

# CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS

THE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2000

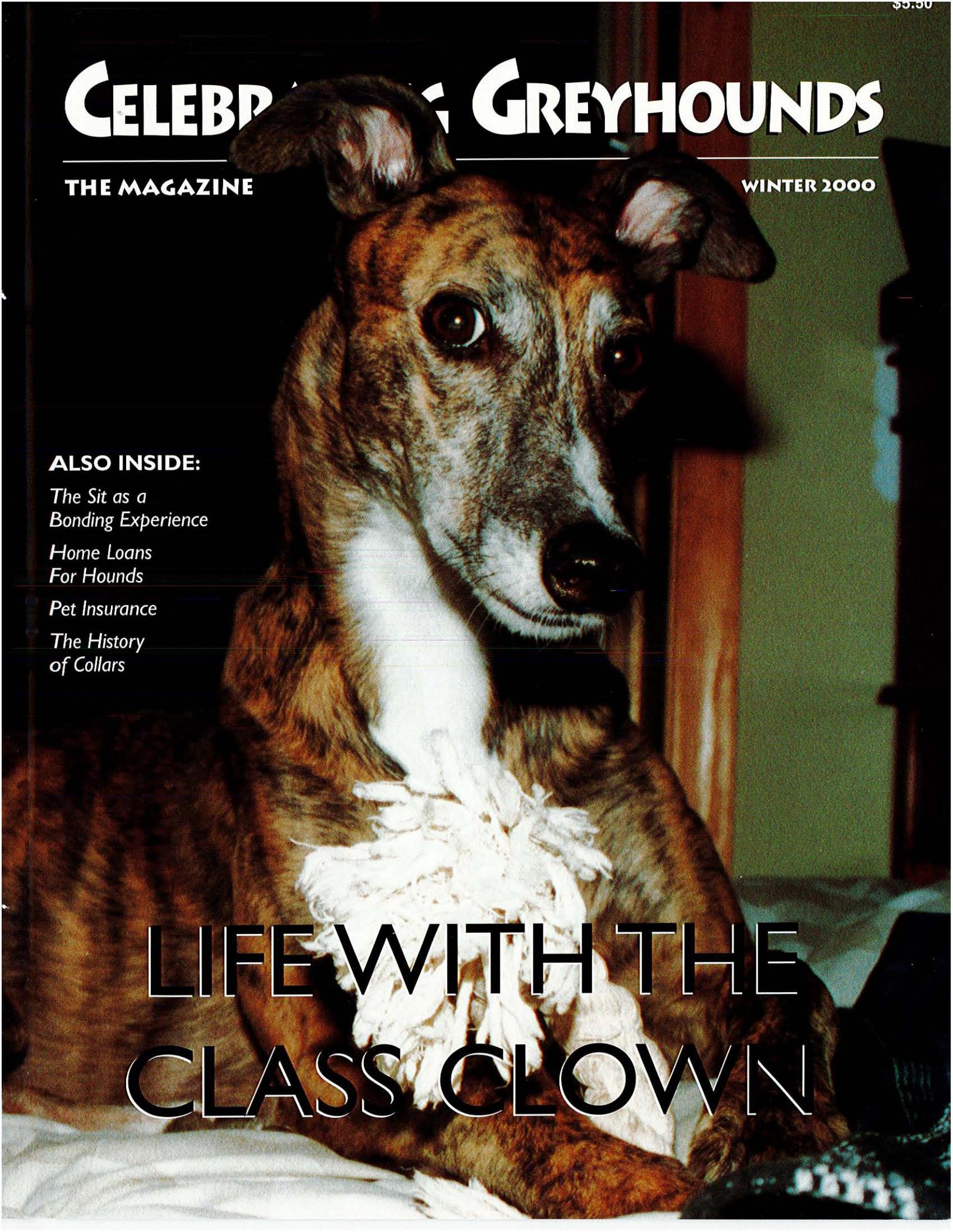
**ALSO INSIDE:**

*The Sit as a Bonding Experience*

*Home Loans For Hounds*

*Pet Insurance*

*The History of Collars*



LIFE WITH THE  
CLASS CLOWN

# In Loving Memory: Joan Dillon



On September 26, 2000, an adoption pioneer died at age 58. From 1996-2000 Joan Dillon worked tirelessly for The Greyhound Project. She wrote more than 1,000 trivia, historical, travel, and fiction articles for *CG Magazine* and other publications until she no longer could get to her computer. Her last article appeared in our Fall 2000 issue. In addition to writing regularly for *CG*, Joan was also our copy editor, proofreader, as well as the subscription and advertising manager until her illness forced her to stop those aspects in 1999.

Shortly before her death Joan had begun a Greyhound fiction story for *CG* and had hoped she would be able to finish it. It was not to be. We will miss you, Joan.

Below is an abridged version of an article written by Carole Osborne in the Fall issue of the *GPA Communique*. She got to read it before she died and was pleased. The full version of the story should be online at [www.greyhoundpets.org/news.html](http://www.greyhoundpets.org/news.html). Please read the full version there.

*Who is Joan Dillon? You might ask this question if you are new to the Greyhound adoption movement. Joan's never-ending efforts began in the early 1980's when Joan and a group of folks from Massachusetts began the New England Retired Greyhounds as Pets (REGAP) adoption program.*

*At that time, next to nothing was known about the ex-racing Greyhound as a pet. There was very little, if any, literature designed to educate the public; most veterinarians had little or no experience with the ex-racers and of course, there was no Internet. Joan was one of the pioneers who spear-headed the efforts for public awareness.*

*In early 1987, Joan and the New England REGAP folks invited some adoption groups across the country to join in the formation of a national Greyhound placement organization and on April 4, 1987 Greyhound Pets of America was formed. The first GPA National meeting was held in Abilene, Kansas on October 18, 1987 and of course Joan was there to represent GPA/Massachusetts. While a member of GPA, Joan was the only member who attended every GPA national meeting.*

*By mid 1988, Joan had started a new GPA chapter known as Belmont Lakes Region (later renamed as GPA/Central New Hampshire.) It was common for Joan to travel more than 200 miles round trip every weekend while starting and nurturing the GPA/Central New Hampshire chapter. Joan was also the force behind working with the Belmont Lakes Region Greyhound Park for Greyhound adoptions.*

*In late 1990 she became the GPA 800# operator for New England and the eastern portion of Canada. The national GPA's newsletter, (GPA Communique) began in January 1992 and Joan contributed many articles to it. She is well known for her writing abilities and was nominated for an award from the Dog Writers Association of America for a fundraising cookbook produced by GPA/Central New Hampshire.*

*In 1994, Joan became the GPA National Corresponding Secretary and doubled her duties by taking on the responsibilities of the Executive Secretary who had, unfortunately, become very ill.*

*In 1996, Joan resigned from GPA and became a member of The Greyhound Project.*

# CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS

THE MAGAZINE

The purpose of the magazine 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.

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# CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS

The Magazine for Greyhound Adopters, Owners, and Friends

Vol. 5; No. 4 Winter 2000



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Brodie has that mischievous look. Photo is from Bonnie Hunter and Joe Borg, Toronto ON Canada.

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**Training, Cats, and Non-jogging Greyhounds**

In regard to the letter stating: “Greyhounds are companions. Train your [spouse] ... if you want a pet. If [future adoptees]... plan to teach tricks we tell them to... get a dog! Greyhounds are companions!”

First, I am now feeling guilty when I pet my Greyhound behind the ears—even though she pats her paw to ask—instead of just letting her lie companionably on the bed. Second, it would certainly amaze the animal taxonomists to find out that a Greyhound is not a dog.

As to Greyhounds vs. cats: My Greyhound, whose prey drive has been encouraged by coursing jackrabbits and when on lead certainly has tried for neighbors’ cats in their front yard, spent 10 days at the vets, indoors, loose with several cats without a problem. Thus a single test can be wrong either way.

On page 38 it is mentioned that a Greyhound “was totally exhausted after... daily two-hour walks” because “the breed was not designed for this.” The real reason had to be that the hound was totally out of shape. While sprinters aren’t endurance walkers, a 100-yard dash human would not be exhausted by a two-hour walk; and an animal that can run 45 miles an hour can walk for hours at four or five miles an hour.

I remain your loyal reader who is amazed by some of the stuff you publish.

*Steve Church  
via the Internet*

**Tricks and Training**

In regards to Jack Brickling’s letter to the editor in your summer issue, I feel I must comment on his view of teaching tricks to Greyhounds.

He believes we should not be teaching tricks because a Greyhound has had enough training. What Mr. Brickling fails to understand is that training is not a control issue (depending on your method of training) but a method of communication.

I clicker train my dogs and have to tell you that perhaps the word training is the wrong word. With the clicker it becomes a game that establishes a rapport between person and dog. Nothing could be better for a new Greyhound coming into a strange house

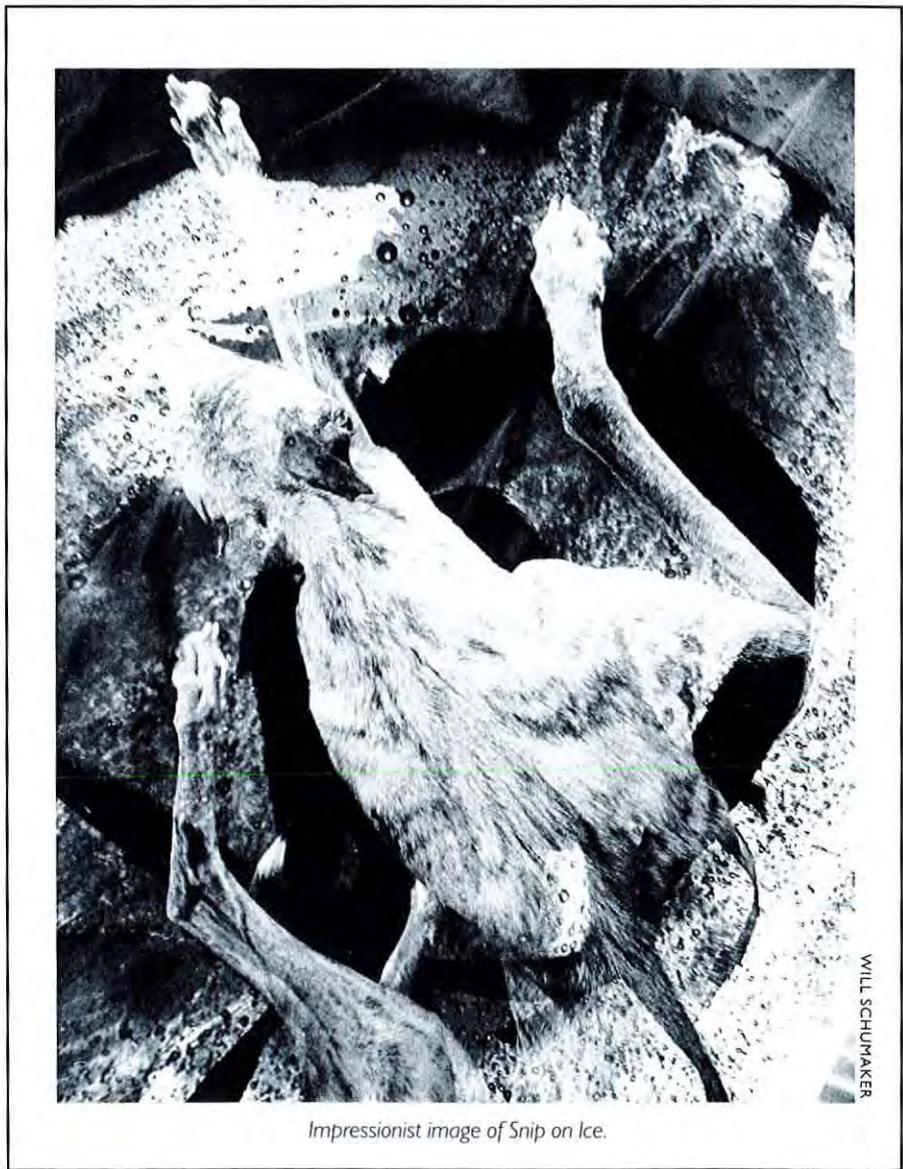
than to find out that certain behaviors causes a person to dole out treats! This is a fun game. Yes the dog is retired from racing, but not retired from living or from using its brain or from having some fun.

When people ask me if my dogs are trained, I never know how to answer that. Trained to do what? Trained to bark? Trained to sit? Trained to pull on the leash? Trained to run? Trained to hunt cats? Trained to go in its crate? I have a constant rapport with all of my dogs and we are constantly learning new things. The dogs love it! They get very excited when I bring out my training pouch (clicker and treats).

Regardless of whether I’m teaching a

recall (which could save a dog’s life) or how to high-five, we’re still having fun. I think it’s very sad when people do nothing with their dogs. Unfortunately I see a lot of that with Greyhounds; because they’re “retired” people are afraid to ask anything of them and so the dog leads a very boring life.

I don’t care what you teach your dog (and he probably doesn’t care either) but spending a few minutes playing with your dog to teach him something can only benefit the relationship. I think it’s a tragedy that people would be turned down from adopting a Greyhound because they are willing to actually spend time with the dog to develop a rapport based on communication.



*Impressionist image of Snip on Ice.*

WILL SCHUMAKER

And on a closing note, Greyhounds are dogs! Ignoring that fact can only lead to tragedy.

*Louise Hoelscher  
Boucherville, Quebec*

*Louise Hoelscher's Greyhound Whisper has seven Agility titles from both American and Canadian events and loved every minute of getting them. —Ed*

### Complimentary Copies for Special Needs Adoptions

Thank you for the two [complimentary] issues of *Celebrating Greyhounds*. The articles, specifically the ones on deafness, blindness, and the loss of your pet were very informative. We especially appreciated the web addresses that were listed, such as the one with free patterns for pet apparel. We intend to subscribe to this fine publication.

*The Easlars  
Via the Internet*

*We received a similar note from Becky Carn. The Greyhound Project gives a free copy of the magazine to people who adopt a special needs dog or a dog who is a senior dog (7-years or older). Please read more about this in this issue's News section.—Ed*

### Article Reprints

Recently our local dog park has seen an influx of new Greyhounds and owners. Like most of us when we were inexperienced, these new Greyhound owners, or "newbies," don't understand how their sweet love muffin can change into a raving lunatic when in the presence of a half dozen running hounds. I would like to copy or obtain reprints of the article "Why Don't We Talk About What Our Dogs Really Are" to distribute to these owners who have never seen the pack/chase instinct in their dogs."

*Sandy Anjard  
Via the Internet*

*If anyone wishes to reprint articles for newsletters, please contact the editor. The editor will attempt to hook up the author and the requester. The author will approve or deny the request.—Ed*

### WARNING: GRAPHIC MEDICAL MATERIAL INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

As usual, I marvel at the wonderful range of articles readers and regular contributors send to *CG Magazine*. However, this issue requires a warning: *if any readers are squeamish about looking at surgical procedures—a spay surgery in this case—please avoid the article on laser surgery*. On the other hand, for readers with a medical bent, this article is for you! It contains a photo essay of a laser spaying from start to finish. Laser surgery has been around a few years, but for an invasive surgery like a spaying, it is wonderful because of the reasons detailed in the article.

This issue is packed with fascinating articles including ways to fundraise while helping people as well as Greyhounds; how to do a home visit; more on pet insurance; the importance of "the sit" as a bonding experience; the history of dog collars; Greyhound rescue here and abroad. We even explain "What is The Greyhound Project, anyway?" and include a two-part fiction piece titled "Coyote Dog." Other medical articles (I really love them, can you tell?) include dealing with a rare type of cervical stroke and pancreatitis. We introduce a new column on canine medications called Exploring Drug Therapies.

From now on I will get on my soapbox and tell you what is *not* inside this issue.

An article by John Hendrickson about conquering Sabot's spookiness and seizures is not being published. The author and his wife thought they had gotten the seizures under control. John wrote the article. One day they came home and found a horrible scene. Sabot had gone into "status." He had had a very long seizure or series of seizures while alone and suffered irreversible brain damage. They had to say goodbye to Sabot. Our deepest sympathies to the Hendricksons.

Still on medical matters is another heartbreaker regarding hypothyroidism and kidney disease. L. Rozycki's lovely Greyhound, Cashmere, passed away from kidney failure due to a misdiagnosis and treatment of a *thyroid problem that never existed*. I urge everyone to use extreme caution when treating your Greyhound for hypothyroidism when the levels are simply low—normal.

Thyroid medications are a blessing when used correctly. However, the over-use or misuse of thyroxine (generic name for drugs such as Soloxine, Levoxine, and others) is life threatening. Using thyroxine is also a lifetime commitment. After a period of time on the medication, the dog's thyroid gland shuts down permanently and the medication replaces the hormones that the thyroid gland would normally secrete. Although this is an oversimplification of a complicated subject fraught with disagreement and a subject about which many veterinarians and Greyhound owners are reluctant to even write about, I am not reluctant about stating my opinion. I saw the effects of this drug on one of my own dogs.

Chaucer had a so-called low-normal thyroid level. He was also losing his voice. Those two symptoms are two markers of hypothyroidism. (He did not have the classic bald butt syndrome.) Reluctantly, I gave him a low dose of Soloxine. After a month on it, he had a toxic reaction to it. His throat closed. He panicked, went outside in a terrible rainstorm, and tried to dig a hole in which to bury himself. The reality was that he did not have hypothyroidism. The Soloxine caused false *hyperthyroidism*. He actually had a thyroid tumor causing his low thyroid levels and loss of normal bark. I urge everyone to remember Cashmere and Chaucer and not let tragedies like this happen to your Greyhound.

Take care. I mean *really* take care.

*Marcia Herman*

**Acepromazine Warning**

Your warning about acepromazine alone is worth the price of many subscriptions. I believe many veterinarians are not aware of its danger to Greyhounds.

In the early-'90s my excellent veterinarian prescribed "ace" 25 mg twice a day to my Cheryl to "quiet her gut." She was experiencing chronic gastric upset. A single Bufferin could cause her projectile vomiting for 12 hours.

Aware that the usual dosage is 3 mg/pound, I trustingly popped her a pill right there in the office and drove home. By the time we got home eight minutes later, Cheryl could only stagger to a dog bed. She stayed there 16 hours! Her gums were pink and her breathing was normal. When she finally got up, she was normal. Neither the veterinarian nor I realized that her extreme sensitivity to the drug was a characteristic of the breed, and not just a weakness of Cheryl.

Thank you also for Kate Bressler's "The Best Dog I will Ever Have...." I lost my Laurie at age 13, and she was, as Kate Bressler put it, "my heart dog." Tears come as I write this, but the article is a treasure.

Gini Brown  
Laconia, New Hampshire

*We can thank Kathleen Gilley for the important information on acepromazine. She wants the word spread far and wide. We can thank Kate and Shannon for making countless people aware of the joys of adopting older Greyhounds. —Ed*

**Laryngeal Paralysis**

I found the Kate Traxel's laryngeal paralysis article in Summer 2000 very interesting because my Greyhound, Knight, was diagnosed with LP three-and-a-half years ago. While Kate's dog had the tieback, ours had the tissue removal. Knight's relief was immediate, his recovery swift. He is not a gulper, so he didn't have to relearn eating. However, pig's ears are no longer on the menu.

He was 12 in August and gets around pretty well. The air conditioning has helped greatly on muggy days. Thanks for another well-done, informational article on how to help our dear dogs.

Jini Foster  
Framingham, Mass.



SARAH JONES

*Sarah Jones' dogs speak out!*

**On Death, Dying, and Dogs**

Thank you so much for publishing the insightful and sensitively written article by Cynthia Branigan. It was because of her book, *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*, that I decided to adopt an ex-racer in the first place. I dread the fact that he will die someday, but I feel better equipped to deal with it, thanks to her excellent article. Just as Ms. Branigan helped encourage me to adopt Henry, she is now helping me to let go of him when the time comes. She has been the guiding force in the Greyhound adoption movement and I hope we hear more from her for years to come.

