

The following information sheet is one of three currently being compiled from daily discussions on the Greyhound-L listserv. These three info sheets (GH Medical, GH General Info, and GH Resources/Supplies) are unofficial compilations - in other words, these are my *pet projects* as opposed to official FAQ files. I maintain and update these info sheets as new information crosses my email account.

I accept any and all updates, comments, corrections, and additions to these info sheets. Please send mail to: greyhoundadmin@abap.org

All data is provided as ****information only****. The Greyhound-L list server is made up of a large group of Greyhound owners - some with limited experience, and some with EXTENSIVE experience - who meet on a computer forum to discuss Greyhounds and Greyhound related topics. I try to collect interesting data on various topics, and reflect a group consensus or varied cross-sections of thought on those topics.

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Thank you - Lynda Adame, Cody and Tara (and Tice who is with us in spirit)
greyhoundadmin@abap.org

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GENERAL GREYHOUND INFORMATION

Last Update 2/5/99

YOUR GREYHOUNDS PAST:

(Lynda Adame with inputs from Brian Lee)

PEDIGREES:

To find out the lineage of your ex-racer five generations back:
Send a letter & \$15.00 check to:

NGA Pedigree Service
Box 543
Abilene, KS 67410

In the text of the letter include the tattoo #'s found in both of your dogs ears, its sex, color, and racing name if you know it. In return, the NGA will send you a nice pedigree.

You can also call the NGA and (for free) find out the names of both the Sire and Dam of your Greyhound, the birthdate of your Greyhound, your Greyhounds racing name, as well as who the owner was. (913)263-4660. You can also contact the NGA at nga@jc.net

PEDIGREE READING TIPS:

ISB stands for Irish Stud Book. Vol. xxxx refers to the volume of the NGA's registry (year of the volume) book. A * next to a dogs name indicates that this dog was imported into America at some point.

GALLEY BOOKS/RACING LINES:

If your interest in your dogs past is not satisfied with simply receiving his pedigree, you can do some investigative work and obtain copies of his actual racing records.

IF YOU KNOW THE TRACK YOUR DOG RETIRED FROM:

Contact the Racing Secretary of that particular track and ask if they produce a Galley Book. Galley Books are compilations of racing records for a specific period of time. The dogs are listed alphabetically and the race info for each dog during that time period is listed. Some tracks (Derby Lane, FL) actually bind their yearly Galley Books and offer them for sale to the general public. Other tracks only keep the records handy for a short period of time (2 years) and will Xerox the info on your dog from their records and mail you whatever they find. Some tracks have video departments and (if you know the dates of the races) you can get a video of your dog running. You may need to do some real investigative work though, because dogs are often run at multiple tracks during their careers. The Racing Secretaries can help you narrow down the choices of other tracks you may need to contact.

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE TRACK YOUR DOG RETIRED FROM:

WARNING Check with your adoption group before you proceed with contacting the dogs registered owner.

OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR RACING LINES:**Rosnet Report:**

Rosnet collects data on dogs racing at 2/3 of the tracks in the United States. The racing office at the Rosnet-member track will have access to the Rosnet database - it's not available to the public. There is a project in development that will bring this data online, complete with a "Greyhound Search"- however that still won't help for a dog who retired last year. Here is the URL for the Rosnet page, go to the bottom and read the instructions for sending a SASE. If your dog ran at one of these tracks, you'll probably get a beautiful racing history from their database, at NO charge! Here it is:
<http://www.rosnet2000.com/rosnet/>

TrackData System:

Many of the other 1/3 tracks in the United States (including most of the New England tracks), use the TrackData system. I'm not sure about their policy of providing "past performance data" to adoptive homes. Here is their home page:
<http://www.trackinfo.com/>

Pico Publishing:

This is a long shot, although they publish track literature:

Pico Publishing
5906 10th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140
Telephone: (414) 652-3278
Sales: (800) 397-2153
Fax: (414) 652-2906
BBS: (414) 652-3932
E-Mail: rwaite@prodigy.com

EAR TATTOOS:

A Greyhounds right ear tattoo represents the birth month, year and tattoo order of the dog. The last number before the letter is the year of birth, the first one or two numbers is the month of birth and the letter represents the order of the litter that it was tattooed.

For instance:

109E means the dog was born in October of 1989 and was the fifth dog in the litter to be tattooed. The left ear contains a tattoo representing the actual litter registration number.

LITTERMATE SEARCH:

Visit the Greyfind web site to register your hound and search for litter mates:

<http://www.gangrel.com/greyhound/index.html>

BRINGING YOUR GREYHOUND HOME:

FIRST DAYS AT HOME:

(L. Adame)

I realize that some people don't have the luxury of taking a chunk of time off of work to be at home with their new dog, but I feel that it is the BEST and EASIEST way to acclimate your new dog. I waited until I knew that I could take an entire week of work off before I started looking for a Greyhound to adopt.

When you spend the first few days at home with your dog, you are there to correct the dog when he needs it, to establish what things are O.K. and what are not O.K., and to bond with the dog. The rescue group (Retired Racers) I got Tice from holds the belief that you will get more from your dog if you do everything in your power to keep them from being BAD DOGS. They really respond positively to being told that they are good...and when you finally do leave and they have been bad, I think that they understand a little bit better what you are trying to get across to them.

NITTING:

For the uninitiated, "nitting" is a gesture of great affection in which the GH takes a small fold

of your skin (nape of neck, arm, hand) between his/her teeth and makes a very rapid chattering motion with its teeth. It doesn't hurt, and in fact can be quite ticklish. Greyhounds will also chatter their teeth when excited or anxious. A great many GHs are smilers, which is often mistaken for a snarl.

KIDS:

Young children do not understand that dogs are not playthings. They can be quite rough and thoughtless with their pets and don't understand that the animals get upset. Children need thorough supervision around animals and lessons in how to behave properly around dogs. Greyhounds are amazing with kids; usually very gentle and tolerant. They must be respected however.

Please do not let children walk a Greyhound, or even hold a leashed hound by themselves (no matter *how* much begging). There was a recent thread on Greyhound-I, where a couple of bored <Grin> physicists figured out that when a Greyhound takes off at a dead run, chasing after something of interest, there is 228 lbs. of pressure exerted on the leash as well as your arm!!!

One thing you can do to allow children the pleasure of walking your Greyhound is to attach a second leash that you, the adult, hold onto.

SLEEPING SPACE DEFENSIVENESS:

"Let sleeping dogs lay". There is some wisdom to that old saying. Greyhounds are used to sleeping undisturbed in a caged kennel, and some newly retired hounds can become frightened or disoriented and snap if disturbed when sleeping.

