

cgmagazine

celebrating greyhounds

Summer 2004

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Transporting Greyhounds

Cinderella's World Record Jump

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Winston lives with Rich and Kathy Hoynes in Tinley Park, Ill. Here, he surveys Dewey Beach. Photo by Rich Hoynes

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With a little help from Sean Berg, Mara supports the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy. Photo by Kelly Berg



Brick, adopted by Michael and JoAnn Loos of Erlanger, Ky.

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By Cindy Hanson

This issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* looks a little different, doesn't it?

Like Dorothy Gale opening the door after the dust settles around her Kansas farmhouse, CG has entered a new world. Beginning with this issue, *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* is as multi-hued as our beloved Greyhounds. Difficult choices about which photographs will appear on the few color pages in each issue are in the past. As we explore our new color capabilities over the next several issues, we will be making some significant changes to the look of the magazine. We hope that you will be as excited and energized by what you see as we are!

Of course, Dorothy did not arrive at the Emerald City unescorted. And CG has its own version of the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion in the persons of Ruthann Farry, Brianna Thomas, and Martha Spindler. Ruthann, Brianna, and Martha are Zographix, an independent graphic design studio in Westford, Massachusetts. Founded in 1990, Zographix has been making CG look fabulous since our Fall 2001 issue.

Zographix clients range from dot-coms to makers of deli meats. They include software firms, insurance companies, motivational speakers, and manufacturers of medical products. What do the folks at Zographix think about working on our little magazine? "We enjoy the challenge of putting everything together so it's user-friendly," explains Ruthann. "It's a refreshing project, with all the other high-tech projects we have." Being "dog people" themselves, they enjoy working with the stories: "Sometimes we laugh, sometimes we cry . . . we feel like we're part of the CG family, too." Ruthann shares her home with 9-year-old Golden Retriever Dallas and a cat named Cowboy (because of his attitude and his belief that he can ride the dog). Brianna lives with her Pugs, Howard and Gus. We're sure that Dallas, Howard, and Gus are particularly attentive in checking out their human housemates when they come home after a long day of working on CG.

As we look forward to a new era for this publication, it feels right that the current issue encourages us to look back. This year marks the tenth anniversary of a little social gathering that grew to become Greyhounds Reach the Beach, an annual event that draws thousands of people and their Greyhounds to Dewey Beach, Delaware on Columbus Day weekend. In this issue, Judy Dillon, Pat Tyson, and Martha Sherman reminisce about that first weekend in Dewey and how, in subsequent years, it grew to become an event. Of course, Greyhounds Reach the Beach prompted a lot of people to plan parties of their own, and "Having Wonderful Time" visits a number of the multiple-day Greyhound events in North America that have sprung up over the years. Perhaps you will want to take to the road and visit some of them.

Or perhaps you will decide to plan your own Greyhound get-together with family and friends in your own backyard. After all, there's no place like home.



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Follow-up on Fall

David and I very much enjoyed reading the article about our fostering Streak, whose owner was deployed for a month at the start of the Iraqi War ("Greyhounds on the Home Front," Fall 2003 CG). In October, we received another call from Jennifer Watkins of Shamrock Greyhounds: Joe was being deployed again, this time for a year. Would we consider fostering both of Joe's dogs for the year he is gone? David and I never considered ourselves to be true foster parents. Always fearful of the pain of separation, we limited ourselves to short-term "babysitting" situations. However, Joe would have to give away his beloved dogs if something didn't turn up and, since 13-year-old Lanna died in July, our house had been way too empty. After an introductory visit, the boys arrived on Thanksgiving, and have fit in with very few problems.

In every e-mail, Joe thanks us and tells us how lucky he feels to have our help. I believe we are the lucky ones. We have the privilege of supporting a soldier who is serving this country, finding a new friend, and spoiling two beautiful Greyhounds. How much luckier could we be?

**Marylynne Kitson
Brandenburg, Ky.**

Thank you for your article on Greyhounds and corns and warts ("Corns and Warts: Definitions, Causes, and Treatments," Fall 2003 CG). We had just started seeing our veterinarian because we thought our Greyhound was having a problem with her shoulder; she had started to limp. When your article came out, we checked her feet and were sure corns were her problem. We took her to our veterinarian and sure enough, she had three corns: two on one foot, and one large one on the other. The two smaller ones appear to be gone now, but the larger one seems to be an ongoing thing. Some surgery may be required.

**Nancy Wallace
South Saint Paul, Minn.**

Looking Ahead

You mentioned that you are interested in ideas for upcoming articles. What about an article on that disease that all of us Greyhound owners dread: Osteosarcoma? Too many retired racers succumb to osteosarcoma. I'm certain the readership would appreciate any information on osteosarcoma.

**Judy Greenfield
Denver, Colo.**

We agree — this is a great topic. The Fall 2004 issue of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine will have a special focus on the topic of Greyhounds and cancer, including osteosarcoma.
— Ed.



The Kitson Clan: Olive, Jack, Diva, and foster Greyhounds Streak and River.



Cher, Jim and Nancy Wallace's Greyhound, wears boots to cushion her corns.

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Please send letters and photos by mail to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, Attn: Editor, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also appreciated. Please include your home telephone number if you would like your letter to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

We regret that we cannot publish every letter or photo. ■



A dog who prefers that other dogs keep their distance will often sport a muzzle and a red bandanna. But don't assume that other participants will notice these accessories or remember what they mean; it is your job to protect your dog.

Two's Company, Three Thousand's a Crowd

By Lee Livingood

I admit it. I have a love-hate relationship with Dewey Beach. Since the tenth anniversary of Greyhounds Reach the Beach is fast approaching, I've decided to "fess up" and tell you why.

As a reasonably social human and an advocate of Greyhound adoption, I love the chance to network and to exchange ideas about how to improve adoptions. I love seeing old friends and making new ones. And I love the almost palpable excitement in the air.

So what's to hate? As an adopter and a companion animal behavior counselor, I hate to see so many dogs under so much stress and to realize how unaware the person at the other end of the leash is about what her Greyhound is feeling and experiencing. As the number of Greyhounds and humans in attendance increases, the level of stress for the dogs is skyrocketing.

Dewey is a quiet little resort town of about 300 people that occupies .3 of a square mile — about six blocks by two blocks. Sounds idyllic. But if you think taking your dog to Dewey is a walk in the park — or on the beach — you're wrong. During Greyhounds Reach the Beach, the sheer volume of people and dogs defies description. The population of that sleepy little town explodes to over 2,000 humans and at least an equal number of Greyhounds. No matter where you go with your dog, you are pushing yourselves through a solid sea of dogs and humans. And most of the humans are so caught up in the pulse of the event they are clueless about what is happening to their dogs.

Everything I teach is about building a trusting relationship with our hounds. Building trust means learning how to observe the world from our hound's point of view and how to read his subtle signals that something is overwhelming him. It also

means using common sense and putting his needs ahead of our own.

Therefore, the first question to ask yourself is this: Should you bring your Greyhound to Dewey? Would he be happier at home with friends or family? Would he ask to be cooped up all day in a motel room while you socialize and shop? Would he beg you to let him be at the end of a leash being threaded through throngs of strange dogs and people, regardless of weather?

Whenever you have your hound with you, your primary job becomes one of watching out for and taking care of him. It's about relationship and responsibility. You need to ask for whom you are there: For yourself, or for your Greyhounds. What about Dewey is truly fun for the hounds? If you decide to bring your hounds, you need to decide whose interests you are going to put first.

Building a great relationship with your Greyhound relies on the art of observation. It requires that you spend time really paying attention to your dog and learning to read the subtle signals that tell you what he is feeling. Protecting him in an environment like Dewey means learning what signals dogs use to tell each other and us that they are under stress. And then it means taking appropriate action to deal with whatever situation arises.

Let's look at some of the ways your Greyhound tells you he is under stress:

- Excessive shedding ("blowing" his coat)
- Sudden appearance of dandruff
- Lowered body stance
- Keeping his body posture small (trying to look "invisible")
- Averting eye contact (looking away from you, another person, or a dog)
- Holding his head down or his ears back
- Acting distracted, as if he doesn't know you are on the same planet
- Acting hyperactive (bouncing off the walls)
- Tail drooping or tucked
- Dilated pupils
- Barking (if used to keep distance between him and something he finds scary)
- Panting
- Pacing
- Whining
- Dripping nose
- Sweating through his paws
- Yawning
- Scratching
- Grooming (licking at himself as though cleaning his fur)

Some of these behaviors (yawning, licking, scratching) are perfectly normal most of the time. However, if they are combined with other indicators and do not seem appropriate to the situation, they are signs of stress.

Pay attention to your dog. It is your job as the leader to keep bad things from happening. Protect him from boisterous dogs and wild children. If folks cannot control their children, your dog should not be forced to deal with them. Greyhounds are very social with their own dog packs, but that does not mean they are thrilled about meeting every strange dog they encounter. In-your-face dogs are not being friendly; they are being rude. Keep other dogs out of your boy's face unless it seems clear both dogs are interested in greeting each other. And don't let a whole group of dogs overwhelm a single dog.



There is so much going on during Greyhounds Reach the Beach weekend that sometimes it's hard to remain attentive to the dogs. Fortunately, this pack seems to be fairly well behaved.

If your boy has issues with other dogs, don't rely on a red bandana or a muzzle and the alertness of others to keep their dogs away. It is your job to keep your dog safe. Keep him away from other dogs, because every time he resorts to aggression he is learning that it works, and his behavior will get worse. Exposing him to thousands of dogs is not the way to help him or to take care of him.

If he's a spook, this is not socialization; this is torture. Leave him someplace safe or at the very

least keep him well away from the action.

If you see any signs that he's stressed as you approach something, calmly and quietly remove him from the situation before he has to react. How far do you need to go? Can you get him to take really tasty treats? That's a safe distance. Make eye contact, then take him someplace calm and quiet and give him time to recover.

Keep your hound from being overwhelmed by taking frequent breaks and allowing him to recover.

Use good sense about where you take him and how long you'll stay. Decide if the activity is safe. When he is at the other end of that leash, your attention needs to be focused on him because he is trusting you with his life.

Remember also that as the crowds increase each year, so do the stress levels for the humans

in attendance. And stress diminishes our ability to recognize and react to the things that might be affecting our hounds.

There is nothing wrong with being selfish and realizing that you want to go to Dewey for You. It's only wrong if you pretend you are doing it for your dog. ■

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



If I only had a D.A.P.[™] diffuser . . .

Calming the Anxious Dog

By Judy Staines

Callie, a 3-year-old ex-racer from Tennessee, was in trouble. Returned to her adoption agency twice because of separation anxiety and now in her third home, she was showing signs of the same problem. Nearly every day for a year, she urinated in the house. Her long-suffering owner, Robin, took her to a veterinarian for many tests, but results were normal. As a last resort before medicating her, Robin decided to try a D.A.P.[™] diffuser. Within a day, Callie had stopped urinating in the house altogether and she has not regressed.

James, an elderly English Greyhound, is fine with thunder unless his D.A.P.[™] refill runs out. Lilly, a very anxious Australian ex-racer, recently sailed through a complicated and disruptive house move with the help of her D.A.P.[™] diffuser. Both dogs also had house soiling or urinating problems, which were helped (or solved) by the diffuser. Lilly also had destructive tendencies.

Many Greyhounds suffer from some form of stress or from various fears and phobias. These can result in obvious signs of anxiety: pacing, whining, barking, trembling, and panting. In some cases, they can result in displacement activities such as destruction of property, soiling or urinating in the house, or excessive licking. Desensitization can help, especially when there is a known cause, but for some dogs it isn't that easy. These dogs may be helped by the D.A.P.[™] diffuser, a device which plugs into an electrical socket, warming a solution containing Dog Appeasing Pheromones (D.A.P.[™]) so that they are released slowly into the air.

The idea behind the D.A.P.[™] diffuser is simple. All lactating bitches produce appeasing pheromones to reassure and comfort their puppies. Some adult dogs also respond to these pheromones. Secreted by the bitch, the pheromones become airborne and stimulate receptors in the vomero-nasal organ, which lies above the hard palate in the roof of the dog's mouth.

These receptors transmit information to the part of the brain known as the limbic system, directly affecting the emotional state of the dog.

Dr. Patrick Pageat, a French veterinarian and animal behaviorist, was the first to identify these pheromones as part of his work helping people to identify and solve problem behaviors in animals. With his team, he produced a synthetic version that could be easily utilized. CEVA Animal Health went on to produce and market a pheromone diffuser for use in the home, and now distributes the D.A.P.TM worldwide. In the United States, this product is marketed as Comfort ZoneTM by Farnam Pet Products.

During the past two years the University of Lincoln (UK), working with Dr. Pageat, has conducted research into the effectiveness of the D.A.P.TM diffuser with encouraging results. Twenty-six dogs who showed signs of separation anxiety took part. In each case, the pheromones were delivered by a diffuser that was plugged into an outlet in the room most often used by the dog. By the end of the 28-day trial, there was an 85 percent improvement in destructiveness and 72 percent improvement in barking and whining. House soiling episodes were reduced by 66 percent. Overall, 72 percent of the dogs in the trial were confirmed as cured or improved. Though the trial involved only a small number of dogs, these are impressive results.

Another study, by G. Sheppard and D. Mills, examined the use of the appeasing pheromones to treat fear of fireworks (Dr. Mills is the Director of the University of Lincoln's Animal Behaviour Referral Clinic). The 30 dogs involved in the study showed typical anxiety symptoms ranging from panting and trembling to bolting in fear. The diffuser was plugged in two weeks before an expected fireworks event and left in place for the following week. The owners were also given advice on handling their dogs' anxiety responses to avoid reinforcing their fear, and the dogs were monitored. At the end of the trial, 80 percent of the owners said they would use it again. Their dogs had shown significant reduction of the fear responses.

Though it is clear that some dogs will not be helped by D.A.P.TM, it seems well worth trying if you have an anxious or phobic Greyhound. It is a non-toxic, non-invasive therapy, and odorless to humans. It is not normally an instant miracle fix — though Callie's heartwarming story shows

it can be. The diffuser usually needs to be plugged in for a period of time before the effects are seen, and this can vary from two or three days to two or three weeks.

One minor drawback is that the diffuser is designed to work within an area of 650 square feet, so if you have an open plan home you may need to install more than one unit, which increases the cost. Refills are available, and will last around a month. ■

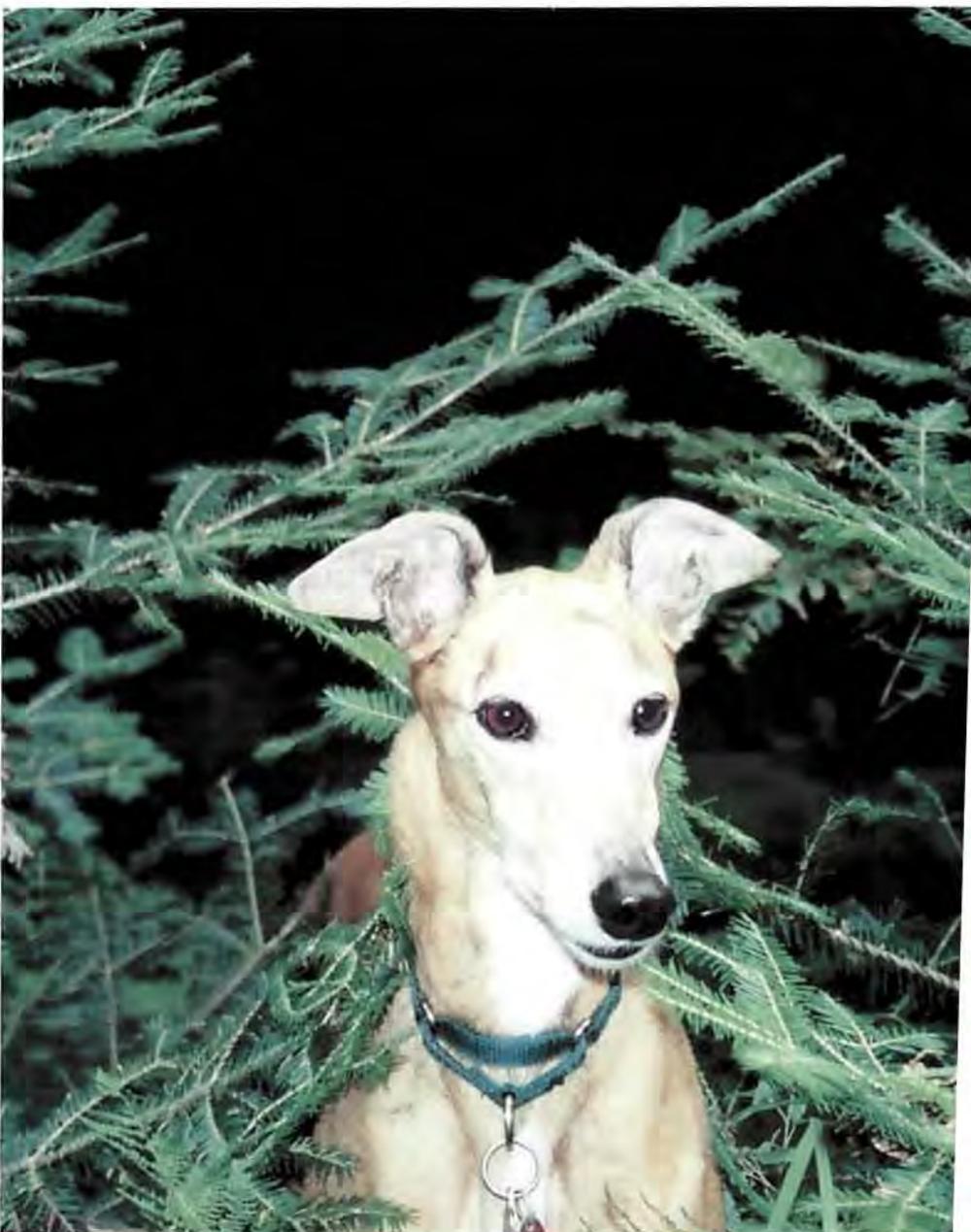
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Judy Staines trained as a Registered Animal Nursing Auxiliary when animal nursing was in its infancy in the UK. She had to give up this career when she became allergic to cats and now lives with her husband and two grown sons in Cambridgeshire, England. The two Greyhounds currently sharing her life are Jim, a beautiful 12 year-old white and brindle dog, and the new girl, Renie, a pretty 5 year-old red brindle.



Cynder, adopted by the Pasternski family of Green Bay, Wisc.



Ian and Tracy.

Ian's Sister Tracy

By Tom Thomas

In March 2002, Greyhound Adoption League of Texas (GALT) received an adoption application from Tom Thomas and Tricia Bergeron and their 5-year-old son, Ian. They planned to adopt a Greyhound as soon as they finished fencing their yard, but put their plans on hold when Ian was diagnosed with leukemia.

Six months later, the family attended a GALT meet-and-greet and fell in love with Tracy, a black-and-white female who was attending the event with her foster parents. Ian had just returned home from the hospital, and Tracy was just what everyone needed to cheer them up.

Tracy did that and more, as Tom Thomas explains . . .

Life went from really busy to even busier once we got Tracy. We're adjusting to one another quickly, and Tracy is starting to get braver in what she tries to get away with, so I think that's a good sign!

Ian just loves her, falls asleep with her, and feeds her (at least part of the time). I believe it's made a difference in how he looks at things. She seemed lethargic the first week, so we took her to a veterinarian. He did some blood tests and for once, Ian got to be the one taking a patient to the doctor and making sure everything was OK (and Tracy was just fine).

We did have to give Tracy some pills for diarrhea. Ian helped, making sure we gave them to her when it was time, and rubbing her throat to help her swallow them. Since he started treatment for leukemia, Ian has struggled with taking pills, and there are always some to take. Even when we crush them into powder, he often can't keep them down, and we have to start over. This has been the toughest struggle of the last five months. Well, Ian thought it was pretty cool the way we gave Tracy her pills. "Dad," he said, "wouldn't it be funny if you gave me my pills the way we give them to Tracy?" We laughed about that. He had finally managed to swallow whole the tiniest pill a couple of times.

A few days later, when it was time for his medicine, we doled out a big pill and a little one. "Dad, let's pretend I'm a

Greyhound," he suggested. "Give me the pills like we do Tracy." Without much hope for success, I agreed. I was ready to stand on my head at this point if it would have helped him get the pills down whole. Ian got down on all fours while I put a little butter on the biggest pill. I tipped his head back, pretended to pry his mouth open, and placed the pill on the back of his tongue. Then I shut his mouth and stroked his throat, top to bottom. After a few seconds I felt a little gulp. Ian beamed ear to ear. "Dad! It went down!"