Ellen Sweeney  
Detroit, Michigan

What a well-written, excellent piece that hits a homerun with the hardest of all subject matters. All of us pet lovers have been or will go through this.

While reading the article memories surfaced of my first Greyhound, Half, and his bout with osteosarcoma. This ultimately led to euthanasia. As Cynthia Branigan mentioned, I too have vivid memories of how you

can read a veterinarian's facial expressions before a word is spoken about test results. There are memories of emotional turmoil, trying to justify the decisions that were made concerning the fate of my Greyhound.

I really liked how the article ended with the individual essence being preserved by continuing the life experience with other Greyhounds. Life and death have always existed with an uneasy duality towards each other. Death is as much a part of life as birth is, and whether or not death truly is the "end" can be debated forever. One thing is clear though: nothing that is living on this planet checks out without dying. What we can do is make our time here count so that it contributes to the cycle in a positive way.

I've adopted another Greyhound now and there are some moments when I think that I can see Half in his eyes.

Will Schumaker  
Tampa, Florida

*Please send letters of 300 words or less to the editorial office or via e-mail to editor-at-adopt-a-greyhound.org. Letters over 300 words will be edited for length.*

## Beach Comber, One Tough Dog



COURTESY GREYHOUND HALL OF FAME

Beach Comber won the 1947-48 and the 1948-49 Biscayne Inaugurals, the West Flagler Kennel Club Inaugural, and the All-Florida Championship at Biscayne. His win at the second Biscayne Inaugural came after many people thought he was washed up. Although he had recently given several dismal performances, he came back in that race to beat Airbrakes, the favorite, and his own brother, No Refund, by a length and a half. At one point during that race, he was 14 lengths ahead of the pack.

From 1947 to 1949, Beach Comber was pretty much *the* dog to beat. In 1948, as a Christmas present to his owner, Beach Comber won his 61st race, topping the 60-win record of another Hall of Famer, Flashy Sir. In 1949, Beach Comber racked up an amazing 99 wins, and it was fully expected

that he would make reach that magic 100 number. However, that win was not to be.

*L-R. Real Huntsman with Gene Randle; Flashy Sir with Merrill Blair; and Beach Comber with Paul Sutherland.*

Beach Comber came up against the redoubtable Real Huntsman and just wasn't able to beat him. Shorty was running out of time, and while his

Beach Comber was one tough cookie! He was a son of More Taxes, a Hall-of-Fame dog, and Soapy Hands. Soapy Hands' lineage traces back to another great Hall of Fame dog, Upsidedown, and to Lucky Roll, who produced yet another Hall of Famer.

Born November 12, 1945, Beach Comber proved his mettle and luckiness from the beginning when a severe Kansas winter caused the deaths of four of his littermates. One brother, No Refund, and three sisters—Bang Up, More Soap, and Glorified—survived.

By spring of 1947, Beach Comber was breaking in at the Florida tracks. On the evening of April 10, 1947, he was led to safety

from a burning kennel at one of those tracks. His sister, Bang Up, was less fortunate; she died in the blaze. Again showing his toughness, Beach Comber went on to win his race that same night. It was almost as if he was paying tribute to his lost littermate.

No one expected a great deal from Beach Comber. He was an unremarkable looking dog with legs that just seemed too short. In fact, those legs gained him his nickname of Shorty. While his paws may have had to take more steps than most on the route from box to wire, they did so with great success. Beach Comber proved his fiery heart and showed how tall his spirit was as he began an outstanding career.

heart and mind were willing, his age was beginning to tell. He had held up to the great Mixed Harmony, but it was time for Paul Sutherland's kennel star to step aside. Beach Comber retired. It was just as well, as Real Huntsman went on to rack up a winning streak that still stands today. He later joined Beach Comber in the Hall of Fame.

Beach Comber retired to stud on his 99-win record and went on to sire some very nice dogs. While he didn't do as well in that department as his brother No Refund, who sired the Hall of Fame dog, Feldcrest, he did produce some notable bitches, including Handy Peg, Doll Dance, Winnogene, and Star Glow. He died in early 1957. ■

## Greyhounds In Velvet Collars

A Greyhound in a velvet collar. Bossman, 10, is an ex-racer who was adopted by the Carrier's of Cape Elizabeth, Maine.



JAMES TUCKER

A familiar voice spoke excitedly from the telephone; my friend in Boston had been listening to a book on tape on the way to work that morning when to her surprise she heard the phrase *Greyhounds in velvet collars*. Her two Greyhounds were wearing velvet collars that I had recently made for them, so when she got to work she called me to share her enthusiasm.

She had been listening to Barbara Tuchman's *A Distant Mirror*, a book that compares the social conditions of the 14th century to that of the 20th century. On page 242 there is a description of the early June, 1368 wedding feast following the marriage of the Englishman Lionel, Duke of Clarence (already a widower in his late 20s) and 13-year-old Violante, a daughter of Galeazzo Visconti, at the Cathedral of Milan. A banquet followed in the courtyard in front of the Cathedral. Between the courses of the lengthy banquet the wedding gifts were carried around the tables to display for the

guests. Among these were several offerings of Greyhounds in velvet collars.

So began an adventure for this collar maker. I was intrigued by the thought of knowing more about the history of my art and my craft. The phrase Greyhounds in velvet collars became the constant song in my head. Since I make fabric collars, I particularly wanted to find early written references to them and I also wanted to find the earliest example of a decorative fabric collar in existence today.

The different paths to follow in my investigation were a search for written evidence both past and present, examples of actual collections of collars from earlier centuries, and an examination of collars as presented in the visual arts, especially tapestries. I traveled these paths for more than two years, gathering background material and current information. This article deals with the collars as revealed through the written word and as seen in collections of historical collars existing today. A subsequent article will cover the areas

of medieval hunting with dogs and the major hunting tapestries that illustrate dogs and collars from the Middle Ages.

Early in my research I discovered that during the medieval period the term *velvet collar* was a broad description for any rich and decorative collar. Today when speaking of a velvet collar it is understood that the collar is made of velvet fabric. If the velvet is embroidered, beaded, or otherwise enhanced it would be referred to as the beaded velvet collar, which would indicate that something even more beautiful was applied to the velvet. In medieval times velvet was considered to be so luxurious that just describing a collar as velvet was sufficient.

Velvet is defined as a silk fabric with soft, close, short pile. It has long been known as an expensive luxury fabric. It was often embroidered or even painted. It is not known exactly where velvet was first woven, although it was probably Persia or Italy. Fragments of twill velvet have been dated to ninth century France. The Renaissance has been called the high point of velvet weaving with the most sumptuous examples being brocaded in gold. When this very expensive silk fabric began to be more available in the later 13th century it provided a rich and brilliant background for embroidery and was much favored by patrons wishing to demonstrate their wealth and status. Velvets were available in more than one weight. The lighter weight was used for, among other things, clothing, and the heavier weight was used for draperies, horse coverings, room hangings and bed curtains.

The major public collection of old collars is at the Dog Collar Museum located in the gatehouse at Leeds Castle in Maidstone, Kent, England. There, chronologically displayed in glass cases, are four centuries worth of collars, about 95 in all. Mrs. Gertrude Hunt presented her collection to the Leeds Castle Foundation in 1977 in memory of her husband John Hunt, the distinguished medievalist.

The collection begins with the iron spike and chain collars used for bear and wolf hunt-

ing. They were quite wide to protect the dog's neck against the bears, boars and wolves of the forest. These dog collars are quite mean-looking. It is not unusual today to see modern knockoffs on biker groups or teenagers. I hasten to add that today's version of the spike collar does not look as lethal as the medieval dog collars at Leeds Castle.

Attractive collars dating from 1600-1750 are displayed next. They are mainly from Germany and Austria, and were made for larger dogs. The collars were used for identification and decoration rather than primarily for protection. They were made of single or multiple metals or heavy leather and by modern standards seem wide and heavy. The metal collars are either hinged or have an adjustable opening to go around the dog's neck. The leather collars were secured by various kinds of closures. Collars from this period were custom made for specific dogs. Some examples have very fine and detailed tracery and often the family shield is worked into the design. Some have the monogram of the owner ornamenting the band either in relief or with elaborate engraving. Several in this group have shell-shaped escutcheons leading to the clasp and other decorative figures encompassing the lead ring.

There is a group of English collars made of brass, silver, or other metals that were obviously made for smaller dogs. These collars are about one inch and have rolled edges for the comfort of the dog's neck. Many of them are elaborately and imaginatively engraved, and some were dog show prizes. Some are lined with leather, and most have lead ring attachments. These collars date from the 1750s to about 1900.

Before the patenting of the Singer sewing machine in 1851 and the beginnings of mass production, all dog collars were handcrafted. Many of the collars displayed at Leeds Castle are unique and represent hours of skilled craftsmanship. The armory shop, the blacksmith's shop, or the shop where the horse livery and drapings were created also produced collars. The fine, delicate, and detailed embroi-



*This Italian example shows the small holes inside the collar to which the velvet or soft leather used to be attached either with strong thread or very thin wire. And this Mid-18th century collar has the arch of the repousse cartouche—meaning a pattern raised in relief by hammering and pressing on the inside of the metal. This one included an oval figure enclosing characters with the names of royal personages.*



dery work on dog collars included the attaching of decorative elements and jewels. Men, women, and children called "broiderers" did this handwork. These skilled artisans either worked full-time on the estate, or they may have traveled from great house to great house to look after the linens and mending. In cities broiderers worked in family workshops or guilds, where the work was brought to them.

The royal armorer was in charge of the needlework staff as well as the other production teams on the estate. He took his orders directly from the king or a high court official. Written instructions rarely survived, but books of royal household accounts and estate inventories list dog collars among the

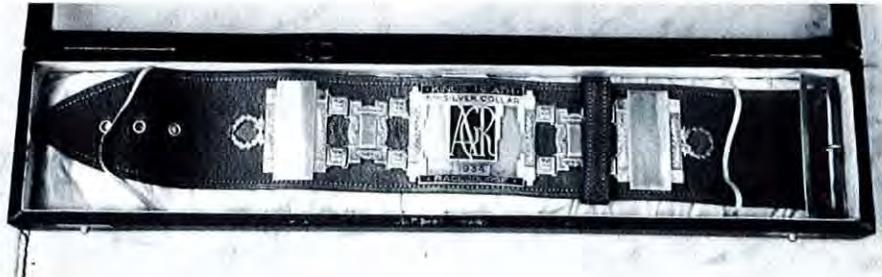
assets of the aristocracy. For example, there are a number of references to velvet collars in the inventories of Henry VIII. Few if any examples of these collars exist today.

Collars from the 20th century include some used by dogs in both the World Wars, and there are other more contemporary models that are easily recognizable to us.

These few paragraphs do not begin to do justice to this fascinating collection of dog collars. A visit to Leeds Castle gatehouse is a must for any dog lover who visits England. The beautiful Leeds Castle grounds and moat date from the 13th century. They have a web site ([www.leeds-castle.co.uk](http://www.leeds-castle.co.uk)) and a very attractive souvenir book for sale.



A German iron and brass collar (left) lined with leather. A presentation Greyhound prize collar (below), circa 1934, in pure Art Deco design.



GEOFFREY JENKINSON

In-depth written information about dog collars and their heritage is available from many books. *The Lost History of the Canine Race*, by Mary Elizabeth Thurston, is a fascinating and easy-to-read book that carries the reader through centuries of humanity's connection with dogs. The subject of dog collars appears several times. In Chapter Nine, the Eye of the Beholder, Ms. Thurston presents an overview of dog neckwear through the ages, starting with the Neolithic period, from which I have selected the following paragraph:

"Renaissance canines fortunate enough to live with doting aristocrats also enjoyed the same opulent fashions as their owners, from silk ribbons and heavy brocade collars to jewel encrusted chains. Kings and country barons expressed their affection for a particular hound by giving it a collar showing its elevated status in the family, decorated with wide bands of plush silk velvet covered in gold embroidery. For prized Mastiffs, hinged solid bands of bronze, silver, or gold, bearing griffins, lions, or other emblems of power were Common."

Using the services of the University of Southern Maine Interlibrary Loan office, I was able to peruse out-of-print books. An example is *The Hunting Book* by Gaston II, count of Foix and viscount of the Bearn, and one of the great feudal lords in 14th century France. He was known popularly as Gaston

Phoebus because of his handsome physique and flowing blond hair. *The Hunting Book* is really a handbook about the craft, skill, and art of hunting intended for the princes and aristocrats of Europe. Gaston Phoebus started writing it in 1387, four years before dying in a hunting accident. Dog collars are only mentioned in passing. The beautifully drawn illustrations, added in about 1420 is a clear indication not only of the different types of dogs used for hunting in the time of Gaston Phoebus, but also the different styles of collars and leashes worn by the dogs.

Through a footnote in Barbara Tuchman's book, I located *The Last Months of Chaucer's Earliest Patron* by Albert Stanburrough Cook, a distinguished professor of English Language and Literature at Yale. This monograph published in 1916 is a detailed account of the journey of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, to northern Italy in 1368. The purpose of this trip was to meet and marry the young and beautiful Violante. The young Chaucer was in the group of 76 attendants who accompanied Lionel on this long trip to claim his new bride. The following is a more detailed look at the original quote that piqued my interest.

The wedding took place on a balcony built over the central door at the Cathedral of Milan. The magnificent feast that followed was held in the courtyard occupying the center of the public square in front of

the Cathedral. The most compelling reading for my purpose is the description of this wedding banquet.

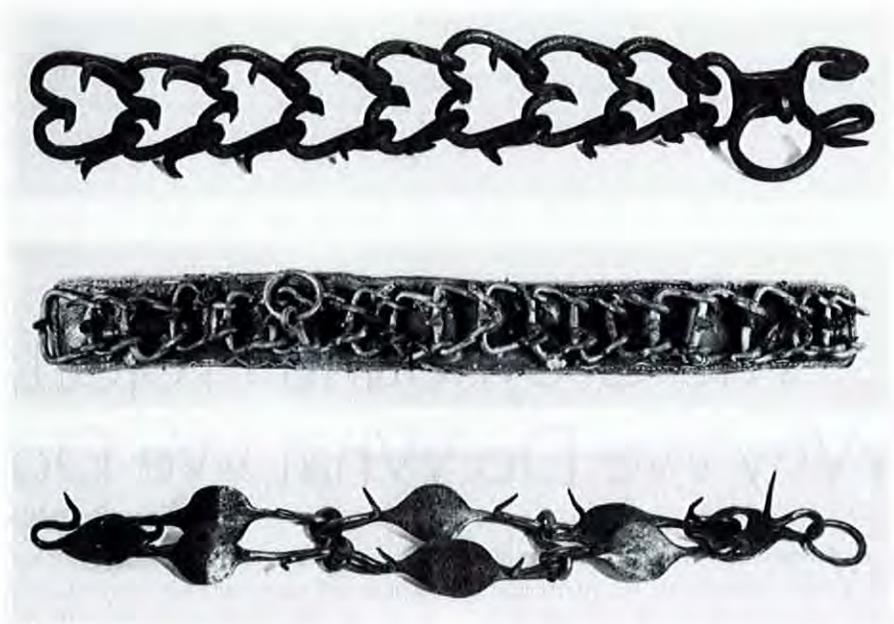
There were two tables, 50 men being at one table and 50 women at the other. The meal consisted of 18 courses, fish and flesh being the centerpiece of each course. All of the fish and flesh was gilded using egg white and gold or silver dust. Between each course of the lengthy and beautifully presented meal the most extravagant gifts were displayed for the guests, including:

"Six Greyhounds, with velvet collars embroidered with gold. Two Greyhounds, with velvet collars and silken leashes. Twelve brace of Greyhounds with silken collars, buckles of gilded brass, and six silken leashes. Six alaunts (a massive dog) and six large bloodhounds, with velvet collars, buckles and rings of gilded brass, and six silken leashes. Twelve brace of setters with gilded collars, twelve chains of gilded brass, and six leashes of silk."

My goal was to find the earliest written record of Greyhounds in velvet collars. The previously cited excerpt in Cook's publication, which I thought was my earliest written reference, was bested by something I read in Robert Lacey's recent book entitled *The Year 1000*. On page 91, Lacey describes the earliest recorded example of a commercial trade treaty between the kings of England and Lombardy, which is the region of northern Italy including Pavia, a major trading city and the ancient capital of the region. The agreement, valid for three years, indicated that the English paid the royal treasury of Pavia for their trade license with "fifty pounds of pure silver, two fine Greyhounds with gilded and embossed collars, two shields, two swords, and two lances." This afforded the English the privilege of traveling freely to Pavia to buy goods from the East and also to sell their own goods.

There we have it. Greyhounds were considered important enough to be presented not only as wedding gifts but also as items in treaties with foreign nations. And the dogs were not presented with plain rope around

German spike collars. The top collar is a medieval iron spiked collar consisting of linked W's terminating in spikes. In the middle is an iron collar, with original leather lining, of almost stirrup-shaped links each set with a spike. The bottom is a hunting collar made of two rows of iron elongated oval links, the clasp a stylized duck shape.



their necks but rather in the finest hand-crafted collars and leashes available, befitting their elegance, importance and desirability. Even today much effort and energy is put into wrapping gifts as beautifully as possible. Accessories enhance the gift.

The seminal magazine articles about dog collars, dog collar collectors, and collections seem to have been written by Charles R. Beard for *Connoisseur* magazine in 1933 and 1940. In the first article Beard described a collection of English collars. In the second, seven years later, he described the European collection of Mrs. Gertrude Hunt at Leeds Castle. These two articles by Beard are frequently cited in the group of modern articles (from the 1980's onward) about dog collars and the pursuit of collecting.

In 1993 William Secord wrote two articles for *Dog Fancy* and the *AKC Gazette* respectively, about the collars owned by Geoffrey Jenkinson of Guernsey, The Channel Islands, UK, who has one of the finest and largest group of antique dog collars in the world.

Recently, my husband and I spent some time abroad and for the last part of our trip we traveled to the Isle of Guernsey. There, we visited Geoffrey Jenkinson, and saw his collection of antique collars. Most of them were made of metal or leather with but a few fabric specimens.

Fabric does not have a long life. Wear and tear, exposure to sunlight, mold, and

poor storage conditions are some of the many reasons why fibers would easily break down over the years. Also, a fabric collar worn by a dog for any length of time stands the chance of being scratched or chewed beyond its limit of endurance. But Mr. Jenkinson does have what is considered to be the earliest example of a fabric collar still in existence today.

The highlight of the trip for me was to hold and study this very collar. It is more than two-inches wide, of red velvet, and over-sewn with elaborately fine gilded wire decoration. The velvet and decorative work is applied to a leather base with a very soft doeskin lining sewn with tiny, neat stitches of tan thread. The collar has two different coats of arms incorporated into the flowing decorative pattern, thought to be those of Bartolomeo Visconti and Philomena Nicoli, who were wed in September of 1488. The handwork is meticulous and it must have taken hours of tedious sewing to make this magnificent work of art. Mr. Jenkinson likens this collar to the ones worn on some of the Greyhounds portrayed on the Maximilian Tapestries hanging at The Louvre in Paris.

Geoffrey Jenkinson is a serious collector who occasionally puts portions of his antique dog collars on public display. He arranged some of his prize collars at a museum on Guernsey in the summer of 1993. He is now preparing for

a display at The Museum of Hunting and Nature (Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, 60 rue des Archives) in Paris, France. The exhibit will run from December 15, 2000 through March 31, 2001 and it is a must for any dog lover visiting Paris during these four months.

