

# Celebrating Greyhounds

Summer 2016 Online Magazine



## What happens when a racetrack closes?

*ALSO INSIDE:*

Wiener dog races help retired Greyhounds

Josephine's hero hound Patty

Pulling and how to stop it

# Celebrating Greyhounds

## Summer 2016

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*Cover Photo: Han (Flying Han Solo) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Nancy Buckland, of East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, adopted Han from Flying Eagle Kennels, of Abilene, Kansas. Steve Uyehara, of Crackerdog Photography, shot this image during Greyhounds in Gettysburg this year, and digitally removed the leash for aesthetic purposes.*

# From the Editor

By Stacy Pigott, Editor-In-Chief

The dog days of summer are upon us. For many people, that means summer vacations and extra hours spent outside soaking up the sunlight, often with our canine companions.

If you're an experienced Greyhound owner, you probably already make extra provisions for your hound's health during the hottest months of the year. If you're a new Greyhound owner, you might not know that heat stroke can be a very real concern with serious, and even fatal, consequences for your hound.

Cars are one of the biggest killers of dogs in the summertime, but not in the way you might be thinking. While loose dogs always run the risk of being hit by cars, dogs face a much greater risk of death left alone in a locked car.

This perfectly avoidable tragedy is just that — avoidable. As the temperature rises and the days get longer, the safest bet is to leave your Greyhound at home. Dogs don't have the ability to sweat, and can only dissipate a certain amount of heat through panting. Due to their lack of body fat, Greyhounds are particularly prone to feeling the ill effects of high temperatures. And, the temperatures don't even have to be that high to affect a trapped canine. Even when it's a comfortable 70 degrees outside, the temperature in a closed car can skyrocket to 104 degrees in just 30 minutes. Please, leave your pups at home or, when they are in the car, have someone stay with them with the air conditioner on. Don't let your hounds become a summertime statistic.

## Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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Heat stroke and heat exhaustion can happen at any time, and is most likely when a high ambient temperature is coupled with high humidity. Here are a couple of tips to keep your Greyhounds safe this summer:

1. Walk during the coolest times of the day, either very early morning or late evening. Never walk during the middle of the day. Australia's Greyhound Adoption Program says, "Stop regularly to give your dog a rest and a drink, or even better, a cooling swim."
2. At outdoor events, GPA Houston recommends taking along ice packs or wetting down towels with cool water to cool your Greyhound, and don't forget plenty of drinking water.
3. Water is the best means of cooling a hot Greyhound quickly, which is why racetracks have cool-down pools available post-race. Use a hose, bathtub or stream to run water over the dog's legs, chest, belly, head, and between the back legs.

The signs of heat stroke in dogs are heavy panting, hyperventilating, vomiting, glassy eyes, and a wobbly gait. If you suspect heat stroke, get your Greyhound to a veterinarian as soon as possible, as the condition can be life threatening. And, as Rachel Hogue wrote for GreyhoundFacts.org, "The very best method to help a dog with heat exhaustion is to prevent it from happening in the first place."

*Stacy*

Estimated Vehicle Interior Air Temperature v. Elapsed Time						
Elapsed time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Courtesy Jan Null, CCM; Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

## DISCLAIMER

*Celebrating Greyhounds* Magazine is published quarterly by The Greyhound Project, Inc., a nonprofit Massachusetts corporation.

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 to hold such material for an indeterminate period. If your Greyhound is ill, please see a veterinarian.

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# Greyhound Bytes:

*News you can sink your teeth into*

## Greyhound Owners Banned from Owning Animals for 10 Years

STAFFORDSHIRE, United Kingdom — Two dog owners from Staffordshire have been banned from owning animals for 10 years after being convicted of causing suffering to an animal. Victoria Hollinshead and Neil Hough's pet Greyhound, Red, had cigarette burns all over his body, magistrates heard. Hollinshead, aged 33, and Hough, 38, both of The Uplands, in Great Haywood, appeared at Cannock Magistrates Court charged with one count of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal, and two of failing to meet the needs of an animal for which they were responsible.

Read more at [The Express and Star](#).

## Controversial Bill Diverts Dog-Breeding Fund

CHARLESTON, West Virginia — A bill not on the governor's special session call stirred controversy in the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, June 2, with members questioning its constitutionality and attempting tactics to kill it by cutting off consideration. SB 1008, sponsored by Sen. Robert Karnes, R-Upshur, would transfer all gambling revenue from racetrack video lottery and racetrack table games dedicated to the Greyhound Breeding Development Fund to the state Excess Lottery Revenue Fund for appropriation by the Legislature. Steve Sarras, president of the West Virginia Kennel Owners Association, said the bill would effectively bankrupt 30 kennels in the state

and put up to 3,500 people out of work, more than wiping out any savings to the state.

Read more at the [DPost.com](#).



*Honey, adopted by Joanne Ardizzone of Las Vegas, through Almost Home for Hounds in Nunn, Colorado.*

# Greyhound Bytes

## Dog Owners Warned of Off-Leash Attacks

KIMARNOCK, Scotland — Dog owners in Kilmarnock are being warned of the dangers of letting their pets off the leash after a vicious attack on a Greyhound. Seven-year-old Boogie was attacked by an off-the-lead staffie on Newton Walk — now his owner wants something to be done about it. Calling for fellow dog lovers to show some common sense when they exercise their pets in public areas, Marina Connelly said something also needs to be done by the authorities.

Read more at the [Daily Record](#).

## Dog Walking Group Turns into Global Charity Event

BRAINTREE, United Kingdom — What was once a dog walk with six members has now



*Lily, with Whippets Eric and Jimmy, adopted by Sian Greenock of France.*

flourished into a global event after 10 years. In 2006, Janet Peacock from Braintree wrote to The Times, asking if any local Greyhound walkers would like to get together for a social event. She had six responses for the first walk, and her adopted Greyhound Chelsea loved being around the other dogs. Since then, the

dog-walking group has turned into a global event, which amazed Janet. She said: “It just grew and grew, it’s quite extraordinary. I can see it’s not just in our area where it’s had an impact, it’s happening across the country.

Read more at the [Braintree and Witham Times](#).

# Greyhound Bytes

## Freak Accident Claims Greyhound's Life

BUCKINGHAM, United Kingdom — A family whose adopted Greyhound broke her neck in a freak tree crash accident say they will adopt another dog in need. Suki the rescue Greyhound was walking with owner Louise Allison, 46, and her daughter, India, 10, in Buckingham when she was spooked by four other dogs. The ex-racing dog sped into undergrowth and fatally struck a tree breaking her neck.

Read more at [The Bucks Herald](#).

## Greyhound Participates in Blessing of the Animals Service

AUGUSTA, Maine — More than 30 bipeds showed up despite cold and rainy conditions to honor the furred, feathered, finned and

scaled at the Blessing of the Animals service at Mill Park Sunday morning. The Unitarian Universalist Community Church service was led by the Rev. Carie Johnsen and music leader Anne Nessen Voorhees. It was the first animal blessing service Johnsen has led, and she was thrilled at the turnout despite the weather. "It is a fairly traditional practice in Unitarian Universalism," Johnsen said before the service began. "We have a Seventh Principle, which is the interconnected web of all existence, and it is from that principle that we practice our animal blessing."

Read more at [CentralMaine.com](#).

## New Drug Aims to Combat Canine Anxiety

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee — It's a typical summer evening when the skies suddenly darken and the wind picks up. Within a



matter of minutes, lightning is flashing, thunder crashing — and your dog is shaking uncontrollably, urinating in the closet, or ripping apart your favorite pair of shoes. There is no consoling her until the thunder goes away. And then the next evening, your town celebrates the Fourth of July with a burst of

# Greyhound Bytes

fireworks, and it happens all over again. Why do some dogs freak out from thunder or fireworks? Veterinarians aren't really sure.

Read more at the [Times Free Press](#).

## Healing Heroes Takes Holistic Approach to Help Veterans

ROCK ISLAND, Illinois — A Marine Corps veteran was on hand at an open house to thank Healing Heroes in the Heartland for helping her walk. Healing Heroes of the Heartland held an open house at its offices at 2508 25th St., Rock Island, where dozens of veterans and supporters gathered to learn about the nonprofit organization. The group is committed to providing holistic services to "our heroes," said Angel Hong of Milan, doctor of chiropractic and holistic medical director. "Holistic services treat the whole person, both physically and emotionally," she

added. Healing Heroes in the Heartland began in 2013, she said, but using a holistic approach to help someone with anxiety, trauma or pain is not new. "Three thousand years ago, people had depression," she said.

Read more at the [Quad City Times](#).

## Rescued Greyhound Joins the Congregation at Pershore Abbey

WORCESTERSHIRE, England — A rescued Greyhound has joined the congregation at Pershore Abbey after she found a new home with vicar Claire Lording. Annie the retired racing Greyhound was welcomed into the Rev. Lording's home four months ago, following a stint in the care of Greyhound Rescue West of England (GRWE). She has quickly settled into life with her new owner, who she accompanies to church every weekday for the evening service at Pershore Abbey.

Read more at the [Evesham Journal](#).

## Zora and the Greyhounds

FREMONT, California — What internal strength does it take to run with the "big dogs" when one hails from stock that might leave something to be desired? Zora knows, and Zora has it. And Mark Guillatt penned it in his first children's book, "Zora and the Greyhound," available on Amazon; and he sums it up in one short sentence: "No matter who you are, what you are or where you come from, don't give up." A chapter book for young children, Guillatt's book recounts the tale of Zora, a mutt that's "part Poodle, part Cocker Spaniel, sprinkled with a little bit of Pekingese. A beautiful mix, but not a purebred." Despite the diminutive prominence of her size, Zora desires to race with the Greyhounds.

Read more at the [Fremont Tribune](#).

