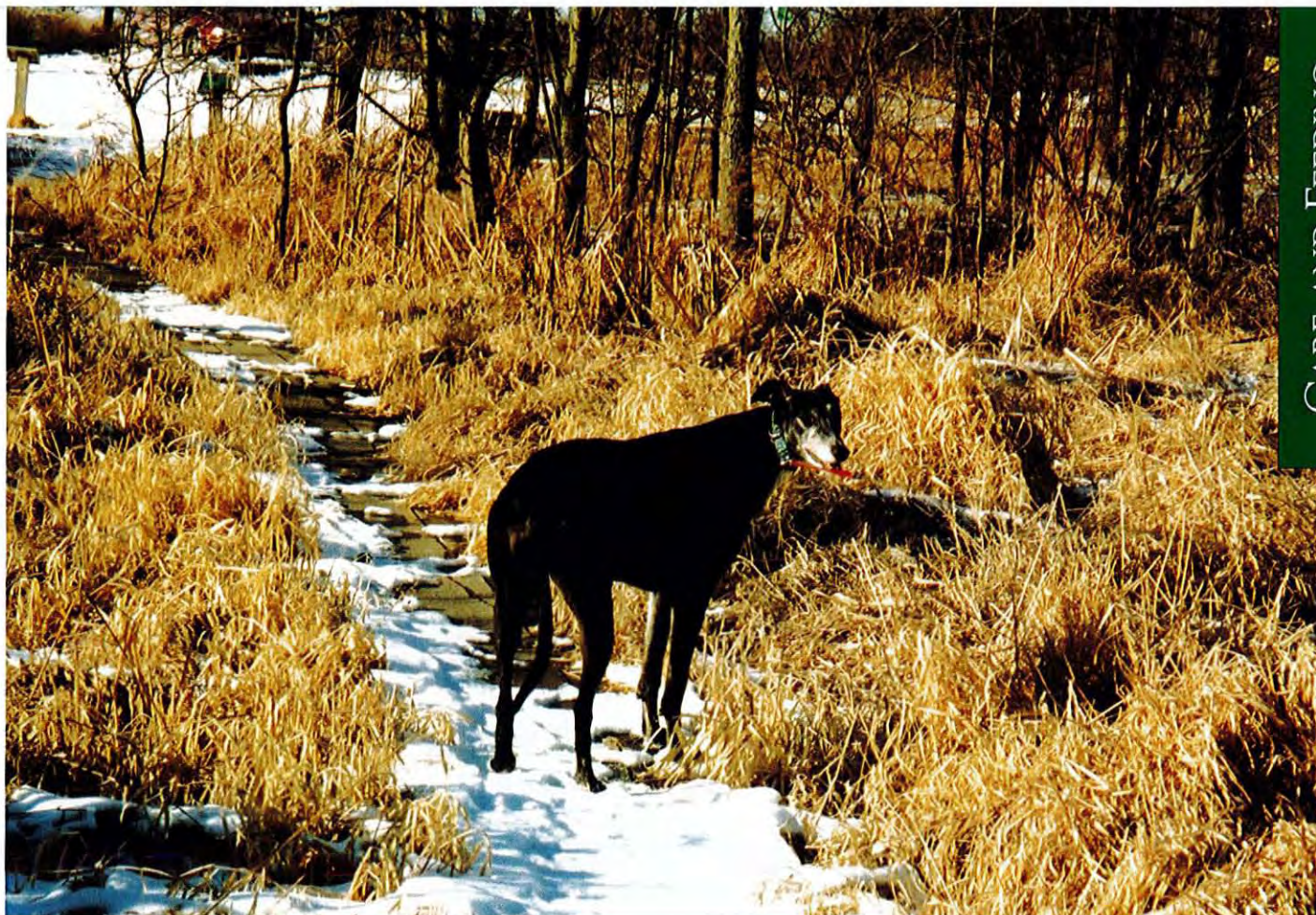
The lady laughed, waved, and pulled away as the light turned green. I stared after her as she drove down the avenue and faded from sight. My partner came up to me, shook his head and sighed. He moved past me to the streetlight, lifted his leg and made his mark.

Sweets led the way across the street and past the school. I began to understand a little bit of what he'd been trying to teach me for a long time. That it's all about him . . . it was always about him, and I was just along for the ride.

Arnold Haber is a retired pharmacist/health planning consultant living with Sweets, an 8-year-old retired racer, in Fresh Meadows, N.Y. Sweets loves peanut butter, pizza, long walks, and kids. They both work with their Block Association as co-chairperson and mascot, respectively. Arnold is currently working on a story for children about the fictional adventures of a Greyhound named Comet, a Malamute named Igloo, and a Spanish cat named Rodrigo.



Cyrano, adopted by Mary Ann Moore of Hazelwood, Mo.



Zoey, adopted by Anne Sorensen of Sheboygan, Wisc.

Planning for Your Greyhound's Care

By Gary L. Flotron, MBA, CLU, ChFC, AEP

What happens when circumstances prevent us from providing the loving care that we normally give to our Greyhounds? The purpose of this article is to suggest ways to provide care for your beloved companions if you are unable to do so. Review these suggestions with competent legal and other professional advisers in your jurisdiction to determine their appropriateness to your situation.

There are three circumstances that can prevent us from caring for our Greyhounds:

Temporary unforeseen incidents, such as car trouble, weather-related travel delay, an accident, or short-term disability;

Long-term incapacity, such as a major stroke or an accident leaving you unconscious for an extended period;

Death.

Your initial steps in planning for the care of your Greyhounds should include selecting caretakers and completing a Pet Information Sheet.

Selecting Caretakers

Selecting caretakers is the most difficult step in the planning process. It is analogous to choosing guardians for your minor children, and it is debatable whether selecting caretakers for your pets is harder than choosing guardians for your children.

Caretakers may be temporary (for unforeseen incidents) or permanent (in the case of your long-term incapacity or death). Temporary caretakers should live relatively close to you and your Greyhounds, but distance is less an issue for permanent caretakers. Generally, it is easier to find temporary caretakers than permanent caretakers. The difficulty in finding caretakers, especially permanent caretakers, increases with the number of Greyhounds you own.

Who will care for your Greyhounds? If you live with a family, the ideal situation would be for a member of your household to care for your hounds. This could be your spouse, an adult child, or a parent. In temporary situations, it could be a responsible teenager. However, while family members may be more than willing to care for your Greyhounds and other pets in the short term, they may not be willing or able to make a long-term commitment to care for your Greyhounds.

Furthermore, do not count on heirs and beneficiaries of your estate to take care of your pets (especially if you have not discussed the issue with them first!). Some heirs and beneficiaries will feel an obligation to care for the deceased's pets out of love or gratitude. But changing circumstances — such as marriage, job changes, or moves — may prevent heirs from caring for your pets in the long term.

What if you, your spouse, and other members of your household are together and involved in a common disaster or simultaneous death? If you live alone, where do you turn to start to find potential caretakers? A good starting point would be to make a list of the people you know that love and are familiar with your Greyhounds.

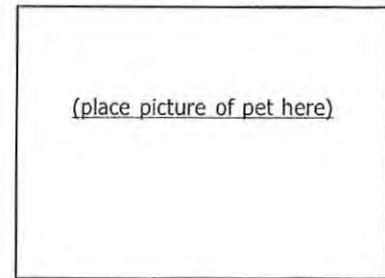
Other potential caretakers might be folks who also have Greyhounds and/or volunteer for Greyhound adoption groups. They obviously understand the unique characteristics



Grumpy, adopted by Cherie Damron of Burton, Ohio.

Figure 1: Pet Information Sheet

Name of owner: _____
 Date completed: _____
 Name of pet: _____
 Species/breed: _____
 Pedigree: _____
 Sex: _____
 Birth date/age: _____
 Indoor or outdoor: _____



Other forms of identification or description (e.g., microchip coding, identifying features): _____

VETERINARY AND HEALTH INFORMATION:

Name of veterinarian: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone number: (____) _____, Email: _____
 Location of veterinary records (if not above): _____

Frequency of checkups: _____

Current medications and supplements (including instructions): _____

Other health considerations (e.g., prior surgery, such as spaying; susceptibility to certain allergies): _____

CARETAKING INFORMATION:

Name of temporary caretaker or kennel: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone number: (____) _____, Email: _____

Name of permanent caretaker or kennel: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone number: (____) _____, Email: _____

of retired Greyhounds. These people face the same dilemma and may also be in need for caretakers for contingencies and emergencies for their Greyhounds. On the other hand, some Greyhound owners cannot handle the extra burden of permanently caring for one or more additional Greyhounds. If you are a typical Greyhound owner and have more than one Greyhound, planning care for your

pets can be a challenge if you want to keep some or all of them together. Local laws may restrict the number of pets per household.