HOUSE TRAINING:

The majority of ex-racers do not have a problem with house training, if the first few days with the new dog are spent wisely. This means taking the new dog outside often at first (every 30 minutes or so) & praising the dog exuberantly when it correctly goes to the bathroom outside. It also helps to start associating a certain word (perhaps potty) with the action, so the dog will begin to understand what you mean when you use that word in the future.

Accidents should be met with a stern reprimand (no hitting or shoving their noses into it please) and the dog should be taken outside immediately.

Another good bit of advice is to let your dog sleep in your bedroom with you at night. Not only is this great for bonding purposes, but the doggie taboo against soiling its sleeping quarters is strong enough that most Greyhounds will whine and pace if they need to go in the middle of the night. Peeing in the house within the first few days after surgery is very common among newly adopted dogs, even ones who had no accidents prior to surgery. The Pollyanna interpretation of this annoying occurrence is that it gives you a chance to reinforce that peeing in all the various rooms of the house is unacceptable! I know it's probably been 3 weeks, but houses are bigger than crates and the dog may not yet quite understand that every part of the house is included in housebreaking. If your Greyhound is having a hard time getting housebroken, please consult with your Vet and find out if there are any underlying medical

problems causing the accidents. If there is nothing medical going on (bladder or kidney infection, worms, etc.) this will eventually play itself out.

CRATES:

There seem to be three trains of thought on crate usage:

- 1) Crates are the most overused dog tool in the 90's. It is not in the dogs best interest to keep it cooped up all day long in a crate, & then expect it to again be crated at night. Why not commit yourself (and prepare yourself) for a period of time where you actually try to work out behavior problems before you resort to a crate. Most dog behaviors can be modified with a little bit of time, patience, and knowledge.
- 2) Crates are a necessary evil, and are fine for temporary use. There are some dogs who come off of the track that have a more difficult time adjusting to home life. These dogs can not only be destructive, but can be a danger to themselves as well. While they are unsupervised, a crate is the best way to keep these dogs safe. All behavior problems are worked on when the owner is home, and the dog is eventually weaned from the crate.
- 3) Crates are perfectly fine for housing a dog while the owner is away. Crates keep dogs from getting into trouble as well as keep the dog safe from danger when the owner is away. There are plenty of perfectly fine dogs who live a portion of their lives crated.

I will stay out of the crate controversy in this info sheet, and merely supply the following information for people who choose to use crates:

Bonnie's crate is 30 high x 27 wide x 40 long. She's a big dog - 28" at the shoulder, 68 lbs. This size is plenty big for her.

As to water left in crates, two viable options are water bottles (like gerbil bottles) and buckets. One of the pet supply catalogs sells a water bottle top which fits 2 liter soda bottles and converts them into water bottles. I have found these difficult to hang properly and much larger than needed. The water bottles are sold in both glass and plastic. Some prefer glass because their dogs chew, but I've used the plastic ones for years for raising litters (*much* neater than bowls of water with rambunctious puppies) and have never had a problem with bottles being chewed. For my adult dogs, if and when they're crated, I use stainless steel 2 quart buckets available from most pet supply houses. These are also available in aluminum, but I find they corrode very quickly and are much more easily banged up than the stainless ones. The stainless are expensive, but I've found they have a much longer life. Half filled, and clipped to the inside of the crate with double-ended snap bolts, they serve well and are difficult to spill. In very hot weather, I fill them with ice-cubes rather than water.

In very hot weather, you can purchase a Polar Mat to make your dog more comfortable in it's crate. The Mats are soaked in cool water first and stay cool for 24 hours. For walks, you can purchase "Cool Collars".

Two commands used at the track that may be helpful in crating a dog are "Kennel up" which tells the dog to get into the crate, and "Free Dog" which gives the dog permission to leave the crate.

STAIRS:

(Kopal Barnuin-Jha)

We have nasty stairs (spiraling). I teach the dogs stairs by essentially climbing alongside them. When I'm alongside they can't turn around and go back down or up. I lift the feet to the right position and then gently push, with my arms in position to catch if they stumble. To go down, I will put the forefeet onto the first stair. Then I lift the hind legs onto the stair, so all 4 feet are on a stair. This usually inspires them to either move down a step or turn around. Since they can't turn around, you help them make the other choice by gently pulling one of the front legs down. They probably will act like you are trying to burn the foot, at which point I push them down, NOT by the butt, but by lifting their bellies up and downward.

(They pull back by sitting back on their haunches). If you are facing the dog's side, you will have one hand to lift the belly with, and the other to put around the front in case they stumble. Once the front feet are down, repeat.

Upstairs is easier, you put two feet up on a stair, and lift them up at the crook of their hind legs, so they are sitting on your arm. I do this, again, alongside, so they cannot turn around. If they catch on, they move the front feet up. If not, lift till you put their hind legs on the first stair, at which point, again, make sure they can't turn around. Then lift the front feet up. I sometimes stand behind them so they lean their butts on my legs, and I use the pressure to ease them forward, while using my arms to make sure they don't turn around. This is after they know what to do, but are just hesitating.

It's really important to not let them turn around. Some dogs would rather quit than learn something hard, especially if scared. Don't give them the choice - success empowers!

The most important thing in the process is praise. Food at the top and bottom if they accept it. Most dogs I've taught this way can do it on their own, with encouragement, the very next time. Crystal, who came home last evening, is running up and down the stairs all by herself!

I don't like Brannigan's method, it allows the dog to turn around, and leaves you at their butts wondering what to do!

GARBAGE DIGGERS:

Try putting a mouse trap or a snappy dog training device on top of the garbage. It doesn't hurt them, just scares them and provides a correction. It's important that the dog receives corrections when you are not around. Otherwise, they quickly relate corrections to you and figure out that they can get away with things when you are not at home.

You can also place your garbage pail inside a child-proofed cabinet. Child-proofing cabinet locks are available cheaply at local drug stores. Another idea is to buy the type of garbage can that requires a person to step on a foot peddle before the lid will lift.

NAIL CLIPPING:

For the white or light colored nails, you can see the darker core where the blood is. On black dogs or dogs with black nails, work the nails back gradually. When you near the quick, the center of the nails looks less dry and is horn-like (smoother).

Another method to trim nails is to use a grinder. Several of the pet supply catalogs list them (Oster brand), although you can often find the same thing for much less at a discount store. Walmart sells the same device, only they call it a Dremel Moto-Tool, for around \$30. With a grinder you can slowly trim back a small portion of nail and are less likely to dig deeply into the quick. One tip is to do a small amount at a time, taking turns on each nail, then returning to the first nail, and so on. This prevents the nail from heating up, which can be painful for the dog.

If your dog is scared or unruly while you are trying to clip his nails, try covering his eyes with a soft cloth or towel. This will help calm him down.