Mr. Jenkinson made a memorable comment while we visited him. As we were viewing his collection he said wistfully, "Whenever I look at hunting tapestries or a work of art which includes a dog in a collar, I can't help but think 'I wonder where that collar is now.' Unfortunately, there are almost no examples of old fabric collars to be had today..." Then he smiled at me and said, "And you are holding what is thought to be the oldest fabric collar in the world now. That collar is over 500 years old."

Librarians remind me that it is easier to prove something did exist than to prove that something never existed. Remembering that, I am satisfied to have discovered a written record of Greyhounds in velvet collars that is one thousand years old. As a modern collar maker I am privileged to have held in my own hands a fine decorative collar of red velvet that is considered to be at least 500 years old. ■

*Janice Parkinson-Tucker was a music teacher for 30 years, before starting her present business, Mrs. Bones' Decorative Dog Collars. She lives in South Portland, Maine, with her husband, two dogs and three cats.*

# The Greyhound Project: Why We Do What We Do

By Joan Belle Isle

We hear from a lot of Greyhound people. Some write to ask for information. Some contact us to say that something in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* was really helpful. Some call with differing opinions on a particular article.

The vast majority of what we hear from our readers is positive and constructive. On the other hand, we also get complaints from disgruntled, occasionally irate, readers. Although they represent small fractions of the Greyhound community, some of our critics have concluded that we are anti-racing. Others have decided that we are pro-racing. Some have accused us of taking money from the racing industry, while others have charged us with hypocrisy.

As a general rule, we usually do not debate with the people who may disagree with something we have published. We do, however, publish reasonably written opposing positions. The operant criteria are "reasonably written"—no name calling, no unsubstantiated accusations, no personal opinions masquerading as facts.

After more than eight years of working with The Greyhound Project, I am about to violate my own advice and respond to some of the criticism that has been leveled at The Project, in general, and *CG Magazine*, in particular. For some of our detractors, no response short of complete alignment with their view will satisfy them.

This article is not likely to produce that result. For others, I hope to be able to explain why we do what we do.

First, I want to tell you about the people who are The Project. They are volunteers. The number varies from 10 to 20, and we range in age from 30-something to 70-plus. We have all adopted Greyhounds; and some of us are working on our second, third or fourth generation as, one by one, our Greyhounds have grown old and left us. We are business people, lawyers, educators, social service professionals, and homemakers. We are married, single, and divorced. We have families, children and, in some cases, grandchildren. Many of us have worked, or are still volunteering, with one of the many local Greyhound adoption groups. No one affiliated with The Project in any way has, or has ever had, any professional, familial, or even casual connection with racing, gaming, or entertainment industries. It's safe to say that among those involved with The Greyhound Project, opinions and positions on almost any issue—including the contro-

## Southern Hospitality



Story and photos  
by Jini Foster

The goodies arrive. Shown are Nick, Amy, and Max Revelas with Robin Norton.

My daughter, Amy Revelas, moved to South Carolina several years ago and became great pals with Pattiann Cannarozzi. Amy knows a lot about Greyhound rescue because she's listened to me talk about our Greyhounds, Okie and Knight, and about Greyhound adoptions and the local placement activities I've been involved with over the past eight years. Pattiann is also quite the animal lover. So, when Pattiann's birthday approached, Amy knew just what to do to celebrate the occasion.

A birthday means presents and a party! But this year's get-together would be different because Pattiann had thought of a creative way to celebrate. Polly, her family dog for twelve years, had recently passed away. Pattiann thought that this party would be a wonderful opportunity to honor a dear friend and help dogs in need at the same time.

versies surrounding Greyhounds—are as varied and diverse as the people themselves.

It's the purpose of The Project that holds this unlikely group of people together, as The Project's primary goal is to support locally based Greyhound adoption. Our initiatives include: *The Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar* for fund raising; The Internet Adopt-A-Greyhound site that helps potential adopters find local adoption groups and information about adoption; The Make a Friend for Life airport advertising campaign to promote Greyhound adoption, *CG Magazine*, a continuing source of information for adopters and adoption volunteers about the dogs.

Through all these activities, The Project promotes Greyhounds as very special pets and the local Greyhound adoption efforts that find homes for them.

The Greyhound Project does what it does because no one else is doing it. Other people and organizations have made it their job to advocate for and against the various positions on Greyhound breeding and racing. That is their purpose and they do a much better job of

representing the views on those issues than The Greyhound Project can. They have spent years developing the expertise to speak credibly on the issues. We don't see any useful purpose in attempting to compete with them.

The universe of Greyhounds is multi-dimensional. In addition to the very serious questions surrounding Greyhound racing, equally important, if somewhat more mundane, concerns dominate Greyhound adoption groups, their volunteers, and their adopters. The breed and its history, including that part of the history involving Greyhound racing, fascinates some people. Questions about promoting Greyhounds as pets, screening prospective adopters, handling transitional behavior and socialization, identifying health issues, recruiting volunteers, raising money, organizing transportation, and kennel care are topics of concern to others. The Greyhound Project has chosen to invest its time, energy, and resources in this arena.

We operate from the belief that Greyhound people are a distinctively self-selected group. In our experience, they are generally

more thoughtful, better educated, more mature, and more committed to their dogs than the general population. We believe everyone who cares about Greyhounds has unique contributions to make on behalf of the dogs, and that none of us is wise enough to know when the seemingly small act of one person will have a huge impact.

We believe that Greyhound people—you, our readers—can make the distinction between information and advocacy. We believe that you are intellectually rigorous enough to differentiate between an article in a magazine and what you observe and experience from other sources. We believe that you have the wisdom and experience to integrate sometimes conflicting information in arriving at your own decisions. We believe that you are perfectly competent to draw your own conclusions and make your own judgments about the Greyhound issues that concern you. If we contribute to the discussion, if we inspire your curiosity, if we help in the placement of just one more Greyhound, we are doing our job. ■

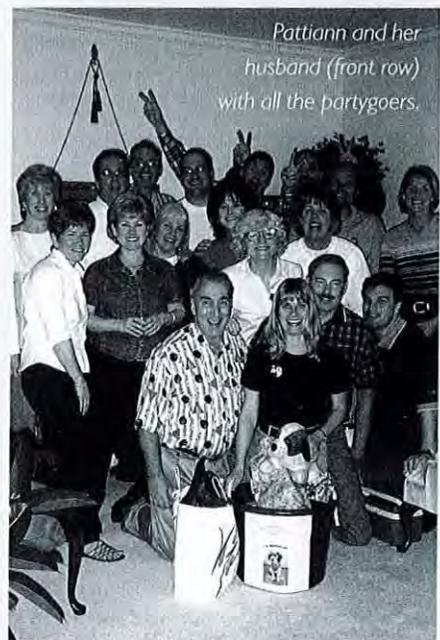
Pattiann didn't need any gifts, but she knew Greysland certainly did. Greysland is a new adoption group in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, run by Robin Norton. Pattiann knew of Greysland and Greyhound rescue through Amy. So, the party evolved into a way of helping Greysland while honoring Polly's memory and celebrating a birthday. With each invitation, Pattiann included an explanation of this innovative party and a copy of Greysland's wish list.

When we told Robin about the party, she was surprised and grateful to be the recipient of such generosity. Even Pattiann and Amy's boys, Patrick and John, wanted to help. Polly had been there for most of their lives. My grandsons Nick and Max had grown up with my Greyhounds so they thought it was great that they could be a part of helping the kennel dogs. At the party,

there was a large donation bag with Polly's photo on it, information about Greysland, photos of dogs that were ready to go home, and some general Greyhound history. Everyone loved the idea. Even those who couldn't attend made a cash or gift donation. The "Polly Bag" was filled to overflowing!

It didn't take long to empty The "Polly Bag" when it arrived at Greysland. The medical supplies were put to good use for Stormy, a Greyhound who arrived at the kennel with a badly broken leg. Henry took over the rawhides. Joker and Rocky are sharing the stuffy and playing fetch and keep. All of the dogs have enjoyed the treats and the monetary donations have been very helpful.

How wonderful it is when the love for pets translates into such generosity from strangers so far away. Southern Hospitality is all that it's reputed to be. ■



Pattiann and her husband (front row) with all the partygoers.

# The Value of Volunteerism



KARYN AND TERRY COTT

By Mary Bauer

Volunteers are certainly the life-blood of most, if not all, Greyhound adoption groups. These dedicated individuals provide invaluable support that can range from administrative responsibilities (serving on the board of directors, offering financial or legal advice, editing the newsletter) to hands-on work with the dogs (bringing in new Greyhounds, handling adoptions, fostering, and caring for dogs awaiting adoption). Volunteers host Meet-and-Greets and organize picnics and other events. They maintain web sites. They write, sew, bake, draw, craft, design, and build. They donate time, talent, and money so that more retired racing dogs can be saved. Many organizations are fortunate enough to have a core group of volunteers who feel good about what they are doing and have made an ongoing commitment to continue.

But let's face it. Not all of us are able to commit to a volunteer effort on a regular basis. Even though our feelings about Grey-

hounds are just as powerful as those of the individuals who are "out in front," circumstances may prevent us from volunteering for a local group. Perhaps our schedules are erratic and our free time doesn't coordinate with the needs of the organization. Maybe philosophical clashes exist within or among groups and we would rather remain uninvolved. (Greyhound adoption can be an emotion-charged topic for some, and "politics" can be a reality.) We might be uncertain about where we fit in and would just rather help Greyhounds on our own terms.

**How Can You Help?** Whether you volunteer for a particular adoption group and would like to do more, or prefer to be non-denominational, the following suggestions are ways you can help Greyhound adoption:

## Financial Ways to Help

1. Find out if the vendors from whom you purchase Greyhound-related items

donate a portion of their profits to Greyhound adoption. If they do not, ask them to consider it. Try to buy from those who give back something to the hounds.

2. To raise funds, some adoption groups now have online auctions of donated Greyhound items. If you have access to the Internet, surf around a bit. Check out web sites—you might see something you just can't live without!

3. On a regular basis, make it a point to give a few dollars to an adoption or rescue group. Select a different organization each time. A while back, someone on the Internet discussion list, Greyhound-L, began a "group-of-the-month" campaign for donations. Individual list members contribute only a small amount each time, but the dollars add up fast. The Greyhound Project or the Internet will give you names and addresses of groups.

4. Keep abreast of the current large-scale efforts of adoption groups nationwide and send them a donation whenever you can. Racetrack closings often require the immediate relocation of many dogs. People involved in these situations usually need money fast to move the dogs out safely. Groups that help endangered Greyhounds in other countries also require a lot of capital. Check the archives of Greyhound-L or Adopt-a-Greyhound.org. Don't forget that your local adoption group is a great source of relevant information.

5. If you have connections within a corporation or agency, check to see if there is a charitable interest in animal welfare. Talk to the officer of an adoption group and offer to help make contacts for grants, gift-matching programs, or donations (in-kind or monetary).

## Indirect Support

1. Make items and donate one to each adoption group in your area. Then, if you can, make a couple more and send them to groups farther away. Depending on what you chose to make, your donation might be used as a raffle or auction item. Items such as blankets or coats can also be used for the kenneled or fostered hounds awaiting adoption.



strict requirements. You and your hound will have a nice time while spreading cheer to the residents. How does this help Greyhound adoption? You'll be amazed at the attention you will get from the staff! Be sure to bring along adoption information to give to them.

### Direct Involvement with the Greyhounds

1. If you live near a group that has adoption kennels, volunteer to walk the dogs. Stop in to introduce yourself first, and depending on the circumstances, you might be able to establish a "just drop-in anytime" relationship with the staff. The dogs will love the extra attention and you will have a chance to see who goes home.

2. When you are toy shopping for your own dogs, pick up a few extras for the kenneled Greyhounds awaiting adoption. The dogs will be so happy to have them. What potential adopter could resist the charm of a recently retired Greyhound playing with a fluffy toy?

3. Put together a card or small flyer that lists the names and telephone numbers of the adoption groups in your area. When you are out-and-about, give them to people who stop to admire your Greyhounds. There are small business card holders you can buy and attach to your dog's leash so you will always have the information available.

4. Occasionally, when appropriate and safe, take your Greyhound(s) with you when running errands. If there are two people along, one can stand outside with the dogs while the other takes care of business inside. We all know that Greyhounds are attention-magnets: you can hold your own mini-Meet and Greet right outside the dry cleaner or car wash! Don't forget to bring some of the cards mentioned above.

5. Visit a nursing home or care facility with your hounds. Check with the facility first to see what kind of restrictions and rules exist. Some places are quite relaxed and others have

groups are holding Meet and Greets. Volunteer to hold a leash and "talk Greyhounds" for a couple of hours. If no events are scheduled, ask if there are other ways that you can help out with the dogs. Most groups are grateful for the additional help and you'll leave with memories of a wonderful volunteer experience.

Finally, for those of you who are really ambitious—consider establishing an organization that supports the efforts of Greyhound adoption. A few of these groups already exist across the country. Their main goal is to raise public awareness about Greyhounds as pets without affiliating with a particular adoption group. They distribute informational material and often raise funds to donate to worthy adoption efforts.

As individuals, we have different skills, resources, amounts of time, and levels of energy, but one thing we do have in common is a love for these wonderful animals. I know of no Greyhound person who would not want to help a retired racer find a forever home. Think about ways you can help make that happen for more Greyhounds. Whatever you do will make a difference. ■



DEBORAH WILLIAMS

2. Check to see if any of the groups nearby are expecting a large haul of dogs to arrive. Volunteer to help with bathing, ear cleaning, and brushing. Lots of dogs arriving at once can tax the physical resources of a group, so your help will be greatly appreciated. You may even decide to foster one of the hounds.

3. If you travel on business and find yourself in need of a Greyhound "fix" over a weekend, check around to see if any local

*Help at a kennel—Hal (top) with a Chris Makepeace before going home with Joan Belle Isle. Irving (middle) can't wait to go on TV to help adoptions. Be in or help judge a reunion costume contest—Darlin' Marlin in his finery.*



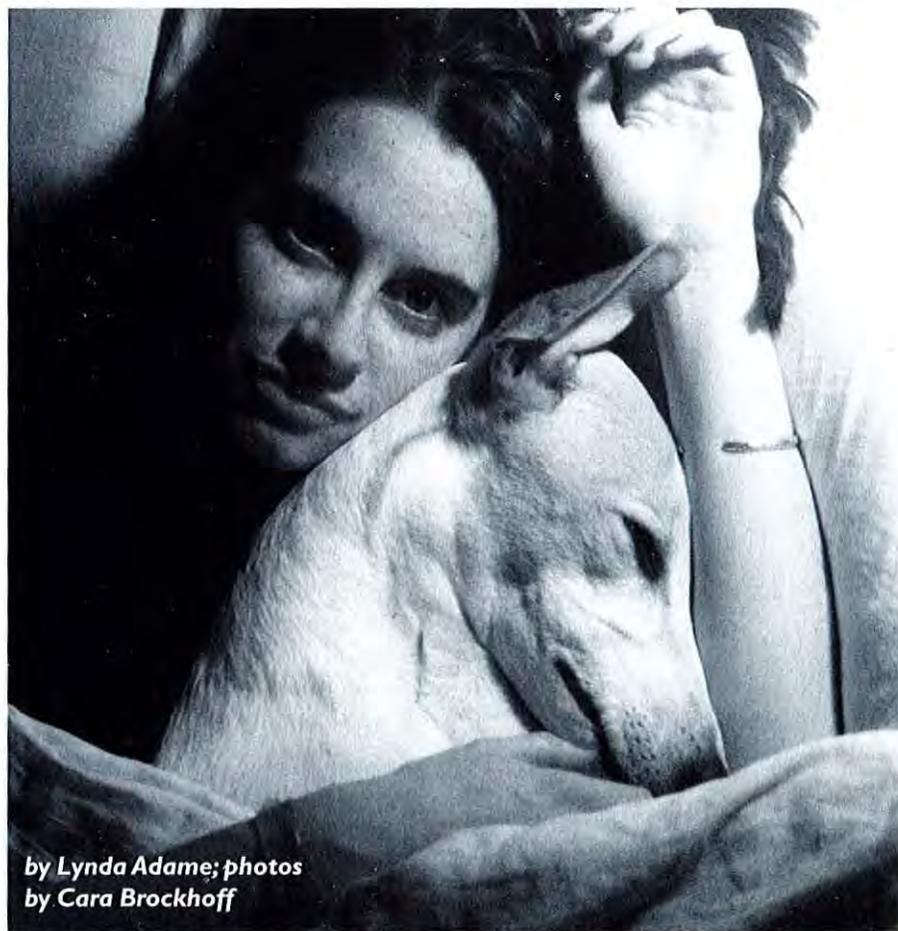
MARGE NEWBURN

# The Adoption Screening Process

If the dog quietly snoozing at your feet is a retired racing Greyhound, odds are you went through an adoption process to get him. You probably filled out a lengthy adoption application and went through an interview process. Some groups do an informal telephone interview while others prefer to meet you face to face. Still other groups require an initial phone interview, and follow up with what is commonly called a home visit <insert background music of dread and anxiety here>.

The prospect of a home visit can intimidate even the most confident adopter. However, the home visit is an extremely valuable assessment tool for any adoption group. It gives placement representatives the chance to spend quality time with potential adopters, to check the yard for safety issues, and to observe the adopters current pets on their home turf. More importantly, it offers adoption groups the chance to lower their bounce-back rates.

Bounce-backs are dogs that have literally bounced from their adoptive homes back into the care of the adoption group. They are a grave concern for all groups since bounce-backs displace dogs that are grading off of the track. Some of the larger groups collect data on each bounce-back and attempt to analyze that data, looking for trends, in an effort to better understand the reasons for returns and to improve placement procedures.



by Lynda Adame; photos  
by Cara Brockhoff

ELIZABETH JOHNSON

Bounce-back rates are a closely guarded secret amongst adoption groups. As the owner of the Greyhound-L e-mail list, I am in the unique position to be in daily contact with adoption groups across the world. It is my belief that minimal screening garners adoption groups a bounce-back rate of thirty percent or more. Doing slightly more than the minimum will produce a rate under thirty percent. Groups that train their reps to perform phone interviews and home visits have bounce-back rates of five percent or less. The GPA chapter for which I volunteer falls in the latter category, with a bounce-back rate that is consistently under five percent. A low bounce-back rate benefits the adoption group, the dogs it places, and the Greyhounds that are slowing down at the track.

If your group already performs home visits, I hope to shed new light on an existing process. If your group does not currently perform home visits, this article is a great starting point.

I have been an active placement representative for GPA Orange County/Greater Los Angeles chapter for the past six years. GPA/OC-GLA has put together a formal training class that each placement representative must attend prior to placing his first Greyhound. This article incorporates many of the things covered in that training class. After attending the class, I spent the next three months going on home visits with more experienced placement representatives (reps). This is how I learned to put the words into action. There is much to be learned from tagging along with experienced reps, and I recommend working with at least two different people. This will give you the chance to view different placement styles and offer a nice perspective to use in your own placement work.

After receiving an adoption application and reviewing it, your next move is to call the potential adopter. The phone interview is an important part of the entire adoption process. If you are the average volunteer, you are plac-

ing dogs in the little free time you have. Good phone interview skills can help you weed people out so no additional time is wasted on a home visit. Thoroughly review the application before you call the potential adopter. Make a list of questions you want to ask based on this review. Have the adoption application in front of you when you call and take notes.

Focus on the potential adopter(s)'s past experience with pets, the family situation and logistics, and the overall attitude towards Greyhound ownership. Are they listening or do they spend the entire time talking? What is their response when you discuss the quirks of Greyhound ownership, such as no off-lead activities? Does everyone in the family want a Greyhound or do you sense some ambivalence with this? Is a Greyhound the best choice for this family or would another breed—or no dog—be a better fit? What happened to past pets? Have they given any away and why? Have they done research on the Greyhound breed?

