

cgmagazine



celebrating greyhounds

Fall 2010

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ALSO INSIDE:

Hereditary Conditions

Grieving Your Greyhound's Loss

Greyhounds on Parade
From Mascots to
Meet-and-Greets



Kit (Silver Skittles), adopted by Sandy and Jom Volschow of Woodville, Ohio.

Regular Departments

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 15; No. 3 Fall 2010

Front Cover Credit:

Vic, one of two Greyhound mascots of
Eastern New Mexico University, visits with a
fan during an appearance at a pre-school.
Photo by ENMU

Back Cover Credit

Emily, adopted by Cheryl Chaney of East
Brunswick, N.J.

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Caesar, adopted by Deedee Dillingham of Rockville, Md.

After completing one last read-through of the articles in this issue of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine before bundling them up with the photos and sending them off to our designer to work her magic, I found myself second-guessing this issue's theme.

Greyhounds on Parade? Umm . . . really? Isn't that kind of cheesy? Sure, Greyhounds display a unique presence and magnetism when they're out in public, but isn't the notion that they create a "parade-like" sensation wherever they go a bit of overkill?

I was still mulling that over when I rolled out of bed this morning, leashed the dogs, and took them for the customary 30-minute morning walk. And I do mean *morning*: The bus I take to work leaves at 7:00 a.m. The dogs have to be walked, relaxed, fed, let out again, and comfortably draped over various dog beds and couches — air conditioning on, classical music from the public radio station playing softly — before I leave the house to walk to the bus stop.

On our quick morning walk, I encountered three different people who commented on how beautiful my dogs were. Two sets of school-age children asked to pet the dogs. A young boy in the first group, showing off his knowledge, emphatically informed his friends that "these dogs are *Greyhounds*!" The other group of kids chased me down the street before making their request, causing Jethro some mild concern. As I crossed the park, someone walking their dog asked me when I acquired the "new dog." I didn't recognize this person; I was surprised that he seemed to know who my dogs were and that Fred is a relatively recent addition to the pack. Finally, a block from home, a car pulled up at the curb next to me. The woman rolled down her window, asked if I do any work with Greyhound rescue, and wondered where she could find some information about Greyhound adoption.

All of this happened between 6:15 and 6:45 on a Monday morning.

So I'm convinced. When we leave our homes with our Greyhounds, it often feels as though we *are* on parade. After years of Greyhound companionship, it's easy to take for granted the beauty and charisma of these lovely creatures. And eventually, we all get used to answering questions from strangers about our dogs and about Greyhound adoption. (I have a set of short, standard answers; I bet you do too, even if you've never attended a single meet-and-greet.)

Several articles in this issue involve Greyhounds on display: Bonnie Jeffers's guide to meet-and-greets; the suite of articles regarding the placement of Vic and Tory, two Greyhound mascots at Eastern New Mexico University; and the story of Sassy and Maya, another pair of mascots for a new high school in Florida. Even Janet Lambert's story is an example of the public display of a Greyhound — although in this case, the need supported by the display is sponsorship rather than an adoptive home, and the Greyhound is a carved figure on a carousel in upstate New York.

Also in this issue, Zelda Zimmerman and her colleagues summarize the results of her survey of Greyhound adopters and their suggestions for increasing Greyhound placements. "Greyhounds are their own best advertisement," she observes. I would guess that most of us agree. Whether the parade is a school or community event attended by Greyhound mascots, a Saturday afternoon meet-and-greet at your neighborhood pet supply store, or a Monday morning walk around your neighborhood, our Greyhounds are on.

And isn't it fun to watch them work their magic?

Cathy

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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Cindy, adopted by Lynne Peters of Arlington, Mass.

Responses to the Spring issue

My wife Arlene and I received our first copy of CG Magazine yesterday, and we were totally surprised to find a very cool article on Project Racing Home ("Student Volunteers at Project Racing Home," Spring 2010 CG) and even better, pictures of our new hounds! On page 37, Roller is getting a bath just before she goes to her new home. That was her gotcha day! Her new name is Gracie, and she lives up to being a female brindle as it's "all about her" in our house. On the opposite page, right smack in the middle of the picture is a red fawn with a dark muzzle facing to the reader's right. We adopted him on the same day, and he's now known as Clyde. On the back cover, right in the middle, is a shot of Gracie's furry *tuchas* and trademark tail curl. As Kim at Project Racing Home knows, we had to put down our 9-1/2 year old brindle, Fergus, just four weeks before Gracie and Clyde came into our lives. The hound journey continues in our house; both are doing

well, adjusting with no problems, and they miss Kim and Tracey at PRH (a little). We are grateful for the hounds and to PRH for all they do, and it's great to see the dogs in color print.

Patrick C. Coyle, Jr.
Charlotte, N.C.

I enjoy reading each issue of the magazine. Each time I receive an issue, I race through it from cover to cover — including the In Memoriam page on the inside back cover, which is often sad but uplifting. I am encouraged by the age to which retired Greyhounds are living: 9, 11, 13 years old! And some of the amazing stories and funny personalities make me laugh. But I can't imagine how each Greyhound owner feels to lose their best friend, and the thought never fails to leave me in tears. As I read through the Spring 2010 In Memoriam listings, I could not help but notice that Jen and Lloyd Komatsu suffered a tremendous loss in 2009

— four of the five hounds listed were theirs. This led me to wonder: How much loss is too much? How did the Komatsus get through this? I want to send my deepest sympathies to the Komatsu family, and to thank them for having so much strength and compassion that they continue to adopt ex-racers and open their hearts and home to more wonderful Greyhound companions. I am impressed that they continue to go above and beyond to care for their retired racers. They are a wonderful example for us and I wish them the best in 2010.

Mary Radzialowski
Chicago, Ill.

Jen Komatsu responds: *Thanks for thinking of us. Yes, 2009 was a little like slowly drowning for me. Quite honestly, the hounds got me through it. Since those losses, we've adopted Whitey (age 11) and Apollo (age 10). Whitey was diagnosed with osteosarcoma two weeks after he came to us, and he gave me a reason to*

get up each morning: He needed me. We saw him through his amputation, and then Apollo got his osteo diagnosis. It has been a rough road, but I am lucky that they each found their way here. I hope everyone who reads my boys' stories will think about adopting a senior. Tanner, Sly, Whitey, and Apollo had all been "hard to place" because of their ages, but for us, each one of them was just perfect. It hurts like crazy to lose them, but I feel unbelievably fortunate that I had each of these guys in my life. They inspire me every day.

For more on this subject, see "Experiencing the Loss of a Greyhound," in this issue of CG. —Ed.

Love the magazine. However, it is much more tasteful when you showed mainly the dog's photos. The questionable photo on page 31 was disturbing. Just hope that dog is not being abused. Thank you.

Marilyn Wong
Via E-Mail

While we're not quite sure what is going on in the photo, we're confident that the dog is not being abused . . . unless your definition of abuse is broad enough to include the wearing of heart-shaped sunglasses and a swimsuit with a padded top. —Ed.

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.



Gracie, adopted by Teresa Nielsen of Highlands Ranch, Colo.



Lexie, adopted by Karen and Bob Schultz of Cleveland, Ohio.



Pixie, adopted by Tim and Terry Mead of Lutz, Fla.

Greyhound News

Cancer Researchers Need Your Help

Van Andel Research Institute Launches New Canine Cancer Studies — Your Participation is Needed in the Collection of Tumor Samples

The Van Andel Research Institute (VARI), in Grand Rapids, Michigan, received a "Grand Opportunities" grant from the National Institutes of Health. This grant is enabling the Institute to expand its canine cancer studies, which started with a project partially funded by the Canine Health Foundation investigating hemangiosarcoma in Clumber Spaniels 18 months ago, into a much broader research program. They are launching a new center of excellence in canine genetics and genomics. The first and most important program is the Canine Hereditary Cancer Consortium (CHCC), which is headed by Drs. Jeff Trent (TGen), Nick Duesbery (Van Andel Research Institute), and Paul Meltzer (National Cancer Institute/NIH). The program is an unprecedented alliance of scientists, veterinarians and physicians. Drs. Duesbery and Froman are intensely focused on recruiting canine cancer patients for the study through a variety of clinical outreach programs. Samples from canine patients will not only allow the researchers to identify genes responsible for breed-specific susceptibilities (such as hemangiosarcoma in Clumber Spaniels and osteosarcoma in Greyhounds), but also to translate these discoveries into new and more precise diagnostics and therapeutics for both canine and human cancer patients. The ultimate goal is to take personalized medicine for dogs to unscaled heights.



Cara, adopted by Mike and Joanne Bast of Edgewater, Md.

The CHCC has been developed to investigate five initial cancers in dogs, which also affect people. The first five cancers they'll be researching are:

- Hemangiosarcoma
- Osteosarcoma
- Lymphoma
- Malignant histiocytosis
- Melanoma (oral and digital)

To move forward, they need your help. The Institute will be studying only naturally occurring tumors, so they need the assistance of owners with dogs who develop any of the above types of cancer. They are requesting fresh (not in formalin) tumor samples when the dog has surgery or a biopsy, or is euthanized. They also need 3 mls of blood in an EDTA (purple top) tube. If a tumor sample is not immediately available, (a dog who has had surgery, for example), a blood sample is still useful. If your dog is scheduled for sur-

gery, please contact VARI ahead of time so they can FedEx a tumor collection kit to your veterinarian. You can contact the CHCC at 616.234.5569. You may also email Dr. Froman at roe.froman@vai.org. Consent forms and more information for veterinarians can be accessed and downloaded from the CHCC's website (www.vai.org/Research/Labs/CancerandDevelopmentalCellBiology/chcc.aspx). In addition, they are collecting DNA samples from a wide variety of healthy, purebred dogs, for use as controls. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Investigators Seek Participation in Survey to Obtain Information Relevant to Bloat

Bloat is a problem that affects many breeds; it is a condition in which a dog's stomach distends. If this condition involves a twisted stomach, it is called Gastric

Dilatation Volvulus (GDV). Drs. Carmen Battaglia and Cynthia Otto of the American Kennel Club and University of Pennsylvania, respectively, are currently seeking participants in a new survey that will provide information on conditions that are relevant to the further study of bloat.

Previous research on GDV has been inconclusive, pointing in many directions, and providing breeders with no useful information about how to prevent their dogs from bloating.

For the survey Drs. Battaglia and Otto are interested in dogs that have bloated. The survey can accommodate information for up to three of your dogs that have bloated. The survey also asks for information on a healthy dog (one that hasn't bloated) that is most like (conformationally) your dogs that did bloat.

To participate in the survey, visit this website: www.surveymonkey.com/WS2VKFP

A summary of the results and findings from this survey will be published at www.breeding-betterdogs.com in November, 2010.

Nominations Open for 2010 Adoption Person of the Year Award

The American Greyhound Council (AGC) is now accepting nominations for the 2010 Adoption Person of the Year Award. The award was established in 2007 by the American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Greyhound adoption.

The AGC, which funds and oversees adoption grants and other Greyhound welfare programs for Greyhound racing, is proud to take the lead in recognizing the dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time, money, energy and passion to ensure that every adoptable Greyhound finds a forever home upon retirement.

Any individual or organization may nominate a candidate for the Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year award. The nominee may be a volunteer or paid individual in the U.S. or Canada.

The winner and his/her guest receive complimentary airfare and lodging to the AGC/AGTOA spring meeting, where the award is presented, and also receive a \$500 donation for the adoption group specified by the winner.

The deadline for submitting a nomination is Wednesday, September 1, 2010. Nominations may be submitted online or via e-mail.

For more information and a nomination form, visit the AGC's website at www.agcouncil.com/

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine is on Facebook!

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine now has over 1,300 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!

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.

Moving? Need to Renew?

Don't miss a single issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*? Please send your renewals and address changes well in advance to CG Magazine, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701. Address changes may also be sent to Betsy, our subscriptions manager, at subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org. Subscriptions may be renewed online at www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine.



Min, adopted by Sarah Salisbury of Eliot, Me.



Paige alerted her family to a fire in the back yard.

Hero Hound: Paige Plays Lassie

By Beth Murphy

Paige (Co-Star Babe) came to us through Greyhound Adoption of Ohio in 2005. She was our first Greyhound, with fur as soft as a bunny, doe-like eyes that could melt your heart, and an iron paw to rule the members of our canine household. From the moment she stepped across our doorway we knew our lives would never be the same. Like the Prom Queen at a dance she insisted on all the attention. She boldly chose the softest bed and gave the crate we had set up for her a disdainful look. Paige used the crate for exactly three days before literally putting on the brakes and becoming as bendy as a wet noodle each time we tried to put her in. She had very firm preferences about where she would sleep, and they did not include a crate!

That was the beginning of our love affair with Greyhounds. We fostered, volunteered, and learned more every day about these wonderful dogs.

Two years later we came to the painful decision to amputate her front leg. Paige developed debilitating arthritis in her shoulder that failed to respond to 13 months of treatments. She was in constant pain. Amputation was a last-ditch effort to avoid euthanasia. Once Paige recovered from her surgery, she never looked back. It was as if she was glad to have that troublesome appendage removed. She chased tennis balls, snatched Frisbees from the air, and raced around the yard on three legs, sometimes taking turns so sharp and fast that she took our breath away.



Paige's quality of life improved considerably when she became an amputee.

One late fall evening in 2007 Paige showed us just how special a dog she was.

My husband, Ernie, had barbecued that evening. In the fading light, he had dumped the charcoal briquets into what he thought was an empty bucket. The tall bucket sat next to our garage; from time to time, we put sticks and yard litter into it. That night we cleaned up the kitchen and instead of watching television in the family room as we usually did, we went to the living room at the front of the house.

Our family room has windows that look out to our yard and garage, but are too high for the dogs to see out of. After about an hour, Paige began whining and pacing back and forth between the two rooms. She had never acted this way before, so we were concerned. She had been in the yard earlier, so we knew she didn't need to go out. Did she have fresh water? Only Perrier would be fresher. Did she want a cookie? Cookie

offered... and eaten. Still, she refused to settle down.

We had read that when a limb is amputated, the amputee will feel phantom pain. We laid her on her side and massaged her shoulder. At the end of the massage session she leapt to her feet and resumed pacing from one room to the other, whining and staring at us.

In hindsight I am sure if we had a dry-erase board handy, she would have picked up a marker in her teeth and written "Fire, you dummies! Fire!!"

Not being Greyhounds and therefore not as intelligent as Paige, we puzzled and puzzled over what she was trying to tell us. Our other two Greyhounds, Henry (Kelso's Sentry) and Beau (Snow Bo), watched the production from their beds, having correctly identified us as the two most clueless people in Ohio. Time went on, Paige doing her best Lassie imitation, us plying her with treats, throwing the tennis ball down the hall, doing anything we could to figure out what was wrong, until our neighbor knocked at our front door and said, "Do you know your garage is almost on fire!!"

We ran out in the driveway in time to see the flames leaping almost five feet into the air — a mere three feet from our garage, which housed my husband's beloved sports car. We quickly extinguished the fire, and my husband sheepishly admitted to not checking that the coals were completely cold.

Paige was exhausted. We covered her in kisses and hugs and wondered . . . how did she know the fire was a bad thing? Did she smell the smoke or see the reflection of the flames on the glass? The windows were too high for her to see the fire licking its way towards the garage overhang.

Because Paige didn't give up on us and tried to save her Dad's car, she was truly our hero. Sadly, Paige crossed the rainbow bridge September 14, 2009. I think of her and miss her wonderful spirit every day. ■

Beth Murphy and her husband Ernie share their home in Cuyahoga Falls with their four Greyhounds. They volunteer regularly at Greyhound Adoption of Ohio. Paige and her formidable spirit are missed on a daily basis.



