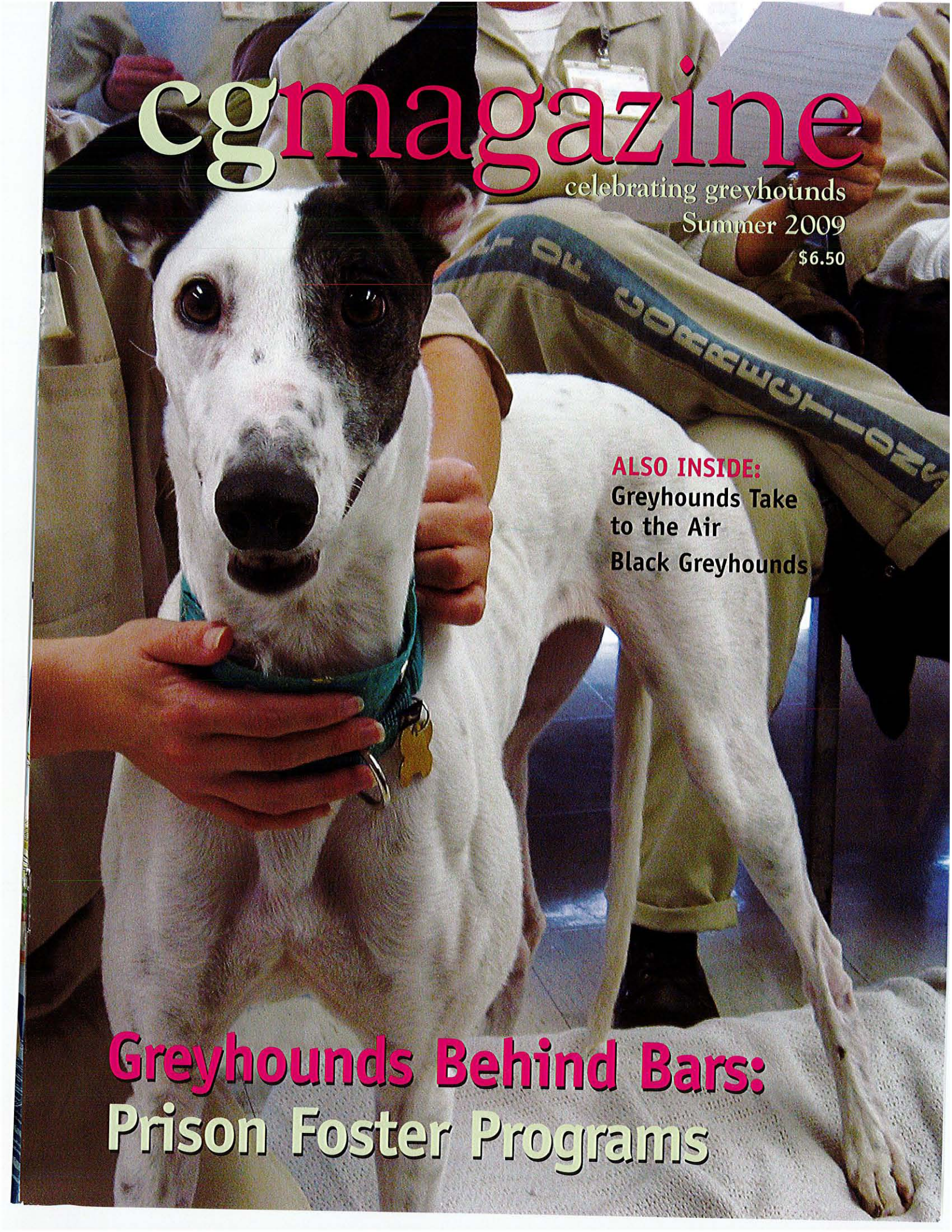

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celebrating greyhounds

Summer 2009

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ALSO INSIDE:

Greyhounds Take to the Air

Black Greyhounds

Greyhounds Behind Bars: Prison Foster Programs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ginny, adopted by Star and Dick Smelker of Carrollton, Texas. *Carol Sahlfield*

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The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters, Owners, and Friends
Vol. 14; No. 2 Summer 2009

Front Cover Credit:
Sasha is a Greyhound in the Prison Pups Program at the Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution in Columbia, S.C. The program, which gives inmates the opportunity to live with and train the Greyhounds before the dogs are placed into adoptive homes, is administered by
Photo by Christi Gazella

Back Cover Credit:
Mako, adopted by Jennifer and Bill Ganz, moved with them from Baltimore to the Dominican Republic, where he enjoys his time at the beach.
Photo by Jennifer Ganz

Regular Departments

2 **Editorial Comments**

3 **Your Letters**

4 **News**

7 **Reviews**
Soaring Cindy, a new book about the Guinness World Record holder, is reviewed by Susan Tanona

26 **House Calls**
A Veterinarian's Perspective on Saying Goodbye.
Dr. Jim Bader

41 **Greyhound Humor**

46 **You're Invited**

48 **Marketplace**

53 **In Memoriam**

Alexei and Sasha, adopted by Jerrie and Rich Ingersoll of Melrose Park, Ill.

Speaking of Adoptions

17 Black, White, and Grey: Spreading the News Locally. Simple ways to promote Greyhound adoption in your own community. Joshua Sipper

19 Sustaining Prison-Based Greyhound Foster Programs. What makes these programs successful? Michelle A. Maher, Ph.D.

23 Voices from Inside: Prison Greyhound Handlers Tell Their Stories. Five participants in the program at the Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution in Columbia, S.C. share their perspective on the experience.

Features

9 **Care and Feeding**
MOM to the Rescue. Putting an old remedy to a new use to help Greyhounds heal. Kathy Madej

11 **Behavior**
Decoding Pet Behavior. Exciting new research into animal behavior, sponsored by Morris Animal Foundation, could help place more pets in adoptive homes. Heather Grimshaw

14 **Think Piece**
Doggie Discrimination — Black is Beautiful. Why are the black Greyhounds the hardest to place? Catalina Salley

29 **Activities**
Come Fly with Me. A couple takes a flying vacation with their three Greyhounds. Shannon Forrest

35 **Activities**
From Racing to Visiting: Taking the Therapy Dog Plunge. Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D.

37 **Poetry**
For Zin on the Occasion of his 14th Birthday. Mardy Fones

38 **Living with Greyhounds**
"That's Boring" Or, Be Careful What You Ask For. Adopting a pair of Greyhounds changes their new owners' lives in unanticipated ways. Roy and Linda Stine

42 **Living with Greyhounds**
A Shark Tale. Greyhound Mako relocates with his family from Baltimore to the Dominican Republic. Jennifer Ganz

Editorial Comments

I have been thinking a lot lately about the intersections between our life choices, personal circumstances, and our relationships with Greyhounds.

Part of that, I suppose, is prompted by current economic conditions. It's a time when many of us, if faced with job loss, could — or do — face difficult choices that change our lives in myriad ways, including our ability to support and provide a home for our pets. (That will be the subject of a future issue of CG, not this one.)

But it's more than just hard times, I think. Many of the Greyhound owners I know personally are going through changes that have the potential to profoundly alter their relationships with their dogs. For example, take a look at some of the Greyhound owners in my neighborhood. My closest Greyhound neighbors are having a baby. Their Greyhound is a sweet, mellow boy. How will their expanding family change their relationship with him? Another Greyhound owner, a few blocks farther away but close enough to be a social stop when I walk with my dogs, is recovering from a broken nose. She sustained this injury when she fell in the dark and caught the corner of the coffee table with her face. She's 78 years old and lives with her birds and dogs, so she had to call a neighbor for help. Every time I see her, she tells me that choosing to adopt a Greyhound is the best thing she ever did. I hope they will be OK.

Still further away, another one of my Greyhound friends grieves the recent passing of her last Greyhound. Will she choose to adopt another? I don't know. Not soon, I'm guessing. She's going through a messy divorce, and now comes home to an empty house. It must be tough. I hope she will be OK.

The articles in this issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* illustrate the product of many different choices and circumstances. Some of us find ourselves at a place in our lives where a vacation means renting a plane, loading up the dogs, and flying to the beach. Some of us choose to relocate to a Caribbean paradise. All of us find ourselves with beloved pets nearing the end of their lives. What choices do we make then? And after that? Do we choose to adopt again?

And some of us, because of bad choices or bad circumstances, must lead lives of confinement that rule out adoption. What would it be like to find ourselves in that situation? Wouldn't we feel lucky if someone chose to bring a Greyhound to visit us, or even to let the Greyhound live with us for a time?

Whatever our choices and circumstances, I think all of us feel lucky to have Greyhounds in our lives. Imagine yourself in the shoes of the friends of Greyhounds whose stories appear in this issue. It's clear that for every one of them, whatever choices led them to where they are, their connection to Greyhounds has profoundly enriched their lives in ways they might not have anticipated.

And how lucky we are that all of these friends have chosen to share their experiences with us. Enjoy.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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

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IDBM 1093-0892

Bo, adopted by Sarah Jones of Cocoa, Fla.

Please write about the Greyhounds that eat *anything*. Where can we find something to put on a racing mask? What is the white cover with holes in it called? I need another one for my second Greyhound; they both eat mud, leaves, ivy, etc.

Barbara Bohan
Wyckoff, N.J.

Barbara, the white cup that fits on the front of the kennel muzzle is called a stool guard. It is typically fastened to the muzzle with a zip tie or two. Muzzles with stool guards are often worn by racing Greyhounds during turnouts to prevent unauthorized snacking in the turnout area. Stool guards are available for purchase from many Greyhound adoption groups, sellers of racing equipment, and the National Greyhound Association. Type "greyhound stool guard" in the search line of your Internet search engine to find a vendor that meets your needs. —Ed.

I adopted my first Greyhound in December 2008. His name is Hennessey and he has touched me and my world in ways unimaginable. I feel so very blessed to have the privilege to care for a member of this noble, graceful breed. Please accept this monetary donation to use as you see fit. (I have also included a company matching gift form.) Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of Greyhounds . . . CG Magazine is a wonderful resource!

Josette M. Farah
Euclid, Ohio

Josette, thank you so much for your donation. As a publication of the Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization The Greyhound Project, Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine is indeed eligible for matching donations, as is The Greyhound Project itself. Your donation will help us continue to bring CG to readers. For additional ways to provide support to The Greyhound Project's programs, see the News section in this issue. —Ed.

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. ■

Deej, adopted by Sharron Lane and Susan Drye of Goodlettsville, Tenn.

Recognize Excellence — Nominate Your Friend and Pet

AGTOA Seeks Nominations for Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year

The American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) announced that it is seeking nominations for the 2009 Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year. This award recognizes a volunteer who has generously given of his or her time to assist in placing former racing Greyhounds into homes as pets.

"There are many dedicated volunteers throughout the U.S. and Canada who work tirelessly to find suitable homes for Greyhounds that have completed their racing careers," said Karen Keelan, president of the AGTOA." As a tribute to them all, each year we honor one of these individuals."

Anyone can nominate an individual to receive this recognition. The recipient will be selected based the individual's dedication and contribution to Greyhound adoption during that year.

The Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year will be honored at the AGTOA's annual meeting in March 2010 in Las Vegas. In addition to paying for travel and accommodation for the trip, the AGTOA will make a $500 donation to an adoption group specified by the honoree.

For a nomination form or more information, visit www.agtoa.com, and click on "Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year" or call Dennis Bicsak at (561) 615-3916. Nomination forms must be received by August 28, 2009 for consideration.

The Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year program was established in 2007. Past winners are Cheryl King, Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption Inc. (2007) and Dennis Tyler, GPA/Central Florida (2008).

The AGTOA, formed in 1946, is a non-profit corporation comprised of Greyhound race track owners and operators throughout the nation.

Dakota with Hillary the cat, adopted by Judy Koehler-Newell of Vero Beach, Fla.

Do You Know a Canine Hero? AKC Humane Fund Seeks Nominees for 10th Annual Awards for Canine Excellence

Just about every dog owner agrees that canines offer us unlimited love and companionship no matter what hardships we face in life. The AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE) were created to celebrate this special relationship between humans and their dogs. Whether you know a dog who is a champion leg warmer at the foot of his owner's bed at night or a hero who comforts others or one who saves lives, an ACE nomination is a prestigious way to pay tribute to the canines who devote their lives to making ours better.

Each year ACE honorees are recognized nationally and five dogs are chosen who have performed an exemplary act or series of acts, whether large or seemingly small, which have significantly benefited a community or individual. One award is given in the following five categories: law enforcement, search and rescue, therapy, service, and exemplary companion dog. Honorable Mentions are awarded to outstanding entries in each category.

In addition to the prestige of being chosen from hundreds of entries, each of the five honorees receives a cash award of $1,000, an engraved sterling silver collar medallion, and an all-expenses-paid trip for dog and owner to Long Beach, California to be honored at the ninth annual AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in December 2009. The engraved names of the five recipients will also be added to the ACE plaque that is on permanent display in the AKC's Library in New York City. Dogs receiving honorable mention will be awarded an engraved bronze medallion. All entrants will receive an ACE Certificate of Recognition in acknowledgement of their nomination.

Anyone, including the dog's owner, may submit a nomination. Submissions for the AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence for 2009 must include:

- A non-returnable, original photograph of the dog. High-resolution electronic photos provided on a disc are permissible, but no scans. (Photos must be 300dpi and at least 5x7 inches, or 72dpi and at least 20x30 inches).
- A 500-word or less description of how the dog has demonstrated excellence.
- The dog's call name, registered* name if applicable, breed, age, and sex.
- Owner/nominator's name(s), address, phone number, and e-mail address if available.

*Please note that to be considered, dogs are not required to be AKC registered but must be an AKC-recognized breed.

Nominations will be accepted until June 30, 2009 and should be sent to: Ronald N. Rella/ACE Awards 2009, c/o The American Kennel Club Humane Fund, 260 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10016.

For more information about the ACE Awards or to download a nomination form, visit www.akchumanefund.org

Greyhound Project PSA Update

The Greyhound Project began airing its first Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign in April, promoting Greyhound adoption. Early that month, the Project sent its public service announcements to the following television markets: Boston, Rochester, Utica, Watertown (NY), Syracuse, Johnstown (PA), Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Erie, Wilkes-Barre, Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Beaumont, Austin, Dallas, Corpus

Christi, Wichita Falls (TX), Amarillo, San Antonio, San Angelo, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Orlando, Jacksonville, West Palm Beach, Mobile/Pensacola, Miami, Ft. Myers, and Panama City.

These markets were selected because they include nearly 200 television stations, providing coverage for over one-third of the Greyhound adoption groups in the country. Your city or area may not be listed, but if you receive your news coverage from a listed city, then your area is covered. (Each city's television "market" extends well beyond the city. For example, the Boston market includes most of Massachusetts, Southern New Hampshire, Rhode Island, parts of Connecticut, and some of Vermont.) And this is just the first release.

Two stations in Texas were the first to respond: WFAA-TV in Dallas, Texas will air both the 10-second and the 30-second spots for six months. KVUE-TV in Austin, Texas will run the PSA through the summer months.

The Project eagerly awaits responses from many more stations and intends to release the PSAs to other markets in the Fall. Getting the spots on the air costs money, and the Project has allotted $25,000 as a matching fund. Any donations for these spots will be matched dollar for dollar up to $25,000. For more details and to donate via Paypal, visit www.adopt-a-greyhound.org. To donate by mail, please send a check payable to The Greyhound Project PSA Fund, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701.

Free issue of CG Magazine to adopters of seniors, special needs Greyhounds

Do you know someone who has adopted a special needs Greyhound? If so, tell this Greyhound lover that he or she is eligible to receive one free issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. All the adopter needs to do is send a note to the Editor at editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org or CG Magazine, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. The note must include a description of the dog's special need, the name of the adoption group or other source of the dog, and the adopter's name and mailing address. (The special needs Greyhound is one who is at least 7 years old at the time of adoption or one of any age who has a special medical problem at the time of adoption.) There is no time limit on this special offer.

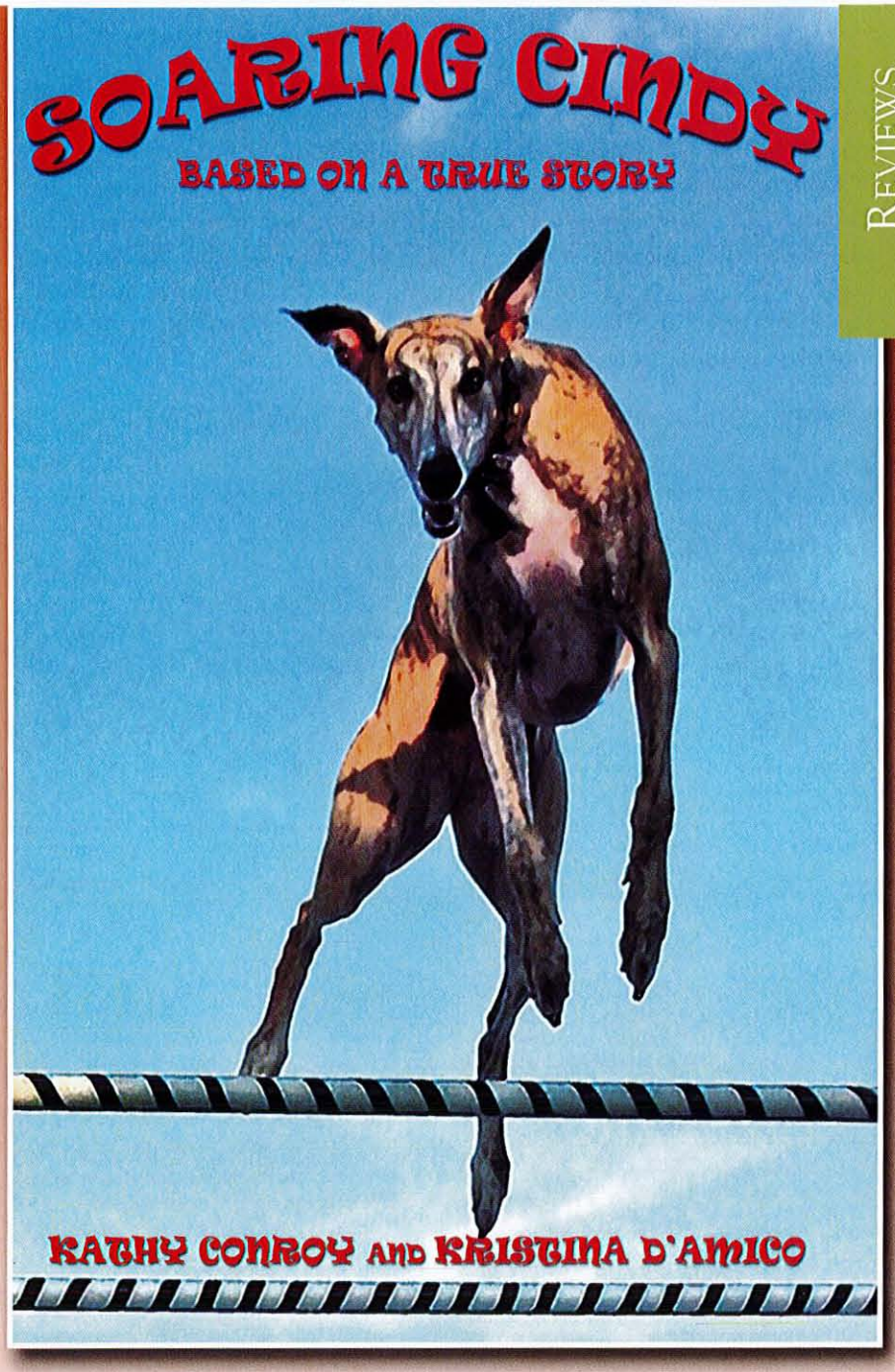
Moving? Need to renew?

