

Celebrating Greyhounds

Fall/Winter 2017 Magazine



Celebrating Greyhounds

Table of Contents

3 From the Editor

6 Greyhound Bytes

**9 Ask the Expert:
Dude, You're in My
Bubble!**

Greyhounds can exhibit space aggression, making it important for owners to know what it is, how to recognize it, and how to help their hounds.

By Deb Levasseur, CTB

**14 Greyhounds Hunker
Down During Hurricane
Irma**

The Florida Greyhound racing industry was well prepared for Hurricane Irma, as humans and hounds weathered the storm without incident.

By Joe Kam

20 Let Them Sniff!

Heightened senses make Greyhounds follow their noses.

By Melissa McCue-McGrath

**24 Snickers' Chiropractic
Success Story**

By Russ Crumrine

**27 The Faster They Run,
the Harder They Fall**

Chiropractic care can benefit high-performing athletes such as racing Greyhounds even after their retirement.

By Dr. Kimberly Hunt

**31 Post Traumatic Stress
Disorder in Greyhounds**

By Mike and Judy Shamp

39 Greyhound Revolution:

A generation of change in how we humans communicate.

By Sarah Norton

**44 Through the
Editors' Eyes**

By Marcia Herman,

Cindy Hanson, and Stacy Pigott



Annie is the eighth Greyhound adopted by Dave Latter of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, since 2002.



BS Bentley, adopted by the Hughes family of Pennsylvania, through Greyhound Crossroads on December 20, 2017.

From the Editor

by Stacy Pigott

In the newsroom, there are two mantras: Get it right, and, if you can, get it first. I've spent 25 years in the publishing world working on newspapers, magazines, and news magazines. In some cases, it wasn't nearly as important to be the first to run with a breaking news story. But in every instance, it was of the utmost importance to get it right.

People rely on journalists — whether they are writing for the local paper or a monthly feature magazine — to do their homework, check the facts, and only publish correct information. And we try hard to do that. Trust me, mistakes bother editors more than anyone! But we are all human.

In the last issue, Linda Slusser submitted an article for publication and sent two pieces of artwork with it. While one of them fell under Creative Commons licensing, meaning it needs no attribution, the other was an original piece of work by a talented artist, Kent Roberts.

In the hustle and bustle of putting together a magazine, I accidentally omitted crediting Mr. Roberts for allowing us to use his oil painting in conjunction with Ms. Slusser's article. I fell short of the journalist's No. 1 job: get it right. My deepest apologies

to the artist and the author.

Luckily, I can say I've gotten it right for most of my 25 years in the publishing industry. A quarter-century is a long time, and the publishing industry has sure seen its share of changes along the way.

When I first started in the magazine business, personal computers were just getting popular. Fresh out of college, I still wrote my articles on a yellow legal pad, then typed them up for publication later. We received press releases on a thermal



Kent Roberts created this oil painting of Guinefort.

fax machine, which meant on a busy news weekend, someone had to go into the office on a Saturday afternoon and change the roll of fax paper so it didn't run out. There was no retrieving those missed faxes.

As the Third Industrial Revolution marched on, things started to go digital. Though we still printed on paper, we suddenly had the ability to send files to the printer online, and we checked proofs on the computer screen rather than on paper. We started to get emails, rather than faxes, and then texts instead of phone calls.

Soon, the morning paper became "old news." Digital publishing was all the rage. Online stories could be posted as soon as events happened and updated as new information was available. Subscriptions to newspapers and magazines plummeted, as a new era of online publications was born.

That's where the publishing industry was when I accepted the position of editor-in-chief of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. After many years of flourishing and then barely getting by as a print magazine, The Greyhound Project made the hard decision to make the magazine digital, and they needed an editor to take them there. We were undergoing the same conversations at my full-time magazine job, and I jumped at the opportunity to contribute in the world of Greyhound adoption.

For five years, we put together what I think is one of the best nonprofit digital

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Adoptions Editor: Barbara Williams

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Copy Editors: Joanne Ardizzone, Corinne Castano, Kristin Harrington, Carrie Noar, Alice O'Hearn, Kelly Swartz, Tammy Wallace

Regular Contributors: Jim Bader DVM, Guillermo Couto DVM, Bruce DeKing, Deb Levasseur CTB

Veterinary Advisor: Jim Bader DVM

Legal Advisor: John Parker

Art Director: Zographix Inc.

WEB ADDRESS

www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine

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magazines out there. We developed custom animations and embedded educational videos. We added link after link, giving people the ability to expand their knowledge of all things Greyhound beyond the “printed” page. We put our hearts and souls into making *Celebrating Greyhounds* the best digital magazine it could be.

In the five years that I have been editor of *Celebrating Greyhounds*, the publishing industry has seen even more changes. Newspapers have declared bankruptcy at alarming rates. Magazines have ceased publication with no notice. And, unfortunately, digital publications have not been the answer everyone had hoped for.

Knowing all of the facts and statistics about the decline of online magazines

doesn't do anything to take away the sting of shutting the doors on *Celebrating Greyhounds* Magazine. It hurts. Everyone who has worked on the magazine devoted hours upon hours to making sure that the product you received, whether it was in your mailbox or your inbox, was the best it could be, and we've done it all for the love of the Greyhound.

But while *Celebrating Greyhounds* Magazine is going away, The Greyhound Project isn't. Its mission statement has always been to support Greyhound adoption groups, and it will continue to do that with an e-newsletter for adoption professionals, *Celebrating Adoption Professionals*. If you work or volunteer in the adoption field, keep an eye out for it. We know you'll like it. ■

Stacy



Gypsy started Editor-in-Chief Stacy Pigott's love affair with Greyhounds.

Greyhound Bytes

West Virginia Greyhound Breeding Development Fund Could be Targeted in 2018

WHEELING, West Virginia — West Virginia Governor Jim Justice vetoed 2017 legislation that would have eliminated the state's Greyhound Breeding Development Fund, but legislators say they will try again in 2018. Monies that go into the Fund come from video lottery revenue at tracks that have dog racing. The fund is maintained by the state, making it a target of legislators hoping to reduce the state's \$500 million-estimated budget deficit. Read more at [The Intelligencer](#).

Greyhound Digs Hole, Uncovers 17th Century Ring

NOTTINGHAM, England — A Greyhound named Polo had a penchant for digging holes and unearthed a literal buried treasure. Prior to his death in 2013, Polo dug up a 17th century posy ring. The gold band was found by James Adey as he filled in the hole near the garden shed. The ring has been declared Crown property and, while Adey may get a reward for finding it, museums will have the chance to acquire it. Read more at the [Nottingham Post](#).

Judge Rules on Florida's Drug Testing System

TALLAHASSEE, Florida — Two trainers cited for positive drug tests for cocaine in racing dogs won a partial summary in a suit challenging the legality of Florida's drug-testing rules for racing Greyhounds. Judge Lawrence P. Stevenson ruled the procedures in use were invalid and in violation of state law. Read more at [Florida Politics](#), [Pensacola News Journal](#), and [Spectrum News 13](#).

Chief Commissioner Promises Changes in New South Wales Greyhound Racing Industry

BATHURST, Australia — The Chief Commissioner of the new New South Wales Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission says new rules introduced for the sport will be "tough but fair," and participants will have to abide by them if they want to be involved in the industry. The Commission, which will employ 60 full-time staff, is expected to be operational by July. Read more at [Australian Racing Greyhound](#).

Greyhound Bytes

Greyhound Adoption Numbers Rise in Tasmania

TASMANIA, Australia — Greyhound adoption has exploded in popularity across Tasmania, with record numbers of unwanted dogs finding new homes. More than 100 Greyhounds were adopted in Tasmania last year, with numbers increasing every year as the breed becomes an accepted pet choice. Administrators of the state's two main adoption programs say Tasmanians are falling in love with the breed. Brightside Farm Sanctuary director Emma Haswell said industry trainers were starting to surrender more of their unwanted Greyhounds rather than put them down. She said demand from the public was keeping up with supply from the industry. Read more at News.com.au.