Aarr! Vote for Paige in the costume contest, or walk the plank.



Alex, adopted by Suzanne Griggs of Richardson, Texas. *Carol Sahlfield*

Your Greyhound's Inheritance

Photos by Merri Van Dyke

A Greyhound's ancestors' medical history can play an important role in assisting to diagnose certain medical conditions. There are several conditions that have been shown to be inherited.

Congenital conditions are those present at birth. There is no genetic basis for the presence of the condition. Congenital conditions include cleft palate, deformed toes or limbs, small globes of eyes, and misshapen eyelids. Essentially, any deformity is a congenital condition because Mother Nature is not perfect and, at times, a puppy does not develop as planned. A puppy with the congenital birth defect does not pass the defect on to its offspring.

A *heritable* condition is one that does have a genetic basis. The parents are not affected by the disease but may be carriers of the gene(s) that causes the disease. Depending on the genetics of the disease, in a perfect world, one quarter of the puppies would be affected, one half would be carriers, and one quarter would not carry the abnormal gene at all. This is based on simple Mendelian genetics. If the disease is carried on multiple genes, these "perfect world" numbers do not apply and the determination of the affected, the carriers, and the unaffected is much more

complex. Finally, although inherited conditions may be clearly identified, just how they are inherited is often not fully understood.

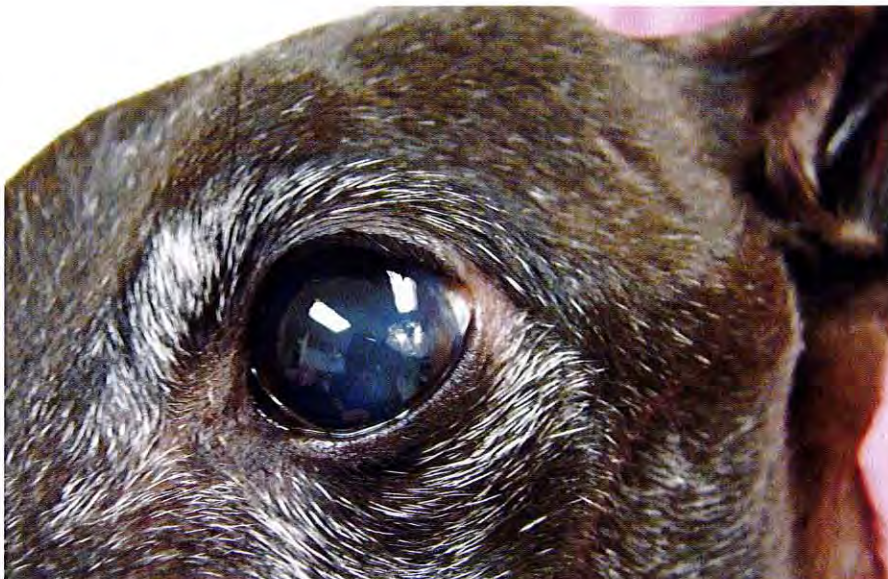
Hereditary diseases of Greyhounds include, but are not limited to, risk of bloat and torsion; cryptorchidism; familial vasculopathy; cutaneous asthenia; hemophilia A; von Willebrand disease; and pannus.

Bloat and torsion (see "Help! My Greyhound's Stomach is Huge!" Summer 2010 CG) has a familial basis, so if a Greyhound's father or mother experienced bloat and/or torsion, their offspring have a higher risk of experiencing the same. Males appear more affected than females. One can consider prophylactic stomach tacking if the Greyhound's ancestry has an incidence of bloat and torsion. This should be discussed with your veterinarian.

Cryptorchidism is the failure of one or both testicles to descend into the scrotum. The testicle develops in the same area of the body as the ovary of the female. A structure, the gubernaculum, connecting the testicle to the scrotum, is supposed to contract and pull the testicle through the inguinal ring and into the scrotum. Either the gubernaculum does not contract quickly enough, or the inguinal ring closes too soon, and the testicle never descends to the scrotum and instead remains in the abdomen. It is important to remove the abdominal testicle because it has a much higher incidence of cancer and, on rare occasions, the testicle's blood vessels torque can twist, causing abdominal discomfort and vomiting.

Vasculopathy is also known as Alabama Rot. It is an inflammation of the blood vessels to the skin of the hind leg (and occasionally a front leg). It occurs most often around the hock and knee, typically on the inside of the leg. In about 25 percent of cases, there is concurrent kidney disease, which carries a very guarded prognosis.

With familial vasculopathy, the blood vessels to the skin and deeper tissues are blocked by small blood clots. When kidneys are involved, this clotting occurs in the small blood vessels of the kidney. Since there is no blood flow, the area becomes raised and painful. The skin and deeper tissues begin to die, leaving an ulcer. The ulcer can be just a few millimeters up to several centimeters in



This eye displays a mild case of pannus, which is being well controlled by medication.



Pannus also affects this eye, which is not responding well to medication. Vision is compromised.

size. The ulcer eventually heals, but slowly. The diagnosis is made by clinical signs and a biopsy of the area confirming the blockage of the blood vessels. The ulcers are kept clean and dressed appropriately to allow them to heal.

Similarly, areas of the kidney die from the blood clots, causing elevated levels in kidney function tests as well as elevated urine protein levels. Prognosis depends upon how much of the kidney is affected. A dog can live with only partial kidney function. In fact, 50 percent of kidney function is often lost before blood chemistry levels are affected. Illness occurs when approximately 75

percent of kidney function is lost.

There are several methods to monitor the progression of kidney disease. First, continue checking blood values and urine protein levels. In addition, an ultrasound may give some indication of the level of kidney damage. Finally, the most invasive method would be a kidney biopsy. This is a surgical procedure to remove a small piece of the kidney for evaluation by a pathologist.

There is no known treatment for the kidney form of familial vasculopathy. However, diet changes and medication (Enalapril) can help manage the progression of the disease.

Cutaneous asthenia is a disease of the col-

lagen of the skin. Collagen is the connective fibers of the skin that are designed to stretch, return to normal position, and provide strength in the skin. Think of collagen as the elastic fibers of a garment, providing strength and support. Cutaneous asthenia interferes with the function of these fibers so the skin over-stretches and does not return to normal quickly (or at all). The skin tears easily, leading to large, gaping wounds. There is no treatment for cutaneous asthenia. A Greyhound with this condition must be protected, as he can easily be injured. Any wounds need to be stitched immediately, as even a small cut can turn into a large wound quickly due to the fragility of the skin.

Hemophilia A and von Willebrand Disease are bleeding disorders that affect the Greyhound's ability to clot blood. Hemophilia A is the most common inherited disorder in dogs. It is the lack of Factor VIII clotting factor. Factor VIII is part of the clotting mechanism, and without it, clots do not form and factor bleeding occurs. Even minor injuries can result in bleeding in dogs with hemophilia. Hemophilia A is diagnosed by ruling out other causes of bleeding, such as rat bait toxicity, liver disease, and von Willebrand Disease.

The only treatment for Hemophilia A is transfusion with a blood product, such as

whole blood or cryoprecipitate. Cryoprecipitate, which is obtained from an animal blood bank, is whole blood with red blood cells and certain proteins removed. It carries much less risk of a transfusion reaction, which can be life threatening. A Greyhound with Hemophilia A may require several transfusions over its lifetime – whenever bleeding occurs. Dogs living with Hemophilia A should be protected from injury as much as possible.

Von Willebrand Disease is another condition where a clotting factor is missing or decreased. Von Willebrand Disease factor pairs with other clotting factors, such as Factor VIII, to form a clot by adhering to platelets. Platelets then adhere together to plug a hole in the blood vessel. If the platelets do not stick, the hole is not plugged, and bleeding occurs. Von Willebrand Disease is usually diagnosed after an injury or surgery, in cases when the Greyhound continues to bleed. Bloodwork can be performed to measure the level of von Willebrand Disease factor. Greyhounds with a von Willebrand Disease factor below 50 percent would be considered at risk for bleeding and having von Willebrand Disease. These Greyhounds should be managed in a similar way to those with Hemophilia A; trauma should be avoided and transfusions performed when necessary.

Pannus, or chronic superficial keratitis, is an immune-mediated disease in which the dog's immune system attacks the cornea. As with most immune-mediated diseases, its cause is unknown. The Greyhound usually presents with bilateral, symmetrical lesions on the lower aspect of the outside area of the cornea. Diagnostic tests are performed to check for scratches, tear production, and glaucoma. If these are all normal, the cornea is examined with magnification to check for defects. If all is normal, based on clinical signs and ruling out other diseases, a diagnosis of pannus is made. Pannus is then treated with corticosteroid (prednisolone) and cyclosporine eye drops. These drops block the immune system's attack on the cornea. The Greyhound may need to return for frequent rechecks early in the treatment to monitor progress. Once the eyes are stable, they are checked once or twice yearly. There is some evidence that sunlight exacerbates pannus, so a Greyhound with pannus should avoid direct sunlight or at least the times of day when the sun is most intense.

This is only a sampling of the major inherited diseases that occur in Greyhounds. Further research over time will probably expand this list to other diseases. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



Kirby, adopted by Russell and Dana Laggan of Redford, Mich.



Topper, adopted by Clare and Don Baldwin, and Pirate, adopted by Susan and George Biegner, Long Island, N.Y.

Who Are We? Characteristics of Greyhound Adopters

By Zelda L. Zimmerman, MS, MPH; Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD; A. Morrie Craig, Ph.D

Greyhound adoption is influenced by many things, but the retired racing Greyhounds themselves are their own best advertisement. The Greyhound's unique appearance and athleticism have endeared the Greyhound breed to people for centuries; people today are no different. They select their canine companions based in large part on their emotions. Familiarity and favorable experiences are the best predictors of dogs selected for companion animals. Providing a home for a retired racer also gives the adopter an opportunity to care for a beautiful dog after a career in racing is over.

Greyhounds are the fastest dogs in the world and are a natural for racing competitions. This distinction has led in some cases to horror stories of the racing environment and their mistreatment and euthanasia. However, in training successful athletes, it is essential they receive good care and nutrition. Racers who are no longer in their prime for racing are generally healthy and have been given a second life through Greyhound adoption.



Rusty, adopted by Kevin and Kris Parker of Eldersburg, Md.

Characteristics of the Greyhound Adopter

Who adopts retired racing Greyhounds? Why did they select a Greyhound to adopt? To find answers to these and other questions, an online survey was sent to Greyhound adopters. The 66 question survey had responses from 1,039 Greyhound adopters from every state in the United States, as well as several responses from Canada. The survey asked about adopter demographics, the attitudes affecting the adoption of their Greyhound(s), their relationship with their Greyhound(s), and suggestions for ways to reach more Greyhound adopters.

Participation by self-selection biases the survey results, but they provide a view into the characteristics of many people who select a retired racing Greyhound as a companion animal. Those who responded are satisfied with their adoption experience and think very highly of their adopted dog. The maturity of the retired Greyhound appeals to

many people. Adopters enjoy watching the reaction to the nuances of the Greyhound's new home environment. The maturity coupled with the ability to train appropriate behavior make the retired racing Greyhound an ideal fit for the lifestyles of many adopters.

People learn about Greyhound adoption in a variety of ways. The survey respondents identify themselves as the person most instrumental in selecting a retired racing Greyhound to adopt (80.9 percent) as a companion animal. Greyhound adoption organizations' meet-and-greets are the primary means by which people meet a Greyhound and learn about adopting a retired athlete (37.4 percent). Greyhounds who are met as a result of belonging to friends and relatives also influence people to adopt their Greyhound (20.0 percent). The Internet (16.9 percent) and personal research (16.3 percent) also rank high as sources of information on Greyhound adoption. Newspaper articles on Greyhounds are acknowledged as

a source of information for many, although printed advertisements and posters (3.5 percent) and radio and television (5.9 percent) are not as instrumental in influencing Greyhound adoption.

Many indicate they learned about Greyhounds and adoption in other ways, ranging from childhood fascination after seeing one to media presentations on Greyhound racing, and personal experiences meeting people walking their Greyhounds. Many have worked with Greyhounds at a Greyhound race track and have taken one or more home as a canine companion. Personally meeting a Greyhound has an important advantage on future Greyhound adoptions.

The majority of survey respondents are female (83 percent). They are similarly divided among the age groups of 31 to 40 years old (20.4 percent), 41 to 50 years old (25.2 percent), and 51 to 60 years old (30.5 percent). At the ends of the age range, a few

are over 60 years of age (14.7 percent) while there are only a very few indicating they are 30 years of age and under (7.2 percent). The majority of the respondents are Caucasian (96.1 percent). A few indicate a mixed racial/ethnic background (1.2 percent). All other categories combined (Black or African American, Latino or Hispanic, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American or Alaskan Native) contribute to less than 3 percent of the Greyhound adopters responding.

The majority of Greyhound adopters indicate they have a spouse or partner (72.3 percent). There are children 18 years of age and younger living at home in only 24.3 percent of the households. When children are present, the majority are either 5-12 years of age (9.1 percent) or 13-18 years of age (10.5 percent). In 10.5 percent of the responding households, children over 18 years of age are present. Children under 5 years of age are

present in only 4.7 percent of homes with a retired racing Greyhound. Some Greyhound organizations are concerned about placing Greyhounds in households with young children; however, many survey respondents indicate that their Greyhounds get along well with small children.

The reported educational level of members of the adopter household suggests that Greyhound adopters are highly educated. Most have some college education; 18.1 percent attended college without obtaining a degree, 10.9 percent have a two-year college degree, and 33.0 percent have a four-year college degree. Households having someone with an advanced degree, masters (21.6 percent), doctoral (1.9 percent), or professional degree (6.9 percent) constitute 29.5 percent of the respondents' households. Those having another educational classification (0.9 percent) and those with a high school diploma/GED (6.6 percent) account for the

remaining 7.5 percent.

According to the owner-directed survey, most Greyhound adopters are employed full time; 62.3 percent of respondents and 67.2 percent of their spouses or partners are employed full time. Full-time homemakers make up only 6.0 percent of the respondents and 1.7 percent of the spouses or partners of the respondents. In addition, 13.6 percent of the respondents are retired, and only 12.3 percent of their spouses or partners are retired. Students make up a small number of Greyhound adopters, with 1.5 percent of the respondents and 1.6 percent of their spouses or partners being students.

Perhaps related to the high education levels of Greyhound adopters, the survey results indicate their annual household incomes are between \$50,000 to \$99,999 (44.0 percent) and above \$100,000 (32.8 percent). Few households operate on \$30,000 to \$49,999 (15.4 percent) and even



Sweetie, adopted by Mark and Julie Rorie of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

fewer an annual income of less than \$30,000 (7.8 percent).

The majority of the Greyhound adopters responding to the survey consider their primary residence to be suburban (63.0 percent). A resounding 81.4 percent of Greyhound adopters had a pet dog while growing up. Their households currently have one (38.4 percent) or two (34.8 percent) retired racing Greyhounds as pets. Some adopters have three Greyhounds (11.8 percent); the number of adopted Greyhounds increases to as many as eight or more (2.1 percent). Of the Greyhounds adopted, at least one senior Greyhound (age 8 or older) is found in 46.6 percent of the surveyed homes. Only 118 adopters (11.4 percent of the responses) indicate that they have had their Greyhound(s) for less than a year. Greyhounds are, however, long-time residents in many homes. Of the responding adopters, 32.8 percent have had their Greyhound(s) for between one and four years, 32.1 percent have opened their homes

to Greyhound(s) for more than five years but less than ten years, and 23.7 percent have had at least one Greyhound in their home for more than ten years. In addition to the Greyhounds currently in the household, 51.2 percent of the adoption homes have previously had other adopted Greyhounds. In the future, 95.1 percent of the current adoption households will consider adopting another retired racing Greyhound.