Don't miss a single issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*! Send your changes of address and subscription renewals well in advance of your move or expiration date to *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701. You may also submit your address changes via e-mail to subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org, and renew your subscription online at www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine.

Correction

After the Spring 2009 issue was mailed to subscribers we were contacted by photographer Kellie Dansby, who informed us that she took the cover photograph of Classy the Greyhound as well as the additional image of Classy that appeared on p. 26 of that issue. CG's policy is to always include a photo credit when that information is supplied; we believe strongly in providing credit where credit is due. ■

Angel (IC Angel Face), adopted by Kay Manion of Wilmette, Ill.



Soaring Cindy
By Kathy Conroy and Kristina D'Amico
Llumina Press (2008)
Coral Springs, Fla.
ISBN 9781595269928
$8.95 ($12.95 for pawtographed copy)
64 pages

Biography of a High-Flying Hound

by Susan Tanona

Soaring Cindy had me at the first chapter, when Cindy's mother urges the young puppy to go out into the world, hold her head up high, and show people that Greyhounds can do more than run. I would only add to that "... and lie on the couch." Any effort that shows off the Greyhound's athleticism and grace in pursuits other than running is a worthwhile endeavor in my book.

Soaring Cindy details the adventures of Cinderella May a Holly Grey ("Cindy" for short) and her out-of-this-world jumping abilities, which have been chronicled in previous articles in this publication ("Cinderella Leaps to Stardom" Summer 2004 CG; "Soaring Cindy: At the Top of Her Game," Summer 2007 CG). According to the Guinness World Records website, Cindy is the current recordholder for highest jump by a dog at 68 inches. This is really high!

Cindy's story begins when she is a young puppy still with her littermates and her mother, Zelda. The product of an unplanned breeding, Cindy and her siblings could not be registered to race; therefore, it was off to adoptive homes for all of them.

Cindy was adopted as a 6-month-old puppy by Kate and her Smooth Collie Colleen. Cindy's natural athleticism was a perfect fit for the agility training in which Kate participated with Colleen. In particular, Cindy's jumping ability really stood out. The 24-inch jump height at which she competed was no challenge at all for her. Kate and Cindy's trainers, Lourdes and Sally, decided to focus on Cindy's jumping, and to enter her in the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge high jump competition later that year.

Smirnoff, adopted by Scott and Brigitte Davis of Temecula, Calif.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Cindy quickly made a name for herself in the world of canine high jumping, setting records and beating all comers. *Soaring Cindy* chronicles the progression of Cindy's achievements — and corresponding jump heights. The book ends with Cindy breaking her own world record at the National Finals of the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge in October 2006. The record she set that day still stands, according to the Guinness World Records website.

"Written for children and loved by adults," according to the description on the back cover of this book, *Soaring Cindy* is an engaging and at times inspiring story. I never tire of reading about Greyhounds finding success in the mainstream world of dogs, and this book provides a wonderful example of that. Cindy and her humans obviously enjoy the quest for Cindy to jump higher and higher, and that feeling is contagious. I wonder how many children (or adults, for that matter) will finish this book, go out to their back yard, set up a little jump, and try to coax their own Greyhound over it. Provided it's done safely, how could that be a bad thing?

If purchased from Soaring Cindy's website (www.soaringcindy.com), the book is available with the inside front cover "pawtographed" with Cindy's paw print, which is a nice touch. And interspersed throughout the book are charming illustrations (by Jill Hayes) of Cindy doing her thing — not only does she jump, she catches flying discs and goes through weave poles like an agility champ.

My only criticism of the book is that at times the text reads more like a checklist of accomplishments in Cindy's life rather than a fully fleshed-out story. I would have enjoyed more descriptions of Cindy's life outside her training and competitions as a way to round out her character and her personality.

But this is a small bone to pick. Overall, *Soaring Cindy* is a sweet and engaging story that will inspire — and be enjoyed by — both children and adults. ■

Susan Tanona is a CG copy editor.

The healing of the wound on Emily's leg was greatly aided by the application of Milk of Magnesia.

MOM to the Rescue

Story and photos by Kathy Madej

Greyhound owners know how easy it is for injuries to occur. Wounds and skin tears suddenly appear while you are on an easy walk or even while you are at work. I know of a tried and true method to promote the healing of those wounds that sometimes just won't heal. I know magic, and this magic heals. It's MOM: Milk of Magnesia.

I learned to use Milk of Magnesia on wounds over twenty years ago, when I first started working as a nurse's aide. I then worked as a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. We had many long-term care patients who developed bedsores and other wounds due to their compromised state. Back then, we would expose the wound to air, apply a layer of MOM, let a heat lamp dry the area, and then cover the wound. We would do this twice a day. Believe it or not, in my experience, the wound would always heal.

Today, there is a much broader array of different, expensive, fancy, name-brand products to use in wound care, but I always resort to MOM. I used it with my terminally ill grandfather, who developed many skin tears and wounds due to long-term use of steroids. It also works great on acne.

It works great on Greyhounds, too. One of my Greyhounds, Emily, sustained a large open gash on her lower rear leg. The cut was through thin skin covering a bony area; there was not much give to pull together to suture the wound. It healed slowly over a period of months until there was a small area about half an inch in diameter that would not granulate. Emily's veterinarian gave me granulex, antibiotics, and creams to apply to the open area. Still, he thought the spot would probably never heal; he broached the possibility of a skin graft.

I decided to try MOM. I poured a small amount into a cup so it would dry out almost to a paste. Emily and I would sit together for half an hour a day, twice a day, while I applied MOM to her wound. I let it air dry (there was no way she was going to let me use a hair dryer to speed up the process), then wrapped it so she would not lick it.

Three weeks later, the spot was completely healed.

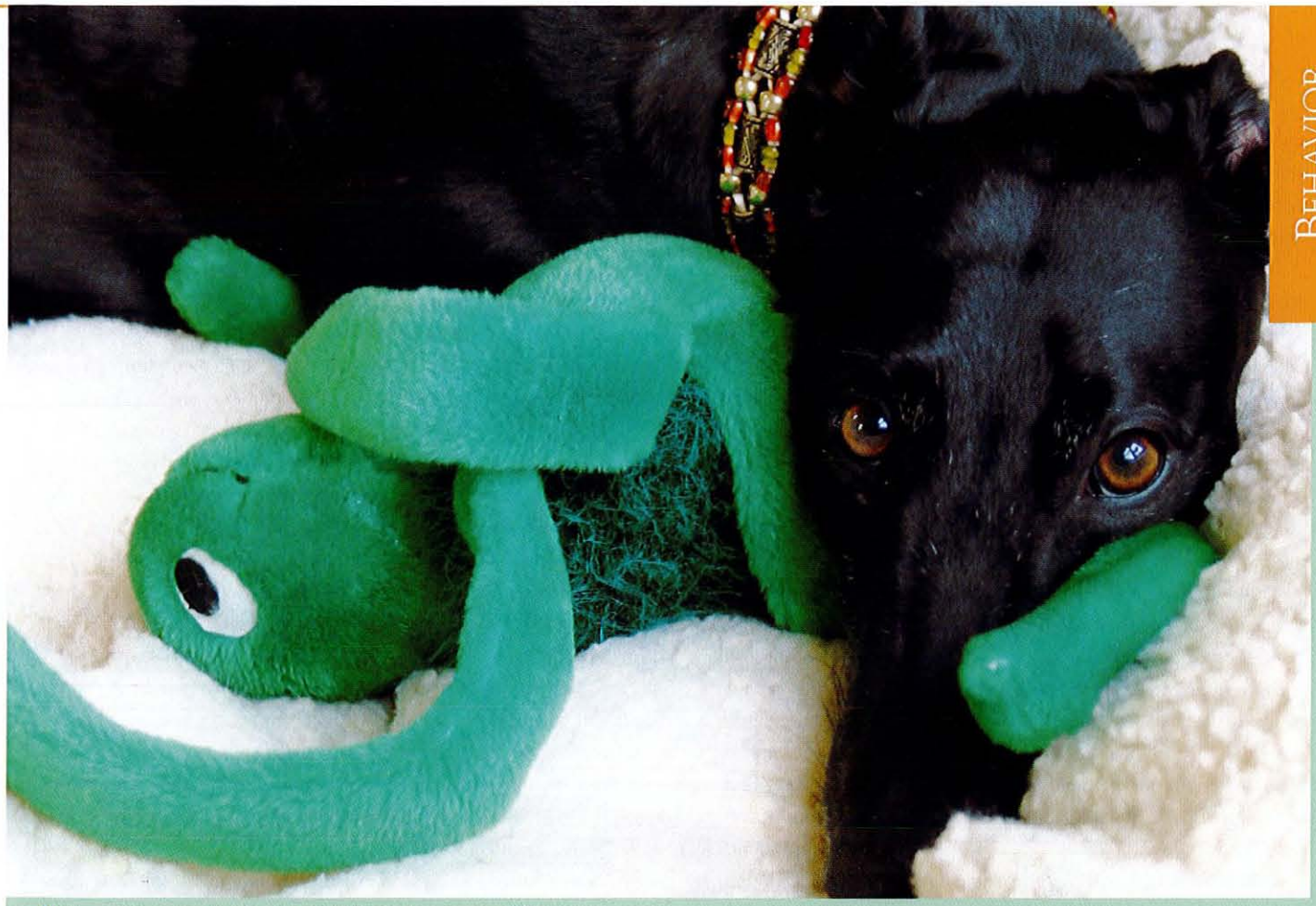
She continued to lick the spot — out of habit, I think — so I left it uncovered for half a day, then every other day, until she finally forgot about it. This transition took about two weeks.

We no longer use MOM in the hospital to care for wounds. I don't know why. (Maybe it was *too* cost effective?) If your Greyhound has a wound that stubbornly resists healing, you might consider giving MOM a try. ■

Kathy Madej is a certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist in Alaska with three Greyhounds who call her their own: Emily, Cyrus, and Anna.

An alternate view of the healed wound on Emily's leg.

Penny, adopted by Jan Naumer of Sedona, Ariz.



Bellanca, adopted by Scott and Brigitte Davis of Temecula, Calif.

Decoding Pet Behavior

By Heather Grimshaw

HALTING BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS

Morris Animal Foundation (MAF)-funded scientists are decoding pet behavior so pets with potential can find nurturing owners and long-term homes. Veterinary Student Scholars (VSSs) and established researchers are delving into a variety of behavioral and shelter-specific issues that directly impact pet health and longevity. Five behavior studies conducted in 2008 could save lives and improve shelter operations.

Adoptability and Behavior Factors

For VSS Traci Bond, spending time at shelters took an emotional toll but yielded interesting data about what influences a person's decision to adopt a dog.

"Disheartening" was the word Bond used to describe the number of healthy, happy, loving dogs that are euthanized because no one wants to adopt them.

Bond set out to determine whether coat color influences adoption, either proving or disproving a common myth that nobody wants a black dog. What she discovered instead is that cage location influences adoption decisions more than coat color. Her discovery indicates that "people tend to adopt the first animal they see," Bond says.

In the future, shelter workers will use her work to increase adoption rates, and Bond is committed to carrying on her work.

"I would like to continue to conduct research concerning the human-animal bond and what can be done to keep animals out of shelters," Bond says. "I never realized how many animals were brought into the shelter system."

Texas A&M University veterinary student Stephanie May Coffey also used her VSS grant to look at coat color — but in cats. The R.K. Anderson Animal Behavior Endowment at MAF fully sponsored her grant.

Coffey's research looked at how cats behave in relation to their color. To do so, she evaluated the coat color and behavior of cats coming into the university's teaching hospital for radiographs. Coffey recorded the cats' sex, color, whether they had claws, how healthy or sickly they looked and why they needed radiographs performed. She also grouped the cats as friendly, neutral, or aggressive. By comparing the groups, she hopes to determine whether there is any relationship between the color of the cats and their behavior.

Fellow student Lisa Piña also compared the behavior of two groups of animals — those that are surrendered to shelters and those brought in as strays. She observed animals brought to the Brazos County Animal Shelter in Texas within the first two hours of entering the shelter and recorded their behavior as well as the animals' histories. Ultimately, by understanding these animals' behavior, shelter staff can better handle and train these animals, leading to long-term adoptions.

Keeping animals in their homes

While adoption is a primary shelter goal, Dr. James Serpell at the University of Pennsylvania hopes to ensure long-term placement by helping shelter workers assess behavior and aggression issues when owners relinquish their dogs.

"The main complaint one hears from shelter staff is that the methods currently used to evaluate canine temperament are unreliable or inaccurate," Serpell explains.

In general, shelter staff does not trust information about behavior provided by relinquishing owners, who may either misrepresent problems or may not mention behavior issues for fear that it will adversely affect the animal's future. Often, dogs that owners describe as aggressive are euthanized at shelters, not adopted out. Still, Dr. Melissa Bain, president-elect of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, pointed out that some behavior issues are resolvable.

"Most aggression issues are related to anxiety, which can stem from inconsistent actions with owhers, inappropriate use of punishment, and insufficient socialization," Bain says. "It usually takes a lot for an animal to develop a problem behavior."

Serpell's research team tweaked the Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire (CBARQ) used to help assess prevalence and severity of behavioral problems in dogs relinquished at shelters. Instead of the 101-question CBARQ, his team developed a 40-item survey that takes pet owners relinquishing dogs about 10 minutes to complete.

"Our goal is to supplement the current methods of behavioral assessment in shelters to ensure that life-and-death decisions about the fate of shelter dogs are based on the most reliable and accurate information," says Serpell, who is director of the Center for Interaction of Animals and Society at the University of Pennsylvania.

Serpell's current study, funded by MAF, follows up with new owners to see whether behavior problems reported when a pet is relinquished reoccur in adoptive households. Hopefully the refined intake questionnaire will better identify correctable behavior problems and help lead to long-term adoptions.

MAF dedicates funding to projects like these in the hopes that we can keep more pets in their homes with loving owners.

This article, which originally appeared in Morris Animal Foundation's Animal News, vol. 9.1, was reprinted with the permission of the MAF. ■

Chester, adopted by Chris and Dave Hanson of Clifton Park, N.Y.

Research will help animals find permanent homes

While animals may naturally exhibit exuberant energy or potentially desctructive behaviors, some owners view these unwanted actions as a reason to give up a pet. In fact, behavioral issues are the number-one reason people relinquish pets each year. Experts who urge early intervention say small behavioral issues that go unaddressed account for millions of pets in shelters. These same experts applaud Morris Animal Foundation's (MAF) research into the field.

MAF works with world-renowned animal behavior expert Dr. Robert K. Anderson, diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB), and generous donors who are committed to finding solutions to this dire situation. Two years ago, Dr. Anderson worked with MAF to establish the R.K. Anderson Animal Behavior Endowment, which funds studies that will help us better understand behavior in companion animals.

"This endowment will be critical to the advancement of behavioral knowledge," says Dr. Bonnie Beaver, an adviser to the endowment and a diplomate of the ACVB.

One of the few foundations in the United States that fund behavioral research, MAF selects studies that directly impact the welfare of both pets adopted from shelters and those within homes. MAF's currently funded studies span the gamut of behavior topics — from testing intake forms at shelters for better behavior assessment to identifying adoptability factors.

"We need to find out the best manner in which to help owners and pets and to promote the most scientifically correct and humane training and behavior modification techniques," says Dr. Melissa Bain, president-elect of the ACVB. "We need to get the research out to veterinarians, who in turn educate their clients."

Educating pet owners about behavioral issues and addressing problems early can enhance the human-animal bond, Beaver explains. Yet many pet owners are unaware of what constitutes "normal" pet behaviors or don't address concerns until problems reach unwieldy proportions. The result is an overcrowded shelter system where too many pets are euthanized due to space and — sometimes — behavior-related issues that may not persist with new owners or could be eliminated through modification training.

