

cgmagazine

celebrating greyhounds

Summer 2005

ALSO INSIDE:

Surviving Stroke

Race For Adoption

**Yes, a Greyhound
Can Do That!**

Summer Adventures With Your Pet





Saidy Lou and Maddie, adopted by Carrie Sowders of Portland, Ore.

cgmagazine

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters,
Owners, and Friends
Vol. 10; No. 2 Summer 2005

Front Cover Credit:

Eleven-month old Phoenix accompanied his adoptive owners Ed (pictured) and Kelli Alf on a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota. Photo by Kelli Alf

Back Cover Credit:

Indy (No Cover Becki) is one of the Greyhounds participating in Race for Adoption. She races at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Fla. Her owners, Dave and Becki Johnson, are donating a portion of her winnings to Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption. Photo by Vera Filipelli

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By Cindy Hanson

Being a typically acquisitive sort when it comes to Greyhound paraphernalia, I was excited when Greyhound Pets of America unveiled the Lenox china Greyhounds at last year's North American Greyhound Adoption Conference. Whoever designed these figurines really did their homework. The feet are appropriately skinny and the ears are right on. Even the crystal collars bear some resemblance to the elaborate neckwear in which many of us shamelessly dress our beloved Greyhounds.

Despite my excitement, I did not initially place an order. *They're gorgeous*, I thought. *But what would I do with them?*

I thought of these figurines recently upon receiving letters from some of you. Several readers objected to Laurie Soutar's account of her Greyhound's surprising success in weight-pulling competition ("Maddie the Wonder Dog," Winter 2004 CG). Some accused *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* and Laurie Soutar of promoting Greyhound torture. As one reader wrote: "What she describes is not a championship for a beautiful dog but an ego-trip for the owner. . . . [Weight-pulling competition] borders on Greyhound abuse" and "sounds almost like torture."

I'll admit that these letters caused me some chagrin. I wish I had anticipated this reaction, so that I could have given Laurie the opportunity to head off these concerns in her original article.

I've always been very active with my Greyhounds. Some of my best memories have come from our camping and hiking trips. I wouldn't trade these experiences for anything. And I'm very proud of the engraved plaque that we received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources after hiking all 67 of our state parks, an effort that took us just over six years to complete. (The DNR even engraved the dogs' names on the plaque, which was only fair and an unexpectedly cool move for a government agency.)

Is my pride in our achievement — and my delight in this silly plaque — an ego trip? I don't think so. I love my dogs. I love getting out in the woods with my dogs. They love it, too; not even treats will get them to jump with as much enthusiasm as when I say "wanna go hiking?" And I would never, ever put them in harm's way.

I know Laurie Soutar feels the same way about Maddie. The other writers who share their adventures with Greyhounds in this issue — experiences with flyball, rally obedience, camping and canoeing, and coursing — feel this way, too.

Greyhounds are athletes, and they can do amazing things. If a dog is healthy, sound, capable, and wants to participate, and doing so does not place the dog at risk, why not try something new? After all, as one long-time Greyhound owner told me recently: "These dogs are retired from racing. But they're not retired from life."

I placed an order for those Lenox Greyhounds a couple of weeks ago. I'll handle them lovingly, marvel at their detail, then store them behind the leaded glass doors of my bookcase, where their beauty will be permanently and safely on display.

And I'll never mistake them for the real thing.



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Pagliaccio and Segugio, adopted by Jan Zulkeski of Wallingford, Conn.

Mad About Maddie

I am appalled by “Maddie the Wonder Dog,” by Laurie Soutar (Winter 2004 CG). What she describes is not a championship for a beautiful dog but an ego-trip for the owner. Why does a Greyhound have to pull weights like she describes? Let Ms. Soutar pull 865 pounds. It borders on Greyhound abuse and to be proud of having a dog do this sounds almost like torture for the dog. I don’t understand why you would even print something like it. I have had Greyhounds and also have veterinary friends and they always told me to be a little more careful with a Greyhound anatomically since their bodies are built for speed and not strength like a Rottweiler or such. If Ms. Soutar wants to be proud of a trophy for a non-traditional breed in the competition of weight pulling I think she needs to have her head examined. I feel very sorry for her pups and dogs. You, dear Editor, should not promote such behavior by dog trainers and print it, but scold it. Please do not print articles like this any more.

Nellie Gysin
Severna Park, Md.

Laurie Soutar responds: The Greyhound is an athlete, muscular and hardy. The effort expended to pull the weight cart is far less than in either racing or lure coursing. In fact, some coursing folks use weight pulling as part of a conditioning program to get a dog in shape for coursing, just as many human runners do weight training. The muscles used to pull the cart are essentially the same as those used for running — the shoulder, thigh, and back muscles.

The article states that the dogs are off lead. They can choose whether to pull or not. There is no way to make a dog pull the cart if she does not want to. Look at the photograph of Maddie as we are leaving the chute. Her head and tail are high, and she is clearly pleased with herself; her body language doesn’t indicate that she is an abused dog. She enjoys weight pulling, and does it willingly.

I withdrew Maddie when she reached her qualifying weight because I felt she lacked the training or experience to do more, not because she was physically unable. At 865 pounds, we were still beginners — usually Maddie’s weight class finishes at over 3,500 pounds. Maddie has pulled 15 times her body

weight, which puts her in the “sissy” league. One of the top pullers in the country is a Toy Poodle, who routinely pulls 55 to 60 times her body weight. A recent UKC magazine featured a Shih Tzu, who has pulled more total weight than Maddie! I know of a Basenji who, at 25 pounds, holds the record in his weight class: Over 2000 pounds, or 80 times his body weight. Weight pulling is truly a sport that is open, fun, and achievable for all breeds.

Lost and Found

It was a welcome change of pace reading this magazine from past ones. The Winter 2004 issue had uplifting articles as opposed to the other kind. I have three Greyhounds (one is a Lurcher from Ireland) and every time I read your magazine I always end up in tears. It was so good to read about saving the dogs lost for periods of time. My group, Rescued Racers of St. Louis, goes out searching for lost Greyhounds, but we have never gone for months without rescuing one.

Sidney Hirsch
Via E-Mail



Moe, adopted by Dan and Nancy Campbell of Rockland, Mass.

It's great that Racer found such a grand life after racing, since his career was about as hard luck as it gets ("Racer: The Dog Who Came in From the Cold," Winter 2004 CG). He bombed out in his first attempt at Council Bluffs, then didn't finish better than fifth in four starts at Dubuque. Sent back to the Bluffs, he had about as much success as before, and after turning 2 years old, he went back to the farm in Kansas to await a trip out to me in Phoenix. After the [hauler] accident, my Dad picked up Racer on his way to Wheeling and dropped him off at the owners' farm for rehab. I picked up Racer a month later. He looked great in his first schooling race, then in his second, coming out of the first turn, his leg went out from underneath him, and that was that for his racing career. He went another ten strides, then just stopped and stood there in the backstretch, waiting for someone to come and pick him up. It was as if he was saying, "That's it."

But Racer sure has found a great life in retirement. Is he the most famous Greyhound in western New Mexico? Probably. There's likely a few thousand people in Gallup who wouldn't know who Molotov or Oswald Cobblepot are, but if you said "Racer," they'd say, "Oh, him!"

Clifton Gray
Via E-Mail

Ed. Note: Clifton Gray was Racer's trainer.

I've just received the Winter issue and much to my surprise, on page 50 was my Greyhound, Kid's Farley. I can't tell you how happy I was to see his beautiful eyes looking at me. This is a great Christmas present as Farley was put to rest six months ago due to osteosarcoma. His littermate, Kid's Gonzo, whom I also adopted, died of the same disease years earlier. Osteosarcoma is a horrible cancer that takes the life of too many Greyhounds. This month in lieu of buying Christmas presents I'll again donate money to an animal charity — the Morris Animal Foundation, for research to find a cure for osteosarcoma. Thank you for your great magazine and hard work!

Judy Funk
Golden, Colo.

Honestly . . .

It is our responsibility, while doing meet-and-greets, to give factual information. While standing next to a volunteer who was explaining that Greyhounds do not shed, do not poop in the house, and do not pee in the house, we were in awe; if only she could meet our three Greyhounds, all of whom shed and had accidents in the house. As responsible pet owners, should we not be responsible to tell the truth? Too often, loving homes disappear because of misrepresentation, or because a Greyhound

with separation anxiety (a handful even for a seasoned owner) is placed with a first-time Greyhound owner. Instead of pulling these pups out of the house, the owners are encouraged to stick it out. At first this is a good ideal, but when the situation gets worse, it is time to move the dogs so we do not lose the home for good. We know that these dogs are diamonds in the rough, but for a first-time Greyhound owner, this is pretty horrific. The dog destroys their house, then if they try to return the dog, it is like they are bad people. All they want is a dog like the one they saw at a meet-and-greet.

John Caley
Via E-Mail

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.



Bailey alerted her housemates to a youngster in distress. Michelle Connell

Things That Go Bump in the Night

By Michelle Connell

Bailey and I had recently arrived at my brother's house in California after a long drive from the Boston area. We were there to spend the whole summer, and I was happy to be home again, if only for a couple of months.

The family consists of my brother Bruce, his wife Cecilia, and their three children, Kelly, Erin, and Brennan. Most of the bedrooms in their house are upstairs, and that is where the whole family slept. Bailey and I were staying downstairs in the office/guest room. Bailey would stay with me until I fell asleep and then she would disappear upstairs to sleep in one of the kids' rooms — she's always been a night wanderer.

One night, about a week after we had arrived, Bailey came back into the room around midnight, whining. I assumed she had to go outside, so I took her into the yard. But she just turned around and stared up at me. After a few seconds I brought her back in and tried to get her to settle down. She soon disappeared again and returned a couple of minutes later, whining. Back outside we went, with no results. I brought her back in and tried to get her to lie down

next to my bed. Once more she disappeared.

Less than a minute later I heard running upstairs. Then I heard Cecilia scream: "Call 911! Call 911!" I came out of the room to see Bailey running down the stairs with Bruce right behind her.

"It's Kelly," he said. "Call an ambulance."

Kelly, who has diabetes and was 13 at the time, was having a seizure. They were afraid she was going into diabetic shock or coma.

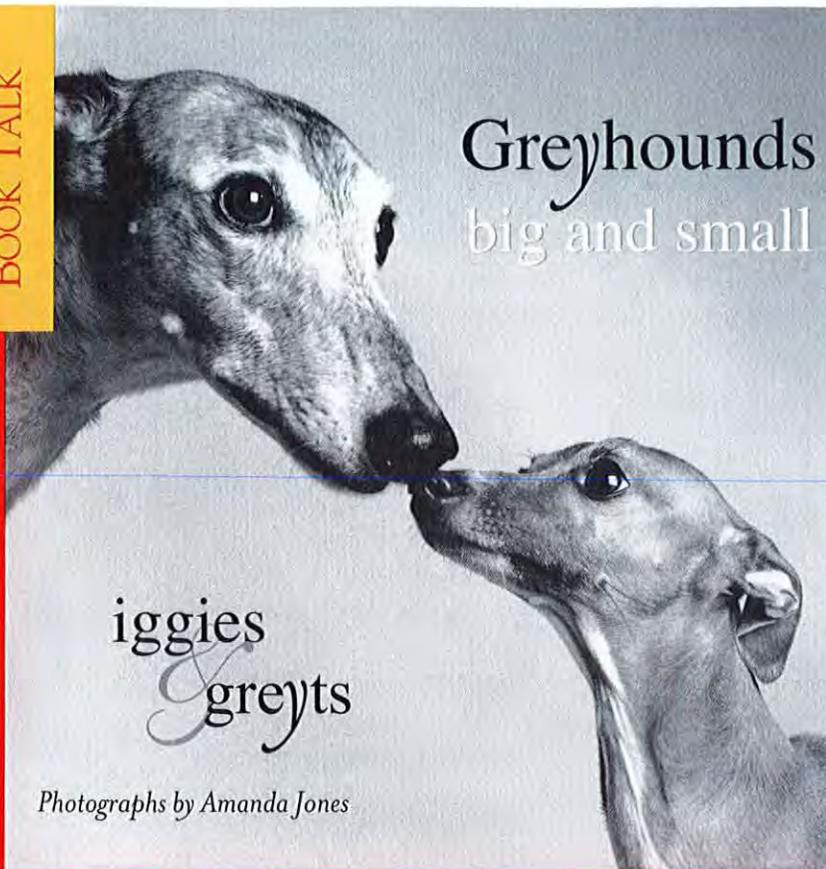
In my panic I grabbed the only phone that was not portable, so I remained by the phone with the 911 operator, yelling instructions up the stairs. The fire truck and ambulance pulled up, and the operator asked me to go out and lead them to Kelly. Meanwhile, Bruce had found the Glucagon and given Kelly the injection. By the time the paramedics got upstairs with all their gear, she was regaining consciousness, quite frightened by the paramedics in full gear asking her questions such as "How old are you?" and "When were you born?" They ran a few blood tests, assured everyone Kelly was stable, and left, instructing Bruce to take her to the hospital

for observation. (One scary thing about diabetes is how quickly things can change for the worse; fortunately, the situation can also quickly improve provided you have the proper medications on hand.)

After Bruce and Kelly left for the hospital, Cecilia told me what happened. Bailey's whining woke her up. She then heard a strange bumping noise, which was Kelly's head hitting the headboard during the seizure.

I would have been the last person to think that Bailey was capable of something like this. Bailey had never before behaved as she did that night, and she hasn't done so since. I always felt bad for not understanding what she was trying to tell me, and I thank God she had the good sense to know she had to tell someone else that Kelly needed help. ■

Michelle Connell lives with her husband Bill in Moorpark, Calif. They currently volunteer with Greyhound Adoption League of Ventura/Santa Barbara County. Bailey was adopted from Retired Racers, formerly of Acton, Calif., now based in Trinidad, Colo. Bailey will be 12 years old on August 1, 2005.



Greyhounds Big and Small

Reviewed by Lauren Emery

Greyhounds big and small: iggies & greyts
 Photographs by Amanda Jones
 Berkley Books, NY (2004)
 ISBN 0-425-19982-7
 \$19.95

At last, there is a book of Greyhound photography. Given the popularity of Greyhounds as pets and the proliferation of dog photo books in general, the timing is perfect for *Greyhounds big and small: iggies & greyts*. Noted dog photographer Amanda Jones has put a clever spin on this volume, compiling images of Greyhounds and Italian Greyhounds, and comparing and contrasting the breeds. This medium-size book contains more than 50 black-and-white photos of dogs taken at home, outside, and in a studio setting. Most are accompanied by a quotation or a few words to enhance the photos, usually in a humorous manner.

Amanda Jones's strength as a photographer and artist is her ability to catch dogs in the act of being themselves. With her lens she captures the spirit of the dog through his eyes, facial expression, and body language. In her photos the dogs shake, yawn, stretch, and scratch. She makes us look at Greyhounds from different perspectives — from the tail wagging end to the toe pads. Her crisp focus puts action shots of running and jumping dogs in suspended animation. In portrait shots of Greyhounds, their soulful eyes are the focal point and their long noses, closest to the camera, are slightly blurred.

Jones creates her images in her studio in western Massachusetts. A photographer with 20 years of experience, she now concentrates her efforts on dogs. She offers photo sessions in her North Adams studio and also travels around the country for sessions. Her website (www.amandajones.com) lists the schedule and locations. It would be fascinating to see her in action.

The professional photos of my two Greyhounds that I have had taken by local pet photographers are in stark contrast to her artistry. My happy-go-lucky dog was so ill at ease that he had his tail between his legs. Judging from the photos in this book, Jones knows how to make the hounds comfortable around herself and her camera.

The cover photo for *iggies & greyts* of a Greyhound and Italian Greyhound (IG) touching noses with heads coming in from diagonal corners is exquisite. An unusual perspective comes from a photo taken from behind a Greyhound's long front legs with a blurred, seated IG in the foreground. A Greyhound standing on the far left peering expressively around a door is an interesting use of space. Two IGs caught overhead in the act of wrestling are oblivious to the camera. The white-faced senior Greyhound contentedly cockroaching on his owner's bed doesn't mind being photographed in a private moment. And you can see the glint in the eyes of an IG jumping straight up outside a screen door.

In the book's acknowledgements Jones writes briefly about the unique qualities of Greyhounds and IGs, and encourages the reader to go to the websites listed on the credits page to help determine "if one of these breeds is right for you." The credits page includes the names of all the dogs pictured and the rescue organizations from which they came. In this age of dog fads, I appreciated this effort to encourage readers to learn more about these breeds. Too many dogs are adopted on the basis of looks alone by people who haven't done their homework on the breeds.

If you enjoy photographing your dogs and could use some inspiration, consider adding this book to your library. Look analytically at the photos to see why they work so well. The use of space and light and, of course, the dogs make for success. (Of course, you won't see the many other factors that no doubt went into creating the photos — including lots of patience, film, and tantalizing treats held out of range.)

If, on the other hand, you have no aspirations to take great photos of your dogs but are simply captivated by the elegance and humor of Greyhounds and IGs, you should still put this book on your shopping list. You won't regret it. ■

Lauren Emery is a tester/observer for Therapy Dogs, Inc. and volunteers with the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook, Me. Her dogs include Eagle and two Dalmatians. Eagle is her first Greyhound who thinks he is part of the spotted pack. Her photographs of Greyhounds Bernie and Boomer have appeared in many issues of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.



Sarah and Cozy, adopted by Robin Norton of Hopkinton, Mass.

Doxycycline and Ehrlichiosis

By Nancy Beach

A 9-year-old Greyhound is diagnosed with osteosarcoma and scheduled for amputation a week later. He comes through the surgery itself well, but the following day he develops tiny pinpoint hemorrhages on his chest, and swelling in his chest, abdomen, and legs. The surgeon orders a blood test and finds that the Greyhound's platelet count is very low — his blood is not clotting well. He orders tests to check for a latent tick-transmitted infection and puts the hound on an oral medication called doxycycline hyclate. If the cause of the hemorrhages is an infection with the organism he suspects—ehrlichia — it is unwise to wait for the results of the tick testing before treatment. The medication is safe and can avert a potential disaster with this hound.

A week later, the Greyhound is at home, eating well, alert, and in general is doing well for a dog that only seven days earlier experienced major surgery followed by this complication.

No one could have predicted that a dog who had been a pet for seven years would be host to a subclinical (latent) infection with ehrlichia. Moreover, who would have thought that his platelet count would have rebounded and he would be well on his way to recovery after just a few days on doxycycline?

These types of stories — where Greyhounds suddenly and mysteriously become ill, often after a stressful event in their lives such as surgery or a major home life change — have prompted many adoption groups to perform testing for tick-borne diseases on their incoming Greyhounds and to give medication based on the results of the testing. Still others simply give medication as a prophylactic measure in order to prevent any possible problems, since testing can be expensive and is not always accurate. (For example, a Greyhound who has been very recently infected, or is infected with an organism that is not included in the screening test, can test negative.)



Mae, adopted by Jean MacDonald and Traci Hatcher of Columbus, Ohio.

While it is comforting for owners to know that an adoption group has checked their hound for tick-borne diseases prior to adoption, it is important to remember that the story of the diseases transmitted by ticks does not end at adoption. Dogs who contract these diseases can be infected or reinfected by ticks in the future during their lives as pets. If your Greyhound was not tested before you adopted him, you will need to decide whether to test and/or treat on your own. Every Greyhound owner should know the range of potential symptoms of these diseases. In addition, understanding how doxycycline works, its possible side effects, and the other medications that interact with it can be critical during the treatment process.

Ehrlichia belong to a family of organisms called rickettsias, which are single-celled, primitive, parasitic organisms very similar to, but smaller than, bacteria. Unlike bacteria, but like viruses, they require a living cell inside a host to survive and multiply.

Rickettsias are named after their discoverer, the American pathologist Harold Taylor Ricketts (who died of typhus, a rickettsial disease). Arthropods (mainly ticks, lice, and fleas) transmit rickettsial diseases — they bite an infected host, take the rickettsia into their gastrointestinal systems, and then pass them along when they bite a new host. Ticks transmit the ehrlichia organism to mammals. There are at least six varieties of ehrlichia — *e. canis*, *e. platys*, *e. chaffeensis*, *e. ewingii*, *e. risticii*, and *e. equi* — that are known to infect dogs in the United States, and there may be more.

Ehrlichiosis can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms are vague and can be attributed to a variety of other illnesses as well. Two to three weeks after experiencing a tick bite, a dog may go through what is known as the acute phase of illness. The symptoms at that time can be described as flu-like — the dog has a fever, seems to feel unwell, and blood testing may reveal abnormalities in red cells, white cells, or platelet count.

This initial acute phase of ehrlichiosis can be so mild that it does not attract the attention of the owner, and thus the first opportunity to eradicate the organism is missed. If that happens, the dog may go into a subclinical phase, where there are no outward symptoms. Blood testing during this time may or may not reveal abnormalities. The dog might never get sick again, but a stressful event such as another illness, surgery, or a

major life change may suppress the immune system enough that the ehrlichia can gain the upper hand, resulting in what is known as the chronic stage of illness. A number of mysterious symptoms can signal the arrival of the chronic stage — nosebleeds, pinpoint hemorrhages on the chest and abdomen (known as petechiae), back and neck pain, anemia, low platelet count, swollen lymph glands, coughing or trouble breathing, excessive water intake and urination, or retinal hemorrhage. These symptoms can reappear years after the initial infection, making proper diagnosis difficult. Now that the prevalence of tick-borne illness among Greyhounds is better known, veterinarians with experience in treating them often prescribe doxycycline as a precaution while awaiting the results of testing.

What is Doxycycline?

