



# Celebrating Greyhounds

Spring/Summer 2017  
Online Magazine

**Five Years Lost, Then Found!**

*ALSO INSIDE:*

An Owner's Guide to First Aid & Basic  
Bandaging Techniques

Prison Programs: How & Why They Work



# Celebrating Greyhounds

Spring/Summer

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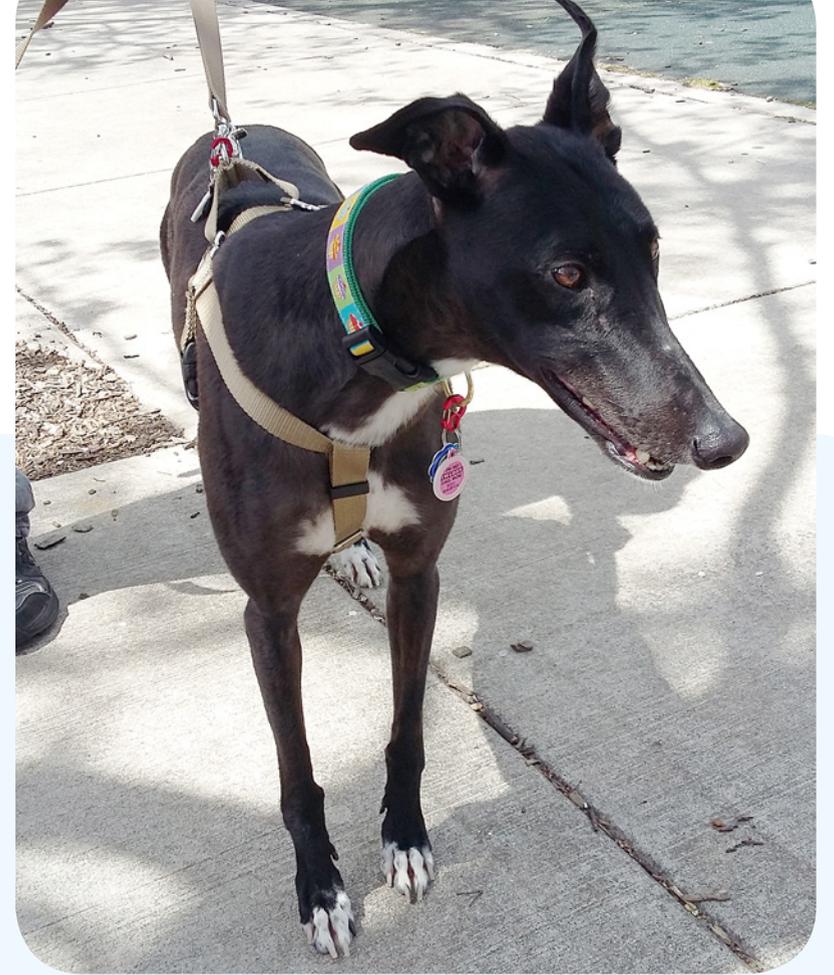
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*On the Cover: Greyhounds grace the battlefields of Gettysburg during the annual Greyhounds in Gettysburg gathering each spring.*

# From the Editor

By Stacy Pigott, Editor-In-Chief

As many of you know, I moved to Tucson, Arizona, in January. Doing so meant leaving behind all of my friends, including those at Greyhounds Unlimited, where I volunteered as a foster. The people I met while volunteering for Greyhounds Unlimited are some of the best people in the world, and I miss them dearly! I'm sure you feel the same way about the volunteers in your local groups.

Greyhound adoption groups, like most non-profits, couldn't survive without volunteers. But it seems as though, in all walks of life, there are non-profits that struggle with attracting and retaining good volunteers. So I decided to find out why.

After reading several articles about volunteering, I started to see a pattern. In today's non-stop society, people are busy! Those who decide to devote their precious free time to volunteering expect more than volunteers of years past.

According to a research study conducted by

[JoinInUK.org](http://JoinInUK.org), volunteers are GIVERS.

**G** – They expect personal growth and well-being. Many volunteers get involved because of the opportunity to learn new skills or increase their knowledge of a topic. Don't let a lack of experience stand in the way of developing a new volunteer. Most people will have more fun if they are learning something along the way!

**I** – They expect an increased sense of purpose, such as knowing just how they make a difference. Don't saddle your volunteers with all of the unpleasant tasks while saving the fun stuff for yourself. And be sure to share your organization's success stories with everyone.

**V** – They expect you to have a voice! After asking for volunteers, be prepared when volunteers arrive to make the best use of their time. Let them know how long a project will take, and provide the proper training so no one is left

## Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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feeling that your organization is disorganized or inconsiderate. According to [thebalance.com](http://thebalance.com), a lack of communication is one of the biggest reasons volunteers become dissatisfied.

**E** – Volunteering should be easy — easy to sign up, easy to get there, and easy to get the job done. Provide a variety of opportunities that take varying lengths of time. Provide opportunities for everyone, from professionals to families and retirees.

**R** – They want recognition. Being thanked, appreciated, and celebrated goes a long way! Don't overlook the simple ways to say thanks, such as mailing a handwritten thank you note or taking a group of volunteers to lunch.

**S** – They need social opportunities, like making new friends and working on a team. Welcome new volunteers by introducing them around — don't ever let them feel uncomfortable or out of place. Younger volunteers, especially, enjoy volunteering as a group.

Many of those points resonated with me personally. I like the social opportunities volunteering provides, and I like to know I'm

making a difference. I've also walked away from volunteer opportunities outside of the Greyhound world when the time commitment became too great and the "thank yous" too few and far between. And, I'll admit, I'm guilty of not communicating as often as I should sometimes when it comes to volunteers I work with.

What about you? What motivates your volunteers? Are they happy? Are there things you could be doing to make their volunteer experience a better one? I know I appreciate each person who volunteers on *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, from the copy editors to the production proofers and section editors. This magazine wouldn't exist without them, much as many Greyhound adoption groups can't survive without volunteers. So from the bottom of my heart, to volunteers everywhere, I say, "Thank you for a job well done!" and to the adoption groups out there, remember, volunteers are **GIVERS**. Let's do our part to keep them giving, for the Greyhounds' sake.

Stacy

## DISCLAIMER

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

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

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# Greyhound Bytes:

News you can sink your teeth into



(left to right) People: Matt Trembly, Michelle Maxwell, Barbara Redmond, Jennifer Conti Saker and Kelly Swartz. Greyhounds: Mina, Merlin, Mae, Abe, Akon, Raspberry, Lexy and Ariel. Photo by Carla Trottier.

## Lost Greyhound Reunited with Owner After Three Years

HEREFORDSHIRE, England — The importance of microchipping was proven when a Greyhound was reunited with his owner three years after he was believed to be stolen and sold. Read more at the [BBC News](#) and [The Ross Gazette](#).

## Labour Party Policy is Welcome News for Greyhounds

NEW ZEALAND, — Animal welfare supporters in New Zealand are upbeat after a private email confirmed the Labour party would seek long-awaited transparency from the Greyhound racing industry regarding the highly sensitive issues of culling non-performing dogs and injuries the dogs suffer on racetracks. Read more at [Voxy online](#).

# Greyhound Bytes

## Queensland Group Seeks Adopters

QUEENSLAND, Australia — Friends of the Hound foster carer Karin Schuett said the organization was in a state of crisis and desperate to find people who could either foster or adopt one of the hounds. The group, which had 80 dogs in the program and 80 more on a waiting list, has been overwhelmed with calls from trainers looking to place Greyhounds in adoption groups. Read more at the [Queensland Times](#).

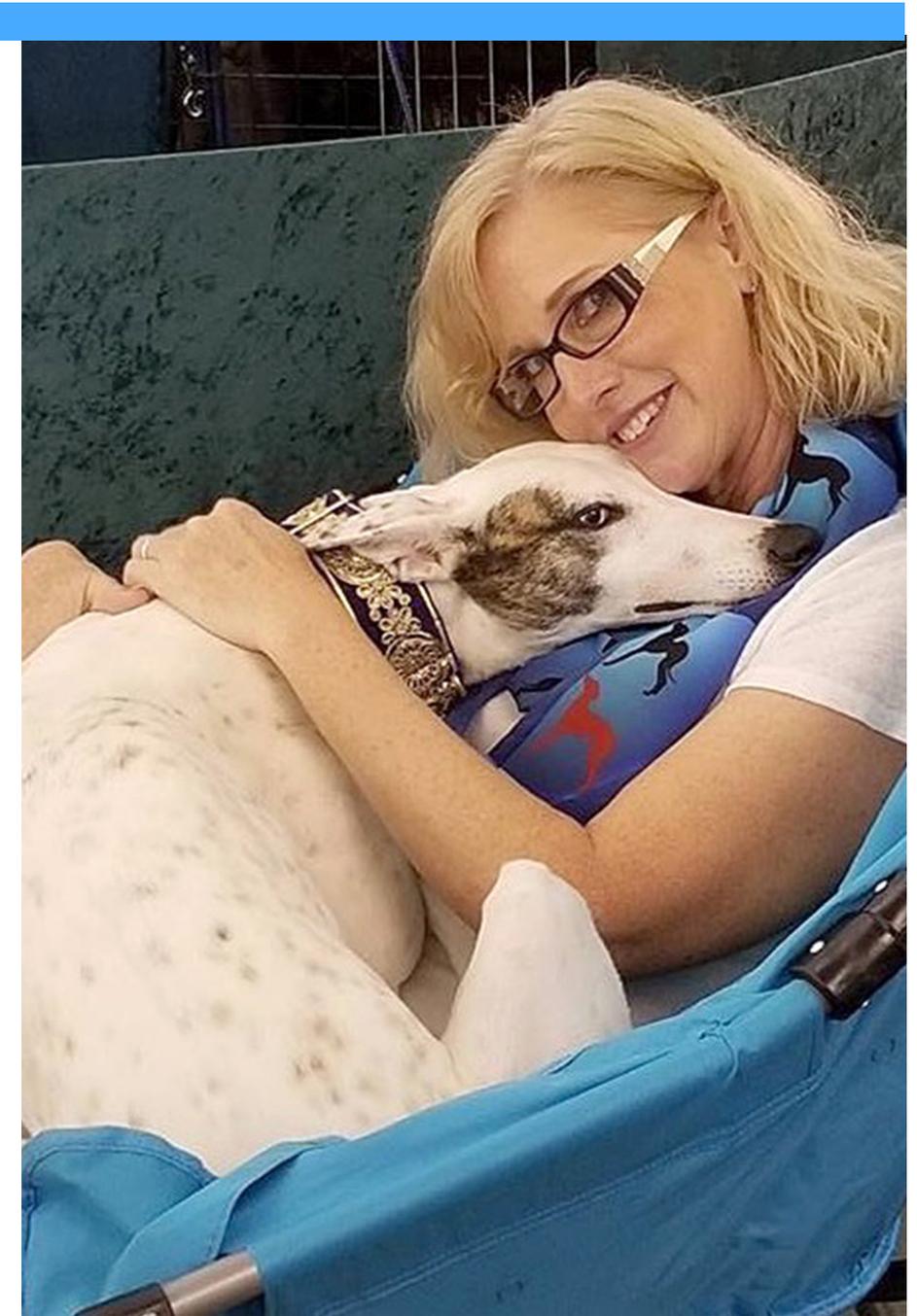
## Seniors Enjoy Interacting with Greyhounds

PALM BEACH, Florida — Residents of the Tradition of the Palm Beaches, an independent- and assisted-living residence on the West Palm Beach campus of MorseLife Health System, recently had a group of special

visitors. One recent afternoon, the Tradition brought in three retired racing Greyhounds (Bolt, Missile, and Sonic) — who now work in the Animal Kindness/Dog Safety Program of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office — to interact with its residents. Read more at the [Sun Sentinel](#).