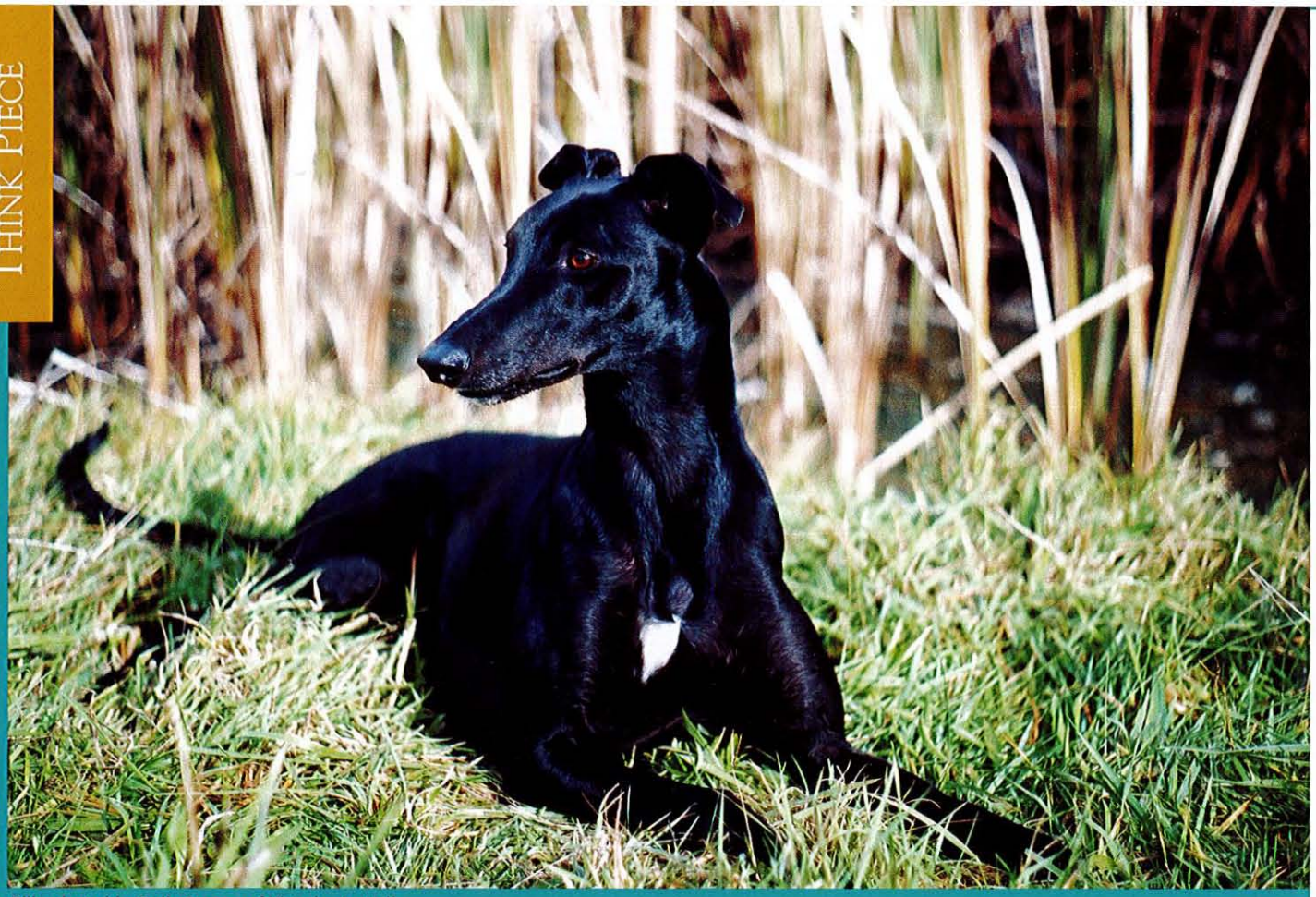
Finn and Fiona, adopted by Susan Demitry of Chantilly, Va.

"I never realized how many animals were brought into the animal shelter system," says Traci Bond, a Veterinary Student Scholar whose research focuses on adoption factors. "I believe that more animal education and counseling for potential owners would be beneficial. If owners know what to expect when adopting an animal, maybe fewer animals will be dumped or brought to the shelter."

Fortunately, when behavioral problems are identified and addressed early most can be mitigated, Beaver explains. The problem arises when behavioral issues fester.

We hope scientists will use our funding to learn more about behavioral issues and help keep pets in their homes.

For more information about MAF research efforts and how to support them, visit www.morrisanimalfoundation.org ■



Bill, adopted by Jodie Spencer of Victoria, Australia.

Doggie Discrimination — Black is Beautiful

By Catalina Salley

Six years ago, I was on my way to the kennel to adopt my first Greyhound. Chatting with my friend en route, I adamantly told her that I did not want a black dog or a boy dog. Of course, I ended up choosing a big, black, boy dog.

Tony was so sweet and handsome, I was powerless under his charms. Looking back, I wonder . . . why the fear of a black dog? Where did it come from? As a black person, why was I discriminating against black dogs? How could I have been so foolish? I decided these questions were worth exploring.

Myths, Legends, and Literature

Myths have surrounded the black dog since ancient times. People have harbored superstitious beliefs about black dogs for centuries. The black dog is essentially a nocturnal specter, often associated with the Devil, and its appearance can signify the foreshadowing of death. These dogs have names such as Trash, Padfoot, Dhoo, Moddey, Black Shuck, Cujo, Garmr, and Ceberus.

These powerful myths, connotations, and stories have permeated our culture. As evidence, here are some of the well-known references to and attributes of "the black dog."

- The black dog is said to guard holy sites and wayside shrines all over the world. Winston Churchill described depression as "the black dog."
- The black dog appears as the harbinger of death in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Doyle's inspiration was the folktale of the phantom black dog of Dartmoor.
- Black Shuck is said to be a "large black hellhound with flaming eyes." He is associated with crossroads, places of execution, and ancient pathways. In its Welsh form, this dog is believed to be amphibious, emerging from the sea at night. In the 1800s, it was said that a man called Finch mistook Black Shuck for a family friend's dog that had snapped at him. He tried to kick the dog, and his foot went straight through the phantom.
- It is said that when someone is dying, they have a black dog at their heels.
- Dracula transforms into a black dog to make his escape in the famous Bram Stoker story.
- Muhammed, calling black dogs "a Satan," ordered that they all be killed.
- The black dog is legendary in Hanging Hills of Meriden, Connecticut. It appears as a small, sad black dog, and it is said that "if a man shall meet the Black Dog once, it shall be for joy, and if twice, it shall be for sorrow, and the third time, he shall die."
- In Goethe's *Faust*, the devil Mephistopheles first appears to Faust in the form of a black poodle.
- In the movie *The Omen*, the Antichrist is guarded and protected by black dogs.
- In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, by J.K. Rowling, the character Sirius Black in his Animagus form is the huge black dog seen by Harry as Grim.

Jetta, adopted by Sarah Salisbury of Eliot, Me.

Stuart, adopted by Amy Beardsley of Phoenixville, Pa.

Adoption Rates are Low

It's all fascinating stuff to research. However, shelters and rescue groups across the country have trouble adopting out black dogs. They are difficult to photograph, their eyes are hard to see, and since they are the dominant gene, there are simply more of them.

Some shelters have sponsored "BOGO" campaigns to promote the adoption of black dogs: Buy One, Get One. I recently looked at a grant application that asked how many black dogs my Greyhound adoption group had placed and what strategies we used. Anecdotally, black dogs are euthanized at horrifying rates at shelters and pounds because people pass them up for lighter-colored dogs.

Black Is Beautiful: A Celebrating of Dark Dogs is a photographic tribute to America's least appreciated canines by writer and photographer Pam Townsend. Townsend has lived with black dogs for 17 years . . . and counting. "Of course, I've always thought my dogs were beautiful, and it never occurred to me that other people wouldn't think so," she says. "My goal is to get people to look at black dogs differently . . . to appreciate their attractiveness and diversity and to give more thought to adopting a black dog if they're looking for a new fur friend."

"Dark" Thoughts

I solicited some of my black friends — I mean, friends with black dogs — to find out why they had "gone black" and what they'd experienced as an owner of a black Greyhound.

"We chose Little B because she had the most beautiful face, and her personality showed through instantly. We never had a fear of owning a black dog. She is sweet and responsive, and her fur is incredibly soft. When she goes to the beach, she shines like a sleek seal! As she turns gray, it's like seeing little stars coming out in the dark sky."

"Bill is such a sweet, gentle soul. I love the way his coat shines and shimmers."

"I had my sights set on a white Greyhound with spots. At the kennel, not one of them paid any attention to us, not even a butt sniff — except one, of course: Shadow. We had no idea Greyhounds came in black, and judging from people we see on our walks, neither do they."

"For a long time it looked like, as a consequence of Kathy's allergies and her love of the Labs, we'd have no dog at all. But then Kathy's sister got a Greyhound — a huge, nearly toothless, bald-butted black Greyhound. And we fell in love. We then adopted Nacho Drive, who just happened to be black. The minute he walked into our house we knew we'd made the right choice. It didn't hurt that he was gorgeous, with thick, shiny black fur, but mostly it was his sweet nature and goofy personality that hooked us. I still noticed that passersby moved to the other side of the street when they saw us coming. It always gave me a chuckle, knowing as I did that their greatest danger was in getting kissed to within an inch of their lives by him, but I definitely felt safer with him at my side."

"When it came time to get a second dog, we actually had our hearts set on a brindle girl who was possibly losing her eyesight. But she terrified Nacho when they met, and we were ready to head home as a threesome when we spotted Yoko, whom we'd noticed on the Greyhounds Only website because she looked a lot like Nacho. When Yoko was let out of her crate and little hearts blossomed over their heads, we knew we had our second dog. Yoko, who was a little more reserved than Nacho at the start, also turned out to be a wonderful companion and was added reassurance that no unsavory types would bother us on the street since everyone thought they were Dobermans (What?)."

Kory (Slatex Kory), adopted by Manon Bégin of Gatineau, Quebec.

"Easton didn't clash with the house, and I wanted everyone to say I looked like my dog, and I thought her fur wouldn't show up on my clothing. But seriously, I adopted her not for her color but for her spirit, which transcended color. I saw it in her eyes, and I knew we were meant to take a journey together."

As for me, when I left the kennel having adopted Tony, I wondered: What did I just do? He is black and huge! But his biggest feature turned out to be his wacky, goofy, big personality. I called him the Governor of Goofy. Tony was the greatest Greyhound dancer that ever lived. He made a splashy entrance whenever he saw his favorite Greyhounds and people with his Fred Astaire spins, Riverdance paw slapping, and Bob Fosse playbows. He would sway his head like Ray Charles singing "Georgia on My Mind" at the piano, breathless from his enthusiasm.

Tony always looked like 007 with his tuxedo front, white gloves, and white blaze down his nose — dressed for the ball and ready to party. His fur was so thick and soft I used to pet him backwards, just to annoy him and feel his furriness under my hand. His chocolaty eyes were to die for. He made me love him and all black dogs. He was quite the character . . . and a good teacher as well.

The next time you're in the market for a new Greyhound, take a second look at the black dogs. For this season and every season, black is the new black! ■

Catalina Salley volunteers for the Chicago-based adoption group Greyhounds Only, Inc. This article first appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of The Skinny, *the newsletter of Greyhounds Only.*

Dove (AA's Blitzer), adopted by Sandy and Jom Volschow of Woodville, Ohio.

Black, White, and Grey: Spreading the News Locally

By Joshua Sipper

It's a common scenario. You're walking your Greyhound through the neighborhood when a jogger or walker or entire family stops to look at your beautiful pet. They all ask questions: "Is it a Great Dane?" "Oh, a Greyhound! How fast can he run?" "Can I pet him?" People go wild over these dogs! They want to know about them. They want them.

But, how can you get the word out about Greyhounds and adoption? Here are three easy, practical, and proven ways to spread the news about Greyhounds in your local community.

Talk About Your Greyhound

Remember the above scenario? What would you do? A good response is to answer the questions. People are hungry for information about these dogs. Their eyes light up when they see them. You've heard all the comments and compliments over and over again. Remember why you first loved a Greyhound and expound on that. Tell people everything you can in a casual conversation. Tell them how sweet and affectionate Greyhounds are. If they have kids, let them pet your pup! Don't just stand there and let your Greyhound do all the charming; get in on the act and pump up the crowd.

Astor (RJ's Jim Carey) and Lillie (SpringWater Tilly), adopted by the Toscano family of Ellington, Conn.

Make sure you're honest with people, though. Tell them they'll need to be ready to buy the medicines, shots, and other necessary care items for their pets if they want them. Let them know that Greyhounds need plenty of fenced, outside space to run and exercise. Set a good example by walking your dog every day. People will see you out enjoying your companion and want to do the same. It's one of the best ways to show off your beautiful baby.

Get Your Greyhound Involved

Think about all of the local charities, parades, outreach programs, and other events going on in your area. Now, consider how many of these events you and your Greyhound can get involved in. That's right, pretty much all of them! Many nursing homes have visitation programs which allow elderly people contact with special dogs. Handicapped and terminally ill children's organizations frequently allow pet visitations. And, there's nothing like a Greyhound to draw people in for local animal shelter events and fundraisers.

You might want to consider getting your dog ready for the occasions first, though. There are obedience classes offered through pet stores, kennels, and veterinarians that can get your Greyhound ready for almost anything. Many Greyhound organizations have "Ambassadog" programs that train your Greyhound for events, parades, and other social situations. In some cases, it just takes getting your dog out and into situations where he or she can be seen and loved. So get your leash and get out into the community!

Call on the Media

Lifestyle and local flavor pieces in newspapers are prime spots for your Greyhound to shine. Call your local newspaper or media outlet and suggest an interview to get the word out about Greyhounds and adoptions. If you live in a small city or town, you have an even better chance of getting your dog on the front page or in a feature section. Rescue, adoption, and humane treatment for animals are huge buzzwords no matter where you are. Use them to get your Greyhound some face time.

You might even want to take Greyhound publicity into your own hands by writing an article or a feature for your local paper or magazine. Use your talents and the natural charm and beauty of your dog to bring the issues of Greyhound adoption, care, and love to the forefront in your local community.

Every Greyhound owner has the responsibility and privilege to make known the virtues of Greyhounds. Only someone who has cared for and loved one of these amazing animals can express what a great thing it is to have known and shared life with a Greyhound. Turn that knowledge and wisdom into something that will benefit your pet, your community, and countless other Greyhounds. Put your experience to work and tell people about Greyhounds any way you can. ■

Josh Sipper and his wife adopted Ace and Tator through Carolina Greyhound Adoptions and have loved Greyhounds ever since. He would like to dedicate this article to Tator.

Gwen is a Greyhound in the prison foster program administered by GPA/South Carolina. *Christi Gazella*

Sustaining Prison-Based Greyhound Foster Programs

By Michelle A. Maher, Ph.D.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine readers were first introduced to foster Greyhound prison programs in 2000 with the publication of an article highlighting the startup of the TLC/Kansas Correctional Facility Greyhound Project ("Bad Boys, Bad Boys, Watcha Gonna Do?" Fall 2000 CG). Since then, the number of Greyhound foster prison programs has steadily increased nationwide. Today, approximately 20 foster Greyhound prison programs are in operation. While they may vary in size, form, and function, each program shares the common goals of providing shelter and socialization for Greyhounds awaiting adoption.

Initial fears that foster prison programs would prove unmanageable in the tightly controlled and regulated prison environment faded as these programs demonstrated their value and longevity. Time showed that both hounds and inmates, male and female, benefited from these programs. Fresh-from-the-track Greyhounds found a secure foster environment in which to learn how to become companion pets, and inmates, in their role as Greyhound guardians and trainers, gained employable skills and increased self-esteem. As Nancy Hudson, TLC/Kansas Vice President and representative of the TLC/Kansas Correctional Facility Greyhound Project, observes, "The bounceback rate is very low for prison foster dogs; we've experienced a one to two percent bounceback rate with these dogs. The dogs are well trained, housebroken, walk on a loose leash, don't jump up or knock people over, heel, stay, come, sit and down.

This Greyhound participated in the Ohio Reformatory for Women's prison foster program. *Therese Backowski*

They slide effortlessly into an adopter's home."

Greyhound foster prison programs can also assist dogs needing additional structure and socialization. Linda Lyman, President of Greyhound Friends of New Jersey (GFNJ), who oversees GFNJ's six-year-old Prison Program at Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility in Annandale, New Jersey, reflects, "Most of the dogs in our prison program are not readily adoptable. They are strong willed, so they benefit from additional structure." Maria Carney, President of Team Greyhound Adoption of Ohio (TGA-Ohio), concurs: "I can't even imagine getting hounds straight off the track, right off the hauler and finding foster homes for them. I just don't know how people do it. The prison environment allows the dogs to calm down, get structure and training, get them ready to be 'paroled' and into their permanent home." As an additional benefit, Lyman notes that prison programs offer safe surroundings for injured dogs. "We also use our program for broken-legged dogs. The inmates are good with walking the dog on a leash and keeping the cast dry."

In addition, Judy Anderson, Warden of the Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution, an institution that has partnered for more than six years with Greyhound Pets of America-South Carolina (GPA/SC) to maintain a foster Greyhound prison program involving female inmates, says inmates express deeply positive feelings on what the program has meant to them and taught them, offering such comments as, "I feel like I belong and have a sense of worth"; "I felt important for the first time in my life"; "I've learned techniques I can use in everyday life." As Warden Anderson observed, "We are all very aware of how much good these animals do … this is a way that we can give back to the community and help our women reconnect with the community when they go home."

Despite these positive outcomes, not all foster Greyhound prison programs prove sustainable. Volunteers who maintain long-running programs have learned through experience how to adjust and adapt their foster programs to the intricacies of the prison environment. In this article, they share their insights on how to sustain a foster prison program for the long haul.

Living in the Prison's House

"Prison is like a little community, where everyone knows everyone, and all of the staff members are friends," observes TGA-Ohio's Maria Carney, who leads TGA-Ohio's foster prison program. The program operates in five prisons throughout Ohio, each of which houses between two and 17 Greyhounds. Maria continued, "It starts with the warden and the warden's attitudes toward foster dog programs and Greyhounds in particular. The warden usually appoints a prison foster program coordinator, a prison employee who is in charge of community services or special projects. This person doesn't have to know a lot about dogs to begin with; [he or she] just has to care about them and communicate well, and be willing to return calls promptly. The shift captain is the captain of a housing unit. Depending on the facility, [he or she] could be in charge of anywhere between 25 and 100 inmates. There are three shift captains, one for each eight hours … if a dog is to be placed in a housing unit, all three shift captains must be in agreement that they will work with the dog program."

Once a Greyhound foster prison program has been established, to survive, the program must be accepted by members of its new community. As Nancy Hudson of TLC-Kansas notes, "The dogs belong to you, but the dogs have to live in the prison's house." Sometimes not all who work in the prison welcome the foster Greyhound prison program. GFNJ's Linda Lyman counsels, "Once you are in the system, you might have some resistance from the correctional officers; we had resistance at first, but it subsided. I guess we have been around long enough that they figure the program is not going to go away." Now, the administration and correctional officers appreciate the program and have commented that there are fewer behavioral issues in the cottage that houses the Greyhounds — the men know that any altercation will cause them to be excluded from the program.

It's a Line You Walk, Like a Tightrope

Even after the program gains initial acceptance, maintaining a viable program requires volunteers who can successfully balance the needs of the Greyhounds against the closed system of a correctional facility. TLC/Kansas' Nancy Hudson describes this balance as "… a line you walk, like a

Telly demonstrates his knowledge of the "Sit" command at Ohio's Pickaway Correctional Institution.
Therese Backowski

tightrope, between conforming to the prison rules and doing what you need to do for the dogs." GFNJ's Linda Lyman adds, "You have to work with those in charge of the correctional facility and show them that you are thinking about things from their perspective; you have to prove that you are responsible and that you are taking their position into consideration. It can be intimidating."