If you cannot identify an individual caretaker, you may have to consider naming a non-profit organization to care for your Greyhounds. Since most Greyhound adoption agreements require you to return your Greyhound to the adoption group if you are

unable to care for your pet, the adoption group would be the logical first choice in the absence of an individual caretaker. But is the adoption group the right choice? Most Greyhound adoption groups would care for your Greyhounds if you became unable to do so. Nevertheless, many of these groups have limited resources. Furthermore, naming the adoption group as permanent caretaker is essentially transferring your responsibility to find a permanent caretaker for your Greyhound to the Greyhound adoption group. Perhaps it would be better for all involved — especially your Greyhound — to

provide other solutions for the care of your hounds.

Being a caretaker is a serious responsibility. You must make certain that potential caretakers are ready to assume this role in the event of a contingency, either on a temporary or permanent basis. Thoroughly review with your potential caretakers your expectations for caring for your hounds, including any special needs. (For example, my Greyhound, Blue, has epilepsy. His care requires someone who is sensitive to his medical needs and knows what to do if he has a seizure.) The Pet Information Sheet provides a good checklist of the items and issues you need

to discuss with potential caretakers.

Naturally, you want to be confident that potential caretakers are familiar with and love your Greyhounds. You also want to be confident that the caretaker's family and pets are compatible with your pets. The potential permanent caretaker, the caretaker's family, and the caretaker's other pets should spend some time with your hounds to ensure compatibility. Test for this compatibility by leaving your hounds at the home of a potential caretaker while you are out of town or on vacation.

Just as parents differ in their approaches to child rearing, Greyhound owners differ in the way they handle their hounds. For example, some owners crate their Greyhounds while they are gone; others let them roam the house. Discuss these issues with your potential caretaker.

For permanent caretakers, taking on one or more pets is a financial burden. Discuss with potential caretakers compensation for providing permanent care for your hounds.

Some of your caretaker candidates may only be willing to serve as in a temporary capacity. Others may be more suitable as permanent caretakers. You may need both. It would not be unusual for a temporary caretaker to care for your hounds before transferring them to a permanent caretaker. If you find a caretaker who is willing to provide temporary or permanent care for your hounds, you should still consider finding a contingent or successor (backup) caretaker for your primary caretaker. Caretakers are subject to the same contingencies and emergencies that affect all of us, and may find themselves unable to care for your pet. Ideally, you would have three different individuals who could serve as temporary caretakers, and one individual who could serve as a permanent caretaker, with at least one successor permanent caretaker.

Preparing the Pet Information Sheet and Instructions

While you are selecting caretakers, prepare a Pet Information Sheet and Instructions for each of your pets. The Estate Planning for Pets Foundation has developed an excellent checklist for this purpose; you can find it on their website (www.estateplanningforpets.org). This form is reproduced in Figure 1. Use this

Figure 1: Pet Information Sheet

Description of typical daily routine for the care of the pet: _____

Accommodations (i.e., where the pet sleeps, where the pet stays during the day): _____

Diet (e.g., brand or type, instructions for mixing, feeding times): _____

Recreational activities (e.g., walks, games played): _____

Persons, objects, or circumstances that the pet does not like (e.g., men/women, water, loud noises): _____

Circumstances in which the pet will bite: _____

Other behavioral problems (e.g., incessant screeching at sunrise and sunset, chews electrical cords): _____

OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO PET CARE:

Type:	Location:
_____ Will	_____
_____ Trust agreement	_____
_____ Durable Power of attorney	_____
_____ Contract for care	_____
_____ Other: _____	_____

OTHER NOTES:

form to record your expectations of the care your Greyhounds will receive. The completed form will document identifying information about your Greyhound, care instructions, veterinary information, the location of other important records, and caretaker contact information. Part or all of the completed form can also be used to provide information and instructions to pet sitters/house sitters when you are on vacation.

Review and update the Pet Information Sheet on an annual basis or whenever there are changes that affect the care of your pet, such as changes in diet or medications, general health, or veterinarians.

Planning for Temporary Unforeseen Incidents

Establish a notification system so your temporary caretakers can spring into action in the event of an emergency. Carry an Emergency Alert Pet Card in your wallet or purse. This card lists the number, names, and types of your pets, and the names and phone numbers of the caretakers. Figure 2 displays an Emergency Alert Pet Card that has been put together by The Humane Society of the United States.

Inform your relatives of the names and phone numbers of the temporary caretakers in case they are the ones that are notified if you have an emergency or some other contingency.

Caretakers need to have access to your home to provide care for your pets. Give caretakers a set of keys or provide some other method of immediate access, such as contact information for a neighbor or family member who has keys.

Planning for Long-Term Incapacity or Death

Planning for the care of your Greyhounds in the event of your long-term incapacity, disability, or death involves financial and legal decisions.

The ongoing care of your Greyhounds requires money to pay for food, medicine, veterinary care, beds, collars, and toys. Ideally, the financial responsibility of the Greyhound's ongoing is determined during the process of selecting a permanent caretaker. You may wish to set aside funds to provide for the care of your pets. The amount set aside will depend on your Greyhound's age, health and life expectancy, as well as the amount you spend for food, veterinary care, toys, and other items and services.

The Estate Planning for Pets Foundation has produced a Microsoft Excel 2000 spreadsheet that you can use to estimate the future cost of caring for your pet. You can download the worksheet from the Foundation's website (www.estateplanningforpets.org). The sample worksheet in Figure 3 includes the numbers for Blue. Based on the worksheet, the estimated total I would need to set aside for Blue's care is \$17,000. Since the worksheet does not account for catastrophic medical events (osteosarcoma, for example), you

may want to set aside an additional amount for these circumstances.

Setting aside money to care for your pets will protect them in the event of a disability that causes you to experience a loss of income. If circumstances bring about your incapacity as well as your disability, you may no longer be able to make decisions about your pet's care. Planning for that contingency requires the execution of legal documents. There are two legal instruments that allow you to nominate someone to manage your property and financial affairs in the event you are incapacitated: a *durable power of attorney*, and a *revocable living trust*. Both instruments allow you to avoid the costly, time-consuming procedure of petitioning the probate court to appoint a guardian or conservator to handle your legal and financial affairs. Do not let the legal terminology scare you. Both of these documents are simple, effective tools that anyone can use to avoid the pitfalls presented by incapacity.

Durable Power of Attorney. A durable power of attorney is a legal document with which you can name a trusted person to act on your behalf with regard to property and financial matters. The person or persons you name as your agent is called an *attorney-in-fact*, although this individual does not have to be a lawyer. The document can either be effective with regard to the powers when it is executed (signed), or it can contain self-triggering provisions, called "springing powers," that cause the powers to come into effect, and stay in effect, *only* when you are incapacitated. The durable power of attorney can either give very broad or limited powers depending on what powers, authority, directions, and discretion you grant to your attorney-in-fact.

You should grant your attorney-in-fact the authority and direction to expend funds to care for your pet(s) according to your wishes. If possible, you may want to specify that you have continued contact with your pet during your incapacity or disability.

Revocable Living Trust. A revocable living trust is a legal document that can serve multiple purposes and functions with respect to assets held in a trust ownership. It is called a revocable living trust because you establish the trust during your lifetime, and at any time



Nosey, adopted by Jim Amos and Marcia Greer of Pinewood Springs, Colo.

prior to your death or incapacity you may change, amend, or completely revoke the trust.

One of the functions of a revocable living trust is to provide a mechanism for someone to take over and manage assets owned by a trust upon the incapacity of the trust creator. As creator of the trust, you are the primary lifetime beneficiary of the trust and the original trustee. The person or trust company that succeeds you as trustee upon your incapacity is referred to as the *contingent trustee* or *successor trustee*. You should give your contingent trustee the authority and directions to expend funds to care for your pet according to your wishes.

In order for a revocable living trust to be effective, it must be funded; that is, assets must be titled in the name of the trust. In many cases, this involves a simple retitling of assets that you already own, such as bank accounts or securities. The trust arrangement has the advantage of being relatively acceptable to financial institutions as compared to the durable power of attorney.

Whether you fund a revocable living trust or simply set aside money to be used by an attorney-in-fact, you will need a source of

cash. Fortunately, there are financial products and tools, and employee and government benefits available that provide some replacement of income and a source of cash. (Various forms of insurance, social security, and retirement plans are just a few examples.) A complete discussion of these tools and benefits is beyond the scope of this article.

Planning to care for your Greyhounds upon your death involves the use of two legal tools: The *will* and the *revocable living trust*.