# Greyhound Bytes

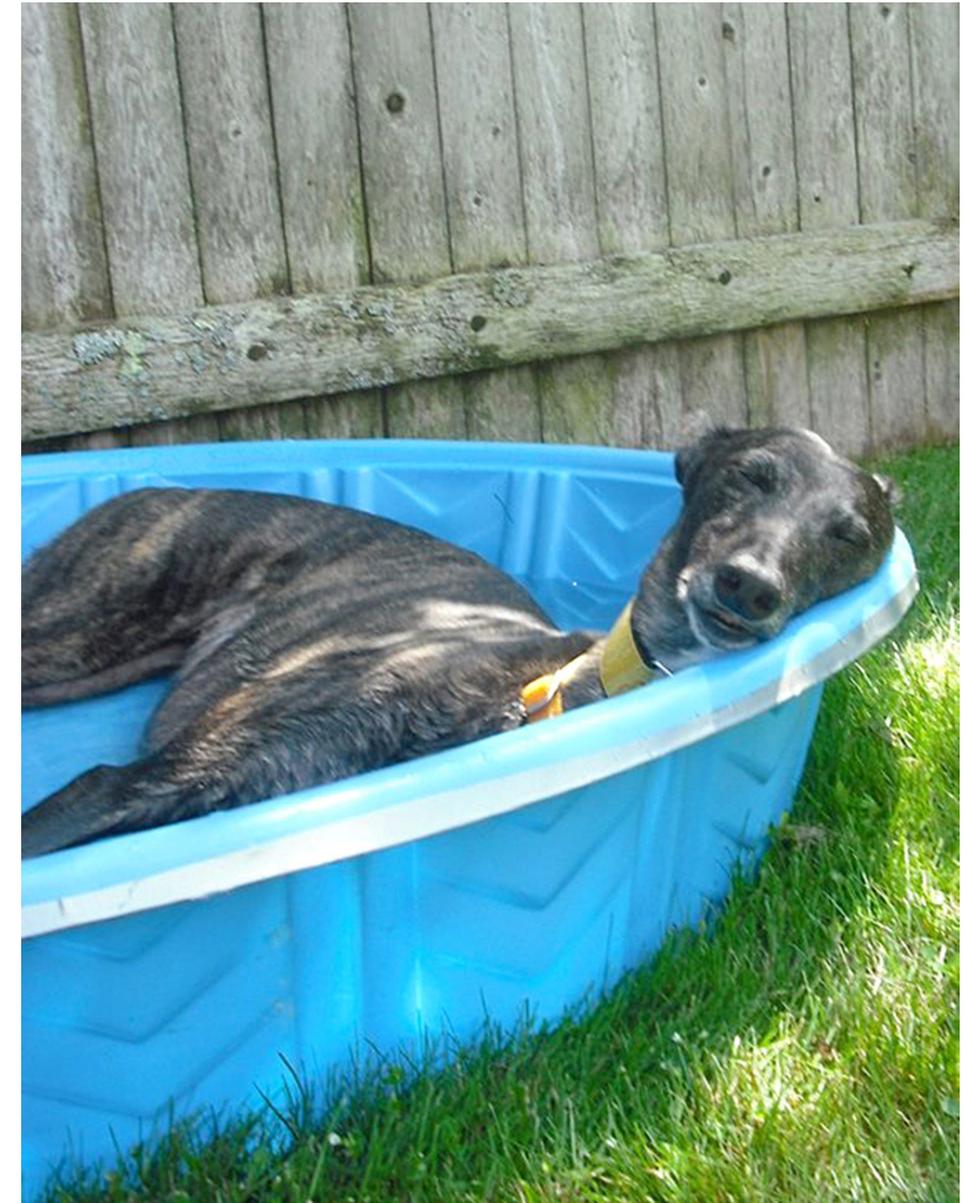
## Dog Tracks in Limbo Ahead of Gambling Bill

BONITA SPRINGS, Florida — It was a busy day at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track. Many came out for the Preakness Stakes, others to watch the dog races. “I came out to make my horse bets, and I like the dogs, so I usually hang out and bet a few dog races,” said Kermit Bill. But as the popularity of dog racing diminishes, the future of the Bonita Springs track and others like it is in limbo. During the last legislative session, several bills involving dog racing died — one to decouple racing and gambling from the tracks, the other a \$3 billion compact with the Seminole tribe.

Read more at [ABC-7.com](http://ABC-7.com).

## Coyote Attacks Greyhound in South Carolina

FORT MILLS, South Carolina — A coyote attack left a Greyhound in rabies quarantine for 10 days and a Tega Cay family on edge. Judy Forrest walks her two dogs, a Greyhound and a Rat Terrier on the golf course near her Calloway Pines Drive home every day. That routine led to a scary encounter on a recent Saturday morning, she said. “I turned and started walking and maybe took eight steps and (heard) this huge sound,” Forrest said. “I can’t say it was a scream, I can’t say it was a bark, I can’t say it was a yelp, it was just a huge noise.” It was Cubby, the Greyhound, trying to get away from a coyote that was hot on his heels. “The coyote was very close and I just told the coyote ‘Get away from him!’” Forrest said. Her order worked because



*Zella, adopted by Kelly Swartz.*

# Greyhound Bytes

the coyote turned and ran, but not without leaving several puncture wounds on the Greyhound's legs.

Read more at the [Fort Mills Herald](#).

## Arizona Governor Signs Bill to End Greyhound Racing

TUCSON, Arizona — Live dog racing in Arizona has come to an end, and hundreds of Greyhounds at the Tucson Greyhound Park, the city's only Greyhound racing facility, are going to be in need of new homes. More than 400 Greyhounds will need to be adopted. Attorney for Tucson Greyhound Park Michael Racy said about 25 percent of the dogs will continue racing at other race tracks outside of Arizona and the rest will be placed into homes. "We've been getting in contact with kennel owners and adoption agencies for the last month and a half preparing for this

because it was quite clear it would go through without any real difficulty," said Racy. Governor Doug Ducey signed the bill Friday, May 13, which will still allow the tracks to collect money from offering televised horse racing for at least two years. Here in Tucson, the Tucson Greyhound Park has to stop the live races by the end of June. Racy said the date will most likely be around June 24.

Read more at [Tucson News Now](#).

## Optimism High as New Racing Season Begins

DUBUQUE, Iowa — At this time last year, the Greyhound racing season in Dubuque, Iowa, started under a cloud of uncertainty. "There were a lot of people who didn't think we were ever going to open," recalled



*Rixton, adopted by Alice O'Hearn of Las Vegas through Greyhound Adoption Center.*

Iowa Greyhound Park Racing Director Brian Carpenter. "Once we did, it took a long time for people to realize we were actually running." With one full year of new ownership in the rear-view mirror, Carpenter said he believes



*Worthy, adopted by Joanne Ardizzone of Las Vegas through Almost Home for Hounds in Nunn, Colorado.*

## Greyhound Attacks Three Dogs and Their Owners

PEMBRIDGE, United Kingdom — A pensioner is now “public enemy No. 1” in her picturesque village after a dog given to her by an animal charity injured a number of people and their pets. A 3-year-old girl was the youngest victim of the rehomed Greyhound which was adopted by Valerie Wells. The former racing dog called Sid also left a man “dripping with blood” after he stepped in to stop his own pet from being attacked during an afternoon walk in Pembridge. Wells, who is 69 and from East Street in Pembridge, admitted to four counts of owning a dangerous dog when she

appeared at Hereford Magistrates Court last Friday.

Read more at the [Hereford Times](#).

## Rehab Clinics Apply Human Physio Practices to Animal Care

RANGIORA, New Zealand — Animal physical therapist Elena Saltis treats a Noah’s Ark of mammals, from cats and dogs to zoo animals. She runs Animal Physio NZ, which has three animal rehabilitation clinics applying human practices to the animal kingdom. Saltis describes animal physiotherapy as the treatment of orthopaedic and neurological conditions. Saltis started her physio career treating people, but went on to study animal rehab and “no longer does humans.” People sometimes assumed her work was really “just animal massage” but it was actually an extension of human physiotherapy, she said.

Read more at [Stuff.co.nz](#).

the atmosphere at the park this spring will be much improved. The live racing season kicked off May 14 at Iowa Greyhound Park, adjacent to Mystique Casino.

Read more at [THOnline.com](#).

# “DOMINIQUE’S STRANGE NEW WORLD”

A new children’s book details the adventures of a retired racing Greyhound in Arizona.

By Stacy Pigott

Diane Casenta Galutia

**“Dominique’s Strange New World”**

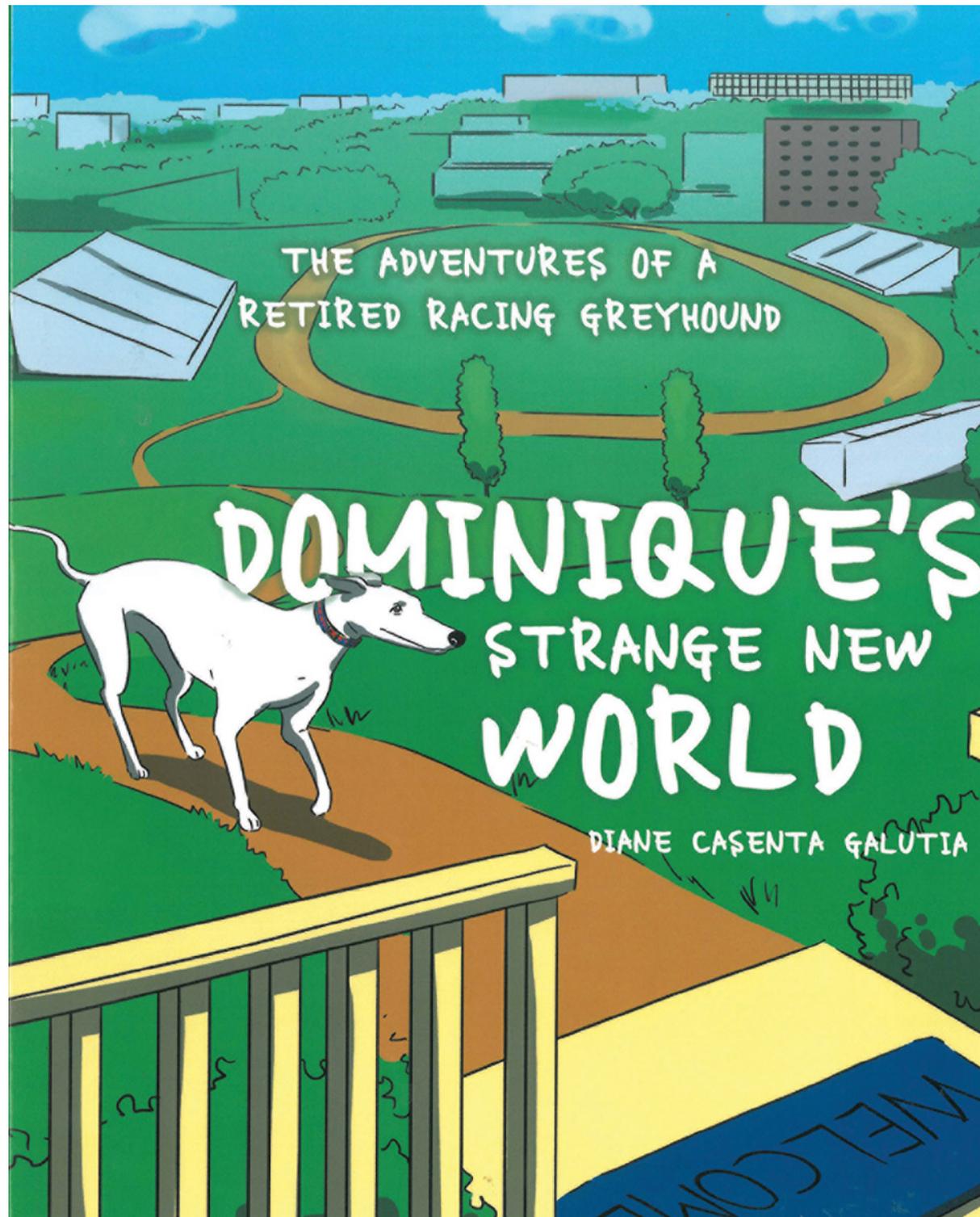
Page Publishing, Inc. (July 21, 2015)