How can Greyhound groups successfully walk the tightrope on which the future of their foster prison program depends? Some gain extra balance when the foster program representative is employed in the prison. TLC/Kansas' Nancy Hudson observes, "The best situation you could have is someone who works at the prison, has authority, is dog savvy, and wants to work with your program — that is the perfect blend." Nancy serves as an example of this blend, as she both oversees the TLC/Kansas program and is employed as a nurse at the prison in which the Greyhound foster prison program is housed. This dual role has proved critical to the program's success. Nancy notes, "One of the reasons the program is so successful is that I am at the prison five days a week. I am a contract employee — a nurse — and have worked at the prison for 14 years. So while I'm not a prison employee, I am on the prison team. I understand the prison system and the prison rules. I am able to stamp out fires in the foster program before they become raging infernos because prison employees trust me and I'm physically present on site."

GFNJ's foster prison program is also fortunate to have Greyhound adopter and prison employee Sue Smith serve as an employee advocate. While she is not employed at the facility within which GFNJ's foster program is housed, Sue does work at a nearby prison and, as GFNJ's Linda Lyman says, "Sue is in the system and has access to the system. The other correctional officers know her, and there is a sense of mutual respect. She knows how the system works, she knows how to deal with the officers, she knows how to get around, and who to talk with if we need something."

However, not every Greyhound foster prison program is lucky enough to find someone who both works within the prison system and bears responsibility for foster program operation. In this case, foster program representatives must commit to regular ongoing prison visits. For groups with members who are geographically distanced from the prison facility, this can be a challenge. Kathy Lazenby, President of Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan (GEM), noted that GEM discontinued its participation in a Greyhound foster prison program at one point in part because of the distance to the prison (GEM has since resumed its participation). "We worked with two other Greyhound adoption groups to maintain a prison program, and the distance from us to the prison was a two-hour drive. It was somewhat of a security issue — should we go each month? Each week? Representatives from one of the three groups had to go to the prison to check on the foster prison program, and this made it a taxing day for whichever group had to do this; it took one or two volunteers the entire day to accomplish this."

Christi Gazella, who heads GPA/SC's Greyhound prison foster program, notes that this program has retained its balance over the past six years, despite the fact that neither she nor any other GPA/SC volunteer is a prison employee. Christi notes, "It helps that both Warden Anderson and Peggy, the prison employee assigned to work with our program, are 'dog people'; they really love dogs. We are lucky to have dog people inside the prison system who are willing to work for the program — and fight for the program if need be." In addition to the warden and prison coordinator Peggy Yobs, GPA/SC benefits from the support of prison employee and professional dog trainer Dawn O'Cain. Christi meets weekly with coordinator Peggy, trainer Dawn, and the inmates who care for the Greyhounds. "I visit the prison once a week for a meeting and we go over any problems. For example, if the inmates say they have had problems training a dog, Dawn will address it in the meeting so those inmates and everyone can hear how to resolve the

problem. If inmates have had a certain problem with a correctional officer, they will bring that up at the meeting so Peggy can hear it and address it." This hands-on approach addresses problems quickly and keeps the program on an even keel. Christi adds, "We all have to communicate. If there is a problem with a dog, Peggy will try to resolve the problem. It helps that we all want what is best for the program."

You Have to Know Your Handlers

Inmates who care for foster Greyhounds are often called "handlers," and handlers are selected to care for Greyhounds based on their exemplary behavior record within the prison. As TGA-Ohio's Maria Carney observes, "Handlers have to earn the right to be in the foster prison program; they cannot be assigned. If they earn the right, they are more likely to be honest and open with you about what is happening with the dogs." The prison employee assigned as the prison program coordinator will most likely help select those inmates who will be allowed to participate in the foster program. Maria continues, "The inmates have to be well-behaved, not currently active in gang activity, and didn't commit a sexual offense or violent crime. Everyone wants to be a dog handler because you get more freedom. But the coordinators know the inmates, no matter how big the prison is — they know who is really serious about doing a good job in the dog program."

Just as prison employees know their inmates, those who manage long-running Greyhound foster prison programs note that they must know their handlers. TLC/Kansas' Nancy Hudson confirms, "You have to know your handlers; you have to know which handlers would do better with a shy dog or with an in-your-face dog." Christi Gazella of GPA/SC agrees: "Sometimes if a dog has a special need, I know which group of handlers I want that dog to go to. I know who will nurture and coddle the dog and who is stern if they need to be." TGA-Ohio's Maria Carney adds, "We have an older handler who has no family, no one but the dog. We give him the dogs that need a little extra attention and love, the dogs we figure need the most patience; this handler knows that not every dog is perfect, but he loves them all."

In turn, just as those who manage long-running Greyhound foster prison programs know their handlers, they also realize — and count upon the fact — that handlers know their dogs. Nancy Hudson of TLC/Kansas observes, "Our handlers know our dogs well, they are very observant and they keep a journal that eventually goes with the dog when it is placed in a permanent home; that means we can make a good match." GFNJ's Linda Lyman recounts, "We have one handler who has been with the program since the beginning. We call him the supervisory inmate. He is very astute and tells us if something is not going well. If the supervisory inmate is concerned about something, it's probably worth being concerned about. The other handlers know he is the supervisor, they know he knows what he is talking about."

Something Worth Being Concerned About

While most foster Greyhounds are on best behavior at the program until they are "paroled," just as in the outside world, unexpected situations can arise in the prison. At any time of any day or evening, the Greyhound adoption group representative who heads the foster prison program may receive a call informing them that a dog needs to be removed from prison immediately. Some dogs, Nancy Hudson notes, "just can't handle living in prison." Maria Carney adds, "I've known only a handful from hundreds of dogs who really couldn't tolerate the prison; most are fine. But you never know what happened to a hound on the track or before it came to you. It could be that certain sounds or the tone of certain voices will bother them. If the dog is shaking or very afraid, we pull it out of the prison."

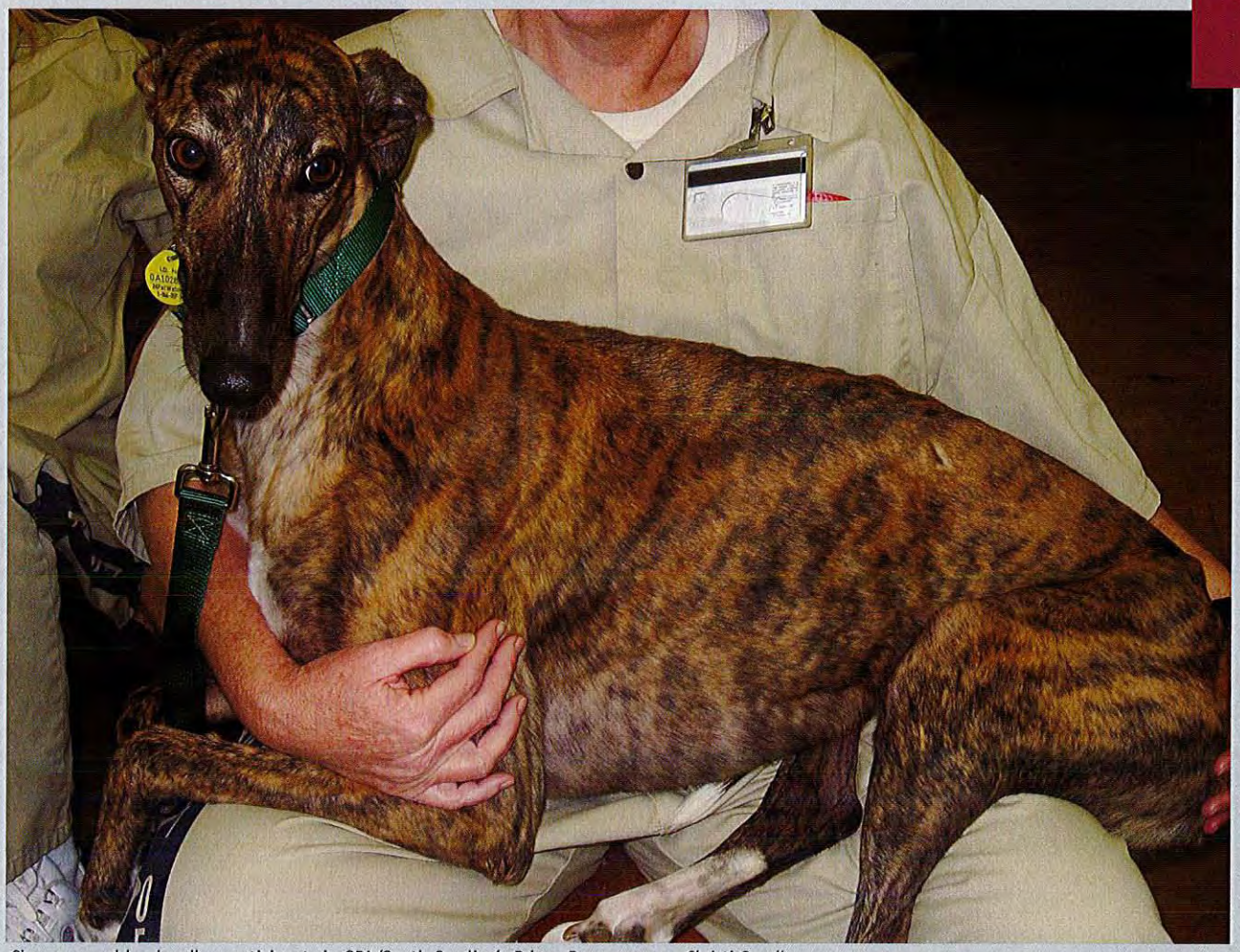
Volunteers who maintain long-running programs unanimously agree on the need to be readily available to act when that call comes. As TGA-Ohio Maria Carney shares, "Every prison I work with has access to me through my cell phone number 24/7, and if they can't reach me, every prison has the phone numbers of several other people who are in my group that they can call in place of me." Foster prison programs initially receive more of these calls, as GPA/SC's Christi Gazella can attest, "I used to get phone calls during the week, on holidays, and on weekends. That has subsided as the program has gone on. But I still have to be available 24/7, and if I'm not available, I need to arrange for someone to be available. Someone needs to be available at all times if a dog needs to be moved out immediately."

The Minute He Heard the Buzzers Go Off

Despite unique requirements associated with maintaining a long-running Greyhound foster prison program, those contacted for this article agreed that their extra effort was worth it. One final thread, however, ran throughout their accounts of their prison programs: how best to respond to the allegation that being in prison is a punishment for the dogs. As Maleah Stringer, until recently associated with the Indiana Chapter of the Second Chance at Life Greyhound and Inmate Prison Partnership, notes, "Greyhound people who think that the Greyhounds are being mistreated in these programs generally have never witnessed a program in action. Being involved with this kind of program changes everyone whom it touches, from inmates, volunteers, to prison staff to the community and the people who adopt these dogs. This kind of program is about forgiveness and redemption." Linda Lyman of GFNJ offered the story of Zombie, a Greyhound graduate of the prison program: "At a holiday party for inmates, a recognition event, Zombie came back with his new owner. Zombie was so excited to see the inmates, and the inmates were excited to see how well he was doing. The minute he heard the buzzers go off at the front gate, Zombie was excited; he had had a good experience, a good handler, and it was good to see that." ■

Michelle Maher, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Higher Education Administration in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina. She volunteers for GPA/South Carolina.

VOICES FROM INSIDE:
Prison Greyhound Handlers Tell Their Stories



Cheyenne and her handler, participants in GPA/South Carolina's Prison Pups program. *Christi Gazella*

What does participation in a Greyhound prison foster program mean to the inmates who live with and train the dogs? In this series of essays, five handlers in GPA/South Carolina's Prison Pups program at Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison in Columbia, South Carolina, share their perspectives with us. Consistent with the policy at the facility, the names of the handlers are not being published.

Just A Brighter Future

I've been on this program for 3 months. I am constantly learning things about Greyhounds and myself.

I've been in prison for 12 years. Being able to look into the eyes of a Greyhound who does not judge you for the mistakes that led you to prison will melt the bars that keep your heart locked away. Knowing that I can show these dogs love and acceptance that lead them to become a part of someone's family outside these walls makes my days worth living.

I cannot change my past. But having a positive purpose that leads outside of prison makes the future seem brighter.

Everyday Things

This dog program means a lot to me and the Greyhounds. We are able to help rescue these animals, and keep them from being put to sleep. Helping with these Greyhounds gives us a purpose. We help the dogs get used to stairs, shiny floors, windows, and just everyday things that we are used to, but they have never seen. They are used to a dirt track and a crate, but they quickly adapt.

We learn how to groom the dogs and cut their nails. We have a trainer that comes out each week to help us. The dog usually stays four to six weeks, but sometimes longer. We usually keep six dogs. Each dog has three handlers who are responsible for them 24 hours a day. We take the dogs everywhere we go. We even take them to work with us. They sleep on their dog beds in our rooms.

The dogs provide us with unconditional love. When something is bothering me, I can go in my room with the dog and cuddle with them. They just ease my pain. The dogs are very therapeutic.

Our main goal is to socialize them and prepare them for adoption. Some of the dogs that come in don't even know how to play! When their personality starts coming out, it is like watching a rose bloom. This program makes me feel like I am making a difference.

The Greyhounds Rescued Me

I came to prison at a young age. Learning to live without my family and things I took for granted shut down every emotion that I had. Without anything to be responsible for — no children, no future, no hope — my life was only existing, not living.

When the opportunity came for me to be chosen as a dog handler for the Prison Pups program, I was excited to enjoy one of life's pleasures that I had been denied during my 23 years of incarceration. It had been that many years since I had touched, smelt, or even heard a dog bark.

I was handed the leash of my first Greyhound rescue. I felt very awkward. Suddenly it occurred to me that a precious life was placed in my care.

I've been on this program for over 3 years. I know that once you look into those trusting eyes, your heart and life will change. The feelings I get from helping a dog overcome their fears and changing from confusion to trust, learning, and love are more than I can put into words. Being a dog handler has been and still remains the biggest privilege of my life. This program and the dogs have changed me into a better person.

So maybe we should say the Greyhounds rescued me.

We Needed Each Other

I've been in prison for 19 years. I spent the first few years teaching myself not to feel. When my crime happened, I lost everything I held dear to my heart. To feel meant to hurt, to care meant to risk being abandoned again. Safety meant to build my walls tall and thick and to hide deep inside.

A year ago I became a part of GPA/SC's Prison Pup program. I didn't tell anyone the real reason I wanted to be a part of the program, because I couldn't let anyone see my soft side. I was so alone and needed a best friend, one who wouldn't hurt me, one I could be myself with. Then I came to realize that the pups were just like me — alone in the world, needing love and someone to trust, and having someone trust me.

Everyone started talking about how I had changed, but I really hadn't changed at all. The pups had just helped me to relax and be comfortable with myself, to love and accept love, and to not have to hide. They showed me that we needed each other.

My Greyhound and Me

When I was incarcerated at the age of 16 I felt like a goldfish thrown into a pool full of sharks. Prison was a strange and scary place; nothing was familiar to me, and all of a sudden I was faced with strange rules and frightening obstacles that I felt I'd never overcome. In an instant I was no longer a little girl but an inmate with a 6-digit number and all the stigmas and misconceptions that come with being a convicted felon. Assumptions were made because of my conviction and subsequent incarceration. To the general public I was a dangerous criminal. But there's more to me than just my SCDC number. I used to be timid, unable to look people in the eye, voice my opinion, or stand up for myself. As I adapted to my incarceration my personality emerged and I learned how to live with the stigmas that society had pinned me with. I found strengths, abilities, and talents I never knew I possessed.

Greyhounds are stigmatized just like convicted felons are. There's a common misconception that they are dangerous animals simply because they've been bred and taught to chase small animals. The images they portray of speed and muzzled aggression cause the general public to view these gentle creatures as savage killers. They are conditioned to chase lures, just as we inmates are conditioned to follow directions and adhere to certain rules and regulations. But does that make them dangerous?

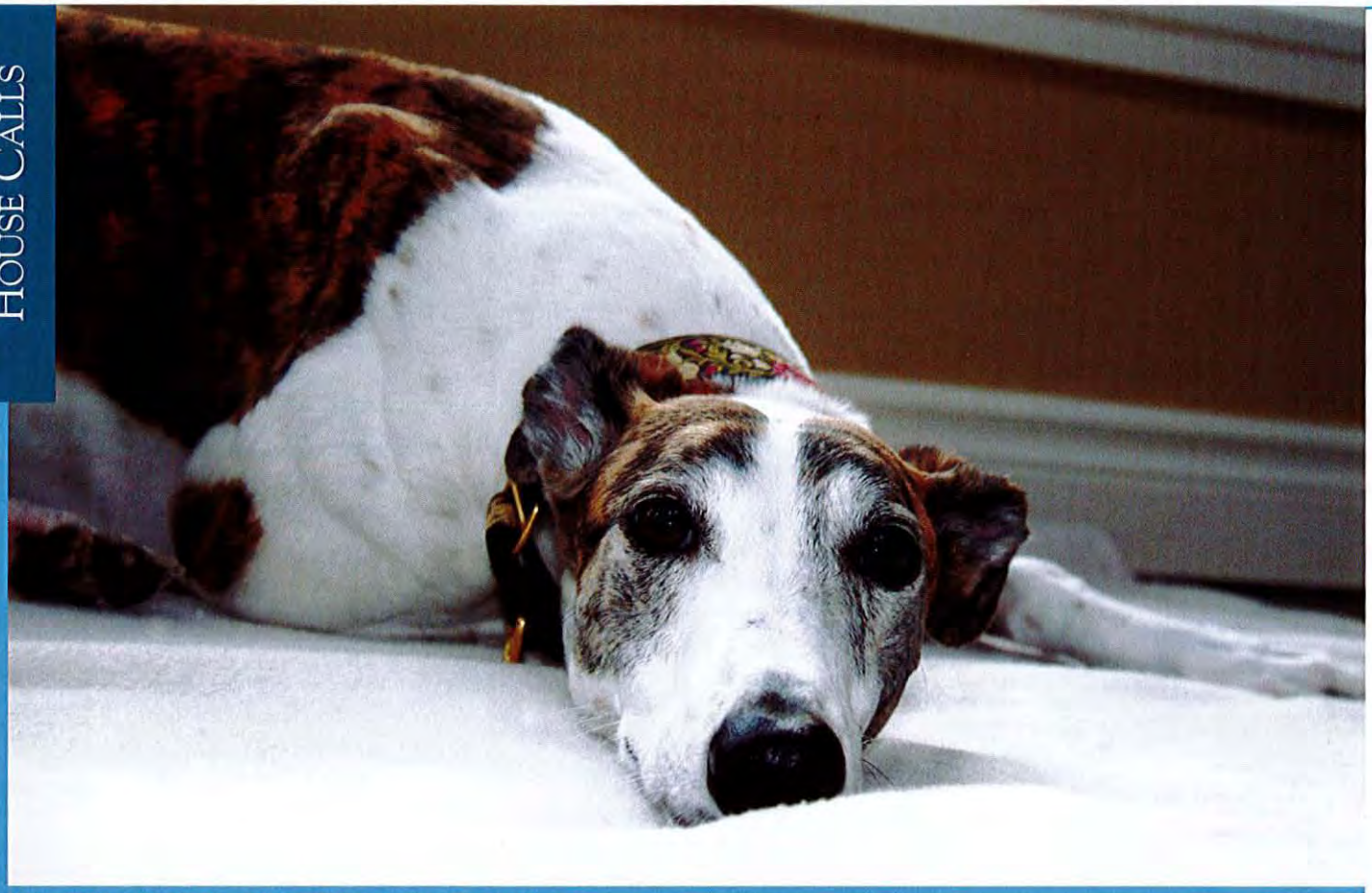
When I looked into the eyes of my first Greyhound, Sheba, and when I look into the eyes of all the others, I know what unconditional love is. Being a dog handler gives me a sense of fulfillment like nothing else in this world because I can relate to my dog on an unspeakably emotional level. They are undemanding and gentle, and they crave love and companionship.

