

cg magazine



celebrating greyhounds

Winter 2011

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ALSO INSIDE:

What is a Bertillon Card?

Choosing the Right Antibiotic

Greyhounds and Animal-Assisted Therapy



Tess, Jetta, Sparky, and Katie, adopted by Sarah Salisbury of Eliot, Me.

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 16; No. 4 Winter 2011

Front Cover Credit:

Sylvie and her owner, Paula Pilgrim, are a Delta Society Pet Partners team volunteering for Helping Hounds Pet Therapy in Memphis, Tenn. Read more about Sylvie's work in "Sylvie's Story," in this issue. Photo by Paula Pilgrim

Back Cover Credit:

Liberty and her owner, Maud Carol Markson, volunteer with the California-based Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services. Read more about Liberty's work in "A Retired Greyhound's Second Career: Liberty's Story," in this issue. Photo by Maud Carol Markson

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The notion of adopting another Greyhound had been rolling around in the back of my mind for a few months. It had been six months since Fred's passing; enough time to enable me to feel gratitude for our time together, rather than grief at his absence. And though 12-year-old Pearl is in reasonably good shape for her age — as another friend described her senior Greyhound, “she’s a real pistol, though with a few more misfires these days” — the thought had crossed my mind that Jethro would eventually be a miserable only dog.

As these things often do for me, it began with a phone call from Kate Bressler of Greyhound Support in Kansas City. She called me at work, so I guessed something was wrong. “Can I vent?”

Kate explained that she was organizing a haul based on a list of dogs she received from the owner of a kennel that was closing. After realizing that he had provided the wrong list, he apologized and told her he would make it up to her by giving her a blue dog.

Kate fumed. “What the h-ll am I going to do with a blue dog?”

It’s not as though it’s hard to find a group to take a blue dog — quite the contrary. A whole lot of Greyhound adoption groups will pass by dozens of the sweetest brindle or black dogs that you can possibly imagine to lay claim to a dog that is blue or parti-color. The goal of groups like Greyhound Support in Kansas City is to move as many adoptable dogs — of all colors — from kennels and farms to adoption groups as it possibly can. Taking in a blue dog is a lot like flinging a piece of meat into a turnout pen. Mayhem ensues.

As Kate and I continued our conversation, I knew that the group on the other end of the haul would not be keen on receiving a blue dog either, for similar reasons. It’s easy to find someone to adopt a blue dog. It’s not easy to determine which adopter to choose.

“How old is he?”

“Three and a half,” she said. “You know this is not where I was expecting this conversation to go.”

“What’s his name?”

“You know if I tell you, that’s going to seal the deal.” Kate knows I adopt dogs because of their names. I like it when dogs have “people names.” (Every adopter has a quirk. This is mine.)

“So what’s his name?”

“Jerry.”

“OK,” I said. “Put him on the truck.”

And that is how Jerry came to live with us. If Pearl is a pistol, Jerry is a rocket launcher. He runs up and down the stairs in the time it takes the rest of us just to descend. He’s a skilled counter-surfer and stuffie disembowler. He would eat food out of other dogs’ mouths if I let him, but he takes meals in his crate. On his first day in my house, he jumped up on my bed. Although we’re working on this, when he sees cats on our daily walks, he raises up on his hind legs and emits a high-pitched yodel. Early on, he took quite a chunk out of Pearl when she inadvertently stepped on him in the middle of the night. (She’s fine . . . you can barely see where the stitches were.)

Right now, Jerry is one rude dog. But he’s friendly, smart, and eager to please. This became clear to me within the first couple of weeks, when we were on one of our daily walks. Jethro paws the ground with his back feet after doing his business, which always elicits a chuckle and a comment from me along the lines of “celebrate your productivity!” or “hail to the king!” The first time Jerry tentatively pawed the ground post-leak and looked at me expectantly, I knew that we would figure things out.

It’s nice to have three dogs again.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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Tia enjoys life with Terry, Doreen, and Ally Alver in Sedona, Ariz.

Laryngeal Paralysis

I have been a subscriber to your picturesque and informative magazine for going on two years. The Summer 2011 issue featuring "Laryngeal Paralysis" really hit home. That's when I diagnosed the condition that had plagued my male Greyhound for two years. Not even my veterinarian had a clue. Realizing that he was unable to enjoy life as he had known it and that matters were only getting worse, I consulted a vet that specialized in tieback surgery. The malady was confirmed and we went ahead with the surgery knowing the risks but wanting to give him a chance to resume walks and climb stairs without difficulty. Sadly, while the surgery was successful, Rambo had complications within two days and ultimately had to be euthanized. We are devastated and our female Greyhound longs for her buddy. Hopefully we will have a suitable friend for her soon. Needless to say, I am grateful for CG and the information provided therein.

Linda Dowling
Via E-Mail

Who Chose Whom?

I am lax on sending this picture of our beautiful Greyhound, Tia. We adopted her in May of 2007 at 3 years of age. At 8 years old, she is still very fit and loves her long morning walks. My daughter Ally wanted a dog and the neighbor across the street had two Greyhounds. They got us in touch with Greyhounds of the Verde Valley, who brought Tia to our home. She immediately went up to Ally and put her head in her lap. I think she knew what she was doing! She has been with us for four years now and is the most wonderful dog we could ever get. I recommend an adopted Greyhound to whoever is interested in getting a dog.

Doreen Alver
Sedona, Ariz.

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 welcome. 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.

Greyhounds in the News



GREYHOUND VOLUNTEER IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Dennis Tyler of GPA/Central Florida was profiled in the August 1, 2011 issue of *People Magazine* as one of the "Heroes Among Us." The article cited the work done by Dennis Tyler and his wife, Claire, caring for and transporting more than 7,000 retired racing Greyhounds to adoption groups along the East Coast. In October, Dennis was one of nine finalists for the *People Readers' Choice Hero Campaign*." The winner of the campaign was to receive a \$10,000 donation from Jeep applied to the charity of their choice. Voting was conducted between September 16 and October 13. Although Tyler was not selected, he reported that the vote was close enough that Jeep provided a \$10,000 grant to GPA/Central Florida anyway. What's more, Dennis reports that the article has resulted in a huge increase in inquiries about Greyhound adoption.

VISIT CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS MAGAZINE ON FACEBOOK!

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine now has over 2,600 Facebook fans from at least 20 countries. The purpose of the site is to connect Greyhound-admiring subscribers (and non-subscribers) to each other and with some of our content, including magazine covers. Fans have been sharing their thoughts on the magazine and photos of their Greyhounds. Some of the comments we receive on the site will be selected for publication in CG. To join or check it out, go to www.facebook.com/cgmagazine. To those who have joined — please invite others, and keep the feedback and fan pictures coming!

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FREE ISSUE OF CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS MAGAZINE TO ADOPTERS OF SENIORS, SPECIAL NEEDS GREYHOUNDS

Do you know someone who has adopted a special needs Greyhound? If so, tell this Greyhound lover that he or she is eligible to receive one free issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. All the adopter needs to do is send a note to the Editor at editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org or CG Magazine, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. The note must include a description of the dog's special need, the name of the adoption group or other source of the dog, and the adopter's name and mailing address. (The special needs Greyhound is either at least 7 years old at the time of adoption or one of any age who has a special medical problem at the time of adoption.) There is no time limit on this special offer.

CG MAGAZINE CUMULATIVE INDEX ONLINE

Hey . . . where's the 2011 cumulative index of articles? For many years, CG has included an annual index of articles in its Winter issue. Since we have had a cumulative index of articles on our website for nearly as many years, we have decided to forego publishing the annual index in the Winter issue. If you are looking for a particular article from 2011 or any other year, visit www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine and click on the Cumulative Index link in the main menu.



Mully (Pikes Mulligan), adopted by Jeff and Shelley Lake of Paola, Kan.

Choosing the Right Antibiotic

By Jim Bader, DVM

In a previous House Calls column, we followed Odessa's plight with a streptococcus infection ("Odessa — A Story about Bacteria," Summer 2011 CG). Once the appropriate antibiotic therapy was instituted, Odessa swiftly returned to health.

How do antibiotics work? Which antibiotic is appropriate for a particular condition? First, let's revisit the enemy in this battle — bacterium.

Bacteria are in two basic forms:

- Cocci: round bacteria
- Rods: elliptical bacteria

Some bacteria grow in the presence of oxygen (aerobic bacteria) while others grow where no oxygen is present (anaerobic bacteria). When determining the type of bacteria in the laboratory, a technician will stain the bacteria, dividing them into gram-positive or gram-negative based on which stain the bacteria absorb. Gram-positive bacteria are dark purple because the bacterium's wall absorbs that color of stain. Gram-negative bacteria are pink because the dark purple stain does not adhere to the cell walls and is washed away. The bacterium does, however, absorb the pink counter stain. Knowing the category of bacterium allows the veterinarian to select the appropriate antibiotic for a particular infection.

When a Greyhound has a bacterial infection, the veterinarian may order a culture and sensitivity test to identify the offending agent and further determine which antibiotic to use. The material to be cultured is collected by touching a sterile swab to the infected area. The material on the swab is then placed on a culture plate. The cul-

ture plate is incubated for hours to days to see if the bacteria grow.

If the bacteria grow, then the culture is transferred to another culture plate. Discs, each containing a different antibiotic, are placed on the culture plate. The antibiotic diffuses across the plate. If no bacteria grow in the area of diffusion, then this antibiotic may be effective at stopping the infection since it appears to be sensitive to the antibiotic. If the culture only grows up to the disc, then this bacterium is resistant to the antibiotic and should not be used for treatment. The drawback to this test is it may take several days for results.

The drawback to this test is it may take several days for results. Usually, the Greyhound is started on an antibiotic before the culture results are available. A more effective antibiotic may be needed after the culture results are analyzed.

Types of Antibiotics

Penicillins. The oldest class of antibiotics is penicillin. The original penicillin was derived from a fungus. Once the penicillin was identified, scientists modified it to enhance its effectiveness. When it was observed that certain bacteria produce an enzyme rendering the penicillin ineffective, a product was added to stop the enzyme and allow the penicillin to kill the bacterium.

Penicillin-based antibiotics are effective against most gram-positive rods and cocci. They are ineffective against most gram-negative organisms. Penicillin-based antibiotics penetrate all tissues throughout the body except the brain and the cerebral spinal fluid (the fluid around the brain and spinal cord). Penicillin can be administered orally or by injection, and can be given one to four times daily based on the type of penicillin prescribed.

The original penicillin is Penicillin-V, which is inexpensive, but must be administered three to four times daily. This can be difficult for most owners. Synthetic penicillin-based antibiotics are much more user friendly. Synthetic penicillin is original penicillin that modified so it lasts longer in the body, boosting effectiveness while decreasing dose frequency. The most common synthetic penicillins are amoxicillin and ampicillin.



The first step in determining an appropriate antibiotic is to incubate a sample of the bacteria on a culture plate.

Another product, Clavamox®, consists of synthetic penicillin with clavulonic acid. The clavulonic acid inhibits the bacteria's production of an enzyme that rendered the penicillin ineffective.

Cephalosporins. The next class of antibiotics is the cephalosporins. The original compound was isolated from a fungus, then modified in the laboratory to increase effectiveness and decrease side effects. Cephalosporins are effective against most gram-positive organisms and, at higher doses, against some gram-negative organisms. The cephalosporins penetrate all areas of the body except the brain and cerebral spinal fluid.

The most commonly used cephalosporin is cephalexin. Others in the family are: cefadroxil, cefazolin and ceftriaxone. Cephalexin and cefadroxil are administered orally twice daily. Cefazolin is usually administered intravenously before and during surgical procedures. If given repeatedly, it must be administered every four to eight hours. Ceftriaxone is one of the newer cephalosporins. It can act for up to 24 hours. Ceftriaxone also penetrates the brain and cerebral spinal fluid, so is effective for infections in these areas.

Aminoglycosides. The aminoglycosides, the next class of antibiotics, cannot be taken orally as they are not absorbed through the intestinal tract. These antibiotics must be administered topically or by injection. Aminoglycosides for topical use are present

in most eye and ear medications, plus some topical sprays for superficial skin infections. This group includes gentamycin, amikacin, and neomycin, to name a few. Aminoglycosides administered by injection are usually reserved for treatment in the veterinarian's office and almost never dispensed for home use.

Tetracycline. The tetracycline group includes tetracycline, chlortetracycline and doxycycline. These antibiotics penetrate all the tissues of the body including the brain and cerebral spinal fluid. Calcium in dairy products and other foods may inhibit absorption of the antibiotic, so tetracyclines should not be given with high-calcium foods. Tetracyclines are effective against most gram-positive and gram-negative organisms. In addition, they are also effective against rickettsial organisms such as Lyme disease. Tetracyclines are thought to modify the immune system when it is overactive, so they may be used against diseases such as symmetrical lupoid onychodystrophy, which is an autoimmune disease that causes the toenails to fall off or grow abnormally. Tetracyclines should not be used in pregnant Greyhounds or puppies. These tissue-penetrating antibiotics incorporate into the growing teeth, staining them permanently.

Doxycycline is the most commonly tetracycline. It can be dosed once or twice daily. Doxycycline is the recommended treatment for all dogs with heartworm disease since it kills the bacteria in the uterus of the adult

female heartworm. The body's abnormal reaction to these bacteria is the leading cause of death during a heartworm infection.

Macrolids. Lincomycin and clindamycin are in group of antibiotics called macrolids, which are excellent against infections involving both gram-positive and gram-negative anaerobes. These antibiotics are used for deep-seated infections under the skin, abscesses, bone infections, and infections of the teeth and gums. Clindamycin also is available as a gel that can be applied to the base of teeth after a dental cleaning to help the gums heal and maybe prevent gum recession and tooth loss. Both of these antibiotics are administered once or twice daily.

Quinolones. The final group of antibiotics is the quinolones. These are broad-spectrum antibiotics effective against most gram-negative organisms and some gram-positive organisms. They may be effective against some resistant staphylococcus and streptococcus infections. The quinolones penetrate all tissues effectively, including the brain and cerebral spinal fluid. They are used for recurring or persistent infections that have not resolved with other antibiotics. Quinolones should not be used in growing animals as they have been associated with cartilage defects in the joints. These defects do not resolve once the antibiotic is halted and may be debilitating for the life of the Greyhound.

The two most commonly used quinolones are ciprofloxacin and enrofloxacin (Baytril®). Both may be dosed once or twice daily. Baytril® is also available as a flavored tablet for those Greyhounds who are difficult to medicate.

Choosing the Right Antibiotic

We now understand the enemy — bacteria — and the weapons used to combat it — antibiotics. How does a veterinarian choose the best antibiotic to treat the infection? Culture and sensitivity test results may take days to produce. The Greyhound could be dead from the infection by then, so how do we choose?