Former Greyhound Friends Executive Director Acquitted on Animal Cruelty Charges

FRAMINGHAM, Massachusetts — Louise Coleman, former executive director of Greyhound Friends, was found not guilty on charges of animal cruelty. The charge was filed against her in March by Lt. Alan Borgal of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. The investigation involved multiple animal

and law enforcement agencies. Read more at [Wicked Local](#), [WCBV](#), and [MetroWest Daily News](#).

Texas Blood Bank Closes After Allegations of Neglect

CHEROKEE, Texas — Approximately 150 Greyhounds were sent to adoption groups after The Pet Blood Bank closed its doors following allegations of neglect. No evidence of abuse or neglect was found, and charges were not filed, but the owner of the facility opted to cease doing business after a national campaign and protests against The Pet Blood Bank customers by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Read more at [The Washington Post](#).

New Australia Venue Could Feature Straight-Track Racing

QUEANBEYAN, Australia — New South Wales Deputy Premier John Barilaro is hoping to relocate the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club to Queanbeyan. Greyhound racing has been banned in Canberra, where it will cease in April. It is believed straight-track racing could help alleviate injuries for racing Greyhounds, who won't have to navigate turns at high speeds. Read more at [The Sydney Morning Herald](#).

Greyhound Bytes

New Zealand's Euthanasia Numbers 'Unacceptable'

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — A 93-page report requested by the New Zealand Racing Board found that while significant improvements have been made since a 2013 inquiry, serious problems remain. While the

true number is unknown due to a lack of adequate record keeping, it is estimated 1,500 Greyhounds have been euthanized from 2013 to 2017, though the true figure could be much higher. Read more at the [New Zealand Herald](#), [Radio New Zealand](#) and [1News TV New Zealand](#).



Ernie, a 10-year-old Australian Greyhound, adopted by Sandy Hightower of Anaheim, California, through GreySave.



Beau, adopted by Barbara Draa of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, through Greyhound Options Inc.

Dude, You're in My Bubble!

Greyhounds can exhibit space aggression, making it important for owners to know what it is, how to recognize it, and how to help their hounds.

By Deb Levasseur, CTB

Has your Greyhound ever been lying down on the kitchen floor, seemingly relaxed and happy, and then — “Boom!” — out of the blue he turns into “Cujo?” This can happen when a hound does not like his personal space invaded. It is different from being territorial, in that he is not protecting his territory such as a yard, couch, or person. Rather, he is protecting his personal space, wherever he is.

A Greyhound with space aggression will tense up and show signs of stress, usually before the person or other animal even gets close enough to touch him. One early indicator is turning his head away from the approaching person or animal. This is known as a distance-increasing behavior, and if it is not respected, the Greyhound has no choice but to ramp up and increase his warnings. When he does get touched, he may let out a low warning growl proceeded



Dottie, adopted by Claire Jacobs of Wokingham, United Kingdom.

by freezing, and then he might snap or bite.

This article will explore how space aggression can develop and what we, as Greyhound owners, can do to combat it.

Racing Greyhounds are accustomed to having individual crates, which can lead to their feeling vulnerable when lying down out in the open, where people or other dogs can suddenly approach them from all directions. Certain Greyhounds seem to be

more sensitive to this than others.

Space aggression can also be developed as a learned behavior. Suppose a slightly fearful Greyhound, or an assertive one who does not have proper positive leadership, barked at an approaching person, who then stopped and retreated. The next time a person approaches, the Greyhound barks sooner and more aggressively, and the approaching person backs off. The person

backing away is reinforcing the Greyhound's behavior, so the hound's apparent viciousness will escalate each successive time. The dog has learned he can control the situation in this manner and expand his individual space by "being aggressive."

Please note, space aggression is not the same as sleep aggression, as the Greyhound is fully awake when this happens. If a dog shows signs of space aggression, it is important not to disturb him or invade his space when he is lying down. Instead, call the dog to come to you. It is vital to advise everybody in your home or visiting to call the hound to them and not invade his personal bubble.

As soon as possible, start a slow and systematic desensitization program set up by a professional dog trainer to deal with the issue. In the meantime, management is key by not allowing anyone to approach the dog while he is on his bed, or invade his personal space wherever he may be. Instead, have him approach people on his own. Every negative experience will set him back and teach him that his behavior works, and he will use it more often.

Let's face it, it's hard to control everyone who comes into your home. But we would do this for our children if they had a special need, so we really should do the same for our pets, too.

The Treatment Program:

Throughout the treatment program, it is vital to recognize stress signs and keep the Greyhound under his tolerance threshold so that he never gets to the growling stage.

- 1.** When you see your Greyhound starting to get agitated, call him to you and tell him to lie down somewhere else. This accomplishes two things. First, you are avoiding the behavior, which is important. Every time the behavior occurs, it becomes more deeply rooted, and will become more frequent and escalate in intensity. Second, you are teaching the dog to remove himself as opposed to behaving aggressively, which is counter-conditioning. He eventually learns he has a better choice that is positively reinforced by you.
- 2.** If the Greyhound is already over threshold and not listening, give a quick and sharp voice correction. Do the same thing any time he growls or snaps. This snaps him out of it, and lets him know that you are in charge and this choice is not an option for him. Remember, for verbal corrections to work, they must be delivered the split second the behavior occurs and be sharp enough to startle the dog out of it.
- 3.** The next step is to desensitize and use classical conditioning in order to teach

the Greyhound how to accept an approaching dog or person while he is lying down:

- a.** Work on desensitizing each day with one or two sessions lasting no longer than five minutes each. Have your Greyhound's favorite treats on hand. These could be hot dogs, cheese, boiled chicken, or sardines. Have him lie on his bed, or pick a time that he already is, and have someone walk the other dog or person past him at a distance that would not bother him in the least.

Treat by tossing the food to your hound and praise him for good behavior. Repeat by approaching from the same distance and always under his threshold.

- b.** Decrease the distance a few inches at a time. Treat and praise your hound each time. If he growls, freezes, or even gets tense, you have advanced too quickly. At this point, you need to back up and proceed again more slowly. It's better to go slow and proof the behavior very well.



Amelia (Chasmo's Helio), adopted six years ago by Erin Hobbs of Baltimore, Maryland, through Fast Friends Greyhounds.

- c. Eventually, work up to having a dog or person walk right next to your Greyhound and lie down beside him. At this point, randomly (not every time) toss treats.

If your Greyhound's space issue is with people, be sure to give him a cozy, safe space away from people — somewhere he is comfortable and does not have to deal with people walking past him. People should gently toss him a treat when they pass by, staying at a comfortable distance under his personal tolerance threshold. While tossing treats, they should look away, not making eye contact. If your Greyhound gets up and approaches them, they can give another treat and possibly even pet slowly under chin.