I imagine a Greyhound coming from the track to prison is a little like landing on the moon or being kidnapped by aliens. Uprooted from a simple, secure kennel life, they have to adjust to a whole new set of surroundings. Greyhounds at the track spend the majority of their time crated with the other dogs and don't experience a lot of interaction with humans other than their handlers. When they come to prison they are surrounded by people. Some thrive on the attention but some are timid, fearful dogs who flatten themselves against the wall or hide behind someone and try to become invisible. The floors are slippery and hard for some of them to walk on and they scrabble to remain upright. Stairs are a novelty for them as well.

You can see the fear in their eyes, and also the need to please you and be loved by you. Knowing that the dogs depend on me motivates me to become a better person. Just as some of the women here took me under their wing and helped me adjust to life in prison, so too do I want to help the Greyhounds adjust to their new world. When I encounter a timid, fearful dog I remember the shy, timid little girl I used to be. I get a great sense of accomplishment when a new dog learns to sit, overcomes a fear, or learns how to play.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama once said: "Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not to die, so do other creatures." Greyhounds only want to love you. The mute appeal in their eyes is unmistakable; it says "Please let me love you."

Loving these dogs and allowing them to love me in return is my chance at redemption. It's my chance to make things right. Not only do I have the chance to bring a dog out of its shell and teach it new things, I have the opportunity to come out of my shell and learn new things. Being a dog handler teaches me love, patience, and responsibility, and gives me a sense of accomplishment. Knowing that I make it possible for the Greyhounds to be adopted into homes and given a second chance at life gives me unspeakable joy. Loving the Greyhounds and being loved by them makes me believe that, eventually, I'll have a second chance at life as well.



Whisper, adopted by Suzanne Labbé and Roch Bernier of Granby, Quebec.

A Veterinarian's Perspective on Saying Goodbye

By Jim Bader, DVM

Euthanasia is defined as "humanely ending a life." It is a tough decision and a major downside of pet ownership. It is the time when we are our pet's best friend, putting an end to their unnecessary suffering or pain. It is also a downside of being a veterinarian. As a veterinarian, it is my responsibility to counsel the owner as to when the time for euthanasia is near. But I am also a pet owner, so I wear both hats. The decision has never easy for my own pets and it is just as difficult to lead my clients down the path that may be best for their pet. Sometimes I have to lead myself down this path. It is never a path I relish, but it is a path that we often must take.

My job as a veterinarian has some great highs and lows. I really enjoy meeting the new puppies and the new rescue dogs with their owners. These visits with the proud owner and the new pet are some of the highlights of my day. There are smiles, questions and concerns. These are the high moments. The new owner really does not think about the day the pet will have to be euthanized; they are just looking forward to years of companionship.

On the low side, there is the difficult task of euthanasia. Performing a euthanasia in one room, then switching gears to a new puppy exam in another room can be very trying. On a daily basis I have to separate the highs from the lows and go about my job. The person with the new puppy does not need to know about the difficult time in another room. I have to be upbeat and positive as I approach the happy family with their new family member.

This discipline is not easy. Sometimes I must take a short break to gather my thoughts. This usually involves get-

ting a cup of coffee or soft drink, checking my phone messages, and double-checking patients in the sick animal ward. This time allows me to reset my thoughts and emotions. I think checking the animals in the sick ward allows me to say to myself and my patients "I lost in exam room 4, but I am doing my best not to lose with you." Sometimes the break is just a minute or two, sometimes it is five minutes. I never know how long the break will be. Factors affecting the length of the break I need include the age of the pet, the length of time the pet had been a patient, and how long the pet had been sick.

Another factor is whether the disease is a chronic disease that was managed well, extending the pet's good quality of life. Did the pet have cancer or chronic kidney or liver disease? Was I able to manage this disease so the pet had a good quality of life? My goal as a veterinarian is to keep the pet healthy and happy. I don't want my patients in pain, feeling sick, or losing weight. I use medications and dietary management to extend the pet's quality of life. If I extended the final end point after the diagnosis from good months to hopefully a year or two, I have accomplished my goal as a veterinarian. And that makes saying goodbye to a patient a little bit easier.

I often talk to students at career days and have veterinary students shadow me. I explain two facts of being a veterinarian. The first fact is the most frustrating part of doing what I do: Sometimes I know exactly what is wrong with the pet and I can't fix it. The diagnosis of severe aggressive cancer or end stage liver or kidney disease leaves me no choices but to tell the owner that there are no more treatment options available for their pet. This is just as difficult emotionally as performing euthanasia. I have to call the owner, or go back into the exam room with the results. There is no way to "sugar coat" the news. I explain to the owner the diagnosis, offer referral to a specialist for a second opinion, and attempt to counsel the owner about the best path for their pet.

During these tense moments, I try not to have the owner make any rash decisions. Sometimes it is clear that the owner expected the horrible news; sometimes it is a surprise. If the owner is expecting bad news, I can see the expression of acceptance on their face. The owner just needed a confirmation of what they expected. The surprise diagnosis brings a look of shock to the owner. I can tell these owner's minds are racing, searching for reasons why. After talking with these owners about their options, I ask them to call me or stop in to talk in one to two days. I tell them they are only hearing every third word I say. They will go home, start to think, and then go, "What did he say about that, this or the other thing?" I speak later with these owners, trying to find the best options for their pet once the emotions have settled.

Savannah Rose, adopted by Kathleen Baratelli of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.

The second fact of being a veterinarian: Sometimes I am surprised. This happens often when I know the pet has a growth in the abdomen. After performing lab tests, radiographs, and ultrasound to paint a better picture of what is happening in the abdomen, surgery may still be necessary to repair the problem. As we prepare the pet for surgery, I look at my staff member or student and explain a very important fact. Every time I perform a surgery like this it is like a Christmas present. You suspect what you will find, you hope to find something better, but sometimes you don't get what you want for Christmas. I always hope for the middle option, I expect the first option, and I dread the final option. But no matter what option,

Popeye, adopted by Kristin Elliott of Las Vegas, Nev.

I hope I can repair it.

As a veterinarian, saying goodbye to a patient is never easy. It is even more difficult when it is one of my own pets. I am not only the veterinarian that makes the diagnosis, but I am the pet owner "hearing" the diagnosis. The veterinarian side is stoic and analytical; the owner side is emotional and disbelieving. Sometimes these two sides conflict, sometime they agree, and sometimes I need my wife to bring both sides into agreement. Sometimes I frustrate my wife because I give her answers as if she is a client, trying to lead her down the path instead of just saying the quality is gone and it is time.

Some of my own pets have affected me more than others. Some of my pets have had chronic disease that I have managed well medically. I know I have helped them, and their quality of life has been good for an extended period of time. I know their final day will come. I always hope that day will be far off but if it is in the near future, I can accept that. When my pets have histories that are not so comfortable, these situations affect me more. I find this to be true when I think about my patients, too. When a pet comes through so much and finally "hits the jackpot" of comfort, only to face euthanasia, it pains me even more.

My wife and I just lost a very special pet that had a short history with us but a long history before we adopted him. My wife and I volunteer at an animal shelter in Guatemala. Zunil, our new pet, was at the shelter in 2005. We estimated him to be about nine years old. He adopted my wife, following her everywhere on the shelter grounds. He would not go back to his pen unless my wife brought him back to his pen. My wife and I decided to bring him home because very few people say "I want to adopt a pet that will only live for three to five years." He also came with a story: he was found in the area of Atitlan Panabaj a month before our visit.

This area of Guatemala was ravaged by a hurricane. Three days later, an earthquake in the area caused a landslide destroying the entire town, which has been designated as hallowed ground. The Guatemalan government started feeding the surviving dogs meat laced with strychnine to make the area "sterile." Zunil was one of the fortunate dogs removed from the area before he ate the tainted meat. He had an arduous trip from Guatemala to our home due to uncooperative airlines. When I neutered him, I also obtained some radiographs. The radiographs revealed he had been traumatized once or twice with a healed fractured femur and pelvis. Through all this he always wagged his tail, wanted petting, and never met a bit of food that was not his friend. He was the perfect pet and earned the nickname Speed Bump because you always had to step over him if he was lying down, no matter where he was. And nobody provided a better prewash for the dishwasher than Zunil. He left us suddenly due to acute liver lymphoma. He was only sick for two days. I am grateful it was sudden, but I will always miss our little Speed Bump. Zunil's early life was difficult. I am sure he survived due to his great temperament, and he lived his last three years in the lap of luxury. At least he enjoyed comfort for the last three years.

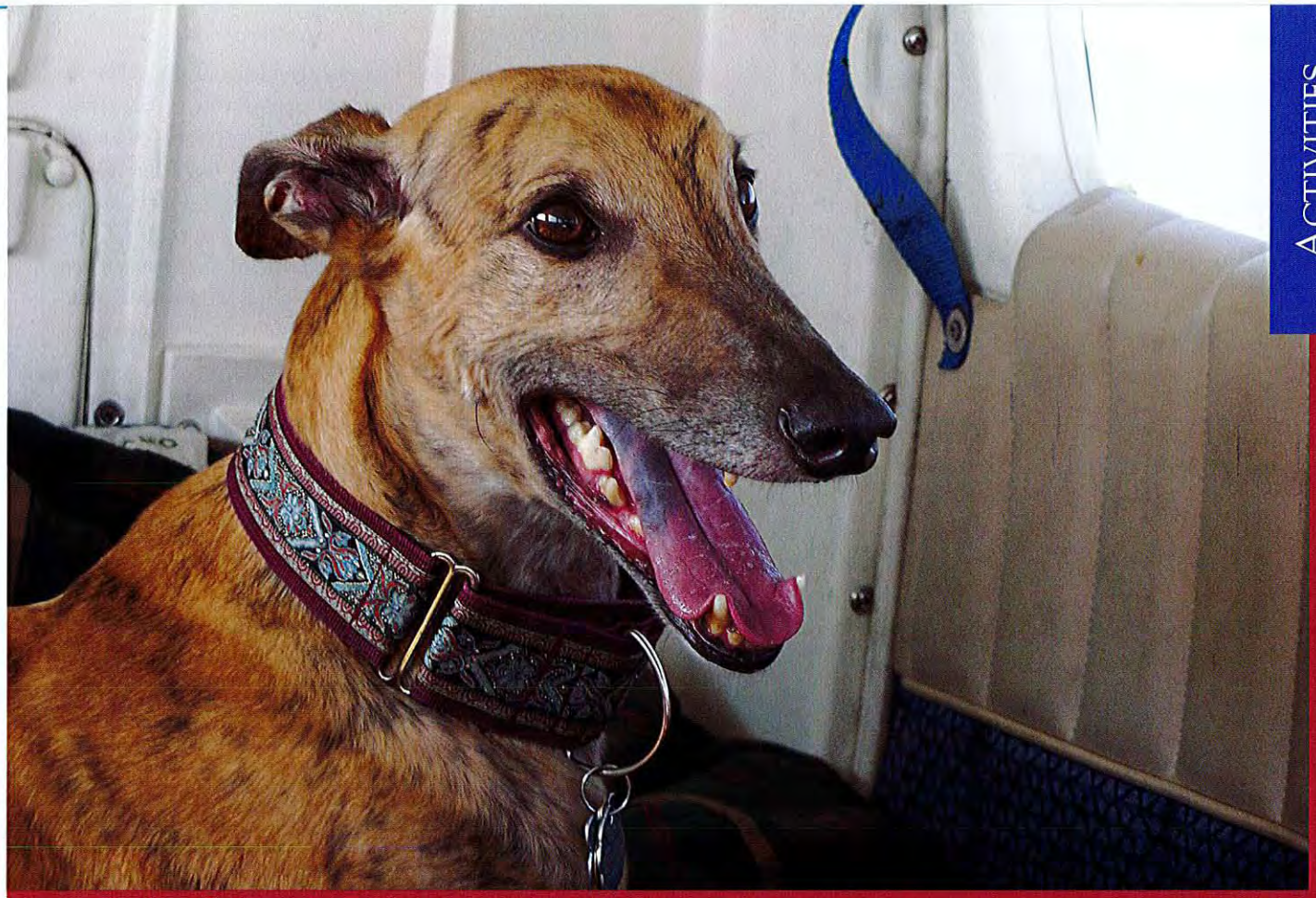
Paige, adopted by Stephanie and Will Singer of Lyndhurst, Ohio.

Losing a pet is never easy. There is no right or wrong answer about when to euthanize a pet. Everyone has their own idea about when and why, and these personal views should always be respected.

I once had a client explain to me something very important. He told me when he leaves his deathbed and this world, he will meet all his pets again. I like to think that all my pets — and my patients — will be waiting for me, too. I hope they greet me with kindness. I know Zunil will be there, and I expect him to be wagging his tail. His first question will be "When are you going to load the dishwasher?" ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.

Valid Splash (front) and Ashley Rose (back), mother and daughter adopted by John and Cathy Riopko of Matthews, N.C.



Rumal flew with his family from Fort Worth, Texas to Jacksonville, Florida in a small, rented aircraft.

Come Fly With Me: Greyhounds Take to the Air

Story and photos by Shannon Forrest

The plan was to travel with three Greyhounds from Fort Worth, Texas to Jacksonville, Florida and back. Florida was selected as a vacation destination for a couple of reasons: A move three years ago to a landlocked section of Texas made the Atlantic Ocean a distant memory. Although a trip to the Texas Gulf Coast could provide a glimpse of the beach, it would fail to rekindle the memories of a life left behind in the sunshine state. Jacksonville was sentimental for another reason as well. It was where two of the three Greyhounds had been adopted. They were Florida dogs and loved the sand and surf.

With just seven days allotted to complete the trip, the mode of transportation was of great concern. Transporting a dog via a commercial airline is logistically complex. To fly in the cabin, the rules state that the animal must be contained within a carrier that fits directly under the seat; compliance with this requirement is physically impossible for a Greyhound. The alternative is to crate the dog and allow it to be placed in the cargo hold with the other checked bags. Pressurization and temperature control can sometimes be a bit iffy in the cargo hold and the darkness, noise, and vibration there can be stressful to

You want us to go where? Santina Forrest poses with Startime, Rumal, and Halley before setting out on their trip to Florida.

an animal. Flight delays or weather diversions can increase the time in the crate, preventing timely access to water or a suitable place for the dog to relieve itself. Traveling this way with three Greyhounds was simply not a viable option. Making the trip by automobile had a couple of advantages. The dogs would not have to be crated, would have space to stretch out, and frequent stops could be made with relative ease. Still, the time and effort involved in making an 800-mile road trip was not that appealing. We needed another option.

An Idea Takes Flight

Although recent media attention has focused on corporate jets, the vast majority of private flying is conducted in smaller propeller-driven aircraft. The average sized single-engine airplane has between two and six seats. With a couple of seats removed from the rear of a six seat version, the space available is comparable to the size of a small SUV. The cabin is too small for crates but large enough for three Greyhounds each to have a bed. In an aircraft of this size, the flight time between Texas and Florida is about seven hours each way. A local flying club had a suitable airplane available for rent and since I am a licensed pilot, it sounded like a good solution.

The question was whether or not the dogs would tolerate the flight. Airline cabins are pressurized to approximately 8,000 feet. Smaller aircraft are not typically pressurized and as a result stay below 12,000 feet most of the time. Optimum cruise altitude for the proposed trip would be between 7,000 to 9,000 feet, so even in the absence of pressurization the physiological effect would be nearly identical to riding on a commercial airliner. One variable that needed to be addressed was noise. A pressurized aircraft is designed to be as airtight as possible. The added benefit to this design is noise reduction.

Pilots overcome aircraft noise by using aviation headsets. Microphones enable crewmembers to speak at a normal tone of voice rather than yelling over the sound of the engine. Interestingly enough, aviation-style headsets are available for dogs and have become quite popular. The device looks remarkably similar to the human version — minus the microphone — and is secured with a hook-and-loop-type strap placed under the chin. The photo of a Whippet wearing the headset depicted on the website suggested that it would probably work for a Greyhound as well. As it turned out, a local pilot shop stocked the product. A quick trip across town, and the first problem was solved.

With a couple of seats removed, the space available is comparable to the size of a small SUV. Startime relaxes on her comforter while Rumal sleeps.

First Class or Coach?

Positioning the dogs within the aircraft presented the next challenge. It would be critical for two reasons. First, weight and balance become more important as the size of the aircraft decreases. The amount of weight, and where it is positioned, affects the flight characteristics. If a dog shifted positions during a critical phase of flight like takeoff or landing, it could cause a loss of control.

The other issue, and one that could exacerbate the weight and balance concern, was personality and behavior. The eldest female, Startime, tends to be bossy. She often claims ownership of what she deems to be the premier spot in the house or car. Even so, a big advantage with Startime is that she can be lured into any physical space just by providing the appropriate bedding. A fluffy comforter pulled off a guest room bed often does the trick.

Rumal, the only male of the pack, is less concerned about where to sleep than having enough space to circle before making the final plop. His racing career ended with a broken leg and although not in any visible pain, it always seems to take him just a little extra time to get comfortable. Rumal always accepts Startime's encroaching on his space but it never works the other way around. Thus, it would be critical for Rumal to stake out his spot in the plane first.

The biggest challenge is Halley, the 6-year-old female. She has a tendency to be mischievous and while traveling by car will sometimes try to make her way into the front seat. The worst case scenario would be if Halley started wandering around the airplane and approached Startime's bed. As a deaf dog, Halley directs attention based on visual cues. If she turned and walked towards the tail, she would be facing the rear and could not see to respond to hand signals.