Doxycycline is a semisynthetic antibiotic derived from tetracycline. Tetracycline was invented by Lloyd H. Conover, a researcher at pharmaceutical manufacturer Pfizer Inc. He and a team of researchers, working in conjunction with Harvard University Professor R.B. Woodward, were studying the chemical structure of two naturally occurring antibiotics, Terramycin® (oxytetracycline) and Aureomycin® (chlortetracycline). Conover and his team discovered that by modifying the structure of these substances, they could create other antibiotics, and tetracycline was the result of this process. Conover was awarded a patent for his invention in 1955, and within three years, tetracycline was one of the most widely used antibiotics in the United States. Today, research based on modifying the chemical structure of naturally occurring antibiotics continues and has resulted in some of the most important antibiotic discoveries made since the 1950s.

While all the antibiotics in the tetracycline family can be used to combat rickettsial infections, doxycycline is considered the best choice because it can be given with food without reducing its effectiveness. (The absorption of other tetracyclines is reduced when food is present, and dairy products can be particularly detrimental.) It is also the preferred choice for dogs with kidney problems. In addition, doxycycline has high rates of infiltration into the central nervous system, making it a good choice for infections that affect the brain and spinal cord. The particular form of doxycycline found in oral medications is doxycycline hyclate.

The tetracycline antibiotics work not by

killing organisms but by interfering with their protein synthesis, thus preventing them from multiplying. They are referred to as *bacteriostatic* antibiotics.

The standard dose for elimination of rickettsial infections is 5 to 10 milligrams per kilogram of body weight twice per day; the length of administration can vary from two weeks to two months, depending on the stage and seriousness of the illness.

The most common side effects from doxycycline administration are nausea and vomiting. This often can be reduced or eliminated by giving the medication with food. It should be used with care in pregnant or very young animals, as it can affect bone and tooth development. Antacids, some diarrhea remedies such as kaolin and pectin, and bismuth preparations such as Pepto-Bismol® should be avoided, as they can reduce absorption of doxycycline. If your dog is taking another antibiotic, be sure to ask your veterinarian if it is all right to give doxycycline at the same time, as the effectiveness of that antibiotic may be reduced.

We are fortunate to have a drug with the high safety level of doxycycline that is effective in treating rickettsial diseases. With good veterinary care and an alert owner, Greyhounds with ehrlichiosis can be treated quickly and successfully. ■

Nancy Beach is a CG regular contributor.



Speck, adopted by Esther Becker of Ottawa, Canada.

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Gracie, adopted by Lynne Peters of Arlington, Mass.

Greyhounds in the News

GPA's Greyhound Pet of the Year Contest

Greyhound Pets of America is looking for the Greyhound Pet of the Year! Send a photograph of your Greyhound, along with a short (50 words or less) essay about your pet. Greyhounds adopted from all sources are welcome to participate.

The Greyhound selected will be featured on a poster print that will be released at the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference in September 2005. More than one Greyhound may be selected.

Deadline for submission is June 17, 2005.

Send your black and white or color photographs (no digital pictures, please), your essay, and your name and address to:

RooOne Studios

c/o GPA/Arizona

P.O. Box 2365

Glendale, AZ 85311-2356

In addition, you will need to enclose a signed photo release that reads: "I (your name) own the usage rights to the photograph of (description of photo) and hereby grant Greyhound Pets of America the rights to utilize this photograph in the Greyhound Pet of the Year contest. I understand this photo will not be returned." Sign and date the release and enclose it with the above information.

New Test Offers Early Diagnosis for Dogs with Lymphoma

Nearly 50 percent of natural deaths in older cats and dogs are attributed to cancer. A new early detection test for lymphoma, the second most common cancer in dogs, is helping veterinarians and pet owners make important treatment decisions for dogs diagnosed with this type of cancer.

Funded by Morris Animal Foundation, a scientist at Colorado State University (CSU) has developed this highly successful test that can detect lymphoma in dogs, even when clinical signs are not yet apparent.

Lymphoma is one of the most treatable cancers, but it often begins with nonspecific symptoms like fatigue and lack of appetite.

An early, accurate lymphoma diagnosis can save owners the unnecessary expense of extensive diagnostic testing and also helps owners and veterinarians make better treatment decisions. The test developed through this study helps to identify previously difficult to diagnose cases.

"Our test helps to distinguish between a big lymph node due to infectious disease and one that's caused by a tumor," says Dr. Anne Avery, lead investigator on the CSU study.

Thanks to this study, CSU now houses the only lab in the country that performs this test. Every year, the university receives more than 1,000 canine blood and tissue samples from around the world for testing.

Better lymphoma testing for dogs is just the beginning. For fiscal year 2005, the Foundation has committed nearly \$800,000 for cancer studies in dogs and cats.

Morris Animal Foundation is a 57-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring a healthier tomorrow for companion animals and wildlife. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded more than 1,150 humane animal health studies with funds exceeding \$36 million. Support from the Foundation comes from pet owners, animal lovers, veterinarians, and others dedicated to improving animal health (including The Greyhound Project, publisher of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*). One hundred percent of all annual, unrestricted contributions support animal health studies, not administration or the cost of fundraising. For more information, call (800) 243-2345, or visit www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

Charity Internet Auction Raises Over \$22,000 for Greyhounds

The 2005 GlobalGreyhounds.com Winter Auction collected over \$22,000 in donations for Greyhound adoption efforts throughout North America from February 4-8.

GlobalGreyhounds.com is the largest international online marketplace for the Greyhound racing industry with over 5,500 active members and over 300,000 archived messages. The founders provide the opportunity for Internet users to connect with Greyhound owners, trainers, breeders, enthusiasts, and Greyhound adoption services worldwide.

GlobalGreyhounds Ltd. American co-founder, Wendy Hamilton, said, "This event keeps growing at an exponential rate which I find absolutely amazing. The proceeds have doubled since last Summer's auction with vendors from around the world donat-

ing everything from computers to Greyhound stud services. These auctions really show the overwhelming support for Greyhound adoption and the popularity of the breed."

The donations were large for some groups including GPA/New Mexico Greyhound Connection, which received over \$2,000 in donations. Candy Beck of GPA/NMGC expressed her gratitude: "A big thank you to all those involved in the charity auction — both those who donated and those who choose to bid. It is wonderful to see racing and adoption working together for the good of

Skip Potter, a first-time vendor, was very pleased with the results. "This was my first year donating to the Global Greyhounds Auction. It is wonderful to see that everyone involved in the life of a Greyhound coming together to raise money for Greyhound adoption. Greyhounds love to race, and they love to get families after they retire. It warms my heart to see racing and adoption working together."

The GlobalGreyhounds Charity Auctions are an annual event and can be found at www.GlobalGreyhounds.com.



Fender, adopted by Michelle Lancaster of New Albany, Ohio.

the dogs. These donations will go along way to helping our group with Vet bills. We pledge to do all in our power to continue with our mission to find loving, responsible homes for Greyhounds."

There was a large offering of gifts and greyhound supplies in the auction including: statues, artwork, clothing, jewelry, collars, leashes, computers, books, videos, newspaper and magazine subscriptions, and even all-expense paid dinners at several Greyhound tracks across the country. The proceeds from the gifts totaled \$5,428 and the proceeds from the donated stud services topped \$16,803.

Adopters Guide to Life with Greyhounds Video Available Free of Charge

The Adopters Guide to Life with Greyhounds, is now available for free download (in both modem and broadband versions) on the following website: www.worldwidgreyhounds.org/. According to Brad Pritchett, the video's producer, although the tape is still available for purchase, since the investment in the video has been recouped, the goal now is simply to make the information as widely available as possible.

The videotape was reviewed in the Spring 2005 issue of CG. ■



Chloe and Lakota, adopted by Liz and Bill Vandergrift of Severna Park, Md.

Greyhounds and Stroke

By Jim Bader, DVM

Stroke. Vascular accident (VA). Fibro-cartilaginous emboli (FCE). These are all terms describing a blockage of a blood vessel in the central nervous system (CNS), brain, or spinal cord. These events can be devastating. Diagnosis is difficult without sophisticated techniques. Treatment can be long and the recovery slow. This article describes clinical signs of a VA or FCE, the difficulty of diagnosis and treatment, and the duration of treatment and care required.

Clinical signs of a VA or FCE vary with the area affected within the CNS. If the blockage occurs in a vessel to the spinal cord, neurologic deficits may be present in one or all limbs. The clinical signs include muscular weakness (paresis); loss of total muscle control (paralysis); loss of pain sensation; or loss of proprioception (how the limb is placed in space and time). If the occlusion occurs in a vessel of the brain, depending on the area, this may be more devastating than a blockage of the spinal cord. Occlusions in the brain occur in two main areas: the cerebellum (the area that controls respiration and heart-beat) and the cerebrum (the area responsible for vision and muscle control). Occlusions in the cerebellum result in death. An occlusion in the cerebrum will typically have the Greyhound presenting with blindness or a stiff, choppy gait. Other clinical signs include drooping of the facial muscles or drooling out of one side of the mouth. All of these clinical signs help the veterinarian determine the area of the CNS affected.

When a Greyhound presents with neurologic signs, the veterinarian must perform a thorough history and physical examination. Is the Greyhound on any medication? Is there any history of trauma? Any recent surgeries? A history of epilepsy? Answers to these questions will assist the veterinarian in determining the cause of the neurologic signs. A physical exam will also help the veterinarian determine the area of CNS that is affected. The exam should include obtaining baseline laboratory data to check for infection, checking liver and kidney function, and a urinalysis to rule out any metabolic problems. Results of these tests help steer the veterinarian to or from other causes.

The next step is to perform plane radiographs, paying attention to any bony changes that may be present. The CNS is entirely encased in bone, which makes visualization of the CNS extremely difficult. A radiograph can help determine if the bone encasing the CNS has any pathology. Unfortunately, pathology might not be evident on the radiograph.

Another diagnostic tool is a spinal tap, a procedure performed under anesthesia. The location of the tap is determined by the clinical signs that the Greyhound exhibits. If the signs indicate lower spinal cord disease, the tap is made in the lumbosacral space. If clinical signs indicate upper spinal cord or cranial disease, the tap is performed in the atlanto-occipital space. The spinal tap itself involves placing a needle into the space around the spinal cord, measuring the pressure of space using a manometer, extracting the fluid surrounding the spinal cord, and analyzing that fluid. The fluid is examined for tumor cells, inflammatory cells, and an increase in protein that may indicate inflammation. These tests do not determine if a Greyhound has a VA or FCE. They are simply used to rule out certain other causes for the neurologic symptoms.

The only true way to diagnose an FCE or VA is by using computed tomography (also known as a CT, or CAT, scan) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). These tests are usually only available at large referral practices or university veterinary schools. The CT or MRI uses a magnetic field to illustrate the soft tissue field, which cannot be accomplished with plain radiographs. Any changes of the soft tissue are evident with these diagnostics, and blockage of a vessel can be determined by injecting a dye intravenously. If the dye stops, a blockage is present.

Once a diagnosis is made, treatment can begin. If the blockage is an FCE, there are no medications to dissolve the occlusion. The FCE will dissolve on its own or the body will restore circulation to these areas through collateral circulation. If the occlusion is a VA, typically a blood clot, tissue plasmin activator (TPA) may help. TPA has been used in human heart attack and stroke victims to dissolve clots before any damage has occurred. Circulation and normal function are restored.

With any neurologic disease, time and nursing can help the Greyhound recover as much as any medication. Make sure the Greyhound stays

clean and dry, and always has absorbent bedding to protect the skin from urine and feces. The dog should be rolled every three to five hours to prevent bedsores. Physical therapy also plays an important role. Move all the joints and muscles through full range of motion two to three times daily. This will keep the joints from stiffening and the muscles from experiencing atrophy.

Patience is perhaps the best medicine. The Greyhound owner and the veterinarian must determine what is the best length of time to assess the Greyhound's progress. Not all dogs improve at the same rate, and some never recover. In these cases the veterinarian and owner must make difficult decisions about what is best for the patient.

VA and FCE are devastating diseases, striking the dog swiftly and without warning. Depending on where the insult occurs, sudden death may be the result. Determining a VA or FCE is difficult without the aid of a CT or MRI. Medications may be helpful with some forms of VA, but the best medicine is usually nursing care and physical therapy. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



Molly, adopted by Tom and Diane Ward of Leesburg, Va.



Major experienced a type of stroke known as a cerebellar infarct.

Surviving a Stroke

Story and Photos by Carla Trottier

It is a cold Monday morning in mid-February. My regular routine of waking up, taking care of my three Greyhounds, and getting ready for work comes to a sudden stop. Major, my 12-year-old dog, can't get up. At first, I think his leg has fallen asleep or he is having a muscle spasm, so I give him a Deramaxx®. This does not seem to help, so I call my veterinarian. Dr. Cookingham prescribes another one-half Deramaxx®. Within an hour, Major still is not able to stand up. My neighbor and I carry him to my car.

Dr. Cookingham examines Major. She thinks it could be several things: an embolism, a stroke, a blood clot, or vertebrae pressing against each other. She suggests I take him to Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine to do more conclusive testing, such as an MRI and/or spinal tap.

Dr. Cookingham gives me copies of Major's recent records and telephones Tufts to let them know we will be arriving in an hour. My dear friend Kim has joined us. She and I carry Major out to the car on a blanket.

When we arrive at Tufts, Major is rushed in. We sit in the waiting room during his evaluation. Finally, Dr. Durkan comes out to speak to us. He reports that Major actually got up with help and took a couple of wobbly steps on his own. Dr. Durkan asks many questions about what happened, his diet, activity level, appetite, and medications (Major takes Soloxine® for his thyroid and Proin™ for incontinence).

Dr. Durkin suspects fibrocartilaginous embolism (FCE), a tumor, or a disk problem. He wants to admit Major and have a neurologist examine him first thing in the morning. He tells me that it is an excellent sign that Major was able to get up and take steps on his own. I ask to see Major. The tough guy actually walks out of the room into the hallway to see me; not far, and not steadily, but at least he is up on all fours.

On Tuesday morning Dr. McDonnell of Neurology calls. Major is up, alert, and walking. However, Major is also circling to the left and tilting his head to the left. The doctors have eliminated disc problems and neck problems, but they want to

perform an MRI to diagnose the circling and head tilt. Dr. McDonnell thinks something is going on in the brain — a tumor, stroke, or some infectious/inflammatory condition. I hope and pray that it is the latter, which seems the least dire and probably treatable with steroids. I am so worried about Major. I try to stay calm and have a positive attitude.

After a long day of waiting and worrying, I hear from Dr. McDonnell. The MRI shows a lesion on the brain. Major had a stroke; a cerebellar infarct. Major is also hypertensive. More tests will have to be performed to determine what may be causing the high blood pressure.

Just two days after Major's stroke, Dr. McDonnell calls to tell me that Major is a little worse today than yesterday, probably because they had to anesthetize him for the MRI. He is not walking as well as he did yesterday. After a long silence on my part, Dr. McDonnell assures me that this type of recovery from a stroke is typical. A stroke recovery will be up and down; not to worry. *Easier said than done*, I think.

I speak to Sue, a fourth-year medical student, in the afternoon. The ultrasound, urinalysis, and blood pressure tests are inconclusive. I ask if we could come down to visit Major in the evening. She calls me back later to tell me that not only can I come and see him, but that they had taken him for a walk — a wobbly walk, but he is walking.

We arrive and my heart sinks. My poor pup looks really down and out, but he is alert and knows we are here. He doesn't get up, but that's okay. I was hoping he would get up to greet us. Chip gives Major some water and he happily drinks it. He's coming around from the anesthesia very slowly; I guess that is to be expected. I am sure Major dislikes being in the hospital, as much as I dislike him being there.

I have many unanswered questions. Should Major continue taking the Soloxine® and Proin™? Will he be able to walk normally? Will he need physical therapy? Will he have to take medication for the high blood pressure? I'm frustrated because I want definitive answers and I think it is going to be a wait-and-see thing.

On Thursday morning I speak with Sue. She reports that Major walked outside this morning with minimal assistance. Sue asks if I can come at 5:30 p.m. to meet with the physical therapist for instructions and to take Major home. At any time, I'm ready to get him.

At the hospital that evening, Major comes out. The technicians have a leash on him, with a plastic bag under his back end as a sling. He appears to be walking with great difficulty. My heart sinks again.

We file into an examining room. Julie, the physical therapist, is wonderful; she shows me the exercises to do with him, providing very clear instructions and demonstration. She promises to e-mail me the physical therapy (PT) instructions and tells me to let her know if I have any questions. Julie and Sue are extremely optimistic about Major's potential for a full recovery. We help him to his feet and he practically runs from the room.

The discharge instructions specify physical therapy with Major several times a day. Major is to go outside only to urinate and defecate. We are to slowly increase his walking time to short periods. We must discontinue the Soloxine® and Proin™ at this time.

The first few weeks after Major returns home, we have to change our routine to adjust to his needs. Chip carries Major up and down the stairs. He needs to gain his strength back slowly. His left side is affected the most and his left paws buckle under. With time, he straightens them out.

On Friday evening, Chip carries Major out front so he can urinate. I am already out for a walk with my other two Greyhounds, Krier and Conner. Major spots us and starts to follow.

On Saturday morning, Chip carries Major down the stairs. Major urinates in the front yard, proceeds down the driveway, walks up the street about 100 feet, and defecates in a neighbor's front yard. I chase after him in my nightgown. He seems to be doing remarkably well. Major is so tolerant of my pushing and pulling of his leg muscles during physical therapy. Things seem to be going fairly well only six days after the stroke.

Early Sunday morning, I hear Major whimpering downstairs. He is standing in the kitchen, loose stools all over the kitchen rug. Chip carries Major outside many times throughout the day while we wait out Major's stomach problems. I think I gave him too much of his regular food too soon and it upset his stomach. I boil chicken and rice for him and feed him that for dinner tonight. I will give it to him for the next few days until his stomach can tolerate his regular food.

This has been an emotional roller coaster. Yesterday Major seemed almost normal (although I don't think he'll ever be 100 percent). Today is just awful. He is panting and uncomfortable due to his stomach troubles. I am frustrated, as I have to depend on Chip to carry Major up and down the stairs. When I carried him out by myself today, I had a very hard time and almost fell with him. He's 80 pounds and squirmy with me. He knows Chip is stronger than I am and feels more secure with him.



Cargo, adopted by Marjie and Jim Dugan.



Eight months after Major's stroke, his gait was almost back to normal.

On February 27, Major is doing unbelievably well. I am amazed. Eleven days ago he could not even stand on his own. I'd say he's 85 percent at this point. He is able to get up and lay down on his own. Chip is still carrying him up and down the stairs. His left side is still a bit unstable, but he is coping with it. He is going on our regular walks with Krier and Conner, slowly walking the entire half-mile route. He is walking around the house more and more.

We have our follow-up appointment today at Tufts. Dr. McDonnell re-examines Major and is extremely pleased with his progress. I admit I have not been very faithful with the physical therapy. Dr. McDonnell replies that getting Major up and walking around at this point is the best therapy. They draw blood to check Major's thyroid levels. Dr. McDonnell gives me a prescription for amlodipin 10 mg to control Major's blood pressure. He wants to see Major

the week of March 15 to check his kidney values. The amlodipin prescription is \$233.00 for 60 pills. Ouch. Major has become my expensive miracle dog.

On March 19, we have another follow-up appointment with Dr. McDonnell. Major is doing very well. His blood pressure is within the normal range. We need to continue with the amlodipin and have Major's blood pressure checked periodically to be sure it is normal. We will need to keep an eye on Major and be on the lookout for anything unusual.

Dr. McDonnell thinks the combination of Soloxine® and Proin™ may have caused the high blood pressure that contributed to Major's stroke. Although Major always had a voracious appetite, I recall that he became fussy about eating a few months before the stroke. I thought the fussiness was due to his age. Now I wonder if he was feeling poorly because of his elevated blood pressure.

At this writing, eight months since Major's stroke, he is doing very well. His walk is almost back to normal, and he appears to be enjoying life as much as he did before the stroke. I believe Major is alive today because of our quick action. While the week of Major's stroke seemed to last forever, we are grateful for what the time gave us. There were many times we questioned whether or not to quickly ease Major's pain or to wait out his recovery. We are blessed that he didn't have a massive stroke, and we are extremely thankful for the expert care we received not only from our local veterinarian, but also from the entire staff at Tufts. ■

Carla Trotter lives in Billerica, Mass. with her husband Chip Collins and her two Greyhounds, Krier and Conner. She has been involved in Greyhound adoption since 1992. On January 8, 2005, Carla and Chip made the difficult decision to end Major's suffering from health problems associated with the infirmities of old age.



Marques and Vila, adopted by Esther Van Leeuwen of Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Making Sense of Blood Work in Greyhounds

By William E. Feeman III, DVM, C. Guillermo Cuoto, DVM, diplomate ACVIM, and M. Cristina Iazbik, DVM

Blood work is a general term referring to diagnostic laboratory tests done on blood samples, and includes everything from heartworm tests to thyroid hormone assays. Some of the indications for performing blood work include illness, annual health checks, and pre-anesthesia. When a veterinarian refers to “running blood work,” the most commonly performed tests are the complete blood cell count (CBC) and the serum biochemical profile.

The Complete Blood Count (CBC)

A CBC evaluates the various cellular components of a blood sample. Red blood cells (RBCs or erythrocytes), white blood cells (leukocytes), and platelets are all counted and other measurements are performed. Red blood cells carry oxygen throughout the body and are typically reported as a packed cell volume (PCV), hematocrit (Hct), or RBC count.