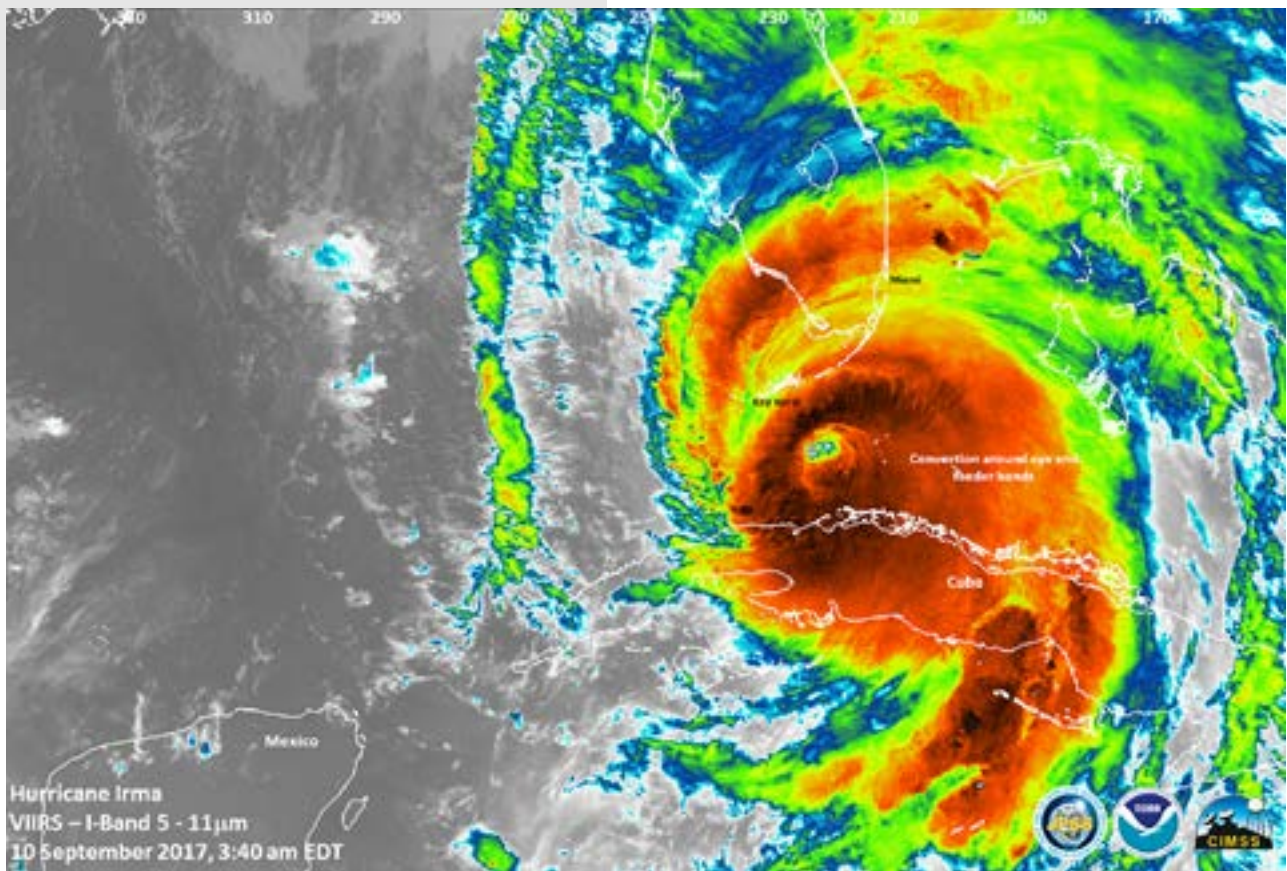
People should never force themselves on this sort of hound or ask him to come to them for the treat. It's important that there are no strings attached. This way your hound learns that good things happen when people approach, and they do not cause him even the slightest stress. Make sure you watch closely for any signs of discomfort from the dog. Every time he is pushed over threshold, it will set your training back.

To utilize the program effectively, you must go slowly to build your Greyhound's

confidence and decrease his threshold. If you start at a distance well under his threshold and increase his comfort zone slowly, you will see a measured and steady difference. On the other hand, exposing your Greyhound to what sets him off directly, called "flooding," usually backfires and makes the situation worse. Classical conditioning works much better, as it creates the association of good treats with the approach of a person or dog.

Space aggression is usually a fear-based problem, so work to make the dog feel safe. Start by earning his trust and keeping him under threshold. Working on your positive leadership program will help, too. Slow and steady wins the race! ■

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.



Hurricane Irma made landfall in Naples, Florida, as a Category 3 hurricane on September 10, 2017. Photo courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Greyhounds Hunker Down During Hurricane Irma

The Florida Greyhound racing industry was well prepared for Hurricane Irma, as humans and hounds weathered the storm without incident.

By Joe Kam

An estimated 6.3 million people were ordered to evacuate Florida as Hurricane Irma approached landfall. Hundreds of thousands traveled

long hours in search of a safe place, while millions of others stayed in their homes and refused to leave. At the tracks, approximately 6,000 Greyhounds, not



Hurricane Irma



The Greyhounds at Florida's racetracks were kept on their usual schedules as much as possible during Hurricane Irma. This included regular feedings and several turnouts a day, weather permitting.

including those in the adoption kennels, spent their time with chaperones who prepared for the storm and cared for them. Why did these Greyhounds remain at the tracks instead of hitting the road like so many others?

Staying at the tracks was safer than leaving. That may sound irrational so allow me to explain.

Most kennels were constructed using reinforced concrete block and built to

withstand extremely high hurricane-force winds. Irma was massive, but these buildings had endured Andrew in 1992; Ivan and a triple punch by Charley, Frances, and Jeanne in 2004; followed by Wilma and Dennis in 2005.

They were prepared. Kennels stocked up on food, water, flashlights, batteries, fans, and gas for those with generators. Several tracks have backup generators for the entire compound if power is lost. Veterinarians



Hurricane Irma



Trainers and kennel workers prepared the exterior of the kennels as Hurricane Irma approached. The concrete block buildings stood up to several hurricanes in the past, and easily withstood Hurricane Irma's winds and rain.

were on call and close by if needed. They had a Plan B. Though unsure of the storm's aftermath, the Greyhounds' guardians remained confident, yet cautious.

Where would you go if you chose to leave? Six states declared a state of emergency or called for evacuations, some mandatory, others recommended. These were issued as far north as the Carolinas, and for the first time in the city's history,

Atlanta was issued a tropical storm warning by the National Weather Service.

Highways were jammed with vehicles moving slightly faster than a car sitting in a parking lot. One evacuee drove 15 hours to travel from Tampa to the Georgia state line — a trip that normally would take about four hours. Another traveled three miles in three hours due to an accident.

On average, 60 to 100 racing Greyhounds reside in each kennel. Currently 40 is the maximum number you can transport at one time, by doubling, and tripling the larger compartments, of both the truck and trailer. Orchestrating

bathroom breaks in an unfamiliar, unfenced area would be extremely stressful and risky.

There was not enough time, gas, or people to assist when making two or three treks. Staff was still needed for the remaining athletes at the track.

Gas shortages, long lines at the pumps, and closed stations could be deadly. Running out of fuel leaves over three dozen hounds sitting in a truck, in temperatures above 90 degrees with no air conditioning. How would



Hurricane Irma



Entrances were sandbagged to prevent floodwaters from entering the kennels

you tend to that many Greyhounds on the side of the road, with limited access to food, water, and shade to avoid heat stroke and death?

Greyhounds are accustomed to living in climate-controlled kennels. Systems using both heating and air conditioning maintain consistent temperatures and are monitored 24 hours a day. Walking outside or in unaccustomed temperatures while stressed, is taxing. Locating accommodations with fenced-in areas and separate sleeping arrangements for the males and females would be nearly impossible.

At the track, each Greyhound has their own personal space. A group sleepover where others' feet, legs, and heads are on them, or an unwelcome snuggler close by might not be their idea of a slumber party.

One unhappy camper can incite a group riot.

Turn-outs at the tracks are monitored by people who know each dog well. They are tuned in to the sounds and behaviors that might disturb the peace, and well versed on which dogs should not be put out together and which require some alone time. More importantly, they may have experience in stopping dog fights.



While generators were often available, people stocked up on batteries and other essentials to ride out the storm in the kennels.



Hurricane Irma



The Greyhounds' caretakers made their beds right alongside the hounds' crates as they waited for Hurricane Irma to pass.

As Hurricane Irma approached, the dogs were exercised in sprint paths until conditions worsened. Daily routines were kept as normal as possible, including turn-outs and feeding schedules. They were in familiar surroundings with people they knew, loved, and trusted. Trainers, kennel owners, and kennel staff were there to maintain a calm environment, protect, and care for the dogs.

Hundreds of caretakers left their homes and families to watch over the dogs. Some evacuated to kennels with their families, including children, because they knew they would be safer there than in their

own homes. Trainers, like Stephanie at Sanford-Orlando, brought their pets with them to wait it out. When Greg, at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg went home, he had no power for six days. His kennel never lost power and the dogs barely missed a beat. During the worst of the storm, they were tucked in their beds sleeping, with their devoted friends standing guard through it all. Randell stated the

kennels at Orange Park lost power for 12 to 15 hours, while his home was without power for much longer.

The Greyhound community united with overwhelming support for those who were, or could have been, in danger due to Hurricane Irma. Thousands of us anxiously waited, with lumps in our throats and butterflies in our stomachs, for check-ins and updates from each track and our friends on Facebook, through personal emails, texts, messaging, and phone calls from those we cared about, some of whom we have never met in person.



Hurricane Irma



Content in their normal environments and regular routines, most Greyhounds at Florida's tracks rode out Hurricane Irma without any issues.