Just over 69 percent of the surveyed adoption homes have no dogs other than Greyhounds. If other dogs are in the household, 19.2 percent were obtained from another shelter group, either a pure breed adoption group (9.3 percent) or a humane society (9.9 percent). Many Greyhound homes have cats living with their Greyhound(s) (40.7 percent).

Women far outnumber their male counterparts in the daily care of the household's Greyhound (83 percent). Adopted Greyhounds are taken to veterinary visits by women or as a family. Medical care decisions

are based on continuation of quality of life (96.0 percent). Only 1.0 percent of the responding adopters indicated the cost of the procedure would influence medical care sought. Three percent were uncertain.

Reasons for Adopting a Retired Racing Greyhound

People are motivated to adopt retired racing Greyhounds for a number of reasons. There are both internal and external factors that affect adoption. Several reasons stand out in the responses given for adopting a Greyhound. The primary motivating factor is affection for the personality and temperament of the breed (94.6 percent). Many people state, "to know one is to love one." Companionship is another frequently selected reason (90.7 percent). Several respondents indicated Greyhounds "are everything you could ever want in a dog and in a friend." The idea of adoption as a means of rescuing a Greyhound also ranks high (86.1 percent) in importance when selecting to adopt a



Sega, adopted by Stacy Roberts of Sheboygan, Wis.

retired racing Greyhound. Several adopters commented that their adoption of a Greyhound would open up space for another to be made available for adoption.

The maturity of the retired racer also ranks high as a motivating factor in Greyhound adoption (65.4 percent). Many adopters do not want to raise a puppy and yet they still can watch the dog become a confident member of his new family. Although not a motivating factor in adoption, respondents did report that adopting a Greyhound has provided opportunities to meet and interact with new people and expand their social life (85.9 percent). The Greyhound community offers friendship and support: "It's like having a large extended family" and "the experiences of other adopters are an invaluable resource."

Greyhounds are invited to participate in many events; for example, parades and meet-and-greets. They are good therapy dogs for children and adults, and they are often seen visiting nursing homes. Greyhounds tend to garner a lot of attention in the neighborhood: "When you walk down the street, it is like driving the most expensive sports car. Heads turn and people comment on the beautiful dog."

Other reasons given for adopting a retired racing Greyhound include affection for an individual Greyhound; companionship for another dog; the Greyhound's physical characteristics and appearance; the right match for adopter's lifestyle; the hypo-allergenic nature of the Greyhound; and its grace and athleticism. Some respondents commented that an adopted retired racing Greyhound is a way to have an inexpensive purebred dog. Figure 1 shows how adopters rank the reasons to adopt a retired racing Greyhound.

The majority of adopters (90.5 percent) indicate that their adopted Greyhounds are well-matched to their households and are regarded as members of the family. In fact, 57.9 percent of Greyhound adopters feel they have a greater emotional attachment to their Greyhound in comparison to the attachment they feel or have felt for other pets.

The adopted Greyhound provides the adopter with positive emotional reinforcement and physical activity. Scientific studies have shown that dogs have a number of positive effects on human health and well-being; for example, reduced systolic blood pressure and lowered concentrations of plasma triglycerides and cholesterol. Studies have also shown improved survival rates fol-

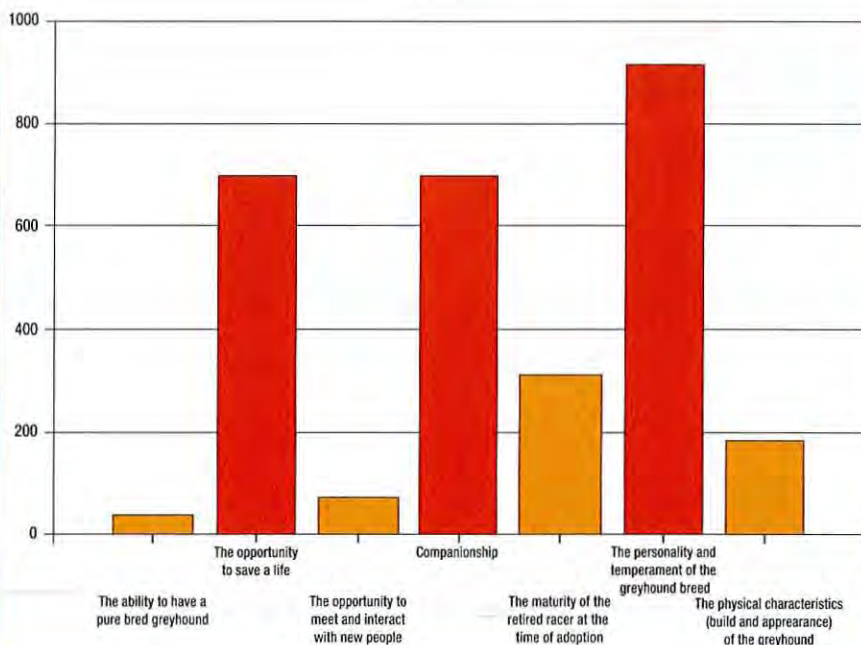
lowing myocardial infarction in dog owners compared to non-owners.

The reasons for the positive effects of dogs on human health are not clearly identified. The attachment between people and their pets, however, seems to have important physiological and psychological effects. Adopters feel their Greyhound gives them something to care about (77.6 percent) and feel needed (75.2 percent). They receive comfort from physical contact (97.0 percent) with their Greyhound. In addition, Greyhound adopters feel their dog provides constancy to their lives (83.1 percent). Adopters enjoy watching their Greyhound (99.0 percent) and their Greyhound provides pleasurable activity (96.8 percent), makes the adopter laugh and play (95.0 percent), and is a source of more exercise (70.3 percent). The adopted Greyhound gives the adopter something to love (81.0 percent) and makes the adopter feel loved (91.0 percent) and trusted (81.8 percent). Many Greyhounds share the bedroom with their adopters (83.8 percent).

Greyhounds are not selected for their ability to protect their owners; only 27.8 percent of the surveyed adopters said their adopted Greyhounds made them feel safe. Nearly every surveyed adopter felt their adopted Greyhound(s) has met or exceeded their expectations as a companion animal (99.7 percent).

Nearly half of owners do not consider their Greyhound to have behavior problems (43.4 percent). This may account for the report that adopted Greyhounds are not generally taken to an organized obedience training class; only 31.4 percent have used classes to help train their Greyhound. Noise/storm phobia (24.2 percent), separation anxiety (17.4 percent), and over-excitement when interacting with people (15.1 percent) and other animals (9.1 percent) are the most common behavior problems reported. Once an adopter has committed to Greyhound ownership, there are few reasons they would return their dog to the adoption group. Aggression toward children (23.6 percent), other people (8.2 percent), and other pets (12.8 percent) are the prime reasons that would prompt adopters to relinquish their

Which three reasons were the most important to you when selecting a retired racing greyhound to adopt?



Greyhound. A willingness and desire to work through the problem was a consistent response.

Increasing Greyhound Adoption

In order to increase Greyhound adoption, respondents stated that the Greyhound is his own best advertisement. Meet-and-greets are a tried and true method of letting people see and interact with a Greyhound. Those that take place in pet stores have provided positive ways for shoppers to meet the Greyhounds; however, adoption information should also be provided in areas not frequented by people who already own pets. Meet-and-greets can also be held in communities without an organized adoption group. Some adopters suggest Greyhound adoption should focus less on rescuing and more on the benefits of adoption for both the person and the animal.

Greyhound adoption groups are highly organized in their efforts to find homes for Greyhound athletes following their racing career. Retired racing Greyhounds are intelligent and fit into their new home environments easily. Greyhounds are friendly by nature and socialize well with their new family. They are eager to please and respond to attention. They are accustomed to human handling and the majority of them get along with children and other pets.

Summary

Greyhound adopters are in large part dog lovers who have met a Greyhound and have never been the same. As one respondent indicates, "This is the first dog for both myself and my spouse; I would have never guessed we could go from normal to crazy dog people so fast! Now, neither of us can imagine ever being without a Greyhound."

Greyhound adoption touches lives in many ways. The late Mordecai Siegal's statement, "Acquiring a dog may be the only opportunity a human ever has to choose a relative," is a true reflection of the bond formed between humans and their pet dogs. ■

Zelda Zimmerman is a graduate student in Interdisciplinary Studies at Oregon State University. Drs. Linda Blythe and A. Morrie Craig, under whose guidance this research was conducted, are on the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University. All are interested in the welfare of the retired racing Greyhound. This study was made possible by a grant from the American Greyhound Council, Inc. It is part of a larger study on dog adopters.



Bo, adopted by John Silvestro and Karen Potter of Waltham, Mass.



Meet-and-greets are a great way to promote Greyhound adoption. Daryl Piner of Guyton, Ga. and Racey promote adoption through Savannah Friends of Greyhounds as Pets.

A Beginner's Guide to Meet-and-Greets

By Bonnie Hultgren Jeffers

They go by a number of names including “meet-and-greets” and “show-and-tells.” Whatever the name, there is no doubt of their value in the world of Greyhound adoption. Many people think meet-and-greets are purely to showcase dogs for adoption, but that is only the beginning.

Meet-and-greets benefit the dogs. They teach them to socialize with other dogs as well as with people.

Meet-and-greets benefit the owners. They provide a place to interact with and learn from other owners. They can serve as an early warning system for owners who are having trouble caring for a dog or dealing with a problem.

Meet-and-greets benefit your adoption group. In addition to promoting your group and Greyhound adoption to the public, they provide a great way for new members to get involved.

Meet-and-greets benefit the public. They are a good way to educate the public about Greyhound adoption, to debunk Greyhound myths, and to model good dog/owner interaction.

If you are not involved in any meet-and-greets, consider joining one. If there are no meet-and-greets in your area, think about starting one. Following are some tips for holding successful events.

The Participants

The purpose of a meet-and-greet is to educate the public. Every guest is important. That person may not be looking to adopt now, but he or she may adopt later. In fact, that person may never adopt a Greyhound but might instead give a donation or tell friends, neighbors, relatives, or co-workers about "those fabulous dogs I saw at the store."

Volunteers must be friendly. They should smile, greet everyone, and set a positive atmosphere. I have repeatedly heard people comment: "Your group is so friendly!" Store managers and event planners have regularly invited our group while excluding other groups simply because we present an upbeat, positive image.

To help give your group a positive image, keep these points in mind.

Volunteers should be adults, not accompanied by children. Volunteers need to focus 100 percent on the dogs and on the visitors, rather than on the needs of an accompanying child. Furthermore, even a child who lives with a Greyhound can make a mistake that allows a dog to get loose, get hurt, or get into a fight. By all means, children should be involved with the dogs, but not at meet-and-greets.

Volunteers should be suitably dressed. You need not be a fashion model; jeans and a Greyhound-related shirt are appropriate for most events. Comfort is the key; you'll be standing for long periods of time, bending over dogs, and even sitting on the floor. Wear clothes that will not hinder you or make you feel uncomfortable. Cleanliness and appropriateness are important. Clothing that for any reason calls attention away from the dogs and to the human defeats the purpose of the meet-and-greet.

You and your Greyhound are the key to your meet-and-greets. You both are representatives of your organization, and either one can hurt Greyhound adoption. So there are certain characteristics I look for in meet-and-greet Greyhounds.

The Greyhounds must be well-behaved. Meet-and-greets provide an excellent opportunity for shy dogs to learn that people are OK and for all dogs to learn socialization skills. The dogs, however, must be under control. Never allow barking, growling, or



Basic meet-and-greet supplies include a sign identifying your group, promotional materials, a donation jar, and ex-pens. Here, author Bonnie Jeffers gives treats to her dogs at a meet-and-greet.

snapping. Correct any negative behavior firmly, but discreetly. Do not shout, hit the dog, or over-react. A firm No in a moderate voice with a quick jerk on the collar or a squirt from a spray bottle should be the strongest correction needed. Remember, you are modeling correct owner/dog behavior for future Greyhound owners.

The dogs must be clean and free of parasites. The basic needs of your own dogs come

first (including regular bathing). There may even be times when you should turn down participation in a Greyhound group activity to make the time to care for your own dogs.

The Setting

Though not ideal, if you must hold meet-and-greets outdoors, set up a canopy, so you and the dogs have shade. Greyhounds can suffer from sunburn or heat exhaustion even



Volunteers with Bay Area Greyhound Adoptions in Florida know that outdoor meet-and-greets are best held under a canopy to provide shade for humans and pets.
Will Shumaker

on cloudy days. Furthermore, when it is hot, you should apply sunscreen, put ice in their drinking water, avoid walking or standing on pavement, and frequently mist or spray the dogs to keep them cool. If it is cool, be sure to provide the dogs with adequate coats and extra thick bedding. Continually check to be sure the dogs do not become hot or cold as sun, shade, and temperature conditions change from hour to hour.

Holding a meet-and-greet indoors is usually more pleasant; however, take note of things such as loudspeakers and air conditioning vents, which can affect a dog's comfort. You will also need to find a convenient place for the dogs to relieve themselves. Even if a Greyhound usually waits six or eight hours at home, he may need to go more frequently as a result of the excitement of the meet-and-greet.

Supplies

Next, you need supplies. I recommend that you start with the following, but you'll probably add to this list as you learn what works for you.

- Ex-pens — A 36-inch height is best, as this is high enough to keep the dogs

enclosed, but low enough to make them accessible for visitors to be able to interact with them.

- A table (a table cloth adds a nice touch).
- Information/adoption materials and a banner identifying your group.
- A water container, treats, and blankets for the dogs; for the water, a half-filled bucket clipped to the pen, with a towel underneath, keeps sloppy drinkers from splashing water on the floor where someone could slip.
- A water-filled squirt bottle for correction.
- Paper towels to clean up spills or messes.
- A jar for donations.

Setting up these supplies can be a challenge. While you are trying to hold leashes, set up ex-pens, keep your dogs from marking where they're not supposed to, and protect them from other dogs, you will inevitably be surrounded by a star-struck public asking questions, wanting to pet the dogs, and generally getting in the way.

Relax and remember the guests are the reason you are there. If you have more than one volunteer, let one person handle the dogs and the visitors while the other concentrates on setup.

The "Job"

Once everything is set up, station one to two volunteers inside the pen with the dogs. These people should watch for signs that a dog would need to relieve himself, as well as keep an eye out for potential jumpers, dog disagreements, or small dogs approaching the pen.

We have a code, "lure alert," quietly spoken when one of us spots a small dog or cat approaching. This means put your hand on the collar of any Greyhound who has exhibited any prey drive. Often an alert volunteer can prevent a problem simply by standing next to or petting a dog, touching a collar, or distracting a dog with a treat. Obviously, a very high-prey Greyhound may not be a good choice for meet-and-greets.

In addition to the volunteers in the ex-pens, I like to have a volunteer or two outside the pen with a dog on a leash to work the crowd. This draws people to the booth and, again, establishes an atmosphere of hospitality. Your most outgoing and affectionate dogs are the best candidates for this job.

While working the booth, volunteers should concentrate on the public. They should not eat, smoke, or engage in lengthy

conversations with one another. Standing is best. It allows the volunteer to speak to visitors at eye level and to respond quickly to any dog needs. Sitting in a chair in the corner of the pen isolates you from the public and slows your ability to react to situations within the pen. If you simply cannot stand for long periods, half-sitting on a high stool can be a workable compromise.