The PCV and Hct report the percentage of red blood cells in a blood sample after spinning it down in a centrifuge (an apparatus consisting of a compartment spun about a central axis to separate contained materials). Anemia is defined as a low number of RBCs (or a low PCV or Hct). Dogs with anemia have difficulty transporting oxygen to their tissues, so they are tired (exercise intolerant), pale (light-pink gums), and their heart rates and pulses are usually faster than normal (tachycardia). Figure 1 depicts an Hct tube in a dog with hemolytic anemia (red cell destruction). The dark layer in the bottom of the tube is the red blood cells.

Normal reference values for PCV and Hct in dogs range from 35 to 50 percent, whereas normal Greyhounds typically have PCVs of 45 to 65 percent. Therefore, a Greyhound with a PCV or Hct in the low end of the normal range (e.g., 38 percent) is likely anemic. Further testing should be performed in these cases, since anemia can be associated with bone marrow disease,



Figure 1. Hct tube in a dog with hemolytic anemia.

immune-mediated disease (immune-mediated hemolytic anemia), blood loss (trauma, parasites, etc.), and some infectious diseases (*Babesia*, *Ehrlichia*, etc.). A condition called primary *polycythemia* or *erythrocytosis* can be a pathologic cause of an increased PCV or Hct, but this diagnosis is exceedingly rare. Dehydration can also result in a high PCV or Hct.

Most CBCs also include a determination of total plasma protein (TPP) concentration. Dehydration, lipemia (fat in the blood, which commonly occurs after a meal), some infections,

and some tumors can result in high TPP. Causes of high and low TPP are discussed under "The Serum Biochemical Profile" below.

White blood cells (WBCs) are commonly used to fight infection and are a part of the immune system. The reference range for WBC counts in normal dogs is 4,000 to 15,000/ μ l (or 4-15 X 10⁹/L). Greyhounds frequently have lower WBC counts than normal dogs, and commonly have between 2,000 and 6,000/ μ l (2-6 X 10⁹/L); therefore, a WBC count of 2,000/ μ l (2.0 X 10⁹/L) is normal for the breed and should not be of concern in an otherwise healthy dog. There are several types of circulating WBCs, including neutrophils (banded or segmented neutrophils), lymphocytes, monocytes, basophils and eosinophils.

Neutrophils and *monocytes* are white blood cells that can attack and destroy bacteria and other organisms. Their numbers commonly increase with stress, bacterial infections, or inflammation, and can decrease in patients with overwhelming infections, immune-mediated diseases, drug reactions, or bone marrow disease. Greyhounds have lower neutrophil counts than the reference range for dogs (3,000-10,000/ μ l or 3-10 X 10⁹/L); thus, neutrophil counts as low as 1,800/ μ l (1.8 X 10⁹/L) should not be of concern if the dog is healthy.

Lymphocytes are white blood cells that play a key role in recognizing foreign proteins and producing antibodies. There are B- and T-lymphocytes. Circulating lymphocyte numbers are commonly increased in response to foreign proteins in the body (e.g., a normal vaccine response), in some infections (e.g., ehrlichiosis), in some dogs with adrenal insufficiency (i.e., Addison's disease), and in some leukemias (e.g., lymphoid leukemias). Lymphocytes are commonly decreased in response to stress or disease, and in some immunodeficiency syndromes. Most sick dogs have low lymphocyte counts due to stress.

Eosinophils are white blood cells involved in immunity against parasitic infections and allergic reactions. Interestingly, eosinophils in Greyhounds frequently lack the characteristic orange granules of eosinophils in other breeds, and can be misdiagnosed as "toxic neutrophils," cells commonly found in severe overwhelming infections. *Basophils* are white blood cells that also play a key role in allergic reactions. Their numbers can increase in dogs with parasitic infections or allergic reactions, but that is rare. Decreased numbers of basophils or eosinophils

are rarely clinically significant without other indications of disease.

Platelets are cells which are used by the body to help form blood clots and repair injuries to blood vessels. Platelet counts commonly decrease in association with bone marrow disease, immune-mediated diseases (immune-mediated thrombocytopenia), and with some infectious organisms (*Ehrlichia*, *Babesia*). Some breeds, including Greyhounds and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels have lower numbers of circulating platelets than the reference range for dogs, yet they do not experience bleeding problems. Most non-Greyhound dogs have platelet counts of over 150,000/ μ l (150 X10⁹/L), whereas Greyhounds frequently have platelet counts as low as 80,000-120,000/ μ l (80-120 X10⁹/L).

If your Greyhound has a mildly decreased platelet count, but is otherwise healthy, close observation and repeating the platelet count in 1-3 weeks is the best approach. If he develops evidence of bleeding (pinpoint bloody spots, petechiae (small purplish spots), or bruising, additional evaluation is warranted. In those cases, tests for tick-borne diseases such as *Ehrlichia spp* and *Babesia spp* are indicated. High platelet counts are rarely clinically relevant.

In conclusion, Greyhounds usually have higher PCV/Hct, lower WBC and neutrophil counts, and/or lower platelet counts than non-Greyhound dogs.

The Serum Biochemical Profile

A serum biochemical profile is the "second half" of traditional blood work. It evaluates kidney function, liver enzymes, electrolytes, muscle enzymes, cholesterol, and other important values. Kidney function is determined primarily by two analytes, the creatinine and the blood urea nitrogen (BUN) concentrations. These are protein byproducts normally eliminated by the kidneys. The term *azotemia* refers to an increase in both values, and is typically associated with kidney disease, urinary obstruction (more common in cats than in dogs), or severe dehydration. Greyhounds have higher creatinine concentrations than dogs of other breeds (probably due to their large muscle mass). Mild increases in creatinine concentration without increases in the BUN concentration in a healthy Greyhound are likely normal for the breed. The BUN concentration can also increase as a consequence of high dietary protein intake, gastrointestinal bleeding, or dehydration. A urinalysis should

always be performed in dogs with azotemia to determine if it is due to kidney disease or extrarenal causes. A low creatinine concentration can be associated with decreased muscle mass, whereas a low BUN concentration can be associated with liver failure, malnutrition, or increased water intake.

The liver enzymes alanine transaminase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) are all used to evaluate the health of the liver and can be increased in association with various liver diseases. ALT is an enzyme found inside hepatocytes (liver cells) and in muscle fibers. Damage to hepatocytes or muscle by toxins, trauma, or inflammation causes increases in ALT activity (values) in serum. As a general rule, high ALT activity is suggestive of ongoing liver damage (of which there are many causes, such as hepatitis and ingestion of toxins or drugs); however, trauma (e.g., a dog hit by a car) or extensive muscle damage (e.g., rhabdomyolysis) can cause increases in ALT activities. AST is less liver-specific than ALT. High AST activity usually occurs in cases of severe muscle or liver damage, in addition to liver disease. In most dogs with extensive muscle disease, another enzyme (CK or creatine kinase) is also markedly increased in serum. Greyhounds have slightly higher ALT, AST, and CK activities than non-Greyhound dogs.

ALP is less liver-specific than ALT. When increases in ALP are due to liver disease, the bile pigment (bilirubin) concentration also increases, and the dog may be jaundiced (yellow). ALP activity can also be mildly increased in young growing dogs, and markedly increased in association with reactions to certain drugs (e.g., corticosteroids, barbiturates) or adrenal gland disease (e.g., hyperadrenocorticism or Cushing's disease).

Additional information on the liver can be gained by evaluating the cholesterol, albumin, BUN, and bilirubin concentrations. Decreased concentrations of cholesterol, BUN, and/or albumin (see below), and increased concentration of bilirubin can be seen in dogs with some types of chronic liver disease. Changes in some or several of these values may be an indication for your veterinarian to assess liver function or morphology. A bile acid blood test before and after feeding is one of the tests used to evaluate liver function, and is normally not included in a standard biochemical profile. Abdominal radiographs and ultrasonography are noninvasive



Eagle, adopted by Dan and Lauren Emery of North Yarmouth, Me.

techniques used to image the liver.

The electrolytes evaluated on a standard serum biochemical profile include sodium, potassium, calcium, chloride, and phosphorous. These minerals can increase or decrease in asso-

ciation with a variety of causes ranging from dehydration to hypoadrenocorticism (i.e., Addison's disease). Dehydrated dogs usually have high sodium, chloride, and calcium concentrations; dogs with hypoadrenocorticism usually

have high potassium and low sodium concentrations. High concentrations of calcium (hypercalcemia) can be associated with cancer (e.g., lymphoma, anal sac carcinoma, myeloma), vitamin D toxicity, kidney disease, and parathyroid gland problems. If a high calcium concentration persists, your veterinarian should perform additional diagnostic tests (e.g., ionized calcium, hormones). Electrolyte changes are also common in association with kidney disease and other endocrine disorders.

Another useful value on a biochemical profile is the glucose (sugar) concentration. Glucose is the primary source of energy for living organisms. Blood glucose concentration can be high in dogs with diabetes mellitus, pancreatitis, or with some drug reactions. Decreased glucose concentration can be associated with malnutrition, liver failure, cancer (insulinoma), septicemia, and insulin overdose.

Albumin and globulins together make up the total protein, a value measured in the biochemical profile. Albumin and most globulins are synthesized (manufactured) by the liver. Some globulins (antibodies) are made by immune cells. Serum albumin is vital to keep fluid inside the blood vessels (oncotic pressure). Low albumin concentrations frequently result in fluid accumulation under the skin (edema) or in body cavities (effusion). Low serum albumin concentration can occur in patients with chronic liver disease, a specific kind of kidney disease referred to as protein-losing nephropathy, small intestinal disease (protein-losing enteropathy), or blood loss. High albumin concentration can only occur in association with dehydration.

Globulins play an important role in the immune system and transport various substances in the blood. Globulin concentrations are commonly increased in association with dehydration, inflammation, some forms of cancer (e.g., myeloma, chronic lymphoid leukemia), and various infectious diseases, such as ehrlichiosis and other tick-borne diseases. Decreased globulin concentrations can be associated with blood loss, protein loss in the gastrointestinal tract, or severe immunodeficiency. Low globulin concentrations are a normal finding in young dogs.

Greyhounds have significantly lower concentrations of protein and globulin than non-Greyhound dogs, but their albumin concentration is similar to that of other dogs. Serum protein and globulin concentrations in Greyhounds are frequently below the reference range for

dogs. Therefore, an otherwise normal Greyhound with low protein or globulin concentrations in the profile should not be extensively evaluated for disease.

A final blood work component worth mentioning that is not included in a standard biochemical profile is a thyroid hormone concentration (level). Thyroid hormones play a large role in metabolism. In contrast with cats, where hyperthyroidism is relatively common, thyroid hormone concentrations are rarely high in dogs. Low thyroid hormone concentration can be associated with hypothyroidism, or any systemic illness. Most normal Greyhounds have mildly to markedly decreased thyroid hormone concentrations, and their values are commonly below the reference range for dogs. Therefore, people frequently treat their Greyhounds with thyroid hormone replacement (supplementation), although their thyroid function is normal for the breed. In other words, thyroid hormone supplementation *should not be used* in a healthy Greyhound on account of a "low thyroid level" (see below).

Common signs of hypothyroidism in dogs include lethargy, weight gain, alopecia (loss of hair), dry skin and haircoat, cold intolerance, and neurologic signs such as decreased coordination. One of the difficulties in assessing the clinical signs of hypothyroidism in Greyhounds is that Greyhounds normally have many of those signs. Most Greyhounds are couch potatoes (apart from a good run in the backyard) and are normally fairly inactive dogs. Furthermore, most Greyhounds are normally intolerant of the cold and many show signs of alopecia in their thighs (thigh alopecia is very rarely related to hypothyroidism). Therefore, a full thyroid panel should be done on any dog (especially any Greyhound) prior to starting therapy, since treatment is lifelong, and unnecessary supplementation may harm your pet. A full thyroid panel includes the following tests: total T4, free T4 by equilibrium dialysis (ED), total T3, free T3, thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), T4 autoantibody, T3 autoantibody, and thyroglobulin autoantibody. All of these tests give a complete view of the thyroid gland and aid in interpretation of the results. The Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Michigan State University performs a complete panel and will give interpretation by the endocrinologists who have extensive knowledge of a Greyhound's normal thyroid concentrations.

In summary, Greyhounds typically have higher creatinine concentrations and muscle and liver enzyme activities, and lower protein and globulin concentrations than non-Greyhound dogs. Their thyroid hormone concentrations are also lower.

Contact Information for Thyroid Panel
Animal Health Diagnostics Laboratory
P.O. Box 30076
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 353-0621

Dr. Feeman 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. Dr. Couto is a board-certified oncologist and internist, and Professor and Chief of the Oncology/Hematology Service, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University. He has been involved with Greyhound rescue for 15 years, works closely with Greyhound Adoption of Ohio, and has recently founded Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds. Dr. Iazbik is the Director of the OSU Animal Blood Bank, actively volunteers for Greyhound Adoption of Ohio and is a member of Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds.

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Maddie (with Laurie) does obedience. *Shot on Site*

Happy Dogs, Happy Owners

By Laurie Soutar

To say that I have done a lot of different things with my Greyhounds would be an understatement. Over the years, we have participated or competed in just about every dog activity imaginable. My dogs have competed in dog shows, lure coursing, open field coursing (live game), amateur racing, obedience, agility, sled dog racing, backpacking, tracking, weight pull, carting, and most recently, rally obedience. They have worked as therapy dogs, actors (movie and television), models (print and television), blood donors, and have been live models for teaching acupuncture to veterinarians. You name it, we've probably tried it. We have enjoyed a reasonable amount of success in various venues, and while we have certainly brought home our share of ribbons, trophies, and accolades, the greatest benefits that we have received have been the intangible ones. The greatest reward has been the bonds that I have built with the most wonderful dogs in the world — mine!

I like to give each new dog a variety of opportunities — to see what they enjoy and find their talent. When Denim started lure coursing as a youngster, she did quite a bit of winning and it caused us to wonder just how good she might be. We decided to drive from Canada to South Carolina for our vacation so that she could compete in the International Invitational, the largest and most prestigious lure coursing event in North America. All the top dogs were there. What a thrill it was when she won Best of Breed; the highest honor for a Greyhound. We traveled quite a bit that year, giving Denim the opportunity to run all over the country. We met lots of other Greyhound people, made new friends, and saw lots of new places. Denim ended up to be the #1 lure coursing Greyhound in the United States, and went on to become the top all-time winning Greyhound. More importantly, some of the people we met became good friends and we are able to regularly visit some of our favorite places. From the time she first started, lure coursing has been Denim's *raison d'être*; she lives and breathes to course. Today, at 11 years of age, if we so much as touch the bag with the coursing stuff in it, she parks herself in front of the front door and expects — no, *demands* — that we take her. We still do, and will continue to as long as she wants to go.



Maddie does agility.

Arrow, once she retired from coursing, enjoyed going to obedience class every week. She looked forward to this time alone with me. When I picked up my obedience lead, she would wiggle, wag, and dance her way to the front door with me. (Denim, on the other hand, reacts to the obedience lead with a look that clearly says *You have got to be kidding!* as she turns her back on me and leaves the room.) Arrow earned her CD (Companion Dog) title in obedience. I continued to periodically enter her in the Veterans class until last year, when she started having difficulty holding the sit position for the 1-minute sit-stay exercise. Her back legs would start to quiver and then she would stand up. I was not disappointed that she was no longer able to sit — she was entered for her enjoyment, not mine — but she was trying too hard to do something that had become uncomfortable. It was time for Arrow to retire. This year, she got a new lease on life with rally obedience, which has no stay exercises. A few months ago, she earned her first leg towards her Rally Novice title. She was the oldest dog entered at 11 and a half years of age, and she was *thrilled* to be there; she completed all the exercises with a wagging tail, a bounce in her step, and an unmistakable smile on her face.

Maddie (aka Maddie the Wonder Dog, Denim's granddaughter) is something else. She has excelled at everything she has tried, and she has led me into previously uncharted territory. She had already started all the usual things — conformation shows, lure coursing, amateur racing, and even obedience — when the Collie club rented my property to hold a carting seminar (I have 10 fenced acres and a permanent show ring, which are available to clubs holding events). I sat through most of it and found it fascinating. Afterwards, I asked one of the participants if Maddie and I could borrow her dog cart and give it a try. This same spirit of adventure led us to try weight pull, backpacking, and rally obedience. Maddie has excelled at all of them. At this writing, she has earned 37 titles, making her the world's most titled Greyhound. She is close to finishing several more titles.

Maddie considers herself *my* dog. She wants to be with me, wants to do what I'm doing, and will do anything that I ask of her. Her spirit of cooperation and teamwork has led us on a journey of discovery and personal growth.

The benefits to the humans of “doing stuff” with our dogs are many and varied. Our involvement in various dog sports and activities has led us down many wonderful paths, and has introduced us to interesting travels, new friends, new experiences, and some wonderful memories. When my children were younger, I was contacted by a television studio in Montreal that needed a couple of Greyhounds to appear in an episode of a television sitcom. I pulled the kids out of school and away we went. It was a one-day, 12-hour shoot. There were several hours of rehearsals, and two complete run-throughs before a live audience. The kids got to meet some real live actors and participate in a show that they had previously seen on television. The dogs were treated like royalty. I even received a “wrangler’s fee.” It was a wonderful adventure.

The benefits of “doing stuff” are even more profound for the dog than for the owner. Society has long known that people who are physically and mentally active are more likely to lead long and healthy lives. Recent research has proven that dogs that are physically and mentally active are also more likely to have fewer health problems and live longer than their less active counterparts. You not only *can* teach an old dog new tricks, you *should*. Most behaviorists and trainers will tell you that one of the first steps in dealing with behavior problems, from separation anxiety to destructiveness, is to give the dog a job, or something to do. It doesn’t really matter what. Get the brain or body busy, and they’ll have less time to think about getting into trouble or to worry about the sky falling. Greyhounds, in particular, benefit from social and mental activity and stimulation. Greyhounds are very social creatures. Up until retirement, they have lived, worked, and traveled with other Greyhounds in a stimulating environment. While they are happy to grace your couch (and share your bed), giving them something special to do with you will help you give them a balanced and fulfilled life.

Even if you have no intention of ever competing in anything, attending a class with your Greyhound will give you greater insight into your dog’s nature and personality, and build a strong and loving bond. Try obedience, or rally, or agility, or tracking, or get involved in a pet visitation program. If you are willing to spend the time getting and keeping him fit, try amateur racing or



Maddie does amateur racing. *Shot on Site*



Maddie does coursing. *Shot on Site*



Maddie competes in dog shows. *Oslach Photography*

lure coursing. The sight of your Greyhound running for the sheer joy of it, the thunder of the feet on the earth as he flies by, and the happy, tongue-lolling smile on his face when it's over will keep you coming back for more. Find something that both you and your dog enjoy, and see where it leads you. I have a friend with a very shy Greyhound. They decided to try agility. While she has no intention of ever competing with her dog, they both thoroughly enjoy it, and the sense of accomplishment at mastering new and scary things in a safe and encouraging environment has bolstered the dog's confidence and brightened her outlook on life.

I always encourage new Greyhound owners to get out and see and try new things. In my information packet for new Greyhound owners, I include an overview of all the different activities in which Greyhounds can participate, some information about how to get started, and a list of additional resources. I am always confused and disappointed by those few adoption groups that forbid new adopters from participating in activi-

ties with their Greyhounds. I have read a couple of contracts that prohibit the owner from doing many things that are safe, fun, and interesting for the dog. Doing something on a regular basis — whether it's a weekly class, a trip to the nursing home, or coursing on the weekends — strengthens the human-animal bond. Owners who have a strong bond with their dog, and have spent time working with him one-on-one, will likely never return that dog to the adoption group (or drop it off at the pound) when it becomes old, or ill, or too much trouble.

Pick a new activity, and give it a try. Your dog will thank you for it. ■

Laurie Soutar lives in Southern Ontario, breeds CKC registered Greyhounds under the Lakilanni prefix, and competes in many different venues, including conformation, lure coursing, open field coursing, amateur racing, obedience, and agility. She is a regular contributor to numerous dog magazines. Her article, "Maddie the Wonder Dog," appeared in the Winter 2004 issue of CG.



Maddie plays well with others.



Amos pushes a pedal to release a ball from the box, catches the ball, and races back to Natalie. *Len Silvester*

Amos, Flyball Champion

By Ann Bollens

Flyball has become one of the fastest growing dog sports in North America. Basically, it involves a team of dogs racing one at a time over hurdles to retrieve a ball. However, this description doesn't come close to capturing the fun of flyball for both dog and owner. Flyball is fun! The dogs love racing over the hurdles, grabbing the ball, and pleasing their humans. The humans love watching their dog having a ball (no pun intended) while playing with or competing against other dogs and other teams.

Almost everyone has seen Border Collies excel at flyball. But Greyhounds can play, too. Amos (NGA) FM, FDCH, FDX, FD, TD is out to show the world just how much fun a Greyhound can have on the way to becoming a Flyball Master.

Flyball can be likened to a human relay race. There are four dogs to a team and four hurdles to jump as the dog races 51 feet to the box. At the box, the dog pushes a pedal, releasing a ball. The dog catches the ball, then returns to his handler by racing back over the hurdles to the finish line. The hurdles are 10 feet apart, with the first hurdle 6 feet from the start. Fifteen feet from the last hurdle is the box. Hurdle height will vary depending upon the height of the shortest dog on the team. The width between the hurdles and the length of the course does not vary. As soon as the first dog completes the course and crosses the finish line, the second dog begins. The winning team is the first to have all four dogs over the finish line without errors.

