



Celebrating Greyhounds

Spring 2016 Online Magazine

**No Mowing,
No Mud!**

ALSO INSIDE:

Greyhound, Meet Cat

Higher Education Hounds

Click & Treat

Celebrating Greyhounds



Spring 2016

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Cover Photo: Honey, Hilary, and Nero take a minute to stop and smell the daisies...or maybe there's a bunny in those bushes? Photo by Bea Anderson of Moyhu, Victoria, Australia. Bea is a longtime supporter and foster parent for the Greyhound Adoption Program Victoria.

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Miler (San Tan Miler), adopted by Sylvia Kraus through Greyhounds Unlimited in Dallas, Texas.

From the Editor

By Stacy Pigott, Editor-In-Chief

Every day I get emails about Greyhounds. Some of them come from you, the readers, who write in to tell me tales of your amazing hounds. Others come from a Google alert I have set to tell me when anything Greyhound hits the Internet. One of the most entertaining reads lately came from the latter, courtesy of the *York Daily Record's* website, ydr.com, part of the *USA Today* network.

Writer Mike Argento, who pens a column three times a week for ydr.com, also owns a Greyhound named Lester. In early January, Mike turned the column over to **Lester**, who offered his opinion on sarcasm and Turkish rescue dogs.

Lester started his column by saying, "The kind of dog I am, I like to keep current on the literature about abnormal psychiatry because I spend a good portion of every day trying to figure out just what

is wrong with Delmer, the other Greyhound who lives here."

Lester goes on to talk about an article he saw in the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, titled, "Sarcasm and Emotions: Comprehension and Emotional Impact." The article piqued his interest, because, as Lester writes, "Sarcasm. I do that all the time. Like when the guy who gives us food asks me if I want something to eat. I just give him a look that says, No, of course not. I'm just staring longingly at you because I've had a deep emotional attachment to you ever since you rescued me from wherever it was I came from. (I can't remember that place, but it seemed kind of noisy, and loud noises make me stand in the corner. Delmer, they don't faze him at all.)"

When I got done reading Lester's column and laughing at the truths portrayed by Lester the

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Gypsy and I sharing a moment.

Greyhound, I looked at Gypsy and wondered what she would say if I put the proverbial pen in her paw. I'm sure it would go something like this:

ME: Come on, Gypsy, let's go inside.

GYPSY: I don't want to go inside. I like it out here.

ME: It's starting to get windy. You don't like the wind.

GYPSY: But there are squirrels out here! I love squirrels!

ME: OK, I'm going in and closing the door, then.

GYPSY: (no response as she stares intently at a tree)

ME: Last chance!

GYPSY: (ignores me, still staring at the same tree)

ME: (walks inside and closes door)

GYPSY: (races to the door, whining as loud as she can) MOM! MOM! MOM! MOM! MOM!

LET ME IN! IT'S WINDY OUT HERE!

DISCLAIMER

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

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

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At one point, we've probably all wistfully said, "I wish she could talk so she could tell me what she wants!" That is often followed by someone else laughing and saying, "I don't want to know what my dog would say about me!" Gypsy, I think, would ask why I don't give her more treats. A lot more.

As it turns out, I'm going to get the chance to find out what Gypsy is thinking. Last fall, at Remember the Greyhound, I bid on a silent auction item for a personal session with animal communicator Sandra Larson. Truth be told, I was a huge skeptic of animal communicators until I scheduled a session for one of my horses. There was no way the pet communicator could have known the things she was telling me she was learning from my horse. I was in awe and quickly became a believer.

I'm looking forward to scheduling Gypsy's

session with Sandra. I am hoping Sandra will be able to help me understand Gypsy better, especially her phobias and fears. Most of all, I'm praying that Gypsy will want to talk, because, as Sandra says on her website, "through animal communication, we can speak with all animals that are willing to talk."

Has your Greyhound spoken to you through an animal communicator? I'd love to hear your stories! Email them to me at editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org, and watch for an update on Gypsy's appointment with Sandra in an upcoming issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*!

Stacy



Greyhound Bytes:

News you can sink your teeth into

Greyhound Racing Subsidies at Wheeling Island Casino Off the Table in Charleston After Bills Shelved

WHEELING, West Virginia — Two bills that could have spelled the end of Greyhound racing in West Virginia — but with very different implications for the casinos that offer it — appear to be off the table for this year as the legislative session draws to a close. Instead, a study resolution will be drafted on SB 641. Once a study resolution has been made, the joint committee on Government and Finance would be asked to consider the resolution. Read more at [The Intelligencer, Wheeling News-Register](#).

Microchip Mix-up Identifies Greyhound as a Cat

KENILWORTH, United Kingdom—He doesn't look much like a cat, but when staff at a dog welfare charity scanned a homeless Greyhound's microchip they were in for a surprise. When the sweet-natured animal arrived at the Dogs Trust kennels in Honiley near Kenilworth, one of the first things staff did was check his microchip. They were hoping they might be able to track down his owner and send him home. But even though he's more likely to chase one than be one, the microchip told them he was a cat. Read more and watch the video at the [Coventry Telegraph](#).



Spider (Nathan's Spider), adopted by Dolores Phillips of Leamington, Ontario, Canada, through High Speed Hounds in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Trailer Stolen from Second Chance for Greyhounds of West Michigan

PORTAGE, Michigan—A volunteer with Second Chance for Greyhounds of West Michigan said it took a moment Monday morning for him to realize what was wrong when he walked out of his garage. The covered trailer he uses to haul equipment to the group's events was missing from the spot where he had parked it the night before, in front of the garage of his home off Centre Avenue. Read more at [MLive.com](#).

Florida Legislature Debates Gambling Bills that Could End Greyhound Racing in the State

TALLAHASSEE, Florida—A Florida House panel on Feb. 9 overwhelmingly supported a trio of gambling bills that would ratify a

\$3 billion deal between the state and the Seminole Tribe, do away with Greyhound racing while allowing dog tracks to keep operating other games, and open the door for slot machines in Palm Beach County. But a Senate committee, expected to vote on its version of the gambling legislation, postponed consideration of the measures after Sen. Joe Negrón filed a series of amendments that would dramatically change the proposal, months in the making. Read more at the [Ocala Star Banner](#).

On February 17, the Florida Senate Regulated Industries Committee passed two pieces of legislation, one authorizing a \$3 billion gaming compact with the Seminole tribe and another that would allow most racetracks in the state to decide whether they want to continue live racing. Read more at [The Blood-Horse](#).

Adoption Group Keeps Owner's Lost Greyhound

A Lexington man lost sight of his Greyhound earlier this week and his beloved pet ran off. Luckily, he was safe, but now the owner is not allowed to get him back. Eric Marr was unloading his car Wednesday, making trips in and out of his home, when his Greyhound Eli slipped out the front door. Whoever found Eli turned him in to the Lexington chapter of Greyhound Pets of America (GPA). Marr had adopted Eli from that rescue three years ago and was surprised when someone there told him that he would not be getting Eli back. Read more and watch the video at [Lexington News 18](#) and at [WKYT.com](#).

Greyhound Bytes

24 Greyhounds Removed from Naples Adoption Facility for Neglect

NAPLES, Florida—After complaints of neglect at a local Greyhound adoption shelter, volunteers removed two dozen dogs from the facility to get them medical care. Volunteers at 45mph Couch Potato Greyhound Adoptions said conditions at the property where the dogs were kept were deplorable, and they're blaming the owner. Watch the video at [NBC2.com](#) and read more at [Naples News](#).

Racing Queensland Paying for Greyhound Accommodations until Adoption

BRISBANE, Australia—Now that people are paying much closer attention to the Greyhound industry, where do all those dogs go when they retire? It turns out a hundred of them are living at a place called Sovereign Lodge in the Lockyer Valley paid for by Racing Queensland. Listen to an audio interview with Lauren Elgie, Animal

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Welfare Manager of Racing Queensland, on [612 Brisbane ABC](#).

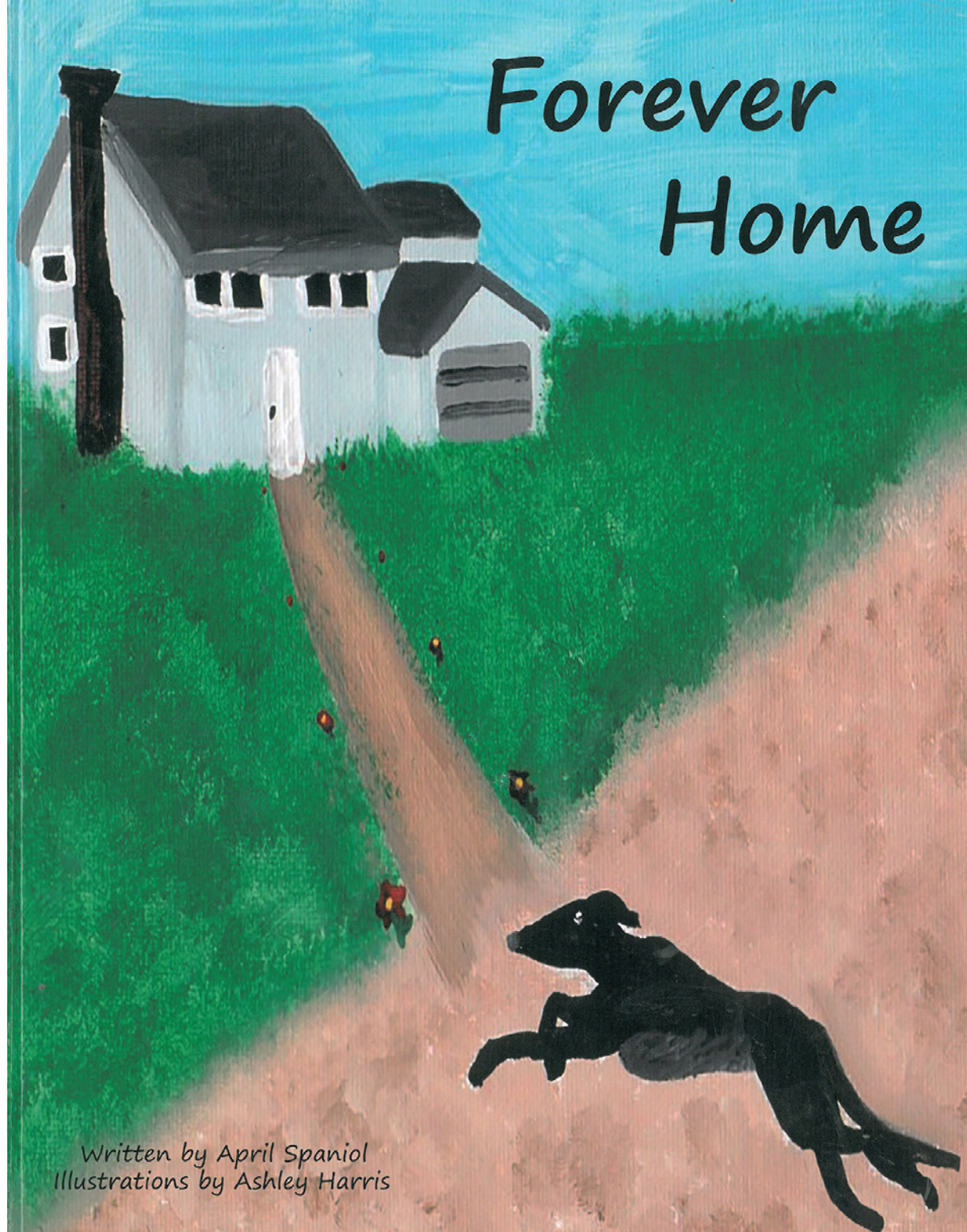
Zero Tolerance to Dog Doping Advised to Irish Greyhound Industry