32pp., \$12.95 paperback, \$9.95 digital

978-1681393070

The first children’s book by author Diane Casenta Galutia is a sign of good things to come from the Pennsylvania native. Galutia was inspired to write “Dominique’s Strange New World” by her four dogs — Italian Greyhounds John Boy and Bambi, and Greyhounds Cokie and, of course, Dominique.

“Dominique’s Strange New World” is written from the perspective of Dominique, a retired racing Greyhound. In the first chapter, readers learn that Dominique was injured during a race and subsequently



retired. As Dominique ponders a life without racing, readers are introduced to Maria in chapter 2. Maria has always wanted a puppy of her own and was convinced her parents would give her one for her ninth birthday. Her disappointment at receiving a small box, not nearly large enough to hold a real, live puppy, was eased when she realized the paper inside promised her a retired racing Greyhound of her very own.

The next several chapters describe Dominique's transition from racing Greyhound to family pet. Dominique's adventures detail the things many Greyhounds must learn in their new lives, such as how to walk up stairs and that not everything on the floor is necessarily a dog toy.

Dominique's adventures continue with the adoption of a second Greyhound, Cokie, and then two Italian Greyhounds. As the family grows, so do the life lessons that Dominique learns along the way. As with many children's

books, Dominique's lessons are applicable to the young readers following her story, as well.

The 32-page paperback book is a suitable reading level for children ages 7 and older, although kids and adults of all ages will enjoy Dominique's story. It is a short enough book to be read to younger children at bedtime, yet long enough to give adults a short, heart-warming break that will put a smile on your face.

In addition to the original paperback version, "Dominique's Strange New World" is available as a digital e-book through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). ■

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*About the author: Stacy Pigott is Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's Editor-In-Chief, and fosters Greyhounds for Greyhounds Unlimited in Dallas, Texas. She lives in Fort Worth, Texas, with her Greyhounds, Gypsy and Greta, and Australian Cattle Dog-mix Jewel.*





**A three-step program that will work so you can make the most of walks with your Greyhound.**

By Deb Levasseur, CTB

*What's at the other end of your leash? Does your Greyhound walk calmly on a loose leash, or is your daily walk a constant tug-of-war?*

*Ask the Expert:*

# Loose-Leash Walking

**D**o you dread walking your Greyhound because it feels like you are constantly losing a game of tug-of-war? Have you even stopped walking your hound because of this issue? As regular walks are very important for both Greyhounds and humans, let's explore some tips and tricks that will get you back to enjoying your walking time with your best buddy.

Loose-lead walking is not the same as obedience heeling. In loose-lead walking, your Greyhound's head and body can be a bit in front of or behind your leg. You can set your own limit on how far the dog can be allowed to go in front of or behind you. We are not looking for a perfect heel position here, but the leash must always be loose. A formal heel would require the dog to take the sit position whenever you stop, but in loose-lead training the sit position is optional. Remember that whatever you want the final product to be

is what you should start teaching from the very beginning and be consistent. It is also a very good idea to teach your Greyhound to wait each time you cross a road.

Giving Greyhounds some time to explore during part of the walk is also very important. It is best to teach them a cue, such as “go sniff,” giving them permission to pull you around and check out their environment. This mental stimulation is very important for dogs, who were born to sniff with sinuses taking up most of their skulls. Use variety to make things interesting for them. Try a different route or go to a new area so they can enjoy new sights and smells. Visit gas stations, parking lots, different neighborhoods, parks, stores, and walking trails. The more scents a location has, the more stimulating it is for your Greyhound. Combining exercise with mental stimulation is the gold-star treatment for dogs as it reduces their stress levels and may prevent or eliminate behavior problems.



*This photo from Around Town Hounds illustrates three distinct types of walking. The white dog on the far left is in the heel position, as taught in obedience training, but is also loose-leash walking. The white/brindle dog leading the way in the middle is pulling, while the black dog may have been loose-leash walking before his attention was drawn off to his left. The fawn dog with the blue leash (behind the black dog) is a beautiful example of loose-leash walking.*



*Greyhounds may start to pull if they see or smell something interesting. Over time, it can become a learned behavior.*

So why do Greyhounds pull on their walks, anyway? They do this simply because it gets them where they want to go. It is a learned and self-rewarding behavior because it works. In essence we have actually taught them that all they need to do is pull to get anywhere they want. They also do it because the outside environment is so interesting with its overwhelming amount of sights and smells. (Outdoors can also be stressful too, depending on the Greyhound's temperament and the situation at hand. Always ensure your hound is under his or her tolerance threshold, which is the point before the dog's emotional state changes.) Finally, dogs pull because they tend to obey Newton's Third Law: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Pulling back on the leash typically does not make your dog return to your side, it makes him dig in his heels and pull harder.

Before you take to the streets it is important to complete some basic training at home. First, you have to teach your

Greyhound that a specific cue means "pay attention." Try using a clicking noise (similar to what you might do to speed up a horse)



*The first step toward loose-leash walking is teaching your Greyhound a specific clue that means, "Pay attention!" Reagan, trained by Jennifer Bachelor, learned that lesson well.*



*The position of the leash clip is a good indicator of when your Greyhound is starting to pull. A clip that is going backward, like this one, shows that the hound is pulling on the leash.*

or pat your leg. It must be a sound you do not use for anything else. Stand completely still, make the sound, and give a food treat immediately afterward. You have to be fast and your timing perfect. Deliver the treat directly to the Greyhound's mouth so he doesn't have to jump and you are not luring him around. Bend your knee and don't reach

over the hound when doing this. Your hand should be going directly and immediately to his mouth. Practice a few times yourself before trying it on your hound. Start this training when your dog is hungry. Before a meal, use kibble or very small pieces (no bigger than you baby fingernail) of healthy treats for training. It's wonderful if our Greyhounds can work for their meals. Dogs could potentially work for every single kibble they get. Just think, they could have more than 100 positive reinforcements a day for exhibiting correct behavior! Once you have the pre-training down pat, you and your Greyhound are ready for the three steps of loose-lead walking.

### **Step 1: Foundation**

Start the program by simply taking your Greyhound outside in a low-stimulation environment such as a yard, a driveway, or an empty parking lot. Teach him to pay attention to you while outside by giving your cue and delivering the treat. Once your hound has

mastered listening to the cue outside, begin by taking a few steps. When he starts to get a bit too far away, make the noise, change direction before the leash is tight, and give him a treat. Repeat this exercise many times.

Try taking a couple of steps backward; if he follows and looks at you, treat him. The backward walking is especially good for Greyhounds who are easily distracted. Once he is doing this very well and consistently, take a few more steps forward and, as long as the leash is loose, continue. As soon as the leash is almost tight, make the noise, turn around, and walk in the opposite direction. Be sure to treat your hound when he follows. In order to keep the training sessions positive and stress-free for both of you, limit this initial training to 10-minute sessions twice daily.

### **Step 2: Taking to the Streets**

Before beginning the walk, practice all the commands your Greyhound already knows outside (sit, down, paw, wait). When



*When the leash clip hangs straight down, your Greyhound is in the proper loose-lead position, as demonstrated by Jennifer Bachelor's Riley.*

he demonstrates he is listening and paying attention outside, he is ready to start the walk. Do not start the walk until you have faithfully done all this training as it is an extremely important step. Now your hound must never be allowed to pull again while on walks. No matter what distractions you encounter — other dogs, skateboards, loud noises, etc. — you must get his attention before the leash is tight by giving your cue and treating him. He will make a few mistakes, which is OK. None of us is perfect and we should not strive for utter perfection. Use your cue and not the leash to get your dog back at your side. This is a very hard habit to break, but you will get your Greyhound in line much faster by using this method consistently. Having quick-access treats available will help. Try not to have your treats in a noisy or sealed bag as that can distract your dog and throw off your timing. Good timing, effective treat delivery, and consistency go a long way in dog training.

### Step 3: Smell the Roses

Once your Greyhound is well-trained in walking, give him a chance to sniff by using a command such as “go sniff.” After giving this command, allow your hound to pull you around and sniff to his heart’s content for an allotted time period. This will remove you as the barrier to his fun because he earned his right to sniff after walking well on a loose lead. The dog soon learns the difference between walking on a loose lead and less-structured sniffing time.

### Other Helpful Tips

- This training takes time and patience. Don’t get frustrated with your Greyhound. Go slower, and repeat the previous step if he is not progressing.
- There should be no forward motion when the leash is tight. If pulling works for your hound, he will continue the behaviour. You must get his attention on you and get him to return to your side with your voice and not by pulling him.
- You can also practice by stopping suddenly and getting his attention even when the leash gets loose. If he misses your cue, return him to the proper position and start again.