Whether we realize it or not, we all have a plan for disposing of our assets after our death. The question is this: Did the state write your plan, in the form of the intestate (dying without a will) statutes of your state, or did you write it yourself? The will is the fundamental estate planning document. One common misconception is that the will controls the disposition of all the property that constitutes our estate. It does not. A will generally controls property that is titled in your name only. The disposition of other property is determined either by contract, as in the case of retirement plan benefits or life insurance (unless the beneficiary designation is the estate, in which case the will controls the disposition), or by operation of law, such

as property titled as joint tenants with right of survivorship.

The Greyhound adoption contract can control the choice of who will care for your Greyhound. If your Greyhound is considered owned as a joint tenancy, your Greyhound would go to the other joint tenant. If the other joint tenant happened to be your spouse, in most cases this would not be a problem.

A will may be used to create a type of trust known as a testamentary trust. For example, the creation of a testamentary trust to care for minor children is fairly common. These trusts may also be created with the objective of caring for your pets. Some states allow the creation of "pet trusts," or trusts where the pet is the "life" beneficiary. ("Pet trusts" and other trusts for the care of your pets will be discussed in detail later in this article.)

Be aware that provision for your pet's care through your will may become a public matter during probate (settlement of the will after your death), which is a lengthy and expensive process. Anyone who chooses can ask the probate court for a copy of your will. Disgruntled relatives may also contest the will. There are actual cases where disgruntled relatives have tried to contest the amount of money left to care for the decedent's pets.

As stated previously, a revocable living trust is a legal document that can serve multiple purposes and functions. One of the primary purposes and functions of a revocable living trust is to reduce or eliminate the probate administration expenses associated with a will. The trust would contain provisions for the distribution of your property at death, including bequests to individuals and charities. The trust can also establish "sub-trusts" at your death for the benefit of your spouse, children, a charity, or your pet. Unlike a will, the revocable living trust is a private, non-public arrangement, avoiding will contests and the publicity associated with probate. The revocable living trust, however, does not eliminate the need for a will. A will is still needed to name guardians for your minor children, and to distribute or "pour over" into the trust assets that were still titled solely in your name and were not titled in the name of the trust. This type of will is called a *pour over will*.

WALLET ALERT CARD
In the event of an emergency, please call the emergency caregivers for my pets listed on the back of this card

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

PET OWNER'S NAME _____

I HAVE _____ PETS IN MY HOME

PET'S NAME _____ TYPE OF ANIMAL _____

EMERGENCY PET CAREGIVERS

NAME _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

NAME _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

NAME _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

IF THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE CALL MY (circle one)
PET SITTER VETERINARIAN BOARDING KENNEL

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

Figure 2: Emergency Alert Card. Provided courtesy of The Humane Society of The United States.

Figure 3: Estimated Total Amount of Pet Caretaking Funds Required

Input: Enter numbers where indicated in green (or leave blank if N/A), and results are below.

Estimated annual % return on invested caretaker funds (after-tax): **4%** (percent)
 Estimated life expectancy of pet animal (see web page): **9** (years)
 (for table of life expectancy of various type of pet animals, go to <http://estateplanningforpets.org/faq2.htm>)

Estimated amounts spent monthly on:

Food	\$	50.00
Medications	\$	30.00
Grooming	\$	5.00
Other	\$	-

Estimated amounts spent annually on:

Veterinarian services	\$	600.00
Boarding, pet-sitting, etc.	\$	250.00
Toys, recreation, and entertainment	\$	50.00
Compensation to caretaker (in addition to reimbursements)	\$	-
Other	\$	-

Estimated amounts spent less frequently on:

New cages or other enclosures

- Estimated amount expended each occasion	\$	-	(must enter both
- Number of years between expenditures		-	fields to compute)

Other infrequent expenses

- Estimated amount expended each occasion	\$	150.00	(must enter both
- Number of years between expenditures		3	fields to compute)

Estimated amount for respectful disposition of pet's remains	\$	100.00
--	----	---------------

Results: Estimated total amount of caretaking funds needed:*

(assuming a 3% annual rate of inflation)

- For monthly expenditures	\$	8,776
- For annual expenditures	\$	7,709
- For other expenditures	\$	515
Total	\$	17,000

* Assumes that costs will increase 3% - the average annual rate of inflation.

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Planning Worksheet provided courtesy of The Estate Planning for Pets Foundation (www.estateplanningforpets.org)

Alternative Planning Arrangements

Using the above legal documents and tools, there are three planning approaches that you can use to arrange for the care of your Greyhounds upon your death: The outright gift or bequest of your pet to caretakers; a pet trust arrangement; or a traditional legal trust for the care of your pet.

The simplest planning arrangement is the outright gift or bequest, either in a will or revocable living trust, of your pet to the caretaker of your choice. Depending on your relationship with the caretaker, you may or may not include an additional bequest of the necessary funds to care for your pet. For example, if the caretaker is a relative and a beneficiary of other inheritances, then sepa-

rate funds for the care of the pet may not be necessary. On the other hand, if the caretaker is not a beneficiary under the will or revocable living trust or an organization, you may decide to provide the caretaker with the funds necessary to care for the pet. Since under this arrangement the caretaker would be entitled to keep any "excess" funds, you would have to have full faith and trust in the caretaker to use the funds appropriately for the care of your pet.

Pet Trust. Under the common law in the United States, a pet cannot be a beneficiary of a trust, nor can the duration of the trust be tied to the lifetime of a pet. However, approximately 25 states have some type of pet trust statute that allows trusts where the pet is the

beneficiary of the trust during the pet's life. (Figure 4 lists the states that either have or are considering pet trust statutes.) The pet trust statutes were enacted to enable pet owners to care for their pets after their death. These trusts may be created in a will or a revocable living trust. In fact, although it may not be explicitly stated by the will or revocable living trust, certain arrangements, and "liberal" interpretation of the intentions of the deceased, could be construed as creating a pet trust in most states that have pet trust statutes.

Most state statutes provide for reduced and simplified administration of the pet trust. Typically, the caretaker is the trustee of the trust. After the pet dies, excess funds go to a beneficiary called a remainder beneficiary. To

avoid creating a conflict of interest, the remainder beneficiary should not be the caretaker trustee. It is best to designate a non-profit animal organization, such as a Greyhound adoption group, as the remainder beneficiary. The duration of the trust within most states is the life of the pet.

In general, there are two types of pet trust statutes: Honorary trusts and statutory pet trusts. Honorary trusts are unenforceable, since there is not a human beneficiary to enforce the trust terms and provisions; the trustee is on his or her "honor" to carry out the terms of the trust. Statutory pet trusts provide that a pet trust may be enforced by an individual, or person, named in the terms of the trust for that purpose or, if no person is so appointed, by an individual appointed by the court. An individual may also petition the court to have the trust enforced. The statutory pet trust statutes also provide that a court may reduce the amount of caretaking funds initially passing to the pet trust if it substantially exceeds the amount reasonably required to care for the pet. This points to the importance of naming a charitable animal organization, such as a Greyhound adoption group, as the remainder beneficiary of any excess caretaking funds to avoid a challenge by disgruntled heirs or trust beneficiaries who would otherwise be the remainder beneficiaries of those funds. The statutory pet trust arrangement provides more control and enforcement of the pet owner's desires and wishes than an outright gift or bequest.

Pet trust statutes were designed to carry out the intentions of pet owners after their deaths, and to make the best of poorly drafted legal instruments. In other words, it is best to have a well-drafted legal instrument as opposed to relying on these statutes.

Traditional Legal Trust for the Care of Your Pet. Unlike the pet trust arrangement, the traditional legal trust is valid and enforceable in all states. The trust may be created by a will or a revocable living trust. The caretaker, or successor caretaker, is named the beneficiary of the trust for the life of the pet, *conditioned* on caring for the pet. A separate, independent trustee oversees that the pet receives proper care during the life of the pet. The trustee manages the trust funds and administers the trust.

After the pet's death, any excess funds would go to a remainder beneficiary. As in the pet trust arrangement, naming an animal-related charity such as a Greyhound adoption group as the remainder beneficiary is highly recommended.

The traditional legal trust provides the most, and best, control and enforcement of your intentions for your pet's care after your death.

Planning for the care of your pets should be part of your overall financial and estate plans. Financial and estate planning has many benefits for you and your family beyond just caring for your Greyhounds. However, you need to stop procrastinating and get started. People do not plan to fail. . . they fail to plan. ■

Gary L. Flotron is principal of G.L. Flotron & Associates, and specializes in estate and business planning, and executive and employee benefit plans. He is also an Adjunct Faculty member of the School of Business, University of Missouri at St. Louis, where he teaches courses in estate and trust planning, employee benefits, and life insurance. He and his wife Marian live in St. Louis with their Greyhounds Tiny, Blue, and Jackson and have been active in various Greyhound adoption groups.

The author is not an attorney. While this article is designed to provide what is believed to



Kele, adopted by Sylvia Kraus of Aledo, Texas.

be accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered, it is provided with the understanding that the author and publisher are not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, and other professional service or advice. If legal advice and other expert assistance are required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought.