Now Ian can take anti-nausea pills without throwing up (which defeats their purpose, after all). I know this particular benefit doesn't apply to the majority of Greyhound adopters, but it sure was an unexpected bonus for us. I firmly believe it was our adoption of Tracy and Ian's opportunity to see her receiving treatment from the veterinarian that helped him decide to try to take his medication whole.

Ian is in remission and doing very well. Although he still has a year of chemotherapy

left, most of the time he takes pills at home (up to 13, and he can take eight or nine at a time). The doses are low enough now that he does not experience the more noticeable side effects, such as hair loss and weight loss.

He has taken to calling Tracy his sister, which can cause confusion at times. For example, when we were leaving the hospital after one of his stays, Ian was saying goodbye to the nurses, and it went something like this:

Nurses: *Bye, Ian! Bet you're anxious to get home.*

Ian: *Yeah, I wanna see Tracy. She's my sister.*

Nurses: *Oh! You have a little sister! How old is she?*

Ian: *She's two and a half.*

Nurses: *Oh, how nice.*

There was a brief exchange about how Tracy had been staying at Granddad's house, but Granddad had already brought her back home.

Nurses: *Oh, you'll get to see your Granddad, too!*

Ian: *No, he had to go home.*

Nurses: *Who's staying with your little sister?*

Ian: *Nobody. We just leave her there by herself sometimes.*

We are hoping to get another Greyhound. We are still in the stages of getting used to the idea and making sure it's the right time, but it's getting closer.

Tracy has brought such a positive change to the dynamics of our home. It's hard to explain, but she provides a focal point for all of us that is a welcome relief from the intensity of Ian's treatments. It's so great to just sit around and pet her. And I think Ian is relieved not to be the only target of our concern. He gets a little break from us. He gets to hug her, fall asleep with her, feed her, and go to the doctor with her. What a great dog. ■

Tom Thomas and his family live in Denton, Texas. A shorter version of this article appeared in the December 2002 issue of The Greyhound Star, Official Newsletter of Greyhound Adoption League of Texas, Inc.



Chick, adopted by Pat and Howard Hall of Ayer, Mass.

A 5 page book! Once you start reading, you will not be able to put it down!"

For 5 Great Reviews, Go to www.5GreatReviews.com

LEO



A GREYHOUND'S TALE

a novel by
Cindy Victor

Leo, A Greyhound's Tale
By Cindy Victor
Beaver's Pond Press, Inc.
Edina, Minn. (2004)
ISBN 1592980171
\$12.95

I scanned the horizon for a glimpse of the island from the deck of a luxurious cruise ship as it approached Bora Bora. It was a balmy 75 degrees, sun on my face, a gentle breeze in my hair, and I had only one wish — to be home, where it is too hot or too cold, too windy or too still, and the rocky Nevada terrain looks like the lunar surface. I had always considered myself to be a fairly intelligent human being (although that often comes into question as my co-workers see all the Greyhound paraphernalia on the walls of my cubicle), so how could this be?

I had just finished reading Cindy Victor's novel, *Leo, A Greyhound's Tale*, and I wanted nothing more than to be home with my own Greyhounds, Riley and Gidget.

I wanted to tell them all about Leo, who goes by an alias because he's worried that his super-canine abilities will lead to his being the subject of scientific research. Lovingly stroking her velvet ears, I would explain to Gidget that like her, Leo was not the fastest hound at the track, sending him to an early retirement. Gazing deeply into his amber eyes, I would soothingly tell Riley that Leo and he could be described the same way: "a tall ... handsome brindle boy, with a refined muzzle, expressive eyes, incredibly silky ears, and touches of white here and there for added interest."

Leo, A Greyhound's Tale

By Alice O'Hearn

While this book is a light-hearted, comical, fictional account, it teaches us the truth that it is not material things but courage, loyalty, and love that make life worth living.

Leo's facility with language is both a help and a hindrance as the volunteers of the fictional adoption group GAPAC (Greyhounds Adore People and Couches) present Leo to potential adopters. He hears that the first couple, the Smiths, want an energetic and playful dog. Smart as a whip and eager to please, Leo bounces off the walls, pogos to the ceiling, and snatches Mr. Smith's wallet from his pocket, playing a game of "catch me if you can."

Another couple indicate they want an affectionate dog. Leo goes for the wife first. By the time he finishes with her, she has makeup on just one side of her face.

Because Leo's previous attempts to give adopters just what they desired had failed, when famous Hollywood couple Douglas Drake and Amaranth Drueten come in, indicating they simply want a friendly dog who will accept their love and give love back (even the best adoption profilers can be misled), Leo tries the opposite. As he humorously describes it:

I tried to raise my hackles, but they wouldn't go up. Even so, I walked into that room with my entire demeanor announcing, "I'm bad."

Amaranth Drueten leaned forward on her chair and cried, "Oh look! He's smiling! Isn't that adorable?"

Douglas Drake, leaning against a wall, said, "I don't think he'd be smiling if he knew he's being neutered Friday."

The three humans laughed. My ears went up. My lips and tail came down. My limbs went weak. I sat.

Amaranth Drueten clapped her hands. "He sits! I heard Greyhounds don't like to sit. But this one does. He's absolutely wonderful."

The volunteer stroked my head. "Leo is wonderful. He's friendly and bright and exceptionally handsome. But I know looks aren't important to you, Ms. Drueten and Mr. Drake. You said so in your application."

Douglas Drake said, "Call us Douglas and

Amaranth, please. No, looks don't mean a thing to us. We would never choose a dog for its looks. But Leo obviously has character. It shows in his eyes. Look at him. He's thinking very deeply about something."

Yes, I was thinking about it and sitting on it.

Not only do Douglas and Amaranth have Leo neutered, it is a media event on live television. Leo realizes they are not looking for a loving companion, but an accessory for photo shoots. Initially, he is not disappointed with the prospect of a celebrity life spent on satin pillows, although both Douglas and Amaranth are shallow and uncaring. His priorities change when he meets the live-in housekeeper, Kim.

Kim reminds us of what it takes to be a good Greyhound guardian: daily walks, food, fresh water, nail trimming, eye and ear checks, tooth and coat brushing, yogurt for digestion, and most of all, good communication. Leo is happy with Kim, but a conflict between Kim and Douglas jeopardizes that happiness as Kim is forced to leave. Leo is heartbroken and can't bring himself to live in a household that doesn't include Kim. Through some amusing and creative problem solving, Leo finds an alternative.

At this point in the book we meet Mike Dozer, a dog-loving freelance writer and plumber's assistant. Through Mike's eyes we view those endearing Greyhound peculiarities — terror at the prospect of steep stairs, snarfing up a noseful of water, and reverse sneezing. Mike handles it all with good humor and affection for Leo, and Leo's fondness for Mike grows.

But we haven't seen the last of Kim, as Leo draws her into Mike's life. Will Leo be forced to choose between the two people who care the most for him? While Cindy Victor answers this question for the present, she leaves the door open to greater possibilities in the future.

I hope Leo will return with more tales to tell. And, this time, I hope to read about them while curled up in front of a roaring fire with Riley and Gidget, whom I will never look at quite the same, now that I've met Leo. ■

Alice O'Hearn is a CG copy editor.



Sunny Concern — champion courser, champion racer. *Greyhound Hall of Fame*

A Pivotal Greyhound

By Laurel E. Drew

In April 1923, Sunny Concern made her entrance into the world. She was born to Sunkist and sired by Unconcern, an import from England. While Unconcern had an impressive coursing pedigree, Sunkist had a rather more common sire and dam, Buck and Alice. Now that's not to say that they couldn't run; they certainly could, and Sunny took after all of those running ancestors. Sunny started her life in Barnsdall, Oklahoma, but soon moved to the kennel of F. C. Lawman in Severy, Kansas.

Sunny Concern made her official coursing debut by winning the October 1924 National Futurity Course. There were 248 puppies (yearlings or so) entered at that event. From October 10 to 16, six rounds of coursing plus semifinals and finals were run. This means that these youngsters did a lot of coursing. That little brindled Sunny won the Futurity says a lot for her stamina, conditioning, and heart! To quote the report pub-

lished in the *Greyhound Stud Book* for 1924-25, "The Coursing started on the 16th with the running of the Finals of the Futurity in which Sunny Concern led a couple lengths Chum [Dear Chum] in for fast exchanges, Sunny in again wrenching and killed winning 10 to 5. An honest run trial by a pair of grand puppies — bred right, reared right — and in perfect condition. We are unable to word the praise they deserve."

Sunny went on again to win the National Derby Cup in coursing before sprinting onto the racetrack in the early years of Greyhound racing in America. In 1922, O. P. Smith set up the first relatively successful circular Greyhound racetrack in Emeryville, California. Four years later, Sunny Concern won the St. Petersburg Derby Lane International. In the same year she also won the Madison Derby at the Madison Kennel Club in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a pivotal dog in the shift from coursing to racing.

As a courser, Sunny ran just fast enough to

win, conserving energy when she could. On the track, she was also content to win her races by a narrow margin, making for some exciting finishes. She probably also added some gray hairs to her owner's head.

She won stake races and match races on any track and at any distance. She was often called the "Queen of Greyhounds." No record was kept of winnings at that time, and Sunny was not for sale at any price. In fact, Mr. Lawman named his kennel Sunny Concern Kennels in her honor.

After retiring in 1927, Sunny Concern produced several litters of pups, some by Golden Sahara and by My Laddie, both of whom are also in the Hall of Fame. When she died in her sleep at the Lawman home on November 17, 1937, she was buried under her favorite shade tree wearing her National Futurity blanket and a silken robe. She was truly a Queen. ■

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor.



From the underside of the nail, SLO is visible in its early stages.

Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy

Oh Where, Oh Where, Has My Dog's Toenail Gone?

By Jim Bader, DVM
Photos by Merri Van Dyke

Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy (SLO) is a disease affecting Greyhound toenails. It was known as "eighteen toe disease" until Dr. D.W. Scott proposed the new name in 1995. SLO is a disease affecting only the toenail or claw. This article includes a discussion of the anatomy of a claw, how the SLO affects the claw, and treatment of the disease.

The claw is a specialized extension of the skin. It arises from the two skin layers, the epidermis and dermis. The dermis is the lower layer. In the claw, the dermis is an extension of the periosteum covering of the bone. The periosteum is a very blood-rich covering. (This is why trimming a toenail too short causes copious bleeding.) The claw grows from the coronary band, a specialized group of cells at the base of the claw that produce keratin. Keratin is the hard material of the claw. The coronary band grows faster on the top side of the nail than the bottom side, which is why the claw curves. This is the area affected by SLO.

SLO is an immune-mediated disease. Simply put, the body attacks itself with antibodies, treating the area as if it were a foreign invader. The characteristics of immune-mediated disease have been discussed previously in these pages ("Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia," Fall 2001 CG). With SLO, the body sends antibodies to attack the cells of the coronary band. The antibodies damage the keratin-producing cells, causing the area to become weak. The damaged cells cause malformation of the keratin. In some cases, the body may stop producing keratin altogether. The result is a weakening at the base of the nail, leading to traumatic loss. The dog then sheds the nail. The shedding may or may not be painful. Sometimes the nail is found on the

floor, with no apparent discomfort to the Greyhound. Other times the nail is only partially shed, leaving a small, firm attachment. Removal of the nail under these circumstances can be very painful and usually requires some form of sedation or pain relief. Some nail regrowth may occur at the site, but usually the nail is deformed.

SLO's clinical signs are very simple. The Greyhound loses claws. In many cases, an owner will take his Greyhound to the veterinarian because "he hooked a nail while running in the backyard." The veterinarian removes the nail with no further examination, blaming the injury on an acute trauma. Two to three weeks later the Greyhound returns because he is losing more claws. The owner may notice a brown, irritated band at the base of several of the claws. This usually prompts a diagnosis of SLO. The only true way to diagnose SLO is to amputate a toe and submit it for a biopsy. If the Greyhound has dewclaws, this may be possible. If the dewclaws have been removed, amputating a digit to confirm diagnosis is rather drastic. Diagnosis from clinical signs may be sufficient to institute treatment. A complete laboratory panel, including a thyroid test, is in order to ensure no other abnormalities are present.

Fortunately, a Greyhound with SLO may otherwise be healthy. The body appears to attack only the coronary band, with no other areas of the body affected. The major complication of SLO is the pain associated with the nail shedding and the exposure of the nail bed. This pain can be controlled with suitable pain relievers.

Upon diagnosis, treatment may begin. There are several options for treatment, all based on stopping the immune destruction of the coronary band. The most common treatment, with the fewest side effects, is Essential Fatty Acid (EFA) therapy. EFAs are Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids found in fish oils. EFAs modify the immune system, decreasing the production of certain antibodies. No side effects have been reported with this type of treatment regimen. This treatment promotes regrowth of the claw, and decreases claw loss, though some claws will still be shed.

The second treatment is a combination of Tetracycline and Niacinamide. Tetracycline is an antibiotic. Niacinamide is a B-Vitamin precursor. This combination appears to modify antibody production, but does have some drawbacks. First, the combination must be administered three times daily, which is difficult for most owners. Second, the combination can cause diarrhea or a decrease

in appetite. Although the treatment is effective, caretakers should be aware of the side effects.

The final treatment option is Prednisone, a steroid that decreases the antibody response by suppressing the entire immune response. Prednisone is started at a high dose twice daily, and then decreased over time to every-other-day therapy. Although this treatment is very effective, it comes with many side effects. The main side effect of any steroid regimen is the increase in water consumption. The Greyhound's water consumption may double early in the treatment, causing more frequent urination. Other side effects

redevelop the disease when the owner discontinues treatment. Resumption of treatment will bring the disease back under control.

In my practice, I am treating seven Greyhounds with SLO. Most are on EFA supplements. One is on a very low dose of Prednisone. All are currently in remission. SLO is not life threatening. It is controllable. The treatment regimens are effective, if the owner will commit to administering treatment for the life of the Greyhound. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



Weakening at the base of the nail caused this dog to shed the nail on the first digit of the left front paw.



When the nail is still partially detached, its removal may be painful. Sedation or pain relief may be in order.

may include induction of fatty liver disease, diabetes mellitus (sugar diabetes), and Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism). The owner who elects this method of treatment should consider the side effects carefully and always use the lowest dose needed to control the disease.

Other possible treatments include herbal supplements or diet modification. Although the results are anecdotal, they may be worth considering as they carry few to no side effects. However, all SLO treatments must be lifelong. In most cases, dogs in whom SLO is in remission

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If anyone had suggested in 1994 that we would be planning for Dewey 10, no one would have believed it. The beginning was all so spontaneous, so serendipitous. But it happened. This year will be the tenth gathering of the hounds at the beach.

From the beginning, *Greyhounds Reach the Beach* has been a breathtaking, awe inspiring, magical weekend. From the hundred or so Greyhounds the first year to the thousands last year, you can meet Greyhounds from all over the country on the streets and beaches of Delaware. Simply being around that many happy, healthy, spoiled hounds is worth the trip.

Winter storms may have eroded the beaches so that the dogs have to wait for low tide to explore the sands but that doesn't seem to interfere with all the adventures of the weekend. Thankfully, the tides will be working in our favor this year. Low tide will be in the early morning, so the dogs will be able to walk on the beach before the activities of the day. This year, for the second time, the City of Rehoboth Beach has lifted the beach and boardwalk restrictions for the weekend so that the Greyhounds can walk the beach there too.

Dewey 2004 will be spreading out with activities in both Dewey and Rehoboth and some events scheduled on Friday for those people arriving early. Again this year the Greyhounds will be visiting schools and nursing homes in the days prior to the scheduled weekend. The community visits have become an important part of the Greyhounds visiting the area. They help to build community support for the annual invasion of the dogs by letting people who would otherwise only see the dogs on the streets meet them up close.

The schedule this year will include the traditional morning Walks on the Beach and the Blessing of the Hounds, Vendors at the Tents, a Memorial Service for our missing friends, and Brunch at the Ruddertowne. This year will also feature Strolling on the Boardwalk a little later in the day for the Greyhounds that prefer to sleep in. Nittany Greyhound Adoption will be sponsoring the Annual Ice Cream Social and New Hampshire Greyhound Placement Service will be hosting the Coffee and Chatter for early arrivers. The Ruddertowne hosts the Beer and Biscuits Ball at the newly renovated Bottle and Cork, and the hounds will be able to run in the field at the Rehoboth Elementary School. There will be seminars and discussions scheduled in locations in Dewey and Rehoboth including speakers on veterinary care, issues with aging dogs, dog park safety, international Greyhound welfare, and other topics. The American Greyhound Council will be sponsoring talks by Dr. Lynda Blythe, DVM, one of the authors of *Care of the Racing Greyhound*. The American Red Cross Canine First Aid course will be on the schedule. The Third Annual Greyhounds in Art Show will feature work from artists and the First Annual Greyhound Graffiti Car and Tattoo Show will be just for the fun of it. More activities and events are in the planning stages.

The Greyhounds will be going to the beach for the tenth time. They go to meet old friends and make new ones. They go to socialize and party and shop. But mostly they go to celebrate. The weekend will be a celebration — a celebration of life and ten years at the beach.

Watch for registration to open on the Internet in early June at <http://adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey/>. Make your reservations, schedule your time off from work, and come join the party. —Joan Belle Isle



System Cagey, adopted by Sam and Lynda Stewart of Fern Park, Fla.

Veterinarians Form Greyhound Group

Dr. Guillermo Couto, a veterinarian at Ohio State University, has formed a new group called Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds. The formation of the group was announced during the Canine Sports Medicine Symposium at the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC) in January, 2004. The group will hold its first scientific meeting at the Canine Sports Medicine Symposium at the NAVC in January, 2005. Topics for the symposium include: (1) Why is my dog's lab work different from yours? (2) The Greyhound as blood donor; (3) Bone cancer in Greyhounds.

The 2005 Canine Sports Medicine Symposium will be held at the Gaylord Palms Hotel in Orlando, Florida on January 8 and 9, 2005. For more information on Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds, please e-mail Dr. Couto at couto.1@osu.edu.

Are You Crafty?

Would you like to share your talent and knowledge of crafts with our readers? *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* is soliciting instructional articles on Greyhound-related crafts for future issues.

Jack and Amy Corrigan of Greyhound Manor Crafts, authors of the Corrigans' Crafts column, have decided to throw in the towel as regular contributors to *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. Jack and Amy have been a vital part of CG almost since the very beginning; their first Corrigans' Crafts column appeared in the Winter 1996 issue. We will miss their creativity and generosity, and we wish them the very best.

If you have a proposal for a how-to article about a Greyhound-related craft project, please send a query to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org or *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, Attn: Editor, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112.

Subscription Questions?

If you have a question or concern about your subscription, please send your inquiry to subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org or *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, Attn: Business Manager, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701.

Free to Adopters of Senior or Special Needs Greyhounds

Do you know someone who has adopted a senior or special needs Greyhound? If so, tell this Greyhound lover that he or she is eligible to receive a free copy of *CG Magazine*. All the adopter needs to do is send a note to the editor at editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org or *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, Attn: Editor, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. The note should include the name of the Greyhound, the dog's age and/or a brief description of the dog's special need, and the name of the adoption group or other source of the dog.