*Teaching your Greyhound how to walk on a loose leash will keep walks fun and stress-free for everyone.*

- Change direction the second he starts to pull. Get him used to following you and teach him that pulling gets him no forward motion.
- Check your leash clip to see if it is hanging straight down or going backward. The clip points straight down to the ground when your dog is walking in proper loose-lead position.
- A front-clip harness is a great tool to gain control over large, strong dogs. If needed, a gentle leader may also be used. Remember that with a gentle leader, you cannot jerk the neck at all or you could seriously injure your dog.

Taking relaxing walks together with our dogs is one of the most enjoyable and healthiest activities we can share with our canine companions. Keeping walks fun and stress-free is important for both humans and Greyhounds alike. Happy trails! ■

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*About the author: Deb Levasseur, Canine Behavior Therapist (CBT), is president and founder of Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program based in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. © May not be reproduced in whole or part without author consent.*



*Kelly Swartz with Zella and Star, Michele Maxwell with Merlin and Mina, and Naty Sayler with Tasha.*



*Patty's calming influence has been a positive influence on Josephine's life.*

# Hero Hound

**Patty effects a dramatic and positive change for a family.**

by Kathryn Bylica-Perryman

**W**hen I adopted my first Greyhound in 2002, I knew they were not marketed as kids' dogs. That was fine since I wasn't planning on having children for a while. Then 2006 rolled around with a marriage and the birth of our daughter, Josephine.

Little did we know that Josephine would be diagnosed with a speech delay as well as autism before age 3. I recall trying to teach her my first two Greyhounds' names when she was a toddler. She wasn't receptive, and although the boys were very gentle with children, they were not very interactive with little ones. Our Greyhounds kept their space, and our daughter kept hers. It was often a very quiet world for Josephine, as well as for me. I recall speech therapists and pediatricians



*Kathryn Bylica-Perryman knew not all Greyhounds were good with kids when she adopted her first hounds in 2002.*



*When Kathryn decided to adopt Patty, she had no idea how much the retired brood dog would change her daughter's life.*

telling us to get Josephine talking. They suggested that we talk with her non-stop and engage her in anyway we could. Let alone exhausting, this was a real challenge at times — especially in our mostly calm home.

Sadly, the boys passed away over the years, and along came the girls. When Patty came, however, there was a dramatic change in the household.

Bringing home an almost 10-year-old retired brood mom had many friends and family wondering why we did this. They often made comments like, "Poor thing...that is sweet of you to help her...she is so old...it would've been hard for her to find a home." Little did we know that it would be Patty (Noah's Sweetceit) who would be helping us.

Who would have ever thought a dog, let alone a Greyhound, could help a child with a speech delay? That is what Patty has done with her antics. She is far from old and tired — rather, she is the liveliest member of our household. Patty's spark, zest for life, and joy exude from her. Anyone who meets Patty can't help but to remark on "it." Amazingly, our daughter has had to comment on "it" as well.



*Josephine and Patty share a seat in the car.*



*Josephine and Patty have formed a special bond.*

Our daughter can't help but laugh and talk to Patty when she greets us at the door with a hug and kiss every day — "Patty, you are so sweet!" My daughter also must talk about Patty whenever the latter jumps on the back of the couch cushion and sits on top — "Patty, why are you doing that?" Josephine always has something to say to Patty, often heard shouting joyfully from the kitchen, "Patty! Get down from there!" That means Patty has put her front paws on the kitchen table, trying to get a piece of food from our daughter's dinner plate.

After dinner, Patty starts tossing toys in the air, and fetches them from Josephine, while our daughter is shouting, "Get it Patty! Get your baby!" Then Patty jumps from couch to couch and back, with Josephine questioning, "Mommy, what game is Patty playing?"

When we are tucking Josephine into bed and reading some books, Patty comes over to



*Patty often sleeps with Josephine, who has become vocal about telling the Greyhound how much she loves her.*

say goodnight. She jumps on our daughter's bed and lays her head on the pillow with Josephine. My daughter can be heard whispering, "Goodnight Patty, you are such a special girl, I love you."

It isn't always flowers and butterflies in a home like ours, raising a child with special needs. Many times we cannot calm Josephine like other parents might, using their words or hugs to help their children stop crying. Josephine has tantrums and it is often Patty who goes over to our screaming and flailing child. Patty doesn't "say" anything. She doesn't have to. Her bunny-soft fur, rubbing gently along Josephine's side, or her old dog tongue gently lapping the streams of tears off Josephine's face seem to bring peace into our little girl's world that often doesn't make sense.

Not only was Patty a great mama dog in her first life at Wayne Strong's farm in



*She may be a Hero Hound, but Patty enjoys a good dig in the dirt just as much as any Greyhound.*

Abilene, Kansas, but also she has been an awesome mom in retirement, helping our little girl thrive and flourish in her vocabulary and prompting conversation.

It hasn't mattered that many of our daughter's conversations are with Patty, what matters is that she is talking about anything and everything now. We owe the world to Patty and she deserves it. She is our hero hound. ■

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*About the author: Author Kathryn Bylica-Perryman lives with her husband and daughter in Lexington, Kentucky. Kathryn has shared her world with Greyhounds since July 2002. She is currently the Foster Coordinator for GPA Lexington; she tries to spread the word about how wonderful seniors are and strives to bring golden oldies into the group. Kathryn and her family currently share their home with five senior retired racers — three brood matrons (Abilene Abby, RCK Princess, Lust Or Bust), one stud dog, Hallo Gold Acre, and a two-time bounce, BD's Yugo.*



*Of the five Greyhounds in the household, Patty is the one who watches over Josephine.*



# A Racetrack Closes

Heartland Greyhound Adoption was heavily involved in helping the Greyhounds displaced by Bluffs Run Greyhound Park's closure.

By Jody Phelps

Since its beginning in 2001, [Heartland Greyhound Adoption \(HGA\)](#) worked closely with various owners and trainers at Bluffs Run Greyhound Park in Council Bluffs, Iowa. HGA always believed the best way to help the retired Greyhounds was to maintain good relationships with the people who raised them, worked with them, and loved them in their early years. Beginning in 2006, HGA became the designated Greyhound adoption group for the track when Donna Lovely retired after many years as its adoption program coordinator.

Iowa law requires that tracks fund an adoption program. While the track was up and running, it paid HGA a monthly stipend as part of the contract for running the adoption program. When the track closed, that payment ended. The

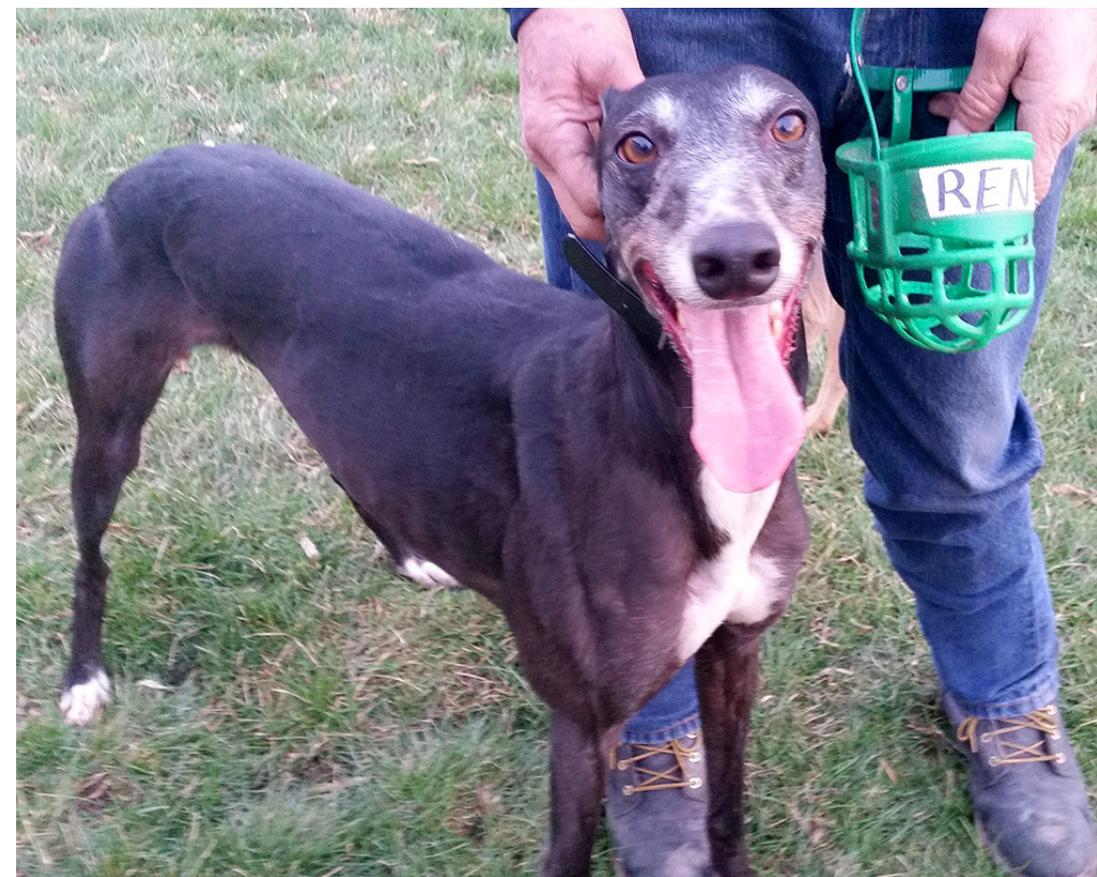
*Bluffs Run was one of two Greyhound tracks in Iowa until its closing on December 19, 2015.*



*Because of the advance planning done by Bluffs Run, the Iowa legislature and Heartland Greyhound Adoption, volunteers were able to move retiring racers slowly over the course of weeks and months, rather than being overwhelmed with too many dogs at once. These Greyhounds went into the adoption pipeline two weeks before the track's closure.*

legislation set aside money to provide for the cost of rehoming the dogs. In addition, language inserted into the legislation stated the dogs displaced by the closure must be placed with no-kill shelters.