IRELAND—An Oireachtas committee has made a string of recommendations over the future of the multimillion-euro Irish Greyhound industry, including a zero tolerance approach to dog doping and increased transparency and traceability. The joint committee on agriculture, food, and marine published its report yesterday, which comes after a separate review into the sector conducted by Indecon Consultants in 2014. The latest report estimates that the Greyhound racing industry supports about 10,300 jobs and generates 500m for the exchequer and that for the years 2011 to 2013, 47,702 Greyhounds were named or registered for racing in Ireland while 18,690 were exported to the UK. Read more at the [Irish Examiner](#).

Gulf Greyhound Park Closes its Doors

LA MARQUE, Texas—The last Texas dog racing track to hold regular live races no longer has any dogs. Officials at Gulf Greyhound Park, in La Marque between Galveston and Houston, suspended racing last month, blaming competition of Louisiana casinos, rising costs, and inability to get expanded gambling authorized at the track. Read more at [KEYE TV.com](#).





Forever Home

Pico the Greyhound learns that change isn't always scary as she sets out on the journey to her "forever home."

By Stacy Pigott

April Spaniol

Forever Home

Self-published (May 12, 2015)

29pp., \$12.95

ISBN 978-0692334386

Forever Home is the first book by new author April Spaniol. Her inspiration came from something close to her heart — her first Greyhound, Pico. April could not stop laughing at the hound's silly antics as she learned what life is like as a pet. From seeing her reflection in a mirror to figuring out how to walk up and down stairs, Pico's antics are comically told through the eyes of the Greyhound herself.

The story starts with Pico trying to say goodbye to Suzy as she is loaded onto a trailer for the journey from the racetrack to a "forever home." The concept is as foreign to Pico as the experiences she will have throughout the book.

As Pico faces each new encounter, she is comforted by Keith, the nice man who is always there to save her. Those who have fostered Greyhounds will see themselves in Keith's actions as he helps Pico master things she has never seen before, like slippery floors, and teaches her some new rules, like stay out of the trash can!

April's humorous descriptions of Pico's antics will make even the most seasoned Greyhound owner smile a knowing smile. Children will love following Pico's story, which ends with the lesson that change does not have to be scary or bad.

Pico's story is illustrated by Ashley Harris, whose simple drawings are as much fun as the words they accompany.

Forever Home has 18 five-star reviews on Amazon.com, with an overall rating of 4.9 out of five stars. One reviewer wrote, "It's a great book for Greyhound lovers, families with

rescued pets, and children navigating life's inevitable changes as they grow and learn about the world."

Those who enjoy Pico in *Forever Home* can look forward to a sequel, due to be published in Spring 2016. The new book will include Pico's continued journey as another Greyhound is added to the family! ■

About the author: Stacy Pigott is Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's Editor-in-Chief. She volunteers with Greyhounds Unlimited and fosters adoptable Greyhounds in her Fort Worth, Texas, home. She lives with two 7-year-old Greyhounds — Gypsy and Greta — and 11-year old Australian Cattle Dog-mix Jewel.



Smokey, adopted by Pat Bozeman of Derby, Kansas.

Ask the Expert: Here Kitty Kitty Kitty...



Abby and Macy are proof that Greyhounds and cats can co-exist, as long as introductions are properly made.

A practical guide to Greyhounds and cat training

By Deb Levasseur, CTB

Setting up your new Greyhound and pet cats for a safe, long, and happy life together is vital. Your adoption group will conduct a test to ensure your hound has the ability to live safely with cats before you take your new pet home. However, the manner in which you conduct introductions, ensure ongoing safety, and provide training for your new dog is key in protecting your pets.

The initial introduction is actually the most important step. If we know ahead of time how to properly introduce our pets, we can eliminate many issues and dangerous encounters. First, we need to have the



pets meet when the Greyhound first enters the home. A surprise encounter that provides the ideal setting for a chase scene is the last thing we want during this phase of the training.

We also want the Greyhound to realize the cat was there first. You should have a helper go into your home, find the cat (wrapped in a towel if needed) and sit it on his or her lap. This is important, as many cats will hide as soon as a dog enters the home, making introductions challenging and stressful. Be sure to never let the dog see anyone carrying the cat, as this can trigger the prey drive of even the most cat-tolerant dog. The person should be sitting with the cat when the Greyhound walks in. Feed treats

to the cat as it can help a skittish animal feel more relaxed.

Bring the Greyhound in wearing a leash and basket or track muzzle. Have some amazing treats, such as liver treats or boiled chicken, in your pocket to distract and reward her for looking away from the cat. Take her over to the cat and let her sniff it. Be calm and confident, and speak in upbeat tones. Use a soft voice unless you need to correct her, then a noticeably sharp and quick verbal correction must be delivered. After a few seconds of sniffing, walk her away and feed her small treats in front of the cat for a minute. Bring her closer and lure her away from the cat using treats a few times to complete the initial introduction. Turn the Greyhound away and have

your helper carry your cat out of the room.

Movement can initiate your dog's prey drive, so do not allow the cat to run away. Make sure your new Greyhound has a chance to explore her surroundings on the leash. Show your dog her crate, water dish, and toy box.

The following day, introduce your pets to each other in the same manner. If the cat begins to take the initiative in interacting with the Greyhounds, and both pets appear relaxed, let things progress naturally. Make sure to keep your dog's basket muzzle and leash on at this point. If the dog's leash is dragging on the floor, you can step on it or grab it quickly if your dog begins to chase the cat.



Keep in mind that movement can initiate a dog's prey drive.

It is important to closely supervise every interaction between your pets at this point, and intervene if you observe any prey-driven behavior from your dog. Your dog's prey drive is an observable sequence of behaviors that must be nipped in the bud before your dog begins to chase. Your dog will seek out the prey by sight or smell, stalk it (which can look like an intense stare), and finally chase. Some dogs will advance to the next sequence



The end result of successful cat training.

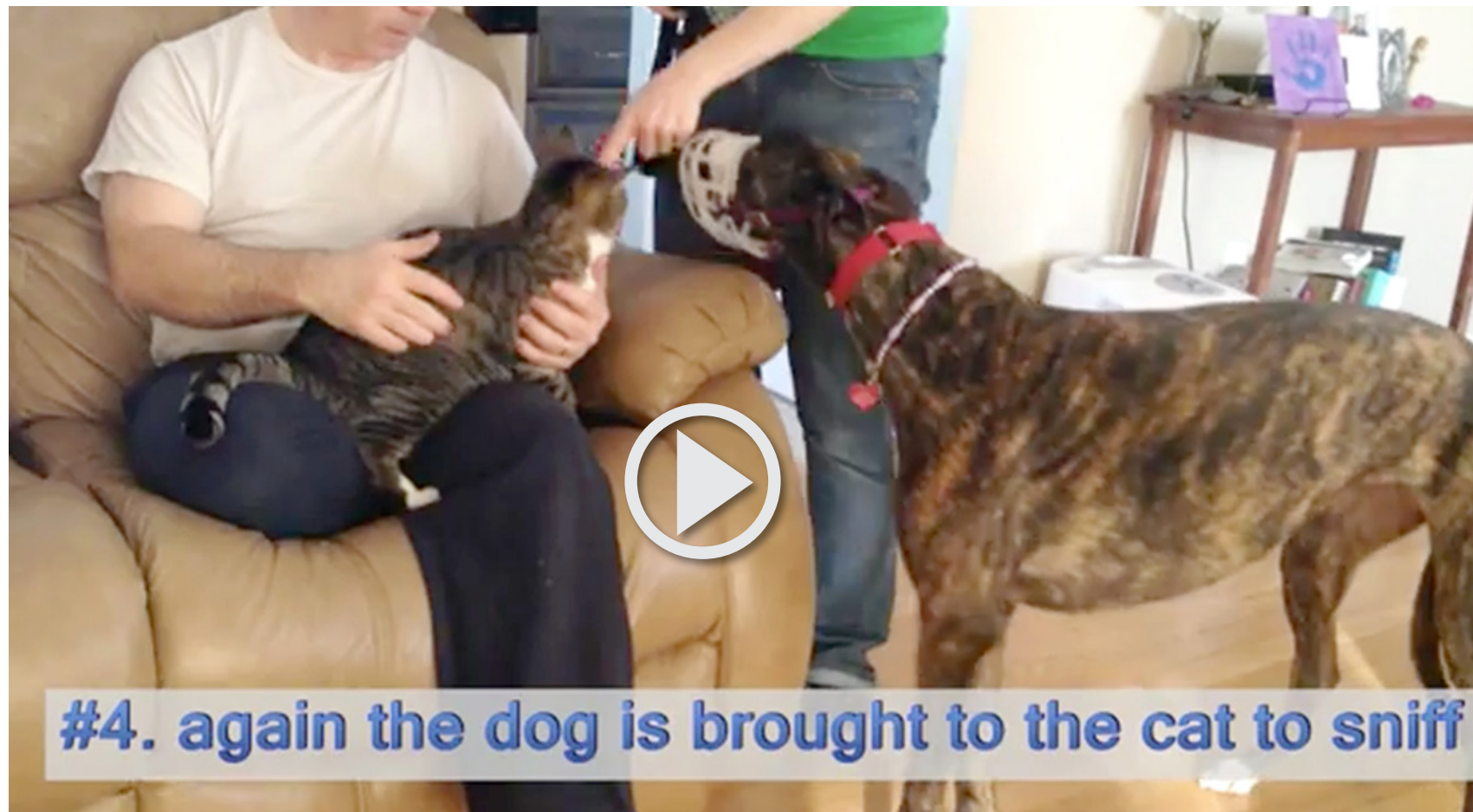
— catch, grab, bite, and even kill. This is why ensuring the safety of the cat is a major concern when first introducing your pets. All dog breeds have a prey drive, which is why it is natural for dogs to play games with their toys that include chasing and biting. If you have ever watched a dog shaking a stuffy, you have witnessed prey drive at its finest.