The "Hook"

The mere sight of Greyhounds draws a crowd, but you can also be creative in getting people to approach. The following are a few ideas.

Hand out candy, bookmarks, or coloring pages. Of course, I make sure all handouts include our group's name and contact information. I also ask a parent's permission before giving candy to children. (Hint: Balloons are to be avoided — the movement, as well as the sound of one popping, can scare the dogs.)

Dress up the dogs for special days like Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, July 4th,

Halloween, and Valentine's Day. (Don't go overboard and make the dogs uncomfortable. A couple of simple capes or hats rotated among the dogs works well. I've found inexpensive hats for various holidays at party decoration stores, teddy bear stores, and craft shops.)

Give the visitors treats to feed the dogs. Young and old alike enjoy this opportunity to interact with the Greyhounds. Dogs trained to sit, shake hands, or take a bow also impress visitors. (On meet-and-greet days, I feed my dogs a smaller-than-usual breakfast and bring the remaining dog food to hand out as treats. It's less expensive and more healthful than packaged treats, and I can let scores of people give the dogs treats. This has also conditioned my dogs to eagerly greet people rather than play their usual couch potato routine when visitors approach the pen.)

The Conversation

Many volunteers will ask, "What do I say? I'm not an extrovert who can start conversations with total strangers." Our pride in and

passion for our dogs make it fairly easy to talk about them, but here are a few ice breakers as people approach the pen.

Invite them to pet the dogs with a phrase such as "Feel free to pet them; they love attention."

Start with some fun Greyhound fact such as, "Greyhounds can go from 0 to 45 mph in three strides, but they're mostly couch potatoes like you see here."

Ask a child, "Do you know the fastest land animal?" Most children older than 8 years of age know it's the cheetah and get a kick out of answering this question. Then follow up with "Did you know these guys are the second fastest?" With younger children you can say, "Did you know these dogs can run as fast as your mom (or dad) drives in the city?"

When answering questions, state things honestly, but positively. Instead of "Some Greyhounds kill cats," say, "While some Greyhounds cannot be placed with cats, many adapt quite well to life with cats. Our group tests for cat tolerance and works hard to place the right dog in the right home." Whenever possible — state things positively. On the other hand, remember we are not selling a product; we are placing a new family member. We want them to know what they are getting into, to understand the commitment, and to love the dog "as is."

The End

When your time is over, clean up around your pen. Make sure nothing is left behind. Leave everything the way you found it. And finally, make friends with the store workers and manager. Greet them when you arrive and thank them when you leave. It's common courtesy, and it's also good public relations.

Meet-and-greets benefit the dogs, the owners, your group, and the public. They are also a fun activity for you and your Greyhound(s) to do together. Check out your local meet-and-greet. You'll be glad you did. ■

Bonnie Jeffers and her husband Jim are the proud parents of five Greyhounds: Antony, Cassiopea, Alexander the Greyt hound, Artemis, and Diana. They volunteer with GreySave Greyhound Adoptions, where Bonnie helps with over 20 meet-and-greets each year.



Chico, adopted by Jerrie and Rich Ingersoll of Melrose Park, Ill.



Vic and Tory, mascots of Eastern New Mexico University.

Eastern New Mexico University Adopts Greyhound Mascots

By Wendel Sloan

Photos by ENMU

Despite concerns from some that the two Greyhounds adopted by Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) in Portales would not have a stable environment, they have become two of the most loved, pampered dogs in New Mexico.

The university's mascot is the Greyhound, so adopting Greyhounds was a logical fit. ENMU joins many other colleges and universities across the country in the tradition of owning live mascots, including Georgetown University (Jack, a dog), University of Texas (Bevo, a steer), West Texas A&M University (Thunder, a buffalo), and Loyola College in Maryland which also has a Greyhound ("Big Dog on Campus — The Greyhound as College Mascot," Fall 2008 CG).



The new mascots meet their new roommates and Hound Handlers in December 2009.



Local news crews were evidence of the larger community's keen interest in the arrival of the mascots.

Adoption was facilitated through New Mexico Greyhound Connection (GPA/NMGC), the New Mexico chapter of Greyhound Pets of America (GPA). Neither dog experienced much of a racing career. Vic refused to chase the lure, and never raced. Tory was not fond of the muzzle, and was only in three races.

After a fund raising vote to select the nicknames, Vic and Tory (Victory) won. After eight weeks of intensive planning and training for their arrival, Vic, a 2 year-old brindle male, and Tory, a 4 year-old black female with a white chest, arrived on campus on Dec. 1, 2009. A contingent from ENMU drove to the Double Eagle Airport in Albuquerque to pick them up after they were flown in by volunteer pilots in a private plane from Arizona.

Dr. Steven Gamble, ENMU president, and Ronnie Birdsong, vice president of university relations, were in Albuquerque for a meeting and joined the welcoming party, which also included a number of representatives from GPA/NMGC.

Vic and Tory made their official debut at an ENMU basketball game on Jan 23, 2010. Unfazed by the crowd and the noise, they calmly walked through the arena, and then patiently posed for photographs in the lobby with adoring fans of all ages.

The Greyhounds live on campus with two student roommates, and spend some of their daytime hours in "doggie daycare" at the ENMU Agriculture Building, a newly-renovated building housing classrooms, offices, labs, and Vic and Tory's playroom. During the daytime, they are walked on lead across campus by Hound Handlers and have free play time inside a gated yard. They have rest time in their playroom, which is equipped with crates and veterinarian-approved dog beds similar to their space at home.

Vic and Tory go home at the end of the day with their roommates to an on-campus apartment. They are known to plop on their roommates' beds, thus relegating the humans to couches or the dogs' beds. The roommates walk, run, and feed them daily. Roommate Dallas Ellsworth says with a chuckle, "I can't count the number of times I slept on the couch because Vic was sleeping on my bed."



Vic and Tory were introduced to the ENMU family at the men's and women's basketball games on January 23, 2010.

They have rules but since they are the pride of ENMU, we know our place as roommates, too!"

Here is a typical day's schedule for Vic and Tory:

- 7 a.m.: Walk before breakfast
- 7:30 a.m.: Breakfast
- 8-11 a.m.: Nap and walks on campus
- 11 a.m.: One-hour walk and/or free run at a fenced-in field
- noon-5:40 p.m.: Play and nap
- 5:40 p.m.: Walk and/or free run at a fenced-in field before dinner
- 6 p.m.: Dinner
- 6:30 p.m.: Play, then nap
- 8:40 p.m.: Last walk of the night
- 9 p.m.: Bedtime

This summer, Vic and Tory spent time during the day in the spacious

Communication Services office. Greyhound roommate Ellsworth and Janice Morrow, the university's director of publications and the person who came up with the idea of adopting them, both work there.

Vic and Tory have their own bag of toys in the office, and go chasing through the long walkway after each other, or play tug-of-war with stuffed animals. Vic seems particularly fond of a white Valentine's bear.

Students, staff, and faculty who were on campus over the summer stopped in for quick visits and to even offer quick walks throughout the day. All the attention didn't surprise Ellsworth. "These dogs have a lot of fans and Vic and Tory are very happy to oblige them," he said.

Vic and Tory were in foster care for over a month before arriving at ENMU. They

spent two of those weeks together. From the moment they arrived, they behaved like siblings who got along well. Other than Vic's occasional bark or Tory's soft whine over the other's toys, they seem actually to like each other.

Vic is definitely the youngster and the boy. Except when napping, he is always energetically curious about everything. He constantly sniffs and checks out anything that might be remotely interesting: trash cans, trees, desks, car tires, and shoes with people's feet in them.

Tory is more ladylike and less curious, or at least more discreet. Since she's two years older, maybe she has already explored and figured out the things that fascinate Vic. Tory does more of her exploring with her eyes. If she does not spot something new, she



Vic and Tory's roommates and the Hound Handlers show off the goodies collected at an ENMU club- and organization-sponsored doggie shower in Spring 2010.

feels little need to sniff or paw it.

Vic and Tory keep a busy social calendar, appearing at many campus events, including varsity games, social gatherings, and in classrooms. They are also in demand at city gatherings in Portales, including civic group meetings, dedications, banquets, and nursing homes.

The Greyhound Mascot Program is overseen by the Greyhound Committee, comprised of a broad range of university community members including people from student government, the Board of Regents, President's Ambassadors, the agriculture/pre-vet program, Hound Handlers, and Hound Families/Roommates, as well as people from the Athletics, Student Affairs, Communication Services, and University Relations departments.

"The program, first and foremost, honors Vic and Tory's physical and emotional needs," said Morrow. "Next, they act as offi-

cial ambassadors for Eastern New Mexico University. Vic and Tory are well-suited for crowd situations. They enjoy the love and attention."

The university relies on Dr. Darron Smith, ENMU associate professor of agriculture, Dr. David S. Hudson, DVM, the Pre-Vet Club, Hound Handlers, and roommates to gauge the dogs' comfort in being in any public situation.

ENMU followed the same guidelines for adoption as any other adoptive person or family to insure proper care and handling of the dogs. The Eastern New Mexico University International Animal Care and Use Committee unanimously passed a motion never to approve a research proposal utilizing the Greyhound mascots.

The ENMU Bench Club and Foundation made the initial \$3,000 donation for kennels, travel crates, beds, bowls, leashes and collars, veterinary care, and other expenses. The

Greyhound Mascot Program is otherwise funded by private donations to the ENMU Foundation. An endowment has been established to provide ongoing funding. Fundraisers like the "I heart Vic and Tory" T-shirts are a big hit on and off-campus and also help pay for their care.

Ronnie Birdsong, ENMU vice president for University Relations, said, "Vic and Tory were hand-selected for their calm, loving temperament. They come to ENMU from Phoenix. GPA/NMGC officials visited the ENMU campus to assess their housing and exercise arrangements and worked closely with ENMU to ensure Vic and Tory's physical and emotional needs would be met."

Upon arrival on campus, Vic and Tory were greeted by their official veterinarian, Dr. Hudson of All Pets Animal Hospital in Clovis. Dr. Hudson is an ENMU alumnus and donates services.

Five families in Portales have volunteered

as Hound Families. These homes are available for short-term occasions rather than kenneling during ENMU holidays if Vic and Tory's roommates leave town. Morrow has also occasionally kept the dogs at her house on weekends.

Trish Maguire, a Hound Family member, said her family loves when the dogs visit.

"They are gentle with our child and Vic especially enjoys snuggling up on the couch with us," she said.

Dee Durland of Rewards Dog Obedience School in Clovis, New Mexico, is Vic and Tory's official trainer. She advises the Hound Handlers and the Greyhounds' roommates on handling techniques. Ms. Durland is a certified pet dog trainer with the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and is the only certified trainer in the region. She also teaches Canine Good Citizen and Pet Therapy.

Both Vic and Tory have learned to sit for snacks and leashing. They know their names and are very aware of their schedule. "At four o'clock, they know it's time to go home, so they both get up from their naps and remind us it's time!" said Hound Handler Cynthia Varela.

Before the end of the spring semester at ENMU, the student organizations got together and hosted a "doggie shower" complete with gifts and a cake. Vic and Tory walked away with well over 20 squeaky toys, numerous gift certificates for new beds and other essentials, uniforms, dozens of tasty treats, and even a handmade outfit for each of them.

"There is no doubt in my mind we made the right decision to bring Vic and Tory into the ENMU family," Morrow said. "They are well-loved and, despite their unconventional home, they are happy, well-cared for, and have a terrific life." ■

Wendel Sloan is with the ENMU Office of Communication Services.

Finding Sanctuary

Tiny fawn girl,
Thin, frail, thirteen
Wandering collarless.
In rush-hour traffic.
Alone.

Scooped up by a postman
Who knows the clinic
Where works the vet
Who has seven greyhounds.
Providence.

Worms, heart murmur
Rotten teeth, scars, fleas
Skin, bones and pressure sores.
Hopeful eyes, a gentle countenance.
Forbearance.

No one can say
How long she'll last.
Only that in her twilight
She is loved and safe.
Sanctuary.

—Mardy Fones



Firechief, adopted by Connie Mistrata of Tinley Park, Ill.



The inaugural group of roommates and Hound Handlers (L to R, front: Dallas Ellworth, Vic, Gilbert Valdez, Tory; back: Amanda Crockett, Breanna Moody, Jesse Hines, Rachel Whitt, Cynthia Varela, Colby Trujillo) at ENMU.

Placing the Mascots: The Adoption Group's Perspective

By Candy Beck

In late summer of 2009 I was surprised by a phone call to GPA/New Mexico Greyhound Connection (GPA/NMGC) from Janice Morrow of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) in Portales, N.M., explaining that the university was exploring adopting Greyhounds to serve as mascots (Greyhounds is the name of their men's athletic teams). I replied, "I wondered why you didn't have them already!"

I explained the needs of retired racers to Janice, including the fact that Greyhounds cannot be off lead unless in a completely confined area. We discussed the Greyhound's inability to tolerate extremes of heat and cold, and their need

to be inside dogs. I asked them to read the "Greyhound Information Page" on the GPA/NMGC website and *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*, by Cynthia Branigan.

After discussing the conversation with Carol Strovers, our group's vice president, I promptly forgot about it. A few weeks later I received a call from Ronnie Birdsong, vice president of university relations at ENMU, informing me that the University wanted to adopt two Greyhounds.

We were aware that our usual adoption application would not be suitable for a university. It was then that Strovers suggested having ENMU write a proposal letter. We sent our request, and received from ENMU a prompt response that addressed each concern and outlined the characteristics they sought in their Greyhound mascots. The University was looking for a male and female, but were willing to accept two dogs of the same sex assuming they were two dogs who were young in age (though not puppies); had some level of training; were social butterflies who would be comfortable in crowds; were able to handle a lot of attention without the slightest hint of aggression; traveled easily; and were very adaptable to new surroundings.

The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club, Hound Handlers, Hound Roommates and Hound Families would all play an important role in the day-to-day care for the mascots. The proposal outlined a care plan and asked for GPA/NMGC input.

The proposal detailed the role of the Greyhound mascots. The University explained their intent to have the Greyhounds attend school functions and athletic events, acting as goodwill ambassadors for the University. Their letter also explained that in no uncertain terms would the University condone, accept, or allow the Greyhounds to be used in any kind of experimental research. This position is detailed in an official document signed by the ENMU International Animal Care and Use Committee. The proposal also stated: "When a University takes on the responsibility of owning animals, the animals have to receive the most elite care. Even practices that are accepted by the general public are often not accepted in the University setting. The general public often look to Universities to



Cain, adopted by Sharron Lane of Hendersonville, Tenn.

gain knowledge on how to care for their own animals, thus we are driven to set the example. We at Eastern New Mexico University are committed to this responsibility."

A site visit to the apartments where Vic and Tory would live was discussed, planned, and accomplished. We also visited the facilities where they would spend their time during the school day, including the Agriculture Building.

We discussed with the University a plan of action if Vic and Tory were unable to keep

the schedule of official activities for any reason, including health or age. GPA/NMGC's policy is to require that any Greyhound we place be returned to us if rehoming is required, for any reason. If someone at the University or in the community would be interested in adopting Vic and Tory if rehoming is required, they would need to follow the usual adoption process with GPA/NMGC.

Shortly after the site visit, I received a call from ENMU telling me that the University was prepared to adopt. I contact-

ed GPA/Arizona volunteers Linda Nelson and Leah Cole for assistance in finding two Greyhounds from the Phoenix racetrack that met the University's criteria.

A female, Rd's Kandy, appeared to be a good fit. Already in foster care, she had attended several meet-and-greets and appeared to fit the University's description. Greyhound owner/breeder Monte Hoopes suggested the male, a young racing school dropout named Roger Walters. Monte assured us Roger was calm and quiet. Trusting Monte's judgment, we placed Roger into foster care and he proved to be everything Monte said.