Florida's racing Greyhounds were never alone, abandoned, or tied to a tree to fend for themselves in the hurricane, unlike countless pets. The the dog men and women deserve our respect for their courage and the sacrifices they made during Hurricane Irma.

They risked their lives to protect the Greyhounds they serve, not knowing what they would face when hurricane Irma was over. ■

About the author: Joe Kam and her family adopted their first retired racing Greyhound in 2004. They currently share their Grand Rapids, Michigan, home with Sasha, a 13 and one-half-year-old Golden Retriever, and Joy (AJN Joy Lee). Joe volunteers with Allies for Greyhounds and is the founder and president of the non-profit Greyhound Facts Inc.

Let Them *Sniff!*

Heightened senses make Greyhounds follow their noses.

By Melissa McCue-McGrath



“Rex, we are late. We have to walk fast; I don’t have time for you to sniff. Let’s GO!”

Does this sound like a typical morning walk before you leave for work? You are hurrying to get in the morning walk with your dog and all Rex wants to do is sniff. It turns out, your dog might get more out of “reading” the morning pee-mail than he does walking a longer distance without sniffing.

According to **Dr. Alexandra Horowitz**, canine researcher and author of “Being a Dog: Following a Dog into the World of Smell,” dogs have 50 times the scent receptors as we people do. Dogs have approximately 300 million scent receptors in their noses, and an additional organ called the **vomerinasal organ** behind their top front teeth and under their noses.

While Rex is licking the ground and tasting the air, he is acquiring even more information through his olfactory processing organ. We only have a measly 6 million scent receptors and no additional scent-trapping organ connecting our mouths to our noses. Aside from their brachycephalic brethren (dogs with squished faces like



Sniff

is on the other side of the room telling you what the something is, how long it's been there, and if it's delicious. (Keeping in mind that delicious to a dog is very different than delicious to humans. I'm personally not a fan of picking up tossed-aside chicken bones on the side of the road, but my dog can't get enough of them. We have both decided to agree to disagree.)

We credentialed, science-based dog trainers recommend giving dogs more opportunity to sniff and explore their natural world in a way that makes sense to them. This ensures they get more mental stimulation and are generally happier. This is especially important in the summer, when the heat-of-the-day can be unhealthy and dangerous for many dogs.

Greyhounds feel the heat on the hottest of days due to their lack of insulation (body fat). Instead of taking long walks in the heat, we used to let our Greyhound Zeppelin "hunt" for his food in the back yard. We'd scatter his kibble in the grass and let him sniff it out. He got exercise without burning his feet and was able to be outside safely in the stifling hot summer months. We still adhered to making sure he was out at dawn

Boston Terriers and Pugs), most dogs have a longer snout to process all of the information going into the nasal passages, which aids in painting a fuller picture of their world. Dogs literally "see" with their nose, which is why Rex might miss the tennis ball you just threw for him. If he walks over it and is sniffing the ground, then he's looking with his nose!

In other words, when your roommate asks, "Did you smell something?" the dog

Sniff



and dusk on days projected to be above 80 even if he was sniffing in the grass for kibble, but he got much more out of his summer outdoor time when he “hunted.”

Zeppelin also took some scent-work classes. I admit, I was a bit hesitant taking my Greyhound, a dog noted for speed and lanky shape, not Transportation Safety Administration contraband-detection, to a scent-work class. That hesitation went right out the window when the instructor (and my boss at the time) said the words that still guide me as a dog trainer today: “I don’t care if he’s Rin Tin Tin or Hooch. He’s a dog and he’s made for this. We pay too much attention sometimes to what breed of dog we are working with that we forget that they are dogs first and foremost.”

Zeppy loved scent work and I learned a lot about how the nose can help in my behavior sessions with students, particularly those stressed-out in urban centers.

I started to use concepts of scent work with Sadie-Jane, a Border Collie who, for better or worse, lived in an urban environment. She struggled to cope with city life: Buses, the upstairs neighbors, dogs in the dog parks (who for some reason did not

wish to be herded up like sheep), and police cars whizzing by at all hours of the night were just the tip of the iceberg for her. The city was not her jam.

Sadie-Jane clocked in the requisite hours of aerobic activity per day. In addition, she had two, 45-minute walks, ate out of puzzle toys, played ball in the apartment, and had a full weekend calendar when we got involved in competitive canine disc. All of this was to keep an active, energetic dog satisfied in the city. This entire laundry list of daily activities was daunting and exhausting, but I did it for my best friend.

It turns out, the thing that helped her more than anything else was to stop yanking on her collar to hurry her up, and let her sniff. In fact, the only activity that truly calmed her was not the highly aerobic disc competition, nor was it agility. The activity that relaxed her in a way that was unmatched was scent work. That’s not to say she didn’t need aerobic activity — she definitely did — but a lot of the stuff I was doing with Sadie was just building her endurance and not calming her down.

Think of the scenario first presented in this article: You are walking your dog first

Sniff



thing in the morning, likely in a rush to finish your routine. Now, I want you to think of your dog's perspective as you're pulling him away from his version of the New York Times:

Rex: Hey, this is some great info!

You: Come on.

Rex: But, you have no idea! The Shih Tzu from down the street is expecting a litter! I read it in the daily!

You: Let's GO!

Rex: An asteroid is going to hit in 15 seconds.

You: COME. ON! (Yank).

Most dogs still need to get 60 minutes of aerobic activity per day (depending on the dog). Dogs still need to be trained on impulse-control behaviors and basic

manners. Dogs still need to (in my opinion) work for their food on walks, in training, and out of puzzle toys to keep their brains active. But dogs also need to use what their mamas gave 'em. They have noses that are as important to them as our eyes are to us. Every time they get on a really good scent, it's like they are seeing the lights of Rockefeller Center on Christmas Eve. Of course, having a dog sniff everything can be problematic if he wants to eat everything he sniffs or can't be redirected from time to time (our current issue is bunny nests!), but my students learn that a dog's walk is for the dog, not for us.

While we certainly reap the benefits of walking with our pup, we actually have a lot more to learn from our pets when we let them stop to sniff the roses. ■

About the author: Melissa McCue-McGrath, CPDT-KA, is the author of [Considerations for the City Dog](#) which is available on Kindle and paperback. She is a dog trainer out of Boston, Mass., and has a special interest in how urban environments affect our dogs' behavior. She also is one-half of the [Car Talk FIDO blog](#). For details, visit [MelissaMcCueMcGrath.com](#).



Snickers' Chiropractic Success Story

By Russ Crumrine



After receiving chiropractic treatment, Snickers showed off his speed at GREYlong's Gallivantasia, held in September 2017. The annual fundraiser supports humane research on the causes of and cures for canine cancer.

I adopted Snickers in May 2016, when his racing career ended after 93 races. He did not exhibit any injuries that I noticed, and became my new therapy pet partner with a local therapy pet group. At one of the group's regular meetings, the speaker, Dr. Kimberly Hunt, a chiropractor

who is also a certified animal chiropractor, gave a presentation and demonstration. I wondered what kind of shape Snickers was in as a result of his racing career.

I made an appointment for Snickers with Dr. Hunt at **Chiro 4 Paws** to have her do an overall assessment. The first thing she

Snickers' Success

did was to watch him walk. She immediately noted that he walked with the knee and foot of his right rear leg turned slightly out. Neither my veterinarian nor I had noticed this. Dr. Hunt believed he was compensating for some type of injury to the leg. As I reflected on what she said, it seemed to explain his unwillingness to run in the dog park, to always turn and urinate with weight on his left back leg, and not jump in the vehicle.

During that first appointment, Dr. Hunt did a thorough, hands-on exploratory assessment of Snickers' body. Before she began, she talked to Snickers to establish a rapport with him. It was fascinating to watch her check his legs, feet, neck, and back. She explained what she was doing and why, as well as what she found.

She found indications of some type of injury to his right rear leg, and specifically the knee, tendon, and foot. She also noted what she called "adhesions" in the ribs on his left side, and some areas of adjustment along his spine. These likely resulted from bumping into other dogs during a race.

Snickers has had a total of four treatment appointments with Dr. Hunt, ranging from three to four weeks to three months apart. During each of the visits, she manipulated, stretched, and kneaded the affected areas.