First, the veterinarian has to determine the cause and location of the infection. Is it in the skin? Is it in the bone? Was it caused by a bite? If so, was it from a dog or a cat? Is



The antibiotics represented by the discs on the left and right appear to be effective at stopping the infection. Because the culture has grown right up to the disc in the middle, the bacterium is resistant to this antibiotic and should not be used.

it in the ear? Is it in the sinuses or mouth? With this information, the veterinarian can select an antibiotic that will penetrate the area of infection.

Second, is it a cocci or a rod? The culture test described earlier is useful to determine this. The gram-stain procedure is performed and the slide is observed with a microscope with the hope that bacteria will be identified — gram-positive or gram-negative, rod or cocci. This narrows down the antibiotic choice even more, enabling the veterinarian to select an antibiotic that penetrate the area of infection and is effective against that bacterium.

Third, is this a recurring or non-resolving infection? This limits the choice because the bacterium may be resistant to the former antibiotic. The veterinarian may need to choose an antibiotic that is known to have very little resistance, such as a quinolone.

Finally, the cost of the antibiotic is a factor that should be considered. The Greyhound owner must pay for the antibiotic, so the choice should be the most effective antibiotic for that particular infection at the lowest cost. Fortunately, most of the antibiotics used are generics and are usually reasonably priced.

Once the antibiotic is chosen, administering directions should be followed. Some antibiotics are more effective with a meal, while others do not need to be given with

food. If you are administering the medication, you should try to give the pill to your dog at the same time(s) every day. This will keep the antibiotic in the tissues at a constant high level. Check with your veterinarian if there are any idiosyncrasies you need to know about.

The antibiotics listed in this article are only a few of the options available to fight infection. Many others are used, but not necessarily on a daily or routine basis. These may be prescribed because the type or severity of the infection requires a more unique medication.

Antibiotics and bacteria are broad and constantly changing topics. New bacterial diseases are always being discovered, so the effort to discover new antibiotics to combat them continues. The basics will always be the same: Choose an antibiotic that is appropriate for the type and location of the infection, can penetrate the area, and will kill the bacteria. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



Paula Pilgrim and her Greyhound, Sylvie, became a registered therapy team.

Sylvie's Story: A Therapy Dog Makes A Difference

By Paula Pilgrim

My Heart Saver. That's what I often call her. Her name is Sylvie.

She's a lovely fawn Greyhound with beautiful Cleopatra eyes, a peaceful and majestic presence, and an open, loving, sensitive heart. Her favorite pastime is going for two-mile walks in the neighborhood carrying either her stuffed bear or bunny. She is a social butterfly, enjoying car rides, meet-and-greets, visiting with friends, and going to our pet therapy location. She is well known in the neighborhood and the local Greyhound community. She brings smiles to all who come in contact with her. She receives plenty of oohs, ahhs, and awws wherever we go.

How It All Began

I brought Sylvie home in September 2008. She had been bounced back and returned to the kennel (through no fault of her own). She had lived with a family with two children. She was depressed and had lost weight. She bonded immediately with me, and I with her. That first night I knew she was a special dog. When I retired for the evening, she jumped on the bed, put her head on my shoulder, and threw her foreleg across my chest. I looked at her. It was as if her eyes were saying, "Don't leave me," and I melted like butter.

Sylvie freely gives kisses, loves to snuggle, and even likes to pet humans. If you pet her, she will lift her paw and give you a pat in return, or she will offer you her paw to hold. Little did I know that her affection would help heal much of my own pain and help keep me going during the very stressful period of my parent's consecutive near-death illnesses. Little did I know that she would give me a whole new life.

I noticed that when we were out, Sylvie showed a lot of interest in children. Remembering that she used to live with kids, I thought she must miss being around them. I wondered if she might be a good candidate for pet therapy with children. After going to several meet-and-greets (including one at a noisy, busy hockey game) and seeing how well Sylvie handled the crowd and a lot of attention, I decided to train her to become a

registered Animal Assisted Activities dog.

A note about therapy dogs: Therapy dog is an all-encompassing, generic term. According to the Delta Society, Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) is a goal-directed intervention in which an animal is incorporated as an integral part of the clinical healthcare treatment process. AAT is delivered or directed by a professional health or human service provider who demonstrates skill and expertise regarding the clinical applications of human-animal interactions. Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA) provide opportunities for motivational, educational, and/or recreational benefits to enhance a person's quality of life. AAAs are delivered by a professional, para-professional, or volunteer who demonstrates knowledge about animals and the human populations with which they interact.

Getting Started

In early 2010, I began my research. I was pleased to discover Sylvie could easily pass all the requirements to become a registered therapy dog, with the exception of "sit" and "lie down" on command. I signed her up for an obedience class, but I could not teach her

these commands. That automatically eliminated Sylvie from obtaining a Canine Good Citizen certificate and joining one specific therapy group. I was disappointed.

A friend told me about Helping Hounds Pet Therapy (HHPT) in Memphis, Tennessee. HHPT is a small organization exclusively for therapy Greyhounds. HHPT advised me to send Sylvie for testing through a registering body that does not have the "sit" or "lie down" requirement. I was also happy to learn I would not have to attend any seminars. With my 15 years of experience in healthcare, I was already comfortable working in healthcare settings. By the spring, Sylvie was registered, and we joined HHPT.

Making a Difference

In July 2010, Sylvie and I began visiting Youth Villages. This nationally-recognized, Memphis-based company helps emotionally and behaviorally troubled children through residential treatment at campuses and group homes in Tennessee, Georgia, and Oregon, and through community-based, intensive, in-home services in ten states and the District of Columbia. It also serves a large number of learning-disabled children. The

average length of stay at a residential facility is six months. Unfortunately, some children remain domiciled for years.

Sylvie and I visit two groups of 8 to 11 year-old boys who live in a cottage on campus. Both groups have boys with learning disabilities, and many have serious behavioral or emotional problems brought on by horribly dysfunctional home environments. Some are temporarily removed from their homes. Others have bounced from foster home to foster home. As a result, many of the boys act out, and some do not respect or even understand emotional and physical boundaries.

The direct link between animal abuse and child abuse is well-documented. The American Humane Association website lists a number of sobering statistics. (See www.americanhumane.org for more information.)

I wanted to help teach the boys compassion and respect for dogs and to extend that compassion and respect to humans. I also want them to experience the healing power of dogs. They learn that dogs have personal space, boundaries, and feelings just as humans do. I teach them specifically about Greyhounds mostly because Sylvie is one, and there is a wealth of information about



Hey, there's Sylvie! John and Austin recognize their therapy buddy on a visit to the MSGAO adoption kennel. *Youth Villages*

the breed. In more physical terms, the boys learn about a Greyhound's muscles, heart, and skin, as well as about racing. They also learn about a Greyhound's personality, adjusting to pet life, how to take care of a dog, grooming, diet, and responsible pet ownership. After I talk with the boys for 20 minutes, they are allowed to pet Sylvie — no more than two boys at a time.

Sylvie has had a significant impact on the young boys at Youth Villages. I believe the boys connect with Sylvie in part because they can relate to her own experience of having been given up by her family. This is a pain that they, too, understand.

Elliott is a good example. (For confidentiality, all names have been changed.) Elliott was mute and disconnected from interaction with staff and other residents for his first two months at Youth Villages. When Sylvie and I began to visit, Elliott slowly reached out to her. When he finally began talking during his one-on-one counseling sessions, it was about Sylvie. He eventually started telling his counselor, "Sylvie is a good dog," and "I'm thinking about telling Sylvie I love her. Is that OK?" One day, I heard Elliott whisper into her ear, "I love you. I'll keep your kisses." It wasn't long before he started interacting with the other kids.

Grady, who has lived at Youth Villages for three years, told me, "Sylvie has always been there for me." Jory, another long-term resident, said, "She's encouraging."

The counselors have told me "Sylvie" is a household name in the cottage and that many of the boys want to talk about Sylvie during counseling sessions. She has even helped improve their daily behavior scores.

In early spring 2011, I arranged for the boys to visit Sylvie's adoption kennel, Mid-South Greyhound Adoption Option in West Memphis, Arkansas. This was an exciting event. The local newspaper and Youth Villages' public relations representative and volunteer coordinator also came along. Everyone was able to pet the other Greyhounds awaiting adoption and talk to kennel staff. After our visit, we stopped at the Southland Greyhound Park, where the boys watched the dogs race. It is hard for kids to imagine how fast Greyhounds run and how quickly they reach top speed, so this was

an excellent opportunity to see the dogs in all their glory. The boys, as well as the adults who attended, thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

The boys' cottage recently had a therapeutic art/learning exhibit. A "Sylvie" section was included, and we were asked to visit. I brought a charcoal drawing, with a poem, that pictured Sylvie and a boy hugging her. I also brought one of my educational tri-fold boards. She was a hit with all the visiting staff, some of whom were interested in Greyhound adoption.

Benefits of Pet Therapy

Knowing that Sylvie is reaching these boys and that their behavior is improving is the biggest benefit for me. I love to hear the positive stories from the counselors and to see the boys hug Sylvie, tell her they love her, and make drawings for her.

It is hard to know for sure exactly what Sylvie gets out of the visits. But I know she enjoys them, if her excitement when I put on her "volunteer" racing silk is any indication. She knows where we are going. When we are within a half-mile of the cottage, she stands up in the back of my SUV and "smiles." She gives the boys plenty of kisses during visits. The best example I can give is the day of the field trip. I knew the boys would ask about her, so I took her with me to the adoption kennel and placed her in one of the crates. As soon as they arrived, they asked, "Where's Sylvie?" The kennel staff directed them to her. She recognized her boys immediately, stood up, blinked her eyes (something she does when she's happy), and wagged her tail.

How to Improve the Pet Therapy Experience

I cannot emphasize enough: Know your dog. Does he prefer young children, teens, adults, or the elderly? Then select an appropriate venue, such as a library, hospital, rehabilitation center, nursing home, or intervention residential setting. While Sylvie and I were in the testing/observing process, I noticed that she was not particularly fond of nursing homes. She tolerated them, but she appeared somewhat withdrawn. On the other hand, when the tester/observer saw Sylvie walk right up to a child, she exclaimed, "You're right! She really does like children!"

You also need to:

- Know when your dog is tired or not feeling well.
- Know when your dog is stressed; for example, if she is turning away, panting excessively, hiding behind you, or pinning her ears.
- Know when your dog has had enough with being petted.
- Know when your dog is ready to leave.
- Know when your dog is experiencing burnout.

Yes, pet therapy is meant to bring warm feelings and to facilitate healing, but if your dog isn't happy, then your efforts will be negated. It then becomes a selfish exercise on your part. It's not about you. Pet therapy is a team effort. Keep in mind that your dog's personal space is being invaded during therapy, and that she has limits. You are responsible for your pet's mental health and physical safety. If your dog does not feel safe, she could lash out, which is the last thing anyone wants.

I know Sylvie is ready to go home when she faces the exit door at the cottage. When she's ready to leave, we leave.

Getting Involved

The groups through which your dog can be registered include Delta Society, Therapy Dogs International, and Therapy Dogs, Inc. Which group you choose depends on the requirements of the facility you are visiting (for example, a Canine Good Citizen certificate in addition to registration), the requirements your dog must pass for registration, how much you need to educate yourself, and how much money you want to invest. After your dog is registered, you can either join a local pet therapy group that already has a list of places to visit, or you can approach a facility as an individual.

Pet therapy is a wonderful, rewarding experience. There is nothing like making a difference in other peoples' lives. When you and your dog act as a team and you both have found your niche, the possibilities are endless, and you will experience boundless joy. ■

Paula Pilgrim and Sylvie volunteer for Helping Hounds Pet Therapy in Memphis, Tenn.



Canine-assisted ambulation can help heart failure patients recover. Nurse Sami Abate and her Greyhound, Gypsy, walk with patients at South Jersey Healthcare Center in Vineland, N.J. *SJH*

Can a Therapy Greyhound Help Heal Failing Hearts?

By Sami Abate, RN, BS, CCRN

Perhaps it is not such a simple question. If you are reading this article, I am certain you would answer in the affirmative. If you were a cardiologist or perhaps a critical care nurse, you might find yourself a bit more hesitant in responding. Thanks to a recently published nursing research study, there is, in fact, published evidence in support of the healing effect a therapy dog can have on patients suffering from heart failure.

What is heart failure? In short, heart failure (HF) is weakened heart muscle. Patients suffering from heart failure often experience symptoms such as swelling in their legs, chest pains, and shortness of breath. A heart failure diagnosis requires patients to follow a strict diet, take their medication regularly, and get plenty of exercise. While heart failure is manageable and patients who follow their treatment plans closely can have a normal and healthy life, even a small event such as a winter flu can exacerbate symptoms, landing patients in the hospital. With more than half a million new cases of heart failure diagnosed each year, it is not surprising that heart failure is one of the leading causes of hospital admissions for people over the age of sixty-five.¹



Research indicates that the presence of a therapy dog can help improve the vital signs, intra-cardiac pressures, and stress hormone levels of hospitalized patients in an intensive care unit. *SJH*

Given the prevalence and cost of heart failure care (more than \$39 billion annually²), healthcare organizations are devoted to improving the care provided to heart failure patients. South Jersey Healthcare, in Vineland, New Jersey, has created the WOW Program in response to this need. WOW (weigh, output, and walk) focuses on three key components of heart failure self care: monitoring weight; monitoring fluid output (in comparison to fluid intake) to measure fluid retention; and walking to promote circulation and strengthen the heart. Incorporated into this program is an advanced practice nurse (APN), who oversees patient education and discharge planning, and specially trained restorative aides (RA), who work with admitted HF patients, encouraging them to begin implementing the components of the WOW program into their daily routine before they leave the hospital.

While substantial improvements in the length of time HF patients spent in the hospital and the number of times they needed to be readmitted were seen as a result of the WOW program, getting patients up and walking remained a challenge. With extensive medical and nursing literature supporting how vital early ambulation is to the recovery process for HF patients, the question becomes, how do you encourage these patients to walk while in the hospital³⁻⁶?

In stark contrast to the abundance of literature available in support of various interventions designed to improve the care of hospitalized HF patients (including early ambulation), little rigorously conducted research supports the use of animal-assisted therapy (AAT) for hospitalized patients of any kind. AAT differs from what is traditionally considered pet therapy in that the therapy animal's presence is part of a goal-directed

intervention, the outcomes of which are often documented in the patient's medical record. Historical sources provide evidence that AAT has existed in various forms since the late eighteenth century. Even Florence Nightingale allowed soldiers recovering from their wounds after the Crimean War to keep small animals with them as companions and motivators.²

In 2008, researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center sought to overcome the trend of anecdotal evidence that has long been associated with AAT. Their work with therapy dogs and HF patients showed that the presence of a therapy dog (when compared to baseline and a visit from a volunteer) helped improve the vital signs, intra-cardiac pressures, and stress hormone levels of hospitalized patients in an intensive care unit.⁷

Clearly, walking and AAT are good for HF patients. When you combine the two, the result is canine-assisted ambulation (CAA): the simple act of walking a therapy dog.