If, after several days, your pets still have not acclimatized to each other, try hand-



When done properly, cat training leaves both Greyhound and cat feeling comfortable with the other.

feeding your dog her meals in front of the cat for a week or two. Try adding some chicken or hot dogs to her meal to make this activity even more enticing. Have someone hold the cat on his or her knee while you are hand-feeding the dog nearby. Give your dog handfuls of kibble so the feeding process does not take more than five minutes. This will help your dog learn that good things happen around your cat. It also allows your



Click to watch a video of a properly controlled introduction between a Greyhound and a cat.

cat to become comfortable around the dog as it is not being bothered and has a break from being the main object of the dog's attention. Five minutes a day can make a significant difference in forging a positive association between your pets.

Another great idea is to have a family treat time. Bring your entire family together, including all pets and children, sit on the floor in close proximity and share treats together. Treat time builds bonds, defuses tension, and soothes tempestuous relationships.

The Program:

- 1.** Proper controlled introductions are crucial and must be done starting on Day 1. Allow your dog to sniff your cat thoroughly yet respectfully upon introduction.
- 2.** Use a basket muzzle (never another type) until you are 100 percent certain your pets are able to interact safely.
- 3.** Leash the dog inside the house for a few days and allow the lead to drag on the floor. Never tether your dog to objects within the home. A shorter leash works well for this as it gives you more control.
- 4.** Never give your dog the opportunity to chase as this will reinforce the behavior. For safety management, use gates to separate your pets, or tether your dog to your waist. This is extremely important as dogs can severely injure or kill a cat in seconds. Do not leave your pets unsupervised until you are certain they will be safe.



Greyhound Shannon lives with feline Zoe, who is often used as a cat tester for new fosters.



Madison and Dolley peacefully share a couch.

5. Use firm and quick voice corrections with your dog when necessary. Your voice is a vital tool and can be very helpful for training purposes. Be convincing and consistent in your corrections.

6. Always praise your dog and give high-value edible treats for good behaviour. Some good choices for this are boiled chicken, hot dogs, cheese, dried liver, or beef jerky. Using a

high-value treat while cat training can make the activity more exciting for your dog. I like boiled chicken best for this training.

7. Never allow your dog outside at the same time as your cat. In the eyes of your dog, a cat outside is very different from a cat in the home. If your dog is triggered to chase outside, it can be very detrimental to your indoor training. Remember, the same cat your dog cuddles with

indoors can become prey outdoors in the blink of an eye.

8. In some cases, it's a good practice to have the cat in the room when the dog is in a crate. This desensitizes your dog to the cat and eliminates its novelty. On the flip side, you can have the cat in a cat carrier while the dog is in the room for them to get used to each other's smells and being nearby. Correct any



By keeping cat training sessions positive, the Greyhound will learn to associate the cat with good things.

inappropriate behavior and watch closely for frustration. If your dog barks or gets overly aroused, it's best to have them meet without barriers. Barrier frustration and aggression are things to avoid.

9. The cat training sessions should always be a positive experience. The dog should learn that when the cat is around, good things happen in the form of exclusive access to

delicious treats. This helps your dog focus on you while enjoying the presence of the cat. You can use a large spoonful of peanut butter, if needed, to turn the focus longer on you.

10. Discourage any fixation (staring) on the cat. Instead, focus the dog on something else and offer a reward. Fixation is a part of the prey-drive sequence that needs to be stopped before the chase.

11. Work on training your dog to leave the cat alone. Hold the cat on your lap and ask the dog to stay away from it. Have the dog lie down on the floor at your feet and toss treats while you sit on the sofa and pet the cat. You can put the cat in a carrier if necessary. If the dog moves toward the cat, say "No," and point a finger at her. If she tries to approach, move her away. If after you tell her no, she lies back down and behaves herself, continue to toss her treats. Only toss the treats when she is lying down.

12. Teach your Greyhound the "Leave It" exercise right away and use as needed.



Excessive staring at the cat should be discouraged.

Leave It Exercise:

1. Show your dog a treat, then close your hand. When she moves away from the treat, open your hand and give it immediately. Repeat several times until she is reliable.

2. Place the treat on floor and say "Leave it." When she goes for the treat, cover it with your hand. When she moves away from the treat, say "Yes!" and give the treat.



Tossing treats to your Greyhound as he is lying down can keep his focus on you instead of the cat.

3. Toss a treat a short distance from you and repeat Step 2.

4. Next, stand up and drop the treat from that position and repeat.

5. Proceed to toss a treat a short distance from the standing position and repeat.

6. Once that is reliable, toss the treat a greater distance from a standing position and repeat.

7. Start again with a higher value treat such



Hila Cartwright, with hound Sedona and feline Louie, cat tests Greyhounds for her local adoption groups in North Texas.

as boiled chicken and repeat all the steps.

Instead of saying "Yes," you can use a clicker. A clicker may help you to be quicker and more consistent, as timing is critical in dog training. Remember, this is a different exercise than "Drop it". The "Drop it" exercise trains dogs to release something they have in their mouths. The "Leave it" exercise will prevent your dog from putting something in his or her mouth in the first place.

Helping our new Greyhounds and our beloved cats establish a friendly rapport early on in their relationship will set everyone up for success and lead to many happy years together. Happy cat training! ■

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

Clicker Training 101

Introducing your Greyhound to the positive benefits of clicker training is easy and fun.

By Jennifer Bachelor

For those unfamiliar with clicker training or operant conditioning, it is a very positive method for teaching animals all sorts of things. A clicker is a small, handheld, plastic box with an opening. When you press your thumb into the opening and depress the metal strip, it produces a “click” noise. The hound is taught that the “click” means “That is what I want and you are getting a treat for it.” The clicker is used to mark desired behaviors offered by your Greyhound that you then reward with a treat. It is a very sharp and clear way of telling your Greyhound that she is right. I always begin the clicker training process with my Greyhounds by

teaching them to touch a cup with their noses.

When I first introduced Seven to the clicker, I captured it all on video. In part 1 of the video, Seven has no idea that the “click” has any meaning. For this reason, I start her on leash, even if indoors, so she does not accidentally touch my cup when I am not ready to Click and Treat (C&T).

I hold several treats in my dominant hand and the clicker and leash in the other. I place a treat on top of the cup and click as Seven removes the treat. Anytime she checks the cup for a treat when a treat is not there and touches the cup with her nose, I swoop in



Clicker training doesn't require any fancy or expensive equipment. In addition to a collar and leash, you'll need a "clicker" and some tasty treats to get started.

quickly with a C&T.

Right now it is important that I put a treat in her mouth as soon as I click. When I run out of treats, I pull her away from the cup so I can refill my hand without missing any opportunities to C&T. Also, you will notice



Click to watch a four-part video on how to introduce your Greyhound to clicker training.

Seven targets my hands because she smells the treats. I just ignore it and let her exhaust that behavior.

I recommend using small, easy-to-swallow treats that do not require any chewing. After you have completed a few repetitions, do not place a treat on the cup. Instead, wait to see if your hound will check the cup. When she does,

reward her immediately with a C&T. Try not to rush. The second purpose of this silly exercise is to train you to work with a clicker. Use the leash to pull your Greyhound away from the cup when you get disorganized. Also, resist the urge to point to the cup each time. Give your hound a chance to think about what she is doing and let her figure it out. If she does

appear to be stuck, go back a step to remind her of the task.

In part 2 of the video, Seven catches on that the cup is significant. But, notice that she still does not respond to the “click” when I test her. Also, notice that I am still using a leash to restrict her access when I am not ready or get disorganized.

Part 3 of the video shows a change of scenery. Dogs do not generalize unless you teach them. Therefore it is good to change your location frequently. You can see Seven start to recognize the “click” sound and turn to me for the treat.

In part 4, the final video sequence, we are again at a different location so it takes Seven a short time to realize what we are doing. I consider my Greyhound well-versed in clicker training when she can turn away from me, the clicker, and the treats to touch the cup but still responds quickly to my click.



Gabby, adopted by Pat Bozeman of Derby, Kansas.

Now Seven is ready to learn additional things with a clicker. The point of clicker training is to make your Greyhound an active participant in her own training and figure things out for herself. I love that the clicker is an enjoyable way to point out to your Greyhound all of the good things she is doing instead of correcting her for mistakes. Too many corrections can make a Greyhound feel afraid to try something, and she can become frozen. Clicker training gets a hound willing to move around and take risks. ■

About the author: Jennifer Bachelor lives near Atlanta, Georgia, and blogs about her Greyhound adventures. She trains her Greyhounds to compete in agility and obedience. She has also participated in dock jumping, tracking, swimming, and lots of hiking. She says, "There are no couch potatoes on this blog! My hounds still work and play for a living, and they love every minute of it!"



Bogey the Hero Hound

A depressed bounce-back becomes a foster failure and lifeline for his new owner.

By Chris Miller

“Please come get this dog before he eats my cats!”

I jumped in my truck and drove the 25 miles to go help. Calls like this aren’t rare or surprising when you are a foster home for your local Greyhound rescue group. My wife and I loved fostering. With no kids or cats in our family, we often ended up with the trouble makers — the problem children.

I arrived to find a tuxedo Greyhound staring out the screen door at a frazzled cat. It was clear kitty had had enough. So had the foster mom who had taken the hound when he was returned, but was unaware that he wasn’t cat-safe.

She filled me in on Bogey’s story while I gave him a once over. He was a “bounce,” returned by his adopters after almost a year because the hound became depressed when their son went off to college.



When Chris Miller first saw Bogey, it was love at first sight.



In 2009, Bogey was by Chris' side for his recovery from a 14-hour brain surgery.

Bogey leaped in the back seat of my truck and we headed home. Something intangible about this hound belied his story and appearance. The glimpses I got in the mirror showed a sweet little guy confused by his circumstances. While stopped at a deserted intersection near home, I turned to see how he was doing. I received an earful of wet Greyhound nose accompanied by a barrage of staccato sniffing. He was my dog from that moment on.

It took me months to convince my wife to keep him. She thought he was weird, and our other Greyhound, Rider, didn't get along with him at all. None of that mattered to me. That silly hound in his tux and tail was my buddy and I was his new boy.