I also received homework. She demonstrated and explained what home therapy actions I was to perform on Snickers in between visits. I took videos and photos of her demonstrations, so I would remember how to do everything correctly. These home treatments became part of my nightly quality time with Snickers, although I think at times he resented my disturbing his couch roaching to have him lay on a comforter on the floor.

I won't say I was skeptical of the benefit of taking Snickers to an animal chiropractor; since I had never used one myself, I was unfamiliar with the possible positive outcomes of an animal chiropractor. Now, I am convinced that chiropractic treatment is worthwhile. The positive changes I have observed in Snickers include: he will, from time to time, urinate putting weight on his right rear leg; he will stand on his two back legs to greet someone or peer in an open car window (new behaviors I need to modify); and, most importantly, he will run around the dog park with other Greyhounds.

I make sure that Snickers sees the veterinarian on a regular basis for checkups, vaccinations, and other tests as necessary. Given the vagaries of aging, and I mean for Snickers and other Greyhounds, not me of course, I am convinced of the utility of regular

Snickers' Success

checkups and tune-ups with a chiropractor to keep him healthy and fit, along with his visits to the veterinarian. I want to see Snickers actively participating in Greyhound gatherings and serving as a therapy pet for many years to come. ■

About the author: Russ Crumrine lives in Kansas and adopted Snickers in 2016 from

*MOKAN Greyhound Adoption, after losing his first Greyhound, Elmo. Russ volunteers with MOKAN Greyhound Adoption and has done some volunteer work with GREYLong Charity to help raise money for canine cancer research. He and Snickers also volunteer with a therapy pet group, visiting a variety of schools, medical, and other facilities. Originally published in GreyTales, the official newsletter of **GREYlong**.*



Gracie, adopted by Nate and Elizabeth Thames through Greyhound Options Inc.

The Faster They Run, the Harder They Fall

Chiropractic care can benefit high-performing athletes such as racing Greyhounds even after their retirement.

By Dr. Kimberly Hunt



A Greyhound's blistering speed can result in injuries that might benefit from chiropractic treatment.

Anyone who lives with a Greyhound knows this breed is special, as is evident in their size, shape, speed, and sensitivity. Retired racing Greyhounds are unique due to their history as professional athletes.

I've had the pleasure of working with several

retired Greyhounds, each with its own story. Common among them is an early end to a promising career. Some were champions whose performance mysteriously declined. A couple had blatant injuries or mild lameness. One was dismissed, before her career began, after breaking her ankle during training.



Dr. Kimberly Hunt and her pets, Jackson, Rapha, and Buddy.

Each one of my Greyhound patients presented with gait abnormalities along with joint and soft-tissue dysfunction. Similar to my experience with human athletes, who sustain injury upon injury, healing racing dogs is a tedious process. But why are racing dogs more resistant to healing than my other furry patients? In fact, they're not. They actually take longer to heal because their injuries are more extensive.

Think in terms of a car crash. A vehicle that crashes at 25 miles per hour (mph) is a lot less banged up than one traveling 50 mph. A Greyhound, the fastest canine, can run at speeds up to 45 mph. On the racetrack, even the slightest bump from a competitor can cause damage. Slipping on a damp surface at

that speed can be especially disastrous, often leading to a broken limb. Some sustain much less obvious injuries and continue to race because the owners are unaware of the resultant biomechanical ineptitude. This occurs because of the dog's amazing ability to compensate when injured. In the wild, animals cannot show pain or weakness, so they shift their body weight off their injured limbs and carry on, as if nothing happened. Eventually, after multiple injuries over months or even years, the animal can no longer compensate and we see signs of dysfunction. Athletic performance steadily declines. By this time, the injuries and compensations are severe and complex. Imagine a vehicle that's been in multiple high-speed car crashes. That's what

walks into my office!

From a treatment perspective, I've found that **adjusting the joints** is often insufficient for a complete recovery because ligament, tendon, muscle, and fascial injuries must be addressed before the joint dysfunction will resolve long-term.

Imagine a Greyhound running full blast across a field. Suddenly, out of nowhere, the Greyhound encounters a huge hole in the ground. As the front left limb comes crashing down into the hole, all the front-end muscle fibers, tendons, and fascia (thin sheath of fibrous tissue covering the muscle) tighten up to try to protect the limb from a break or dislocation. Immediately afterward, the Greyhound limps for a few steps, then shakes it off. He seems fine. Fast-forward months or years later when he seems to lose interest in running, has a slight limp, and/or cries out with certain movements. When he comes into my office, I find adhesions (scar tissue) in the muscle fibers, tendons, ligaments, fascia, and loss of normal mobility in the corresponding joints. In reality, he was not OK after the injury; rather his innate survival mechanism kicked in and he compensated for as long as possible.

As for compensation, imagine your car is driving with a bent rear axle. The result is

improper wear and tear on the constant-velocity joints, wheel hubs, bearings, etc., all of which will eventually fail after enduring improper stress. The same happens in a dog who compensates for an untreated injury.

As with our earlier example, the left-front limb dysfunction causes a compensatory weight shift to the right-front and/or right-rear limb, resulting in improper wear. Eventually, right-front or right-hind limb lameness is the presenting complaint, even though the left front is ultimately to blame and will also need to be treated for complete recovery. Additionally, front-limb dysfunction can lead to lower-neck issues since the neck and shoulder are origin and insertion points for shared muscle groups.

So it's obvious that Greyhounds are prone to injury and, by the time they enter my office, they have layers of complex biomechanical dysfunction involving multiple joints, tendons, ligaments, and fascia. Greyhounds are good at hiding pain and weakness, so their owners don't seek chiropractic care until the dysfunction is extreme.

My recommendation is regular **chiropractic wellness checkups** for all racing and recently retired Greyhounds. I believe if all racing Greyhounds received regular chiropractic exams and treatments, then fewer would be forced into

early retirement. This concept translates to other working dogs and canine athletes, including cattle herders, disc dogs, dock divers, and agility dogs, all of whom benefit from regular chiropractic care.

For non-racing Greyhounds and all other non-working domesticated canines, I recommend an examination and treatment at least three times each year. During these visits, biomechanical dysfunction can be proactively identified and fixed before it becomes symptomatic and debilitating. Obviously, if you witness an injury, then get your Greyhound checked immediately, even if he appears to be fine. ■

*About the author: **Kimberly Hunt, DC**, is an animal chiropractor and rehabilitation specialist in the Kansas City, Kansas, area. A 2001 graduate of Cleveland Chiropractic College, she treated human patients for many years before opening her animal chiropractic practice. Through her involvement with dog agility, Dr. Hunt realized a need for animal chiropractic care, so she attended Options for Animals College of Animal Chiropractic. She is certified by the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA).*



Eliot wasn't expected to live through the month when he was adopted by *Celebrating Greyhounds* Magazine Editor-in-Chief Stacy Pigott. Two years later, he's still going strong!



Marvin's experiences in a veterinary clinic led to him not trusting people, especially those with leashes. A bite threatened his life until Mike and Judy Shamp stepped in to evaluate and help the young hound.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Greyhounds

By Mike and Judy Shamp

Many people who work or volunteer in Greyhound adoption can understand and forgive a Greyhound that bites another dog or cat, attributing this to prey drive or dogs just not getting along. It is much harder to accept when a Greyhound bites a person or shows any aggressive behavior toward a human, especially if you are the one on the receiving end. We immediately consider the

liability of adopting out the dog and worry about a potential lawsuit.

This article is one example of the dogs we have brought back from the edge of insanity and were able to restore their trust in people again.

Marvin's Story

I received an emergency call late one afternoon from an adoption group



PTSD in Greyhounds

the leash with pain for two reasons: a fall in the kennel area and being leashed for procedures. He was also reactive to the fear exhibited by other animals in the veterinarian's office. Marvin was a very normal dog in the beginning, but a combination of these factors triggered an aggressive response.

Marvin befriended two people in the veterinarian's office, the office manager and the groomer. He spent most of his days with the groomer. The bite occurred in the grooming room when the adoption coordinator came in with a leash to take him from the facility. Our challenge was to safely remove the dog from the office before his scheduled euthanasia the next day. No one wanted this outcome, however, the bite to the adoption coordinator was very serious and caused great concern.