We needed to arrange to transport the Greyhounds from Arizona to Albuquerque. Pilots John Gentile and Tony McCormack came to the rescue, volunteering to fly the pair to Albuquerque on Dec. 1, 2009. Ronnie Birdsong and Dr. Steven Gamble, ENMU president, would already be in Albuquerque. An ENMU staffer, alumna, and student drove to Albuquerque to pick up the school's new mascots.

Double Eagle Airport was chosen as the best place for the plane to land. The morning

dawned bright and clear. GPA/NMGC volunteers and ENMU folks scanned the skies, anxiously awaiting their arrival.

Excitement reached a peak as the Piper Seneca taxied up to its parking space. Eager humans hurried to help the new arrivals off the plane. They were finally here!

Roger and Kandy took everything in stride as excited volunteers welcomed them and the event was captured in pictures and video. Roger and Kandy, now renamed Vic and Tory, donned their ENMU green winter coats, and they hopped into their ENMU van and headed for their new life.

The adoption of Vic and Tory to ENMU was a months-long process, carefully considered and accomplished. Although a few minor adjustments to the University's care proposal have been made over time, for the most part, Vic and Tory's day-to-day care remains as originally planned. Vic and Tory spend their weekdays at the ENMU Agriculture Building with pre-veterinary students and Hound Handlers who care for, play with, train, and exercise them. Vic and Tory live in an on-campus apartment with two Hound Roommates who feed and exercise

Vic and Tory outside of their daytime schedule. And down the road, if rehoming becomes necessary for any reason, we are delighted that one of our volunteers has already committed to adopt both Vic and Tory.

ENMU stays in close contact with GPA/NMGC. We receive calls, e-mails, and photos to update us about their lives at college. This October, we will be working hand-in-hand with ENMU on the Greyhound Adoption Celebration day scheduled for Oct. 23 in Portales (for event details, see "You're Invited," in this issue). Vic and Tory keep up with all of their fans on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/enmu.victory) and on the University's website (www.enmu.edu/greyhounds). It has been gratifying to see how well the Greyhounds have settled into their new lives, and the excellent love and care they have received at Eastern New Mexico University. ■

Candy Beck volunteers for GPA/New Mexico Greyhound Connection. She is that group's president.



Lizzy, adopted by Howard and Kathy Schwartz of Fort Collins, Colo.

When I first took the job as Eastern New Mexico University's (ENMU) student body president, the last thing on my mind was bringing mascots to campus.

And, when talk of the program began, I certainly did not see myself living with the mascots. But when I attended the first mascot committee meeting in late October 2009, I needed little convincing to decide that this would be a great thing for ENMU.

It also did not take much to convince me to live with the dogs when they arrived on campus. As we discussed the living arrangement for Vic and Tory, I jokingly said that they could live with me. That December I welcomed them into my apartment.

Owning a dog is responsibility for anyone, and there are some college students who may not want to take on the task. But what makes Vic and Tory so unique from my previous experience with canines is the variety of responsibilities that come with caring for the mascots. First, of course, is the basic responsibility of having a dog. Then there is the responsibility of meeting the expectations of the University and the Greyhounds' roles as mascots.

I guess you could say having the mascot dogs also involves politics. But, despite the politics, I try to look at Vic and Tory as I did other dogs I have owned and tend to them in that manner — focusing on their needs as dogs. Everything else is secondary.

The day starts out pretty normally, depending on who wakes up first (me or Tory). We wake up the other either by the licking of the face or the jingling of the keys. (Tory is the one that licks the face.) As Vic continues to sleep, Tory and I go on our morning run around campus.

We would like to take Vic along but honestly, after a few attempts, we found Vic would rather stay in bed and run on the soccer field later in the day. After the run, we all have breakfast and as I get ready, they sleep.

Then we go to campus where Vic



Dallas Ellsworth, a senior at ENMU, is Vic's roommate.

The Mascots' Roommate

By Dallas Ellsworth

and Tory spend the day in their very own room in the Agriculture Building. That frees up my day for classes and work. Around 4 p.m. I pick them up and we go home, eat, and go for a late evening walk before settling for the night.

Being the roommate and "father" of Vic and Tory has been a whole new subset of my college experience. I think one advantage in being Vic and Tory's roommate is that I get to see aspects of their personalities that many do not.

Some compare my role to that of a parent, and with words like "playrooms," "doggie daycare" and "doggie shower." I guess there are some similarities, but I see Vic and Tory as just dogs and love them as if they were my own and not as mascots.

One of the things I have most enjoyed is seeing how much Vic and Tory have grown and adapted to their new home. Since the first night's walk, to being stranded in our apartment in a snowstorm, to today — with each Greyhound sleeping on the floor next to me as I write this article, we have bonded as a "family."

It is a pleasure to care for Vic and Tory. I have grown up around animals my whole life and I think that I am learning more about myself than I am about Greyhounds. ■

Dallas Ellsworth is Vic and Tory's roommate and a senior Graphic Design major at ENMU. He is the past president of ENMU's Associated Students Activities Board and a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity-Theta Zeta Chapter. Dallas grew up on a ranch in the rural community of Ramah, N.M. Upon graduation from ENMU, Dallas plans to pursue a master's degree in Graphic Design.

A Day in the Lives of Vic and Tory

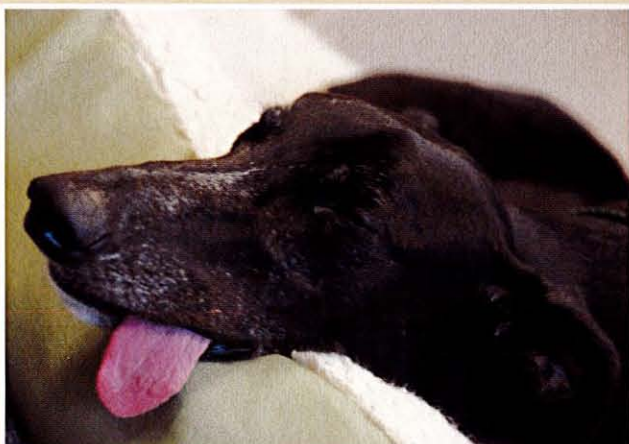
What is the life of a college mascot like? As these photos from ENMU illustrate, Vic and Tory have full, exciting lives.



Vic and Tory relax in the apartment they share with their roommate, Dallas Ellsworth.



During the school day, the mascots spend some of their time in "doggie daycare" in the Agriculture Building. Here, Vic totes one of his favorite toys around the office.



Morning run? Uh-hh, no thanks. While Vic and Dallas get some exercise, Tory catches an extra forty winks.



Vic and Tory are in much demand on campus. Here, Vic visits with staff at a holiday gathering.



ENMU Hound Handlers walk the mascots during the school day. Here, Vic and Tory pose with Handlers Jesse Hines and Rachel Whitt.



Vic and Tory know the day isn't over yet . . .



Vic and Tory have a chance to run off lead in the fenced soccer field at ENMU.



After a good run, the tired mascots are ready to head for home.



Tory relaxes in a shaded part of the soccer field.



Vic meets a young fan at an ENMU Men's Basketball game.



Vic relaxes at the apartment with his favorite toys.



The next day, dressed in their uniforms, Vic and Tory are ready to go again!



Pharaoh (Sol Uno), adopted by Rob and Cathie Lopshire of Frenchtown, N.J. *Rob Lopshire*

Researching Your Hound's History

By Laurel Drew

Ever wondered about the pedigree and history of your Greyhound buddy? Ever wanted to know about his racing record? Ever wondered about the history of racing or coursing or Greyhounds in general? Here are some ways to trace your hound's history, Greyhound history, and the sports of coursing and racing. Although much may be found on

the Web or the Internet, not all information is there, and some of the most fascinating facts may be found in books and magazines. Just for fun, we will look at some of the facts and history of Vic and Tory, the Greyhound mascots recently adopted by Eastern New Mexico University.

The first step is to determine your dog's identity. Many of the resources you will investigate to learn more about your dog will list them by registered name. Most retired racing Greyhounds have call names — given to them by trainers, adoption groups, or adopters — that differ from their registered names. How do you find out if your dog has a registered name? Your first step should be to see if your dog has ear tattoos. Because most of our adopted Greyhounds are retired racing dogs registered with the National Greyhound Association (NGA), they have tattoos in their ears that allow you to identify them. The left ear contains a number that was assigned to the litter at birth. Every pup in the litter who was registered with the NGA will have the same number tattooed in the left ear. The right ear should contain a tattoo of a number followed by a letter. The number represents the month and year of the dog's birth. Vic's left ear has the number 45715 tattooed in it, and his right ear says 28B. These numbers tell us three things: Vic was registered with the NGA, his litter number was 45715, and he was born in February 2008.

Sometimes tattoos fade with age, making them difficult to read. In most cases, if a Greyhound has no tattoos, you can assume that he was never registered with the NGA. Reasons for lack of registration vary. Perhaps the dog was the product of an accidental breeding, which would not have been registered. Perhaps the dog was raised to be a racer but did not show enough promise to register and train. Perhaps the dog is a "cold-blood," bred to hunt for a rancher or professional game hunter who is hired to keep coyotes and hares under control. (In the West, coyotes can cause havoc among sheep and goat herds, and even small calves. They and jacks are also devastating to crops such as watermelons, and other vegetables or fruits. Greyhounds are considered a useful alternative to poisons and traps which are more



Quesa and Arianna, adopted by Joan Nageldinger of Harrisburg, Pa.

indiscriminate.) Cold-blood Greyhounds are by all appearances purebred, but have no registration or papers as proof.

If your dog has tattoos, you can learn his registered name by contacting the National Greyhound Association. They will look up the tattoo numbers in their database and tell you the registered name of your Greyhound.

Once you know your dog's registered name, you can access a number of online resources that will tell you more about his history. The first place to look is the well-known www.Greyhound-data.com, which lists the pedigrees and racing records of many Greyhounds. Very often you can use Greyhound-data.com to trace a hound's history quite a distance back, sometimes even to the very earliest days of coursing in England. Did you know that all (or nearly all) Greyhounds, whether show dogs or racers, trace back through provable pedigrees to the same early coursing dogs? These early coursing dogs include some of the bluest blood in coursing history, Waterloo Cup winners and others of historical interest.

Let's pretend that we contacted the NGA with Vic and Tory's tattoo numbers and

learned that their registered names were Roger Walters and RD's Kandy. (No need to make the phone call in this case; if you've already read Candy Beck's article in this issue, she's provided you with this information.) To learn about their pedigrees on Greyhound-data.com, click on the Dog-Search tab, enter the dog's registered name and gender, and click the Search button. If the dog is in the database, you will be rewarded with a five-generation pedigree.

Some of the pedigrees will be accompanied by photos. If a well-known dog is in the first five generations of the dog you are researching, the dog's name will be highlighted. Click on it to bring up that dog's five-generation pedigree (and photo, if you're lucky). Keep following this process and you may be able to trace your dog's lineage back for many generations.

Using Greyhound-data.com, I was able to trace Vic's lineage back 37 generations through his dam to a bitch called Marcia, born England in 1819. The pedigree of Vic's sire can be traced to a dog named Pilot and a bitch named Bliss, both brindles who were born around 1820. Tory's lineage on her dam

side traces back 29 generations to a bitch called Old Fly, who was born during the 1850s. Her sire traces back to King Cob, a famous English coursing champion who is believed to be the first Greyhound whose stud services were publicly advertised. Most Greyhounds in the U.S., Australia, England, and Ireland are believed to be traceable back to King Cob.

The Greyhound-data site includes information about littermates of the dog you are tracing, as well as additional offspring of its sire or dam. Other features of this website include race cards, statistics, and the ability to model testmatings (putting two pedigrees together to see what you might strengthen in the offspring). This information may not be of interest to all adopters, but it does provide insight into how breeders select their sires and dams. Finally, the website lists names and locations of various Greyhound breeding farms in several countries.

Information about the lineage of retired racing Greyhounds is readily available on Greyhound-data.com. Another online database provides similar information for Greyhounds who have competed in amateur

forms of racing, coursing, showing and obedience. Sponsored by Sarah Regan Snavelly, www.greyhoundbloodlines.com lists Greyhounds from American Kennel Club (AKC), Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), Kennel Club (KC) or other International registries.

Your research need not be confined to online resources. The NGA Studbooks list all Greyhounds born to registered racing parents. Each dog is listed under the name of the sire, followed by his sire and dam, owner, color and the number of the studbook in which he is first listed. Under his listing are the names of each bitch to which he was bred that produced offspring. Behind her name is listed the same data as that of the sire. Below her listing is a list of her pups, including the name, color, sex, date of birth and owner.

NGA Studbook records stretch back to the beginning of Greyhound racing and before. The earliest ones include accounts of important courses (live game) which were first held on the prairies and later in enormous fenced pens which had special escape holes for the rabbits. Using these books, you

can trace your dog's heritage back to about 1906. The earliest volumes give some fascinating glimpses into the early world of coursing in the U.S. NGA Studbooks are held at the National Greyhound Association in Abilene, Kansas. AKC, CKC, KC and British Studbooks are also good resources, depending on your Greyhound's history.

Some special books of history contain pedigrees for outstanding historical Greyhounds. One of the most fascinating books is Edward Ash's *Book of the Greyhound*, published in 1933. It contains a huge fold-out chart of the lineages of some of the famous names in Greyhounds. The chart features an index and a chart showing the genealogy of various dogs tracing back as far as dogs that are not even named. "Bitch belonging to K. George III" is one of them. It is interesting to read the book and know that you can trace your dogs back to the same ones that Ash discusses and lists in the genealogy. They include some of the Waterloo Cup winners and others who Ash made known through his book.

These are just a few of the sources that you can use to trace your dog's pedigree. His

racing history is another matter. Most racing records are held either by the NGA or the individual tracks at which the dog raced. In most cases, you can obtain copies of your dog's racing record by contacting the racing secretary of the track(s) where he raced. For tracks that have closed, contact the NGA to learn where those records are now held. Track programs can be useful in finding out the level or grade at which your dog raced, as well as the details of some of his races. These are written in a kind of track shorthand so prepare to do some sleuthing to find out what the terms mean. Again, the NGA and most track kennels or breeders can help with this. Don't be afraid to contact the breeder of your dog to inquire about his history; breeders are often delighted to find out where their pups are now and what their lives are like. Few pups are "just another name" to their breeders; they follow their exploits both on and off the track with interest.

Have fun tracking your dog's history! ■

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor.



Darcy, adopted by Scott and Brigitte Davis of Temecula, Calif.

