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Summer 2002

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celebrating greyhounds

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Bernie. Lauren Emery

Lelaps, Blue Blazer, and Strudel. Diana Lynn Chupp

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 7; No. 2 Summer 2002

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Back cover: Whisper takes to the air. Tien Tran Photography

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editorial comments

By Cindy Hanson

Who is the Greyhound on the cover of this magazine?

I have been looking at this photograph for months, wondering. Unless we're lucky enough to count the photographer among our subscribers, we may never know. The back of the photograph carries only one piece of identifying information, a name: "Prairie" Harlow.

Receiving photographs is one of the best things I get to do as editor. Dogs at play, dogs with squeaky toys, dogs with silly ears, dogs sleeping in the "cockroach" position, dogs and kids . . . every photograph that I receive depicts a Greyhound that is special to someone. Even the photograph that we cannot use — one that is out of focus, underexposed, bent, sticky, or smeared with ink — clearly shows a Greyhound that is loved.

But this photograph is a mystery.

Is Prairie a rambunctious girl, surprised in mid-frolic by the photographer? Or is he a sedate senior gentleman, preparing to lay down for a snooze in the afternoon sun? The image holds few clues. The background suggests a wooden building with a porch. Perhaps Prairie and family are vacationing at a summer cabin.

This issue of *CG* suggests a number of summer activities for you and your Greyhounds. Skip and Ann Bollens encourage us to take up a new sport in "Getting Started in Agility," and Louise Hoelscher illustrates just how far one can go with talent and perseverance in "Whisper — Agility Champion." Bryan Randolph introduces us to lure coursing with the Society for Creative Anachronism in "Lure Coursing in the Current Middle Ages." Marcia Herman's "Volksmarching Revisited" suggests yet another type of outdoor fun for you and your Greyhound. And if you're in the mood for a road trip, the 24 events listed in "You're Invited" beckon you.

Of course, summer is fleeting. The most thoughtful among us remember to plan ahead while enjoying the present. Rocky Mountain Greyhound Adoption took charge of its future; Jan Woll describes this monumental effort in "Building Our Adoption Kennel." Such ventures require money, and Jessica Brezinski tells us about one way to get some in "Conducting an Online Auction Fundraiser." In his House Calls column, Dr. Jim Bader urges us to promote the health and longevity of our beloved pets by guarding against Greyhound obesity.

Take another look at the cover of this issue. Is it a recent photograph, or a cherished souvenir of a summer long past? In the end, I suppose it doesn't really matter — the image, a moment captured in time, is as permanent as our love for our four-legged companions.

Who loves this Greyhound? Somebody does — that they took the time to photograph this charming scene and send it to us is proof. And if you look closely, you can see that the tag dangling from Prairie's very pretty collar is in the shape of a heart.

Hall of Fame

I was shocked when I read "Rocketing to Success" (Winter 2001 *CG*). I feel that this story does not present the facts as they are. The fact is that over 20,000 Greyhounds are killed (shot, starved, beaten or euthanized) each year because they do not make enough money. It is true that a minimal number of racing Greyhounds are treated humanely — but by far not the majority. Since you are a neutral organization, why are you making the racing industry look so great? I would appreciate it if you could publish this in your next issue, but if you cannot please e-mail me back if possible. Thank you.

Lynn Kargol
Via e-mail

Alaska, adopted by Bob Fink and Kathy Graham from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption.

Perhaps if CG *devoted regular space to the Greyhounds who are having the best current racing season, this argument would have merit. But Hall of Fame is clearly an historical feature. Most of our Greyhounds come from a racing background, and their history is part of what we celebrate about them. Conversely, there is nothing celebratory about Greyhounds being shot, starved, beaten, or euthanized; readers expecting this sort of content should look elsewhere. — Ed.*

Thank you for your article on JW Rocket One ("Rocketing to Success"). My husband and I had Rocket One as a puppy in Yuma, Arizona when he was starting his career. We were just starting out in Greyhound racing. March 9, 1984, was a sad day. We still miss Rocket, not so much for what he could have been but for the fact that Rocket was a very gentle, loving dog. To this day, my husband still expects every Greyhound to have the heart that Rocket did.

I have taken a different course in life. I place retired racers for Mid-South Greyhound Adoption Option in West Memphis, Arkansas. I know every dog I have and have placed has the same gentle, loving quality that Rocket had. Greyhounds are special pets, loving, devoted and a friend for life. Thank you to all the people everywhere that have let Greyhounds become part of their lives.

Jan Cobb, Director
Mid-South Greyhound Adoption Option
West Memphis, Ark.

Caution Regarding Meet and Greets

The article "How to Have a Successful Meet and Greet" (Winter 2001 *CG*) states that without insurance it is not worth the risk to do the event. To expand upon that, the highest level of risk is exposure to small children and secondly, exposure to small dogs. Dominant/aggressive Greyhounds or very shy dogs are the ones more likely to bite when confronted with a child in their face. These dogs are not suitable to bring to Meet and Greets. Some people who love their dogs have blind spots about their behaviors and don't realize the risk to the group. The event coordinator should know the temperaments of the canine helpers. Any Greyhound sleeping at an event where a toddler might accidentally fall over on the dog could potentially startle and bite. When small children are nearby the handlers should be very vigilant, especially when the parents are not. It is easy to get so involved in speaking with the adults to promote adoption that we are not watching the children or small dogs. Many Greyhound adopters have no idea that their dogs are not safe with small dogs. They may only have been told the dog isn't cat safe. To prevent a potential disaster it is best to advise visitors with small dogs to hold their pets and to tell them not all Greyhounds are good with small dogs. No adoption group needs a lawsuit or the bad publicity associated with an incident.

Lauren Emery
North Yarmouth, Maine

Book Talk

Thanks for reviewing my book, *Pet Owners' Guide to the Greyhound* (Winter 2001 *CG*). Trainers who have trained Greyhounds in the United States plus UK and Ireland say there is a slight difference twixt the two types. Greyhounds in the United States are bred to run 700m and are, as we say, stayers. Irish and UK Greyhounds are trained to be sprinters on our tracks of only 300-400m in length.

Roxanne, adopted by Mary Ann Moore from Greyhound Companions of Missouri-St. Louis.

This slightly determines the more placid character of the American Greyhounds against the more neurotic, sprightly, less steady Irish/UK Greyhounds. I saw this at Dewey. Our dogs here are just a little more nervous due to their breeding as sprinters and less as steady stayers.

Anne Finch
Greyhounds in Need
Egham, Surrey
United Kingdom

Greetings from Italy

My name is Elisa Manna and together with Signora Paola Martini I created a website entirely on Greyhounds. There is information here about Greyhound origins, anatomy, art, morphology, behavior, etc. presented with the aim of exploding some of the absurd myths about these dogs. As its primary objective, the site would like to see that these race dogs at the end of their careers receive warm and safe lodging, and would offer the most complete guide available for this breed of dog. The whole project was undertaken without thought of monetary gain but rather from the passion we have for this breed. I am a graphic artist and I combined work skills and passion to create this project in my spare time. I believe I have realized my dream, considering that I am also the owner of two beautiful adopted Greyhounds. We want to involve as many people as possible in this virtual project which is also a practical project: a few dogs have already been adopted thanks to our site, but we also would like more people to know about adopting retired racing Greyhounds.

In Italy a few people know the world of Greyhounds, and even fewer people know that they make excellent companions and that they can be adopted. We do not want to take any position on state-run races nor do we wish to create absurd polemics, our only aim is to find homes for these marvelous dogs.

If you would like to include the address of this site (http://diglander.iol.it/vaimaia) in one of your news announcements, we would be grateful and perhaps one of your visitors or clients will adopt a retired ex-athlete with four paws.

Elisa Manna
Via e-mail

Ms. Manna's charming site is in Italian, as was her letter to CG. Molto grazie *to Dr. Ann Mullaney of the University of Minnesota's Department of French and Italian for translating Ms. Manna's letter into English. — Ed.*

Cats and BARF

Thanks for the article on raw food diets ("Raw Food Diets," Winter 2001 *CG*). My four Greyhounds, Airedale, Aussie, and three cats have been thriving on this alternative diet since 1997. For those interested, there are some great e-groups for alternative feeding advice and support: Yahoo's BARF, Advanced BARF and, of course, Naturally Grey, my favorite.

Thanks also for the Greyhound/cat/yard alert ("Cat-Testing the Greyhound," Winter 2001 *CG*). I observed this surprising behavior with my 15-year old cat, Sara, last summer. The Greyhounds were all lying outside on the brand-new sod. Sara jumped off some landscaping beams to run across the yard, and two Greyhounds jumped up and were nearly on her. I was watering at the time and was able to direct the spray at both dogs, which stopped them in their tracks. These dogs virtually ignore my cats, usually giving Sara a wide berth as she's under seven pounds and tends to hiss and swat any noses that come too close.

Marcia Greer
Estes Park, Colo.

Greyhounds and Tylenol

I would like to suggest a correction for the article "Canine Arthritis" (Winter 2001 *CG*). The chart on page 11 includes Tylenol, which causes liver damage in dogs and cats and, potentially, death. I love the magazine and my dogs, and wouldn't want any to be unintentionally hurt.

Pearl Stewart
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dakota.

Maria Borowski, author of "Canine Arthritis," responds: *Although some medical professionals consider Tylenol® to be a potential treatment for arthritis, it can cause liver damage when used on a long-term basis. Tylenol is also toxic to cats. In light of this fact, and given that there are many other safe treatments available for canine arthritis, Tylenol is not recommended as a first-line treatment for canine arthritis. For safety's sake, check with your veterinarian before administering any over-the-counter medication to your pet.*

I would like to commend you on the policy of only having tributes to Greyhounds that have been in *CG* or have made a significant impact on the Greyhound world. I understand that people are heartbroken about losing their wonderful pets. We have lost three Greyhounds in the last four years. But take my three deceased Greyhounds and multiply that by the thousands of people that read *CG* and it is easy to see that there is not room to pay tribute to all of our lost friends.If you were to memorialize every fallen Greyhound, there would be no room left to print the articles that are informative to each of us. "In Memoriam" would be a magazine by itself.

Maybe the best tribute that we can give to our four-legged friends upon their death is to give another Greyhound a home.

Peggy Jordano
Erie, Pa.

We believe that at the very least every adoption group should include a subscription card to *Celebrating Greyhounds* in their adoption package and publish a cut-away copy of the subscription card in their newsletter. Chris Miller of Greyhound Pets of America in Daytona Beach has told me that she is considering making a subscription to *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* part of the adoption price. We not only publish the subscription card in our newsletter, the *Georgia Greyhound Gazette*, we also include the subscription card in our welcome package. We get two extra copies of each issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds* issue. We give one to our Greyhound foster mom and alternate the others between our local libraries and veterinary offices.

We believe that a subscription to *Celebrating Greyhounds* is essential to being a successful adoption agency or volunteer and a responsible Greyhound owner.

David and Kathy French
Friends of Greyhounds As Pets
Via e-mail

Sounds good to us! We are grateful for the generous support of our friends in the Greyhound adoption community. In addition, we send two free copies of each issue of CG *to every Greyhound adoption group. — Ed.*

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Please send letters and photos by mail to the editorial office. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also appreciated.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter or photo.

Greyhound Project News

Better than Disneyland

Where else can you mingle with two thousand or more Greyhounds on miles of dog-friendly beach, ask one of the best Greyhound veterinarians in the country the questions you always wanted to get answered but never had the chance, shop for Greyhound goodies that you can't find anywhere else, or meet Greyhound friends from across the country and around the world?

Once a year during the Columbus Day weekend, Dewey Beach, Delaware transforms into a Disneyland for Greyhound people. Greyhound adopters from all over the country descend on the tiny resort community and surrounding towns for a brief vacation and a weekend of socializing with their dogs. When the Greyhounds are at Dewey Beach, they are everywhere, all the time — late at night, early in the morning, shopping, bird watching, sight seeing, strolling on the beach, stopping for lunch or meeting for dinner.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach — Dewey 2002, the eighth annual gathering of the hounds at the Beach, will be the best yet. In addition to the favorite activities that are scheduled every year, Dewey 2002 will feature new and exciting things to do. The first of what we hope will be an annual addition to the Dewey weekend is an exhibit of original art. Several contemporary artists from around the country will be showing their Greyhound-themed work at Dewey for the first time. This year will also feature presentations, seminars and discussions at which both Greyhound adopters and placement volunteers can share information, exchange experiences and answer questions. There will a new and improved vendor tent and another exceptional raffle to benefit the Greyhound Cancer Fund at the Morris Animal Foundation.

The most exciting part of Dewey 2002 will be the Sunday morning Brunch, at which former actress and internationally recognized animal welfare advocate Betty White will be the speaker. Ms. White has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Morris Animal Foundation, where she is now President Emeritus. (She also knows Greyhounds. One of the most popular episodes of "The Golden Girls," the television series in which she starred, featured Ms. White adopting a Greyhound from a Florida track and bringing the dog home.) Dr. Rob Hilsenroth, Executive Director of the Morris Animal Foundation, will also be speaking at the Brunch.

Join the celebration. Greyhounds Reach the Beach — Dewey 2002 starts on Friday, October 11 and runs through Monday, October 14. Many participants arrive early or stay later just to relax and enjoy the dog-friendly areas in and around Dewey Beach. Registration and other information is posted on the Internet at http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/

See you in October.

Celebrating CG's New Website

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine has a new website! Go to www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine for answers to your questions about subscriptions, advertising, purchasing back copies, submitting material for publication, requesting donations of subscriptions and single copies for your next fundraiser, and so on. The site includes a current cumulative index of all articles grouped by topic. The site also lists the table of contents for each issue since *CG* published its first issue in Summer 1996.

In time, articles will be accessible on the website. We will post an individual article to the site if the author has granted us permission to do so and when back copies of the issue in which the article appeared are no longer available.

Grateful thanks to Lori Kriz for designing *CG*'s new site and to Dan Schmidt, webmaster of www.adopt-a-greyhound.org.

Greyhound Writers Win Awards

Greyhound subject matter dominated the stage at the Dog Writer's Association of America (DWAA) Annual Awards Banquet, held in New York City at the Southgate Tower Hotel Ballroom on Feb 10, 2002. The banquet honors the nominees and the winners of the DWAA's annual writing competition. The Association named *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* as the Best Single Breed Magazine for 2001. The magazine also won the award in 2000 and was nominated for the award in 1999.

Cheryl Giebel's article, "Leptospirosis" (Summer 2001 *CG*), received the Maxwell Award as Best Individual Feature Article in a Single Breed Magazine.

Maureen Nelms' story, "Coyote Dog" (Spring and Summer 2001 *CG*), was one of three finalists in the Short Fiction category.

Lee Livingood received the Maxwell Award for Best Single Breed Book for *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*. She is a *CG* regular contributor.

Another Greyhound-related winner was the *Greyhounds* edition of *Dog Fancy Magazine*'s Popular Dogs Series, named Best Yearbook/Educational Handbook/Manual/ Special Volume. Jacque Lynn Schultz was a finalist in the category of Individual Feature Article in a Single Breed Magazine with "Discover the Ideal," which appeared in *Greyhounds*. She is Special Projects Director at the ASPCA in New York City and a longtime Greyhound advocate at the "A."

Update on the Research Dogs

Dan Shonka, the kennel owner and animal dealer whose sale of retired racing Greyhounds to Guidant Corporation was chronicled in "Without Owners' Consent" (Fall 2001 *CG)*, faces four counts of felony theft, three counts of felony theft by fraud, and one count of racketeering in a criminal complaint filed by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

According to the complaint, Shonka received at least $374,000 by selling 1,170 Greyhounds to Guidant between July 1997 and March 2000.

If convicted on all charges, Shonka could receive up to 85 years in prison and $80,000 in fines, plus penalties for racketeering and engaging in a pattern of illegal conduct, and he could be held responsible for paying the state's expenses for the investigation.

A separate civil action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is pending.

Greyhound Guardians Receives Kennel Grant

The week before Christmas, Greyhound Guardians received a $60,000 donation from one of their adopters in memory of Dar, a Greyhound who had passed away a few months earlier. Greyhound Guardians retrieved Dar from a shelter. They estimated his age at 9 years. His tattoos were illegible, so his name and his story remained a mystery. Dar lived with his adopter for only one year before succumbing to osteosarcoma.

The adopter knew of Greyhound Guardians' dream to build a shelter. The group's goal was to raise $100,000 before starting construction. Special needs dogs requiring immediate medical attention had diverted the group's fundraising efforts, and they had managed to raise only $40,000. The adopter generously donated $60,000, enabling the group to reach its goal.

Greyhound Guardians is currently looking for property with the proper zoning on which to build the shelter. They hope to have the kennel completed by the end of 2002. ■

Boone (Bantry Bay) 1988-2002

Owned and loved by Maureen and Ed Nelms of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada since August 1990. Boone was featured in "Canine Calling Cards" (Fall 1998 *CG*) and "Shedding Light on Greyhound Grooming" (Spring 1999 *CG*).

This section bids farewell to the Greyhounds who were the focal point of previous articles, were pictured in Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, *or who had a profound impact on the world of Greyhounds. We regret that because of space limitations we cannot picture other deceased Greyhounds in this section nor can we publish written tributes and poems about them. May they all race with the angels.*

Dangerous Greyhound

Upon entering a little country store, a stranger noticed a sign reading, "Danger! Beware of Dog" posted on the glass door. Inside, he noticed a harmless Greyhound asleep on the floor besides the cash register.

He asked the store manager, "Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?" "Yep, that's him," he replied.

The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

"Because," the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

—Reprinted with permission from the Greyhound Friends of North Carolina *web page (www.greyhoundfriends.com)*

By Kathy O'Brien

We Adopted A Greyhound

Written and illustrated by W. L. Cowie.
Hawaiian Publishing
Pahoa, Hawaii (2001)
ISBN 0971383804
$16.95

Adopting a Greyhound is a momentous occasion that should involve the entire family. Unfortunately, that is not always what happens. Many families do not involve their children in this exciting process. Similarly, literature pertaining to Greyhound adoption is often aimed only at adults. *We Adopted A Greyhound*, however, is an exception. It is written from a child's viewpoint, yet can be enjoyed by readers of all ages.

Rachel and her family want a dog to join their household. They are intrigued by the Greyhound and decide to read a book about racing Greyhounds. After contacting a local Greyhound adoption group and completing an application, they schedule an appointment to meet Eva, the Greyhound that is chosen for them. Before they take her home, they have to watch a video and sign adoption papers. Eva adapts very well and six months later another Greyhound, Cee Cee, joins the family.

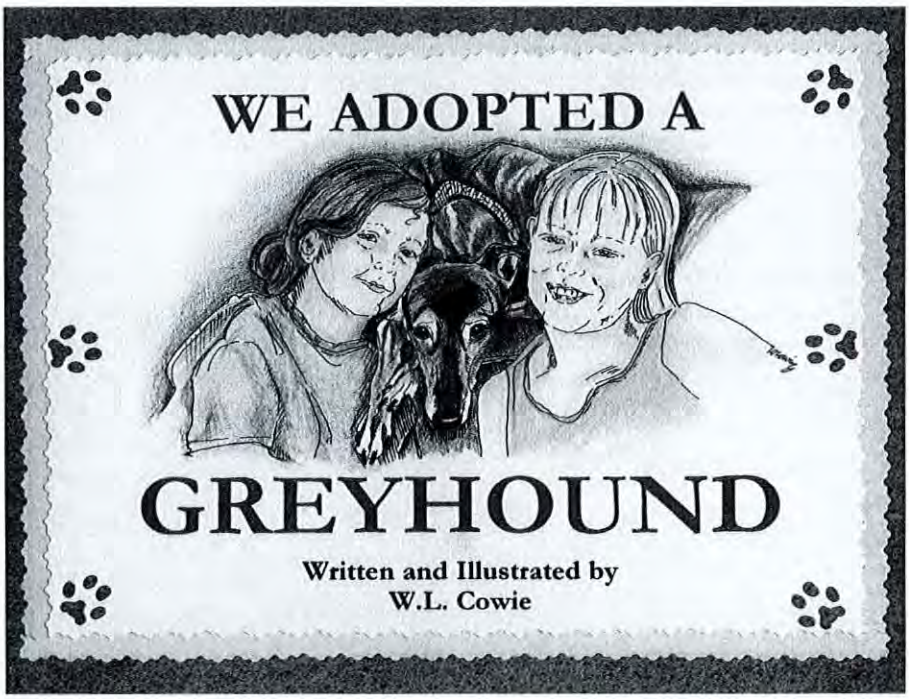
As a result of their growing love of Greyhounds, Rachel's family offers to volunteer and foster for their local adoption group. The first Greyhound they foster is Wrangler. He is soon adopted by their aunt. Canismokeanother (Mo Mo) is their second foster dog. This time, things are different. They find they cannot part with Mo Mo and choose to adopt him.

Many opportunities to volunteer arise for Rachel and her family. Their local adoption group features a kennel of 18 hounds that require much attention and care. Volunteers like Rachel and her family help ensure the well-being of these dogs by giving baths, trimming nails, and arranging visits to the veterinarian.

Rachel finishes her story about her experience with Greyhounds by hinting that Mo Mo might need a brother. That would be Greyhound number four.

Readers of all ages can appreciate *We Adopted A Greyhound*, although the manner in which it is written makes it especially suitable for children. Author and illustrator Wendi Cowie served as a Greyhound adoption representative and volunteers for Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption in Altoona, Pa. She knows her subject well. Her book provides a clear explanation of the process of adopting a Greyhound. Furthermore, she touches on many important facts regarding the special traits of a Greyhound. Some of these include explaining why Greyhounds need to be kept on a leash when outside and how using a crate can be beneficial. Additionally, she shows that adopting Greyhounds can be very habit-forming.