## Greyhounds Bring Nursing Home Residents Joy

SOUTH TASMANIA, Australia — For several months now, Monty and Heston, two retired Greyhounds, have become the new mascots for several retirement homes in south Tasmania, Australia. After competing in races all their lives, these two charming dogs are now entrusted with bringing smiles to the faces of the residents of retirement homes. Read more at [The Holidog Times](#).



*Sugar (CTW Notgonnabeg), adopted by Joanne Johnson through Greyhounds Crossroads. Photo by Jenn Boswell.*

# Greyhound Bytes

## Greyhound Owners Sue Seminole County

TALLAHASSEE, Florida — Greyhound owners and breeders are suing Seminole County over an ordinance requiring trainers to report racing dog injuries. The legal battle comes after the Legislature did not adopt statewide regulations to require the injury reports. The lawsuit alleges, among other things, that the Seminole ordinance violates a statewide prohibition on local governments regulating the pari-mutuel industry. The ordinance took effect March 1.

“Specifically, the ordinance contradicts the mandate” of Florida law “that the state create rules regulating Greyhound racing that are uniform in application and effect throughout Florida,” wrote attorney Jeff Kottkamp, a former lieutenant governor who represents the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Read more at the [Orlando Sentinel](#).

## Greyhound Rescued After 10 Hours Perched on Cliff Edge

NEW ZEALAND — It was midday when Sarah Jackson and Kevan Roberts went out for a walk on the trail. Lily, a rescued former racing Greyhound, and Labrador Alligin were ahead when a long squeal — a sound they were about to realize was Lily tumbling down a near-vertical 60-meter bank — pierced the foliage. For more than an hour, they searched but, apart from the occasional yelp, there was no sign of Lily on the steep bank that plunged to a river below. Read more at the [Dominion Post](#).

## Greyhound Friends Fighting Animal Cruelty Charge

HOPKINTON, Massachusetts — Greyhound Friends Director Louise Coleman is fighting an animal cruelty charge, saying the dogs at the shelter were clean and well cared for, and

that state law on treatment of animals is too vague. Daniel Cappetta, Coleman’s attorney, filed a motion to dismiss at Framingham District Court, claiming the charge brought against Coleman by Lt. Alan Borgal of the Animal Rescue League of Boston lacks probable cause. Read more at the [Milford Daily News](#).

## Greyhound Racing to Continue in Florida

DAYTONA, Florida — It was nearly a photo finish, but as Florida’s legislative session draws to its scheduled end, a push to end a requirement for dog racing at tracks with other gambling failed when a broader deal on gambling fell apart. The House and Senate came within a nose of reaching a consensus that would have allowed slot machines in eight counties and limited blackjack in South Florida along with two new casinos there. The deal also would have allowed dog tracks to do away

# Greyhound Bytes

with racing operations – including those at the Daytona Beach Racing and Card Club. Read more at [The Daytona Beach News-Journal](#).

## Will Greyhound Racing Expand in Kansas?

ABILENE, Kansas — Representative John Barker has proposed bill HB2173 to the Kansas legislature on re-opening the gambling tracks in Kansas City, Frontenac, and Wichita so animal racing can return to Kansas. Barker and other legislators have brought various forms of the proposal to the statehouse since 2013, but it has not successfully passed through both the House and the Senate. Currently, the bill is awaiting the legislative session to return from adjournment before it will be sent into a committee to have an amendment added that will allow the state to side-step any potential liability. Read more at [Abilene-RC.com](#).

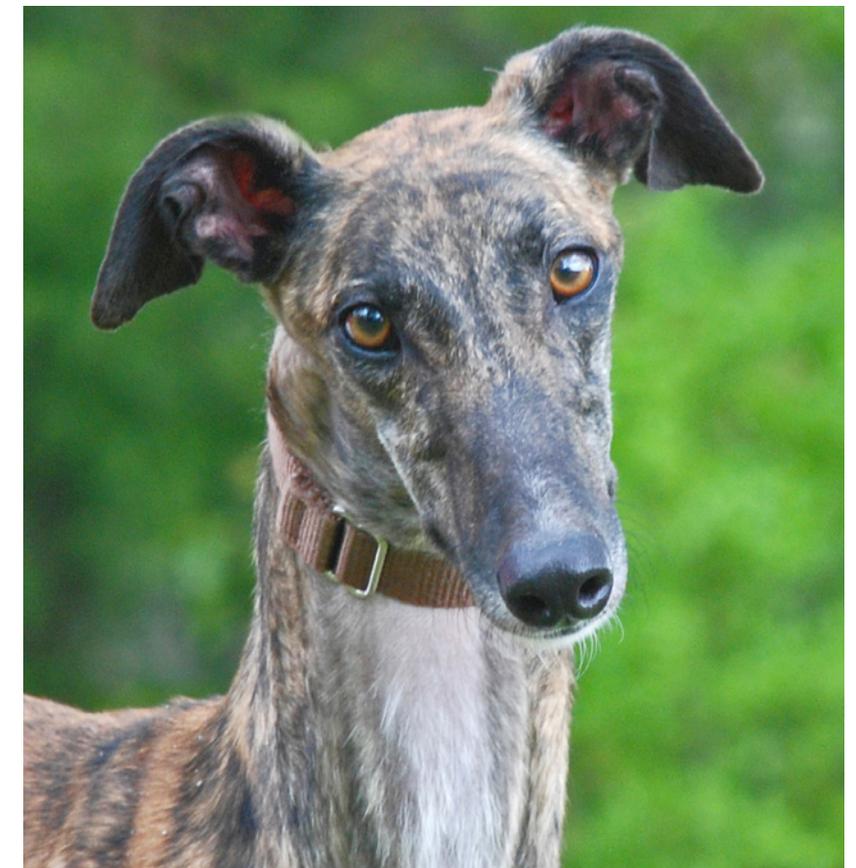
## Mangus the Bucket-List Greyhound Dies

GREENWOOD, Australia — When Kristan and Jason Norris' Greyhound Magnus was diagnosed with terminal cancer, they decided to make the most of his final days. And so the Greenwood couple came up with a bucket list for the 9-year-old hound. Magnus starred in an advertising campaign about pet rescue, competed in a dog show, was part of a marriage proposal, rode on a plane, and visited a nursing home — all as part of his bucket list. Read more about [Mangus at The West Australian](#) and check out his [original bucket list story online](#).

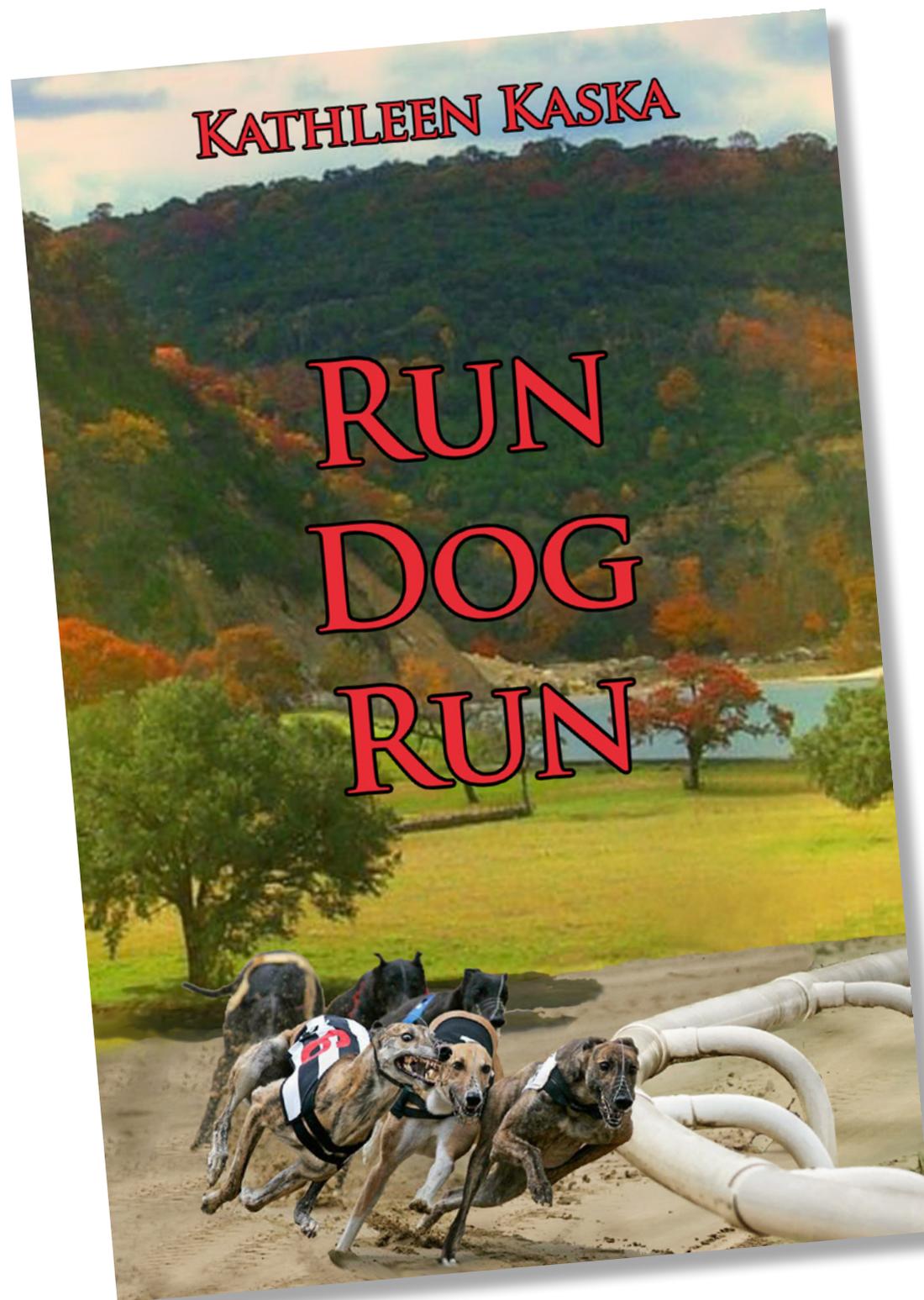
## Greyhounds Help High School Kids in Australia

PERTH, Australia — If you walk into the library at Woodvale Secondary College in Perth, you'll find two gorgeous Greyhounds

at home on a couch. Boots and Rush, both rescue dogs, are now embracing their part-time role as therapy dogs at the high school, reducing anxiety and improving wellbeing among students and staff. Read more at the [Huffington Post](#).



