cgmagazine

celebrating greyhounds

Summer 2007

$6.50

Summer Fun with your Greyhound

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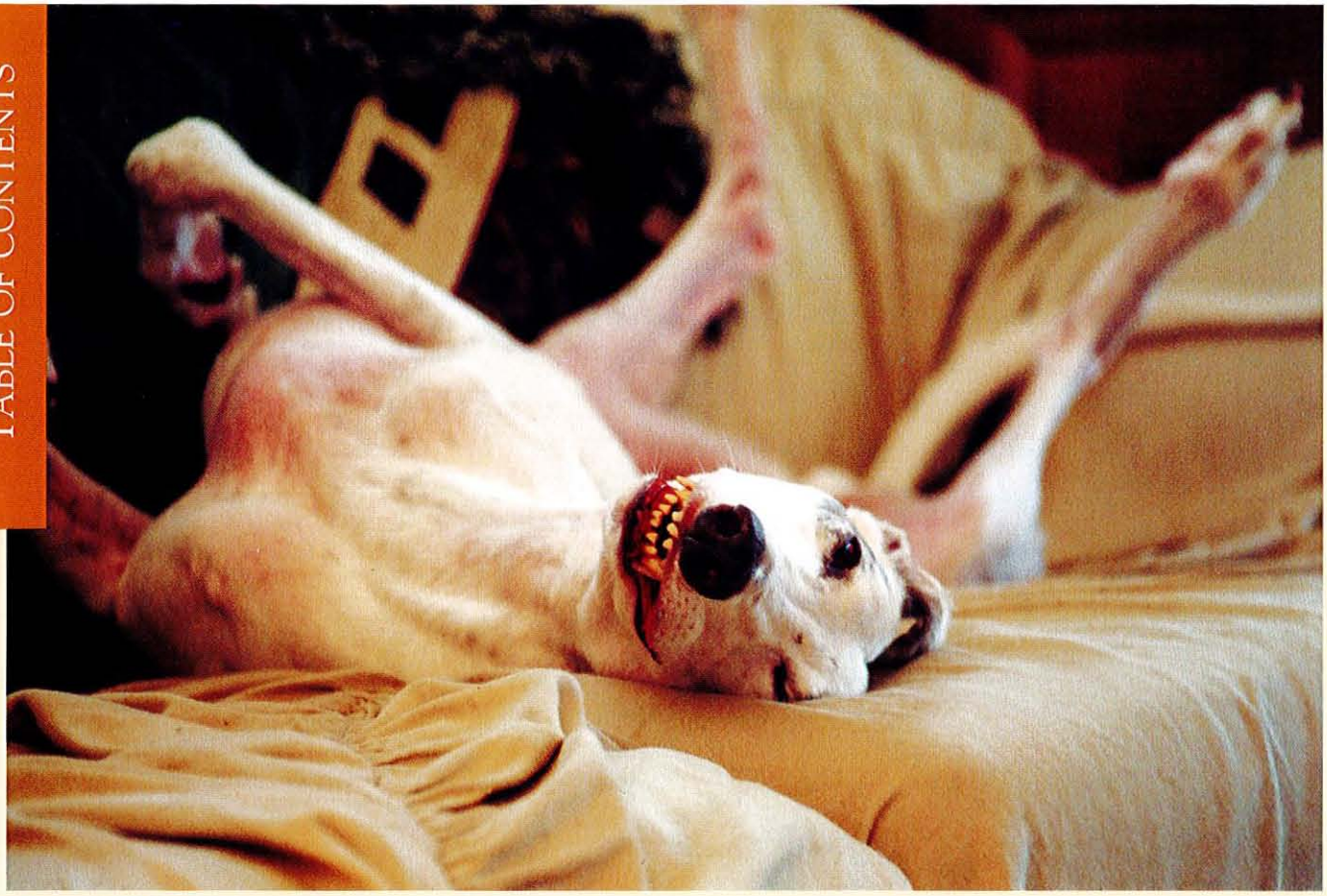

Herman, adopted by Cindy Hanson of St. Paul, Minn.

Front Cover Credit:
On a summer day in 1941, Georgia Donovan enjoys the company of Sonny the Greyhound. Sonny belonged to Billy Saffold, a friend of the family; the photograph was taken at Beaulieu, Saffold's home in Savannah, Ga. Donovan's daughter—also named Georgia—adopted a Greyhound many years later, and found this photograph of her mother after she passed away in 2003. Georgia Schilling shares this and other photographs in "Greyhounds in My Pedigree," in this issue.

Back Cover Credit:
Katie (MACH Never Had Braces CDX) negotiates the weave poles at an agility competition. The first Greyhound to earn the title of Master Agility Champion, Katie lives witih Jennifer Bachelor in Acworth, Ga.
Tien Tran Photography

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cgmagazine
The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters, Owners, and Friends
Vol. 12; No. 2 Summer 2007

Morgan, adopted by Jaclyn and Brandon Kronstedt of Minneapolis, Minn.

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Editorial Comments

Assembling the Summer issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* is an exercise in irony. The production schedule of a quarterly publication being what it is, we labor over material related to summer activities in late February/early March, as we slog through the last few weeks of winter. I think of the Summer issue as an opportunity to anticipate warmer days, weekends of camping and hiking with my Greyhounds, picnics and reunions, and working in the yard while watching the dogs snooze in the grass.

This year will be different. My first Greyhound, Herman, passed away four weeks ago. Hannah, my oldest Greyhound, passed away the day before yesterday.

Neither death was unexpected. Over the past year, Herman's battles with lumbosacral stenosis and kidney disease had become increasingly difficult. When he developed a persistent limp in his right front leg, an x-ray revealed osteosarcoma, and I knew it was time to let him go. Hannah had grown increasingly fragile with age, with a perplexingly high white cell count. When she began gasping Thursday night, I rushed her to the animal hospital. The veterinarian identified massive internal bleeding — later determined to be the result of hemangiosarcoma — and, once again, I found myself saying goodbye.

Now we are two, just Hattie and me. I wonder what the next few weeks and months will be like for her. Does she miss the other dogs? Will she be lonely while I'm at work? So far, I have seen no signs that she is grieving. Perhaps she knew — even before I did — that their time with us was nearing an end. It makes sense to me that dogs can sense an impending change in their pack. She does not perk up her ears when I say their names. I let her sniff their empty collars and leashes when I returned from the animal hospital, dogless and sobbing. She seems to know they are gone.

I wonder what the coming weeks and months will be like for me, too. I miss Herman and Hannah so much. I know I can never replace them. But I want to adopt again, both to give Hattie a companion and because I love these dogs so much. What am I looking for in my next Greyhound? Will I recognize him — or her — when we meet? When will I know that I am ready?

Guiltily, I'll admit that life is shockingly easier now without two sick dogs. I can sleep later in the mornings when I don't have to plan to shampoo the back end of an occasionally incontinent dog. Walks are much more fun with a dog who can keep up with me. And it's nice to know that when I put down the bowl of kibble, it will be eaten.

I put Herman and Hannah's bowls in the basement. Their collars, leashes, and coats are still hanging in the mudroom. I will have to do something with these things when the weather gets warmer; by then, perhaps, their removal will seem less momentous.

For me, this year, summer can't come soon enough.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

CG *Magazine*, Attention: Subscriptions, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701; subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org. Allow eight weeks for change of address.

SUBMISSIONS

For writing and photography guidelines, visit www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine/guidelines.html or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to CG *Magazine* Guidelines, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. Initial queries preferred.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND QUESTIONS

CG *Magazine*/Editorial Office, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112; editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org.

ADVERTISING

CG *Magazine*/Advertising, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701; advertising@adopt-a-greyhound.org. Advertising information and guidelines are also located at www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine/advertise.html.

WEB ADDRESS

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IDBM 1093-0892

Greyhounds adopted by Dan and Jennifer Barker of Franklin, Wisc.

Risky Biscuits?

I applaud anyone for going the extra miles to home cook for their dogs ("The Greyhound Gourmet," Winter 2006 CG). I, too, am a professional chef with a dog who has experienced culinary delights the likes of which few humans can share. However, I would like to pass on, one way or another, that several typical "human ingredients" such as garlic and onions are, in fact, dangerous to Greyhounds, if not all dogs. Please remind your readers of a list of dangerous "human ingredients" that can prove fatal to our pets, including raisins, macadamia nuts, avocado, coffee, chocolate, onion, garlic, and alcoholic beverages. I am sure there is a site for a definitive list. This just caught my eye. I love Jennifer's idea of making food for her dogs and just want her to be aware of the safety issues.

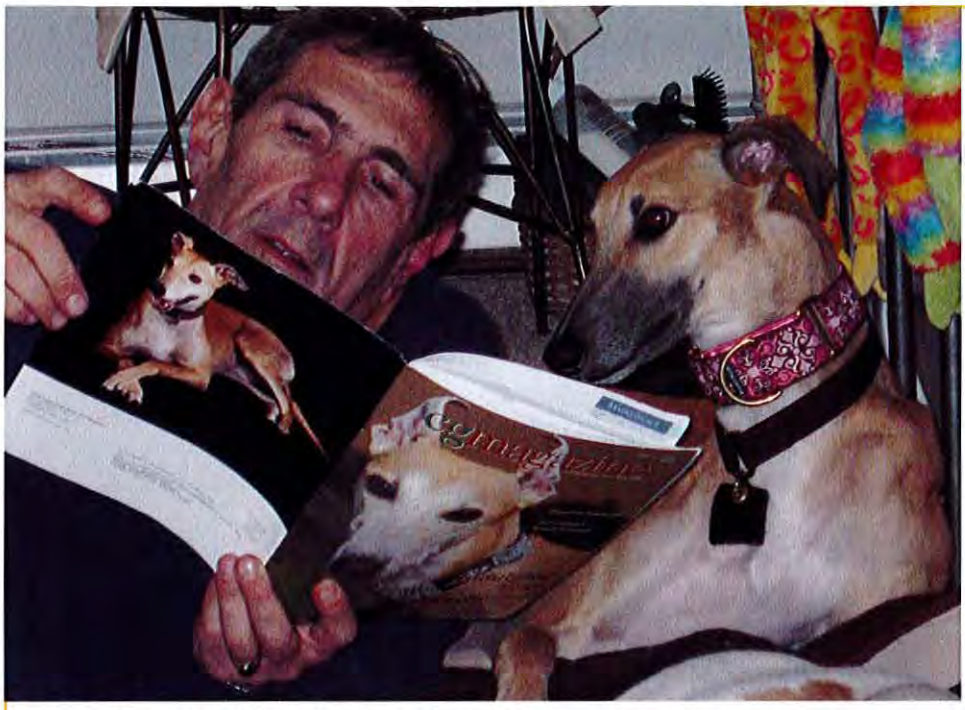
Leslie and Dudley Machinist
Morristown, N.J.

Jennifer Boswell responds: *It's great to hear of others in my profession who have Greyhounds. As a fellow chef, I'm sure Leslie knows that garlic has many healthy benefits: it is a natural MSM, antioxidant, antibacterial herb, and antiviral/antifungal/anti-parasitic herb; it inhibits growth of cancer cells; and it helps build a healthy immune system. Many pet vitamins are advertised as "Brewers Yeast and Garlic" and sold at pet supply stores and through discount pet catalogs. My recipe for homemade dog food called for 1 large tablespoon of minced garlic. That's one large, standard-sized tablespoon of garlic to ten pounds of chicken, 64 ounces of uncooked macaroni noodles, 2 lbs of frozen peas and carrots, 1 lb frozen green beans, and although I've never measured the water used to mix it up, I'm estimating around a quart. Whether or how much garlic would contain enough thiosulphate to cause hemolytic anemia in pets has not been determined. I do not feed several whole cloves or bulbs of garlic per hound per day, nor would I recommend doing that! I mix one tablespoon of garlic with 10 lbs of chicken during the cooking process. After preparing the food as described in the article, I mix the food with kibble (3 cups kibble:1 cup homemade) and give it to my dogs as a supplement to their diet, not as their sole source of nourishment. In my opinion, the dogs are receiving enough garlic to reap the benefits, but not enough garlic to cause illness. I think a dog who receives a Brewers Yeast and Garlic "pet vitamin" would be receiving more garlic than one eating the food prepared according to my recipe.*

Ed. Note: *Type "human foods toxic to dogs" into your Internet search engine and you will find a wealth of information on this topic.*

My husband spotted the picture of the three Greyhounds eating from elevated bowls on page 36 of your Winter 2006 issue. Any owner of Greyhounds who is still feeding their dogs from elevated food bowls needs to rethink this practice. In the '80s, as owners of Great Danes, we were always haunted by the spectre of bloat. Owners of big dogs were always to elevate dog bowls, avoid exercise after feeding, feed two small meals versus one large one, all to minimize the risk of bloat. We continued the practice when we became owners of retired racers. On October 6 Evie succumbed to bloat and stomach torsion. In the days that followed we were amazed to discover that veterinarians and animal hospitals across this country now feel that raising the food bowl actually increases the chance of bloat.

Ernie and Beth Murphy
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio



Robin Mittasch's Greyhound, Chloe, does a little shopping.

Dr. Rodger Barr, CG veterinary advisor, responds: *You bring up some excellent points in your letter. The causes of Bloat or Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV) are thought to be related to size of meal, activity after eating, anatomy and genetics, and, yes, the location of the feed dish. The most relevant point you make is that science and veterinary medicine are in constant flux, not unlike human medicine. Studies initially "prove" that something is good for you, subsequent studies prove that the same practice is "bad," and these are followed by a French study that "proves" the same practice is of great value in moderation. We all benefit if we take these studies with a grain of salt, questioning the Philosophy Du Jour whenever possible. Entirely new theories are probably right around the corner.*

I agree with you that one must do everything possible to keep up on the current recommendations; what better place than CG. The only point in your letter that I would disagree with is the claim that your ignorance of new medical data cost Elvie his life. That statement implies that all dogs with raised dishes will die from GDV, which is far from the truth. There are more, yet-to-be-determined variables responsible for GDV. Someday we may know exactly what causes this serious problem. Until then, we can only speculate and take whatever precautions are available.

Fabulous Furs

Dana Provost's dog Renoir is wearing a faux suede/fur coat on page 29 of the Winter issue. When my Chloe saw it, she said, "I've just got to have that!" Could you please find out for me who I can contact to make that coat for my girl?

Robin Mittasch
Via E-Mail

All of the Greyhound clothing pictured in Dana Provost's article, "The Well-Dressed Greyhound," was made by Dana Provost herself. For more information, visit www.wildthingsforgreys.com—Ed.

Who Are These Dogs, Anyway?

Thank you for including two very important articles ("Dangerous Dog? Coffee's Story" and "The Veneer of Domestication is Thin") in the Winter 2006 issue of CG. As an adoption group, we try to educate our adopters on every aspect of Greyhound ownership, including those aspects that might be considered a part of their "darker" side. Yet it is SO easy to be lulled into complacency because Greyhounds are so well behaved 99.9% of the time, and the remaining .1% is instinctive, not "bad" behavior. I often say that Greyhounds are still dogs, and not as far from the wild as we might like to believe. Unfortunately, it sometimes takes a rather vivid reminder to bring that fact back into focus. Thank you once again for another issue full of excellent information.

Alan Jordano
Grey-Save of Northwestern Pennsylvania

I really appreciated the article by John Parker, "The Veneer of Domestication is Thin." I learned first-hand of the prey instincts of my lovable Greyhounds several years ago. When we adopted Edie, we knew she was not cat safe. We lived in Houston, Texas, where there are many outdoor and feral cats. We were always vigilant, watching for cats on our daily walks, prepared to keep our dogs under control. One evening, two days before Christmas, I took my girls out for a walk in the neighborhood. It was dark and I did not see the black cat, but my dogs knew it was there. Edie took off at full speed and pulled the leash from my hand. She caught the cat in the middle of the street. When I ran up to her with Taylor still on the leash, she joined in to grab the cat. Now I had two Greyhounds with a cat in their mouths. I was screaming and trying to get them to release their prey. The cat was literally fighting for its life, and after inflicting deep scratches on the dogs' muzzles, managed to get away. Thankfully, the cat (a pet, not feral) survived, but was no longer an "outdoor" cat. Ever since that evening, I have never underestimated the instincts of these amazing dogs. They are the most reliable, loving, and wonderful pets I have ever known. But as Mr. Parker so eloquently stated, "the Greyhounds simply answered the call of centuries of breeding." I agree with Mr. Parker that we need to be the "master" of our Greyhounds and recognize that they are dogs who look to us to be their pack leaders. They need our love and support and will always be our faithful companions, but they are not our children.

Linda Wardell
Louisville, Ky.