The entire story is reinforced with delightful illustrations that are both colorful and descriptive. The book is graced with pages of endearing sketches of Greyhounds in a variety of poses. These drawings suit the story and enhance it a great deal. The book is available in hardcover, as a soft-bound coloring book, and as an e-book on the publisher's website (www.hawaiian-publishing.com). *We Adopted A Greyhound* is not only charming but educational for children and adults alike who are considering Greyhound adoption. ■



Kathy O'Brien, former director of St. Croix Meadows Adopt-a-Greyhound, lives with her husband Dan and son Connor in Hudson, Wisconsin. She is the proud owner of two senior Greyhounds, a Beagle, a cat, and a horse.

By Lee Livingood

Life is a Cabaret

We don't have to spend much time with our Greyhounds to learn that, like all living creatures, they want four basic things. They want to get good stuff, and they want to keep good stuff from ending. They want to end bad stuff, and they want to keep bad stuff from starting.

Our Greyhounds' environments are full of cues and rewards that we miss because we rely so heavily on words. Our dogs rely on a wealth of nonverbal cues that we often miss. They are constantly learning from the world around them. They quickly learn how to find and obtain rewards from their environments. Life is a cabaret and your Greyhound needs only to learn how to read the cues.

The squirrel in the yard, the piece of chicken in the trash, and the remains of last night's pizza sitting on the counter are examples of environmental cues that can become environmental rewards. Any time the environment rewards your Greyhound, he learns to look to the world for his goodies instead of to you.

By better understanding how some of these nonverbal cues work, you can find ways to use them to teach your Greyhound that all rewards come from you and through you — or at least they appear to — instead of being free for the taking.

How do I control and use environmental cues? Here are two examples.

Ten years ago, when I brought a malnourished, food-driven adult Sheltie/Beagle mix into our pack, she quickly learned that I am an impossibly sloppy cook. If she hung around my feet in the kitchen, something tasty would inevitably fall to the floor. I found this annoying and potentially dangerous since I could easily trip over her. To correct this behavior, I did two things.

At first, each time she went into the dining area, I tossed her a treat. Later in the training, I required her to lie down for increasing lengths of time in the dining room before she received a treat. If something fell on the floor while she was in the kitchen and I knew I couldn't get to it before she did, I'd point to it and say "Get it." She no longer moves towards anything on the kitchen floor unless I say "Get it." She now lies quietly in the dining area waiting for me to reward her even when food has dropped on the floor in the kitchen.

This same girl has a simple life philosophy. If it moves, chase it. If it doesn't move, eat it. She loves to chase squirrels in the backyard, and the chase is its own reward — just as it is for any dog. In the past, when she saw a squirrel, she was instantly running after it with no attention to me. My response? I paid very close attention to what was about before we went outside or before she was out of my control. If I saw a squirrel, I held her collar and asked for a sit/stay with eye contact. When the squirrel moved to a safe distance, I released her with "Get the squirrel." Later, a touch on her collar was sufficient. So we have gone from an environmental cue that was self-rewarding to one that focuses her attention on me and allows me, rather than the environment, to control her access to the reward. And the squirrel and my dog are both safe.

We can use environmental cues to fix many behaviors we don't like. For example, many dogs rush out the door the instant it opens — a particularly dangerous behavior. You can turn the same cue (a hand on the doorknob) that currently triggers the dog to rush out of the door into a cue that instructs the dog to sit and wait at the door. To do this, stand at the door and ask your Greyhound to "sit" (or "down") about 2 feet back from the door before you touch the doorknob. If he moves as you reach for the doorknob or turn the knob, simply pull your hand quickly from the doorknob (slamming the door if necessary), break eye contact, and freeze until your dog puts his butt back on the floor. Keep doing this until you can open the door fully and release him before he moves toward the door. He will learn that the door doesn't reward him — you do. Your hand on the doorknob will become the cue to sit and wait.

Many times when our dogs are not responding to a verbal cue or are responding inappropriately, it is because we are giving nonverbal cues without realizing it. If you want your Greyhound to respond reliably, you must be aware of all the cues he is reading — not just the cues you think you are giving. Once you've identified the real cues, you can find ways to control access to those rewards so that you, not the environment, are rewarding your hound. ■

Greyhounds rely on our verbal and nonverbal cues.

Lee Livingood is a CG *regular contributor and the author of* Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies.

By Maria Borowski

Treating Ear Infections

Most people are familiar with the pain and annoyance of ear infections. Maybe you are prone to them, or maybe your kids are. Unfortunately, our dogs are not immune to these infections either. What's more, since our dogs are unable to tell us what's wrong, we have to watch for the warning signs.

As in humans, canine ear infections are most often accompanied by redness, warmth, swelling, and pain. Dogs may rub at their ears, or flinch and cry when you pet their ears. You may also notice some discharge and foul odor emanating from an infected ear. These symptoms indicate that your dog should visit the veterinarian.

Dogs may rub at their ears, or flinch and cry when you pet their ears. You may also notice some discharge and foul odor emanating from an infected ear.

The most common type of ear infection in dogs is called *otitis externa*, or infection of the outer ear. These infections occur in 10 percent to 20 percent of all dogs, and are accompanied by the annoying symptoms listed above. Most cases of otitis externa last about three weeks. Left untreated, they can lead to frequently recurring infections. Chronic cases of outer-ear infection can spread to the middle ear (*otitis media*) and, if left untreated, can affect the delicate bones and membranes of the eardrum and eustachian tubes. If these infections are severe, the eardrum can rupture, and hearing loss may result.

The long canine ear canal, covered by the ear flap, is an ideal breeding ground for bacteria. Bayer Corporation

The structure of the canine ear makes it an ideal breeding ground for bacteria (see Figure 1). The canine ear canal is longer than that of a human, and frequently covered by the flap of the external ear. This makes the ear canal a warm, moist, dark place where bacteria, fungus, and yeast can thrive. Some dogs are further predisposed to ear infections by the shape and characteristics of their ears. Ears that are large and pendulous or have an excessive amount of hair are at greater risk. In addition, dogs that spend a lot of time in the water may increase their risk of ear infection, as moisture can promote fungal growth in the ear canal. (This affliction is known as "swimmer's ear.")

While these conditions may encourage the growth of bacteria, most infections begin due to a different precipitating factor. This factor can be parasites, microorganisms,

underlying disease, or foreign bodies in the ear. Any of these may act as the catalyst for an overgrowth of bacteria, yeast, or fungus. Fortunately, Greyhounds are not predisposed to ear infections as a result of the shape of their ears. However, they can be at risk as a result of other diseases that they might have. For the same reason that humans are more susceptible to colds and other illness when their immune system is not functioning well, any condition that compromises a dog's immune system (cancer, for example) can increase the risk for developing an ear infection.

A trip to the veterinarian is the proper response to a case of suspected ear infection. The veterinarian will perform an otoscopy (look in the ear with a scope) and take a sample of any discharge present. He will test the sample to identify the cause of the infection. He will most likely clean the ear with astringents and drying agents. Finally, depending on the source of the infection, he will prescribe some kind of topical antibiotic as treatment. For more serious infections, or those that involve the middle ear, the veterinarian may also prescribe an oral antibiotic to treat the infection systemically.

Bayer Pharmaceuticals recently received approval of a new topical antibiotic for the treatment of otitis externa in dogs. Baytril® Otic combines two active ingredients, an antibiotic called enrofloxin and an anti-fungal agent, silver sulfadiazine (SSD). The active ingredients kill many of the organisms commonly associated with external ear infections. Furthermore, Baytril® Otic's combination of two antimicrobial/anti-fungal agents increases the chance that the offending organism will be destroyed.

Baytril® Otic is delivered in a water-based emulsion, which veterinarians often prefer, since oil-based agents or ointments can promote the growth of yeast. In clinical studies of 169 dogs with naturally occurring external ear infections, 67 percent experienced therapeutic success.

Baytril® Otic is not appropriate for every case. Dogs allergic to quinolones or sulfonamides should not be treated with this product. In addition, dogs with perforated or ruptured eardrums should not receive this treatment. Although ruptured eardrums are a common symptom of chronic, severe middle ear infections, this medication has not been studied in such cases.

Deputy Dawg. Jeanine Temple

The best protection against ear infections is proper ear care. In general, try to make your dog's ears a less hospitable place for bacteria, yeast, and fungus. Avoid using cotton tip applicators to clean your dog's ears, as they can poke the tender tissues of the ear or push debris even further into the ear canal. Use a cotton ball or piece of gauze to wipe the outer ear. Placing a cotton ball inside your dog's ears during his baths will help prevent water from entering the ear.

Dogs with recurrent ear infections may need to have their ears cleaned regularly with a specialty cleanser, available from your veterinarian or pet supply store. These cleansers help keep the ears free of bacteria while changing the pH of the ear so it is less conducive to bacterial growth.

With a bit of prevention and a vigilant eye for warning signs, you can make sure that your dog's ears will remain healthy for a long time. ■

Thank you to Joy Olsen, DVM, director of small animal products at Bayer Veterinary Services, for her assistance with this article.

References: www.bayerus.com/ah

Maria Borowski is a CG *regular contributor.*

The best protection against ear infections is proper ear care. Vesper

By Laurel Drew

Oshkosh Racey

Oshkosh Racey with his trainer, Terry Green. National Greyhound Association

An outstanding racer and an outstanding stud, Oshkosh Racey was arguably the best son of the Hall of Famer, Unruly. His dam was Oshkosh Benefit, who descended through her sire to the great bitch line of Promesse as well as the great Cactus Lonesome and the incomparable Tell You Why*. Racey was whelped in March of 1986 and was bred and owned by Bill Pollard.

From Mile High Greyhound Racing in Colorado, to Derby Lane or Tampa Greyhound Track in Florida, to Multnomah Greyhound Park in Oregon, Racey excelled. Unusually versatile, Racey performed extremely well in both the 5/16 and 3/8-mile distances.

In 1988, as a 2-year-old, Racey had a superb record. In fact, he was named captain of the All-American Team, won the Rural Rube Award as the top sprinter, and was runner-up for the Flashy Sir Award as the top distance runner. How did he accomplish this? Racey won the Mile High Countdown by 14 lengths, the Stroh's Invitational, the Tampa Sprint and Distance Classics, and was a finalist in the Cloverleaf Classic. At both Mile High and Tampa, he set a record at the 5/16 distance. He also won the Mile High track championship and set a track record for the year. In addition, Racey won 11 of 22 races at Derby Lane, and 15 of 23 races at Tampa. These were just a few of his accomplishments in an outstanding year.

Racey began 1989 by winning 11 of 14 starts at Derby Lane before sustaining an injury, which put him out of competition for a while. Upon his return, Racey competed at Multnomah and won the Multnomah Superstar Invitational. He then returned to Mile High in Denver to continue his winning ways. Racey lost the Greyhound Race of Champions Final at Mile High to his sister, Oshkosh Juliet. Nevertheless, he was named to the All-American team a second time.

When Racey retired from the track, he started a second career as a stud. Again, he was highly successful. You may recognize some of his offspring as sire or dam or grandsire or granddam of your own dogs. Here are a few: D's Jakethesnake (top runner at Southland), Flying Penske, Oshkosh Slammer, Basic Benefit, Iruska Excalibur, Sweet Theme (a household name around Gulf Greyhound Park), and Starlight Irene (who was named to the All-American Team). These are just the cream of his pups; there were many more that also raced very well. With these dogs to carry on his name, Racey won't be forgotten any time soon.

The members of the National Greyhound Association have made certain that his name will live on in the Hall of Fame as well. ■

Note: Much of the above information first appeared in an article by Cecilia Harris that was published by The Greyhound Review *in September 2001 to coincide with Oshkosh Racey's induction into The Greyhound Hall of Fame later that year.*

Laurel E. Drew is a CG *regular contributor.*

By Renée Antaya

Cheyenne to the Rescue

Cheyenne. Renée Antaya

Cheyenne and I had gone to Wallingford to run some errands and were headed home when my blood sugar started to drop quickly. I am diabetic, and there can be serious complications when that occurs. Cheyenne started to screech and pace in the back seat of the car. At first, I thought she needed to relieve herself. I was feeling worse by the minute, but I told her that I would find a place for her to go and to be patient, we'd be there soon.

While Cheyenne continued to screech and moan, my vision began to fade. It was difficult to concentrate on driving. Finally, I was able to find something to eat, but by that time it was almost too late. I pulled off to the side of the road, not knowing where I was or what I was doing. I tried to eat to regain my strength. I knew only that we had to get home. Cheyenne continued to screech and pace, as though she knew something was very wrong and that she had to keep me alert.

Eventually, a policeman pulled up to my Explorer to investigate, as I had not parked straight. I explained to him what was happening. Cheyenne continued her high-pitched whining. I was alert enough to notice that the officer responded to Cheyenne, too.

It was a tough day, but everything turned out all right, thanks to Cheyenne. She knew something was wrong from the beginning and stuck with me until help arrived. I am so very proud of my little Squirt. She is my hero and has a special place in my heart. I thought that this kind of thing only happened on TV or in the movies. We are very lucky to have these special dogs in our lives. I know that I am. ■

Renée Antaya lives in Newington, Connecticut with Cheyenne. She has been an active and proud member of WAG (We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.) since 1992. This article first appeared in the Summer 2001 issue of WAG Tales.

By Jim Bader, DVM
Photos by Merri Van Dyke

Athlete or Couch Potato? Greyhounds and Obesity

Greyhound at pet weight. Backbone and last three ribs still visible.

A Greyhound at ideal weight will show a graceful curve; an obese Greyhound will show a straight line...If you look at your Greyhound from behind, from left to right, his back should have a nice arch or curve to it. If his back looks flat, as if you could balance a serving tray on him, then he has a problem.

Obese Greyhound. The back appears flat, and no waistline or ribs are evident.

Greyhounds are the ultimate canine athletes. They can run short distances at up to 45 mph. The Greyhound in proper athletic condition has little to no body fat, probably in the range of three to five percent. In comparison, the average American's body fat is in the range of 17 percent to 25 percent. These finely tuned Greyhound athletes are the ultimate in power and grace. But upon adoption, everything changes. The Greyhound leaves the athletic field and spends a lifetime on the couch.

We've all heard the comment that "a Greyhound is a 45 mph couch potato." While life on the couch is wonderful, your Greyhound does not need to spend his retirement acquiring body fat.

How do you tell if your Greyhound is fat? It is difficult to evaluate your Greyhound's weight on a daily or weekly basis, since changes can be subtle. And most homes do not have a "walk-on" scale like those found at a veterinary clinic. The method of weighing yourself, picking up your Greyhound, stepping back on the scale, weighing the combination, then subtracting the difference may be useful, but it is neither accurate nor easy for many people.

So what's an owner to do? For starters, watch for changes in your dog's body shape. The Greyhound's body undergoes some changes as he gains weight. For example, he will begin to lose his "tuck-up." This is the area between the end of his ribs and his thighs. A Greyhound at ideal weight will show a graceful curve; an obese Greyhound will show a straight line. He will also lose roundness to his back. If you look at your Greyhound from behind, from left to right, his back should have a nice arch or curve to it. If his back looks flat, as if you could balance a serving tray on him, then he has a problem. Finally, how many ribs can you feel? If you cannot see or feel the last two to three ribs easily, then your Greyhound is probably overweight.

Comparison to other Greyhounds can be helpful in maintaining ideal weight, as can pictures. As you complete your adoption, ask your adoption group if your Greyhound is too skinny, too fat, or just right. Take a few photographs of your Greyhound soon after you bring him home. You now have a basis for comparison. Once a month, critically evaluate his weight. If you have concerns, ask your veterinarian for permission to use the scale at the clinic. In my office, the scale is in the waiting room so owners can weigh their pets without an appointment. This will allow you to track and document his weight.

If your Greyhound has adopted the eating and exercise habits of mainstream America,

Frosting, adopted by Marjorie Conn from Greyhound Friends of Hopkinton, Mass.

how can you help him lose weight? Everyone knows the benefits of regular exercise, of course. But adjusting your Greyhound's food intake is important, too.

First, buy a measuring cup. Very few Greyhounds can be free fed. Measure the food at every meal. The usual recommendation is 1 cup of food daily per 15 to 20 pounds of body weight. The recommended amount may be divided into two meals daily and depends on the quality of food being fed. These recommendations give you a baseline and may vary with your Greyhound's level of activity.

Second, feed your Greyhound the amount of food for his ideal weight. This means if he is 20 pounds heavier than his ideal weight of 60 pounds, feed him 3 cups daily. Weigh him every other week. If he does not lose weight, then decrease the amount of food to 2 and-a-half cups daily.

Third, if he does not lose weight after you've cut back on his food, have his thyroid hormone levels tested for hypothyroidism.

Fourth, document every treat and snack. Your Greyhound probably eats more than you think.

Finally, if the above methods fail, then switch to a reducing diet food. These contain fewer calories but more "bulk" to make your pet feel full.

What is a Greyhound's ideal weight? Is it the same as the racing weight? I feel that the Greyhound's racing weight is a little light by 3 to 5 percent. This means a 60-pound racing Greyhound should weigh about 63 pounds. A 3 to 5 percent gain comes easily in the first few weeks of life on the couch, but can be easily surpassed in the next few weeks.

Finally, will obesity cause other problems for your Greyhound? The answer is yes. Tendon, ligament, and joint problems are common. Specifically, obese Greyhounds tend to experience more arthritis, pulled tendons, and strained ligaments. The extra weight causes undue stress on the joints and tendons, leading to lameness and arthritis.

In addition, the heart has to work harder to push the blood through the body. This promotes hypertension, which can lead to kidney and/or heart failure. Finally, obesity may limit treatment options. I have treated two cases of obese Greyhounds (20 to 30 percent over their ideal weight) for whom the diagnosis was osteosarcoma. In dogs at an ideal weight, a limb-sparing procedure or amputation might be appropriate. Because these Greyhounds were so overweight, euthanasia was the only option.

The Greyhound is the ultimate canine athlete. He has also become the typical American. He has achieved obesity by following our lead. Evaluate your Greyhound's weight monthly. His health and longevity depend on your care. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG *regular contributor.*

By Jan Woll
Photos by Judith Lutsky

Building Our Adoption Kennel

RMGA volunteers raise the roof.

On February 1, 2001, Rocky Mountain Greyhound Adoption (RMGA) became homeless after the kennel we used was sold. Fortunately, we were able to move temporarily into a small kennel owned by a breeder of racing Greyhounds. Our adoption coordinator, Torri Morris, lived in a motor home parked next to the kennel from February until June, when she bought a home nearby. The kennel was crowded and we really needed a permanent facility.

We had to make some difficult choices: Would we continue as a kennel-based adoption group? Would we operate as a foster home-based group? Would the pressure caused by these changes force our group to disband? We decided to remain a kennel-based group for two reasons. First, our experience was that Greyhounds who stay in multiple homes are more prone to suffer separation anxiety. We believe that there is significant trauma caused by leaving a foster home. Second, we wanted to continue our relationship with Torri Morris, our adoption coordinator. With 15 years of Greyhound adoption experience, Torri provided much-needed guidance to the two novices who started RMGA in 1994. As a trainer, Torri was also able to provide routine worming and vaccinations. Her relationship with other kennel operators made it possible for RMGA to obtain records and information.

We turned down the generous offer of kennel space at the Cloverleaf Kennel Club in Loveland, fifty miles away. It was simply too far for Torri to drive regularly and if we accepted this offer, we would lose her experience and assistance. This decision was not unanimous and RMGA lost several members as a result. It is always sad to see friends leave, but the Greyhounds in Colorado gained a new adoption group in the process.

We explored a number of options for our new home. We needed enough land to house a kennel; near enough to Denver to be accessible to potential adopters and volunteers, yet far enough from the city to avoid problems with neighbors. To meet zoning requirements, we needed at least ten acres for the number of dogs we planned to house. Unfortunately, most of the available land in the area was in 30- to 35-acre parcels priced around $130,000 with no improvements to the property.

Our next approach was to find a horse property that could be converted into a kennel. We found a 35-acre lot with a barn and fenced areas priced at $120,000. Our treasurer presented the following acquisition proposal: A group of investors would pool their money for a down payment and share a portion of the monthly payment. To help with the mortgage expense, RMGA would rent out the residence on the property. The rising property values in the Denver area would enable us to subdivide and sell a portion of the property within a few years. We would use the proceeds to pay back the investors. Unfortunately, the land was sold before we were able to implement our plan. By now,

Installing the siding.

Greyhounds in their indoor pens. Note the mudflaps allowing access to outdoor runs.

it was late June and we were starting to worry. Herb and Linda Gleim, who owned the kennel we were using temporarily, needed the space for their own Greyhound pups.

The Gleims became deeply involved with our adoption efforts soon after we started adopting Greyhounds from their kennel. When the horse property was sold, they offered to let us build a kennel on their land. Initially, this generous offer seemed to be financially out of reach. A well alone would have cost at least $10,000. When the Gleims allowed us to avoid that expense by offering to let us tap into their well, we knew we were on our way.

With the assistance of Herb, Linda, and Herb's brother, Rick, we drew up plans for a 20-foot by 80-foot pole barn as our new kennel. Our kennel would have 18 indoor-outdoor runs for adoption dogs, a kitchen/office area, a bathroom, a storage room, and a small crate area. We modeled our design on the Gleims' kennel taking advantage of their experience with the building process.