Five years passed, then four days in the summer of 2009 shook our world. We lost Rider to bone cancer on Friday. Then on

Monday, I was diagnosed with a large benign brain tumor.

Fourteen hours of brain surgery left me a mess when I returned home from the hospital. While I was bedridden most of the day, Bogey discovered a new calling in life. He became my nurse.

He snuggled beside me in bed, providing gentle comfort without ever being bothersome. He was my constant companion during my year of recovery. Then he became my daily muse when I wrote a book about my experience, in which he had a starring role.

We discovered a lump on his leg — a malignant tumor. That gave me a chance to repay him for his spectacular nursing. We made sure he saw the best surgeon in the region to remove it. Then I waited on that little dog hand and foot.

Bogey grew into his senior years with



In 2014, Bogey helped Chris through six rounds of chemotherapy.

a silly grace that continued to amuse and amaze. He loved our move to downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. He made friends everywhere he went. Calls of “Is that Bogey?” or “Hey Bogey!” became common on our walks. The Greyhound returned for depression now had more friends than we did.

Another life changing event came in the spring of 2014. I discovered I had cancer, Stage IV Lymphoma that would involve six months

of chemotherapy. Now 13 years old, Bogey moved with us to Boston for my treatment without complaint.

Chemotherapy frightened me, but I had an ace up my sleeve. I knew Bogey waited for me at home. He always knew how much support I needed. As the weeks wore on, my treatments became more difficult.

We celebrated his 14th birthday with his favorite food — cheeseburgers.

By now, my needle-nose nurse was showing his age. He had two strokes. We did our best to keep him safe and comfortable when they happened, but according to the veterinarian, there wasn’t much else we could do.

I joined Bogey among the ranks of cancer survivors, and we packed up and moved back to Tennessee. He had a great time riding in our SUV with my wife while I drove the moving van. Our mattress went on the bedroom floor so our old boy could continue to sleep with us every night.

Bogey passed away suddenly five days later. Our sweet little guy stayed with us for over 10 years. I’ll never forget the support he gave me when I needed it most. I miss him every day. ■

About the author: Chris Miller is a guest blogger for [Greyt Expectations Greyhound Rescue](#) in Maryland, where he and his wife served as a foster home for 10 years before moving from the area. Chris is also an author and regular contributor to a website on sailing.

Artificial Grass for Greyhounds

Canine-specific artificial grass is one solution Greyhound owners can consider.

By Ken Karmie

Imagine a world where the grass is always green. It never grows and therefore never needs to be cut. There are never any weeds, brown patches, dust, mud, or dirty Greyhounds. Inside and out, everywhere you look is green, comfortable grass. Is it possible? The answer is a resounding, “Yes!” with artificial or synthetic grass.

The word is getting out, and excitement is spreading as pet owners realize there is a green solution to many of their grass-related and surfacing problems. Along with the excitement there is typically a flurry of questions: What exactly is artificial or synthetic grass? Will my Greyhounds like it? Don’t they

tear it up? How do you keep it clean? What happens to the pet waste? How is it installed? Is it for indoor or outdoor use? Is it expensive? What are the benefits to me?

Let’s start at the beginning with the basics. Artificial grass, also referred to as synthetic grass, is made up of plastic fibers and it does not grow. Modern-day artificial grass products evolved from a product developed in the early 1960s to surface football fields.



*Artificial grass is a safe and comfortable alternative to traditional lawns.
Photo courtesy of K9 Grass*



*Synthetic turf looks beautiful year-round and doesn't require watering, fertilizing, mowing or weeding.
Photo courtesy of K9 Grass*

Because of its high-profile use by the National Football League in the Houston Astrodome in 1966, artificial grass became commonly known as AstroTurf®. It is important to note that AstroTurf® is now a registered trademark

and not a general term for artificial turf, as it is often used.

Many companies now have artificial grass products designed and used for a variety of applications. These include, but are not limited

to, sport fields, playgrounds, landscaping, golf, green roofs, and yes, dog facilities.

As any Greyhound owner knows, Greyhounds and grass are a match made in heaven. Greyhounds love to romp, run, and play, as well as rest and enjoy the soft, relaxing feel of grass. They also intuitively know that this is typically a safe and acceptable place for them to eliminate waste.

Unfortunately, Greyhounds who are grouped together are hard on grass, regardless of the climate. As a result, it is very difficult and expensive to keep a grass surface intact. Since this is the status quo, Greyhound owners have limped along, trying to make the best of the grass areas they have. Or, they end up replacing it with other surfacing options. These include gravel, concrete, asphalt, rubber surfacing, and other less desirable and conducive alternatives.

Every Greyhound home is different. But the



*Many commercial boarding kennels are moving to artificial grass in their common areas.
Photo courtesy of K9 Grass*

challenges related to creating a warm, inviting area inside and outside while keeping a clean play and potty area are pretty universal. Specifically designed and professionally installed artificial grass provides an effective solution to these problems. (It is important to emphasize that “specifically designed” and “professionally installed” are not just catch

phrases, but rather key components to long-term success and satisfaction.)

Some benefits of artificial grass are difficult to measure, while others can be easily quantified. The intrinsic value rests with you, as the owner, in conjunction with your four-legged friends.

Artificial grass is soft and cushiony, which

can reduce stress on your hounds joints and paws. Since it is made of inorganic material, it has the potential to mitigate insect concerns, including ticks and fleas. Unlike natural grass, it is basically made of nothing that interests bugs. It is also hypoallergenic. That means that Greyhounds with allergies, especially those sensitive to grass, can enjoy the yard without the concern of having an allergic reaction.

Other benefits are more easily quantifiable. The use of artificial grass outdoors typically provides a reduction in maintenance. Solid waste is easy to locate and remove, while liquid waste passes through and will not puddle. This is subject to getting the correct artificial grass product for canines. Artificial grass will never grow, so there is never a need to mow it. It will not die or turn brown, so there is never a need to reseed or re-sod. Watering to keep grass growing, as well as the use of lawn chemicals and fertilizers, is

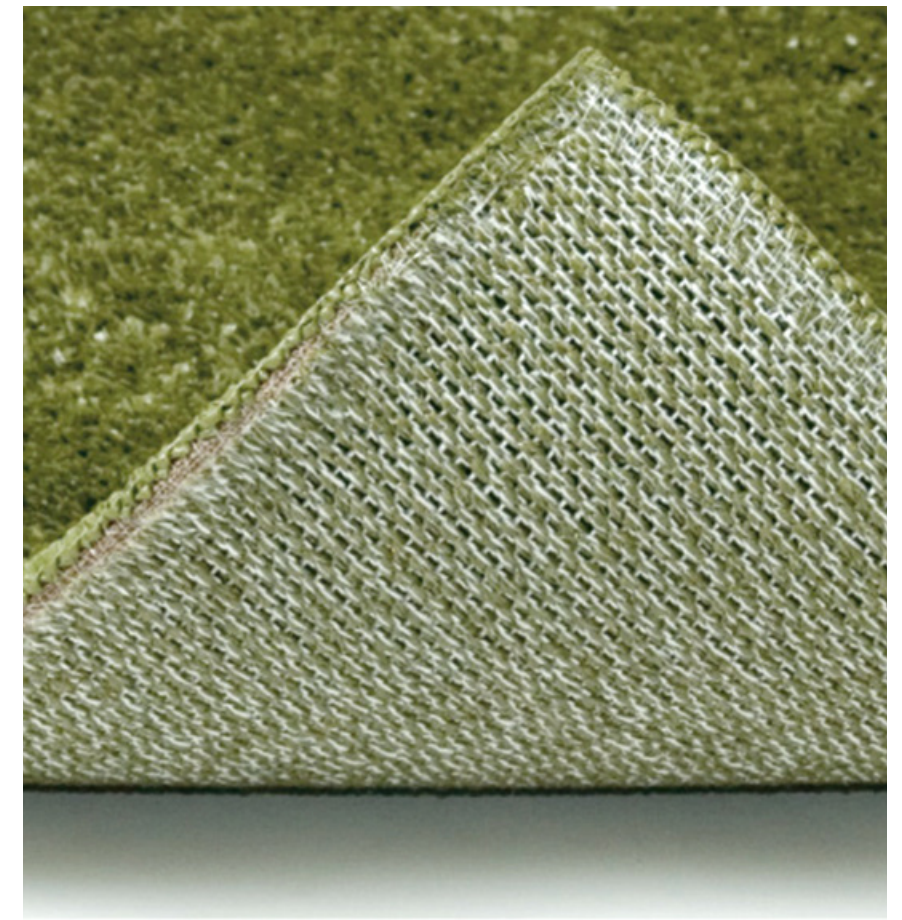


Artificial grass can even be installed in dog parks! Photo courtesy of K9 Grass

eliminated. Since the artificial grass separates your Greyhound from dirt and dust, your hound will not get dirty or muddy. This makes for a cleaner house, too.

Artificial grass is utilized for a wide range of applications. Functionality and unique performance features are the important factors to ensure success when it is utilized for

pets. Understanding how to evaluate these differences is critical. Ask for references and be sure to look for a strong history of product and installation successes. Ask the sales representative to explain the features that are unique or different from landscape and sports field grass, and how the product is uniquely designed to succeed with dogs.



Greyhound owners who are considering artificial grass need to make sure the backing allows for excellent drainage. Photo courtesy of K9 Grass

Landscape and sports field products are typically made with blades of grass that are tufted, looped or stitched, into a backing, which is then coated with an impermeable plastic-like layer. Unfortunately, water flowing through the backing to the base is limited



Greyhound foster mom and boarder Linda Hallenbeck, of Lewisville, Texas, had tried many surfaces in her backyard, first replacing the torn-up grass with gravel.

to the drainage holes that have been drilled through the backing. The “drainability” of an artificial grass is probably the most important success feature. As a general guide, I advise utilizing a product that drains in excess of 200 inches per hour.

Additionally, it is not uncommon for many



Not all of her dogs liked the gravel area, so Linda decided to try artificial grass instead. A landscaper built a retaining wall with adequate drainage.

products to utilize a crumb rubber or sandy infill layered on top of the grass to help the blades stay erect. These components, while great for pet-free areas, are typically problematic when pets are involved and drainage is restricted.

Additional artificial grass features to avoid



The base layer is built and ready for the installation of artificial grass. Photos by Linda Hallenbeck

when selecting for your Greyhounds:

- Blades that can be pulled on one end and completely removed by a curious hound. Don't be afraid to request a sample and test it yourself.
- Backing or use of infill that inhibits the flow of liquids. When this happens, waste



Linda's sighthounds and Greyhound boarders immediately made themselves at home on the newly installed synthetic grass. Photo by Linda Hallenbeck

tends to remain on the surface, causing odor and unsanitary conditions.