SKIN FLAKING:

Olive oil on the feed will help with the flaking. <usually caused by the long trip, which can be dehydration, stress or drying of the skin from the air-conditioning in the trailer> Try using Purina ONE Lamb and Rice for awhile as the "meal" part of the feed. Give one human sized Vitamin E capsule a day for at least two weeks, or try a product like Liposomes and add that to your dogs meal as directed. Remember though that adding oil to your dogs food is also adding fat.

Derma caps are a suggested curative for flaking skin.

All Natural Insect Repellent (safe for sighthounds and non-toxic)

1 Cup Avon Skin So Soft

2 Cups White Vinegar

1-3 Cups of Water* (depending on strength needed)

In the woods, use 1 Cup Water, in the backyard use 2-3 Cups 1 Tbsp. Herbal Repellent "Shoo" OR Citronella OR Eucalyptus Oil. Mix together, put in a misting bottle, and spray dogs as needed.

TEETH:

Many Greyhounds come off the track with poor tooth health, usually (but not always) blamed on their track diet of soft foods. Most adoption groups will have your dogs teeth cleaned when it goes in for its spay/neuter operation. Here are some other tooth care tips:

If the teeth look like concrete, get some big knuckle bones and try the natural teeth cleaning method first. If the teeth are still bad get a 'scalar' (dental tool) and go for it, or have a vet clean them. Once the teeth are clean, wet your index finger, dip it in a 50/50 mix of table salt and baking soda, massage into the gumline for twenty or so seconds...daily for about a two week span.

<Do not try hydrogen peroxide! It will foam, the hound will freak out, and you won't be able to touch it's mouth again, most likely.> Better yet, get a doggie toothbrush and doggie toothpaste (NOT human toothpaste) and brush your dogs teeth frequently - this will also help keep the breath sweet smelling. Bad gums will manifest in other areas of a Greyhounds general health.

You can use St. Aubreys 'Clear Breath' to mask bad-breath odor.

A good dog toothpaste to use is CHX which has chlorhexdine that helps kill bacteria. Nolvadent mouth wash also has chlorhexdine in it. My tooth regimen is as follows:

CHX toothpaste daily in a.m., Maxi Guard Oral Cleansing Gel daily in the p.m., and Gel-Tin fluoride gel 3x a week.

My dog dentist says that the Maxi Guard Oral Cleansing Gel is the most important step in the tooth cleaning process. The manufacturer of Maxi Guard is Addison Biological Laboratory Inc., Fayette, Missouri 65248.

BATHS:

A rather common occurrence on the Greyhound-I are Greyhounds whose rear ends collapse when they are given a bath. The consensus is that there is nothing to worry about, and you might try cooler water to stop it.

FOOD:

Some people use a high quality dog food that is as low in protein content as 14% and fat 8%. The consensus is that you don't need much more protein/fat than this unless your dog is working or very active (e.g., if you actively lure course). The level of protein is not necessarily a gauge of how well you are feeding your dog the higher levels aren't really important unless you fall into one of the categories mentioned above. It is more important that you avoid by-products, unnecessary fillers, soy, etc.

For Greyhound gas, avoid Soy in the ingredients list of the dogs food or treats, pigs ears, and rawhide. Try adding a heaping spoonful of plain yogurt with live acidophalus cultures in it to each meal.

EATING:

A good way to combat the inevitable choking/barfing back up of food, is to elevate your Greyhounds food bowl. Most people on Greyhound-I have found that elevating the bowl seems to make eating a much more pleasant experience for their Greyhound. A good suggestion was made to purchase a K-Mart - 18" - plant stand and place the bowl on top of that.

DIGESTION:

Anise helps digestion along very well. Anise resembles cumin, make sure you have the right stuff! Most Indian grocery stores will sell it relatively cheaply as "saunf" (sounds like "daunt", a Hindi word). Peppermint is great for upset stomachs.

APPETITE:

To pick up your Greyhounds appetite & make sure what he's eating is high-calorie, soak his food in warm buttermilk for 1/2 hour before giving it to him. Most GHs will gobble that right up. You might also want to try feeding him pasta and rice, and when it's boiling add a little beef broth or boil the P&R with a marrow bone.

I've found those two things work in my hands and I've never had to move on to a drug therapy for appetite stimulation.

If it does continue to be a problem, I would run a complete blood workup, including liver enzymes, before deciding what to do next. Loss of appetite is, 95% of the time, symptomatic of something wrong between the ears. But it can also be a clue to something physical.

I have heard B Complex Vitamins recommended as both appetite stimulants and appetite regulators. B Vitamins are water soluble so anything not needed by the body will be safely excreted (I am talking about reasonable doses here, of course.) As to foods to increase appetite, I am at this point in Tiger's life ready to begin my masterwork, "Catering for Dogs: Volume One:

"Just because I ate it yesterday, doesn't mean I'll want it today." Because Tiger has told us that chewing is a burden, we are now using Iams Eukanuba Puppy Small Bites which are teeny tiny kibble bits. On a bed of this kibble I have offered the following items successfully:

Canned Nature's Recipe Venison and Rice flavor, and Rabbit and Rice flavor. Canned 'kitty' tuna, mackerel in jelly, and sardines.

Fresh broiled or nuked fish (mostly mackerel, but any fish will do. Turkey roll. Triumph canned foods, although they recently seem to have changed their formulas, so that there is less fat, and thus they are less appetizing. Pedigree canned foods designed for small dogs (with incredibly pretentious names like 'braised lamb in aspic').

For some dogs (ill or elderly ones in particular) variety seems to be the key. If I gave Tiger mackerel every day, she'd probably get tired of it, but once every several days and she scarfs it right up. There are also some other dogs who just don't seem to do well when fed only once or twice a day. In the past, I have used free feeding for these, supplemented by more appetizing meals, and this seems to do the trick.

Try adding babyfood to your dogs kibble.

HOMEMADE LIVERCAKE:

(Judy Ellam)

One pound liver (I use chicken liver, the beef liver is hard on the blender

4 or more cloves of garlic minced
1/4 cup salad oil
1/3 cup water

Place all ingredients in either a blender or a food processor, liquefy the ingredients. To the liquefied mixture, add:

1 cup corn flour or corn meal
1 cup regular flour

The batter should be slightly thicker than cake batter. Grease pan (I use an angel food cake pan it seems to cook better in this pan).

Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Sometimes for variety I add a handful of cooked bacon, or bacon bits, or 1/4 cup cheese. I use 1/4" slice for my normal eaters and a 1-1/2" or larger slice for the picky eaters.