To begin construction, we needed money and supplies. In July we mailed almost 1,000 letters to local businesses, asking for donations. We asked for building materials as well as cash; this approach worked very well. For example, we knew acquisition of trusses would be difficult because the local building code requires them to be specially manufactured. Four days after the first letters were mailed, we had our first donation: Fort Collins Truss supplied all the trusses for the roof. This was the first sign that our kennel would become a reality.

With Rick Gleim directing the project, construction of the kennel began on September 22. The ground was leveled, the outline of the building was marked on the ground, and we started to set the posts for the building. After the first day, all of the posts were set with bands holding them in place. The building looked so small when it was just an outline on the ground, but after the posts were in place, we began to realize the enormity of this project.

On September 29, the trusses were erected and the building began to take shape. We dug trenches and put in the rough plumbing. John Dillie, owner of a Boulder, Colorado plumbing company, donated all of the plumbing supplies and labor. (John and his wife, Kathy, have a family tradition of making donations to worthy causes to commemorate birthdays and anniversaries.) John's nephew and helper, Robert, installed the plumbing. The Dillies also gave a sizeable cash donation, allowing us to purchase lumber for framing. By mid-October, we had the rough plumbing in the ground and our concrete floor was in place.

Each time we neared the end of our funds, another miracle would happen. We received a grant from the American Greyhound Council that paid for the leveling of the ground, digging the post-holes, and pouring the floor. We were again running short on funds when we received a donation of heavy gauge metal for the roof. On October 13, the roof began to appear. It's not the prettiest roof, but the metal is thick and strong. We know that our roof can withstand the worst Colorado hailstorm.

By the end of October, the roof was up and money was again running short. We needed to purchase the metal for the outside walls of the building and lumber to frame and finish the inside. We were stunned to receive a donation of almost $9,000 from a former breeder and kennel operator. On November 3, we installed the metal for the outside walls. Herb built the frames for the dog doors. A local company donated tractor-trailer mud-flaps; we cut these to size and attached them to the frames with piano hinges to create dog door flaps.

By mid-November, the outside walls were up and we began framing the inside of the kennel. Wayne Medlin, owner of an electrical contracting company and a friend of the Gleims, dug trenches for our utilities, connected the electricity, and installed a breaker box. John Dillie came to our aid again and installed inside plumbing, gas lines for propane, and a water heater. Don Peg, another local business owner and friend, hooked up our water line to the well. Tom

Front of the kennel with outdoor runs.

Kitchen and office area.

Lauhan, an adopter who owns a heating and cooling company, donated and installed a furnace and ductwork. By December 22, our friend Carl Larson finished hooking up the propane. Rick and Carl installed the interior electrical wiring and we finally had light and heat in the kennel. Another Greyhound owner and carpenter, Mark Hensik, obtained a donation of cabinets for much needed storage. Mark also installed the cabinets and counter tops in our kitchen and kennel areas. After a quick coat of paint and installation of crates (donated by the Gleims and kennel operator Gary Bryan), the first dogs moved into our new adoption kennel on January 5, 2002.

Although dogs were now in the crate area of the kennel, the building was not finished. Larry "Catfish" Frese, retired from the Greyhound racing industry, had been helping all along, but he was invaluable during this time. Catfish spent every day at the kennel, putting up walls and ceilings, caulking cracks and corners, and doing many of the little tasks we never had time to do. Carl spent New Year's Day digging trenches for the fences for the indoor-outdoor runs.

On January 19, as we were setting the posts for the runs, we discovered that we needed gutters immediately. We had not anticipated this expense. Then Torri received a telephone call from the president of the Colorado Kennel Operators Benevolent Fund; his organization wanted to make a donation for our building. The very next week, a septic system and gutters were installed. By January 27, ten indoor-outdoor runs were completed.

Building our kennel was a difficult process. The generosity and assistance of many people made it happen. Without the support of our many friends in the racing industry and the Denver business community, we would not have this beautiful building. RMGA's kennel is a symbol of what can be accomplished through cooperation and friendship. Is the kennel completed? There are many little things left to do: Level the ground for our parking area. Build a fence/windbreak on the north side of the building. Build turnout pens on the south side of the building to show Greyhounds to prospective adopters. Those tasks can wait until we replenish our depleted funds. For now, we have a new home, and Greyhound adoptions continue. ■

Jan Woll is one of the founders of Rocky Mountain Greyhound Adoption. She lives in Denver with her four retired racers, Tommy, Oprah, Bermuda and Irish. Photographer Judith Lutsky is an RMGA board member and volunteer for Recycled Racers.

What does it cost to build a kennel?

Below is a rough outline of our expenses. The items marked with an asterisk were donated and the cost is estimated.

Much of the labor for this project was provided by a core group of approximately ten volunteers who worked almost every Saturday and many Sundays from September 22, 2001 through January, 2002. Many other volunteers provided assistance with specific tasks in the building process.

* Fill dirt	$800
* Trusses	$3,000
Leveling ground, digging post-holes, pouring floor	$3,500
Posts (poles) for "pole barn"	$800
* Lumber (some donated)	$3,000
Wafer board for walls and ceiling	$800
* Furnace and ductwork	$2,600
Metal for inside walls	$1,200
Metal for the outside walls	$2,000
* Paint	$350
* Metal for roof	$1,500
Insulation	$2,600
* Plumbing supplies	$1,000
* Electrical, box and meter	$800
* Cabinets	$650
Outside doors	$600
* Inside doors	$700
* Bathroom vanity	$100
* Crates	$2,250
* Fencing	$1,600
* Light fixtures, wiring, etc.	$700
* Mud flaps for dog doors	$190
Piano hinges for dog doors	$100
* Water Heater	$200
* Sinks	$100
Pipe for waterline	$200
* Sand	$370
Septic system	$3,150
Gutters	$750
* Toilet and supplies	$100
Total	**$35,480**

By Kathleen Gilley

Kennel Common Sense

The muzzle is not a chew toy! Open the crate, insert your hand in the dog's collar, and place the muzzle on the dog.

The dream of many Greyhound adoption groups is to have a kennel. A kennel can expand or consolidate the pool of dogs for the ease of the volunteer work force and provide "one-stop shopping" for potential adopters. There are two basic types of kennels. One physically resembles a boarding kennel with short, narrow individual runs adjacent to a small sleeping area for each dog. This type requires more land but less labor. The other kennel is the familiar Greyhound type, with individual crates inside a building and a large, fenced communal area called a turnout pen.

The difference between the two types of kennels is important. The dog in the one-dog-per-run kennel may receive no physical human contact, since he is largely self-sufficient except for feeding. Kennel workers need few skills because their actual contact with dogs is minimal to none.

Caretakers at a Greyhound-type kennel handle the animals frequently and require careful training. Good pet kennels have written procedures in the form of a Kennel Volunteer Manual and require volunteers to adhere to them. The manual should include turnout and feeding schedules, a list of dog behaviors to be discouraged, a list of permissible disciplinary methods, a volunteer list, and a recreational activity program.

The following procedures are suited to a kennel with 20 Greyhounds, two turnout areas, and one to two volunteers per shift for four outings a day. These procedures illustrate how much labor, teamwork, and skill is required for daily handling of Greyhounds in a pet kennel environment.

Starting the Turnout

Do not enter the kennel area or turnout pen without your water-filled squirt bottle. It is better to squirt than yell. Hitting a dog is not an option.

Close all gates.

Turn on the hose and hang it on the fence between turnouts so you have it ready to discourage any monkey business.

Close the door between the kennel and main area and the rest of the building.

Place the gate latch to the turnout pen in the upright position so it cannot gore anyone as you are bringing dogs in or out.

Uncrate one dog at a time. With muzzle in hand, open the crate, insert your hand in the collar, and place the muzzle on the dog. Attach a traffic lead and escort the dog to the turnout pen. Always remember to latch the turnout gate.

Watch how the dog you just let out interacts with those already in the turnout area. Squirt water to cool off hot tempers, if necessary.

Close and latch the empty crate door before uncrating the next dog.

Continue uncrating one at a time until all the dogs are out. Use their names as you release them. Make them wait if they rush the door — this is not a racing kennel.

Time in the Turnout Pen

Depending on the weather, dogs should spend as much time outside as possible (under supervision). They do not sleep when outside, although they lay around. They will sleep when they go back inside. More outdoor time results in less barking, rubbing, and fidgeting in the crate. Water, sunlight, fresh air, exercise, and play are good for their health. Remember, when a dog receives four 15-minute turnouts, the other 23 hours are spent inside. (This is why kennels must use professionally built Greyhound crates, not airline crates.)

Walk the dogs around the perimeter of the pen, clap your hands, call their names in a happy tone, and praise them for being good boys and girls. Make it a game so the dogs will respond and play with you. No roughhousing is allowed.

Any posturing or ganging up on other dogs should be nipped in the bud, especially among non-neutered males. Use the squirt bottle, water hose, or the loud smack of a plastic two-liter soda bottle on your hand or leg. Never hit or chase a dog with any object unless your life or his is in danger.

Patrol the pen during turnouts. Pick up stools promptly and put them in the poop bucket.

Again, do not allow a dog to push past the gate or rush the door. Use your squirt bottle. The manners you teach will help him in his new life. He should wait in front of the turnout gate. Say the word WAIT so he will learn it. After the gate is open, he should wait until you say OK. Be sure to use the dog's name often when providing guidance and speaking to him positively. Use names sparingly when verbally chastising.

Do not allow a dog to jump on you. Doing so perpetuates a behavior that could injure an unsuspecting volunteer or new owner and could cause the dog to be returned.

A dog on a medication schedule should have a chart attached to his crate. Judith Lutsky

While the dogs are in the turnout pen, fluff the crates and check for soiled bedding. This is important for proper sanitation. You can't *see* what is in the paper or if it is wet. Serious skin conditions can result from wet cloth bedding or inked paper (many kennels use shredded paper for bedding).

Never leave a dog or dogs unattended in the turnout. If more than one dog is out at a time, muzzle all. Most Greyhounds do not like being out alone and would rather wear a muzzle and have company than be by themselves.

Completing the Turnout

Put the females away first, one by one. Allow the males to move into the girls' side of the turnout. This encourages males to "get it all out of their system." Then put the males away one by one. Talk to and touch each dog individually during this routine. Extra handling guarantees fewer fights.

Close the door between the kennel/crating area and the main building.

Lead in one dog at a time, remove the muzzle, and hang it on the top crate hook as you are putting the dog in his crate. Make sure either your body or your hand is between him and the protruding latch bar.

To load dogs in the top crates: Keep a tight grip on the collar until you have fully opened the crate door. As you unlatch the top crate, grasp the sharp corner with your free hand until the door is open all the way. Open the door so that it is flat against the adjoining crate (i.e., 180 degrees). Some top-crate dogs will try to jump before you are prepared and can injure themselves.

To unload dogs from the top crate: After the door is completely open, support the dog with one hand under her chest and the other holding the collar, and let her gradually jump down. Pull up gently on her collar to support her front end as she touches the floor. Never pull a dog out of a top crate and let her front feet hit the floor with her full weight.

If you have any doubt about loading or unloading a top-crate dog, lift the dog in or out. Do not take chances.

After every dog is put away, make one final patrol in the turnout pens. Do not leave anything for the next shift to pick up.

Maintenance

When you clean a soiled crate, remove all soiled bedding. Fluff the remaining paper or bedding to make sure there are no hidden surprises. If all the paper needs to be removed, use a broom or vacuum to also get rid of dust. Mop the floorboard with the agreed-upon disinfectant mixture and allow it to dry thoroughly. Replace the bedding, then replace the dog.

Poop bucket bags should be tied shut and emptied into a large garbage can. Place a fresh plastic bag in the bucket every night. Depending on the number of dogs or flies, bags may need changing more often. The most important consideration in changing poop bags, besides sanitation, is the weight. If you allow the poop bag to become too heavy, you will regret it; so will the person who has to carry out the trash.

Care and Feeding

Dogs should be talked to and touched all over as often as possible. Touch ears, tails and lift each foot. Give lots of praise while you are doing this.

Place food bowls in the same corner of each crate so no two dogs face each other. Some dogs become aggressive when their food bowls are too close. Make a note in the kennel log about Greyhounds who exhibit this behavior, and use the squirt bottle to discourage it.

Remove food bowls as soon as they are empty.

Night shift volunteers should empty water buckets after final turnout. Thoroughly wash each drinking container inside and out. Refill for thirsty morning crowd. Keep buckets filled to the brim. (Water buckets will have to be cleaned more often if you have a poop eater and are not vigilant about cleaning up.)

Be reasonable about giving treats. Giving a dog many biscuits after he has just come in from a hot day or a lot of play will make him very thirsty. He will cry and fret. He will drink too much water at the next turnout and may get sick or wet his crate. Giving treats or dry food to dogs without access to water will also accelerate periodontal disease.

If you treat a dog for anything, write it down in the log. A dog on a medication schedule must have a chart attached to his crate with dosage times and a place for initials so there is no duplication. Include instructions for administering the medication. For example, some eye drops must be shaken well or they will cause inflammation or blindness.

Make notes in the kennel log after your shift. Put everything in writing, date, and sign or initial it. Include intuitions or "maybes," e.g., "It looks like Brandon has diarrhea" or "It seems like Glen is not voiding/passing urine easily." If you observe anything interesting or out of the ordinary, write it down so others can have this knowledge. ■

Kathleen Gilley, her husband Gil, and their Dancing Greyhounds travel coast-to-coast in their fully self-contained motorhome. They provide seminars and entertaining performances of Greyhound fun, initiative, and creativity. The group appears at Greyhound celebrations, humane society fundraisers, civic events, hospitals, schools, and the like at no charge. Please see their website at www.geocities.com/petsburgh/8332.

By Rodger Barr, DVM

Treating and Preventing Kennel-Related Injuries

Use of a properly-fitted muzzle can help prevent kennel-related injuries. Rob Perisho/Bedlam Photography

By nature, Greyhounds tend to be an accident-prone lot. They do everything at maximum speed, if allowed, and consequently pay the price. Common kennel-related problems may be self-inflicted, facility-related, dog-on-dog, or the result of human error. Most injuries can be avoided if prevention is a priority. The emphasis of this article will be basic treatment and prevention of some of the more common kennel-related injuries.

Lacerations are common Greyhound injuries. Greyhounds tend to have thin skin and a short coat, characteristics that make them susceptible to skin lacerations. The seriousness of the situation depends upon the size and location of the wound. Cleansing of all wounds is imperative. If wound repair is necessary, it should occur within several hours to minimize contamination and infection. If hemorrhage is excessive, direct pressure over the wound with a clean towel or any type of absorbent material will usually control bleeding. If the wound spurts blood (suggesting arterial hemorrhage), apply immediate pressure with a tight belt or wrap of some kind, and seek professional assistance immediately. Some wounds can be allowed to granulate (heal) without intervention; some require surgical repair. If you are not certain which approach to take, seek professional advice. For example, split webs (tears between the toes) generally heal best if left to granulate. Trying to suture a split web is generally an exercise in frustration.

How do you prevent a laceration? Muzzles go a long way toward preventing dog-on-dog lacerations. Make certain that all muzzles fit properly. If your Greyhound is adept at removing this piece of equipment, simply loop the back strap through a buckled collar and cinch it tight. To minimize the chance of self-inflicted cuts and punctures, carefully inspect the kennel set-up and remove any protruding objects. Finally, preventing the dogs from running within the confines of the kennel building will definitely help preserve skin integrity, not to mention all other body parts. Two dogs trying to squeeze through a kennel door wide enough for only one is an instant recipe for injury.

Tail injuries are probably the most common human-inflicted ailment of the Greyhound. You can easily avoid these injuries by paying attention to the last anatomical structure through the door. Always remember to see the tail clear of the door before closing. Tail injuries can be self-inflicted, too. The happy Greyhound may create a chronic bloody tail tip by banging his tail. Severely damaged tails may require amputation of the damaged portion. Less severely damaged tails need protection. Several bandaging techniques are effective. Mild problems can be simply solved by using crisscross adhesive bandages over the end of the tail with a circumnavigated bandage around the crossing strips. Keep the bandages loose enough to prevent a tourniquet effect. For tails that need protection and exposure to the air, a plastic hair curler makes an effective bumper guard. Remember not to wrap too tightly.

Limb injuries, while undoubtedly the most common racing injury, are less frequent in the adoption kennel setting. In addition to all the common sense approaches to prevention, one of the simplest and most effective ways to help prevent limb injuries is to keep nails properly trimmed. Excessively long nails can cause punctures and spike wounds in other dogs, not to mention increasing the risk of broken nails, dislocated and broken toes, and occasional handler discomfort. The solution is self-explanatory. If you have a dog who does not appreciate your pedicures, take appropriate precautions; always use a muzzle, go slowly, and give a lot of praise as you go. The benefits are worth the time spent.

If you suspect a dislocation or break, handle your Greyhound with care. When an animal is in pain, natural instincts prevail and even the most even-tempered Greyhound may bite. Always use a muzzle. Dislocations can be difficult to distinguish from breaks. X-rays are invaluable in these situations. As a rule, breaks get very swollen but do not tend to result in toes pointing in unusual directions. If you suspect a break, place a supportive wrap around the affected foot and seek professional assistance. Toe dislocations are often characterized by the appendage pointing in atypical directions.

Courage, adopted by Lynda Jemson from Greyhound Friends of Hopkinton, Mass.

Marina, adopted by Richard and Pat Wright from GPA-Michigan.

The shorter the time the dislocation exists, the less damage to collateral ligaments and the faster the injured toe will heal. Having said that, if you suspect a toe dislocation, and the grating of bone is absent, rapidly straighten the toe into the proper position with moderate force. Most of the time it will pop back into place. Wrap the toe and have the foot examined. If there are any breaks in the skin at the dislocation, there is a chance that the joint is open. Surgical intervention is often necessary in these cases. Broken toenails usually need to be cut back. Antibiotics are very important with any lacerations, toenail cracks or punctures.

An important precaution we can take to minimize the risk of serious injuries and prolong the lives of our Greyhounds is to minimize the running of our retired dogs, whether in a kennel turnout or our own backyards. Some will consider this blasphemous, others will see it as unnatural, but it is the absolute truth. We have all heard the phrase "Speed Kills" — this is not only true for cars and drugs. Greyhounds have the desire to push their bodies to the limit and will do so at any opportunity. The good news is that most dogs can get as much enjoyment and physical conditioning from walking as they can from running, and a Greyhound is not likely to hit a tree hard enough to break its neck while leading its owner on a leisurely walk.

When a Greyhound is injured in a kennel, knowing how to provide basic immediate treatment and when to seek professional assistance and advice is of the utmost importance. Common sense and a heads-up attitude can often prevent injury, reduce stress (for the dog and handler), and ensure our beloved Greyhounds a safe and happy kennel stay. ■

Rodger Barr graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1975, and began his love affair with Greyhounds the same year. He has presented seminars to breeders and veterinarians on the subject of sighthounds and their medical and surgical peculiarities since the late 1970s. He placed his first Greyhound in 1976 and has been active in Greyhound adoption ever since through GPA (as a member of their original Board of Directors) and most recently through Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption (as founder and current president). He has bred, owned, trained, and raced Greyhounds for over 25 years, and has tried to show the racing industry by example the correct way to manage the Greyhound retirement issue. He is the founder of Foley Boulevard Animal Hospital and has been caring for Greyhounds for over twenty-five years. He lives in Hudson, Wisconsin with his wife Donna, who adopted that first Greyhound he placed in 1976. Rodger and Donna share their home with four Greyhounds and one French Bulldog.

Story and Photos by Anne Finch

The Magic of Finland

Life is full of surprises. Since my first dip into the world of Greyhounds abroad in Mallorca ten years ago, many experiences, adventures, and lasting impressions of other countries and their people have been imprinted on me. I have been at the receiving end of acts of generosity from those who respond to our pleas on behalf of the Greyhounds whose needs we widely publicize.

Through the Internet, we broadcast the voices of the dogs, from French Polynesia to Iceland. Among those who responded last autumn was Mira in Tampere, Finland. She adopted Bay Villa (Sombra), a lovely 8-year-old blue bitch retired from the Barcelona track. Mira came to our aid in Alicante and eventually flew to her home in Finland last December with Anna Clements of SOS Galgos. Later, Marianna and Harri in Kotka, east of Helsinki, expressed an interest in our work. Last year they adopted Nena, a Spanish Galgo bred in the north of Sweden. Harri and Marianna held a "Match Dog Show" for Greyhounds in Need (GIN) last May and amazingly raised £318.87 for GIN.

Elizabet, one of their contacts in Hanko, offered to adopt a male Greyhound as a companion to her female Irish Wolfhound, Blackie, and Per-Erik's two cats. I thought we could give an Irish Greyhound — perhaps a young, non-qualifier — a chance. I asked John Garrahy of the Bord na gCon if such a dog was available. He agreed to find and prepare the dog with vaccinations, dental, and neutering. He also offered to fly the dog directly from Ireland to Finland to coincide with my arrival there from the London Airport. This spared us all the time and expense of transporting the dog from Limerick, to Egham, and then to Helsinki.

All went smoothly and I arrived in Helsinki nine hours ahead of the dog, having confirmed with Ireland before boarding at Heathrow that the promised "male cat-proof dog" was set to go and Finland-bound.