What about current pets? Are there cats or small dogs living in the home? Are these indoor or outdoor pets? Do the adopters rent or lease and do they have permission from their landlord to have a large dog? Is there a fenced yard? If not, do they understand that they will be responsible for taking a Greyhound outside on-lead four to five times a day—rain or shine, in sickness and in health, for better or worse, seven days a week? How many hours, including commute time, do the adopters work per day? Each detail and answer is a piece to the puzzle.

No matter the eventual outcome, you want to treat the people with respect and make the phone interview a positive experience. A Greyhound is not for everyone and if you decide that a Greyhound is not for them, hopefully you have done your job well and they have come to the same conclusion for

themselves. If you feel they would be good dog owners, just not Greyhound owners, recommend another breed rescue to them. If you decide to continue working with them, give them the location and date of a local Meet and Greet (have a schedule handy) so they can see some Greyhounds and ask questions there. You want to see if they are willing to put out some effort at this point.



*Jerry Brockhoff and Greyhounds Ruthie and Mike go on a home visit. It's important to introduce the dogs (or other pets) on neutral territory—never inside the home.*

If everything goes well, set up a home visit. Be clear that all people living in the home must attend the home visit; this includes roommates and children. Reassure the potential adopter that the home visit is a positive thing. Their mental image will be of complete strangers entering their home, with dour faces and white gloves, opening closets and checking under beds. My husband and I were so intimidated by the thought of dog-obsessed strangers in our home that we adopted our first Greyhound from a group that specifically did not require a home visit. I have since learned the value of a home visit but I will never forget how I felt back then. Try to remember how you felt when you went through this experience and be mindful. Your goal is to help the adoption group and the potential adopter determine if this is a good and safe home for a Greyhound.

I strongly recommend that you bring an extra person with you on the home visit. Not only is this a good safety practice, but this person will have some responsibilities as well. They will be watching the hounds



*Kim and Katherine O'Connell interact with the Brockhoff Greyhounds, as observers note how everyone reacts and interacts.*

(if need be) and observing the people. The benefit of having a person to bounce things off of after the home visit is undeniable.

I always bring a few Greyhounds with me on a home visit. This gives potential adopters the chance to see a Greyhound in their home. In fact, many applications are from first-time dog owners or people who have never spent time with an actual Greyhound before. Watching the people and their current pets interact with your Greyhounds can give you important clues to their suitability as eventual adopters. If the adoptive family owns any dogs, you want to introduce them to your dogs on neutral territory. This can be a park or a neighbor's lawn. All dogs should be leashed and introduced one by one, walking each dog past the other in an arc that curves away from the center meeting point. Head-on introductions can be interpreted as aggressive and the arc follows the natural pattern dogs use when greeting other strange dogs. If there is any growling or snarling, try walking the dogs together to put them at ease. Once the dogs are comfortable, enter the house and begin the home visit.

Encourage the potential adopters to ask questions as they are getting to know your Greyhounds. This will put them at ease and make them feel like participants in the process. Your job is to answer their questions, provide information, and check the yard for safety. If you have to make recommendations on improving the safety of the yard, watch their reaction. Are they interested and willing, or displeased?

While on the home visit, do not get so absorbed in talking that you forget to observe the condition of the pets in the home. Are they clean and healthy? Well behaved? Is there dirt on their coats which might signal a dog that spends a lot of time outdoors? Are there any cats? Observe how the family interacts with your Greyhounds. Is any one person scared or disinterested? If there are children, how are they reacting to the Greyhounds and the Greyhounds to them?

When you begin to discuss housebreaking and anxiety issues with the adopters, how do they react? Be specific. Point to the antique Arts and Crafts couch and ask how they would feel if an anxious Greyhound used it

as a chewing block. What about the silk throw pillows being torn up and the stuffing strewn about the living room reminiscent of the first snowfall of winter? Their reaction is important because these are the typical reasons Greyhounds are returned.

One of my favorite placements was to a wealthy family. Their home was a mini-mansion and the furnishings were gorgeous. I was sure that I would uncover their adopter flaws when I got to the housebreaking and anxiety portion of my talk! No matter what I pointed out, the family smiled warmly and showed me places around the house where the furniture bore the scars of dog teeth and paws. Each place was accompanied by a funny story, a smile, and the assurance that they were, after all, just things.

If you are feeling unsure at the end of the home visit, leave the potential adopters with the thought that you will run their information by the adoption board and get back to them. Go home and call more experienced reps with your questions and concerns while the visit is still fresh in your mind.

If you are not going to approve this family, the situation can become uncomfortable for both you and the potential adopter. It's best to try and help the family decide that a Greyhound is not the right dog for them. Make it their idea. Always get back to them, though, as they have opened up their home and life to your scrutiny, and invested a portion of their time hoping to adopt. In turn, you owe them the courtesy of a return phone call. Never decline someone for a specific condition if you simply feel they would not be a good home. They are likely to fix the condition and call you back expecting to adopt.

If you feel sure of these people by the end of the interview, ask them what kind of dog they would like and discuss the type of Greyhound you would recommend for them. Find out if they have any special requirements or needs in a dog. Discuss the rest of the adoption process with them. Most adopters are interested in knowing how many dogs they can see, if they visit a kennel or foster homes, and what they can expect.

There is no set formula to follow when deciding whether a potential adopter will make a good Greyhound owner. Part of your decision will be based on facts (i.e., what happened to past pets, is their home safe, are their current animals in good condition). Part will be based on your own observations (i.e., did the family listen and ask good questions, did they interact well with your Greyhounds, were their children well behaved) and the final part will be based on your gut instinct.

**W**hat is gut instinct? It's that over-all feeling you get as you interact with these people. Sometimes you can put your finger on it (i.e., they are not listening, the kids are wild and undisciplined) and sometimes you cannot. Sometimes a potential adopter makes you uncomfortable, and this nags at you as you are making the final decision. You cannot quantify what is bothering you but you cannot shake the feeling that this is not a good situation. If there is one thing I have learned the hard way, it is to trust your gut instinct!

If you feel uncomfortable after the home visit, and you have gotten feedback from other reps, then perhaps denying the adopter is the right thing to do. I have ignored my gut feeling twice, adopting Greyhounds to families whom I wish (now) I had not. I could not put my finger on what was bothering me,

*It's also very important to check out the backyard of a potential adopter.*

and since I could not come up with a hard reason for denial, I went ahead and placed a dog with them. I have visited both families since the adoption and I can tell that the dog is not happy in either home. In both instances, the husband was very hands-on with my Greyhounds, wanting to interact with them in a rough and tumble way that might be better suited to a less sensitive breed of dog.

Although it's important to place Greyhounds into homes, I have learned that I can do a dog a great disservice by not taking the time to decide if a home is a good Greyhound home. The ultimate goal is to find great homes for great dogs. The home visit can be a valuable tool in the adoption process, helping ensure more dogs are placed, and placed well. ■



# The Middleboro Nine: How to Run a Rescue

Story by Jordan H. Graustark



JORDAN GRAUSTARK



CLAIRE SYGIEL

*Jonesy—renamed Buddy (top), adopted by Ann Bockhe, was adored and pampered for three more years. He recently passed away and is sorely missed. Robert and Thelma (above) pictured with Guy and Sharon Lewis were fostered by Claire and Cliff of Greyhound Options Inc. They were placed together in a very loving home, and later joined by littermate Guy. Due to the death of their adoptive owner, they, too, had to be re-homed. They remain extremely bonded to each other and are living with their now permanent owners, Claire and Cliff. Robert has laryngeal paralysis, but the two are otherwise healthy.*

At some point, special circumstances requiring an intensive rescue effort during a brief period of time will occur. Common scenarios include the expeditious removal of a number of dogs from a racing/breeding kennel that is about to close, transportation of an especially large number of dogs from a defunct track, and the removal of dogs from an abusive or neglectful situation. A few years ago, a number of people involved in Greyhound rescue in New England came together to remove to safe surroundings a group of Greyhounds living in squalor. This combined effort was not only successful and efficient but a warm reminder of the synergistic effect of several individuals donating their respective time and talents for a common passion.

On New Year's Day 1997, friends in Middleboro, Massachusetts called me about a group of nine Greyhounds living in a kennel-cum-converted garage in their neighborhood. The dogs were owned by an elderly woman and her aged partner; the latter was also the caretaker for the dogs, and he had just suffered a massive stroke. Because the dogs were no longer being cared for, my friends jumped in to provide help.

What they found was appalling: the dogs were very thin, living in dirty, malodorous conditions. The kennel was unheated and extremely cold. Amazingly, the elderly woman who was the co-owner was not only unaware of these conditions, but per instructions from her partner, she had not been allowed in the kennel in many years. My friends, Abby and Frank, cleaned the kennel and the pens as best they could and began visiting several times daily to feed the dogs, turn them out, and tend to their needs. Frank felt that there was one dog that was in need of medical attention and possibly euthanasia.

Although I was not able to drive down to see the kennel for myself that evening, I felt that an immediate intervention was imperative. Thus we began several days of an intensive rescue effort. Listed below are the steps taken by a group of dedicated people to rescue the "Middleboro Nine."

These steps may prove useful to other Greyhound rescue groups who find themselves in a similar situation.

**1. Identify other rescue individuals/groups** in your area who might be of assistance. The Greyhound Project online directory of adoption agencies and contact people, ([www.adopt-a-greyhound.org](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org)) lists individuals and groups by state and town and provides phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses. Through this resource I was able to identify other rescue groups in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire to which we could potentially turn if we needed temporary kennels or foster homes.

**2. Post a message to the Greyhound Lists.** The Greyhound List ([greyhound-L@apple.ease.lsoft.com](mailto:greyhound-L@apple.ease.lsoft.com)) is a subscriber-enrolled group of over 2,000 people who share the common bond of a dedication to Greyhounds. The Greyhound Rescue List ([ghrescue-L@apple.ease.lsoft.com](mailto:ghrescue-L@apple.ease.lsoft.com)) is a smaller group of people whose communications are limited to the topics of rescue and adoption. After posting an "urgent" message advising the subscribers of our situation, I received numerous replies offering help with transportation, fostering, and even monetary donations. Of the people who ultimately wound up as foster homes for the "Middleboro Nine," the majority came forth as a result of Greyhound-L/GH-Rescue list postings.

**3. Place calls to friends.** Enlist everyone you can think of throughout the area who might be able to pass along the story, since there is always the possibility that someone along the line might be willing to foster or adopt one of the dogs. Speak with representatives of adoption groups at a greater distance to see if they have any openings in their kennels or foster networks, just in case you can't find enough spots for these dogs locally. In our case, I felt we couldn't have too much assistance on tap. I continued calling. Numerous people in Massachusetts and Rhode Island offered their help in fostering and/or transporting dogs from the Middleboro kennel. These individuals also

formed their own telephone chains and continued to make phone calls to help identify more potential foster or adoptive homes within their rescue group networks.

**4. Secure permission for the release of the dogs** from the dogs' owners. Go to the kennel and assess the situation in person; it is imperative to have a knowledgeable Greyhound rescue representative visit the kennel. Kathy Morrill of GPA/Middleboro agreed to go to the kennel the following morning to conduct the assessment. She identified the dogs, their ages and their conditions, and assessed how quickly we needed to remove them and in what order.



*Tessa (above) was fostered by Lisa Rosenberg of Wayland, Massachusetts and subsequently was placed with a family in New Jersey.*



*Roan (above right) was fostered by Jess Holderman. Nancy Buckland drove him to Maryland where he was adopted by a Greyhound-L list member. The adoption did not work out. He was re-homed with a close friend of the owner.*

JORDAN GRAUSTARK PHOTOS

By the afternoon of January 2nd, we had several firm commitments to foster dogs. Bruce Skinner offered to go directly to the kennel to bring home one of the dogs for fostering. He took the 11-year-old male in order to get him out of the cold environment and to more carefully determine the dog's state of health as well as his adoption potential. Bruce took him to his own vet the same day. Jonesy was pronounced to be in reasonably good health, albeit very thin and needing care of several pressure sores as well as extensive dental work. He was immunized and then went home to live temporarily with Bruce, his wife Chris, and their two Greyhounds RC and T. Bruce's initial impression was that Jonesy would indeed be quite adoptable!

Plans were made for the removal the next day of four additional dogs. Claire Sygiel of Greyhound Options in Western Massachusetts agreed to take three dogs into her group for fostering and placement. Two of Claire's volunteers were willing to take the 10-year-old male, and two additional dogs the next day. Kathy agreed to take a male to her GPA/Middleboro kennel for placement through GPA. Several others volunteered

to provide foster homes: Meredith Pickering of Rhode Island could foster one dog, Jess Holderbaum of Cape Cod could foster two dogs, and there was one dog not yet designated whom one of us would take.

On January 3rd, our plans were finalized. The four dogs that were to be taken to their new foster homes were removed. Left at the kennel were two males and two females, all 6 years old. A group of us met at the Middleboro kennel the following morning to bring "home" the remainder of the dogs.

On January 4th, more rescuers arrived. Bob Carson of Greyhound Friends, Nancy

Buckland of East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and Joan Blair joined the others to see to the safe removal of these special hounds.

Jess bathed his two fosters at a local kennel, while we held a mini dog wash for the remaining dogs in the kennel owner's extremely small bathroom. The dogs looked considerably better after being scrubbed with flea shampoo, although her bathroom certainly didn't. By early afternoon, the decrepit kennel was empty, and all of the dogs were on their way to warm, loving homes.

Under the circumstances I am pleased how everything came together considering most of us were from different areas and different rescue groups that often have conflicting philosophies and don't always work together as cordially as would be optimal. But when the "Middleboro Nine" team came together, we worked in unison with a common purpose. We learned lessons about how to coordinate an urgent rescue effort, and we enjoyed the experience of making new friends within the adoption community. ■



CLAIRE SYGIEL

*Buddy (no photo available) was fostered and adopted by Claudia and Dick Nixon of Oakham, Massachusetts. Buddy was ill through his first few months with the Nixons, but after receiving treatment for a gastrointestinal infection, he thrived. The Nixons' hearts were broken when Buddy became seriously ill and passed away in 1998. Buddy Bear (above left) was at the Middleboro GPA Kennel for many months when Greyhound Options asked if they could bring him to their program for placement, since many of his kennel-mates had found homes through GO Inc. Husband-and-wife team Claire Sygiel and Cliff Kerr fostered Buddy Bear until the Nixon's adopted him shortly after Buddy Nixon's death. He is now happy, healthy, gorgeous, and cherished. Banshee (left) was fostered by Jess Holderman and now owns and controls Rachael Cappizzi of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Banshee accompanies her mom on dog-sitting assignments.*



JORDAN GRAUSTARK

*Banshee (left) was fostered by Jess Holderman and now owns and controls Rachael Cappizzi of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Banshee accompanies her mom on dog-sitting assignments.*

*Guy (in photo on page 18) was also adopted by Ann. Guy's interest in cats and small dogs became a bit too much for the Bodkhe's to manage, so he was returned to Greyhound Options. Claire Sygiel found him a home with his littermates Robert and Thelma. Sadly, he had to be re-homed when his owner died. Recently, Guy suffered a stroke and passed away.*

# Hounds Strut Their Stuff

Surrounded by Bill Blass, Donna Karan, and Todd Oldham originals, a select group of Greyhounds hit the fashion runway in the Third Annual "Greyhounds Go Glamorous" Fashion Show, last March. The event, a benefit for Greyhound Friends, Inc., of Hopkinton, Massachusetts and Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, was held at the Arader Gallery in New York City.

Hosted by designers Anne Bowen and Nancy Whitney, the event paired fashion models wearing original couture creations with Greyhounds in matching coats. The show, with its beautiful, stylish setting, helps change the perception of Greyhounds as being simply racing animals.

Other participating designers included: Louis DiCarlo, Ekoo, Kara Gaffney, Stan Herman, Nicole Miller, Lilly Pulitzer, Savoia, Ailie Mottern, Jill Stuart, and Carla Westcott. They were joined by cast members from the HBO hit series *The Sopranos*, who also modeled.

The event was covered by: *The New York Times*, *Animal Fair Magazine*, *Fox TV*, *The Entertainment Channel*, *Stern Magazine* (Germany), *The New York Post*, *AFP Wire Service*, *RTE Radio* (Ireland), *The Irish Times*, and *The Irish Voice*.



By Joyce Wasson and Louise Coleman

The fashion-conscious Greyhounds on the runway included:

**Banjo:** An Irish blood donor from the Veterinary College, Dublin, he saved the lives of many dogs during his service to the school and deserves a good home. Banjo came to the U.S. with Louise Coleman last February.

**Rosie:** An Irish lurcher (Greyhound/mix) from Dungarven, County Waterford, stayed with animal rescue worker, Mary Organ in Ireland until she could come to the U.S. There are only a few pet homes for Greyhounds in Ireland.

**Mustang:** An Irish racer who last raced at the Plainfield, Conn. Track, he now lives with several other Greyhounds and is a lucky, contented boy.

**Ranger:** a canine bon vivant who, after finishing his racing career, lived in Berlin, Paris, and Cambridge, before happily settling down in his Dover, Mass. cottage.

**Edward:** Charming Edward lives just over the border in Canada and is a poster dog for Greyhound adoption: beautiful, elegant, well-behaved, accommodating, and a couch potato.

**Gus:** This four-year-old always wears black so he fits right in at his new home in Greenwich Village.

Anne Bowen and cast members from *The Sopranos* with Cain (brindle) and Mustang (blue).

**Twister:** Cute and intelligent, Twister is Greyhound perfection or, as the ladies in the park say, "He's one of the charmers."

**Spinnaker:** He survived a broken leg and went to live in style and comfort in Cambridge, Mass. where his wonderful personality draws people to him.

**Vonya:** Initially shy and frightened, he has blossomed in his new home in New Jersey and now loves to be with people and have fun.

**Donna Chocolate:** A true beauty, Donna found a new life and home in New Jersey.

**Tori:** Now 13 years old, Tori was neglected by her previous owner, but found a loving home through Greyhound Friends.

**Cain:** What eyes he has! Once fearful and withdrawn, Cain is now adventurous and friendly after moving in with the Wicklunds in New Jersey.

**Mystic:** "Aged to Perfection," this award winning 14-year-old Greyhound was adopted from an animal medical center where she had been a blood donor for years after her racing career ended. ■

*Joyce Wasson and Louise Coleman volunteer for Greyhound Friends, Inc. of Hopkinton, Mass.*

*Eight-year-old Jack Mottern of Sherborn, Massachusetts was a photographer at the show, along with both his parents. Standing about four feet tall, Jack's height adds a unique perspective to his photographs and he has a sharp eye for Greyhounds.*

# Home Loans for Hounds

By Drew H. Nichol



I'm quite sure that the beginning of this story will have a familiar ring to a lot of adoptive parents out there. It all started with a simple side trip to the pet store.

My wife, Brenda, and I were on our way back to our little cottage on the coast of Washington. As we moved at a snail's pace along the I-5 corridor between Seattle and Tacoma, we remembered we needed to get some goldfish flakes for Brenda's grandma. We walked into the pet store and there were retired racing Greyhounds walking elegantly around the store, nuzzling and warming up to everyone and showing off their sporty little racing coats. All except one who was cowering under the adoption table.

Up until that moment, I had always been the dog lover in the family. Brenda had never really shown an interest in canine companionship. Imagine my shock as she shouted, "Oh honey, look! I've always loved Greyhounds!" It was a side of her I've never seen.

I've always been kind of a husky/mala-

mute lover. My only previous experience with Greyhounds was a stop at a racetrack in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, about ten years ago. I remember leaving the track feeling uneasy about what kind of lives those dogs had, but I never thought about Greyhounds again. That was about to change dramatically.

At first, I wasn't sharing Brenda's enthusiasm over the retired racers. As much as Brenda was fascinated with the Greyhounds, I had other, more important things on my mind: specifically baseball. Being a huge fan, I was more interested in running across the street for *USA Today*, so I could check out the previous day's box scores. I was quite certain that a quick trip across the street would not alter our future to any great extent. I felt confident that upon my return, I would find Brenda waiting patiently for me in the parking lot, fish food and receipt in hand.