Mike and I met Marvin at the clinic the very next day. Even after dealing with many other Greyhounds that had bitten people, this was a bit scary. Wearing long sleeves and gloves, we came prepared with lots of good treats, leashes, and a muzzle. The veterinary technicians took Marvin to the fenced outdoor yard to avoid reactive behavior in

Marvin benefitted from living with other Greyhounds in the Shamp's home as he learned to trust people again. He quickly got over his aggression toward leashes when he was allowed to go on walks with the rest of their dogs.

coordinator about a blood donor Greyhound at a veterinarian's office. She just received a nasty bite on her hand and was on her way to the emergency room. The dog's name was Marvin. The coordinator was trying to get him out of the veterinarian's office because he had become a liability to the staff.

Marvin had become distrustful and dangerous, especially if a person had a leash in their hand. He learned to associate

PTSD in Greyhounds



Marvin may never be able to safely visit a veterinary clinic again, but that's OK. His new owner makes sure the veterinarian comes to him to help prevent any more episodes of PTSD from his past.

the office. After observing his behavior for a few minutes through the window, we went outside into an adjacent fenced area. We fed some treats through the fence onto the ground, which he ate gratefully and became less wary of us as strangers. The entire staff watched from a window inside the clinic as we entered the same area as Marvin.

Concerned that we might traumatize Marvin, we took our time and left the leash

hanging on the gate. By tossing the treats on the ground close to him, we were able to lead him up to us. We then tossed treats away from us, to lead him away. After several repetitions, he learned he could trust us enough to walk up to us and leave whenever he chose. Soon, Marvin was taking treats from our hands. He was beginning to like this game.

Mike made a snare out of two leashes

PTSD in Greyhounds

and placed it on the ground. We moved the treats closer to the leashes and eventually into the center of the snare. When Marvin bent down to take a treat from the center, we slowly and gently raised our ends up and over his head. We had him on a slip lead without incident.

The next challenge was to lead him out of the enclosed area and through the gate to the parking lot. He had lived there for so long, he was very nervous about leaving and hesitated when we went through the gate. Without pulling on the leash or being physical in any way, we led him gently with food to the van. By this time, Marvin was taking food from my hand, making it easy to slip on a muzzle. The staff had been unable to muzzle him for months. Now that he was muzzled, we needed to get him into my van.

The groomer climbed into the back and called Marvin. As he put his front feet on the back of the van, he hesitated. Without pause, Mike and I quickly scooped up his back end to boost him inside. Marvin



Sparky (FTK Boca Raton), adopted by Coleen Dunchak of Canfield, Ohio.

suddenly turned, growled, and was ready to lunge and bite, except that Mike and I immediately, in unison, delivered a loud growl-like correction sound, similar to a growl that dogs make. Marvin backed down

PTSD in Greyhounds

immediately. We knew at this point we could help Marvin, because he responded by dropping his head in submission. We also recognized that his main problem stemmed from the environment. We were hopeful that, together with trust and leadership, we could build new positive associations.

Analysis and Remediation

Most of Marvin's past socialization consisted of interactions with the clinic staff for feeding and play in the turn-out yard. Although Marvin was allowed to roam around the kennel hallway and visit the grooming room, his only outside exposure or socialization was the car ride from the racetrack to the clinic. During his nine-month stay at the clinic, he fell and injured his hip running on the concrete floor of the kennel. From that point forward, despite pain treatments, he became wary of anyone holding a leash. Our assumption was that in his mind, the leash caused the pain in his hip, or represented getting stuck with a needle for a blood transfusion. This, combined with his pain and reluctance to give blood, evolved into distrust of the clinic staff.

Remediation began by teaching Marvin to trust and feel safe. We began with a

medication regimen prescribed by our veterinarian to alleviate his pain, combined with supplementation with glucosamine/chondroitin to rebuild the damaged joint and connective tissue. Our own dogs and the foster dogs in our home provided a social environment where Marvin could see other dogs trusting us and listening to us as leaders. He was allowed to roam the foster area and yard freely, and we reintroduced him to his crate with treats. He was fed in the crate like all the other dogs. This step helped him feel more secure by giving him a place where he could relax without human or canine interference. He quickly adjusted by watching the other dogs in our home go into their crates to eat and sleep.

We purposely avoided calling Marvin to us or giving him attention other than feeding to avoid actions that could appear threatening. Within a few days, he was approaching us to get pets and praise, and he soon began responding to our commands and house rules.

Leash walking was easier, due to the exuberant behavior of all the other dogs when it was time to take a walk. Marvin's aggressive behavior around leashes disappeared quickly. He could not resist

PTSD in Greyhounds



Baxter, adopted by Jim Fitz through Arizona Adopt A Greyhound.

joining the pack, and slipped eagerly into his collar for walks. Things were going well in our home after less than a week; however, we were very conscious of his ability to revert and bite again. As with any other dog we work with, we were not afraid of Marvin's history, but we had a high level of respect *for his past*.

Marvin stayed with us for about five weeks and was doing very well. We felt he could be adopted to the right home after he made one more trip to the vet for his yearly exam and vaccinations. We didn't know how

he would react, so we chose a holistic vet at a non-busy time. The office was atypical in that everyone who goes there feels relaxed. We didn't know for sure how he would react so we muzzled him as we brought him into the lobby. He appeared to be doing fine, so we took the muzzle off, and our vet came in for the exam.

We were feeling pretty good overall until he heard the sound of another dog crying out with pain. This put him into complete panic, like a trip back to a scarier time. It was immediately apparent that life in a veterinary

PTSD in Greyhounds

clinic as a blood donor had affected his psyche. Marvin was exhibiting what we see in people that have been through traumatic events, commonly known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. We took Marvin outside and walked him around, not sure he would ever be able to visit a veterinarian's office. It would be necessary to find Marvin a special home where the vet came to the dog. After he calmed down and was relaxed under a shade tree, our veterinarian came outdoors and completed the exam and administered the vaccinations. He had no problem outside the clinic and was his sweet self.

Marvin's recovery from aggressive to calm and happy was the result of giving him time to adjust in a non-threatening environment where he was able to learn trust from the dogs around him. As behavioral therapists, we applied rules and training to teach him to live in a home setting. Rushing through the process or ignoring his need for structure would have prolonged his mistrust of people and may have resulted in a very undesirable outcome.

Aggressive behavior does not need to end in euthanasia and is solved by respecting the dog's personality and providing the proper support through training and

behavior modification. Adoption groups that are confronted with aggressive behavior in a Greyhound can be helped by a canine behavior therapist that is competent and well versed in aggressive behavior. In the majority of cases of aggressive dogs we have encountered, the aggression can be traced back to a breakdown in trust. So much depends on the dog's unique genetic temperament, personality, and ability to adapt.

Successful Adoption

Marvin needed a special home. Orlando, Florida, was saturated with Greyhounds, and we don't get many applications for special needs dogs. A good friend, Hettie, was president of Fast Friends Greyhound Adoption in Maryland. She is an expert in placing special needs Greyhounds. As we talked to Hettie about the best home for Marvin, a former adopter contacted her, looking for a special needs Greyhound. Hettie told her about Marvin and how a mobile veterinarian that came to him instead of taking the dog to the clinic would be best. Kate Miska told us her best friend was a veterinarian, and all of this could be arranged.

Marvin went to live with Kate in

PTSD in Greyhounds

Maryland, and is now a well-adjusted, normal Greyhound. It doesn't mean he may never have a flashback, but as he continues to develop trust in his new owner and environment, his negative behavior will become less frequent and hopefully non-existent. ■

About the authors: Mike and Judy Shamp are canine behavioral therapists with Bark Buster's Home Dog Training. They recently moved to Texas from Orlando, Florida, where Judy worked as a university professor and Mike worked as a Bark Buster Behavioral Therapist. Judy is

*President of Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions and has had 16 years of Greyhound adoption experience. They have fostered as many as 12 Greyhounds at a time, helping them learn to adapt to home life and move into adoption. Mike has been a frequent speaker at Greyhound events and teaches a class for expectant families with dogs called Fido and Baby. Today, they live in Celina, Texas, where they both are continuing as Bark Buster Behavioral Therapists in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Mike and Judy give the credit for being able to help Marvin to Danny and Sylvia Wilson, the co-founders of **Bark Buster's Home Dog Training**.*



AJ's Its My Life, adopted by the Almond family of Greenville, South Carolina, through Greyhound Crossroads on December 29, 2017.