Cue *Twilight Zone* Music

Imagine my surprise when I opened the Winter 2006 issue and turned to "Human-Animal Communication: Fluff or Fact?" While this is a subject close to my heart, it was even more meaningful to see our beautiful Sarah on page 23. I, too, was skeptical of the concept, just as Mr. Parker described in his article in the same issue. I investigated and explored the possibility, attended a seminar, and began my journey into the animal commnication experience. In the end, the reality of animal communication was impossible for even the most staunch of skeptics in my circle of friends — friends who now use the same animal communicator that I do — to deny. I am always seeking validation from my pets and have yet to be disappointed. The picture of Sarah in the article was taken sometime around 1997 when we adopted her. She passed away in September 2005. Then she appears in an article on animal communication, in an image that I forgot I submitted many years ago. I had no knowledge it was going to be used. Coincidence? Some of us know better.

Mary Lisa Hostetler
Via E-Mail

Do You Know Where Your Back Issues Are?

About six months ago my Greyhound, Pharaoh, began losing toenails, one at a time, over the course of a few weeks. Something jogged my memory and I went back to previous issues of CG. Lo and behold, the Summer 2004 issue contained an article on Lupoid onychodystrophy ("Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy: Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Dog's Toenail Gone?").The symptoms described in the article totally matched Pharaoh's problem. We brought the article to our veterinarian, who copied it and did some research on his own. Pharaoh is currently on the most benign of treatments, with options available if necessary to kick things up a notch. Our thanks to you for covering the problems common to this breed. Veterinarians, with their varied practices, cannot always be on top of the more obscure ailments that occur. Thank you.

Eleanor Fella
Palm Coast, Fla.

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 welcome. 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 and photo. ■

Eleanor Fella's Greyhound, Pharaoh, is being treated successfully for symmetrical lupoid onychodystrophy.

The Greyhound should need minimal restraint, no sedation or pain medication, and remain in a standing position.

A New Approach to Treating Corns

By Carol L. Macherey, DVM and William E. Feeman III, DVM

Corns are circular, hard, painful growths found on the digital pads of dogs. This condition is found predominantly in Greyhounds and can be the source of significant lameness. If your Greyhound is limping, be sure that you and your veterinarian check the pads for corns as a possible cause.

There is very little information in the veterinary literature on corns or their treatment. The cause of corns in Greyhounds is unknown, although several theories do exist. The most popular belief is that corns are caused by the absence of a thick fatty layer in the pad that helps absorb shock and protects the skin and pad. The absence of this fatty layer results in a concussive force between the toe and pad that causes corn formation. Another theory is that corns result from cuts or punctures to the pad that heal and become fibrous and scarred. Two final theories are that a foreign body or papilloma virus result in the formation of corns.[1] Hopefully, future research will identify the true cause of corns.

The diagnosis of a corn can be made with a simple physical examination. The corn will be visible and should be painful on manipulation. However, both authors have seen corn-like growths on the pads of some Greyhounds that are not painful and do not require treatment. Differentiation of these conditions is made on the basis of discomfort. Radiographs (x-rays) of the affected paws can be taken to rule out a foreign body, although it is the authors' experience that this is rarely noted. If surgery (deep tissue surgery, not hulling) is performed to remove the corn, then the corn should be sent for biopsy. Papilloma virus testing should also be performed on the corn at that time.

The first step is to gently identify the margins of the corn.

Next, the veterinarian will use the root elevator to begin to separate the hard core from the softer surrounding pad.

The veterinarian will slowly work the root elevator around the perimeter of the core until the sides of the core are released.

Any point of attachment must be freed.

The last small area of attachment may need to be snipped with scissors.

The hulled pad should be considerably less painful.

There are many treatment options described for corns. Soaking the paw and applying manual pressure to express the corn[2], surgical excision of the corn[2, 3], injections of silicone into the pad to provide padding to reduce recurrence of the corn[1], partial or total amputation of the affected digit[3], and flattening, softening, or padding of the corn are all treatments for the condition. Various surgical techniques include removal with a laser, scalpel blade, or skin punch biopsy, or amputation of the affected toe. However, a high percentage of corns will return two to three months after surgery and there can be significant post-surgical pain as the pad heals[1]. Amputation is a radical approach to treatment that removes the affected digit. The risk for corns would still persist in other toes. However, it is the opinion of the authors that this technique should only be performed when all other treatment modalities have failed. Most recently, researchers at the Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine have studied how injections of silicone into the pad may help to provide increased cushioning similar to the fat tissue of the digit and thus prevent the reoccurrence of corns. The flattening is often accomplished through use of a Dremel drill or continual reapplication of a small piece of duct tape over the corn. The padding is accomplished by use of products such as Thera-Paw boots (www.therapaw.net). All of these treatment options have varying degrees of success.

A treatment technique developed by one of the authors (Carol Macherey) that has been used effectively in management of corns is to remove the hard core of the lesion. This "hulling" procedure requires the use of a sharp, flat-tipped dental root elevator. The size of the elevator will vary based on the size of the corn. The dog should require no sedation, pain medication, or local anesthesia and may remain standing for the entire procedure. The series of pictures on this page illustrates how many corns can be peeled out of their bed and removed in a quick, painless, and bloodless procedure. Please note the corn hulling procedure should only be done by your veterinarian.

The hulling procedure will likely need to be repeated as often as every three to four weeks. Some patients may not need the procedure repeated for a few months and in others the corns may have resolved with no additional treatment. Recently, the authors

have started using either cold-sore medication Abreva® (www.abreva.com) or prescription skin-cream Aldara™ (www.aldara.com) once daily after hulling. Some corns have resolved with this combination of treatment.

The hulling provides owners with an easy, painless option for corn treatment. For additional information on corns, please review the following information:

http://www.grassmere-animal-hospital.com/corns.htm

http://www.therapaw.net/docs/Corns,%20and%20warts.pdf

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Blythe LL, Gannon JR, Craig AM: Care of the Racing Greyhound: Guide for Trainers, Breeders and Veterinarians. Santa Barbara, CA: Veterinary Practice Publishing CO., 1994:185-229. ■

Dr. Macherey is a 1977 graduate of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, a full partner of an AAHA certified hospital in Nashville, Tenn., and is a member of Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds. She is owned by 5 greyhounds and actively volunteers for GPA/Nashville.

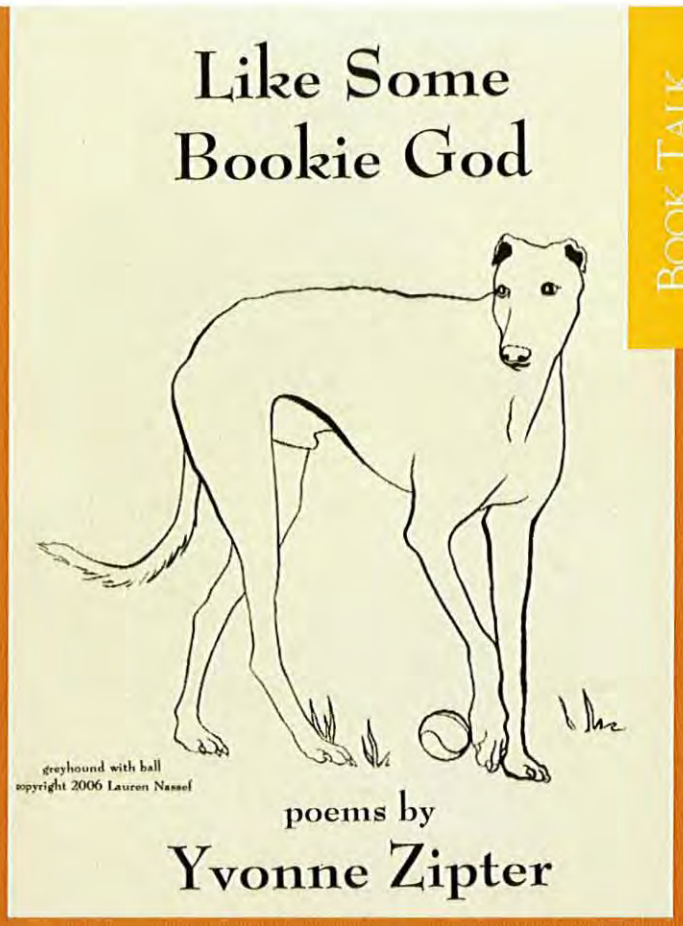
Dr. Feeman is a CG regular contributor.

Nosey, Rusty, Pirate, and GiGi, adopted by Jim Amos and Marcia Greer of Pinewood Springs, Colo.

BOOK TALK

The Poetry of the Greyhound

By Ann Penfield



Like Some Bookie God
By Yvonne Zipter
Pudding House Publications
Columbus, OH (2006)
ISBN 1589984552
$8.95

For Greyhound lovers there are many "aha" moments when reading the poems in Yvonne Zipter's Like Some Bookie God. This chapbook of 20 poems by prize-winning poet Zipter presents an engaging collection of mostly short pieces that capture the unique behavior and beauty of the Greyhound.

The poems, ranging in length from just 13 lines to a 66-line work in multiple stanzas, are in free verse, although there is a rhyme here and there. Some of the stanzas have the feel, although not the length or the form, of a sonnet. Zipter writes wonderfully descriptive poetry, as in the charming poem called "Mouse: An Executioner's Lament," which starts:

It was a small life, a brown life, soft
and round as a dandelion seedhead.
Its delicate toes like fingers in miniature,
ears the size of apple seeds. (lines 1-4)

But it is her description of Greyhounds that will resonate most with CG readers. Her poem "Pink" is a good example. The poem ends:

But there, lying on her back,
Is my dog, the black and white fur
of her chest giving way to her tummy, smooth
and utterly pink. (lines 23-26).

Yvonne Zipter's work clearly expresses not only her deep love for her dogs, but her respect for this special breed and for nature. We see this in "Running Before Dawn with the Dog":

His legs are made for this, tensile
as bungee cords and nothing wasted, while mine
are an embarrassment of excess, a tangle
of misspent evolution.

And in "In the Naming":

He is weightless with good will;
I am lifted in his presence. He is,
in a word, ethereal. Except
for the click of his nails
on the floor and the earthy way
he licks himself.

Yvonne Zipter expresses well the thrill of watching a Greyhound run, especially in her poem "A Canine Metaphysics":

And each time all his feet together
leave the ground
and he is flying like Pegasus
or a blown kiss, joy climbs my spine
as at the carnival strength test.

The poet's sensitive response to nature is particularly appealing in "Summer Poem" and "Into the Opening." The latter describes an early morning walk with her two dogs in which "We three are drenched, now/ with dew and birdsong." The poem ends:

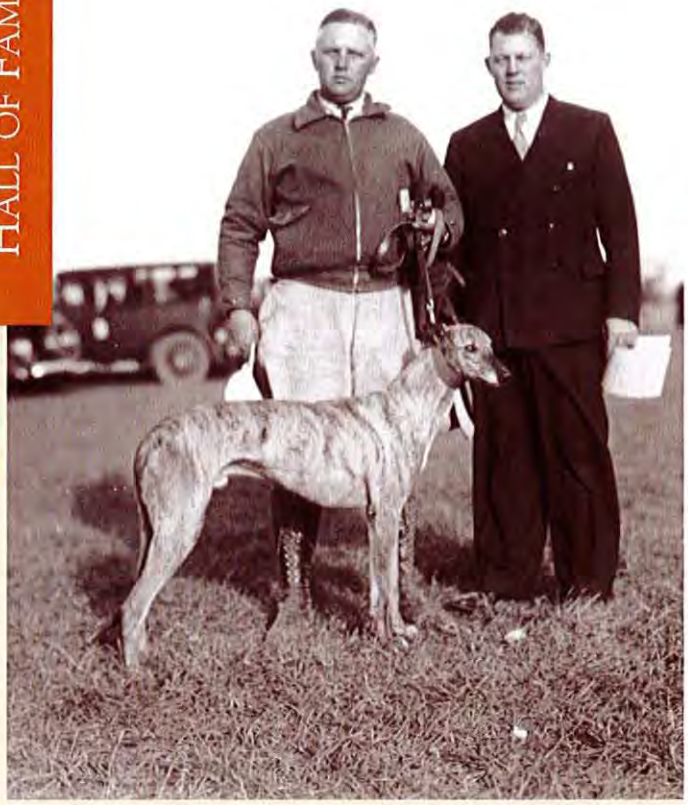
And now the loose minutes
scatter like stones at our feet
as we walk back, across the park,
through the woods,
and into the opening of the day.

"Barking Like Elvis," one of the collection's shorter poems, reminds us that our normally quiet Greyhounds can indeed sound like hounds. "Epitaph for a Greyhound" should comfort those of us with Greyhounds at the Rainbow Bridge.

This collection of poetry will bring readers the opportunity to share the special qualities of the Greyhound with a writer who captures so well the essence of Greyness.

Yvonne Zipter's work has appeared in our own *Celebrating Greyhounds* magazine, and in *The Bark*, *Bellingham Review*, and *Spoon River Poetry Review*, among other publications. She has been a finalist and semifinalist in several poetry competitions and has received an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award for a poem not included in this collection. Zipter has also received awards for nonfiction writing. She is the editor of *The Skinny*, the newsletter of Greyhounds Only, a Chicago-based adoption group. ■

Ann Penfield is a CG copy editor.



Upsidedown* was a top dog on the coursing field. *Greyhound Hall of Fame*

Topsy-Turvy? No, Upsidedown

By Laurel E. Drew

Inducted into the Greyhound Hall of Fame in 1966, the big blue brindle coursing dog from England was destined to turn American racing upside down, just like his name. Upsidedown* was imported by Vernie Mikels of Bartlesville, Oklahoma in 1934. A two year old, Upsidedown turned out to be worth every cent of his import price of $1,250 (including shipping), a fortune at that time. He had won a few small coursing stakes in Ireland and also competed for a time on the electric track where he won four out of five starts.

Once in the United States, he competed in only one major coursing event, the American Waterloo Cup of 1934 in Abilene, Kansas. The great Gangster*, John Pesek's Australian import, was also competing at that time. It was only fate that kept these two dogs from a stupendous meeting. In the semifinals, Gangster drew Ghar Lap, and in a stunning upset, Gangster was defeated on the run-up. In the meantime, Upsidedown ran against Gay Lag, a littermate to Ghar Lap. Upsidedown prevailed in that race and in the finals it was a strong contest. Upsidedown took an early lead and increased it to three lengths at the turn of the hare. The course lasted 31 seconds. Upsidedown was declared the winner of the most prestigious coursing challenge in the country. The write-up of the course stated, "Upsidedown came off the field limping on a front foot, but Vernie Mikels was stepping high." Although his entire coursing reputation was based on that one event, it was against stiff competition and was a great triumph according to many. In the 1950s and 60s they were still talking about him. However, some of that talk was criticism that accused him of lacking heart in his courses and of refusing to kill in one instance. From the official notes on the courses, it appears that the run-up was of greater value than how the dogs worked the rabbit once they got there. (By the way, the jacks were well trained to the escapes before they were used so that they had a relatively fair chance.)

Upsidedown was royally bred, being a son of Mutton Cutlet and Wealthy Widow who were of the top coursing blood in England. Mutton Cutlet is an English/Irish representative in the Greyhound Hall of Fame who produced top coursing and racing dogs and was well known in the coursing field himself. Mutton Cutlet was sired by Jamie, a dog who also stands behind many of the show Greyhounds of today, both in England and the United States.

Upsidedown was originally imported to stand at stud and was outstanding in that department. In the 1930s, the change from coursing to racing was occurring in a major way. Upsidedown would contribute strongly to that change through his early speed, one way in which he turned the breeding world topsy-turvy. He produced Sweet Harmony out of Judging Harmony who ran second in the 1937 Waterloo Cup, won the Palm Beach Inaugural, and finished second in the Flagler Futurity on the track. She also happened to produce Thrilling Sport, dam of the great Mixed Harmony. Sweet Harmony's sister Flashy Harmony was also no slouch in the production department as she whelped one of the greatest racing dogs of all time, Flashy Sir.

In 1939, Vernie Mikels advertised Upsidedown in the Greyhound Studbook, stating that his offspring had won every major stake in America at National Coursing Meets and were equally as good at racetracks. They won derbies, inaugurals, gold collars, huntsman sweepstakes, and equaled or set track records on nearly every track in the country. Upsidedown was advertised as being 28 and one-half inches in height and weighing 80 pounds running weight and 86 pounds at stud weight. He was, to put it mildly, quite a dog. ■

**An asterisk after the Greyhound's name indicates that the dog was imported.*

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor.

Ginny, adopted by Star and Dick Smelker of Carrolton, Texas; Lance and Lindsay, adopted by Carol Sahlfeld of Dallas, Texas. *Carol Sahlfield*

Greyhounds in the News

Big Night for Greyhound Writers, Artists in New York City

Writers and artists focused on Greyhounds were among the award recipients in the Dog Writer's Association of America's 2006 Annual Writing Competition. Award winners were announced at the DWAA's annual banquet on February 11, 2007 in New York City.

For the sixth time in the last seven years, the Dog Writers Association of America honored *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* as the winner of Best Single Breed Magazine category. *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* tied with *Just Labs* for the honor. CG also received the Best Single Breed Magazine award in 2005, 2003, 2002, 2001, and 2000, and was a finalist for the award in 2004 and 1999.