Other suggestions:

puppy kibble

1 container cottage cheese mixed with 2 cups cooked pasta 2x day (instead of dog food)

Enervite (Hi cal, nutrient supplement)

1 can "Old Mother Hubbard" in a.m. & 2 cups dry kibble plus 1 can of the same in the p.m.

COPROPHAGY:

According to "Care of the Racing Greyhound" (Blythe, Gannon & Craig): The five most common causes of coprophagy (stool eating) are:

a dietary excess of fat or carbohydrate (fats, oils, sugars, starches) which come through in the manure and are only partly digested.

a lack of bulk in the diet, i.e., no feeling of fullness or satiety after eating.

an intestinal irritation from worms or indigestible foreign bodies.

deficiencies of calcium, phosphorous, or iron in the diet.

boredom or lack of challenge or interest in the area of confinement.

Once you have identified what the cause is, then you can do something about it! According to "The Well Dog Book" (McGinnis):

"Dietary changes also may help prevent dogs from eating their own stool. Self-feeding instead of scheduled meals helps some dogs. In dogs fed a high carbohydrate diet, try adding good quality protein eggs, cottage cheese, skeletal muscle meat. Diets consisting of canned meat type foods should be changed to include more carbohydrate

the addition of dry kibble is the easiest and most balanced method. Adding the enzyme papain to the food will sometimes prevent coprophagy. This can be done at home by sprinkling Accent or another meat tenderizer containing papain on the food. Veterinarians often supply drugs that make the stool unpleasantly bitter when added to the diet."

In addition to Accent, Adolf No-Salt used to be papain based. The product referred to as making the stool unpleasantly bitter is "Forbid" and can be purchased (possibly special order) from a pet supply store (it is also carried by many of the wholesale catalog firms).

DONATIONS:

Just a reminder that if you give a donation to a Greyhound rescue group and you work for a company with matching donations, the rescue group can benefit from it. All the company needs in most cases is a tax free IRS number from the group. (often called a LOTUS matching number)

GREYHOUND PLAY GROUPS:

Greyhound Play group of the Triangle (NC)

This is an umbrella group for several area playgroups in the Raleigh, Durham, Apex, Cary and Chapel Hill region of North Carolina. This group is planning quarterly evening meetings in a local cafeteria to discuss upcoming events, Greyhound rescue and adoption, and other topics of interest. This play group also offers foster care, Greyhound babysitting, support for new Greyhound parents, etc.

The Raleigh (NC) Greyhound Play Group meets on Sunday at the Optimist Park in North Raleigh on the fenced in baseball field near the swimming pool. The time varies depending on the time of year, generally mornings in the summer and late afternoon in the winter. Due to the number of Greyhounds attending (20 and up), dogs must be muzzled to participate. Call 919-828-9624 or 919-743-6263 for more information.

The Carey-Apex (NC) Play Group, outside of Raleigh, also meets on Sunday. Call (919)460-1869 or 319-1977 for more information.

For additional information on any of the Triangle groups, contact:

Greyhound Play Groups of the Triangle
P.O. Box 6443
Five Points Station
Raleigh, NC 27628-6443
(919)839-1966

Greenville, SC

Contact Sharon Porter at 109 Shefwood Drive, Easley, SC 29642 for more information.

Winston-Salem/Greensboro, NC

Contact Greyhound Friends of NC at P.O. Box 926, Kernersville, NC 27285, (336) 643-0233 for additional information.

Roanoke, VA - Sundays 2:00 p.m. Contact Deirdre Martin at: 540-427-2810 or Lee Bristor at: 540-366-0945

Northern Virginia Play Group

This group meets occasionally at Frying Pan Park Show Barn in Herndon. The park is on Centerville Road, a few minutes away from the Dulles Toll Rd. From the Beltway or I-66, take the Dulles Toll Road (267 West) and get off at Exit 2; Left on Route 657 Centerville Road. About 1.5 miles turn Left onto West Ox Road (at light) then make the first left into Frying Pan Park. Straight ahead is the huge show barn. Cost is \$2.00 to \$4.00 per dog, depending on turnout. Contact Dan Schmidt for further information: windhunde@hotmail.com

Providence (RI) Sighthound Play Group

The PSP meets on Saturday mornings at 9:30 (weather permitting) on the East Side of Providence, RI. All sighthounds are welcome. To confirm meetings, get more info, or ask directions, call Andy Shaindlin (401)863-3309 (work) or email Andy at abs@brown.edu

Cost Mesa, CA. A group of greyhound owners meets at the Costa Mesa Dog Park every Thursday evening starting at 5:00 p.m.

Oakland, CA - Tracy at: tracy@murphies.com

Eatontown, NJ Contact Paul at: KELTHOROK@aol.com

Milton, MA - Near Pierce Middle School. Sunday Mornings. 617-774-0230 or sarah.norton@gte.net

OBEDIENCE COMMANDS:

SIT:

The key to training a Greyhound is to make the training fun. Since Greyhounds are so voice sensitive, use a high voice to get them excited about the upcoming training. When giving the "sit" command use your regular voice. Don't shout the command or use a loud deep voice. Feel free to do your "sit" training indoors on your carpet. I don't know of any Greyhound who wants to put their skinny butt on some cold, wet grass.

OPTION 1:

Crouch/kneel down next to the dog, one arm at the chest, one arm coming up from behind and bending the dogs hind legs with an inward sweeping motion.

OPTION 2:

With your Greyhounds butt up against a wall (so it can't back up), hold a treat in your right hand, just above his head, so the dog is looking up. Hold the dogs collar with your left hand. The idea is to get him to bring his rear forward into a tuck-sit, not a rock back sit. You can also use a leg behind your dogs rear legs to help things along.

OPTION 3:

Leash your dog. Give the "sit" command, while pulling up on the leash gently with your left hand & applying firm pressure on their hind quarters with your right hand. Continue until you need only a gentle pull on the leash to get them to 'sit'. Finally they'll sit on command without a leash.

If your Greyhound yelps or gets scared. Stop and reassure them in a high voice..."good girl!" and give them a hug. Then try it a few more times. Learn to laugh a lot while training. End the session with a good, small treat. Keep the sessions short and fun. NEVER, ever yell or hit your Greyhound. Be patient, remember one Greyhound may learn this in a week, and one may take months...keep at it. Once they master this one command, the others seem to come much faster.

Why is it important to teach a Greyhound to sit? Unless you are doing obedience work, or simply like to have a dog that will sit on command, it probably isn't important that your Greyhound learn to sit.

I personally find it to be a useful command. I use sit as one of my arsenal of benign ways to keep my dominant female Greyhound in line. She can be quite headstrong at times, and sit is my way of nicely reminding her that *I* am in charge. Tice sits before all of her meals, sits before any treats, sits when she is being headstrong, and sits when I want to speed up the introduction process with a stranger. I don't use it as a punishment, I simply use it to my advantage. Since it

is not a normal position for her to be in, I believe that it is the *thinking* process that occurs as well as the decision that she makes to sit that is beneficial in getting my point across to her.