Having a good personal relationship with many of the trainers and owners helped immensely as word of the potential track-closing spread. HGA Vice President Jody Phelps, who was in constant contact with the Bluffs Run people, kept a list of dogs needing pet homes. HGA does not have a kennel facility; it operates solely with foster homes, mainly in central Iowa, about a two-hour drive from Council Bluffs. When a trainer or owner called about dogs that needed to come off the track, Phelps added them to HGA's list. As space opened in foster homes, Phelps or another volunteer traveled to the Council Bluffs track and brought the dogs to central Iowa for vet care and placement in foster homes.



*Newly retired racing Greyhounds pose for pictures as they begin their search for pet homes through HGA.*

Many of the foster homes have cats, small dogs, multiple dogs, and/or small children, which sometimes made placing a foster dog tricky. In addition to those dogs on the list, HGA also accepted dogs needing immediate medical care as soon as possible in order for

them to start healing as quickly as possible from any injuries or illnesses.

Some retired dogs stayed in the Council Bluffs/Omaha area where HGA's adoption coordinator, Katie Stacey, did a tremendous job creating and supporting a network of foster homes and volunteers. Most of the dogs were moved to central Iowa, and some moved on from there to foster homes in other parts of the state. HGA also had a great working relationship with **Friends of Retired Greyhounds in Colorado**, which took some of these retirees. The two groups organized several hauls of multiple dogs over the years. HGA also works with MoKan and Northern Lights in Minnesota.

At the time the track closed, HGA was fortunate to have enough foster homes and support in place to take in the bulk of the dogs released. As some area farms had begun scaling back and releasing some of their breeding stock to HGA, a number of older

hounds entered the program. Dogs continue to come into HGA's program as a result of the closure and it is still working on hard numbers.

### **Planning for the Inevitable**

A few years ago, when HGA began to realize that the **track closure was inevitable**, its board's first step (other than to panic) was to develop a plan. There were a few complications, such as not knowing when closure would happen — the Iowa legislature was in charge of that — and not knowing how many dogs would need homes. Bluffs Run was a high-grade track, so HGA assumed many of the top racers would transfer to other tracks, but lacked concrete numbers.

HGA roughly estimated what it would cost to vet, house, feed, and generally care for one dog over an average stay in a foster



*Volunteers from across the state of Iowa stepped up to drive Greyhounds to available foster homes in various parts of the state.*

home or possibly in a boarding kennel. That number could be multiplied by the expected number of dogs to estimate the total cost to the group (however often that number might change). HGA's cost estimates turned out to be fairly accurate (it has been doing this for a while) and were very useful as members



*With an increase in the number of dogs needing foster homes, many HGA foster volunteers opened their homes to a greater number of hounds than they had in the past.*

lobbied state representatives and senators to ensure money for the welfare of the retired dogs was included in any **bill proposing the end of racing in Iowa**.

This was quite a learning process but the impact the very small, underfunded grassroots organization had on the final legislation was very rewarding. **The effort to end racing at Bluffs Run** (Dubuque Greyhound Track in Iowa is still operating under the management of

the **Iowa Greyhound Association**) took several years to get through state government. After a few years, HGA hired a lobbyist to keep up with the legislation and keep the dogs' needs visible. HGA is comprised of volunteers with full-time jobs who realized they could not keep up the necessary work on behalf of the dogs. Lobbying and staying in contact with the committee members working on the bill was essential. As HGA is racing-neutral, its first

and only concern was to ensure the dogs were legally provided for in the final legislation. HGA had no interest in influencing whether racing would be phased out or what the timetable might be, so legislators were very open to hearing the group's concerns and included funding for the care of the dogs as a provision of the legislation. As far as HGA is aware, Iowa is the first state to legislate a track-closure plan stipulating that funding must be provided for



*HGA was involved in a dog haul that also included Greyhound trainers and representatives from Friends of Retired Racers in Colorado. Pictured are (left to right), trainer Diane Yockum, HGA Vice-President Jody Phelps, HGA Omaha Coordinator Katie Stacey (backrow), Lee Rush of Friends of Retired Racers, and HGA fosters Mark Sall and Jed Perry.*

the Greyhounds displaced as a result of the closure. HGA believes being proactive — with a clear plan and estimated costs for dogs from the time they leave the track until adoption — was a large part of its success. HGA was able to educate legislators about the importance of providing for those costs.

The funds set aside to provide for the welfare of the retired dogs will be allocated through an extensive application process. To make a claim to cover the expenses of each dog HGA handles, the organization has to provide the date the Greyhound last raced, the date HGA received it, name of the kennel, and a copy of the **National Greyhound Association** paperwork accompanying the Greyhound and race line. HGA must



*HGA was still processing new intakes in April, months after Bluffs Run shut its doors.*

prove it has physically handled the Greyhound, that it is a no-kill shelter, prove the dog raced in Iowa, and that the Greyhound has been surrendered due to the cessation of racing. HGA then itemizes expenses for each dog and provides a W-9 form. This paperwork is still in process since HGA must wait until each Greyhound is adopted to finalize expenses. Overall, this has been a time- and money-consuming project.

## How HGA Made It Work

Bluffs Run **Greyhound Park closed Dec. 19, 2015**. Months before, HGA was in constant contact with trainers and owners, urging them to make early decisions about which dogs would be retired as the track closed, rather than waiting until the last. Phelps was the contact person for all 13 active kennels at the time. For at least six months before the closing, HGA saw a steady increase in the number of dogs entering its program.

Members traveled to Council Bluffs for dogs at least every two weeks. Omaha adoption coordinator Stacey was the point person for a tremendous effort from the members and supporters in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. Through those efforts, they were able to take in many dogs in that area.

Each dog that came off the track went through HGA's standard intake procedure upon entering foster care: treated for possible fleas and ticks with Comfortis, bathed, and tested with a cat to check prey drive and determine suitability for individual foster homes. Each dog received a new martingale collar and leash, a microchip, new or refurbished muzzle (if necessary), and a packet of information that stayed with the dog until it was adopted. Pictures were taken for the website and veterinarian appointments were arranged as soon as possible. HGA had fabulous cooperation from the veterinarians

it works with regularly, which was helpful in taking care of each dog.

All foster families receive a kennel, food, and any supplies HGA had on hand, such as



*As with any Greyhound entering HGA's adoption program, cat testing was performed on the Bluffs Run dogs as needed.*



*Some retired racing Greyhounds settling into the new foster homes with HGA volunteers.*

dog shampoo, toys, and treats. If the incoming dogs were moved to central Iowa, then the foster families would usually have a chance to meet the dogs, spend a little time together, and have input as to which dog seemed like

the best fit for their respective homes. As time allowed, each foster family would then take additional pictures and write a short biography for the website. The foster family was responsible for getting the dog to veterinarian

appointments and updating Phelps with any concerns or comments.

With so many more dogs entering its program, HGA stepped up efforts to promote Greyhounds as pets. HGA increased its meet-and-greet schedule, trying to hold events in new areas of potential adopters. It also held meet-and-greet events at the track right up to its closing. HGA also actively recruited new foster homes. Its unofficial motto became: “Even if you can only foster once, just for one dog, you can make a huge difference!” HGA held several workshops across the state to provide information and support for new foster families.

HGA also increased its presence on social media, mainly [Facebook](#), posting fun pictures from foster families. HGA was fortunate in having some energetic and creative members with the skills to create really fantastic videos and banners for the group. The efforts received some coverage from local newspapers



*A close working relationship with the kennel operators and trainers at Bluffs Run allowed HGA to keep a running list of all of the Greyhounds needing placement.*

and **television news programs**. Every little bit of additional exposure helped and everybody involved absolutely worked their tails off (pun intended).

In a perfect world, HGA's fund-raising efforts would have increased along with the number of dogs being accepted, but its limited resources of time and volunteers were focused mainly on getting the Greyhounds off the track and into foster homes in a timely manner. HGA typically managed to conduct a few fund-raising events a year, such as picnics, auctions, or contests that might raise a few thousand dollars each. The group is fortunate that some Greyhound owners sent donations when their dogs joined HGA's program. Since HGA usually loses at least a little money on each dog, it has made it a point to find free or discounted supplies whenever possible, applied for grants and diligently saved as much money as possible over the years to prepare for this eventuality. As a result, HGA

has never had to turn away a dog because of fear it could not cover medical expenses. More important, no dogs were left behind when Bluffs Run closed because they were injured or might need more involved care until they were ready for a pet home. HGA could never say money was not an issue, but thanks to being extremely conservative with its funds, costs have not dictated which dogs are taken in or the care they get.

All in all, the relationship HGA has built over the years with the owners and trainers in Iowa has been one of its greatest assets. HGA always puts the dogs first. A number of its most involved members have been with HGA since the beginning. Members have personally known some of the trainers for years, watched their kids and grandkids grow up, and are still close to them and keep in touch. Most HGA members have adopted several Greyhounds and many have failed fostering multiple times — for example, Phelps' family has grown

by two new Greyhounds since the track closed.

HGA's motto is "Off the track and into your heart." The trust, support, and teamwork it has had for years from its volunteers, adopters, owners, trainers, and other adoption groups makes it possible for HGA to work with so many great dogs, meet the demands of the Bluffs Run track closure, and live up to that motto. ■

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*About the author: Jody Phelps is vice president of Heartland Greyhound Adoption. She thanks the HGA board of directors — President Lorene King, Secretary Usa Helmick, Treasurer Ryan Hasty, and Members-at-Large Gretchen Meyer, Lori Murga, and Joe Shearer — for their help with this article. Jody welcomed Bluffs Run retirees Bilbo Jim Walker and Boc's Mr. Phelps into her home when the track closed. They joined Boc's Bullseye, Bart's Livewire, and a Whippet named Mocha at Jody's house.*



*Click the image to watch the video produced by Heartland Greyhound Adoption to promote Greyhound adoptions during the closing of Bluffs Run.*

# Life in the Slow Lane

A former full-time employee said, "Everything I know about retirement, I learned from my Greyhounds!"

By Barbara Williams



As professional athletes whose retirement planning extended no further than depending on the kindness of strangers, our Greyhounds have landed in the best post-career position imaginable. And I know it is not just my Greyhounds. We adopters of retired racers dote on them, giving them every comfort and care imaginable.

We have all seen the pictures on Facebook, assuming you indulge in social media. We see Greyhounds luxuriating on plush dog beds, enjoying treats of every kind imaginable, and sharing adventures at the beach or the mountains. *Nice life if you can get it*, many an envious human must think.