Greyhound Revolution:

A generation of change in how we humans communicate

By Sarah Norton



This is the final issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. It's been 21 years and a generation, and boy has the world changed.

When the magazine was founded in 1996, the Internet was in its infancy, a majority of retired racing Greyhounds had no future, and dozens of new adoption groups were forming annually.

People read magazines and talked on the phone. When they stumbled upon each other in the brand new online world, they were excited to meet others that shared their love of Greyhounds. These emerging digital communities enabled the sharing of stories, knowledge, and resources.

To illustrate the void filled by *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* then, and why the time has come to move on, let's take an abbreviated look back at the past 25 years.

In the early 1990s, there were some dark corners in the world of Greyhound racing. It could be easy to assume the worst, since too many dogs did not have a chance at life after their careers. Still, many industry professionals cared deeply for the dogs and worked to find them successful retirement homes. At the same time, companion pet owners were beginning to learn what racing professionals already knew: Greyhounds make fantastic pets. The Greyhound adoption movement was taking form, and it was spurred by those most passionate on both sides of the issue.

The Greyhound Project was founded in 1993 to help shine a light on the hounds and assist adoption groups with their work, and we



chose to be neutral on the subject of Greyhound racing. Board members have always fallen on both sides of the issue, and we all agreed — then and now — that the most important thing is getting the overflow of dogs into homes.

In December 1993, The Greyhound Project launched a newsletter called *Speaking of Greyhounds*. Its purpose was to share information with adoption groups, and its circulation grew exponentially over the coming years.

At the same time, the way we communicate was changing rapidly. We loved it when our favorite vendors actually had a website, and electronic commerce was a new buzzword. Amazon was founded as an online bookstore in 1994. AOL, Prodigy, and CompuServe were founded and offered email service in 1995. Most of us still picked up the telephone, even though we didn't know who was calling. If we had an email account, we looked forward to receiving new messages.

In the Greyhound world, this communication revolution gained momentum with a group of folks who met via an electronic discussion group called the Greyhound List (aka Greyhound-L), founded in 1994. For several years, this was the primary place for Greyhound owners to connect with and learn from each other.

By 1996, *Speaking of Greyhounds* was mailing to more than 1,000 adoption professionals. Long-form journalism was still the norm, and it was clear that the people adopting the dogs also craved Greyhound information resources. The time was ripe to launch *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. The Greyhound Project continued publishing *Speaking of Greyhounds* until 1998, when the publications were combined. It was such a treat to have a newsletter — and then a whole magazine — devoted to our favorite breed.

As the Internet became more ubiquitous, specialized Greyhound-related groups formed, focusing on topics such as grief support, medical issues, specific events, and racing.





Greytalk, founded in August 2000, grew quickly and eventually overtook the Greyhound-L as the busiest discussion forum. In 2004, Facebook paved the way for what would be another communications revolution in the Greyhound community. Other social media sites were not far behind.

While technology was changing the way the world communicates, *Celebrating Greyhounds* Magazine continued to publish and mail four 50-plus page print issues per year at a cost of around \$30,000 an issue. At its height, the magazine made a small profit and had a paid subscriber base of about 6,000. Even when it didn't break even, it was a perfect fit with The Greyhound Project's mission "to promote the welfare and adoption of Greyhounds by providing support and information to adoption organizations, adopters, and the public."

In 2013, The Greyhound Project made the difficult decision to move *Celebrating Greyhounds* to a digital format. That cut costs more than \$20,000 per issue, and it meant we could continue publishing. Although we faced criticism from a few people who strongly missed their paper issues, most people understood the necessity when they considered the cost of printing and mailing hard copies. Far from being "free," producing the digital model still cost about \$6,000 per issue.

Today, there are many places to learn about Greyhounds and to commune with fellow Greyhound enthusiasts. Generational communication and learning preferences continue to favor social media and search engines. When we want answers, a few typed words bring the world to our fingertips.

Like so many publishers around the world, we accept that times have changed. We hope you will





agree that we're exiting on a high note with this issue.

The magazine has been shepherded by three stellar editors-in-chief over the years: Marcia Herman from its 1996 inception through Fall 2001, Cindy Hanson from Winter 2001 through Spring 2013, and Stacy Pigott from Spring 2014 to now. Reflections on each of their tenures are elsewhere in this issue.

From the Winter 1999 issue to today, *Celebrating Greyhounds* has been beautifully designed by paid professional graphic artists. Articles are submitted and edited by volunteers, some of whom are professional writers and editors, others experts in their fields. The editor-in-chief receives a small stipend for each issue, but it's just a drop in the bucket compared to the boatloads of work each issue demands.*

The print magazine staff and contributors earned 10 Best Single Breed Publication "Maxwell Awards" from the Dog Writers Association of America. Since going digital, the magazine won the Dog Writers Association Maxwell Award for Best Article or Blog on Health or General Care for its series on osteosarcoma in the Spring and Fall 2015 issues.

Celebrating Greyhounds' editors and contributors have created an incredible resource over the past 21 years, and that content will not be forgotten. We are currently working to make it available to everyone online at no cost. Since authors' permissions are granted as part of the full magazine, only complete issues will be available.

These issues will come online gradually, beginning with the most recent. If you are interested in hearing when issues become available, please **sign up for updates**. Current and past

**Many thanks to Stacy Pigott for donating her time for this final issue.*





subscribers will automatically be notified if we have their email address and if they haven't opted out of our mailing lists.

As The Greyhound Project celebrates its 25th year, we're returning to our publishing roots: a periodic newsletter for adoption groups. Celebrating Adoption Professionals will be published digitally on an ad hoc basis, and it will be edited by Stacy Pigott. We welcome content focused on the needs of adoption professionals. Please send your ideas and images to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org.

In addition to Celebrating Adoption Professionals, The Greyhound Project continues to maintain an international directory of Greyhound adoption organizations, publish wall calendars and weekly desk diaries for adoption groups to resell, and promote Adopt-A-Greyhound Month with a rigorous national public relations campaign each April. **Donations** are gratefully accepted to support these efforts.

Thank you to our readers for your years of generous support and lively feedback. Thank you to Marcia Herman, Cindy Hanson, and Stacy Pigott for your thoughtful and intelligent stewardship over the years. Thank you to the wonderful team of copy editors who have given up their personal time to make each issue read like they got paid for it. And thank you to every person who has contributed toward the incredible wealth of content in this magazine, making each issue a small treasure. ■



About the author: Sarah Norton has served on the board of The Greyhound Project since 2001 and as president since 2016. She's managed VCA Wakefield Animal Hospital since 2002.



Through the Editors' Eyes

In the Beginning

by Marcia Herman



Marcia Herman, the first editor of *CG Magazine*, and one of her adopted hounds, Graham.

Greyhound adoption really started to take off in the early 1990s. Joan Belle Isle and The Greyhound Project decided to write a newsletter for adoption group people. After word got out about this newsletter, greyhound adopters wanted to get copies, too. But *Speaking of Greyhounds* was geared toward the business of adoption, not toward the needs of adopters. So, in 1996, The Project decided to put out a publication for adopters. *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* (sometimes known as *CG Magazine*) was born. But someone to create it, get articles, edit it, and “desktop” it was needed. Joan called on me, and I accepted immediately. I had wanted to do something like this for several years, and this was a dream come true.

I knew nothing about preparing a magazine for publication, so I learned Publisher software as fast as I could. Even with that, the magazine came out



Lorenzo was adopted by Marcia Herman.

looking like a 5-year-old did it. Some of the characters in Publisher didn't work in a commercial printing house. Some titles looked something like this: @&%#! I was appalled, but people still loved it. The earliest highlight of CG Magazine was when I got a letter from the late Roger Caras shortly after the first issue came out, congratulating me for "creating this delightful magazine."

Each year the magazine got better and bigger. Yours truly needed to learn



Marcia Herman and Perri.

Pagemaker software. It drove me nuts, but it was more powerful than Publisher. The magazine took ads, too. The You're Invited section listed Greyhound events from around the country. As the magazine got better, it started being nominated and then winning the highly regarded "Best Single Breed Magazine" award given by the Dog Writers Association of America. Eventually, the magazine was prepared for publication by professional designers and developed a more polished look.