The only way to avoid this was to keep her in place. Laterally, she could be confined by the walls of the plane, but fore and aft she would have free rein unless a practical solution could be found. A leash attached to her collar would serve the purpose but was too risky. In the event of an aborted takeoff the airplane would rapidly decelerate, placing extreme stress on Halley's neck as the collar tightened and she slid forward. After an exhaustive search, I found the solution: a short length of leash with a seatbelt attachment and a carabineer on opposite ends, and a chest harness that had attach points on the top, side, and belly. By connecting the leash to the floor mounted seatbelt and the other end to the belly ring, she would have sufficient room to maneuver without having enough slack to access the flight controls or disturb the other two hounds.

Equipping mischievous, hearing-impaired Halley with a harness was the key to preventing her from getting into trouble during the flight.

Because none of the dogs had ever flown before, a test flight seemed prudent before attempting a long journey. It also made sense to take each dog separately at first, carefully watching for signs of stress or behavior that could affect safety. After each Greyhound had a maiden voyage, they were flown together to see how it would work. Each flight proved to be a success and ended without incident. The dog headsets however, didn't turn out to be such a great investment. Although each dog tolerated wearing the device, in reality they appeared just as happy with them off as with them on. Of course, Halley's deafness made it a moot point for her anyway. The big trip was now a go.

Cleared for Takeoff

Originally, the departure was scheduled to take place early on a Saturday morning. After second guessing the logistics multiple times, we decided to launch Friday night, fly for two hours, and then stay overnight in Monroe, Louisiana. Doing so would reduce the amount of consecutive flying by spread-

Shannon and Santina Forrest, Startime, Halley, and Rumal pose at the FBO before takeoff in Monroe, La.

Happy vacationers begin their stay at the Florida House Inn, Amelia Island, Fla.

ing it over the course of two days instead of one. Technically the trip could be made with one fuel stop, but by adding a couple of cities the journey could be divided into two-hour segments. After each leg the dogs could stretch, get a snack, and relieve themselves.

Departure from the Fort Worth Meacham International Airport was uneventful. Dusk was falling as the aircraft turned east. A quick glance towards the back of the plane revealed three sleeping hounds, seemingly oblivious to the fact that their airborne kennel was now over a mile high. Two hours later the sound of tires touching pavement caused heads and ears to shoot skyward. As the airplane turned off the runway, noses pressed against the window of the rear access door.

Unlike airline flights, the majority of small planes cannot taxi to a gate. A facility called a fixed base operator (FBO) provides the services typically found in an airline terminal. The FBO staff is responsible for directing airplanes into parking spots, refueling, and fulfilling any needs the pilot might have. The best analogy would be to say that an FBO is a truck stop for pilots. Just like truck stops, the quality and capabilities of a FBO vary with size, location, and owner preference. Most facilities have a rental car operation on site or the resources to provide courtesy transportation to and from local hotels and restaurants.

Moving two humans, three Greyhounds, dog beds, and overnight bags was another matter entirely. The only vehicle up to the task would be a van or SUV. Because the FBO had been unable to meet this demand, a taxi service had been arranged. The dispatcher of the taxi was adamant that she could provide a mini-van capable of handling the job. What showed up was far from expectations. In a nutshell, the seats were incapable of stowing in such a way as to allow the dogs any open space.

What resulted was the toaster effect. Imagine a piece of bread placed vertically in a toaster. Now think about the small amount of clearance between the bread and the heating elements on both sides. Replace the bread with a Greyhound and the toaster with bench seating and the image becomes clear. Each dog had to be sandwiched between the seats with no room to turn around. Fortunately, the ride to the hotel was a short one.

After disembarking and checking in, two things became apparent. Greyhounds in strange hotel rooms for the first time will not sleep on command, and doors that provide direct access to the outdoors produce enough interesting scents and noises to elicit hours of nocturnal activity. An hour after the stirring ended it was time to get up. The taxi was scheduled back to the hotel at 8 a.m. The time came and went. The transportation was a no-show.

Calls to the taxi company went straight to voicemail. It was too far and the gear was too bulky to walk back to the plane. The FBO had a Cadillac and if necessary could shuttle one dog at a time from the hotel to the airport. It was not the best solution but

Shannon Forrest accompanies Startime, Rumal, and Halley to the adoption kennel and boarding facility of Greyhounds as Pets of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville.

would work as a last resort. A deadline also loomed. Reservations had been made to board the dogs at the Greyhounds as Pets of Northeast Florida adoption kennel upon arrival. After a brief stay the three would move to a dog-friendly hotel for the rest of the week. The check in time at the kennel was 4 p.m. Five hours of flying and a fuel stop remained. Getting airborne as soon as possible was essential.

What about another cab company? Listings in the phone book were somewhat sparse and it was early Saturday morning. The odds didn't look good. After a barrage of voicemails the only option was to wait. Finally, a call was returned. The voice on the line claimed to have a cargo van that had the capability to get people, dogs, and gear back to the plane in one trip. When the van arrived it sounded as if it was firing on two cylinders, but beggars can't be choosers. An hour later the mission was accomplished.

Fueling and loading the aircraft happened quickly and liftoff soon followed. Although the takeoff weather was gorgeous, slightly east of Vicksburg, Mississippi the clear skies turned cloudy. Dothan, Alabama was the next planned stop. The navigation computer showed that a steady headwind was making the segment a lot longer than forecast. Eventually the cups of coffee and the slower groundspeed had an unintended consequence; a bathroom break was needed sooner than expected. Fortunately, the global positioning unit computed the location of the nearest suitable airport since a solid cloud layer had formed beneath the aircraft.

So far, the dogs had all flown in clear and smooth conditions. A bumpy ride through the clouds and a crosswind landing at Monroeville, Alabama, tested their tolerance for turbulence. Rumal elected to stand and look out the window the entire way to the ground. The other two remained ensconced in dog beds but flashed a look forward each time the wind lifted a wing. Ground time was kept to a minimum because of the time constraints, so within 30 minutes the flight was airborne again and pointed towards Jacksonville.

Upon arrival, the staff and service at the FBO proved to be outstanding. They had been told to expect Greyhounds but nothing quite prepared them for the sight of a pack climbing out of the back of an airplane and prancing between corporate jets. A lineman brought a rental car — thankfully a large SUV — directly to the airplane and loaded the luggage, and we were off to the adoption kennel and hotel. Boarding the Greyhounds allowed us a couple of days to recuperate from the flight, time to prepare the aircraft for the return trip, and the ability to visit a few spots that would not permit dogs.

Another Surprise

After checking out of the adoption kennel the first stop was the beach on Amelia Island. Hours passed and soon it was time to get settled at the hotel. The term "dog friendly" should be considered with skepticism when dealing with Greyhounds. The newly remodeled room that was booked came complete with a scenic balcony, jetted tub, and king-sized bed. It also came with a

Shannon Forrest, Startime, Rumal and Halley finally get to Jacksonville beach.

Three hot dogs, hold the chili, please . . . Shannon escorts Startime, Rumal, and Halley through the Meridian, Miss. FBO to receive their complimentary snacks.

Where are we going next? Halley looks out the window of the airplane while Startime and Rumal sleep.

set of steps that a mountain goat would have difficulty traversing. The steep grade would be impossible to climb or descend even for an experienced Greyhound, let alone one whose previous leg injury made steps a challenge. The manager was helpful, but the options were limited as the historic hotel was oversold. A sympathetic couple, staying with a Labrador, offered a room exchange. Although their room was in need of a good remodeling, it was positioned on the first floor and was better for the Greyhounds.

Shortly after the trade, a member of the staff mentioned that the onsite restaurant operated on a limited basis because of the drop in tourism. In addition, many of the menu items were unavailable and resupply was not expected any time soon. Regardless, the hounds enjoyed playing on the beach and strolling through the resort town. Many of the local eateries allowed dogs on the patio so finding a place to eat was not a problem.

Aside from a minor route deviation due to a line of thunderstorms impacting the southern states, the return flight to Fort Worth was uneventful. By now the dogs were experienced aviators and viewed the airplane as another opportunity to go for a ride. During a fuel stop in Meridian, Mississippi — a joint use civilian and military airport — the FBO employees welcomed the trio into the pilot's lounge and offered the customary complimentary chili dog. With four hours of flying remaining, they were permitted to have the hot dog, minus the chili.

When talking about any trip the willingness to do the same thing again is usually discussed. Although this particular journey presented a few unique challenges, traveling with the Greyhounds was more satisfying and provided more adventure than leaving them at home. Without a doubt, they will always be welcome on future trips. Of course, the biggest dilemma will be determining which two are seated in the first or business class, and which one is relegated to coach. ■

Shannon Forrest is a professional pilot and aviation safety consultant based in Fort Worth, Texas. When not flying he works as a volunteer for the Greyhound Adoption League of Texas (GALT) and spends time with his wife and three retired racers. He can be reached at sforrest@turbinementor.com.

Hammer (Rapido Hammer), adopted by Diane and Tom Ward of Leesburg, Va.

From Racing to Visiting: Taking the Therapy Dog Plunge

By Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D.

Do you own a Greyhound who thrives on attention, is well-trained, and remains calm in most situations? Are you a respected, reliable volunteer with a commitment to community service? Then you just might have the winning combination to become a therapy dog team. What follows is advice about how you and your retired racer can brighten the day of the residents and staff members in health care facilities.

Earning Therapy Dog Credentials

Therapy dogs have passed the Canine Good Citizen test and are registered and insured, usually through Therapy Dogs International, Inc.(TDI), Therapy Dogs, Incorporated (TD, Inc.), or Delta Society. Although you may know people who informally take their Greyhounds to health care facilities and have done so for years without incident, they are putting themselves at risk. Even the most nonaggressive dog might cause a resident to trip or fall, for instance, so liability insurance is a must. If you and your dog complete the requisite training, it will enable you to form a stronger bond and go into volunteering with greater confidence, skill, and legal protection.

Visit the websites for TDI (www.tdi-dog.org), TD, Inc. (www.therapydogs.com), and Delta Society (www.deltasociety.org) to find information on therapy dog activities in your area. If there is a local group, attend their meetings; if not, introduce yourself to the individual handler/dog teams you encounter in the community. Whether you intend to make visits with a group or as an individual, these experienced handlers can be a tremendous source of support

Lola, adopted by Bryan and Linda Dunn of Lubbock, Texas.

to those who are just getting started with therapy dog work.

Why Greyhounds Shine

During a visit to a personal care home, we stopped at the beauty shop. There were several different breeds of dogs there, and an elderly woman leaned down from the hair dryer and whispered to my dog, "Now don't tell the other dogs, but you are my favorite because you're so gentle." Many Greyhounds do have the temperament that is preferred in therapy animals — calm, steady, and quiet. If your Greyhound does not do well as a "home alone" dog, therapy dog visits allow you to spend time together. If your Greyhound needs activities to stay out of trouble, therapy visits give him a job. In addition, Greyhounds are just the right height for people on sofas, in wheelchairs, and in beds to reach, and those svelte retired racers can fit into spaces other breeds cannot.

A visit from a therapy dog brings many benefits to a facility. For example, it can encourage patients to comply with their treatment program. While we were visiting the physical therapy area of a facility, a man who was supposed to complete 20 leg lifts from his wheelchair said, "If you bring that dog over here to see me, I'll do them." Later, the physical therapist said to me, "That's why we appreciate your visits so much — you and the dogs can get them to do things we can't." Some retired racers also have injuries, and the handler can talk about the dog's rehabilitation plan. This often encourages patients to talk about their own orthopedic problems and ways of addressing them.

Setting Expectations for Visits

At first, you might reject the idea of visiting personal care homes, fearing that it will be a depressing experience. Although it is sad for people to lose their independence and decline in health, put yourself in their place. Many of them have loved and cared for dogs. Now their circumstances have forced them to leave their animals behind with family or even to surrender their dog to a shelter. Your visit may be their only opportunity to interact with a dog.

Although not all residents and staff will eagerly anticipate therapy dog visits, the enthusiasm of the majority is more than sufficient encouragement. Gradually, you will begin to form relationships with the people you visit and come to know their preferences. Some residents like to admire the dogs from afar, preferring not to get too close, while others will eagerly stroke a Greyhound and its surprisingly soft fur. Even in Alzheimer's units, where some patients have difficulty communicating, you'll learn to interpret positive responses. When asked, "Would you like a visit from the dogs today?" a woman who can no longer talk begins making stroking motions with her hands even before we enter the room, and her eyes light up when the dog is at her side. In one of the facilities I visit frequently, there are two curmudgeons who frequent the television room together and like to watch Animal Planet. They put me in mind of that pair that sat in the balcony on *The Muppet Show*, trading wisecracks. At our first meeting, one of them was petting my Greyhound DP Cuddle Bear (Cuddles) and said, "A Greyhound, huh? Is she fast?" I say, "Evidently not fast enough — they retired her." He chuckled and the other

Cleopatra and Pharaoh, adopted by Robert de Haas of Tracy, Calif.

one asked, "So, what tricks does she know?" I reply, "C'mon guys, this isn't *Pet Star* — she's a therapy dog." That is their favorite program, and they inform me that there will be a special of the best pet tricks, which I promise to watch so that we can compare notes next week.

When you visit the rooms of these two personal care home residents, it is obvious that they are animal enthusiasts. From the calendar on the wall to the pictures on the dresser, dogs really do rule. It is very rewarding to give them a weekly opportunity to enjoy the company of dogs once again.

Evaluating Your Dog's Reaction

Pay close attention to your Greyhound's general demeanor as you make your rounds. If he balks often, keeps looking outside longingly, or darts toward the door, be honest with yourself and recognize that, despite having the requisite training, your Greyhound is probably not cut out for this work, at least at this time and in this setting. Even if your dog is excited to get in the car and go to a facility, there may be particular situations that are frightening, such as a piercing alarm on a respirator or a bunch of helium balloons delivered to a patient's room. You'll need to handle such events carefully to avoid reinforcing such fears in your Greyhound. Be aware also that health care facilities have many inviting distractions — cute little toys in residents' and patients' rooms, crumbs from a breakfast muffin on a resident's lap, or a pill that is dropped and rolls across the floor. Therapy dog training that teaches the "leave it" command is useful in these situations.

Putting on a Show

To thank us for visiting, one of the facilities we frequent allows us to let the dogs off lead in a large, secure courtyard, as long as there are no residents outside and we clean up after our animals. At first, my Greyhound dashed around to investigate various items in the garden — a fountain, a flag, and plaster statues of toadstools surrounded by gnomes. When the other dogs started to run, she raced around the perimeter of the courtyard as if she were at the track. The gardener stopped and pushed his hat back on his head, amused by her burst of energy. I looked inside the windows of the cafeteria and sunroom to see the residents and the staff smiling, pointing, talking, and urging her on. During our next visit, several people mentioned how much they had enjoyed watching the dogs play outside. One man in a wheelchair said wistfully, "When I was in the Army, I used to go to the dog track with my buddies. I didn't care all that much about the betting, I just loved to watch the dogs run. Thank you for bringing her."

That is reward enough for me. ■

Mary Renck Jalongo is a registered Therapy Dogs International, Inc. dog handler. She visits personal care homes and nursing homes in Indiana, Pa. with her retired racing Greyhound, Cuddles (DP Cuddle Bear) and the members of her local TDI, Inc. chapter, Dogs Routinely Providing Emotional Therapy (DR PET).

Zinny (Bob's Zinpro) was adopted from GPA/Birmingham by Terri and Dave Hedges. *Ray Wong*

For Zin on the Occasion of his 14th Birthday

Softly, quietly.
Zin is napping.
The twitch of a paw.
A long, puffed sigh.
A satisfying sleep

is broken by the jingle
of keys in the lock.
He pulls to his feet,
shakes and revs his tail.
Let the jubilation begin.

He had another family
who sent this fluffy, speckled boy
back to the adoption kennel where
he laid those nine-year-old eyes
on me and I was lost.

That was five years ago.
He likes to go to the office
where he trades boyish charm
for treats and ear rubs
and sheds with brazen abandon.

It's true he's a bit slower.
Needs help sometimes and is
inclined to wait and watch.
The soul of saged civility
but no less himself.

—*Mardy Fones*

Lupe and Lana brought new excitement to the lives of their adoptive owners, Roy and Linda Stine.

"That's Boring!" Or, Be Careful What You Ask For

By Roy and Linda Stine
Photos by Roy Stine

"That's boring." Or so our neighbor's young son informed us.

His middle school had given him the assignment of interviewing neighbors to see what they did in and about the community; some sort of social interactive matrix they were working on, we suppose. Being in academia at one of the local universities, we always agree to help out with education-related items. The young man's questions to us basically probed what we did for fun and social activities. Well, we take walks, garden and read; we also do a lot of our work (class preparation and article writing) from the house.

"That's it? That's boring!"

The adults looked at each other. We all started laughing and agreed that he was right. After our neighbors left, we decided we really did need more fun.

We have not always been boring. The young man didn't think so when we had our greyhound HoneyG. He used to come over and walk her with us, but that ended when HoneyG died about six months prior. We were both extremely busy caring for aging parents, working, and being too sad about losing our Greyhound to try and adopt another. Several months after that interview we went to look at Greyhounds at a meet-and-greet. We walked back to the car quietly, got in, and sat for a while.

"I must be a wimp," I finally said. "I'm all choked up."

Frequent walks in parks and woods are some of the best times ever.

I turned to my wife. She took off her sunglasses to reveal big, fat tears sliding down her cheeks. No, we were definitely not ready for a new Greyhound friend.

Fast forward about two and a half years. Guilford County, North Carolina is extremely blessed with two great Greyhound adoption facilities: Greyhound Friends of North Carolina in the northern part of the county, and Project Racing Home, on the south side where we live. We were on our way south for a hike at Morrow Mountain State Park. Our path took us within a block of Project Racing Home's adoption center. On a whim we swung by the center — just to look. We were not going in.

Slowing down on the road for a look, we saw long, thin, tall dogs racing to the fence to look back at us. This time, looking at all the Greyhounds filled us with joy. They seemed to sense that they would see us again.

The following Sunday, my wife had to go into the university to work. I was cleaning up construction from remodeling my porch and shed, stacking and collecting waste material, old screen and junk to haul to the construction dump the following day. We had both been thinking about and discussing Greyhounds for a solid week. Being a geographer, I chose the classic distance decay model; in other words I drove over to PRH that afternoon, just to look. I almost did not get out of the car but something — possibly the rooing of hounds — pulled me in.

I was met at the door by at least five Greyhounds. Swarmed by Greyhounds, kissed by Greyhounds, loved on by Greyhounds . . . oh yes, this was right. I completed the adoption forms and Kimberly Jewell, PRH's kennel director, started introducing me to hounds. When my wife returned home that evening I informed her where I'd spent the afternoon and suggested that we might go look at Greyhounds once we'd finished our chores.