Well, she wasn't in the parking lot. "Geez," I thought, "must be a long checkout line." I went inside, but she was nowhere to

be found. The search was on. Catnip aisle? Nope. Stainless steel water bowls? Negative. Where could she be? I know: tropical fish. As I made my way to the rear of the store where the aquariums were, I knew I was homing in on her location. And there she was, lying on a blanket, petting the one Greyhound who had been cowering under the adoption table. The look she gave me said it all, "Honey, can we take him home?" The shy one, in a matter of four or five minutes, had completely stolen her heart.

His name was Stagecoach, and he lay on the floor, terrified of everyone and everything, except Brenda.

Stagecoach, we were told, had been traumatized at Multnomah Greyhound Park in Portland, Oregon. Someone had accidentally fallen on him while taking him out to the

track. One of the volunteers at the adoption table finally got Stagecoach up on his feet so we could walk outside with him and learn more about him. At this point, I was still preoccupied with those baseball box scores. As Stagecoach stood up and looked around, I vividly remember the change going on inside me as I watched him move through the group of other retired racers. Suddenly, the *USA Today* under my arm seemed insignificant. I was looking at the most striking creature I'd ever seen, a beautiful golden color, with incredible muscle definition, and grace in movement beyond comparison. However, my wife saw what I could not: an incredibly soulful being with a heart of gold who unfortunately was also filled with fear and confusion.

So, we filled out an application with the Emerald Chapter of the GPA, and a few days later the "stork" brought our beautiful 75-pound, 20 month old boy to us. First we changed his name. After learning about the

*Pharaoh wishes everyone could have a comfortable home like he does.*

role of the Greyhound in the Egyptian culture, we renamed him Pharaoh.

The first few days with Pharaoh were difficult. I'm sure anyone who has adopted a "special needs" Greyhound can relate. We thought that perhaps his spirit was broken. However, we decided that no matter how long it took for Pharaoh to "blossom" and bond with us, we would see it through. And then, just a couple of days later, wham! We witnessed our very first "dead cockroach," and as each day passed he got more and more comfortable with us. Now, a year and a half later, he has become the most spectacular companion imaginable. Playful, mischievous, interactive, and what an appetite. He is still wary of strangers, barks at people who get close to our property, and has other little quirks. We wouldn't have him any other way.

Well, if that were the end of the story, you probably wouldn't be reading this article right now, because I probably would not have written it. It's what my experience with Pharaoh and exposure to the magical world of Greyhounds has inspired me to do that led to this tale. When I moved to Seattle in the spring of 1995, I bought a house. The loan officer who took care of the financing on my house did a great job and we became good friends. After hearing repeatedly about his job over a four-year period, I figured that he must be on to something. So, I did some homework on the company and decided to take him up on his offer. Late last fall, I was hired. My wife and I were very excited.

Right now, you're probably thinking, "Okay, I like the part about the Greyhound, but why is this guy telling me about his new job in the mortgage business?"

Well, about two weeks before I started my new job, I was on the computer, looking at a few of the many Greyhound web sites my wife has stored in "favorites" and I came across this poem titled, "Eternal Sleep," by Terri Onorato. Terri wrote it for all the racing Greyhounds who never found

a home. It was truly the saddest, most touching thing I had ever read.

When I finished the poem, I stared at my computer screen and cried. As I was wiping the tears away, Pharaoh came over to me and put his head in my lap and looked at me with those enormous brown eyes of his. It was almost as if he was saying how grateful he was to be adopted, but couldn't we do something to help all those who didn't have homes.

It was a very special moment. Up until then, I had appreciated Pharaoh for what I would now consider all the wrong reasons. I was fascinated with his impressive muscular build; I loved watching him race around our house. And when we found out that Pharaoh is from a very famous line of Greyhounds, I made sure to tell everyone I knew about that. I also liked being seen with a Greyhound at the park. Then I finally realized what my wife had known all along: we had saved a frightened creature with a heart and a soul, capable of love and empathy. It was almost as though we had brought an angel back from the darkness.

Well, here's where this tale comes full circle. Mortgage lending and Greyhound welfare? What's the connection? It's called "Home Loans for Hounds." After the poem experience, I knew I wanted to be more involved in Greyhound welfare. There are many more little souls out there who need all the help they can get. Why not use my job? After all, it's where I spend the majority of my time. When I first started talking about this idea around the office, some of my co-workers looked at me like I was a little off-center, home loans for *what*? Well, I now have the full support of the company, and I'm very grateful for that support.

The concept is really pretty simple. It is designed to benefit Greyhounds and all the people who are either directly or indirectly involved with them (including adopters, volunteers, and fosters) and who need a mortgage or a refinancing loan, a debt consolidation, or even money to open up a business.

To date I have closed a few loans for "Home Loans For Hounds" customers in Washington and Oregon and I'm beginning to receive inquiries from around the country. I plan to reach \$1,000 in donations for the year 2000. My goal for 2001 is \$5,000. I am also now working with Seanna Vivion-Baker, a realtor in the Puget Sound area who has two Greyhounds and is also committed to donating money and helping Greyhounds. We have sort of formed a "Greyhound/real estate/financing team."

First, we pay for some of your closing costs. The savings are based on the loan amount. For example, if your loan amount is between \$100,000 and \$200,000, we'll cover up to \$300 of the closing costs. If your loan amount is between \$200,000 and \$300,000, we'll cover up to \$500 of the closing costs.

Second, I donate money back into whatever group you're affiliated with or from which you have adopted a Greyhound. The donation starts at \$150 and is based on the loan amount. I've done some calculating in my head, and realize that an enormous amount of money can be raised through this program. I believe that if you can use your occupation to benefit the things you really care about, it would be a travesty not to pursue such an avenue. I encourage everyone who reads this article to think about that. I'm sure there are a lot of you out there who, with a little thought and effort, could use your occupation and abilities to do something similar. The way I see it, we "Greyhound crazies" are all in the same boat and want the same thing, an opportunity for all the little angels out there to have a chance at a life after the track. As Terri Onorato put it best in her poem, "I may not have been the fastest dog to ever run the track, I just wish someone had loved me so I could have loved them back." ■

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## Us vs. Them

I became involved in Greyhound adoption six-and-a-half years ago after I adopted my first Greyhound, Mattie. Initially I wasn't really actively involved with my adoption group but as time passed I began doing more. Before seeing Greyhounds at a demonstration, I knew nothing of what went on at the racetrack. I have never been to a race nor will I ever go to one because I believe that to do so would be to support Greyhound racing.

Some say that adoption groups "aid" the racing industry by not protesting and by taking the dogs and finding homes for them. I guess there are two ways to look at that, but I feel that by taking the dogs and finding them homes we are helping the Greyhounds, not the tracks! If we didn't take them where would they end up? At research labs, or maybe dead? No one should criticize an adoption group for taking these wonderful dogs and saving their lives. Not all kennels kill or sell their dogs for research purposes. They actually look down on those kennels that do. Should we "protest" under their noses and expect them to give us these dogs? I don't think so!

In 1992 Maine banned Greyhound racing and simulcasting even though there had never been Greyhound racing in the state. A few years later, we stopped a bill that would have allowed simulcasting before it even got to the state capitol. We, a group dedicated to finding homes for these animals, stopped Greyhound racing in Maine and preserved our image of humanely giving these retired racers a life after the track. You don't have to slap the kennel owners in the face to achieve your goals-not if you want the death toll to stay down and hopefully disappear.



If every adoption group across the country suddenly started protesting vigorously against racing, just how many dogs do you think would end up in homes? I for one do not want to find out.

*Top to Bottom: Eleven-year-old Mattie seems surprised at all the fuss. Seven-year-old Leanne is unconcerned by all the fuss. And, five-year-old Ernie wants us to wake him when it's all over.*

We are quietly making a difference. Our voices are muted, but sometimes a whisper speaks louder than a shout. Someday we will be out of business, but it won't be because we ranted, raved, and carried signs depicting tortured Greyhounds. No, it will be because the public has stopped supporting the tracks. Attendance is falling off now. Tracks are adding slot machines to bring in more people because the public is becoming more aware, through our efforts, of the effects of racing on the dogs.

At this writing, everyone is watching what will happen in Massachusetts in November. The tracks have big money behind them whereas adoption groups aren't that fortunate. Which side will the people of Massachusetts take? The side of the Greyhound or the side that says jobs and money will be lost if racing is stopped? As they say, "Money speaks the loudest," so we shall just have to wait and watch.

Greyhound racing is declining in popularity. Public opinion does matter. Will it be enough to stop it altogether? Only time and patience will tell. I'd love to see the last dog come into our kennel from the track and be placed in a home, the doors to our kennel forever closed because there are no more tracks to get the dogs from.

In the meantime I will quietly continue to do my best to educate the public of what the fate is for these truly magnificent animals after their racing days are over. After all, education can be a powerful tool to those who wield it. ■

*Sue Sprague resides in Winter Harbor, Maine with her family and her Greyhounds Mattie, Ernie, Leanne, and Obie. She volunteers for Greyhound Placement of Maine.*

## Life with the Class Clown

I taught elementary school for 31 years, so I am an expert at picking out the class clown. He is the child who is always joking and seldom serious. He is also the one you have trouble being angry with no matter what he does. He's a character and even the teacher finds him amusing. It didn't take me long to realize that my male Greyhound, Dancer, fits the description. Dancer is a real character and the class clown in any pack. He has earned the nickname "Mr. Goofus."

Here are some tips to help you figure out if you are owned by one of these characters:

**Class clowns show perpetual enthusiasm.** Dancer never walks. He hops, skips, and bounces, with an occasional leap as well, which may explain how he got his kennel name. Kisses from this sweet boy are given quite frequently, and it's never just one or two. It is always a face full. When we return home after even after a short absence, Dancer's happy dance is a real production number. He sure lets us know he is glad to have his audience back.

**Class clowns stand out in a crowd.** In my area, we have a Greyhound playgroup. There are 12 Greyhounds in the group and my boy is the one who makes us laugh. His



Story and photo by Eileen Saks

antics began the first time I took my Greyhounds to the field to run with this group. All the Greyhounds ran around the field when let off lead (an awesome sight to see). But, as is always the case, the run was short. When the pack stopped running, the Greyhounds trotted toward us, except for one who veered off and went to lay down in a large mud puddle in the corner of the field. You guessed it: Dancer. My mostly white boy had fawn colored legs, belly, and head that day and established himself as the clown of the group.

Currently, his playgroup trick is to climb into a van other than mine when it is time to go home. He refuses to get out unless pushed. Why he does this is a mystery. He is a very happy boy at home, so perhaps it is to give us all a laugh and at that he succeeds.

**Class clowns demand attention at home.** The antics of this funny boy keep us in stitches at home. Though Dancer loves to go for walks, when we attach his leash to his collar, he always picks it up in his teeth and walks himself around the house, some-

times running around for several minutes. Unless you chase him, you have to wait until he is finished with these shenanigans before leaving the house.

Dancer is a major counter surfer and his height allows him to reach just about anything he wants. Even though, over the years, we have become more careful, we still lose an occasional meal to him. He never gets caught red-handed, but we know it is Dancer. When we look at him after discovering that food or a slipper (another trick of his) is missing, he always looks innocent. How can anyone be angry at that angelic face?

**Class clowns look to you for comfort.** Though he does not climb on the furniture, Dancer needs a pillow for his head when he lies on the floor. It is usually our feet or knees (I told you he is tall) or sometimes the rump of my female Greyhound, Polka.

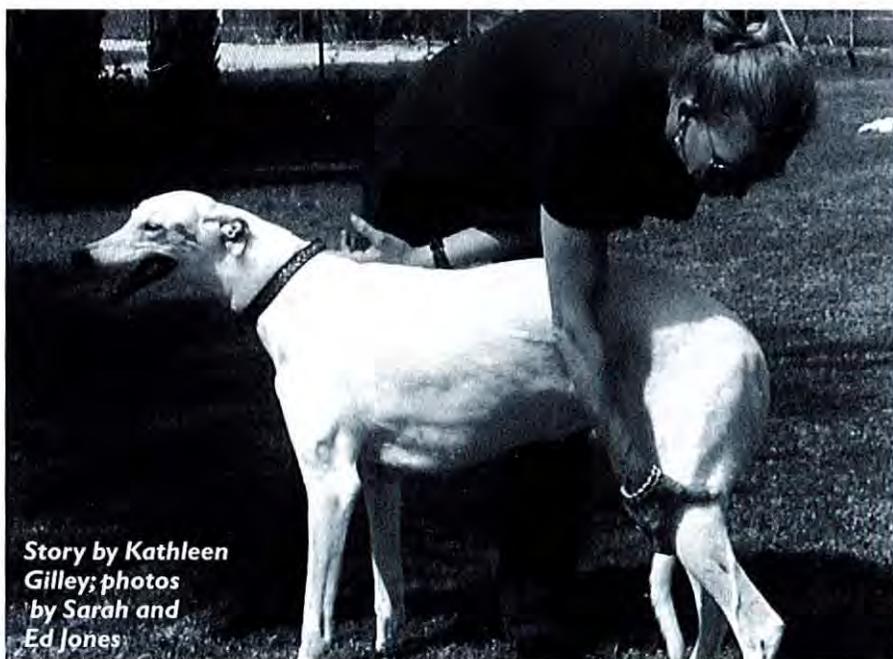
He has so many ways of looking adorable. He frequently cockroaches, and he is quite vocal when his bedding is not the way he wants it. When he wants to go outside to sunbathe, he lets you know with a pathetic little whine and you are expected to jump up to open the door.

**Class clowns want everyone to love them.** Dancer loves to kiss everyone he meets and leaps to get to any passersby to do just that. He never met a person he didn't like, and he demands that you love him back. Because he is such a sweet lover boy, they usually do. Dancer even wants other dogs to like him. When they bark at him, instead of barking back, he cries.

So you see, life with the class clown is never dull. He will keep you happy because he continually brings laughter. Though he may do things that are annoying in another dog, the smile on his face will charm you and the annoyance will be short-lived. If a class clown doesn't already own you, I highly recommend one. ■

*Eileen Saks resides in Bensalem, Pennsylvania with Greyhounds, class clown Dancer and her more serious Polka Dot.*

## The Sit as a Bonding Tool



Story by Kathleen  
Gilley; photos  
by Sarah and  
Ed Jones

*To paraphrase Edward Hoagland—  
“In order to really enjoy a Greyhound,  
one doesn’t merely try to train him to be  
semi-human. The point is to open  
oneself to the possibility of being as  
much of a Greyhound as he will let you.”*

Home training or companion training a Greyhound should be a mission of love and passion. It should be an exploration of his body and soul while reassuring him that yours are his for the asking.

You are not teaching him anything he does not already know. What you are doing is coming together for the purpose of acting in unison. Your adventures in connecting a human word to a canine behavior should be a mutual learning experience. If you think you are smarter than he is or that you are here to teach him something, you are reading the wrong article.

The sit is not an unnatural position for a Greyhound. He has never been taught *not* to sit, contrary to urban myth. It does not hurt when he sits unless he had an injury. If you walk into a racing kennel you will see dogs sitting in their crates. Visit a Greyhound farm that has pallets and you will see a Greyhound back up to and sit on the edge of his. Greyhounds can be found sitting on steps, motor home engine boxes, and between your knees in any lawn chair you are already occupying.

A Greyhound does not sit most of the time because he sees no need to make one half of his body useless. (Or, as one sage put it, “If it can’t be done laying down or standing up, it probably ain’t worth doing.”) In the prone or sphinx position, a Greyhound can rise and be in full stride with one motion. No need to operate front and rear landing gear independently.

Just because it doesn’t look comfortable to you is irrelevant. Look at the way they sleep, with their arms over their heads, hanging in mid air. Look at some of the places they choose to sleep. I have one who insists on wedging herself between the pillow and the headboard, even if it means she may get slept on.

If a dog will stand still, why would anyone want him to sit anyway? Most people who repeatedly yell, “sit-sit-sit-sit-sit” really just want the dog to stop what he is doing. True, if he is sitting, he can’t be jumping on

Most people begin by getting down on one knee—whichever one bends the best if you are over 45. Place your left arm around his chest, but very low, approximately even with his elbow. We do not wish to put any

pressure on his trachea or throat area. You are holding him against your chest so he will feel secure.

The only part of your right arm to use is between the wrist and the elbow. Place this

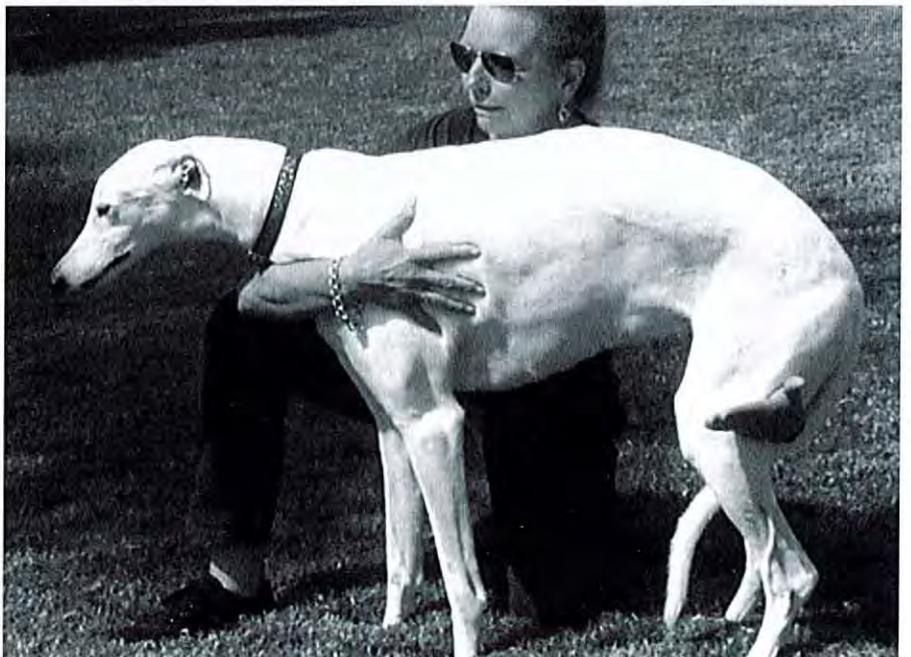
people, but why not just teach him not to jump on people? Why teach the sit at all? You teach it for the love and passion of your Greyhound and possibly for the communication and the bonding it will bring. Is it going to be fun? I don't know; it's kind of like sex: you can do it for love or you can do it for fun. What we are not going to do is do it for food.

Food is what every dog should get, like air and water. You are not training a porpoise, whale, or manatee. You are training a Greyhound. If you train him with food, that is exactly what he is going to see you as—a food dispenser. If you want him to love you, train him with love. Isn't his constant need for our affection and approval what endears us to this breed over all others? Use his intelligence, his desire to please, and his need for love and physical contact to show him what you want.

### Step 1: Whole Arm Folding

First of all, make sure he has no injuries. Run your fingers down each side of his spine from shoulders to tail. If he winces or his skin appears to twitch, go see your canine health care provider. Second, get an anatomy book and look up where the stifle joint is located. What we want is the area in back of the stifle, just below those beautiful buns of steel.

Two large muscle bundles meet there. When you apply pressure against where the bundles meet, the dog's leg will begin to fold up, without his control. He must be heavily assured that this loss of control is nothing to worry about.





area behind the stifle joint, where the two bundles of muscles meet. *Leave the tail hanging loose; do not include it under your forearm.* Do not grip anything with your hand. Now you are going to very gently hug him into a sit by pressing with your forearm behind his knees and hugging him slightly backward with the arm around his chest.

You are folding him. Pretend he is an accordion. You must move both ends at the same pressure and speed: slowly, gently, and relentlessly.