This article has been condensed from "Greyhounds and Wills and More — Planning for Your Greyhound's Care" by the author.

Figure 4: States with Pet Trust Statutes

The following is a list of states that have either enacted some time of pet trust statute(s) or are considering some type of pet trust statute(s) as of June 1, 2005:

Alaska	Illinois	New Hampshire	Texas
Arizona	Iowa	New Jersey	Utah
Arkansas	Kansas	New Mexico	Virginia
California	Maine	New York	Washington
Colorado	Massachusetts	North Carolina	West Virginia
Connecticut	Michigan	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
District of Columbia	Missouri	Oregon	Wyoming
Florida	Montana	Pennsylvania	
Hawaii	Nebraska	Rhode Island	
Idaho	Nevada	Tennessee	

Compiled from data from The Estate Planning for Pets Foundation website, www.estateplanningforpets.org.



Scooter's day begins.



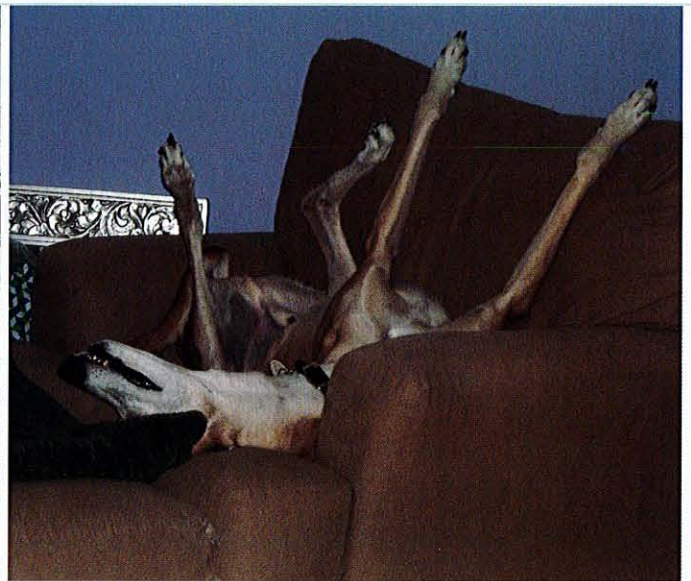
Scooter, after breakfast.

The Roaches of Scooter

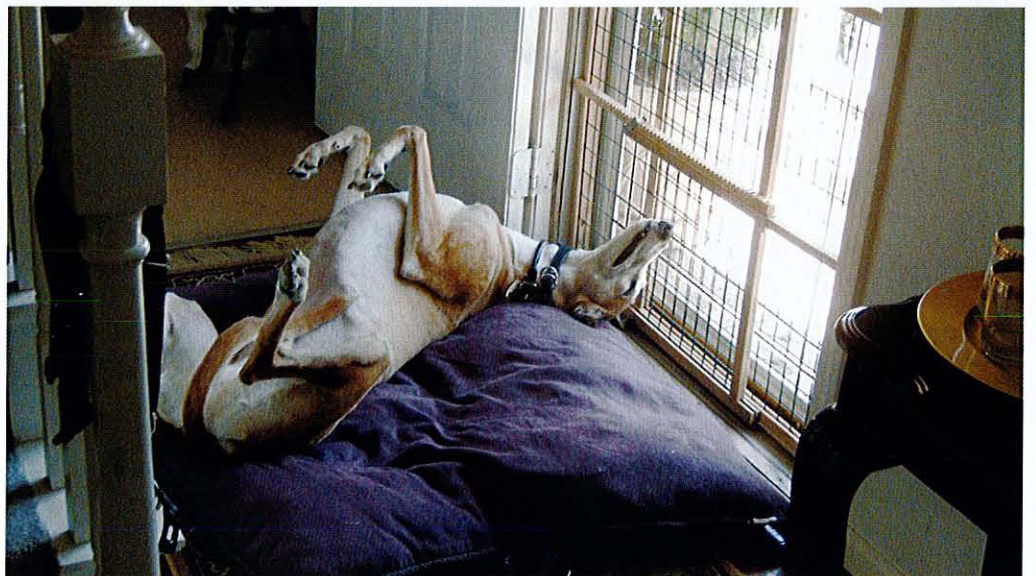
In the Greyhound world, “cockroaching” is a term that describes the relaxed Greyhound’s tendency to lay on its back with all four legs in the air, like a dead cockroach. Scooter is a 7-year-old retired racing Greyhound who lives with Jennifer Norton in Nashville, Tennessee. As Jennifer’s photographs indicate, Scooter takes his retirement very seriously. ■



Mid-morning.



Clockwise from top:
Was that the mailman?
Early afternoon.
Late afternoon.
After dinner.
The end of a perfect day.





Jetson and Maya, adopted by Johanna Dragner of Sarasota, Fla.

Conversations with Dogs

By Claudia Presto

The sun is barely peering over the horizon when a wet nose pushes its way into mine. My arms flail as I roll over to wide eyes peering at me, and tail thumping against covers. I roll back and look at the clock. Yep, never fails. It's 6:30 a.m. and time to get up. I roll back and throw my arms around Beauty and Annie (whose nose is now peeking out from under the covers), giving them hugs and kisses. "You guys are the best, you know how much I love you, can I sleep another few minutes please?" But by then my movement has been noted by others. There are now at least two more dogs at the head of the bed, grinning and prancing because they just know it's time — time to start our day with a hike.

I have no choice but to roll out of bed while the Mexican jumping beans start their morning salute. "Easy, easy, give me some room." They all crowd into the bathroom — licks, snorts, and greetings — amid the palpable excitement that their run is soon.

Pushing hair from my eyes, I drag myself to the closet and scramble into shorts and shirt. "Easy, I'm going as fast as I can." When I grab the sneakers and socks, the ground vibrates as they drum their joy. "If you get off of those shoes then I can put them on, and we'll get out of here faster. Why don't you go outside and wait for me?" They leap from couch to chair, and would tie my shoes for me if they could. "Okay, okay, I'm hurrying," is my morning mantra.

I can't help but laugh as they fly through the yard to the van — lining up to leap into it. "You guys are too funny," I tell them over and over as I shake my head. Beauty claims the front seat. Annie is on the middle foam piece next to her. Winslow lies in the back against the front seats. Marm goes to the back of the van, in her perfect sit position, viewing the world as her oyster.

We drive down a red sandy road into a boxed, red cliff-sided canyon, lined with sage and juniper. The interplay of teal brush with terra cotta cliffs and blue-carpeted skies has us all anticipating. I open the van doors and they pile out of the car. Stumbling over each other in their eagerness to go, to do, to be. They hit the ground running in all different directions. Yet with one yell from me — “Okay everybody, this way” — we’re all off on the red dirt path, together. Moving, going; no destination, just free.

They shuffle and sniff as their day truly begins. My patter as we walk up the red dirt road:

“Miss Marm, you are the best girl. You listen so well, you are so beautiful. Want to run up that hill? Okay, on your mark . . . get set . . . go — ahh, gotcha — look at you up there, aren’t you something else! Be careful, not so fast. I know, you can do it. You are queen of the hill.”



Whisper, adopted by Danielle Ring and Jim McInerney of Falls Church, Va.

Poetry

Greyhound,
as you open your eyes,
those magnificent brown eyes
tracking my every move
you spring up
all ready to play.
I throw a stick
you chase the stick
you find the stick
you come back . . .
no stick
we both sit down
I stroke your head
you lick my hand
you fall asleep
eternally taking up space
another failed attempt at play

—Alex Casebeer (age 12)

“Beauty, you are my most beautiful of beauteous potomuses. You okay, honey? Are you sure? Don’t run so fast, sweetie, take it easy. I know, you used to run farther and faster than Marm. You were the best. You’re still the best. You’ll always be my most favorite girl, and I love you, love you, love you very, very much.”

“Annie bananie — go go go. Suupper Grrrrllll. You are too damn cute, you little thing. Let’s go Annie, come on. Go Annie go. Superrrrr Girlllll!”

“Winslow. Wwiiiiinnssllloowww. Hey buddy, thanks for waiting for us. Appreciate that. You want a pet? Okay. You are the best boy. Who loves you? Who do you love? Go on, go ahead you can check that out. Just wait for us up there, okay? That’s my best boy.”

As we make our turn and head back for the car, I marvel at the joy they get from just running for the pure pleasure. Marm’s best joy is leaping up a red sand hill. Winslow’s is loping along, always ahead of the pack. Annie darts and does figure eights. And my Beauty, traveling off to check things out, always by my side.

During the car ride back, it’s a stream of: “Do you guys mind if I do a few errands? What good dogs you are. Thanks for waiting,

you’re so patient and sweet. Annie, I need my seat back. Have I told you guys today how much I love you?”