*Kiowa Resident, adopted by the Swanson family of Huntersville, North Carolina, through Greyhound Crossroads.*



# RUN DOG RUN

An animal-rights themed murder mystery for Greyhound lovers.

By Stacy Pigott

Kathleen Kaska

***Run Dog Run***

Black Opal Books (March 2017)

274pp.

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**R***un Dog Run* is not the first book published by author Kathleen Kaska, who has a flair for developing strong female characters within her stories. In this case, the heroine is Dr. Kate Caraway, a researcher and animal rights activist who is fleeing Kenya as *Run Dog Run* begins.

The book is promoted as having a strong animal rights theme, and is, as expected, against Greyhound racing. Readers should be aware of the theme

going in, and some may find it difficult to feel empathy for the main character, whose urgent flight from Kenya is being made to escape the consequences of shooting a man for elephant poaching. Kate deals with her decision throughout the book, as she at times tries to forget the incident, and then has flashbacks. In the end, she and her husband, Jack, have to decide whether or not Kate's action in shooting a man was justified — a decision they don't make until the final pages of the book.

As Kate and Jack flee Kenya, they land in Texas, where they are welcomed by longtime friends, Max and Olga. At the request of Rosa Linda, Max and Olga's daughter and Kate's goddaughter, Kate looks into allegations of abuse at a neighbor's Greyhound farm. The investigation quickly takes a sinister turn when Rosa Linda's informant, Jesus, who worked at the farm, is found murdered.

Kate soon meets the local sheriff, Holden McRae, and the two agree to compare notes on the allegations of abuse, as well as the murder. It isn't long before Kate's life is threatened and more bodies turn up.

As Rosa Linda's original interest in the Greyhounds fades, replaced by mysterious trips she takes with her fiancé Daniel, Kate begins to suspect there is much more to the story than

concern over the hounds. And she is right.

*Run Dog Run* is an action-packed novel that never slows down. The reader is kept wondering who the bad guys really are and what will happen next, as Kate follows up theory after theory, only to be met with lies, dead ends, and more questions.

In the end, Kate (and Sheriff McRae) get their man — the allegations of Greyhound abuse are explained and the murders are solved. In the meantime, several subplots open the scope of this well-paced novel far beyond the original Greyhound storyline. It is impossible, of course, to mention those plots without spoiling some of the suspense of this detailed murder mystery.



*Sami, a Galgo adopted by Petra Postma, takes advantage of a drinking fountain during Greyhounds in Gettysburg. Photo by Travis Patenaude/Stink-Eye Photography.*

# Do You Have A Four-Legged Klutz?

Every Greyhound owner can treat minor wounds when they happen by learning some basic first aid.

*By Deb Levasseur, CTB*



*Learning proper first aid techniques can help you help your Greyhound in the event of an accident.*

*Photo courtesy of Deb Levasseur*

**A** clumsy Greyhound? Never! Well...we all know that the occasional injury is going to happen to every dog, but Greyhounds especially seem to need even more first aid due to their thin skin and short hair. We will address how to take care of most of these injuries safely at home with special consideration given to the three layers of bandaging.

The first thing to assess is whether the wound is actively bleeding and, if so, how much. The bleeding in most wounds can be stopped within five minutes by applying pressure with a clean nonstick pad or compress. First aid can be about improvising—sometimes we must come up with the best possible option we have on hand. For example, this might mean using a scarf, a tie, or a pair of socks in place of a bandage. *Never* remove the first pad, even if it soaks through. Simply add additional pads as needed and keep firm steady pressure on the wound.

If the wound doesn't stop bleeding within

five minutes, take your Greyhound to the veterinarian immediately, maintaining pressure on the wound during transport. Also, *never* remove an embedded object, as doing so could cause deadly bleeding. Try to secure the object in place without moving it and causing further damage. Then, transport your hound to the veterinarian.

If you were able to stop the bleeding within five minutes, there are some things you can do to treat your Greyhound at home. First, thoroughly flush out the wound. You can use a 3 percent hydrogen peroxide solution for the first cleaning, but only



*Band-Aid® brand antiseptic is one example of a mild antiseptic that can be used to clean wounds. Photo courtesy of Amazon.com*

the first time. If you continue to use it, it will inhibit new cell growth and the wound will not heal properly. Even the over use of products such as chlorhexidine can inhibit cell growth.

The wound must be kept clean by using either soap and water, or a mild antiseptic. Alternatively, you can soak the wound in Epsom salts. Be cautious to never wrap a wet wound. You must dry it first.

Applying a small amount of topical antibacterial ointment to the wound will help keep it moist, which promotes healing and prevents infection. The triple antibacterial form is best. Some dogs like the taste of it, so prevention of licking is especially important. If it is a large open and deep wound, you can apply some manuka honey to encourage new cell growth and to prevent bacterial growth. It will absorb excess fluid from the wound while still

keeping it moist. Any natural honey can be used. When applying any ointment or honey, its best to apply directly onto the non-stick pad and not the wound itself.

If the wound is not large, but is still bleeding only a little, it will need to be wrapped.

### The 3 layers of the wrap are:

1. A non-adhesive pad cut to fit the size of the wound
2. A gauze wrapping
3. Vet wrap

It is vital that this dressing stay completely dry and clean. If it gets wet, change it at once. It's best to change every day or every second day.

When wrapping the gauze and vet wrap, be sure to not wrap them so tightly as to cut off circulation. You should be



*Non-stick gauze pads come in a variety of sizes, and are used as the first layer when bandaging wounds. Photo courtesy of Amazon.com.*

*The second bandage layer is roll gauze, which comes in several widths and can be purchased at any drug store. Photo by Stacy Pigott*

*The final layer of a wound bandage is self-adhesive wrap, which is sometimes called vet wrap. It can be bought from your veterinarian or at many tack and pet stores. Photo by Stacy Pigott*

able to slip a finger underneath the wrap, but it should be tight enough to not fall off. Check often for any swelling, as this could be a sign that the wrap is too tight. Also, check the temperature of the area to assure that circulation hasn't been affected. If it is cooler than other similar body parts, then the circulation could be compromised.

Wrap consistently and evenly. If you're unsure of how to do this, have a veterinarian teach you. During your bandage changes, monitor for infection. Some signs to look for are malodor, and yellow or green discharge.

Once bandaging has been completed correctly, it is imperative that your Greyhound



*Deb teaches a group of students how to wrap a paw as part of a class on canine first aid and CPR. Photo courtesy of Deb Levasseur.*



*Deb demonstrates how to wrap a tail during the canine first aid class she has been teaching for 12 years. Photo courtesy of Deb Levasseur.*

is not allowed to lick the wound, otherwise all the above steps must be repeated. When a dog licks a wound, it not only prevents healing, it can cause infection and further damage. In some cases, it can lead to a compulsive licking condition known as lick dermatitis. Licking can

also create a vicious cycle of endorphin addiction. Once the dog has created a significant sore, the body releases these natural painkillers. If the dog ceases licking, the endorphins stop being produced and the dog experiences withdrawal. The dog licks to keep the sore alive to continue producing endorphins.

To prevent licking, you can use a basket kennel muzzle as Greyhounds are accustomed to these. Applying pieces of duct tape over the large holes in the bottom will prevent them from licking through the muzzle. You can also purchase a stool guard, which fits into the muzzle



*Watch Deb Levasseur demonstrate simple bandaging techniques for Greyhounds.*

and will prevent licking. If your Greyhound tends to get his muzzle off, muzzle keepers are available or you can use a small buckle collar to slip through the muzzle strap.

The other choice is the cone, or the Elizabethan collar. You can simply put a bandana through the loops to secure it on the neck. It is important to get the right size as it has to be long enough to

stop them from licking the injury. The proper size will depend on where the injury is located, as Greyhounds can be quite the contortionists. Keep this on until the wound is fully healed or you will quickly be back to square one.

Some smaller wounds on hard-to-wrap areas, such as on the pads of the feet, may be treated with a liquid bandage product. This is simply painted on like nail polish and will close off the wound.

Always contact your veterinarian if you have questions concerning wounds or if you suspect an infection. ■

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*About the author: Deb Levasseur, CTB, Canine Behavior Therapist and trainer, is the president and founder of [Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program](#), based in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.*

## Building a First Aid Kit



*Watch as Deb Levassuer discusses the essential components of a canine first aid kit.*



*Laney (Bea Authur), adopted by the Bhon family of Conyers, Georgia, through Greyhound Crossroad*

# Miracle Dog

A Greyhound faces challenges after five years of running loose.

By Mary McCormick

Against all odds, brindle Greyhound Cassie survived on her own for five years in middle Tennessee, where winters are cold and summers are hot. Now, following her miraculous recapture on Feb. 9, 2017, a battle is being waged for her survival.