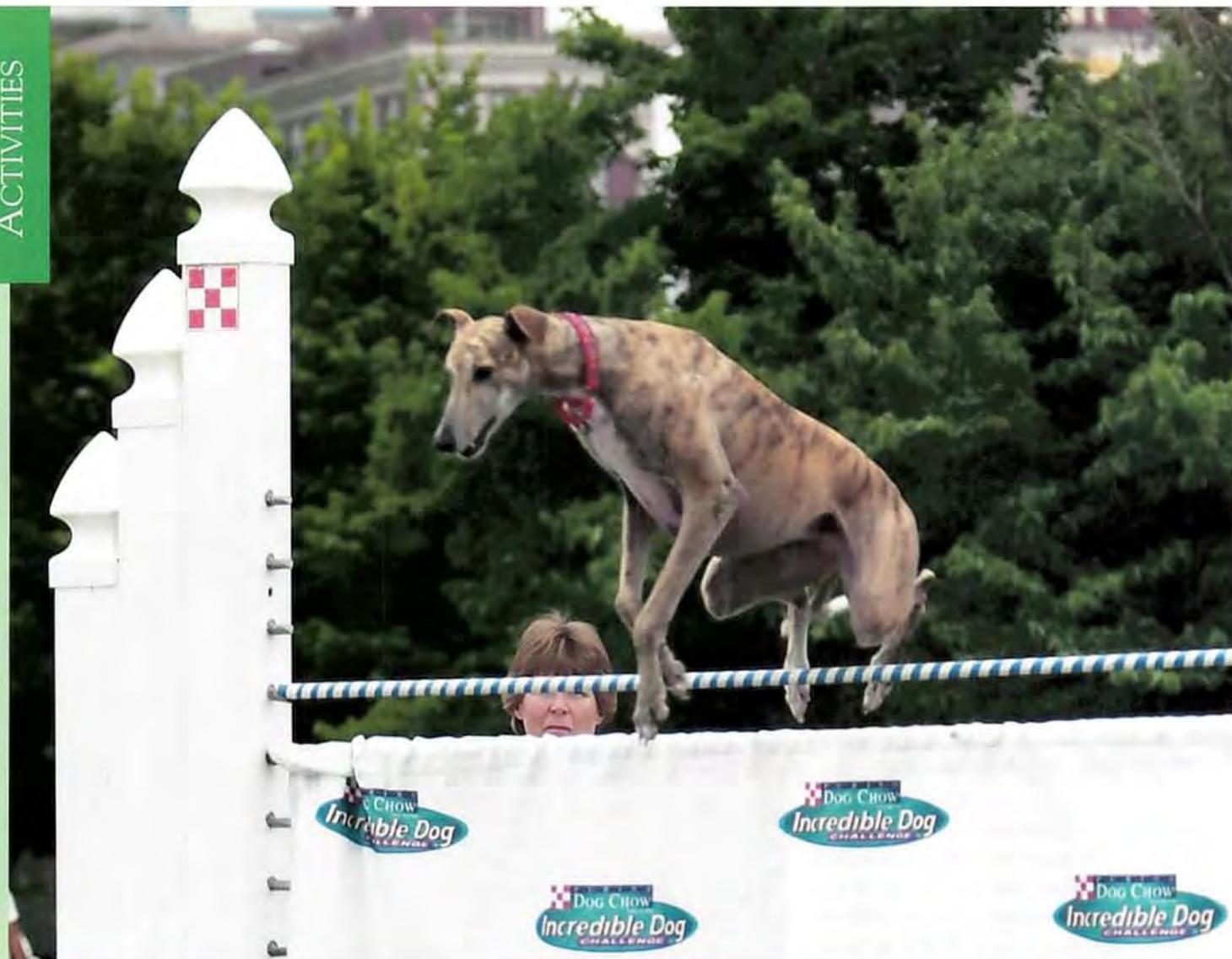
A senior or special needs Greyhound is one who is at least 7 years old at the time of adoption or one who requires special veterinary attention at the time of adoption.

Correction

The dog whose picture appears on page 13 of the Winter 2003 issue of CG is named Empire.



Ryan, adopted by Priscilla Theriault of Mashpee, Mass.



Cinderella breaks the world record in the canine high jump at the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge National Finals. *Steve Donahue/See Spot Run Photography*

Cinderella Leaps to Stardom

By Ann Bollens

What do 92-year-old Herb Tanner, second-generation Bengal cat Cato, and Greyhound Cinderella May have in common? Need a hint? Herb made a solo parachute jump at age 92. Cato sold for \$41,435. Cinderella May jumped 167.6 cm (66 inches). Still wondering? They are all in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Herb was the oldest person to make a solo jump. Cato was the most expensive cat. Cinderella May, also known as Cindy, holds the world record for the highest jump cleared by any breed of dog.

Cindy was part of an accidental litter, an unscheduled breeding between racing dogs. Since she was not eligible for registration with the National Greyhound Association (NGA), she was initially placed as a small puppy. Her first family, unable to provide enough outlets for her boundless puppy energy, returned her to Hollydogs Greyhound Adoption in South Florida.

Enter Kathy Conroy and Kate Long of Palmetto Bay, Florida and their 2 year-old Smooth Collie, Colleen. Kathy, who had owned a Greyhound before, found she missed the "sweet, playful, larger-than-life personality" that is the Greyhound. When the trio met Cindy, they knew they had found a new family member. What they did not know was that they had also found a star.

Cindy exhibited a huge personality and boundless energy. Since Colleen was already participating in AKC agility trials, Kate and Kathy decided to see if the sport of agility would enable them to channel some of Cindy's energy. Kate and Kathy

also had a dream: They wanted to show the world that Greyhounds had the athleticism and versatility to compete in sports other than racing.

Agility is a dog sport modeled on equestrian events. It involves weaving through poles, climbing an A-frame, walking an elevated level walk, jumping obstacles, and scrambling through tunnels and chutes. Agility teaches dogs to follow directions, as the obstacles must all be met in sequence. It teaches self-control, as the dog learns that earning that all-important applause requires her to complete the course correctly and joyously. Agility helps the participating dog develop both self-confidence and coordination. As with any dog/human interaction, agility also promotes a strong bond between participants. (For more information about Greyhounds in agility, see "Getting Started in Agility," Summer 2002 CG).

After her first year of training, Cindy hit the agility trial circuit. She quickly earned her Novice Standard and Novice Jumpers with Weaves titles. Both titles involve mastering jumps and weave poles.

During competition, Cindy's trainers noticed that she not only seemed to enjoy jumping, but she had a natural, soaring leap. Kate, Kathy, and the trainers decided to challenge Cindy a little bit further. In March 2003, Cindy began to train for freestyle high-jump competition. By July 2003, she was easily clearing 56 inches. It was time for her to enter a high-jump competition.

Most of us start small when we enter a dog in a new event. Not Cindy. Having missed the Southeastern Regional competition, Cindy's family drove her from South Florida to Chicago for the Midwest Regional Freestyle jumping competition. Cindy won the event, setting a Purina Incredible Dog Challenge high-jump record when she cleared 60 inches.

Kate and Kathy, along with the trainers, were impressed with Cindy's performance at the regional trial. They felt she had the athleticism and mindset to challenge the world record. Cindy returned to Florida to begin training for the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge National Finals held October 3-4, 2003 at Purina Farms near St. Louis.

Back home in Miami, Cindy began a new round of training. Like all athletes, she practiced and then practiced some more. Four times a week, she jumped a bar that was raised in 2-inch increments until she was consistently clearing 60 inches. Then the trainers received the speci-

fications for the Guinness record challenge. Cindy had been clearing a single bar jump, as in AKC agility trials. Less than four weeks before the event, they learned that to challenge the record, Cindy would have to jump an obstacle that was not only high but was also 2 feet wide.

Within four weeks, Cindy had to learn an entirely new jumping style. Kate would lead Cindy to the middle of the ring, where she thought Cindy would have plenty of room to jump, only to have Cindy pull her down the ring just a little further. Cindy was thinking, showing the mind of a true athlete as she demonstrated that she knew not only what was being asked of her but also how she could best accomplish the task.

The rest is now history. On October 3, 2003, Cindy challenged the Guinness record. She cleared a 56-inch warm-up jump, followed by a 60-inch jump, followed by a 64-inch jump — she had broken the world record. Then, just because she could, she broke her own new record and jumped an incredible 66 inches. On the following day she broke the Purina Challenge record that she set a scant two months earlier in the regional competition, when she jumped 64 inches. It was a weekend Kathy and Kate would never forget.

What is Cindy like at home?

Although she is a supremely focused athlete, she is still a Greyhound puppy. She loves to make



Sienna and Bart, adopted by Sandy and Jim Volschow of Woodville, Ohio.

racing circuit laps in her backyard, throw her stuffies and pounce on them, and nap on the sofa. When she is awake, quiet, and unobserved, Kathy and Kate know they better find her fast because she is up to something. One question that Kathy hears frequently is "Aren't you worried that by teaching her to jump she will go over your fence?" Kathy says that Cindy never learned to jump a fence and that for dogs, jumping an obstacle and jumping a fence don't logically connect. She does note that they have to keep the gate locked because it took Cindy just one try to learn how to open a latched gate.

Greyhounds are great pets and can indeed race with the wind. They are beautiful, charming companions. With their strength and willing intelligence, they can also be outstanding athletes in many fields. Kathy and Kate are well on the way to realizing the dream they had for Cindy, but she's not through yet. At only 3 years old, Cindy has whole new careers to explore.

Cindy may not be as well known as Britney Spears, but to a Greyhound lover, she and her littermate Loki stole the scene in Britney's *Onyx Hotel* tour special on Showtime. Cindy and Loki appeared in promotional clips for the program, which aired on Showtime in March of this year. Although the appearance was brief, filming took a day and-a-half. Kate says that both Cindy and Loki impressed everyone with their calm acceptance of the long delays, lights, cameras, and crowd.

What was filming like? A series of really long waits. The day-long shoot began at 9 a.m. and ended 12 hours later. Cindy and Loki spent most of the day watching and power napping while awaiting their turn on camera. When their moment in the spotlight came, they descended a staircase and walked down a corridor while the cameramen filmed them from various angles and distances. Cindy and Loki were also asked to speak on command for some still shots.

Britney Spears may be the best-known film personality to have shared a camera and a set with Cindy, but Cindy is no one-show wonder. You may have seen Cindy in "Dogs with Jobs" on the National Geographic channel, on PAX in the Purina



Every athlete needs her rest, and Cindy is no exception. *Kathy Conroy*

Dog Challenge regional segments, and on NBC for the Purina Dog Challenge national finals.

Athlete, film star, and now model — look for Cindy to make her first national modeling appearance in the June 2004 issue of *Brides* magazine. At 27 inches at the shoulder and 62 pounds, she has the perfect figure for it.

How do you train a dog to do all the things that Cindy does? All her training has been positive reinforcement for something that she does naturally. By working with her owners and trainers, she gained the confidence to compete and developed the muscles, coordination, flexibility, and mind-set to be competitive. She is now competing for her Excellent Agility titles. And of course, she will continue to appear in films and magazines. After all, she is a star! ■

A longtime AKC dog fancier, Ann Bollens now devotes her time to Greyhound adoption. She is the President of Greyhound Pets of America/Emerald Coast.

Last summer, Brenda and Dix McCann purchased a new coat for Sly, their 3-year-old Greyhound. Sly has severe thunder phobia. The coat, a StormDefender Cape, is designed to help dogs stay calm during thunderstorms.

The StormDefender Cape is based on the theory that a dog's thunder phobia is connected to his sensitivity to the static charge that builds up before a thunderstorm. (This may be why dogs can sense that an electrical storm is coming — often before we do.) If the static charge is big enough, it produces lightning. It makes sense to be afraid and to seek shelter. Static charge is an early warning system for lightning.

The StormDefender Cape has a metallic lining that discharges the static from the dog's fur and shields him from static charge buildup. You may have noticed that thunder phobic dogs tend to seek shelter in the basement, around the toilet, shower, or bathtub. They try to hide or get under something. What do these spots have in common? They are often electrically grounded.

Electrical activity is not necessarily related to a rainstorm; heat lightning brings an electrical charge without rain. Since humans are largely insensitive to this static charge, you must watch the clues that a thunder phobic pet gives. It is very difficult to calm a dog who has reached full panic, so promptness is important.

Tom Critzer invented the StormDefender Cape. He developed the cape out of desperation because his dog Cody was severely phobic and became highly agitated during thunderstorms. Critzer, who has degrees in electrical engineering and psychology, developed the cape after doing a great deal of research on abnormal dog behavior, lightning, and static electricity.

The StormDefender Cape gives relief to dogs who are excessively afraid of thunderstorms. It reduces the dog's sensitivity to the static charge that precedes and accompanies a thunderstorm. Therefore, it must be put on when the dog first becomes agitated due to an oncoming electrical thunderstorm. Timing is important; the cape must be put on before the dog has reached high agitation, which may or may not coincide with rain. It may be removed when the electrical activity has passed. Maximum efficiency is noticed after the dog has experienced two or three thunderstorms while wearing the cape. Most dogs just lay down once the cape is put on and some will even come looking for their owners to put the cape on when they feel the bad vibes. The cape should be used only indoors.



Sly models his StormDefender Cape.

StormDefender Cape

Relief for Thunder Phobic Dogs

By Suzanne Reep

The cape worked almost immediately on Critzer's dog, Cody. Since then, Critzer has sold 300 StormDefender Capes. The cape has been successful on all dogs but four.

When I heard about the cape, I thought it sounded promising, but I did not want to get my hopes up. I wanted to see if the cape helped Sly before I would recommend it to other Greyhound owners.

Brenda and Dix reported almost instant success with the cape. Before using the cape, thunderstorms would cause Sly to pant, shake, claw the floor, and destroy carpet and furniture. While wearing the StormDefender Cape, Sly still occasionally shakes, but instead lies down in a corner of the kitchen. He showed much improvement after only a couple of uses and is no longer destructive. Brenda and Dix are very pleased with the results. "It is like a miracle because the StormDefender is so easy to use, worked so quickly, and brought relief to Sly," Brenda said.

Based on Sly's experience, I recommended the cape to other adopters. Laura Moore of Toledo wrote me a few days later: "You saved my sanity when you sent the information about the StormDefender Cape. I can't believe it, but the silly little thing works. We had a nasty storm last night and Badge (my storm phobic Greyhound)

woke me up as if to say, "Hey Mom, there's lightning out there — put on my cape!" After I put it on her, she lay down and went back to sleep. Thank you!"

Pat and Gary Berger of Greyhound Adoption of Greater Cincinnati purchased the cape for Eddy, a 7-year-old Greyhound. Pat told me that before she put the cape on him, Eddy trembled with fear, but after wearing the cape a short time, he stopped trembling and laid down. While Eddy has only worn the cape four times, it worked each time.

Suzanne Stack, DVM purchased one for her dog Gumby and reported that the cape worked as advertised during a solar flare (an electrical atmospheric event) on October 29, 2003.

Based on these experiences, it appears that when properly and promptly used, the StormDefender Cape can reduce storm anxiety and allow your dog to weather lightning storms.

A cape costs \$65 and comes with a money-back guarantee if it does not work after three good thunderstorms. For more information about the StormDefender Cape, visit www.stormdefender.com or send an inquiry to T. F. Critzer, P.O. Box 18598, Fairfield, Ohio, 45018-0598. ■

Suzanne Reep volunteers for Team Greyhound Adoption of Ohio.



Splashing around in a kiddie pool is a great way for your Greyhound to keep cool on a warm day. Loki, adopted by Rae and Carl Swett of Davie, Fla.

Beating The Summer Heat

By Nancy Wollin

Ah, the dog days of summer. Lounging by the pool, hitting the beach, long hikes, and family picnics are all traditional summertime activities that the entire family can enjoy. While you may be inclined to include your beloved Greyhound in the joys of the summer season, you might want to think twice before subjecting your four-legged friend to all that fun in the sun.

"It isn't fair for us to expect that our Greyhounds can tolerate the summer heat as well as we can," says Cynda Crawford, DVM, PhD, a scientist with the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. "A Greyhound's core temperature averages between 100 and 101.5 degrees. That's up to three degrees higher than ours," she adds. "Because Greyhounds are heavily muscled and muscle generates a lot of heat during activity, it stands to reason that they would be more susceptible to overheating during the summer months." Crawford has been coping with the incessant heat and humidity in Florida since 1978. She has owned rescued Greyhounds since 1988.

Danger Signs of Overheating

As the days grow longer and temperatures and humidity rise, Greyhounds become increasingly susceptible to heat-related maladies. "The symptoms," Crawford says, "are progressive."

A Greyhound is exhibiting signs of heat stress when his temperature hits 104 or 105 degrees, he loses alertness, his head drops down, his gait slows, and he pants heavily with his tongue hanging out. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include a temperature reading of 105 to 106 degrees, drooling, an anxious look in the eyes, bloodshot eyes, and lips that appear drawn back from the face. A dog in heat exhaustion will also exhibit trembling, wobbly legs, and will lie down and not want to get up or move. Heat stroke occurs when the dog's temperature exceeds 106 degrees and he lies down and cannot get up or move. He may start to lose consciousness.

Crawford emphasizes that it is vital for you to take immediate action if you notice any of these symptoms. "The first thing you should do if you expect heat stress or heat exhaustion is get your dog into a cooler environment, preferably into an air-conditioned room, and take his temperature. Put a fan on him and give him plenty of cool water," she says. "Take a washcloth and wet it with cold water. Wipe down his head, in between the back of his legs, and inside the thighs where there is less hair."

"If your Greyhound exhibits any of the symptoms of heat stroke, call your veterinarian immediately," Crawford insists. "He is not getting enough oxygen and he is almost comatose. His kidneys and heart can slow down or stop functioning and he becomes susceptible to internal hemorrhaging," she adds.

Tips To Beat The Summer Heat

Of course, the best way to combat heat stress is to avoid it in the first place. Crawford offers the following tips to keep your needle-nosed boy or girl safe in the summer months:

- Take shorter walks and only in the early morning or late evening hours. The heat and humidity between the hours of 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. are enough to cause heat stress even if your walking path is shady.
- Carry a water bottle, a collapsible water bowl, washcloth, and a digital thermometer with you. If your dog exhibits any of the warning signs of heat stress, get him to a shady spot, offer him water, and take his temperature every 15 minutes until it is less than 103 degrees. If he lies down and refuses to move, don't force him to get up. Keep him as cool as you can until his body temperature drops and it is safe to walk him home.
- Avoid prolonged visits to dog parks. Greyhounds will run and play with other dogs long beyond their normal tolerance. Try to schedule your outings for the early morning hours and monitor the dog's temperature periodically. If he is overheating, offer him plenty of water and take him to a shaded section of the park to rest and cool down.
- Monitor your Greyhound carefully at the beach. The sun reflected off the sand can be very intense. The ocean is salt-laden and not as cooling as a lake. Do not let your Greyhound drink salt water. This

will cause him to further dehydrate.

- Try to keep your dog out of direct sunlight. Greyhounds, especially those with white coats, are susceptible to skin cancer. Monitor your dog's coat and skin for reddening, raised areas that have a rough feel, and scaling. If you see or feel anything unusual, consult with your veterinarian.
- Greyhound eyes are as sensitive to bright sunlight as human eyes. If you need sunglasses to be comfortable outside, the sun is too bright for your dog.
- Do not walk your Greyhound on hot asphalt. Footpads become easily burned in the summer months. Even if the road or sidewalk feels comfortable to you, it may be too hot for your canine companion.

your Greyhound in a car with the windows cracked when it is hot and humid out. Oxygen starvation as a result of overheating can cause irreversible damage in only five minutes.

- Never leave a Greyhound in a pool area unsupervised. Greyhounds are not natural swimmers. Due to their muscle mass and low body fat, they have no buoyancy and don't float. If you do take your Greyhound for a dip in the pool, equip him with a pet life jacket available at boating stores, pet stores, and online catalogues.

Keeping Cool and Having Fun

This isn't to say that summertime and Greyhounds don't mix. Florida Greyhound own-



Active dogs seek spaces under shady trees when it's time to cool down.

- Greyhounds do not enjoy riding in a hot car in the summer. If you must take your dog for a ride, cool the car first. Never leave him alone in the car, even if you keep the motor running and the air conditioner on. The air conditioner is not as effective when the car is idling, and there is no guarantee that the temperature will stay down. In fact, well aware that it is unsafe to leave dogs in idling cars even with the air conditioner on, police K-9 units in Florida add special air conditioning equipment to their cars to keep the dogs cool in the summer. Never leave

ers have to contend with oppressive heat and humidity year round. As many will tell you, there are plenty of activities that you can enjoy with your hound that are cool and fun.

Pam Beaudoin's Greyhound Mac loves to splash around in a baby pool. "Living in Florida, we've had to get creative with how to entertain our boy outside during the really hot months. We found that he has really taken to the baby pool we got him last summer. He loves to roll around in the water and nip at the waves he makes," she says.

Beaudoin and her husband are boating enthusiasts and often take Mac along for a spin around the Gulf of Mexico. "We try not to stay out too



Hot dogs need plenty of cool water. Jupiter, adopted by Laurie Conroy of Plum, Pa.

long when Mac is with us, and we always keep a life jacket on him. We usually will stop at a little island just offshore to give him a chance to splash in the water and cool off."

Many Floridians are avid mall-walkers and with the advent of pet superstores, this activity is well adapted to Greyhound outings. "My husband and I take walks around the mall in the summer when the weather is just too hot to go outside," says Nancy Faris, a longtime resident of Sarasota, Florida. "Since our three Greyhounds were really missing their daily walks, we decided to take them along. Now we spend a couple of afternoons a week strolling around the pet store. The dogs love it, especially since we always seem to come home with new squeaky toys."

A time-honored Greyhound activity has always been digging holes to lie in under a shady tree. Nancy Quinn of Bradenton, Florida says her two Greyhounds have mastered the art. "Nothing makes these Greyhounds happier than digging deep moats in the back yard under a nice big shade tree and then lying down for an afternoon nap. If the ground is kind of muddy, so much the better," she says with a laugh. "We end up doing a lot of baths in the hotter months, but they don't seem to mind, especially if it means they can roll in the wet grass afterward."