Amos is an 8-year-old, red fawn, retired racing Greyhound. Natalie Moroz-Cornell adopted Amos (Amosh Pit) when he retired from racing at Seabrook in 2000. Earlier that year, Natalie and her husband Dennis founded the Canadian flyball team Hot Diggity Dogs. Natalie and her poodle-mix, Daisy, were active flyball competitors. Natalie did not intend for Amos to become a team member. She adopted him because she had always wanted a Greyhound. But Natalie enjoys a training challenge, and when she was told that training a Greyhound to be a flyball dog couldn't be done, she and Amos started on the road to flyball competition.

Amos faced and overcame some challenges. Initially, he was not a dog with ball drive. He saw no sense in playing with that funny round thing, and he could not understand what Natalie was asking of him. Natalie had almost given up when she decided to try clicker training. It was like a lightbulb went on in Amos's head.



Amos waits patiently for Natalie to say "Go!"

Amos usually runs his leg of the competition in approximately 5.4 seconds, though he vastly prefers to catch a rubber ball rather than a fuzzy tennis ball. Amos is 78 pounds and 28 inches tall at the shoulder, which is large for a flyball com-

petitor. Because of his size, he cannot execute the preferred "swimmer's turn," which involves propelling off the box with all four feet. Instead, he pivots at the box after hitting it with both front feet, while turning to the left.

Amos earned his first flyball points in 2001. Hot Diggity Dog consists of Amos, his housemate Daisy (the small dog, who keeps the hurdle height at 8 inches for herself and her team mates), a Dalmatian, a Manchester Terrier, and a Whippet. None of these are breeds typically found on a flyball team, but all of them are out to have fun and enjoy the day. If they earn points, that is wonderful; if they don't, the whole team still has had a good time.

According to the current listing of North American Flyball Association (NAFA) champions on www.PawsandPets.com, Amos is the top-ranked flyball Greyhound in North America. As of February 12, 2005, he had earned a Greyhound record 6,044 points in competition. On the way to that record he created quite the stir when he became not only the first Greyhound to earn more than 3,300 points in a single season, but also the first Hot Diggity Dog team racer to place #1 in a breed classification. Currently, Amos is the #1 NAFA Greyhound based on most points in a single season, as well as the #1 Greyhound based on points earned in a third and fourth racing season.

The initials that follow Amos's name are his official NAFA titles. FD is the first title to be earned in flyball competition. As soon as a dog earns 20 points, he is entitled to call himself a Flyball Dog. Those 20 points are earned by completing the flyball course in 32 seconds or below, with those who complete the course in 24 seconds or less earning the most points. Once the dog has accumulated a total of 100 points, he earns FDX (Flyball Dog Excellent). Five hundred points earns FDCH (Flyball Dog Champion). To earn his FM (Flyball Master) title, Amos had to accumulate a total of 5,000 points in NAFA competition. Amos lives with Natalie in Ontario and competes mainly in Canada, although he has attended tournaments in Michigan and Vermont in the USA.

Although Amos is an athlete and a master of his sport, he is first and foremost a family companion whose sofa is his throne. When he is not snoozing or competing, he engages in other pursuits. A trained therapy dog, Amos still finds time to go visit Grandma and her friends at an extended care facility. He also helps teach humans how to direct their own dogs in flyball. He will run well for anyone, not just Natalie. His willingness enables novice humans to practice releases, turns, and timing with a "pro" before they try to teach their own novice dogs.

If you think that you would like to enjoy flyball with your Greyhound, Natalie offers these suggestions:

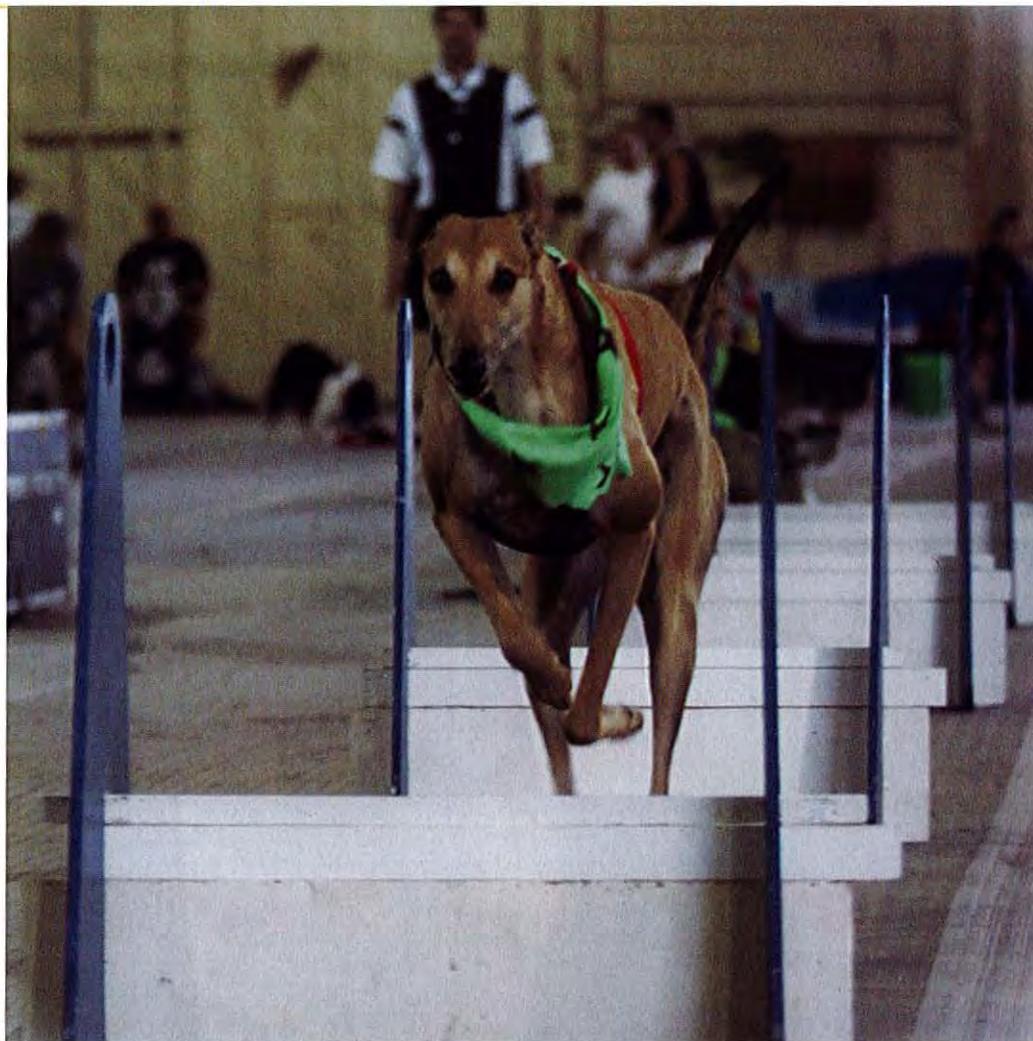
- Make sure your Greyhound is in good shape. Amos jogs beside Natalie's bicycle, and the two of them walk up and down hills together.
- Prior to beginning flyball training, have your Greyhound's mouth checked for sore gums or loose teeth, as the ball is released from the box with some force.
- Go to a tournament and observe the competition. Then find a flyball team with whom to learn and practice.
- Teach your dog control before you teach speed. A high-prey dog may have difficulty ignoring the small white dog running in the lane next to him. Furthermore, a dog must not be reckless when he hits the box to release the ball.
- Always practice flyball inside a fenced area because your dog will need to be off lead. The vast majority of flyball trials are held indoors in Canada and in the northern United States (where Amos competes).

Amos will continue to amaze the public as he displays that awesome Greyhound speed in the flyball ring. He will participate in flyball as long as he is healthy, enjoys the sport, and the weather stays cool (he refuses to run in warm weather). Natalie says that she is proudest not of his titles, but of the fact that Amos has been a true ambassador for the Greyhound breed. Amos is showing the world that a Greyhound is capable of doing many things . . . even flyball. ■

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.



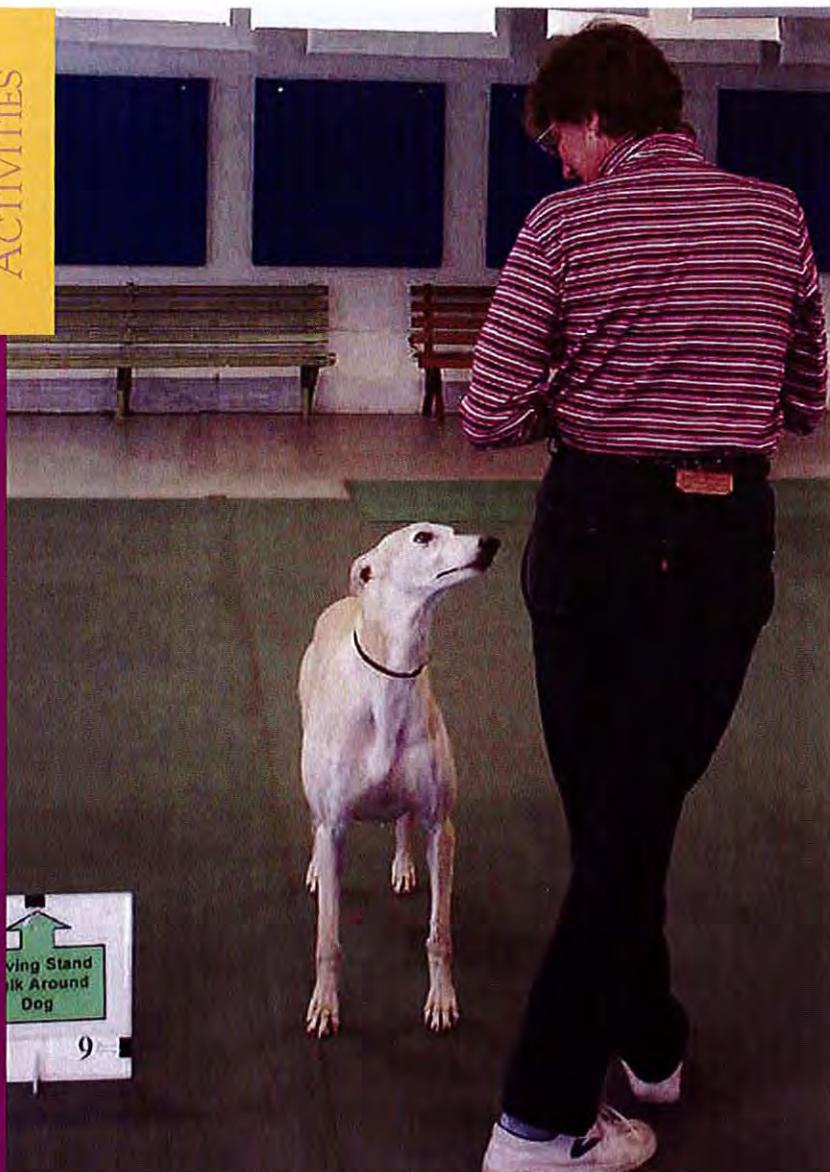
Amos with his Hot Diggity Dogs teammates.



Then he flies over a series of hurdles . . . Len Silvester



Could agility be next? Natalie and Amos play in the backyard.



Bev and Robbie practice the "Moving Stand Walk Around Dog" maneuver.

Start to Finish

An Introduction to Rally Obedience

Story by Bev Dalrymple
Photos by Garvey Winegar

"Forward."

With a single word from the judge, my Greyhound and I are off past the start sign in pursuit of a Rally Obedience title.

The leash hangs loosely at my side. I offer my boy a smile for encouragement, then a command: "Robbie, heel."

What proud and satisfying first steps these are after several years of waiting for Rally Obedience to become an American Kennel Club titling event.

In 1998, following a successful lure coursing career, I was determined to find another way to interact with my Greyhound, Robbie. Because he has always been a bright and willing boy, obedience was my choice. After several months of training for *sit* and *down* and *stay*, *come* and *heel* and *stand* — many days of patience, persistence, and hotdogs — I decided it was time to give the obedience ring a try. Much to my surprise and dismay, Robbie wouldn't perform.

In training, I encouraged him with a *good boy* or a big smile when he did anything to my liking. In traditional obedience these things are not allowed in the ring. Little did I know how dejected he could look, or how his performance would suffer, when I was allowed only limited conversation with him.

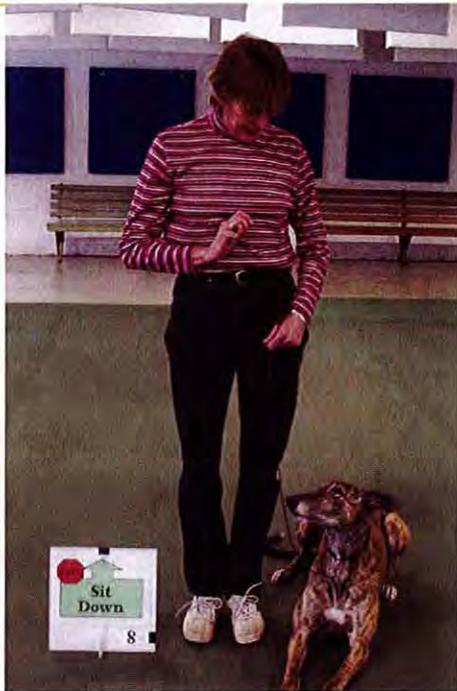
Though I try hard not to anthropomorphize, I could have sworn he was wondering what he had done to make me angry with him . . . and rightfully so. In real life I keep up a constant banter with my dogs. However, if they've done something to displease me (yes, they counter surf and trash dive), they get the dreaded silent treatment.

In February of 1999, Charles "Bud" Kramer, father of the first American Agility program, presented four articles in the obedience publication *Front and Finish*. These articles were his outline for an innovative new dog event called rally obedience. These articles proposed the encouragement of unlimited communication between dog and handler in the ring. Teamwork was one of the most desirable aspects of rally obedience. I read these articles with great interest. Every fault in our previous ring experience could be remedied with a few kind words from Mom. We'd been a "team" for a long time.

In September 2000, Bud Kramer wrote a book called *Rally-O*. I bought the book and read it carefully and completely. I made the numbered signs depicting 50 obedience exercises. We used these signs in different combinations to lay out a course of ten to 20 stations for the dog to master. The degree of difficulty increased with the numerical value of each sign. We practiced them all and one by one, we learned each sign. Some were as simple as a *halt-sit* or a *halt-sit-down*. Some were as difficult as a figure eight around four bowls filled with tempting treats.

Robbie could perform many of these exercises already. There were others we had never tried. He needed to learn to rise from a sit, pivot with me 90 degrees or 180 degrees, and sit again in heel position. There was a "moving down" sign, and a sign that required him to back up three steps with me while remaining in heel position.

It wasn't long before we had mastered the first 31 signs. Ten to 15 of these would be used to make up a Novice level course, which is a course done entirely on lead. The next level of competition, Advanced, is done completely off lead and the degree of difficulty is greater. A course for this level can be designed using the first 31 signs as well as signs 32 through 45. The number of stations increases to between 12 and 17 and must include one jump. The third and most arduous level, Excellent, may contain 15 to 20 stations. All 50 signs may be



Bev and Ed demonstrate a Greyhound version of "Halt Sit Down."



Bev and Ed work through "Straight Figure 8 Weave Twice."

used in combination as part of the course. The Excellent course must include two jumps and be executed without the use of a leash.

The person who will ultimately judge your dog's performance during the class (i.e., competition) designs courses for all levels that are unique for the class. Handlers have no prior knowledge of the design. To become familiar with the course, the handler may walk through the course — without the dog — just before the class begins.

All three levels are performed at the pace of the

team (handler and dog), which moves continuously through the course. The only direction from the judge is the word *Forward*, which indicates to the handler that she can begin. The dog must be kept under control within a 2 ft area of the handler throughout the course. The perfect "heel" position, which is necessary in traditional obedience, is not required in Rally Obedience. Handlers may also verbally praise and encourage their dogs in Rally Obedience, though loud or harsh commands are not allowed. A handler may also clap her hands or pat her leg. Any number of hand signals is acceptable, as long as they do not appear intimidating. Using treats in the ring or touching your dog during the performance of the course is not permitted.

Scoring is based on the premise that 100 points is a perfect score. In order to qualify for a leg of a title, a team must score a minimum of 70 points. Three qualifying scores (or legs) are required to earn a title at any level — Novice, Advanced, or Excellent.

The judge may deduct points from the perfect score of 100 for various types of infractions. A single point deduction may be taken for a tight leash, a poor sit, or a dog's slow response to the handler. A three-point deduction could be caused by lack of control or repeating a station in an attempt to improve performance. An incorrectly performed station or hitting a jump will result in a deduction of ten points. If your dog should eliminate in the ring, become unmanageable, or if the leash is consistently tight, the judge may see fit to determine the performance "non-qualifying."

In April 2001, the first Rally Obedience Advisory Committee met and established the first format for the American Kennel Club (AKC) Rally Program. Over the next several years the AKC worked to make rally obedience a titling event. The AKC Board of Directors approved the acceptance of rally obedience to their Obedience program in Spring 2004. Beginning January 1, 2005, titles could be earned in the event.

In January 2003, the single-dog population of my home doubled. A sweet 2-year old brindle, Husker Ed, came into my life. I began training Ed in obedience right away. Later that year, I began showing Ed and Robbie in the non-regular rally classes offered at AKC events. We also continue to work at local rally matches on some of the most difficult exercises today.

I spent New Year's weekend this year with my two Greyhounds in a motel in Delmont, Pennsylvania. We competed in the Westmoreland County Obedience Training Club's Obedience tri-

als. Robbie and Ed both came home with their Rally Novice (RN) titles. Though the weekend held many proud moments, the proudest part of our weekend was the presentation of New Title ribbons. I was approached several times by dog enthusiasts who asked if my Greyhounds are retired racers. On affirming that they are, I was often complimented on what I had been able to teach them. The most memorable comment was when a lady ran up to me as I exited the ring and squealed, "I didn't know Greyhounds could do this!"

We come to station #13 and execute a great 360 Degree Right Turn. We perform a fine Halt, Down, Walk Around Dog at station #14. I glance ahead; the next sign reads Finish. Once past this final sign I hear resounding applause. I throw my arms in the air in celebration of a course well run. My boy leaps off the ground at my side and gleefully barks twice. I presume he's in total agreement. ■

Bev Dalrymple resides in Elmira, N.Y. where she is actively involved with canine obedience training. A member of Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption of Altoona, Pa., she enjoys life with her Greyhounds Robbie and Ed.

Seven Greyhounds competed in rally obedience trials in the United States over the New Year's weekend. My dogs earned their RN titles, as did four other Greyhounds. The other five competed at the trials held by The Dog Obedience Training Club of Rochester, N.Y. The complete list of dogs who competed in rally obedience's opening weekend includes:

Robbie (M's Fair Rob RN SC LCM CGC), owned by Beverly Dalrymple

Ed (Husker Ed RN), owned by Beverly Dalrymple

Huck (Ch Golightly Blueberry Hill UD JC OA OAJ RNCan CD), owned by Kathy Helmke

Maddie (DCH Lakilanni Love Her Madly LCM5 FChX2 RChX2 SORC GRC PCD UWP BPDx CGC CGN TT RN), owned by Laurie Soutar

Vinnie (Ch Golightly Hey Jude CD AX AXJ JC RN), owned by Donna Lynd

Winnie (Ch Golightly Brand New Day CD JC RN), owned by Kathy Helmke

Magic (Magic Jet CD JC), owned by Ed Heyman (entered the Saturday daytime trial and got one leg)



Kelli and Ed coax Phoenix into the canoe.

Phoenix Goes Canoeing

Story and Photos by Kelli Alf

When I first suggested to my husband, Ed, that we should take a trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in northern Minnesota with our then 11-month-old Greyhound puppy, Phoenix, he probably thought I was insane. I had grown up in a family where our annual vacation was spent camping in the north woods of Wisconsin. To me, it seemed only natural to continue that tradition. Since Phoenix was now a part of our family, he'd be part of the action. Camping, swimming, hiking, and even a little canoeing; we wanted to be able to enjoy all of these with our dog.

To sweeten the deal, my brother Pat works for Sawbill Canoe Outfitters in Tofte, Minnesota. Sawbill Canoe Outfitters operates the Sawbill Lake Campground, a Superior National Forest Campground. Nestled in a forest of red and white pine, spruce, birch, and aspen, the campground overlooks Sawbill Lake. It offers easy access to the vast BWCAW with a canoe and a required permit. Most important, the campground is dog friendly. In fact, they have two resident, one-eyed Golden Retrievers, Sunny and Homer. As far as we knew, Phoenix was going to be the first Greyhound at Sawbill Lake.

We planned our trip for late July. We would have perfect weather; warm days for canoeing, and mild nights for the best tent sleeping.

We arrived at Sawbill and received approval from Homer, the Golden Retriever. We then set up our campsite, which had quite possibly the best view of Sawbill Lake. Our five-person tent was just the right size for us, our duffel bags, and a space-hogging Greyhound. We set up an ex-pen so Phoenix could relax in the sun while off leash. We also set up a soft-sided, collapsible crate for snoozing in the shade. When we found that Phoenix would not come near our campfire without the protection of his crate, we realized this was one essential piece of equipment.

On the first full day at Sawbill, we decided to introduce Phoenix to the lake. He had never been swimming before, so we weren't really sure how he would react. Clad in his fluorescent orange life jacket, Phoenix accompanied Pat, Ed, and myself down to the landing. What happened next left us breathless with laughter. Pat ran down the landing to jump into the lake. Phoenix, being a fun-loving puppy, sprinted after him and took an impressive leap into the lake. It was quickly apparent that Phoenix had no idea how to swim, but his life jacket kept him afloat. After a brief struggle, we managed to drag him out of the water, dry him, and tend to his bruised

ego. Although he never soared off the landing again, he did not seem to fear the water and spent the rest of the weekend wading in the shallows of Sawbill Lake.