## Cassie's Odyssey

Cassie's journey began at the end of March 2012, when she arrived on a racetrack hauler, destined for a foster home in Smyrna, Tennessee, near Nashville. While on a walk the next day, something spooked Cassie. She broke free and ran off. As Greyhounds can get up to 45 miles per hour in about three strides, there was no catching her.

Reward posters were plastered everywhere and a television station reported on the lost **Greyhound**, but she remained on the loose.

For the next few months, search parties were out daily looking for Cassie. People from miles around came together, trying to find this girl.



*Cassie ran loose for five years before a Good Samaritan called and Music City Greyhound Adoption was able to trap the brindle female. Her first stop was the veterinarian's office. Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*

Because Greyhounds lack a fat layer and an undercoat, they cannot withstand extreme hot or cold temperatures, so the worst was presumed. Even so, for years after Cassie went missing, some members continued walking the area where she got loose in hopes that she had survived.

“It really haunted several people,” said Mary McCormick, a member of Music City Greyhound Adoption (MCGA).

### Miracles Do Happen

Fast forward almost five years, to Feb. 9, 2017, when MCGA received a call from Tonya Cook in LaVergne, Tennessee, about five miles from Smyrna.

Cook reported seeing what she thought was a Greyhound at her back fence almost every day for the last three-plus years. On Feb. 10, McCormick set up a humane trap and actually saw the Greyhound. McCormick couldn't be sure, but the hound looked like Cassie, just with much more white in her face.

The next day, MCGA received a call that the trap caught something. Well, it turned out that they caught a cat — a very angry cat. MCGA reset the trap and tried again.

On Feb. 12, a check of the trap revealed that the lost Greyhound was one smart cookie. She managed to go into the trap, remove the bowl with the food in it, and take it safely five feet away from the trap without setting off the mechanism.

This time, the MCGA trappers were determined to be smarter than the dog. Britt Phillips bought lots of different smelly, stinky foods, such as tuna and sardines. They reset the trap one more time, but this time the bowl was bolted to the back of the trap, and a blanket was gently placed over the mechanism.

The next day — Feb. 13 — is one that goes down in MCGA history. The group received the call they had been waiting for. Cassie was caught in the trap.



*Cassie outsmarted the trap the first time around, but warm blankets, some smelly food and a bowl that was bolted down proved to be too much to resist, and she was caught. Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*



*MCGA volunteers took no chances — Cassie stayed secure in the trap until safely inside the veterinarian's office. Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*



*A thorough veterinary check-up revealed Cassie was suffering from an advanced case of heartworm disease. Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*

McCormick and her husband, Trey, went to Cook's house to pick up the lucky girl — keeping her in the trap so history did not repeat itself — and took her to MCGA's veterinarian.

### **Cassie's New Challenge**

"The dog was so very timid, but loved the feel of our touch," McCormick said. Once at

Dr. Mark Girone's office, they were able to coax the dog out of the trap and confirm via ear tattoos that this was indeed Cassie, the Greyhound who escaped almost five years earlier.

"She was truly a miracle to have survived on her own for this long!" McCormick said. They could tell that Cassie had been living wild. She was covered with fleas and ticks, and her nails were so long that half of them had broken off.

A thorough examination identified an extreme case of heartworms, which are prevalent in the South. By late February, Cassie's X-rays revealed that the arteries going from the heart to the lungs were very swollen from the presence of worms. Her heart was swollen at least one-third larger than normal, and her lungs were congested.



*Cassie quickly found a foster home, where she gets along with the other hounds including fellow foster Piper and visitor Kaleb (in crate). Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*

Her treatment began with 30 days of antibiotics followed by a 30-day rest from medications before receiving her first heartworm shot. Cassie's treatment was expected to continue for 120 days.

### **Cassie Goes Viral**

The story of Cassie's survival was aired on the local news in the Nashville area and quickly went viral. MCGA began hearing from



*While Cassie's heartworm treatment is dangerous, given the scope of the disease, she looks and feels great! Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*

people all over the U.S., Canada, Europe, and even Australia, with thoughts and prayers for this amazing girl.

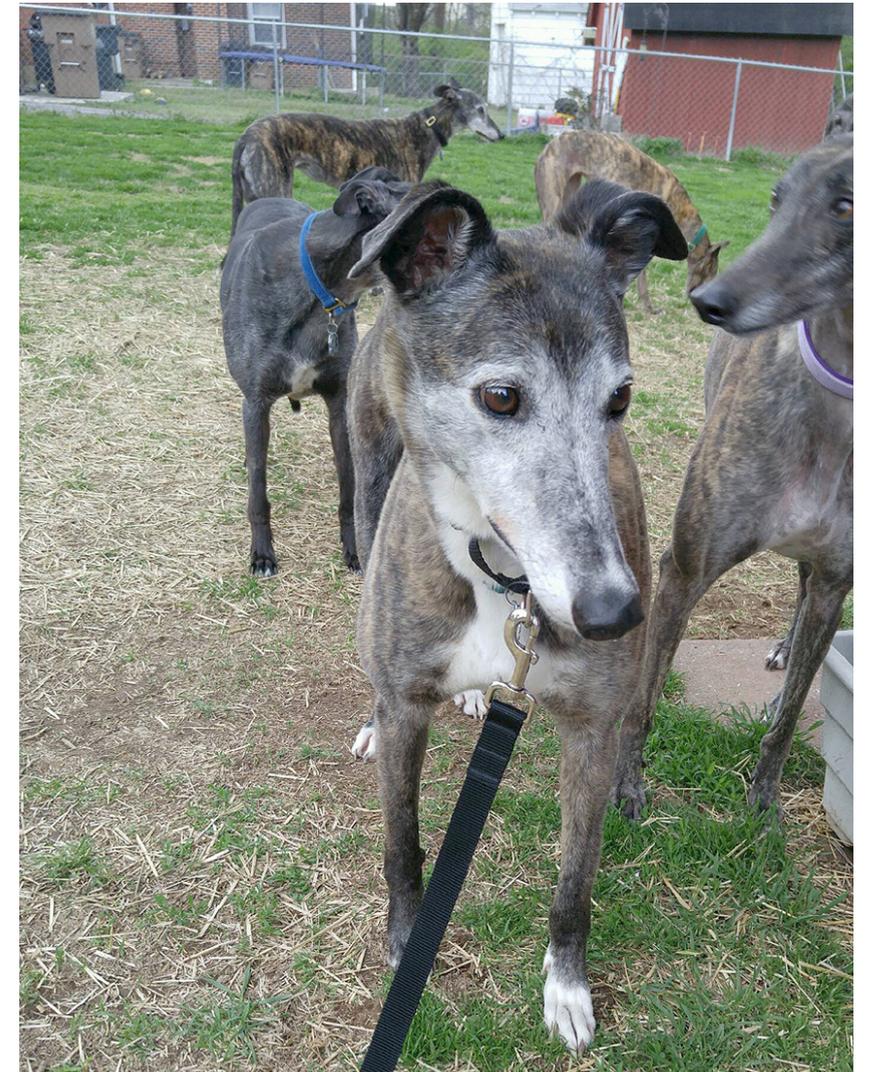
Kimberley Dahme, a local singer and songwriter who used to be part of the band Boston, heard Cassie's story and immediately

wanted to help. She performed a benefit concert in Cassie's honor on April 4 at City Winery in Nashville. The performer donated 100 percent of her proceeds to MCGA.

Kathy Wagner, who runs the Facebook page Greyhound Search and Rescue, worked with Kimberley on setting up the concert. City Winery also sold specially labeled bottles of its house red wine to assist with the cost

of the hound's veterinary care. Ten dollars from the sale of each bottle labeled with Cassie's picture, sold the night of the concert, were donated to MCGA.

MCGA also established a GoFundMe page



*Cassie is leash-walked during her heartworm treatment to keep her calm. Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*

that has raised \$6,400 of the \$8,000 goal, as of late April. Australian musical duo Bamford Cook also is donating to the cause, offering a



*After surviving in the wild for five years, Cassie is enjoying all the comforts of home. Photo courtesy of Music City Greyhound Adoption.*

six-song download to anyone who donates.

Cassie has attracted visitors like Leslie Flanders Balcerak, author of *The 45MPH Couch Potato* and *The Love of a Senior Couch Potato*. She traveled to Nashville from Vero Beach, Florida, just to meet Cassie and attend her benefit concert.

And Cook, the woman who first reported seeing the loose hound, was honored at a surprise dinner to thank her for contacting MCGA about Cassie. About 30 members attended the dinner, where Cook received gifts and recognition for her action.

Cathy Wilder, who is now fostering Cassie, reported she is settling in very well. Cassie follows around her foster sister, Yiona, and has learned how to let Cathy know when she wants out and when she's ready to eat — even if it's 2:30 in the morning.

Cassie's continuing story can be followed on [MCGA's website](#). ■

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*About the author: Mary McCormick and her husband, Trey, have been a part of the Greyhound life since 2011. They currently have three Greyhounds: Chop Suey, an 8-year-old female; Zeiss, a 6-year-old male; and Kelly Ripa, a 4-year-old female. They also have two boys at the bridge: their first Greyhound and heart hound Chad, whom they lost in 2013; and Ritter, a big black tuxedo they lost last August. Mary is on the Board of Directors for Music City Greyhound Adoption.*

# Hounds Behind Bars

Greyhounds are successfully fostered and trained in a prison program.

By Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D.

Being involved with Greyhounds that are trained in prison often prompts interesting questions and comments.

"You must be really brave! How can you work with such bad people? Aren't you afraid someone will grab or hurt you?" "Is there an armed guard right there all of the time?" "Do you know what crimes they committed?" You see, on Thursday afternoons, I visit the State Correctional Institution Pine Grove to teach classes to inmates.

My answers to these questions can be summarized as follows: "I was nervous at first, but I trust the staff to protect me, and I comply with their instructions. As you work with



Mary Louden with members of the Prison Greyhounds program at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Photo courtesy of Prison Greyhounds.

inmates, it is wise to remain cautious, but you make someone unrelentingly evil. Yes, there are also recognize that committing a crime does not some prisoners in the general population who

scare me, but the guys in the dog program have been carefully selected. They are earnest about becoming expert dog trainers and have been model prisoners to date. No, I don't know what caused them to end up in prison initially, and really, it's none of my business. It is a maximum-security facility, so it must have been serious. I do know that in order to qualify to participate in the dog program, their offenses cannot involve cruelty or abuse, they need a good work history, and they must have a high school diploma or equivalent."