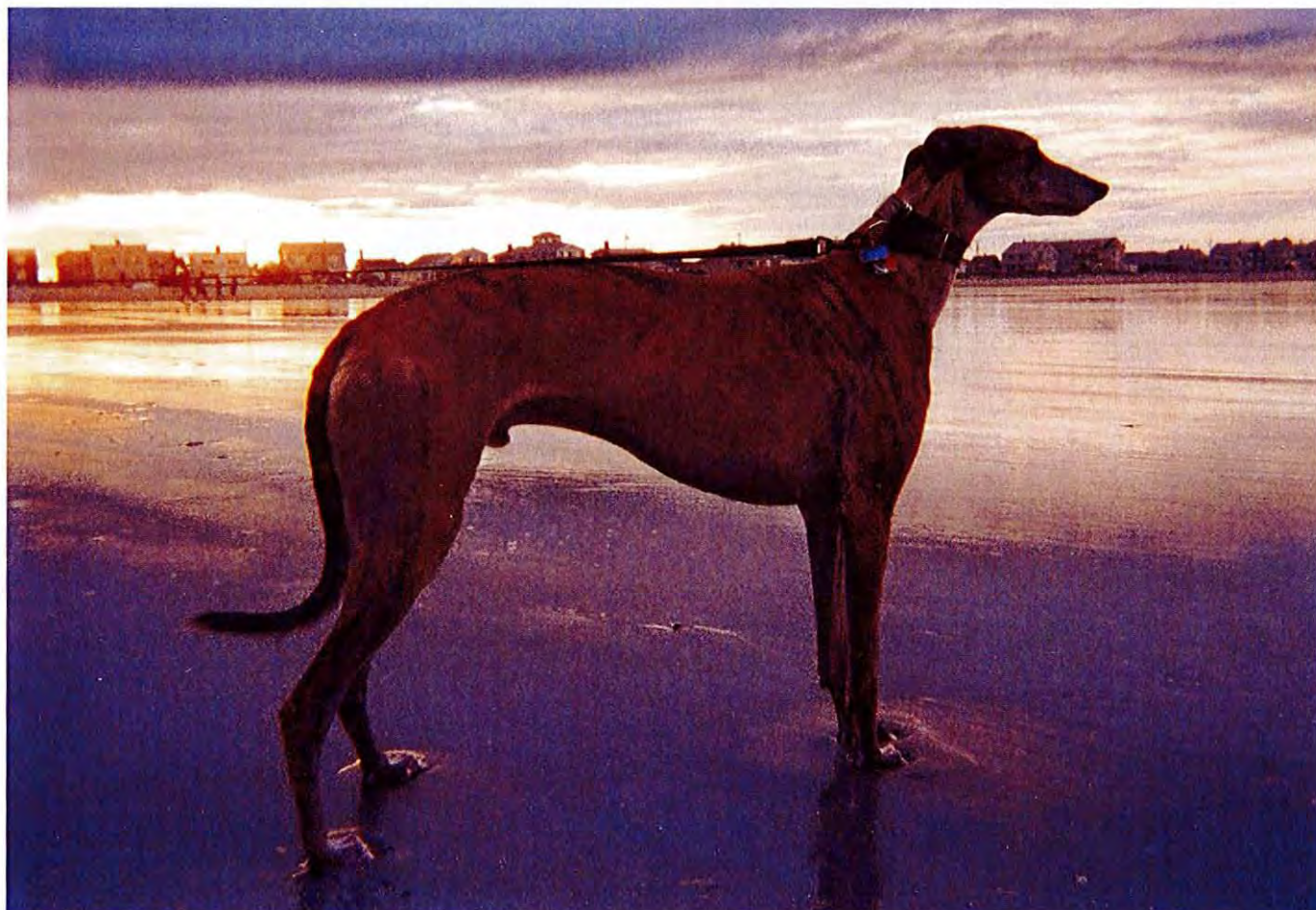


Retired racing Greyhound Dylan meets Alec, the Eldridge Park Carousel Greyhound of Elmira, N.Y. *Kathy Campbell*

Celebrated Merry-Go-Round Greyhounds

By Janet Lambert

Real-life Greyhounds recently met up with Alec — a carved Merry-Go-Round Greyhound who resides on an Elmira, N.Y. carousel. Alec is probably the last of the remaining operational carousel Greyhounds that once made magical memories for children. On that sunny day, the Greyhounds — all retired racers and one, a work of the imagination — posed next to each other for some history-making pictures. Elmira, New York is home to the Mark Twain Study and to Quarry Hill farm where Twain spent many summers writing. Now this quaint upstate New York city is in possession of another unique piece of history in the form of Alec, the Carousel Greyhound of Eldridge Park.



Astor (RJ's Jim Carey), adopted by the Toscano family of Ellington, Conn.

The Eldridge Park carousel began its life in the late 1890s at Young's Million Dollar Pier in Atlantic City, N.J. In 1924 the carousel was purchased by Robert Long and moved to its current location of Eldridge Park in Elmira, New York. In the middle of the last century, Eldridge Park was an amusement park with a restaurant and conservatory, fountains and statuary, a supposedly bottomless lake, and various rides and concessions, including the carousel. Though the amusement park was closed in 1983, the park is in the midst of an ongoing restoration, and Eldridge Park Carousel Preservation Society re-opened the carousel in 2006.

Hal and Janet Lambert of the Sayre Satellite of Keystone Greyhounds were invited by Dr. Bob Lyon, president of the Eldridge Park Carousel Preservation Society, to bring their two Greyhounds, along with one of their foster Greyhounds, to meet Alec the Carousel Greyhound. The purpose of the visit was to raise public awareness about the

adoption programs of both groups. Alec, along with other carousel animals, is up for adoption in an effort to raise funds to keep the ride up and running. Alec had been rescued back in 2004 as part of the carousel restoration project. The Lamberts adopted their own greyhounds, Goose (Starr Gospel) and Dylan (Askart) through Keystone Greyhounds in 2006 and have since become adoption representatives for the group.

The original Greyhound who rode the carousel had been sold along with the entire collection of animals by the City of Elmira when the ride was closed in the 1980s. After the Carousel Preservation Society formed and began its efforts to restore the Merry-Go-Round, animals were searched out across the entire country to replace the original ones. The carousel Greyhound that they finally located was purchased in 2004 for \$10,000 from a woman who was selling her late mother's collection. It is nearly identical to the original Loeff Greyhound that rode on the

Elmira Merry-Go-Round for many decades.

Little did anyone present at that meeting realize how special these photographs of the Lambert's dog standing next to Alec on the carousel would turn out to be. The Lamberts originally thought that this unique tie-in to Greyhound adoption might be useful to other adoption groups as well as to Keystone Greyhounds. Thus began their search to locate carousels across the country which might contain a similar ride.

With the help of carousel enthusiasts across the nation, it didn't take long to learn that Elmira's Alec is most likely the only remaining active carousel Greyhound in the entire United States. Hal wrote to Patrick Wentzel of the National Carousel Association who told Lambert that he believes the Loeff Greyhound at Eldridge Park is the only one that is currently on board an operating carousel. Charles I.D. Loeff (1852-1918) was a master carver of carousel animals in America.

Wentzel went on to say, "Two other Looft carousels, Slater Park in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and Seaport Village in San Diego, California have dogs onboard the platform, but they are not Greyhounds. The Looft Carousel at Whalom Park in Lunenburg, Massachusetts had at least two and possibly three Greyhounds. This carousel has been broken up." This makes Elmira's Alec a very rare Greyhound, indeed.

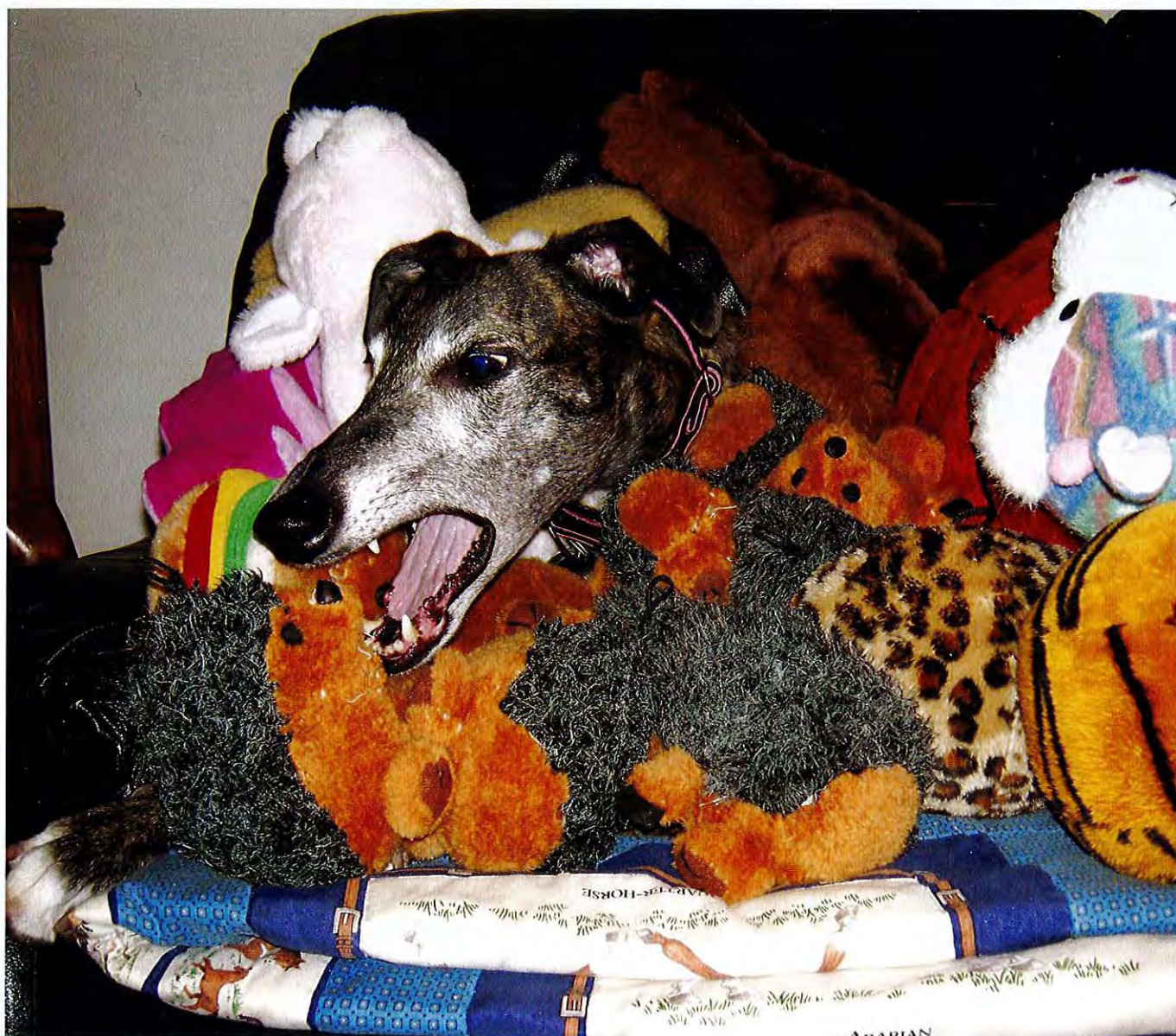
The Lamberts are adoption representatives in the Sayre, Pennsylvania area for Keystone Greyhounds and have placed Greyhounds within a sixty mile radius of their home, including in Elmira, New York.

As many Greyhound tracks across the country are closing for various reasons, the need to find good homes for these retired racers becomes more and more important. Greyhound adoption organizations are working hard to ensure that these magnificent athletes with a history that stretches back 5,000 years do not vanish and become as rare as Elmira's Carousel Greyhound.

Robert Lyon, founder of the Eldridge Park Carousel Preservation Society, and his group are devoting a great deal of their spare time so future generations will be able to enjoy carousels and the history that comes with them. What a wonderful and fortuitous

coincidence that these two groups met up with each other! Hopefully, Greyhounds and carousels will always have a part in our children's futures. ■

Janet Lambert lives with husband Hal and Greyhounds Goose and Dylan in the Sayre, Pa. area. They volunteer for Keystone Greyhounds. As this issue went to press, Alec the Carousel Greyhound was still available for "adoption" in the form of sponsorship. For more information, visit the website of the Eldridge Park Carousel Preservation Society at www.eldridgepark.us/carousel



Sabrina (Tyville Madison), adopted by Bill and Terri Royea of Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan.



Sassy and Maya began serving as Oakleaf High School's mascots when the school opened in Fall 2010.

Sassy and Maya, Oakleaf High School's Mascots

By Patrick Rogers and Marai Yaw

Photos by Patrick Rogers

Greyhound sisters Sassy (FTH Sassy Thang) and Maya (FTH Firecracker) were adopted by two friends and business colleagues, Patrick Rogers and Marai Yaw. Patrick and Marai work with teachers in Clay County, Florida. They also work with students at special events such as festivals and art fairs.

Sassy and Maya became mascots at brand-new Oakleaf High School when it opened this fall. One of the largest high schools in Florida, Oakleaf High's official mascot is a knight in full armor. Sassy and Maya are the knight's hunting dogs. They run out on the field before football games and other sporting events, attend new student orientations, and participate in many other school activities.

Prior to the high school's opening, both dogs attended functions at other schools in Clay County. At Oakleaf High, they are often invited into individual classrooms; winning visits with the dogs is a significant incentive for some classroom activities.

The dogs have matching uniforms: collars, leashes, and jackets with the Oakleaf Knights logo and their names on the collar and jacket. They wear their uniforms to all school functions.

Patrick has a large RV that serves as an office and goes to most of the school functions attended by Sassy and Maya. The RV gives the dogs a place to rest in air-conditioned comfort in summer and warmth in winter. Sometimes the dogs attend events individually, but most of the time, they go as a pair. Sassy is the calmer of two and is very comfortable in a crowd. Maya is newer at the game but learning the ropes quickly.

When the dogs visit a school, Patrick takes photos and saves them on a CD. Some schools use the CD as a fundraiser, selling

individual photos or copies of the entire CD to parents. Other schools set up a slide show to share with students and staff.

Sassy lives with Patrick on Fleming Island near Jacksonville, Florida. She shares her people, Sheen and Patrick, with two other dogs — Mainer (a Boxer) and Hubble (a small mixed breed). They have a big backyard where all the dogs can play. In addition to schools, Sassy and Patrick visit The Terraces, a rehabilitation and nursing home community, on a regular basis. Patrick's mother lives at The Terraces, and Sassy is known by most of the residents.

Maya lives with Marai at Penney Retirement Community (PRC) in Penney Farms, Florida. They have no backyard, but the facility is built on 200 acres — plenty of

space for long walks. Maya is greeted and fussed over every time she goes out. She insists on at least five walks a day. Dogs are allowed at PRC and Marai is leading an effort to have a fenced area created for all the dogs at PRC so they have a safe space to run, play, and train.

PRC is a full-service community with facilities from independent living in individual homes to a memory-loss unit and separate nursing home. Maya visits residents at Hagen Care, the memory-loss unit; the Pavilion, the nursing care facility; as well as the assisted-living facility. She also visits residents in the independent living area. Her calm demeanor endears her to residents, many of whom have few outlets for their feelings. Sometimes Sassy joins her on her visits. Maya is beginning

training to become a registered therapy dog. She is already great with the people who need her, but to be registered, she must master basic obedience training.

When not at "work," Sassy and Maya run and play together on a regular basis. They go to a fenced pasture where they can stretch out at full gallop. The sisters have much in common. They both love to cockroach in a most undignified fashion, and they huff and snuff when they don't get their own way. But they have their differences, too. Maya loves to run and go for as many walks as possible. Sassy, on the other hand, is a couch potato, stealing the best chair in the house as her personal property.

With the help of Patrick and Marai, Sassy and Maya have carved out a post-racing life that is a perfect blend of giving back to the community and kicking back at home. ■

Patrick Rogers and Sassy live in Fleming Island, Fla. Marai Yaw and Maya live in Penny Farms, Fla.



When not on duty, Sassy and Maya enjoy running together in a fenced field.



Sassy and Maya wear their custom collars and jackets to all Oakleaf High School events.



Wishbone, adopted by Roger Farrell of Jupiter, Fla.

Experiencing the Loss of a Greyhound

By Kris White

In memory of the Greyhounds I have loved and lost: Scott, Alex, Chase, Sunny, Jimmy, Seamus, and Pinkie Rose.