Sue Burkhard's collection of stories about her mischievous Greyhound, *Dottie Hi-Socks: It's All About Me!* was recognized as a finalist in the Humor category. Her book, which was reviewed in the Spring 2006 issue of CG, can be purchased at www.greyhoundsupport.org. All proceeds from the sale of Burkhard's book will be allocated to Greyhound Support in Kansas City, Animal Aid, Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan, and Wolverine K9 Search and Rescue.

Dean Palmer was honored as a finalist in the Photography: Color or Black and White category for his photograph on the cover of the Greyhounds issue of *Dogs in Canada* (July 2006).

The DWAA also announced Lindsay Hocker of Milan, Ill. as the recipient of their Junior Education Award. Hocker received the award for her achievement in grades, volunteer work with dogs, and writing (including "Merit Badges and School Projects: Young Volunteers Tell Their Stories," Winter 2005 CG).

"I feel honored and really surprised to win this award. The fact that it combines my two greatest passions, my

love for animals and writing, makes it very special to me. The award money will make attending college next year much easier for me financially. It's a great honor," said Hocker.

Hocker volunteers for several animal-related organizations, including Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption in Maysville, Iowa. At the Quad Cities kennel, she cleans, feeds, and medicates the dogs, washes the dishes, and does laundry. She hopes, someday, to adopt two retired racing Greyhounds of her own.

The Junior Education Award was sponsored this year by Fifth Avenue Veterinary Specialists and 24-Hour Emergency Care in New York City.

Greyhound Owners Give to Fight Canine Cancer

The Fall 2006 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* announced The Greyhound Project's establishment of a program to match funds donated to support the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program at The Ohio State University (OSUGHWP). By the end of 2006, the Project had matched a total of $6,129.00 donated to OSUGHWP.

The Project continues to match donations. To make a donation using PayPal, please visit www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/wellness.html. To send your payment using a personal check, please make your check payable to The Greyhound Project and write "Greyhound Wellness" in the memo line of the check. Mail the check to The Greyhound Project, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701. The Project will forward your tax-deductible donation, with matching funds, to OSUGHWP.

Morris Animal Foundation Launches New Animal Health, Welfare, Scientific Research Website

Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) has launched a new innovative, interactive website devoted to animal health and welfare and the essential role played by scientific research focused on protecting, treating, and curing animals — including wildlife and companion animals worldwide. The website address is: www.morrisanimalfoundation.org.

Some engaging benefits of the interactive site include:

- Latest News on MAF Scientific Health Research Benefiting Animals.
- Animal Health Research Success by Species and Disease or Health Issue. Search capabilities include identifying animal health research success by species and disease or health issue. As an example, someone could search for cancer in dogs and bring up these studies and successes.
- Interactive Community Section for Animal Lovers, Friends, and MAF Donors. This section includes video, photo, and personal chat/blogging capabilities allowing animal lovers to communicate and share fun, interesting information about pets and wildlife. MAF on-line community leaders will help bring animal lovers together for local meetings and events.
- Live Webcasts/Reports of Special Animal Events and Programs Worldwide.
- Meet the Scientists: Includes video, photos, and professional profiles.

MAF is asking for comments and suggestions on the site. Visit the site at and provide your comments or call 800-243-2345.

Moving? Let Us Know

Don't miss a single issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*! As soon as you know your address is changing, send your new address to *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, Attn: Subscriptions, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701. You may also submit your address change via e-mail to subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org. ■

Sabrina, adopted by Bill and Terri Royea of Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Gretchen has a deep voice and knows how to use it.

Gretchen the Guard Dog

By Amy Birnbaum

In the first five months after Gretchen came into my life, I heard her bark exactly once. It was on her first or second day with me, when the crate was a major (and unwelcome) part of her day. Protesting from behind the wire door, Gretchen emitted a high-pitched bark, with a bit of a whine thrown in for good measure. Irritating, yes. Pitiful, yes. Menacing? No, of course not. Greyhounds are sweet companions, not protectors. I knew that from reading about the breed. But I did not know Gretchen quite yet.

One late November night, Gretchen and I were taking our last walk before bed. It was about 11:00, and the streets of my small city were so quiet that I could hear myself breathe. As we rounded a corner, I saw a white van idling about 30 feet ahead, but its headlights obscured my vision. A few steps later, I could see a man next to the van, standing in the middle of the sidewalk. From where Gretchen and I were, it looked as if he was simply staring at us. Gretchen stared back, her pace slowed, and her head dropped a bit. This is not unusual. Being a sighthound, she usually spots people, dogs, and objects well before I do, and she approaches with caution.

I was glad. For all I knew, this man just wanted to say hi to Gretchen, but I was nervous. Gretchen either sensed my mood or her instincts told her that this man was up to no good. All of a sudden, she let out an "I-am-a-Doberman" bark, the kind that starts as a growl and escalates into something low but loud. The kind that says, "Stay away from us if you don't want dog teeth in your crotch."

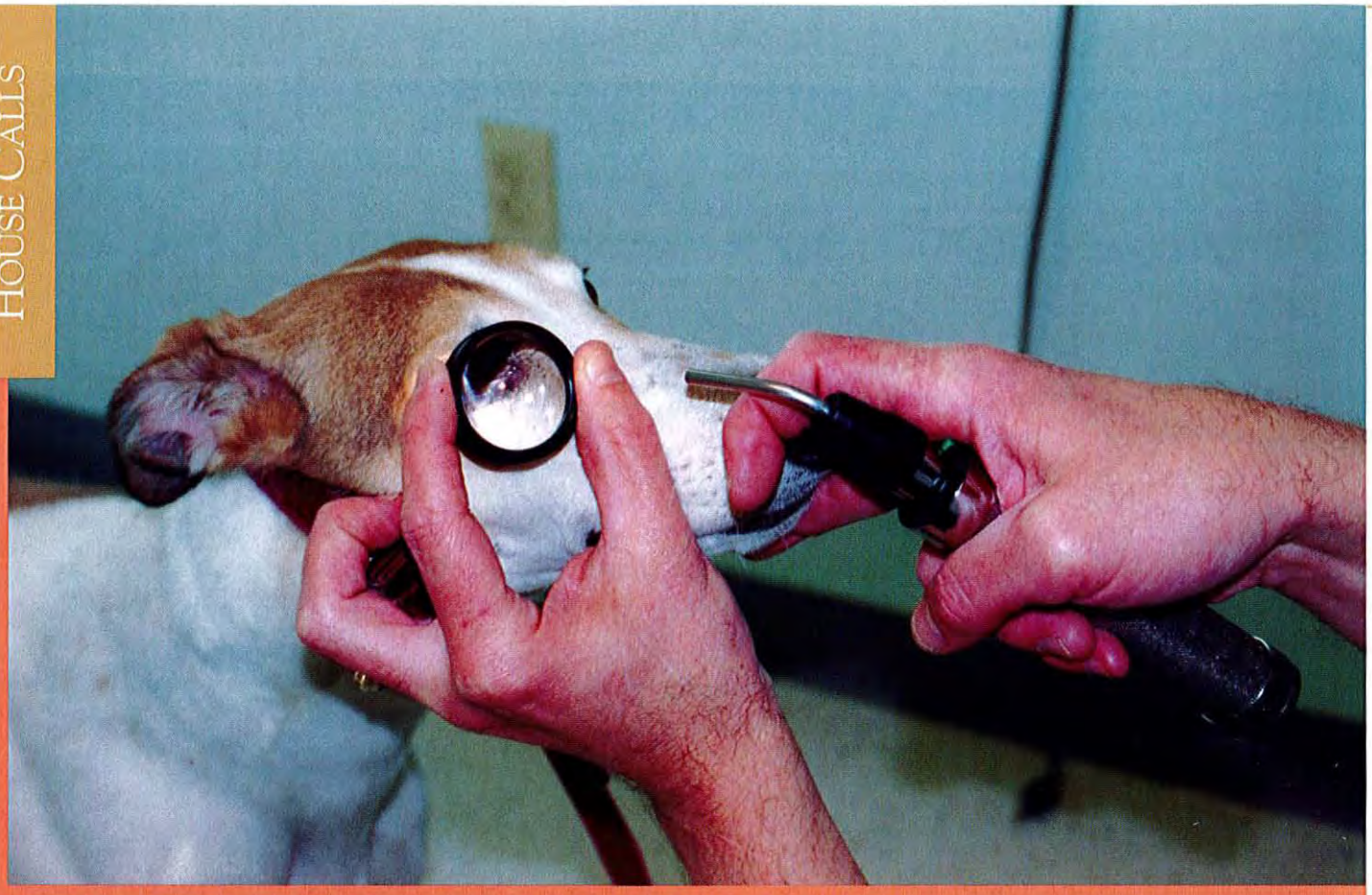
That was enough for me. We turned around and went up another street. After that, Gretchen kept looking around, and I admit, so did I, thinking we might be followed. It seemed like there was an unusually high proportion of white vans on the road.

As we turned up a street to head for home, a car pulled up to the area where Gretchen was sniffing, and a man got out. He was clearly just being dropped off, and I wasn't afraid. I knew, though, that Gretchen was still on edge, and I was concerned that she might bark at him or worse.

When the man came close, Gretchen just sniffed him curiously, as she usually does with strangers. Clearly, she didn't sense that "bad person" vibe. She was endearing as ever, and the man rewarded her with a few pats on the head. I praised my sweet Gretchen for knowing when to let go of her fears.

That night I learned something new about my Greyhound. This sweet dog knew when and how to protect — even if she might have tried to run away if I hadn't turned us both around! When we got home, safe and sound, I gave Gretchen an extra cookie. ■

Amy Birnbaum lives with Gretchen in Portland, Me.



Using an indirect ophthalmoscope, the veterinarian examines the Greyhound's retina.

The Eyes Have It

By Jim Bader, DVM
Photos by Merri Van Dyke

The eyes are the windows to the body. A thorough eye exam only takes a few minutes, is not painful, and is beneficial to the veterinarian, the Greyhound and his owner. What is involved in a thorough eye exam? What structures does the veterinarian evaluate? And what are some common conditions affecting Greyhounds' eyes?

The eye is a simple but elegant structure. It has numerous parts that function as one, allowing sight. The veterinarian examines all these parts to evaluate the Greyhound's health. When the eye is examined, two major areas are checked. The first is the structures around the eye, called the periorbital area. This area includes the tear glands, the eyelids, and the conjunctiva. In the second major area, the eye or globe is examined with special lenses to evaluate all of its structures. The veterinarian's lenses allow the evaluation of the iris (colored part of the eye), the eye's lens, and the retina (the visual part of the eye). A tonometer or a Tonopen enables evaluation of the globe. All the structures can be checked in a few minutes, and the exam starts from the moment the Greyhound enters the exam room.

The start of the exam is just general observation of the Greyhound. The veterinarian usually examines the Greyhound during entry to the exam room and while taking the history. Is the Greyhound holding his eyes fully open and comfortable? Are the areas below the eye stained or wet from tears? Are the eyes too red? Does the Greyhound act normal or seem Greyhound lost due to lack of vision? This part of the exam takes just 20-30 seconds.

The next part of the exam is to check the periorbital structures. The veterinarian may use a bright penlight or a transilluminator for a better observation of the structures. The eyelids are examined for inflammation or tumors. The lower lid area is observed for adequate tears. The conjunctiva is inspected for redness or inflammation. After assess-

ing these structures, the veterinarian may choose to perform a few tests. The Shirmer Tear Test determines if tear production is adequate. A special piece of Litmus paper is placed in the eye under the Greyhound's lower eyelid for sixty seconds. The tears migrate up the Litmus paper. After sixty-seconds the amount of migration is measured and evaluated for adequate production. The Fluorescien dye test, normally used to determine if the Greyhound has a scratch on the cornea, may also be used to determine if the Greyhound's tear ducts are plugged. The stain strip is applied to the eye and the veterinarian observes the nostrils to see if the dye is draining out the nose. If the nostrils are draining, the tear ducts are not plugged. (This is why your nose runs when you cry.)

The exam's final section is the globe. The structures inside the eye are examined for any abnormalities. The cornea is examined for any cloudiness, scratches, or irritation. As noted before, this may require a Fluorescien dye test. The iris is examined for any inflammation. The lens is checked for any opacity such as cataracts. Finally, the retina, the visual section of the eye, is examined for any abnormalities. This may be performed with a direct or indirect ophthalmoscope or lens. The pressure inside the eye may be measured using a tonometer or a Tonopen to check for glaucoma, an increase in pressure, or uveitis, a decrease in pressure because the iris is inflamed. When making an appointment with your veterinarian, be sure to ask if they have the necessary equipment for measuring pressures.

This completes the Greyhound's eye exam. All the structures have been examined, and a thorough history has been obtained. What abnormalities are common to Greyhounds? How are these treated? And are some manageable instead of curable? Again the periorbital abnormalities are addressed first, and the globe abnormalities are second.

The tear system starts with the tear glands, which produce the tears; the eyelids that distribute the tears over the globe; and the tear duct that drains the tears from the eye to the nose. The tear duct may have become plugged. The tears fail to drain into the nose and spill over the eyelid staining and wetting the area below the eye. There may be two causes: The drain opening may have not developed, or the duct may be plugged. In the first case, the treatment of choice is to recreate the drain openings surgically. The treatment for the plugged tear duct is to flush the ducts to remove the blockage.

The eyelids are prone to infections and tumors. Eyelids have very small glands called Meibobian glands. These glands help moisten the globe separate from the tear film. The glands may be prone to an infection, meibomitis, which is treated with antibiotic eye drops and oral antibiotics. These infections can be reoccurring, so subsequent treatments may be necessary. The Meibobian glands are also prone to benign tumors. These usually occur in the older Greyhound. These tumors may rub on the cornea causing excessive tearing, or may be rubbed by the Greyhound causing bleeding. These are treated by surgical removal either with cryosurgery (liquid nitrogen applied to the tumor), or the surgical removal by excising the tumor and stitching it closed. Both of these procedures require general anesthesia, and as with any tumor removal, a biopsy should be obtained to rule out a cancerous growth.

The cornea, the clear part of the eye, is prone to injury and infection. The Greyhound running around the backyard or the house may encounter a foreign object that may injure the cornea or lodge under the third eyelid, also causing injury to the cornea. The Greyhound usually presents with blepharospasm (the eye is held closed because it is painful). The veterinarian diagnoses these conditions by observing the Greyhound, placing a topical anesthetic in the eye, performing a Fluorescein dye test to elucidate the corneal injury, then checking under the eyelids (top, bottom, and third) for foreign bodies. If a foreign body is found, it is removed and the Greyhound is treated with antibiotics. If there is no history of trauma or foreign body, a culture may be obtained for further treatment, and the Greyhound is started on antibiotic drops. Fluorescien dye

The Fluorescien dye test can detect a scratched cornea or a blocked tear duct.

The veterinarian uses the tonometer to check ocular pressure.

L to R: This dog has a mature cataract in one eye and nuclear sclerosis in the other.

tests every few days until there is no staining of the cornea may be used to monitor the scratch's healing. Lesions, which are deeper in the cornea, may require a bandage such as a third eyelid flap (the third eyelid is temporarily brought over the cornea to act as a bandage and speed healing), or a temporary medicated contact to promote healing.

Another condition affecting the cornea is Chronic Superficial Keratitis or Pannus. Pannus is the body's immune system gone awry. The body's immune system for some reason mounts an immune response to destroy the cornea. The Greyhound presents with inflamed corneas, which the owner reports started on the outside lower area of the cornea, then progressed across the eye. These areas usually stain with the Fluorescien dye, but are the same on both eyes. Since the lesions are the same in both eyes it is very unlikely trauma or infection is the cause. This condition may affect Greyhounds as young as one or two years old. This condition is manageable but not curable. The Greyhound will be on medications for the rest of her life. The treatment of choice is topical steroid drops such as dexamethasone or prednisone. The other medication of choice is Cyclosporine drops or ointment. Cyclosporine was originally developed to suppress rejection of organs after transplantation. The ophthalmic Cyclosporine suppresses the body's rejection of the cornea. Both medications may be used at the same time, and the Greyhound's eyes should be monitored closely as the eye is more prone to infection.