- Products that have longer blades to make them appear more realistic. Longer blades may look nice, but will likely make it more

difficult to locate and remove waste. Keep this in mind when evaluating realism versus functionality.

On the other hand there are features to seek in artificial grass that are specifically

designed for use with dogs:

- Backing that provides very aggressive drainage. There is a simple test you can perform when viewing a sample. Hold the product up to the light and observe. The light you see shining through is where the product will drain. If you are still not convinced, I encourage you to take a sample of the product and dump water on it. The results are very revealing. Knitted products, where the blades are actually interwoven with fibers to create the backing, are more expensive to make, but have drainage that is off the charts. A knitted backing is also the strongest blade/backing connection and allows liquids to pass through anywhere.
- Shorter blades accompanied by a "thatch layer" of smaller, burly blades, which are utilized so that infill of sand or rubber is



A recent rain left part of Linda's backyard a filthy mud pit (left), while the half with artificial grass stayed puddle and mud-free! Photos by Linda Hallenbeck

not required. This design allows solid waste to sit on top of the grass, where it is easy to locate and remove. This avoids the use of waste-harboring infill.

- A grass surface that is easy to clean and keep clean. Some grasses offer added peace of mind by including antimicrobial

agents that help fight against microbes between cleanings.

Maintenance procedures will vary based on a number of factors. Is the area used for potty or play? What is the size of the area? How many hounds will use the area? What are the weather conditions? It is likely that your

maintenance will be much less with outdoor artificial grass than with natural grass or even gravel. But maintenance is still required.

Keeping solid waste picked up and debris off the grass is always a best practice. Monitoring and removal of hair is also needed on a periodic basis. Rinsing and treatment

with disinfectants or enzymes should be considered in the context of your specific application.

Successful installations are done in a way that considers and stands up to the needs of you and your Greyhounds. Understanding and minimizing the risk factors dogs present are fundamental to success and the reason professional installation is highly recommended.

There are three common components of an installation. The sub-base encompasses the material, slope, and drainage. The prepared base consists of the perimeter board, gravel, and grid the grass will cover. Finally the grass installation includes cutting to fit, seaming, and securing the artificial turf. Beware of a one-size-fits-all approach. For example, the installation plan to go over concrete or asphalt needs to be quite different than one that is replacing dirt, grass, or gravel.



*Artificial grass is sturdy enough to hold up to frequent, heavy use in boarding and training facilities.
Photo courtesy of K9 Grass*



Synthetic grass can be used to create an indoor pet potty area in urban situations. Photo courtesy of K9 Grass

Please be aware that drainage issues do not just go away because artificial grass has been installed. These issues can be corrected with the installation of the base or modification of the sub-base. But first these issues must be identified and understood so a solution can be incorporated.

Finally, make sure there is a framework or board perimeter that is built into the base for attaching the grass. The method of attaching the grass also needs to be suitable to secure the edges, such as stainless steel staples, carpet strips, or nails.

The look of green grass is possible. It is up to you to ensure the product you select is specifically designed and professionally installed for dogs. Providing a cleaner and safer environment for your Greyhounds will give you peace of mind, and comfort and convenience for your hounds. ■

About the author: Ken Karmie is the K9 Grass Brand Manager and part owner of Forever Lawn Incorporated, the makers of K9 Grass, artificial grass designed specifically for dogs. He also has extensive knowledge and experience with artificial grass for sport fields, playgrounds, landscape, rooftops, golf greens, and other

specific markets. Ken received a Bachelor of Science degree from Mount Union College and spent 20 years working in the technology field before joining Forever Lawn Inc. Ken currently has two patents pending related to Indoor K9 Grass design and Flushing System.



Most dogs easily adapt to artificial grass. Photo by Linda Hallenbeck

Home Away from Home

Finding the ideal boarding situation for your Greyhounds takes time, research, and a little luck.

By David French

My wife and I have had Greyhounds for almost 25 years. We now have three Greyhounds — Molly, Jayne, and Nikki. We live in the bluegrass area of central Kentucky and our Greyhounds have a fenced-in backyard of 3 acres with a pond — they are lucky in Kentucky! We prefer to take our girls with us when we travel, but sometimes that is not possible.

If you are able to travel with your Greyhounds, “Traveling With Your Pet,”

published by AAA, is a vital resource. Members can purchase this book at their local AAA office. It’s also available at Barnes and Noble. The book contains comprehensive lists of all of dog-friendly lodging establishments, along with details on preparing for a trip. There is also a small section on choosing a pet sitter or a kennel.

The following information is strictly how my wife and I decide where to board our girls. We prefer a kennel, because we have



Blankets and items from home can help your Greyhound adapt at a boarding kennel.



While at a boarding kennel, your Greyhound's sleeping and eating areas should resemble what he is used to at home.

had some less-than-pleasing experiences with house sitters, no matter how adequately we vetted them. Readers who have next-door neighbors or relatives willing to pet sit might feel more comfortable with a house sitter. Under ideal conditions, your Greyhounds might prefer it if the house sitter stays and sleeps at your house, and is familiar with your dog and loves her or him.

Our parents waited too long to go on their "bucket-list" trips and became too old to travel. We are driven not to let that happen to us. We started by asking our veterinarian for recommendations for facilities that offer both grooming and boarding options. Ask long-time residents for recommendations. Finally, ask fellow dog lovers where they would kennel their pets. Don't rely solely on Internet reviews. The veracity of some Yelp and Google reviews is questionable.

First, I identify the place that does the best job with grooming. I like to make friends with

the personnel and get on a first-name basis. Under the best circumstances, the place you choose to kennel is also the place where your Greyhounds are bathed and have their nails cut. This provides the hound an opportunity to get used to the personnel and vice versa. They are also temporarily kenneled while waiting for their turn with the groomer. Have the owner show you around. It is important to establish a good relationship with grooming and boarding facilities.

Insist that your Greyhound be boarded in an area with larger dogs. This ensures your pet doesn't have some small, yapping dog bothering them all day and making him or her nervous. Make sure your Greyhound is being kept in an area with sleeping and eating facilities similar to home. For example, if you use a raised feeder at home, it is important your Greyhound is also fed that way at the kennel. Ask to see where the dogs will be let out to play and socialize. Your Greyhound



Ask to see where your Greyhound will spend his outdoor time.



A facility tour should show clean, safe, well-kept kennels for boarded dogs.

might actually enjoy this visit and consider it a change or vacation, if you find the right place.

Agree upon a daily fee for boarding. Don't be afraid to dicker. You might say, "My house

sitter will do it for such and such a price, can you beat that?" If you get a good rate, you should be grandfathered in at that amount.

Make sure you both agree on when you are going to drop off and pick up your Greyhounds. We always leave our pickup date open-ended. Ask the staff to send photos occasionally with email updates. Many facilities also offer a "web cam" option, where owners can watch their pets online. Ask if they will walk your Greys. If you have more than one Greyhound, see if you can get a larger suite. Ours stay in an approximately 15' X 15' area.

On drop-off day, bring your Greys' own blankets and toys. Also bring their dog food and bowls, and the treats they like. Clearly communicate any feeding instructions. Don't forget any medications your Greyhounds may have. If possible, write instructions on the medication bottle. If you have more than one Greyhound, ask the facility to make sure they stay together.

Bring a sheet that details everything, including fear of thunder, etc. List your veterinarian's name and phone number, along with your phone numbers and email addresses. Provide a name and phone number for an additional person to contact if, God forbid, something happens to you on the trip. This contact should be most trusted and agreed upon prior to your trip. Make sure the contact agrees to keep your Greyhounds and take care of them, not give them up, should something happen. Your adoption group could also be an emergency contact. We have our Greyhounds included in our will, so we also leave the kennel our attorney's name and phone number. Keep in mind many adoption groups have contracts that, in the event the owners are incapacitated and the dogs need to be rehomed (temporarily or permanently), they must be returned to the group.

Remember, most of all, your Greyhound looks to you to provide the best of care. Spend

a little time with your dog and the kennel manager(s) before you leave. Go over the care instructions in detail. Call a few days prior to pick up and ask to have your Greyhounds groomed the day you pick them up. ■

About the author: David French and his wife, Kathy, have been Greyhound advocates for 15 years, raising \$15,000 and finding homes for many, many Greyhounds. They have adopted brood matrons and Greys with broken legs. They believe they have given their best to the cause and now they limit their involvement to donations. They had the extraordinary opportunity to own a three-generation line of Greys with Annie, Laurie, and Molly, who is still with them. You can reach the Frenches at dkgrey9@gmail.com and see their preferred boarding kennel [Luxury Pet Services](#) in Richmond, Kentucky.



Brick, adopted by Marissa Beauvais through Allies for Greyhounds in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Seeing Feelings

Study provides evidence that dogs can natively recognize human emotions.

By Nancy Beach

Those of us who have the privilege of living with Greyhounds have always believed that our companions recognize how we are feeling.

Humans have a native ability to recognize feelings amongst each other, and scientific research shows non-human primates also do it with members of their own species. Humans and primates use multiple cues, such as facial expression, body positioning, and tone of voice, to quickly figure out the emotional state of others. But evidence of cross-species recognition of emotions using multiple cues hasn't been uncovered — until now. And the two species involved are *Homo sapiens* and *Canis lupus familiaris* – humans and dogs.

In the article “Dogs recognize dog and human emotions” in the January 2016 issue of *Biology Letters*, researchers at the University of Lincoln in the United Kingdom and the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil describe their study, in which they conclude that dogs have the ability to integrate two different sources of sensory information — visual and auditory — into an accurate perception of emotion in both humans and other dogs, and that this behavior is intrinsic and not learned.