CAA is unique among AAT in that its impact was rigorously measured through a carefully constructed nursing research study of one therapy dog's work walking with HF patients. (Inclusion of only one therapy dog in the study eliminated the potential for varied patient response to different dogs.) Gypsy, a 6 year-old retired racing Greyhound adopted from Greyhound Angels Adoption in Pennsauken, New Jersey, worked in the cardiac units of South Jersey Healthcare over the course of nine months as part of the research study.

Clinical research studies, such as this CAA study (affectionately known as the Gypsy Project), are required to follow a strict and prescribed process in order to ensure that every chance for bias is eliminated and that each patient receives exactly the same interactions. HF patients who were being seen by SJ Healthcare's RA were given their usual instructions and teaching each day. At the end of this interaction, as was customary, patients who were stable enough for ambulation were asked if they would like to go for a walk while the therapy dog waited out of view. This initial response was recorded. The patient was then asked if he was afraid of or allergic to dogs (in research lingo, this is the

inclusion/exclusion criteria that allow or disqualify a patient from participating in a research study). If he claimed no allergies and no fear of dogs, the patient was asked if he would like to walk with a therapy dog. This response was also recorded. The patient walked with the therapy dog, its handler, and the RA for as long a distance as he wanted or was able to tolerate. The distance walked was recorded. After the patient returned to his room, he was given a chance to visit with the therapy dog. After the patient finished walking, he was asked if he would consent to having his information included in the research study. This question aimed to eliminate the possibility that patients would walk further to “do good” if they knew they were “being watched.” If the patient consented to inclusion of his data in the study, he was asked to complete a five-question survey to assess his opinion of the CAA experience. Data from the 69 research participants was then analyzed and compared to existing data from more than 500 previous participants in the WOW program.⁸

Thirteen patients in the study initially refused to walk with the RA but later agreed to walk when offered the chance to walk with the therapy dog. Statistical analysis showed this to be a significant improvement in ambulation directly related to the therapy dog. A review of existing WOW program patients showed a refusal rate of 28 percent, as compared to a rate of only 7.2 percent in the study population, a decrease of nearly 75

percent. The number of steps each patient took was also compared to the number of steps taken by patients in the existing WOW program records. Because patients naturally improve (and therefore should be able to walk farther) as they progress through their hospital stay, patients were grouped by the day of their hospital stay on which they walked with the therapy dog. This allowed patients walking on the second day of their hospital stay with the therapy dog to be compared to the distance walked by patients in the existing records who also walked on the second day of their hospitalization. When compared to a like sample, the patients who walked with Gypsy walked, on average, 96 percent further than those who walked with the RA alone (an increase from 120.2 steps in the existing records to 235.7 steps taken by the patients in the study).

As seen in the chart below, patients who walked with the therapy dog, when grouped by the day of their hospital stay, walked more than twice as far in four of the six categories. Analysis of the survey responses showed that patients unanimously enjoyed walking with the therapy dog and every participant agreed that they would like the chance to participate in CAA again. Analysis completed after the study also showed that patients who walked with the therapy dog were discharged from the hospital one full day sooner than the average heart failure patient admitted to South Jersey Healthcare.⁸

Because of the extraordinary findings of

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

Because Gypsy is a Greyhound, it is not unusual for her to be described as being born to run. And run she did — she raced at three tracks over the course of four-and-a-half years. However, Gypsy never won a race. In some circles, this would have meant she was a failure as a racer. If you met Gypsy, you might be more inclined to believe that the years she spent racing kept her from her true calling. Gypsy found her calling the day she received her Therapy Dogs, Inc. card. She found success when she became South Jersey Healthcare’s first full-time therapy dog. Gypsy wears her bright red Therapy Dogs, Inc. vest proudly everywhere she goes at the South Jersey Healthcare Regional Medical Center. It is, however, her official hospital photo identification badge that often draws the most attention. Gypsy starts her day off making rounds on the cardiac floor that, fortunately for Gypsy, is carpeted. (Shiny and slippery floors are the bane of many therapy dogs’ existence.) After meeting and greeting the staff, she receives her assignment for the day, which typically includes at least a dozen heart failure patients in need of some exercise in the form of a walk down the hall. Once the walking is done, it is time for a well-deserved break that often includes some smuggled treats brought from the cafeteria by one of her numerous admirers on the hospital staff.

From the cardiac floor Gypsy heads to the Acute Care for Elders specialty unit on the first floor. There she works with elderly patients, their families, and the staff who care for them. While walking in the hallways is a part of her responsibilities, it is only one component of the Canine Assisted Wellness program. Her duties also include: offering companionship to lonely patients; providing a comforting distraction to patients who are in pain or to families who are fearful; facilitating meaningful conversation between patients, their families, and members of the healthcare team; and encouraging nurses to consider pursuing research of their own.

Gypsy’s work day ends with a brief return to her fans on the cardiac floor (which usually includes another pirated treat or two from one of the nurses) and a nap in the Step Down staff lounge. Gypsy has never encountered a stranger in the hallways of the Regional Medical Center. She greets each patient and employee as if they are old friends. Gypsy may have never won a race, but there is scarcely a heart she has not won during her second career.





Gypsy's fans on the hospital staff occasionally smuggle treats to her from the cafeteria, so it's a good thing she does a lot of walking during her visit

ful conversation (Canine Facilitated Communication) and provide comfort (Canine Care and Companionship).⁹

Can a therapy dog help heal failing hearts? The answer is a resounding yes Gypsy and the CAA study have done the research to prove it ■.

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this research, CAA has gone from one cardiac nurse's dream of bringing her therapy dog to the hospital, to a nursing intervention that has been clinically shown to improve the outcomes of patients suffering from HF. The study, officially titled "Impact of Canine Assisted Ambulation on the Ambulation Outcomes and Satisfaction of Hospitalized Heart Failure Patients: A Pilot Study," was recently published in the internationally recognized "Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing."⁸ In the six months since its publication, the CAA project has been recognized not only as a safe and effective adjunct to standard heart failure care but also as an example of the potential of therapy dogs to change the course of patients' journeys toward healing. CAA has been presented locally and nationally to nurses, hospitals,

healthcare organizations, and academic facilities. The profound impact a therapy dog has had on heart failure patients has been recognized as an exemplar of nursing research excellence by organizations including the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the March of Dimes, and Cherokee Uniforms Inspired Comfort Award program.

Meanwhile, Gypsy continues her work with CAA and is currently participating in a new study focusing on patients and staff of a specialized geriatric unit at South Jersey Healthcare. The Canine Assisted Wellness (CAW) program seeks to realize, maximize, and validate the benefits of a therapy dog to the well being of patients, their families, and the staff who care for them. The CAW program includes not only CAA but also unique interventions designed to promote meaning-

Becoming a Registered Therapy Team

By Cheryl Giebel Petersen



Bonnie London and her Greyhound, Lea, are an officially registered Delta Society Pet Partner Team.

I started doing “pet therapy,” back in the 1990s, the same way many others did. I just went to a nursing home and asked if they would allow me to visit the residents with my Greyhound, Omaha. She was my first retired racing Greyhound and I had not taken her to any formal training. The facility did not ask about policies or insurance. They did ask about vaccinations, but didn’t require proof. People didn’t realize the ramifications of possibly having an unsocialized, unhealthy animal in their facilities at that time. This was before any therapy pet organizations were well known. That’s how pet therapy was in the beginning.

As I learned more, I decided to enroll Omaha in a formal obedience class. I believed this might make us a better duo.

When we moved, I discovered a local dog trainer who was beginning a therapy dog group called Dogs of Endearment. She was already associated with the national therapy dog organization Delta Society. I quickly signed up for her therapy-dog preparation class with our second retired racing Greyhound, Classie. The experience was great and we soon became an officially registered Delta Society Pet Partner® team (“Classie Becomes a Delta Dog,” Fall 2000 CG). We learned so much that I wanted to do more. Later that year, I tested with Omaha and we passed, too. I was excited to have two Pet Partner Greyhounds with whom to volunteer.

During the training and testing I learned a great deal about pet therapy work, including the new terms animal-assisted activity (AAA) and animal-assisted therapy (AAT). These terms replaced the outdated catch-all “term pet therapy.” AAA is typically described as going on meet-and-greet visits to nursing homes and other



One of the final steps to become a registered Pet Partner team is completion of a performance evaluation.

facilities where the animals can be enjoyed. AAA also includes activities where the animals help lift people's spirits. AAT requires a health professional, documentation, and set goals for a particular patient to achieve with the assistance of the therapy animal. Many Pet Partner teams also participate in special events and educational activities to promote therapy animals and the Delta Society.

After losing Omaha, we adopted our third Greyhound, Willy. (It's hard to lose a pet, but when that pet has been a working dog and has affected many other people's lives, it is even more difficult. One of the

hardest things I have ever done was to tell the facilities we visited that our beloved team member was gone.) Willy quickly became a Delta Society Pet Partner. Classie and Willy continued to visit a variety of facilities and volunteer for special activities. Yearning to work more with dogs, I became an apprentice service dog trainer and American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Evaluator. Then, I began assisting Delta Society with evaluations and learning as much as I could about therapy animals.

There are many reasons why I enjoy being a part of the Delta Society. Among them are the organization's comprehensive screening and testing procedures, its professionalism, and its policies. The Delta Society's support from health professionals and the extensive research library are nice benefits. Of course, the liability insurance we receive through them is a priority. I also really like the fact that they accept any breed or mixed breed of dog, and they

accept a variety of other animals such as cats, rabbits, and horses. Any domesticated animal can become a Pet Partner.

The Delta Society Pet Partner program began in 1990. It is a not-for-profit international organization. Currently, there are more than 10,000 teams in all 50 states and 13 other countries. Delta Society is the only national organization that requires training of its teams. A "team" comprises the handler/owner and the pet. The registration process is detailed and comprehensive. The handler must be able to interact with a variety of people. The animal must be healthy,

social and have a good temperament. Animals can only wear equipment — such as collars, harnesses, leashes — that Delta Society policies list as "acceptable."

The process begins with the training, which means studying the Pet Partner team training student manual or attending a Delta Society workshop. If you are interested in becoming a team with your dog, I recommend formal obedience training and attempting the CGC test first. Attend a therapy-dog preparation class if one is available. Your dog must undergo a thorough veterinary screening that includes a comprehensive exam and parasite checks. The veterinarian must approve your dog for therapy work. As part of the registration process, you must complete a multiple-choice test and handler's questionnaire along with other forms that include a signed acceptance of the Pet Partner policies and procedures.

The last step is a performance evaluation test of you and your dog. There are two sections and 22 parts to the performance evaluation. The first half is the Pet Partners skills test, which checks the team's skills in walking, accepting petting, obedience tasks and crowd work. Visual and auditory distractions are used. Each team must also greet another handler with a neutral dog. This half is very similar to the CGC test, although the supervised separation step is skipped because handlers are never away from their therapy pet while working.

The second part, the Pet Partners aptitude test, is similar to a temperament test. It includes additional skill assessments, such as seeing if the animal can tolerate clumsy petting and hugging. It also includes role-playing, bumping, yelling, and more crowd work using medical equipment.

The "leave it" command exercise is done at the end. This is an important skill for the dogs for safety reasons. Why? The pet must follow this command to avoid picking up medicine, food, or another dangerous item.

The entire performance evaluation, which takes approximately 20 minutes, assures that each team is reliable and predictable. Once all these tasks are completed, the team's entire seven-step registration packet and the evaluator's score sheets are sent to the Delta Society headquarters in

Seattle, Washington. A few weeks later, the team receives an acceptance letter, identification badge, and a tag for the pet. Then they are ready to begin visiting. (Teams must complete this entire registration/evaluation process every two years to stay current.)

Teams must follow Delta Society policies and procedures while visiting to be covered by the \$1 million liability insurance policy. Safety for the handler and pet is stressed more now than ever because of the risk of spreading diseases from animals to people and vice versa. As a result, more infection-control policies are in place. Delta Society has specific incident procedures to follow if any problems should arise.

When we relocated again, I sought out and found several teams that were starting their Delta Society evaluation process. Three of these teams consisted of Greyhounds. Together we founded a not-for-profit therapy pet organization called Emerald Coast FURever Friends Inc. (ECFF). Members of ECFF are all volunteer Delta Society Pet Partner teams. Our organization's mission, enriching lives through the human-animal bond, is similar to the Delta Society mission of improving human health through therapy animals. Our local group of Pet Partners is always willing to help by mentoring new teams and by matching them with facilities.

Since I was the only Pet Partner team member that had been with the Delta Society long enough to become a team evaluator, I started that process. This would help our new group by having someone locally to evaluate more new teams. It takes real commitment to become a team evaluator. Requirements include experience and completion of a home study course, a written test, and an 8-hour in-person practicum. The team evaluator process was time-consuming (it took between four and five months) and costly, but well worth it. I enjoyed every minute of it. Now, I enjoy helping new teams throughout this entire training/testing process and getting them started.

I have been a Delta Society team evaluator since 2004. During the past seven years I have scored more than 400 evaluations, of which 99 percent have been dogs. I have tested just a few cats in that time. I have done lots of evaluations for retired racing



Lea seems to be tolerating the "clumsy petting" she receives from the evaluator as part of the Pet Partners aptitude test.

Greyhounds and their owners. I think they are well-suited for this type of work because of their wonderful personalities. Our local therapy dog group only has seven working Greyhounds now, but we have had more in the past. Currently 97 Greyhounds are registered with the Delta Society as Pet Partners.

My goal is to continue being a team evaluator to provide reliable working teams in which the Delta Society and I can take pride. We donate our time, money, and talents to this worthy cause. When a facility

asks me how much it costs for the dogs to come for a visit, I usually laugh because I have forgotten to mention that it's free! ■

Cheryl Giebel Petersen currently engages in animal-assisted activities and therapy with Mercedes, her Rhodesian Ridgeback. She dedicates this article to all Pet Partner teams whose lives she has touched past, present, and future that continue to benefit other people's lives. Learn more about the Delta Society Pet Partners program at www.deltasociety.org



Evie Petunia and her owner, Rachel Jervis, participate in the Paws to Read program.

Evie Visits the Library

Story and photos by Rachel Jervis

Over the years, my primary volunteer work has been with or to benefit animals. Before I got involved with Colorado Greyhound Adoption, I volunteered socializing cats and assisting with adoptions at a shelter. Now, in addition to spoiling my own Greyhound, Evie Petunia, I foster Greyhounds. I am the foster set-up coordinator, host meet-and-greets, and write regular columns for Colorado Greyhound Adoption. Evie is a fantastic ambassador of the Greyhound breed and we have fun doing our “Greyhound work.” From time to time, I have a twinge of guilt that all my volunteer time is devoted to four-legged creatures, rather than to members of my own species in the community.