Greyhound guardians understand the powerful bond that develops between humans and their Greyhounds. In many cases the dog becomes an integral part of the family. It is not uncommon for Greyhound guardians to view their dogs as full family members and go to great lengths to provide loving care. It is not surprising then that these guardians would grieve the loss of their Greyhounds just as they would grieve for other members of their family, often experiencing an extended period of mourning. Some guardians view their Greyhounds as sons and daughters. These guardians tend to react very strongly to the loss of their dogs and grieve very deeply.

Not every Greyhound guardian will bond with his/her Greyhound to the same degree. Some provide loving and responsible care for their dogs but they don't extend to their Greyhounds the same status as human members of their family. When their Greyhounds die, these guardians might experience a shorter and less intensive grieving process, but they will still grieve.

Most people have heard about the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. However, more recently the idea that grieving does not consist of a series of stages is becoming more accepted. The grieving process may consist more of an array of feelings that arise in no specific order or predefined stages. While grieving is universal, reactions within the overall process may vary widely. For example, a guardian may express a sense of disbelief following the death of his or her Greyhound. In the event of a sudden, unexpected death, a guardian may experience shock. It is not uncommon to experience feelings of numbness intermittently that may give way to a lack of focus. The guardian may be unable to concentrate at work or even focus on completing tasks at home.

It is not unusual to feel sadness. Many guardians will cry often while they grieve. Others may cry very little. Some guardians may express anger as a result of events related to the deaths of their Greyhounds. Others may not experience any sense of anger. Some guardians may experience guilt about things they believe they should have done or should not have done. With the loss of older Greyhounds, guardians may acknowledge that their dogs' deaths were inevitable but then second-guess their decisions about the end-of-life care of their Greyhounds. Guardians may experience a disturbance in sleeping patterns for a while, an upheaval in eating patterns, or an overall lack of energy. They may experience a range of emotions from day to day. It is also important to understand that the longevity of the grieving is not a reflection of how much the guardian loved and cared about his or her Greyhound.

Grief is the normal and natural emotional response to loss and our grief is as individual as our lives. Grief is a very tricky thing. It is a different experience for different people, and it can be different with each companion

animal. The way in which grief manifests itself often seems to depend on the timing and circumstances of the death. It also seems to be related to the personality of the Greyhound and the depth and type of bond that existed between the guardian and the Greyhound.

There are other circumstances surrounding the loss of a Greyhound that can impact the relationships within the pet's family and the behavior of companion animals left behind. In situations where there is more than one guardian in a household, it is possible that the guardians will view the loss of the Greyhound very differently. If one guardian views the dog as an extended member of the family while the other guardian views the Greyhound as a child, it may be

After I lost my Greyhound in the fall of 2008, I was fortunate that my priest was willing to perform a memorial service for him. Jimmy had been cremated and his ashes were placed in a beautiful red oak box. I was allowed to bring the box into the sanctuary of the church for his memorial service. Handouts were prepared for the service and were personalized with his name. (I treasure my copy to this day.) I was also permitted to give the eulogy. At the end of the eulogy, I looked around and noticed that most of my friends were crying. I knew that Jimmy was well-loved, but I also realized that my friends were not only crying for Jimmy, they were finally finding some closure for the companion animals they had loved and lost.

very hard for one of the guardians to understand what the other is feeling.

Greyhounds tend to be older than other types of companion animals at the time of adoption. It is not uncommon for guardians to adopt two or more Greyhounds within the span of a year or two. Some guardians may have as many as four or five Greyhounds at the same time with only a slight difference in age between each dog. These guardians must

find it very difficult to face the loss of a second or third Greyhound within a relatively short period of time when they are still grieving the loss of the first or second Greyhound.

Guardians who have been adopting Greyhounds for longer periods of time may have experienced the loss of a larger number of Greyhounds and other companion animals than many of their non-Greyhound-owning counterparts. It would not be that uncommon for a guardian who started adopting Greyhounds in the early 1990s to have loved and lost four, five, or more dogs in the intervening years. Their willingness to continue to adopt and love again after the loss of each Greyhound is admirable. Even though the relationship between each guardian and Greyhound is unique, a special bond develops with each one of them, and for most guardians, the pain of each loss is just as great and the grief just as intense.

Greyhound guardians can experience the same isolation felt by many when they lose their companion animals. The guardian may experience (or believe) that no one understands his or her sense of loss and grief. However, regardless of whether this perception is true, the perception alone can cause a great deal of emotional stress and anxiety. While people are beginning to understand the bond that can exist between guardians and companion animals, there are still many people who do not view the loss of an animal as anything similar to the loss of a family member or friend. In particular, bosses or co-workers may not

be very sympathetic to someone who has just lost a companion animal. They also may not be very perceptive or understanding when confronted with a good employee who is suddenly very emotional and unable to concentrate on tasks at work. Guardians may also fear that they will be unable to keep their emotions in check at work if co-workers happen to mention their deceased Greyhounds or ask about them.

When family members react in very dif-

ferent ways while grieving the loss of the family's Greyhound, it can be very stressful for other members of the family. Even for families where everyone is still grieving, some family members may still be very distraught, while other family members may begin to experience a lessening of their grief. Some members of the family may begin thinking about adopting another Greyhound while others in the family can't believe that any family member could even suggest or think about adopting another Greyhound. Family members have to be careful to remember that everyone grieves differently. They also need to understand that some family members may grieve intensely for shorter periods of time, and that it doesn't mean that they loved the Greyhound less, or even that they suffered less pain as they grieved.

These days Greyhound guardians do not have to face their loss alone. There are many forms of support available. Guardians can express their grief to sympathetic family members and friends. They can locate and attend a companion animal support group with other grieving guardians. They can ask

their veterinarians about local hotlines they can call for support.

As society has come to understand the depth of the bond that can exist between humans and companion animals, some religious organizations are recognizing the importance of providing pastoral care to parishioners who are facing the loss, or have experienced the loss, of their companion animals.

Some churches will hold memorial services when a parishioner loses a companion animal. However, this willingness may differ from church to church even within the same denomination. Many churches hold a Blessing of the Animals service, usually in early October when St. Francis' life is celebrated. Many of these Blessings are beginning to include a memorial service for people to remember the companion animals they have lost during the year. Most of these services are open to the public.

Guardians may find it helpful to keep a journal, writing down their feelings as they grieve. Others may find comfort in writing poems or stories about the Greyhounds they've lost.

When a Greyhound dies, life can change a great deal for the companion animals that remain. The dog may suddenly be an only dog. If he is alpha, he lost his follower dog and companion. If he was the lower status dog, he may be even more reactive and adrift. In some cases the remaining dog may be much happier without the other dog.

The following are signs that may indicate that the remaining dog is reacting to the death of the other dog:

- Loss of appetite
- Quiet manner, with less barking
- Loss of interest in walks
- Sluggish and tired demeanor

Companion animals may also react because their guardians are acting differently. Schedules may be disrupted and the remaining companion animals may not be receiving as much time or interaction with their guardians. It is important for guardians to continue to interact with the remaining dog, even if the guardian is feeling depressed or suffering from an overall lack of energy. This is especially important if the dog becomes fearful or anxious.



Ditto, adopted by Stan and Cheryl Holewinski of Pasadena, Md. *Joanne Bast*

Spending time with the remaining dog can be beneficial for the entire family. Perhaps this is an opportunity to do things differently. Start a training program or a new exercise program with the remaining dog. While grieving, exercise is good for everyone in the family. If the remaining dog becomes more fearful despite the fact you're spending more time with him, be reassuring without reinforcing the fearfulness.

Greyhound guardians use many different ways to help them find closure after the loss of their dogs. For some there are special places where they always took their Greyhounds. Once their grieving has lessened, they find it comforting to return to their special places and remember their Greyhounds and the good times they had together. If their pets were cremated, the guardians may scatter some of the ashes at these special places. Some guardians will continue this type of remembrance on the anniversaries of the death of their Greyhounds. Other guardians may do this in a more formalized way and include friends and family.

It is not uncommon for special Greyhound events or adoption group events to include a memorial service. During these memorial services, attendees are invited to light candles and say a few words about the Greyhounds they have lost.

Others find comfort in poems or stories as they grieve. The poem "Rainbow Bridge", can be found many places on the Internet. It begins by describing a place just this side of heaven where pets go when they die. It tells how they continue to exist in this special place. They are happy except for the fact that they miss their guardians. By the end of the poem, the guardians and their companion animals are reunited.

Guardians often make donations to Greyhound groups or organizations in the names of their Greyhounds. Others have personal items made to remember them, such as embroidering their names on special jackets, or having necklaces made that consist of charms inscribed with the name of each Greyhound (and other companion animals) they've lost. Others buy Greyhound jewelry that reminds them of their Greyhounds. Some guardians cut locks of hair from their

dogs and place the hair in a locket which they wear. Others tattoo on their bodies the names of the Greyhounds they have lost.

Guardians who are gardeners may have memorial stepping stones or statues made with the names of their Greyhounds inscribed. Most places that arrange for the cremation of companion animals will be able to make a paw print using a plaque or stepping stone kit prior to cremation.

Some guardians pay to have trees planted in the dog park or a city park where they live with a plaque that contains the name of the companion animal and, perhaps, a saying or a short poem. Other guardians make scrapbooks, or frame special photos of their dogs, or create shadowboxes filled with mementos associated with their Greyhounds.

Guardians who cremate their Greyhounds often have the ashes placed in urns or beautiful wooden boxes. They may have a special shelf or corner of a room where the urns or boxes are displayed.

Others honor the Greyhounds they have lost by adopting and loving another Greyhound in need of a home. Sometimes they will decide to adopt older or returned Greyhounds or those with special needs.

Does the grieving ever end? The feelings of sadness and the pain of loss do lessen over time for most guardians. For some, the grief

process seems to occur within a certain period of time and then end. Many guardians will still have quiet moments where they think about the dogs they have lost. During these moments they can experience a very vivid sense of grief and loss which can still be quite painful. These moments, too, tend to lessen over time usually replaced with fond memories of their Greyhounds and their lives together. ■

Resources

Linzey, Andrew, *Animal Rites: Liturgies of Animal Care*, Pilgrim Press, October 2001.

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/coping_with_pet_death.html

<http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/features/coping-with-pet-loss>

<http://www.petfinder.com/pet-care/coping-death-pet.html>

<http://www.petfinder.com/pet-care/rainbow-bridge.html>

<http://www.everlifememorials.com/>

<http://www.everlifememorials.com/v/pet-loss.htm>

<http://www.udel.edu/DSP/SGCF/pet-loss.html>

Kris White lives with her Greyhounds in Greenbelt, Md.



Rusty, adopted by Paul and Jodie Damon of Oconomowoc, Wis.

YOU'RE INVITED

Saturday, September 11

Thirteenth Annual Picnic
Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption

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

Long Lake Regional Park

1500 Old Hwy 8

New Brighton, Minn.

All Greyhounds and their owners are invited to join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year: A fun-filled day of food, shopping, socializing, vendors, entertainment, and more shopping. Games, raffle, silent auction, blessing of the hounds, and more. Don't miss the Gilley Girls Singing and Dancing Greyhound Musical Comedy Review. Contact: Donna Barr, (763) 754-9754 or guber2nac@aol.com

Saturday, September 11

Sixth Annual Greyhound Gathering

Keystone Greyhounds

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hoffer Park

Middletown, Pa.

New location — new highlights! Great food. Keystone Store. Contact: Rose Stover, (717) 939-0015 or wdstover1501@comcast.net; Kathy Campbell, Shenango72@aol.com

Sunday, September 12

Annual Reunion Picnic

GPA/Indianapolis

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

Marion County Fairgrounds

7300 Troy Avenue

Indianapolis, Ind.

Picnic features silent auction, straw draw, vendors, games, contests. Guest speaker Pre-registration \$5/person, \$10/person day of event. Hot catered lunch available \$7/person, \$5 per child under age 12. Nail trims \$5/dog. Dr. Guillermo Couto's presentation on Greyhound health and wellness begins at 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Sharon Murphy, (317) 839-6436; Sharon_Murphy@gpaindy.org

Sunday, September 12

Annual Greyhound Picnic

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption

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

Cass Benton

Northville, Mich.

Auction, contests, and 50/50. Hot dogs, chips, and beverages for sale. Many Greyhound-related vendors (for profit and non-profit). Contact: Claire Kasprzyk, llovegreys@sbcglobal.net or (734) 891-0782; www.greyheart.org

Saturday, September 18

12th Annual Reunion

Lake Erie Greyhound Rescue, Inc.

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

Western Reserve Harley-Davidson

8567 Tyler Blvd.

Mentor, Ohio

Contact: Sally Hennessey, (440) 466-1347 or greyhound@ncweb.com

Saturday, September 18

Greyhound Gallivantasia

GREYlong

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Kill Creek Beach Park

DeSoto, Kan.

A wonderfully fun time for dogs and their owners. Marvelous venue includes lake, sandy beach, and walking trails. Enjoy your Greyhound's antics as they dive in the lake. Food is potluck, with silent auctions and dog collars for sale. Proceeds fund canine cancer studies administered by Morris Animal Foundation.

Contact: Lori Haberman-Wilson, (913) 851-4382 or greylong3@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 18

Roofest

GPA/Greater Northwest

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Frontier Park

21800 Meridian S.

Graham, Wash.

This free event will include raffles, vendors, live and silent auctions, food, doggy games, and available dos. Come spend a day in the park with your dog(s). Camping available for a nominal fee.

Contact: Julie Van Sickle, (253) 927-5043 or julies_kids@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 18

Annual High Desert Greyhound Fiesta Reunion Picnic

GPA/New Mexico Greyhound Connection

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

Home of Jerry and Candy Beck

Los Lunas, N.M.

Bring your Greyhounds and join us in the beautiful Rio Grande Valley for an old-fashioned fiesta picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas and water provided. Fun includes vendors, games and raffle. Special Memorial Bell Ceremony to celebrate the hounds we have loved and lost. Come join the fun!

Contact: Candy Beck, (505) 573-6305 or extracindogs@q.com

Saturday, September 18

18th Anniversary Picnic: Celebration of Life Personalized Greyhounds, Inc.

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

Adams County Winery

251 Peachtree Road (8 miles W of Gettysburg off US Route 30)

Orrtanna, Pa.

Contact: Peggy Levin, (717) 938-8444 or pgregy-inc@aol.com

Sunday, September 19

GPA/Nashville Picnic

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Large Events Pavilion

Centennial Park

Nashville, Tenn.

Potluck lunch, games, live and silent auctions. Contact: Jan Bornstein, (615) 269-4088 or jan-bornstein@aol.com; www.gpanashville.org

Sunday, September 19

Annual Fall Picnic

Greyhound Friends of New Jersey

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

Duke Island Park

Old York Road

Bridgewater, N.J.

A special day to celebrate Greyhounds. Greyhound owners can bring their dogs to spend the day, enjoy each other, buy something new from the many vendors, and have something to eat . . . all to benefit GFNJ in its quest to save more Greyhounds. Contact: Patty Comerford, patty.comerford@yahoo.com; www.greyhound-friendsnj.org.

Sunday, September 19

Greyhound Connection North County San Diego Annual Reunion & Picnic

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. food served

Felicita Park Area 4

Escondido, Calif.