These streams of words are always accompanied with touching. There isn’t a moment when my hands aren’t on a dog. Annie makes sure of that even when I’m driving. “One hand,” she says, “you can drive with one hand, and the other belongs on me.”

My deluge of words, in the company of Greyhounds, flows without thought, from my mouth, through my heart. I often wonder if I spoke to my family, friends, and lovers the way I speak to my dogs, what their reactions would be. If I spent my days telling them:

“Have I told you today how much I love you?”

“You are so gorgeous, I just can’t get enough of you.”

“You make my heart sing.”

“I will always love you. You are the best.”

If I said those things every day. Over and over. Would they start believing it? Would they stick around to hear more?

Could it change the world? ■

Claudia Presto (www.greyhoundgang.org) dedicates this story to Beauty, Winslow, and Marm, who now walk with her in spirit. And with whom she still carries on conversations.



Liz, adopted by Suzy and David Denniston of Gahanna, Ohio.

Mitochondrial Myopathy in an Elderly Greyhound

By Barbara Gracious

We first noticed that our 11-year-old black and white “boy with the big heart” was not himself on Easter weekend of April 2003. It was unseasonably warm, and as my husband, our daughter, and Excel went for a walk, it became apparent he was out of breath and overheated too easily. I thought this was perhaps because he was out of shape, as the Rochester winter had been long and snowy, limiting his walks to short distances to accomplish necessary business. Excel had previously been very healthy, and had been able to walk a mile at a time. He was taking only two medicines since we adopted him in 1994: Soloxine® for hypothyroidism and steroid drops for pannus of the left eye.

As the spring progressed, it became clear that he was short of breath on exertion and had decreased exercise tolerance. He also began to “clomp” when he walked. Our local veterinarian performed a chest x-ray, thought his heart was enlarged, and started him on Lasix, a diuretic. This appeared to help somewhat, but he was still short of breath. His lab work returned showing a large amount of protein in his urine and markedly elevated triglycerides as well as multiple mild abnormalities in other laboratory parameters that were not specific for any disease. In addition, the sedimentation rate and lupus screen were negative. We were referred to Cornell Veterinary School in Ithaca, New York for an echocardiogram to rule out congestive heart failure.

To our surprise, the Cornell cardiologist found no evidence of heart dysfunction. We were advised to see a canine internist, which we did at our local specialty clinic. Prior to the appointment, I was suspicious that perhaps the steroid eye drops were getting absorbed and causing him to retain too much fluid. I stopped them, which is not recommended, and Excel had two days of extreme weakness until his own body began making cortisol. The internist performed an ACTH stimulation test to rule out adrenal disease. She then thought that Excel might have dementia. This did not make sense to us since he was not appearing confused, just short of breath and weak. She also found him to have significant high blood pressure (200-220 systolic), also unusual in a Greyhound. He was started on Enapril® 40 mg per day.

Throughout this process, Excel's exercise tolerance went down and his shortness of breath increased. He developed chronic sinus drainage. He seemed to be losing muscle mass, especially in his respiratory muscles, but his weight had not changed significantly, falsely reassuring the medical team. The summer heat seemed to worsen his condition, and I became concerned he would have respiratory arrest just walking a block or so. His urine became a very cloudy brown. He developed left leg weakness and pain and was diagnosed with a herniated lumbar disc. He was then placed on Robaxin®, a common muscle relaxant, which was helpful for the back discomfort and the increasing stiffness in his muscles. Rimadyl® was also added, which he has fortunately tolerated with improvement in pain from his back and presumed arthritis.

I was becoming increasingly frustrated at his downward spiral and as a physician trained in psychiatry and internal medicine, began my own Internet research. I thought he might have a degenerative myelopathy, characterized by a painless and slow progressive weakness of the rear limbs. In this test, nerve conduction studies would show abnormalities and a CT or MRI scan would rule out the presence of disc disease, tumors, or other abnormalities. I also considered laryngeal paralysis, which is a failure of the "voice box" to open completely during aspiration to

allow normal breathing. This condition would result in loud breathing, difficulty breathing in, and stridor (creation of noise that sounds like high-pitched gasping). The signs of this disorder are made worse by exercise, hot and humid weather, and obesity. Dogs can aspirate and develop pneumonia with this condition which, if appropriate, can be treated surgically.

Asking colleagues within our local Greyhound rescue group, I received the name of a veterinary neurologist in our area and quickly made an appointment. In September, Dr. Speciale gave Excel an extremely thorough physical exam. He was puzzled by Excel's condition and pursued additional tests for what he thought might be a muscle disorder. The tests included a urine test for carnitine (an amino acid). Our diagnosis was ultimately made by obtaining pre- and post-exercise arterial and venous blood gases. The hospital at which I worked fortunately had a vivarium and staff willing to work with us to run special lab tests. The blood gases showed that Excel was unable to extract oxygen from his red blood cells, indicative of a primary mitochondrial muscle disease. Mitochondria are the "energy producing" bodies within cells and are unique in that they have their own DNA that is separate from the cellular DNA. We discussed performing a muscle biopsy to confirm the

diagnosis, which would show degeneration of the muscle cells under a microscope. (This can be a painful test and is usually performed under general anesthesia.)

I subsequently brought Excel in for the muscle biopsy. A conservative neurologist, Dr. Speciale watched him and waited during the day to observe. By the evening, the stress of being in the kennel produced a dog with rigors (severe muscle tremors with stiffness) and a temperature of over 107 degrees. I was called to the treatment room where Excel stood shaking while being given a cold shower. I took him to our local veterinary specialty emergency room for consideration of cold IV fluids and further monitoring. As he calmed away from the stress of the veterinary offices, I took him home on advice from the emergency veterinarian and monitored his rectal temperature overnight. Our second diagnosis: malignant hyperthermia, also known as canine stress syndrome, which occurs occasionally in Greyhounds and other large dogs. For the months that followed, he would have 20-minute periods of increased panting and high temperature, often for no apparent reason. If Excel had undergone general anesthesia for the muscle biopsy, he may have died as a complication of the anesthetic. Humans with malignant hyperthermia have a similar risk, making anesthesia choices critical for them. Fortunately, a family history of



Leopard, adopted by Kathy Madej of Anchorage, Alaska.

the disorder and a blood test can now identify who is at risk, enabling development of a special anesthesia plan.

Dr. Speciale consulted with a colleague in California who has a research lab studying mitochondrial disorders in canines. At the end of September, five months after his initial presentation, a treatment was recommended with no guarantee of response (Figure 1). Excel was placed on a regimen of L-carnitine and antioxidants including Vitamin C, Vitamin B1, and CoQ 10 (also known as coenzyme Q), all of which I was fortunately able to obtain at our local Vitamin World store. It is true that peanut butter may be the best substance for assisting dogs in taking their pills.

Excel had a dramatic response within several days to what I thought was the L-carnitine. His lab abnormalities, including the high triglycerides and protein in the urine, resolved. His Enapril[®] was tapered to 10 mg per day. We have avoided veterinary office visits, and no further episodes of prolonged hyperthermia have occurred. His quality of

life improved, he gained weight, and he was able to walk, on one occasion, a mile. The CoQ 10 appeared to agitate him even at a dose of 10 mg every 3rd day; I gradually tapered and discontinued this treatment.

Excel's response continued for about five months, when again, his symptoms appeared to be progressing. We went back to see Dr. Speciale who had, unfortunately, nothing further to recommend. I had increased the carnitine dosage with some improvement, and had taken to the appointment additional articles on treatment options for human mitochondrial muscle diseases I had found, including one on creatine, the amino acid powder body builders use. After the appointment, driven by the need to do something to help my pet, and knowing there was nothing to lose at this point, I went to Vitamin World and purchased a container of creatine powder, beginning at the lowest suggested human dose.

One year after initial presentation of his symptoms, with one teaspoon a day of creatine powder, added to his L-carnitine liquid of 4-500 mg tablespoons twice a day, Excel

returned to only what I can call a "normal old dog (Figure 2)." My grief at the prospect of seeing him not live with me as an elderly pet was changed to joy at just being able to face the common problems of fussy eating and arthritic legs. I also added biotin 1,000 mg/day as a supplement, recommended for humans with mitochondrial disorders. Excel's response to the creatine has been dramatic and ongoing except for a period when, coming toward the bottom of the container, his symptoms again worsened. I suspect that the powder absorbed water from the air very easily and that it had become ineffective. On changing to a new container, he again improved.

In retrospect, there may have been signs that Excel had a tendency toward this disorder at a young age. First, he was retired at 2 and a half years of age, a relatively young age for such a healthy dog. Second, he was always a "high stepper," which I just thought was part of his exuberant personality. He avoided going up stairs. He was a very sensitive and anxious dog who appeared to worry



Casserole, adopted by Frances Rentschler of Paoli, Pa.