I was having one of these twinges of guilt when my aunt, who is a reading teacher, sent me an article about the role of dogs in children’s literacy programs. The article focused on improved confidence and reading fluency among kids who read to dogs. Children who were nervous about reading to adults would make great strides reading to furry friends. Dogs never correct their pronunciation, and nothing calms nerves better than a dog’s chin in your lap. My aunt sent the article to me because one of the dogs in the program was a Greyhound.

Instantly I was scheming: Could Evie volunteer with a kids' literacy program? Could I use my dog to fulfill my need to volunteer to benefit humans?

I went to the Pikes Peak Library District website and was thrilled to learn they have a Paws to Read program at each library branch. After a few phone calls, I connected with the head of children's programming for the library. She told me about the program and the requirements. It turns out that the human sits with the dog and kids, so I couldn't make Evie do all the work. In order to be a Paws to Read dog, Evie would need to pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test and then have an interview at the library. I had already planned to follow up her basic obedience training with CGC training and testing, but it had fallen to the bottom of our to-do list. The librarian and I agreed that I would get back in touch once Evie had passed the CGC test.

Evie Petunia passed her CGC test without problem. It turns out that my poor spatial skills meant that we'd been practicing our down-stay at twice the distance required. She was sure the walker held treats, and she happily let a stranger pet her while I was out of sight. The following week, we had our interview. Before heading to the main library branch, I brushed Evie's teeth and applied her leave-in conditioner. She wore her finest martingale and pranced into the library as if she'd been there a million times before. After greetings and ear scratches, the librarian apologized that she had left my application on her desk upstairs and would be right back with it. No sooner had the elevator doors closed when Evie lunged across the children's section barking ferociously. I whipped around to see the cause of her excitement: two rabbits in a cage (who, I later learned, live at the library). After I regained my composure, I walked Evie on a short leash back and forth in front of the rabbit cage hissing "leave it."

By the time the librarian returned, we were the picture of canine good citizen and handler. The rest of our interview went without a hitch. The librarian was happy to see how Evie wagged her tail at kids, let them pet her, relaxed on her pillow while we chatted. I completed the paper work, received my

Paws to Read handbook, and was told Evie's and my volunteer badges would be waiting for us at the local branch the next week. On our way out, the librarian noted, "Evie just ignored the rabbits. Most of our dogs bark at them the first time or two." I just smiled.

Evie and I have volunteered at two library branches. There are minor differences in the Paws to Read structure between the libraries, but the goal is the same: encourage children to engage with books through interacting with dogs. Rarely do I read a story to children, since we want them to share books with the dogs. Children of all ages and abilities participate in Paws to Read. The youngest kids flip the pages of a book while staring intently at Evie, while toddlers answer my questions about the pictures on the pages. Pre-readers show the pages to Evie and make up their own stories to go along with the pictures, resulting in many smiles and laughs. The older children read stories of various levels to Evie, from *Cat in the Hat* to chapters from the *Magic Tree House* series.

I am never surprised that the kids' faces light up when they see Evie. Who could resist her needle-nose propped on a pillow in the children's section? They love petting her, showing her the pictures, and asking her questions about the books. Children who have stood on the periphery for a few weeks will gradually come closer and share a story

with Evie. Other kids walk up and ask, "How come you brought your dog to the library?" I show them Evie's badge and explain that her special dog library card gives her permission to come to the library and share books with kids. When a child looks timid about reading, I'll tell her, "I have a secret. Evie can't read, so she won't notice if you skip a hard word or say it wrong." One little girl asked me why Evie had her eyes closed. I replied that Evie can pay attention to the story better with her eyes closed. The girl replied, "Oh, I thought she was sleeping."

Paws to Read has also helped a few children work through their fear of dogs. We have had children say they don't want to read because they are afraid of dogs. My fellow human volunteers and I always say that dogs have to pass a special test before they become Paws to Read dogs and only dogs who love children, never bite, and don't eat books are allowed in the program. Some of these kids watch the dogs from afar, and some come over and pet them. While Evie's excited tail has startled a few children, they soon understand that tail wags mean she is happy to see them and share books with them.

I knew I would enjoy participating in Paws to Read. The children make me smile and I love showing off my dog. I assumed Evie Petunia wouldn't mind meeting kids and lying around, but I have been impressed



A dog in the library? Evie Petunia's volunteer badge indicates she belongs here.



Evie Petunia's calm presence encourages children to read to her.

by how much she likes Paws to Read. Each week, when I pull out her volunteer badge, she shivers with excitement. Depending on the weather, she wears a polka-dot smock embroidered with her name, a fleece coat, or just a fancy martingale. She runs up the steps to the library wagging her tail and struts confidently into the library. Our first stop is behind the librarians' desk to sign in. Evie bows to her favorite librarians and lets them pet her. She follows me to the children's section, lies down on the fleece blanket, and settles in for stories. She snuggles with kids, tolerates rough petting, and woos the parents. At least once a week we are told, "Our dog would never sit still that long!" On our way out of the library, we say goodbye to the librarians, and I pat Evie's neck and congratulate her for another good day at work.

There have been a few challenges at Paws to Read. One child was very insistent on holding Evie's leash and not letting other children read to her. My gentle reminders to her that only I hold Evie's leash and that we

could take turns were being ignored. After consulting with the head librarian, I firmly explained to the girl that in order to participate in Paws to Read and share stories with Evie, she has to follow the rules. She pouted but she did comply. Another time, there was a fly in the library. Evie likes to hunt insects. She snaps her mouth trying to catch them. While I find this quirk endearing, it is scary for children sitting in close proximity to Evie's jaw. Now I keep my eyes peeled for insects, warn the kids that Evie might try to eat the flies, and discourage her from hunting while at Paws to Read.

We live a block from the library where we currently volunteer, so we pass it often on walks. Whenever we go by, Evie looks up the stairs toward the door as if hoping it is a work day. Sometimes we run into kids from the library on our neighborhood walks. It is hard to tell who gets more excited — Evie seeing her library kids or the kids seeing their library dog. Kids proudly tell their friends or family that this is Evie Petunia

and she works at the library.

I am happy to have found a way to help humans in my community while involving my Greyhound. Most activities are more fun with her by my side and going to the library is no exception. I love seeing the kids engage Evie in story time. And I smile every time she prances into the library for "work." Racing may have been Evie's first profession, but she seems to be enjoying her retirement job as a Paws to Read dog. ■

Rachel Jervis lives in Colorado Springs, Colo. with Evie Petunia the Greyhound and Clover the grey cat. Rachel and Evie volunteer with Colorado Greyhound Adoption. At press time, Rachel had fostered eighteen Greyhounds; seventeen of whom were adopted by loving families and one who is stuck with Rachel. In addition to volunteering for CGA, Rachel enjoys hiking, running, cooking, knitting, and spoiling her pets.



Daisy and her owner, Connie Fett, visit healthcare facilities as volunteers for Pet-a-Pet.

Against All Odds: Daisy's Story

By Constance Fett

My beautiful adopted Greyhound's name is Daisy. She is 7 years old. I am retired from a 50-year career as a registered nurse. This is our story.

Daisy was a little over 2 years old when she came into our hearts and lives. She didn't run fast, so a racing career was not an option. Daisy went to live on a Greyhound farm in Oklahoma. From there she went to an adoption group, Greyhound Connection, located in the San Diego area. My daughter fostered her. While with my daughter, Daisy had an unrelenting diarrhea, which turned into horrible rectal bleeding. Not being able to find a cause, a colonoscopy was performed, revealing a massive whipworm infestation. With time, patience, medication, and a good diet, Daisy healed.

More than 2,500 miles away (in Michigan), my heart went out to Daisy, so my husband and I decided to adopt her. Daisy settled in to her forever home. Soon after, I enrolled Daisy in a training class, for Greyhounds only, sponsored by Trainers Academy, LLC based in Troy, Michigan. Trainers Academy is a "positive reinforcement facility" owned and operated by Lisa Petrona. It was evident that Daisy had some behavioral issues, but with phone and e-mail counseling with Lisa and an adjustment in our training methods, she made tremendous improvement. With patience and practice, Daisy progressed through many levels of classes. I also enrolled her in a daycare program at the same facility for supervised socialization with other breeds of dogs. Daisy loves going there, and it has boosted her confidence tremendously.

Daisy went on to pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, and even went on to become a Registered Therapy Dog. During testing at an Alzheimer's unit, there was a woman in a wheelchair who was not able to communicate. Daisy stood beside her wheelchair and leaned on it, as Greyhounds do. I talked to the woman about Daisy and got no response. After about five minutes, the woman put her hand out and started to pet Daisy and she continued to



Daisy has plenty of love to give to the people she meets.

pet her for another five minutes. A therapy dog was born.

Registered Therapy Dog Team

Daisy and I go to one hospital per week and have had mostly very good experiences. The worst, which wasn't all that bad, was when a patient told us, "I do not like dogs." My years of nursing experience have been a plus in my approach and response to patients.

It is most rewarding to watch Daisy with the people we visit and hear their reactions. I love seeing the smiles on peoples' faces, especially the elderly. People often ask why I do this. My answer is because she has so much love to give, and I want to share that love with everyone I can.

During a visit in a semi-private room, while a man petted Daisy, we conversed about talked about Greyhounds' lives at the racetrack. The patient in the second bed was an elderly man who talked about his dog while he petted and stroked Daisy. As I prepared to leave, I asked Daisy to bow, which is how we usually end our visits. He said, "No, she should bow to you for all the love and joy you give her and others." He then asked me to leave, as he started to cry and was embarrassed. I left with tears in my eyes as well.

I never approach any patient who is asleep. Can you imagine opening your eyes from a sound sleep and seeing this brown furry face with big teeth staring at you? During one visit, a staff member woke a man to see Daisy. He almost hit the ceiling from

fright. He didn't want to see me, never mind a big brown dog (his words).

There have been a few embarrassing experiences as well. Once, when we were about done for the day, I noticed Daisy became reluctant to enter and remain in patients' rooms, and she would no longer bow. I thought she was just tired. As we were walking down a long hallway to leave, Daisy stopped dead in her tracks. When I looked around to find out what the problem was, I saw that she had urinated — a very large quantity — on the hallway floor. Try as I might, I could not get help or supplies to clean up our mess. Since that day, I always carry a big shoulder bag with supplies, including puppy pads.

The nursing staff all love Daisy. They like to call her their own. She is as affectionate with them as with the patients, and they enjoy her visits just as much.

We belong to an organization called Pet-a-Pet. We are a group of people with dogs (different breeds) who visit healthcare facilities a couple of times per month. All the dogs get along and the patients enjoy the visits. We also go to a senior living center where the residents have their own apartments. We visit either in their apartments or in the community living room.

On a large oncology unit that we visit, the rooms are private and very spacious. While walking into a room, I observed it was quite crowded. Jokingly, I asked, "Is there room for us?" I received a resounding "yes!" Most of the people in the room were mental-

ly and/or physically challenged, including the man lying in the bed being fed by a woman. I went to the other side of his bed. I placed Daisy's head on the bed and gently put the man's hand on Daisy's head. "Oh, she is so soft," he said.

I then turned to the people sitting around the man. The first man was blind. I placed his hand on Daisy's head and he scratched her for a bit. The second man was blind also, so I repeated the steps, but Daisy took it one step further; she gently kissed his face. I went down the line of about six people, while telling them Daisy was bred to be a racer, but didn't run fast enough. Daisy bowed to all of the patients and then we left the room.

Recently, we walked into a room and the patient came rushing toward us, saying how beautiful he thought Daisy was. When the man approached us, he got down on his hands and knees in front of Daisy, while repeatedly saying, "Can we be friends?" Daisy answered him by licking him from the top of his head to his chin. We both laughed.

On this same oncology unit, we met a patient sitting in his room on a long padded bench. I asked him if he would enjoy seeing the dog. He looked at Daisy and waved us in. His entire head was covered in bandages. He had undergone some type of cranial surgery. He wasn't able to talk but was appropriate in his actions. I sat down next to him while he scratched Daisy's entire body.

I saw the same man a few weeks later, but he was in bed. One visitor shook his head for me not to come in. But the man waved me in. I could only get Daisy's head close enough for him to pet, but her head got a good scratching.

The man was not there the next time we visited.

For me, pet therapy is a good way to combine my experience in human healthcare with my love for animals. The payback is worth the initial time investment in training to become a registered therapy dog team.

One little Greyhound came from a farm in Oklahoma and went on to become a Registered Therapy Dog in a big city. Now that's what I call "against all odds." ■

Connie Fett and Daisy the Greyhound live in Warren, Mich.



Liberty presence comforts a resident at Maryknoll, a retirement home for Catholic priests and missionaries in Los Altos, Calif.

A Retired Greyhound's Second Career: Liberty's Story

Story and photos by Maud Carol Markson

My husband and I were definitely in need of healing when Liberty, our 2 year-old red brindle Greyhound, entered our lives. Just six months earlier, our beloved Standard Poodle had died at the age of 15. Our hearts felt empty and our emotions were raw.

"I will never have another dog," my husband said. "It's just too painful to lose them. I do not want to hurt this way again."



Liberty races across the property of the retirement home, delighting residents.

I, too, was hurting, but I missed having a dog in the house and in my life, so I wore him down. But what kind of dog did I want? I thought about another Standard Poodle, but the idea of trying to “replace” our old dog haunted me, and I wasn’t sure I had the energy for a puppy. In the back of my mind I always kept the memory of two Greyhounds I had met 20 years earlier — a woman came to my son’s school with her two retired Greyhounds, promoting Greyhound adoption. I remembered their sweet temperament, their gentle eyes. And that is how Liberty entered our lives.

I knew almost immediately that Liberty would make an excellent therapy dog. She was quiet and unafraid, reserved yet friendly, and it was clear that she loved people. We nicknamed her the “love junkie,” because she was happy to spend hours leaning up against whatever human was around, being petted and stroked, her long tail thumping back and forth. Not only was she calm, but she had a calming effect on others, particularly the people in my own home. When my husband comes home from work stressed and

irritable, it takes only a moment with Liberty before I see his face and body relax.

“She’s better than Prozac,” my husband jokes. But it is true.

When our son was sick, Liberty instinctively stood by his bed, placing her face next to his, seemingly content to remain there for as long as he might need her. And while I work at my desk, she stands close to me with her head in my lap, pleased just to be touching me, requiring nothing else. She eases my worries. And she has helped heal our aching hearts.

After deciding to do therapy work with Liberty, I had to find a group with which to work. I researched various groups online until I found one nearby. Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services offered opportunities to work at facilities within 30 minutes of my California home. Furry Friends also offered its own certification program. From what I could tell, Liberty would pass the program’s requirements with flying colors.