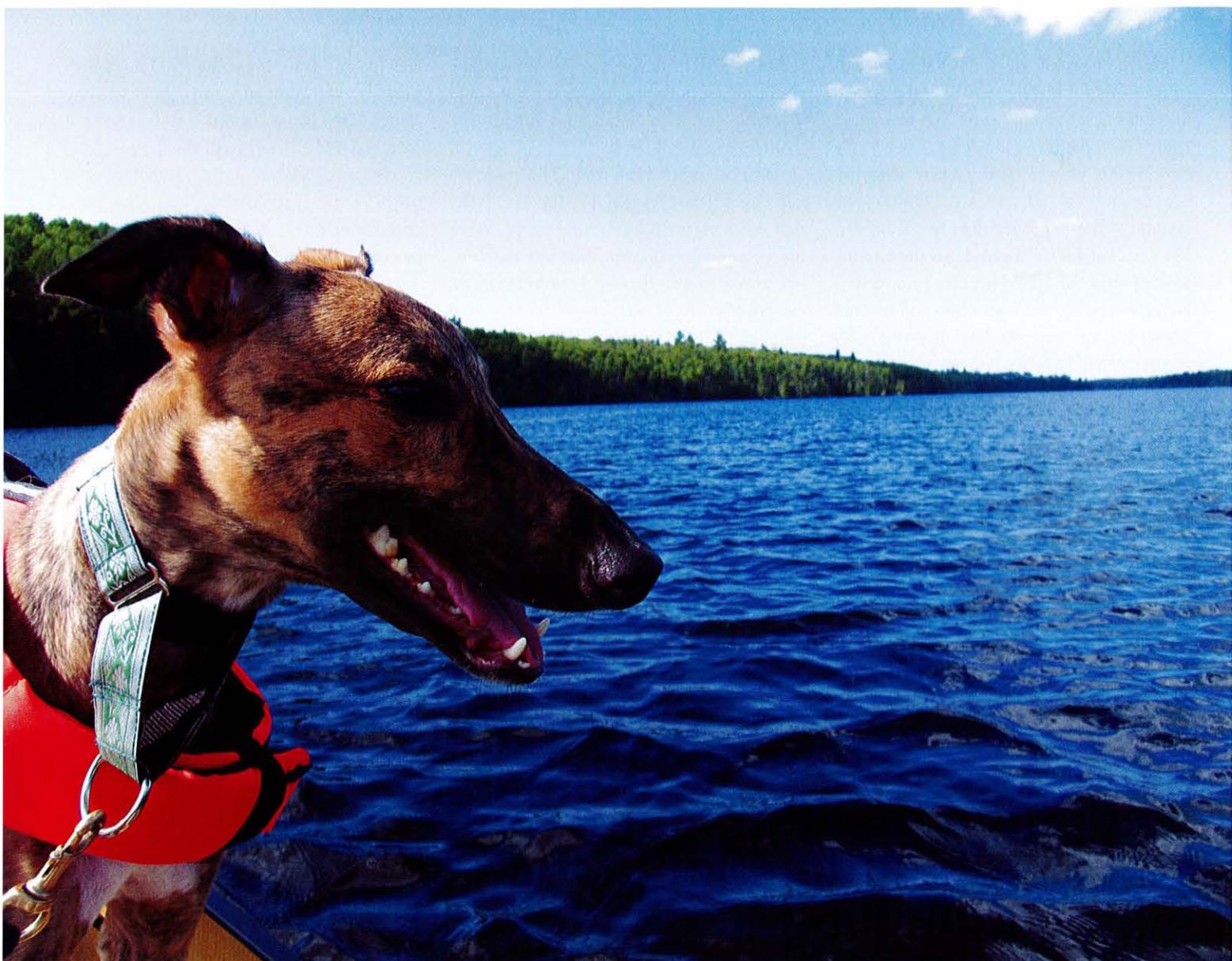
Next, we tackled canoeing. This made me nervous. I was prepared for the possibility that canoeing with an excited puppy might not be possible. After all, this was the same dog who does sprints around our living room, catapulting off of the couch, chairs, and ottoman. But we wouldn't know if Phoenix was a canoeing Greyhound until we tried. We put our rented canoe in the water and tried to convince Phoenix to step into the canoe. Coaxing him into an unsteady canoe after his

magnificent leap from the landing wasn't working. We eventually lifted him into the center of the canoe, loaded ourselves and our gear, and pushed away from the shore.

He looked anxious at first, standing stiffly in the center of the canoe. After a few minutes, he seemed to be enjoying the ride. And to our surprise, a few minutes later Phoenix was snoozing comfortably in the bottom of the canoe, soaking up some sun. My fears of an uncontrollable, bouncing puppy tipping our canoe quickly disappeared. Knowing that Phoenix was comfortable with canoeing, we were able to plan a quick day trip into the BWCAW for the following day, complete



At first, Phoenix seemed anxious.



Before too long, Phoenix began to enjoy the ride.

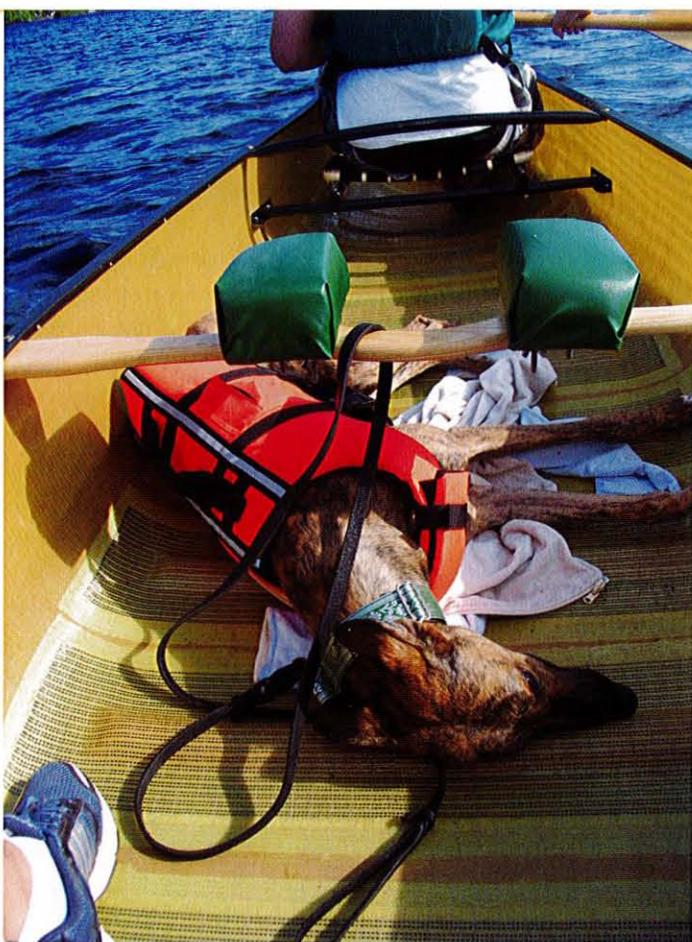
with portages (carrying the canoe over land from lake to lake) and a small picnic. There are several loops in the BWCAW that are perfect for beginners and those who prefer shorter day trips. For us, those trips were ideal.

Because we had never camped with Phoenix, I was concerned about how he would take to sleeping in a tent. I wondered if he would be up all night, peering out of the mesh windows, sniffing the cool breeze, wanting to escape the zippered grasp of the tent to chase the nocturnal campground critters. However, he was just as exhausted as we were; he slept through the night and unusually late into the morning, even foregoing potty breaks.

On the last full day of our vacation we ventured into Grand Marais, a small harbor

community on Lake Superior's north shore, a quick hour drive from Sawbill. It was a windy day and Phoenix got to experience the waves crashing onto the rocky shoreline at Artist's Point. We meandered through town, peeking in the windows of the shops and art galleries. Phoenix attracted a lot of attention and, as usual, charmed anyone who stopped to pet him. We also took a quick break for Phoenix's favorite treat, a vanilla ice-cream cone. We headed back to Sawbill Lake near dusk and were lucky enough to see a moose wading in the water. Later that evening, we were treated to an incredible show of the northern lights.

On the final morning of our vacation, Ed and I packed up the car while Phoenix slept in the tent. When it was time to leave, we



Phoenix relaxed enough to take a snooze.



After the canoe trip, Ed and Phoenix headed back to camp.



Phoenix and Kelli at the end of a perfect day.



Happy campers (and paddlers) Ed, Kelli, and Phoenix.

woke him up and walked up to the Outfitters' store to say goodbye to my brother, the staff and, of course, Homer and Sonny. We couldn't leave without sharing the last of our "cookies" with Homer.

Camping and canoeing with Phoenix was such a memorable experience that we plan to make it an annual vacation. Although he definitely enjoys the comforts of his home, Phoenix managed to impress us with his adaptability and proved you don't have to be a one-eyed Golden Retriever to enjoy the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. ■

Kelli Alf resides in Sullivan, Wisc. with her husband Ed, Phoenix the Greyhound, and their two kitties, Teddy and Zoe. Kelli is a freelance Graphic Designer and has recently returned to school as a Photography student. Ed is the Vice-President of a local mortgage brokering firm. Sawbill Canoe Outfitters can be reached at 4620 Sawbill Trail, Box 2129, Tofte, MN 55615-2127 or (218) 663-7150; their website is www.sawbill.com.



Cindi Allen with Evie (Cashel's Evening), the retired racing Greyhound from the United States who competed in the Waterloo Cup. *Laura Parker*

The Little Greyhound That Could

By John Parker

It is a story right out of the movies, with pieces of *Seabiscuit*, *National Velvet*, and *The Natural* all rolled into one: A small-ish racing Greyhound who washes out before her first official race. The owner who adopts her, whose combination of naïveté and chutzpah puts her in the right place at the right time to get her dog a coveted nomination to run in the Waterloo Cup, the blue ribbon of coursing.

The story begins at the ASFA (American Sighthound Field Association) International Invitational (I.I.) in Falcon, Colorado, in June 2003. Cindi Allen and her husband Phil were attending the I.I. and met Anne Sheridan, a Colorado-based breeder of racing Greyhounds. Anne told the Allens about Evie (Cashel's Evening), a Greyhound who had washed out of schooling and whom Anne wanted to place in a good home. The Allens were looking for a companion for their Greyhound Newell, so they agreed to have a look at Evie the next day. They liked her and told Anne they would like to adopt her. Since they were in the middle of a move, they arranged to pick up Evie and take her home on July 4.

The Allens started Evie on a dual athletic career in the autumn of 2003, entering her in lure coursing in Colorado and open field coursing in Wyoming. Evie ran in the 2004 ASFA I.I. in Iowa, placing third in the Open stake both days. She earned her Field Champion title in June 2004.

Phil took Evie open field coursing in Wyoming on ten weekends during the 2003-2004 season. Her open field coursing career was not without a bump in the road; she dislocated an outside toe on a rear foot in early 2004, and the damage to the ligament was so extensive that the decision was made to amputate the toe.

Evie's road to the Waterloo Cup began in January 2004, when Cindi, a self-described "Internet freak," found a reference to



Evie and Cindy took time to see the sights, including the Eiffel Tower. *Cindi Allen*

the Waterloo Cup on the National Coursing Club's website. She knew nothing of British coursing, and in fact had misgivings about whether the hares were released artificially. (More Internet research revealed that the hares live naturally on the coursing lands in England, and are driven to the coursing field by beaters.) Cindi decided it might be fun to look into entering Evie in the Waterloo Cup. She had no idea that Greyhounds run for the Cup only after being nominated, that there are only 64 nominations to be had, and that no American Greyhound had ever run in the Waterloo Cup. She posted a question to the Greytalk discussion list: "Anybody ever heard of this Waterloo Cup?" Pam Davis, who had attended several Waterloo Cups, responded and told Cindi about several hurdles she would have to get over even to have Evie considered for nomination.

In March 2004, Cindi sent an e-mail message to Charles Blanning, Secretary of the NCC and Keeper of the Greyhound Stud Book, to ask him how to get Evie considered for the Waterloo Cup. He told Cindi how to register Evie with the NCC and gave her the address of Waterloo Cup Secretary Diana Brodie. Cindi then sent a letter to Ms. Brodie, enclosing a photo of Evie and telling her about Evie's American coursing career.

A month later, Cindi received an e-mail from Ms. Brodie, acknowledging her letter and telling her that it was uncertain whether there would be a Waterloo Cup in 2005 because of the pending ban legislation. She suggested that Cindi stay in touch and keep abreast of the situation in England.

Cindi continued to send Diana Brodie e-mail messages throughout the rest of 2004. "I was afraid I was being a pest, but I figured I needed to take Diana at her word and keep reminding her of our interest," Cindi said. In September, Cindi registered Evie with the NCC and let Ms. Brodie know she had been registered. "I figured that would let her know I was serious."

Evie encountered another bump in the road while open field coursing in Wyoming over the 2004 Thanksgiving weekend. She dislocated another toe on the same rear foot. This dislocation, however, was not as severe as the previous one. A trip to the veterinarian resulted in some good news — the joint capsule was intact, surgery was not indicated, and three months of rest was the prescription.

Despite the good news on the medical front, Cindi had decided that Evie's chances of running in the Waterloo Cup were between slim and none. The ban on coursing had become the law of England with the invocation of the Parliament Act, and the Waterloo Cup now faced cancellation. Nevertheless, she e-mailed Diana Brodie again to say she was still interested. Ms. Brodie e-mailed back: "We'll let you know."

In January, Cindy received the long awaited e-mail from Diana Brodie: "Congratulations. The Committee has given a returned nomination to Cashel's Evening. She will be the first American Greyhound ever to run in the Waterloo Cup." It would be run a week earlier than usual, February 14-16, just before the ban's February 19 effective date.

These new Cup dates were one week before Cindi, a recent law school graduate, was to take the Washington State Bar exam. Phil would not be able to go to England because of business commitments. Could Cindi study for the exam while taking care of all the myriad details of getting herself and a dog to England, much less preparing Evie for the rigors of the three-day Waterloo Cup? Was Evie's toe injury from Thanksgiving healed sufficiently to put her into training?

A return trip to the vet and new x-rays revealed solid healing of the toe. They decided that training would be a swimming regimen to get Evie in good fitness while minimizing stress on the healing toe. Cindy took Evie to a dog spa to swim in an indoor pool, 30-minute sessions, twice weekly for three weeks. Then, the last week before departure, Evie was run on straights of 300 to 400 yards with a lure machine.

Travel arrangements were not so simple. Evie would be admitted into England under the new Pet Passport system that eliminated the six-month quarantine requirement. The Pet Passport protocol involved getting Evie new rabies vaccinations, microchipped, and rabies-titred. She could fly only from and into designated "gateway" airports that were set up to receive animals under the Pet Passport system. Add to this the fact that Cindi wanted to fly on Northwest Airlines to use her frequent flyer miles, and the travel arrangements were such that they could keep a travel agent busy full time.

Next, it was time for a crash course in British coursing. Diana Brodie put Cindi in touch with



Evie previews the running ground at the Withins. *Cindi Allen*

this writer as an American who had attended the Waterloo Cup for the last several years. I gave Cindi a short course on the methods, customs, and traditions of the Waterloo Cup, and sent her video of a recent Cup. It was my impression that she initially thought of the Waterloo Cup as just another "hunt," in the American lingo. As time and more conversation progressed, the magnitude of what she had gotten Evie and herself into sunk in.

The big question was how Evie would do in the double slips used by the professional slippers in British coursing. Would she acclimate to being "barreled up" alongside another Greyhound, who was likely to be much bigger than she was? Would she know how to pull ahead and come cleanly out of the slips when she was sighted on the hare? Some practice seemed to be in order, so I put her in touch with Waterloo Cup slipper Arron Atmore, who would be at the field the day before the Cup began and graciously agreed to practice Evie in his slips to acclimate her to this new method of release.

When the plans were finalized, Cindi and Evie would fly to Paris on the Thursday before the Monday start of the Waterloo Cup. They had time for a little sightseeing, including Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower, where Evie enjoyed a ham and cheese baguette. Cindi and Evie then took a train to Calais, where she rented a van and took the ferry across the English Channel to

Dover. Due to a delay in the ferry's departure, they arrived in Dover about 11:30 p.m., so Cindi set out in the dark for a five-hour drive to Chorley, where she found a hotel that accepted dogs and was relatively close to Altcar, home of the Waterloo Cup. Nothing was to be easy about this trip.

On Saturday, after a few hours' sleep, Cindi found her way to the Withins, the Altcar field on which the first and third days of the Waterloo Cup are run, there to meet Arron Atmore and practice Evie in slips. She waited, but did not see Arron. After giving Evie a look at the historic grounds, Cindi returned to her hotel to get ready for the Call Over in Southport and to feed Evie a dinner of lamb tips, which she had purchased at a local farmer's stand. As it turned out, Arron arrived at the Withins at the appointed hour, but Cindi was going by the clock in her rental van, which was on Paris time. She was an hour early, and so Evie's first experience in slips would be her first run in the Waterloo Cup.

The Call Over at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Southport was standing room only. Cindi arrived early and got a front-and-center seat. Cards showing the drawn pairings of the 64 nominated Greyhounds were distributed, and the news was not good for Evie. Her first run would be against Paddy's Toy, winner of the Waterloo Plate the previous year. If she won that course, she would then run against last year's Waterloo Cup winner, Why You Monty.

The buzzing crowd grew silent as Waterloo Cup Committee chairman David Midwood called for "a bit of hush." As the name of each dog was "called over," Charles Blanning recited a brief resume of the Greyhound's coursing career. When "Cashel's Evening" was announced, Blanning said, "This is the American bitch who has coursed jackrabbits in Wyoming." The first bookmaker gave her opening odds of 100 to 1. Cindi quipped, "C'mon — make it higher!" Sir Mark Prescott, the dean of the British coursing community who was presiding, asked Cindi how much Evie weighs. "Fifty pounds," came the reply. The next bookmaker put Evie at 200 to 1, and those became the consensus opening odds for her.

When Cindi arrived at the Withins with Evie for the opening day, she was amazed at the size of the crowds and the media presence. Before long, she was being interviewed by one of the regional television networks. She got a kick out of the country clothes of the coursing community — the tweeds, woolens, and wellies — and went to shop the vendors before things got busy.

Evie's run was at the top of the second half of the card, so Cindi had time to watch some of the coursing before reporting with Evie to the slip steward with her identification papers. Needless

to say, this young woman with her American dog was quite the novelty. "Everyone was so nice and helpful to me," Cindi said.

Finally, it was time to run. Cindi made her way with Evie to the "hide," the screened area that serves as the paddock for the "on deck" dogs. She waited there with John Bromiley, the droll, diminutive trainer of Paddy's Toy. "He joked with me and really put me at ease," she said.

The course was called up, and into the slipper's shy they went. Evie, in the red collar, was on Arron Atmore's left and Paddy's Toy, in the white collar, was on his right. A hare to the slipper's liking came up the coursing lane, and they were off. Evie came out of slips well, but Paddy's Toy was off like a shot and won the run-up by 8 lengths. Then the hare took a lucky turn for Evie, and the work began. Evie took control, turning the hare again and again as it made its way back from the cover at the end of the field and toward the beat. The hare escaped into cover, and Judge Bob Burdon pulled his red handkerchief to signal Evie as the victor! It had been a course of 88 seconds, longish for the first day at the Withins.

Cindi ran to retrieve Evie, who comes back to a whistle. "Everyone was congratulating me," said Cindi. Even opponent John Bromiley teased her: "Your dog is possessed; that wasn't natural!"

Cindi walked out Evie and was relieved to see that her rear foot and problem toe were okay.

After accepting more congratulations from trainers and owners in the dog van park and getting Evie settled in for a rest, Cindi looked ahead to the daunting challenge of Evie's run against 2004 Waterloo Cup winner Why You Monty, trained by the no-nonsense Irishman, Michael O'Donovan, who has several Waterloo Cups to his credit.

As they made their way to the hide, O'Donovan was polite but all business. When she turned Evie over to the slipper, Cindi bent down and kissed her Greyhound on the head. Arron Atmore turned to O'Donovan: "Michael, aren't you going to kiss your dog?" O'Donovan replied, "I've never kissed an effin' dog in me effin' life, and I'm not about to start now." (This story, the accuracy of which Cindi confirmed, was told and retold the second and third days of the Cup, to the great amusement of all.)

The course started with Evie in the red collar coming out of slips well, but again losing the run-up by a wide margin, this time 6 lengths. Monty turned the hare several times, and at one time was 7 and-a-half points clear of Evie. Suddenly, Evie drove forward to take possession of the course as Monty flagged and fell back, and it was nothing but Evie thereafter for a marathon course of 122 seconds that once again went back to the beat. As the judge pulled his red cloth and the red flag went up, a great cheer arose from the crowd. "I could hear the crowd cheering all the way at the end of the field," Cindi said. "A BBC reporter came up to me and asked, 'Do you know what your dog just did?'"

As Cindi made her way back up the field with Evie, everyone in the gallery was clapping and shouting "well done!" John Bromiley took Cindi aside and repeated what Michael O'Donovan had told him: "I've never been beaten like that." Cindi and Evie were greeted back at the vans by our American contingent, all of whom wanted to see how Evie had fared. She was none the worse for wear, and it was clear that the reason for all the hubbub was lost on her. She took a drink of water and hopped into the backseat of the van for a snooze. Later, back at the hotel, Evie enjoyed a supper of steak and kidney pie.