OFF-LEAD:

One should never let a Greyhound run, or walk, off lead in an un-fenced (un-controlled) area. It is suggested that owners keep a "squawker" <Predator Call - get one at a sporting goods place with a hunting call dept.> as most racing trained Greyhounds know the sound of the squawker ...it's used on training lures, and is the sound that keeps the dogs at the "escape" <place where the lure at the track stops>. Unless a Greyhound is hot on a chase, the squawker will work at a longer recall distance than your voice, as well as being far more seductive<G>!

GREYHOUND RECALL TRAINING:

Here is a summary of Joan Weintraub's "Greyhound Safety" program. She advocates working on this training to give you a better chance of getting your dog safely back into your care should it escape you.

Step one is to buy a large supply of training treats- they should be small and irresistible. Carry

a supply on your person at all times. At random, frequent intervals, while you are at home and next to your dog, say "Dog's name, Come!" Use a loud, friendly voice. At the same time give a treat. The dog has to take it from your hand. Give lavish praise while you briefly take hold of the dogs collar. Then say "Go play" and ignore the dog. Do this until it's obvious that the dog is responding with great anticipation to the command.

Next start the recall. At frequent, random intervals, when the dog is a few steps away from you perform the same routine. Give lavish praise for an immediate response. If the dog doesn't come to you, go get it gently by the collar and bring it to the place you issued the recall and do the treat thing. Important: the dog must come at one command only - don't repeat yourself- if it doesn't come, go get the dog. Keep things upbeat and clear. The dog must also always touch you with it's nose and allow you to briefly take hold of its collar. Keep working on this until you have a reliable recall in the house.

Next get a length of light clothesline. Cut six feet of it and tie it to your dogs collar when you are at home and let the dog drag it around. You want the dog to get used to it, so it doesn't trip on it. Take it off when you leave the dog unsupervised. In a few days the dog should be ignoring it. Get a leash snap and securely attach it to a fifty foot length of the clothesline. This is your safety line.

Now take the safety line, yourself, training treats and your dog to a securely fenced area. Secure the safety line to your dogs collar and let it off lead to wander and play. Stay next to the center of the safety line. Get ready to stomp on the line and do a recall. If your dog comes, lavish praise, treat, brief collar touch, go play (hurray!). If not, firmly step on the line, pick it up, and walk it hand over hand to your dog. Get it by the collar, back to where you issued the recall, treat thing, etc.. Do this a couple of times each time you go to the fenced park. The line allows you to reinforce the idea "when I call, you Must come"- no dancing just out of reach or avoiding me. Keep it fun. When you feel secure with recalls, you can try this exercise on occasion:

Lengthen your safety line to 100 feet or so. Secure it to your dog and let them off leash in an area you need control in - open the door, for example or take your dog on lead and safety line into the front yard and take the lead only off. Make sure you can stomp on the safety line. Do some recall work, as above. You want to reinforce in your dogs mind that you can always enforce the recall, won't accept fooling around, and besides it's Much more fun to come to you anyway <G>.

While you work on recall, also work on a stay command, whether it's sit stay, down stay, or stand stay. Use it every day in your daily routine. Now you have two safety commands to help you avert disasters. (I mentioned before, that at a field trial, our dogs busted out of their pen after the lure and actually stopped and came back to us, when Stu and I simultaneously bellowed a recall. We were very suprised but pleased.) It's obviously not a sure thing, but at least you stand a better chance at getting your dog to listen than if you don't work on training at all and just trust to your firm grip on the leash to keep you safe. Final caveat - this is a back-up, safety program, not an off-lead training program!! Have fun.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION:

Nothing beats the old obedience class when it comes to behavior modification with a pet dog. Another method that has had good success with Greyhounds is a squirt gun. Most Greyhounds require one or two direct squirts before they begin to figure out that what they are doing is causing them to get wet, and perhaps they should stop that behavior. I have used this particular method to cure manipulative whining, lunging, jumping, marking, etc... Please do not use this, or any other "startle type" of technique on a skittish or spooky dog, you will only end up reinforcing their skittishness.

GENERAL GREYHOUND INFO:

HIGH PREY (CAT UNSAFE):

I own a high prey (cat unsafe) Greyhound, and it is my opinion that it is not possible for this to be trained out of her. There are four types of GHs:

- 1) No prey drive
- 2) Minimal prey drive (curious of cat)
- 3) Strong prey drive (VERY curious of cat, and the dogs body language will show interest (rigid, ears pricked, staring))
- 4) HIGH prey drive (Intensely interested, lunging, whining, barking, etc...)

Of this list, 1 & 2 are fine with cats, curious but safe. 3 CAN be rehabilitated to be cat safe, but it will take some time and effort on your half. 4 is un-rehabilitable.

(The above information is taken from "The Complete Book of Greyhounds", and is adhered to by the Rescue Organization I got my Greyhound from).

In the process of trying to rehabilitate a 4, you will only succeed in ruining the dogs spirit and ruining your relationship with this dog. The best thing that you can do is to learn to accept your Greyhound as she is (a spirited, competitive, high prey dog) and adjust your life with her accordingly. This means no off-leash play with small fuzzies (this can sometimes mean small fuzzy dogs too) and ALWAYS muzzling her around indoor cats and small dogs. Be warned though, that a muzzle is not a cure all - I have seen Tice pick up a stuffed toy while she had a muzzle on, but the muzzle will give you the extra second or two to grab the dog.

BLUE/GREY COLORING:

"Grey" Greyhounds are genetically black dogs who are also homozygous for the blue dilution gene. They are a steel or slate gray, and in show ring parlance are called "blue" rather than gray. The same quality of being homozygous (having two genes) for the blue dilution factor is what causes blue brindles (dogs with gray stripes on a tan background - they will have dark gray noses and eye rims) and blue fawns (khaki colored dogs with gray noses and mascara.) Silver brindles (black stripes on a very light, almost silvery fawn background) are caused by a different combination of genes, unrelated to the blue dilution factor.

There is also a liver dilution factor in Greyhounds, although it is very rare. I have seen liver

reds, which are red dogs with liver colored noses and mascara and generally very yellow eyes. And I have seen one chocolate. There is also liver brindle.

POOLS:

We always have kiddie pools at our Greyhound social events in the summer. It helps the dogs to cool down, to wade in and put the only part of their body that has sweat glands in the water! If a dog seems to be overly panting, we'll walk him/her into the pool and splash or pour water over them.