We adopted our Greyhounds, four and counting, in our later years, after our son had gone to college. While I still had many more working years ahead of me when our first Greyhound joined our home, he served as a study in the perfect retirement. I vowed to model my own exit from the workforce, if ever the day would come, on the lessons taught by Lancelot and each successive Greyhound who's joined our family.

Circumstance, a good deal of planning, and frugality (excluding Greyhound indulgences, of course) allowed me to retire the day after I turned 60. The coincidence of these events

*Sonic, adopted by Wendy Hengeli, of Hinckley, Ohio, through Team Greyhound Adoption of Ohio.*

was planned months in advance. How better to take the sting out of becoming a bona fide senior citizen than stepping out of the workforce?

Now three weeks into this strange new world of not working for a living, I am applying the lessons I learned from my retired racing Greyhounds.

First, I wake up when I want to or, more realistically, when a cold nose summons me from slumber. The alarm clock has been banished from my bedside nightstand, where it was handy to hit the snooze button for a blessed nine more minutes of sleep, to the far side of the bedroom. Luckily its display is large enough that my glassless eyes can still discern the numbers from that distance. The boys clearly let me know if I have exceeded the limits of their patience for commencing the day. The hounds are lucky that our bed isn't as comfy as theirs, or I might never get up.

Second, I now eat breakfast every morning, joining Rex and Poppy with a bowl of cereal similar to their bowls of kibble, which Poppy incidentally takes with milk. My work-life breakfast consisted of a single, unfrosted brown sugar and cinnamon breakfast pastry,



*The Williams hounds haven't retired from the meet-and-greet circuit, where 12-year-old Poppy still enjoys being a "donation dog."*

procured from the stash in my desk. My poor husband went without breakfast entirely and consequently wolfed down his lunch by 10:30 a.m. daily, leaving him ravenous by the time he got home each day.

For the next routine of the day, I equate my morning coffee and perusal of the newspaper and social media with the dogs' trip outside, lured with a glucosamine chew, for their morning constitutional and backyard news-gathering.

Next, we take a leisurely morning walk, no longer pressured by any demands of the clock. It is not a crisis if one of them does not take the poop that used to ensure we could go to work, confident that a smelly pile would not be in the middle of the floor at the end of the workday. If they don't give their all on the walk, so to speak, I am home to let them out if the need arises.

On our walks we take time to smell the flowers, the new streetlight poles being



*Barbara Williams is thoroughly enjoying her leisurely post-retirement walks with hounds Rex and Poppy.*

installed in our neighborhood, fire hydrants, mailboxes, and whatever else takes our fancy. Two out of the three of us will pee on all of these objects also. I'll leave it to you to guess which one of us declines.

Then it is home to rest from our excursion and rebuild our energy for the rest of the day. I indulge in some reading or catch up on my favorite television shows, especially those that do not meet my husband's criteria for watchability (i.e., anything science fiction or fantasy-oriented).

A light lunch follows, with our Greyhounds enjoying a midday treat just because I am there to give it to them. My workdays previously involved going out to lunch or stuffing myself with "Machine Cuisine" from the breakroom when I couldn't get away from my desk. Then I would not be hungry at dinnertime, in sharp contrast to my husband's ravenous state. More on that later.

When my energy level is rebuilt, I sprint



*Barbara Williams took a cue from retired racing Greyhound Poppy when beginning her own retirement from the workforce earlier this year.*

around the house taking care of whatever chores need to be addressed. This is the human equivalent of a Greyhound doing

"zoomies." When this occurs with our hounds, I let them outside to run three laps in the backyard, then they come in to collapse on



*Misty Rose, adopted by Ira Kupferberg and Joan Caroselli, of Staten Island, New York, has been a therapy dog for seven years and regularly visits nursing homes and hospitals.*

their beds until nature calls them again. When this occurs with this human (with guilt for being lazy being the motivator), chores are accomplished in quick bursts with periods of rest in between.

In the afternoon we take a walk, much in the mode of our morning perambulation. We take a different route for variety's sake. By the way, these walks serve as opportunities for me to do healthful squats via deep knee bends while collecting the products of the dogs' squats.

Then it's more rest (reading for me) followed by dinner. What is momentous for us since my retirement is that we're having home-cooked dinners, rather than whatever is in the freezer that could be heated up most quickly. My refrigerator now contains more "real" food rather than processed heat-and-eat items. Our Greyhounds appreciate these new flavors as they lick our plates or share in

the leftovers. Just the other day they enjoyed bits of the first pork chops I have grilled since 2007.

Dinner is followed by more lazing on the couch for me and orthopedic dog beds for them. This is when we indulge in the shows more to my husband's liking; the hounds have never indicated a preference.

A major benefit of this new world order is that a trip to the veterinarian is no longer a logistical nightmare of trying to juggle work schedules to meet our hounds' health needs — especially when they are pressing — against work crises (deadlines, deadlines, deadlines). I remember a friend once saying that her husband's earning power allowed her "flexibility" in her choices. I also remember envying that friend mightily, not for the economics of her situation, but for the reduction of stress inherent in it. Retirement has definitely allowed for flexibility and stress reduction for everyone in our household,

which was one of our goals in making this non-career choice. Proof of this concept: Poppy was able to have a corn removed at the veterinarian's office to cure a limp (with the concomitant stress relief that the limp was not due to the osteosarcoma that has already claimed two of our hounds) without having to move the world to take care of his pain.

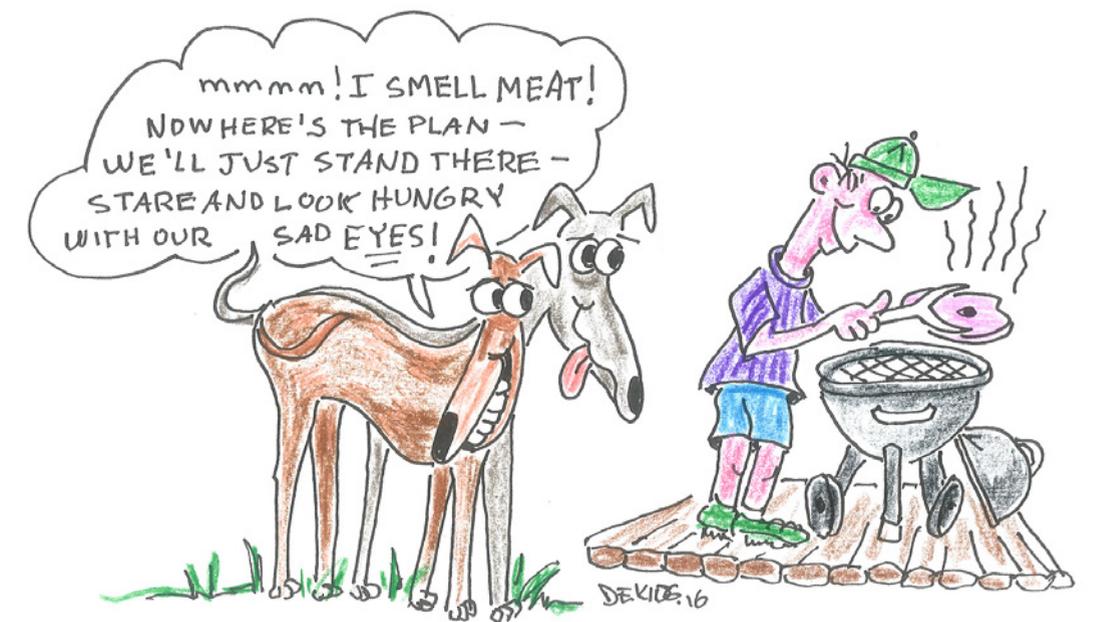
A side benefit of retirement is that I no longer feel guilty about leaving Rex and Pop if my husband and I decide to indulge in dinner and a drink or two out during the workweek. Formerly, I was wracked with guilt for deserting our hounds after they had been left home alone all day. Now that they've had the pleasure of my company — not to mention my services — all day, I am comfortable skipping out for an hour or two one evening each week.

To say I've gotten into our Greyhounds' groove is undeniable. Their needs ruled our lives before my retirement, so it was a

safe guess that the situation would continue once I was home with them all day. Now their habits have been adopted as my model of retirement perfection: Rest, repast, relax, run, repeat. ■

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*About the author: Barbara Williams, a section editor for Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, is happily retired.*



# Wiener Mania!

Greyhound and Wiener dogs may seem like an odd pair, but they sure know how to team up for a good cause.

By Abby Zufelt

Arizona Adopt-A-Greyhound held its 20th annual Wiener Mania, the largest Dachshund racing event in Arizona, on March 12, 2016. It took place at Phoenix, Arizona's horse racing track Turf Paradise.

This year, the rescue teamed up with Happy Tails Dachshund Rescue. Proceeds from the event went to both rescues to aid in covering shelter fees, including: spaying, neutering, and veterinarian visits for the animals. Event festivities included dog adoptions, a Greyhound and Dachshund parade on the racetrack, a Wiener dog costume contest, local vendors selling dog-inspired items, and horse racing between the Wiener dog races.

Volunteers with Arizona Adopt-A-



*The Wiener dogs run while the crowd cheers them on.*



*Jake, a retired racing Greyhound from Tucson, Arizona, walked the event as a "donation dog." Attendees could donate by sticking money in his vest pockets.*

Greyhound, including Jesse and Carla Boan, walked their own adopted Greyhounds at the event as "donation dogs." These hounds were clad in vests with pockets, so attendees could stick donations in their pockets as they walked past. "It definitely helps to have events like this so they can keep it affordable for people, so they can adopt them," Carla Boan said.

The Boans got involved with Arizona Adopt-A-Greyhound after adopting their retired racing Greyhound, Jake, almost two years ago. They like volunteering at the event because "Jake gets a lot of affection and it's a good way to promote the breed and get people to donate and help the rescue," Jesse Boan said.



*Greyhounds dressed in jerseys and Wiener dogs in costume walked the horse track before the event for the dog parade.*

Happy Tails Rescue had an area with Wiener dogs ready to be adopted. The foster-based rescue was happy to team up with the Arizona Adopt-A-Greyhound foundation for the event. "You've got all these Dachshund lovers in one place and it's good to see the races and all of this enthusiasm," Mary Larson, founder of



*Dachshunds take off at the starting line during the trials.*

Happy Tails Rescue, said.