This work for the dogs is exhausting. I fit it in between nursing shifts and use the night hours to pack and prepare for the trip. Arriving at the home of Elizabet's friends, I was very ready to take advantage of a *kip* (nap) on a bed for a couple of hours. I fell asleep and dreamed that instead of the expected male dog, a bitch arrived — a brindle bitch. I was pleased to wake up from my dream and know that it wasn't true and our promise of a male would be fulfilled.

At midnight, Harri, Marianna, Elisabet, Per-Erik, and I arrived at the cargo terminal full of excitement. Customs procedures seemed interminable, especially as we could hear the frustrated yelping of our dog from inside the hangar. Eventually we were allowed to rescue him from his crate, and led out . . . a brindle female! I felt a bit goose-bumpy. "Are you a witch?" Marianna asked. Elizabet, in her calm Nordic way, accepted the situation, ascribing it to destiny. Together we drove the new arrival to her home in Hanko on the coast, west of Helsinki.

We proceeded east to Kotka, a harbor only 70km from St. Petersburg.

The next day, we gave a talk in a local library. We met two journalists, one writing for the Finnish Kennel Club and another for a newspaper. I spoke about the retired racing

Nena the Galgo awaits new arrivals.

Greyhounds, the characteristics of the breed, their suitability as pets, and the situation in Spain. Later, I gave a presentation of our work at an Animal Protection Society in Helsinki. The main concerns of the APS are rescued dogs from Estonia (three hours away by ferry), feral cats, and unwanted horses and birds. They also act for the protection of Finland's wildlife: bears, wolves, elk, beavers, reindeer, and the forest wild cats. They do not have a problem of unwanted dogs.

Finland is a vast country of 337,000 sq. km (130,000 sq. miles) with a population of only 5,000,000, mostly concentrated in the south. The terrain is extremely beautiful and consists of extensive conifer and birch tree forests, lakes, and islands. Summer days are long, warm, and pleasant. Winter brings darkness, snow, and temperatures of -15°C or below.

The houses are warm, electricity supplies are reliable, and transport and roads remain viable the whole year round. The people are quiet, reserved, and patient; they take their time. They are thoughtful, learned, and tough due to years of oppression and economic struggles. Their necessities are simple: walks in the forest, water sports, and beautiful homes. And, of course, the inevitable sauna, revered for its relaxing effects, and its warmth and intimacy. I am told that many decisions are made in the sauna — even politics in the parliamentary sauna.

This is a country of great breadth and mystery as expressed by the music of Sibelius; wide expanses of dark, still, silent water and forests; and of trolls and Norse legends. The quiet, caring concern of these Finnish sighthound enthusiasts struck a deep note with me. We discussed the ways to move forward: How to spread the word? How to promote Greyhounds as pets? How to transport them if we are successful in raising awareness? How to find homes for dogs from Spain or Ireland?

Elisabet introduced the new Greyhound, Sinead (named after Sinead who works in the Bord na gCon), to Blackie, who is a sensitive, huge girl. Rather embarrassed by her own size in the home, Blackie comes into her own on the beach. There she delights in terrifying the local population, their poodles, and Jack Russell Terriers. She runs up and presents her full stature to them. She is overwhelming with her massive, Viking-like appearance. But this is all she does.

Sinead and Blackie took 24 hours to sort out their pecking order. Afterwards, Blackie recovered her self-confidence and Sinead learned to be number two. Blackie showed Sinead how to bathe in the sea, how to go upstairs, and how to perform her toilet in the correct place. Next came Per-Erik's cats. Sinead wore a muzzle when we introduced them. To our great relief, she showed only a normal doggy interest in the two bold cats, with a thankful lack of concentration and attention to them. The domestic entity would be preserved and Sinead would be a welcome addition to this Finnish family.

The love of these Finns for both Sinead and her courier touched me deeply. Sinead now lives in Hanko, a resort on the Baltic Sea, famous for its beautiful old residences built by the Russian aristocracy in the 19th Century before the Revolution. Sadly, it's also known for being the port where ten percent of Finland's population and tens of thousands of Russian Jews left their homeland as emigrants seeking a better life in America. Could Hanko now, with its ferry from Rostock, Germany, become the harbour of refuge for the unwanted Greyhounds of Europe seeking a better life in Finland? We sow seeds, we await growth, and we rise to the challenge. ■

Anne Finch is founder and trustee of Greyhounds in Need, U.K.

Elisabet with Sinead and Blackie in the Baltic Sea.

By Jessica Brezinski

Conducting an Online Auction Fundraiser

Bernie. Lauren Emery

Fundraising is an essential task for adoption groups. One method of fundraising that is gaining popularity is the online auction. An online auction is conducted in a manner similar to a live auction. The item's picture, description, minimum bid price, and updated bids are posted on a website. The actual bidding is conducted through the Internet. Groups choose this type of fundraising because online auctions are relatively quick and easy to set up. In addition, online auctions can reach anyone in the world with a computer. Of course, the more people you can contact, the greater the potential for raising money.

Pre-Auction Considerations

Before conducting an auction there are several things to consider. First, determine if you have a volunteer, or two, willing to setup the auction(s). Setup can include contacting businesses for donations, taking pictures of the merchandise to be auctioned, creating the auction web page, advertising, collecting payment, and mailing items to the auction winners.

Second, determine the types of payments your group will accept. Personal checks, money orders, cashiers checks, cash, and charge transactions are various forms of payment to consider. If your group accepts personal checks, establish a written policy for handling returned checks. Cash payments by mail are a bad idea, since they cannot be recovered if lost. Charge transactions are a very convenient and quick method of payment. If your group does not accept credit cards, consider enrolling in a service that will accept a credit card on your behalf. Services like Paypal (www.paypal.com) and Billpoint (www.billpoint.com) allow anyone with an e-mail account to send or receive money electronically. These services act as a middleman by holding each party's information and transferring money from one account to another. Both services charge the recipient a percentage of the total transferred.

Types of Online Auctions

The most popular ways to conduct an online auction are to use a service such as eBay, run the auction yourself, or use a combination of the two approaches.

eBay is a web-based online auction service through which people around the world buy or sell practically anything. Each auction listing on eBay contains a description of the item (including quantity for sale and physical location), seller identification, current bid, payment details, expiration time of the listing, and a section where buyers can place bids. When a buyer places a bid, eBay automatically updates the current bid. When the auction time has elapsed, the buyer who has submitted the highest bid purchases the auction item for that price. eBay sends the buyer and the seller an e-mail message detailing the results of the auction. The buyer and seller must then work out the details of payment and shipping.

To help set up the auction, eBay provides a structured template. This template walks the user through a series of required fields including the item's category, listing title, description, picture(s), acceptable method of payment, and required minimum bid. Once completed, the seller submits the template for posting and receives a reference ID and a link to the auction.

The advantages of using eBay are automatic updating of bids, acceptance of electronic payments, and access to an established worldwide customer base. Sellers usually pay eBay a small listing

fee and a percentage of the total sale. For more detailed instructions about how to buy and sell items on eBay, visit www.ebay.com.

Running your own online auction is another option. Your group must have its own website to list the auction. Many companies offer free website hosting; two are Yahoo's Geocities (http://geocities.yahoo.com/home) and Angelfire (http://angelfire.lycos.com/). Doing it yourself requires that you personally monitor and update the bids on a regular basis. While this kind of auction is generally more labor-intensive than an eBay listing, it is also more cost-effective because there is no auction service to collect a listing fee or retain a percentage of the item's selling price.

A third alternative is to use eBay's listing service and your own website to display your auction. The Wiggles, Wags, & Whiskers website (www.wiggleswags.com) is an example of this type of approach. Wiggles, Wags, & Whiskers has a dedicated web page for fundraising auctions. This web page contains information about current auctions and a link to the eBay listing where individuals can bid on the item. Combining both methods offers the greatest exposure for an auction.

Auction Setup

First, explain the reason for the auction. Customers will bid because they like the items, but they will overbid the value because they want to help the cause. This is why it is important to have a good description of the auction's purpose. Include a photograph whenever possible. If the auction is being held to raise money for a Greyhound, add a photo of the Greyhound. Photos help customers relate to the situation. In addition, list the name, website and/or e-mail address of the group that will receive the proceeds of the auction. Providing this information is a good way to educate others about your group while raising money.

Next, describe the merchandise available for auction. Describing and displaying donated merchandise accurately is very important. Although donors give merchandise because they want to help, many are also running a business. Incorrect or poor representation of their products reflects on both the donor and you. Donors are more likely to give repeat donations to someone who portrays their merchandise in an accurate manner. Exhibiting the merchandise nicely is also more likely to attract donations from other individuals. Include in your description the name of the item, picture of the item, name of donor and/or company, value of item, and donor's website and/or e-mail.

Customers will bid because they like the items, but they will overbid the value because they want to help the cause. This is why it is important to have a good description of the auction's purpose. Include a photograph whenever possible.

Finally, determine an opening bid price. Starting the bid price too high is a common error in auctions. High opening bid prices can scare off potential buyers. If you must meet a minimum selling price, specify a reserve bid. A reserve bid is the lowest price at which the seller is required to sell the item. If the reserve is not met, the item is not sold.

Advertising Your Auction

The easiest ways to advertise for your auction is through newsletters, flyers, and e-mail. If your group distributes a newsletter, include a notice of the auction website, description of your online auction program, and a brief list of items available in the auction. Distribute flyers with information about upcoming auctions during meet-and-greets and events. Newsletters and flyers are especially useful for groups monitoring the auction themselves.

E-mail is also a quick and effective method of advertising. Most e-mail distribution lists allow advertisements when a portion of the proceeds is being donated to a charitable group. One such distribution list is the Greyhound-L. This e-mail list reaches thousands of Greyhound enthusiasts around the world and is free to join. Additional e-mail sources include adoption group e-mail lists, friends, and family.

Make your advertisement concise and informative. The subject line should succinctly state what your e-mail is about. A sample e-mail subject line would read: eBay Benefit Auction - Collar & Lead Set. This brief statement alerts the reader that you are holding an auction to help a group/person and you are selling a collar and lead set.

After the subject line, the main body of the e-mail should give a mini-presentation of what will actually be found on the auction page. Include the following information: The percentage of the auction proceeds being donated, the items up for auction, the donor of the items, and a link to the auction website.

Finally, list a brief description of the purpose of the auction and who will benefit.

Online auctions are a quick and effective method of fundraising. Try an online auction next time your group needs to raise money. Good luck and happy fundraising! ■

Jessica Brezinski is the owner of Wiggles, Wags, & Whiskers, manufacturer of unique, handcrafted coats, collars, jeweled necklaces, and accessories for pets. She offers numerous fundraising programs through her company, including merchandise and monetary donations, wholesale programs, and online benefit auctions. Jessica has an extensive background in manufacturing and quality, holds a Masters and Bachelors degree in Engineering, and has authored two international technical publications. Currently, Jessica and her husband, Derek, live in Michigan with their Greyhound, Isis, and two cats, Calypso and Cousteau.

By Joan Belle Isle

In the Beginning

Plainfield Pets at Plainfield Greyhound Park, one of the first on-track Greyhound adoption programs in the U.S.

In 1996 I was asked to talk about the history of Greyhound adoption at the second Greyhounds Reach the Beach gathering at Dewey Beach. Even six years ago, Dewey was an amazing gathering. In 1996 around 200 people came to Dewey — a bit less impressive than the 1,500 people who attended in 2001, but a remarkable gathering for 1996. People traveled from all over the country to get there. Unlike adoption group reunions, everyone got their dogs from different places. It didn't matter. People came to Dewey simply to share their passion for their Greyhounds.

Dewey was then and is now a tribute to the power of an idea in the same way that Greyhound rescue is. The people at any Greyhound event represent a collection of extraordinary skills and talent assembled simply because people care about their Greyhounds. This story is their history. The story of people inside and outside of racing who care a lot about Greyhounds. People who care enough to make a difference.

The World of the Racing Greyhound

The gaming industry, of which Greyhound racing is a part, is an economically sensitive business segment. In economic terms, the gaming dollar is inelastic, which means that competing parts of the business segment tend to cannibalize each other's revenue. The gaming industry is also one of the more heavily regulated segments on a state-by-state basis reflecting, in part, an uneasy relationship between gaming as legitimate business and the community.

The opening of casino gambling in various states over the past decade has put enormous pressure on Greyhound racing. With competition from other gaming alternatives, betting dollars — the source of income in racing — have dropped precipitously at all the tracks in the country. Attempts have been made in several states to allow various other types of gaming on track premises. In those states where other forms of gambling are permitted, the overall economic health of the tracks has improved. Most of the states where these proposals have been made, however, have not allowed the change.

Currently, 48 Greyhound racetracks operate in 15 states plus one in Mexico. Since 1992, eight tracks have closed permanently. Two closed only to reopen and close a second and final time, and two closed then reopened as seasonal tracks. No new tracks have successfully opened in the past decade. Of the two that tried, one failed completely, closing permanently after a brief, but unsuccessful attempt at resurrection. The second quickly went from a year 'round business to a seasonal track in order to cut expenses and remain viable.

During the same period, membership in the National Greyhound Association dropped from approximately 7,000 to 4,000. Racing Greyhound breeders in the U.S. registered approximately 33,000 new Greyhounds with the National Greyhound Association last year. Although 33,000 is a very large number, it represents the continuation of a steady decade-long decline in the number of racing Greyhounds bred in the U.S.

How It All Started

Twenty-five years before Greyhound placement groups started in the U.S., Ann Shannon began placing racing Greyhounds as pets on a relatively small scale in England. She worked through a sanctuary for retired racing Greyhounds run under the auspices of the British Union for the Abolishment of Vivisection. It took another 18 years before the National Greyhound Racing Club, the U.K. equivalent of the National Greyhound Association, launched the Retired Greyhound Trust in 1974 to support finding homes for retired racing dogs.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach. T. Ely

Winston, adopted by Rich and Kathy Hoynes.

The Greyhound adoption phenomenon in the U.S. started in the early 1980's. Although some breeders have always placed their own dogs, old press clippings show that the Seabrook, New Hampshire track adoption program may have been the first one in the country.

The seminal development, however, occurred in Florida. Ron Walsek, who was then a pari-mutuel clerk at Derby Lane, began placing dogs through an organization he started and named Retired Greyhounds as Pets (REGAP). At the time, it was probably considered a novelty. REGAP got some national publicity, drawing interest from other parts of the country.

The original REGAP group consisted primarily of people with ties to Greyhound racing. Many are still actively placing dogs. The racing people attracted to the idea were those who were unwilling to accept that their dogs had no future when they could no longer race. They took responsibility for their own dogs and those of other breeders, placing them in homes as pets. At the same time REGAP was attracting people interested in a more formal process for placing the dogs. Other sighthound people, unaffiliated with the racing industry, also started placing more Greyhounds.

Stories from the early days in Greyhound adoption describe an uneasy beginning. Many of the breeders and trainers were not willing to give up their dogs for adoption. Some were concerned about potential liability. Some were genuinely convinced that non-Greyhound people simply did not know how to properly care for the dogs. Some viewed the dogs as livestock and couldn't see any merit in trying to make pets out of them, and predictably, some were just plain obstreperous, mean-spirited people who simply didn't want to be bothered.

In the early days, many dogs made it into adoption programs in spite of the owners — not because of them. Sometime the dog's original tattoos were obliterated so that it could not be traced after it literally disappeared off the track or the farm through the undiscovered intervention of a concerned trainer or kennel helper.

To its credit, the Greyhound racing industry has significantly shifted in the way it views and deals with Greyhound adoption. In 1987, the National Greyhound Association and the American Greyhound Track Owners Association formed The American Greyhound Council, a jointly-funded organization dedicated to improving the welfare of racing Greyhounds on and off the track. In addition to funding an 800- number referral network, making small grants to adoption programs, and funding the development of the book, *Care of the Racing Greyhound*, in 1992 the American Greyhound Council established the Greyhound Adoption Fund, which was initially administered by the ASPCA. Although the Greyhound Adoption Fund was originally intended to handle local adoption group emergencies, it became one of the major sources of money for temporary care and transportation of the large number of dogs coming from permanent track closings.

In 1998, the American Greyhound Council took back administration of the Fund, redirecting its focus from track closing emergencies and putting other restrictions on how the money was to be used. In response, the ASPCA launched an independent Greyhound Rescue Fund to replace the American Greyhound Council-sponsored funding source.

By 2001, the American Greyhound Council began actively participating in The Greyhound Project-coordinated national airport Adopt-A-Greyhound promotional campaign and joined with concerned Greyhound adopters in supporting the Greyhound Cancer Research Fund at the Morris Animal Foundation.

In other areas, some tracks that never before acknowledged the need to work with adoption groups started adoption programs of their own. Although some track adoption programs are small, unsophisticated, half-hearted efforts — more fig leaf than a real commitment to the dogs — other tracks support serious adoption programs where full-time staff handle all of the adoption activities and place significant numbers of dogs.

Adopters who have had the opportunity to talk with the former owners of their dogs know that most of them are truly pleased that their Greyhounds have been adopted and are willing to share whatever information they have about their dogs.

The Greyhound Adoption Network

If convincing the Greyhound owners and breeders to release dogs for adoption was difficult in the beginning, the evolution of the adoption network became a combination of the Old Testament, the War of the Roses, and "The Perils of Pauline." Ron Walsek's REGAP may have been the genesis, but it was not destined to be more. By 1986, REGAP clones existed in a number of states leading to the formation of Greyhound Pets of America (GPA). Formed in 1987, GPA began as a national association that included all but a small handful of the then-extant adoption groups.

By the early 1990s, an explosion of Greyhound adoption groups had begun that would result in more than 300 adoption groups located all over the country. All of the internecine histories of various groups as they emerged over time are probably not known, much less documented. The original REGAP begat REGAP of New England, which begat REGAP of Connecticut, Greyhound Pets of America-New Hampshire, Greyhound Pets of America-Central New Hampshire, and Greyhound Pets of America-Massachusetts. Greyhound Pets of America-New Hampshire begat Fast Friends and Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, which begat Niagara Greyhound Adoption and Greyhound Adoption of Western Massachusetts, which begat Greyhound Options. Greyhound Pets of America-Central New Hampshire begat the Greyhound Placement Service, which begat Maine Greyhound Placement Service, New Hampshire Greyhound Placement Service, and the Greyhound Adoption Service. Greyhound Pets of America-Massachusetts begat the adoption program at the Lincoln Rhode Island track and Greyhound Pets of America-Maryland, which begat Midlantic Greyhound Adoption League. REGAP of Connecticut begat WAG (We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.), which begat LIGHT (Long Island Greyhound Transfer Inc.), which begat Grateful Greyhounds. And that only covers some of the groups in the Northeast.

It would be nice to report that all of these "begats" were the result of natural growth and expansion and that the new groups were launched reasonably amicably with the genuine best wishes and support of the parent organizations. Unfortunately, that was not and is not the case.

Some of the splits and spin-offs reflected fundamental philosophic disagreements over placement practices, others grew out of personality conflicts, and some were the result of geography. In some cases groups simply grew to an unmanageable size or suffered internal differences on organizational structure and management. Others broke up because of a group's position, or lack thereof, on racing.

Regardless of the cause of the split, passions run high in the animal rescue world. The launch of each new group demanded both physical and emotional energy, often leaving a legacy of bad blood or worse in its wake. Notwithstanding the more mundane but real underlying reasons for the breakup of groups, many have been accompanied with accusations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and abandonment along with generous helpings of breach of trust, integrity, and honesty. In some cases, the rhetoric careened ahead of the reality so badly that real damage has been done to both the people and the adoption groups. In most cases, the stress of establishing new groups has not produced terminal enemies, but in many instances the damage took years to heal. Some groups did not survive the struggle.

The truly remarkable phenomenon is that the rag-tag bunch of volunteers held together at all. In spite of the distractions, the endless number of surplus Greyhounds every year, the strain of running local volunteer organizations with uncertain funding, the stress associated with establishing new groups, the intermittent squabbles within and among groups, the number of adoption groups continues to grow. Each new group lands on the scene with a new burst of energy and a re-ignited sense of purpose, reinvigorating the effort for everyone. And with more adoption groups come more volunteers and most important, more Greyhounds finding homes.

By 2001, more than 300 Greyhound adoption groups with more than 1,500 active volunteers were finding homes for surplus Greyhounds from the racing business. That doesn't count the casual volunteers who participate in an occasional promotional event.

Some of the volunteers involved in Greyhound adoption have been placing dogs for more than 17 years. In the past 15 years,

Roxanne, adopted by Sandra Hall from Greyhounds to Canada.

Volunteers get the word out about Greyhounds as pets. Donna Lakin of Second Chance for Greyhounds, with Churning and Jackson.

over 100,000 Greyhounds bred to race have become family pets. These volunteers have generated local and national media interest and raised the level of breed recognition across the country from "What's that?" to "That's a Greyhound."

During that first year in the early '80s, an estimated 100 dogs were placed. Thirteen years later, in 1995, the estimate had reached approximately 16,000 Greyhounds taken into the adoption network. Although no serious attempt has been made since the mid-1990s to calculate the total number of Greyhounds placed each year, the vitality and continued growth in the adoption community around the country supports the assumption that at least the same number, or more, Greyhounds are placed today as in 1995.

And Where We Are Now?

Not that many years ago when a track closed, real carnage followed. Without enough adoption groups, enough time, enough resources or enough coordination, the surplus dogs had nowhere to go. Communication networks and working relationships among adoption organizations were primitive. An adoption group willing or able to help often found out only after it was too late.