Through Furry Friends, I signed up for three very different sites to visit with Liberty. At Buscher Middle School in Santa Clara,

Liberty spends time with ESL (English as a second language) and learning-disabled students as they read to her. As the children enter the room filled with Furry Friends volunteers and their pets, they select which dog they want to read to, and I often see a bit of fear in their eyes when they look at Liberty — a large thin dog with a pointy nose.

“She’s scary skinny,” one of the boys shouts out to his friends.

It seems safer to choose the Golden Retriever or the fluffy Cairn Terrier. But once these children are next to Liberty, I see them relax as she leans against them on the floor and listens to them read. One young Vietnamese girl who could barely speak a word of English to me was able to read *Green Eggs and Ham* while sitting next to Liberty, a nonjudgmental, safe listener. At the end of our session, I told the young girl how well she had read. She looked at me as if she did not understand what I said, shrugged her shoulders, and then gave Liberty a hug.

At Maryknoll, a retirement home for priests and missionaries in Los Altos, we visit with men who have spent most of their adult

lives serving people in other countries. Most of them owned dogs at one time, but they cannot have dogs where they are living now, and they miss them.

"She's retired like you," I say to the men and show them the tattoos in Liberty's ears, telling them about her early life at the track. Later, as Liberty runs through her commands — sit, stay, shake, come — she shows these men that there is life after retirement.

"Can she still race?" one of the retired missionaries asks me, and all the men clap when they see her race across the property. It is true; Liberty is still very fast, but she is happily pressed up against the priest's leg as he softly speaks in Spanish to her. I don't know if Spanish was Liberty's first language, but she certainly seems to understand every word he says.

The toughest visits for me are the visits to a local children's hospital. The children's ward is mostly filled with teenage girls, not much younger than my own son. Some of them are able to join us in the visiting room where they are dressed in pajamas and fuzzy slippers. They sit up and pet Liberty and offer her treats. Other patients on this ward cannot leave their beds. I walk Liberty into their rooms, and just as she did with my son, she rests her head next to their pillows. They can feel her velvety ears and the warmth of her breath. They are consoled by her dark eyes. The girls speak longingly of the dogs they have left behind at home; they talk about their illnesses, about missed school, and friends who are too far away to visit. But most of all, they silently stroke Liberty. Although it is painful for me to see these young girls with serious illnesses, it is also very rewarding to see the comfort they receive from my quiet Greyhound, the "love junkie."

"She makes me want to get better," one of the girls says to me.

"I hope I don't see you here next month when we return," I say, only half-kidding.

"I hope so too," the girl says.

If Liberty is at all exhausted by these visits, she barely shows it. She leaves as she came in — with her head held high and her ears pricked and alert. It is only after she settles down comfortably in the car for our ride home that she finally closes her eyes and



Liberty, the "love junkie," does what she does best.

sleeps. I like to believe she knows she has done a good job.

Greyhounds begin their lives as working dogs, and their work at the tracks, which is all about speed, is well suited to their body type — long legs, deep chest, and thin frame. As a therapy dog, Greyhounds have a very different type of job to do and I believe it suits them well. Their naturally calm demeanor, their unflappability, and their

love of humans make them the perfect therapy dog. Liberty has found her second calling in life, and I am grateful to guide her through this new career. ■

Maud Carol Markson is author of the novels Looking After Pigeon and When We Get Home.



Magnus, adopted by Mart and Mary Lapin of Orono, Me.

Helping Hounds Pet Therapy

By Mardy Fones

Second Look is a regular feature in which we look in on the subjects of previous articles to see how they are doing. Ginger McDugle's article, "Helping Hounds Pet Therapy: New Careers for Retired Racers" (Winter 2002 CG), profiled a Greyhounds-only pet therapy group. When we contacted the group for an update, we were surprised and saddened by what we learned. —Ed.

Most Greyhound adoption moves on the energy of a handful of volunteers whose tenacity and force of personality are the fuel that drives it. Helping Hounds, a Memphis, Tennessee group that has been taking Greyhounds into health care and other facilities to visit patients and residents since the late 1990s, is no exception. At its apex in 2002, it had a vibrant leader and at least 50 volunteers whose Greyhounds did pet therapy in myriad settings.

When the group's founders retired, Rebecca Neeley stepped in and focused much of her time and personal resources on Helping Hounds. Her vision was the group's vision. She molded its mission, marshaled its forces, and made the decisions large and small.

That changed on June 13, 2008, when Neeley was raped and murdered. She was found five days later in the home she shared with nine Greyhounds.

The well-being of Neeley's dogs was the immediate priority. Vicki Cohen, director of Mid-South Greyhound Adoption Option, bailed Neeley's Greyhounds out of the Memphis Animal Shelter, where they were moved when Neeley's body was discovered. Eight were adopted subsequently; the ninth, a dog with advanced kidney failure that went untreated between the time of Neeley's murder and the dog's release from the shelter, was euthanized. Neeley's killer, a handyman who had worked for her, pleaded guilty in 2010 and was sentenced to life in prison.

A cautionary tale

Amidst the grief, loss, and sadness, Helping Hounds staggered. According to Deb Elliott, now president, the group's struggles had begun earlier and Neeley's death made them obvious.

"When a decision needed making, Becky made it. She did good things, but she always had her way," says Elliott. "That frustrated people. There was lots of drama. People had ideas about how things should be done that were different from Becky's and she had a lot of dogs that took a lot of her personal time."

Neeley kept all the group's records in her head. At the time of her death, no one knew which facilities the dogs were currently visiting or had visited in the past. The group had no contact names or details on facility guidelines for visitation.

"We weren't a good keeper of our own history," Elliott admits.

Initially, Neeley's professional connections literally had opened doors for Helping Hounds work. The facilities who knew of Neeley's role as activities director at Methodist University Hospital did not require the Helping Hounds to be registered therapy dogs. In the vacuum left by Neeley's absence, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital began requiring therapy dogs visiting their facility to be registered by the Delta Society.

Although Helping Hounds now requires its Greyhounds to be Therapy Dogs Inc. (TDI)-registered, meeting that requirement is challenging since the nearest TDI tester/observer is 90 minutes away and the registration requires three visits. "When gas is \$3.50 a gallon, it's hard to get people on

board with that," says Elliott. "We'd love to recruit by putting information about Helping Hounds in every adopter packet Mid-South sends. But if we can't offer convenient testing for TDI registration, it doesn't make sense."

On the upside, TDI registration includes liability coverage while conducting pet therapy. Helping Hounds also now has specific policies for volunteers and their dogs. An example Elliott gave was that if a facility doesn't have an escort for the volunteer and dog the day they show up, they are encouraged to come back another time.

Overcoming barriers

Unlike most Greyhound endeavors, lack of funding isn't an issue; sustaining Helping Hounds as an active, engaged organization is. According to Elliott, the organization now operates with four board members (three of whom do visitations with their Greyhounds) and one volunteer. Grief is a factor, too. Elliott inherited by default much of Neeley's

Greyhound paraphernalia, including two crates of dog costumes. "Every time I tried to go through them, I cried," says Elliott. "I have a clothes hamper from her house containing VHS tapes of Becky's appearances on TV and Greyhound trinkets. I still haven't gone through it."

Hindsight as they say is 20-20 and it's easy to look back and see the steps that put a once-vibrant organization and its volunteers on the path they walk today. Managing the present and predicting the future, however, are different stories.

"We need to move forward and we're trying. Anita Hsia, who is our treasurer, and I make the major decisions and run ideas by the board at monthly meetings. Anita visits two facilities and I do two, plus the VA [Veterans Administration] hospital. Our newest member, Paula Pilgrim, goes to Youth Villages twice a month," says Elliott. "We don't want the group to become stagnant." ■

Mardy Fones is a volunteer for GPA/Nashville.



Rose, adopted by Karen and John McGinley of Bayport, N.Y.



Barry, a patient at the Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation, shares a moment with Greyhound Torps as GFNJ volunteers Mark and Helene Schragger look on.

Promoting Pet Therapy

By Lynn Heiler

Confined to a wheelchair by cerebral palsy, Alice didn't think she could bear the sorrow of attending her father's funeral. A true animal lover, she knew how a dog can soothe the pain of a person in despair, so she asked for therapy dogs to help her deal with the sadness of the event. A Greyhound Friends of New Jersey (GFNJ) volunteer saw the plea on a message board. Calls went out, and a number of Greyhound therapy dogs were brought to the funeral home. Alice brightened as soon as she saw the dogs, who stayed with her through the entire service. Whether Greyhounds have an otherworldly skill to bring real comfort, or whether quiet, seemingly sympathetic Greyhounds just provide a helpful distraction, stories abound about these dogs and the difference they make in peoples' lives.

GFNJ encourages its adopters to train their dogs and have them become registered therapy dogs. For years, Therapy Dogs International (TDI) testers have come to the GFNJ annual spring and fall picnics, and tested the Greyhounds and their handlers. Once a Greyhound and handler have passed the test, they can register as a therapy dog team. People wait and watch quietly while the dogs and their handlers go through their paces. It's exciting to see a team pass, knowing all the love and dedication that went into the training. Facilities looking for visits by therapy dogs are listed on the GFNJ website, and the group's newsletters often promote the idea with items written by owners who are happy to talk about how much it means to them, their dogs, and the people they've affected.

Ellen Ganopoulos, a GFNJ member, was inspired by stories of the therapy Greyhounds who responded to the families of the 9/11 victims. Otherwise inconsolable people took comfort from the quiet demeanor of the dogs. She knew her two Greyhounds would make good therapy dogs, so now Wilbur and Orville are registered therapy dogs through

TDI. Orville is also trained as a disaster-response dog and DSR (Disaster Stress Relief) certified. She and her dogs are members of the Ocean County, New Jersey Emergency Response Crisis Counselors. Her dogs even have their own, authentic Homeland Security Essential Personnel badges.

Along with a number of activities such as Boy Scouts of America "pet care and appreciation" events, Orville and Wilbur visit schools and libraries as part of the TDI "Tail Waggin' Tutors" program. Sometimes a child is too shy to read aloud in the presence of another person, so instead he is encouraged to read to a dog. Ellen tells the children that Orville and Wilbur are specially trained "reading dogs" and will fall asleep if the child does a good job.

Ira Kupferberg started training his GFNJ Greyhounds in 2006 after reading a newspaper article about a woman who took her dog to visit patients with developmental disabilities. Now, he and his dogs visit three nursing homes, an assisted-living facility, a special education school, hospice patients, and a hospital with detox, psychiatric, and medical

patients. To date, Shala has made 200 visits and Misty has made 100.

In addition, GFNJ has its own therapy program — the Prison Foster Program. For nine years, this award-winning program has brought together 22 inmates with 11 Greyhounds in need of tender loving care. The dogs live in the men's cells for six to eight weeks, receiving socialization and training. And although the Greyhounds are not registered therapy dogs, they do provide rehabilitative benefits to incarcerated young men. In the diaries the men are required to keep, they report that the dogs have taught them to trust and be responsible for another living thing, sometimes for the first time in their lives. It's hard to say who benefits more from the therapy — the Greyhounds or the inmates.

GFNJ President Linda Lyman sums it up: "Greys make excellent therapy dogs because of their natural calm and intelligence. We've all been there when our Grey seems to know we need a hug. Why not share their gift with others?" Why not, indeed. ■

Lynn Heiler is a GFNJ volunteer.



D.O.G., adopted by Elise and Richard Woolfort of St. Charles, Mo.



Greyhound Yonker accompanies his owner, Diane Akers, as she goes about her daily activities. He is a balance-service dog.

Therapy Dogs vs. Service Dogs

By Dana Provost

Through 18 years of being a therapy-dog team with my many Greyhounds, I have found that many people are unaware of the differences between a therapy dog and a service dog. They are not the same.

What is a service dog?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service dog as one who has been “individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.” The ADA defines *disability* as a “mental or physical condition which substantially limits a major life activity” such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, or working. The definition includes some disabilities that may not be visible, such as deafness, epilepsy, and psychiatric conditions.

Kelly McMahon has had service dogs over the years to assist her with her disability. She acquired her service dogs through Canine Assistants (CA), which was founded in Alpharetta, Georgia in 1991 (www.canineassistants.org).

One of many not-for-profit service-dog training organizations in the United States, CA is totally funded through donations. CA trains dogs for children and adults with mobility impairments, seizure disorders, hearing loss, and developmental disabilities. It trains dogs as service dogs, companion dogs, and seizure-response dogs.

The dogs in training at CA’s 18-acre farm stay there until placement. At any given time 120 dogs may be in training. CA places 75 to 100 dogs annually. Most dogs come from CA’s breeding program, although it also uses dogs adopted from shelters and rescue programs. The dogs are Golden Retrievers, Labradors, and mixes of the two breeds.

Puppies begin their training (through their Super Dog Program) at 2 days old. The dog

trains for 18 months. They learn a variety of commands, such as opening and closing doors, picking up dropped items, and operating light switches.

To obtain a service dog through CA, the potential handler must submit an application. Any child or adult with a disability, anywhere in the United States, may apply. The application is reviewed and if accepted, the potential recipient is placed on a waiting list that can vary from one to five years. The dogs are placed free of charge. Based upon financial need, assistance may be provided for after-care, including veterinary treatment, medication, and food throughout the service dog's life, even after the service dog has retired.

CA requires service-dog applicants to participate in a two-week boot camp at the facility in Milton, Georgia. CA will provide financial aid for recipients unable to cover the expenses associated with attending the boot camp.

Training at boot camp consists of lectures and videos as well as daily tests. The camp requires the recipient and the chosen service dog to be together 24 hours a day. The service dog must be by the recipient's side, and the recipient is the only person who may interact with the dog. To strengthen their bond, the recipient and service dog will go on outings — to the movies, malls, and restaurants. Following successful completion of boot camp, the recipient returns home with the service dog.

CA's program is one option to obtain a trained service dog. Working with an individual trainer is another option. Cindy Sanford at Help U Train, LLC (www.helpu-train.com) is a certified trainer who has completed the Triple Crown Academy's Canine Behavior and Training Specialist (TCA) program. In the six years since graduation from TCA, she has conducted public classes and provides private training lessons.

Sanford, who resides in Florida, asked Greyhound Pets of America-Emerald Coast (GPA/Emerald Coast) if it had a Greyhound that would be good for her client, Diane Akers. Diane was on a waiting list for a service dog.

Cindy chose a retired Greyhound to work with Diane because she believed the breed

has a wonderful temperament for a service dog. They can be cool, calm, collected, and distinguished, and they are slightly aloof in public. Retired racers are also used to being handled. These attributes make being in public easier for a handler.

Cindy was looking for a Greyhound with a calm, steady temperament who would wait patiently. Cindy also needed to match Diane's existing dog and his personality with the chosen Greyhound. GPA/Emerald Coast chose a Greyhound named Yonker for Diane.