### **Why Train Greyhounds in Prison?**

There are some definite advantages to training Greyhounds in prison. Perhaps the most important is that dog training takes time, which is something inmates have in abundance. The Greyhound is assigned to a team of two inmates — a primary and a secondary trainer. The Greyhound resides in the cell with the inmates.

On the human side of the equation, the dogs' presence helps to de-institutionalize the setting by providing contact with the outside world, giving inmates permission to show patience and gentleness, and offering an opportunity to make significant changes to their lives. That is the premise of a prison-based dog training program: The idea that allowing well-supervised inmates to train dogs changes lives, both for the prisoners who become dog trainers, and for the individuals and families who provide permanent homes for the dogs after their training.



*Inmates learn how to do everything required to care for and train a Greyhound, including give baths. Photo courtesy of Prison Greyhounds.*

In 1980, Sister Pauline Quinn started the first dog training program with female offenders in Washington state. They began by training shelter dogs to make them more adoptable. The program was eventually expanded to train service dogs. Quinn's Prison

Pet Partnership Program became a model for others to follow. Many other types of prison-based programs have since developed. Some prisons actually house an animal shelter on the premises. Others prepare service dogs for persons with disabilities, such as leader dogs for the blind, more commonly referred to as “seeing eye dogs.” Some prisons offer support services to a local shelter by caring for orphaned pups or providing care for badly injured or ill dogs. A few prisons even participate in training military or police dogs. Many types of correctional facilities offer dog-training programs, such as county jails, state correctional systems, juvenile detention centers, and federal prisons.

## How Are Greyhounds Trained in Correctional Facilities?

Where retired racing Greyhounds are concerned, correctional facilities can support the effort to place Greyhounds in loving



*A trainer in the Prison Greyhounds program interacts with the hounds. Photo courtesy of Prison Greyhounds.*

homes by fostering and obedience training dogs newly off the track, or by training Greyhounds as service dogs for military veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

## Fostering and Training

What if all Greyhounds had house manners and had mastered basic commands before they were put up for adoption? Chances are it would make Greyhounds even more appealing to busy families. It may also ease the transition

from track to home and address some of the reasons that Greyhounds are returned to adoption groups. A common problem among Greyhound groups is an insufficient number of foster homes. When a track closes or a few older dogs “bounce back,” the group often has to scramble to find suitable placements for hounds in need.

Some organizations have partnered with a correctional facility to support their fostering programs. After a group of Greyhounds comes in on a haul, they are vetted and transported to the correctional facility for a short-term program, typically 6-8 weeks. For example, a women’s prison in South Carolina takes in newly retired racing Greyhounds so all the fostering is outsourced to the program. To see how this operates, check out the YouTube video, [“Greyhounds Give Inmates a New ‘Leash’ on Life.”](#)

A similar program is offered at Putnamville Correctional Facility in Greencastle, Indiana;



*Greyhounds and their trainers enjoy some outdoor time at Putnamville Correctional Facility. Photo courtesy of Prison Greyhounds.*

see the video [“Prisoners Paired with Greyhounds.”](#) In some programs, such as Personalized Greyhounds, Inc., prospective adopters receive regular progress reports about the Greyhounds, written by the inmates.

[The Team Greyhound Prison Program in Ohio](#) fosters retired racers for at least one month. The many advantages to this

approach to fostering include dogs that: are housetrained, in better health and weight, accustomed to an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule, walk nicely on lead, and know basic obedience. In addition, the inmates’ in-depth knowledge about a particular retired racer facilitates appropriate placements. The fact that Greyhounds are well-mannered also helps attract adopters.

**Allies for Greyhounds in Florida**, for example, invests 2,000 hours in each hound before it goes into a home. The Greyhound arrives home with a copy of the inmate's journal chronicling each Greyhound's training experience. The motto of Prison Greyhounds in Indianapolis says it all: A new race. A new life.

Working with retired racing Greyhounds represents a special opportunity for bonding between inmates and Greyhounds because, in both cases, the program is designed to provide a second chance. Working with Greyhounds and knowing they go to loving homes brings a special source of satisfaction for a job well done.

Additionally, the Greyhounds being house-trained helps tip the scales in the Greyhound's favor for some adopters. Some programs, such as the Northeast Greyhound Connection in Ohio, teach the hounds basic obedience, making these animals even more appealing as family pets. When the Greyhounds master the commands, they are "paroled" and put

up for adoption. The program's website keeps potential adopters informed about each Greyhound's status, and inmates get updates about how the Greyhounds that they trained are doing in their new homes. Similar programs are offered at Ellsworth Correctional Facility in Kansas and Crowley Correctional Facility in Colorado.

After inmates gain experience with fostering Greyhounds, some particularly gifted dog trainers will emerge. On occasion, a Greyhound might not adjust well after being placed with a foster family, or one that has already been adopted will develop behavioral issues resulting in a bounce back. These Greyhounds can be assigned to work with a highly skilled trainer in the prison setting.

## **Service Dogs**

Generally speaking, the dog breeds selected as service dogs are chosen for their physical sturdiness and reputation for trainability.

These days, the breeds most commonly used as service dogs for the physically disabled are Labrador and Golden Retrievers.

When it comes to service-dog training, Greyhounds are most often used as service dogs for people with PTSD. Given the Greyhound's general reputation for being calm, steady, and attuned to its people, many retired racers have a special affinity for providing emotional support to humans.

What, exactly, does a PTSD service dog do to help? Suppose a returning military veteran has night terrors — particularly vivid and frightening dreams. These dreams can be so disturbing the person actually begins avoiding sleep. During these episodes, people often become agitated, flail around, scream, or lash out. All of this can be particularly difficult if that person has a partner or family. A PTSD service dog issues alerts to the signs of agitation and responds, perhaps by licking the person's face to wake him up or positioning

its body close by. The Greyhound helps diffuse the situation and keeps the emotional outburst from escalating.

One woman, whose husband suffered from night terrors after three tours in Afghanistan, said prior to getting their dog, it was not uncommon to awaken to her husband screaming and punching. The presence of the dog dialed the intensity of these outbursts way down.

Another way in which a PTSD service dog provides support is when the person goes out into a normal environment but continues to be “on guard” and expecting something terrible to happen. If, for example, someone revs up a weed whacker or sets off fireworks, a veteran may react to that noise as if still in a war zone. Hypervigilance is commonly associated with PTSD.

Under these circumstances, the dog’s role is to notice the person’s tension and respond — for instance, by standing close

by or positioning itself in front of the person. The Greyhound, in effect, is a reminder that the here and now is not dangerous, and provides a calming presence that distracts the owner from those worries.

PTSD service dogs also can be trained to perform a house check before the person goes inside. Three programs that train Greyhounds to become PTSD service dogs are, Hounds for Heroes based in Tampa Bay, Florida; **Greyt Hearts Service Dogs** in Woodford, Virginia, and **Purple Heart Service Dogs**, in Rohnert Park, California.



*Prison programs present special opportunities for bonding as they are designed to give second chances – to both the inmates and Greyhounds. Photo courtesy of Prison Greyhounds.*

## Getting Started

The national program **Second Chance at Life** offers a book to guide interested individuals through the process of using a prison to foster and train Greyhounds. The first step is to determine whether any local correctional facilities already offer dog



*Only model prisoners are selected to participate in Greyhound training programs, which is an incentive and privilege for those selected. Photo courtesy of Prison Greyhounds.*

training programs. Visit the websites of state and federal prisons to search by location. Next, you will need to contact people within that institution who might be receptive to working with your Greyhound group.

Participating in dog training in the prison is a privilege and an incentive for model prisoners. The program removes them from the general population and entrusts them

with important work. Prison dog programs also work as a re-entry tool by equipping inmates with marketable skills upon release.

Be aware that wanting to offer a dog program is not sufficient. The physical environment that is geared toward preventing escape needs to be relaxed a bit because the Greyhounds will need to go outside for exercise and elimination. In most of these programs, the dogs are housed in the cells with two inmates, so how to accomplish this needs to be considered. Ideally, the dog program would be in a section of the facility designed for that purpose. Sometimes, a correctional facility simply does not have the physical set up or resources to support the program's needs.

I first became fascinated by prison-based dog training after watching a short-lived television series from Canada called Cell Dogs. When I contacted the state prison, I sent a proposal and was surprised to learn they had

been working on a dog-training program behind the scenes for more than a year. So, you don't know until you ask. At best, facility officials will be receptive and become valued partners; at worst, they will say no. Using the resources in this article can help you to get started by learning from others who have successfully implemented Greyhound training programs in correctional facilities.

After an agreement is in place, you will need to think through all of the details: who will be responsible for what. You will also want to partner with some expert dog trainers who are willing to teach the inmates how to work with Greyhounds. Inside the prison, you'll need staff committed to the program who will monitor and supervise the inmate handlers and Greyhounds. You will have to think through everything you might need.

The [Pet Partners Program](#) of Delta Society has some particularly helpful checklists,

contracts, and other tools to guide this process. You need to plan for handling emergency situations that require immediate veterinary care, incidents that would cause an inmate to be dropped from the program (either temporarily or permanently), and how you will intervene if a Greyhound or trainer is not progressing as expected. It is particularly important to evaluate progress toward program goals; in these tight economic times, evidence will be needed to get continued support for the program.

## Conclusion

While talking to several inmates in class, I showed them the presentation we use in the community to educate others about Greyhound training at the correctional facility. As we looked at the photographs in the slide show, the inmates beamed with pride each time they saw a Greyhound that had been in the program. Then one inmate

said quietly, "It's good that you're doing that. Sometimes people believe everything they see on television about prison. They think that nothing good could ever come out of here."

My response was, "Prove them wrong. Show them, through your hard work and the excellent training of these service dogs, that you are changing the lives of people with disabilities for the better." ■

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*About the author: Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D., is a professional journal and book series editor for Springer Nature. She teaches in the State Correctional Institution Pine Grove service dog training program and volunteers several times a week at the local animal shelter. Her Greyhounds, Rosie and Fiona, were adopted from Monica's Heart in Altoona, Pennsylvania. She has written many articles for Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.*

## Online Resources

[Purple Heart Greyhound Service Dogs](#)

[Meet Prison Greyhounds Indianapolis](#)

[The Team Greyhound Prison Program](#)



*Prison programs are closely supervised to ensure the well-being of the Greyhounds and inmates. Photo courtesy of Prison Greyhounds.*

# Stopping the Flu in its Tracks

Merck Animal Health releases best practices to prevent the spread of Canine Influenza Virus H3N2.