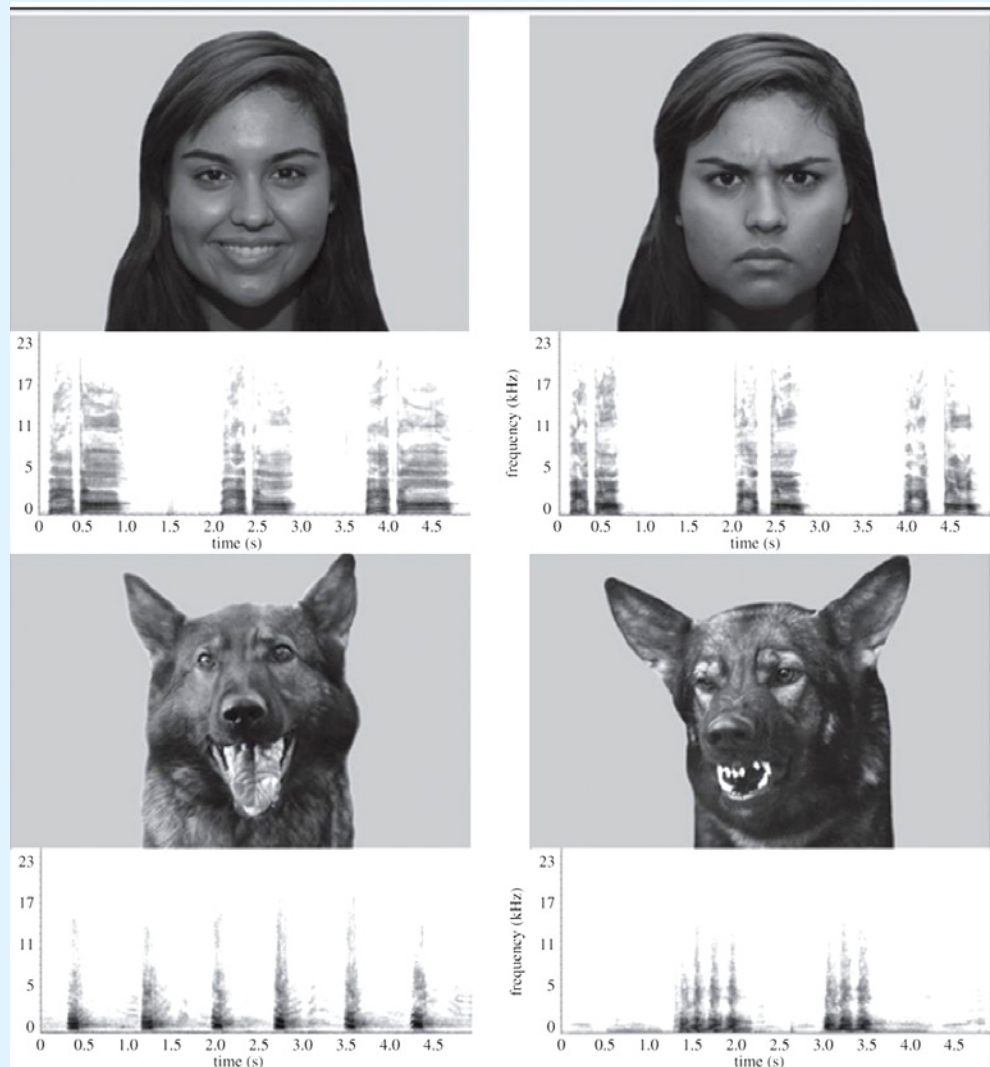
The study took a small sample of 17 well-socialized, adult pet dogs from an array of breeds. Sighthound breeds included a Deerhound, Silken Windhound, and

Staffordshire Terrier/Whippet cross.

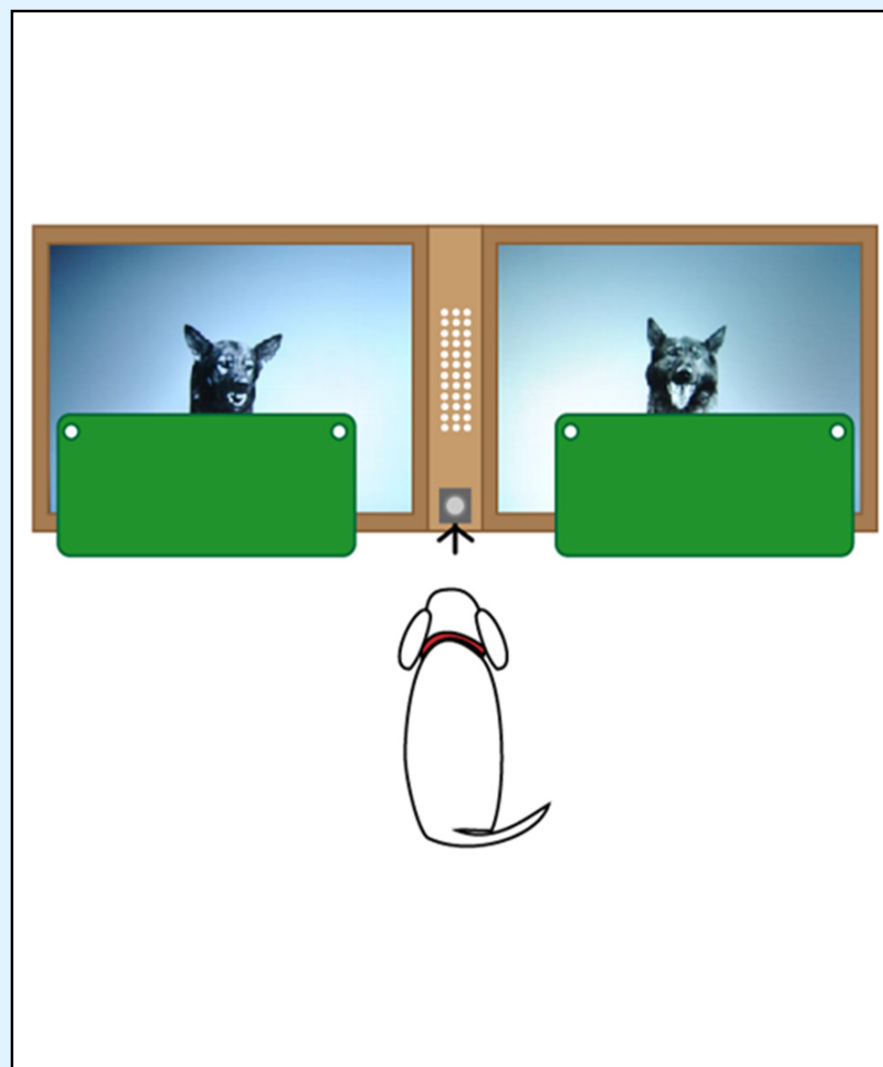
A quiet test room was set up with two screens, a speaker, and a camera, which recorded where each dog looked during the testing. Photos of two humans and two dogs, one male and one female of each species, were used in the testing.

Each dog stood in front of the screens and was presented with a pair of images. One photo depicted a happy/playful facial image and the other an angry/aggressive image of the same human or dog, neither of which the test subjects had seen before.

An audio clip was played during the display of each set of images. Both human



Examples of images used in the study. The spectrogram below each image represents the matching happy/playful or angry/aggressive vocalization. Courtesy of Biology Letters and Royal Society Publishing

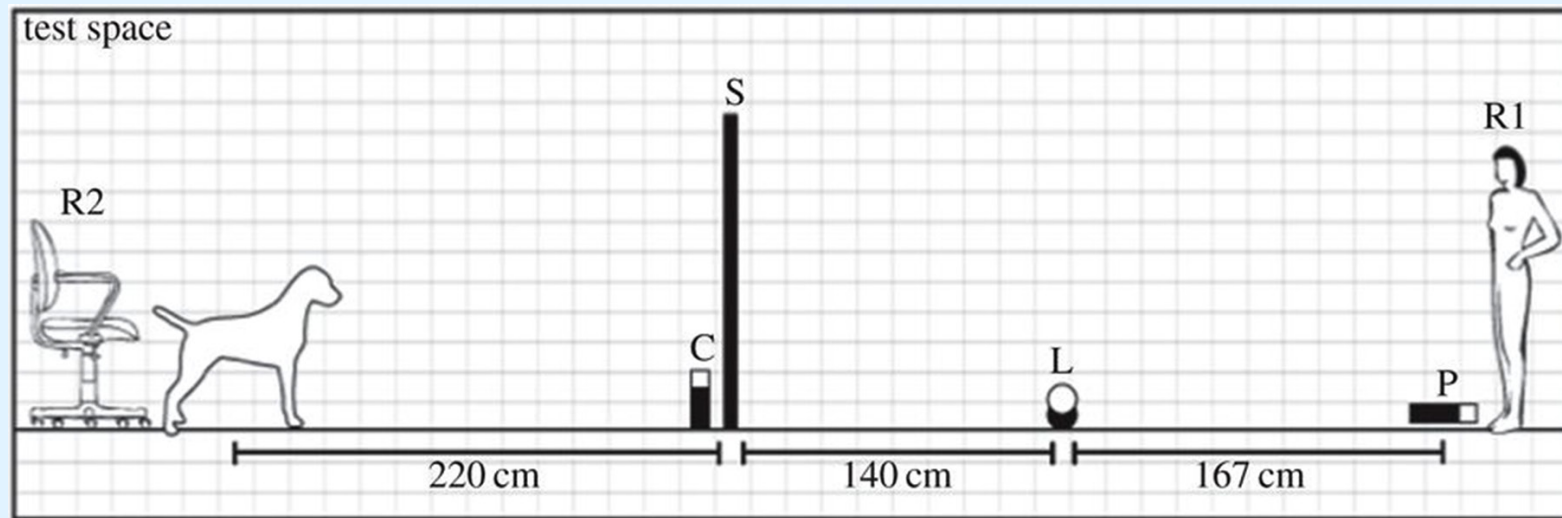


A front view of the experimental set up. Courtesy of Biology Letters and Royal Society Publishing

and canine audio clips also used happy/playful intonations, or angry/aggressive ones. The human voices belonged to the people in the photos, and used a language (Brazilian Portuguese) unfamiliar to the canine test subjects. Likewise, the dog barks used belonged to the dogs in the photos. Additionally, a neutral sound similar to rushing water was sometimes played instead of a voice or dog bark.

Photos and sounds were presented to each dog for five seconds. Each dog undertook a total of 20 trials, split into two, 10-trial sessions held two weeks apart. This allowed each dog to be exposed to every combination of images and sounds included in the experiment.

As the dogs viewed the screens, the camera recorded which one they looked



A side view of the experimental set up. The chair and human figure represent where the researchers were positioned during testing. Item C was the location of the camera, item S was the location of the screens, and item L was the location of the speaker. Courtesy of Biology Letters and Royal Society Publishing

at longest. Two-thirds of the dogs looked longer at the image that matched the sound they were hearing. While the behavior was most pronounced when the test subjects were looking at the dog photos, it was also strongly noted while looking at humans as well.

“For the first time, researchers have shown that dogs must form abstract

mental representations of positive and negative emotional states, and are not simply displaying learned behaviors when responding to the expressions of people and other dogs,” wrote Cerri Evans, public relations officer of the [University of Lincoln in a news release](#) published about the newly released study. ■



Rydell (Gable Rydell), adopted by Heidi Peditto of Boardman, Ohio, became certified as a therapy dog in June 2015 through Therapy Dogs International.