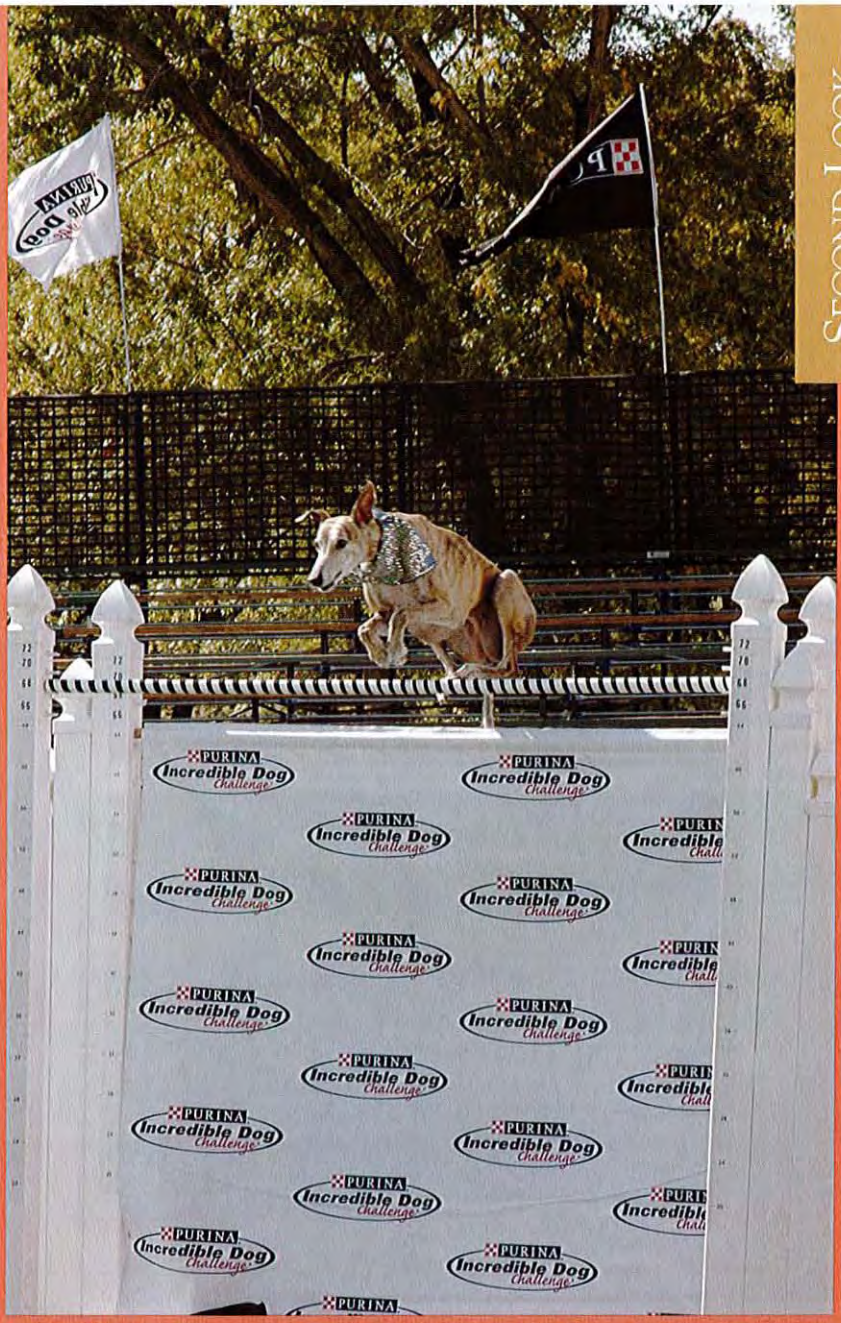
The next diseases affect the lens. These conditions sometimes are confused as being the same, but they are not. The first disease is unique to canids (dogs, wolves, foxes) and is referred to as nuclear sclerosis. It is a normal aging change of the lens, usually starting after seven years of age. The center of the lens becomes denser causing light to move differently through the lens giving it a blue hue. The Greyhound can still see past this density, but her eyes may miss some detail. The other disease is a cataract. Cataracts are dense opacities of the lens that can occur at any area of the lens. The Greyhound cannot see through and the veterinarian cannot see into these opacities.

Treatments for these two conditions are entirely different. The nuclear sclerosis has no approved treatment. There are nutritional eye drops to help slow the progress, but no studies have been conducted as to whether these are effective. The cataracts are referred to a veterinary ophthalmologist for evaluation and surgical removal. The ophthalmologist will evaluate the eye for success of the surgery, and will recommend a lens implant to assist the Greyhound after surgery. The cataract lens is replaced by an artificial lens. Recovery time is usually about two to four weeks.

The final condition, glaucoma, is considered an "eye emergency". All eye conditions should be examined within a reasonable amount of time, but glaucoma needs to be examined as soon as possible. Glaucoma is a condition where the pressure inside the eye elevates. The pressure elevates usually due to a blockage of the drainage angle inside the eye or luxation of the lens thereby blocking the drainage angle. The drain becomes plugged; the fluid inside the eye continues to be produced with nowhere to drain, and the eye expands due to increase in pressure. The increase in pressure, if not alleviated, causes the retina to degenerate and blindness ensues. The sooner the pressure is relieved the better chance of preservation of the Greyhound's vision. The Greyhound usually presents with a painful eye, and the eye is bulging and enlarged. After diagnosis, the goal is to lower the pressure in the eye and treat the underlying cause. The Greyhound may be given a diuretic such as mannitol and eye drops to try and open the drainage angle. Then the underlying cause should be addressed. If the lens is luxated causing a blockage, surgery is required to remove the lens and open the blockage. If the underlying cause is closure of the drainage angle, medications to keep the angle open and laser surgery to decrease the production of the fluid inside the eye are necessary. Glaucoma is a frustrating disease to treat not only for the Greyhound owner but also for the veterinarian. Glaucoma is a chronic manageable condition, but at times may become severe enough to cause blindness and possibly loss of the eye.

The eye is subject to numerous conditions, of which these are just a few examples. An eye condition should always be treated seriously until proven otherwise. Early intervention on any condition may be the difference between sight preservation and blindness. Again, one should know your veterinarian's policies for daytime and evening emergencies. An hour or two saved may be the difference between saving the eye and losing the eye. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.



Soaring Cindy broke her own world record with this amazing 68-inch leap. *Jill Hayes Photography*

Soaring Cindy: At the Top of Her Game

By Ann Bollens

Two years ago readers of CG *Magazine* were introduced to an extraordinary Greyhound, Cinderella May a Holly Grey ("Cinderella Leaps to Stardom," Summer 2004 CG). Cindy, owned by Kate Long and Kathy Conroy, and trained by Lourdes Edlin and Sally Roth, not only had just broken the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge USA record, but had also set a Guinness World record when she jumped an incredible 66 inches over a 2-foot-wide jump. Cindy was two months shy of her third birthday when she soared to international fame at the Purina Dog Challenge in St. Louis, Missouri. In October 2006, approaching her sixth birthday and again at the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge, Cindy proved that she is still very much a competitor by sailing over an amazing 68 inches, breaking her own three-year-old records. Clearing 5 foot 8 inches is an incredible athletic feat; making it appear easy takes a champion.

Cindy lives with her family in the Miami, Florida area. Most of the time this 60 pound brindle girl is, like many Greyhounds, a couch potato extraordinaire. But when shown a Frisbee (1st place novice flying disc for the State of Florida in 2005); let loose in the AKC agility ring (#3 AKC Agility Greyhound in the USA); or permitted to jump to record breaking heights, she becomes a focused athlete. Cindy amazes her family with her drive and concentration.

Cindy visits the Hollywood Walk of Fame on a trip to California, where she appeared on the *Ellen* show.

Cindy does some green screen work for a commercial for Kellogg's Extra cereal.

Cindy flew celebrity pet for American Airlines when she went to New York to appear on the *Today* show and *Fox and Friends*.

Several traits combine to make Cindy the competitor that she is. She loves her sports and the attention from her crowd. She is physically very sound and supremely confident. When Cindy appeared on the *Ellen* show in November 2006 after setting her new Guinness record, it was her first indoor jumping experience. Just prior to their appearance on the show, Cindy and Kate had driven from Florida to California in three days to make the show deadline. No one in that audience could have realized Cindy was mastering her indoor jumping skills after completing a very long road trip. She jumped 64 inches that day and made it look very, very easy.

Emulating many world-class human athletes, Cindy has turned to the world of show business. Canadian television viewers may recognize Cindy from their new Kellogg's Extra cereal commercial. American television viewers got a chance to witness her record breaking jump on The Incredible Dog Challenge on January 9, 2007 while Japanese viewers have enjoyed Cindy on the television show *Dogs and Cats*. Those who are not television fans may have caught Cindy's appearance in *Brides* magazine or on the Greyhound adoption video, *Born to Run*.

Kate and Kathy want the world to know that the Greyhound breed is versatile and can be competitive in a wide variety of all-breed dog sports. Meanwhile, Cindy just wants to have fun! Kate and Kathy say that we will continue to see Cindy perform as long as Cindy continues to want to perform, enjoys her audiences, and remains physically fit. ■

Ann Bollens is a long-time AKC Greyhound fancier and volunteer with Greyhound Pets of America/Emerald Coast. If you or your adoption group is interested in having Soaring Cindy appear and perform at your event contact Kate Long and Kathy Conroy at www.soaringcindy.com.

The assistant must get out of the way when the time is right. Greyhounds have a tendency to follow you when you step back, so you both must have the patience to do it all over again. With dogs just off the track it is not uncommon to do it five or six times. The patient result of all this is a correctly made photograph. Then by removing the leash with the computer graphics program, you have a solitary Greyhound without any distracting elements, ears up and mouth closed.

Photographing Adoptable Greyhounds

By Jon P. Fishback

This guide to photographing the retired racing Greyhound is intended to help improve the image of the Greyhound in the adoption process. Your chances of creating the perfect Greyhound image will be greatly improved if you follow these guidelines.

The Assistant's Role

As you read these instructions, keep in mind that the Greyhounds in these photographs were never beyond the control of the assistant. Leashes and collars were used at all times. The use of the graphics manipulation software was used to remove any distracting elements.

The assistant is one of the most important elements in the successful Greyhound photograph and should be a "Greyhound person." A Greyhound person is comfortable moving the Greyhound into position for the photograph. A Greyhound person trusts the strange Greyhound enough to make the photography session successful.

At times one or both of the rear side legs may not be properly placed. The assistant must understand the position and try to place the leg properly. At times it may be necessary for the photographer to change the angle so both rear side legs are visible. Sometimes walking the Greyhound around a bit will fix the problem. Many times the dog will naturally stand in an appropriate position.

The assistant needs to have the confidence in the unfamiliar Greyhound to push, pull and otherwise prod it into position. Above all else everyone must have patience; after all, this is not a comfortable situation for the Greyhound. The assistant should be familiar enough with the end product to see when something is wrong. In this case, the leash and collar were on the wrong side and the assistant moved it to the backside.

Lighting

Natural lighting in open shade will show off your subject to its best advantage.

Even the black Greyhound photographs best in open shade. When the black is coupled with white, the contrast range between the two hues is much easier to handle in this lighting situation.

When faced with the challenge of Greyhounds with white and dark coats, the whites tend to lose detail in sunlight. Notice also that turning the head can cast an unwanted shadow on the dark side of the face. Many times it is best if the sun is nearly behind the photographer. Then the photographer's shadow must be avoided.

Notice how the open shade casts no shadow under the Greyhound. This is apparent throughout the photograph. All parts of the image are softer and easier to handle. This lighting also shows the Greyhound to his best advantage.

Flash is a poor alternative to daylight. It can cast ugly shadows that distort reality. Flash also tends to flatten the subject. Most consumer digital cameras will automatically flash indoors giving unpredictable results. Flash will include everything in the room. In this case it is the childproof gate. It will cast unflattering shadows on the background unless the subject is very far away from it. Red-eye in Greyhounds is usually green and always disturbing.

Direct sunlight can work but creates some serious challenges and is much harder to control than open shade. Sunlight, with its heavy contrast, casts deep shadows. Sunlight also tends to lighten backgrounds making them difficult to handle. White Greyhounds are harder to photograph in sunlight. Notice the heavy shadow cast on the Greyhound's chest and rear leg. It can be distracting and tends to obliterate detail in the coat. With the head turned into the sun, the face has detail. With the head turned left the same shadow will be on the near side of the face.

About the best you can hope to do with flash is at night when the background disappears into darkness. This technique is only slightly better than indoors and a poor substitute for daylight.

Posing

Get down to the Greyhound's level. Photographing down on a subject from a standing position tends to demean the subject and in fact may intimidate a shy dog. Most will respond better to a person at their own level and this vantage point is more flattering to the Greyhound.

Getting down to the level of the Greyhound will entail putting one or both knees on the ground. It is advantageous to have a pair of garden kneepads on hand to guard against sore knees.

The result is a proper vantage point, one that flatters the Greyhound by exposing as much of his stately body as possible, including the inside of the far legs.

Posing Pitfalls

The lattice background might seem fine at first glance. In the final photograph it is distracting and the first thing the viewer sees. The bright red collar and leash are an additional distraction, as is the very bright sky.

With a nervous Greyhound, we may be tempted to give up and stand close for the photograph. The assistant's legs do not flatter the Greyhound and seldom make a proper background. The two collars are not necessary for the photograph either.

Again we see the assistant behind, with the addition of the looped leash and sad, ears-down look. In this case the helper feels compelled to actually hold the Greyhound in position. With patience, eventually the assistant can — and should — step out of the way.

Sunlight filtering through the background can ruin an otherwise wonderful pose and expression. It might be better to deal with the direct sunlight rather than fight this situation. This background is especially troublesome with the brindle Greyhound.

Unless you have the talent to manipulate images using a computer graphics program it would be wise to watch hot spots in your background such as those outlining the dog's lower jaw in this image. An image can take considerable time to repair even for the seasoned graphics technician.

Inappropriate Poses

It is best, if possible, to save these poses for the family album. We all have these pictures, but for the website or for advertising adoptive Greyhounds the best photograph is a more formal one. Leave this photography to the family in the forever home.

Expressions

Greyhound owners may see this pose as adorable. Potential adoptive families may see it as menacing, sad, or abused. What seems natural to Greyhound people may not be to others. Avoid the ears down, sad eyes, and wistful look if at all possible even though it is completely natural.

The ears down and slightly fearful look is accentuated by the out-of-focus nose and garish purple collar, not to mention the leash clip. Automatic digital cameras are unforgiving in low light conditions and will throw close things out of focus. It is best to stay back a bit and crop the final image in the computer to the size needed, or avoid the full face pose altogether.

Distracting Elements

Including an inappropriate collar, leash, or other adornment may ruin an otherwise fine photograph. As pretty as these elements may be, they scream at you to take notice. We are here to photograph Greyhounds, not collars. (By this time you should also notice the distracting background as well as an unflattering expression.)

Foster families will go to great lengths to dress their new family member for photographs. It is best to remove these adornments before making photographs to advertise adoptable Greyhounds. (The back deck is a safe place to make the photograph, though seldom acts as a suitable background.)

Command Attention

You must get the attention of the subject. Without it the Greyhound may look frightened, sleepy, or worse. An attentive Greyhound will usually have its ears up and mouth shut. The photographer should not use noisemakers or soft toys with squeakers. To do so will guarantee to get you a full-face look right into the camera, which is not what you want.

It is a warm day and the sun is shining. He has a full stomach and all is right with the world. It looks like time for a nap. Unfortunately we want to show him as a vibrant and interesting Greyhound.

Command his attention away from the camera and this is what results: Ears up, mouth closed, eyes open and sparkling, a very different Greyhound indeed. This photograph was made only a split second later.

It's easy to do. Roll up a section of the Sunday newspaper and put masking tape around it. Put it in your back pocket and wherever you want the Greyhound to look, simply toss the roll in that direction. Greyhounds will almost always close their mouths and raise their ears when they see it in the air or when it hits the ground. In this case the photographer wanted the Greyhound to look to his right. The rolled up paper was thrown in front of the dog to the photographer's right, with the left hand. Notice how the dog's mouth is open and his ears are down before he sees the paper.

A moment later the result of the rolled up paper distraction is a Greyhound with his mouth closed and his ears up. This animated pose shows a dog with ears up and eyes alert. It is difficult to artificially pose the retired racer. The pose will usually be natural if you have patience and are able to recognize it.