Figure 1

Initial dietary supplement doses recommended for Excel:
L-carnitine 50 mg/kg per day
Roboflavin 50 mg per day
Vitamin C 500 mg per day
CoQ 10 1 mg per day

Figure 2

Excel's current regimen:
L-Carnitine liquid 4 tablespoons (2,000 mg) per day
Creatine powder 5,000 mg per day
Vitamin B complex time release 1 per day
Biotin 1000 mg q day
L-Methionine 500 mg per day (may help blood gas abnormalities)
Enalapril 10 mg per day (for blood pressure)
Soloxine 0.8 mg twice per day (for hypothyroidism)
0.2% cyclosporine ophthalmologic ointment (for pannus)
Robaxin 500 mg twice per day
Amoxicillin 400 mg per day (for chronic gingivitis)
Glucosamine sulfate 500 mg per day (for arthritis)
Rimadyl 100 mg per day (for arthritis)

and was especially anxious about going to the veterinarian. I contacted the adoption group in Texas as well as NGA about Excel (NXS Excelerate), but was unable to pass his information to the breeder, so I am unaware if other dogs with his genetic profile have developed a similar illness.

Mitochondrial disorders have different forms and numerous different mechanisms of dysfunction in both humans and animals. The condition may be inherited or may occur spontaneously as the result of a genetic mutation. In Excel's case, it appears that the worsening was tied to more and more muscle cells deteriorating under the stress of working without sufficient oxygen. Mitochondrial myopathies have been reported in different breeds of dogs at different ages; different mechanisms of what is going wrong with the mitochondrial function have been demonstrated. A consistent finding clinically is abnormal arterial blood gases after exercise, which show elevated lactic



Bella, adopted by Tina Baker and Ken Supple of Pittsfield, Mass.

acid and pyruvate, leading to muscle weakness and cramping. Another characteristic finding is an elevated CK enzyme (creatine kinase), which can indicate breakdown of muscle tissue.

Malignant hyperthermia is a life-threatening condition triggered in humans, pigs, dogs, and cats usually by certain anesthetic agents such as halothane and succinylcholine. A defect in calcium balance across part of the muscle cell results in continued muscle contraction, which leads to low glucose levels, decreased oxygenation in the blood, increased body temperature, increased potassium and lactic acid, and blood gas abnormalities. If muscle tissue is dying, the creatine kinase enzyme is again elevated, and can result in kidney failure. Clinical symptoms include increased temperature, increased heart and respiratory rate, severe limb and jaw rigidity, followed by respiratory and cardiac arrest. This disorder has been described in young and mature larger dogs including Greyhounds, and may be inherited as an autosomal dominant disorder. Dogs susceptible to malignant hyperthermia may be nervous and difficult to handle and have large muscles with increased tone and strength. Screening tests are available; the first exposure to anesthesia may not produce symptoms.

Excel crossed the interface of veterinary and human medicine in one other way. I was able, through connections at the hospital, to contact a researcher in Philadelphia examining a specific genetic mutation, which he believes may be a key to stress-induced muscle deterioration in humans with mitochondrial myopathy. Although Excel tested negative for the protein produced by the gene, and was unable to provide a sample of muscle

tissue, his illness motivated a continued search for canine models that could contribute to drug development for humans and animals with this rare disorder. He may also participate in a Phase I study for dosing and safety information for an experimental compound that shows promise for the treatment of Frederick's ataxia, a degenerative disorder of the cerebellum, which controls coordination of muscles in humans. In turn, I have learned that the human form of this disorder is more common, and often unrecognized, than I had learned in medical school. I hope that Excel can serve as an inspiration to encourage more owners to help expand our knowledge by seeking research studies through veterinary colleges. Suspicion and early detection are key to improving pet and human quality of life. ■

References:

International Veterinary Information Service, Ithaca NY (www.ivis.org)
www.rarediseases.org (National Organization for Rare Diseases)
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (www.umdf.org)

Barbara Gracious is an internist turned child psychiatrist who studies treatments for bipolar disorder in adolescents. She and husband Mark Klemens adopted their first Greyhound Amy (AKA Beulah's Gem, granddaughter of Westy Whizzer) in 1992. Together with daughter Virginia, they have had five Greyhounds. She has volunteered in the past with GPA/Central Texas and has been secretary and a past board member of GPA/Western New York. In her retirement she would love to have a hobby farm with a Greyhound kennel.



Inca, adopted by Barb Godlew of Allegan, Mich.

Diagnosing Kidney Disease

By William E. Feeman III, DVM

The kidneys are a complex pair of organs that serve many functions in the body. These functions include, but are not limited to: conservation of water, formation of urine, electrolyte balance, and acid-base regulation. Kidney disease or dysfunction could thus result in an inability to perform one or more of these functions. Clinical signs of kidney disease include increased drinking, increased urination, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, anorexia, weight loss, and lethargy.

Kidney disease can be diagnosed in many ways, but blood work is the most common method. The two main parameters used to judge kidney function from a blood test are the blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine levels. However, a diagnosis of kidney disease based on this test alone can be misleading, because both BUN and creatinine levels can also be elevated as a result of dehydration or urinary obstruction. In order for the BUN and creatinine to be elevated secondary to kidney disease, 75 percent of the kidney function must be compromised. Therefore, if 74 percent of kidney function is lost, the BUN and creatinine may still be normal.

A urinalysis can also be used to help in the diagnosis of kidney disease. The kidneys concentrate the urine and are responsible for reabsorbing water out of the urine. Elevated protein levels in the urine can be indicative of either kidney disease (glomerular disease) or inflammation of the bladder. A urine protein creatinine ratio (UPCR) test can be

performed to help determine the source of the urinary protein. An elevated UPCr is often indicative of kidney disease. In addition, a new diagnostic test (HESKA ERD screens) has become available in the last two years and can detect trace amounts of protein (microalbuminuria) that are too small to be identified in a normal urine sample. It is postulated that the presence of microalbuminuria is an early indicator of kidney disease.

The urine specific gravity (USG) measures the concentration of the urine and aids in the diagnosis of kidney disease. The kidneys lose the ability to concentrate urine when 66 percent of kidney function is lost. A urine specific gravity greater than 1.020 is considered adequate and indicative of functioning kidneys. However, an increase in water intake (polydipsia) can result in a low USG and therefore be the result of diseases unrelated to the kidneys. A low USG is found in most cases of kidney disease, but it is not always diagnostic for kidney disease. It is also critical that the USG is measured using a refractometer for the USG found on many urine sticks can be highly inaccurate.

The final measures that aid in the diagnosis of kidney disease are x-rays (radiographs) and ultrasound. Radiographs allow the veterinarian to evaluate the shape and size of the kidneys and look for kidney stones. Abnormally large or small kidneys are a strong indicator of kidney disease. An ultrasound further allows the veterinarian to evaluate kidney structure and architecture. In some cases, an ultrasound-guided biopsy of the kidney may be performed for a definitive diagnosis.

Treatment options for kidney disease vary widely depending on the diagnosis. A simple change in diet is recommended for mild cases. Hospitalization, intravenous fluids, and surgery may be recommended for more severe cases.

The complicating factor in the diagnosis of kidney disease in Greyhounds is that Greyhounds run significantly higher BUN and creatinine levels than do other breeds (exact values vary by the laboratory used). Many Greyhounds have high-normal or just above normal BUN and creatinine values, yet their kidney function is completely normal.

If your veterinarian is suspicious of kidney disease based on only mild elevations in blood work, ask him or her to run a urinaly-



Britt, adopted by Todd Kasstad of Denton, Texas.

sis and to check the USG using a refractometer. If the USG is greater than 1.020, the elevations in blood work are likely to be from a source other than kidney disease. In this example, the values are suspected to be normal for a Greyhound. If the urine specific gravity is low and there is no protein in the urine, request an ERD urine screen. If this test is negative and the Greyhound is asymp-

tomatic, I would recommend rechecking the BUN and creatinine in another four to six weeks to ensure that the values are not worsening. Elevating values over this time period would be indicative of kidney disease, and appropriate treatment should then be discussed with your veterinarian. ■

Dr. Feeman is a CG regular contributor.