Yonker went home with Cindy as a foster dog. Thus Yonker's training began. He would be trained as a balance-service dog for Diane. Cindy believed that a Greyhound is the perfect size and height to be a balance-service

dog. She trained Yonker for four months. During that time, Yonker learned to move at various speeds, take stairs at a person's pace, and brace as a counter balance while a handler stood up or leaned down. He was taught to stand steady even if a handful of skin was grabbed, and to stop immediately and not panic if a person fell across his back. Yonker was taken all over town and introduced to situations similar to those Diane would be encountering. He was trained in basic manners so that when he went to Diane for further polishing of his skills, he would be able to pass a Canine Good Citizen test and a public-access test.

Yonker was his willing to do whatever was asked of him. He completed all tasks



Yonker's service vest lets onlookers know that he is a working dog.

calmly, including being bumped and walking at different speeds.

When Yonker went to Diane, she was to take him for a week or so to try him out. The rest is history, as they say. One week turned into two weeks and then three and, of course, he stayed. During this time, Cindy took Diane's other dog home for a month, while Diane was bonding with Yonker. She trained this dog in tasks such as fetching phones, pulling a laundry bag and picking up objects.

You may guess some of the downfalls to having a Greyhound as a service dog. For Diane, a five-minute trip to the store can end up taking 30 minutes or more if everyone wants to talk about the Greyhound. She also face challenges to her access rights and invasion of her boundaries; even though the Greyhound is wearing a badge that states, "Working Dog, Do Not Pet," sometimes people can't resist.

If Diane couldn't deal with these pressures, Yonker would be rehomed as a very well-trained pet dog, ideal for another adopter. Fortunately, Diane was able to withstand these challenges.

The advantage of an owner-trained service dog is the bonding that occurs. The handler and service dog become a team, and the owner feels a greater sense of independence. The training approach doesn't work for everyone. Cindy said some people go through several dogs before they find the right one, which is not so different from service "program" dogs. Not every one of them makes it as a public access service dog.

What is a therapy dog?

Therapy dogs and their handlers are trained to provide specific human populations with appropriate contact with dogs. Some are personal pets who accompany their handlers on visits; others are resident therapy dogs who stay at a facility. These dogs must meet specific criteria for health, grooming, and behavior. The Delta Society recognizes two categories of therapy dogs, as described in its Standards of Practice for Animal-Assisted Activities and Therapy. Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) is a goal-directed intervention in which an animal is an integral part of the clinical healthcare

treatment process, and the therapy is delivered or directed by a skilled, professional health or human-service provider. Animal-Assisted Activities (AAA), which provide to enhance quality of life, are delivered by professionals, para-professionals, and volunteers.

The definition of pet-therapy activities includes therapy dog team visits to schools, hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, or any facilities where interaction with the dogs would benefit people. During these visits, people are invited to pet and stroke the dog. Some might wish to interact with the dog or just look at him. Dogs might perform simple tricks or obedience routines to entertain and to help people take their minds off their problems. These activities can include walk-

ing alongside the dog and handler, and throwing toys for fetching games, which may provide "therapeutic contact."

While therapy dogs provide many benefits, the federal law that protects the rights of qualified individuals with disabilities has no provision for people to be accompanied by therapy dogs in places of public accommodation such as restaurants, grocery stores, or other places with "no pets" policies. Therapy dogs and service dogs perform different functions and meet different needs. The goal of the service dog is to facilitate the independence of its handler. The purpose of the therapy dog is to provide benefits to others. Therapy dogs are not service dogs. ■

Dana Provost is CG Features Editor.



Bailey, adopted by Mike and Joanne Bast of Edgewater, Md. *Joanne Bast*



Keleigh Miller poses with Reggie on certification day as Jim and Dianne Shadle of Keystone Greyhounds look on.

Reggie's Calling

By Val Fralick

Like many retirees, Reggie (Craigie GinLite) was looking for something to do, and like an increasing number of people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Keleigh Miller was looking for a service dog for balance support.

Keleigh's MS had been slowly progressing over the past 15 years. Around two years ago, a friend introduced Keleigh to professional dog trainer Betsy Howell of Red Fern Canines. Betsy is a former training coordinator for a service-dog organization and she agreed to begin the search for a tall, trainable dog with a gentle temperament. Of course, the owners of retired racers immediately think, *Greyhound*, but that never crossed Keleigh's mind.

However, while most Greyhound adopters are aware of just how clever our dogs can be, we do not expect them to aim to please as would, say, a Labrador Retriever. Thankfully, that never crossed Betsy's mind. During the search for the proper dog, Keystone Greyhounds president Dianne Shadle suggested that a Greyhound might be a suitable choice. In April 2010, four months into the Greyhound hunt, 4-year-old Reggie was chosen.

Betsy fostered Reggie for one month to teach him basic commands and in May, Reggie moved in with Keleigh on a trial basis.

The average service dog arrives at its placement fully trained at a cost of \$5,000 to \$15,000. In this case, Keystone Greyhounds donated Reggie's adoption, and Betsy offered discounted services to Keleigh. Keleigh was extremely pleased and pleasantly surprised by how quickly Reggie learned commands and bonded to her. Along the way, dog-behavior consultant Lee Livingood stepped in to help with specific lifestyle issues.

One of these issues involved Keleigh patiently sitting on the back seat of the car with treats until Reggie felt secure enough to join her there and eventually to travel in the car. Several of Keleigh's friends with other dogs bemoan things that they can't convince

their dogs to do. Keleigh firmly believes that all training is possible with patience and repetition — although every dog may not be as talented as Reggie.

Aiming for official service-dog certification, Keleigh and Reggie incorporated training into everyday life. They focused on 10-minute intervals, and would extend the training time if Reggie continued to be enthusiastic. Frankly, no one expected Reggie to excel at retrieving things. After all, Greyhounds are notorious hoarders. However, now when Reggie hears Keleigh's command, Find it, he returns wiggling, wagging his tail and obviously pleased with his success at retrieving the dropped keys, pen or other item. Sometimes he gets a treat but mostly he relishes her happy tones of praise.

The command Brace alerts Reggie to position his body and legs for sturdy support when Keleigh needs help to rise from a chair or regain her balance. Reggie also learned to lean into Keleigh when he senses balance issues as they walk. While most adopters have learned to stop on a stairway to allow the manic scramble as Greyhounds make their way, Reggie proved to have the sensitivity to match Keleigh step-for-step beside her for support. By September 15, Reggie had proven his mettle at being the right dog for Keleigh's needs and the adoption was finalized.

After taking a training hiatus for the holiday season, Keleigh and Reggie started trial-tests in early 2011. In April, Reggie passed the service dog public-access test and was certified as an official balance dog. While wearing his Red Fern Canines service dog harness, Reggie can now go everywhere that Keleigh goes. Neither Keleigh nor Reggie imagined that their next steps in life would be together, but thanks to a coterie of confident matchmakers, Reggie has found work that is even more significant than his former career, and Keleigh has gained balance by leaning on a friend.

Inspired by this potential, Lucky (WW Key Kap Rico) is the second Keystone Greyhounds dog who is working toward certification as a service/support dog. He is presently in training with Rosanne Foy, and he will graduate in a few months. Once certified, he will be adopted by a woman who uses a walker and needs him for support. It's gratifying to see Greyhounds showcase the myriad of abilities that make them survivors of change and endearing examples of man's best friend. ■

Val Fralick volunteers for Keystone Greyhounds and lives in Enola, Pa. with husband Scott and Greyhound Val's RocknRoll.



Ty, adopted by Bob and Laura Drennan of West Chester, Ohio. (The deer is a stuffed display at Hocking Hills State Park.)

The Bertillon Demystified

Story by Shannon Forrest

Photos by Jessica Martin

“Y es, we do have a Greyhound here. Can you describe the dog?” the worker at the animal shelter responds to your inquiry.

“Well, it’s male and brindle,” you say, hoping that your lost dog has been found.

“Ma’am, I’ve got two male brindle Greyhounds here and someone has already claimed one of them. Can you be more specific?”

The question is: Can you?

Aside from using an ear tattoo or microchip, could you identify your Greyhound based on physical characteristics alone? Is that scar on the right leg or the left? Where are the white patches in relation to the brindle? Most people would recognize their animals based on behavior but recalling physical traits from memory might be difficult.

However, if a Greyhound was registered to race, those characteristics have been documented on a Bertillon card.

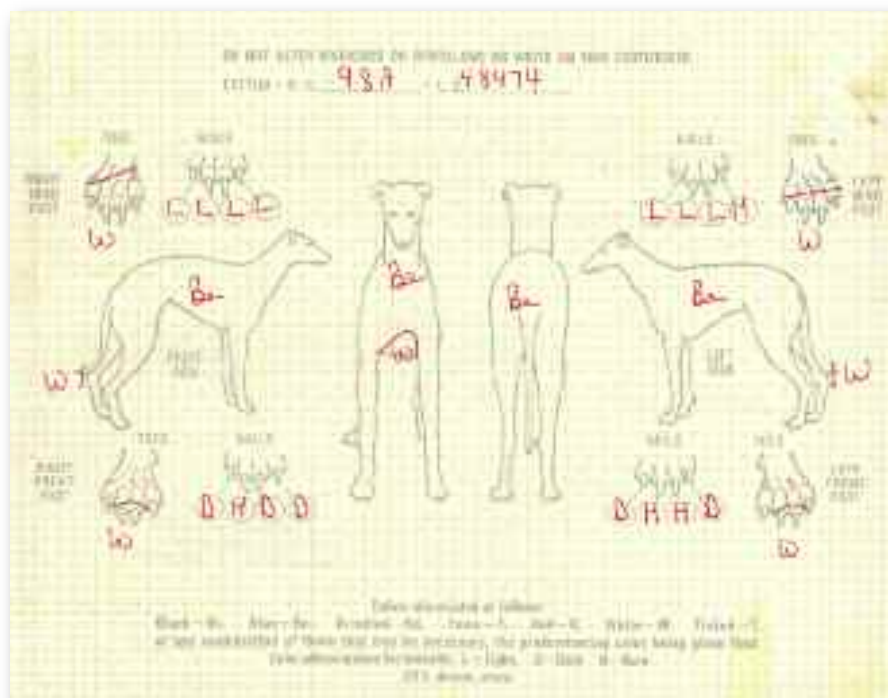
Alphonse Bertillon may not have been aware that his contribution to society would be modified to identify Greyhounds. He died in 1914, not long before the sport of organized dog racing became popular in the United States.



Is this your dog? Shannon Forrest knows this is Wagner, because he has his Bertillon card.

Bertillon’s System

The man behind the card that bears his name was born in France in 1853. At the age of 26, he was hired by the records division of the Paris police department. Bertillon soon became dismayed with the monotonous task of cataloging more than 5 million files. The sheer volume of criminal records made the job daunting and the documents were vague and of poor value. Descriptions of physical features were not sufficiently specific to positively identify a criminal, the names were often phony, and the mug shots were distorted. Disillusioned with the status quo, Bertillon — a statistician at heart with a love for anthropology — sought a new model that would assist the police in establishing a catalog of offenders.



The backside of Wagner's Bertillon card identifies the color of his coat and nails.

Bertillon Cards and Greyhound Racing's Early Years

Fortuitously, Greyhounds also have overt, unchanging characteristics that can be used for identification. Exactly when the Bertillon card made its way to Greyhound racing is lost to history. However, one can imagine the early days of match-racing in which farmers in a field in the Midwest argued over whose dog was faster. In the beginning, match racing was a private affair, not a spectator sport. Even if money switched hands, participants did not care what the dog looked like or what he or she was called.

Things changed with the introduction of dog racing to the general public. Most historians agree that the origin of official Greyhound racing coincides with Owen Patrick Smith's invention of the mechanical lure. According to interviews with Smith's son Edward, as recounted by *Sports Illustrated* writer Robert Cantwell in the 1973 article "Run Rabbit Run," Smith envisioned a national Greyhound racing circuit that would be received as entertainment. Ticket sales and concessions would support the business.

Smith surmised that use of a rabbit as a live lure — common in early Greyhound coursing events — would repel potential attendees. The mechanical lure would address this issue. Unfortunately, when Smith built his first Greyhound track in 1919 in Emeryville, California to demonstrate his invention, the United States was recovering from World War I and facing Prohibition. The average citizen lacked the funds to pay for admission to a spectator sport. However, entrepreneurs were looking to make up for alcohol revenue that was about to vanish. If spectators could win money at the track, they might be more likely to open up their wallets for a night at the races.

Smith was not interested in gambling. Betting was not even permitted at the Emeryville track. Nevertheless, Smith took steps to ensure the integrity of each race, including establishing a holding area to prevent pre-race tampering with the dogs — a practice that still exists today. As the popularity of the sport increased, additional visibility could also mean additional scrutiny. It was easy for someone who lost money to

Operating under the premise that people have similar but not identical characteristics, Bertillon began to measure the physical attributes of those who had been arrested. Although the probability of finding two people of exactly the same height was likely, he surmised that by recording additional features like arm length and facial dimensions, differences would emerge.

Before long, Bertillon's categories included measurements such as head circumference, arm span, ear length, and finger size in addition to the more conventional characteristics of eye and hair color. This data, along with a front and profile photograph, were recorded on a cardboard card measuring 6.5 inches tall by 5.5 inches wide. The cards were filed in the police department. When processing criminals, officers took measurements, consulted the cards (by 1882, they recorded data in 243 categories), and looked for a match. In this way, the police were able to spot repeat offenders.

Bertillon's system gave rise to an entirely new field of study known as anthropometry — the science of using a person's physical measurements as a means of identification. The Bertillon card was in widespread use in Europe by 1887 and first appeared in the United States in the Illinois prison system the same year.

In 1896 the New York legislature mandated that all inmates incarcerated within the state's penitentiaries be subject to the new system.

Although the method was successful at categorizing and identifying criminals (Bertillon himself claimed that of the 31,849 arrests during the system's lifespan, 2 percent were repeat offenders who could have been identified only through his model), it had shortcomings that ultimately caused its demise.

Variations in measurement techniques among arresting officers produced inconsistent data. Photographing the same person using different lighting or camera position could yield vastly disparate images. Because some physical characteristics change over time, Bertillon measurements were of limited use in identification of criminals whose measurements were taken in their early years. Finally, the sheer volume of cards became nearly impossible to manage in an era before computers; New York accumulated a file of more than 24,000 cards after 24 months in service.

Ultimately, a new discovery would render Bertillon's system obsolete — the fact that each person has a unique series of loops, whorls, and arches at the tips of their fingers that do not change over time.



On his Bertillon card, Wagner's front toe nails are identified as either "dark" or "horn" in color.