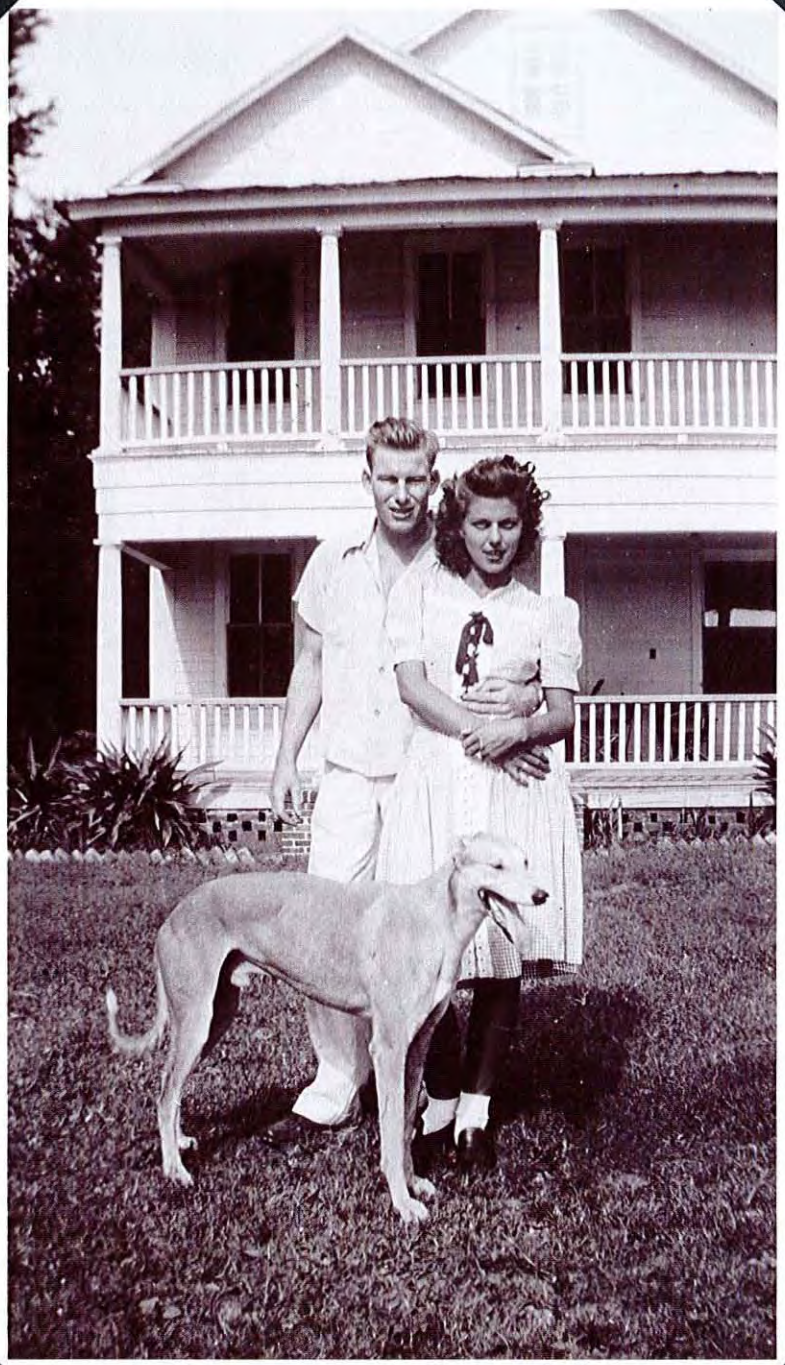
This image shows a different version of the full-length pose, the modified side view with the head turned back over the shoulder. The distraction of the rolled up paper is obvious to the photographer's right.

This is the classic side view with ears up, eyes bright, and tail relaxed. At times it will be difficult to get the tail from between the legs. Usually the tossed paper will do the trick. (The distraction of the collar and leash has been removed with the use of a graphics manipulation computer program.)

In this classic head shot, the head is up, ears alert, and the eyes sparkle with interest. The background is dark and unobtrusive, with just enough detail to place the Greyhound in an environment. (The collar was digitally removed. A black or beige collar will almost always work on the brindle; other colors may be problematic, and you can change or remove them digitally.)

The three-quarter profile is about as close to full face as you will want to do. Both eyes are showing, the ears are up and the eyes show interest. The nose is not pointing directly at the camera and is sharp. This pose can be problematic if you move in to close. The nose may fall out of focus.

Jon P. Fishback has been a photographer for 50 years. He has taught photography at the college level. He volunteers with GPA/Northwest as photographer and placement representative.



Greyhounds in My Pedigree

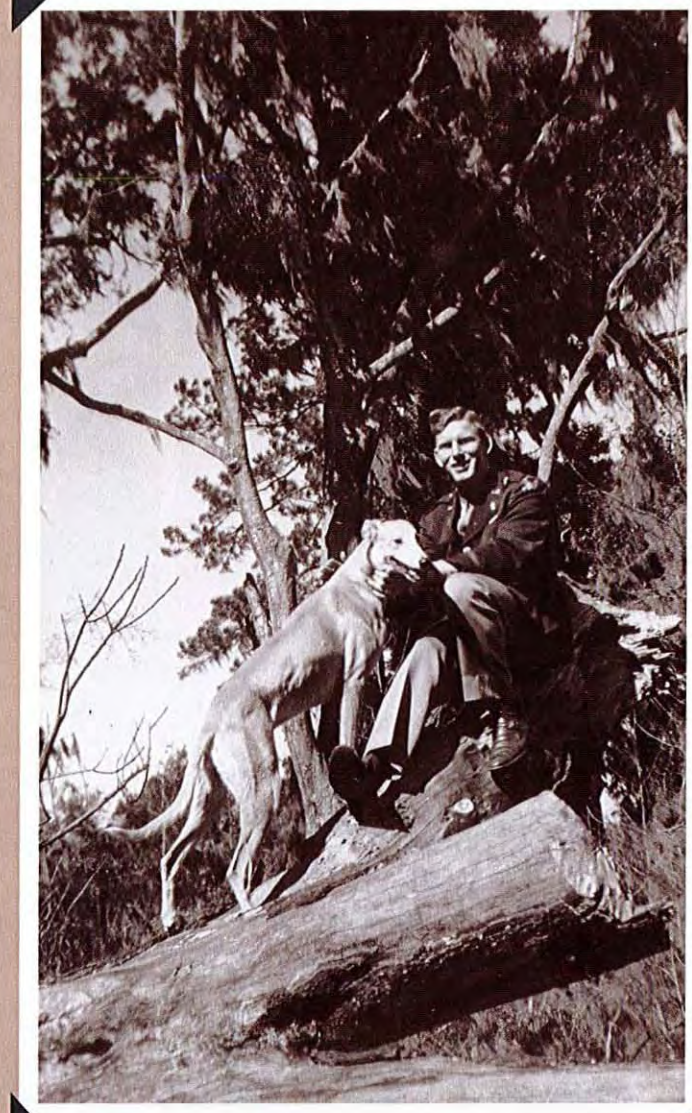
By Georgia D. Schilling

From my earliest memory, I recall my mother telling me about the good times she had visiting her maternal grandmother in Savannah, Georgia. Mom was raised in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania but spent her summers in Savannah, which was very rural during Mom's early life.

She often spoke about visiting her first cousins and about friends she made there over the years. Mom loved animals, and she had a special place in her heart for dogs. She told me many times about a friend who lived on a southern plantation on the Vernon River. The house was called Beaulieu. I heard many times about the two large dogs who accompanied Mom's friend everywhere, how he loved them, and what wonderful dogs they were. She never mentioned the breed, and since we always had mutts, I never thought to ask.

Sixty years passed since Mom met the young man who owned the wonderful, large dogs. Then I adopted Jet, my first Greyhound. On our way home from the adoption, I took Jet to meet my father and my mother, who was then undergoing chemotherapy. Mom never mentioned having met a Greyhound before, and I would not have expected her to do so. My guess is that the chemotherapy affected her memory.

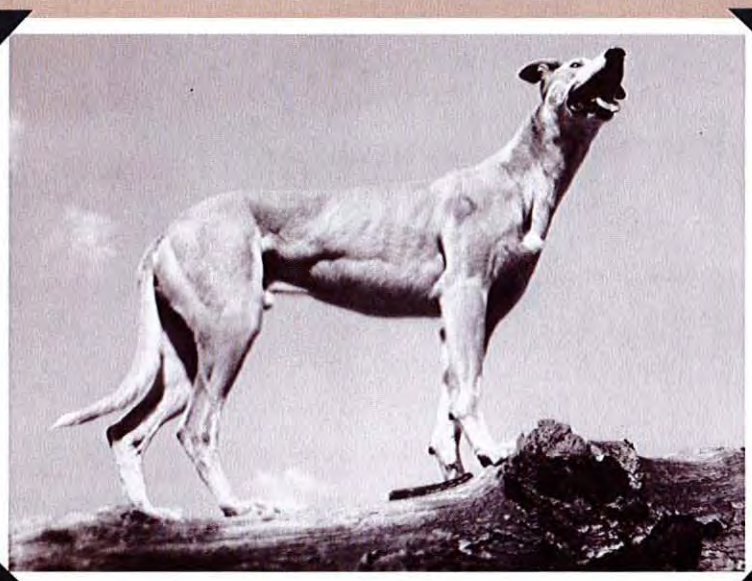
Sadly, Mom and Dad both passed away in 2003. Looking through Mom's photo albums, I found these photographs, which were taken in the summer of 1941. I could not believe my eyes; my mother had known Greyhounds! Nobody had Greyhounds as pets in those days. I learned that the name of Mom's friend was Billy Saffold, and his Greyhounds were pets, not racers. The



Savannah area was rural, and the Greyhounds had the run of the plantation. The male dog was named Sonny. The name of the female, unfortunately, has been lost.

I wonder . . . did the fact that Mom had been so close to Greyhounds as a young woman predispose me to loving them? I will never know. I sure wish I could ask her.

Georgia D. Schilling was born, raised, and teaches in Irvington, N.J. She and her husband Keith reside on Lake Hopatcong in New Jersey with Greyhounds Jet Girl (PA's Chevy Jet) and Silly Celia (System Cel-U-Lite), Irvington Terrier Lucky Boy, and cats Polly and Doodle. She shares this story and images in memory of her mother, Mrs. Georgia B. Donovan, who passed away on January 12, 2003.



There was a lawn here, once. . .

Green Versus Greyhound: Dogs and Summer Lawns

Story and Photos by Relaena Sindelar

What's the average score in your back yard during the summer? Greyhounds = 3, Yard = 0? Do you find yourself staring with (green) envy at your neighbor's perfectly manicured back yard, where two small fluffy dogs are playing amidst the lush grass?

The problem with Greyhounds and backyards is often two-fold: Running paws and the "pause" between running.

Not only do our yards often suffer from legions of happy feet tearing up the grass, digging their own raceway (and a few exploratory holes along the way), but we seem to suffer more than the yards next door from dead or "burned" spots due to our Greyhounds' "pit stops." What's to be done? Let's take it one problem at a time:

Lawn Burns

Those yellowed, dying, or long-dead patches of grass scattered randomly around your backyard like crop circles are the backyard gardener's bane. The problem is so prevalent that many off-leash parks have simply given up on grass, spreading a thick layer of wood chips, sand, or bark dust instead. If you'd prefer your yard not look like a woodpile, you've got some work ahead of you. Contrary to popular belief, that work does not involve altering your Greyhound's diet.

Urban Myth #1: Dilute the dog's urine

Do not encourage a dog to drink more to "dilute" the urine. Salty foods and broth that encourage drinking can damage the heart or kidneys. And the resulting diluted urine lacks the necessary pH to fight off bacteria, leading to bladder infections and other urinary tract complications.

Urban Myth #2: Alter the dog's urine chemistry

Do not add tomato juice, baking soda, cider vinegar, or any other off-the-shelf product to your Greyhound's diet in an attempt to lower the urine's ammonia levels or pH. Just ask your veterinarian — your dog's urine has a specific chemistry for a reason. Adding pH- or ammonia-altering supplements can result in bladder stones, crystals, bladder infections, and urinary tract diseases.

And the main reason you don't want to alter the pH or ammonia levels of your Greyhound's urine? Because that's *not* what's killing your grass. Even as far back as 1981, a Colorado veterinarian by the name of A.W. Allard did a study proving that the pH of urine had little noticeable impact on the cause of lawn burns.[1]

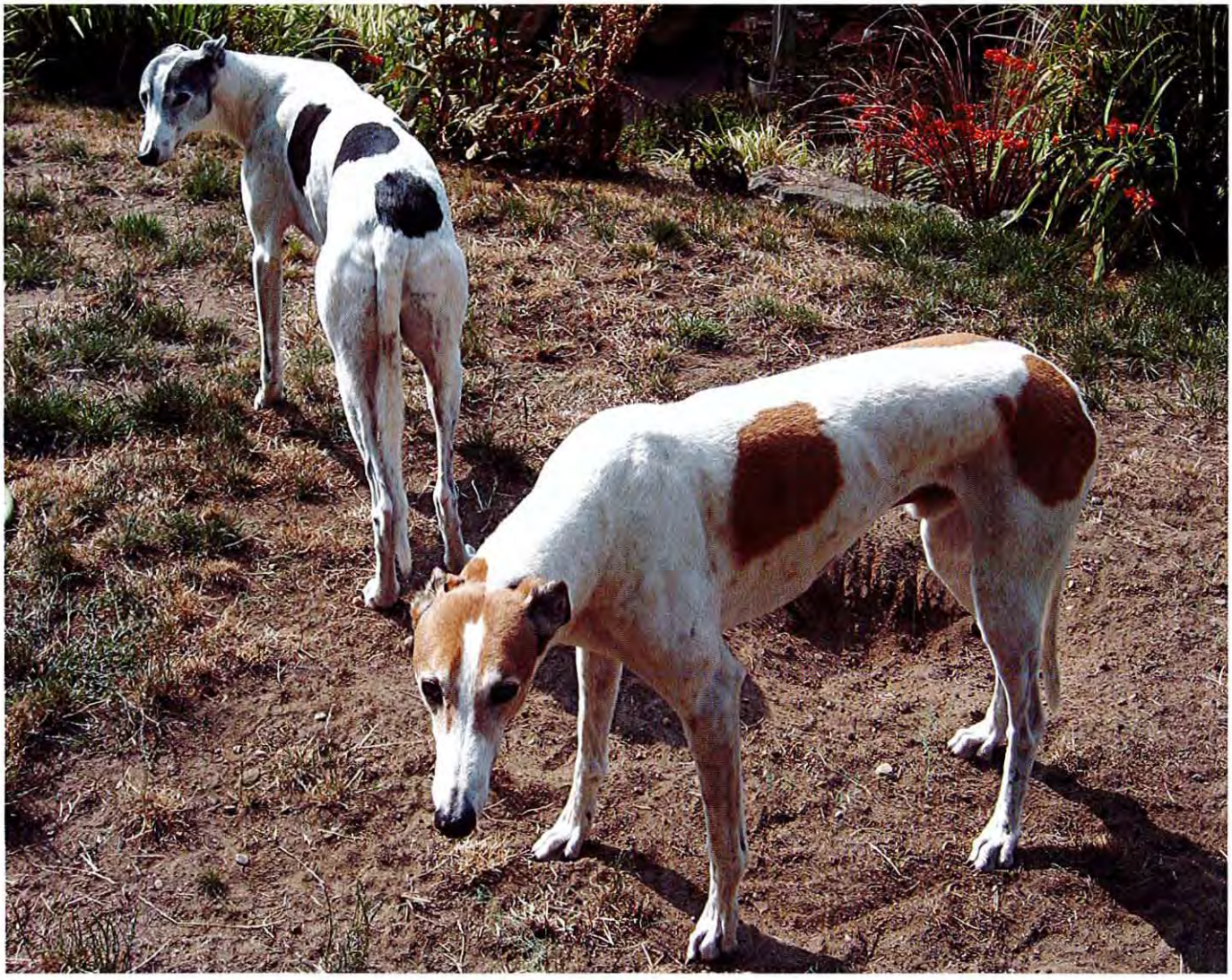
The Real Cause of Lawn Burn

If you've ever spilled extra fertilizer by accident in one place on your lawn, you've done exactly what dogs do when they urinate or defecate: deposit a high concentration of nitrogen in one spot.

The acid and ammonia is not burning the lawn; the nitrogen is. Dogs have naturally high nitrogen levels in their urine and feces because they eat a high amount of protein.

Does a lower-protein dog food reduce the nitrogen content enough to mitigate the yellowing effects on the grass? Not hardly. Would a vegetarian diet make a difference? Good question, but that would require a different article.

To understand why the same product that fertilizes your yard so beautifully can also burn your yard so badly, it's necessary to compare the differences between *concentration*,



An alternate play surface, such as pea gravel or barkdust, might be a solution for this backyard.

If the owner can persuade this dog to give up his place in the sun, this spot might be a candidate for reseeding.

volume, and *delivery*. Dogs eat a significant amount of protein, which produces a significant *concentration* of nitrogen in their urine and feces — far higher than normal yard fertilizer products. Feces take longer to release the nitrogen onto your lawn, and can be manually removed from the lawn to further lessen damage. That leaves urine as the primary culprit behind burned lawns, because it is applied all at once — just like an accidental overdose of highly concentrated liquid fertilizer.

The size of the dog is directly related to the problem. Obviously, our Greyhounds produce a much larger *volume* of nitrogen-laden urine than a Chihuahua. And if you're already in the habit of fertilizing your lawn, the extra nitrogen in your dog's urine will cause an even greater burn spot problem in your yard.

Dr. Allard's study investigated numerous dog urine variations and applications. His results showed that the urine's nitrogen concentration and volume were the two leading causes of lawn burn.[1] But there's one more factor: *Delivery*.

Urban Myth #3:Female dogs have more acidic urine, so their urine is more damaging.

It's true that owning a female dog often does result in a worse burn spot. But once again, it's not the chemistry of the urine that causes the problem. It's all about the delivery system, or the manner in which a dog urinates.

Puppies and adult female dogs typically squat to urinate, delivering urine in one specific, highly concentrated location. (If your female Greyhound has to hold her bladder all day long while you are at work, there will be even more volume "delivered" in one spot.) By contrast, most male dogs (and some female dogs) tend to "mark" the yard, delivering smaller, scattered locations of urine. Though this process can cause damage to a favorite tree or shrub over time, it is easier on the lawn.