Tan Photo Pocket Card

Holiday Stamping Projects:

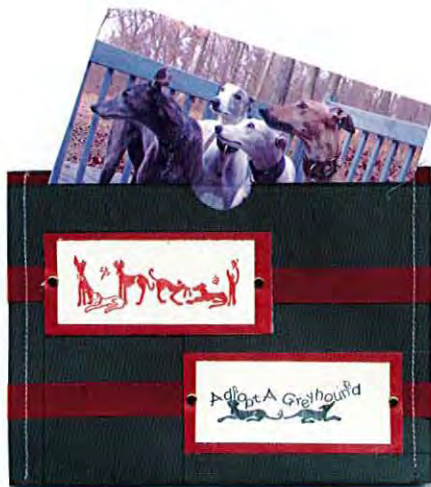
Photo Album or Scrapbooks and Photo-Pocket Cards

By Lisann Porter and Becky Taggart-Redmond

Use these easy, fun, and creative ways to share Greyhound photos with friends and family. They are a nice way to say thank you or happy holidays. Pocket cards work with your other pets and human photographs, too.

Getting started:

- Select your favorite photos. Any size will work. Allow three to five photos for each photo album/scrapbook page and one or more photos for the pocket cards.
- Colored paper or card stock in two to three colors (acid-free paper suggested).
- Basic rubber stamping supplies: ink pads, several rubber stamps, ruler, scissors, adhesive (glue stick, mono adhesive, or double-sided tape), permanent markers, colored pencils and chalk, cotton swabs, brushes.
- Additional supplies: Paper trimmer, fun accent accessories such as ribbon, colored brads, wire spiral curls, buttons.
- Refer to previous CG stamping articles ("Be Creative and Have Fun with Greyhound Rubber Stamps," Fall 2004; "Holiday Fun with Greyhound Rubber Stamps," Winter 2004; "More Fun with Greyhound Rubber Stamps," Summer 2005) for basic stamping instructions and specialty techniques. Copies of these articles are also available online at www.voyagersjewelrydesign.com in the Greyhound section.
- Scrapbook and rubber stamping supplies are available at most craft stores. Also recommended is www.stampinup.com



Green Photo Pocket Card

Greyhound Photo Envelope Cards

Begin by trimming cardstock to 7" x 10 1/2". To form the envelope: Fold cardstock in half, leaving approximately one-fourth inch extra on top. Use ribbon or coordinating paper to add color to the top before sewing the sides of the envelope. Stitch on your sewing machine or by hand approximately one-fourth inch from the edge of each side to form the envelope, leaving only the top open. You could also stitch along the bottom. Once the envelope is complete, decorate it with Greyhound stamps, ribbons, brads, and buttons.

Tan Photo Pocket Card details:

Tan pocket with shades of green and red and cream squares with accent buttons and ribbon

- #104V, Playing Hound rubber stamp
 - #99V, Greyhounds, Greyhounds rubber stamp
 - #97V, Smile with Butterfly rubber stamp
- Green Photo Pocket Card details:
Dark green pocket with red and cream squares accented by dark red ribbon and gold brads.
- #95V, Adopt with two hounds rubber stamp
 - #98V, Six Happy Hounds rubber stamp
 - #96V, Live, Laugh & Love Greyhounds rubber stamp



Green Photo Pocket Card, back view

Holiday Wishes Scrapbook Pages

Select your photos and trim to size. Choose two to three paper colors that accent the photos. Stamp across the bottom of the page to create a pattern. Trim around stamp design and mount to cardstock. Stamp title, cut into squares, or punch out with square paper punch. Distress the edges of the squares by gently dragging the paper across or smudging it with a cotton swab. Mount to top of page. Add coordinating buttons.

Finish page by mounting photos and stamped images on assorted colors of paper. Stamp another pattern across bottom of page; add ribbon and bow with adhesive to another rectangle of paper for a gift-wrapped box decoration.

Holiday Wishes Scrapbook details:

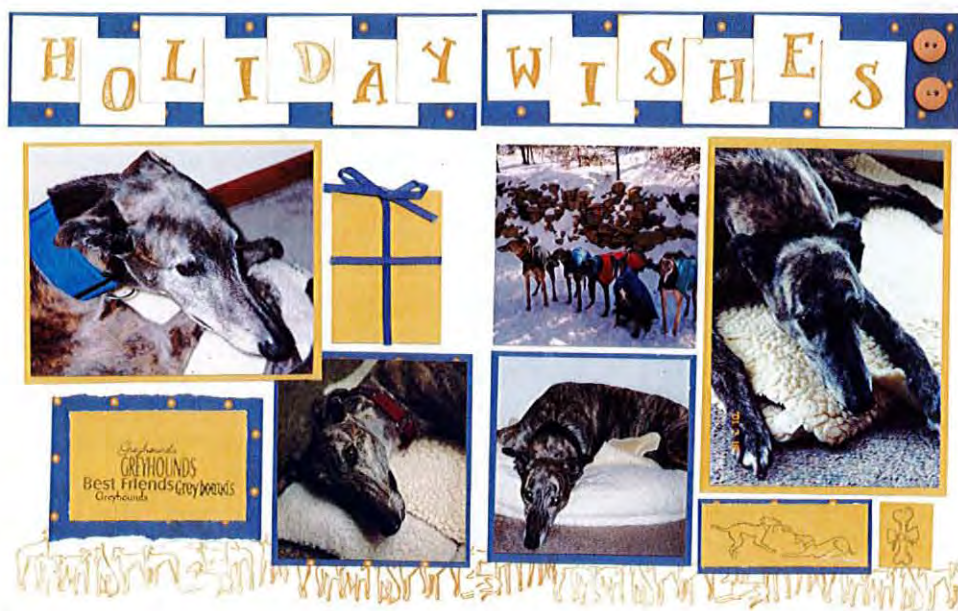
- Off-white heavyweight paper
- Dark royal blue, gold, and off-white paper for mounting photos and stamping accents

- #LG101V, Ten Hounds extra-large rubber stamp
 - #24V, Tug-of-War rubber stamp
 - #93V, Bone Gift rubber stamp
 - #99V, Greyhounds, Greyhounds, Best Friends rubber stamp
- Holiday/True Contentment Scrapbook Pages

Tear patterned holiday paper and adhere it to the solid colored sheets. Select photos and trim to size. Stamp and trim several other Greyhound images to create a fun layout.

The computer was used to print out a few Greyhound thoughts, highlighting some special words in a larger size using different fonts. Be sure to use a color that will coordinate with your stamp pad inks. Choose a stamp to place at the top of your copy.

This long, narrow section could also be used to arrange an assortment of tiny photographs or another odd-shaped photo.





TRUE CONTENTMENT is making my person happy. Seeing them smile makes me smile. Sleeping by a sunny window makes them want to **pet me**. Sitting politely with a little smile causes them to make approving noises and go to the kitchen for a **treat**. It doesn't take much to make a person happy. Just play with me, love me and feed me and **I WILL MAKE YOU SMILE.**



**Holiday/True Contentment
Scrapbook details:**

- Gold heavyweight paper
- Cream or off-white paper
- Holiday patterned paper with various shades of green and gold images
- #LG66V, Greyhound on Bones extra large rubber stamp
- #22V, Napping rubber stamp
- #93V, Bone Gift rubber stamp
- Hints and Reminders
- Use any wider, horizontal stamp (such as

#95V through #102V) to stamp a pattern on your paper. Use VersaMark™ or a stamp color similar to the background paper that you are using to create a subtle effect.

Remember to practice with your inks and stamps on scraps of paper. Be sure to press the rubber stamp on the inkpad several times. Press the stamp firmly; do not rock the stamp. Lift the stamp straight up (not on an angle) from the paper.

And always have fun with your stamping projects!

Lisann Porter and Becky Taggart-Redmond (and their Greyhounds) work together and promote Greyhound adoption Cambridge, Wisc. The Redmonds have been adopting Greyhounds for over 15 years. The Greyhounds continue to be their inspiration for Greyhound jewelry and rubber stamp creations. Over 100 original design Greyhound rubber stamps are available at The Voyagers (<http://www.voyagersjewelrydesign.com>)

Saturday and Sunday, December 3 & 4
Ninth Annual Craft Show and Pet Expo
 Greyhound Friends of New Jersey
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday; 10:00
 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday
 4-H Building
 Milltown Road
 Bridgewater, N.J.

Craft show and pet expo featuring wonderful vendors selling a variety of items for both humans and our animal friends, raffle, Santa photos, Greyhound adoption information, bake table, refreshments. Contact: Patty Comerford, (732) 566-2226 or pac173@aol.com

Sunday, December 4
Holiday Hound Festival
 GPA/Daytona Beach
 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Daytona Beach Kennel Club
 2201 W. International Speedway Blvd.
 Daytona Beach, Fla.

Lots of vendors with gift items for the holidays, raffle, silent auction, games and prizes, and pictures taken with Santa. Contact: Chris Miller, (386) 239-3647 or gpadaytona@cfl.rr.com

Saturday, December 10 and 17
Holiday Boutique
 Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption
 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 11356 Foley Boulevard
 Coon Rapids, Minn.