DOMINANT DOGS:

Greyhounds seem to be very pack oriented dogs, and quite a few Greyhounds are down right dominant in their behavior. Dominant behavior can and may be exhibited as aggression and outward intimidation, but that is not the rule.

There are many other more subtle ways in which a dog can exhibit this behavior as well...for instance: not performing a "normal" command that it knows, standing on a humans foot and refusing to budge as it stares into the humans eyes, leaping up and taking food from a human when it knows it should not, pushing you out of a nice spot that it wants, ignoring you when you are trying to work with it, stealing things, growling at you, not letting you go near it's food or toys, snapping at you, etc.... the list can go on and on.

The distinction that I use in determining if my dog is acting dominant is this: does this dog *know* better than this, and is it outwardly trying to manipulate this situation and/or trying to disrupt the pack order.

Dogs can be dominant to other dogs *as well as* to humans, and yes, even towards its loving owner. ;)

If you are having problems with a dominant Greyhound, consult the following book or other dog information on alpha status/dominance: Evans, Job Michael. (1991). People, Pooches, & Problems. NY: Howell Book House. ISBN 0-87605-783-0 (hardcover). \$19.95. Excellent suggestions for dealing with common problems between dogs and their owners.

There is also a great little pamphlet, called the ABC's of Alpha, that is available through the Direct Book Service at (800)776-2665. While you are on the phone with them, ask to have their catalog mailed to you.

Take all of the advice/instruction you can find, and temper it against the fact that Greyhounds are uniquely sensitive dogs. Weed out all of the physical types of corrections that they suggest...with a Grey these will only make things worse...and come up with a list of the more benign ways that you can establish alpha status over your dog for example:

Never let your dog do anything of any importance (go in or out of a door way, get into or out of a car) without your verbal permission.

Ask your dog to perform some small activity before it gets a treat; no free treats.

Interrupt your dog while it is eating or playing w/a favorite toy and praise it when it allows you to take/move the item. Then give it back.

Always make the dog move when it is in your way.

Don't let a dominant dog sleep in your bed with you.

GREYHOUND PLAY:

Not all, but MANY greyhounds have a style of playing that most people would call aggressive or rough when compared to other breeds of dogs. Greyhounds don't wrestle or tumble or play like other dogs do. Their play is based on what they enjoy...running and competing. Lots of posturing, mouthing, and bumping. Females can be even more aggressive at this than the males, and most of the racers that had long careers (4+ years) and were very competitive can be VERY pushy. It can be unnerving at first, but you get used to it after awhile.

I would avoid any sort of competitive chase activities with two dogs who are unfamiliar with one another, are right off the track, or who have "argued" before. Just letting them play off-lead is enough, no need to up the ante by adding in competition. Once they get to know each other and you begin to trust them together, you can add the ball chase back in. Be prepared to put the dogs in a time out though if they begin to get overly excited.

You should muzzle all of the greyhounds if there are three or more dogs together in a "play" situation.

GENDERS:

Most of the Greyhound people in our group tend to recommend a male and a female together, but from what I've observed, the "laid back" males get along fine and so do most females, once they establish a pecking order. In our experience, female Greyhounds tend to be more dominant in most households.

LURCHERS:

Generally, Lurchers are any Sighthound cross, bred primarily for poaching (originally). The idea was to get the speed and agility of a Greyhound with the endurance of a Collie and tenacity of a Terrier. In England, they have dog shows for Lurchers, many of whom have multi-generation Lurcher pedigrees, i.e., no purebreds within several generations. Most British Lurchers are wirehaired, as the dense coat is good for field dogs. Evidently, sometimes Scottish Deerhounds are used in crosses.

PHYSICS:

Here are some doggie dynamics. Thanks to Amanda and others for info on GH acceleration. I have calculated the numbers in various units (English and metric) to give everyone equal opportunity. Assumptions are stated.

1. GH acceleration. Amanda wrote to say that successful racing Greyhounds must hit a speed of 42 mph and must do so in 6 seconds.

$$42 \text{ mph} = 61.6 \text{ ft/sec} = 18.8 \text{ m/sec}$$

0 to 42 mph in 6 seconds is therefore an acceleration rate of:

$$10.3 \text{ ft/s}^2 = 3.13 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ (approx. } 1/3 \text{ rate of gravity)}$$

2. A dog on a leash "sees" something and bolts for it. Assuming a dog starts from rest, how far

will it go and how fast will it be going by the time a human reacts to the movement? I assume that it takes 2/5's of a second to become aware of the dog's motion and a further 1/5 of a second to react by tensing you arm. Total human reaction time is therefore 0.6 sec. Using the standard equations of motion for distance(d) and velocity(v) we see that:

$$d = 1/2 at^2 = 1.85 \text{ ft} = 0.56 \text{ meters (distance dog travels in 0.6 sec.)}$$

$$v = at = 6.18 \text{ ft/sec} = 1.88 \text{ m/sec} = 4.2 \text{ mph (speed of dog in 0.6 sec)}$$

3. You have a six foot leash. How long will it take the dog to get to the end of the leash and how fast will it be going when it gets there?

$$t = \sqrt{2*d/a} = 1.08 \text{ sec. (NOTE: 0.4 sec AFTER you react to movement)}$$

$$v = at = 11.1 \text{ ft/sec} = 3.38 \text{ m/s} = 7.6 \text{ mph}$$

4. Your dog weighs 66 lbs. (mass of 30 kg). The dog hits the end of the leash. How much force does this apply?

First we have to calculate the deceleration of the dog (a').

ASSUME it takes 1/10 of a second to stop dog and leash is not elastic.

Dog goes from 11.1 ft/sec to 0 ft/sec in 0.1 sec.

$$a' = dv/dt = 111 \text{ ft/s}^2 = 33.8 \text{ m/s}^2.$$

Force applied to leash (and your arm)

$F = ma' = (30 \text{ kg}) * (33.8 \text{ m/s}^2) = 1014 \text{ Newtons} = 228 \text{ lbs.!!!!}$ No wonder you get knocked down!! Remember, all of this took place in 1.18 seconds. So there you have it. These numbers are what is known as an "order of magnitude" calculation commonly referred to as "ballpark" calculations.

LURE COURSING:

American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA)
c/o Kathy Budney, Membership Chair
1098 New Britain Ave.
Rocky Hill, CT 06067 PH:203-563-0533

American Kennel Club (AKC)
c/o Dean Wright, Coursing Director
1235 Pinegrove Rd.
Hanover, PA 17331
Lure Coursing info PH:717-632-6808 Main

switchboard PH:212-696-8200
Registration info PH:919-233-9767

ASFA's point system is really quite simple once you understand it. In both Open and Field Champion Stake the system goes like this:

First Place = 4x the number of dogs in that stake, all dogs are counted. Second Place = 3x the number of dogs in that stake. Third Place = 2x the number of dogs in the stake. Fourth Place = 1x the number of dogs in the stake.