Treat the Grass, Not the Dog

Knowing that dietary changes aren't safe or effective, what are your choices for promoting a beautiful green lawn? Quite a few, although you can't implement just one idea and expect it to work. The more of these recommendations that you can follow, the higher your chances of a healthy, green lawn:

Prevention

Consider fencing off areas of your lawn that you'd like to remain burn-free. This may be especially useful in front yards that are visited by loose neighborhood dogs or neighbors walking their dogs. If a fence is not an option, consider a thick, hardy hedge.

Taking your Greyhound on more frequent outings to the park or walks in the neighborhood will certainly lessen the frequency of urination at home (although remember to show equal respect to your neighbors' front yards).

Healthy Lawn Habits

Lawns that are already suffering from disease, lack of thatching, or lack of regular

watering can be more susceptible to lawn burn. Restoring the health of your lawn will help give it the added immunity necessary to compensate for urine. Use caution with fertilizers — not only for your dog's health, but to prevent doubling up on the nitrogen load. If the grass is truly suffering, overseed, re-sod, or replant with a urine-resistant, "high-activity" seed blend.

Choosing Urine-Resistant Grass Seed

Look for "high activity" or "playground" grass seed blends that contain a high ratio of urine-resistant seed. Fescue *(Festuca sp. var. Kentucky 31)* and Perennial Ryegrass *(Lolium perrene)* were the two types of grass seed found to be most resistant to the effects of urine in Dr. Allard's study.[1] By contrast, Kentucky Bluegrass *(Poa pratensis)* and Bermuda Grass *(Cynodon sp. var. Fairway)* were most susceptible to burn, even when the urine was diluted. Keep in mind that high volumes and concentrations of urine will defeat even the most urine-resistant grass seed, so the choice of seed alone is not a solution.

Spot Watering

As soon as your Greyhound is done urinating, saturate the area with a hose or bucket full of water to help dilute and disperse the nitrogen load. This approach can actually help green up your lawn without the use of commercial fertilizers by spreading the urine's natural nitrogen.

Spot Replanting

If you only have a few small spots of yellowed or dying grass, healthy lawn habits should enable the surrounding grass to fill in the area. If the spots are larger or more damaged, you can spot-seed the area: keep a small bag of quality grass seed on hand, scratch out and remove a little bit of the soil in the damaged area, sprinkle with seed, cover with fresh soil, and keep moist until the grass has taken hold. For a faster fix, buy a square of sod at your local garden store and cut pieces to fit the worst burned areas (again, keeping the area well watered until the pieces take root).

Quality Dog Food

High quality dog foods have more digestible proteins, resulting in more nitrogen uptake by the body, and less nitrogen "download" to your yard.

Training

Consider training your Greyhound to urinate in a specified area — along the unused side of the house, or in a less visible area behind trees. It may be helpful to collect feces and move it to the chosen area, to help your Greyhound get the idea (some owners have even collected urine and "manually delivered" it to the training site). With a leash, some time, and patience, training can usually be done, no matter what the dog's age.

Have you seen our lawn?

Wear and Tear

Even if you can get the lawn burn problem under control, owning a retired racer and a beautiful backyard can still be tricky. Depending on the size of your yard, the number of Greyhounds you own, and their respective ages and energy levels, you may already be suffering from Greyhound Wasteland. Once you've reached that dreaded mud-pit state, you may find yourself dreaming of the days you had lawn burn!

If your Greyhounds have literally run off all the grass in your backyard, your solutions are limited. You can give up and put down some substance other than grass that is safe for Greyhound play and prevents mud; install a "running path" in the area they frequent; or you can keep trying for grass and

begin the routine of frequent reseeding. (You could also resod, which might be cost-prohibitive.)

Alternate Play Surface

Much like a children's schoolyard, some Greyhound owners have replaced their once grassy back yards with varying substances, such as soft barkdust or sand laid over landscape fabric. Both options still result in some "tracked-in stuff," but do help prevent mud (and make poop scooping a little easier).

If you have more green in your pocket than in your backyard, or if gardening has never really been your cup of tea, you could consider artificial turf. Manageable sections designed for home use are available from large national discount warehouse stores, ready to be installed in your very own backyard. Football, anyone?

Running Path

If the imprint of your Greyhounds' racetrack is apparent, one way to eliminate mud is to replace the racing pathway with an alternate surface. For best success, stick to the pathway they have created, rather than trying to divert their route.

If you do not wish this pathway to be permanent, install landscape fabric and top with pea gravel, sand, soft or shredded barkdust, or even sawdust. Use common sense when choosing barkdust to avoid large chunks (splinters), or treated wood chips (toxicity).

If you like the idea of a hard or more permanent surface around the perimeter of your yard, consider some form of landscape paving stones. For maximum success, purchase a book at your local home repair warehouse/hardware store that gives thorough directions. Use common sense when choosing and installing your stones, avoiding wide gaps or uneven surfaces that could produce torn toenails.

Whether your pathway is removable or permanent, if you have one of the infamous "I can go faster than you by taking a shortcut" Greyhounds, you may want to consider added measures: planting shrubs along the inside perimeter of the path, or placing some sort of large object in the center of your yard that forces the dog to go the long way — large rocks, a water feature, a small grove of trees, thick shrubs, or even a series of planters or raised beds are all options.

Frequent Reseeding

If you're a true optimist and insist on trying to recapture the yard you once had, you'll want to track down a feed store. There you can invest in large sacks of grass seed ("playground" blends with urine-resistant seed types) and a bale or two of grass hay.

Why grass hay? It's your grass seed's best chance of taking root. The hay will provide a protective cushioning layer from running paws and some added warmth (or shade) to speed up germination. And it immediately lessens the amount of mud being tracked in.

Opinions vary about whether straw absorbs more mud than grass hay, or whether hay might be flammable. One advantage of grass hay is that it contains the type of seeds that are more likely to look good in your backyard after sprouting. Either way, use common sense when spreading and shaking out the bale to avoid thick, airless clumps of packed, dried grasses.

Me personally? I'm still optimistically spreading a bale of Timothy grass on top of playground grass seed a couple times each year. After all, I only have two Greyhounds. And I can see some grass sprouting (if I look closely). Sure, my yard is somewhat small, but I can seed faster than my youngest girl can run. Can't I? ■

[1]Allard, A.W. Lawn Burn and Dog Urine, Canine Practice, March/April 1981;8;(2);26-32.

Relaena Sindelar lives in Seattle where dogs get wet and yards get muddy. She and her husband Dave cope with the mud by regularly spreading a bale of grass hay around their yard. They're just not sure who's happier – their Greyhounds Holly and Patrick, or the neighborhood's nesting birds.

Champ and Shadow, adopted by Jean Matchett of Columbus, Ohio.

The author relaxes with (L-R) Millie, Brady, and Pearl on the grounds of the Mountaineer Inn at Camp Gone to the Dogs.

A Week at Dog Camp

By Susan Tanona

"If you ever wanted to take a vacation and do nothing but spend time with your dog, a dog camp is the place for you! Dog camps allow you to spend time with dozens of other canine lovers, and try a variety of canine sports and activities. Some camps focus specifically on sports like agility and obedience and are designed for the more serious competitor, while others are geared to all types of dog owners and offer dozens of activities for you and your dog." – The Dogpatch

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2006

Pack, pack, pack. It's pouring rain as I load the car. I change into dry clothes twice before I hit the road. There is a steady rain for most of the three and-a-half hour drive. About 15 miles outside of Stowe, Vermont, the sky lightens and the roads are finally dry. I am on vacation!

It was not my plan to take three Greyhounds to dog camp. I decided only a few months earlier to make a return trip to Camp Gone to the Dogs in Stowe. When I made my decision (and paid the $1,300 fee), I had two dogs. Pearl was recovering from an embolism that had pretty severely damaged a hind leg to the point where a 10-minute walk around the block was an enormous effort for her. The veterinary neurologist had warned me that the damaged muscle would likely never recover, but she showed steady improvement — much to my delight and surprise. I felt she was mobile enough to enjoy such an active week. We all deserved this vacation.

Enter Millie. Three weeks before I was to leave for camp, I adopted a third Greyhound. Her story touched me. Her sweet, shy disposition pulled me in and I brought her home.

So here I was with a car full of gear and three dogs, heading to camp. I thought I would just take a large dose of patience and make the best of it.

Agility is just one of the many activities available to dog camp attendees.

Now in its 17th year, Camp Gone to the Dogs is a weeklong extravaganza of dog fun. From agility to traditional obedience, to rally to flyball and lure coursing, it is total immersion in all things canine. Based at a country inn in Stowe, the setting could not be more beautiful. With Mount Mansfield in the background, downtown Stowe for shopping (for human supplies like antique quilts and handcrafted pottery), and surrounded by miles of hiking trails, the only challenge is finding enough time (and energy) in the day to do it all.

The biggest hurdle on the first day is getting organized. Since I am outnumbered three-to-one by my Greyhound companions, this is a strategic challenge. Dogs cannot be loose in the rooms, so I need to unload the car and set up crates and x-pens outside while holding onto three leashed Greyhounds. Because others are also busy getting organized, there is not always another set of hands to help. Crates, by the way, are you and your dog's best friend at camp. I cannot imagine managing with a dog who is not crate-trained. Though dogs can accompany you everywhere except the dining room, let's face it — we all could use a break from the action and from one another, and the crate provides that needed refuge.

With crates and tarps set up (the drizzle returned) and dogs walked and settled, I head to dinner to enjoy a home-style meal and to get reacquainted with campers from the previous year. (Camp Gone to the Dogs is habit-forming; many campers return year after year.)

Monday, September 4

It's a cloudy, drizzly morning. Trying to stick to my resolve to limit the number of activities, I participated in two classes per day. I relax in my room with the dogs, drinking coffee and studying the week's schedule. I've decided I will do one agility class in the morning and a Canine Good Citizen/Therapy Dogs International Inc. (CGC/TDI) prep class in the afternoon. Of my three dogs, only one will take classes with me — Brady, a young male who is an enthusiastic learner with energy to burn. My 10 year-old dog, Pearl, would take things easy this year, her most strenuous activity being walks on the trail behind the inn. And for Millie, my newest addition, just being at camp was such a new (and scary) experience that every day and every walk offered another lesson.

Agility is one of the more popular activities at camp. Each morning there are multiple classes for all levels, from Beginner to Advanced Competition. In addition, there are agility games in the afternoon. Mine are the only Greyhounds of the 140 or so dogs here. Yet we do not really stand out in the crowd, because it seems virtually every breed is represented from Briards to Labradors, to Golden Retrievers, standard Poodles, Chihuahuas, and, of course, all-Americans (mixed breeds).

As Brady and I walk to his Intermediate Agility class, he is spinning, play-bowing, and barking at me. This is no surprise, given the new setting and the other wound-up dogs. I suspect we'll have control issues in class. Sure enough, we get through two jumps and a tunnel of a short sequence and he is off to the races. His run ends when he crashes

Brady conquers the tunnel on the agility course. *Steve Surfman*

into the snow fence that surrounds the ring, bringing down a portion of the fence with him. Okay, not the greatest start. The instructors, however, could not be nicer or more patient. This is a hallmark of Camp Gone to the Dogs. Without exception, the staff of trainers is the most progressive and kind with whom I have ever had the pleasure of taking a class. They encourage us to try again. When we get through the sequence more or less successfully and with snow fence intact, the whole class applauds. This is another nice feature of camp — class members quickly bond and support one another in their training efforts.

After a break for lunch, during which my fellow campers and I plan our afternoons, the dogs and I retreat to our room for a rest. Scheduled breaks in the action are important for both human and dog campers but especially for Greyhounds, who are not known for their endurance.

Next up is our CGC/TDI prep class. The instructors go over what the test involves and then put us through the paces. Brady is solid and working happily. I am optimistic the test will go well. This is a nice feeling, especially after our morning agility adventures. As the sole representative of the Greyhound breed here at camp, I feel a responsibility (entirely self-imposed) to show others that Greyhounds are just dogs and can do what other dogs can do. Brady sits, lies down, stays, and comes as well as any of the others in class, and I am proud.

Our first full day winds to a close with dinner followed by lectures on such topics as nutrition, preventing and solving behavior problems, and "Why does my dog do that?" (that is, if you have enough energy left to get anything out of them, which I usually do not). I take the dogs for a final walk around the grounds and call it a night.

Except the night isn't quite over. At about 10 p.m., when even the night owls have started to turn in, the fire alarms at the inn go off with an ear-piercing screech. My dogs, being Greyhounds and tired ones at that, only lift their heads from their beds and look at me as if to ask, "What now?" I urge them out the door. We join the other campers standing on the lawn in the drizzle. What is remarkable is how calm both humans and their canine companions are as we await the fire trucks. (This being a rural area, there is a bit of a wait for the presumably all-volunteer firefighters to arrive.) Three trucks arrive, their flashing lights piercing the darkness. The dogs calmly stand and watch. This is a worldly bunch. Within 15 minutes, the inn is deemed safe and we are allowed to return to our rooms. (It was an electrical problem with the alarms.)

Tuesday, September 5

By day two, my schedule falls into a predictable routine that I will follow all week. It is similar to that of Monday, with the addition of a long walk in the woods with all three dogs in the morning and lure coursing in the late afternoon.

Of my three dogs, only Brady does the lure coursing, and he is ready to go. As we approach the line, the lure operator (affectionately known as the Bunny Man by everyone at camp) says, "Watch out! Here comes a professional." The other breeds chase the bunny. Brady chases the bunny with style. It is beautiful (and heart-stopping) to watch. I only take a breath when he comes back to me sound and bouncing with glee. We return

Brady shows the other breeds how to chase the bunny with style. *Steve Surfman*

to the car where Pearl and Millie are waiting and take a long walk, far from the lure coursing, as the girls are quite aware of what they are missing.

Next it's dinner on the deck followed by another assortment of lectures. We are back in the room by 9 p.m. and asleep soon after. In general at camp, the dogs sleep as if they are dead and awaken reluctantly as I am enjoying my morning coffee. I don't think they have ever been so tired.

With the start of each new day, I find myself more settled into a vacation frame of mind. The rest of the world — that is, the world in which dogs do not take center stage — seems very far away. Deadlines? What are those? Terrorism? Is there really such a thing? Conversations with fellow campers center mostly on our dogs. We talk about their habits and idiosyncrasies, our lives with them at home, who sleeps where, who eats what, and so on. It's not until very late in the week that we get around to talking about other, more mundane aspects of our lives, such as career, relationships, and family. That's dog camp: It's all about the dogs.

Wednesday and Thursday, September 6 and 7

As the week progresses, Millie continues to come out of her shell. The changes are subtle but obvious to me. Her tail moves from being staunchly between her legs to a more relaxed position, though she is reluctant to wag it. She stands her ground when strangers approach rather than hiding behind me or one of the other dogs. It's a crash course in life coping skills for Millie and she's handling it well. Pearl looks stronger every day, her lameness barely noticeable. She is relishing the long walks in the woods. I marvel as I watch her lope along the trail, ears flapping and tongue hanging out. Was she really hopping on three legs just a few months ago? It's hard to believe how far she's come. I remind myself to be very grateful.

Each day in agility class, Brady and I have just a bit more success than the previous day. He is less distracted and wild and more focused on me. The ring is smaller than what we are used to and there are distractions galore since classes are being held on either side of us. I am happy that despite it all, Brady chooses to play agility with me.

Our afternoon CGC/TDI prep class also continues to go well. The focus has turned to the supervised separation portion of the test. In this portion, the handler give the leash to a helper, tells the dog to stay, and disappears for three minutes. The dog can move but should not whine excessively, lunge on the leash, or bark. Our instructors tell us this is one of the biggest challenges for many dogs taking the test. Brady, however, handles it easily, lying motionless and staring in the direction in which I left for the three minutes. (I spy on him through the bushes.) It turns out there are some advantages to having an obsessive-compulsive Greyhound after all.

At dinner on Thursday, campers marvel at how quickly the week is passing and how hard it is to think about returning to that other world. To take our minds off of the approaching end of camp, we shop in the camp store.

Friday, September 8

Brady and I are scheduled to take the CGC/TDI test early in the morning. Though I am nervous and have never participated in

any kind of formal obedience competition, I am also confident he will do well. And he does. He doesn't look twice at the person in the wheelchair gesticulating wildly, the woman on crutches walking close to him, the crashing of metal pans behind his head (all to simulate noises and experiences that might be encountered in a hospital or nursing home), or the volunteers attempting to distract him during the recall. When he passes his out-of-sight stay with flying colors, he is awarded his certificate. Cheers for Brady!

Later in the morning, there is a tinge of sadness when our final agility class winds down. Each dog and handler team is awarded an agility fun ribbon, then we pose for group pictures.

The final afternoon is reserved for demonstrations and fun. There is a dog costume party, a hot dog retrieve, tunnel games, disc dog, and obedience demonstrations. I spread a blanket on the hillside next to the action and am content to watch and relax. We are done for the week.

At dinner on Friday, e-mail addresses are exchanged, and there are vows to reunite in the spring because the prospect of waiting an entire 12 months to have this much fun is unthinkable.