By Merck Animal Health



When an outbreak of canine influenza (H3N2) hit several large metropolitan areas in 2015 and 2016, thousands of pets were affected, as were a number of the pet businesses that cared for them. Some of the impacted facilities — shelters, kennels, groomers, and daycares — were forced to close for weeks.

Costs to treat animals and clear the virus from the facilities skyrocketed and businesses suffered lost revenue as the industry worked to understand the virus and how to stop its rapid spread. Within nine months, the virus had spread to more than half the country.

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin discovered one of the reasons that H3N2 is spreading so quickly — infected dogs can shed the virus for more than 24 days. At The Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago, one sick dog led to an incredibly rapid spread of the disease

## About Canine Influenza

The canine influenza virus (version H3N8) first appeared in the U.S. in 2003 and since then has been diagnosed in 42 states, most recently in Missouri and Montana. In 2015, the H3N2 strain emerged, spreading to at least 30 states. The H3N8 and H3N2 viruses have different origins and are not closely related; therefore it is important dogs are vaccinated against both strains to ensure they are protected.

It has been reported that H3N2 infected dogs produce 10 times more virus than dogs infected with the first strain (H3N8), potentially making it more contagious. H3N2 may be shed for up to 24 days, which is longer than what is seen with H3N8. However, both viruses can spread quickly among social dogs. The viruses can be transmitted directly from dog- to-dog through droplets from sneezing and coughing or indirectly through objects or materials that are likely to carry infection, such as toys and bedding.

within the shelter, and in the end, 100 of 120 dogs fell ill.

Given the highly contagious nature of this virus and the possibility of future outbreaks, Merck Animal Health expanded its canine influenza educational initiatives to include best practices that pet businesses can use to help prevent canine influenza from making its way into a facility, as well as what to do if that happens.

“We were able to take the knowledge we had gained from the numerous outbreaks and leverage the expertise of several well-renowned veterinary professionals to develop practical yet important precautionary measures that can be taken to protect the health and well-being of animals and the viability of their respective businesses,” said Melissa Bourgeois, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVM, Merck Animal Health, who participated in

the roundtable discussion to create the recommendations.

“While vaccination of at-risk dogs for both strains of CIV is the best first line of defense, education and stringent cleaning protocols are equally critical to effectively managing this virus.”

Some of the key recommendations include:

- All dogs should receive vaccinations against core canine infectious diseases.
- Social dogs are at even greater risk for infectious diseases like canine influenza and pet owners should consult their veterinarian about their risk of disease and vaccination needs.
- For the best protection, all vaccination series should be finished at least two weeks before visiting a boarding kennel, daycare, training facilities, and other events where dogs commingle. This allows time for the immune system

to respond.

- Immediately isolate any dog that shows any signs of infectious disease, such as lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, coughing or diarrhea.
- Prepare for potential outbreaks by assessing your capacity of care, vaccination recommendations, and sanitation and isolation protocols, as well as educating your staff on these topics.

The recommendations in their entirety were published in the February issue of *AAHA Trends Magazine*. The roundtable discussion can be viewed at [www.vetfolio.com](http://www.vetfolio.com).

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*About the author: Merck Animal Health has a rich history; it is a story of innovation, commitment to research, and entrepreneurship in animal health dating back over 70 years. This*

*long-standing experience is helping to shape the future of animal health. Merck Animal Health (known as MSD Animal Health outside the U.S. and Canada) is the animal health division of Merck & Co. Based in New Jersey and led by president Richard R. DeLuca Jr., Merck Animal Health operates a network of manufacturing and dedicated research and development facilities, with commercial offices in more than 50 countries and business operations in more than 150 countries. The second largest animal health company, Merck Animal Health has sales of \$3.3 billion (2016) and 6,500 employees. Merck Animal Health offers veterinarians, farmers, pet owners, and governments a wide range of veterinary pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and health management solutions and services, including anti-parasitics, anti-infectives, reproduction management, pharmaceutical specialties, and innovative animal health programs, such as pet recovery. For more information, visit [Merck Animal Health](#).*



*Hooyah, adopted by the Marshall family of Fayetteville, North Carolina, through Greyhound Crossroads.*



# Blood Values Make Greyhounds Unique

## Part 2: What the numbers and differences mean.

By Calli Cook

**P**art one of “Blood Values Make Greyhounds Unique,” reviewed the complete blood count (CBC) of a Greyhound, and the differences in how much oxygen is delivered to the muscle and how many white blood cells are in their bodies as compared to other canine breeds. It would seem like those differences are enough, and the remaining labs should be similar to non-Greyhound dogs. Well, friends, that is not the case.

Let’s start with the liver. The liver is an

important organ in the metabolism of food and drugs. There are two main blood markers that check for liver damage: alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST). ALT is found in the liver, and elevated levels are directly correlated with liver damage; AST is found throughout the body in various cells (Vroon & Israili, 1990). AST can be elevated in hepatic injury, but also for other reasons not related to the liver.

Greyhounds have elevated ALT without associated liver damage (Dunlop et al., 2011). I was puzzled by this and could not find any data about why this would occur. I thought about this and hypothesized that the changes in the Greyhounds’ ALT could be similar to

the changes we see in human patients with Gilbert’s Syndrome. Gilbert’s Syndrome is a genetic disease that can cause mildly elevated ALT without any symptoms or liver disease. A genetic change could be a reasonable explanation of the Greyhounds’ live function test abnormalities. Another reasonable hypothesis for this is the Greyhounds’ increased muscle mass (Valentine, Blue, Shelley, & Cooper, 1990). Again, selective breeding most likely caused this, and unlike the RBC changes that improve the Greyhounds’ athletic ability, this is just a side effect.

It would be reasonable to think that due to the Greyhounds’ elevated ALT, they cannot process drugs as quickly as non-Greyhound

dogs. However, that is not the case. In the livers of both humans and dogs there are enzymes called cytochrome P450 (CYP), and these are the liver's metabolizers of drugs (Court, 2013). There are hundreds of these enzymes, all with different numbers or names. Most of the information regarding the CYP 450 system came from humans and has been used in dogs (Court, 2013). This area of study is booming, and researchers have found differences in this system between dogs and humans, as well as between breeds (Hay Kraus, Greenblatt, Venkatakrishnan, & Court, 2000).

In particular, the Greyhounds' CYP system is different from that of other dogs (Court, 1999). Greyhounds can have issues with anesthesia. This was originally thought to be due to a lack of body fat in Greyhounds (Court, 2013), however, that was determined to be an unlikely cause after a series of

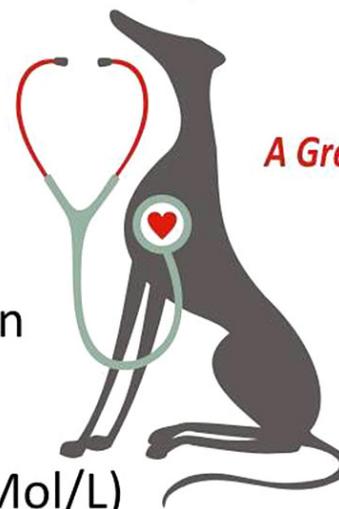
studies looked at drug metabolism. These studies found that if Greyhounds were given a CYP inducer like phenobarbital, they could clear anesthesia agents more quickly (Zoran, Riedesel, & Dyer, 1993); conversely, if a CYP inhibitor (chloramphenicol) was given prior to anesthesia, it would take longer for the drug to be cleared (Mandsager, Clarke, Shawley, & Hague, 1995). This points directly to the CYP system and not the lack of body fat as the cause of delayed drug clearance in the Greyhound.

To sum it up, the changes in the liver

## Greyhounds are not "regular" dogs.

Normal lab results in Greyhounds are not the same as other breeds.

Normal	Greyhounds	Other Breeds
HCT/PCV	50% - 70%	42% - 62%
WBC	3.5-6.9	5.8-20.3
Platelets	110-205	173-497
Total Protein	4.8-6.3	5.1-7.1
Globulin	1.7-3.0	2.2-3.9
Creatinine	1.0-1.7	0.6-1.6
Total T4 (nMol/L)	8-20	20-33



*A Greyhound with HCT/PCV <50% is anemic!*

*If you think your Greyhound is hypothyroid, please have your vet check the TSH!*

[www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org](http://www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org)

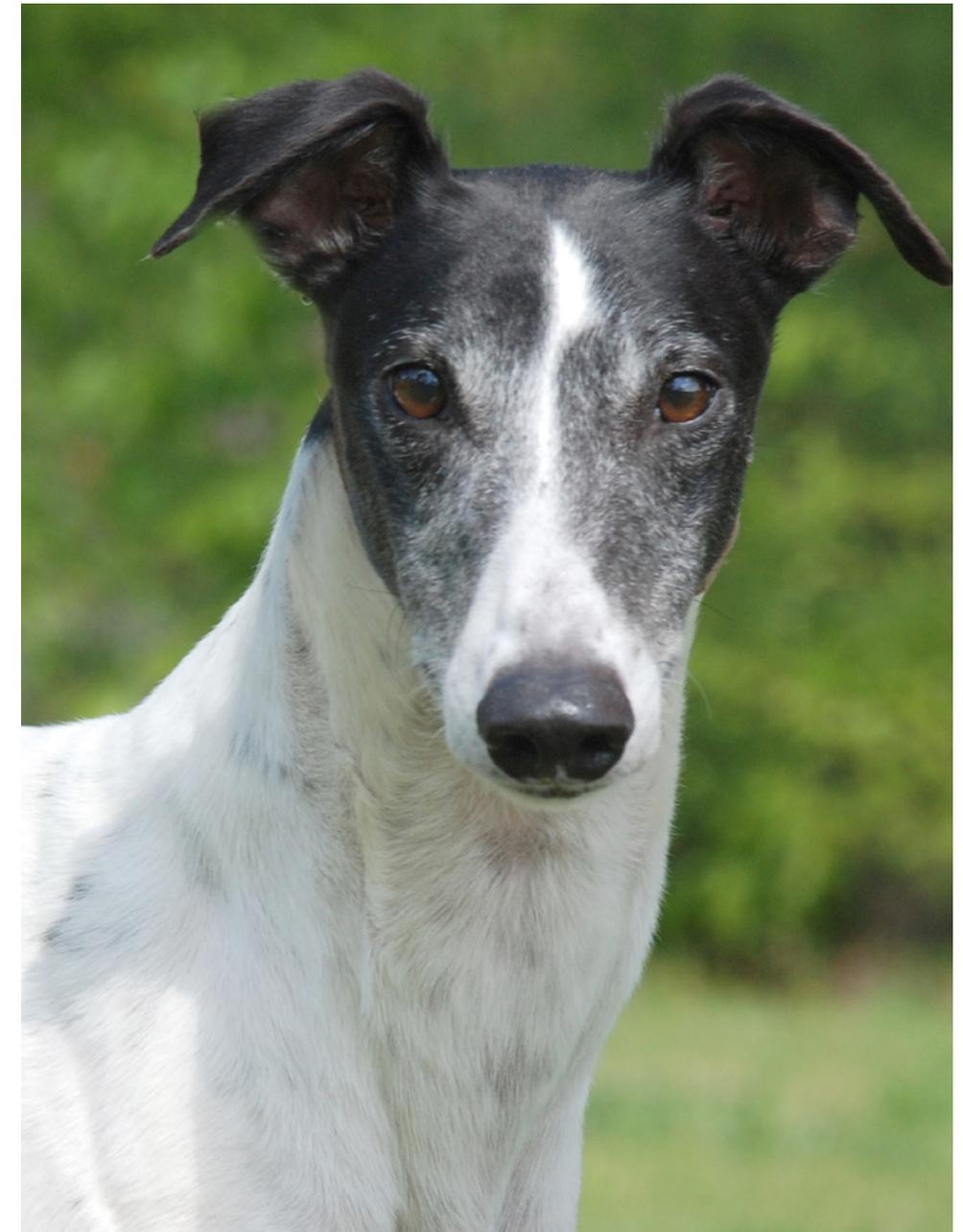
enzymes seen in Greyhounds do not cause the issues with drug metabolism in the Greyhound. However, the CPY system within the Greyhound's liver is unique and creates changes in drug metabolism. Now let's talk about thyroid values.