Lets say there are 5 opens and 6 field champions. The first in open would receive 20 points and the first in field champion would receive 24 points. If the two first place winners run for best of breed the winner of that receives the higher stake points, the loser of the best of breed run is not penalized, but also doesn't gain anything either (Except dogs defeated for national standings).

Is it more dangerous to course in the rain? That depends on the field condition - is it well drained, is the grass a thick carpet, etc. Yes if the field has muddy slick areas, the dogs run a higher risk of taking a nasty spill. I allow both my boys to course in the rain but I do check out the fields condition first, common sense goes a long way in enjoying the sport of lure coursing.

Muzzles are allowed, and are at the owners choice. It is strongly recommended, that if you do choose to use a muzzle on your Greyhound, that you use a racing muzzle as opposed to a turn-out muzzle. The racing muzzle will not bang the eyes and throat as the dog is running.

check out the new lure coursing FTP site:
<ftp://clark.net/pub/bdalzell>

CONDITIONING TIPS:

I'd be inclined to lay out a schedule like this:

Talk to the previous owner or trainer to ascertain the reasons that the Greyhound you intend to course was retired. If it was due to serious injury, such as a shattered hock, dropped muscle, or hip.. forget coursing. If it was a retirement for fighting, the dog will probably fight (playful interference) coursing, and it's not worth the time and effort, and it isn't fair to other coursing hounds to run a known fighter.

If neither of these things seems present, and the trainer feels the hound is capable, maybe was just too slow or too shy in "traffic", you have a good shot to have fun with your dog, it is the Greyhound you need to consider having the fun, more than the winning.

Take the Greyhound to the Vet, and have the dog checked for internal and external parasites. Make sure the Vet does an OCCULT test for heartworms, if the hound has been on Ivomec, the normal test may go negative but microfilarae could still be present. Worm with TELMIN for hooks even if the dog shows no signs of infestation. (Most Vets can't really spot hooks, better

safe than sorry).

Then start a walking routine, regular pace, starting the first three days at half a mile, working up by a half mile each day three days. By the end of three weeks of this daily walking, the dog should be ready for light sprints. Find a fenced area with a 200 yd. length, and let the dog free run 'til it looks winded, NOT DEAD TIRED.

Always allow a cool down walk afterwards. Go over the dog the next morning (careful hand inspection, get the GANNON video from the NGA to better understand the method.) Walk the increasing distance schedule, but every third day do the sprints instead, gradually increasing the distance you allow the dog to run.

In about 10 weeks, if you keep up the good work, and stop at the first signs of soreness to allow a bit of healing if necessary, the hound should have three runs of stamina at coursing distances. I wouldn't allow a Greyhound to run a full coursing weekend till they are quite used to the routine. Always check the condition of the hounds pads as well, burned pads are to be avoided.

Always back off at the first sign of overstress, ribbons are easier to come by than good dogs. There's much more to cover in getting and keeping dogs in top shape for competition but space here is at a premium.

Greyhounds run on heart, guts, and pedigree. It's the trainer's job to assure that they are able to make the most of what they are gifted with. Good conditioning not only means better chance for victory, but more importantly that the Greyhound won't get hurt in the quest for victory. Remember, dog first, you second.

SUPPLEMENTS:

Wads of vitamins and some of the "super stuff" is pretty much a waste. You do get expensive urine though <G>!

Since coursing is several runs at relatively the same distance as a 7/16 race, you should look to an endurance program. The dog should carry a pound or two heavier than let's say for a 5/16 race.

A good hi-pro type kibble, add a couple of tablespoons of olive oil, one third of the feed would be pasta <carbs>, a tablespoon of brewers yeast. One vitamin C pill. A couple of tablespoons of StressDex. Fed "wet".

At a trial, your big concern, at least supplement wise, should be electrolyte replacement. Stress-Dex is the way to go. You can snack on bananas too for potassium <Cramping> Learn to "read" the tongue, gums, eyes, tail carriage. The Greyhound will 'tell' you what is going on. Use NuSkin spray to prevent burned pads, Bickmore's Gall Salve to treat burned pads.

DAY AFTER:

First and foremost, assure yourself that the hound has no trouble urinating, acute acidosis can cause Greyhounds, males in particular, to 'tie up', IOW the kidneys aren't able to remove the broken down muscle components in the blood.

If the hound is not tied up, a thorough going over is the next line of business. "Soundness

Examination of the Racing Greyhound" - Gannon video available through the NGA - is a very good instructional tool for those unfamiliar with assessing a dogs condition to run or inspect for common areas of soreness or injury.

If the hound is sound, a normal paced walk of about a mile is good. If general soreness but no injury is present, a whirlpool the day after the race, usually five minutes with the jets set on the sore area will help. A really sore hound will get it's diet changed to low protein, high carbs (rice, pasta).

Liniments or other massage agents are good, but without DMSO as a driving agent, they are pretty useless for relieving deep soreness.

Don't use DMSO if you don't know what you are doing...DMSO is a product that drives through tough hide and takes anything on the skin with it. For example lets say you put fly repellent on your dog and then later put DMSO on - the DMSO will drive the repellent through the skin and into the muscles and possibly into the blood stream.

Any massage of the musculature should be done in the direction the muscle runs, not across the grain. I heartily believe in the use of Stress-Dex (an electrolyte replacer specifically made for Greyhounds) particularly if you run in warm or very dry climes. Used as directed, there are no ill effects. A really soft fluffy bed is a major plus for a running dog.

The best hedge against dealing with soreness or injury is to have the hound in shape for the distance before you run...it is an uphill battle otherwise. ALWAYS warm your dog up with a brisk 5 minute walk prior to the start of the course and ALWAYS walk your dog after the course to cool him down.

NutraCal can be used to prevent cramping after a run. One tablespoon prior to the first run, then repeat after the first, and then just prior to the second, and after, etc. NutraCal is a high calorie supplement designed for sick or convalescing dogs and cats. It has minerals, sugars, vitamins and carbohydrates. Bananas are also recommended to prevent cramping.

MUZZLES:

There is no requirement to muzzle in either ASFA, AKC or CKC lure coursing. The main legitimate reasons to muzzle are:

- 1) Dog is slightly aggressive and testing and practicing by the owner prior to entering into an actual field trial has shown that the dog will not interfere when muzzled although it may interfere if unmuzzled.
- 2) Dog has developed the habit of repeated biting and severing the line. Especially after the lure stops. This is frequently seen in Basenjis and Whippets. In this case the owner muzzles the dog so that the field committee will not have to replace the string after each time the dog runs. Field committees REALLY appreciate it when an owner with a dog that has developed this habit agrees to muzzle to dog.
- 3) Dog is difficult to catch after the course but will stop and try

to remove the muzzle after the run - this pause facilitates catching the dog.