Do not use the word "sit." You are not teaching him to sit; you are teaching him to trust you. Run your mouth with reassuring phrases. Look for the least sign that the rear

muscles are beginning to relax. The minute you feel this, change from reassurance mode to high praise. As his rear muscles relax, get ready to get your arm out of there. As an added bonus, when removing your arm, sweep his tail out behind him.

You do not want him to learn to tuck his tail under him for aesthetic purposes. Besides, not all tails bend equally. If the tail gets caught under the hock, yes, that could be painful. Tails that have been injured and do not bend under will be uncomfortable. Curly tails are unpleasant to sit on.

If he sits on your arm, you will be trapped underneath him. His weight will pull you over. He will collapse on top of you and you will

start laughing. He will get the idea that this is what turns you on and refuse to get up.

It is not important at this point how long he sits. What is important is that as soon as you get your arm out from under his rear, you slide it up to his shoulders and start stroking, continuing to praise him. Never try to hold him in the sitting position. That does not inspire trust. Hug, stroke, and sing his praises for as long as he holds the position. While you are there with your face behind his neck, give him a nuzzle. Rub your cheek up and down the back of his neck.

He should be allowed to get up of his own accord anytime he feels anxious. No one is forcing anyone. Let's do it again. Pretty soon you will get the feeling of just where to place your arms, just how to hum gentle reassurance. Once he begins to relax his muscles, you will learn how to up the tempo and pitch of your voice as if you are cheering him to a touchdown. Literally speaking, you are.

Break your training sessions up. If he does not have trust in you, he will begin to resist. It is time to quickly do something else, like bounce a ball or run a couple of feet while making funny noises, or toss and squeak his favorite toy. What you want to accomplish is the immediate dissipation of any negative feelings he might have built up from not understanding what you were doing. Don't worry; do it enough times and he won't care anyway. Let him concentrate on your arms around him, your voice patterns, and your praise.

Your goal the first day is to get him to allow you to rock him slightly backwards with one arm, while putting gentle pressure against the muscle bundles with your forearm. Don't forget to sweep the tail straight out behind.

Without holding him in place, he should comfortably and confidently rest his body against yours for as long as you keep up the stroking and singing of praise. This will depend on how many times you perform the accordion exercise and how gushy and grate-

ful your appreciation is expressed.

Remember your goal is to get him to trust you. You cannot do this if you do not "know" him. Observe him! What sounds do you make that please him? Try modulating your voice. Chirp. Giggle. Does he have an itchy spot? You are home free. Itchy dogs will train in a heartbeat. To know his body is to know his mind.

This will determine the timing of the next step. When you grunt and groan your aging body into the kneeling position, putting your arms in the hug position, and he promptly sits on your arm, that is step one. You have never used the word "sit." You have never indicated you wanted anything other than to hold his body close to yours and whisper, squeak, squeal, cheer, and/or hum your adoration to him.

When you are successful, try this while you are standing. You still have to bend over to hug and kiss him, make no mistake. Do what he likes, say what he wants to hear. If you are lucky, just scratch his itch. Go back a step any time you have tried to rush him.

### Step 2: One Handed Folding

Is it time to change positions? Spread your right hand across his chest with some fingers reaching between his front legs. With the palm of your left hand, apply pressure against the back of the stifle joint closest to you. If he slowly lowers himself into a sit, sing him an opera, warble, chirp, cheer, squeak, and giggle. Keep your hands roaming over his gorgeous physique. Massage, rub, and stroke him. Cease when he gets up or you get tired, whatever comes first.

Yes, this is repetitious. But if you aren't learning things about him, you aren't doing it right. If he isn't becoming more physically malleable, you aren't pushing his love buttons.

### Step 3: Start Saying "Sit"

If you are doing it right, it is time to change again. Finally, it is time to say the magic word. Calmly say, "sit." Pause while

you get what you asked for and don't forget to tell him he's the greatest. You are going to move your right hand to his collar now, pulling gently back, not up. The fingers of your left hand will put a slight upward pressure on that area behind the stifle. Say "sit" and start singing. There should never be enough pressure on his collar for him to cough or wheeze.

When you have this down, keep your right hand on the collar, but start moving your left hand up his leg, a little at a time. Compliance with any of the steps is trust and understanding. Non-compliance means you are not doing something right. Yes, failure is always your fault.

Once you are at the top of his leg, you can put your left hand between his hips and tail, while exerting a mild downward and

tucking pressure. Keep your mouth in gear. Any time he takes the pressure on his collar, which should be running parallel with his back, to mean back up, slide your hand back to his hindquarters to indicate that end stays still.

Soon a finger under the collar, a hand above his tail and a single word, "sit," will be all it takes. Do not forget the hugs and praise. It is now only a matter of time before a finger under the collar and finger on his rump, with one syllable of "sit" will do.

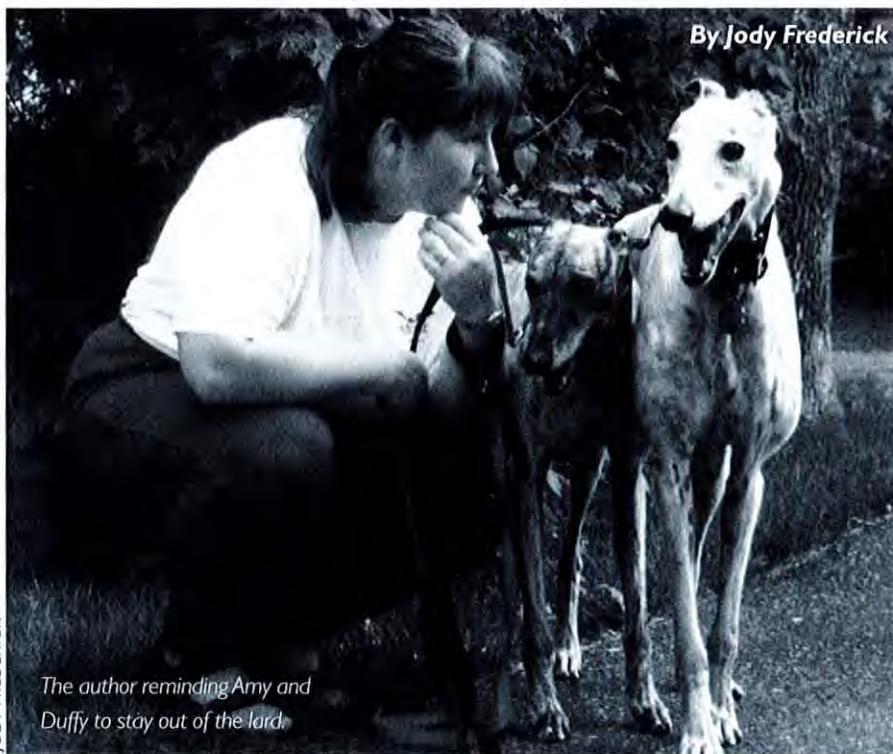
Warning: Use of this method may increase his need for body contact with you. It may induce affection-seeking behavior and a need to sit in your lap.

All photos and Greyhounds, compliments of Sarah and Ed Jones. Belle is the white female and Bo is the blue male. ■



# Causes and Treatment of Canine Pancreatitis

By Jody Frederick



The author reminding Amy and Duffy to stay out of the lard.

JODY FREDERICK

Late in the evening of December 20, 1999, my husband and I were in the process of moving to our new home when our inattention and carelessness nearly turned a joyous occasion into tragedy. In the midst of unpacking, we accidentally left our unsupervised Greyhounds with access to the kitchen and its contents, including food. Imagine our horror when we discovered that Duffy had ingested the contents of a two-pound canister of cooking lard.

Our first reaction was merely concern because Duffy seemed chipper and lively enough. By December 21, he had a very large bowel movement that looked like white slime. Naively, we thought he might be able to pass the lard through his system. His appetite and mood remained steady until that night when he started vomiting sporadically into the next morning. At first, the vomit was whitish and slimy, nearly indistinguishable from the previous day's bowel contents. Again, we were hopeful that he would expunge the lard from his system from one end or the other.

As December 22 wore on, and the vomiting continued, we began to realize the gravity of the situation. Although Duffy's appetite was still strong, we dared not feed him. Within hours, Duffy was lethargic and very shaky on his feet. After 16 hours of vomiting, he had rapidly declined and was at the point of dehydration. Our veterinarian was not overly concerned until, as if to demonstrate his illness, Duffy vomited in the examination room. The veterinarian decided at that time to keep him overnight and to hook him up to intravenous (IV) fluids.

On December 23, we picked Duffy up from the clinic. He had been rehydrated and the veterinarian felt that he was on his way to recovery. Armed with antibiotics and anti-nausea medicine, we happily headed home. However, with the reintroduction of a minuscule amount of bland food, the vomiting reoccurred and continued throughout the night.

We returned to the clinic on Christmas Eve. At this point, the veterinarian took abdominal x-rays to check for an intestinal obstruction or signs of bloat. Negative. The veterinarian admitted Duffy to the San Diego Animal Emergency Hospital for 24-hour treatment and observation. The tentative diagnosis was pancreatitis; Duffy was just one of five dogs suffering from the same condition at the emergency hospital. The head veterinarian told us that although Duffy was very sick, she expected a full recovery, given that Duffy remained on IV fluids and could make it 12 hours without vomiting. She also cautioned that if Duffy had permanently damaged his pancreas, he could die.

Duffy required seven more days of full-time (and *costly*) veterinary care. On several occasions after reintroducing food, the doctors believed the vomiting was finally under control. But Duffy always experienced more nausea, and then vomiting. Frustratingly, he would make it to the brink of the magic 12-hour mark, only to relapse into vomiting. The head veterinarian's words rang in our ears: "If Duffy has blown away his pancreas, then we can't save him." At

## Causes, Treatment, and Prevention

9 years old, Duffy was also fighting age; senior dogs find it harder to recover than younger dogs. The longer the vomiting continued the less likely his chances for recovery and ultimately, survival.



SARAH JONES

*The late, great, track champion Dusty Dedit eats his healthy birthday cake at his 11th birthday party.*

With medical intervention, luck, and intestines of steel, Duffy survived. Because he is more prone to another bout of pancreatitis, we restrict him to dog food and low fat treats, just to be safe. Despite his brush with death and a loss of ten pounds, Duffy has more vigor and attacks every meal as if it were his last. I am certain that he would gladly wolf down more baking supplies if given the chance. To prevent that from happening, we initiated a cold war of sorts: Duffy is separated from his beloved kitchen with an ex-pen iron curtain. An ounce of prevention, in his case, is two greasy, fat-laden pounds of cure. ■

**What is Pancreatitis?:** The pancreas is a gland that produces enzymes (i.e., lipase and amylase) to aid in digestion and hormones (i.e., insulin) that regulate the metabolism of sugar. Pancreatitis occurs when the pancreas is diseased or injured. Some of the most common causes of pancreatitis include:

- Ingestion of high fat or contaminated foods
- Abdominal injuries
- Obesity
- Viral infections (although uncommon)

Pancreatitis in its acute form usually occurs when well-meaning humans give their pet a special treat. Emergency clinics see a marked increase in cases of pancreatitis following Thanksgiving and Christmas after dogs feast on table scraps, ham, turkey, or chocolate. These delicious but fatty foods can inflame the pancreas and make the dog very sick.

**Symptoms:** In dogs, the symptoms of pancreatitis include: loss of appetite, severe and frequent vomiting, diarrhea that contains blood, reluctance to walk, overall weakness, abdominal pain, and restlessness. Promptly report any episodes of severe, prolonged vomiting, and diarrhea to your veterinarian so that your pet can begin treatment as soon as possible. Greyhounds, because of their sleek build, deteriorate very quickly when dehydrated. Watch closely for signs of dehydration: skin that tents up when pulled away from the scruff of the neck, dry or tacky mucous membranes (i.e., gums, eyes, and nose), and lethargy.

**Diagnostic Techniques:** A definitive diagnosis often requires blood work to determine enzyme levels and white blood cell count. However, no available test is completely reliable. Veterinarians can measure for elevated levels of lipase and amylase as a clue pointing to pancreatitis. The lipase test appears to be the more accurate test, but it is not always available on a routine chemistry panel. Some dogs with pancreatitis do not have elevations in lipase and amylase, so even when these blood values are normal, it does not exclude the diagnosis of pancreatitis.

Ultrasound can be a useful diagnostic tool, but performing an ultrasound of the pancreas can be technically difficult. Furthermore, the ultrasound might not detect abnormalities, even when acute pancreatitis is present.

**Treatment:** There is no specific treatment for pancreatitis, only a predominantly supportive approach: giving the pancreas time for its inflammation to subside while preventing further complications. Most dogs with acute pancreatitis recover in a few days, with complete rest of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract.

During treatment, the dog does not receive food or water orally. When nothing is taken by mouth, the stimulus for pancreatic secretion abates, allowing the inflammation to subside. When the enzymes (lipase and amylase) return to normal levels, then the dog can drink water and eat a very low fat diet in accordance with the veterinarian's instructions. To prevent dehydration during the period of complete bowel rest, dogs must be given fluid therapy, usually intravenously. Dogs with serious bouts of pancreatitis almost always require hospitalization. Steroids and other anti-inflammatory agents do not seem to aid recovery.

**Chronic Pancreatitis:** Chronic pancreatitis is a condition in which the inflammation has caused irreversible changes in the microscopic structure of the pancreatic tissue. This may lead to glucose intolerance and digestive difficulties. Dogs that have frequent episodes of acute pancreatitis are then labeled as having chronic pancreatitis. Each additional incident causes further damage and deterioration. Chronic pancreatitis is debilitating, so it is important to take every effort to control the progression of the disease.

**Prevention:** Once a dog has had pancreatitis, it is susceptible to future episodes. Luckily, the most common cause of pancreatitis is preventable. Keep high fat table scraps and snacks to an absolute minimum. Allowing access to the garbage can is at the root of many pancreatitis cases. You can also prevent pancreatitis by ensuring that your Greyhound is not obese. (Refer to "Hounds Battle the Bulge" in the Summer 2000 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds* for information about weight maintenance).

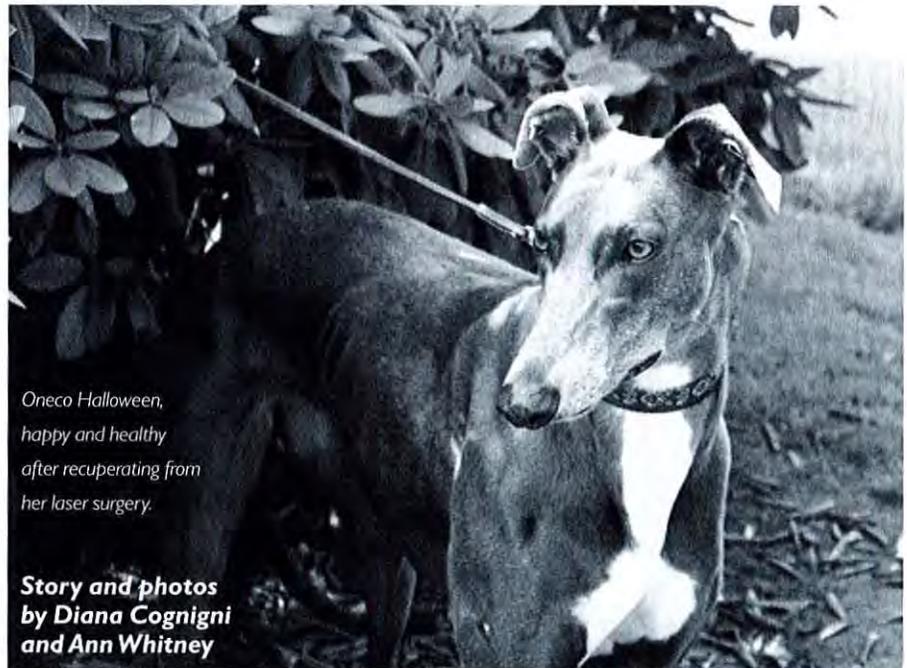
# Laser Surgery

A laser is a device that generates an intense beam of light at a specific wave length. Lasers produce an invisible beam that vaporizes the water normally found in the skin and other soft tissues. Because the laser beam can be precisely controlled, it removes or cuts only a thin layer of tissue at a time, leaving the surrounding areas undamaged. This level of control allows your vet to be extremely precise in every laser surgery procedure. The most widely used type of medical laser in the world is the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) laser.

Laser surgery is not new; it has been in use for more than 30 years.

**Why choose laser surgery?** The laser cauterizes nerve endings as it "cuts," so your pet may require less anesthesia, thereby reducing the risk of complications. Pain after surgery is also reduced. The laser also seals small blood vessels during surgery resulting in less bleeding. Laser energy does not crush, tear, or bruise because there is no physical contact with the tissue, so less swelling occurs.

**What does this mean for your pet?** The laser sterilizes as it removes the diseased tissue, killing bacteria that can cause infection.



*Oneco Halloween, happy and healthy after recuperating from her laser surgery.*

**Story and photos by Diana Cognigni and Ann Whitney**

The laser is more precise and removes unhealthy tissue without affecting or removing surrounding healthy tissue. Healing is rapid with less post-operative discomfort so your pet returns to his normal activities quicker. Laser procedures reduce the trauma to your pet, improve healing, and may shorten time spent in the veterinary hospital.

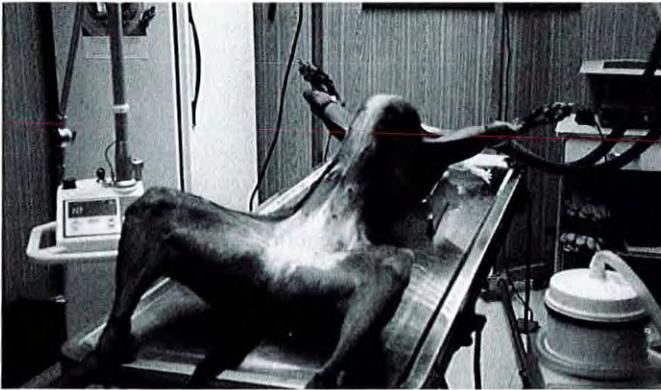
**Where do you find more information?** The AccuVet CO<sub>2</sub> Laser Manufactured by ESC/Sharplan Medical is used worldwide. A new educational web site at [www.accuvet.com](http://www.accuvet.com) provides veterinary professionals with current news and information about an exciting new medical option for veterinarians using laser surgery for safer, more comfortable treatment of pets. While the AccuVet site is designed for veterinarians, pet owners can easily access [www.petlasers.com](http://www.petlasers.com). Each one has an abundance of information.

**Who is performing laser surgery?** Dr. Kathio from the Pittston Animal Hospital performs laser surgery on Greyhounds and was nice enough to allow the photographs

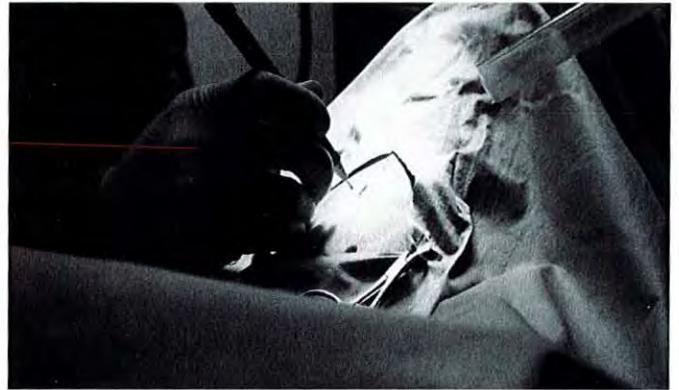
of Halloween's spaying. I know firsthand about Dr. Kathio's skill as a surgeon. He has altered all three of my Greyhounds, two by conventional methods and one by laser. Also, I have had fosters who have been neutered by laser surgery. A definite difference in recovery and healing periods between the two methods is apparent.