As I set out on the long drive home early the next morning, mentally preparing for my reentry into the real world, I think about what makes Camp Gone to the Dogs so special. The beautiful setting, the almost-always perfect weather, the wonderful food, and the vast array of activities all contribute. But spending time with people who feel the way you do about their canine companions is at the heart of the experience. It's the reason campers return year after year.

Were three dogs too many to manage? Though there was the occasional trying moment when I found myself tangled in leashes or when the small room at the inn felt a little too small, overall I would call it a success. Let's hope so — I've already signed up for 2007! ■

Related websites:

Camp Gone to the Dogs:
http://camp-gone-tothe-dogs.com/index.html
Therapy Dogs International Inc.:
http://www.tdi-dog.org/
The Dogpatch
http://www.dogpatch.org/doginfo/camp.html
DogPlay:
http://www.dogplay.com/Activities/camps.html

Susan Tanona is a CG copy editor.

Bailey (L), adopted by Eliza Willis and Dave Nardone, and Fugado (R), adopted by Marc Phelps, of New Haven, Conn. *Eliza Willis*

Katie perfectly executes a jump. *Nexes Imaging*

A Second Career in Agility

By Jennifer Bachelor

While many ex-racing Greyhounds enjoy second careers as meet-and-greet ambassadors, therapy dogs, or simply good pets, others enjoy the fast paced sport of agility. The United States Dog Agility Association defines agility as "a competitive sport that tests a person's skills in training and handling of dogs over a timed obstacle course" (www.usdaa.com). Agility is a great way for Greyhounds and their adopters to bond, get some exercise, and to just have fun.

I began doing agility with Greyhounds in 1999. Initially, my goals were simple: I wanted my Greyhounds, Jessie and Teresa, to be able to negotiate each obstacle and to have fun in the weekly class I was taking. This led to wanting to be able to do combinations of obstacles in a row, and then a whole course. Finally, I wanted to compete and earn an agility title. I made a lot of mistakes and have learned a lot since then, but the three of us found a lot of joy in the process and eventually did earn a few titles.

In early 2001, I began searching for my next agility Greyhound. This would be the first Greyhound I would choose specifically for characteristics that I thought would be found in a competitive agility Greyhound. I found Katie, a 2-year-old, cute little fawn with a charcoal face. What signs might indicate an aptitude for agility? Katie is very food-motivated, meaning that she will eat just about anything in any situation. Food can be a powerful motivator and is an easy reward to give for a job well done. I also like to see a Greyhound who enjoys playing with toys, since toys can also be used as reinforcement.

Self-assurance and a sassy attitude are also advantages on the agility course. It is easier to compete with a dog who walks into a new venue immediately feeling at home. Katie is always eager to check out a new place and get down to business. However, agility can help a dog build self-esteem, so do not be discouraged if your Greyhound lacks confidence.

Katie emerges from a tunnel on the agility course. *Cedar Glen*

Finally, the agility greyhound should have a high energy level. If you have an active Greyhound who is always busy doing something (good or bad), agility might be a great activity for your hound. Not only is it an excellent physical activity, it is a brainteaser that requires intelligence to figure out how to negotiate obstacles and to follow your directions.

Fortunately, humans do not have to be in great shape to enjoy agility. All types of people participate in the sport, so do not let your age, athletic ability, or weight be an excuse not to give it a try.

After about eight months of training, I began competing with Katie. She exceeded all of my expectations. She earned the Novice, Open, and Excellent titles in just six months, something only a few Greyhounds had accomplished. Titles are earned when you complete a required number of qualifying runs. Novice is the easiest level to master and allows for the most mistakes. As you progress through the levels, the courses and scoring become more difficult until finally, no errors are allowed. Within another year, Katie became the second Greyhound to ever earn the Master Excellent title. The first Master Excellent titled Greyhound was Kate Crawford's Mandoid, a small, dark brindle with a super diva personality. (Kate Crawford described the agility experiences of Mandoid and her other Greyhounds in "Agility Hounds: We are the Champions!" Fall 1997 CG.)

Katie went on to become the number one Greyhound in AKC agility for lifetime achievement. However, since the beginning, I had my eye on one particular accomplishment, the Master Agility Champion (MACH). No Greyhound had ever come close, and I was hoping that Katie would be the first.

The MACH requires 20 "double Qs" and 750 speed points. "Double Q" is short for double qualifying runs. These are error-free runs in the same day in both the standard class (contains all of the climbing obstacles) and the jumper class (contains jumps, tunnels, and weave poles only). Speed points are awarded for seconds under the maximum course time allowed. The MACH requires a dog to demonstrate consistency, accuracy, and speed.

Katie had always been a very consistent runner. She was good about clearing jumps, completing the weave poles quickly, and passing through the required contact zones on the climbing obstacles. She was always faster than the maximum course time. Generally, the spacing of the obstacles did not give her room to really open up her stride and to run like a Greyhound. Instead, her speed came from her sharp, efficient turns and in other areas running the straightest line possible.

Katie had weekends where she was unstoppable and would get several double Qs in a row. However, when it came down to number 20, I tried too hard to be careful and created problems for us. She had more than enough speed points, so it came down to just needing to run clean two times in one day. Inevitably, I would give her a bad signal with my arm or move too slowly, causing us to make a disqualifying error, such as taking an incorrect obstacle or simply skipping one. Finally, three months later, I got my act together and guided Katie through the twentieth double Q. Traditionally, after your twentieth double Q, you run a victory lap. Katie humored me by trotting along, but was mostly wondering when the food reward would be coming. As a token, you get to keep the top rail on the last jump of the course and all of your fellow competitors sign it. It was a very proud moment. The best part about being the first is that no one can ever take that away. Another Greyhound could take the number one spot (and in fact, her adopted brother Travis has), but there can never be another first MACH Greyhound.

Agility offers everyone some measure of success, even if your Greyhound is not the most food-motivated or the most active. There is much to be learned from every hound, so start by training the one lying on your couch. If your Greyhound is more of a troublemaker than a couch potato, then you might have the next agility superstar in your house. Often the Greyhound who needs training is the easiest to train. This type of Greyhound is crying for a job and welcomes the challenge.

To start, master some basic obedience with your Greyhound. Skills such as coming when called are useful. However, just learn-

ing to sit or lie down on cue helps your Greyhound learn about this game called training. I always say that racing Greyhounds typically have to "learn to earn." At first, they may not realize that they can earn treats responding to your request. Once they do, the training comes along faster.

Next, I would recommend taking a beginner agility class. This is a chance to introduce your Greyhound to all of the obstacles over a period of time and to make new dog friends. Most of the obstacles will start out much smaller and less imposing than the obstacles you may have seen. This promotes safety and builds confidence while the dogs learn where to put their feet, how to slink through a tunnel, and how to climb. Gradually, the obstacles get taller and longer. Before you know it, your Greyhound will be mastering obstacles of traditional size. At that point you can evaluate whether this is an activity you want to continue in a class setting or whether you just want to jump your Greyhound over broomsticks placed across two upside down buckets in the backyard. Starting in a beginner class will allow you to acquire the basic skills needed for agility, whether you plan to compete or just have fun in the backyard.

Maybe you want to train your Greyhound to master all of the obstacles, or maybe you would like to compete one day. Whatever your goal, it is a wonderful feeling to guide your Greyhound through a sequence of obstacles. When your plan of action falls into place and the run goes smoothly, the feeling is indescribable. ■

Jennifer Bachelor lives with her family (including Greyhounds Katie and Travis) in Acworth, Ga.

Hannah, adopted by Cindy Hanson of St. Paul, Minn.

He's got the dock, the water, and the bumper . . . Travis is ready for another round of dock jumping.

Go Jump in the Lake!

By Jennifer Bachelor

Can you imagine your Greyhound running and jumping off a 40-foot dock into a body of water? With the sport of Dock Jumping, this activity has become a competition. The human team member tosses a favorite toy for the canine team member to leap after from the dock. The jump is then measured for distance. The sport is dominated by the Retriever breeds, but any breed can participate . . . including special Greyhounds who love to swim and retrieve toys from the water. Most of us probably can't imagine our Greyhounds wanting to swim or to launch themselves off of a dock after a bumper, but there is at least one ex-racing needle nose in a haystack that enjoys this sport.

Travis is a handsome, energetic boy with a desire to retrieve as strong as any Retriever. He will retrieve until he is completely exhausted, which takes quite a while. His love of water sports started when we would hike several times a week around a local lake. Curious to see how far he would really go into the lake after a toy, we attached a very long line to him and introduced him to a bumper (to this day, his all-time favorite toy). A bumper is a popular tool for trainers of hunting dogs. It is a hard, plastic cylinder, typically orange (or another bright color), and it floats.

When we tossed the bumper into the water, Travis got the idea right away. His swimming form is not elegant — he splashes like the paddle wheel of a riverboat — but he absolutely loves it. I throw the bumper as far as I can and he will retrieve it every time.

As luck would have it, we were able to locate a dock suitable for practicing dock jumping at our local lake. Travis loved it. He was happy to launch himself off the dock from day one. We started to practice regularly in hopes of eventually going to an actual Dock Jumping competition.

In September 2004, we traveled from Atlanta to Charlotte for a Dock Jumping competition held at a Bass Pro Shop. These competitions often take place at outdoor shows or in front of outdoor supply stores. The pool is above ground and people gather around it to watch. The dock is on a 6-foot tall scaffolding that is much sturdier and steadier than it sounds. However, this can be quite a scary sight for a dog that is used to jumping in a lake; some dogs will simply not jump. Travis, always determined to challenge the ex-racing Greyhound stereotype, never hesitated. He jumped off the competition dock like a pro. When we stood in line waiting for our turn, Travis squealed with excitement as each dog launched himself off the dock. He could hardly wait to climb back on that dock and do it again. His best jump was a little over 15 feet. In the end, we came home with several ribbons and lots of fun memories.

Competitions are scarce in our area and we have had few opportunities to compete. However, Travis competed again in April and earned his Junior Jumper title with jumps averaging about 13 feet. ■

Jennifer Bachelor lives with her family (including Greyhounds Katie and Travis) in Acworth, Ga.

Robbie, adopted by Bev Dalrymple of Sugar Loaf, N.Y.

Wally proudly displays the trophy he won at Swamp Stomp.

Swamp Stomp: From the Couch to the Competition

Story and photos by Alyssa Morin

For most, retirement means a gold watch and a daily tee time. For my dog it meant a spider-shaped stuffed toy and the assurance that he would always have a comfortable couch on which to sleep. At 7 years of age, Wally takes his retirement very seriously; sleeping 23 hours out of the day on the comfortable couch, going for long walks on the beach, and, in true Greyhound fashion, forcing his snuggling on anyone who comes into the house. I can count on one hand the number of times I've ever even seen him break into a trot. I figured since his racing days were over, he decided that the need to run and compete was gone, and that he preferred to be a brindle couch potato. I soon learned that you can take the dog out of the competition, but you can't take the competition out of the dog.

One Saturday morning last May, Wally and I were burrowed under the covers in an attempt to escape the tinny buzz of the clock radio. Why did I have to get up so early anyway? It was the weekend, after all. Then I remembered — The Swamp Stomp! I jumped out of bed and began to get ready while Wally snuggled deeper into the covers, groaning and grumbling that I had left him alone in bed.

The Swamp Stomp is an annual event held by Maine Association of Dogsports (MAD) in Acton, Maine. It is an obstacle course that is run through the woods and swamp. Remember those obstacle courses you used to run on the last day of school when you were little? You would fall over yourself as you tried to navigate the tires, knock down the hurdles when your little legs couldn't clear them, and crawl on your belly under suspended jump ropes. If you were lucky your efforts — and ensuing injuries — would merit a little recognition in the form of a blue ribbon to proudly display in your bedroom. Remember? Now, as you're indulging in the heady feeling of nostalgia that image evokes, add a four-legged partner, mud, and a slew of surprises, and you get The Swamp Stomp.

When we arrived at the event, I proudly registered my Greyhound among the myriad other breeds of dogs, most of whom were trained to compete in events like this. I was relieved when we were slated to be the last run of the day. It left plenty of time to strategize. And worry.

Prior to the start of the event, all of the competitors walked the course. It was roughly half a mile, but seemed to go on forever. Along the way there were stations at which we would have to perform tasks, each a little more masochistic than the one before.

The first station was the easiest for the dogs but the absolute grossest for the humans. It required digging around to find a small toy in a kiddie pool filled with week-old grease and bits of dough from a doughnut fryer. If you lost that toy along the course, your final time would be penalized (as if smelling like an apple fritter — no matter how many showers you took later that day — weren't penalty enough).

Station two required coordination, which I definitely do not have. You had to hold onto your dog, keep one hand firmly planted on a tree, and with your free hand throw tennis balls into a bucket many feet away. The idea was that the dogs would lunge after the tennis balls when they were thrown, thus pulling the hand off the tree and causing a time penalty. If you succeeded in getting a ball in the bucket, you had to take that ball with you through the course, along with the toy from the pool. Wally isn't one to chase tennis balls, so I didn't worry about that. My concern was that he would begin to whine as he usually does when I am frustrated, thus frustrating me more. Let's just say that my coordination isn't the best when it comes to stuff like that; frustration abounds, and Wally a-whines.

The final station contained the obstacle that I feared the most: the tarps. At this station, dog and master had to belly crawl through the swamp under three tarps. The swamp was nice and muddy from the deluge of rain that had come down the week before. I dreaded getting dirty, but my main concern was that Wally would refuse to crawl under the tarps. He is not one for squeezing in between stuff, preferring to sit and whine until I move my backpack, shopping bag, or other item out of his way so he can continue his course unimpeded. I have never known this Greyhound to ever willingly go under something. It's as if being beneath things is ... beneath him. Either way, the tarps were looking like a *huge* problem for us.

We watched everyone go through the course. My dread continued to mount. I began to have visions of Wally refusing to crawl, or even backing out of his collar and running off. What made me think I could take this dog off of the couch, out of retirement, to compete in something like this?

Finally it was our turn. The clock was started and we were off. Wally was ready to book it, but my bum hip proved to be an immediate handicap. Still, Wally was not dissuaded from continuing along the course, dragging my limping self behind him. We got to the first obstacle, the kiddie pool. As I dug around, Wally began to lick the old doughnut grease. Predictable. As the grease filled his stomach, images of "the big D" filled my head. We opted for the time penalty and moved along.

Wally takes a well-deserved nap.

I had trouble at the tennis ball station, just as I anticipated. My aim was poor and it took me forever to get a ball in the bucket. Wally whined and strained at the leash to move on, but I finished it out and tucked the ball in my shirt. We ran to the next, most dreaded station.

The tarps loomed before us, each slightly more difficult — and muddy — than the one before. All of those earlier thoughts and worries returned as Wally and I made our way toward the first tarp. Would he be afraid of the tarp? Would he slip his collar and head off into the Maine woods? Would he flat out refuse to move? Just before we reached the first tarp I gathered up the leash, sucked in a deep breath, and told Wally that we were going to belly crawl no matter what. I dove into the first tarp, awaiting resistance from the other end of the leash.

It never came.

Wally was right next to me, his prissy Greyhound self crawling in the mud under the tarp. As we came out of the first tarp and headed into the second I couldn't help but think the first was just a fluke, and that he'd refuse the next one. But he proved me wrong. It was as though he knew he was in a competition and was going for the win. He crawled under that second tarp like a champ, coming out of it just waiting for his next obstacle. I was so proud. Between the second and third tarp there was a break where we had to muck through the swamp. As my sneakers squished through the mud and water I could not stop thinking about how proud I was of Wally for proving me wrong and showing me that he would do whatever it took to win. At that point, I just knew we had to make this last tarp crawl count. As we entered the tarp we both flung ourselves into the muck of the swamp, thoroughly enjoying the wet mud as we snaked through it, a small victory for the both of us.

We finished the obstacle course as a tired, extremely wet, muddy, but very happy team. I could not have been more proud of Wally. Even though he was not racing on a track, he somehow knew that he was competing and he wanted to do his best.

Sadly, we did not win — unless, of course, you count "slowest team" as an accomplishment worthy of distinction. We may not have had the fastest time, but we did go home with a trophy. Wally and I won the *Muddiest Team* award. I credit our victory to that sojourn through the third tarp, the one where I stopped worrying and we both just enjoyed ourselves in the swamp, bonding through our shared sense of fun and absurdity.

I think this was the best day we've had together. Instead of just hanging around watching television or going for a walk, we accomplished something as a team — something fun. Since then, we have competed and placed in other fun competitions in our area. Each was different, and each time, Wally gave his all.

Fletcher, adopted by Jeanne and Mike Bast of Edgewater, Md.

Greyhound retirement doesn't have to mean just stuffies, couches, and lots of love (though all of those are great). It can also mean taking that Greyhound competitive nature and using it to have fun. Further proof that you can, contrary to popular belief, teach an old dog new tricks and have fun doing it. ■

Alyssa Morin lives with Wally north of Boston, Mass. and has worked in the pet care field for years. She has focused her studies on training and behavior and now works at a facility that provides training, daycare, and boarding. Wally remains in retirement but comes out of it every once in a while for a fun competition.