In 1995, with the closing of the track in Waterloo, Iowa, something new happened. For the first time, adoption groups from widely dispersed areas of the country rallied to take the Greyhounds that suddenly became excess. The burden was not left entirely to the groups geographically close enough to the track to be able to get the dogs. Professional dog haulers were enlisted to transport the dogs to staging points where representatives of various adoption groups assembled to pick up dogs for their program to place. The AGC/ASPCA Greyhound Adoption Fund paid for the transportation. The ASPCA made arrangements for a centrally-located assembly point for the dogs to be picked up. Some groups took one or two dogs. Others took six or more. In the end, all of the Waterloo dogs found places in adoption groups on their way to someone's home. The success was stunning.

Harlingen, then Juarez, then Coeur d'Alene, Greenetrack, Camptown, St. Croix Meadows, and others followed the closing of Waterloo. Every closing produced 300 or more Greyhounds with no place to go. In every case, at all the tracks that have closed permanently since 1995, the adoption groups have come together to handle the emergency. Tools like the Internet help accelerate communications and a few individuals have taken on the awesome responsibility of coordination. The Waterloo closing had become the model and adoption groups found a way to work cooperatively to handle emergencies even if they might otherwise violently disagree on other issues.

Some seasonal track closings have also changed significantly during the 1990s. In many ways the crises in the adoption community resulting from seasonal track closings are worse than those that result from permanent closings. Seasonal tracks produce the same number of surplus Greyhounds as those coming from permanent shutdown, except that it happens year after year. Starting with the Lakes Region Track in Belmont, New Hampshire, some seasonal tracks have become increasingly more involved in and have taken responsibility for the dogs during the transition. Some of the seasonal tracks set aside one or more kennel buildings to house the surplus Greyhounds until adoption groups can take them. They pay kennel staff to feed and care for the dogs and frequently transport the dogs to adoption groups. Some of the seasonal tracks take responsibility for the dogs until all of them go into adoption programs.

On the darker side of the racing business, however, some tracks, both seasonal and year 'round, take little or no interest in the condition of the dogs. They have little interest in adoption programs much less in incurring the expense and inconvenience of running one as a part of their business.

The truly dark side of Greyhound racing is the number of former racing dogs that end up as experimental subjects for medical research. In the 1980s the discovery of former racing Greyhounds as proposed subjects for wound healing research under the auspices of the U.S. Army at the Presidio in California attracted public attention and the eventual release of the dogs. Although Greyhounds in medical research has been exposed periodically before and after the Presidio episode, it took on a new and higher visibility in 1996 when 34 Greyhounds from the failing Greenetrack facility were discovered at Mississippi State University. None of the dogs at MSU were released or survived. Extraordinary numbers of Greyhounds were documented to be routinely used at Colorado State University over many years for both medical experimentation and as cadavers for veterinary training. Smaller numbers have been routinely found at other universities around the country. The most recent, but probably not the last major discovery in 2000 traced over 1,000 former racing Greyhounds from Wisconsin tracks provided for medical research by a racing kennel owner who was also an NGA member and held a USDA Class B animal dealer license.

Since the mid-1990s the growth of Internet-based Greyhound vehicles — mailing lists, chatrooms, newsgroups, websites, and links — has contributed to the development of a large active community of Greyhound placement people and Greyhound adopters around the country. After the dearth of information about the dogs when Greyhounds first began appearing as pets, the Internet has become a vast resource. Information on everything from where and how to adopt a Greyhound to health, behavior, activities, and supplies can be found on the Net. Where one or two books on the breed were in print a decade ago, at least a dozen can be found today.

The Internet-based community emerged simultaneously with the growth of Greyhound adoption and some of the breakthrough successes in managing track closings. Those successes shared across the Greyhound community provided the catalyst for other people and groups making their own contribution to Greyhound welfare by specializing in discrete areas. In the past five years, groups devoted exclusively to promoting Greyhound adoption have appeared around the country. These are volunteers who organize promotional activities, making referrals to local adoption groups rather than placing the dogs themselves. Advocacy groups, primarily opposed to Greyhound racing, have also grown in various parts of the country. The most notable one, Grey2K, waged a citizen's initiative petition campaign to outlaw Greyhound racing in Massachusetts. It nearly passed in 2000. Other people have focused on Freedom of Information searches of university and government-regulated research facilities looking for Greyhounds acquired for medical research purposes. Some groups have begun specializing in placing older dogs while others focus on special needs dogs with unusual health or behavior problems. Informal collections of people coordinated through the Internet routinely arrange to transport Greyhounds — one or two at a time — across the state or across the country. They arrange to meet at designated locations along the route, passing the dogs from one person to the next until the dogs are delivered to their final destination.

What's Next?

Although enormous progress toward a home for every hound came out of the last decade, a lot remains to be done. More tracks will close. Dogs in poor condition will be found on marginal breeding farms and failing tracks. Greyhounds still end up in medical research labs with and without the consent of their registered owners. The incidents of negligence, stupidity, and abuse continue to occur, albeit they are now more frequently uncovered, documented, and reported.

The litany of failures, challenges, and problems that still exist could drive everyone into paralyzing despair. Much more inspiring, however, is what the people involved in adoptions have managed to accomplish. The small volunteer army of people who spend some part of their time involved in some aspect of Greyhound placement is collectively responsible for more than half of the surplus dogs making it into the adoption network in recent years.

The accomplishments in Greyhound placement come entirely from the individual and collective commitment and determination of ordinary people to make a difference. Almost all of the people involved are volunteers. They work. They have families.

Everything that has been or will be achieved in Greyhound adoption is because just plain folks, people like you, care enough to volunteer time, skills, and energy to make it work. Every person who adopts a Greyhound; every person who stops to answer a question about their dog or hands someone literature about adoption; every person who gives up a Saturday every now and then to go to a promotional event, or staff a booth at a show, or walk with their Greyhounds in a local parade; every person who writes a letter to their local paper or their elected officials; every person who volunteers an afternoon grooming new dogs from the track, or travels to pick them up, or agrees to foster for a few days or weeks; every person who screens adoption applications or makes follow-up calls; every person who posts information on the Internet about separation anxiety or clipping nails or feeding their dogs or includes their Greyhound on their Web page; every person who refers someone to an adoption group, makes a valuable contribution — a contribution without which more than 100,000 greyhounds would not have found homes. And without which the next 100,000 will not find homes. ■

Joan Belle Isle is President of The Greyhound Project, Inc. This article is based on a talk that she gave at Greyhounds Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach, Md. in 1996. She updated it for this issue of CG Magazine.

Shanti. Nina Tepedino

Story and Photos by
Skip and Ann Bollens

Getting Started in Agility

Companion's Lokee, with Renea Windley, on the A frame.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...a Greyhound? Yes, it's an agility Greyhound! Faster than a speeding Basset Hound! Able to leap tall hurdles with a single bound! Disguised as a Mild Mannered Couch Potato, a superstar in the making may be lurking in your living room.

Agility for dogs is patterned after equestrian show jumping. In dog agility, the handler guides the dog through a timed obstacle course. Although agility organizations and rules differ, all courses generally feature these obstacles: Pipe tunnel, weave poles, A-frame, dog walk, seesaw, collapsed tunnel, pause table, hoop jump, and various additional jumps.

You and your Greyhound do not have to be superheroes to enjoy the sport of agility. Even mild-mannered Clark Kent Greyhounds enjoy the challenge and thrill of mastering a skill at the side of their human companions. The hardest part of this sport for most of us is getting started, getting over the fear of trying something new and getting into the spirit of adventure. Your dog has no such hang-ups.

Before you start, make sure your dog is physically fit, not grossly overweight, that his nails are of proper length, and that his joints are sound. This done, the two of you are ready to start your agility adventure. (The dog must be physically able to master the agility equipment; the handler does not. There are several dog/handler agility teams on which the human half of the team has a physical handicap. A good agility trainer will work with you to find a way that you and your dog can participate.)

Find a good local trainer. Working within a training group is fun for both you and your Greyhound. The two of you will make wonderful new friends while teaming to safely navigate the agility obstacle course. The agility course is designed with your dog's safety in mind. The bars on the jumps will fall if bumped. The A-frame, dog walk, and seesaw all have non-skid surfaces and contact points that your dog will be trained to touch. Teaching your dog the contact points and the control necessary to master them will help ensure his safety on the agility field.

Attend an agility trial or watch one on television to familiarize yourself with the equipment. Be aware that when your dog begins, the course will not look like those you have observed. The jumps will be low to the ground, as will the dog walk. The chutes will be propped open. The tunnels will be straight and accordioned into very short obstacles. The A-Frame will not be the very imposing structure that you have seen the dogs climb; it will be flattened and low to the ground. There will be spotters on the course to help your dog maintain his balance as he first tries the contact obstacles. Most trainers will start with low jumps, little mini-hops at which your Greyhound will sneer. By the time you have taught your dog to go over these hopping jumps and praised him to the hilt for doing so, he will be both proud

Seka emerges from the tunnel. Notice how her head is turned to the left as she looks to her handler for the next direction. This picture shows the teamwork and cooperation that the sport of agility enhances.

and starting to show a new confidence in his abilities. When that happens, the jumps will be raised. The dog will do the course again, the praise will come, and the confidence will grow. Most of you are familiar with this training concept; it is how we train our children or ourselves. Start small and work your way up — it works for Greyhounds too.

There are several agility titling organizations in the United States. Even though each organization has slightly different rules, in all of them the object of the game is to run fast and run clean. In other words, the goal is to complete the course without refusals, missed obstacles, or knocked-over jumps and to do so within the set time limit. As you advance in experience and level, the courses become more complex while the equipment remains the same. Whether you choose to compete or just go out and enjoy a new activity with your Greyhound companion, this sport offers unlimited possibilities for fun for the two of you. Most of us have learned that if something is good for you, it probably isn't fun. Luckily, we have also learned that there are exceptions to every rule. Agility is one of those wonderful exceptions. You and your couch potato will become sleek and fit, your Greyhound's self-confidence will grow with each hurdle he masters, and your human/dog relationship will become a true partnership of skill, communication, and pleasure. ■

Husband and wife photographer/writer team Skip and Ann Bollens have been involved in dogs and dog sports for over thirty years. Both are active in the Greyhound Pets of America/Emerald Coast (GPA/EC) subchapter. Skip is the training director, and Ann is the Vice President. They live with two Greyhounds, Lace and Sheer.

Renea Windley's Greyhounds, Seka and Lokee, are featured in the photographs. Renea is the President of GPA/EC and the owner/trainer of Seka, the only Greyhound to complete an AKC Excellent Agility Jumper (AXJ) title in 2000. Renea's expertise in agility contributed greatly to this article.

Note: The Dog Agility Page (www.dogpatch.org/agility) provided additional information for this article.

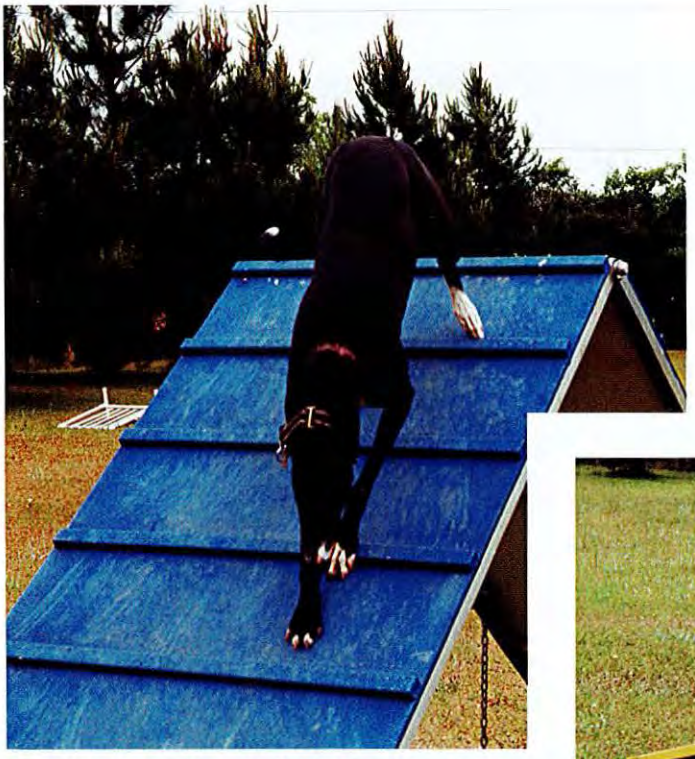
Pat C Sheer, with handler Ann Bollens, takes the dog walk in low position as she learns the obstacle.

Once you and your dog get the hang of agility, both of you will have something to cheer about.

Lokee executes the hoop jump.

Companion's Seka demonstrates weave poles. Notice the triple flex of her body and the closeness of her head to the poles. This is excellent weave positioning.

Lokee learns to go to the pivot point of the seesaw, wait, balance, and then proceed down to the contact points.



Sheer demonstrates cautiousness while learning. Speed will come as your dog's confidence grows and should not be encouraged until he has mastered the fundamentals of the sport.

Sheer learns the seesaw by working with it in low position. Skip Bollens accompanies her as spotter.

By Louise Hoelscher

Whisper — Agility Champion

Doing agility with Whisper has taught me the importance of having fun with my dog. It has shown me how much dogs enjoy interacting with us. And having that flawless run, where my dog and I are one, totally in sync with one another, is the ultimate high.

His crate was at the top of a tall stack at the Greyhound Rescue kennel. I decided to let him out so we could get a good look at him. Out came a tiny, 53-pound dark brindle male with white paws, a white-tipped tail, and a chest that was white all the way up his chin. He was the cutest Greyhound I'd ever seen. He exuded charm and personality. He was not even 2 years old. I knew at that instant that I had to have him.

It was May of 1996. I lived in a tiny house with no yard. I already had two big dogs: a 9-year-old Lab mix, and a beautiful brindle Greyhound named Denzel. I was not looking for a third. Nevertheless, I brought Whisper home. It was not a happy homecoming. Denzel did not appreciate Whisper's intrusion, and Whisper's alpha attitude did nothing to help matters. After witnessing a few snarling matches, I feared I had made a big mistake. Thinking I would have to return Whisper the following day, I spent a sleepless night and rose at 6 a.m. for one last trip to the park with all three dogs. While walking to the park, I noticed that the white on the top of Whisper's muzzle made his nose look a little crooked; how could I return such a cute dog? At the fenced-in park, I unleashed the dogs and threw a ball for my Lab. Whisper shot out like a bullet after the ball and brought it right back. I threw the ball again and again for about a half an hour. Whisper retrieved it every single time, tail wagging. By the time we returned home, I knew Whisper was here to stay. He and Denzel would simply have to work things out . . . and they did.

Whisper sizes up the course. Tom Larriviere

Whisper is officially known as Clorox Butte CGC, AADC, AD, JM, EAC, EJC, NGC, VSR. Canine Good Citizen and Veteran Straight Racer are two of his titles. The other six are related to agility. At this writing, Whisper is the only Greyhound who has earned agility titles with both the Agility Association of Canada (AAC) and the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA). He is the only Greyhound ever to qualify for the $10,000 Dog Agility Steeplechase Championships, in which he competed in 1999 and 2001. He is the only Greyhound to qualify for the Animal Planet/USDAA Grand Prix of Dog Agility World Championships, which he did in 2000.

I enrolled Whisper in agility classes as soon as I got him. I first became interested in agility after trying the activity with my other Greyhound. Denzel tried hard to please, but he was just not meant for agility beyond the most basic stuff. But Whisper sailed over 30˝ jumps with breathtaking grace and learned to negotiate all the obstacles in a very short time. Four months later, Whisper competed in his first agility trial.

I had a gut feeling that Whisper would be good at agility, based on the love for games that he displayed at the park on that first morning. I attribute Whisper's success to his conformation and desire for play. He is a small, compact dog who is highly motivated by food and toys. Whisper lives to play, and that is a positive attribute in an agility dog.

Whisper sails over a jump. Kathy's Portraits

We entered our first AAC competition in September 1996. We began competing in USDAA events the following year. We started North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) competition in 1999. In that year alone, Whisper moved from novice to open to elite and finished his elite titles in Regular and Jumpers in only six trials. We participated in about 12 weekends of agility trials per year through 1999. In June 2000, Whisper began favoring his left leg. He was diagnosed with osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease. I gave him the remainder of the year off. At the time, I thought I was retiring him for good, but he was able to come back strong in 2001. Last summer, Whisper finished his Advanced title in AAC. He is now competing in Masters. Last fall, in USDAA competition, he completed his Jumpers Master (JM) title.

We have been to more trials than I can remember. I don't recall too much about our first trial except that when it started to rain, Whisper entered the tunnel and never came out. The judge, laughing hysterically, told me my dog was lying down in the tunnel. Whisper found the only dry place in the ring. The competition I remember most clearly was during our first year. Whisper was supposed to take a certain obstacle, but headed for the tunnel instead. Being a novice handler, I screamed "No!" to stop him from taking the tunnel and directed him to the correct obstacle, the table. Whisper got on the table and when I asked him for the down he looked at me with total disdain. His eyes told me: "If you're going to scream at me like that, I don't want to play anymore." He refused to get down on the table and we finished a very lackluster course.

That was a turning point in our training. Whisper taught me to change my attitude and my training methods. Now we always keep it fun; mistakes do not matter and I always thank my dogs for simply playing the game. I do not think I have ever used the "no" word in the ring or in training since then, and my dogs' attitudes have definitely improved. They are unafraid of making mistakes and fully enjoy themselves. Whisper taught me a valuable lesson that day.

I wish to see more Greyhounds in agility. I could count on one hand the number of times I have encountered other Greyhounds competing in agility in the past five years. I have never seen a Greyhound competing in a Canadian trial. (I believe there are several Greyhounds with agility titles in NADAC and AKC.) Perhaps many people believe that Greyhounds cannot compete successfully in agility. For example, I don't know how many times I have heard that Greyhounds cannot sit. Of course, we know that Greyhounds can be taught to sit. Another reason that many adopters do not consider agility for their retired racing Greyhounds is because training an adult dog can be a bigger challenge than starting off with a young puppy. But many dogs competing in agility today were introduced to the sport as adults.

Agility is definitely worth a try. It will teach confidence to a shy dog and give an energetic dog an outlet and a direction for its energy. Agility strengthens the bond between handler and dog because it requires teamwork. While not every dog will be competitive, you and your dog will learn to have fun together. And who knows how many great agility prospects are hiding their talent on that couch!

There are several different associations that sponsor agility competition. The United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) and The Agility Association of Canada (AAC) have similar rules and titles. Their courses are speedy and competitive. The

American Kennel Club (AKC) and Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) agility programs are open to purebred dogs only. AKC and CKC courses have slightly lower obstacles and slower assigned times. The NADAC and United Kennel Club (UKC) also have popular agility programs. NADAC courses offer moderate jump heights and longer, more flowing course designs that emphasize speed. The UKC program tends to be slower, with a focus on precision and control rather than speed and hurdle height.

All organizations have their "standard" classes where the dog runs a regular agility course. The obstacle course and time limits become progressively more difficult as dogs move up the ranks. Some organizations also hold nonstandard (or game) classes where the course is altered to emphasize strategy (snooker), jumping ability (jumpers), distance control (gamblers) or team work (pairs relay). USDAA occasionally offers team competitions and tournament classes, such as the Dog Agility Masters tournament, Grand Prix, and Steeplechase competitions.

Presently, the jump height for Greyhounds is 26″ in USDAA and AAC, 24″ in AKC, CKC, and NADAC, and 20″ in UKC. When Whisper first started out, jump heights in USDAA and AAC were 30″, but these were lowered a couple of years ago. I enjoyed watching Whisper effortlessly sail over a 30″ jump, but now that he is older I appreciate the lower jump heights.

I do not train very often with Whisper because he does not like repetitive drills. We took quite a few classes and seminars in our first year together, but Whisper always saved his best for the ring. He is a lazy dog and likes to relax at home. If we do train, I will ask him to do one sequence, and then we will play fetch or have a good game of tug. The activity needs to remain fresh and exciting. At trials on hot days, I hose Whisper off to cool him down; this makes him very playful and excited about going into the ring.

Whisper takes the A-frame. Kathy's Portraits

Our training has changed very little as Whisper has gotten older, since I have always tried to keep it to a minimum. We engage in daily activities such as hiking, playing fetch, and jogging to keep in shape. When Whisper was diagnosed with degenerative joint disease, I restricted him to leashed walks for the remainder of the year. I altered his diet (less meat and more vegetables) and gave him daily supplements of MSM/Glucosamine/Chondroitin. The following winter he looked very sound on our hikes. In the spring, I entered him in a trial in one class. He did two classes at the next weekend trial, then three, than four. He has stayed sound since, but I never overload his schedule. I try to keep it at two classes per day.

Whisper will be 8 years old this summer and has slowed down a bit. We will compete in Veterans this year if all goes well. Most likely this will be his last year of competition.