In 2001 I handed over the reigns to Cindy Hanson. Under her care, the magazine continued being successful and winning awards for many years. ■

About the author: Marcia Herman served as editor-in-chief of Celebrating Greyhounds from 1996-2001. Her website, [Greyhound Articles Online](#), houses a library of Greyhound-related articles from 1899 to present, including many from this magazine.

Winter 2001-Summer 2013

By Cindy Hanson



Cindy Hanson, the second editor of *CG Magazine*, and Petey, owned by Susie Collins.
Photo by Kathy Lazenby.

“YIKES! We need help!”

Editor-in-Chief Marcia Herman’s call for volunteers appeared in the Spring 1999 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*.

Hmmm, I thought. I had been a subscriber since the beginning. When I adopted my first Greyhound, Herman Monster, in 1996, my going-home packet contained a handful of cards and flyers

promoting things of potential interest to new Greyhound owners. One was a subscription card for a new publication, *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*.

“The good news is that we know there are plenty of talented folks out there who want to do something to promote Greyhound adoption, but just haven’t yet found their niche. Here is your opportunity.”

I talked with one of my local Greyhound friends, Mary Bauer. She had already e-mailed Marcia, she said, and was going to start volunteering as a copy editor.

“That sounds fun,” I said. I’d gotten good feedback on my writing in high school and college. I enjoyed writing, so I’d probably enjoy copy editing.

Mary and I started copy editing in early 2000, for the Summer issue. Around the end of that year, Marcia asked me to take the new role of adoptions editor, wrangling articles with adoption-related content as Dana Provost had begun doing with the Fall issue, for features. I was enjoying my work for the magazine and happily accepted the new responsibility.

Little did I know what was coming next. In mid-2001, Marcia e-mailed the entire staff, announcing that she was stepping out of the editor-in-chief role due to family obligations. She asked if anybody would be interested in being her replacement. I mulled it over for a couple days, then sent a

Selected facts and figures 1993-2017

By Joan Belle Isle

The Greyhound Project formed:	1993
First issue of Speaking of Greyhounds:	1993
First Celebrating Greyhounds calendar:	1994
Greyhound-L launched:	1994
Greyhound E-zine A Breed Apart launched:	1994
First Greyhounds Reach the Beach:	1994
First multi-state haul of surplus Greyhounds from track closing (Waterloo):	1995

When The Greyhound Project Began vs. Today*

	THEN (1993)	NOW (2017)
# of Greyhound tracks in North America	50	16
# of U.S. states with Greyhound tracks	15	6
# of Greyhounds registered with the NGA	35,000	10,000
# of NGA members	4,200	2,000
# of U.S. Greyhound adoption groups	100	250

(*Numbers are approximate)

About the author: Joan Belle Isle served on the board of The Greyhound Project from 1993 to 2014, and she served as president from 1994 to 2008.

response asking her about the qualifications for the position. I don't remember her exact response — something along the lines of "You can do it." I remember telling her that I was interested but if there was somebody else with longer tenure at the magazine, I would defer to them.

You're it, she responded. Nobody else had stepped forward.

Okey dokey, I thought. At the time, I didn't even own a computer.

Marcia was a superb and generous coach for the Winter 2001 issue, my first as Editor-in-Chief but really a joint production with Marcia. She sent me an enormous set of procedure files that I printed and stored in a three-ring binder, as well as a file of clip art, queries, articles in progress, and so

forth. She reviewed all my files and patiently answered all my questions. With the transfer of the magazine's post office box from Connecticut to Minnesota, the transition was complete.

At that point, I began planning my life in quarters. March 1: Mailing date for the Spring issue, and submission deadline for the Summer issue, kicking off the editing process. Also the date by which I would start having conversations with our regular contributors about the subject of their column for the Fall issue. Soon after, I would follow up (again) with the writers who had previously committed to submitting an article for the Fall issue. In addition, I would gently but persistently contact the folks who hadn't followed through on their commitments for Summer to see if we might be able to get something late. At the same time, I would begin to collect and prepare the rest of the content for the Summer issue.

During this process, I was always looking for content for future issues, because a quarterly publication is a beast that needs constant feeding. Very few unsolicited articles arrived in my mailbox.

Many people who wrote articles for *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* had never written for publication before, and had never even considered writing about their experiences before being asked to do so. None of this would have worked, of

course, without the best crew of volunteer editors imaginable. They did a fantastic job of cleaning up errors, pruning excess, reorganizing, and tightening language while preserving the writer's voice.

Looking back, I think the fact that most of our writers were telling their own stories was a big reason for my decision to build each issue around a theme. Every story has multiple parts; if we can get several people involved in an issue or story to write about their part, we'll get a more complete picture and lessen the burden on any individual writer.



I introduced this with the Spring 2002 issue, whose theme was "Greyhounds On the Move." Articles united by this theme

included a piece about the experience of a Greyhound evacuating from New York City on September 11, 2001; a Greyhound learning to adjust to life on three legs; cross-country hauls and GURs, from the perspective of the planners and the drivers; and two articles about Spanish Galgos on the move — one about a Dutch adopter traveling back to Spain with her adopted Galgo and one about a U.S.-based adoption group bringing Galgos to the U.S. for adoption. From that point forward, each year typically included at least one adoption-based theme (Greyhounds Behind Bars, Young Volunteers, Track Closures), one Greyhounds-being-active theme (Greyhounds and Animal-Assisted Therapy, Travel With Your Greyhound), one international theme (Greyhounds of Ireland, Greyhounds Down Under, What About the Galgos?), and either one devoted to Greyhound care (Greyhounds and Cancer, Emergency Preparedness and Your Greyhound) or one devoted to what I loosely define as the “culture” of greyhound ownership (Greyhound Mascots, Greyhounds in the City). And in the broadest sense, I always have thought of Greyhound adoption as a social movement whose coverage is a big part of *Celebrating Greyhounds*’ mission.

In the Summer 2013 issue — my last as editor-in-chief — I said pretty much everything I wanted to say to our subscribers, contributors, editors, advertisers, and

everybody who made *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* possible as a print



publication. The move from print to digital format was going to be a big one; I knew it was time for me to step aside.

In the five years since, I have been busy spending time with Greyhounds Jethro (RIP), Siryn, and Jerry; working a full-time job for the financial services firm that has employed me for 23 years; knitting for charity; traveling to Spain to work at a Galgo refuge (February 2017); and volunteering for a number of local organizations, including the county historical society, the local women’s roller derby team, and Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption. Although I no longer measure time in calendar quarters, I still miss working with *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. I will always be grateful to Marcia Herman and The Greyhound Project for trusting me with stewardship of the publication they created.

The Digital Era

By Stacy Pigott

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine had already been without an editor for one issue by the time I came on board in late 2013. The hard decisions about going digital were done; some amazing volunteers at The Greyhound Project, including Michele Maxwell and Naty Saylor, did the difficult work of deciding the size and format of the new online publication, and had even picked a production company. Graphic designer Ruthann Cassidy had done an amazing job with the layout, just as she did with the print issue for many years. The first issue was impressive, but I knew we had room to grow. And grow we did.

Putting together a digital magazine isn't really all that different than putting together a print one. The assets are the same: articles, photos, and ads. There are just some new specifications and considerations when going online. First and foremost, we wanted images that could move, literally.

Almost every issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* online was animated in some fashion, whether it was snow falling through a picture, water rippling across the cover, or cartoon hounds streaking across a page. Some of those animations even had accompanying audio clips.

The move to a digital format also gave us the ability to embed videos within stories, which we did at every opportunity. It is much



easier understand an article about behavior when you can actually see the behavior in question while you are reading the article.

In the end, the publishing industry as a whole admitted digital magazines were not the saving grace they had hoped for.

The decision to stop publishing *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* was a hard one, but a necessary one, for the bottom line. The magazine grew out of a newsletter to meet a need in the Greyhound world. Now, it returns to its newsletter roots, where it will continue to fulfill a need in The Greyhound Project's mission of supporting Greyhound adoption groups. A huge "Thank you!" to everyone who has contributed along the way! ■