Evie's victory over Monty galvanized the crowd. The little American Greyhound who had not been given a snowball's chance was now a contender and had made it to the final 16. One



On the third day of competition, Evie tailgates with her human companions. *Ann Standing*

bookmaker put her at 12 to 1 at day's end. Over dinner that evening, our American group was now emboldened to speculate about what would actually happen if an American Greyhound won what may be the last Waterloo Cup. Comparisons to Master McGrath, the first Irish Greyhound to win the Waterloo Cup (and to whom Evie actually bears some resemblance) were irresistible.

The buzz and excitement carried over to the second day at the field known as the Lydiate, a larger, more wide open field that has come to be called "the graveyard of the Irish" because it tends to favor work over the speed for which the Irish dogs are famous. Would Evie's stamina and agility pay off and advance her a step further toward the Cup? Everyone stopped by to see how she looked. She seemed bright and ready to run. The bookmakers had come down to earth somewhat, and now had her at 16 to 1. Cindi reported that some of them had asked what Evie had for supper the night before; perhaps that entered into their calculations.

Evie, this day in the white collar, was now paired against Going Rate, a brindle dog in his second season. By now, everyone was keen to watch the American dog. Cindi could hear people in the crowd pointing out Evie as she made her way to wait at the slip steward's station. The announcer made a special point of introducing Evie as "the American Greyhound" as Cindi made her way to the slipper's shy, and he told those who had not been present the first day that they "were in for a treat."

As Evie and Going Rate were slipped, it became clear that Evie was a quick study and knew how to pull out of slips effectively. She initially led in the run-up by several lengths, but Going Rate, who some thought was initially unsighted, came up quickly and passed Evie to win the run-up, force the first turn of the hare, and lead by four points. Evie then came up to work the hare. She seemed to be in control, but the hare was executing wrenches (turns of less than 90 degrees), which earn only half a point. Evie still had plenty left in the tank and continued coursing the hare, but the half points were not enough to make up the deficit. At the end of the course, Judge Burdon pulled his red handkerchief to signal that Going Rate had won the course of 45 seconds. The crowd seemed to deflate somewhat, and even the announcer sounded disappointed as he announced that Going Rate had prevailed.



After being eliminated from the competition, Evie watches the coursing action. *Ann Standing*

However, no one had told Evie that the course was over. Though by now the dogs had tired, Evie still had the hare in sight and was determined. The hare jumped one of the drainage ditches bordering the field and Evie went after her, landing in the stagnant water at the bottom and coming up on the other side. There, she was caught by one of the beaters and held for Cindi.

As Cindi led the dripping wet Evie past the gallery on the way to the dog van area, the spectators began clapping, and some even shouted to Cindi their disagreement with the judge's call of Evie's course.

As this was the "coffin round" of the Cup, from which there is no consolation round, Evie's run for the Waterloo Cup was over. But her celebrity was just beginning. On the third day, back at the Withins, Cindi and Evie returned as spectators but became the focus of attention during lulls in the action. Parents approached Cindi and asked her if their children could pet Evie and have their picture taken with her. An old man who had been attending the Waterloo Cup since 1947 told Cindi, "Your bitch made me remember why I love coursing." Another old veteran told Cindi that Evie's success reminded him of Waterloo Cup days of old, when owners rather than trainers brought most of the Greyhounds to Altcar, and speed was not so heavily emphasized over stamina and agility. "The attention to Evie and me was just overwhelming," Cindi said. "People

would come up and say the nicest things." Offers to buy Evie were forthcoming, and inquiries about breeding her were made. (No such luck; she's spayed.)

At the presentations ceremony, Sir Mark Prescott called Cindi and Evie forward for special recognition and made a remarkable statement. Of the thousands and thousands of courses he has witnessed over the years, he said, Evie's run against Why You Monty will be one of the four or five he will always remember.

Though Cindi vows that Evie is officially retired, she says she will come back to England again if coursing survives. The outstanding sportsmanship and graciousness shown her and Evie will be one of her foremost memories of this experience of a lifetime.

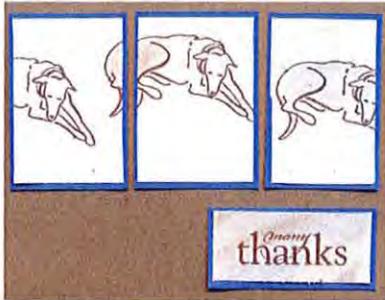
If this was to have been the last Waterloo Cup, it will be one that lives on in the memories of those who remember the little American Greyhound with the big heart. Not a bad way to go out; not bad at all. ■

John Parker has traveled to England frequently in the past seven years to watch Greyhounds running in the Waterloo Cup and other coursing meetings. He is president of the Southeastern Greyhound Club and lives in Newnan, Georgia with his wife Laura and their 11 Greyhounds. This article originally appeared in the January-March 2005 issue of Performance Sighthound Journal. (For subscription information, send an e-mail message to subscribe@performancesighthoundjournal.com.)

More Fun With Greyhound Rubber Stamps

By Lisann Porter and Becky Taggart-Redmond

With basic techniques for beginners, fun ideas for veteran stampers, and motivation to express your creativity . . .



Card No. 1 (5-1/2" wide x 4-1/4" high finished size, blank inside)

Start with one piece 5-1/2" wide x 8-1/2" high kraft card stock, then fold.

Cut two pieces of medium blue paper: One piece 5" wide x 2-1/2" high and the other 2-1/2" x 1-1/8".

Cut two pieces of white confetti paper: One size 4-1/2" wide x 2-1/4" high and the other 2-1/4" x 1".

Stamp #22-V/Napping Hound or a Greyhound stamp of your choice several times on the larger of the two white pieces of paper using a brown stamp inkpad.

Optional technique: Using colored chalks and a brush or cotton swab, smudge brown, gold, and blue over the image of the hound. Use the same colored chalks to smudge some color onto the smaller white piece of paper.

Inscribe the greeting on the smaller piece of white confetti paper using a stamp with the brown inkpad, computer printing, or handwriting with a permanent marker. Possibilities include Many Thanks, Greyhounds, Happy Birthday, or whatever you wish.

Cut the large blue piece into three sections, similar in size, measuring approximately 1-5/8" wide each.

Cut the large white paper with stamped Greyhounds into three sections measuring approximately 1-1/2" wide each.

Using Mono Adhesive® or two-sided tape, attach the blue and white paper and lay out as shown.



Card No. 2 (4-1/4" wide x 5-1/2" high finished size, blank inside)

Start with 6-3/4" wide x 5-1/2" high white confetti card stock, 4" wide x 5-1/2" high red confetti card stock, and 1-1/2" wide x 5-1/2" high navy confetti card stock

Using a deckled edge scissors or ruler, cut one side of the navy paper.

Attach the papers as shown, overlapping and layering, to make the measurement of the piece 8-1/2" wide x 5-1/2" high, then fold to finished size of 4-1/4" wide.

Cut a piece of navy paper 2" wide x 2-1/4" high. Use deckled edge scissors to cut one side.

Cut a piece of red paper 1-3/4" wide x 2" high. Use adhesive to attach to navy piece.

Stamp #61-V/Three Hounds with red ink on the white paper. Cut the white paper around the stamped image, approximately 1-1/2" wide x 1-3/4" high. Attach it to the navy and red pieces.

Optional technique: For a nice finishing touch, raise the image off the card by using double-sided adhesive foam dots. Attach the dots to the back of the small three-layered stamped piece, then press to attach to card.

This is a very easy card that comes together in a snap.



Card No. 3 (5-1/2" wide x 4-1/4" high finished size, blank inside)

Start with one piece 5-1/2" wide x 8-1/2" high rust confetti card stock. Fold in half.

Cut 3-1/4" wide x 2-3/4" high midnight blue or black paper.

Cut 2-3/4" wide x 2-1/4" high white confetti paper.

Stamp greeting on the white confetti paper using rust or dark red inkpad. Possibilities include: Happy Spring! Happy Day! Happy You! or Congratulations on Your Greyhound Adoption. The greeting can also be computer or hand-printed.

Stamp #22-V/Napping Hound or another Greyhound stamp of your choice on the rust paper using a basic black inkpad.

Optional technique: After stamping image, immediately pour embossing powder on the still wet, black ink, making sure the powder covers the entire stamped image. Gently pour the remaining embossing powder back into the jar. Using a heat gun or hair dryer, heat the paper until you see the image "come up."

Optional technique: Once the stamped, embossed image is cool, dip a brush or cotton swab in bleach. Brush the bleach inside the image. Since the image is now raised, it is fairly easy to stay inside the stamped area. You will see the color of the paper bleaching out right away.

Cut around the image and use double-sided adhesive foam dots to raise the image off the card. This adds wonderful dimension to the card.



Card No. 4 (4-1/4" wide x 5-1/2" high finished size, blank inside)

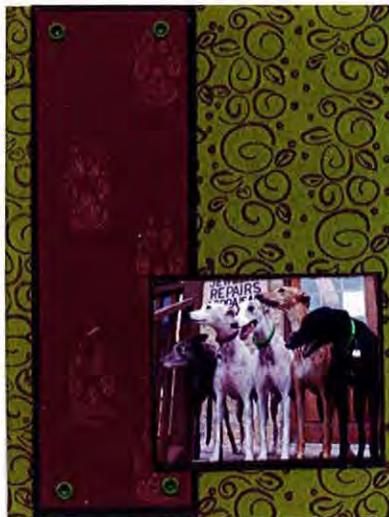
Start with one 8-1/2" wide x 5-1/2" high white linen card stock, then fold.

With an assortment of colored papers, stamp #61-V/Three Greyhounds or use Greyhound stamp of your choice. When stamping on the purple paper, use a purple shade of ink, for the green paper use a shade of green ink, and so forth.

Closely trim the stamped images so they measure 1-1/4" wide x 1-3/4" high (adjust paper sizes according to the size of rubber stamp).

Using an acid-free adhesive tape, such as Mono Adhesive®, or double-sided tape, arrange your card as shown.

Optional technique: Measure center top of each of the images, then make a small hole to fit gold and silver brads. This card shows alternating gold and silver brads. Colored eyelets would work here, too.



Card No. 5 (4-1/4" wide x 5-1/2" high finished size, blank inside)

Start with one 8-1/2" wide x 5-1/2" high olive green card stock, then fold.

Stamp the background of the olive green paper with an all-over pattern using a burgundy inkpad. Some suggestions are dog bones, stars, flowers, swirls, paws, or any interesting texture or small patterned stamp in your collection.

Cut one piece of burgundy card stock to 1-1/2" wide x 5-1/2" high.

Fold a large section of a paper towel on a tray. Carefully pour bleach on the paper towel.

Use the paper towel as an inkpad to stamp your burgundy paper using the #13-V/Small Paw Print stamp. The bleach method works great, especially when stamping on the darker colors of papers.

If you aren't ready to try the bleach yet, you could use a light-colored ink, possibly metallic gold or silver, to stamp the paw prints.

Cut one piece of black card stock to 1-3/4" wide x 5-1/4" high.

Using adhesive or double-sided tape, attach the stamped burgundy paper to the black paper.

Cut another piece of black card stock approximately 2-1/2" wide x 2" high.

Using adhesive or double-sided tape, mount your favorite digital Greyhound photo on the black card stock.

Colored eyelets or brads in the corners of your stamped layers of paper are optional, but they do give your card a nice, finished appearance.

Stamping hints and tips:

When mounting a photo, trim your picture and smudge brown along the edges so that the white edge doesn't show.

Personalize your cards by using a #34-V/Paws-Hand rubber stamp or another stamp of your choice on the back of your card. Computer or hand-print: "Created by _____" underneath the Paws/Hand stamp.

A good way to clean your stamps is to use alcohol-free baby wipes. They will clean and help condition your stamps.

Greetings and other text can be added to your cards. Options include computer printed text, hand-printed text using permanent markers, or rubber stamps. Rubber stamps are available with complete greetings, single words, and alphabet sets of individual letters.

Refer to "Be Creative and Have Fun with Greyhound Rubber Stamps" (Fall 2004 CG) and "Holiday Fun with Greyhound Rubber Stamps" (Winter 2004 CG) for basic stamping instructions and other specialty stamping techniques. Rubber stamping supplies are available at most craft stores. An excellent selection is also available at www.stampinup.com. ■

Lisann Porter and Becky Taggart-Redmond (and their Greyhounds) work together and promote Greyhound adoption every day at The Voyagers Jewelry Design in Cambridge, Wisc. The Redmonds have been adopting Greyhounds for 15 years. The Greyhounds continue to be their inspiration for Greyhound jewelry and rubber stamp creations. Over 100 original design Greyhound rubber stamps are available at The Voyagers (www.voyagersjewelrydesign.com).



How many is too many?

When Rescue Becomes Hoarding

By Bonnie Jeffers

“Greyhounds are like potato chips — you can’t stop with just one.” How often I have repeated that maxim to explain having four, six, or even eight ex-racers in my home. I laugh to recall once declaring to my husband that having more than two dogs would be out-of-balance and excessive. That belief changed with my first Greyhound. If you work with Greyhound adoption, you understand this great obsession. In fact you may be saying, *Four to eight dogs? That’s nothing!*

So how many is too many? We’ve all read news stories of the reclusive old lady with 75 cats. Our parents called her eccentric. Psychologists label her a collector. Animal control officers call her a hoarder. The Tufts University Center for Animals and Public Policy is pioneering research into animal hoarding behavior through its Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium (HARC) in Massachusetts.

While HARC’s research does show that over half of the hoarders are unmarried, female, and over 60 (the reclusive old lady), that is not the whole story. Hoarders come from all ages, all socio-economic groups, and all walks of life. Some even work in veterinary offices, and many work with adoption groups.

*“Hoarder behavior is actually categorized by psychiatrists as a form of passive cruelty. While intentional animal cruelty and hoarding are quite different forms of animal abuse, it’s the hoarder who surprisingly poses more of a long-term danger to animals because they end up inflicting more suffering and death on animals.” (“Hidden Horror,” *The Humane Way*, Vol.5, Issue 2, 2004, p.4)*

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in my area investigates at least one hoarding case each month and often files animal cruelty charges against hoarders. Most of these people think they are doing rescue work. Some have even called themselves by a breed rescue name.

So when does rescue become hoarding? HARC-sponsored research has discovered some common characteristics:

- Hoarders see themselves as animal saviors.
- Hoarders honestly believe they're providing quality care and that no one understands their animals like they do.
- Hoarders regard the animals as family members and fight anyone who they perceive to be threatening their family.

See how closely related rescue can be to hoarding? Don't we see ourselves as saving Greyhounds? Don't we believe we provide them with quality care and that we uniquely understand their needs? Don't we see them as family members? (I won't even mention what a she-wolf I become if some placement representative tries to take my foster to a home that I consider inadequate.)

Does the number of animals determine hoarding behavior?

According to the Inland Valley Humane Society and California SPCA, the number of animals is not the issue.

"Hoarders can perpetrate [their] animal cruelty with three animals or 300. Their attitudes, actions, stability, and mental health are what set them apart from normal people with pets." ("Hidden Horror," *The Humane Way*, Vol.5, Issue 2, 2004, p.3)

What are these attitudes and actions that set hoarders apart from normal people with pets? Researchers cite the following tendencies:

- Hoarders can't say no. No matter how many dogs they have, they continue to take one more. They cannot recognize a limit to their resources and abilities.
- Hoarders often have personality difficulties. Those who know hoarders often describe them as reclusive, unfriendly, or snippy. It's debatable whether they are hoarders because they have personality disorders or whether they have personality difficulties because they are hoarders. Certainly some people with personality issues replace humans with dog companions. On the other hand, the stress of caring for so many

dogs, of fearing dog fights, and of avoiding animal control and neighbors' complaints is enough to cause personality difficulties.

- Hoarders provide minimal health and veterinary care. Dogs in a hoarder's home often have sores, rips, bites, diseases, and nutritional problems. They do not receive proper grooming, training, and daily human interaction.
- Hoarders live with substandard sanitation in overcrowded conditions. At first, the outside of the home may look normal, but one step inside reveals tight quarters, dirty surroundings, and a strong odor. The odor is what usually alerts neighbors to call animal control.
- Hoarders deny any negative impact on the dogs or their own health and well-being. In addition to the health issues mentioned above, previously well-adjusted dogs often withdraw or become aggressive. Hoarders fail to see that the dogs in their care are experiencing a miserable life followed by a slow, painful death. They also fail to see the physical and emotional toll their lifestyle is exacting on themselves.
- Hoarders repeat hoarding behavior. HARC research found that nearly 100 percent of hoarders who were prosecuted went back to hoarding. Friends who try to help a hoarder by finding homes for some of the dogs soon discover the hoarder quickly replaces those dogs and adds even more.

Greyhounds make it relatively effortless to have multiple dogs in the family. They are unobtrusive, low maintenance, and generally accepting of each other. The step from normal pet owner to hoarder is perhaps easier for Greyhound people than for owners of any other breed. This makes it all the more important to be aware of hoarding behavior when deciding to get another Greyhound.

So, how many is too many?

As mentioned earlier, there is no set number that marks the transition to hoarder. I have seen owners who are unable to properly care for the needs of two dogs. I've seen other owners do fine with twice as many dogs as I can handle. Life circumstances, children, work schedules, and financial ability all affect the number of Greyhounds an owner can adequately maintain. The training and temperaments of the dogs are also factors.

The important thing is to know your limit and stick to it — no matter what. Apart from our permanent four-legged family members, the number of dogs in our home varies. We foster dogs for our local Greyhound Pets of America chapter and we dog-sit former fosters for vacationing friends. Over the years my husband and I have learned our limit. We closely monitor ourselves as well as our dogs before taking in a dog, even temporarily. We also go through a tremendous amount of thought, analysis, and discussion before adopting another dog.

If our dogs start having behavior issues, if caring for our dogs becomes a job rather than a joy, or if we start losing patience with people around us, we probably have too many dogs in our home. We are acting like hoarders. As hoarders, we are neglecting the best interests of our own dogs and in the long term, we hurt our adoption efforts by become personally burned out.

So how many is too many? That number varies from owner to owner. The challenge is to avoid that subtle move from rescue to hoarding. Failing to do so will harm both our dogs and our rescue efforts. Yes, Greyhounds are like potato chips — hoarding either is unhealthy — for us and for the dogs. ■

Bonnie Jeffers and her husband Jim are the proud parents of four greys: Antony, Cleopatra, Alexander the Greyt hound and Cassiopeia. They have fostered almost 60 Greyhounds for the Los Angeles/Orange County chapter of Greyhound Pets of America.



Katie, adopted by Sarah Salisbury of Eliot, Me.



Expo participants weigh in at Wonderland. Joel LoGiudice

First Annual Greyhound Adoption Expo

By Shirley Smith

This is the first of several adoption-related articles in this issue that highlights what can be accomplished when people from different perspectives come together. The Greyhound Adoption Expo is an annual event that brings together adopters of retired racing Greyhounds and trainers at the Wonderland and Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Parks. Adopters gain insight into the former lives of their pets, and trainers get to see how happy the Greyhounds are as retirees.

The second annual Greyhound Adoption Expo is scheduled for June 17-19, 2005. Shirley Smith, an attendee of the first Expo, reflects upon last year's event. — Ed.

On the weekend of June 18-20, 2004, the Wonderland and Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Parks in Massachusetts hosted the First Annual Greyhound Adoption Expo for owners of retired racing Greyhounds and their families.

The representatives from Greyhound Rescue Quebec spent most of Friday traveling to Massachusetts. After registering at a pet-friendly hotel, we headed to Wonderland Greyhound Park in Revere. Upon our arrival, volunteers at the registration desk greeted us with welcome packages.

At the various booths, Greyhound owners had the opportunity to have their retired racers photographed at the official weigh station. They could meet with Wonderland trainers, who were ready and willing to supply information. Attendees could also meet Cynthia Branigan, author of *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*. Veterinarians were available to answer questions about health issues.

Ron Wohlen, General Manager of the Wonderland Greyhound Park, hosted the evening buffet. A designated pet-friendly area was set up for our Greyhounds during the meal.

After dinner, Gary Guccione of the National Greyhound Association and Cynthia Branigan gave interesting and informative talks. Later in the evening, Greyhounds participated in the "Back on Track" parade around the track and the blessing of the Greyhounds. The evening ended with a drawing of raffle tickets. It was a wonderful day and we looked forward to the second day of the Expo.

On Saturday, the Expo continued at Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park. It began at 8:30 a.m. with coffee, donuts, and juice. Park personnel greeted us warmly at registration and we spent a fair amount of time at the vendor booths where we looked over collars, coats, beds, and many other incredible Greyhound goodies. Seminars, group discussions, demonstrations, and nail clipping were just a few of the events held throughout the day.

After a delicious barbecue buffet lunch, owners and their retired racers were again invited to participate in the "Back on Track" parade around the track and the blessing of the Greyhounds. My favorite event was the paddock tour, hosted by Scott Peterson, during which we were able to see where the Greyhounds were kept and officially weighed before their races. The staff in this area was very friendly and open to all of our many questions.

The fun-filled day ended at Pratt Farm with an ice cream social. With our long drive home ahead, we missed the nature walk and the final blessing of the Greyhounds on Sunday. But we look forward to the Second Annual Greyhound Adoption Expo in June 2005. ■

Shirley Smith is the Founder and President of Greyhound Rescue Quebec. Since its inception in 2002 Greyhound Rescue Quebec has placed 178 happy Greyhounds. Prior to this Shirley was a volunteer for three years with another rescue group.



Retired racing Greyhounds and their owners participate in the Back on Track parade. *Cynthia Branigan*



Cynthia Branigan speaks, while Gary Guccione looks on. *Vanessa Varian*



Expo participants visit the vendor area at the Raynham grandstand. *Judy Scharmack*



Indy (No Cover Becki) with trainer Kathy Graham at Derby Lane, where Indy made her debut on March 30 of this year. *Vera Filipelli*

Racing For Adoption

By Dennis McKeon and Martin Roper

Talk about getting what you wish for.