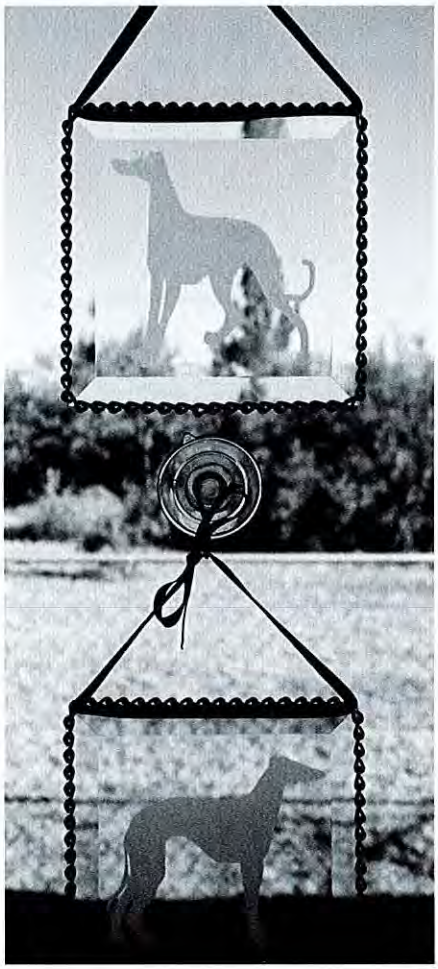
Doing agility with Whisper has taught me the importance of having fun with my dog. It has shown me how much dogs enjoy interacting with us. And having that flawless run, where my dog and I are one, totally in sync with one another, is the ultimate high. It is an indescribable feeling that gets you hooked on agility for life.

I encourage any Greyhound owners who might be interested in agility to give it a try. Find a club, take some classes, read some books and/or join one of the many internet lists for agility lovers. Join the list at Yahoo for sighthound owners interested in agility (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SHAgility/) where participants share training methods, stories, triumphs, and setbacks. Most of all, take your time and allow your dog to learn at his or her own pace. And *always* smile at your dog when you are training. ■

Whisper lives in Boucherville, Quebec, Canada with his handler and best friend Louise Hoelscher; Greyhound Fieldofdreamsson "Fielding" SRM, VSR; Whippets Windwalker Born in the USA "Poet" Puppy Extraordinaire and Lepus Rose Madder "Abracadabra" Am/Can FCh, AD, ADC, NJC; Clearhounds Heathcliff "Hocus Pocus" CGC, MADC, AAD, JM, OAC, OJC, NGC; and cats Squeakerbane and Snufflenose.

By Jack and Amy Corrigan

Greyhounds in Etched Glass



Jean Walker created these simple, yet elegant, etched glass pieces for a silent fundraiser for the Sierra Vista, Ariz. Greyhound Adoption League (GAL). Although she does stained glass artwork, she was amazed with her first etched glass project and wanted to share her new knowledge with other Greyhound crafters. Treat jars proved to have the greatest appeal at the auction and also offer a simple craft project for the beginning glass etcher. Keep reading to learn how to design your own etched glassware in a few easy steps.

Materials Needed

- Etching cream*
- Small paintbrush
- Masking tape
- Craft knife with extra blades
- Window cleaner
- Latex gloves
- Clear contact paper or sandblast resist tape
- Clear glass object of choice

***Note:** Always read and follow the etching cream manufacturer's directions. Drying times may vary between applying coats of cream. Etching cream is an acid. Always work in a well-ventilated room and cover all exposed skin on your hands and arms.

Instructions

Step 1. Choose object to be etched

Choose a piece of transparent glassware that has a flat surface. This will make the pattern transfer better and protection of the surrounding glass easier. You can etch any glass object. A few ideas are bevels, jars, bowls, beer mugs, and mirrors.

Step 2. Secure pattern to wrong side of glass

Choose a pattern that will be simple to cut out, and tape it securely to the side of the glass you do not plan to etch. For example, tape the pattern to the inside of a glass jar so that the pattern can be seen correctly through the outside of the jar.

Step 3. Carefully clean the glass

Clean the glass carefully with window cleaner. It is very important to have clean glass so that the etching cream can do its job correctly.

Step 4. Secure contact paper or sandblast resist etching mask

Cut a piece of contact paper or sandblast resist tape several inches larger than your pattern. Carefully apply it to the side of the glass you plan to etch. Be sure to remove all air pockets by readjusting as necessary. A pinprick will remove small bubbles. Rub the back of a spoon over the entire area to be certain it is secure.

Step 5. Cut out the pattern

Using the craft knife, carefully cut around the edges of the pattern and remove the etching mask where you want the glass to be etched. For a precise, clean cut, make sure you always use a sharp blade. Leave the etching mask on the areas of the glass that you do not want to etch.

Step 6. Re-secure the etching mask and add masking tape

Using the spoon, rub the edges of the pattern cutout again to ensure they are securely fastened to the glass.

Cover all other exposed areas of glass around your pattern with masking tape so that no etching cream gets on it.

Step 7. Apply etching cream generously

Put on your latex gloves. Use a brush to apply a thick layer of etching cream to the exposed glass. Do not be stingy; thinly applied cream will result in streaking. Set the object in a clean, dry place where it will be safe.

Step 8. Wait, rinse, and remove resist

Wait the amount of time indicated by the directions on the etching cream (usually five to 15 minutes). Carefully rinse off the cream according to the manufacturer's instructions.

After rinsing off all of the cream, remove the masking tape and etching mask, and wash the item thoroughly. Now, enjoy your new etched glassware!

Tips

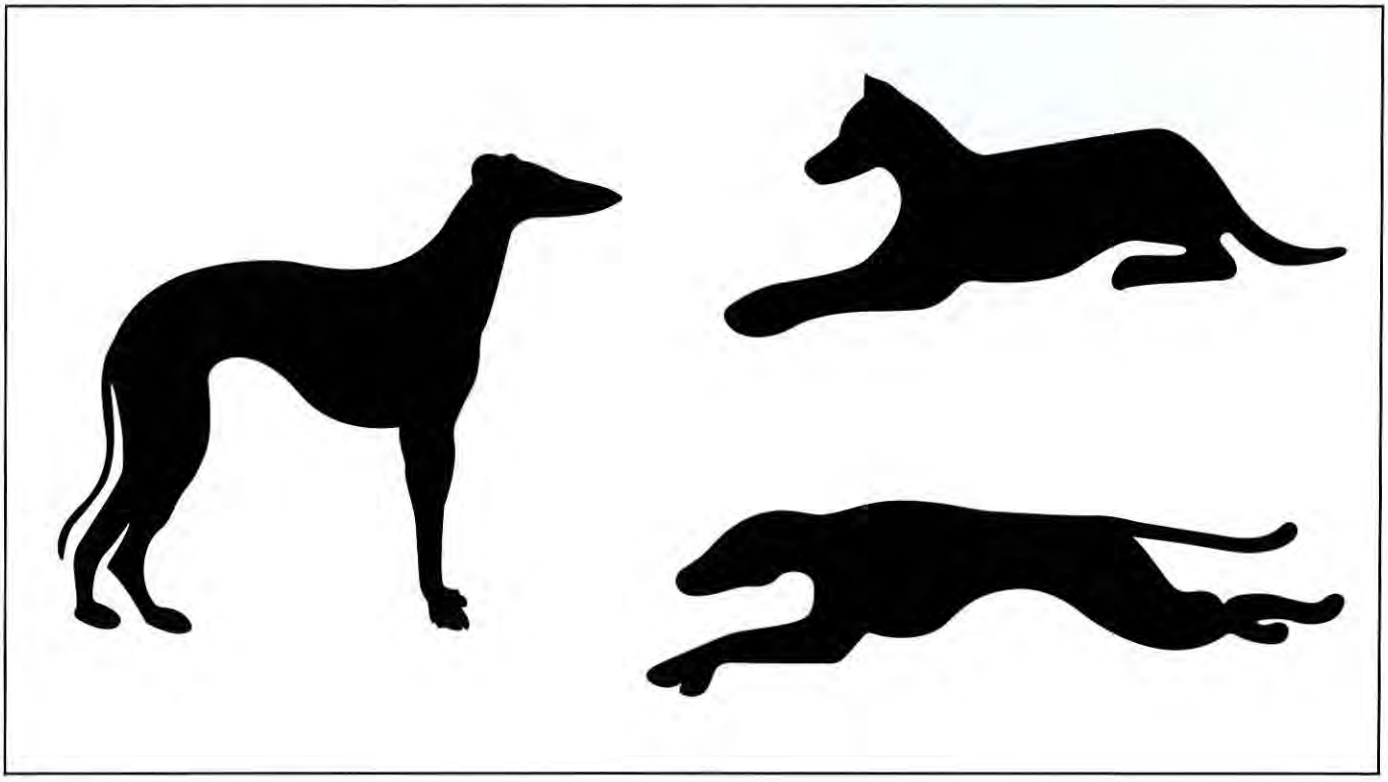
Tip 1: You can also etch opaque objects. Place the etching mask securely on the side of the object you plan to etch. Lay a piece of carbon paper on top of the etching mask. Lay the pattern over the carbon paper. Hold or tape the pattern in place. Pressing hard, carefully trace the pattern onto the etching mask. Remove the original pattern and carbon paper, and go to Step 5.

Tip 2: WalMart is a great source for clear glass objects. Other sources include thrift stores and yard sales.

Tip 3: Large craft stores like Michael's often carry etching supplies. You can also purchase supplies online from glass suppliers such as Delphi (http://www.delphi-glass.com). ■

Jean Walker is a military retiree who moved to the Sierra Vista area with her husband Vern in 1998. She adopted her retired racer, Empire, from Sierra Vista GAL in 2000. Her volunteer duties with GAL include serving as their webmaster. Stained glass is one of her hobbies.

Patterns: Enlarge the patterns below to the size you'd like.



Story and Photos by
Bryan Randolph

Lure Coursing in the Current Middle Ages

Competitive lure coursing at events sponsored by organizations such as the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) has been covered previously in Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine *(Spring 1998). And now for something completely different, as the saying goes . . .*

Several weekends a year, the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) recreates the Middle Ages and Renaissance, including the noble sport of lure coursing. The SCA is an international nonprofit organization, with more than 25,000 members, distributed across 16 Kingdoms. The SCA began in California in May 1966. In July, Australia will become the 17th Kingdom. The SCA is devoted to recreating a pre-17th century European society, including everything from arts and crafts to combat. It also features African and Eastern areas; activities may represent any culture that had contact with Europe and may have visited.

Five Queens pose with their hounds at a recent SCA coursing event.

Standing in a field, the King and Queen wait, each with a Greyhound at their side. The lords and ladies have assembled to watch. There is a flash of white and the cry "Tally Ho!" Their Majesties slip the hounds and the populace cheers. A small white dart attempts to elude the hounds by taking several turns. With one last desperate turn, the prey heads back toward the King and Queen. As it comes to a stop, handlers run forward to retrieve the dogs. The white dart becomes recognizable as a plastic bag. The bag, or lure, which is attached to a string, is drawn through a pulley and around the wheel of an electric coursing rig to reset the course. This is not the Middle Ages; it is the modern era.

Lure coursing is a recent addition to the many activities of the SCA. In all the Kingdoms that hold coursing events, all sighthound breeds are allowed to participate. In some, any dog that shows ability may course. The courses are from 250 to 500 yards long, averaging around 350 yards. These courses are much shorter than ASFA and AKC courses. SCA lure coursing is not done for competition, and the dogs are not timed. According to the lords and ladies present, all of the hounds are winners. The desire of those present is to witness the beauty of the running hounds.

Each Kingdom has a coursing guild with an officer in charge. The officer coordinates coursing at events, and keeps track of shot records and other files. Another duty of this office is to authorize the handlers and huntsmen. Handlers do just as their name implies; they work with the hounds. At the very least, a handler has to know the rules for coursing. Generally the handler is the dog's owner, but since some owners have many hounds, they need assistants to help them. Huntsmen are authorized to run the lure and set up the course. Huntsmen may also preside over the coursing at an event when convenient or when the Kingdom officer is unavailable.

As for the dogs, packs exist; most are for the Crowns of the participating Kingdoms. These Royal Packs are considered to be the Queen's Pack, and consist of hounds that belong to members of Her Kingdom. Individuals, alone or in groups, may also claim pack status if they own three or more hounds. They may choose a name for these packs.

While several breeds are allowed to course, the Greyhound is the most abundant. The preponderance of Greyhounds is due to the relative ease with which retired racers can be adopted, as well as to its role in history. Other participating sighthound breeds include Borzoi, Irish Wolfhounds, Italian Greyhounds, and Whippets. In the Kingdoms that allow non-sighthounds to course, German Shepherds and Great Danes run. In one Kingdom there is even a Dachshund that faithfully follows the lure.

Coursing has existed for several centuries, and Greyhounds have been known

The Queen of Meridies, with the help of her Hounds-mistress, releases the first hound.

as a breed for several millennia. In the 16th century, Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, drew up the first formalized rules for lure coursing at the request of Queen Elizabeth. Through the Middle Ages to the Elizabethan period, Greyhounds belonged to nobility and were kept both for the chamber and for hunting. They were used with other breeds to hunt deer, fox, bear, wolf, otter, lynx, ibex, and hare. The hunt for the hare led to lure coursing. Based on this history, the SCA began to course hounds.

There are several documents from the Middle Ages regarding the use of dogs when hunting. Alfonso XI, King of Castile and Leon, wrote *Libro de la monteria* in the early 14th century. Gaston Phoebus, Count of Foix, wrote *Livre de la Chasse (The Book of the Hunt)* in the late 14th century. Edmund de Langley wrote *Master of the Game* in the late 14th century. Greyhounds are often featured prominently in these texts. Count Gaston's *Book of the Hunt* includes several illuminations of Greyhounds. Many of Shakespeare's plays also refer to Greyhounds, providing another indication of the importance of the breed during this period.

Another tribute to the Greyhound in the Middle Ages is the legend of St. Guinefort. Guinefort was a Greyhound that belonged to a Duke in the Lyons region of France. The Duke left home one day, leaving his baby and Guinefort behind. A nurse checked on the baby and found the cradle overturned, the baby missing, and the nursery and Guinefort covered in blood. Thinking the Greyhound had killed the child, she cried out. This brought the baby's mother to the scene and she let out a great cry as well. The Duke returned and thinking likewise, killed Guinefort. As the Greyhound lay dying, the Duke's son cried out. He lay beneath the cradle, next to the bloody remains of a poisonous snake. Realizing his mistake, the Duke buried his faithful hound in a well and planted trees nearby in memory. Rumor had it that the well held healing powers for infants, and eventually a cult arose from the legend.

As coursing is new to the SCA, the typical event has few hounds in attendance; ten or fewer in most cases. Meanwhile, 200 to 1,000 people may be present. An exception is the annual weeklong event called Gulf War, held in Mississippi in early March. Thirty hounds or more and around 4,000 people participate each year. Many SCA events also feature coursing guild members holding classes on topics ranging from period hunting techniques to canine first-aid (anything that is dog-related and relevant to their studies).

The hounds also have more to do than course. They walk in Royal processions and, on some occasions, get to attend Royal Court. On these occasions, it is not just the coursing hounds that participate. Chamber hounds are included. A chamber hound is one that no longer courses. Some of these hounds are called double retired, since they retired from the track and from coursing in the SCA. They live the good life, one of lounging about with people fawning over them. Some hounds even receive awards of recognition for their continuing service.

The SCA does not have its own adoption group. Members adopt hounds from various organizations and individuals. Some SCA members are active with local Greyhound adoption groups, and adoption group representatives are invited to speak at meetings or events. However, none of these organizations are officially associated with the SCA.

For more information about coursing in the SCA, please visit www.sca-coursing.freeservers.com. For general information about the SCA, visit www.sca.org. This website will enable you to locate the Kingdom in which you live and find your local group, if you have further interest. ■

Bryan Randolph lives in Tampa, Florida with his wife Debrra. He works at a television station and attends the University of South Florida. They live with their Greyhound Desert Drum, their German Shepherd/Spitz mix Chloe, and their Domestic Shorthair cat, Fishbone. Bryan is a member of the SCA, and has participated for ten years. He is known to his Kingdom as Lord Randwulf aet Blacwulveslea and serves his Kingdom as a Deputy Marshal of the Hunt.

Steelheart chases the lure, with a medieval-styled fort as backdrop.

Story and Photos by
Marcia Herman

Volksmarching Revisited

Volksmarching and Greyhounds are a wonderful marriage for us; we promote two of our loves. If you are looking for something different to do with your "best friend," give volksmarching a try. Remember: Greyhounds love to walk. –Elaine Greenwood

That statement ends Elaine and Orrie Greenwood's article "Greyhounds Go Volksmarching" (*CG Magazine*, Spring 2001). The Greenwoods are committed to volksmarching; they participate in these events whenever they can. And with good reason: Volksmarching is a glorious way to spend a day with your Greyhounds and with each other. The article has inspired many Greyhound folks to do the same.

What is the difference between volksmarching and walking? In a word, organization. According to Elaine Greenwood, volksmarching, also known as volkswalking and affectionately referred to as hundmarching by Greyhound-owning fans of the sport, is one of a group of sports called volkssports. Volkssports include volksbike (biking), volksski (cross-country skiing), and volksswim (swimming). All are organized events designed to appeal to people of all ages. They have regular schedules, planned routes and, in the case of volksmarches, walking club sponsorship.

Literally translated from German, volks means people; therefore, volkssports means sports of the people. The volkssports concept originated in Europe in 1968 as the Internationaler Volkssport Verband (IVV). The IVV's main purpose is to promote a healthy lifestyle through planned activity. In the United States, the American Volkssports Association (AVA), formed in 1979, promotes the IVV's concepts. Both groups plan walks that may be completed as a group or as an individual; they may be done to achieve personal goals or simply for fun and relaxation. The Greenwoods' personal goal is to complete a volksmarch in all 50 states.

Gil Gilley with the Dancing Greyhounds chatting with some walkers before the walk. The "girls" are apparently looking for their performance area, not realizing they were going on a volksmarch instead.

The Greenwoods have been volksmarching for about 16 years. They have frequently included their Greyhounds, Maddie and Neeko, and their late Cocker Spaniel, Misty. Their veterinarian told them that volksmarching contributed to Misty's long life (which stretched into her mid-teens) by strengthening her respiratory and circulatory systems, and toning her muscles while maintaining flexible joints. Volksmarching is a low-stress activity resulting in enormous benefits to body and soul (human and canine), regardless of degrees of physical prowess. The out-of-shape get in shape and the in-shape become even stronger and healthier. Everyone wins.

During a volksmarch in Allentown, Pa., the Greenwoods happened to meet Maggie Spilner, executive editor of the *Prevention Walking Club Newsletter* and a senior editor of *Prevention Magazine*, while Maggie was manning a checkpoint. Maggie, enchanted by the idea of combining the dual passions of volksmarching and Greyhounds, decided to feature the Greenwoods and their Greyhounds in the September/October 2000 issue of the *Prevention Walking Club Newsletter*. In addition to promoting volksmarching, the article provided a nice plug for Greyhound adoption.

Enter Kathleen Gilley of the Dancing Greyhounds. When Kathleen heard about the article, she knew it belonged in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* as well. As it turned out, Kathleen not only convinced the Greenwoods to write an article for *CG* but also to hold a two-day Greyhound volksmarch.

By early 2001, the event was taking shape; the York White Rose Wanderers Volksmarch Club and Personalized Greyhounds, Inc. became co-sponsors.

Personalized Greyhounds, Inc., an adoption group based in Harrisburg, Pa., agreed to include information about the walk on their website and in an article in their April/May and July newsletters. The club supplied Personalized Greyhounds with brochures about the event to include in their newsletters and distribute at their annual picnic. At the volksmarch, Personalized Greyhounds' table displayed information about adopting a Greyhound and sold baked goods and Greyhound items. The group also provided volunteers to work the table on both days of the event.

The York White Rose Wanderers Volksmarch Club also included information about the walk on their website and in their newsletter. At the volksmarch, they set up two tables at the start/finish point. Volunteers at the starting table registered each walker (who carried a start card and signed a disclaimer), while volunteers at the finish table collected each walker's start card. In this way, all walkers were accounted for at the finish.

The club sold food items, such as hot dogs, drinks, and desserts, as well as volksmarching items, such as the patch for the event. Club members volunteered both days to staff the tables, concession stands, and checkpoints, and to check on walkers out on the trail.

Orrie Greenwood at the required midwalk checkpoint.

All of the preparation paid off. September 22 and 23, 2001 dawned bright and summery in York, Pennsylvania. The event attracted more than 400 people and 100 Greyhounds to the scenic Spring Valley County Park. Participants included both local residents and people who traveled hundreds of miles to the park. It was a smashing success on many levels — as a volksmarch, Greyhound event, social event, and even as a day of walking in a lovely setting.

According to Peggy Levin, president of Personalized Greyhounds, "Last September's volksmarch, co-sponsored by The White Rose Wanderers of York, Pennsylvania and Personalized Greyhounds, Inc., was yet another example of how well Greyhounds fit right into the numerous and varied activities of people's daily lives.

Many of the Volksmarch regulars who participate in these events and travel from distant locations to do so, told us that they had never seen so many Greyhounds together at one time and expressed how well-behaved and beautiful they were. Of course, we knew that already — and so do the Greyhounds — just ask one!

Education and public exposure of Greyhounds are key activities in promoting successful and long-lasting adoption placements. The first-ever Greyhound-sponsored volksmarch was just one more step in the right direction. We are grateful to Elaine and Orrie Greenwood, as well as to Maddie and Neeko [their Greyhounds], for taking charge and getting our organization involved."

For more information on walking clubs and volksmarch schedules, please visit the AVA website at www.ava.org. ■

Marcia Herman is editor emeritus of CG Magazine.