Dr. Daniel Rogers of the Aboite Animal Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a prominent veterinarian, also has many happy Greyhound patients who have had surgery with the AccuVet CO<sub>2</sub> Laser. To find veterinarians in your area, check the vet locator in the AccuVet web site. ■

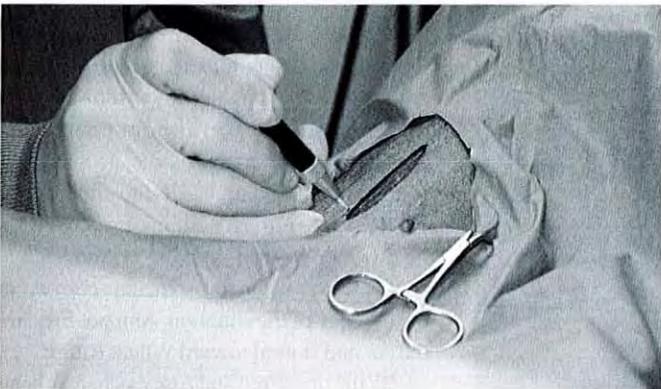
*Diana Cognigni is a volunteer for the Plainfield Pets (CT) affiliate in Harveys Lake, Pennsylvania. Ann Whitney is the president of the organization.*



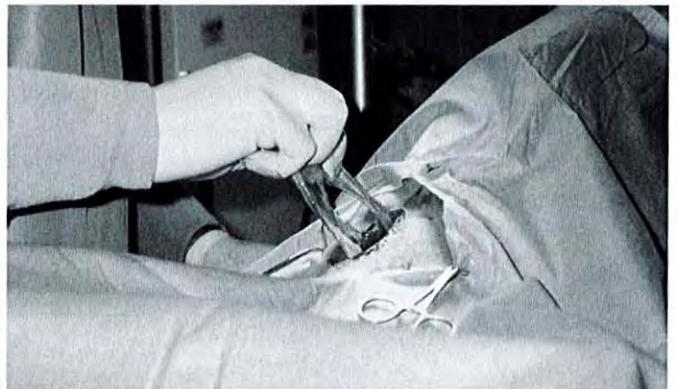
*Halloween, owned by Ann and Gary Whitney, under anesthesia before the surgery.*



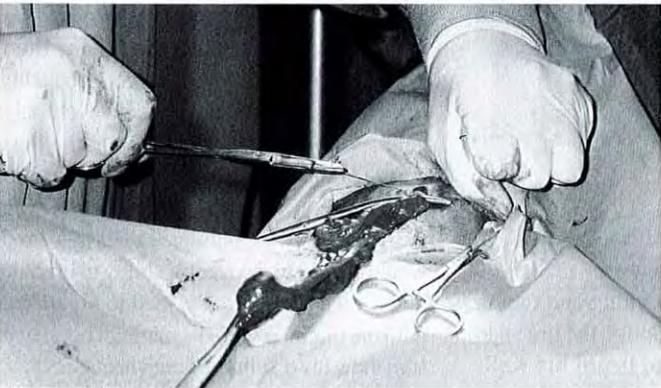
*The first tiny incision.*



*The laser opens more area.*



*Removing the uterus.*



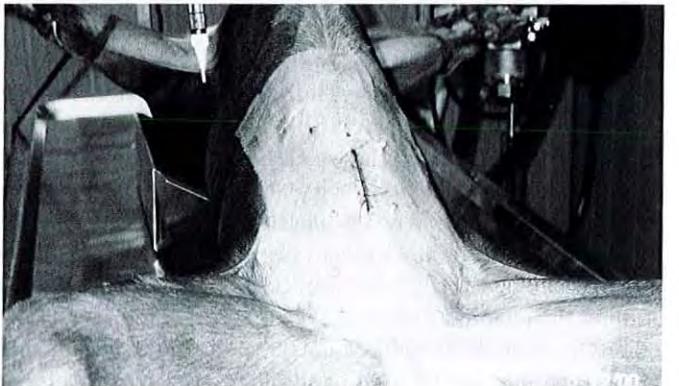
*Removing the ovaries.*



*Operation complete before the suturing. Note the lack of bleeding.*



*Sewing it all up.*



*All done.*

# Fred's Miracle: From Total Paralysis to Whole Hound



DAVID M. ENNIS

By Dennis Appel

Although Fred's time with our family began about one year ago, his story began over six years before that.

Fred was raised to be a racer. His boundless enthusiasm and excitement for the chase more often than not took him to the lead. Fred didn't know where the finish line was and, as such, did not pace himself. As a result, other Greyhounds would sometimes pass him before he reached this imaginary line. His overwhelming enthusiasm to try and catch the rabbit was a reflection of the way he approached life and would continue to serve him well.

Fred raced until he was two months short of his fifth birthday. He then went on to serve as a live-in blood donor for Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital in Colorado. Like most other Greyhounds, Fred has a universal blood type that can be used by all dog breeds. As a donor, Fred made many friends

with the Wheat Ridge staff and helped save the lives of other dogs in need.

After five years of training and racing and one year as a blood donor, the time had finally come for Fred to begin his well-earned retirement. While picking up our first Greyhound, Belle (who had just completed a blood donation), my wife Ann asked about the Greyhound, whose picture was on a bulletin board. Fred, who incidentally has never met a stranger, immediately said, "Hello" by resting his head on Belle's back during this meeting. When I got home from work that afternoon and heard the story of what had happened, I knew that we were going to be adopting another Greyhound.

Fred came into our home not long after that initial chance meeting. He very quickly adjusted to retirement. The wonder in his eyes as he discovered the sights, sounds, and smells

of the real world was something to behold. He also gave confidence to our otherwise shy female Greyhound, Belle, and became a wonderful "Meet and Greet" Greyhound. He would look directly into the eyes of everyone he met with warmth and seeming familiarity.

After only eight months of retirement, Fred suffered a cervical stroke (a fibrocartilagenous embolism) on St. Patrick's Day.

Fred had just completed a spirited mid-day walk with Ann and Belle, showing his usual intense interest in a nearby prairie dog colony. When he arrived home, he instantly became almost lethargic. His breathing went from rapid to almost nothing. Fred went to lie down on his bed, looking at Ann with a confused expression that somehow conveyed the urgency of the situation. Ann got Fred in the car and started toward Wheat Ridge.

By the time Fred and Ann reached Wheat Ridge, Fred was no longer breathing. The fantastic staff immediately got Fred on a ventilator. Throughout the whole incident, Fred remained alert and awake. He recognized his name and us. I never saw fear in his eyes, only confusion and frustration. Despite the best efforts of many, it appeared that Fred could not breathe on his own. Late into the evening the hard facts were presented to us that Fred would not likely recover his ability to breathe on his own again. We decided to give Fred until the morning with the minimal hope that somehow his condition would change.

We arrived early the next morning expecting to say goodbye. Once more they gave him a shot to try to stimulate his body to breathe on his own. They removed his breathing tube and he breathed! This was so startling that one of the veterinarians exclaimed, "Wow!" We were surprised and thrilled, among other emotions. But now what? What had caused this? Would it happen again? Could he recover to live a meaningful life? No one knew the answers. But now suddenly, there was hope. Fred was fighting to take each breath and at the same time trying to stay awake. For hours that day we talked, scratched, and petted

him, all the while encouraging him to keep fighting. Occasionally, as his oxygen intake dropped below the necessary level to properly maintain his body, he was given a number of breaths through a breathing bag. Each time, he fell asleep instantly, completely exhausted.

Fred had an MRI which revealed that a piece of Fred's neck vertebrae had broken off. This affected his vascular system and shut down his body's ability to breathe. We were told this is a very rare occurrence and that there was little chance of the same thing reoccurring. The best news was that Fred would likely recover to resume a meaningful life and enjoy retirement.

Slowly but surely each day Fred improved. He slowly regained the ability to breathe unassisted. Eventually he could lift his head and then move his front legs ever so slightly. Since almost everyone knew Fred from his previous residency, the good folks at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital and Dr. Brendan McKiernan, Fred's primary veterinarian, gave Fred lots of attention and encouragement. Without a doubt, that helped him in his recovery.

In a week's time, we were able to bring Fred home. In several days he would begin physical therapy. There was a lot of excitement that day as we carried Fred in the front door and Belle got a chance to see her buddy for the first time in a week. Immediately she sensed that something was wrong with Fred; you could clearly see it in her eyes. She recognized that he wouldn't be able to romp with her in the yard and treated him with understanding. Fred sure was glad to be home, but his struggle to recover had only begun. At this point, Fred could only lift his head and move his front legs slightly. He had to be attended to in every other way, around the clock.

Over the next three weeks, Fred received physical therapy at the Alameda East Veterinary Hospital, (yes, the Emergency Vets on the Animal Planet cable network). Fred worked hard each day, first in the water, later on a treadmill. Every

two hours Fred was made to try to use his legs as best he could. Sometimes in exhaustion he would attempt to crawl back to his cage, but he dutifully did his best. Over the next three weeks his strength and coordination returned.

At home each morning and evening, Fred attempted using only his front legs to crawl toward the door to go outside. He tried so hard to get there. His disappointment was evident from the sad expression on his face when nature's call invariably overwhelmed him. He so much wanted to walk, run, and play. In the face of Fred's daily struggles, we could clearly see some improvement every day.

By the time Fred had completed his physical therapy, he could walk again. After going in and out of Alameda East on a stretcher each day, he was able to proudly walk out his last day. Fred could now get around the house and backyard in relatively good shape, although others may have thought that he was a bit tipsy. He tired quickly and was still unsure on his feet, but most importantly, he had the freedom to walk.

Carrie Adamson, Fred's physical therapist, said, "As with many neurological insults, the road to recovery is long and arduous. Fred's determination and courage helped to pull him through the long, hard days in rehabilitation. There was no rest for the weary. Every two hours we would work on trunk stability, standing, and supporting to encourage weight bearing and sitting sternally with the use of the hydro-treadmill to build strength and re-educate his muscles to function properly. Gradually over those three weeks, therapeutic activities had to be modified to continue to challenge Fred as he was regaining mobility. Though Fred dutifully performed what was asked of him, I wondered what those black, beady eyes were thinking: "Oh no, here she comes again! Can't I just rest for a while?"

With a hands-on approach, lots of encouragement, and of course bribery, his progress was astounding. The strenuous weeks in rehab paid off. It's always rewarding to watch our human patients be discharged and walk out

the front door with a shake of the hand. Though, there was something even more special in those black, beady eyes as Fred strolled through the front doors on his way home. Maybe it was the lick on my face as his way of saying thank you."

During the first week of June Fred cleared what was his last major hurdle to recovery. He made it up and down the stairs without assistance for the first time. Each time he completes the trip, he jumps around excitedly as if to say, "Look what I did!" To date, he continues to regain coordination, takes increasing pleasure in play, and attempts to run with me while on a lead. His recovery has been nothing short of remarkable.

I firmly believe that Fred's existence in this world is no accident. There were so many critical occurrences, as well as, talented and loving people whose direct involvement were necessary to giving Fred a chance to survive. Fred also received important support from others in the form of good wishes and prayers and our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

Fred has recently resumed his work as an ambassador for Greyhound adoption. Fred still enthusiastically meets everyone with a wag of his tail, a soft expression, and with direct eye contact that conveys the warmth of his soul. Perhaps that is why Fred recovered against all odds—so that he can help those Greyhounds who are still waiting for their opportunity for a soft bed, a toy, and a daily dose of hugs and kisses in retirement. ■



Fred and PT Carrie Adamson three months after the stroke.

ANN APPEL

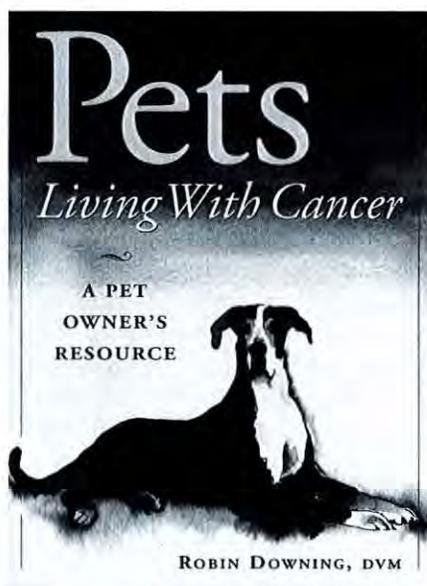
## Pets Living with Cancer: A Pet Owner's Resource

You and your dog have just returned from the veterinarian after receiving the dreaded diagnosis: cancer. Along with the panic and heartbreak, you try to focus on what's ahead as the battle against this often deadly disease begins.

Your veterinarian most likely will refer you to a cancer specialist. Whether you work with a single veterinarian or a team set up to help you and your pet deal with this medical condition, Robin Downing's book, *Pets Living with Cancer: A Pet Owner's Resource*, is a wealth of information to guide the decision-making process.

Whether you have just been given the diagnosis or have been dealing with the disease for some time, her book can help answer many questions you may have. It serves as an excellent guide, covering not only the diagnosis, but treatment options, hospice care, and euthanasia.

Downing, a DVM with her own practice in Windsor, Colorado, brings both a professional and personal approach to a difficult and terrifying situation by including the story of Murphy, her big, beautiful Great Dane. Murphy has survived three years following a diagnosis of osteosarcoma and even participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Survivor's Lap in Ft. Collins last June.



**By Robin Downing, DVM**

**Reviewed by Stephanie Russell**

**Published by  
The American Animal Hospital  
Association**

**AAHA Press  
12575 W. Bayard Ave.  
Lakewood, CO 80228**

**www.healthypet.com  
USA \$19.95 softcover**

In addition to explaining the different methods of diagnosis, Downing also discusses such treatment options as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and alternative therapies. She explains that cancer is usually treated with a multi-therapy approach, which appears to be the most effective method when battling this disease. Regardless of the treatment path you choose for your pet, this book will be helpful.

Because cancer and its various treatments all take a toll on the body, nutrition is a very important part of every therapy program. The book explains how food and the proper diet help treat the cancer patient. Downing also provides guidelines to aid in a variety of difficult situations which can occur during the treatment and remission process.

Addressing head-on that most difficult of choices, Downing explains hospice care for pets and sympathetically helps you determine when the time has come for euthanasia. Resources such as books, web sites and phone numbers for veterinary teaching hospitals around the United States are also included.

While we all hope never to have to deal with cancer in our beloved dogs, having this book can help ease our worries and guide us to the best path through this difficult passage. ■

*Stephanie Russell lives in Colorado with her family, which includes two Greyhounds, Tasha and Cody; a Whippet, Dundee; a Cockatiel, Sweetie; and Yoshi the hamster.*

# Pet Insurance Details

*This article is the second of a two-part series on pet insurance that began in the Fall 2000 issue of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. The previous article presented in-depth analyses of different pet insurance plans and a variety of cost scenarios. This article describes in detail what each company offers.*

VPI issued its first insurance policy for pets in 1982. Since that time, they have issued over 850,000 policies, making it the oldest and probably the largest company in the market. One unofficial source claims that the number of policies in effect currently is 75,000.

VPI has two plans: Gold and Advantage Plus. In addition, you can add a well care plan, for \$99 annually, to either option. When I did the cost/benefit analysis, I classified the Gold plan without well care as the Basic level, Gold plan with well care was Level 2 and Advantage Plus with well care was Level 3.

For a premium, VPI also offers double cancer benefits. The analysis assumes that you subscribe to this benefit. (Its cost/benefit analysis was worse if you didn't). Although I assume that this premium would increase as your pet ages, VPI is now offering to keep the premium stable over the life of your pet if you subscribe before age 4.

One confusing thing about VPI is that although it publishes a benefit schedule, it also publishes a maximum per occurrence. This

## VETERINARY PET INSURANCE

means if your dog is hit by a car and, as a result, has multiple health problems, the cost associated with each individual problem will be compared with the benefit schedule. However, the total costs associated with the accident, would then be subject to the incident maximum, placing a further limit on how much VPI would pay out.

VPI tends to compare unfavorably with its competitors in the cost/benefit analysis because it is the only company with a rigid benefit schedules. This means if it costs

\$2,000 to repair a broken leg, VPI will cover a maximum of \$1,301 (according to their Advantage Plus policy). Other companies would reimburse between \$1,440 and \$1,520 (or more if the deductible has been met).

Importantly, the \$1,301 is probably higher than the amount it would actually have to pay out. VPI further breaks down that amount into four categories: testing, anesthesia, treatment, chemotherapy/radiation(each with its own limit. So our analysis is really a best case scenario for this company.



*Roger and Fugato appear to be thinking, "Have you heard? They have health insurance for us, too!"*

By Ellen Zadoff

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT TONKIN

Some of the reimbursement amounts are incredibly low. For example, it allows \$307 for treatment of pneumonia/lung infection, which is not too low, but only \$163 for diagnosis of the disease. This is fine if all that is needed are X-rays, but consider that diagnosis, two bronchoscopies and follow-up care cost me \$1,000 to treat my own dog's lung infection.

#### DETAILS

- Annual premium costs for the Gold plan range from \$130 (ages 1-4) to \$272 (ages 13-14). Costs for the Advantage Plus plan range from \$221 (ages 1-4) to \$445 (ages 13-14).

- A well care option can be added to either plan for \$99 per year. Based on my dog's annual well care costs (\$250) and the reimbursement schedule for well care that VPI publishes (it includes dental cleanings), they would reimburse about \$165 or 65 percent of my costs.

- You can double the cancer benefit limits for between \$14-\$139 per year depending on which plan you choose and the age of your pet. If you lock in by age 4, your premium will stay at \$14 for the Gold plan and \$34 for the Advantage Plus for the life of your pet.

- Per incident maximums are \$2,500 (Gold) and \$4,500 (Advantage Plus).

- Annual maximums are \$9,000 (Gold) and \$14,000 (Advantage Plus).

- There is a \$40 deductible for each incident with the next \$180 covered at 80 percent by the company.

- Costs above \$220 are reimbursed at 100% up to the benefit maximum as published in its benefit schedule.

- Policy goes into effect 14 days after enrollment.

- Five percent discount offered for second and third pet and 10 percent for four or more.

VPI: [www.veterinarypetinsurance.com](http://www.veterinarypetinsurance.com);  
800-USA PETS



**P**ETSHEALTH began in November 1997, is endorsed by AAA, and has several strategic partners. The number of policies grew from 2,500 at the end of 1998 to 14,000 today. This is the only publicly traded pet insurance company. When the stock was first issued, it quickly rose to \$6.25 per share before plummeting to \$0.31. Investor relations believe this was because it was "over-hyped" at the IPO. Their goal is to grow to 50,000 policies by year-end, which they claim would allow them to turn a profit.

#### DETAILS

- Annual premium costs are:

- \$120 - Basic

- \$230 - Value

- \$362 - Choice

- 25 percent premium for ages 9-11

- 50 percent premium 12+

- Well care is a feature of both the Value and the Choice plans but the number of covered items increases dramatically in the Choice plan. For example, if using my own dog's total annual costs, the Value plan would cover only \$77 or under 30 percent of my cost. If your dog doesn't become ill that year, the amount reimbursed won't even total your

deductible. Under the Choice plan, reimbursement increases to 80 percent of my total costs and includes dental cleanings.

- A 20 percent discount is applied to the second and third pet's premium.

- Dogs must be insured before age nine.

- Dogs are not dropped based on number of claims.

- There is a \$100 annual deductible and all expenses thereafter are reimbursed at 80 percent.

- Reimbursement limits are:

	Basic	Value	Choice
Incident Max	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
Annual Max	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,000

- There is no reimbursement for holistic treatment.

- Policy goes into effect 30 days after enrollment.

- As long as a pet has been disease-free for three months, conditions are not considered to be pre-existing (with the exception of chronic illnesses like diabetes, arthritis).