Of course Greyhounds, air conditioning, and couches are a perfect mix for beating the summer heat. And nothing compares to the sight of a Greyhound who has "assumed the position" upside down in full-out dead cockroach mode, enjoying a lazy snooze on a hot summer's day. The dog days of summer . . . indeed. ■

Nancy Wollin lives in a well air-conditioned home in Sarasota, Fla. with her adopted Greyhound Sonny and her White German Shepherd Prima. She is an international trade attorney, a freelance writer, and a volunteer with the Sarasota-based Racing Dog Rescue Project.



Assuming the "cockroach" position in an air-conditioned room is the favorite way to keep cool for many Greyhounds.



Minnie's x-rays showed a badly broken right hock.

Minnie on the Mend

Recovery from a Broken Hock

By Luana Ball with Thomas Diffell, DVM

My spirited little ex-racer Minnie could once turn on a dime and run with the wind. There have been several occasions in our seven-year relationship when she has proudly pranced around with a tuft of rabbit fur, the better part of a squirrel tail, or a pocket gopher in her mouth. Minnie celebrated her 10th birthday last July and had been showing some signs of aging. Rather than chasing her 4 year-old ex-racer companion Sammy around the large back yard, she would declare the middle of the yard her own and wait for him to make passes by her. Only then would she exert a little energy and chase him away.

Minnie had been very lucky with regard to running-related injuries. However, over the past two years, she has had two injuries to her back right toes. One injury that occurred while running required surgery to remove her outer toenail, as it had cracked in the nail bed and would not heal. Not long after that, I looked down at this same foot and it appeared that the toe on the inside of her foot was gone. Upon closer inspection I found that it was bent into the pads on her foot. Her veterinarian x-rayed the area and found that she had dislocated the toe, which was easily put back into place. The dislocation occurred two more times but I was able to adjust it and after several days of rest she seemed as good as new.

In the late afternoon of September 22, 2003, I had let both of my Greyhounds out into the back yard for a romp and a snooze in the warm sun — Minnie's preferred activity. Within about ten minutes, I saw Minnie standing at the sliding doors on the deck holding up her back right leg and panting furiously. My first assumption was that she had dislocated her toe again. Once I reached her, I realized that the toe was just fine. I saw instead a dark red, almost purple swelling on the inside of her hock about the size of a 50-cent piece. I could tell from her panting and the look on her face that she was very anxious and probably in a lot of pain. I immediately called our veterinarian, Dr. Thomas Diffell at the Brooklyn Park (Minnesota) Pet Hospital, who advised me to bring Minnie in right away.



Repair of the fractures required four interfragmentary bone screws and a six-screw bone plate, bent to conform to the shape of the joint.

I thought that she might have dislocated her hock or torn a muscle. The look on Dr. Diffell's face when he returned to the exam room told me differently. The radiographs, taken without sedation, revealed a severe fracture of one of the major bones of the tarsal joint. An orthopedic surgeon would need to be called in. A full radiographic evaluation of the joint would require general anesthesia. We decided that would be best done while the orthopedic surgeon was present the next day so that Minnie would not have to be anesthetized twice. Despite assurances from the clinic staff that they would keep Minnie as comfortable as possible, I still left the hospital with a very heavy heart knowing that she was very hurt and scared.

Dr. Diffell called me the next day. He explained that under general anesthesia and in consultation with the orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Dennis Kaywood, it was determined that Minnie had at least two fractures of the bones that made up the tarsal joint. This joint is very complex; it includes many small bones as well as large ones

that make radiographic interpretation difficult. Whatever the case, the repair would require intricate surgery to stabilize the fractures.

Minnie was prepped and taken right to surgery. Surgery revealed that Minnie had fractured the central tarsal bone and the distal fibular tarsal bone. The repair of the fractures required four interfragmentary bone screws and a six-screw bone plate that was bent to conform to the shape of the tarsal joint.

Dr. Diffell called me later that day to discuss the outcome. He said that the surgery lasted several hours with x-rays being taken periodically to ensure the proper placement and alignment of bone. Dr. Diffell said that on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being the most severe injury), Minnie's fractured hock was a 5. He said that this was a "very, very bad injury," but that Dr. Kaywood had done a "superb job." I was relieved and began to gear up for the recovery process.

I brought Minnie home the day after her surgery. She was wearing a Robert Jones bandage, which was to be a temporary support (7–10

days). This wrap would allow me to monitor her for bleeding as the surgery site healed and to allow for the swelling to reduce. Once that was removed, her leg would be placed in a hard cast for eight to ten weeks with probable replacement of the cast during that time. We managed Minnie's pain with a Fentanyl patch and Rimadyl®. She also received Cephalexin, an antibiotic. She was released with a written prognosis of "optimistically good."

Once home, Minnie needed some coaxing to eat (soft food eventually worked), but was eagerly drinking water. When she needed to go outside, I would lift and guide her backend down the two steps to the grass and then walk with her a short distance on leash until she was done. The bandaged leg was quite large and cumbersome, so she first squatted while extending it to her side like a kickstand. Eventually she figured out how to hold it out front so she could get lower to the ground (less splatter). I taped a plastic bag around her foot to help keep it clean and dry. She stayed in a crate for her own safety while I was away.

We made daily trips to the veterinarian to monitor her leg. Dr. Diffell was closely watching some swelling and "serum oozing" in the affected leg. Six days after surgery, Dr. Diffell examined her and said that she could not go home. Circulatory compromise is always a problem with the repair of these fractures. Minnie was experiencing a lot of post-operative complications with severe swelling and pitting edema of her foot. The temporary bandage needed to be removed.

Minnie remained in the hospital for two days. When I went to pick her up, the technicians took me back to Minnie's kennel. She was so excited to see me she tried to get up and just cried out. The leg could not be bandaged at this time, and Minnie was so vulnerable. I broke into tears and said that I couldn't take her home like this — I was very scared. The technicians said that she had stopped eating for them so it was important that she be in an environment where she felt safe and comfortable. Despite my uncertainty I said I would do my best.

The technicians showed me how to care for Minnie's leg in a way that would promote a return of circulation. They showed me how to soak her foot in Nolvasan solution, then massage the foot and toes to help move fluid out of the area and promote circulation. They sent us home with instructions to soak and massage the

foot three to five times per day. They prescribed more Cephalexin and Rimadyl® and gave Minnie a written prognosis of “good.” Although Dr. Diffell never spoke specifically about what would need to happen if circulation didn’t return, I knew that amputation would likely be the only answer.

Minnie was not at all fond of these frequent foot soaks and even less receptive to the massage. Her toes had been so cold and swollen for so long that she was losing skin between as well as around the toes. The entire area was red, raw, and cold to the touch. She tolerated a few minutes of treatment at a time as long as I distracted her with treats and terms of endearment. She wore an Elizabethan Collar to prevent her from licking the area, but it didn’t take her long to figure out how to connect that long needle nose of hers with that long foot; her paw was up and inside that collar in no time. A muzzle with a stool guard did the trick, however.

Within seven days, the swelling had gone down and it appeared that circulation had returned to the foot. We could move to the next step. Under anesthesia, Dr. Diffell installed a fiberglass cast that would remain on Minnie’s leg for the next six weeks. This was no ordinary cast; the technicians wrapped it in bright neon pink tape with decorative patches, and it was inscribed with good wishes and signatures from everyone at the hospital. It helped put a smile on my face, but Minnie was less impressed. It took her a lot longer than I thought it would to figure out how to get around with the new cast. It was large and heavier than the temporary bandage so she would just sort of topple over and lay there looking at me with sad, brown eyes until I picked up her backend. But she conned me; once I stopped picking her up and encouraged her to do more on her own, she got around just fine. Minnie’s mood changed dramatically when she finally figured out that she could hop along just fine on three legs.

There were additional periodic re-checks at the clinic. Every appointment ended with a big “thumbs up” from the staff. By the end of November it was time to remove the cast and x-ray the hock to see how the healing had progressed. The results of that x-ray would determine whether re-casting was needed. The x-ray indicated that the hock had healed very well and that she would not need to have another cast.

At present, Dr. Diffell has limited Minnie’s



Minnie came home from the hospital wearing a cumbersome Robert Jones bandage as a temporary support, and she was not thrilled about it. *Luana Ball*



Minnie experienced severe swelling and pitting edema in her foot as a complication of the surgery. Here, the swelling is clearly visible. *Luana Ball*



After the swelling had subsided, Minnie was outfitted with a fiberglass cast inscribed with good wishes from her friends at the hospital. *Luana Ball*



Eventually, Minnie got used to her big, pink cast. *Luana Ball*



Four months after removal of the cast, Minnie gets around just fine. *Cindy Hanson*

activity to leash walking in order to rebuild her strength in that leg. If all continues to go well, she should get the go-ahead to romp in the back yard this summer. Several Greyhound owners have advised me to restrict her from ever running again. Dr. Diffell said that once fully healed, her leg will be as strong as it ever was. Since I did not see the incident that caused the injury, I don't know if it occurred while running. She may have twisted it on the wooden deck, between some decorative rocks, or in a gopher hole. Although I am not immediately faced with this decision, I believe that I will choose to allow her to run again.

This was a long road for us, and the surgery and follow-up care were not inexpensive, but I would not have done anything differently. Minnie is walking marvelously with absolutely no limp or signs of pain. I credit the wonderful surgical team, including Dr. Diffell and Dr. Kaywood, and all of the excellent care she received from the dedicated and caring technicians at the clinic. Minnie will turn 11 this July. I hope that she will have many more years to prance proudly around the yard — maybe without that tuft of rabbit fur or squirrel tail in her mouth! ■

Luana Ball lives with her two retired racers, Minnie and Sammy, in Golden Valley, Minn. She is a member of Greyhound Pets of America/Minnesota and, although she enjoys volunteering for promotional and fundraising events organized by GPA/MN, she finds that fostering Greyhounds and seeing them go into their very own homes is the most rewarding experience. Dr. Thomas Diffell practices at Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital in Brooklyn Park, Minn.



Sadie, adopted by Jim and Carolyn Johnston of Bakersfield, Calif.

Hock Injury and Treatment

By Rodger Barr, DVM

The hock, or tarsus, is the dog's equivalent of the ankle or heel region in humans. In racing Greyhounds experiencing major track injuries, the most common major joint fracture occurs in the right hock. The counter-clockwise racing pattern in Greyhound racing in the United States is responsible for the right hock experiencing injury nine times more frequently than the left hock, with most of those injuries occurring on the turns. An injury can range from a simple sprain to severe multiple fractures with subsequent joint collapse and total loss of function. The goal of this article is to provide a basic explanation of hock injuries, with the hope of assisting the dog's owner and veterinarian when faced with the question: "What *needs* to be done here?"

I am assuming that the purpose of treatment is to achieve kennel or home soundness, rather than to attempt to return these athletes to active racing or coursing. Our goal should be to provide a pain-free state as well as to maintain anatomical correctness and eventual soundness.

There are seven different main bones in the hock. The central tarsal bone is the pivotal bone in the joint and receives pressure from all of the surrounding bones. The central tarsal bone is the most commonly fractured tarsal bone. Rarely do any of the five major categories of central tarsal fractures require surgical repair to achieve home soundness. The third and fourth tarsal bones can also experience fractures, but injuries requiring surgical repair are rare. How can these breaks be treated without surgery? The bones in the hock move very little in relation to each other. As a result, tarsal fractures tend to result in a rigid fusion of the different bones in the joint upon healing. This rigidity is dissimilar to the normal, uninjured joint. Frequently the above-mentioned fractures require no more than a month of casting, if that.

Only one tarsal bone fracture requires surgical repair in most every instance — the calcaneus, or fibular tarsal bone. The Achilles tendon attaches to this bone. Any attempt to move this joint in a normal fashion is impossible without an intact calcaneus. Failure to repair this type of injury by the dog owner, kennel owner, or track owner is very simply inhu-

mane, unacceptable, and inexcusable. The sight of a majestic Greyhound with an oddly bent hock due to this type of injury is sad and disturbing.

Some injuries to the bones above the hock usually require surgical intervention. The collateral ligaments of the hock attach to the tibia and fibula at locations on those bones called the medial and lateral malleolus. Injuries that affect the integrity of the collateral ligaments should be repaired; failure to do so compromises the normal anatomy of the joint, resulting in movement in unintended directions. Appropriate treatment means repairing the malleoli or repairing the ruptured collateral ligament and casting.

Plantar ligament damage is the last condition of the hock that definitely requires surgical management. The plantar ligament is a major support structure composed of the digital flexor tendons. The plantar ligament is critical to normal limb function. Damage to this ligament causes the joint to bow significantly. The result looks very much like the calcaneus fracture previously discussed. This type of injury is usually treated by fusing the affected joint, a procedure known as arthrodesis.

Soundness is predicated on a pain-free state as well as anatomical correctness. Any injury that dramatically compromises bone positioning requires repair. That said, we have little control over how injuries are handled while racing. While economics do come into play, any indus-

try that shows an inability to take proper care of its athletes should rethink its mission statement and consider revamping its moral code of ethics and conduct. There is no excuse for failure to perform these repairs.

Being a proactive kind of a guy, I would like to suggest a way in which our retired Greyhounds can avoid most of the injuries described above. The simplest way to prevent injury, in general, is to leash and walk your dogs whenever possible. Blasphemous as it may sound, it is the absolute truth. All necessary exercise this special breed requires can be accomplished on leash. Rarely do fractures occur on leash; rarely do dogs run into trees and break necks on leash. These great dogs, after all, are retired! Sure, they like to run, but this activity causes avoidable injuries both minor and major. If your kids experienced the same degree of injury running in the back yard, I guarantee you there would be rules prohibiting the activity. Why, then, are we so willing to just open the back door and allow our Greyhounds to run, knowing full well that eventually there is bound to be an injury? In the world of Greyhounds there are no "lemons." Injuries are not the dog's fault. The simple truth is they run too fast for their own good. Even when they are young and in shape, they can break. Why are we so surprised that the same thing happens when they are older and less conditioned? They rely on us to make good choices for them. As their guardians, we must look out for their best inter-

est. I love watching Greyhounds run and play just as much as anyone, but I love my dogs enough to prevent them from participating in an activity that creates the risk of serious injury. And, despite the restrictions on their activity, all of my Greyhounds are happy, well-adjusted, and sound.

You have the responsibility to love and protect this ancient noble animal. The Greyhound knows only one speed: Full speed ahead. Knowing this, is there really a choice? ■

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 25 years. He lives in Hudson, Wisc. 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.





Abby relaxes among the olive trees in Volterra, Italy. *Kelly Berg*

Travels with Abby and Mara

By Kelly Berg

My first Greyhound, Abby, and I met in September of 1999. It was easy to see after a short time that one Greyhound was not enough. Abby needed a companion, and I needed another dog to take up the rest of my already cramped bed. I never would have imagined that in a few years the girls would be living in Germany and traveling all over Western Europe.

The girls and I spent our first few years together in Austin, Texas. We became inseparable, and therefore traveling companions. Abby was born to ride in a car. To her, being chauffeured around in an automobile is preferable to a walk any day. If she had her way she'd be sitting in the passenger seat beside me. On the other hand, Mara initially was a nervous passenger. For months it would take her about half an hour before she stopped panting and pacing in the back of my Explorer. We started out slowly, with trips from Austin to Houston or Dallas. Within our first year we worked our way up to a 15-hour trip from Texas to Colorado. Eventually we would make a three-day journey from North Carolina to Colorado.

In preparation for our on-the-road adventures, it was important to me to make sure they were comfortable as well as safe. I turned the back of the car into a palace on wheels, with down comforters on top of dog beds, as well as a food and water buffet. Generally we stopped every four to five hours at a gas station for bathroom breaks and a refreshing walk. Unfortunately, we never had room for crates in the back, which many agree is the safest option for traveling with pets. However, we have always separated the back of the car from the front seats with either a barrier or cargo net.

In 2001 I met my husband, Sean. It was love at first sight. He took one look at Abby and Mara, fell madly in love, and decided he'd have to try to make a go of it with me. Luckily for us, the girls returned his affections, as did I. Never in my life did I imagine that I would find someone who could give his heart to these dogs the way I had.

Sean and I moved to Raleigh, North Carolina in mid-2002. During our year in Raleigh, several things happened that would change all of our lives forever. Abby and Mara completed a training course with Helping Paws and become Certified Therapy



Abby poses in front of the Saint Michael and Saint Guldula Cathedral in Brussels, Belgium. *Kelly Berg*

Dogs. Shortly after we arrived, Sean attached an engagement ring to Abby's collar, and with her help popped the question. We were married four months later in a ceremony that included friends, family, and our "best dogs," Abby and Mara. Finally, Sean was offered an expatriate position in Germany, which we joyfully accepted.

Transporting the dogs to Germany was my only concern about the assignment. I was terrified of having to ship the dogs as cargo, and horrified that I would be forced to spend nine hours in a plane worrying about them. I would have needed tranquilizers for the flight for myself. Through word of mouth I discovered that a fellow therapy dog had been allowed to fly with her owner and trainer on a domestic flight with Delta Airlines. After several calls to the airline to speak with different people, I was told that the four of us would be able to fly together. Never in my life have I cried tears of joy as I did when I ended that phone call.

(Ed. Note: While airlines are required by law to provide accommodations to service dogs accompanying disabled passengers, they set their own policies with respect to companion animals. Because Abby and Mara were certified therapy pets, airline personnel felt confident they would be well behaved, and allowed them to travel in business class.)

The flight to Germany was pure bliss. Our flight was direct from Atlanta to Frankfurt, so we did not have to worry about connecting flights and layover potty breaks. Per our veterinarian's instructions, we fed the girls a normal breakfast and stopped giving them water a few hours before the trip. They went on several long walks that day and were even set loose in a fenced area to run. We wanted to ensure that they would be as tired as possible for the flight. Abby and Mara's carry-on bag was packed with everything we could possibly need. Included were treats for the plane (dental treats and anxiety-reducing herbal cookies), medical records and importation documents for Germany, therapy dog and trainer certifications, plastic bags and paper towels in case of on-board or airport emergencies, and bottled water. In spite of a little trauma on Abby's part (who knew that the on-ground airplane sounds would scare my little thunderphobe!), the girls slept 90 percent of the trip and begged for tidbits from our trays for the other ten percent. Because we had booked business class seats that come in sets of two, both Abby and Mara had plenty of room to stretch out, and we had no worries about whether or not we would have problems with neighbors.

Upon our arrival, we did everything imaginable to make sure they were happy and comfortable with all of the changes. We packed just about everything that we could conceive that would make the girls feel at home: dog beds, toys, food, an assortment of their favorite treats, as well as their bowls, coats, and extra collars and leashes. Just like at home, the girls were encouraged to nap on the couch and coerced into sleeping in the bed with us. Before our departure, I contacted the German distributor for their food and located a retailer in the area, so they didn't have to suffer a change of diet. In addition, I researched and made contact with a highly recommended English-speaking veterinarian. I had been in contact with a nearby Galgos Rescue, and I knew that we had a local contact if we needed help or advice. All of the dog tags (of which there are many) were updated to include English and German. The girls have learned new commands for old tricks. They now respond to *sitz*, *platz*, and *gib pfötchen* instead of *sit*, *down*, and *shake*. The Germans love the smart American Greyhounds and the dogs have enjoyed the challenge of learning a new language.

The move should have been a huge adjustment for everyone. To this day it amazes me how effortless it seemed. We did everything we could to make the girls happy and comfortable in their new lives. However, their presence was all it took to make my experience as wonderful as it has been. Since Abby and Mara came into my life, home is where they are. That could be a temporary home in a hotel room for one day or three months, or our new house in a new country. It doesn't matter.

Many things are different in Germany and Europe, and yet some things are the same. Abby and Mara are able to eat out in restaurants with us. They can go shopping with me anywhere but the grocery store. The girls' favorite outing is to the outdoor market on our street. They became fast friends with the "meat lady" who introduced herself with a small handful of assorted tasty treats, a gesture she's made every visit since then. Dogs are welcome indoors all over Europe, and that has greatly improved life for all of us. The girls spend less time in hotel rooms and in the house without us, and we get to spend more time with the girls. However, people here are quick to reprimand you if they see your dog squatting and you are not advertising the fact that you have a plastic bag in your pocket waiting for use. And yet I have not seen more than a handful of locals



Kelly Berg with Mara and Abby in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The Alps are visible in the background. *Sean Berg*

pick up after their own dogs. Shoes and paws are forever getting scrubbed, as the problem of poop is widespread all over Europe.