There are four common tests that are used to check for thyroid disease. They are total T4, free T4, T3, and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). TSH is controlled by the pituitary gland in the brain. The pituitary gland also controls the thyroid gland's production of T3 and T4 (Dunlap, 1990). Thus, when TSH is elevated, it means that there is not enough T4 or T3, and when the TSH is low, it means that there is too much T4 or T3 (Dunlap, 1990). TSH and T4 play a large role in diagnosing hypothyroidism (Dunlap, 1990). T3 is often important in hyperthyroidism, as there is less of it made in the thyroid, and it often takes longer to become abnormal (Dunlap, 1990).

It is a well-documented fact that a Greyhound's T4 can be abnormally low. It is important to note that current racing Greyhounds or right-off-the-track retired racing Greyhounds have even lower T4 than non-racing Greyhounds (Hill et al., 2001).

This poses a question about hypothyroidism in Greyhounds. There was a study that gave synthetic thyroid stimulating hormone to Greyhounds with low T4. In a mammal with true hypothyroidism, this should have elevated the T4. However, it did not elevate the T4 in the Greyhounds tested (Gaughan & Bruyette, 2001).

This furthered the idea that Greyhounds have baseline low thyroid levels, and prompted an additional study. In the next study, a radiotracer was used to evaluate the thyroid function of Greyhounds suspected of hypothyroidism (Pinilla, Shiel, Brennan, McAllister, & Mooney, 2009). The uptake of the radiotracer in the Greyhound was within normal limits when compared to dogs with normal thyroid function (Pinilla et al., 2009). This indicated that hypothyroidism is extremely unlikely in Greyhounds.



*Marlowe (WW's Open Up), adopted by Kellie Cardinal of Mountville, South Carolina, through Greyhound Crossroads.*

Greyhounds are different from other dogs for various reasons. The changes seen in Greyhound lab values can be concerning if they are not evaluated by someone with Greyhound experience. Hopefully this article has helped you to become an informed owner with a better understanding of how and why Greyhounds' lab values are different from those of non-Greyhound dogs.

*About the author: Calli is a dog lover, and spent most of her childhood raising rat terriers to help keep vermin at bay on her family's farm. After finishing her graduate studies in nursing, she realized her life was missing a dog. Knowing she could not keep a terrier fulfilled in the city, she began researching dog breeds. She visited Greys'land in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2013, and adopted her first Greyhound, Jethro. She has not looked back since! She and her husband, Clint, currently own three Greyhounds that live with them in Athens, Georgia. Calli is a member of the*

*Southeastern Greyhound Club. She is an advocate for Greyhound adoption and active retirements for these special dogs.*

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*Sugar (CTW Notgonnabeg), adopted by Joanne Johnson, found a prime location to help AGRAC Director Jenn Boswell greet people at the Alabama Greyhound Rescue and Adoption Center's (AGRAC) booth at Greyhounds in Gettysburg. Sugar initially retired in Birmingham, Alabama, and AGRAC transported her to Greyhound Crossroads.*

# THAT

## A new hound proves to be a handful for 'experienced' owners.

By Barbara Williams

# Dog

**Y**ou know the saying, "Karma is a bit-," er, a female dog. Because I didn't subscribe to this belief in any serious fashion, I didn't hesitate to scoff at online videos showing antics that MY Greyhounds would never do — like colonizing the bed or couch as their exclusive territory or, Heaven forbid, jumping onto the kitchen counter. *My* dogs would always be gentlemen; well, almost always. There was that time Lancelot jumped up on a passing admirer, leaving muddy paw prints on the man's pristine white T-shirt.

On top of that, I often would shake my head at the stupid tricks that people asked Greyhounds to do or allowing them to get into things potentially harmful or hurtful, not to mention the Facebook posters whose hounds seemed to be perpetually at the veterinarian's office. "I'm so happy THAT dog isn't mine," I would mutter to myself.

Such happenings were rare in my world. My first pair of Greyhounds was so civilized compared to some of the horror stories shared on social



*Experienced Greyhound owners Dave and Barbara Williams weren't quite ready for Hunter's exuberant personality and abundant exploits.*



*Rex was the first Williams Greyhound to make himself at home on the couch.*

media. They never even tried to jump on the furniture. Heck, Poppy wouldn't even jump into the back of our SUV, which, may I add, was procured solely for the dogs' comfort and not as our vehicle of choice. Our third Greyhound, Dodge, an elderly return, was too

old to do anything worse than eating poop.

As was inevitable with the passage of time, Dodge, Lance, and Poppy departed, leaving the door ajar to allow the admittance of a new pair of hounds (we decided two was the optimal number for our lifestyle). Rex was the

first of the new generation, and he introduced us to the concept of a Greyhound colonizing the couch. This was a surprise, especially since this new trick was discovered when I was straightening the throw pillows before heading to work one dark morning. One of the pillows my groping hands encountered was furry and warm! That discovery jolted me to new levels of awakesness, if you will. I turned on a light to confirm, yes, Rex, who is black and not easily seen in the dark, had made himself comfortable on the dark leather couch. I even called my husband down from his office, where he waged battle every morning in an effort to publish another novel, to witness this new sight.

Rex also was our first to jump onto a bed. We were amused, rather than horrified. We figured it was about time we got a Greyhound who acted like all those we saw on the



*Hunter, like Rex, claimed the couch as Greyhound territory.*

*Celebrating Greyhounds* annual calendar. Not incidentally, we often mused that the dear, departed Lance would have been aghast at missing these opportunities for enhanced laying-about. We imagined his reaction to seeing Rex on a bed would have been the

Greyhound version of “Really?”

So Rex broke boundaries, not unlike the second child who gets more leeway than the first-born ever experienced. Yet he remains a gentleman overall, with a demeanor that leads us to believe he may go down in

Williams family history as our best Greyhound ever. We even considered, mistakenly as it turns out, that perhaps we had achieved the ranking of experienced adopters who knew how to break in a dog, rather than being newbies groping in the dark about how to integrate one into our family.

Well, the wages of overconfidence are comeuppance. Comeuppance is my husband’s version of karma, and he is a serious believer that the scales of life will eventually even out. So our overconfidence about our Greyhound skills opened the door to Hunter, the Madman.

Hunter’s arrival was eventful. At the adoption kennel, he jumped snout-to-face with us — he’s a *big* boy — to deliver bunches of sloppy kisses. We were warned he was the official greeter in his racing kennel, encouraged to give “hugs and kisses.” We had



*The Williams' son, Adam, is a frequent recipient of Hunter's over-the-top greetings.*

the audacity to think we could break him from that quickly.

The first indication Hunter would be THAT dog — the spirit brother of all those online hounds who made their owners' lives a

whirlwind — happened on the third day of his adoption. The morning walk's pickup revealed the presence of tapeworms in his digestive tract. Having dealt with those before, it was no big deal. A quick trip to the veterinarian

for a shot that expelled the invaders later that same day mitigated the issue. (I must mention the chagrin of the adoption group's leader that the tapeworms did not surface before his trip home.)

Our second adventure with Hunter was a torn dewclaw and a trip to the pet emergency room on the week anniversary of his adoption, along with multiple follow-up visits to our regular veterinarian for removal of said claw and re-bandaging. I was starting to think he may be our comeuppance, that dog, who would raise more ruckus than we had been used to.

It could be that we had gotten complacent after our previous dogs aged and grew even more laid-back with each passing year. It could be that we weren't used to having a newly turned 4-year-old at home. It could be that, like the delivery of a new baby to his mother's arms wiping out the memories



*Even though Hunter has gained a reputation as that dog, the Williams family wouldn't trade him for the world.*

of the preceding pain and toil, we simply had forgotten the challenges of introducing a new living being into our lives.

Or it could be that Hunter was a madman, as he proved with an agile jump onto our kitchen peninsula, disturbing neither two laptops nor the clutter. His pride of accomplishment was evident with wagging tail and smiling face. We were aghast (yet admiring) at how he had stuck the landing, like a gold-medal-winning Olympic gymnast. Then he promptly dismounted at our admonishment, again sticking the landing like a pro. My son beamed, getting a kick out of the unique personality wrapped up in ticked white and black spots. *That dog*, I sighed when the adventure was over.

The six months Hunter has been with us have been a learning experience. He is more vocal than any of our previous hounds, and seeing neighborhood kids playing with balls can drive him into a frenzy. His post-pee ritual, combining the Greyhound Shuffle with yips, growls, and barks, raises the function to performance art. Despite these initial challenges, he has integrated totally and has become a cherished and unique member of the family. Hunter is learning not to jump on people, instead being a gentleman at meet and greet



*WW Endmost, adopted by Nicola Thompson of Hendersonville, North Carolina, through Greyhound Crossroads.*

events. He also hasn't repeated his Olympic counter-jumping performance. And no trips to the vet have been required since those rocky first weeks.