In the spring of 2004 we noted the record-shattering racing career of the Irish Greyhound Late Late Show. Late Late Show broke all earnings records in Europe taking over 160,000 pounds in prizes. The Irish Racing Board gave the dog to Pat Kenny, the popular host of the TV show for which the great racer was named. All his earnings were donated to charity.

It dawned on us that a variation of this approach might be a novel way for racing Greyhound owners to help enhance the efforts of those who work tirelessly for adoption. Our mission was to think of a way to make the idea interesting to the many people who participate in the various Greyhound adoption and racing Internet message boards, racing Greyhound owners, and adoption groups who might benefit by such an undertaking.

Our plan was to buy a promising pup and sell shares in an ownership consortium or syndicate to cover the purchase price. Then, hopefully, earn a profit over and above the actual cost. Everything in excess of that would directly benefit an adoption group or groups. As the Greyhound earned racing purses, we would donate the proceeds to those groups. Our plan provided for an immediate benefit, as well as an ongoing stream of income for the career of the dog.

Hoping to locate a promising young Greyhound who might be available for a reasonable price, we contacted Larry Birnbaum, owner of C&C Kennels. His dogs race at Wheeling Island, West Virginia, Southland in West Memphis, Arkansas, and Derby Lane at St. Petersburg, Florida. Larry owns the phenomenal young sire, Craigie Whistler, a son of the incomparable Molotov. Craigie Whistler appears to be cut from the mold of his father, who was the top sire in America for five years.

We asked Larry if he knew of any nice, young, nearly track-ready Greyhounds who might be for sale. He was impressed by the idea and freely offered us such a Greyhound. He promised his finest young pup in training: Whistler's Stud, a black son of Craigie Whistler. This dog was literally burning up the training track in Texas where veteran breeder and C&C Kennels partner Buddy Scitern raises the kennel's superstars. The pup was slated to begin his racing career at Wheeling Downs, which pays the highest purses of all tracks in the United States and would certainly bode well financially for our adoption groups once selected.

We chose two groups: Greyhound Pets of America (GPA)/Tallahassee-SEGA, operating in the crucial Florida Panhandle overflow area, and Pups Without Partners, located at Shoreline Star in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Both groups exemplify the best in retired racing Greyhound welfare. Pam Davis of GPA/Tallahassee-SEGA and Penny Zwart of Pups Without Partners are extraordinary individuals, superb caretakers, and Greyhound guardian angels.

We presented our idea to both the racing and adoptive audiences on the Greytalk, Global Greyhounds, and Roo and Rant Internet message boards. To say that the response was overwhelming would be an understatement. We were immediately swamped with applications for ownership shares in Whistler's Stud.

Erika Walker-Arnold, who owns RU Webby development services, generously promised to

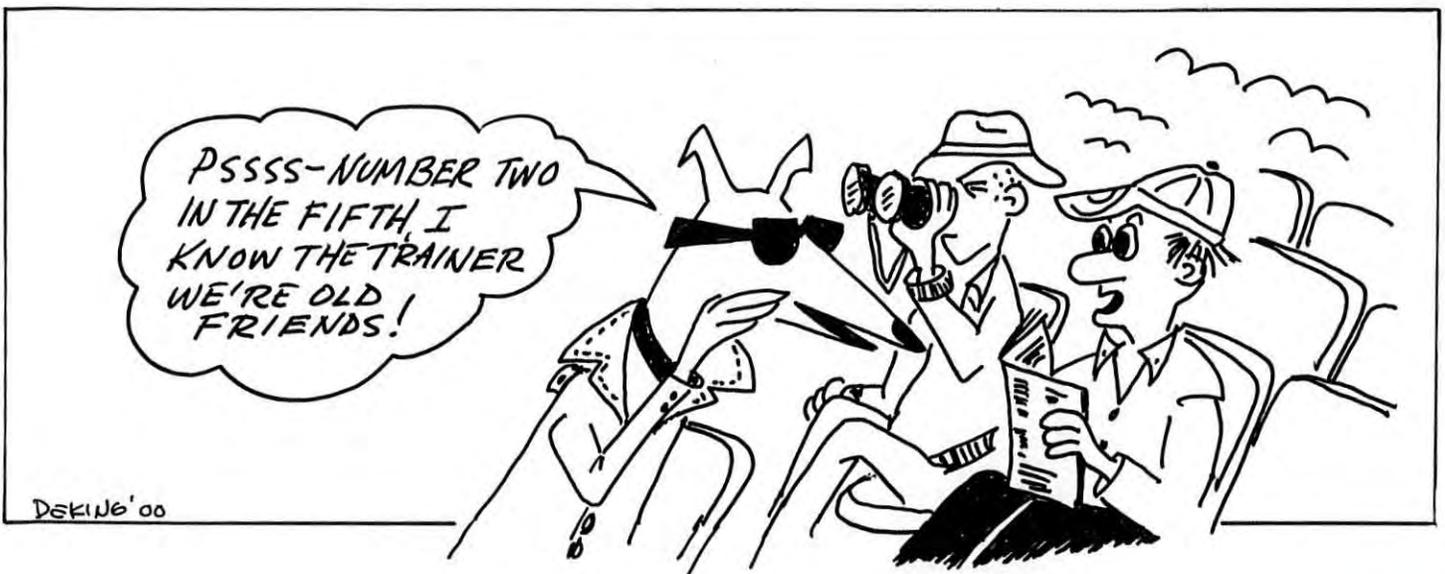


Whistler's Betty won the very first Race for Adoption, at Wheeling Downs. Paula Ginther/Times Leader

develop and maintain a website for the project. The domain name, www.RaceForAdoption.com, was quickly chosen in an impromptu contest by Greytalk forum participants.

Immediately we discovered that our reach had exceeded our grasp and the original plan already needed alteration. Because of state gaming license requirements, the attendant paperwork, and criminal background checks required of all owners, an actual ownership consortium of indi-

viduals scattered throughout the United States and Canada was impracticable. What began as an ownership venture morphed, by necessity, into a sponsorship program. Race For Adoption would forever be a work in progress, as we would discover. Nevertheless, the bureaucratic demands did not daunt our enthusiastic supporters. While we had originally planned on perhaps attracting 20 to 30 sponsors at \$100 per share, it soon became apparent that the idea struck a





Whistler's Fine races for adoption at Wheeling Downs. Here, he poses with trainer Laura Dolin of the C & C Kennel. *Paula Ginther/Times Leader*

sympathetic chord in many more people. As the checks rolled in, we revised our goal to 50 shares.

When we told Larry that we were looking at the distinct possibility of selling 50 shares in just a few short weeks, he suggested we go back and set a goal of 100 shares, which he promised to match. That meant we would be able to send each of our chosen groups \$10,000 as soon as the sponsorship group was completed — even before Whistler's Stud set foot on a real racetrack. With the added carrot of doubling our money if we reached the magic 100, remaining shares sold out in just a few days.

There were still a few hurdles to cross with Race For Adoption. It was about this time, as we completed the sponsorship drive and sent \$20,000 to our groups, that Whistler's Stud began to have growing pains after being sent to Kansas to perfect his pre-race training. As occasionally happens with young Greyhounds, his training progress stalled and there was no

way he was going to be race-ready in time to preserve the momentum of our project.

There was also no way that we were going to ask his trainers to rush this fine prospect into a premature racing career. It was a vexing situation. Again, Larry came to the rescue. He substituted Whistler's Stud's full sibling by an earlier mating — Whistler's Betty. Betty was an experienced racing dog, capable of winning top grade races at the best racetrack in the nation. While we were disappointed that Whistler's Stud had suffered his not-too-unusual training setbacks, we couldn't help but be elated by this remarkable and unanticipated development. Whistler's Betty responded by winning the first-ever Race For Adoption, on July 31, 2004 at Wheeling Downs. Betty won her Grade C race by eight lengths, after leading every step of the way. Betty already had an enthusiastic fan club and Race For Adoption was on its way.

Meanwhile, we had the good fortune to have attracted the attentions of Bob Fine and Angela

Wilson-Taylor, members of both the Greytalk and Global Greyhounds Internet boards. Angela assumed responsibility for the website and has done a remarkable job. She also orchestrated the Race For Adoption T-shirt drive, which netted a good sum of money for the Florida Greyhounds affected by the fall 2004 hurricanes.

Bob and Angela were the major movers in the second Race For Adoption sponsorship drive, which netted 100 shares at \$100 each for Whistler's Fine. Another promising son of Craigie Whistler, Whistler's Fine has begun his career racing for adoption in Grade C at Wheeling. He posted a resounding 11-length win in late February. Again, Larry matched the funds generated by the 100 sponsorship shares, making a total of another \$20,000 raised for adoption.

GPA/Emerald Coast, one more adoption group based in the Florida Panhandle, became a beneficiary of Race For Adoption during the sponsorship drive for Whistler's Fine. In the interim, Larry also designated Whistler's Run, a top grade performer at Southland, and Whistler's Miss, a young pup at Derby Lane (and a sibling to Whistler's Fine) to also run for Race For Adoption. Meanwhile, Whistler's Stud appears to have been well worth the wait and extra attention, as he has posted three wins in a row to begin his belated Race For Adoption career at Derby Lane. Whistler's Betty, originally asked to stand in temporarily for Whistler's Stud, has become a permanent member of the team and runs consistently in the money at Wheeling.

Our fondest hope was that the Race For Adoption concept would catch on with racing Greyhound owners all over the country. Happily, it appears that this is the case, as two more Greyhounds have been designated to Race For Adoption. Henry Howe's pup, Mandys Choo Choo, running to benefit Project Racing Home, has already netted wins at Orange Park in Jacksonville. Dave and Becki Johnson's No Cover Becki is schooling at Derby Lane and will run to benefit Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption in Minnesota.

At this writing, Race For Adoption has netted over \$62,000. Every penny has gone to our participating adoption groups. All relevant information and a message board are at our website www.RaceForAdoption.com. Anyone can still sponsor any of our racers. We encourage everyone to visit the site, ask questions, and participate in

Visit www.RaceForAdoption.com for the latest on the Race For Adoption Greyhounds. Links to videos of the dogs in action are available plus results of recent races. For those unfamiliar with Greyhound breeding, rearing, and training, there is an illustrated section devoted to showing the lives of our racing Greyhounds. Racing neophytes can get up to speed by checking out the racing section, which explains how to read a program, the grading system, tracks, and a glossary of terms to translate sometimes incomprehensible racing jargon into English. The "About us" section includes brief bios of Race For Adoption volunteers and information on how to get involved as a sponsor. Most importantly, there is a banner that keeps everyone abreast of how much Race For Adoption has earned to date. One hundred percent of what we take in goes directly to adoption.

this effort. The vast online adoptive audience of the retired racing Greyhound is enthusiastically supportive of the idea and many have become sponsors of the Greyhounds who race for adoption, as have many racing Greyhound owners. They have networked, and if need be, pooled their monies together to support this novel idea. The idea seems to have transcended political lines and brought together a vast array of supporters, from the adoption, racing, and even coursing realms, who all have one common goal — the welfare and preservation of the racing Greyhound. ■

Dennis McKeon is a former professional Greyhound trainer who has a keen interest in Greyhound bloodlines and pedigree analysis. He is a free online resource (at www.raceforadoption.com) for breeders and adoptive owners of the racing Greyhound who wish to learn more about their Greyhound's lineage and heritage. Martin Roper adopted his first Greyhound, JC (JC's Grey Hawk), in 1993. He teaches school in Chapel Hill, N.C. and is also on the staff of www.Greyhound-data.com, the world's largest breed database.



Boomer and Sophie, adopted by Denise and Frank Wolf of Riverside, N.J.

Poetry

Barking Like Elvis

Because the serenade occurs before
we enter the house,
I can't vouch for swaying hips or hair,
but I know that those liquid brown eyes,
that hound dog look, ears cocked
at a rakish angle,
make girls long for his kisses
and that low soulful moan
of a bark, newly mastered
after years of dignified silence,
sounds just like Elvis,
the Basset Hound
two doors down.

— Yvonne Zipter



Many vendors and adoption groups participated in Petapalooza.

Petapalooza

Adoption Groups Coming Together

Story by Jim Bader, DVM

Photos by Merri Van Dyke

Adoption groups, whether devoted to Greyhounds, mixed breeds, purebreds, cats, kittens, or puppies, face daily challenges. The overabundance of available pets, the competition between groups, and the lack of opportunities to educate the public on the need for pet adoption are just a few. In Holland, Michigan, local adoption groups addressed these issues by forming a Petapalooza: A gathering that brings adoption groups and adopters together to benefit the pets.

Selecting groups to participate was not difficult. We set two criteria for a group's participation. First, all groups had to neuter or spay their pets before adoption. Groups using spay/neuter contracts were not allowed to participate. Our organizers felt strongly that the pet be altered before placement. Second, all groups had to have an adoption application process, with no on-site adoptions. This assures that new owners are screened, thus avoiding spur-of-the-moment decisions and reducing the adoption failure rate.

Planning Petapalooza began two to three months before the first event. We decided to hold it on the same day of each month, and every other month during the winter months to avoid the December holiday season. We chose the third Sunday of the month. The public knows that every third Sunday they can count on the event taking place. If a potential adopter does not meet the perfect pet one month, maybe they will the next.

Sunday scheduling also avoids disruption of business as the event is hosted by an animal clinic. We limited the number of groups to nine based on the available space. Every group has enough room to showcase a few pets and introduce the public to the variety of pets available. The adoption groups include three devoted to mixed breeds (two of which also adopt cats and kittens), five breed-specific groups (two Greyhound groups, a Rottweiler group, a Border Collie group, and one devoted to the Alaskan Malamute) plus a puppy group.

Advertising began about one month before the first event. We distributed flyers to local pet stores, groomers, and veterinary offices. On the weekend of the event, half-page newspaper ads highlighting one pet from each group ran on Saturday and Sunday. The newspaper continues to donate the Sunday ad as a service to the community. Donations and sponsors are solicited from local businesses and individuals.

Each of the first three events drew about 100 attendees. We asked ourselves how we could make this event bigger and attract more interest. We thought that a Petapalooza combined with a Pet Fair would increase the awareness of our monthly event. In addition to adoption groups, we decided to include pet-related vendors, animal displays, and events.

Two months before the event, we contacted vendors and adoption groups. One month before the event, we obtained written confirmation from the vendors and adoption groups. We charged a small fee for booth space, rather than a percentage of vendor sales.

We paid to have a local radio station do a remote broadcast from the Petapalooza. The station promoted the broadcast on air for two weeks before the event. The purchase of the remote allowed for a certain number of promotions each day, but the disc jockeys were very passionate about the event and promoted it more than the allotted slots. The scheduled slots also promoted the participating vendors, events, and times.

Petapalooza events were varied: The Ottawa County Animal Control Officer discussed bite prevention. Premiere Animal Attractions displayed exotic animals, most of them rescues. Zeke the Wonder Dog, the Frisbee[®]-catching dog featured at the Michigan State University football halftime shows, performed for the group. Everyone donated their time and efforts to the event.

Four days before the event we conducted a trial run. We established the vendor setup and decided how to handle parking. We brainstormed all the "what-ifs." On the day of the event, we began setting up four hours before the start time. We staked and labeled the vendor areas and designated the parking areas. We secured and double-checked the areas of the animal hospital that would be closed to the public. The radio station arrived about half an hour before the event. We discussed the messages to endorse during the broadcast. For example, we encouraged attendees to leave their pets at home so as not to disturb the



Local media have generated a great deal of interest in Petapalooza. Here, Tim Steele of WYVN-FM takes a break with Dr. Jim Bader.

adoptable pets and announced the times for the Frisbee[®] demonstrations.

By start time, everything was in place. One question remained: If we build it, will they come?

The answer was a resounding yes: About 100 people arrived within the first 15 minutes, and more kept coming. People wandered the event, visiting the booths and vendors. The demonstrations throughout the day kept people there and the more they stayed, the more they learned. Some people even returned a second and third time with family members who weren't able to make an earlier appearance. People spoke with many of the groups, asking questions, meeting new friends, and becoming educated on the number of pets available for adoption. Zeke the Wonder Dog was a huge success. His story is very special because he was adopted as an adult, survived heartworm treatment, and is now an expert Frisbee dog. He showed everyone that you can teach an old dog new tricks. The Petapalooza and Pet Fair attendance totaled about 1,000 people.

No adoptions took place during the event, of course. But each group received several adoption applications and about 25 to 30 adoptions were reported over the following week. Each participating adoption group has seen their number of placements increase. Attendance at the smaller monthly events also doubled. More new people are attending the events with some coming back again and again until they find the perfect match.

We now have a waiting list of adoption groups that want to participate. We still limit the number of groups to nine, but if we do not have

confirmation of a group's attendance, the next group on the list receives an invitation. The original group does not lose its place for the following month. We understand that time conflicts can occur.

The Petapaloozas, including the Pet Fair, are a substantial investment of time, money, and effort. Without the cooperation of all the adoption groups and volunteers, these events would not be successful. Cooperation is what has benefited the pets the most. In the end, the groups all know that the ultimate goal is to find good homes for their adoptable dogs. Mutual cooperation has made this a very achievable goal as the success of Petapalooza certainly demonstrates. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



Zeke the Wonder Dog does his thing for the Petapalooza participants.

Saturday, June 4

GreyFest

Greyhound Pets of America/Minnesota

Spooner Park

350 Eli Road

Little Canada, Minn.

Greyhound festival fundraiser to help support placement of retired racing Greyhounds. There will be great food, lots of fun, raffle prizes for every age and interest, shopping, games, contests, and Greyhounds. Contact: Sylvia Kresal, (612) 924-9057 or nkresal@mn.rr.com

Saturday, June 4

The Pharaoh's Follies — Greyhound Gala and Auction

Greyhound Pets of America/Greater Orlando

5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Renaissance Hotel Orlando/Airport Orlando, Fla.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing, fashion show, silent and live auctions. \$50.00/person. This is our major fundraiser this year and our goal is to raise \$20,000 to help cover our kennel expenses. Contact: Lisa Noler, (407) 332-4754 or gala@greyhoundpetsoflorida.org

Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5

Annual Spring Open House

Greyhound Friends, Inc.

12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

167 Saddle Hill Road

Hopkinton, Mass.

Join us at our annual spring open house. Good food, great company, shopping for humans and hounds, silent auction and raffle, and the Not Quite Westminster Dog Show. Let your Greyhound run in the fenced field. The Greyhounds in the kennel waiting for homes always love visitors. Contact: Louise Coleman, 508-435-5969 or greyhndfids@aol.com

Sunday, June 5

Eighth Annual Picnic

South Jersey Volunteers for National Greyhound Adoption Program

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

Atlantic County Park

Estell Manor, N.J.

Raffles, Chinese auction, vendors, and surprises! Contact: Merci Riccardi, (609) 266-7818 or mercibar1@aol.com

Saturday, June 11

GEM 2005 Picnic

GreyHounds of Eastern Michigan

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

Wayne County Fairgrounds (rain or shine — indoor facility)

Belleville, Mich.

Lunch — \$5 donation

Great vendors, great auction, great raffle, great hounds, and great people = great time. Contact: Kathy Helm, gryz4me@hotmail.com or 877-GEM-DOGS; www.GEMgreyhounds.org

Saturday, June 11

Annual Picnic in the Park

Greyhound Pets of America/California, Orange County and Greater Los Angeles

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

The Park at La Habra Heights

1885 N. Hacienda Blvd.

La Habra Heights, Calif.

BBQ lunch, Greyhound games, vendors, raffle, silent and live auctions, animal communicator, Canine Good Citizen testing, group roo, agility course. \$12 advance registration, \$15 day of event. Contact: Sandy Hightower, (714) 776-8212 or greysandy@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, June 12

A Gathering of the Hounds

Greyhound Guardians

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

Woodland Park

2100 Willowcreek Road

Portage, Ind.

Raffles, contests, special events, vendors, food and fun. Contact: Lee Lavery, (219) 661-0350 or ggpres@msn.com

Sunday, June 12

Annual Picnic

Pocono Greyhound Adoption

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Chestnuthill Park

Brodheadsville, Pa.

Annual picnic with things to buy, raffles to win, and friends to make. Contact: Joan DiMondo, (570) 595-9622 or joand@ptd.net; www.pocono-greyhound.com

Sunday, June 12

First Annual Gathering

Keystone Greyhounds/GPA

12 noon to 6:00 p.m.

City Island Carousel Pavilion

City Island

Harrisburg, Pa.

Great food, games, silent auction, merchandise, a good time for all hounds and humans. All groups welcome. Contact: Dianne Shadle, (717) 234-1860; keystonegreys@earthlink.net

Sunday, June 12

Fourth Annual Grey Day Picnic

Linda Ann's Greyhound Rescue, Inc.

12 noon to sunset

Upper Macungie Park

Route 100

Fogelsville, Pa.

Chinese auction, vendors, food, and more.

Contact: Linda Ann, (610) 264-8111 or JLAGreys@webtv.net

Friday through Sunday, June 17-19

Greyhound Adoption Expo

1:00 p.m. Friday through noon on Sunday

Wonderland Greyhound Park, Revere, Mass.;

Raynham Greyhound Park, Raynham, Mass.;

Borderland State Park, Easton, Mass.

Educational and fun expo where you and your

Greyhounds can be together the entire weekend.

Dinner at Wonderland and lunch at Raynham provided at deeply discounted prices and served so the

dogs can be there. Children welcome. Speakers,

demos, discussion groups, vendors, fun run, fashion

show/costume contest, Back on Track (a chance to

walk your hound on both tracks), memorial service,

blessing of the hounds, book signings, and

more. Shopping is the only thing with a price tag.