One thing that is exactly the same in every town we have visited is that these dogs fascinate people. They want to say hello and ask questions. We may not have a common language between us, but somehow we manage to have a conversation about the dogs. Greyhounds are universally admired.

Up to this point, the dogs have done more traveling than I could have ever imagined. Our first trip was to Brussels, Belgium, where Abby and Mara visited the infamous Mannequin Pis and discovered that glass elevators are terrifying. We visited Amsterdam in Holland, and to our surprise discovered that dogs are welcome on canal-boat rides. While visiting Paris, one of their morning walks was around Napoleon's chateau in neighboring Fontainebleau. After a long afternoon of sightseeing in Salzburg, Austria we all took a nap on the banks of the Salzach River. While in Italy the girls visited Florence and Sienna with us and walked through vineyard after vineyard. Undoubtedly our most amazing experience was Rome. We started off at the Coliseum, walked along the perimeter of the Roman Forum up to the Pantheon, and ended up at Trevi Fountain. The day the four of us spent at these amazing historical monuments in Rome was one of the best of my life.

We still have two more years to go, and a lot of traveling adventures in our future. We are

planning a trip to Italy during which we'll spend time in Pisa. Southern France in the summer beckons us after the long cold winter we've endured. A return to Paris is ahead, when I plan on attempting to bribe officials into letting Abby and Mara go up the Eiffel Tower and into the Louvre to see the Mona Lisa. Only part of me is kidding, and I'm almost positive Sean would offer his support in the venture.

Owning Greyhounds and traveling with them has been, for us, one of the most amazing experiences we could have ever dreamed of. Even a short trip requires a lot of effort – finding a hotel or B&B that welcomes large dogs, packing every supply you could conceivably need, planning for bathroom and walk breaks, locating an emergency veterinarian in the area, and ensuring that your dog or dogs enjoy the trip as much as you do and aren't just spending all their time alone in a hotel room. But there are also no worries about how your baby is doing back home at the kennel, and no missing your beloved pet, because he or she is snuggled right next to you, in prime pillow position, slowly nudging you off the bed. Just like home. ■

Kelly Berg is a former volunteer for Greyhound Rescue Austin in Texas, and Helping Paws in Raleigh, North Carolina. Now a struggling German-language student and hausfrau living in Heidelberg, Germany, she and husband Sean spend as much time as possible traveling with Greyhounds Abby and Mara.



Abby and Kelly cruise the canals in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. *Sean Berg*



Kelly Berg with Abby and Mara at the house where Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria. *Sean Berg*



Abby visits the Coliseum in Rome, Italy. *Kelly Berg*



Cricket, adopted by Larry Jeurink of Jenison, Mich.

Mountain Adventures

Guarding Against Altitude Sickness

By Stephanie Russell

In the early 1970s, my parents sold the cabin my grandfather built just west of Denver. Since that time, I have dreamt of having my own cabin in the mountains. What a wonderful way to vacation with my children and my dogs in a place I love best. In the summer of 2000, my husband and I made that dream come true when we purchased a cabin in the mountains of Southwestern Colorado.

As a Colorado native, I am familiar with the effects of the altitude. When I was younger, I actually felt better at higher elevations simply because the air was free of pollen and pollution. However, the summer we first bought the cabin, I was surprised at how the elevation of 9,500 feet above sea level — just 4,000 feet higher than my home — actually affected me. The altitude affects everyone differently. I usually experience headaches, dizziness, and fatigue. Some would laugh and make comments about my age and health, but I knew there was a way to reduce or eliminate these symptoms.

When we moved into the cabin, my Greyhound, Cody, was 18 months post diagnosis of osteosarcoma. Cody, having undergone amputation of his front right leg with subsequent chemotherapy, was a happy, healthy dog at home. As I realized that I was slow to acclimate to the elevation, I wondered about the acclimation of my dogs.

On a good day, Cody's energy was lower than before the amputation. At the cabin, he wanted to sleep even more. My whippet, Dundee, has seizures that are controlled by phenobarbital and potassium bromide. Both drugs have side effects such as sedation and ataxia. While Dundee was only two years old when we bought the cabin, the drugs, combined with the higher altitude, required us to postpone activities, such as hikes, until he acclimated.

Most of what I observed in my own pets was based on considering how I felt every time we went to the cabin, then hypothesizing why their behavior was a little off for a day or two. Unfortunately, there is little written about the effects of altitude on dogs. In her book, *Canine Colorado*, Cindy Hirschfeld states: "Dogs who already have some sort of heart or respiratory illness

at sea level may have trouble at higher altitude. But, in general, healthy, active dogs should have no problems. Chances are good that if you're doing okay at a higher altitude, your dog definitely is." This comes from a book about hiking with your dogs all over Colorado, even up 14,000-foot mountains. There is nothing in the book about the symptoms that would let a pet owner know that their otherwise healthy dog is experiencing high altitude sickness.

So what causes altitude sickness? According to Barry D. Mink, MD, at higher altitudes, the amount of oxygen in the air is approximately 40-45% less than that at sea level. In addition, the humidity is 50-80% lower. These environmental changes, along with the rate of ascent, hydration, and general health are key in determining how altitude will affect an individual.

If you are driving from sea level up to an elevation of 5,000 feet or more, the effects of the altitude may be less obvious than if you were to arrive by plane. In less than two hours, one can drive from Denver (5,280 ft) or Colorado Springs (6,035 ft) to much higher elevations, such as Mount Evans (14,150 ft), Pikes Peak (14,110 ft), or Trail Ridge (the highest continuous highway in the country, with a high point of 12,183 ft). Thus, while you and your Greyhound will be acclimating to the altitude slowly on the drive to Denver, if your ultimate destination is in the mountains, you may experience some form of altitude sickness.

Most symptoms of altitude sickness are mild and seem flu-like:

- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fast, deep or irregular breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Unusual tiredness
- Increased heart rate
- Difficulty sleeping

Simple actions can alleviate most, if not all, of the symptoms associated with acute mountain sickness (AMS). The easiest way to acclimate to the altitude is to slowly increase the elevation. Other simple methods of easing the effects of the elevation should include:

- Drinking plenty of fluids, even if you or your dog are not thirsty
- Avoiding heavy exercise, initially
- Eating high carbohydrate foods, such as rice, pasta, and cereal.

According to the Trail Dog website, "Dehydration seems to worsen AMS. Remember that many dogs don't drink enough, anyhow, so

offer water to them often in a manner to which they are accustomed to drinking it. Give it in a bowl if they drink only from bowls. Better yet, give them some practice before the hike in drinking from your water bottles, Sierra cups, a cupped hand, etc." Bear in mind that while a high mountain stream or lake may look like the best water on earth, giardia is likely present, and it can exacerbate the symptoms of altitude sickness. Concerning giardia, *Canine Colorado* states: "When you're out hiking with your dog, it's going to be difficult to prevent him from slurping out of streams." However, if you are offering clean water to your leashed Greyhound via a method to which the dog is accustomed, there is no need for your dog to ever drink out of a stream or lake.



Cody and Tasha at Loveland Pass, Colo.



Tasha enjoys her time in the mountains.

An additional risk to consider before you hike with your Greyhound is the effect of altitude on sun exposure. Remember that at higher elevations, there is less atmosphere between you and the sun. You should wear a hat, sunglasses and plenty of sunscreen, of course. If your Greyhound's coat is thin, consider using a sunscreen on him, as well. A sunscreen that is safe for a baby is also safe enough to put on your Greyhound's nose. Again, taking it slow on your hike, enjoying the shade of a pine tree, and taking in the mountain views will not only enhance your hike, but will keep your canine partner safe and healthy.

Be especially aware of the altitude if you are bringing your senior Greyhound to higher eleva-

tions. Dr. Carroll Loyer warns: "The altitude can cause or contribute to high blood pressure developing in the lungs." Pulmonary hypertension, high altitude cerebral edema (HACE) and high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) are more severe effects of the altitude. It is important for guardians to be aware that dogs with pre-existing heart or lung conditions will be more likely to experience the effects of the altitude. According to the Veterinary Referral Center of Colorado (VRCC), symptoms to look for include:

- Rapid breathing, even at rest
- Declining activity levels
- Persistent cough
- Collapsing

- Very sudden and severe signs of difficult breathing

Hiking in the beautiful Rocky Mountains is a wonderful experience. Taking your Greyhound with you only enhances that experience. Thankfully, most dogs and people experience only the mild forms of high altitude sickness. Be prepared and aware of the symptoms, and you can take the right steps to have a safe, fun vacation. By slowing down, getting plenty of rest, and drinking water, you can alleviate most problems. Returning to lower elevations should also eliminate many, if not all, symptoms. If the symptoms worsen or linger, take your dog to the veterinarian. Be sure to tell the doctor that your dog began experiencing these symptoms at a higher elevation.

As my Greyhound Tasha approaches her twelfth birthday, she still loves her trips to the cabin. While she would love nothing more than to chase after the bunnies and chipmunks as soon as we arrive, slow walks and lots of water will ensure that she slowly acclimates to the altitude. While she is in her golden years, short hikes in the mountain sun bring an extra sparkle to her beautiful brown eyes. ■

Stephanie Russell lives in Louisville, Colorado with one senior Greyhound, one Whippet, one Doberman, one Green Cheeked Conure, and one Leopard Spotted Gecko. She is the webmistress for the Greyhound Shopping Mall, co-moderator of the Circle of Grey Yahoo support group, and sends Healing Blankets to ill Greyhounds. She is also a wife, mom to two children, a software engineer, and a third generation native of Colorado.

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Sheba, adopted by Carole Hillwig of Greensburg, Pa.

Demystifying Anesthesia

By William E. Feeman III, DVM

Anesthesia, a state of unconsciousness and lack of sensation, is a regular and necessary part of veterinary medicine. Everything from neuters to dental cleanings to some radiographs (x-rays) may require anesthesia. There are almost as many anesthetics and sedatives available to veterinarians as there are procedures for which they are used. This can make anesthesia discussions for owners very confusing. The key to discussing anesthesia with your veterinarian is to understand the basics of anesthesia and that there is not “one right way” to do things. There are actually many anesthetics that are safe for Greyhounds. Your pet’s medical history and your veterinarian’s familiarity with the various anesthetics will determine which is the safest.

Pre-anesthetic blood work should be done prior to any anesthesia. This will allow the doctor to evaluate kidney and liver functions and other parameters that may affect how the body processes anesthetics. If abnormalities are noted on the blood work and the procedure is elective, it may be postponed. Even if your pet has had normal blood work in the past, it is wise to have it rechecked prior to surgery if it has been longer than two to three weeks. Food should be withheld for at least eight hours prior to surgery as some anesthetics may cause nausea. Vomiting by a sedated or anesthetized patient can be dangerous because it increases the risk of aspiration (inhalation of the vomitus). In emergency situations, surgery may be performed despite a recent feeding because the risk of not performing surgery outweighs the risk of aspiration.

The placement of an intravenous catheter should be performed prior to induction of anesthesia. This gives the veterinarian instant access to a vein should the animal require treatment during anesthesia or recovery. An intravenous catheter will also allow for fluids to be given during the anesthetic procedure to help support the kidneys and replace any fluids that may be lost. The placement of the catheter typically takes only a couple of minutes and can be done the morning of anesthesia. The catheter will then be removed prior to discharge from the hospital.



Bailey, adopted by Deanna Long of Seattle, Wash.
Julia Kazmarek

Greyhounds should have their temperature checked prior to an anesthetic procedure, during the anesthetic procedure, and several times while in recovery. Greyhounds have been reported to experience a rare condition called malignant hyperthermia, which is a type of allergic reaction to some anesthetics. It results in temperatures reaching greater than 106 degrees Fahrenheit and can be fatal if not immediately treated. Some Greyhounds may also "shiver or shake" in recovery, causing significant temperature elevations due to their large muscle mass. This "shivering hyperthermia" phenomenon is more frequently seen in Greyhounds than in other breeds. Monitoring the temperature will alert the veterinarian to any elevations in temperature so treatment can be started as quickly as possible. A diagnosis of malignant hyperthermia can be made only through a muscle biopsy and must be treated with an injection of a drug called Dantrolene. True malignant hyperthermia is very rare. Often other reactions resulting in elevated body temperatures are falsely labeled as malignant hyperthermia. Should your veterinarian suspect your Greyhound has had an episode of malignant hyperthermia, I would advise that you and/or your veterinarian consult with a veterinary anesthesiologist to obtain recommendations for future anesthetic use.

Unconsciousness is normally induced with an injectable medication. An endotracheal tube is then inserted into the dog's windpipe. The tube

carries gas anesthesia and oxygen to the patient to maintain an appropriate depth of anesthesia. At the end of the procedure, the gas anesthetic is turned off and the dog begins to wake up. The most commonly used and safest gas anesthetics are Isoflurane and Sevoflurane. I have not appreciated any significant clinical difference between these two anesthetics, both working equally well in the Greyhound.

There are a number of injectable premedications that can be given to Greyhounds. These medications are given 20 to 30 minutes prior to surgery and are used to sedate the Greyhound so a lesser total amount of injectable and gas anesthetics can be used. These medications also allow for a smoother recovery. The most commonly used premedications include: sedatives (Acepromazine and Medetomidine), various opioids (Butorphanol, Hydromorphone, Oxymorphone, Buprenorphine, etc.), and anti-cholinergics (Atropine and Glycopyrrolate). Greyhounds are more sensitive to the cardiovascular effects of Medetomidine, so a relatively lower dose should typically be used. A combination of two or more of these drugs may be used for premedication. Sedatives will make your Greyhound sleepy and relaxed prior to surgery. Medetomidine also has some analgesic (pain relieving) properties as well. The opioid drugs are good analgesics and also have some sedative properties. The anti-cholinergics are used to provide cardiovascular support (e.g., increased heart rate) to anesthetized patients. The length of the procedure, the type of pain associated with the procedure and the medical history of your pet will dictate which premedications are given.

There are a number of safe injectable anesthetics that can also be used in Greyhounds. Telazol, Ketamine/Valium and Propofol are all suitable for use. Thiobarbiturate anesthetics (Thiopental) should not be used in Greyhounds. Thiobarbiturate anesthetics are processed more slowly in the liver by Greyhounds than other breeds which results in a prolonged recovery from anesthesia. Some anesthesiologists also believe that Greyhounds' lack of body fat plays a role in their prolonged recovery from thiobarbiturate anesthetics. While some anesthesiologists believe that Greyhounds can tolerate a single intravenous dose of Thiopental, the other injectable anesthetics simply are better options in most cases.

Recovery following anesthesia in most cases is unremarkable. The dog is laid down on a blanket or cushion on his side. Once he is conscious and able to swallow, the endotracheal tube is removed from his windpipe. Most dogs

will rest quietly after surgery and will be sleepy. It is very important to monitor a Greyhound's temperature in recovery to be certain it does not elevate above normal. Most dogs are able to go home the night of surgery for routine procedures although some veterinarians prefer to keep dogs hospitalized overnight (canine equivalent of bed rest). If surgery was performed in the morning, a small meal may be given that evening. Leash-only exercise should be done until sutures or staples are removed. You will also need to watch very closely to be certain your Greyhound does not lick or chew at any sutures or staples. Some dogs may cough for a day or two following surgery due to irritation from the endotracheal tube. Coughing longer than two days should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

As you can see, there are many appropriate anesthetic options for your Greyhound. The familiarity your veterinarian has with the various anesthetics should play a very large role in which anesthetics are selected. Veterinarians are better able to detect adverse reactions to anesthetics they have used regularly. They are used to their effects and what reactions are to be expected with them. It is more difficult for the veterinarian to detect adverse reactions with unfamiliar anesthetics because he or she is not familiar with normal reactions to that particular drug.

With a good general knowledge of anesthesia and what options are available, you should now feel comfortable discussing anesthetic options with your veterinarian.

Dr. William E. Feeman III is a 2002 graduate of The Ohio State University of Veterinary Medicine and currently practices in Ohio. He is an active volunteer for Greyhound Adoption of Ohio and a member of Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds.

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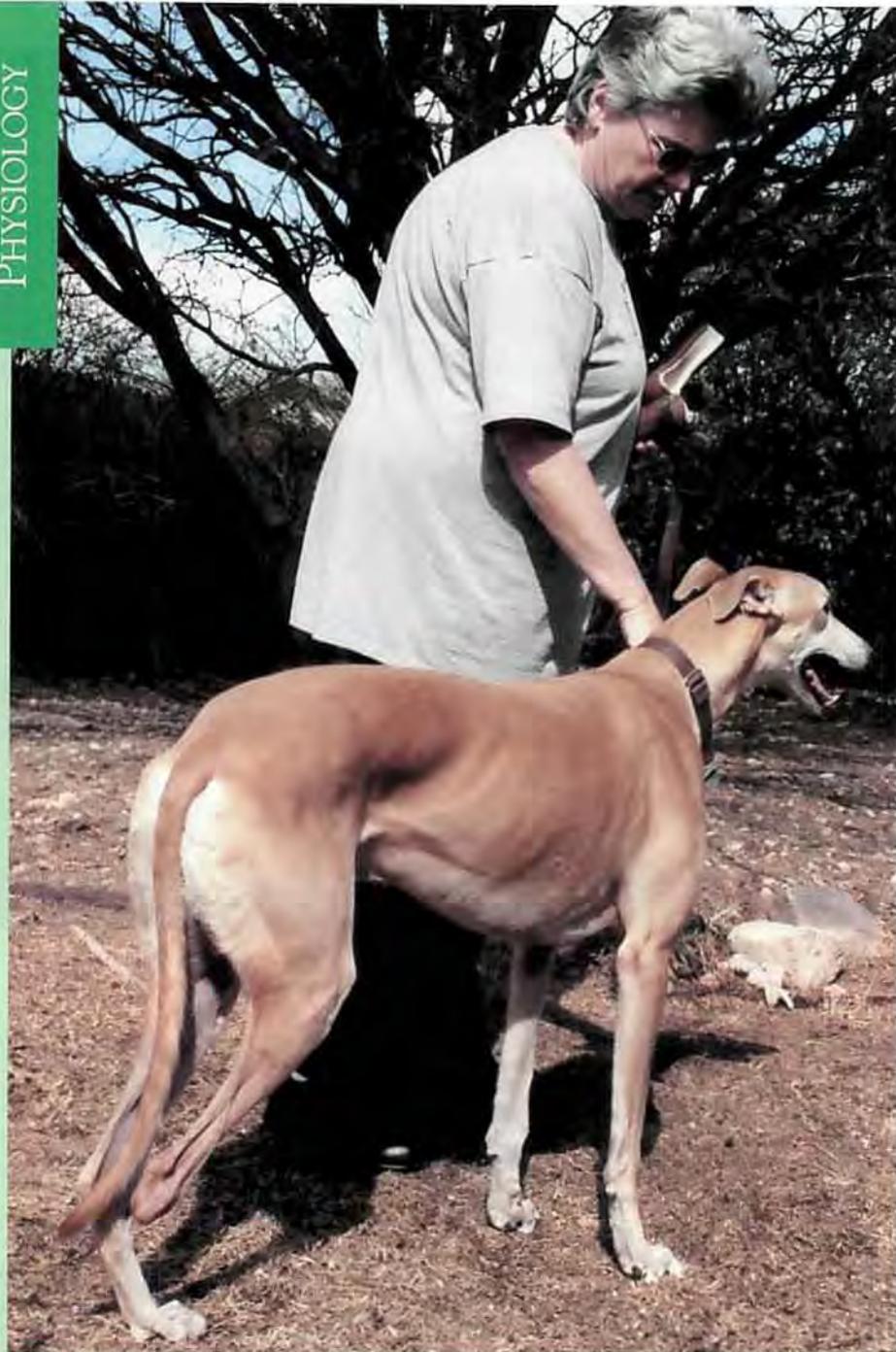
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Questions to ask your veterinarian when discussing anesthesia

1. When do you prefer to have presurgical blood work drawn (the morning of surgery, the night before surgery or the week of surgery)?
2. Do you like to hospitalize your patients after surgery? If so, is there someone there overnight to check on them? If not, have you had any problems in the past?
3. What is your anesthetic protocol with Greyhounds? (If you have any handouts, pamphlets or articles outlining anesthesia in the Greyhound, having it with you at this point may be helpful in your discussion.)
4. Do you expect this procedure to be painful? What pain medications will be used?
5. Will you be able to take my Greyhound's temperature after the premedications are given (ideally when they are brought out for the injectable anesthetic), during surgery and in recovery? ■



Julia Faye, adopted by Carol Engler of Toledo, Ohio.



After surgery, Starburst awaits a new right hind leg and foot.