All four nails on Wagner's right hind foot are identified as "light" on his Bertillon card; and indeed they are.

claim a race was fixed. Combating these accusations meant employing safeguards to ensure the matchups were legitimate. One means of accomplishing this was to verify that the dog listed in the program was in fact the dog that entered the starting box. This was especially important when Florida (then and now the largest venue for Greyhound racing) legalized pari-mutuel betting in 1932.

The state received tax revenues from the sport during a time of national depression and needed to do everything possible to avert cheating to preserve the lucrative income stream. The only practical way to prevent illegal substitutions (the "bait and switch") was to identify dogs based upon permanent physical characteristics using a modified form of Bertillon's original criminal classification system.

Use of the Bertillon Card Today

The Bertillon card, still in use today, can identify up to 56 specific features of a particular Greyhound. The documentation process begins when an owner registers a puppy with the National Greyhound Association (NGA) and completes an application that details the dog's attributes. Sometimes referred to as an "onion skin" because of the color and density of the paper, the document is a canine birth certificate, passport and driver's license, all rolled into one.

Bertillon's original mug shot has been replaced by a front, side, and rear view diagram of a Greyhound. The owner of the dog

uses the diagram to indicate color, pattern, and any visible scars. Officially recognized colors consist of black, blue, brindle, fawn, red, and white. For dogs with multi-colored coats, areas of different colors are outlined and marked with color codes (for example, BE = blue; BR = brindle). In accordance with Bertillon's theory that a greater number of measurements equates to a more accurate identification, all 16 toenail colors are annotated as well. Two Greyhounds may have similar features, but identification of three different nail color varieties (light, dark, and horn) in 16 locations allows for more than 43 million combinations of characteristics. Toe color is also specified, adding an additional layer of differentiation.

Once the application is processed, the NGA issues an official two-sided Bertillon card. Its front contains the dog's name, date of birth, sex, owner's name, and a two-generation pedigree. The back side contains the diagram of the dog and the ear tattoos — a practice that began in 1961.

The official Bertillon follows a racing Greyhound throughout his life and is always checked before the start of a race. Upon arrival at the track, each dog gets a tag clipped to his collar that notes the number of the race and his box position within that race. Officials verify that the dog's weight is within limits and sequester him in a kennel coinciding with the numbers on the tag. Approximately 15 minutes before walking out on the track for the scheduled race, the

dog receives a final weigh-in and is suited up with a numbered blanket. At this point, the track officials compare the dog to the Bertillon to verify identity. If everything checks out, the dog parades out and is off to the races.

When a Greyhound's career ends several things can happen to the Bertillon. It may get filed away by the dog's owner or become lost during a transition to adoption. It is not uncommon for an owner to relinquish the Bertillon to an adoption group along with the dog. Subsequently, an adoption group may decide to keep the Bertillon in its own records. Adopters who are interested in obtaining a Bertillon of their pet Greyhound can submit a pet-transfer form through the NGA. The applicant will receive a certificate specifying that the dog is officially a retired racer (of whom the applicant is the new owner) along with a complete Bertillon profile.

The certificate can be used as official documentation if the dog's ownership is ever in question. A lost Greyhound can turn up at an animal shelter without tags or a microchip. Many shelters will contact a local Greyhound adoption group when a Greyhound shows up at the door. Without any leads, finding the owner can be a difficult process. Ear tattoos can fade over time and become illegible as the dog ages. Shelter employees may have neither the knowledge nor the time to look up the tattoos. The shelter may hand off the dog to a local Greyhound adoption group, who places the dog in a new home; all while the true owner frantically searches for their lost dog. If the error comes to light, the Bertillon may be the only way to prove that the dog belongs to the original adopter.

How ironic that a technique developed more than 130 years ago to put criminals behind bars may get a Greyhound released in the future.■

Shannon Forrest is a professional pilot and aviation safety consultant. He resides in Keller, Texas with his wife and four retired racing Greyhounds. He can be reached at sforrest@turbinementor.com



Erin Davis assembles the appropriate digits for tattooing the ears of six pups — five males, one female — born in January 2011. NGA requires that pups be tattooed within 90 days of whelping.

Greyhound Ear Tattoos

Story and photos by Ray Wong

All Greyhounds who have raced on sanctioned tracks in North America have at least one more thing in common: they were all inked as young pups.

Ear tattoos distinguish racing Greyhounds from other dogs and being tattooed is one of a pup's first steps toward becoming a racer. The tattoos also are the industry's way of quickly and definitively identifying individual dogs. All racing Greyhound litters must be tattooed as a part of litter registration with the National Greyhound Association (NGA), according to Gary Guccione, president of the American Greyhound Council.

In dog racing's first 40-plus years, Guccione says, the racing department and paddock judges at tracks depended on a dog's Bertillon (litter registration form) to confirm the identity of each dog as it was prepared to race. This document includes a line drawing of a Greyhound's front, back, sides, and feet on which the dog's color, scars, toenail colors and other distinguishing features — such as missing toes — are marked. It also lists the dog's tattoo numbers.

In a world populated by black dogs with white blazes and brindles in myriad combinations of stripes and colors, tattoos are another level of identity confirmation and a hallmark of an NGA-registered racer.

By the numbers

The first number of the tattoo in the right ear represents the month the pup was born, the last digit the year of birth or whelping. Then a sequential letter identifies each pup. For example, the first pup tattooed in a littered whelped in May 2011 would have a right ear tattoo of 51A; 51B would be the second pup tattooed. The typical Greyhound litter is six to eight pups, but if there were more than 14 pups, the 15th would be NM, the 16th would be NL, and so on.

The left-ear tattoo is a unique five-digit number assigned to all pups in a litter and is issued by the NGA. The number first appears on the breeding acknowledgment the NGA sends to the breeder who reported the mating.

Breeders and farms where broods and their pups live typically do their own tattooing. While the NGA requires pups to be tattooed and their litters registered within 90 days of birth, it can occur earlier, as long as the pups' ears are large enough to accommodate it.

Puppy ear-tattooing in the United States goes back to 1960, says Guccione. The National Coursing Association, forerunner to the NGA and American Greyhound Owners and Trainers Association, started the total-industry tattooing program that officially began in 1961.

"The NCA hired Cameron Moore from Abilene, Kansas to help implement the program nationally," says Guccione. "He traveled the country, visiting areas where there were a number of farms, instructing the owners on tattoo procedures. Breeders soon learned the technique."



Erin Davis and son Eli reassure Zeiss as Joe Davis examines the pup before recording his markings and distinguishing characteristics on the Bertillon. The Bertillon is part of the information required to register pups from the mating of Trent Lee and Nita's Pilot.



Nick waits patiently as tattoo ink is rolled on. The bright green tattoo ink enhances the readability of tattoos, making identification easy.



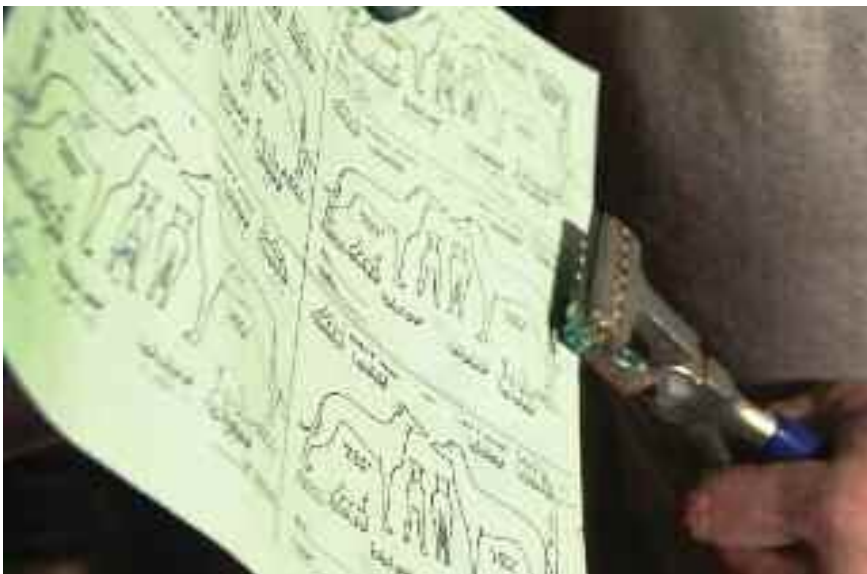
Minox's left ear is tattooed with the litter number issued by the NGA at the time of the whelping. The tattoo device works like tongs with little prongs for the numbers and letters on one side and a firm rubber pad on the other.



At about three months of age, Rolle is all man as he waits to get his litter number permanently placed in his ear. As the tattooer prongs press the ear, the pup will sometimes yelp or struggle; either way, the discomfort is short-lived.



Tattooing is usually a two-person operation. Joe Davis tattoos Flex as Erin Davis reacts to Flex's brief protest. The process usually takes less than five minutes per dog.



Once the ears are tattooed, Joe Davis imprints the Bertillon with each pup's month and year of birth, plus letter representing the order in which the pups were tattooed. The litter is registered to Heather Lomax, who works at a racing kennel at the Mardi Gras racetrack (Tri-State) in Cross Lanes, W.V.



After their session in the tattoo parlor, the three amigos — Nick, Flex, and Rollei — relax in the sun outside their pen at Joe and Erin Davis's kennel in Triadelphia, W.V.

Tattoo tricks

Unlike decorative tattoos where a needle injects color under the recipient's skin, Greyhound tattoos are a two-step process. Colored ink, usually green, is smeared liberally on the surface of the inside of the pups' ears.

Using a specially designed animal-tattooing kit, the stamps — which are made up of small prongs — are loaded into the head of a device that looks like a pair of tongs. The device is slipped over the pup's ear, centered and pressed down in one quick, smooth motion.

The pins force the green ink into the pup's skin, leaving a permanent identifying tattoo. Using the same device, the numbers are stamped into the litter registration form next to the corresponding pup's Bertillon. If a pup is incorrectly tattooed, a one-time penalty is assessed (\$5 per pup, \$10 maximum per litter) and paid to the NGA. Errors are recorded permanently at the NGA.

Although these tattoos serve a purely practical purpose, who could have thought that Greyhounds would in be out in front of the pack when it comes to the current craze of inked body art? ■

Ray Wong is a visual communication professor in the School of Journalism at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. These photos were taken as part of his creative/research project on the racing Greyhound. See more of this work at his website: www.Rayhoundtales.com

More Greyhounds in Tapestry

By Henry Townsend

In medieval times, as early as the 14th century, tapestries were one of the best ways for kings, princes, and other nobles to impress not only their peers but the public as well. As they traveled, the nobility would take their tapestries with them to provide a quick and easy way to furnish rooms, adding both beauty and insulation. On great occasions, tapestries were also used to line a processional route. Tapestries could be very large, as tall as 16 feet, while the total length of a set of tapestries might be several hundred feet. Onlookers would be impressed, for tapestries were by far the most expensive form of art. By the time of the Renaissance, tapestries were also used as permanent wall coverings, dazzling status symbols in a noble's castle, a palace, or a cathedral. They were the grandest and most important art of the courts. This article completes a two-part series that began in the Fall 2011 issue of CG.



RUSTIC SPORTS, VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON

Hanging in the same room as the Devonshire Hunting Tapestries is this naturalistic, more informal tapestry created around 1500 to 1515. It shows various kinds of hunting: a huntsman with two Greyhounds, in the center another with a hawk, and to the left, yet another with a cross-bow. A windmill, a stream, sheep, and flowers tell us this is the beautiful countryside, setting the stage for another kind of hunting — men courting women.

**DAVID AND BATHSHEBA,
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE RENAISSANCE,
ÉCOUEN, FRANCE**

This is an enormous set of ten tapestries, each almost 15 feet high with a total length of 246 feet. This set might have cost as much as the annual income of any but the most wealthy citizens. The artist and the location where they were made are unknown, but the design seems to have been inspired by 15th century Flemish painters. The weapons and aspects of the clothes date the design to around 1510 to 1515.

Greyhounds are in four of the ten pieces: the third, seventh, eighth, and ninth. In the third (top), two Greyhounds are walking about with mounted knights, in each of the next two (center, bottom), a Greyhound stands alone in a crowd at King David's court, while in the ninth (bottom) standing near the King are his horse and his Greyhound. We do not know whether or not Greyhounds appeared in the court of King David, but we can believe that in Renaissance times, they wandered about unleashed at court and sometimes on the field as portrayed here. Unfortunately, the light in the rooms at Écouen is kept very low and the tapestries are wide, so we do not have good images of the whole tapestries and here show only a few details.





ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS, GALLERY OF TAPESTRIES, VATICAN MUSEUMS

After the death in 1520 of Raphael, the artist considered to be the greatest painter of the Renaissance, his pupils designed a set of 12 tapestries called *The Life of Christ* that was woven in Flanders while Clement VII was Pope (1523 to 1534). The set cost seven times the amount paid to Michelangelo for his four years of work on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel; think of each tapestry as being worth two years of Michelangelo's time. They have been in the Vatican since 1531 and in their present location since 1838. Compared with the preceding tapestries, they are a leap forward in artistic quality and show the influence of the Renaissance with its realistic space and figures. They are more like paintings, having a central focus rather than a throng of people crammed together as in *David and Bathsheba*. This tapestry from the set is more than 17 feet high and 22 feet wide.

A Greyhound is often found in art depicting the adoration of Jesus by the Magi; princes from the east were aristocrats, and Greyhounds were often shown in aristocratic company. Our dogs are much less common in adoration scenes with shepherds, possibly for the simple reason that anyone familiar with Greyhounds would know: They would be useless if asked to herd sheep. But a tapestry to be hung in the Vatican would be designed as an object of religious devotion, rather than as a practical guide to herding sheep. For this purpose a Greyhound is wholly appropriate as the dog usually chosen in art to be in the company of nobles, and no one is nobler than Jesus. But before going too far with the Greyhound as a worshipper, note that the dog is not looking at Jesus.



THE ELEPHANT HUNT, LOUVRE

This whimsically beautiful tapestry, from around 1530, also shows the influence of the Renaissance. The setting is a forest in France, as we can see from the buildings in the distance, the dress of the hunters, and the types of trees. The hunters have brought down an elephant, possibly with a spear, while in the distance to the left another elephant is being speared by the horn of a unicorn. Eight dogs, including a pair of Greyhounds on leash, pay almost no attention to these bizarre events. Even the hunters seem to find nothing at all extraordinary about this scene.

THE HUNTS OF MAXIMILIAN, LOUVRE

This set of 12 Renaissance tapestries ranks with *The Lady and the Unicorn*, *The Devonshire Hunting Tapestries*, and *The Unicorn Tapestries* as among the greatest examples of this art. They are the largest we discuss, more than 14 feet high and 255 feet in total length. They are the finest work in tapestry of Bernard van Orley (ca. 1490 – 1541), who followed the School of Raphael in designing tapestries with a plausible space and detailed stories and backgrounds. They celebrate the hunting parties of the Hapsburg Archduke Maximilian and show hunters from his court, while the backgrounds can be identified as various locations around Brussels.