Full list of contacts and registration available at

www.greyhoundadoptionexpo.com.

Saturday, June 18

Third Annual Picnic

Greyhound Adoption of Greater Rochester, N.Y.

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

Elks Lodge #24

3525 East Henrietta Road

Henrietta, N.Y.

A fun-filled day of food, games, raffles and great

merchandise for owners and their Greyhounds.

Contact: Brenda Grammatico, (585) 377-0811 or

events@greyhoundadopt.org

Saturday, June 18

Summer Blast

Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption

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

Legion Park

Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Annual picnic with lots of games, vendors, food,

prizes, auctions, and raffles; fun for Greyhounds

and their people. Contact: Kay McNelis, (814)

942-3145 or houndmom@atlanticbb.net; Peg

O'Brien, (814) 943-1475, obie@alt3.com

Sunday, June 19

Wheelin & Dealin for Greyhounds — Poker Run
Greyhound Pets of America/Central Florida
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Melbourne Greyhound Park
Melbourne, Fla.

Benefit Poker Run to different areas in Brevard County. Bikers will cruise the space coast of Florida. Proceeds will benefit GPA/Central Florida and help defray costs associated with caring for broken-legged Greyhounds. Contact: Lorie Stewart, (321) 779-9289, zoomer@cfl.rr.com or Claire Tyler, (321) 242-8282, greymomcrt@cfl.rr.com

Saturday, June 25

Spring Fling 2005
Greyhound Friends of New Jersey
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Atlantic County Park on Route 50
Estell Manor, N.J.

Fourth annual picnic and fundraiser will feature contests, raffles, vendors, food, and so much fun your Greyhound will beg to come back next year. Adoptable Greyhounds will be showcased and available to pre-approved homes. Public is invited. All dogs must be leashed and well-behaved. Contact: Patricia Tuston, (609) 625-2653 or (609) 425-3067; spotsylott@aol.com

Saturday and Sunday, June 25 & 26

Renaissance in the Pines
Greyhounds of Fairhaven
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Fort Tuthill
Flagstaff, Ariz.

For the second year, Greyhounds of Fairhaven will be promoting Greyhound adoption at the Renaissance in the Pines. If you will be in the Flagstaff area, please come by to say hello and meet our most noble hounds. For additional information, please visit our website at www.GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org. Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or info@GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org

Sunday, June 26

Greyhound Reunion
Retired Greyhound Athletes
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Winnagamie Dog Club
W7257 Manitowoc Road
Menasha, Wisc.

The second bi-annual reunion for Retired Greyhound Athletes of the Fox Cities in Wisconsin will feature many great activities, including two performances of the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team, Greyhound Olympics, speakers, vendors, silent auction, raffle, refreshments, nail clipping clinic, microchipping, and an animal artist and/or photographer. Entry fee: \$10 in advance, \$14 at the door. Contact: Earle Sherrod, (920) 731-9092 or info@retiredgreyhoundathletes.org; www.retiredgreyhoundathletes.org

Saturday, July 30

Annual Reunion
Rainbow's End Greyhound Rescue
Starts at noon

Ann Whitney's home
Sweet Valley, Pa.

Relaxing cover dish picnic with the best dogs, great people, neat games, raffles, auctions, and shopping. If you can bring something for the raffle that would be great! Contact: Ann, (570) 477-3646; Diana, (570) 822-9815 or dakc@epix.net

Saturday and Sunday, August 6 & 7

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 fifth year, The 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. For additional information, please visit our website at www.GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org. Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or info@GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org

Sunday, August 14

Ain't Nothin' but Greyhounds Picnic
Greyhound Pets of America/Nashville
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Livestock Center at Middle Tennessee
State University

Murfreesboro, Tenn. (35 miles south of Nashville)
An afternoon of food, fun, vendors, camaraderie and games. Muzzled hounds can romp safely off lead in the air-conditioned livestock arena. \$5/person, \$10/family. Contact: Mardy Fones, (615) 297-2033 or mafones@comcast.net; www.nashvillegreys.com

Saturday, August 20

Annual Picnic
Team Greyhound Adoption of Ohio
Lucas County Fairgrounds
1406 Key Street

Maumee, Ohio

Bring your Greyhounds and help us celebrate our red, white, and blue themed picnic. Vendors, blessing of the hounds, silent and live auctions, 50/50 raffle, microchipping, food, beverages, contests, fun run, nail trimming, and more. Bring your ex-pens and chairs and enjoy the shade. List of dog friendly motels and other information available at www.teamgreyhound.com. Contact: Kathy Wollin, (517) 486-5290, kathywollin492@hotmail.com

Saturday, August 28

Day at the Races Fundraiser
Pups Without Partners Greyhound
Adoption Program

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Shoreline Star Greyhound Park

255 Kossuth Street
Bridgeport, Conn.

Fundraiser, vendor, speeches, and awards. \$25.00/person; lunch and gift included with admission. Sorry, minors and Greyhounds may not attend. Contact: Penny Zwart, (203) 576-1976 ext. 342 or crys1982@aol.com

Friday through Sunday, September 2-4

2005 North American Greyhound
Adoption Conference

Wyndham Westshore Hotel
4860 W. Kennedy Blvd.

Tampa, Fla.

This year's meeting is sponsored by Greyhound Pets of America/Tampa. For details, visit www.gpa-convention.org.

Saturday, September 10

Eighth Annual Picnic
Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Battle Creek Regional Park

2300 Upper Afton Road
Maplewood, Minn.

Greyhounds, fun, food, vendors, raffle, auction, and the fabulous Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds will entertain and delight us all. Contact: Donna Barr, (763) 754-9754 or guber2nac@aol.com

Sunday, September 11

Annual Reunion and Picnic
Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption
of Michigan, Inc.

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

Bell Creek Park

Inkster and 5 Mile Roads

Redford Township, Mich.

Fun, games, food and shopping. Reunite with the Greyhounds you helped save. Contact: Colleen Dykstra, (248) 656-5645; dazygrey@comcast.net

Sunday, September 11

Annual Picnic
Greyhound Pets of America/Northern Virginia
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Franklin Still Pond Community Center

12700 Franklin Farm Road

Oak Hill, Va.

Games, food, GPA store, costume contest, raffles, silent auction. Contacts: Micky Foreman, mygreyhounds@usadatanet.net; Kathy Keefer, jkkaitkyle@aol.com; Gay LaNasa, gayfer@msn.com

September 12-18

Greyhound Planet

Greyhound Planet is a time chosen each year to honor the Greyhound and its relatives (Galgos, lurchers, etc.) throughout the world. The purpose of this international event is to raise the public's awareness of the wonder and magic of Greyhounds as pets, educate others on the current status of Greyhounds around the world, and to honor those Greyhounds who have left us already. For a complete listing of events (and to list your group's event), please visit www.ameurogreyhoundalliance.org/ghplanet.htm

Sunday, September 18

Third Annual Picnic

Greyhound Welfare, Inc.

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

Circle D Farm

15535 Carrs Mill Road

Woodbine, Md.

Bring your Greyhound for a day of food and fun. Shop for you or your Greyhound at one of our vendors, see a lure coursing demonstration, and learn more about your Greyhound at a Q&A session with Lee Livingood, author of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*. \$15/adults, \$10/children. Advance registration recommended. Contacts: Julie Sanders, (301) 980-7753 or js@greyhoundwelfare.org; Jenny Glenn, (301) 949-0615 or jg_consult@yahoo.com

Sunday, September 18

Annual Picnic and Reunion

Greyhound Rescue, Inc.

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

Carderock Park

Carderock, Md.

Annual reunion celebrating Greyhound adoption. Bring a dish to share and a blanket for your hounds. Contact: Darlene Riden, (410) 721-1154 or d.riden@comcast.net; www.greyrescue.org

Saturday and Sunday, September 24 & 25

It's a Greyhound Life!

Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth (GLOHW)

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

The Binbrook Fairgrounds

Binbrook, Ontario, Canada

Our fifth annual celebration of Greyhound life with special guests The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds. Events, seminars, and opportunities to shop and socialize. Contact: Heather Geres, (905) 692-5790 or glohw@glohw.on.ca; www.glohw.on.ca

Friday through Sunday, September 30-October 2

Prairie Beach: A Gathering of Champions

Heartland Greyhound Adoption

3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday;

10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday;

6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Settle Inn and Suites

Altoona, Ia.

Join us for our fourth annual celebration of Greyhounds. Greyhound adoption supporters from 13 states and Canada have attended our first three years, and you can get in on the action! We'll feature an appearance by the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds, give everyone a chance to meet Jo Ann Bennett-Boltinghouse, author of *YolandaBaby Meets the Bippers*, and have a raffle and auction of Greyhound-related merchandise. Contacts: Mary Neubauer, (515) 238-7292 or mneubauer@mchsi.com; Eugenio Coco, (515) 334-5419 or endcoco1@mchsi.com; Jorene King, (515) 967-6564 or joreneross@aol.com; www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org

Saturday and Sunday, October 1-2

Fall Open House

Greyhound Friends, Inc.

12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

167 Saddle Hill Road

Hopkinton, Mass.

Join us at our annual fall open house. Good food, great company (lots of visiting adopted Greyhounds), shopping for humans and hounds, silent auction and raffle, Not Quite Westminster Dog Show. Let your Greyhound run in the fenced field. The Greyhounds in the kennel waiting for homes always love visitors. Everyone is welcome with their hounds. Contact: Louise Coleman, greyhndfids@aol.com

Friday through Sunday, October 7-9

Age of Chivalry Renaissance Festival

Greyhounds of Fairhaven

Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.;

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

Sunset Park Lakeside

2601 E. Sunset Road

Las Vegas, Nev.

For the fourth year The Greyhounds of Fairhaven will be promoting Greyhound adoption at this event. If you will be in the Las Vegas area, please come by to say hello and meet our most noble hounds. For additional information please visit our website at www.GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org. Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or info@GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org

Saturday, October 29

Annual Greyhound Picnic

Racing Dog Rescue Project

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sun and Fun RV Park

7125 Fruitville Road

Sarasota, Fla.

Contests, animal psychics, vendors galore, and an auction of items generously donated by local businesses. Contact: Nancy Quinn, (941) 751-1088 or gryhndldy@tampabay.rr.com





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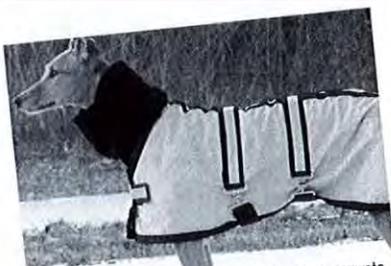
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For adoption information for these wonderful greyhounds, please email Marilyn at mvarnberg@earthlink.net

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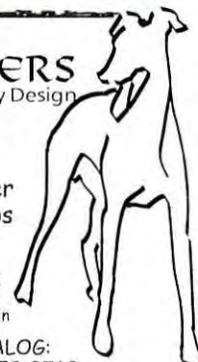


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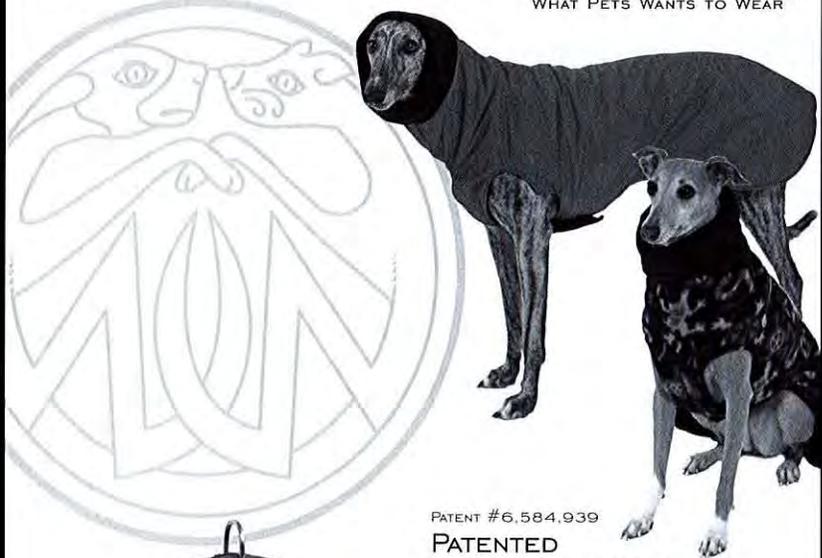
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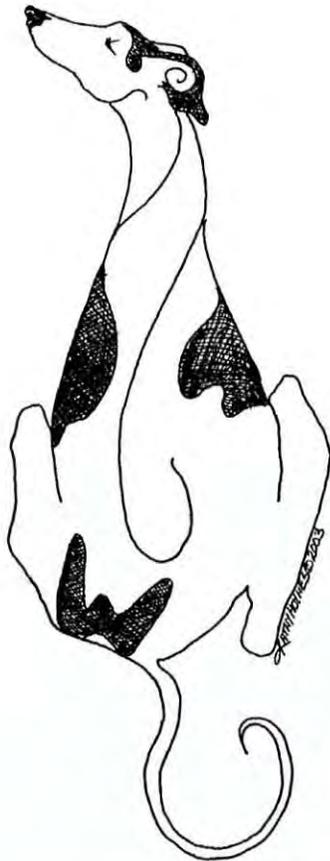
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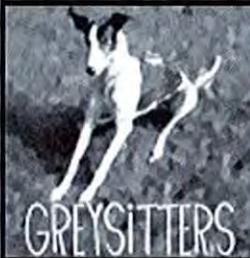
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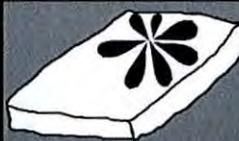
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Carrie (Bama Carrie) 1994-2005

Carrie was a beautiful, white-faced fawn girl who melted hearts with one glance, dropping her ears and gazing up with big brown eyes. She was pictured on page 42 of the Fall 2004 issue of CG. She stole the hearts of Amy and Bill Reynard in March 1999. She chose them after her racing career ended at age 5. Carrie loved to ride and traveled up and down the east coast. She hiked in the mountains of North Carolina and left paw prints on the beaches of Florida, North Carolina, and Delaware (along with thousands of others at the Greyhounds Reach the Beach gatherings at Dewey Beach). She was a pet therapy veteran, visiting several facilities in Winston-Salem, N.C. She made friends everywhere she went and was a walking public relations campaign for Greyhound adoption. Carrie peacefully crossed the Bridge in January 2005 after a short battle with osteosarcoma. She is greatly missed by her hound brother, Smokey, and her feline friends. And, of course, she is missed by her people who will never forget her and the joy she shared every day of her life.



Elmo (Rapido Elmo) 1992-2004

Elmo was Karen Fishella's first Greyhound, adopted when he was two and a half years of age. He was pictured in CG three times: On page 42 of the Fall 1997 issue, page 1 of the Fall 2002 issue, and page 48 of the Spring 2003 issue. Elmo passed away from transitional cell carcinoma, prostate tumor, which spread to his lungs. He was with Karen for nine years. Elmo shared his home

with many foster Greyhounds, and attended neighborhood festivals and meet-and-greets to promote Greyhound adoption. His loving nature brought out the best in everyone around him. Elmo is sorely missed and their memories of him will be forever cherished, a dog of a lifetime.



Lilly 1993-2004

Adopted and loved by David and Kathy French of Woodbine, Ga., Lilly was pictured on page 29 of the Summer 2001 issue of CG. Lilly lost her battle with inoperable liposarcoma. She raced in southwest Florida until she fractured her left front leg. Despite a limp, Lilly was always happy and with just three legs could outrun most dogs. Cynthia Branigan nicknamed her Lilly the Lovebug. She was also affectionately called Lilly the Leaner for the way she planted herself against whoever stood beside her. Lilly was a celebrity dog in parades and visits to the local convalescent centers. She appeared in schools, academies, Rotary and Kiwanis Club events, and many meet-and-greets. Frilly Lilly appeared on television and in a number of newsletters and newspapers. She had a distinctive chortle that would let one know when she wanted to eat, have a treat, go outside, or go for a ride. After the diagnosis her mom and dad took a full week to take her on rides to the beach, shower her with affection, and give her all the treats she wanted. Lilly approached the Rainbow Bridge with a smile on her face and with her mom and dad beside her.



Ricci (Dal Pal Ricochet, CDX) 1991-2004

Forever to be missed by Mike and Marilyn Gaffney, Ricci was pictured on page 6 of the Fall 2003 issue of CG, and her battles with pituitary macroadenoma were chronicled in "Ricci's Remarkable Diagnosis" (Summer 2002 CG) and "We're Off to See the Wizard Team: Ricci's Recurring Brain Tumor" (Fall 2004 CG). After successful radiation treatments in 2000 and 2003, Ricci's age finally seemed to catch up with her. Ricci's quality of life was deteriorating in a variety of ways. In the end, it was lumbar pain and instability that convinced Mike and Marilyn to let Ricci go. In her last few weeks, Ricci was much like the geriatric patient confined to a nursing home, sleeping most of the day and laying with a blank gaze during much of her wakeful hours. None of us wants to be that person, so because we can assist our beloved pets, Mike and Marilyn made the difficult decision to do so. Their lives were forever changed by adopting this wonderful Greyhound. Ricci introduced them to so many people. This will remain Ricci's living legacy.



Roxanne (1993-2005)

Roxanne, Mary Ann Moore's first Greyhound, was pictured on page 2 of the Summer 2002 issue of CG and on page 5 of the Winter 2004 issue, nipping the nose of a concrete Greyhound statue. Roxanne changed Mary Ann's life in many ways. She came to live with her in 1995 through Greyhound Companions of

Missouri after a short racing career at Waterloo, Iowa. Roxanne was peacefully sent to Rainbow Bridge on February 11, 21 months after amputation of her left front leg due to osteosarcoma. A large tumor was found in her right shoulder after x-rays determined a broken bone at the site. She would be honored to know she has donated tissue to participate in a study to isolate a gene that could possibly determine predisposition to bone cancer. Thanks to regular acupuncture, herbal supplements, and her strong, spirited personality, she was happy, healthy and active until the end. She touched a lot of people and will be missed by her canine family, Beau, Pierre, and Chico, and all the guests she welcomed as "hostess" at The Greyhound Hotel.



Safire (Indio's Kwik Kick) 1995-2005

Safire was set free from Protein Losing Enteropathy. Donated to the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds Drill Team by GPA/Florida-Southeast Coast in October 1998, she quickly discovered there was no more ecstatic experience than to be in a show ring with an appreciative audience. Known as Gil's Girl, she exalted in leaping from a sit to higher than his shoulder and derived great enjoyment from doing the Leap Frog with both Chey and Mist. She designed several new acts for the Team and added the singing portion when they changed their format to a comedy show. A couch potato, she was not! She made many TV appearances with the Team, and she was photographed for many publications, including CG, where her story ("The Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds: Ambassadors for Greyhound Adoption") and photographs of her amazing leaps were featured in the Spring 2004 issue.



Savannah 1994-2004

Adopted and loved by Judy and Michael Newell of Vero Beach, Fla., Savannah's story was featured in "Doggie Daycare" (Fall 1996 CG). She also appeared on the cover of the Summer 2000 issue of CG with her pal Little Butter, the cat. Savannah was adopted as a puppy with a broken leg and pelvis from Greyhound Friends in Hopkinton, Mass. Her spirit was like that of no other dog. When she was a puppy, her Greyhound buddies nicknamed her "the beast." Her energy level and spirit stayed with her all her life. She was loved every moment of every day that she spent with her family. She was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in November 2004, after a spontaneous break at the pin site in her leg. Even during that last week, when she was home with a soft wrap waiting for the results from Tallahassee, she was determined to get up and walk. Through the generosity of the Director of the Vero Beach Humane Society, Savannah was able to stay at home in Judy's arms as she went to the Rainbow Bridge. She is missed by Judy and Michael, her sister Dakota, and all five cats, especially Little Butter.



Winston (1995-2005)

Beloved companion of Rich and Kathy Hoynes, Winston was pictured in numerous issues of CG, including the back cover of the Winter 2002 issue and the front cover of the Summer 2004 issue. He was also the inspiration for many of Kathy's drawings, which have appeared throughout the magazine. Winston had bone cancer. It was swift. And he is now at peace. Rich and Kathy don't know if he's running, as he loved snoozing on his pillow far more, but they

do know that he is with friends and that he is happy. The last eight years were the most amazing time for Rich and Kathy. Winston gave them a happiness that was unlimited. He made them better people. And he showed them the way to the most wonderful adventures. Do not grieve, do not be sad. That was not what Winston would have wanted. Think of him with joy. Think of him with love. But above all, think of him in the spirit of fun. For that is the most important thing that Winston was.



Zeke 1994-2005

Pictured in CG three times (on page 42 of the Fall 1997 issue, page 1 of the Fall 2002 issue, and page 7 of the Winter 2002 issue), Zeke joined the Fishella family in 1995 after two years of racing. He passed away due to cancer of the pancreas/liver in February 2005, within one month of his companion, Elmo. Zeke shared his home with Elmo and other Greyhounds and fosters. Karen remembers when she first got Elmo and Zeke thinking that she would be grateful for whatever time they had together. She was fortunate to have ten wonderful years of laughs, cuddles, and fun with these big-hearted, loving Greyhounds. Zeke always ran around with a stuffed animal in his mouth. When someone came to the door, he would feverishly rustle through his toy box for the appropriate toy, then parade around and come in and out of the room where the people were, so everyone could marvel at how cute he was. They will forever miss Zeke's face in the window upon returning home, and they will keep memories of him in their hearts for eternity.

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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