The event began with a dog parade along the track. Spectators watched Dachshunds of different colors and varieties sporting outfits that included items from tutus to top hats.

Greyhounds also walked beside them.

The Wiener dog races were held on the grass. Eight Wiener dogs at a time would race to their owners at the finish line across the small field.

Lauryn Libby and her black and tan Dachshund, Tag, had been training for Wiener Mania at a local park to get him ready for the races. Their hard work paid off when he won the first trial race. "He's super excited about his win. He's trying to get everyone to give him gifts and food," Libby said as she was holding Tag in her arms.

Libby adopted Tag from a Dachshund rescue in 2008 and has been attending Wiener Mania for the past four years. "He came from one of the Dachshund rescues that they support, so we like to give back. We like supporting it and we try to raise as much money as we can. "It's a really great cause," Libby said.

Greyhounds and Wiener dogs may be different but both breeds raced into the hearts of all who were in attendance. ■



*After winning first place in the first trial, Tag takes a picture with his owner, Lauryn Libby, and his first-place ribbon.*

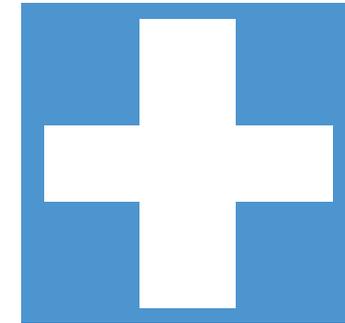
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*About the author: Arizona native Abby Zufelt is a senior at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Abby has had a passion for dogs and dog rescue since childhood. She enjoys going to Greyhound adoption events and writing about a breed that she cares so much about.*

# Healing with Amniotic Material

The top 10 things you should know about the latest in regenerative treatments.

By Brandon Ames



## 1. What is a regenerative treatment?

Regenerative treatments belong to a new branch of medicine that seeks to promote the regrowth of healthy tissue and bone by using biological material. These augment what the body cannot do naturally or stimulate the body's own restoration capabilities and thereby return the damaged area to normal function. At the heart of this research is the understanding of how to rejuvenate tissue and grow bone, despite areas of the body that lack sufficient blood flow to attract nutrients and environmental effects that cause retarded growth.

## 2. What are the latest types of regenerative therapies?

There are many forms of regenerative treatments such as concentration, in-vitro growth, banking, stimulation, and collection. Concentration is simply condensing the body's own healing properties. For instance, by extracting a large quantity of blood (50ml) and using a special process to spin that blood in a centrifuge, you can extract platelets that contain the body's own regenerative powers to aid in the healing of an area. This is known as platelet-rich plasma. In vitro growth involves growing

the body's own stem cells outside the body, then re-implanting these cell in the damaged area. In animals, this is done by harvesting bone marrow from the sternum or by liposuctioning fat from the animal to retrieve these stem cells, then culturing them in-vitro for a period of time to have enough to treat the injury. Some treatments require some forethought, such as saving the umbilical cord blood obtained during the birth of the animal. This blood is rich in stem cells and may be stored for future use.

One of the most prevalent regenerative treatments consists of stimulation of injured



Day 0 Xray



Day 0



Day 15



Day 25

*Zuko, a 1½ year-old male German Shepard was shot in the left hind stifle on 1/14/16. Upon presentation, there were numerous fractured tarsal bones and lead fragments visible on radiographs. The CanisCell StemWrap allograft was applied on 1/25/16.*

areas using mechanical devices to attract the body's natural healing capabilities. Much like a back rub makes your back feel better by stimulating blood flow to the

muscles, these devices, such as shockwave and low light or cold laser, create micro disruptions in the tissue to spur low level inflammation, which attracts the body's

own healing.

The newest biotechnology is the use of amnion.

### 3. **What is amnion and where does it come from?**

Amnion is the innermost membrane that contains the fetus of a mammal, reptile, or bird prior to birth. This membrane and the surrounding fluid protect the fetus and are responsible for the greatest growth spurt in the animal's life. The amnion and the outer chorion sacs are immune-privileged and the reason mothers do not reject the foreign body growing within them. It is one of the miracles of childbirth, and the key factor in why this tissue and fluid can be used for regenerative treatments in other animals. This material is rich in all the basic building blocks of tissue and bone such as collagen, growth factors, hyaluronic acid, carbohydrates, and proteins essential for fetal development and growth. These materials can be used in other animals without the fear of rejection.

Amnion is collected non-invasively during the birthing of healthy animals. Animal owners with pregnant pets allow the collection during normal birthing of those newborns. All deliveries are veterinarian-assisted, with the health and safety of the animals as the paramount concern.

### 4. **What is the history of the use of amnion as a regenerative treatment?**

Amniotic material has been used as a regenerative medicine for wound healing and burns since the early 1900s. The beneficial use of amnion as a wound treatment has been well documented through the 1970s. Recent literature has expounded on the regenerative effects of amniotic material in treating defects and injuries of connective soft tissue in humans. In 2010, the use of amniotic material gained significant resurgence as a treatment for diabetic wounds. Due

to its ability to heal chronic, hard-to-heal wounds, the technology has transcended to be used on a variety of tissue injuries from orthopedic to ocular issues in humans.

### 5. **How and why does this technology work?**

The secret is inflammation. Inflammation is the reaction to an infection or injury that causes the cell signaling needed to recruit the body's regenerative abilities to respond to that infection or injury. In the case of an infection, white blood cells are enlisted to fight the infection. As for an injury, inflammation summons the body's regenerative capabilities to rebuild the damaged area. When damage happens in an area with good blood flow, the body heals itself very well. If there is poor blood flow, then scar tissue forms in place of real tissue.

Injuries in animals are similar to a



*Lily, adopted by Sian Greenock of France.*

tornado ripping a house from its foundation. All of the parts of the tissue that are injured are scattered around and left structurally damaged or weakened. Once the trauma is over, the pain starts and we emerge from our cellar to assess the damage. The body responds by initiating hemostasis (blood clotting) within minutes and begins the process of inflammation.

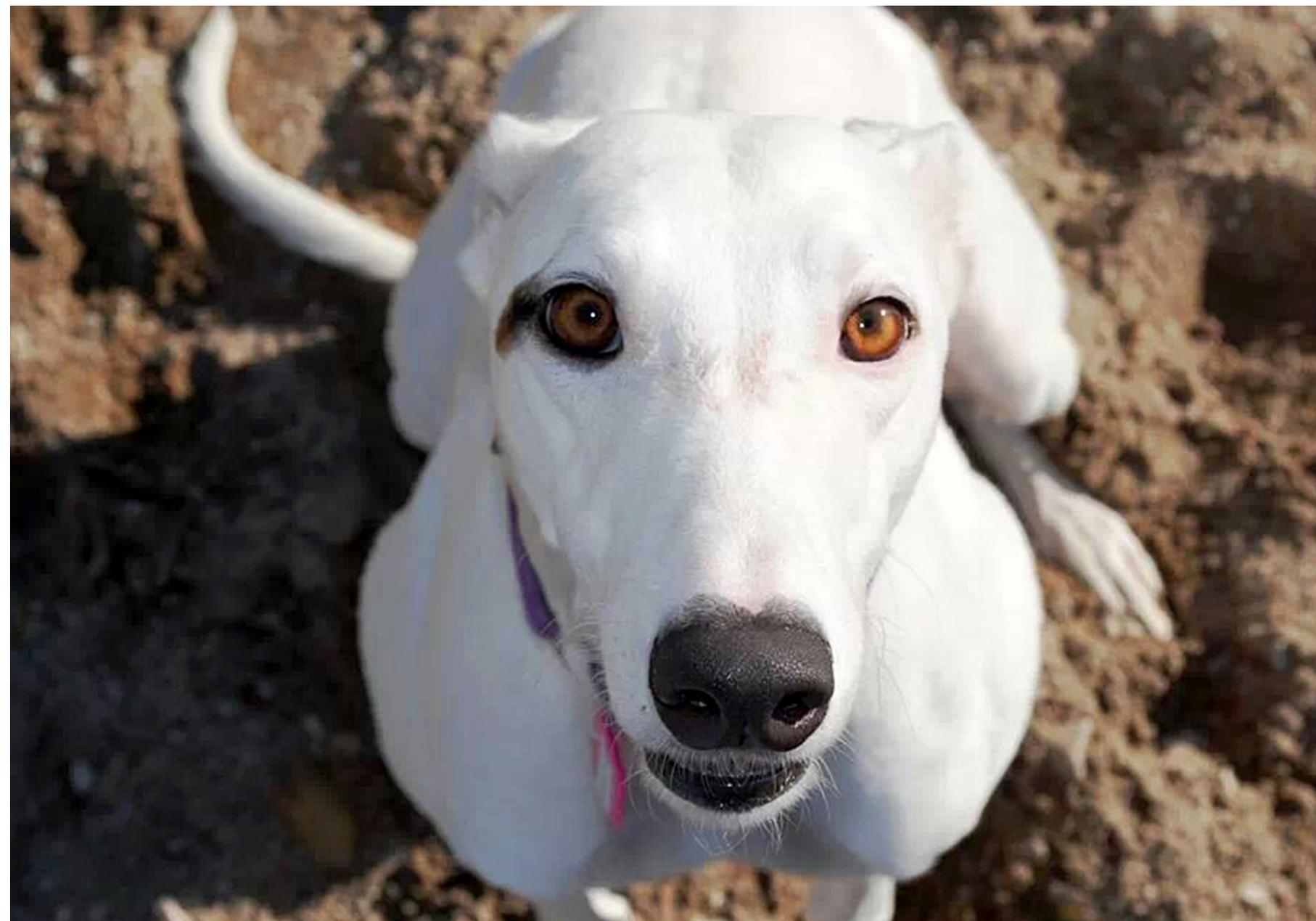
Inflammation is the way the body calls out for help to make the pain stop and repair the injury. Herein lies the challenge. Typically, the volunteers

who can get to the damaged area lack the skills needed to help rebuild. The ones that are needed can't get there because of the remoteness of the location. You know, the old duct-tape-and-baling-wire analogy.