How to Plan a Greyhound Volksmarch*

By Barb Pfeiffer, president of the White Rose Wanderers

1. Select a date(s).
2. Select and reserve a location for the walk.
3. Contact the American Volkssport Association for sanctioning. Completed forms are required; your local volksmarch club will submit them.
4. Check to see if you will need a certificate of insurance for your start and/or checkpoint locations. If so, the forms must be filed at least 60 days in advance. Your local volksmarch club will submit the forms.
5. Ask the volksmarch club's trailmaster to map out two trails — a 5K trail and a 10K trail.
6. Design a patch, pin, or other appropriate award for your walk. You do not have to offer an award for every walk.
7. Determine how many awards will be needed and place your order. Allow plenty of time in case there are production problems. Determine what you will charge for the award.
8. Prepare a brochure and submit it for approval by the state organization and/or regional director. (An event brochure must contain 26 items. Your local volksmarch club can supply you with a list.) This volksmarch's brochure included a brief history of the Greyhound and information about Spring Valley County Park.
9. After the brochure is approved, make copies and distribute them to other volksmarch clubs and Greyhound groups at least three months in advance of your walk.

** These steps are guidelines for this event. Other events and other clubs may differ; organizers should work with their local walking clubs.*

By Maureen Nelms

Fostering on the Wild Side

China plans her next search-and-destroy mission. Maureen Nelms

When the emergency call for foster homes went out last July, I added my name to the list. We had fostered and failed once before (in other words, we adopted the dog). We'd had Greyhounds for ten years and Whippets for 12 years before that, so I thought we'd be a good foster home. And since we only had one Greyhound, 12-year-old Boone, we thought a foster dog would be good company for him. If things worked out, we'd adopt.

So we joined the GUR (Greyhound Underground Railroad) and helped transport several young dogs to our area. The dog that came to us was China Doll, a beautiful red fawn with black eye makeup. All the dogs had one thing in common: Bred in a puppy mill, they were surrendered to animal control. There were ten dogs ranging in age from six months to two years. China was estimated to be about a year old.

Puppy mill dogs lack even the basics that racing Greyhounds have known. Crates, buildings, muzzles, collars and leads, and human contact are all foreign to them. However, they share the same need to learn the basics: Stairs, riding in cars, housetraining, walking on linoleum, and socialization with cats, small dogs and children.

I considered all the duties of a foster parent. We would teach the dog to be a part of the home and family. Specifically, we would teach China to walk on a lead nicely, to mingle with people confidently, and to mind her house manners (including not treating the cat as a squeaky toy). China would be a happy, relaxed Greyhound in all situations. We were sure our Greyhound would help us teach China all the things she needed to learn.

Potty training was our first hurdle. When China first arrived, she piddled on the carpet. Not wanting her first introduction to us to be scolding, we took her outside and cleaned up the mess. She was so shy and frightened that it was difficult to reprimand her when she obviously did not understand. Track Greyhounds in the United States are crated; since they do not usually soil their crates, they are relatively easy to housetrain. China was not crate-trained. She also had severe separation anxiety. She panicked while in her crate, soiling it. We took her outside, praising her a lot when she went outside. We did this for several days. China still did not understand that she should not go in the house. Meanwhile, her behavior inspired our old Greyhound to use the carpet as a bathroom as well. Gallons of Nature's Miracle® later, we thought we finally had the problem solved. We just had to take China outside every hour and walk her until she went, and never leave her unattended in the house. We had to work this constant in-and-out-to-potty into our schedule, but at least we didn't have a Greyhound constantly using the carpet as her personal ladies' room.

China was agile and innovative and showed me some things I never would have thought possible. Within two days, I think she thought her new name was "China Off" always at full volume. Slipping quietly into the kitchen, she licked the dishes clean — while they were in the sink. She stole food from the pots — while they were on the stove. She was so fast you could actually be standing right beside her and she could put her feet on the stove, grab some meat from the pot and be into the other room with it before you could react. This made for some interesting if messy situations. The cooked liver with gravy made the worst stain on the carpet. We learned to keep everything way at the back of the counter and to never leave dishes in the sink. Anything on the stove needed a guard until it was somewhere else.

I was totally shocked one morning to find her standing in the middle of my dining room table, with the morning newspaper strewn around her feet. I shouted "Off!" and was met with a blank stare. Advancing on the table, I shouted again and this time she leapt off scattering newspapers in all directions. I praised her for getting down, pushed in the chair my husband had conveniently left as her stepstool, and went to wash my face. China leaped back on the table. This time I lifted her down, told her to stay down, and went to brush my teeth. And China leaped back on the table. I found her sprawled across the newspapers. Obviously, she did not understand. I thought about why she was climbing on the table, and decided it was because she wanted to see out the window. So I solved the problem by closing the drapes.

China was like a kid who can't sit still, always looking for something to get into. No matter how often she went for walks or ran in the yard, she was never worn out. She'd curl up at your feet in front of the television and you'd sigh and lean back and think, "Finally, she's settled." Then I'd glance at her and realize she was quietly chewing on the corner of the couch. "China No." She would start again as soon as I sat back down. So we tried the muzzle. But China wasn't a track Greyhound, so she wasn't used to a muzzle. She tried to get it off by rubbing her head against anything and everything: The couch, the chair, people (ouch, that hurts), the walls, the mirror (oh no, that scratches). Okay, no muzzle. We solved the problem by purchasing rawhide bones. China could eat one or two large bones a day, but for health's sake, we limited her to half a large one per day. At $11.00 each that was $5.50/day just for rawhide. Okay, let's just stop by the pet store and have our paycheck direct deposited there.

China's constant need to be supervised led to some interesting conversations with my husband.

Me, holding shredded pillow with tufts of fiberfill dribbling out: "What happened to this pillow?"

Hubby: "I don't know."

Me: "Weren't you watching China?"

Hubby: "Yes. I never took my eyes off her."

Me: "So, it's a coincidence. Our pillows just decided to self-destruct? Like the quilt did the other day?"

Hubby: "I don't know how she did it. I was watching her the whole time."

Me: "Uh huh."

We solved that problem by closing all the bedroom doors. And the bathroom door, because she would drink out of the toilet and scatter the garbage. Our house was getting darker and darker. All the doors shut and drapes closed. Hmmm, do you see a theme here?

We soon realized that China needed a different home. As much as we grew to love her, she needed someone who could devote a lot of time to her. Clicker training showed China to be exceptionally intelligent as she learned sit, shake a paw, down, and roll over to voice and hand signals in 15 minutes. But the really important things appeared to be beyond her grasp: housetraining, not chewing and destroying anything soft, keeping her feet off the counters, not jumping on people, not stealing food. She needed someone who could take her to flyball and agility to harness that endless energy and channel it productively. She needed someone who didn't work all day so she wasn't forced into a crate, making her separation anxiety worse. She needed someone who jogged or who had a younger dog to play with her. We obviously needed an older, quieter dog.

It took several months but the perfect home was found for China — 1,000 miles away from us. We cried when she left us. She was so sweet and loving, and we knew she wouldn't understand why she was being sent away. She wouldn't know she was going to a better home; she would only know we were gone. It was one of the hardest things I have ever done, but I know it was the right decision for our wild little China Doll. ■

Maureen Nelms is a CG regular contributor.

Story and Photos by Marilyn Gaffney

Ricci's Remarkable Diagnosis

We adopted our Greyhound, Ricci, in 1993. I would have never imagined that six years later, I would be using veterinary terms like polyuria/polydipsia and actually understanding the many possible causes. Ricci's health was failing, diagnosis was elusive, and I wasn't ready to let her go.

Polyuria/polydipsia (PU/PD), in lay terms, equates to excessive urinating/excessive drinking. The first challenge with these vague symptoms was to determine if Ricci was urinating frequently because of excessive water intake or vice-versa.

Ricci's history is relatively unremarkable. We adopted Dal Pal Ricochet, CDX, a 64-pound spayed female, when she was 2 years old. Ricci never raced, as she has virtually no prey drive. In 1994, Ricci was diagnosed with pannus, a chronic eye disease, which is highly treatable with topical medication.

Initially, Ricci's PU/PD was attributed to warm weather and attainment of senior status. Older dogs often drink more to compensate for lessening of kidney function. Ricci was 8 years old, and her lack of energy seemed to be the normal slowing of an aging Greyhound.

In November 1999, a bladder infection was suspected. Ricci's urinalysis showed no infection, although specific gravity was low. The pH was slightly elevated at 8. As a diagnostic tool, Ricci was started on ten days of amoxicillin in case of an infection that was not apparent in the urinalysis.

By December 1999, Ricci appeared listless. She ignored all of her toys, which was most unusual, as she regularly carried a stuffed animal around the house. In addition, this normally clean canine was frequently urinating in the house.

Ricci's drinking grew beyond excessive. She became compulsive and would ignore food if water was an option. After it rained, Ricci would quench her thirst from puddles and downspouts in the backyard.

On December 7, CBC results were unremarkable. Blood tests and urine samples ruled out diabetes.

On December 10, an ultrasound of the abdominal area was done. Results were "normal looking kidneys for a dog of this age."

On December 11, a water deprivation test was performed. Urine is sampled periodically while the dog is deprived of water. The results should show the ability of the kidneys to concentrate urine. Urine specific gravity, which is a measure of the concentration of liquid to waste products in the urine, is evaluated during the test to assess the kidney's ability to keep water for the body during times of need. Ricci's specific gravity increased from 1.009 up to 1.022, never reaching sufficient concentration at 1.025.

The next step was to determine Ricci's actual water consumption. Charting and limiting Ricci's water became routine practice for all members of my household. The normal range of water consumption is 1 oz./lb per day, or 30 mL/lb per day. Therefore, Ricci, who weighed 59 pounds at that point, should have been drinking no more than 7.5 cups per day. Consumption, monitored for three days, showed Ricci consuming an average of some 8.5 cups daily. To gather additional data, we charted her trips outside to urinate. She averaged ten trips in a 24-hour period. Our goal was to gradually decrease (by 10 percent per day) the amount of water permitted until reaching a daily limit of six cups.

Ricci relaxes at home.

By early January 2000, Ricci appeared less lethargic and her eyes appeared brighter. She still obsessively demanded water and urinated frequently.

As a last resort, DES was prescribed to treat incontinence, a frequent condition in older, spayed females (see "Helping Incontinent Hounds," *CG Magazine*, Spring 2002). DES improves the muscle tone, eliminating the seepage of urine. This trial was completed without success on February 21.

On March 10, an ACTH Stimulation test was performed. During this test the dog receives an injection of ACTH (Adrenocorticotrophic hormone). Dogs with pituitary or adrenal disease will respond to ACTH by producing glucocorticoids. After the injection, a greatly elevated level of the hormone cortisol can be measured. The first cortisol sample results were 1.8 (reference ranges 1.0-5.0). The second sample after the injection resulted in 20.3, which is considered high (reference ranges 8.0-17.0). A result greater than 20 suggests hyperadrenocorticism (known in humans as Cushing's disease). These test results must be interpreted in light of clinical signs. False positive results may occur with stress, nonadrenal illness and concurrent anticonvulsant use. The results of the ACTH Stim test were considered inconclusive, so treatment with Anipryl (L-deprenyl - 15 mg.) began on March 14. Anipryl is primarily used as a treatment for cognitive dysfunction, or "doggie Alzheimer's."

PU/PD stands for polyuria/polydipsia, which in lay terms equates to excessive urinating/excessive drinking.

Ricci was given free access to water for three days late in April to determine if rationing was having an effect on her passion for water. Ricci still drank frequently but did not necessarily drink the bowl dry. After consuming four to six cups at a time, she would stop. This led to hourly trips outside to urinate. After Ricci received her last dosage of Anipryl on May 9, she was referred to the University of Missouri Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Columbia, Missouri.

Ricci's illness was progressing. She demonstrated tremors. Her appetite had decreased over the month prior to referral. She ate only a small amount of her food and then demanded water. Her weight loss continued.

Ricci's excessive drinking was a sign of trouble.

At the University, Ricci was evaluated by Marie E. Kerl, DVM, Dip. ACVIM (Internal Medicine). Based upon previous diagnostic tests and Ricci's progression of symptoms, pyelonephritis, central diabetes insipidus and psychogenic polydipsia were considered likely.

Pyelonephritis is a bacterial infection of the renal pelvis that can destroy the kidney's mechanism to concentrate urine, resulting in dilute urine and PU/PD. Pyelonephritis is diagnosed by a combination of clinical signs, urine sediment examination and culture, contrast dye studies of the kidneys, or renal ultrasonography. Signs associated with acute pyelonephritis may include lethargy, anorexia, fever, vomiting, dehydration, lumbar pain and PU/PD. Chronic pyelonephritis may be characterized by nonspecific findings, such as weight loss, decreased appetite and PU/PD. Treatment is long-term oral antibiotic therapy.

Diabetes insipidus is a disorder in which there is insufficient quantity of — or kidney insensitivity to — anti-diuretic hormone (ADH). Normally, the body secretes ADH when it needs to conserve water. The kidneys work harder to conserve water, which makes the urine more concentrated. Without this important hormone, the dog is unable to concentrate urine, so the urine volume is very high and the urine is dilute. To replace ongoing water loss, the animal drinks large quantities of water. Insufficient quantities of ADH production (known as central diabetes insipidus) may occur spontaneously in a young dog or as a result of a brain tumor in an older dog. Kidney unresponsiveness to ADH (known as nephrogenic diabetes insipidus) usually occurs secondary to another disease process. Examples of predisposing causes are kidney failure, hyperadrenocorticism,

liver disease, pyometra and potassium or calcium disorders.

Psychogenic polydipsia occurs when there is a disorder of the normal thirst response. Under normal conditions, the thirst center in the brain is stimulated when the body needs more water, and the animal is triggered to drink. Drinking may exceed the needs of the body due to an emotional or behavioral disorder (more common in young dogs) or from a tumor in the area of the thirst center of the brain (known as the hypothalamus).

Pyelonephritis was ruled out on the basis of negative urine testing and abdominal ultrasound findings and lack of response to antibiotic trial. The water deprivation test was repeated after a period of gradual water reduction at home. Upon beginning the water deprivation test in the hospital, Ricci's urine specific gravity indicated sufficient urine concentration, which confirmed the diagnosis of psychogenic polydipsia and excluded the diagnosis of diabetes insipidus. Since Ricci was an older dog with this diagnosis, computed tomography (CT) scan of the brain was indicated.

A CT scan showed a reasonably large mass (1-1.5 cm) in Ricci's brain pressing on the hypothalamus. Since the hypothalamus controls thirst, the tumor explained Ricci's excessive drinking. Biopsy and surgical removal were not possible due to the difficulty in reaching this area of a dog's brain. Radiation therapy was the only treatment option.

I had a big decision to make. Having watched my mother suffer through chemotherapy and radiation treatments for breast cancer that metastasized to her bones, I never thought I would consider subjecting a canine to cancer treatment.

Ricci's case was referred to Carolyn Henry, DVM, M.S., Dip. ACVIM (Oncology). Dr. Henry and I had become friends when she spoke at a seminar in St. Louis. Now my Greyhound needed Dr. Henry's professional expertise. Only because of the relationship we had developed was I even open to listening to her recommendations of radiation treatment for Ricci.

Ricci sports a scarf made by her oncologist, Dr. Carolyn Henry.

We discussed radiation treatment. Radiation can completely eradicate a brain tumor, but this is the exception, not the rule. More likely is a 50 percent reduction in the size of the tumor, which in Ricci's case would reduce the pressure on the hypothalamus and relieve her symptoms. The protocol, under the guidance of Jimmy Lattimer, DVM., M.S., a diagnostic radiologist, American College of Veterinary Radiology, and a radiation oncologist, was a total of 19 fractions, which would Ricci would receive on five days each week. The entire procedure, including preparation, anesthesia and radiation, took 20 minutes each day. The actual radiation time was two minutes. At completion of the treatment, the dog receives oxygen, then walks out under its own power. Possible side effects included necrosis, as the tumor cells die off and have no place to go. Hair loss at the beam site was possible. However, this was not likely because Ricci's tumor was deep within the brain, where the radiation beam would be concentrated.

Dr. Lattimer explained about the two types of brain tumors. Meningiomas are the most common. This type of tumor develops from outside the brain and tends to grow inward. Remission with radiation treatment for meningiomas is likely 18 to 24 months. Gliomas are tumors that arise from cells of the brain itself. Remission with radiation treatment for these types of tumors is likely six to nine months. Without being certain of the tumor type, Dr. Lattimer's overall estimate with radiation treatment was remission of nine to 18 months. Dr. Lattimer expected few complications from the radiation treatment because of sophisticated 3-D treatment planning and methods of radiation delivery. Radiation would be concentrated at the depth of the tumor and would be only 6 percent at the entry site.

During treatments, Ricci experienced some diarrhea and a bladder infection. Basic medications were effective in treating both conditions.

Ricci received Prednisone daily during the initial radiation treatments. Steroids allowed avoidance of swelling of the brain tissue, a common side effect of radiation.

Ricci's recovery is remarkable.

In humans, increased pressure in the brain can cause headaches. Ricci's tremors were a possible indication of similar pain. The dosage of Prednisone was weaned to every other day after the first week of treatment. She finished her course of Prednisone on August 5.

Ricci's final radiation treatment was July 25, 2000. Upon her release, a follow-up CT scan six to eight weeks post-radiation was recommended to determine the success of the radiation therapy.

September 11, 2000 was Ricci's first follow-up appointment. Ricci's chest X-rays and blood work were unremarkable. The CT showed a 65 to 75 percent shrinkage of the tumor. The fluid around the tumor appeared similar to the initial CT, except that the tumor and the amount of fluid were both smaller. We hoped that the fluid would be reabsorbed into the body. Based on the tumor's size at diagnosis and the length of time that symptoms had been present before the diagnosis, we guessed that that this tumor was growing slowly. Typically, the rate of regrowth of a tumor is similar to its initial growth rate. Conservatively, it was estimated that Ricci would have six to nine months of quality time; optimistically, 12 to 18 months.

Unfortunately, we learned during this follow-up visit that Ricci had lost the vision in her right eye. No one knows with certainty if her vision loss resulted from the tumor or the radiation. Blindness is a common result of tumors in the pituitary region and is also a rare complication of radiation. Loss of vision associated with radiation treatment usually involves the retina; in Ricci's case, it did not. Most likely the vision loss was the result of the tumor pressing on the optic nerve. Ricci obviously compensated well using just her left eye, as there were no apparent signs of her vision loss.

Clinicians at the University suggested CT follow-ups every three months. Since additional radiation was not an option until at least nine months after completion of the initial radiation treatments, the next CT was not done until May 26, 2001. CT results ten months post-radiation showed no increase in size of the tumor when compared with the CT done in September 2000. Necrotic tissue was not visible and appeared to have been reabsorbed. Ricci's chest X-ray was clear, and vision in her left eye remained good. Her weight was back up to a hefty 70 pounds.

Ricci's most recent follow-up on November 19, 2001, included a physical exam, blood work, recheck CT scan and an ophthalmology consult. Results were excellent. The CT showed a continued decrease in size of the brain tumor since Ricci's March visit. The site of the tumor now showed only squiggly lines, most likely scar tissue. Lab tests were relatively unremarkable.

Ricci continues to enjoy excellent quality of life, and we truly appreciate each day with her. Ricci's remarkable recovery is nothing short of a miracle aided by fabulous medical technology and outstanding veterinary care. ■

Marilyn A. Gaffney works for a major investment firm. She owns On The Spot Dog Training and is certified by the National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors. She enjoys obedience competition with her Greyhound and Dalmatian. Her current passions are keeping Ricci healthy and fundraising for Barkley House. *She extends special thanks to Drs. Carolyn Henry and Marie Kerl for their assistance with and review of this article.*

Barkley House

The trauma of leaving Ricci at the University, some two hours from my home, overwhelmed me. Because I have a wonderful housesitter who stays with my girls when I travel, Ricci had never been kenneled. I was faced with the prospect of leaving Ricci at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in Columbia, Missouri, because she was seriously ill. Dr. Henry had assured me that this would be harder on me than on Ricci. In hindsight, she was probably right.

In an effort to make something good occur out of something bad, I am working with Dr. Henry to make her dream of Barkley House a reality. Barkley House will be a Ronald McDonald House-type facility for pets and their families, where owners and their pets who are undergoing long-term treatment can experience compassion, care, and camaraderie. While the timeline for the start of construction depends on the fundraising effort, all involved with Barkley House hope that it will soon become a reality. This unique concept will set a precedent for comprehensive compassionate care for veterinary patients and their families, thereby inspiring the development of similar facilities throughout the country.

If you would like more information about Barkley House or wish to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact:

Director of Development
Office of the Dean
MU College of Veterinary Medicine
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-5972 or 888-850-2357

you're invited

Saturday, June 1
Eighth Annual Greyhound Reunion Picnic and Fundraiser
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Adopt-A-Greyhound of Central Canada
Lilac Hill Farm
1845 Century Road West
South of Ottawa, Ont. (3 hours north of Syracuse, N.Y.)
Silent auction, games, Greyhound supplies, unique gifts, books, door prizes.
Contact: Lynda or Chris Seed, 613-489-0654 or info@adopt-a-greyhound.com; www.adopt-a-greyhound.com

Saturday, June 1
Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota 2001 Greyfest
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota
Spooner Park
Little Canada, Minn.
Raffles, contests, demonstrations, shopping for humans and hounds, and lots of good eatin'.
Contact: Teresa Ruohomaki, 651-483-5997 or HeyYouSir@wavefront.com.