Bring your shopping list and check it twice! Gifts for Greyhounds and Greyhound lovers alike. Contact: Donna Barr, (763) 754-9754 or guber2nac@aol.com

Sunday, January 15
Winter Gathering
 GPA/Nashville
 Livestock Center at Middle Tennessee State University
 Murfreesboro, Tenn. (35 miles south of Nashville)

Food, vendors, games, and a chance for muzzled hounds to run off lead in the heated livestock arena. \$5/individual, \$10/family. Contact: Mardy Fones, (615) 297-2033 or mafones@comcast.net; www.nashvillegreys.com

Sunday, February 26
Woofstock 2006
 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 GPA/Central Florida (Melbourne)
 Wickham Park Main Pavilion
 Just south of BCC on Wickham and Post Roads
 Melbourne, Fla.

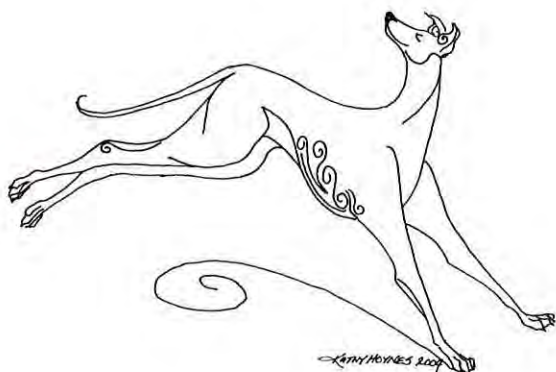
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Sunday, April 2
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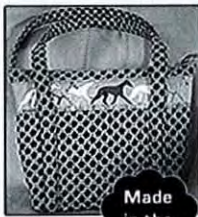
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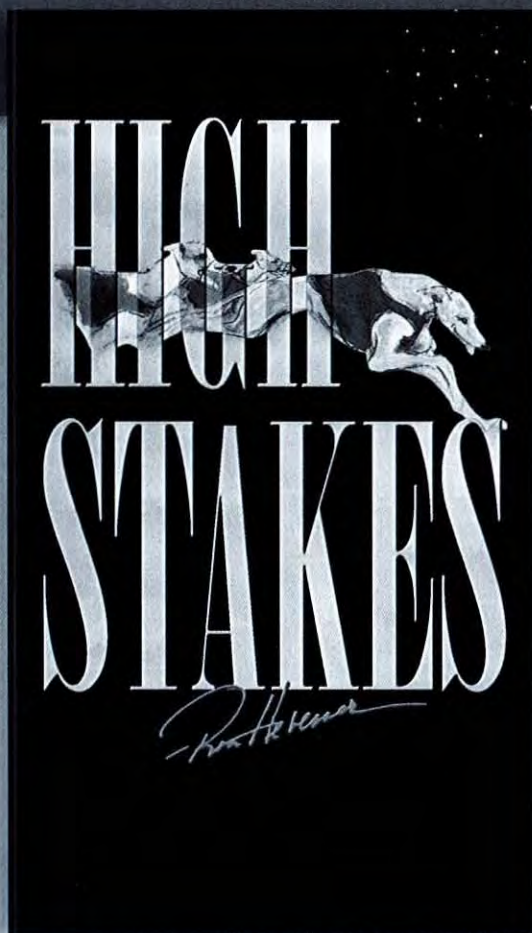
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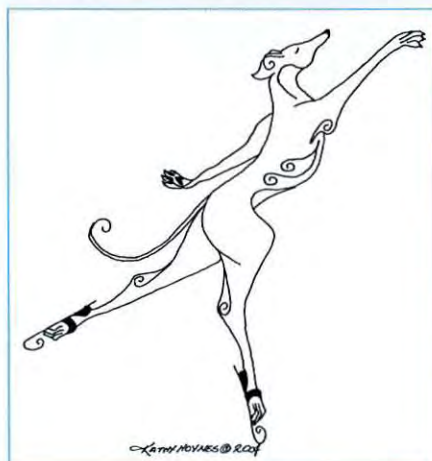
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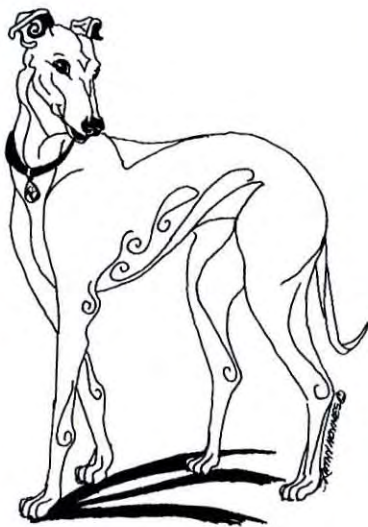
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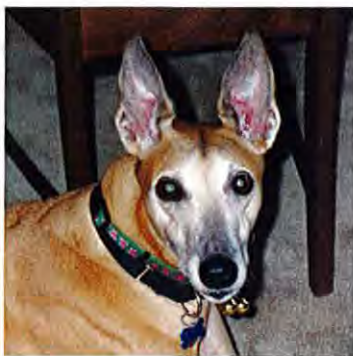
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Abby 1995-2005

Abby was the first Greyhound in the Williams-Berg family. Adopted by Kelly in 1999 and Sean in 2001 when the latter joined the "pack," Abby was featured in "Travels with Abby and Mara" in the Summer 2004 issue of CG. Abby survived osteosarcoma on three legs for 17 months before the cancer reached her lungs and she was lovingly sent to the bridge. In 2003 Abby moved with her family from America to Germany, and over her last three years traveled to Italy, England, and almost every country in between. More than anything, Abby loved Mondays and Thursdays at the outdoor meat market, playing with squeaky toys, being pushed in her wagon like a princess, rooing with her daddy, cuddling on the couch with her sister Mara, and sharing a pillow with Kelly at night in bed. She woke up every morning wagging her tail, snapping her jaws, and kissing the nearest human. She will be forever loved and forever missed by Kelly and Sean, and will always be in their hearts.



Apollo (This Cat Screamin') 1993-2005

Adopted and loved by Susan and Tim Hall of Owings Mills, Maryland, Apollo graced the back cover of the Fall 2001 issue of CG.

During the summer of 2004, Apollo suffered a neurological challenge. With steroids, he had another full, mobile, and happy year of life. Finally, the drugs lost their effectiveness, and Apollo lost the use of his legs. He received a wonderful sendoff; the best his human companions could have hoped for. Their compassionate veterinarian came out to the van where they had made a cozy spot for Apollo, and conducted the procedure there. Apollo's final moments passed gently and peacefully in their arms. Described by one of his many friends as a "giant, elegant gentleman of the Greyhounds," Apollo's regal stature was surpassed only by his sweet nature and gentle heart. He volunteered for Pets-on-Wheels and was a wonderful ambassador at many Maryland Greyhound adoption meet-and-greets. It's been said that we love our pets because they remind us of the best in ourselves. Susan and Tim are better people for having known Apollo, and they will be forever grateful for their time together.



Red (Red Sterling) 1994-2005

Adopted and adored by Judith Adair, Red came to Judith in July 1999 from Greyhound Rescue, Inc. He was pictured on the back cover of the Summer 2001 issue of CG. Red was an extremely shy and fearful Greyhound who overcame his fears to become a favorite at weekly meet-and-greets and trips to the local nursing home. He eagerly anticipated these outings; each Saturday morning he roused Judith out of bed before dawn. He then spent the next five to six hours whining and trying to steer her to the front door until it was time to leave for the meet-and-greet. Many people said he was responsible for their adoption of a Greyhound. He was wonderful at the nursing home, knowing just who needed him the most.

Red was a gentle soul who brought sunshine and joy into Judith's life when she most needed it. Her life is so much richer for having had him in it. Although Red lost his battle with stomach cancer on September 2, his love will warm her heart forever.



Tess (Tempered Tess) 1993-2005

Tessie was pictured on page 53 of the Summer 2001 issue of CG and on page 24 of the Fall 2001 issue. After a not-too-stellar racing career and a failed first home, she came to the home of Dick and Nancy Waddell, joining Greyhound brothers Kelvin and Dash. Tess helped host 13 foster dogs, including Suzi and Sugar, both of whom stayed. From age 8 to 10 and a half, Tess was a regular blood donor with the University of Pennsylvania Bloodmobile. She became a registered therapy dog at age nine and participated in programs at local schools, adult day-care facilities, the Ocean City Library, and various assisted living facilities in the South Jersey area. Tess was a fixture in Ocean City's seasonal parades. In 2004, she was a contestant in the first annual OC Dog of the Year contest, and she was a demo dog for the Educational Department of the Ocean City Humane Society. Tess never asked for anything; her joy was in giving, and she did that with her total being. Dick and Nancy Waddell think she was the sweetest, most perfect and beloved Greyhound that ever lived. She lives in their memories and always will.

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



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