In conjunction with the International Fiesta de los Galgos on September 19, celebrating Greyhounds, Galgos, and sighthounds worldwide, we invite you to join us in this fun day of events for our annual fundraiser. Live and silent auction, raffles, vendors, nail trimming, games for hounds, and many more surprises. We accept your gently used collars, coats and leashes for donation. Don't forget your checkbooks! Contact: Telma Shaw or Wally Lacey, (619) 286-4739; www.greyhound-connection.org

Thursday through Sunday, September 23-26

Beach Bound Hounds
Greyhound Crossroads
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (The host hotel is Sea Mist)
Annual Greyhound gathering complete with vendors, games, seminars, and plenty of time to socialize with Greyhound lovers from all around. Contacts: Kim Owens, (864) 554-2705 or beachyhounds@yahoo.com; Lisa Gilmer, (864) 554-4529 or lisagilmer@embarqmail.com

Saturday, September 25

COGR Reunion Picnic
Central Ohio Greyhound Rescue
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
BRAG Agility Center
810 Distribution Drive
Columbus, Ohio
Vendors, silent and Chinese auctions, lunch available. 9,000 sq. ft. indoor facility.
Contact: Barb Fields, (614) 239-0943 or cogr@wowway.com

Saturday, September 25 (rain date September 26)

Greyhound Reunion/Walk-a-thon
Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc.
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Riverbend Farm
287 Oak Street
Uxbridge, Mass.
Fundraiser with Greyhound vendors, raffles, silent auction, doggie games, and walk. Check the website for more info. Contact: Diane Stevens, (508) 478-1617 or adopt@greyhoundrescuene.org

Sunday, September 26

GCMO Annual Reunion
Greyhound Companions of Missouri
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Sylvan Springs Park/Jefferson Barracks

Ordinance Shelter

St. Louis, Mo.

Food, silent auction items, raffle baskets, 50/50 drawing, Straws 4 Paws game and merchandise. Greyhounds only, please. Contact: Patty Luter, (314) 277-0551; luterville@charter.net

Thursday, September 30

Happy Hour: Have a Drink, Help a Hound!

Greyhounds Only

6:00 p.m. start

Irish Eyes Pub

2519 N. Lincoln Ave.

Chicago, Ill.

Join us for our annual guest bartending happy hour event. Volunteers will tend bar and gratuities will help the greyhounds. Admission is free. Complimentary vegetarian and vegan snacks, opportunities for raffles, drink specials. A percentage of each drink purchased will be donated to Greyhounds Only. Contact: Carrie Nutter, (773) 472-3834 or codycheq@aol.com; www.greyhoundsonly.com

Saturday and Sunday, October 2-3

Annual Fall Open House

Greyhound Friends, Inc.

Noon to 5:00 p.m. both days

167 Saddle Hill Road

Hopkinton, Mass.

Join us for our annual fall open house. Good food, great company (lots of visiting adopted Greyhounds), shopping for humans and hounds, silent auction and raffle, nail trimming, and the Not Quite Westminster Dog Show. Let your Greyhound run in the fenced field. Greyhounds in the kennel waiting for homes always love visitors, so please stop by. Everyone is welcome with their hounds. Contact: Louise Coleman, ghfriend@greyhound.org

Saturday, October 9

Annual Reunion Picnic

Rocky Mountain Greyhound Adoption

11:00 a.m. to ?

Thornton City Park

2141 East 95th Avenue

Thornton, Colo.

Picnic with games and a costume contest.

Contact: Jan Woll, (303) 358-5847 or rimga-jan@earthlink.net

Saturday, October 9

Third Annual Athletes Helping Athletes 5K

Run/Walk

GPA/Atlanta Southeastern Greyhound Adoption

8:30 a.m. start

1990 Vaughn Road (Barrett Summit Office Park)
Kennesaw, Ga.

Help us raise money to help place retired racing Greyhounds into homes as well-loved pets. If you cannot participate in person, we have a phantom runner category. Join us on a beautiful Fall morning in October! Register at www.active.com (Event ID 1844172). Contact: Suzanne Lipson, Race Director, (770) 222-2235 or fastfriendsforlife@gmail.com

Saturday, October 9

18th Annual Greyhound Gathering Chili Feed Fundraiser

GPA/Springfield

1:00 p.m. start

4024 W. FR 148

Springfield, Mo.

People and dogs welcome. \$3/person for a chili meal with sides, desserts, and drinks. Greyhounds will have treats. Silent auctions. Guest vendor M&M Designs from Kansas City. Contact/RSVP: Alane Shultz, agreyhound@mchsi.com

Saturday, October 23

16th Annual Gala Greyhound Gathering

GPA/Wisconsin

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Waukesha County Expo Center Arena

1000 Northview Road

Waukesha, Wisc.

This annual fundraiser is one you don't want to miss. Bring your hound for a fun-filled day of raffles, auctions, vendors, games, and other great activities. Contact: Ellen Paulus, pauprint@sbc.global.net; www.gpawisconsin.org

Saturday, October 23

8th Annual Reunion/Fundraiser

Greyhound Lifesavers

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

Judy Horton's home

213 Meetze Avenue

Lexington, S.C.

Join us for hot dogs and hamburgers, fun and games for humans and hounds, and the best silent auction ever. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Contact: Judy Horton, (803) 957-3866,

YOU'RE INVITED

jhorton8@sc.rr.com; Joyce Jackson, (803) 429-4209, jjacwcola@bellsouth.net

Saturday, October 23

Greyhound Day at Eastern New Mexico University
Portales, N.M.

11:30 a.m. Gather at ENMU Campus Building for reception with ENMU's Greyhound mascots, Vic and Tory.

1:30 p.m. Caravan to Greyhound Stadium for the football game against Abilene Christian.

This is a day to celebrate Greyhound adoption. Greyhounds are welcome at the football game and will be introduced over the public address system during the game. GPA/New Mexico Greyhound Connection will host an informational table about Greyhound adoption. Bring your lawn chairs/blankets and plan to enjoy an afternoon of football, rooting the Greyhounds on to victory. Vic and Tory's adopted brothers and sisters will have their own area at one end of the stadium, away from the crowd. Contact: Candy Beck, (505) 573-6305 or extracindogs@q.com

Saturday, October 23

Las Vegas Greyhound Picnic in the Park

GPA/Las Vegas

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

Floyd Lamb/Tule Springs Park

Las Vegas, Nev.

A day of contests, picnicking, vendors, silent and live auctions, raffles, and lots and lots of Greyhounds.

Contact: Judy Currier, greyhounds@cox.net

Saturday, October 23

Greyt Fest

GPA/Tri-State

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

Knights of Columbus Hall

Henderson, Ky.

Annual Greyhound picnic/reunion with vendors, games, concessions and more.

Contact: Kim Klueg, (812) 483-3544 or GPATriState@aol.com

Saturday, October 23

It's a Greyhound Life

Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth

(GLOHW)

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

Binbrook Fairgrounds

Binbrook, Ontario, Canada

A day of fundraising to support the continuing work of placing retired racers in their forever homes. Includes Blessing of the Hounds, silent auction and raffle, guest speaker, vendors, bake sale and BBQ, and fun events for hounds and their families. Contact: Pam Cramp, (905) 547-4850 or p.cramp@yahoo.ca; glohw@glohw.com

Saturday, October 30

Greyhound Lovers Gathering

GPA/Louisville

Noon to 5:00 p.m.

National Guard Armory

Crittenden Drive at I-65

Louisville, Ky.

Annual gathering open to all Greyhounds and the people who love them. Vendors, raffles, silent auctions, lunch, games and much more. Indoor event. \$5 admission. Contact: Lois Mauk, (812) 282-6492, gpa@gpalouisville.org

Saturday, October 30

Ninth Annual Greyt Greyhounds & Friends Fair
Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption, Inc.

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Graff Pavilion

O.P. Schnabel Park

9606 Bandera Road

San Antonio, Texas

A day of fun, food, and fellowship for pets and their people to benefit HOT. This year we are honored to welcome Kathleen and Gil Gilley and the Gilley Girls Singing and Dancing Greyhound Musical Comedy Review. Silent auction, live auction, raffles, vendors, food, and animal adoptions by other area shelters. Contact: Marie Gardner, Fundraising Chair, (210) 509-8261 or marie.gardner@earthlink.net; Cheryl King, President, (210) 621-0123, hotgreyhounds@peoplepc.com; www.heartoftexasgreyhounds.com

Sunday, November 7

Eighth Birthday Party

Greyhound Adoption of Greater Rochester, NY

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dog Obedience Training Club of Rochester

Hydroacoustics Building

999 Lehigh Station Road

Henrietta, NY

Put on your party hat and come celebrate GAGR's 8th year of finding forever homes for retired racers! Lots of Greyhound merchandise and great raffle items. Cake for the humans, biscuits for the Greyhounds.

Contact: Brenda Grammatico, (877) 211-1451 or events@greyhoundadopt.org

Saturday and Sunday, December 11 & 12

14th Annual Craft Show and Pet Expo

Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, Inc.

9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Garden State Exhibit Center

Somerset, N.J.

Annual fundraiser offers a wide variety of vendors with gifts for two- and four-legged friends. New, larger venue in convenient location. Spectacular raffle, professional Santa photos. Greyhounds available to pre-approved adopters.

Contact: Ellen Ganopoulos, (973) 759-0461 or RedReeper@aol.com

Saturday, January 8

Fourth Annual Run for the Animals and Family Fun Day

GPA/Florida-Southeast Coast Chapter

Presented by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Micanopy Pavilion

Okechee Park

West Palm Beach, Fla.

Benefit for GPA/Florida-Southeast Coast, A Second Chance Puppies and Kittens Rescue, and Busch Wildlife Sanctuary features 5K run, 5K walk, 1-mile family and dog fun walk, and events all day for dogs, children, and adults. Vendors, rescue groups, CPR demonstrations, agility events. A fun-filled day for all. Contact: Barbara Masi, (561) 688-3981 or animalkindness@pbso.org

Sunday, January 16

Winter Gathering

GPA/Nashville

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tennessee Livestock Center

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Food, games, vendors, fun run.

Contact: Jan Bornstein, (615) 269-4088 or janbornstein@aol.com; www.gpanashville.org



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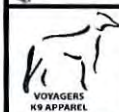


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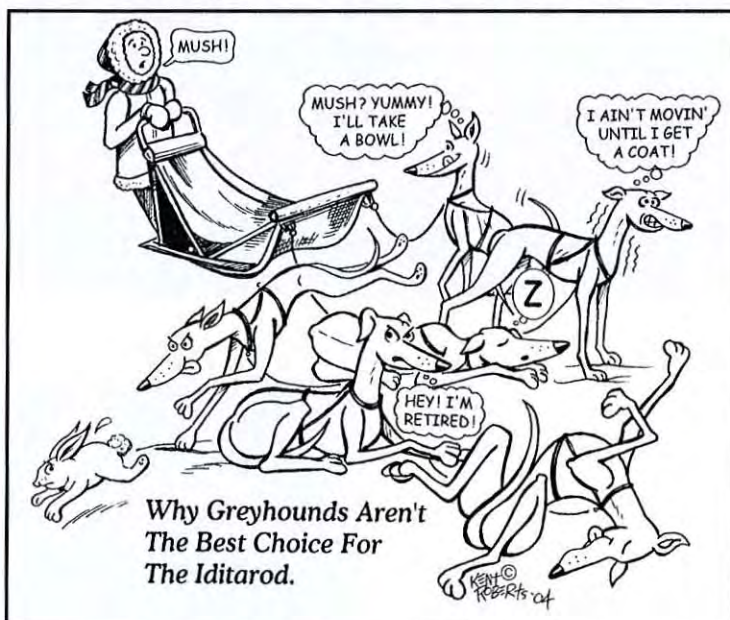
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**Cuddles (DP
Cuddle Bear)
2001-2010**

Cuddles was adopted by Mary and Frank Jalongo on December 26, 2005. Her photograph appeared

on p. 37 of the Fall 2007 issue of CG and on p. 40 of the Fall 2008 issue. Cuddley made nearly 100 therapy dog visits to schools, libraries, and health care facilities before she retired in 2008. She was reserved with the timid, warm with the calm, and outgoing with the confident. She had her quirks; Cuddley was a true coffee hound and any latte or cappuccino within lapping distance was not safe. She also took great delight in stealing hats to keep on her bed or in being the first dog to slobber on a new stuffed squeaky toy. Cuddley succumbed to cancer but, until the day she died, she would whimper softly if any person or animal appeared, always striving to do her job of meeting, greeting, and bringing comfort and calm to others. True to her name, Cuddle Bear was a great therapy dog, a fine ambassador for the breed, and the best Christmas present ever.



**Fletcher
2005-2009**

The e-mail said "Eight month old brindle male puppy for adoption. Any interest?" Three weeks later, Fletcher

joined the Bast family and changed their lives. He lived life to the fullest. Fletcher excelled at indoor short-track racing, especially the living room/dining room loop, where his racing name was Mom's Good Boy. He was extremely expressive — smiling, barking, and rooing. He shook hands. Fletcher's greatest joy was being with his family and his best friend, Cara. Fletcher loved playing with his favorite toys: shaking and tossing his giggly vegetables, making his squeaking ball "talk," and running through the house with his huge green spider. He liked to enter rooms by sliding into them. In 2008, Fletcher won two contests: *Best Kisser* at Spring Dewey and *Most Handsome* at the GPA/Maryland reunion picnic. That was him:

Looks and personality. Fletcher was a big presence, great company, and he made their lives richer. The Bast family will always miss him. Fletcher appeared in CG in Summer 2007 (p. 48), Winter 2008 (p. 14), Summer 2008, and Spring 2010 (inside covers).



**Safari (Aljo
on a Safari)
1999-2009**

In Fall 2005, Safari was adopted by Melissa Cook and his litter-mate Avalanche

(Aljo Avalanche). The story of the boys' chance reunion with two more brothers Ben (Safari Big Shot) and Jerry (Safari Tilt Up) was featured on page 34 of the Winter 2007 issue of CG. Safari's need to live life large forced everyone he met to view the world with a little more excitement. Safari led the group roos at Greyhound Adventures walks. At home, Safari loved his plastic family of toys. When people came to visit, he would run and collect one to make sure that they were safe until the visitor left. His relationship with his brother Ave was strained at first but during later years, they were often found snuggled up together. Safari was a snuggler and spent most of his life trying to figure out how to crawl inside of Melissa. Perhaps he felt he never accomplished this goal, but the reality is he crawled inside her heart the first day they met. Godspeed sweet boy.



**Starburst
(RDs
Starburst)
1999-2010**

Dave, Colleen, and Wendy Breen adopted Starburst (RD's Starburst) in

November 2002. He had spent the previous year in an adoption kennel and the year before that in a racing kennel, after his racing career came to an abrupt end due to a horrific injury to his right rear foot. After a great deal of research, discussion, and soul searching, Dave and Wendy decided that

Starburst would receive a prosthesis. The amputation of his foot and part of his leg was successful, and a month later Starburst was fitted with his first prosthetic device, one of three he would eventually wear. This process was chronicled in "A New Leg for Starburst" (Summer 2004 CG). In November 2010 Starburst began having difficulty with his left front leg, and a quick trip to the vet and a full leg x-ray revealed osteosarcoma of the left shoulder. They did not expect him to see Christmas, but their very handsome boy fooled them all and did not pass over the bridge until February of this year.



**Whiteout
(Twilite
Whiteout)
2003-2010**

After a short racing career where he was trained by his mom-to-be, Whiteout tore a

shoulder muscle and retired to his forever home with Shelley Lake. He was pictured on p. 4 of the Spring 2008 issue of CG. Whiteout was a genuine cuddlebug and would even crawl up into your lap (all 77 pounds of him), so you could hold him like a baby. He was the king of the zoomies at Shelley's house. He was a beautiful, goofy boy who really loved his family. In May of this year, he was diagnosed with renal carcinoma (kidney cancer). He got to go to one last Greyhound Gathering in Abilene, Kansas, where everyone fawned over him. The following month, when Whiteout developed seizures, it was determined that the cancer had metastasized to his brain. Run fast and free, beautiful white boy; your family loves and misses you so much.

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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