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

De~stressing the Students

Greyhound therapy dogs excel at helping students handle the pressures of college life.

By Mary Jalongo

"This should happen more often."

"Awesome! Do this again."

"Best day ever (:"

"Thank you for coming!"

What event prompted such enthusiastic responses from college students? It was bringing therapy dogs to campus. The role of a therapy dog is, according to the motto of [Alliance of Therapy Dogs](#), "sharing smiles and joy." Unlike a service dog, which performs



Therapy dogs are becoming more common on college campuses, where they help reduce stress on students.

physical tasks for its owner with a disability, a therapy dog helps strangers — in this case, college students — to chill out and relax. In order to accomplish this, therapy dogs need to be calm, friendly, nonaggressive to people and dogs, adaptable to different situations and trained/registered/insured.

Greyhounds — particularly those who thrive at meet-and-greets — often are especially well-equipped for the therapy dog role. Many of these retired racers are accustomed to crowds, used to being handled, eager to please, reasonably confident, generally quiet, laid back with other dogs, and calm under pressure. All of these traits are prized in therapy dogs. Greyhounds who possess a serene sweetness and gentle ways that endear them to owners also serve as “ambassadogs” for the breed because their demeanor defies expectations of the uninitiated. That explosive speed, so often portrayed in the media, leads

the general public to assume that former racing dogs are hyper, so bringing them to campus for their calming effect counteracts misconceptions. Even though I began therapy dog training as a complete novice, all three of my Greyhounds have passed the test. ([Click here for an example of the test items.](#))

Big Dogs on Campus

Bringing therapy dogs to campus definitely has caught on in higher education for several reasons. First, adjusting to college life requires many significant changes, including being away from home for extended periods of time, achieving greater independence, and meeting new intellectual challenges associated with professional goals. In fact, making an extra effort of adaptation on multiple fronts is the very definition of stress.

Second, traditional-age college students have never known a time without advanced



Fiona always draws a crowd at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania library.

technologies and they are exceptionally wired-in, often using different tools simultaneously. It sometimes takes an incentive to pull

them away from cell phones and computers to interact face-to-face and make use of university support services.

Third, typical undergraduates have one or more companion animals they care about, but were forced to leave behind in order to become a residential student.

Fourth, because seeing dogs on campus is something of a novelty, students turn out in large numbers to events that otherwise might be poorly attended.

Campus De-Stress Events

The three most common on-campus activities that are planned to help students cope with stress are: exam week visits, new-student orientations, and counseling services. As the semester winds down at a college or university, expectations ramp up. Papers, projects, and tests often occur during the week prior to scheduled exams so that the last class meeting can end on a more positive note,

graded student work can be returned, and students can make presentations to the group. That way, students leave knowing how they performed in their classes.

At Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), we schedule a “Chill Out with Canines” event each December and May during the week preceding finals. After surveying hundreds of participants, we discontinued the posters and the flyers because almost every student found out about the event through social media — the daily e-newsletter, a tweet on Twitter, or a text from a friend. We typically schedule two hours, from 1 to 3 p.m. and have had as many as 400 students (and staff) stop to chat and pet one of the dogs.

Our survey research conducted over three years indicates that students attend these events because they love dogs, miss their own dogs, or just need a break. Some universities — including the Medical Schools of Harvard,

Yale, and Tufts — offer a different type of therapy dog program. Rather than working with a crowd, the dogs are hosted in a reserved study carrel room, so that individual students can schedule appointments for interaction.

Recently we brought the therapy dogs and my big Greyhound girl, Fiona (Budz Fiona) to new-student orientation for incoming freshmen — what we refer to as “Welcome Weekend.” Although new students are always encouraged to visit the brick-and-mortar library, it took the therapy dogs being there to generate a great response.

Relaxed interaction with library personnel and therapy dog handlers, many of whom are retired teachers and counselors, helped to set a welcoming tone to the whole event. The event also created a more positive image of the library staff and familiarized students with the wide range of services available, such as

orientations on using the library. In fact, that is what we are planning next — the option of attending an orientation with the dog present. Our prediction is that more students will sign up for the “with a dog” orientations than ones “without a dog.”

Your Greyhound therapy dog also can contribute through collaboration with student counseling services. This might occur by having the dogs visit the counseling center during particular times, or bringing the therapy dogs in after a tragic event. Our local group has sometimes brought the dogs to the funeral home at the family’s request, as well.

Some universities have resident therapy dogs on campus owned by one of the counselors. Whenever the counselor is working, he or she brings the dog in.

The IUP College of Education also offers a summer program for children who struggle with reading. This is another opportunity to

have therapy dogs on campus. Studies show that children are less stressed and more motivated to practice reading aloud with a mellow dog present. An international program that supports children’s reading in schools and libraries is [Reading Education Assistance Dogs \(READ®\) of Intermountain Therapy Animals](#).

Therapy Dog Credentials

If you want to help, the first step is to acquire your Greyhound’s therapy dog credential from a reputable group, such as [Alliance of Therapy Dogs](#), [Therapy Dogs International](#) or [Pet Partners](#). If your retired racer is reliably house-trained, relatively unflappable, and shines at meet-



Greyhounds have proven to excel in traditional therapy dog roles, such as visiting sick and injured children in hospitals and rehabilitation centers.

and-greets, you are off to a great start. In fact, when I had my Greyhound in an obedience class, the fact that she did not jump, bark, and pull me around on the leash was envied by those with more boisterous breeds. I really did not have to do intensive training to achieve any of this; all three of my Greys were pretty good at the outset.

Do not be daunted by the prospect of having your Greyhound tested. Most of the test is basic commands — come, down, heel, stay (Greyhounds are the only breed not required to sit). More-advanced tasks include such things as the “Leave it” command when a dog treat is on the floor, recovering quickly after being startled by a loud noise, staying with a friendly stranger for three minutes while you are out of view, and pausing to greet another person while each of you has your dog on the left side on leash. With treats in hand and frequent, brief practice sessions,

a dog with the right temperament and trainer should be able to succeed. After that, some groups will require you to go on supervised visits with other therapy dog handler teams to assess how your dog performs in unfamiliar situations, such as visiting residents of a nursing home.

College Admissions for Your Greyhound

Check into the policies of the institution about bringing dogs on campus. This is an added advantage of a therapy dog card from a leading organization; it affirms that the dog’s rabies and other immunizations are current, that the dog has had a veterinary exam within the past year (i.e., negative fecal test, on flea/tick preventive, heartworm negative) and that the handler/dog team carries liability insurance. Many times, the director of public safety is the person who is most familiar with the rules governing dogs

on campus.

At the other end of the leash, some schools may require a criminal record check that is accomplished by scanning your driver’s license, by applying to the state for a clearance, or via FBI fingerprinting. For security reasons, some institutions may require you to complete a volunteer form so that your information, particularly an emergency contact, is on file. Be sure to check the parking regulations as well, because universities can be particularly unforgiving about parking violations.

Freshman Orientation for Retired Racers

After you have completed the prerequisites, start with some informal visits to campus, for example, just strolling along with your Greyhound on leash in some of the common areas. I usually begin during a time when the campus is not particularly hectic; therefore the dog is not too overwhelmed by activity. If a

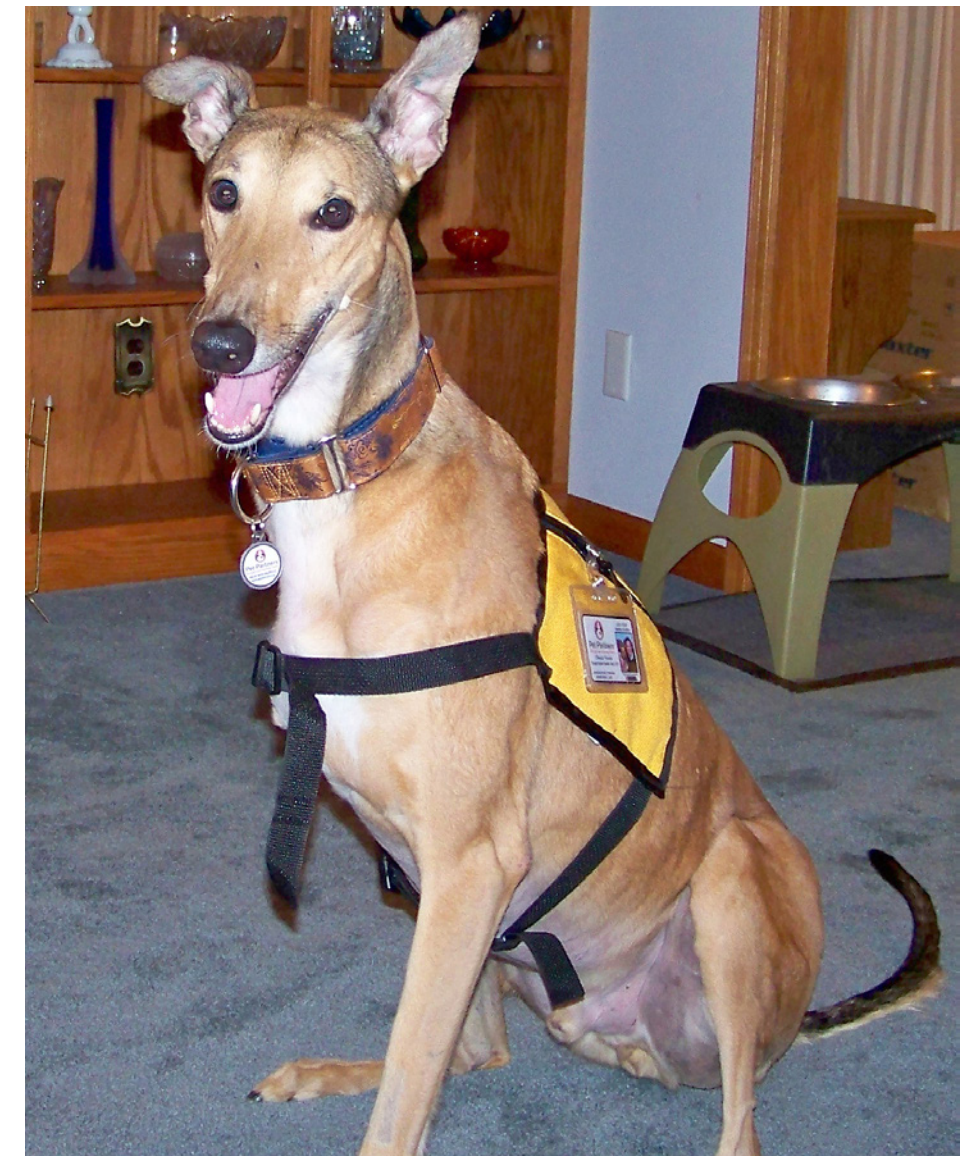
student looks interested in the dog or smiles, try inviting them with something such as, “Hi. Do you like dogs? This one is very gentle, if you’d like to pet her. I’m training her to be a therapy dog.” As soon as the dog makes a move toward the person, “capture” that behavior with the phrase, “Say hello.” Pretty soon, you dog will greet on this command, which is always endearing to those who want to interact.