There is a tapestry for every month beginning with March, the first month of the Julian calendar. In that tapestry, one can see a chapel with a temporary thatched roof that was in place from 1528 to 1533, so with other bits of information, the tapestries may be dated to 1531 to 1533. While Greyhounds are prominently featured in four of the 12 tapestries, a careful look will find Greyhounds in three more. June (prev. page) shows falcon hunters breaking for a meal, while two leashed Greyhounds with beautiful embroidered collars sniff the roasted birds in the center of the table. Another Greyhound is in the background to the left, while several scent hounds are to the right. In July (top right), two hunters discuss the deer hunt; one holds two large Greyhounds. In September (center right), a stag has been run into a pond. One Greyhound, still leashed, stands at the water's edge while the Archduke and his fiancée watch. February (bottom right) is an allegorical tribute to the hunt: To the left in a niche is a statue of Diana, the goddess of hunting, with her Greyhound. Below her are the fictional heroes of a 15th century book on hunting, King Modus and Queen Ratio, who trample Sloth and Gluttony, thus celebrating the moral virtues of hunting. Among those who pay homage are hunters with two Greyhounds along with several other dogs.





THE GLORIFICATION OF DIANA, MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, GHENT, BELGIUM

Almost 200 years later, not only were fewer tapestries being made but also fashion had moved away from the hunt and religious topics toward decorative themes, so Greyhounds were less often seen in tapestry. In this tapestry, dating from 1717, we again see Diana, portrayed as an elegant aristocrat being crowned with a laurel wreath. At her side is her bow, along with trophies from the hunt, a deer, and some birds, while in her entourage there is a woman with a hunting horn and three more bearing spears. One Greyhound sits at her feet, while a second seems about to kiss her.

A word about white Greyhounds

The reader may have noticed that almost all the Greyhounds in these tapestries are white. The only non-white dog in a prominent position is the handsome black-and-white Greyhound in the middle of the July Hunt of Maximilian. The color white is associated with purity, and this would explain why only white Greyhounds appear in the court of King David, at the adoration of Jesus, and in the company of the goddess Diana. However, we do

not know why the Greyhounds in hunt scenes are usually white. The few tan or brown or spotted exceptions are often next to white dogs, so perhaps their non-white color was chosen simply as a usefully contrasting color.

Conclusions

The Greyhounds shown in these tapestries are from the deep past, from 300 to 600 years ago. Today we are not familiar with Greyhounds as they were then most commonly seen and depicted, while as part of a hunt or at a hunters' picnic or in a June luncheon break from falconry. We all know them today as pets. But even when a tapestry artist has let his imagination run wild — for example, when Greyhounds hunt a unicorn or an elephant — when one is portrayed as a sheep dog or about to kiss a goddess, we can still recognize the dogs we live with and love. ■

Henry Townsend writes about the art of the ancestors of his Greyhound, Salisbury, and travels to museums with his Chief Spotter and Wife, Jessica, to discover more. The tapestry of Diana in Ghent was spotted by their friend, Frankie de Freitas. Images of these tapestries and more may be found at www.picasaweb.google.com/Greyhounds.in.art/GreyhoundsInTapestry#



Don and Sara Christian and their Greyhounds, Ginger and Nutmeg, volunteer with the Salvation Army's kettle campaign.

Greyhounds Spice Up the Holiday Season

Story and photos by Karen Prichard

Greyhounds wearing vivid red blankets prance, a crowd gathers with money at hand, bells ring, and all bets are off! Nutmeg and Ginger know this atmosphere well, but the scenery has changed quite a bit since they left their racing days behind. These days, the girls are putting their best paw forward as volunteers for The Salvation Army.

Nutmeg and Ginger, along with their owners, Don and Sara Christian, are registered Delta Society Pet Partners®. Because of the Delta Society and other organizations like it, visiting dogs are a familiar sight in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, schools, and hospitals. However, you do not normally find them assisting with The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign!

The red kettle is an internationally recognized symbol of the Salvation Army. Started in San Francisco, California, by Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee in 1891, the kettle campaign has grown into a worldwide effort that allows The Salvation Army to 'enable those who would otherwise be forgotten'. Monies collected during the Holiday Season are distributed throughout the year to help at-risk children and seniors; to provide meals and transitional homes for the homeless; and to meet additional community needs. Donations collected in the area



Ginger and Nutmeg wear coats that do more than protect them from the elements; they demonstrate to passersby that their owners care about the dogs' well-being.

where Nutmeg and Ginger may be allocated to help abused women, support youth camps, or provide financial support to families who have difficulty paying utility bills.

While The Salvation Army is active worldwide, canine participation in the kettle campaign is determined by the policies and procedures of the local Salvation Army office. It is also dependent on the availability of bell ringing locations, their rules, and their liability and insurance requirements. Canine volunteers have been allowed in Nutmeg and Ginger's area for over ten years if they are appropriately trained and meet certain participation criteria. Since Nutmeg and Ginger have been active in therapy work for some years, and are insured Delta Society Pet Partners, they were welcome to assist at the kettles.

Bell ringing requires that a dog be calm and content in a highly complex area, so shifts under two hours are highly recommended. Even some trained therapy dogs may not be suited for the higher level of stress found in this type of busy environment. Dogs are exposed to many auditory and visual distractions and different people. If you are considering bringing your dog on your shift as a bell ringer, know your dog's limits and

only volunteer if she will tolerate a very active and hectic environment. As a bell ringer, your dog may encounter busy traffic with cars backfiring, and children shrieking with excitement, not to mention the sound of your bell. You can prepare ahead of time by buying your own bell to slowly desensitize your dog and help her become accustomed to the noise. You will also want to brush up on commands such as *Sit*, *Down*, and *Stay*. Canine bell ringers will likely be asked to pose for photographs with children and families, so solid obedience skills are helpful. Putting your dog in a down-stay on a mat or blanket at the kettle stand is also a great way to position your dog where the public can enjoy petting her.

Adult passersby may be experiencing holiday stress and worries over family finances, so the gift of canine therapy at the store entrance can be highly beneficial. Dogs have been known to reduce stress and lower blood pressure with their calming presence. Stroking a dog's fur is a soothing experience and beneficial to our health. Most people who visit with Nutmeg and Ginger agree that they provide a great amount of stress reduction, which is very welcome during the holiday season.

Unexpectedly encountering a well-behaved dog during a busy day of shopping can put a huge smile on anyone's face! That's probably why most people cannot pass our kettle stand when Nutmeg and Ginger are present. Roger Windell, administrator of Nutmeg and Ginger's local Salvation Army, said dogs at the kettle "are always attention grabbers." He confirms "when the dogs are there, we know to have an extra bucket on hand" because the kettles fill up twice as fast.

Weather during the holidays can be unpredictable and often cold. Volunteers should be prepared for any sorts of weather. Nutmeg and Ginger are lucky to have a seamstress in the family. They wear warm, red weatherproof jackets made by Sara to help protect them from the elements. By demonstrating concern for the comfort and safety of their pets, Sara and Don also raise animal awareness and are good public role models. They are also able to promote Greyhound adoption by sharing their wonderful pets with the local community.

The love shared between humans and animals has many benefits. In this case, the shared goals of The Salvation Army and bell-ringing teams of registered therapy Greyhounds are helping local communities meet their needs. Nutmeg and Ginger and the other dogs who participated in their community's 2010 kettle campaign raised almost \$6,000 for their local community in 2010. ■

Karen Prichard, husband Tim, and Basset Hounds Cherry and Cassidy have been volunteering for The Salvation Army for over 10 years. Karen is the canine coordinator for the Pensacola, Fla. area and has extensive experience supporting volunteer efforts for The Red Kettle Campaign. To find out more about The Salvation Army, please visit www.salvation-armyusa.org

Saturday, December 3

Southwest Gallery Art Auction
 Greyhound Adoption League of Texas, Inc.
 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 Southwest Gallery
 4500 Sigma Road
 Dallas, Texas
 Southwest Gallery will host this auction to benefit GALT. Artwork will on view at the gallery 10 days prior to the event. Online bidding will be open before the event. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the artwork will be donated to GALT. Contacts: Rita Wulke, rwwulke@gmail.com; Susie McQuade, greytpal@mindspring.com

Saturday, December 3

Christmas Tree Sale
 Greyhound Pet Adoption Northwest
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Forest Heights Shopping Center
 Forest Heights, Ore.
 Proceeds benefit Greyhound Pet Adoption Northwest adoption program. Contact: Anne, (800) 767-5139 or treessnw@gpa-nw.org

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Greyhound Community Picnic
 God's Greys Greyhound Group
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 7259 Hiawassee Oak Drive
 Orlando, Fla.
 All central Florida Greyhounds and their humans are invited. Property is completely fenced and the Greyhounds can run to their hearts' content (no other breeds, please), while the humans enjoy a potluck picnic, games, Chinese raffle, and shopping. Nail trims, Greyhound toys and gear, medications will be available. Bring a muzzle for each dog. Bring a small covered dish or dessert to share, with a serving spoon if needed.
 Contact: Carol Becker, (407) 578-7496 or godsgreys@mac.com

Friday through Sunday, February 24-26

Solvang Greyhound Fest
 GREYT Legs
 Solvang, Calif.
 Three-day event to raise money for Greyhounds that sustain a broken leg on the track. We help Greyhound groups offset the cost.
 Contact: Teri Rogo, (602) 228-2594;
www.solvanggreyhoundfest.org

Thursday through Sunday, March 8-11

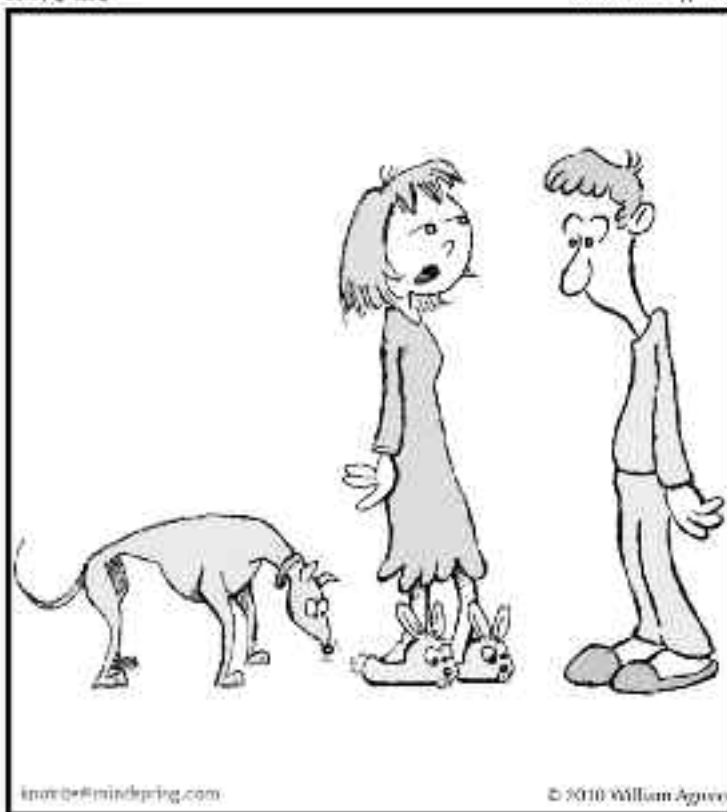
Sandy Paws — Greyt Fun in the Sun
 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily
 Greyhound Guardians, Inc.
 Villas by the Sea and Oceanside Inns and Suites
 Jekyll Island, Ga.
 Fun-filled weekend of seminars, shopping, dinner, blessing, memorial, group walk, ice cream social, and much more. Contact: Nancy Eifert, (904) 568-4822 or sandy-paws@comcast.net;
www.sandypaws.org

Friday through Sunday, April 13-15

Spring Dewey "Greyt Little Greyhound Event"
 All day and half the night
 Non-affiliated, DIY event
 Small, friendly group focusing on the Greyhounds and their people; very laid-back and relaxed gathering. Contact: Liz Dunbar, (410) 679-1042, secondwindgh@comcast.net;
www.deweyspring.info

Knot Kite

William Agostino



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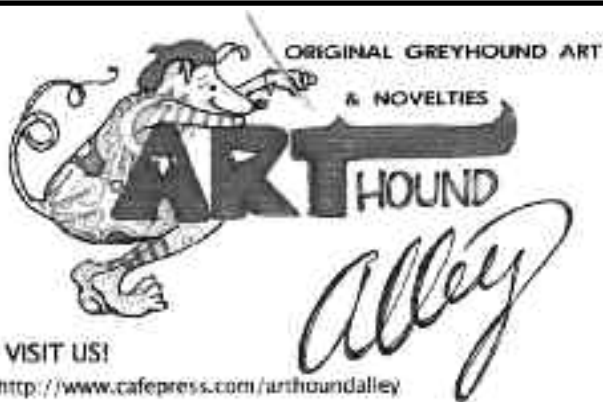
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Deadlines:

Spring issue: December 1st

Summer issue: March 1st

Fall issue: June 1st

Winter issue: September 1st



Ben (Debt of Pride) 2002-2011

On January 23 Jack and Lisa Holthaus said goodbye to Ben, their beautiful boy who was featured in "I Have Five Greyhounds" (Spring 2011 CG). True to his racing name, Ben left his cancer-ravaged body and with every ounce of pride and dignity he had, went on to his next journey. If Jack and Lisa close their eyes, they can still see Ben in his sandbox, dancing and twirling, protecting his yard from evils unknown. And if they listen carefully, they'll hear him. Faintly at first, then gradually louder; the incessant barking of the strong, handsome Greyhound that drove them nuts with his furious greeting, tail whipping and body jumping; always dancing. And when their time comes, Ben will find them. They'll hear him barking. Faintly at first, then gradually louder; the welcome sound of incessant barking from a strong, beautiful boy they loved so dearly. And he'll dance and twirl at their feet, tail whipping and body jumping. And they'll dance, too.



Miranda 2001-2011

One June 1, Lisa Holthaus said goodbye to Miranda, her beautiful little girl who was also featured in "I Have Five Greyhounds" (Spring 2011 CG). There was no warning. There is now only heartache in her passing; heartache for the sweetest, gentlest little girl that brought such joy to her Mom. Miranda was her love, her life, her Greyhound; faithful until the last beat of her heart. There is no sorrow, Miranda, that your Mommy shared your passing. Although alone and frightened, she takes solace knowing she was there to comfort you in your last few moments, to whisper she loved you, to stroke your head, so you wouldn't fear your next journey. Your Mommy's heart will forever ache for you, little girl, the sweet girl with the twitching nose. Your Mommy will see you again, Miranda. And when you next meet, the heart that so aches for you on earth will once again beat with yours. Your Mommy loves you, little angel.

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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