A reason NOT to participate with a muzzled dog is:

Dog seriously interferes - muzzle is in place to prevent biting injuries to other hounds. In this case the dog, especially a Borzoi or Greyhound can still seriously injure the competition by slamming the muzzle and by high speed body slams. I once had a dog break a leg as a result of a body slam. Dogs that seriously interfere should be entered in singles stakes (ASFA) or in the JC runs (AKC) and should not be put into competition even if the owner is willing to muzzle the hounds.

This information was supplied by Bonnie Dalzell.

COMPUTER SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

EMAIL LISTS:

GREYHOUND-L: The list is owned and administered by Lynda Adame and was created mid-October 1994. moved to its present site in September 1995. This is a high volume list.

To join, send an email to: listserv@apple.ease.lsoft.com

In the text of the message say:

subscribe GREYHOUND-L Your Name

GHRESCUE-L: Another Greyhound related list, this one owned by Doug Reinhart, is focused primarily on

To join, send an email to: listserv@apple.ease.lsoft.com

In the text of the message say:

subscribe GHRESCUE-L Your Name

GREYHOUND-H: A Hoflin list moderated by Penny Bolt. This list has an AKC flavor to it.

To join, send an email to:

requests@h19.hoflin.com

In the text of the message say:

subscribe GREYHOUND-H

FAQS:

Here are a list of some FAQs (Files of Frequently Asked Questions) that Greyhounds owners may be interested in obtaining. You can get them via Anonymous FTP at: rtfm.mit.edu

in the following directory structures:

[pub/usenet/news.answers/dogs-faq/faq-list/activities/lurecoursing](ftp://pub/usenet/news.answers/dogs-faq/faq-list/activities/lurecoursing)

[pub/usenet/news.answers/breeds/greyhounds](ftp://pub/usenet/news.answers/breeds/greyhounds)

[pub/usenet/news.answers/pets/pets/fleas-ticks](ftp://pub/usenet/news.answers/pets/pets/fleas-ticks)

[clark.net/pub/bdalzell](ftp://clark.net/pub/bdalzell) (lure coursing FTP site)

or on the web at:

<http://www.k9web.com/dog-faqs/>

or check the news groups:

rec.pets.dogs.info

OTHER GREYHOUND SITES TO SPEND TIME VISITING:

<http://www.voicenet.com/~bark/> GH Manor Craft Site

<http://nga.jc.net/> NGA

<http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/> Adopt a Greyhound WEB Site

<http://www.abap.org/> A Breed Apart Greyhound E-zine

<http://www.eaglehead.com/dogs/> AKC Hounds

FUNNIES:

Out of the mouths o' babes, as they say, here is some prime trivia courtesy of my son's schoolmates.

"Know why I like greyhounds? Cause they're so soft."

"I like them because I'm older then they are."

"They have big teeth, but I'm brave so I can touch them." (He meant the teeth)

"Yeah, and bad breath. "

"You should brush their teeth"

(me) "I do."

"You DO? Do they have a toothbrush?"

(me) "Yup. and toothpaste."

"TOOTHPASTE!" (giggles)

(me)"Yup. It's chicken flavored."

"Yuck! How do they get the chicken in there?" "You know what's really yucky is how they lick, you know, EVERYTHING."

(My son) "When Dashy loses a tooth, the dog tooth fairy comes and leaves two bags of dog biscuits under his pillow."

"Can they run fast as a motorcycle?"

"Course, they can run as fast as a jet airplane!"

"Yeah, but they can't go as fast as my mom's car."

"Yeah, No one goes as fast as your mom." (not me, another mom)

"But they're as fast as us, right?"

"They could beat even a sixth grader."

"Even a seventh grader."

"Even my mom." "Know which one is the best one? The grey one, cause grey, greyhound, right?"

"Yeah, she's a real grey greyhound."

(Thanks to the Lexington Waldorf School Kindergarten)

PRICK EARS - A HISTORY - H. JENNINGS JR.

Prick ears are nothing new, occasionally medieval manuscripts will talk of dogs with prick ears (q.v. Le Levrier niaia, Bib. Natl. MS 12203a). However, it was with Downing in 1977 that the track world became aware of efficacy of the prick ear.

When coming into the first turn, the dogs must jockey for position, and decrease speed dramatically, so as not to go sailing off into the paddock area. Keith Dillon felt that what was needed was an air-brake system, similar to what was being employed on the Air Force's new F-15. Downing was the first and finest product of Dillon's directed breeding.

Downing was able to sustain higher speeds further into the first turn, thus being able to pass the other dogs as they slowed. At the critical point, Downings huge ears would pop straight up off his head, providing critical air resistance and slowing his speed dramatically, allowing him to make the turn. Eyewitnesses at the Hollywoodian in 1977 reported the "ka-WHUMP" of Downing's ears coming up was audible over the entire track. Invariably he lead races coming out of the second turn, and dominated down the backstretch.

Tragically it was an ear accident that cut Downing;s career short. During a training race, Downing entered the first turn, but only his left ear deployed, the right ear, ironically, in perfect rosette. The unstable aerodynamics of his half-deployed braking system pulled his head first down, then up over his left shoulder. Downing courageously avoided the traffic of the other dogs and attempted an emergency stop. Unfortunately, it was too late and Downing smashed through the outside rail, spun across an open area, and came to rest in a snow cone concession.

Downing did survive the accident, which Richard Petty compared to his dramatic turn two disaster at Darlington in 1967, however Downing would never race again. Dillon, undaunted, pressed onward with his breeding program, producing Perceive, Nicky Finn, Keefer, Understood, and a host of others with the revolutionary air-brake system. Mr. Dillon was sued by McDonnell Douglas (designers and manufacturers of the F-15) for copy right infringement in 1980. The case is now in its 11th set of appeals, and is expected to reach the Supreme Court by about 2007. In other legal battles, the owner of the snow cone concession was awarded \$.75 in compensatory damages, and \$11.7 million for pain and suffering.

+++++

These info sheets are dedicated to the memory of Bob Brady Jr. (1954 1995) Bob was a long-time participant in the dog newsgroups and was a tireless defender of Greyhound rights. He loved, and was loved, by his four 'greykids': General Hampton, Miss Charlotte, Jennie Mae, and Blaze (a.k.a. Blaze Monster). Bobs wisdom and gentle wit will be missed by many of us who's lives he touched.

We miss you Bob, and we will keep up the fight for the Greyhounds....they do need us.