A New Leg for Starburst

Story and Photos by Dave Breen

A trip to the kennel of the Greyhound Adoption League (GAL) in the spring of 2002 to select potential fosters for the Sierra Vista GAL program resulted in a chance encounter with Starburst (RD's Starburst), a handsome 3-year-old fawn male Greyhound. He had spent the previous year in the GAL kennel in Marana, Arizona and the year before in Gloria Dorsey's racing kennel after a horrific injury to his right rear foot brought his racing career to an abrupt end. The injury caused osteomyelitis, an inflammatory bone disease in which bacteria kills the surrounding tissue. Starburst received prescription antibiotics, homeopathic remedies, and the most loving care from everyone at the kennels. Despite these efforts, the disease remained unchecked.

Starburst came to our home in November 2002. Dr. Michael Ames of the Animal Health Care Center in Douglas, Arizona and Dr. James Boulay of Arizona Veterinary Surgery in Tucson worked closely together to determine the extent of the infection and to identify possible treatments. By October 2003, a total of four veterinarians in three different cities had admitted defeat. Unable to cure the disease, my wife Wendy and I made the very difficult decision to have Starburst's foot amputated.

How much of the leg would be lost? The doctors wanted to take one-half to three-fourths of Starburst's leg. We found this unacceptable. We did not want Starburst to become a tripod at 4 and-a-half years of age. We recognized that many Greyhounds thrive after amputation of a single leg. In fact, we have had three Greyhounds lose front legs to bone cancer. But Starburst's youth and gender, coupled with our concern about how amputation of a rear leg would affect his balance, prompted us to look at other options. After a great deal of research, discussion, and soul-searching, we decided that Starburst would receive a prosthesis.

After consultation with Dr. Boulay, the orthopedic surgeon responsible for the amputation, we agreed that Starburst would lose his foot and leg up to the first joint (the knee). This would preserve sufficient bone and muscle for use of an artificial limb.

We worked closely with Dr. Boulay and with Roy Scudamore of Equine Prosthetics Inc., whose mission is to rehabilitate injured horses by fitting them with custom-made prostheses. Scudamore, the company founder, is a certified prosthetist

with more than 22 years of experience in the field of prosthetics and orthotics. Equine Prosthetics has developed state-of-the-art artificial limbs for horses, burros, and dogs. Starburst was the company's first Greyhound.

Starburst's prosthesis is a lower extremity prosthetic, or transtibial (below the knee) replacement. Before the surgery, we worked out the details of the amputation and the design of the new leg, supplying photos of Starburst's leg before the surgery. Dr. Boulay provided Scudamore with drawings and exact measurements of the limb after the surgery. The surgery went extremely well, and after the limb had recovered sufficiently, we made a cast of the stump and sent it to Equine Prosthetics. Scudamore used the cast to construct an artificial limb of a carbon fiber/acrylic laminate.

In December we returned to Dr. Boulay's office, where Starburst tried on the device for the first time. The leg, which resembled one of the old sailor's peg legs, fit beautifully. With some minor modifications, Starburst was on his way home — on four legs!

Initially, Starburst was hesitant to place full weight on the new leg and was somewhat curious about it. He has slowly accepted the device. This artificial limb will be the first of possibly three iterations due to changes in the limb as the swelling diminishes, calluses develop, and the real limb adjusts to the prosthesis. Already under discussion and design is a "foot" to be fitted to the end of the peg. This will allow for bounce and thrust as Starburst walks and runs. The vision is of a reverse L-shape, similar to what athletes with artificial limbs use for sports. ■

Dave Breen is the Program Director of Sierra Vista Greyhound Adoption League (GAL). He has been involved in Greyhound rescue, adoption, and transportation since 1995. Sierra Vista GAL has adopted over 200 Greyhounds in southeast Arizona. He and his family have been privileged to share their home with ten of their own Greyhounds and innumerable fosters. A shorter version of this article appeared in the January-February 2004 issue of Greyhound News, the newsletter of Sierra Vista GAL.



Starburst wears his new prosthesis.



Starburst gets around quite nicely with his new leg. Here, he frolics in the yard with Dave Breen and Greyhounds Jack and Chance.



Equine Prosthetics constructed an artificial limb of a carbon fiber/acrylic laminate. The prosthesis appears here in the open position.



The first year of the event now known as Greyhounds Reach the Beach attracted nearly 80 Greyhounds and 65 people.

How It All Began

By Judy Dillon, Pat Tyson, and Martha Sherman

It was their first face-to-face meeting. But sitting around the picnic table at the May 1995 Greyhound Pets of America (GPA)/Maryland picnic, Judy Dillon, Martha Sherman, and Pat Tyson knew each other very well. They had met months earlier through rec.pets.dogs, e-mailing each other nearly every day. They shared one passion and still do — Greyhounds.

“Pat had the idea of going to the beach to celebrate her wedding anniversary and wondered where she and Wayne could go with their dogs,” Judy remembers. “Martha and I got into the discussion, and the next thing we knew the three couples had agreed to meet at the beach.”

The first challenge: Finding a dog-friendly location.

Working the Phones

“We didn’t know exactly where we were going,” Judy says. “But Pat and I started calling around to different hotels and motels on the beach in New Jersey and Maryland. We started e-mailing our progress, or lack of it, among the three of us.”

“I wasn’t having much luck with hotels on the Jersey beaches,” Pat adds. “And Judy wasn’t doing much better in Maryland. Pets were an issue at most places.”



The 1998 Greyhounds Reach the Beach grew to more than 600 Greyhounds and 600 owners. This was the last group photo taken at a Greyhound Reach the Beach event. In recent years, Greyhounds Reach the Beach has attracted more than 3,000 Greyhounds and 2,500 people to the small seaside town of Dewey Beach.

At the time, the three couples each had one Greyhound: Chella (Dillon), Argus (Sherman), and Autumn (Tyson).

Pat recalls, "When I called around to the different hotels and asked if several couples could bring our Greyhounds, at one point there was a long hesitation on the other end of the line. Then the woman finally said, 'I don't think we have room in our parking lot for that many buses.'" After much calling and explanation, Pat connected with Michelle Marshall at the Atlantic Oceanside Motel in Dewey Beach, Delaware. Michelle and her brother Rob, co-owners of the Atlantic Oceanside, agreed to accommodate Greyhounds and their owners. After all, it was their last open weekend of the season and they weren't expecting much business.

Now they had a location. And being wise women full of intuition, they decided to reserve a few more rooms, just in case.

The Power of the Internet

Greyhound-L, a subscriber-only electronic mailing list, was just getting started about the time Judy, Martha, and Pat were securing a location for their getaway weekend. That's when they decided to see if any other Greyhound owners on the list might be interested in joining them.

"I still have the original message I posted," Judy continues. "It was very brief, along the lines of: 'A few of us are meeting at Dewey Beach on Columbus Day weekend with our Greyhounds. If you're interested, let us know. More details to come.' That's all it took."

Responses to the message on the list started coming in. Pat called the Atlantic Oceanside to book more rooms and all 19 first-floor rooms were reserved.

Kathy Miritello was one of the first to respond to the message on the list. Kathy and

husband, Joe, lived in northern Virginia with their Greyhound, Glamorous Glynnis.

"Kathy mentioned she adopted Glynnis from Paul Byther, a trainer at Derby Lane Greyhound Track in the Tampa-St. Petersburg [Fla.] area," Martha says. "Kathy said that Paul might be interested in attending, too. Kathy and Joe were friends with Paul and his wife. Kathy said that Paul might be willing to talk to the group to share information on Greyhound health, physiology, and care. We thought that was a great idea. At that time, we were all starved for information on caring for our dogs. We saw Paul as a great resource."

Judy's posting on the list attracted quite a bit of interest. As more e-mail messages were exchanged, Greyhound owners started contacting the Atlantic Oceanside directly. It wasn't long before Michelle called Pat to say all the rooms were booked and quite a few more would be needed.



Indio (Hallo Margot) and Romeo (DJ's Big Unit), adopted by Janice Morris of Eureka, Calif.

"Before we knew it, the motel was booked with 65 people and 80 dogs," Pat added.

The quiet anniversary weekend at the beach with three couples and their Greyhounds had turned into a full-fledged event. And the wise, intuitive women cried, "Yikes!"

Keep it Simple

"Although it was now an event, we kept our plans simple and unchanged from the beginning," Pat says. "There would be a pizza party on the deck at the Atlantic Oceanside. And Paul would have his talk on Greyhound care on the deck."

"And," Judy adds, "we felt the need to provide name tags and goodie bags. The goodie bags were just plastic bags filled with nametags, lollipops, dog treats, and tickets for door-prize

drawings. There were so many people coming, we thought we needed to do a little more."

When Columbus Day weekend arrived, attendees picked up their goodie bags and spent time hanging out, talking about Greyhounds, soaking up advice from Paul Byther, and fussing over their dogs. Greyhound owners came from Canada, California, the Midwest, and New England.

Judy describes that first event as mind-boggling.

"We took a photo of everyone with their dogs in the parking lot of the motel. The temperature was a sweltering 90 degrees. And the fee for attending, including the pizza party, was \$10. What amazed me most was that people would fly and drive from the far reaches of the country just to spend the weekend at the beach with Greyhounds."

The rest, as they say, is history.

"As soon as we got home from the first gathering, we started hearing positive comments about 'the Greyhound convention' and questions about next year," Pat remembers. "We all thought: 'Next year? Uh-oh!' The ball was rolling and we didn't stop it. We realized we had to upgrade our paper trail technology with a database and mailing list for the attendees of future events."

Attendance Grows

In the second year, attendance doubled to about 120 Greyhounds and 120 people. More activities were added and a few adoption groups offered to bring items to sell in order to raise funds for their Greyhound adoption efforts. The property around a local veterinarian's office was used for

more Greyhound-related talks, covering topics such as T-Touch, clicker training, and nail trimming, with a demonstration using a Dremel sander.

"We added a featured speaker at our new, larger dinner venue," Judy says. "Joan Belle Isle delivered a presentation on how Greyhound adoption groups evolved. She spoke at Mama Maria's across from the Atlantic Oceanside. The fee went up to \$12. And that's when we started to call the event 'Greyhounds Reach the Beach.' Kathy Bentzoni designed a logo for the event and we used it for buttons, letterhead, a t-shirt, and our official event guide."

The third year, attendance doubled again. They added a brunch at the Rusty Rudder.

Jacque Schultz, director of the Greyhound Rescue Fund at the ASPCA, was the featured speaker. Saturday night dinners were reserved at local restaurants. More vendors selling a wide variety of Greyhound wares set up under a large tent on the grounds of a veterinarian's office. Local media arrived to film and interview attendees.

Not to break with tradition, attendance doubled again in the fourth year. Noted Greyhound advocate, adoption leader, and author Cynthia Branigan was the featured speaker at the brunch. The popular cable television channel Animal Planet arrived to interview and tape Cynthia, as well as capture images of hundreds of Greyhounds and their owners enjoying Dewey Beach. Many motels that were previously not dog friendly decided to stay open and become Greyhound friendly. They realized this was something special.

Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help

Martha remembers when they realized Greyhounds Reach the Beach had become too much for the three founders to handle.

"After the fourth year, with more than 600 Greyhounds and 600 people, we realized the event was bigger than we and our husbands could handle. We contacted the Greyhound Project and Joan Belle Isle about taking over Greyhounds Reach the Beach. Now it was Joan's turn to respond with 'Yikes!'"

Martha says the Greyhound Project board met that spring and agreed to manage Greyhounds Reach the Beach. The event has been steadily growing ever since. "It's a valuable resource for all Greyhound owners," she adds.

"I was enormously flattered when they approached the Greyhound Project about managing Greyhounds Reach the Beach," Joan says.

"This is an incredibly unique event that brings together many, many people who simply adore Greyhounds. The whole thing reminds me of the motorcycle event at Sturgis ... except here, we have Greyhounds invading Dewey Beach. It truly is a wonderful time."

Greyhounds Reach the Beach 2003 attracted more than 3,000 Greyhounds and 2,500 people. And 2004 will mark the 10th anniversary of the event. It has become a major contributor to the Morris Animal Foundation, through its raffle ticket sales and vendor contributions. And it has attracted people from around the world to come to Dewey Beach and enjoy the weekend.

Looking forward to the 10th anniversary of the event, Judy, Martha, and Pat can't help looking back.

Judy says, "It's truly amazing for us to look at the evolution of Greyhounds Reach the Beach. We realize that if we had known then what we

know now, it might never have started. Believe me, we've had a lot of help from many friends and volunteers who have worked very hard and continue to work to make the event a big success every year. It takes everyone working together to make any event a success." ■

Judy Dillon is a retired civil servant currently working in library services. She and her husband Mike live in Denton, Md. with their five Greyhounds and one cat. Both are very active volunteers for Midlantic Greyhound Adoption League, Inc. Pat Tyson is an IT Specialist. She and her husband Wayne live in Philadelphia, Pa. They have two Greyhounds and volunteer for the New Jersey Greyhound Adoption Program. Martha Sherman is a software engineer. She and her husband Doug live in West Chester, Pa. with their two Greyhounds and one cat. Visiting nursing homes with their Greyhounds is a favorite activity.

Tips for a Successful Event

Our advice for starting an event of your own:

- *Keep it simple.* Plan something simple and fun for you and a few of your friends. Don't plan an event. Limit the number of activities so there is plenty of attendance at each activity. Only do as much as you and your volunteers can handle. Don't set out to create your own "Dewey" in one year.
- *Don't think too far ahead or you'll panic.* Take it one year at a time. Greyhounds Reach the Beach evolved over ten years — not always in ways that were anticipated — into what it is today. It didn't happen overnight.
- *Allow time for socializing.* Simply put, people want forums to socialize, especially with their pets. Allow it to happen. Plan some purely fun, casual, social gatherings.
- *Allow people to volunteer to help.* Individuals and adoption groups are willing to help organize and sponsor their own events. Some of the events at Dewey that have evolved over the years are the Ice Cream Social, the Hund Run, the vendors, the Art Show, Saturday Morning Coffee on the deck at the Atlantic Oceanside, additional talks, and raffle ticket sales (along with the donated gifts).
- *Realize you can't please everyone all the time.* This is a difficult one to accept, but it's your party. You must set some ground rules and stick to them. For example, if you have a limit of 100 people for dinner, stick to it. Some people will be upset, but most are very understanding.
- *Focus on the dogs, and have fun.*



As far as the eye can see, motorcycles are everywhere. I imagine that the woman fleeing the parking lot (center) didn't even have time to pack her belongings in a suitcase.

Hounds and Hogs

By Cynthia A. Branigan

My husband Charles and I were only able to make a very quick trip to Dewey Beach this year. In fact, we planned to be there just long enough to attend the Sunday brunch and then race right back home again. We left the house before daybreak on Sunday morning and headed south for a little over 3 hours. The sky was bleak and overcast when we arrived, but apparently it didn't dampen the mood of the hundreds of people lining up at the Rusty Rudder waiting for the doors to open so they could get a good seat.

After the brunch we were ready to jump in the car, but I couldn't shake the feeling of being cheated: the sun had come out and the sky was blue. Another three-hour car ride was not what I had in mind. The little restaurant on the bay across from the Rusty Rudder beckoned. Surely we could squeeze in an al fresco snack before returning home.

Our brief vacation on the restaurant's deck was just what the doctor ordered. It was warm, but not too warm. The food was good and, best of all, a couple with a pair of Greyhounds was seated opposite us. For a brief time, the cares of the world faded.

Did you ever see Hitchcock's movie *The Birds*? Do you remember Tippi Hedren innocently enjoying a cigarette in the schoolyard while, behind her back, jet black crows begin landing one by one on the playground equipment? Well, much like Tippi (minus the cigarette), my serenity was shattered by the throaty, distant rumblings of motorcycles.

At first it sounded like just one or two, maybe half a dozen at most. Soon the noise from the engines reached a deafening roar and I had to get up and check out the parking lot to see exactly how many bikes we were about to encounter. ■

*Cynthia Branigan is the author of the best-selling book *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* (now in an updated and expanded 3rd Edition) and the award-winning book *The Reign of the Greyhound: A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs* (now in an updated and expanded 2nd Edition). She is founder and President of *Make Peace With Animals*. Her thanks for their cooperation in this impromptu photo essay goes to Mike and Elaine Adams, Mike's Harley-Davidson of Newcastle, Del., the Delaware State Police and, of course, to Brook and Amber. Far from being outlaws, the bikers were participating in a charity ride for the Red Cross.*



I am relieved that the police are on the scene and seem to be giving a good, stern lecture on law and order to the leaders of the pack. Then I realize the awful truth: The police are part of the pack!



Mike and Elaine Adams came all the way from Kingston, Ontario in Canada to attend Dewey. Mike surveys the burgeoning crowd with a mixture of anxiety and interest: "What will these crazy Americans think of next?" Brook (brindle) peers at the line from a safe distance while Amber (fawn) seems to look to her adoptive mom, Elaine, for reassurance.



Of course, crowds are nothing new to dogs who spent the early part of their lives at a racetrack. I soon see that Elaine seems not to be reassuring Amber so much as she is holding her back from the crowd. And the look on Brook's face is distinctly curious, not frightened.



Amber makes the first move and a connection is forged between the Cult of the Greyhound and the Cult of the Harley-Davidson.



Not to be outdone, Brook gets in the chow line and believes she fits in beautifully.



But Amber is plotting to do her sister one better . . .



Amber scores, and makes another convert to Greyhoundism! Before he leaves, Michael of Milford, Delaware asks for information on how to adopt a Greyhound.



Kaitlyn, Shannon, Chester, and Jenn Daly on Chester's first night at home.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach ... and Then Some

Greyhounds in Dewey Leave a Lasting Impression

By Sarah Norton

Some people prefer the Delaware beaches in the quieter off-season.

Rehoboth Beach, just north of Dewey Beach, is a well-known shopping destination thanks to its many outlet stores and fall sidewalk sales. Amy Nelson's family travels from Pennsylvania to those sidewalk sales for a fun weekend each October.

Bethany Beach, just south of Dewey Beach, is a quiet resort community, particularly after the summer residents pack up. Jenn Daly's family travels from Maryland for their annual final weekend with the in-laws every fall.

What neither woman knew a few short years ago was that their leisure destinations would forever change their lives.

Jenn Daly met her first Greyhound at a county fair in 1989. Although not in a position to adopt at that time, she was intrigued.

Eight years later, the Daly family was on their annual fall beach trip when Jenn and her two young daughters (then 5 and 11) decided to head up to Rehoboth to go shopping. While passing through Dewey Beach, she saw a sign on The Atlantic Oceanside Motel that read "Welcome Greyhounds Reach the Beach." Jenn assumed some tourists had been bussed in.

"But then I saw them. All those beautiful creatures. I was so excited. We parked our car and walked around town petting the dogs. Kaitlyn and Shannon fell in love with them, and so did I. I was amazed how many people owned four or five greys. I thought they must be crazy." The Greyhounds at Dewey Beach had sparked the memory of that long-ago county fair.

In 1998, the Daly family decided to live with husband Tom Daly's parents while they had their own home built in Bethany.

Jenn continued to live and work in Maryland while the house was under construction.

In 1998 and 1999, Jenn's weekend visits with her family and the in-laws again coincided with the event. Jenn had not yet connected Columbus Day weekend with the Greyhound weekend, and she was pleased with her luck at running into the dogs year after year.

Kaitlyn and Shannon wanted a dog. Jenn and Tom said that they would consider it when the house was completed. The house was ready in early 2000. By then, there was no question what type of dog the girls wanted. Nothing but a Greyhound would do.

In the fall of 2000, the Daly family adopted Chester from Greyhound Acres Rescue & Adoption in New York. It was about a year later that littermate Lonnie joined the crew. Sadly, Lonnie was diagnosed with liver cancer in late 2002 and was released from her pain on New Year's Eve. Chester and the rest of the family felt a big hole, but the addition of ShoeZ the following April helped them all to feel a lot better.

Amy Nelson "fell in love with Greyhounds at Dewey. My family used to vacation at Rehoboth for the sidewalk sales in October. In 1999, that was the same weekend as Greyhounds Reach the Beach."

The Nelsons have always been dog people. When they discovered the Greyhounds at Dewey Beach, they already had two Beagle mixes named Kiko and Abby. Amy confesses, "Kiko was a pistol. She really had no rules. When we met the Greyhounds at the beach, they were so well behaved. Of course, we asked to pet every one. We soon found out that all of the owners belonged to some bizarre cult that worshiped Greyhounds and extolled their virtues to anyone who would listen. We were captivated and decided that someday we'd get a Greyhound, too. The next year we repeated the process, and the following year we decided that our next dog would be a Greyhound."