Monday at the kennel Kim brought out a brother and sister team I'd met the day before: Anuke and Lani. They raced up to me (did they remember?), leaned in, and gave kisses. I told them that they had better impress my wife. As if on cue they waggled over to her, swamping her in wagging tails, leans, and kisses. These dark brindled hounds — one flecked with gold, the other with silver — overwhelmed Linda. She decided no other introductions were necessary. These two were ours.

Holy cow! What had we done? We raced all over the house, finding old dog beds and cleaning them up. Found the old crate and reassembled it, bought a new crate, dog food, biscuits . . . gads, what else? We've got hounds coming into the house. Newbies, at that! HoneyG was five and a half when we got her. She had lived in a couple of homes prior to ours.. When she came to ours, she acted as if that's where she'd always been. We called her Mary Poppins because she was practically perfect in every way. The only time she had an accident in the house was when she was sick. She never chewed anything. She would not get on the furniture for any reason, even when invited to do so. When we ate alone or with guests we would tell her to "be polite." She would lie on her bed until we finished, not joining us until we invited her to do so. We never crated her and never needed to. She was the perfect housemate. We didn't train her to do any of those things; she came into our lives the way she was. What would our newbies be like?

No! Don't chew that. *No!* Don't pee in the house, or the screen porch for that matter. *No!* Don't jump up and rip holes in the new screen door I just put on the porch. *No!* Don't jump on the table when we're eating and *No!* You can't jump on the table even

Lupe and Lana, exhausted . . . for the moment.

when we're not using it. *No!* Don't jump on the antique secretary and leave huge scratches on it. *No!* You don't need to wake me every hour all night long to make sure I'm there.

By the second night with our new Greyhounds, we were exhausted. We mulled over the possibility that two boring, middle-aged college professors had bitten off way more than they could chew. We were relaxing — or trying to — on the porch, attempting to drink a little wine and *No!* Wine isn't good for dogs, lick *No!* Get away from the wine, lap. We were also discussing new names; we had renamed Lani to Lana and Anuke to Lupe. I wanted to name the dogs Loop and Lil after the parakeets in the Townes Van Zandt song "If I Needed You." My wife decided on Lana and Luke, but after negotiations I got Loop. She informed me that it needed to be spelled Lupe, and I allowed as how if he answered to his name I'd be happy and I doubted that he'd ever learn to spell. Slurp *No!* Don't sneak around behind the chair and drink the wine. Wine kisses from a dog, lap lap wait you dogs are working in tandem one's being sweet while the other nabs a drink of wine. Wine is very bad for Greyhounds. What have we done? Can we survive two Greyhounds?

After supper that evening we were cleaning up, still discussing our apparent lack of good sense, *No!* Get out of the garbage can. Should we take one back and just keep one Greyhound *No!* Stay out of the garbage can and lay down.

Wow, they did it.

Which one would we possibly choose to give back?

YIPE! SQUEAL! From the porch come cries of terror, pain, anguish? Oh my god, we've killed and/or severely maimed one of the dogs and we've not even had them two nights. Racing onto the porch we see Lana standing in a corner, wide eyed. Turning, we're just in time to see Lupe sling the plastic garbage can lid off of his head. He races over to us and leans on us, shaking all over. After we finish laughing we tell him: That's why we told you not to get into the garbage.

For the rest of the evening the Venus Greyhound Trap (smells so sweet, but closes with a Snap! when the hound sticks its head inside) was quite safe from two Greyhounds. Lupe and Lana gave it a wide berth.

The third day dawns; pre-dawn actually (5:00 a.m.). Why not let's sleep to 6:00 a.m.? No? Okay, let's go out. What, do you really want to play now? They're getting better, but every day we must rise at 5:00 a.m. We're working hard to reset the clock.

Lana has no problem with the steps inside or outside of the house. Lupe still has trouble and really does not like going up or down the stairs. Lana seems to get in trouble more, but we think this is due to exuberance. When she grabs something she's not supposed to have she races all over the house, slinging it about; there is no doubt she's in trouble. She approaches most things this way: stairs are to be taken three at a time, chew toys disemboweled at a ferocious rate. Rawhide chew? What rawhide chew? I must now steal my brother's. Thus her first nickname: "Little Banzai."

Lupe is the faster runner of the two dogs. If the point is just to chase the ball, he wins every time. Lana growls enough that sometimes he lets her have the ball. After losing out on the opportunity to hang out and do laundry in the basement, jealousy prompted him to learn to go up and down the stairs.

Sometimes a little competition is a good thing. He takes stairs one at time. He's quite a bit bigger than Lana but he prefers to operate in stealth mode. He'll quietly sneak out to the garbage can or steal something to chew up; only when you notice that Lana is standing over him coveting what he has do you realize that he's being bad. So his first nickname is "The Big Sneak."

Another early morning. More necessary stops in the pen are followed by a delicious breakfast and morning nap time. I'm sitting in the dark watching the sunrise backwards. I'm looking to the west. The sun hasn't cleared the trees to the east so our house is still in shadows, but to the west across a field and the road the sun lights the trees with long red and orange waves that highlight the yellows on the leaves of the tulip poplars. I'm thinking of the antique secretary that my mother gave me before she died a little over a year ago. The long toe nail scratches on it — thinking of the two napping dogs — what should I do?

Many years ago when I lived in Montana, I went home for a visit. Mom had a marble stand that held a statue. She had inherited it from her mother. I noticed that the statue was gone, and I asked what happened to it. She replied that her sister had broken it. I asked how she felt about that.

"Roy," Mom replied, "I don't care about things. I care about people."

The statue was broken by accident. The secretary was scratched by accident. I'd amend Mom's statement by adding that I care about most living things, especially Greyhounds and all dogs. Years from now I may notice the scratches but what will I remember? My Mother, her loving wisdom, and the crazy antics and sweet cuddles of the hounds. Thanks, Mom.

We can't believe that we've had The Big Sneak and Little Banzai for about three weeks now. They are here to stay. They do want to be good dogs and they are quite willing to learn. We've fixed up a large holding pen for them in the basement so they do not have to be crated when we go to work. They are much better about jumping up on everything. They are still full of mischief and love raucous playtime, ball throwing, stuffie baiting, and chasing each other in the pen. They are also very loving and think our walks in the woods and parks are some of the greatest adventures in the world.

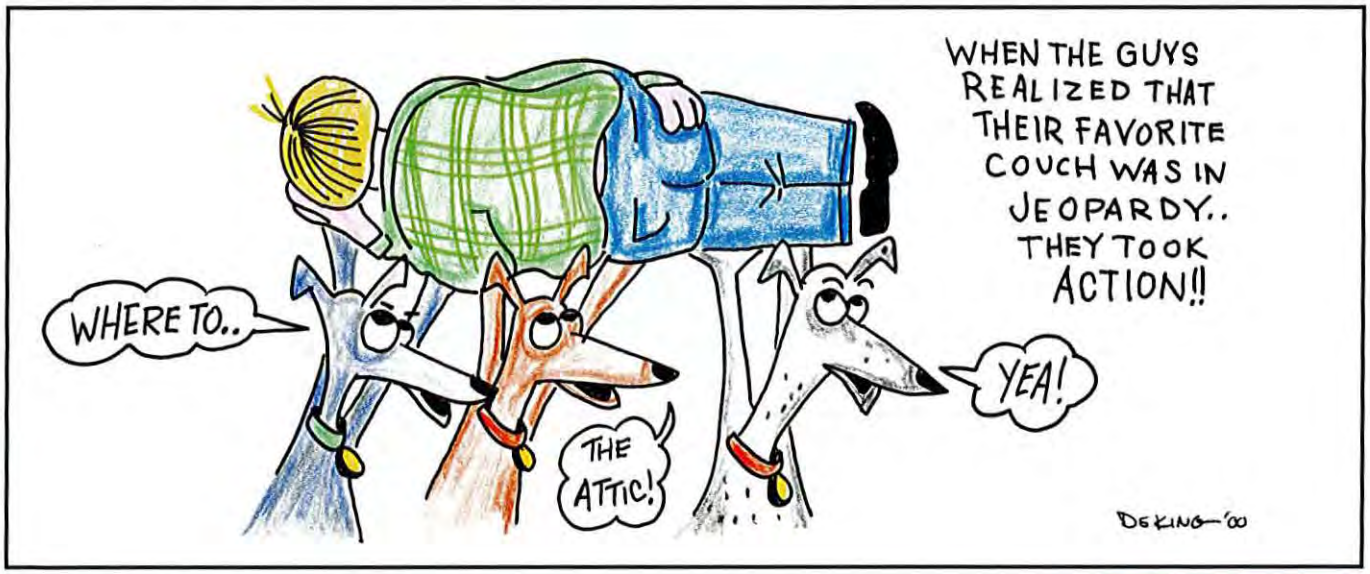
Be careful what you ask for. I don't think even our neighbor's son would think us boring now. Especially with wine-drinking Greyhounds cavorting about with trash can lids on their heads. They leave us alone while we eat, but they are still mad over wine; we don't give it to them, but they are ever hopeful. Our theory is that they were not good racing dogs because they had wine hidden in their crates. ("A bit of wine and cheese, and then we'll race . . . or not.") Both pups have agreed that they would come out of retirement as wine experts; this is a notice of availability to all fine North Carolina wineries. From personal experience we can tell you that Greyhound-lapped merlot (or Greyhound-kissed merlot as they prefer to say) adds a certain bouquet and texture that all Greyhound owners recognize and appreciate. The hounds are currently working on a Pinot Roo and a Cabernet Yapvignon.

As for the early rising — well, I did want to name them Loop and Lil from the song "If I Needed You." As Townes fans know, there's a verse in the song as follows:

> In the night forlorn, the morning's born
> And the morning shines, with the lights of love
> You will miss sunrise, if you close your eyes
> And that would break, my heart in two.
>
> *Townes Van Zandt*

It's my fault, I guess, that Lupe and Lana do not wish us to miss sunrise. We haven't, in three weeks. Each morning we are greeted by two pairs of amber eyes shining with the lights of love. There's just so much the new day offers: walks in the woods, yummy breakfast, playing with the neighbor dog, things to chew, balls to chase, back rubbing, belly scratches, lots of kisses, naps yes oh yes many naps and stretches, helicopter twirls, fantastic supper and snuggling down to sleep in Mom and Dad's room. Of course, let's not forget sunrises in a red golden morning; how could it not break your heart in two if you missed sunrise with your Greyhounds? ■

Roy and Linda Stine live in Greensboro and teach Geography and Archaeology respectively at UNC Greensboro. They adopted Lupe and Lana in September of 2008. The hounds continue to keep the house quite lively with many adventures and misadventures.



Jennifer Ganz and Mako enjoy some quality time at Juanillo Beach in the Dominican Republic, where they make their home. *Bill Ganz*

A Shark Tale

By Jennifer Ganz

With a yawn and loud sigh, Mako "Shark" Ganz plops his head down on the bed of soft, white Caribbean sand. The cool sea breeze blows in from the east as the sun begins to set behind him. Once a hard-working athlete — with days of early morning workouts — this former racing Greyhound has taken retirement to a new level since his move to Cap Cana, Dominican Republic in October 2008. Now, the 7-year-old Greyhound's days are filled with strolls around the quiet and pristine Cap Cana marina, family trips to the beach, and lengthy naps on the balcony of his fourth-floor oceanfront condo.

Though this middle-aged shark has been in the Caribbean for less than a year, he is no stranger to a lifestyle filled with fun and sun. Adopted at age 3 by Bill and Jennifer Ganz, Mako gladly stepped into his role as their only child. Shortly after Mako's adoption, the family moved to a home on Baltimore's Inner Harbor, where Mako's love of sunshine and waterfront breezes began to flourish. In Baltimore's active HarborView community, Mako quickly became a local celebrity. Daily walks to Barista, the HarborView coffee shop, allowed this striking brindle male to regularly visit all his friends who worked at and frequented the marina. Little Havana, a local hot spot, also became a favorite hangout for Mako, who soaked in the endless attention (and occasional tasty treasures) from the friendly patrons.

Given Baltimore's picturesque waterfront setting, it wasn't long before Bill and Jennifer began to consider the

purchase of a boat. To prepare Mako for life on the water, they enrolled the land shark in swimming lessons at a local aquatics center. Swimming proved to be quite a challenge for this Greyhound, however, since the doggy paddle required his back legs to move independently — and not in unison as they did when running. It was clear to his doting parents that Mako was not at all fond of the pool; they usually had to coerce him into the water with the help of his favorite snacks such as bananas and apples.

After swimming lessons were complete, Mako was ready to earn his sea legs with a brand-new custom lifejacket securely fastened around him. Despite their concerns about how Mako would respond to the boat, Bill and Jennifer knew it was time to set out on the vast waters of the Chesapeake Bay. With Bill at the helm, Mako seated comfortably on the transom, and Jennifer tying up the fenders, the family cautiously left the dock. Once out of the harbor, Jennifer held Mako tight as Bill decided it was time to put the engine to the test. As the boat picked up speed and the breeze grew stronger, Mako put his head over the outer ledge, letting his ears catch the wind as it passed. Power boating, it turned out, was a lot like running — and Mako became an instant fan.

Weekend outings on the Chesapeake and its many tributaries quickly became a favorite hobby for this adventurous threesome. With each new trip, the group visited a different port of call. One weekend, they'd stroll along the historic streets of Annapolis. The next weekend, they'd ride a trolley down the quiet roads of Rock Hall. Despite his continued aversion to swimming, Mako was often found sunning himself on the boat's back deck. And when he needed a break from the heat, he would retreat to the cabin below and sprawl across the queen-size captain's bed for a short siesta.

Though small Chesapeake towns were fun to visit, nothing compared to Mako's extended stays at the family's Ocean City, Maryland beach house. Ocean City is just a short drive from Dewey Beach, Delaware, where the shark first fell in love with the ocean during a Greyhounds Reach the Beach gathering. In Ocean City, Mako was content taking long naps on the sofa and digging endless holes in the bayside beach. Trips to Ocean City were also filled with long walks along the water's edge and quiet nights spent on the covered deck. When in the mood for a little more action, Mako's favorite hot spot was Macky's, a bayside bar and restaurant. At Macky's, Mako could listen to popular tunes and enjoy the sweet ocean breeze while snoozing on the sand.

Bill and Jennifer enrolled Mako in swimming lessons to prepare him for life on the water. *Jennifer Ganz*

Can I stop now? The swimming lessons proved that Mako was not fond of the pool. *Jennifer Ganz*

Bill and Jennifer's shared love of Ocean City made it the perfect destination for their summer 2008 wedding. With preparations underway, they chose Macky's for the rehearsal dinner and Lighthouse Sound for the ceremony and reception (since both were dog-friendly). With Mako by their side as best dog, the couple tied the knot on June 20.

Although a reluctant swimmer, Mako quickly took to boating. *Jennifer Ganz*

Mako served as best dog at Bill and Jennifer's Caribbean-themed 2008 wedding. *Laura Olson/InHisGracePhotography.com*

It wasn't long after the Caribbean-themed wedding that the Ganz family began making arrangements for the big journey south. Sadly, it was necessary for Jennifer to leave sooner than her boys due to professional obligations, so she tearfully said goodbye and waited two long, difficult months until they could join her. Since Mako suffered from anxiety, it was essential that Bill find an alternative to crating him during the three-and-a-half-hour flight from Baltimore to the Dominican Republic. After much deliberation, the travel plans were set, and the two left Baltimore in mid-October. Bill packed the car with one hundred pounds of dog food, treats, stuffed toys, various collars, three beds — and a few things for himself. He and the shark departed for Florida, stopping briefly at the Margaritaville in Charleston, South Carolina for a few additional supplies. In Boca Raton, Florida, Bill and Mako boarded a private chartered flight to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. There, they joyously reunited with Jennifer.

Though Mako had always enjoyed sunshine, he was never a fan of humidity. Bill and Jennifer were a bit anxious about his transition to a tropical climate. Together, they breathed a sigh of relief when he departed the plane in the Dominican Republic, wagging his tail and refreshed from a long nap. Mako was clearly ready for the next chapter of his adventurous life.

As the first Greyhound in the small community of Cap Cana, Mako's arrival caused quite a stir. Family walks around the neighborhood stopped traffic on several occasions as spectators viewed Mako with amazement. *El perro es muy grande!* Even when his appearance was recognized by the locals or tourists, he was usually mistaken for a Spanish Galgo. Despite some initial hesitations regarding his unusual size and look, Mako's outgoing personality quickly garnered the affection of the locals. Pronounced with a Spanish accent, Mako became known as "Mah-ko" by his new amigos.

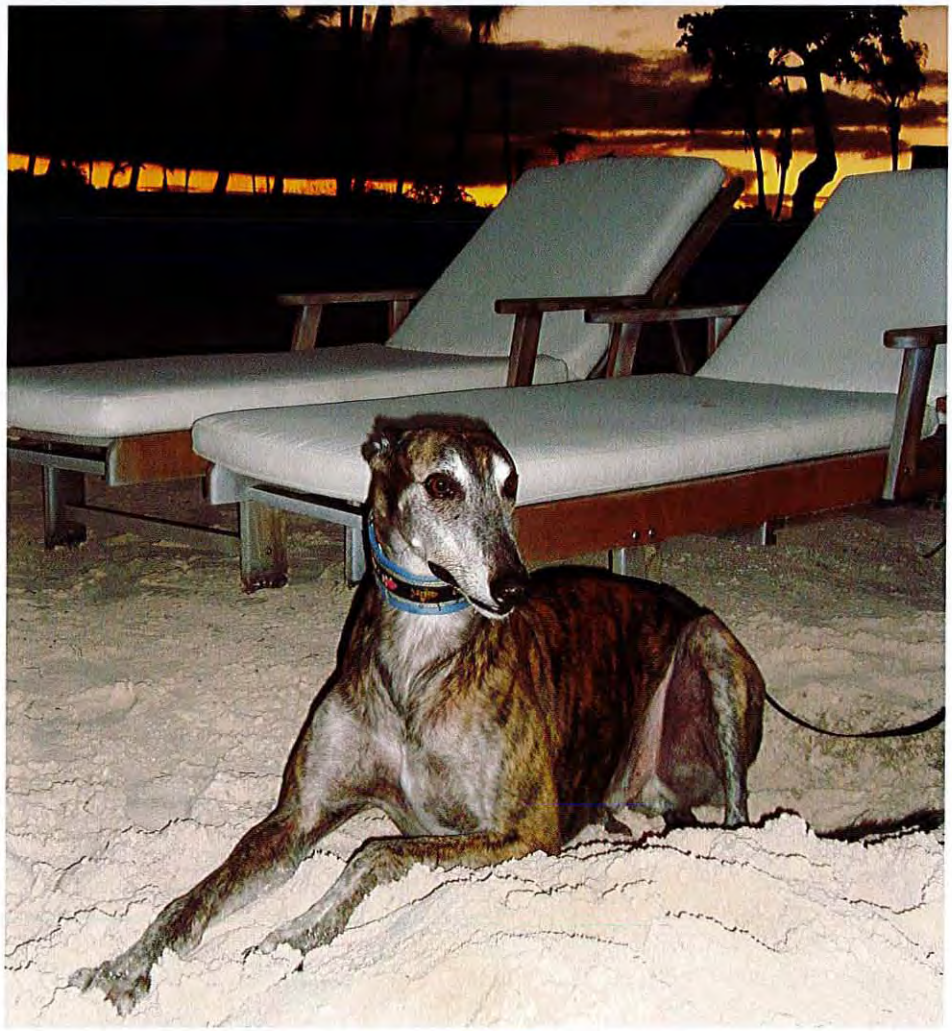
Adjusting to his daily life in the Dominican Republic, Mako eagerly joined Bill on the short drive to take Jennifer to and from the local school where she worked — and the students were eager to see him. One by one, with jaws dropped and eyes wide,

Bill and Mako arrive in Cap Cana, Dominican Republic.

children froze in awe of the odd, skinny creature poking his head from the window of the pickup truck. Jennifer even decided to use Mako's fame to educate the international student population about racing Greyhounds and the importance of pet adoption.