Is he still a bouncing bundle of energy? Emphatically, yes, but we now know him well enough to avoid things that bring out the madman. If kids are playing soccer down the street, we merely go in another direction. Stuffedies are no longer allowed to be strewn around the house since Hunter has the singular ability to dismember and then digest them, with extreme prejudice. "This too shall pass without surgical intervention," was our hope and prayer.

When a new Greyhound enters your life, expectations must fly out the door. Each hound is unique and it takes time for his or her personality to unfold after entering the strange new world of retirement. As owners, we also need to be flexible and make our adjustments, learning to appreciate the new hound for him- or herself. That's what it's all about, really.

All it takes is guidance, time, love, and appreciation for the dog. Even *that* dog.

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*About the author: Barbara Williams, a Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine section editor, is enjoying the retired life with her hounds in Memphis, Tennessee.*

# MEDIEVAL HEROES

Guinefort and Dragon are two Greyhounds who were revered in history.

by Linda Slusser



*Macaire and the dog of Montargis.*

Greyhounds have a long history in art and literature, but two stand out for the unusual recognition given to their selfless devotion.

A 13th-century French story explains how a martyred Greyhound became a saint. Guinefort, the trusted companion of a knight living near Lyon, was left to guard his master's infant. After hunting, the knight returned to a horrific scene: the cradle overturned and Guinefort's mouth covered with blood. Enraged, the knight killed his dog, only to find the child alive and well, saved from a snake by his protector, Guinefort. Full of remorse, the knight created a shrine for the faithful dog. Local peasants soon began to pray at the grave of "Saint" Guinefort, especially on behalf of infants (Bondeson; "Saint Guinefort"; Weis).



Another French Greyhound, Dragon, was a key participant in a trial ordered by King Charles V in 1380. The strong bond between Dragon and nobleman Aubri de Montdidier did not end with the man's murder. Not only did the dog indicate where his master was buried in the forest, but he also singled out and attacked the murderer, Richard Macaire, several times. In a trial by combat between Dragon and Macaire, the victorious canine exacted justice for his master when the murderer confessed and was executed (Coren, "Murderer"; "Trial"). Much later, in the early 1800s, Dragon's story became the subject of "the first archetypical dog drama to be staged in London." "The Dog of Montargis" was performed into the 1880s (Bondeson, 74 ,82).

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# You're Invited 2017

**Sept. 10, 2017**

**Gathering of the Greys**

**Port Matilda, Pennsylvania**

Nittany Greyhounds will conduct its annual picnic, which it bills as a "day of good friends, great food, lots of fun, and dogs, dogs, dogs." The event begins at 10:30 a.m. at Roo Valley.

[www.nittanygreys.org](http://www.nittanygreys.org)

[toni@nittanygreys.org](mailto:toni@nittanygreys.org)

**September 21 – 24, 2017**

**Beach Bound Hounds**

**Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

Greyhound Crossroads opened registration Jan. 10 for Beach Bound Hounds. Last year, the event featured workshops and seminars, shopping at vendor booths,

contests and games, plenty of beach strolls, and a variety of social activities.

[www.greyhoundcrossroads.com](http://www.greyhoundcrossroads.com)

[beachyhounds@yahoo.com](mailto:beachyhounds@yahoo.com)

**Oct. 5-8, 2017**

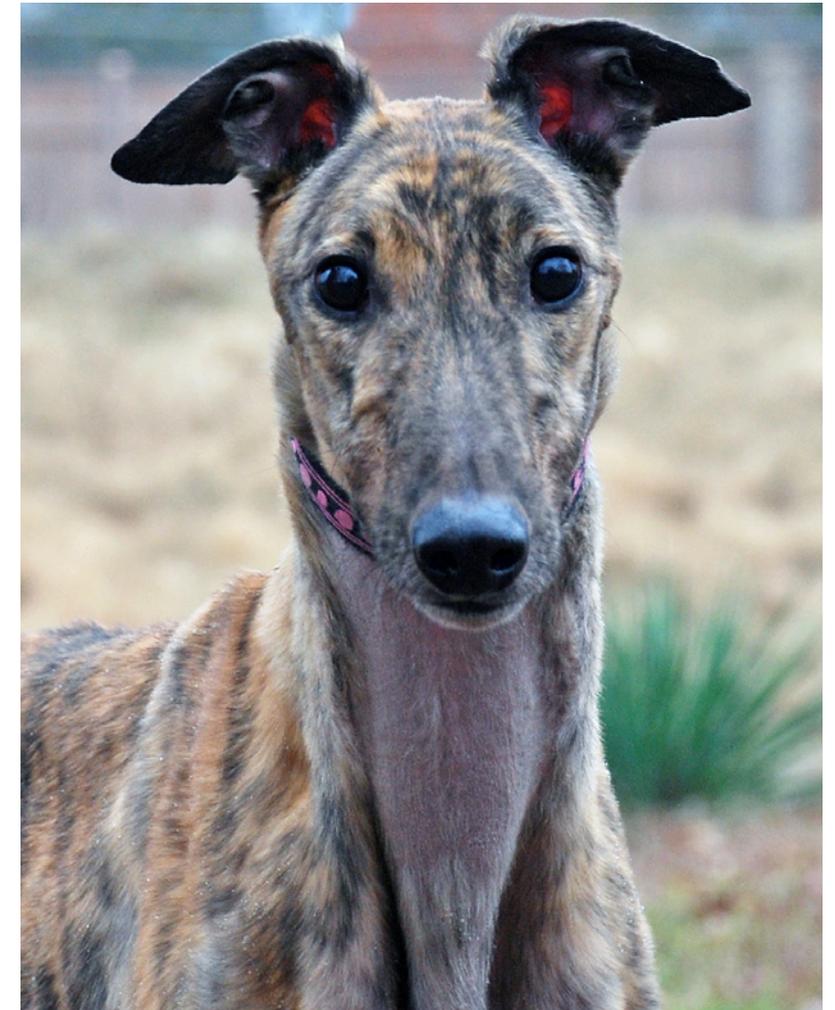
**Greyhounds Reach the Beach**

**Dewey Beach, Delaware**

This event at Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, celebrates adopters' lives with Greyhounds. The event features speakers from the Greyhound and sighthound world, including behaviorists, veterinarians, counselors, adoption professionals, and international breed experts, as well as more than 50 vendors along with food, special events, an ice cream social for the hounds, and more.

[www.grtb.org](http://www.grtb.org)

[admin@grtb.org](mailto:admin@grtb.org)



*Larry (Jas Light Larry), a 6-year-old special needs Greyhound with Cushing's disease, adopted by the White family of Anderson, South Carolina, through Greyhound Crossroads.*

# You're Invited 2017

**Oct. 14, 2017**

**Mid-South Greyhound Adoption Option Annual Reunion  
West Memphis, Arkansas**

The annual reunion is scheduled Oct. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Southland Park Gaming and Racing in West Memphis, Arkansas. The event features a cocktail hour, parade of hounds on the track, dinner, and live and silent auctions.

[www.msgao.org](http://www.msgao.org)

**Oct. 22, 2017**

**GPA – Nashville Fall Picnic  
Nashville, Tennessee**

Adopters and their hounds will gather at 1 p.m. at Edwin Warner Park in Nashville, Tennessee.

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

[gpanashville@gmail.com](mailto:gpanashville@gmail.com)



*Bentley (left) and Maggie (right) enjoyed attending Greyhounds in Gettysburg with Ashley Ball, who adopted the pair through Greyhound Friends of New Jersey.*

# In Memoriam



## **Luka Brinegar**

(May 11, 2005 – Jan. 19, 2017)

Jan Brinegar's beloved Luka passed away suddenly on Jan. 19, 2017. Luka would have celebrated his 10th Gotcha Day in April.

Luka was featured in the article "Luka Changed My Life" in the Winter 2009 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds* Magazine. He was also the cover boy for the 2010 *Celebrating Greyhounds* wall calendar.

Luka worked more than 300 adoption events and helped many retired racers find their forever homes. Luka's passions were sandwich cookies, meet and greets, going for rides in his Jeep, and hanging

out with his Aunties and Greyhound friends.

Luka was a world-class traveler, having attended Mountain Hounds, Greyhounds in Gettysburg, Beach Bound Hounds, and events for Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan, Greyhound Pets of America-Wisconsin, and Shamrock Greyhound Placement.

Jan wrote, "He was and will always be my heart hound, my very first Greyhound."

Luka will be missed forever by his heartbroken momma Jan and family, and Greyhound brother Carter.

**KATHLEEN KASKA**

**RUN  
DOG  
RUN**

[www.kathleenkaska.com](http://www.kathleenkaska.com)  
[blackopalbooks.com](http://blackopalbooks.com)

*A portion of book sales will be donated to  
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 with any additional questions.



The Greyhound Health Initiative is uniquely dedicated to improving the health of sighthounds through education, research, and accessibility to proper diagnosis and treatment.

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- 20% discounts at Red Roof Inn
- 50% Discount on consultation fees with Dr. Couto
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- Access to education materials, white papers, published research, newsletters, and more!

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- FREE blood products for life, even after ceasing to be a donor;
- FREE flea, tick and heartworm preventatives;
- The knowledge that you are saving another dog's life!

We are happy to announce that we opened our **Canine Blood Bank** in Dublin, OH in June to provide a lifesaving service to veterinarians all across the country. And because our donors are mostly Greyhounds,



*Dr. Guillermo Couto, DVM, President*

it also allows us to keep a library of blood samples for both current and future research projects.

We are very excited to bring this service to the veterinary community, to be able to assist all breeds while focusing on our mission to improve sighthound health.

**Veterinarians looking for canine blood products** can go to [www.GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org/nonprofit-blood-bank/](http://www.GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org/nonprofit-blood-bank/) or call **800-416-5156 Ext. 1.**

People who live within driving distance to Dublin, OH and are interested in signing up their dog(s) as **blood donors** can go to [www.GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org/blood-bank/](http://www.GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org/blood-bank/) or call **800-416-5156 Ext. 1.**

**Find out more at [GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org](http://GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org) and Like us on Facebook for regular updates.**

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