The body works in a very similar way. In conformationally compromised areas, like certain parts of the legs and joints, the body lacks the blood flow to get the necessary material there to repair the damaged tissue. Similar to your volunteers, the inflammation recruits what material it can get and starts to rebuild with that, even though it may not be structurally sound or cosmetically appealing. Hence, we get proud flesh and scar tissue as a result.

In an effort to help this process and rebuild properly after a tornado, we reach out to a building contractor whose skilled team rebuilds the home to its original specification.

Until now, we have done the very same thing in treating damaged ligaments and tendons. We have treated the injury with bone marrow or adipose stem cells, sending in the construction team to rebuild the tissue. The issue here is that we are simply sending more home builders, project managers, and some bricks to rebuild the tissue. But we are not providing the material needed to rebuild the extra cellular matrix (ECM), which are the components damaged in any injury. ECM is the mortar that holds cells together to create connective tissue. Using amniotic material is like air-dropping not only the construction team, but a container full of these basic components needed to rebuild the house. This material comes with all of the foundational mortar needed to connect those bricks together and rebuild that tissue



*Clarice (Clarice McBones), adopted by Kristin Harrington through Quad Cities Greyhound Adoption in Maysville, Iowa.*

to its genetic specification, much like it did for the fetus in the womb.

6. **What are the advantages over other treatments?**

Amniotic material has many inherent advantages over other treatments.

A) Safer – It is non-invasive. It does not require painful harvesting of bone marrow or fat, and does not have the risk of sedation or anesthetics.

B) Better – Amniotic material is fetal material safely collected during parturition, as opposed to coming from an aged or potentially unhealthy adult source. Adult cells and material are more inconsistent, relying on the health and age of donor. The adult cells are also multipotent, which limits the types of differentiation based on their harvested source. Amnion is pivotal in the growth of the entire newborn animal, and contains all the basic building blocks

of healthy tissue.

C) Faster – Amnion is immune-privileged. It is the miracle of childbirth. Amnion lacks the blood antigens that would normally elicit an inflammatory immune response. This means the body will not recognize it as a foreign tissue. Amnion can be processed, banked, and used on any animal as a regenerative treatment on the same or the next day.

D) Lower cost – It does not require shipping of a collection kit for a fat or bone marrow sample, the time to culture it for a month, or the need for multiple applications.

E) Convenient – The veterinarian is not required to make a substantial investment in training or harvesting equipment, and treatments can be performed in the field.

F) Immediacy – It is available for treatment during the acute inflammatory

phase, when the most inflammation exists, allowing a much better and quicker repair to the tissue.

7. **What can these treatments be used on?**

These human-tested, animal-approved treatments can be used on a host of ailments, such as superficial wounds, orthopedic injuries, eye issues such as corneal ulcers, early stage osteoarthritis, and other debilitating joint issues.

8. **How long does it take?**

These treatments, depending on the issue, are typically a one-time visit to the veterinarian. For orthopedic and joint-related issues, the amniotic material is injected around the affected area. In eyes, the material is applied in the form of a membrane or drops. For superficial wounds, the material is topically adhered as a biological bandage. Recovery times can vary depending on the age and health

of the animal, but to date, veterinarians are seeing improvement in both quality of the repair and a shortened time until the animals return to normal activities.

9. **What are the risks?**

Amniotic treatments come with very few risks which typically center on the actual application of the product and not the product itself. Since this is new to animals, we tend to look at the risks found in human uses for this type of treatment. There have been approximately 35,000 cases of amniotic use in humans with no debilitating results documented. Some patients have had some minor swelling or initial discomfort, but all have subsided within 12-24 hours. Side effects are few, with the most common being that the product actually treats other areas of inflammation in the body beyond the initial treatment area.



*Hunter, adopted by Alice O'Hearn of Las Vegas through Greyhound Adoption Center in El Cajon, California.*

10. **Where can I find amniotic treatments?**

Amniotic treatments must be performed by a veterinarian. Simply ask your veterinarian about this type of regenerative treatment and whether it could be a suitable alternative to the typical standard of care. ■

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*About the Author: Brandon Ames is the founder and CEO of AniCell Biotech LLC. AniCell preserves the active life of animals through the use of amniotic material. AniCell is located in Chandler, Arizona, and has been instrumental in adapting amnion biotechnology for use in animals. At the end of the day, AniCell is in the recycling business. We are simply reusing nature's blessings, which would otherwise end up on the ground, to restore the active life of dogs and horses, "one miracle at a time." For more information, contact AniCell at [www.anicellbiotech.com](http://www.anicellbiotech.com) or call 888-918-2637.*



*Raider, Jessie, Gilligan, and Polly all live in Forest Hill, Maryland, and were adopted through Greyhound Pets of America-Maryland. Jessie and Gilligan were adopted by Karen and Kevin Penharlow. Raider and Polly were adopted by Morgan and Ryan Anderson.*

# February Beach

By Deborah Jarvis



On a February morning, down the Cape,  
My friend Russ and I traveled with you, my hounds.  
Tall and quiet, you, Whith, stood, refusing to lie down  
As you watched the scenery through the windshield,  
Your black body a firm obstruction in my rearview.  
You, Gracie, smaller and striped like an autumn tiger,  
Lay quietly enjoying the ride, fazed by nothing,  
But excited by the scenery and the company nonetheless.

We traveled the length of the land, to the very tip.  
Out to Race Point Beach, where the seagulls darted  
And the wind played as we flip-flopped our way  
Through the ice cold sand and the salt sea spray.  
It was here that I dared to pursue the dreaded desire,  
To let you run free upon the beach, without limit,  
Without anyway to curb your unskilled freedom,  
Or check your flight in any way beyond voice or love.

I watched you, my hounds, as you leapt from my side.  
Normally restrained by leash or fence, or inside walls  
Your feet took wings to fly and soared you onwards,  
Speeding along the winter beach, length by length,  
And sailing you aloft to the top of the high dunes,  
Almost, but not quite, out of sight and sound above.  
You stopped, two lean hounds, falcons of fur,  
Peering down at my poor, grounded, and heavy soul.

My fear of your flight, yet desire for it, was akin,  
I thought, to what a falconer must feel each time  
He looses his bird into the air, trusting a bond  
Based on mutual trust; that his companion will  
Return to him once again from the dizzying heights.  
For a long moment, you stood immune to my call and  
My rising panic; the knots in my stomach increasing,  
And making it hard to breathe until...

You turn, like dulcet doves, and flutter back to me,  
As calm as the wild wind now tamed to my hand.  
Once more gently grounded, once more on earth,  
No longer in flight, you are happy and safe again,  
Tongues lolling, eyes bright, and coats gleaming over  
Iron framework and soft, elastic, muscled flesh.  
A masterpiece of man's hand and God's design:  
A torrent, a whirlwind, and a storm finally at rest.

The whole way home, you both sleep. Small wonder!  
Your soft sighs and twitching paws tell me that  
Even though you are safe home again, your souls  
Still fly on the beach. In your restless dreams,  
You are dogs-of-air, not tied to the earth, but free  
From all earthly cares, the wind rushing through  
Your swept-back ears, your eyes bright on the horizon,  
And your hearts bursting to run to the end of creation. ■

# You're Invited

## July 21-24, 2016

### **The Grapehound Wine Tour® – New York**

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## Aug. 5-7, 2016

### **Greyt Escape, Kennels to Kouches Wheeling, West Virginia**

The Greyt Escape presents a unique look at the life of the racing Greyhound, from puppyhood through racing and retirement. You will hear lectures from a fantastic mix of speakers, including the world-renowned Dr. Guillermo Couto. The included Sighthound Wellness Conference offers a rare chance to listen to and ask questions of a host of Greyhound-savvy veterinarians. If you are at all interested in what makes Greyhounds do what they do, you don't want to miss this! This event has everything, including a banquet dinner, vendor



*Kennedy, adopted by Alice O'Hearn of Las Vegas through Greyhound Adoption Center in El Cajon, California.*

marketplace, raffles, live and silent auctions, tours, lunch and learn, and more, all in a beautiful setting.

<http://greytescape2016.eventzilla.net>

[www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org](http://www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org)

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

[GreytEscapeKennelToKouches/](https://www.facebook.com/GreytEscapeKennelToKouches/)

**Sept. 22-25, 2016**

**Beach Bound Hounds**

**Greyhound Crossroads**

**Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

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activities for the four days except a few special opportunities with a fee attached, like Canine Good Citizen Certification. Events include hound skinny dipping, a sunrise beach walk, workshops, seminars, vendors, bingo, movie night contests, auctions, raffles and more!

[beachboundhounds.com](http://beachboundhounds.com)

[beachyhounds@yahoo.com](mailto:beachyhounds@yahoo.com)

**Oct. 6-8, 2016**

**Greyhounds Reach the Beach**

**Dewey Beach, Delaware**

Greyhounds Reach the Beach completed its 21st year of celebrating Greyhounds and Greyhound adoption in October 2015. The event brings friends together with their hounds in the seaside communities of Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, on Columbus Day weekend every year. The event features top speakers from the Greyhound and sighthound world, including behaviorists, veterinarians, counselors, adoption

professionals, and international breed experts. It also features small group seminars on everything from dealing with the grief of losing a pet or the importance of Greyhound blood donations to the work of the volunteers at Scooby in Spain. The event features more than 50 vendors in many locations in the Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach area along with food, special events, an ice cream social for the hounds, and more.

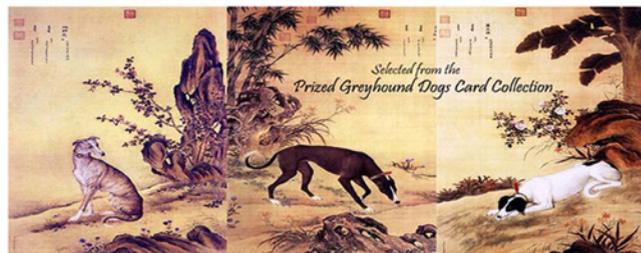
[www.grtb.org](http://www.grtb.org)

[admin@grtb.org](mailto:admin@grtb.org)



*Nori, adopted by Joanne Ardizzone of Las Vegas through Greyhound Adoption and Rescue in Henderson, Nevada.*

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Summer	May 1
Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1

**Questions?**

Please contact us at  
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 with any additional questions.

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*Dr. Guillermo Couto, DVM, President*

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