Saturday, June 1 (rain date June 8)
Tenth Annual Greyhound Pets of America-Missouri Greyhound Reunion Picnic
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
GPA-Springfield, Mo.
2016 S. Arlington Terrace
Springfield, Mo.
Raffles, silent auctions, nail trimming, Greyhound store, group photo.
Contact: Alane Schultz, agreyhound@mindspring.com; www.gpamo.com

Sunday, June 2
Greyhound Friends West Spring Festival and Reunion
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Greyhound Friends West, Inc.
French Park
N. Egremont, Mass.
Greyhound gathering open to all and their dogs. Activities include contests, barbecue lunch, raffles and shopping.
Contact: Nancy Korman, 845-868-1348 or racing4hom@aol.com; www.gfwgreyhounds.org

Sunday, June 9
Second Annual GreysLand Gathering and Reunion
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
GreysLand Greyhound Adoption
Hopkinton State Park
Hopkinton, Mass.
Vendors, raffles, games, food, animal communicator, blessing of the hounds, Greyhound pedigrees, and much more.
Contact: Robin Norton, 508-435-6023 or adopt@greysland.org

Sunday, June 9
NGAP South Jersey Volunteers Fifth Annual Picnic
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
National Greyhound Adoption Program
Atlantic County Park
Estell Manor, N.J.
Donation $15/family of four.
Contact: Merci Riccardi, 609-266-7818.

Thursday, June 13 through Sunday, June 16
Abilene Greyhound Gathering
Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption, Inc.
Abilene, Kan.
This annual gathering is made up of retired racing Greyhounds, owners and adoption groups from all over the United States and Canada. Come join the fun!
Contact: Judy Sparks, 316-688-1369 or greydogs@swbell.net; www.racethewind.org

Saturday, June 15
Summer Blast!
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption
Legion Park
Hollidaysburg, Penn.
Vendors, food concession, silent auction, Chinese raffle, contests, games, and costume parade of pets – a super fun day!
Contact: Kay McNelis, 814-942-3145 or houndmom@charter.net

Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23
Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering
St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, Mich.
This is the Midwest version of Dewey Beach. Greyhounds can "Make the Lake." Games, good food, shopping, auctions, entertainment, and a parade up Main Street in the quaint little city of St. Joseph on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan.
Contact: Connie Cassidy, 616-429-6985 or 616-429-6985 or ccdancer@cybersol.com; www.gllg.org

Friday, June 21 through Sunday, June 23
It's a Greyhound Life
Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth
Ancaster Fairgrounds
Garner Road, Ancaster, Ont.
Enjoy the company of other Greyhound lovers, learn, meet new people, shop, and have fun with your Greyhounds in a dog-friendly indoor setting. Lee Livingood will give presentations about temperament testing, clicker training, win/win learning, and Galgos. Auction to benefit Greyhound adoption.
Contact: Bob and Terri Busch, 905-648-1119 or busch@sympatico.ca;
Heather Geres, 905-692-5790 or sls@on.aibn.com; www.glohw.on.ca

Saturday, June 22
Second Annual Greyhound Golf Tournament
Tee off at 11:00 a.m.
Greyhound Options Inc.
Westfield, Mass.
Scramble format. Hole-in-one contest, door prizes, awards.
Contact: Claire Sygiel, 413-967-9088 or ckerr1@aol.com

Friday, July 26
Greyhound Club of America National Specialty
8:30 a.m. until finished with Best of Breed (about 4:00-5:00 p.m.)
Greyhound Club of America
Ryon Park, Lompoc, Calif.
The 100th show of the Greyhound Club of America, this is a "Specialty" show for AKC- registered Greyhounds.
Contacts: Jack Bradshaw Dog Shows, 323-727-0136 (for Premium list);
Show Chair, Mary Ellen Gorske, 209-524-1388;
Trophy Chair, Sheryl Bartel, 360-422-7804 or sbartel@sos.net;
www.greyhoundclubofamerica.org

Friday, July 26 through Sunday, July 28
Greyhound Pets of America National Convention
Riviera Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nev.
Theme: "Pick a Winner…Adopt a Greyhound!"
Meet, share ideas, and network with fellow leaders and volunteers working on behalf of retired racers across the country. Speakers, discussion groups, silent auction, Greyhound fashion show, and more. All Greyhound adoption groups are welcome. Hosted by GPA/Southern Nevada-Las Vegas.
Contact: Jan Valentino, jmv@digisys.net; Lee Minardi, Gr8k9@aol.com; 702-392-5822; or www.gpaconvention.org

Saturday, July 27
Rainbow's End Annual Greyhound Reunion
Starts 12:00 p.m.
Rainbow's End Greyhound Adoption
Ann and Gary Whitney's House
Harvey's Lake, Penn. (call for address and directions)
Come join us for a fun-filled day of wonderful Greyhounds, fine food, contests, raffles and great people. Bring a covered dish or something small for the raffle if you can.
Contacts: Ann & Gary, 570-639-2612; Diana, dakc@ptd.net

Saturday, September 7
Annual Picnic
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption
Jaycees Shelter, Central Park
Roseville, Minn.
Raffles, auctions, and tons of fun. Bigger and better than last year! Contact: Donna, 763-755-3595 or guber2nac@aol.com

Saturday and Sunday, September 7 & 8
Ninth Annual Canine Fun Days and Greyhound Reunion
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Greyhound Adoption of Ohio, Inc.
Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field
Moreland Hills, Ohio
Two-day outdoor (tented) family festival for all dogs and their people. Try the agility and lure courses, watch canine freestyle, visit with over twenty breed rescue groups, enter fun dog shows, play in the kids' area, eat and shop.
Contact: Linda Perko, 1-800-269-1148 or RJRJLP@aol.com

Saturday, September 14
Annual Picnic and Reunion
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Greyhound Rescue, Inc. of Elkridge, Md.
Waterloo State Park
Columbia, Md.
Annual picnic and reunion of all retired ex-racers adopted through our organization. We provide hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and basics. Each attendee brings a dish to share. Fun, games, silent auction, vendors.
Contact: Darlene Riden, 410-721-1154 or driden@erols.com

Saturday, September 14
(rain date September 15)
GRNE Greyhound Reunion and Walk-a-thon
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
River Bend Farm,
Uxbridge, Mass.
Bring your Greyhounds for fun, games, and shopping. Participate in a fundraiser walk-a-thon.
Contact: Michelle Chiasson, 508-478-1617 or greyhounds@gnci.net;
www.greyhoundrescuene.org

Saturday, September 21 (rain date September 22)
WAG Games & Gathering
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
WAG – We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc.
Wharton Brook State Park
Wallingford/North Haven, Conn. Line
Games, vendors galore, good eats, silent auction, lots to learn, chat with other greyhound owners.
Contact: Ellie Goldstein, 203-288-7024 or 877-595-0991 or audice@aol.com

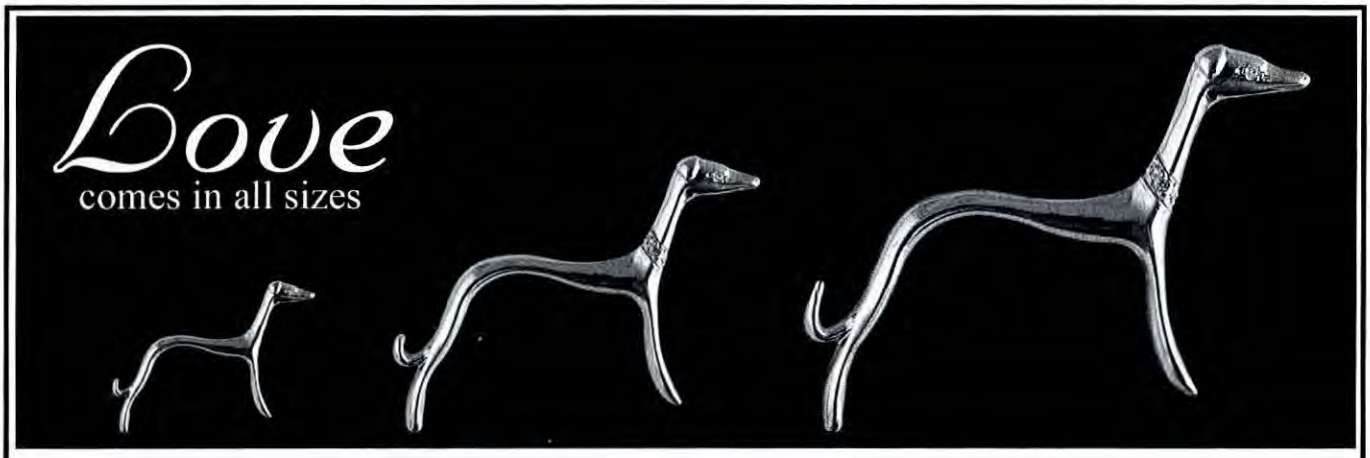
Thursday, September 26 through
Sunday, September 29
Beach Bound Hounds 2002
Greyhound Crossroads
Myrtle Beach, S.C.
For the third year, Greyhounds from all over the Southeast gather for a weekend of fun, beach walking, games, and just plain relaxing.
Contact: Kim Owens, 864-995-3112 or GreyCrazy@aol.com

Friday, September 27 through Sunday, September 29
Prairie Beach – A Gathering of Champions
Heartland Greyhound Adoption
Altoona, Iowa
Greyhound supporters from the Midwest and beyond are invited to join us for a weekend celebration of Greyhounds. We'll have a host of fun events for Greyhounds and their families and informative speakers covering topics such as Greyhound health care and training.
Contact: Mary Neubauer, 515-226-0958, maryandrhett@msn.com;
Joe Gilbert, 515-967-9317 or jmgbmg@mindspring.com;
Jorene King, 515-967-6564, joreneross@aol.com;
www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org

Saturday, September 28
Second Chance for Greyhounds Twelfth Annual Reunion and Fundraiser
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Second Chance for Greyhounds
Kalamazoo Kennel Club
Kalamazoo, Mich.
Join us for games, silent auction, new contests, vendors, and more. Event held rain or shine at our indoor facility.
Contact: 616-349-5104; www.scfg.org

Sunday, September 29
RROC Benefit
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Retired Racers Ohio Connection
Huron County Fairgrounds
Norwalk, Ohio
Raffles, auction, vendors, food.
Contact: Becky Winkelman, 419-663-6262 or 4winks@accnorwalk.com

Saturday, October 19
Greyhound Jamboree
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Greyhound Pets of America – Central Texas
San Gabriel Park, Georgetown, Texas
Enjoy a day among the hounds in a wonderful outdoor setting under shaded trees by the river. Greyhound Games and Contests with prizes, Speed Alley, vendors, raffle, and lots of fun.
Contact: Bobbie Wier, 512-255-1163 or racersaver@prodigy.net;
Diane Schiesser, 512-345-0481 or gpago@austin.rr.com;
Bob Trapp, 512-267-7063 or rftrapp@aol.com;
www.gpacentraltexas.org.



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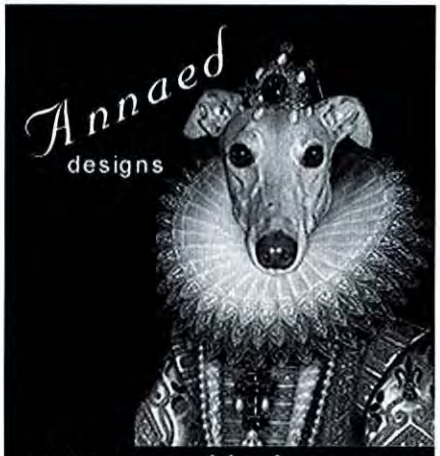

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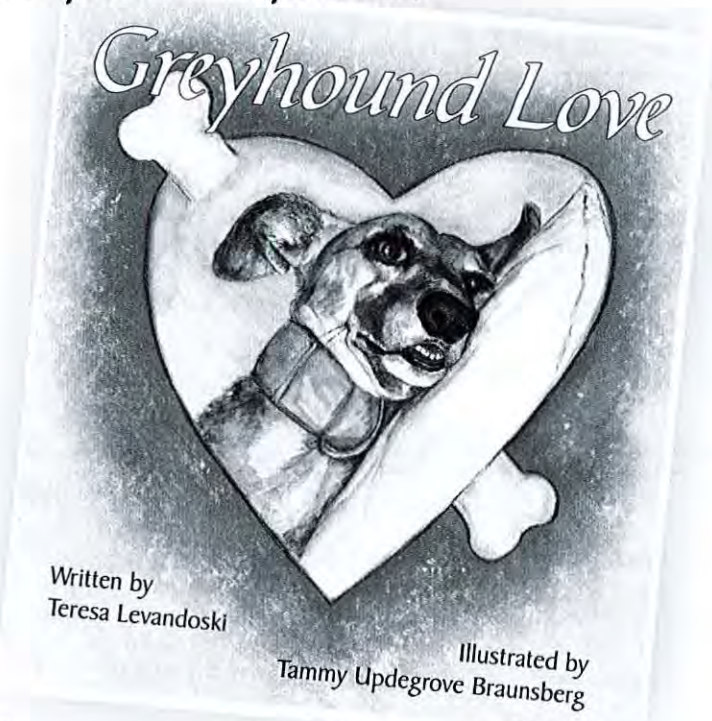

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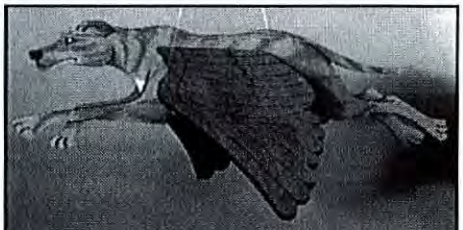

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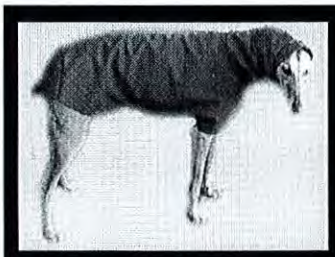

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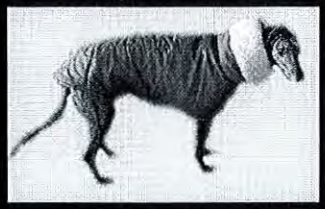

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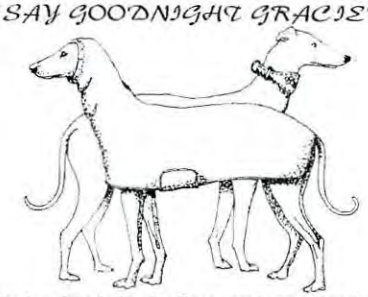

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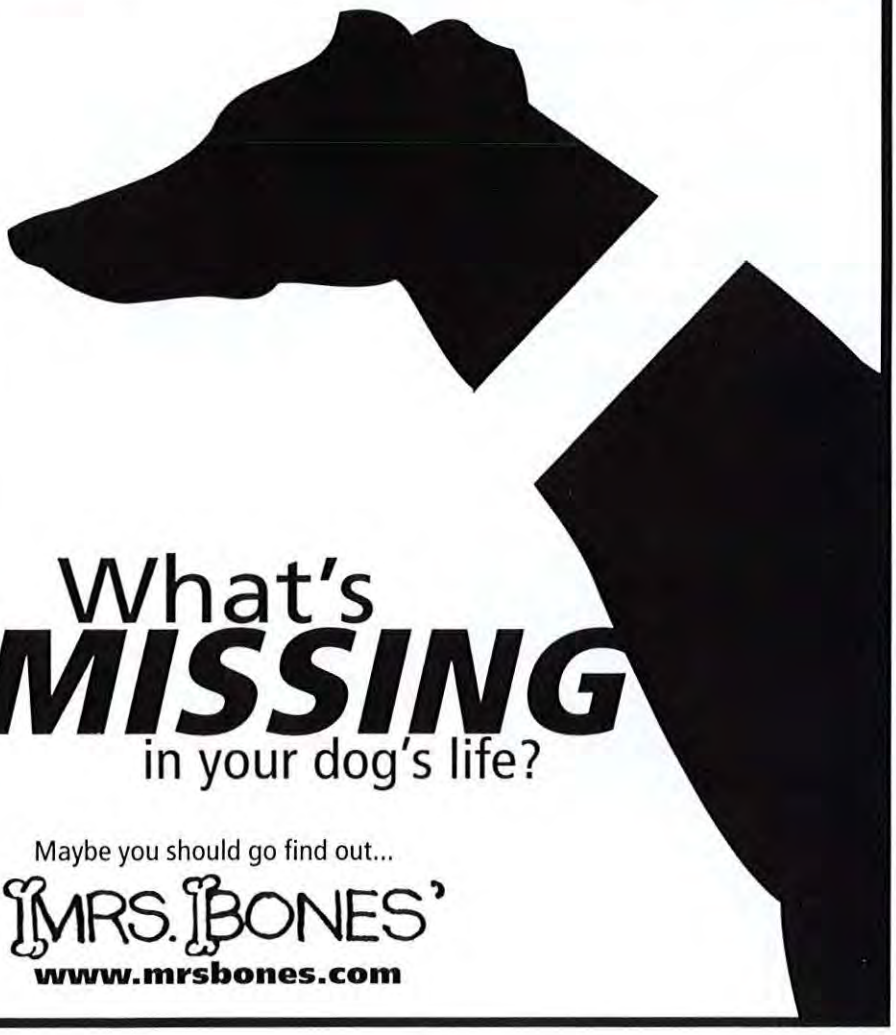

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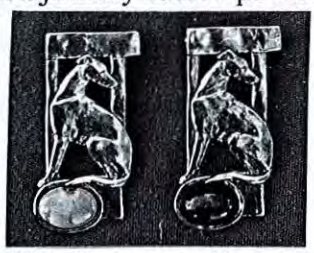

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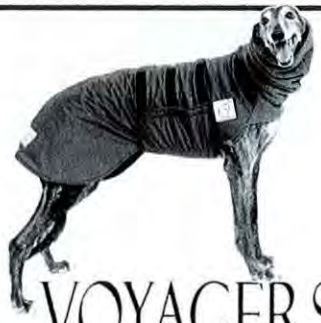

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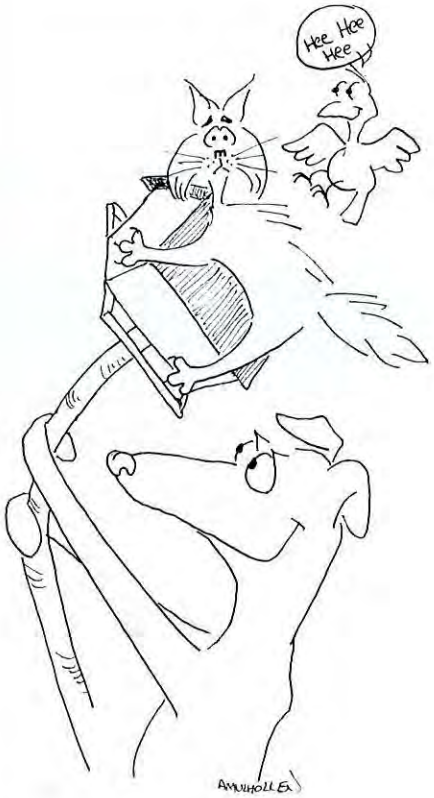

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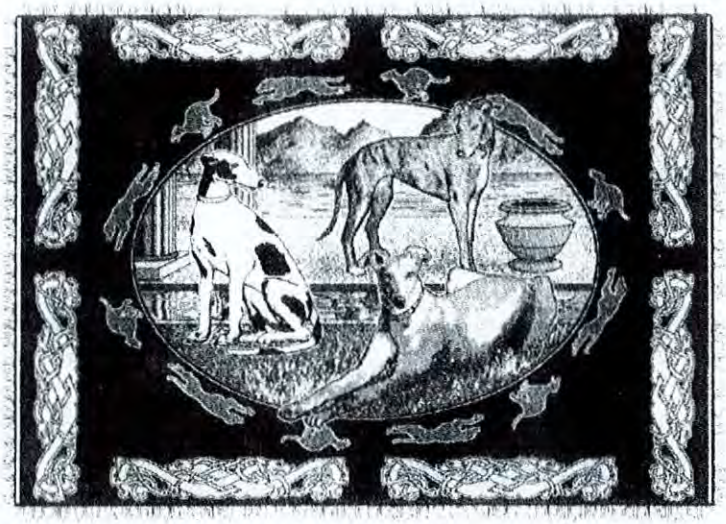

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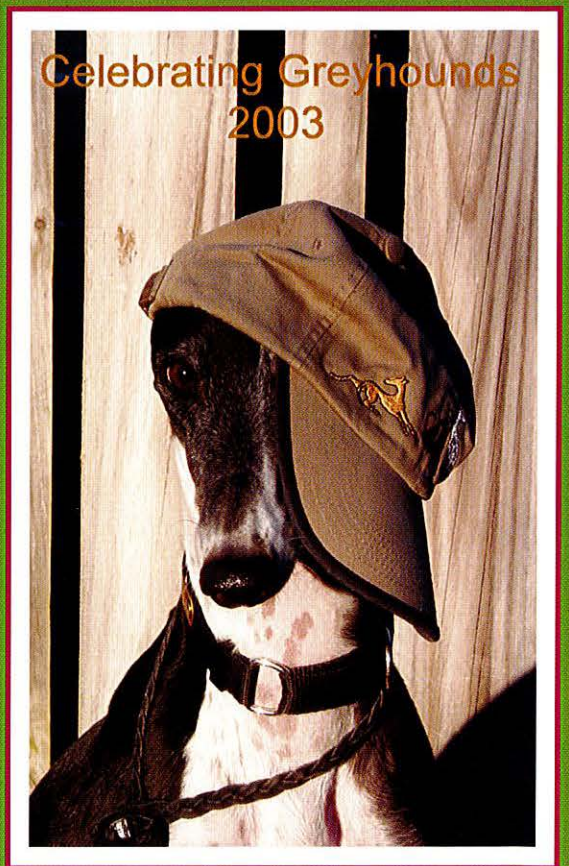

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