The family planned to get a Greyhound in the summer. Sadly, their beloved Kiko was lost to cancer in January 2002. "We couldn't be a one-dog family," said Amy, "so we moved up our plans and adopted Nittany in March of 2002. TJ (now 14) and Sunny (now 12) followed in May of 2002 (seniors for adopt-a-senior month), and Freddi came along this past October, just after Dewey." Nittany and Freddi were adopted through Nittany Greyhound Adoption in Pennsylvania, and TJ and Sunny came from Grateful Greyhounds in New York.

"Now we are a happy family of four Greyhounds and one Beagle mix," says Amy. Husband Gary Kaschak, soccer-nut Christian (10), and dog-lover Caroline (8) round out the family.



From left, Nittany, Caroline, Sunny, TJ, Abby, Christian, and Freddi.

Asked if anything about her family's lifestyle had changed, Amy laughed. "Our biggest household accessory is now the dog bed. The dogs changed life in so many ways. Our vacations are often dog events, and I have met people literally all over the world. When I need to travel on business, I e-mail the Greyhound List first. I have met many wonderful people and learned a lot from their experiences."

And the "bizarre cult" continues to grow. ■

Sarah Norton serves on the board of The Greyhound Project, handles press relations for Greyhounds Reach the Beach, and lives with three Greyhounds and four cats in North Quincy, Mass.

Having Wonderful Time . . . Wish You Were Here!

In the ten years since Greyhounds first reached the beach in Dewey Beach, Delaware, a number of similar gatherings have begun. These are a few of them. For more information, please consult the websites of the sponsoring organizations and the events calendar ("You're Invited") in this and other issues of CG.



Greyhound America — Abilene, Kan. *Lacey Wesley*

Greyhound America

Abilene, Kan.

June 10-13, 2004

Sponsored by Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption (www.racethewind.org), the Greyhound America gathering is unique in that it is held in a town that is home to both the National Greyhound Association and the Greyhound Hall of Fame. Attendees have the opportunity to tour each of these facilities as well as to visit one of the Greyhound farms in the area. Participants travel by charter bus to Wichita Greyhound Park for a tour of the racetrack, a visit to Race the Wind's adoption kennel, lunch, and a Greyhound racing matinee. The 2004 event will also feature a performance by the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team. —*Carolea Dick*



Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering—St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, Mich.
Rich Hoynes

Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering

St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, Mich.

June 25-27, 2004

The first Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering was held in St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, MI, in 1998 with approximately sixty-five attendees and five vendors. GLGG (www.glgg.org) has grown to its limit of 250 attendees and in the ensuing years, proceeds totaling more than \$25,000 have been donated to the Morris Foundation's Canine Cancer Fund.

The activities begin on Friday evening with a get-acquainted pizza party, the first of the Live Auctions and a sneak preview of the Silent Auction and Raffle items.

Saturday is jam-packed with Greyhound-related activities beginning with a radar-timed and safely fenced "Fun Run" for the dogs. Perhaps the most heart-warming participant was a three-legged osteosarcoma survivor who ran so joyously that there was not a dry eye in the crowd.

The rest of the day is a flurry of shopping with the many vendors, the Blessing of the Hounds, auctions, raffles, demonstrations, speakers, dog contests, making silly and creative hats for the dogs, and a catered lunch for those who choose to eat on the premises.

Early in the evening, the activities move to the beach for a quick dip in the lake and then on to the quaint downtown area of St. Joseph, where the merchants decorate their windows with "Welcome Greyhounds" signs and put buckets of fresh water and bowls of dog biscuits on the sidewalks. Attendees take part in the Poker Stroll or just enjoy the various points of interest and sculptures along Lake Bluff Park. The last stop of the evening is Cabana's Ice Cream Shop, where there are cups of fat-free frozen yogurt with a biscuit on top for each dog. Their owners may indulge in some of the gooey concoctions while they watch or participate in the judging of the Hat Contest.

The weekend winds down with a Sunday morning farewell walk along the recreational trail at the beach that leads to the Silver Beach Pavilion with its original sculptures and a wonderful view of the famous St. Joseph Lighthouse. —*Connie Cassidy*



Beach Bound Hounds — Myrtle Beach, S.C. *Joanne Johnson Photography*

Beach Bound Hounds

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

September 23-26, 2004

Beach Bound Hounds began five years ago as a small gathering of members from Greyhound Crossroads (www.greyhoundcrossroads.com) who discovered The Mariner, a small hotel in Myrtle Beach that accepted pets. Though much smaller than Dewey, BBH is entering its fifth year and has become known for its relaxing hospitality and welcoming spirit. Sunrise beach walking, in a tourist area not normally thought of as pet friendly, has become a ritual that attracts balcony photographers and crowds of greyhound admirers.

Traditional activities include dawn and midnight beach walks, a beach group photo, and contests that get more creative every year. Recent additions include a lunch-seminar, surfside memorial service, and Canine Good Citizen certification. Most events are

geared toward Greyhound participation such as a walking meet-and-greet, outdoor steakhouse dinner, and ceramic paw print art. The Saturday Marketplace features vendors and an energy-packed silent auction of donations from generous owners and businesses. Even more activities will be added next year for early arrivals.

Beach Bound Hounds has become a southern tradition of relaxed days on the beach with greyhound friends. Nothing could be sweeter than paw prints on the sand in the sunny fall days of South Carolina. —*Kim Owens*



Prairie Beach — Altoona, Iowa. *Mary Neubauer*

Prairie Beach: A Gathering of Champions

Altoona, Iowa

September 24-26, 2004

Prairie Beach has given Greyhound enthusiasts the chance to enjoy Midwestern hospitality while brainstorming and making connections with others involved in the adoption movement from as far away as Pennsylvania, California, and Canada.

The three-day reunion in Iowa is organized by members of Heartland Greyhound Adoption (www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org), a central Iowa group. Prairie Beach emphasizes its Midwestern roots in everything from its logo, which shows a Greyhound running across the open plains, to its annual catered dinner, which has featured the flavorful foods for which Iowa is so well known: grilled pork, corn on the cob, and potato side dishes.

The reunion has seen keynote speeches from veterinarians and authors, games for humans and hounds, shopping opportunities from vendors of Greyhound merchandise, and auctions of Greyhound paraphernalia. Prairie Beach organizers also have made it a priority to give the reunion's guests opportunities to show their pride in their home state or area. During the reunion's first two years, guests participated in a "Parade of Athletes" akin to that in the Olympics' opening ceremonies, and had fun showing off with their Greyhounds. —*Mary Neubauer*



Greyhounds in Gettysburg — Gettysburg, Pa.

Greyhounds in Gettysburg

Gettysburg, Penn.

April 29-30, 2005

When Lisa Brown asked folks if they might want to meet up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania over a spring weekend six years ago, she surely could not have imagined that a quiet weekend enjoying the beauty of the Gettysburg National Military Park would grow into the largest spring gathering for Greyhound owners in the east.

From its humble beginnings of approximately twenty people and just over thirty dogs to nearly 500 people and pets in 2004, the first sign of Greyhound spring is the annual Greyhounds in Gettysburg (GIG) gathering. Now hosted by Triangle Greyhound Society, Greyhounds in Gettysburg (www.trianglegreyhound.org/gig) includes participants and vendors from over 15 states and Canada along the Atlantic seaboard through the Midwest.

Greyhounds and owners can enjoy the beauty of the Pennsylvania landscape, explore civil war history, and the opportunity of a whole lot of fun. Each year the event has expanded the activities offered. In 2004, a program of seminars and information sessions, as well as bus tours of the battlefield (which dogs can attend) have been added to the traditional schedule favorites — the opening meet-and-greet at Battlefield Harley-Davidson, an organized walk on the Battlefield, an evening Ghost Walk of local haunts, and a Sunday morning stroll and fun run at nearby Oakside Community Park. As always, there is plenty of opportunity to meet up with old friends, make new ones, and explore the battlefield. —*Joanna Wolfe*



Greyhound Gathering — Kanab, Utah. *Praveen Mutalik*

Greyhound Gathering

Kanab, Utah

May 2006

I started the Greyhound Gathering in Kanab in 1998. At the time, I was rescuing hounds out West and trying to make a living, while paying the bills for the Greyhound Gang (www.greyhoundgang.com). The weekend gathering in Dewey Beach just sounded like too much fun, and I couldn't afford to join them. I was feeling really left out, and I hate to miss a Greyhound party. Luckily, I didn't know what I was getting myself into, doing this solo with the first 125 guests. But from hardly breaking even that first year, to raising more than \$20,000 to help rescue more Greyhounds in 2004, the Greyhound Gathering in Kanab is here to stay (although on hiatus in 2005).

The Greyhound Gathering in Kanab focuses on celebrating life with our companions. At the Gathering, you do everything with and for your hounds, while

raising money to help rescue Greyhounds who are still very much in need. The proceeds from the most recent live and silent auctions are helping Almost Home for Hounds, a planned greyhound adoption and care facility in Nunn, Colorado. Events at the Gathering include: a costume parade down Main Street with Elvis crooning "You Ain't Nuthin But a Hound Dog," the Blur of Fur™ Run (name and prizes courtesy of Fast Jack Sportswear), hikes, meals, movies with your hounds, Paint By Paws, artisan shopping, tours of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, and more. —*Claudia Presto*



It's a Greyhound Life — Hamilton, Ontario. *David Robinson*

It's a Greyhound Life!

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

May 2005

"Dewey sounds like so much fun! Why can't we do something like that?" With that question, Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth (www.glohw.on.ca/) embarked on a project to bring an event to life that would allow Greyhound families in Southern Ontario as well as New York and Michigan to come together, learn, shop, share, socialize, and shop. In 2001, we had an outdoor event with large tents, which was fortunate, because it rained. The catch phrase became "Welcome to de swamp!" We had fun, we made some money, and the idea just needed some tweaking. In 2002, we moved the event indoors. We continue to build annually and are currently planning our fourth annual event.

We arrange workshops of interest to our Greyhound families, including a Blessing of the Dogs by an ordained minister, and Breakfast with the Vet (this year's subject will be The Senior Dog as we now have many seniors in our membership). We always try to include a special guest speaker. This year's focus will be From the Track to the Couch: The Inside Story. We extend an invitation to all to come and see how we are doing. —*Heather Geres*



Sandy Paws — Jacksonville, Fla. *June Baldwin*

Sandy Paws — Greyt Fun in the Sun

Jacksonville, Florida

Dates to be announced, 2005

The first Sandy Paws — Greyt Fun in the Sun Greyhound gathering (www.sandy-paws.net) drew more than 320 humans and hounds to the shorelines of Atlantic, Neptune and Jacksonville Beaches, March 5 through 7, 2004.

Greyhounds and their owners traveled from across the country to walk their dogs on the beach, attend seminars, shop with numerous pet-related vendors, and raise funds for Greyhound adoption programs.

The weekend activities opened with a meet-and-greet pizza party on Friday and included a blessing of the hounds, a performance by the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team, a Human and Hound Ice Cream Social, and plenty of fun and fellowship.

One of the highlights of the event was the crowning of Sandy Paws royalty. Shenanigan, of Jacksonville, Arkansas (accompanied by Brian and Diane Harvey) was crowned King, while Blu (owned by Barbara Mulle of Bonita Springs, Florida) was inaugurated as Queen.

Attendees participated in a luminary-lit oceanside memorial service Saturday evening to honor their dearly departed pets. —*Wayne Baldwin and Dayle Kelloway* ■



At two to a compartment, GPA/Central Florida's trailer holds 44 Greyhounds.

On the Road Again

Anatomy of a Melbourne Shipment

Story and Photos by Claire Tyler

We had just come off the I-695 Baltimore Beltway and were pulling into the Johns Hopkins University parking lot. We could feel the excitement in the air. This was our last stop, and the 18 Greyhounds remaining on the trailer were for Greyhound Pets of America (GPA)/Maryland. Adopters, foster families, and sponsoring families had assembled — all anxiously awaiting our arrival.

As Dennis and I removed each Greyhound from the trailer, GPA/Maryland President Ethel Whitehurst was ready with a friendly choker and lead. She looked over each Greyhound and made sure the collar was adjusted properly before the dog was given to the prospective family. For the previous two months, Whitehurst had been coordinating this run with Dennis Tyler, president of GPA/Central Florida.

After the last Greyhound came off the trailer, we were finally able to breathe a sigh of relief. The Greyhounds and the drivers (Dennis and I) had weathered the 15-hour journey from Florida with no problems. We planned to spend the night in Maryland. The next day, we would attend the GPA/Maryland annual reunion and picnic.

What does it take to put together a shipment?

Our group relies heavily on the ability to transport Greyhounds to other groups. GPA/Central Florida does 14-15 shipments each year. This year, we completed our 100th shipment since taking over the adoption program at Melbourne Greyhound Park. We have transitioned more than 3,600 Greyhounds from track to adoption.

Through the overwhelming support of the Greyhound community, including the American Greyhound Council, Melbourne Greyhound Park, Daytona Beach Kennel Club, GPA National, North Coast Greyhound Support, GPA/Maryland, GPA/Richmond, Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth Canada (GLOHW), and generous individuals, we managed to raise

funds to purchase a new 22-stall trailer. In 2002, we officially dedicated the trailer at Greyhounds Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach. The trailer has



During the week before the shipment, Dennis reapplies flea and tick preventive to the dogs.



Color-coded tape flags help match Greyhounds to groups.



Volunteers help load the dogs.

further enhanced our ability to provide safe transportation for Greyhounds to adoption groups from the Melbourne and Daytona Beach GPA chapters.

Putting a shipment together

Planning begins approximately two months before an actual shipment. We e-mail groups along a designated route. This is usually a heads-up to as many as a dozen groups. We inform the groups of our target dates for a transport and ask them to keep us in mind for taking Greyhounds. Sometimes we have to change dates if groups are having special events coinciding with our shipment. This can get tricky when dealing with so many groups. We may end up sending as many as two messages for each dog on the haul. With luck, requests come in and we put our match-making skills to work.

We profile all our Greyhounds for activity level and personality. Selecting the right dog for the right home environment can be challenging. Let's face it — finding a calm, but slightly playful, outgoing, black-and-white tuxedo Greyhound who is cat friendly and gets along with small children can be a tall order. Several groups give us a synopsis of requirements. It's a blessing when we get a request for four Greyhounds, no specific color, two male, two female, and only two must be cat safe.

Most groups want all the veterinary work done up front. Three to four weeks prior to shipment, we take Greyhound transport candidates to local veterinarians for spaying and neutering, teeth cleaning, vaccinations, and heartworm testing. With a shipment of 40 to 44 Greyhounds, of which 38 need veterinary care, this is a huge undertaking. In one week, we may make as many as four runs to the veterinarian. Sometimes the trailer functions as a recovery unit. All Greyhounds for the shipment stay in a special staging kennel at the track.

During the week before a shipment, we spend time worming the dogs, removing stitches, cleaning their ears, and if necessary, reapplying flea and tick preventive. Since Greyhounds ride two to a compartment, testing traveling companions helps ensure a safer transport. We put together a trailer-loading chart to help us organize compartment placement so that as deliveries are made, Greyhounds are singled out. By the time the trailer reaches its last stop, all on board will be in separate compartments. Each dog gets a color-coded tape-flag on his or her collar to identify the group that will receive the Greyhound and

the compartment on the trailer that the dog will occupy. We also put color-coded tape above each compartment for further identification.

We wash the rig, change the air-conditioner filters, check the tires, then test and check generators for fuel and oil. The day before we leave, we put fresh hay in each compartment. On the morning we are scheduled to depart, each compartment gets a bucket of water with electrolyte powder added to help prevent dehydration due to heat and stress. During hot months, we add ice to the buckets. A few hours before transport, two air-conditioning units plug into shore power to lower the temperature. We start the two generators 30 minutes before loading and turn on all four air-conditioning units.

We assemble informational packets for each adoption group. The packets contain a roster of Greyhounds plus veterinary records and a transfer form for each dog. (We require the receiving group to sign a transfer form to indicate their acceptance of transfer of each Greyhound.) For Canadian groups, a letter stating that the Greyhounds have no monetary value speeds our border crossing.

A small group of volunteers and kennel personnel are on hand to help load the Greyhounds onto the truck. We fill each compartment, using the loading list for reference. We can easily see that volunteers and kennel staff have developed attachments to several of the dogs; these dogs usually receive a special ear rub or big hug prior to loading. As the Greyhounds settle down, all the latches on the doors are double-checked.

On the road again

On this trip, Dennis does the first driving segment. Once on the road, we give each group a courtesy call to let them know what time we left the kennel compound. The current shipment of 28 Greyhounds will have stops in South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. We check the temperature gauges. When we left Melbourne, it was 80 degrees outside and humid; trailer temperatures were reading between 67 and 70 degrees. As we head north on I-95, we review the designated stops and fueling opportunities. Prior to departure, we compiled a list of major truck stops along our route. We need easy access, diesel fuel for the truck, and regular gasoline for the generators. We also discuss key times to swap driving. We each try to take naps before our turn at the wheel. The main hope is that we do not encounter major road repair work or other slowdowns.

At the first rest stop, we check the Greyhounds to make sure all have settled down. Our truck (a Ford 350 Diesel) and trailer are quite a sight on the road. Cars pass by and give us a thumbs-up or a honk. Pulling into a rest stop or truck stop always gets attention. Just north of Jacksonville, we check in with the South Carolina groups. This gives them a better idea of our arrival time at the designated drop-off site. We are required to stop at the Florida Agriculture Inspection Station. Stopping for fuel in Brunswick, Georgia, we swap driving and go around the truck, checking each compartment to make sure all the dogs are OK.

After a few of these trips, we've become familiar with key mile markers and truck stops. Clean facilities, real paper towels, and low prices become factors in deciding where to stop. We have learned to appreciate smooth roads, wide shoulders, good road signs, absence of road construction, and most importantly, good radio stations.

Our first stop is South Carolina, mile marker 82 at the Wilco Station. It's 11 p.m. and GPA/South Carolina members Jane Hightower and Debbie Cone are there to pick up three Greyhounds. These will become "cell dogs" at the South Carolina Department of Corrections in Richland. Each Greyhound will have four handlers and receive one-on-one attention and obedience training. At the end of their two- to -four-week stay, they will know the basic commands of sit, down, wait, and stay. This program has proved to be a real win-win: Greyhounds are socialized and ready to be house pets, and handlers make good use of their time learning how to interact with dogs in a positive way.

Bob Checkanek from South Carolina Greyhound Adoption Program also meets us at this stop and takes one dog. He was very active with New Jersey Greyhound Adoption Program before retiring to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Fortunately for us, he found a need for an adoption group in this area and started SCGAP.

Dennis takes the wheel for the third segment and I try to take a nap. Our next stop is mile marker 77 in North Carolina. We get there around 1:30 a.m., do all the necessary checks, and make a quick pit stop. I get coffee and we're back on the road again.

It's my turn at the wheel. Traffic is light now and the weather is clear. So far, the only rain we have encountered was in Florida. Heading north, we feel the temperature drop. At the next stop, we will turn off the generators and open the louvers.

We are making good time. Richmond will get an early arrival. I ease up on the gas. We are due in Richmond at 6 a.m. Just south of Petersburg, I pull into a rest stop and we swap driving.

At 5:30 a.m., we make it to Exit 82 in Richmond and head to a parking lot. We are a bit early, but it isn't long before everyone shows up. Dennis turns the generators off and opens the vents and louvers. Jean Little is the adoption co-coordinator for GPA/Richmond. She is a delightful woman, and it is always nice to see her. GPA/Richmond is taking six Greyhounds, and the prospective families are here to meet them. Some have been waiting for more than a month.

The Greyhounds are anxious to get off the trailer. Dennis and I are at each compartment to handle the dogs as they exit. All the Greyhounds are in fine shape. The stop has a nice grassy area where the dogs can walk and relieve themselves.

It's around 6 a.m. and we are on the road again, stopping for fuel in Fredericksburg and getting much-needed coffee. I usually pack sandwiches and snacks, but for breakfast, we munch on hard-boiled eggs. Getting into northern Virginia and near the Washington area, traffic starts to pick up. No matter what time of day, there always seems to be a lot of traffic here. Our greatest fear is to get stuck in a traffic jam. We take the Beltway around the city and observe the road signs. (We have come to appreciate states that have clear road signs.) Maneuvering the trailer takes time. We make it to northwest Baltimore in good time.

We've made it a point to schedule this shipment so we could stay for the GPA/Maryland reunion. This is the third year we've been able to attend. It was a little drizzly, but it didn't dampen attendees' spirits. There were several vendors with Greyhound items and contests for the hounds. Approximately 300 to 400 families and their hounds came to the event.