I taught at the university for 37 years and would bring my Greyhound to the office during unscheduled office hours. This got her used to the elevator, the electric doors, and the lively groups of students passing by after classes let out. Many times a student would catch a glimpse of her and say “Aww! Can I pet your dog? I miss mine so much!” and then several others would join us. All of this helped my retired racer to associate going to school with positive experiences.

Bring in the Hounds

The next step is to connect with dog-friendly people at the university, usually at the library or in counseling services. You may find that you already have some adopters with ties to the local college or university, so start there. It may be necessary to approach the arrival of dogs on campus incrementally to build trust and counter common objections. For instance, the first time we brought the dogs to the university library, we were on the front porch, outside. After we had a good response from the students and none of the things happened that some people had worried about (biting, barking, running wild, or destroying property) we moved inside. Now, we are “regulars.” Fear of dogs and dog allergies were handled by posting signs the day of the event and creating a pathway where these students could avoid encountering dogs.

It is very important for all of the handlers



Luath (Rooftop Grandpa) continued to work as a therapy Greyhound even after having his right front leg amputated due to osteosarcoma. Luath was adopted by Christie Vereide of Maplewood, Minnesota, and was a regular Greyhound meet-and-greet ambassador for Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota.

to behave professionally at these events by being punctual, keeping their dogs under control at all times, and engaging the students in relaxed conversation. Make it clear that your dogs will need breaks and determine where, exactly, they are allowed to “go” outside. It is also particularly important to pick up any poop outside and dispose of it as the facility requires. Be considerate of everyone and you are more likely to be invited back.

Evaluate the Event

Having personal enthusiasm about bringing the dogs to campus is not enough; university people tend to expect evidence to support any claims that the therapy dog visits are worthwhile. We enlisted student volunteers from various groups looking for a service activity to go around with clipboards, pencils, and a very brief survey that could then be deposited in one of the collection boxes positioned around the library. The compiled

information convinced quite a few of those who were undecided about the value of these events that the visits should be continued.

Over several semesters and across three years, more than 93 percent of students were very enthusiastic about therapy dogs on campus. My personal favorite was a student who wrote: “this shows me that the university really cares about students.”

For Further Information

Therapy Dogs Help College Students De-Stress During Final Exams is a news broadcast that interviews students about exam-related stress and how interacting with dogs is beneficial.

Moravian College Now Allows Dogs on Campus, in Classrooms explains how the policies governing dogs on campus were changed after the college president’s dog, Mo, became their mascot. ■

About the author: Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D., has contributed several articles and photographs to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. She is a professor of education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the editor-in-chief of Early Childhood Education Journal and has written numerous published articles and books about humane education. Her most recent collaborative research project found a positive impact on elementary students’ oral reading fluency when therapy dogs were used to motivate children’s practice reading aloud; it will be published in Society & Animals. She and her husband have adopted three retired racers from Monica’s Heart Greyhound Adoption in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

You're Invited



April 8-10, 2016

Spring Dewey

Dewey Beach, Delaware

Join us for Spring Dewey at the Greyt Little Greyhound Event in Dewey Beach, Delaware. Spring Dewey is small, friendly, and almost free. The ocean is breezy and the weather is beautiful, albeit a little chilly at times.

Humans and Greyhounds alike will enjoy the relaxed weekend of uncrowded beaches, low-key activities, shopping at various vendors, and the spectacular Sunday Send-Off Beach Walk and Box Lunch Picnic.

www.deweyspring.com

springdewey@comcast.net

April 28-May 1, 2016

Greyhounds in Gettysburg

Nittany Greyhounds

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

With the help of countless volunteers, Greyhounds in Gettysburg has become the largest Greyhound reunion in the country! In 2015, more than 1,000 people attended with more than 1,000 sighthounds from all around the country. We are always working with our contacts in Gettysburg to introduce new venues, new speakers, and new options for food, vendors, and events. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from Greyhounds in Gettysburg benefit Greyhound adoption and

education efforts.

www.greyhoundsingettysburg.org

gig@nittanygreys.org

814-933-6981

May 12-15, 2016

Kanab Greyhound Gathering

Kanab, Utah

This three-plus-day celebration and fundraising event features a blur of fur, costume parade, speakers, yappy hour, Best Friends tours, auctions, food, fun, and frolicking. Planning for 2016 already includes a Scooby Medina – Galgo demo and talk, reception at La Estancia Dog Park, art

show, auctions, fantastic meals and artisans – including Sarah Snavelly and Cara Brockhoff. In the works is an agility demonstration, and more sighthound talks about Lurchers, Staghounds, Podencos, Irish and Russian Wolfhounds, and more. Attendees can be part of the Amazing Earthfest Centennial Parade in 2016.

www.greyhoundgang.org
Claudia@greyhoundgang.org
435-644-2903

May 13-15, 2016

Greyhound Event of Michigan GreyHounds of Eastern Michigan Livonia, Michigan

The Greyhound Event of Michigan is a fun gathering featuring great door prizes, raffles, a silent auction, shopping and a bake sale! Educational seminars include advanced

energy therapy, with a keynote address by Dr. Radcliff. Artist Steve Wirtz will be teaching a “build your own Greyhound” class, with other events to include a blessing of the hounds and senior parade.

www.gemgreyhounds.org
eventcommittee@gemgreyhounds.org

May 20-22, 2016

Greys & Grapes Virginia Greyhound Adoption

The Greys & Grapes Wine Event features wine tasting, music, a huge wedding tent with vendors for shopping, delicious food, a silent auction, blessing of the hounds, and an ice cream social. The participating wineries boast beautiful views and relaxing atmospheres. Greys & Grapes offers something for everyone of all ages and your hounds. The host winery in 2016 is the 868 Estate Vineyards, while the

Friday night welcome event will be held at the North Gate Vineyards.

www.greysandgrapes.com
registration@greysandgrapes.com

June 2-5, 2016

Mountain Hounds Greyhound Friends of North Carolina Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Mountain Hounds 2016 is a weekend retreat for humans and Greyhounds including fun, games, vending, catered picnic, seminars, and more. Enjoy the Smoky Mountains and the company of approximately 350 fellow Greyhound owners as we celebrate 12 years of Mountain Hounds. Other well-behaved breeds are welcome, as well.

gfncmountainhounds.com
gfncgreyhound@yahoo.com

June 19, 2016

Great Global Greyhound Walk
(formerly known as the Great British Greyhound Walk)

Worldwide

The Great Global Greyhound Walk is an annual global dog walking event that aims to raise the profile of rescued and retired (ex-racing) Greyhounds, showing the world what beautiful companions these dogs make. Formerly known as the Great British Greyhound Walk, the event aims to bring owners together regardless of where their hound has been homed from, to celebrate Greyhounds and other sighthounds, to raise awareness of Greyhounds and to promote Greyhounds as pets in a BIG way. The event primarily involves hundreds of organized “walks” that all take place on the same day. The Great British Greyhound Walk started in 2010. It has taken place annually with the

attendance growing from 23 walks in 2010 with 1,641 attending sighthounds to 90 walks in 2014 with 3,360 attending sighthounds! In 2014, the walk went global and the response was amazing – 23 extra walks worldwide with 529 sighthounds attending.

<http://www.greatglobalgreyhoundwalk.co.uk/team@greatglobalgreyhoundwalk.co.uk>

July 21-24, 2016

The Grapehound Wine Tour® – New York

The Grapehound Wine Tour® - New York is a four-day event featuring more than 20 wineries and a distillery, wine tasting, music, lakes, waterfalls, and a huge vendor tent filled with vendors from a dozen states. We provide every registrant with 10 wine tasting passes and a commemorative wine glass, along with other items in their registration tote bag. All proceeds after costs are donated

to participating greyhound adoption groups throughout the Northeast.

www.grapehounds.com

grapehound@gmail.com

717-669-8723

Sept. 22-25, 2016

Beach Bound Hounds

Greyhound Crossroads

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

With each paid registration, participants receive one imprinted Welcome Bag that comes stuffed with goodies donated by our generous sponsors and supporters. You also receive other items that have been purchased for use throughout the weekend, including contest prizes, raffle supplies, Memorial Service gifts, and necessary supplies for the free seminars and activities. Your registration gains you admission to all activities for the four days

except a few special opportunities with a fee attached, like Canine Good Citizen Certification. Events include hound skinny dipping, a sunrise beach walk, workshops, seminars, vendors, bingo, movie night contests, auctions, raffles and more!

beachboundhounds.com

beachyhounds@yahoo.com

Oct. 6-8, 2016

Greyhounds Reach the Beach

Dewey Beach, Delaware

Greyhounds Reach the Beach completed its 21st year of celebrating Greyhounds and Greyhound adoption in October 2015. The event brings friends together with their hounds in the seaside communities of Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, on Columbus Day weekend every year. The event features top speakers from the Greyhound and sighthound

world, including behaviorists, veterinarians, counselors, adoption professionals, and international breed experts. It also features small group seminars on everything from dealing with the grief of losing a pet or the importance of Greyhound blood donations to the work of the volunteers at Scooby in Spain. The event features more than 50 vendors in many locations in the Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach area along with food, special events, an ice cream social for the hounds, and more.

www.grtb.org

admin@grtb.org



Bixie (Hot Shot Bixie), adopted by Dolores Phillips of Leamington, Ontario, Canada, through High Speed Hounds.

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Winning the Gold!



Greyhound Event of Michigan
2016

May 13th – 15th, 2016

Livonia Holiday Inn and Conference Center

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rave about this Event every year

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Memorial Baskets Silent Auction

Schedule and Registration Information

www.gemgreyhounds.org

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Advertising Deadlines

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Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1

Questions?

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



Wesley (Pyrite), adopted by Sue Jenkin through Connecticut Greyhound Adoption in Avon, Connecticut.



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Dr. Guillermo Couto, DVM, President

We provide education to veterinary students, veterinarians, adoption groups, trainers, and owners so they may recognize these breeds' peculiarities and evaluate them from a different perspective. **We hope to promote collaboration, enhance skills, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge for best sighthound health and veterinary practices.**



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And we're just getting started!

Find out more at GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org and Like us on Facebook for regular updates.

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