Despite a few minor inconveniences — such as unsafe tap water, and the need to ask all visitors from the United States to stuff their suitcases with dog food — this daring family has transitioned to their new setting quite well. Any one of their many guests will tell you that it hasn't taken long for this happy threesome to adjust to the simple, slow-paced Caribbean lifestyle. And if you pass by the beach in Cap Cana, you might even see Mako cooling himself in the fringe of the calm waves as they roll in to shore. Who knows, maybe this land shark will someday take an interest in swimming after all. However, one thing is for sure — this trio will always be found where the sun is hot, the breeze is cool, and the ocean is just a breath away. ■

Jennifer Ganz is the school psychologist at Cap Cana Heritage School in Cap Cana, Dominican Republic.



Mako lives the good life at the beach. *Jennifer Ganz*

You're Invited

Thursday through Sunday, June 4-7

Greyhound America 2009
Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption
Sterl Hall, Eisenhower Park
619 North Rogers
Abilene, Kan.
Race the Wind Greyhound Adoption, Inc. invites you and your hounds to join us in celebrating our tenth anniversary. We're planning a fun-filled weekend with seminars, shopping, the annual fun run for the hounds and, of course, our annual fundraising auction and more. Vendors welcome.
Contact: Carolea Dick, (316) 772-7351 or carolea@cox.net; www.racethewind.org

Saturday, June 6

Seventh Annual Picnic
Greyhound Adoption of Greater Rochester, N.Y.
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunnyside Lodge
3835 Union Street
North Chili, N.Y.
Join us for food, fun, games, raffles, and vendors offering a variety of Greyhound merchandise. Your Greyhound would not want to miss this!
Contact: Cindy Bauer, (877) 211-1451 or events@greyhoundadopt.org; www.greyhoundadopt.org

Friday through Sunday, June 12-14

Greyhound Adoption Expo
Racing Owners Assisting Racers, Inc. (ROAR, Inc.)
Friday: Noon to 9:00 p.m., Wonderland Greyhound Park, Revere, Mass.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Raynham Greyhound Park, Raynham, Mass.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Seabrook Greyhound Park, Seabrook, N.H.
Educational, fun time with your Greyhounds. Greyhounds allowed at all activities: Fun Run, Back on Track Parade, meet the trainers, pet person volunteer working in an active racing kennel, Greyhound games, Greyhound Fashion Show with prizes, book signings, raffles, silent auction, lots of vendors, and speakers.
Contact: Linda Jensen, (860) 319-7555 or register@greyhoundadoptionexpo.com

Sunday, June 14

Run, Roach, & Roo
Retired Greyhound Athletes, Inc.
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Winnegamie Dog Club
W7245 Manitowoc Road
Menasha, Wisc.
RGA's 2009 Greyhound Reunion is a benefit to raise funds and friends for Greyhounds fostered through RGA, a Greyhound adoption organization serving Northeast Wisconsin. We offer animal games, breed-specific vendors, refreshments, auction and raffle items, and much more. All dog lovers are welcome but only retired racing Greyhounds cam attend and use the dog club's expansive run area. Entry fee: $15 per family in advance, $20 at the door.
Contact: Todd Yaeckel, Reunion Committee Chair, (920) 687-2227 or info@retiredgreyhoundathletes.org; www.retiredgreyhoundathletes.org

Saturday, June 20

Greyfest 2009
GPA/Minnesota
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Spooner Park (10 min. north of St. Paul)
Little Canada, Minn.
A fundraiser to help support placement of retired racing Greyhounds. Great food, lots of fun, fantastic raffle prizes for every age and interest, shopping, games, contests and, most importantly, lots of Greyhounds! Rain or shine.
Contact Barbara Gates Schaben at (763) 785-4000; www.gpa-mn.org

Saturday, June 20

Summer Blast
Monica's Heart Greyhound Adoption
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
American Legion Park
Hollidaysburg, Pa.
Fun and games for Greyhounds and their people. Silent auction, Chinese raffle, vendors, and food.
Contacts: Kay McNelis, (814) 942-3145 or Peg O'Brien, (814) 943-1475; www.monicasheart.com

Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21

Second Annual Greyt Reunion and Open House
Maine Greyhound Placement Service
249 Old Belgrade Road
Augusta, Maine
Raffles, silent auction, shopping, kennel tours, lure coursing, and more.
Contact: Sue Sprague, (207) 963-7607 or snsnpups@midmaine.com

Saturday, August 15

Second Annual 3Gs: Greyt Hounds, Great Lakes, Great Wines Event
3G-3 Greyhound Friends
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Jolly Orchards
Coloma, Mich.
Raffles, auction, wine tasting, hayrides, games, u-pick fruit. All proceeds benefit Dr. Couto's Greyhound Health and Wellness Program at Ohio State University. Dr. Couto will be the speaker again this year.
Contacts: Susan Bandsma, (269) 468-6613 or info@rockyourpets.com;
Judi Hildebrand, (419) 244-3365 or judihildebrand@yahoo.com

Sunday, September 12

Fifth Annual Wags, Whiskers and Wine Tasting
GPA/MoKan
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Happy Hour
Independence, Mo.
You and your hounds can enjoy good friends, good ambience, and great wines as the Happy Hour staff shares their vast knowledge of the grape. Add abundant 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.
Contact: Shannon Henson, (816) 278-9430 or Shannon@gpamokan.org; www.gpamokan.org

Sunday, September 13

Annual Fall Picnic
Greyhound Friends of New Jersey
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Duke Island Park
Old York Road
Bridgewater, N.J.
A special day to celebrate Greyhounds. Greyhound owners can bring their dogs to spend the day, enjoy eachother, buy special items from the many vendors, and have something to eat all to benefit Greyhound Friends of NJ.
Contact: Patty Comerford, pac173@aol.com; www.greyhoundfriendsnj.org

Thursday through Sunday, September 17-20

BeachBound Hounds
Greyhound Crossroads
"Early Arrivers" activities begin Wednesday; event ends Sunday at checkout
Myrtle Beach, S.C.
We'll be celebrating BeachBound Hounds' tenth anniversary! A Greyhound owner's weekend in a beachfront resort with seminars and workshops, vendors, silent auction, contests, crowning of the King and Queen, Surfside Memorial Service, and opportunities for other adoption groups to raise funds for their own organizations. Almost all activities are designed to allow participation with your Greyhounds.
Registration and vending reservations open at www.greyhoundcrossroads.com/bbh.htm
Contact: Kim Owens, (864) 995-3112; beachyhounds@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 19

Greyhound Gallivantasia
GREYLong
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Kill Creek Park Beach
DeSoto, Kan.
A wonderfully fun time for the dogs and their owners. The venue is marvelous — lake, sandy beach, and walking trails. Enjoy your Greyhound's antics as they dive in the lake. Food will be potluck and there will be silent auctions and dog collars for sale. Proceeds benefit canine cancer studies administered by Morris Animal Foundation. Contact: Lori Haberman-Wilson, greylong3@yahoo.com or Lisa Leopold, (913) 522-1215.

Saturday, September 19

Roofest 2009
GPA/Greater Northwest
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Frontier Park
21800 Meridian S.
Graham, Wash.
Auctions, raffles, food, and various vendors will be included in the day's festivities. Retired racing Greyhounds available for adoption to prospective adopters. This event is GPA/GNW's biggest fundraiser enabling the transportation, vetting, and placement of ex-racing Greyhounds into permanent, loving homes. It is free and open to the public.
Contact: Julie Van Sickle, (253) 927-5043 or julies_kids@yahoo.com; www.gnwgreyhounds.org

Saturday, September 19

Prairie Beach 2009
Heartland Greyhound Adoption
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Haines Park
Altoona, Iowa
Come celebrate Greyhound ownership and support Greyhound adoption. Speakers, group walk, photos, games, auction, vendors, raffle. Food and drink available for purchase. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a wonderful fall day in the Midwest with your Greyhound.
Contacts: Jorene King, (515) 967-6564 or Jody Evans, (515) 967-7122; www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org

Sunday, September 20

Annual Picnic
GPA/Indianapolis
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds
Lebanon, Ind.
Picnic includes silent auction, vendors, games, and contests. GPA/Indy will provide hamburgers and hot dogs; attendees are asked to bring one covered dish to share.
Contact: Sharon Murphy, (317) 839-6436; Sharon_Murphy@gpaindy.org

Saturday, September 26

Greyhound Gala
GPA/Wisconsin
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Waukesha County Expo Center Arena
1000 Northview Road
Waukesha, Wisc.
It's the annual fundraiser you don't want to miss! Bring your hounds for a fun-filled day of raffles, auctions, vendors, and other great activities.
Contact: Ellen Paulus, pauprint@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, October 3

Annual Greyhound Gathering
GPA/Springfield, Mo.
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
4024 W. FR 148
Springfield, Mo.
Chili supper and fundraiser for Greyhounds and their people. Silent auctions and treats for the hounds. Contact: Alane Shultz, (417) 883-8156 or agreyhound@mchsi.com; www.gpamo.org.
Let us know if you'd like to attend!

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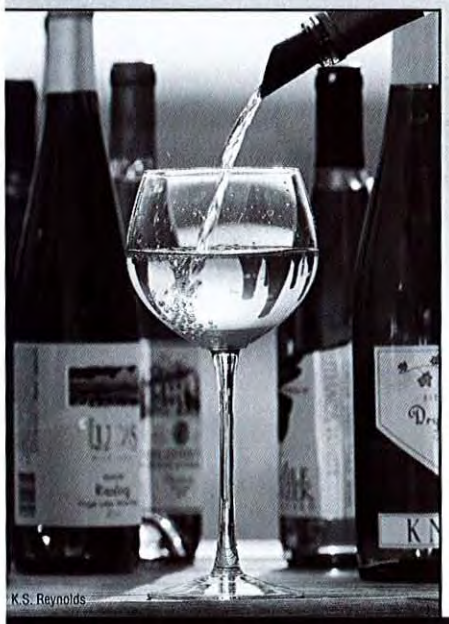
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2009 Greyhound Adoption of Ohio's CANINE FUN DAYS & Greyhound Reunion

TWO FUN-FILLED DAYS FOR DOGS AND THEIR PEOPLE!

August 15th & 16th - Saturday 10-5 • Sunday 10-5
Sunday 10am - Blessing of the Animals & Breakfast!

The Cleveland Metroparks Polo Field - Corner of Rt. 87 & Chagrin River Road • Moreland Hills, Ohio 44022
Dog-friendly hotels nearby • Tented event - Rain or shine
For more info: wwwGreyhoundAdoptionofOH.org
Email: RJRJLP@AOL.com Phone: 1-800-269-1148

Admission is $5/Adults - $3/12 years & Under (Events are extra)
Pre-Register your Greyhound on-line and get a greyt goody bag!

There will be lots of fun things to see and do! Events are open for all dogs regardless of experience, so don't be afraid to try it!

STUFF FOR YOUR DOG

Lure Coursing • Straight Coursing • Agility Course
The Maze • Dog Swimming Pool • Wiener Dog Races
Basset Hound Races • Little Dog Races • Dock Diving

A FUN DOG SHOW - CANINE CONTESTS

Best Costume - $100 1st prize & a silver trophy!
Kissing Contest • Best Trick • Prettiest Eyes • Best Buns
Dunking for Dogs • Baldest Butt • Tail wagging & more.

STUFF TO DO

Watch great demonstrations - Sheep herding, Police dogs, Search & Rescue, Frisbee, Obedience, and more! Eat great food! Participate in games & raffles! Shop our vendors for greyt greyhound stuff! Meet greyhounds awaiting homes!

www.KentRobertsArtist.com
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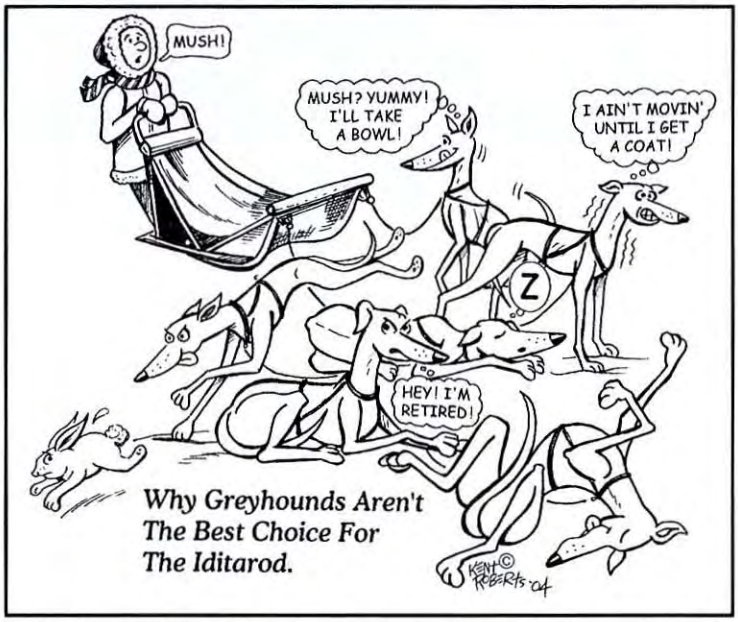
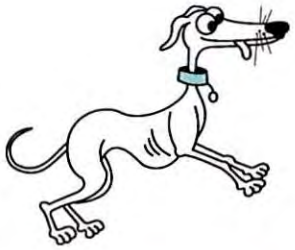


Professional artist and Greyhound adopter Kent Roberts specializes in Greyhound art. From his hilarious designs at cafepress to his beautiful, life-like watercolor pet portraits, Kent has something sure to delight everyone owned by Greyhounds! A portion of every sale is donated to Greyhound adoption.

Contact Kent at www.KentRobertsArtist.com or call (717)530-1056
Write to Kent at: 8735 Pineville Road Shippensburg, PA 17257 for a FREE flyer.



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Deadlines:

Spring issue: December 1st Summer issue: March 1st Fall issue: June 1st Winter issue: September 1st

Fawn 1996-2008

Adopted at age 2 by Gayle and Tom Mayberry, Fawn ("Fawn Saves Her Feline Friend," Fall 2004 CG) was the epitome of grace and elegance. Gentle and loving, Fawn accepted everyone who came into her life — human, canine, feline, or any other species. At meet-and-greets, if not approached, she would walk directly into the crowd of people to the end of her leash and stand quietly, waiting to be petted. Everyone who met Fawn was touched by her gentle spirit. Potential adopters frequently had to be told she was not up for adoption because she already owned humans of her own. She was the Mayberrys' first Greyhound and the inspiration for the subsequent adoption of her three sisters. Suffering with debilitating orthopedic pain, with the dignity befitting the life she had lived, Fawn, Gayle's best friend, crossed the Rainbow Bridge on October 8, 2008. Fawny is still with Gayle and Tom and they will love her forever.

Polli (Bohemian Ocean) 1999-2009

Polli was adopted and cherished by Robin Mittasch and Richard Rosenthal. After finishing her racing career and having two litters as a brood mom, she took a cross-country bus trip to be reunited with her son, Beau. They were pictured together on p. 21 of the Winter 2007 issue of CG. Polli decided she liked New York and took over the home and hearts of her new family, living with Beau and two other Greyhounds, Chloe and Teddy. Petite, sweet, beautiful and oh, what a firecracker: From her foot-stomping demands to the loudest rooing, Polli got whatever she wanted, as well as the gratitude of her people for being allowed to serve her. Within three weeks of amputation surgery in October to treat osteosarcoma, Polli was leading the packs on walks around the block. Nothing kept Polli down for long. Though it initially appeared that she had beaten the cancer, it was not to be. On March 8, in the arms of her people and surrounded by love, Polli decided it was time to leave.

Renoir (Bella Sweet Pea) 1998-2008

Adopted and loved by Dana Provost, Renoir's numerous appearances in CG included the cover of the Winter 2006 issue. The adoption kennel renamed the dogs as they arrived; Renoir — or Lassie — came in with a group of Greyhounds named after canine movie stars. Her journey with Dana began. After one week at home, Renoir passed her CGC and therapy dog test. A registered K9 therapy dog, her favorite therapy work was "Reading to Ruffy" with children. She loved people and children and became the ultimate ambassadress for Greyhound adoption. She was glamorous; appearing in fashion shows at the Grand Opening of Hollywood's Kodak Theatre and several other venues. Dana created designs especially for her that she wore with style and elegance at "doggy" fashion shows at numerous Greyhound events. She appeared regularly at Las Vegas conventions, was on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and flew first-class to Dewey Beach. Dana will miss her rosebud ears and face-wash kisses. A blond bombshell, she captivated everyone with her spirit and personality. She imprinted Dana's heart forever.

Runner (Ken Kohr Run) 1994-2009

Adopted and loved by Dr. and Mrs. James Shadle, Runner was featured on page 48 of the Fall 2002 issue of CG. For ten years Runner was an ambassador for Greyhound adoption. He had 100,000 motorhome miles under his collar, and he camped in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. Many Greyhounds were adopted because of the constant work that Runner did to promote Greyhound adoption. Runner loved hikes; on their last western trip earlier this year, Runner walked 500 miles with Dr. and Mrs. Shadle. He wore two Therapaw boots because of corns on his hind feet; his footwear always brought comments when people stopped to talk. The Shadles called him their "corn dog." His name was on the marquee of the Sayre, Pa. movie theater on the occasion of his 14th birthday. This special boy will always live on in their hearts.

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

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