Rewarding

The best part of all was seeing several of the Greyhounds that came from Melbourne. They don't forget. Several hounds just about do cartwheels when they see Dennis. His t-shirt acquired a new design of muddy paw prints all over the front. Several of the hounds took great delight in lifting their leg on the trailer tires. We had to laugh; it's their payback for all the hours spent on the road. Seeing the hounds and how happy they are in retirement truly revitalizes our

spirits. It makes all the trouble, worry, and hard work worthwhile.

At around 2 p.m. we start our journey home. Arriving back at Melbourne, we clean out the trailer, remove the hay and buckets, and sanitize the compartments with soap and bleach. The rig undergoes an inspection.

And we begin planning for our next trip.

Melbourne Greyhound Park (MGP) finished its racing season on April 17. At that time, GPA/Central Florida had five kennels of Greyhounds waiting to be adopted locally or shipped to groups in non-racing states, with more dogs yet to be added to the list. Dennis and Claire Tyler anticipate that it will take until September to move all of the Greyhounds. If your group can take some of these Greyhounds, or if you would like to make a financial donation to GPA/Central Florida to help with the cost of caring for and moving these dogs, please contact Dennis Tyler at cjgpa@cfl.fl.com or visit GPA/Central Florida's website at www.florida-greyhounds.com. -Ed. ■

Claire Tyler is Secretary-Treasurer of Greyhound Pets of America/Central Florida.



This is what a shipment is all about . . . adopter Mike Chang poses with his new friend, Dana.

Where Are My Jammies?

By Brett and Donna Weeks
Illustrations by Kathy Hoynes

I roamed free The deserts and hills in The Time before Christ.

Where were my jammies Then?



I waited 20 long years for my master To return
From his Odyssey.

Where were my jammies Then?



I followed Caesar when he conquered cold, wet Gaul.

Where were my jammies Then?



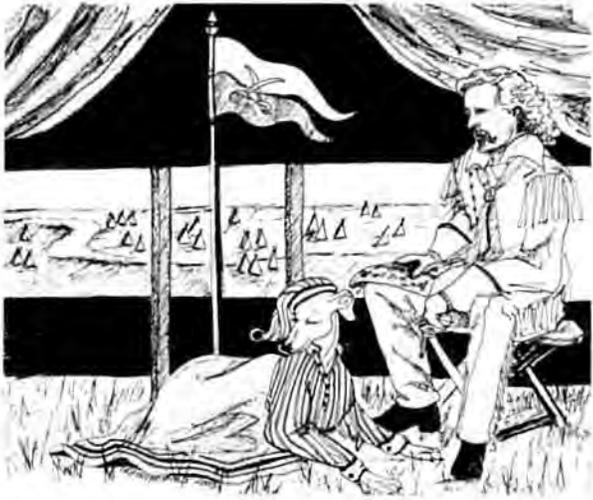
I hunted bear, bull, stag and men for my lord in The manor.

Where were my jammies Then?



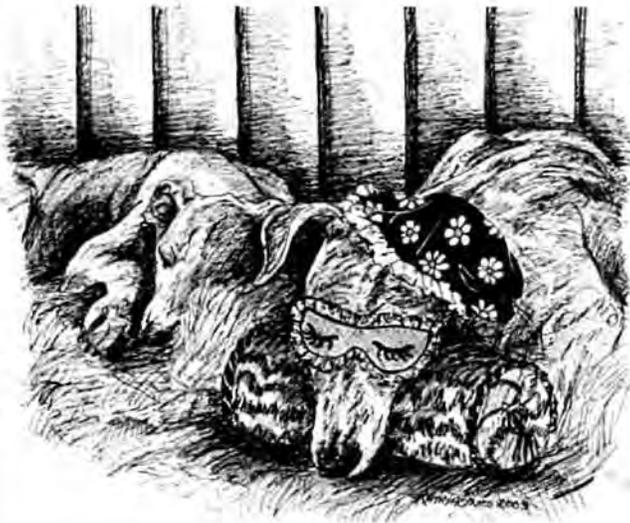
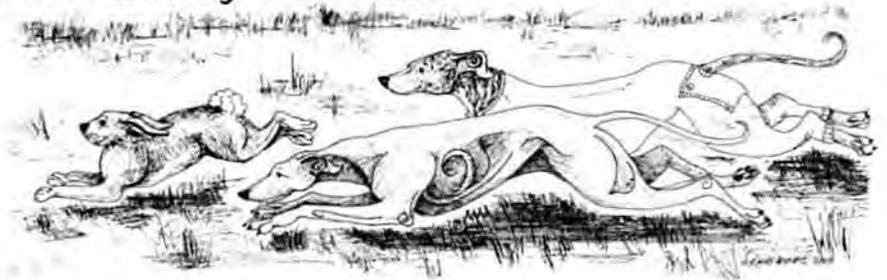
I was The first of my kind To see The Pacific Ocean.

Where were my jammies Then?



I saw Yellow Hair meet his end at
The Little Big Horn.
Where were my jammies Then?

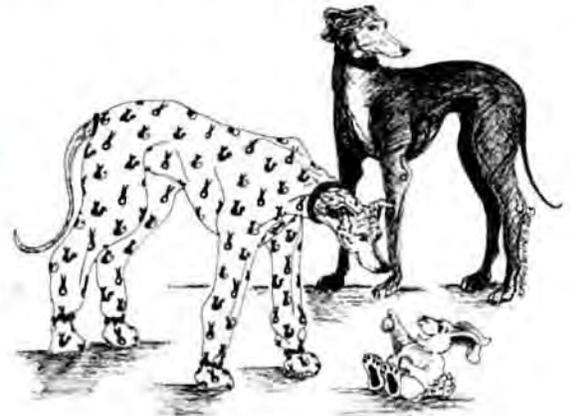
I chased Coyote and Jack Rabbit across The rolling Great Plains.
Where were my jammies Then?



I snuggled in straw Through long, cold nights on
The farm. The next morning I ran like The wind
after The lure.

Where were my jammies Then?

I am a fierce predator and competitor.
No one is faster Than me.



Where are my jammies?

Saturday, June 5

GreyFest 2004

Greyhound Pets of America/Minnesota

Spoooner Park

Little Canada, Minn.

Shop, socialize, see various demonstrations, and win prizes! This is GPA/MN's biggest fundraiser of the year and the money raised helps us place new retired racers into our community and the Midwest region. Contact: Teresa Ruohomaki, (651) 483-5997 or HeyYouSir@visi.com; www.gpa.mn.org

Saturday, June 5

Doggone Walkathon 10 & Picnic

We Adopt Greyhounds, Inc. (WAG)

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wickham Park

Manchester, Conn.

Raise money for the WAG dogs through pledges. Enjoy a walk and have lunch (please bring a dish to share). Contact: Agnes Porell, 869-569-4187 or porell1@aol.com

Saturday, June 5

Twelfth Annual Picnic

Greyhound Pets of America/Springfield, Mo.

3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

2016 S. Arlington Terrace

Springfield, Mo.

Contact: Alane Shultz at 417-883-8156 or agreyhound@mindspring.com

Saturday and Sunday, June 5 & 6 and October 2 & 3

Las Golondrinas Historial Meet and Greet

A Place For Us Greyhound Adoption

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Las Golondrinas Rancho Living History Museum

La Cienega, N.M. (just south of Santa Fe)

In costume, we will present a history of Greyhounds in New Mexico, give brief demonstrations, and let people meet the dogs. Contact: Laurel E. Drew, (505) 873-1729 or elaur@abq.com

Thursday, June 10 through Sunday, June 13

Greyhound America 2004

Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption

Sterl Hall

Abilene, Kan.

This annual gathering is made up of retired racing Greyhounds, the dogs' owners and breeders, and Greyhound adoption groups from all over the United States and Canada. Tours of Greyhound facilities in and around Abilene are planned, as well as networking and a lot of "rooing" from the four-legged attendees. Contact: Judy Sparks, greydogs@swbell.net; www.racethewind.org

Saturday, June 12

Ninth Annual Greyhound Picnic in the Park

Personalized Greyhounds Inc.

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Gifford Pinchot State Park

Lewisberry, Pa.

Located in a densely wooded park between York and Harrisburg, Pa. We will have our usual Chinese and silent auctions, vendors, music, food, and fun. Recognition and Awards program begins at 3:00. We reserve this day for our honored Greyhounds only. No other breeds on this special day, please. Contact: Diane Freundel, 717-737-2609 or dfreundel@aol.com; www.pgreys.org

Saturday, June 12

Monica's Heart Summer Blast

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Legion Park

Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Lots of fun, games, demonstrations, prizes, vendors. Silent auction, raffle, concession stand. A great start to the summer — fun and socializing for hounds and their humans! Some local hotels welcome your hounds; e-mail for information. Contact: Kay McNelis, 814-942-3145 or houndmom@charter.net; Peg O'Brien, 814-943-1475 or obic@alt3.com

Sunday, June 13

Seventh Annual Picnic

South Jersey Volunteers for National Greyhound

Adoption Program (NGAP)

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Atlantic County Park

Mays Landing, N.J.

Raffles, Chinese auction, Greyhound store, games, and more. Contact: Mercè Riccardi, 609-266-7818 or mercibar1@aol.com

Sunday, June 13

Fourth Annual GreysLand Gathering and Reunion, and Woof Walk

GreysLand Greyhound Adoption

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hopkinton State Park

Split Rock Area

Hopkinton, Mass.

This year we are combining our Gathering and Reunion with our Woof Walk, to make the best event of the summer! We'll have lots of vendors, raffles, games, information booths, food for sale (burgers, dogs, and veggie burgers), and a two-mile walkathon to raise money for the GreysLand Gang. Contact: Robin Norton, 508-435-6023 or greys5@aol.com

Saturday, June 19

Second Annual Picnic

Greyhound Adoption of Greater Rochester, N.Y.

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rochester Elk Lodge #24

3525 East Henrietta Road

Henrietta, N.Y.

Great day of celebrating Greyhound adoption: fun, games, raffles, food, vendors, photos, prizes, and more. Rain or shine. Contact: Brenda Grammatico, (585) 377-0811 or events@greyhoundadopt.org; www.greyhoundadopt.org

Friday, June 25 through Sunday, June 27

Seventh Annual Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering

St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Mich.

A weekend of friends and fun to benefit the Morris Animal Foundation. Raffles, auctions, contests, The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team, poker stroll, ice cream social, vendors from across the country, and lots more. Contact: Connie Cassidy, 269-429-6985; www.glgg.org

Saturday, July 31

Twelfth Annual Greyhound Reunion

Rainbow's End Greyhound Rescue

Starts at noon

Ann and Gary's home

Harveys Lake, Pennsylvania

Enjoy a wonderful day of Greyhounds, games, raffles, auctions, shopping, conversations, and good food. Greyhounds and their families only. Covered dish and/or something for the raffle requested. Due to the heat, the games will start with the contests at 1:00. Contact: Ann, (570) 639-2612 or Diana, dake@epix.net

Saturday and Sunday, August 7 & 8

San Diego Renaissance Faire

Greyhounds of Fairhaven

10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday

Balboa Park War Memorial Grounds

3325 Zoo Drive

San Diego, Calif.

For the fourth year, Greyhounds of Fairhaven will be promoting Greyhound adoption at the San Diego Renaissance Faire. If you will be in the San Diego area, please come by to say hello and meet our most noble hounds. Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or info@GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org; www.GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org

Saturday, August 14

Second Annual Picnic

Royal Hounds Greyhound Adoption

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Gracie's Greyhound Playground

2521 96th Street East

Tacoma, Wash.

Vendors, live auction, raffle, costume contest for the pups, tail waggin' water park, and fun games for your hounds. All proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit the hounds. Advance registration is requested but not required. Registration includes lunch; advance registration includes three free raffle tickets. Contact: Sue Ross, (253) 841-3005 or info@royalhounds.org; www.royalhounds.org/picnic.htm

Saturday, August 28

Woody's Greyt Fun Fest

Friends of Greyhound Support in Kansas City

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Woodlands Racetrack

Kansas City, Kan.

Enjoy a full day of all-breed fun including donation drawings, obedience sessions, games, a fun run, and educational speakers. Proceeds are split between the Pups Without Partners Greyhound Adoption Program and Greyhound Support in Kansas City. Contact: Shannon Henson, (816) 560-1969 or woodysgreyt@aol.com; www.greyhoundssupport.org

Saturday, August 28

Fourth Annual Greyhound Golf Classic

Rainbow's End Greyhound Rescue

8 a.m. tee-off

Skyline Golf Course

118 Petrilak Road

Greenfield Twp., Pa.

Join us for a day of golf, food, fun, and prizes. Golfers and non-golfers welcome. Buffet dinner follows tournament. Even a few Greyhounds may stop by. Download an application at www.skylinegolfcourse.com. Contact: Miles or Roxanne Neurts, (570) 282-1326; Skyline Golf Course, (570) 282-5993 or skylnegolf@aol.com

Sunday, August 29

Day at the Races

Pups Without Partners

11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shoreline Star Greyhound Park

255 Kossuth Street

Bridgeport, Conn.

Fundraiser and educational event. Price of \$24.95/person includes lunch and a surprise gift. Advance ticket sales only, please. No minors, no Greyhounds. Contact: Penny, (203) 576-1976 ext. 342 or crys1982@aol.com

Saturday, September 11

Seventh Annual Greyhound Picnic

Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Snail Lake Regional Park Pavilion

4191 Snail Lake Blvd.

Shoreview, Minn.

Join us for a fun-filled day of Greyhounds. The fabulous Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team will be returning! Shopping, food, games, raffles, silent and live auctions, and Greyhounds galore. Fun for the whole family. Contact: Donna Barr, (763) 754-9754 or guber2nac@aol.com

Saturday, September 11

(rain date Sunday, September 12)

Greyhound Reunion/Walk-a-Thon

Greyhound Rescue of N.E.

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

River Bend Farm

Uxbridge, Mass.

A fun-filled day of interaction with Greyhounds and their owners. There will be items to purchase, a raffle and auction, food, and entertaining doggie contests. Take part in our Walk along a beautiful canal. It will be a great day for Greyhounds and humans! Contact: Michelle Tewksbury, (508) 478-1617; adopt@greyhoundrescueue.org

Saturday and Sunday, September 11 & 12

Canine Fun Days and Greyhound Reunion

Greyhound Adoption of Ohio

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday

Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field

Rt. 87 and Chagrin River Road

Moreland Hills, Ohio

Lure coursing for fun, "just for fun" agility, fun dog show, demonstrations, fun run, The Maze, entertainment, raffles, auctions, blessing of the animals, and great food! Contact: Linda Perko, (800) 269-1148 or RJRJLP@aol.com; www.GreyhoundAdoptionOfOH.org

Sunday, September 12

Annual Picnic/Reunion

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption of Michigan, Inc.

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bell Creek Park

Five Mile Road and Beech Road

Redford, Mich.

Come one, come all. Visit, shop, eat, and have fun! 1-866-GET-GREY

Sunday, October 17

Greyhound PetFest 2004

Greyhound Pets, Inc.

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Evergreen State Fairgrounds

Monroe, Wash.

Greyhound PetFest 2004 is our last major event of the year with two Greyhound quilts as special raffle prizes, raffle baskets, silent and live auctions, Halloween costume contest, doggie games, baked goods, the complete Greyhound Pets warehouse, many vendors, and dogs available to preapproved adopters. Contact: (US) Cathy Munro, (425) 742-1388 or adopt.greyhounds@verizon.net; (Canada) Colleen Stranix, (604) 946-8202 or stranix@decnet.com; www.macca-1.org/petfest2004/

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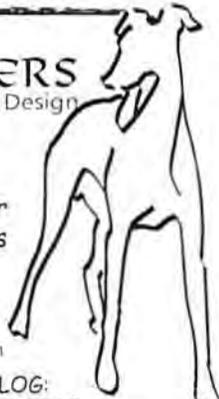
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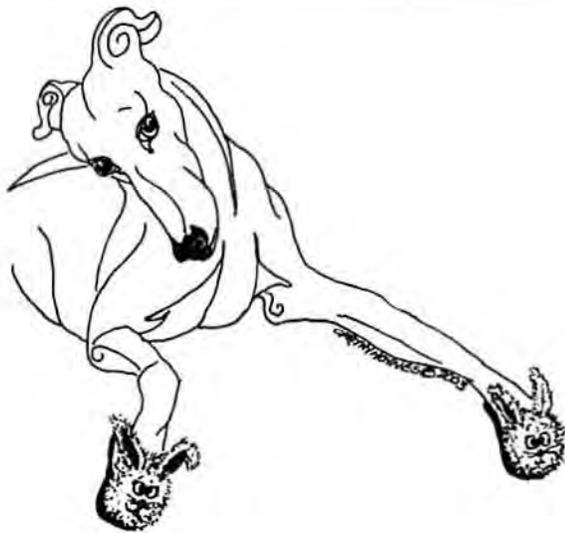
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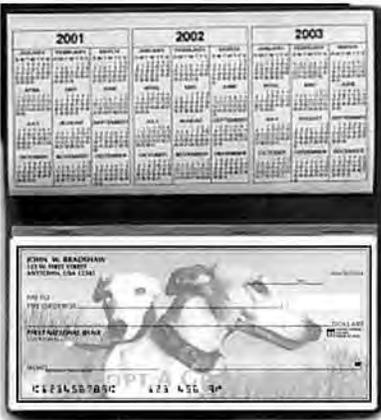
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Pearl 1993-2004

Adopted and loved by Rich and Helen Rosselli of Trumbull, Connecticut, Pearl was featured in "Storks Don't Bring Babies . . . Greyhounds Do!" (Winter 2001 CG) and "Pearl and Her Family" (Winter 2003 CG). She departed this world peacefully, in our arms at home, after a short battle with bone cancer. Pearl gave her family unconditional love, despite having to train us to be Greyhound owners. In her second career as a therapy dog, she provided much-needed diversions and affection to hospital and nursing home patients, and to challenged employees of Northeast Laser. Pearl also helped get retired racers into homes by working Greyhound adoption booths at home shows, walking parades, and helping at meet-and-greets. She also helped other racers just by being herself, meeting people (especially children) at parks, rest stops, and more. It was fun to do all these activities with Pearl, and she enjoyed them.



Hershey (Hershey Bar) 1992-2004

Adopted and loved by Merci Riccardi, Hershey was featured in "Epileptic Dogs: Hard to Adopt — But Hard to Resist" (Spring 2000 CG) and "Checking in on the Twitch Kids" (Spring 2003 CG). Hershey Bar — my best pal, my love, the first Twitch Kid.



Indy (Indy Black) 1991-2003

Adopted and loved by Amy Sheneman of Cazenovia, New York, Indy was pictured on page 1 of the Spring 2003 issue of CG. She was my precious spooky girl who would hide under the kitchen table whenever strangers — especially males — came to visit. I adopted Indy in April 1994 and she was pure love from that moment on until I had to lay at her side as the veterinarian sent her to the Bridge. I will forever miss that shy, sweet, spooky girl who loved me so very much and was loved by me more than words can say.



Sarah 1995-2003

Loved and missed by Bob and Annette Callahan of Cape Coral, Florida. Sarah was one of the Hero Hounds featured in "Molly and Sarah Put Smiles Back on Depressed Owner" (Winter 1999 CG). Sarah, like her littermate Molly, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in the month of July. We lost Molly on August 13, 2002. On September 20, 2003, Sarah left to join her. Sarah was a precious part of our lives and she will always be in our thoughts. Her Greyhound companions, Sean-Michael and Stacey, continue to miss her, too.



Polka (Kem's Haven) 1992-2004

Owned and loved by Eileen and Mike Saks after being adopted in June 1995 from the National Greyhound Adoption Program in Philadelphia, Polka was pictured on page 30 of the Spring 1999 issue of CG. Her unusual coloring (extreme white spotting) and sweet nature made her a people magnet, especially to children. She frequently had her picture taken at Dewey and at picnics wearing a flowered white straw hat. This gentle soul started it all for us: The love of Greyhounds, the volunteering in Greyhound adoption, the making of so many friends in the Greyhound community. Surely she was responsible for the adoption of many other Greyhounds. No one could pass her by at a meet-and-greet. Polka died quite unexpectedly just two months shy of her twelfth birthday. The members of our family, both human and canine (Greyhounds Dancer and Holly, and Golden Retriever Nikki, who taught Polka how to be a pet), miss her so much. We cherish the memories we have and will never forget the joy she brought to our lives. Our "Dalmatian" girl is now making heaven an even prettier place.

Without the Greyhounds whose stories and images populate its pages, Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine would not exist. With In Memoriam, we express our gratitude and bid farewell to those who have, in previous issues of CG, enriched our lives by sharing a bit of themselves with us.



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