Making a Greyhound Mosaic

By Sandy Hightower

Supplies needed:

- Variety of ceramic tile or broken pottery and dishes
- 3/4-inch plywood board, cut to desired size OR small piece of furniture on top of which you will install the mosaic design
- Ceramic tile adhesive, also called mastic
- Tile nipper tool
- Disposable plastic knife for spreading adhesive
- Hammer to smash tiles
- Sanded tile grout in color of choice
- Latex gloves

Anyone can make a fun and colorful Greyhound mosaic. You just need some simple supplies (available at any local home improvement store), several hours of time, and a bit of imagination to come up with a design.

When imagination is lacking, clip art can be a good substitute. The key to designing a good mosaic is to choose a simple shape with strong lines. Once you find the right image, you can either (1) sketch it out onto a plywood board or table top, or (2) enlarge it on a photocopier, then cut it out and trace it onto the object.

Another key element to the design is choosing a good contrast of colors to distinguish the main image from the background. Ceramic wall tiles work best for mosaics; heavy-duty porcelain floor tiles can be difficult to cut with tile nippers. Glass beads from a craft store also make a fun addition to the design. Broken pottery and dishes from a discount store or thrift store are another good option.

The first step is to choose a surface on which to put the mosaic. Good choices include a piece of used furniture, an inexpensive metal outdoor table, or a piece of plywood. If there are no family members or friends who can help out, many home improvement stores will cut plywood down to size for $0.50 per cut. For my mosaic, I sketched a Greyhound image on a 2'X4' piece of plywood, then cut it out using a scroll saw (also called a jig saw).

Before you begin attaching mosaic tiles to the surface, decide how you will display your mosaic, particularly if you are creating a wall hanging. As I have learned from experience, attaching hardware to a finished mosaic can be difficult. There are many forms of hanging hardware available. Ask a helpful salesperson at the home improvement center to advise you about what is most appropriate for your project.

Next comes the fun part: Smashing tiles and dishes. Wear protective eyewear, get out the hammer, and have fun. Keep the hounds in the house for this part so they don't get shards of sharp tiles in their paws. Smash the material into pieces that vary in width from 1/4 inch to 1 inch, depending on the detail and size of your design. If the design is smaller, smash the material into smaller pieces. If you use dishes, make sure the pieces are more or less flat. Do not include parts of the foot or base of the dish; these will create an uneven surface on the finished piece.

After sketching or tracing the image onto the surface, fill the areas of the image with tiles as you would a "color by numbers" piece. Attach broken tiles to the surface by using a plastic knife to butter the backside of each tile with ceramic tile adhesive, then placing the tile on the board. Use this piece-by-piece method for the important lines or curves of the mosaic and any intricate details. For larger areas incorporating just one color of tile, you can spread the adhesive directly onto the board, then press the tiles firmly into the adhesive. The adhesive should be about 1/8-inch thick on the board or the back of the tile. The tiles should also be spaced about 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch apart from each other to leave room for grout.

Placing the tile is the most time-consuming part of the process, but it can be done over several days, if needed.

Use tile nippers to perfect the size and shape of a piece of tile for important areas of the design such as the nose, eyes, or other small areas, such as the legs on the table mosaic pictured. Tile nippers work best when you place the edge of the tool just 1/4-inch from the edge of the tile instead of in the middle of the tile (these directions will also be on the back of the package). This is the only skill that takes a bit of practice.

Once you have placed your tiles, let the piece dry for approximately 48 hours.

The next step is grouting. Estimate the amount of grout according to the instructions on the package. Following the package instructions, mix the grout powder with water until you achieve the right consistency: not runny, but not too stiff; it should be similar to cake frosting. Let the grout rest for ten minutes after mixing, then apply. Since

the pieces of tile may have irregular thicknesses, use heavily gloved hands to press the grout into the mosaic; a grout float usually does not work well. Put on dishwashing gloves or two pairs of latex gloves and press the grout firmly into all the open spaces between the tiles and on the edges.

At this point, the mosaic will look like a mess because there will be grout in the grooves and on top of the tiles. To clean the surface of the tiles, after the grout has been completely filled in, wipe the piece down with a rag. Next, clean the surface of the tiles with a well wrung-out sponge. Grout should dry slowly to properly cure, so cover it with plastic and mist it with water a few times in the first 24 hours.

The product of all your hard work will be a beautiful and unique item to hang on your wall or, perhaps, donate to your favorite Greyhound adoption group for their next auction. ■

Sandy Hightower lives in Anaheim, Calif. and spends her free time volunteering for GreySave. She enjoys working on a variety of craft projects for use as fundraisers for GreySave and other groups. She lives with her two Greyhounds, Reggie and Cantel, and has fostered over 80 Greyhounds in the past five years. If you have any questions on mosaics, she can be reached at greysandy@sbcglobal.net.

Dixie, adopted by Chris and Seth Spanier of Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Saturday, June 2

Greyfest 2007
Greyhound Pets of America/Minnesota
11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Spooner Park
Little Canada, Minn.
Fundraiser to help support placement of retired racing Greyhounds. Great food, fun, fantastic raffle prizes for every age and interest, shopping, games, contests, and lots of Greyhounds! Event will occur rain or shine. Contact: GPA/MN at (763) 785-4000; www.gpa-mn.org

Thursday through Sunday, June 7-10

Greyhound America 2007
Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption, Inc.
Sterl Hall
Abilene, Kan.
Mark your calendars now and plan to join us at this annual event, where participants from all over North America have enjoyed seeing their dogs participate in a Fun Run, visited several Greyhound farms, discovered a wealth of information at the Greyhound Hall of Fame and the National Greyhound Association, and bid on the many items at the fun-filled live auction. Contact: Judy Sparks, (316) 688-1369 or greydogs@cox.net

Sunday, June 10

Tenth Annual Picnic
South Jersey Volunteers for the National Greyhound Adoption Program
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Atlantic County Park
Estell Manor, N.J.
Games, raffles, vendors, fun with your Greyhounds. Contact: Merci Riccardi, mercibar1@aol.com or (609) 652-5816

Friday through Sunday, June 15-17

Greyhound Adoption Expo
Racing Owners Assisting Racers, Inc. (ROAR)
Wonderland Greyhound Park, Revere, Mass. (Saturday)
Raynham Greyhound Park, Raynham, Mass. (Sunday)
Educational, fun time with your Greyhounds. Greyhounds are allowed at all activities. Fun Run, Back on Track parade, meet the trainers, pet person volunteer work in an active racing kennel, Greyt Human races, Greyhound games, coloring contest for kids. Contact: Linda Jensen, register@greyhoundadoptionexpo.com or (860) 655-4905; www.greyhoundadoptionexpo.com

Saturday, June 16

Third Annual Wags, Whiskers, and Wine Tasting
Greyhound Pets of America/MoKan
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Wines by Jennifer
405 Main Street
Parkville, Mo.
You and your hounds can enjoy good friends, good ambiance, and great wines as the Wines by Jennifer staff shares its vast knowledge of the grape. Add heavy hors d'oeuvres and a heavy dose of MoKan fun and you're in for a treat of an evening. $25/person; all breeds welcome. 10% of all sales generated from this event are donated to GPA/MoKan.
Contact: Shannon Henson, (816) 560-1969 or shannon@gpamokan.org; www.gpamokan.org

Saturday, June 23

15th Anniversary Celebration
Greyhound Pets of America/Springfield
12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Happy Tails Doggie Day Care/Training Center
1670 S. Enterprise
Springfield, Mo.
Ice cream and cake for humans and Greyhounds. Live remote radio broadcast by KOSP/Oldies 105.1 promoting Greyhound adoption. Silent auctions.
Contact: Alane Shultz, agreyhound@mchsi.com, (417) 883-8156

Saturday, July 14

Annual Picnic
First State Greyhound Rescue
Noon to 5:00 p.m.
Oley Fairgrounds
Oley, Pa.
Food, fun, shopping at the First State store, raffle prizes, and lots of Greyhounds. Contact: Deb Detterline, (610) 693-3482 or deardet@comcast.net

Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29

The Grapehound Wine Tour
Keystone Greyhounds and Cayuga Wine Trail
Ithaca, N.Y.
Sixteen Finger Lakes wineries open their doors to the hounds to celebrate Greyhound adoption with wine tasting, food pairings, and doggie treats. Join our walk to 215 ft. Taughannock Falls on Sunday. Register in advance online ($25) or at Six Mile Creek Winery ($30) the day of the event, 3 miles east of Ithaca on NY Rt. 79.
Contact: Larry, (717) 669-8723 or greyhoundman@peoplepc.com; Grapehounds.com

Saturday, August 4

Adopt-a-Trail Cleanup
Greyhound Welfare
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Northwest Branch Trail Miles 2-4
Anacostia Trail System
Prince George's County, Md.

Greyhound Welfare has adopted a two-mile section of trail to clean up four times a year. We invite other Greyhound enthusiasts to join us for an afternoon of helping the environment. For directions to the meeting spot, visit www.geocities.com/riekoyumoto/adopt_a_trail.htm. In the event of poor weather, please check the website to confirm the cleanup schedule. Contact: Julie, (718) 986-1364 or julsdtwa@hotmail.com; Kopal at kopal@starpower.net

Saturday, August 25

RooFest
Greyhound Pets of America/Greater Northwest
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Kennydale Memorial Hall
2601 Edmonds N.E.
Renton, Wash.

Help raise money to find homes for retired racing Greyhounds. Live and silent auctions, vendors, and lots of raffle goodies. Always a fun event! Bring your Greyhound (only) and join us. Contact: Julie Van Sickle, (253) 927-5043 or julies_kids@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 8

Greyt Fest
Greyhound Pets of America/Tri-State
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
FOP Camp
SR 66
Evansville, Ind.

Reunion/picnic with lots of vendors, games, auction, and concessions. Fun for the whole family. Indoor/outdoor event will be held rain or shine. Contact: Barb Hubbard, (812) 483-5024 or gpatristate@aol.com

Saturday, September 8

2007 Greyt Greyhound Gathering (G3)
Greyhound Pets of America/MoKan
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Camp Shawnee
Parkville, Mo.

Join us for a day of games, agility and obedience training, a Fun Run, shopping, great speakers, and more. Ask anyone who has ever attended; this event never disappoints! $15/person ($20 after August 25). All breeds welcome. Contact: Shannon Henson, (816) 560-1969 or shannon@gpamokan.org; www.gpamokan.org

Saturday, September 22

Annual Picnic/Reunion
Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption of Michigan, Inc.
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Bell Creek Park
5 Mile and Inkster Roads
Redford, Mich.

Fun, games, prizes and auction, shelter and parking close by. Contact: (866) GET-GREY

Saturday and Sunday, September 29-30

Annual Fall Open House
Greyhound Friends, Inc.
Noon to 5:00 p.m. both days
167 Saddle Hill Road
Hopkinton, Mass.

Join us for our annual fall open house. Good food, great company (lots of visiting adopted Greyhounds), shopping for humans and hounds, silent auction and raffle, nail trimming, 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, so please stop by. Everyone is welcome with their hounds. Contact: Louise Coleman, ghfriend@greyhound.org

Sunday, October 7

Annual Reunion
St. Louis REGAP
Noon to 5:00 p.m.
REGAP's Greyt Escape Kennel
6210 Geiger Road
Alhambra, Ill.

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Photo by Balance Pet Photography

July 28 & 29, 2007

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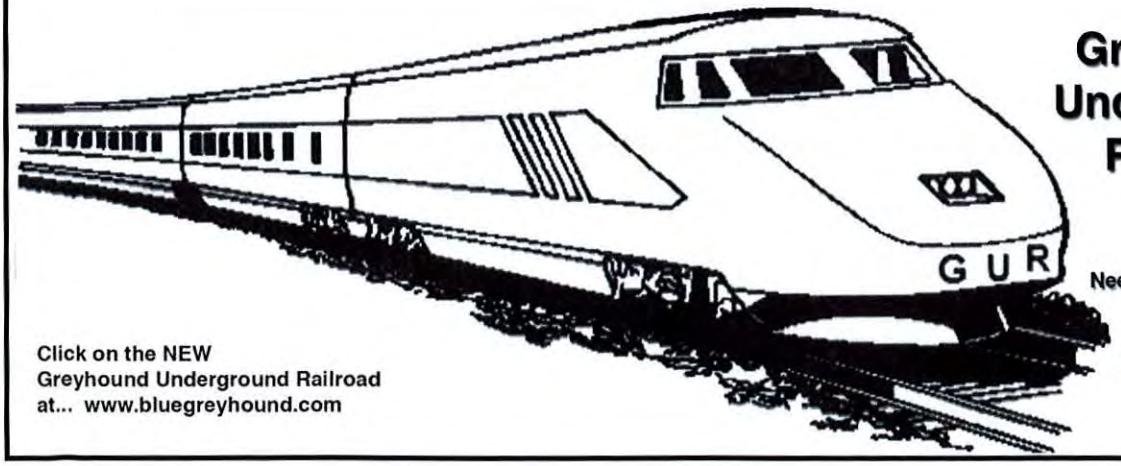

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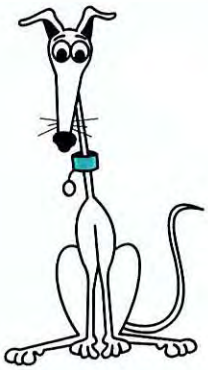

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Ancho ? – 2006

Ancho was pictured in "Take Your Dog to Work" (Summer 2006 CG) with her human companion, Randy Granger, as he played the Native American flute at the Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market. She was either 8 or 9 years old. Randy never counted his dog's age after age 2, just her kisses.

Hannah (Hattie) 1993-2007

Adopted by Cindy Hanson, Hannah was pictured on the cover of the Spring 2002 issue and page 18 of the Spring 2006 issue of CG. Her adoption was detailed in Editorial Comments in the Summer 2003 issue. Hannah was skinny, sneaky, independent, and smart. After breakfast, she usually ditched the rest of the household to lay on Cindy's bed upstairs, positioning herself on the pillow to enjoy the morning sun through the window. She rarely asked for cuddling but when it was offered, would bury her head in an arm or next to a hip as if she were embarrassed at her own enjoyment. She had a snappy, toothy smile that she revealed on rare occasions. When she wanted something, she would stare at you, glance at the object of her desire (biscuit box, food dish, sandwich, leash), then resume staring at you to compel your action. It almost always worked. Increasingly frail in recent months, she passed from this world peacefully, in Cindy's arms. She was loved, and she is missed.

Herman (Herman Monster) 1994-2007

Herman was Cindy Hanson's first Greyhound. He was featured in CG in "Fleets of Greyhounds at the Greyhound Bus Origin Center" (Summer 2000), "Camping with Greyhounds" (Summer 2001), "Happy Trails: Hiking with Hounds" (Fall 2001), and numerous Editorial Comments columns over the years. He was also pictured on the cover of the Spring 2002 issue. A gentle giant, he followed Cindy everywhere and slept on her bed, with his head on her heart. His travels were many; he journeyed west to Oregon, east to Dewey, south to Kanab, and to many parts in between, including every state park in his home state of Minnesota. He knew the words *camp* and *hike* and greeted them by throwing his 90-lb body into the air, snapping his jaws with excitement. In recent years, he battled lumbosacral stenosis, kidney disease and, finally, osteosarcoma. After 10-1/2 years as Cindy's constant companion, Herman passed from this world peacefully, in her arms. Her life was enriched immeasurably by having him in it. He was loved, and he will be missed.

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.*

Toby (1994-2007)

Toby was dearly loved by Pat and Howard Hall. He appeared in "Toby and Sara Go For a Ride" (Spring 1999 CG) and on page 1 of the Spring 2006 issue. Toby was the first Greyhound in the Hall household. He was a sweet and silly boy who loved playing in the snow, loved the feel of warm rain on his body (the perfect invitation to run as fast as he could) and his greatest joy, hanging out on the beach at the pond where he lived. Toby was not a swimmer but loved digging in the sand and sitting in the water (up to his neck) to cool off. Toby was the constant companion of Pat and Howard, loving to ride and travel. He loved Dewey Beach and made that trip nine times. Toby has left a profound void in the Hall home. His companionship with his silly smile and soft barking for attention is greatly missed.

Gigi (G's Poseidon) 1998-2006

Gigi was one of the dogs rescued from the Guidant Labs, to whom she was sold for pacemaker research; she was pictured in "The Research Dogs at Home" (Summer 2003 CG). Adopted and loved by Tammy Fenner-Lamky, Jay Lamky, and Amber Lamky, Gigi was diagnosed with osteosarcoma just as everyone was getting packed for Dewey. Her family did not opt for amputation, knowing that she had touchy paws and not wanting to return her to a laboratory environment. They treated her pain and monitored the course of the disease, opting to let her go on a day when Amber could come home from college to say goodbye. Gigi is missed by the Lamky family and all of her extended Greyhound family at Michigan REGAP. Tammy Fenner-Lamky wishes to thank Circle of Grey for helping her with Gigi's loss.

Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine
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