PetsHealth: [www.petshealthinsurance.com](http://www.petshealthinsurance.com);  
877-592-7387

**P**REMIER has been in business for only the last two years. It is unique in that the premiums don't change with the age of your pet. However, it also reserves the right to cancel your insurance if your older pet's health care costs are too high. This is a very disturbing fact. Once cancelled, you'll probably be hard pressed to find an insurer who'll cover your pet.

**DETAILS**

- Annual premium costs are:
  - \$120 - Basic
  - \$230 - Plus
  - \$362 - Ultimate
- Well care is a feature of both the Plus and the Ultimate plans, but the coverage increases dramatically in the Ultimate plan. Again, using my own dog's annual costs, the plus plan would cover only \$77 or less than 30 percent of my cost. If your dog does not become ill within the year, the amount reimbursed won't even total your deductible. Under the Ultimate plan, coverage increases to 75 percent of my total costs and includes dental cleanings.
  - It offers a 10 percent discount on the second through sixth pet.
  - Pets must be insured by age 8, but may be dropped after 8 years due to high cost.
  - Annual deductible is \$100; reimbursement above this amount is 80 percent.
  - Reimbursement limits are:

	Basic	Plus	Ultimate
Incident	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
Annual	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,000



- There is no reimbursement for holistic treatments.
- Policy goes into effect 30 days after enrollment.
- As long as a pet has been disease free for three months, conditions are not considered to be pre-existing (with the exception of chronic illnesses like diabetes, arthritis).

Premier: [www.ppins.com](http://www.ppins.com); 877-PPI CARE

**PREFERRED PETHEALTH PLUS.**

Of the four companies, this company has been in business for the shortest amount of time and offers the most unusual coverage. It has only one health plan, but for an additional \$35 per year, you can add a well care option. Our cost/benefit analysis assumed that the plan without well care was Basic and with well care was Level 2.

**DETAILS**

- Annual premium costs range from \$135 (1-4 years old) to \$427 (14 years old). Beyond age 10, premiums increase 20 percent per year. There is about a 10 percent premium for Greyhounds so you should adjust the costs if you have other types of dogs.
  - Well care option can be added for \$35 but the maximum pay out is only \$50.
  - Office visits under \$200 required co-pay of \$40 and insurance company pays anything over that.
  - Office visits over \$200 qualify under major medical. There is a \$200 annual deductible. The company pays 80 percent of all costs after deductible.
  - This insurer also offers a low cost prescription and pet supply service. I did not compare all costs but 75 mg of Rimadyl was \$0.48 compared to \$0.60 at my vet.
  - Holistic treatment is covered if recommended by your vet.



- Will only cover tooth extractions if it is the result of an injury.
- Annual limit is \$2,500. Lifetime limit is \$5,000. You can double the lifetime limit for a 10 percent premium but you can't double the annual limit. (The cost/benefit analysis assumes that the limit was doubled)
- For a 50 percent premium you can cover pets with pre-existing conditions provided they are stable.

Preferred PetHealth Plus:  
[www.pethealthplus.com](http://www.pethealthplus.com); 888-424-4644

Because everyone's needs differ, and the benefits offered by each company differ, it is impossible to clearly point to one company and say it is the best. Here are some questions you may want to ask yourself to help you with your decision:

*1. How much can I afford to pay annually for health insurance?*

- If you can't afford high premiums, then the most important factor for you is low annual premiums. If this is the case, then Premier Basic should be your first choice and PetsHealth Basic your second.

*2. Do I want to make sure that I have enough money to provide my dog with all the care he needs no matter the cost?*

- If you do and your experience tells you that the high cost scenario is likely, then the best choice for you would be any of the Premier plans followed by any of the PetsHealth plans. If you want to base your choice on the low cost scenario, then the Premier Basic followed by the PetsHealth Basic would be the best options, although VPI's Basic plan coupled with its well care option isn't a bad alternative.

*3. Do I frequently use specialists or does my vet charge high rates?*

- If this is the case, VPI and Preferred PetsHealth Plus would probably be the least beneficial. The maximum amounts allowed per incident by VPI's benefit schedules are much lower than what a specialist or high-cost practitioner would charge. Some of the costs are very low compared to what a mid-range veterinarian is charging these days. (See VPI description for additional info). Preferred PetsHealth Plus doesn't have a benefit schedule but its annual maximum is extremely low, as is the lifetime maximum. Once again Premier and PetsHealth win out.

*4. Is alternative health care important to me?*

- If you consistently choose acupuncture or chiropractic care over traditional medicine, then VPI or Preferred PetsHealth Plus would be the better choice since Pre-

mier and PetsHealth would not cover most of your healthcare.

- How important is it to you that your pet insurance company is there in 10 years?
- This really is a two-part question. Not only must the company be in business, but it also must be willing to insure your pet. I am not in a position to analyze which company has the potential for longevity; however, based on the number of years in business and number of policies issued, VPI would have to win this category. As for insuring older pets; Premier reserved the right to drop your older pet if costs became too high. All other companies will continue coverage, no matter what, as long as he/she is insured before age 9.

*5. How concerned are you about dental benefits?*

- As a Greyhound owner, I'd say very much. Preferred PetsHealth Plus will only cover extractions in the event of injury. The best choices for dental benefits would be VPI, Premier, or PetsHealth.

*6. Does your pet have a pre-existing condition?*

- If so, VPI offers the least benefit since you have a six month waiting period from your pet's last treatment to the beginning of coverage. Premier and PetsHealth require only a three-month wait. Preferred PetsHealth Plus will actually cover your pet right now for a 50 percent premium ( as long as their condition is stable.

So, after all this, is pet insurance worth the cost? From experience, I know how high vet bills can be. The lifetime cost of insurance compares very favorably with the amounts I spent last year alone. I am sure many of you can say the same. So, for me anyway, pet insurance is the way to go. I figure it's the only bet I'll be happy to lose! ■

*Ellen Zadoff lives with Commander Kym, a special needs Greyhound from a breeding farm that closed. Other household members include a Rottweiler, Higgins the wonder dog from the SPCA, and a cat. Ellen is webmistress for ChesCo Greyhounds and lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania.*

## Clomicalm<sup>®</sup>: A Therapy for Separation Anxiety

About six months after we adopted Allie, our five-year-old Greyhound, I came home to find that she had destroyed a pair of my sneakers, literally shredding them. I didn't know what to think. Until that day, I never considered that she was anything but a sweet, lovable pup. She had never been aggressive or destructive before this. However, after a few more weeks of destructive behavior (and a few more pairs of shoes destroyed), my husband and I decided to research the problem.

It seems Allie was a textbook example of a dog with separation anxiety. She stuck to us like Velcro when we were home, and when we left, we could hear her wail even before we were out of the driveway. The longer we were gone, the better the chances that she would become destructive. We immediately began behavior therapy, a process that we continue today.

Separation anxiety in dogs is loosely defined as a behavior disorder displayed when the owner leaves the dog. When the owner departs, the dog suffers from uncontrollable panic and anxiety. The dog may bark, cry, engage in destructive acts, salivate excessively, and forget housebreaking skills.

Unfortunately, we learned that this disorder does not usually resolve itself. In fact, if not treated, the condition often worsens. In the past, treatment for separation anxiety consisted of behavioral therapy and, if necessary, a combination of therapy with medications such as tranquilizers or tricyclic antidepressants.

Although behavioral therapy alone is working for Allie, it may not be enough for many dogs. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a medication, clomipramine hydrochloride (Clomicalm<sup>®</sup>), produced by Novartis, that can help ease anxiety during the behavioral therapy process. The package insert for clomipramine hydrochloride states that it is indicated for use as part of a comprehensive behavioral management program to treat dogs with separation anxiety.

Clomipramine hydrochloride is one of the first two canine behavioral medications to be approved by the FDA. The other drug, Pfizer's Anipryl<sup>®</sup>, is used to treat canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CDS). FDA-approved drugs are subject to tough standards and stringent testing. They must be proven effective and safe in clinical trials, just like drugs intended for human consumption.

Clomipramine hydrochloride works by alleviating the stress and anxiety experienced by a dog with separation anxiety. A calm, relaxed dog is far more receptive to learning new behaviors. This is why the product information stresses that it should always be used in conjunction with behavioral management. Once the dog is calm, it is the owner's responsibility to teach the dogs new, positive behaviors to replace the inappropriate and destructive ones. Clomipramine hydrochloride acts in a similar manner to tricyclic antidepressants used by humans, altering the levels of certain neurotransmitters. Owners should be warned that this drug does not act immediately. In fact, they may not see improvements in behavior for up to a month.

One of the biggest advantages of clomipramine hydrochloride compared to other agents used to treat separation anxiety is that it is not a tranquilizer or sedative. Although some lethargy has been associated with dogs taking clomipramine hydrochloride, it does not cause the personality changes associated with tranquilizers. However, like most medications, clomipramine hydrochloride is associated with some side effects. In clinical studies the most common adverse effects were vomiting, lethargy, and diarrhea. The clomipramine hydrochloride product labeling states that giving the drug with a meal may reduce the chances of vomiting. Also, this drug should never be used in breeding dogs or in puppies younger than six months of age. Additionally, clomipramine hydrochloride cannot be used with certain medication, including the Preventic<sup>®</sup> collar or selegiline (Anipryl<sup>®</sup>).

There are no set guidelines for how long a dog should remain on clomipramine hydrochloride after beginning treatment. The length of therapy varies, depending on the individual dog and the severity of the dog's anxiety. As noted earlier, this drug is intended to be used as part of a program that includes behavioral therapy.

The Clomicalm<sup>®</sup> web site gives some guidelines for what this therapy should entail. These suggestions will be familiar to anyone who has trained a dog. The guidelines include not paying attention to the dog before you leave, leaving a special toy to distract the dog, and ignoring the dog upon your return until the dog is quiet and relaxed. Once the anxiety is under control, the owner may be able to discontinue the medication and maintain the dog on behavior therapy alone.

For more information about clomipramine hydrochloride, you can check the Novartis web site ([www.clomicalm.com](http://www.clomicalm.com)). The site contains a separation anxiety test, product labeling information, and answers to common questions regarding separation anxiety and their drug. ■

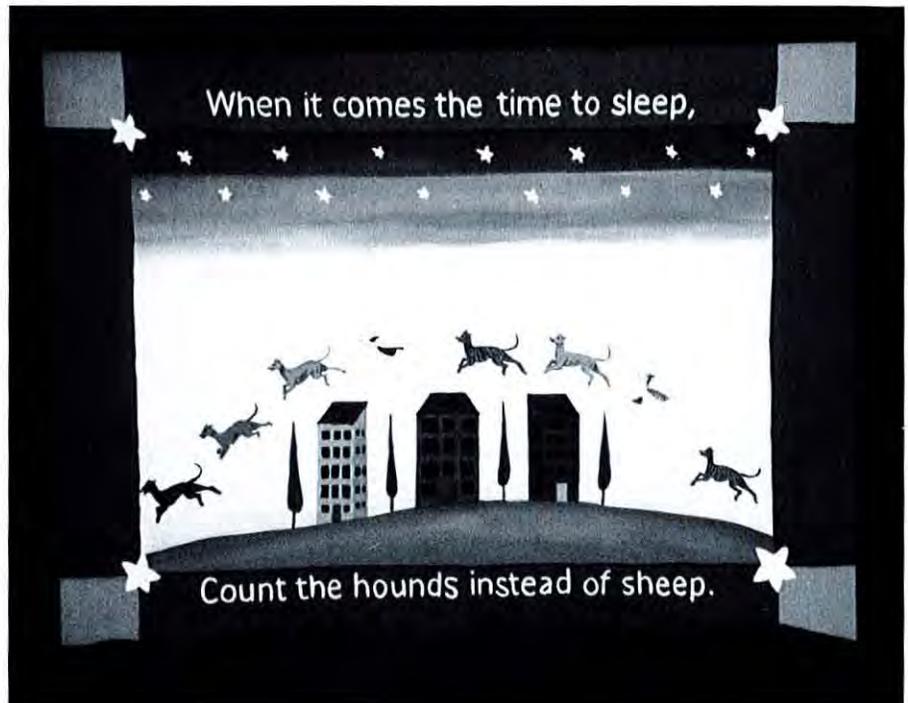
# Counting Hounds

*When it comes the time to sleep,  
Count the hounds instead of sheep.*

This delightful country primitive painting is surprisingly easy to paint, even for beginners. Romping hounds bound through a clear night sky while stars twinkle above. The strong colors and cheerful message add charm to any room. And with so many hounds in the painting, it's easy to customize the hounds to match your own.

## Materials Needed:

- 18" x 24" canvas or piece of Masonite (thin wood available at home stores)
- Frame for 18" x 24" finished piece
- Gesso or primer
- Assorted art brushes
- Acrylic craft paint in at least the following colors:
  - \_ Barn Red
  - \_ Forest Green
  - \_ Military Blue
  - \_ Navy Blue
  - \_ Antique Gold
  - \_ Light yellow
  - \_ White
  - \_ Black
  - \_ Dark Brown
  - \_ Tan
  - \_ Rust or fawn color



## Step 1: Prepare the Canvas

Whether using canvas or Masonite, you need to coat the painting surface with two or three coats of Gesso or primer. This will give you a clean surface on which to paint, and the white base will keep your colors strong. Dry thoroughly between coats. Sand between coats if using Masonite.

## Step 2: Add Grass and Sky

This will seem very wrong and sloppy while you're doing it. Just trust me that it will work in the end. Adding the 2.5-inch border around the entire piece really finishes off the edges and hides any sins that might occur in your grass and sky.

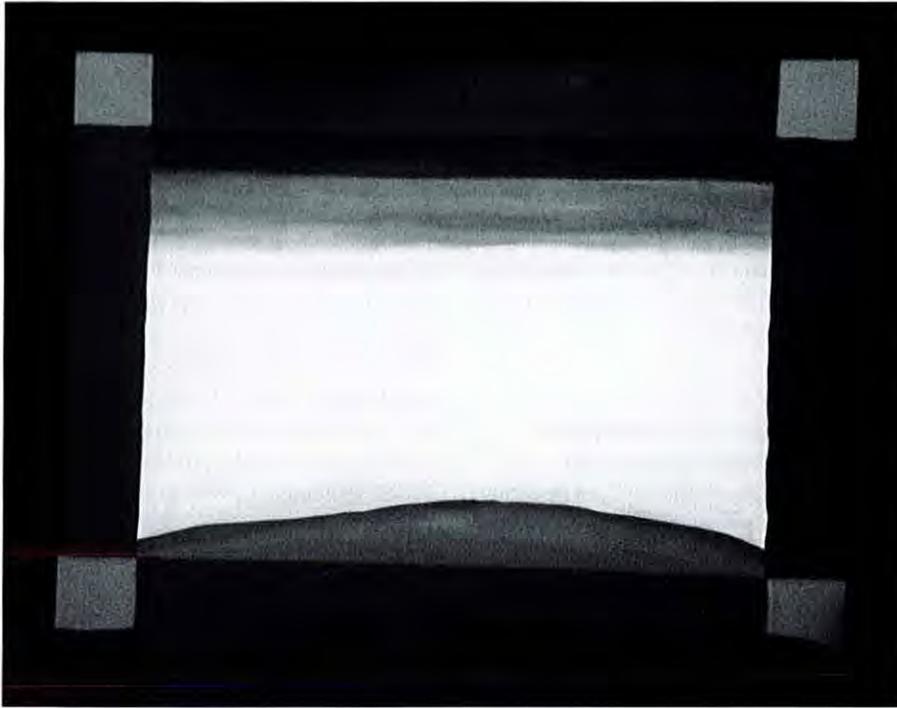
Starting about 2.5 inches from the top edge, paint a 2.5-inch swath of navy blue that runs the entire length of the painting. This will be the top of your sky.

While the navy blue is still wet, mix white with navy blue to form a light blue

and paint a 2-inch swath across the length of the piece, merging and overlapping the color with the navy blue.



While the light blue is still wet, mix white with a bit of tan to create beige. Paint the remainder of the sky, going down into the area where the grass will be. Overlap and merge the beige with the light blue, but don't get too hung up on the blending. The stars will help with that later.



Mix forest green, white, light yellow, and tan to form an olive green. Paint a curved mound to serve as the grass. The top of the mound should be 4-5 inches from the bottom edge. Come back with forest green to form a hard, clean edge for the top of the grass.

Mix a bit of brown with water to form a wash and add a swath just above the grass. This will add a very nice touch.

### Step 3: Add Borders

Using a ruler, draw a border 2.5 inches from all edges. Paint the border using military blue. Use antique gold in the corners.

### Step 4: Add Houses

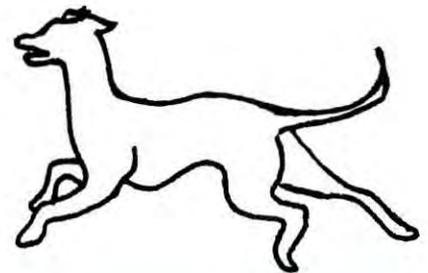
Using a ruler, draw three simple houses on the top of the hill. Make them 3 to 4 inches tall. Paint the houses using barn red, antique gold and military blue. For the shadowed sides of the houses, mix the primary color with black to get a darker shade. Paint the doors a contrasting color. Paint the windows black. Mix a little white with black to get dark gray for the roofs.

### Step 5: Add Stars

Using a ruler, draw dots to mark where your stars will be in the sky. Try to keep them in the dark blue and light blue swaths. Space them pretty evenly and in two rows. Using light yellow, paint simple five-pointed stars at each dot. Make some bigger and some smaller. Add a large, light yellow star in each corner of the border.

### Step 6: Add Hounds

Use carbon paper to transfer the hound below to your painting. Space the hounds as you'd like. I usually have six to eight hounds on a painting. Paint the hounds to match your hounds. If you're making brindle hounds, paint the entire hound in the base color (like fawn), then add the stripes.



### Step 7: Optional: Add Words

Pencil (or trace) the words on to the canvas. In the top border, put the phrase "When it comes the time to sleep." In the bottom border, put the words, "Count the hounds instead of sheep." Use light yellow for the words. Be sure to allow room for the frame.

### Step 8: Protect Painting and Add Frame

Add a coat of polyurethane to the entire painting to protect your work. Add the frame and hanging hardware. ■

# Morris Foundation News

It is the holiday season. It is a great gift. The year 2000 is almost over. You need a tax deduction. You care about your Greyhound's health. You knew a terrific Greyhound that died of cancer. Giving is better than receiving. Your donation makes a big difference.

How many more reasons do you need? It is time to make that donation to Morris Animal Foundation for The Greyhound Project's Canine Cancer Fund.

Morris Animal Foundation is funding 12 canine cancer studies as well as other studies. This year, as in 1999, our donations are being applied to a very promising, two-year study of endostatin to suppress tumor growth in dogs. As a co-sponsor of that study, we hope to come up with a total of \$25,000 by March 1. It may sound like an awful lot, but we raised more than \$17,000 last year and had already received \$10,000 by the end of August.

You folks are getting very creative at raising money for the cause.

Kudos to Kate Bressler and her E-bay fundraising auction on behalf of Angus that netted more than \$3,600!

Kudos to Connie Cassidy and the group of adopters and vendors who attend and support the Great Lakes Gathering. Over the last two years they donated close to \$2,000 to the Morris Cancer Fund.

Kudos to anyone else we missed mentioning.

We know you are out there. We know we can reach our goal if every reader makes even a small donation. So pull out that checkbook and make your donation to the Morris Animal Foundation—Canine Cancer. Then send it to Morris Animal Foundation, Canine Cancer—The Greyhound Project Account, 45 Inverness Drive East, Englewood, CO 80112.

## **Free CG Magazine for Adopters of Special Needs Greyhounds**

The Greyhound Project gives a free copy of *CG* to people who adopt a special-needs Greyhound. A special-needs greyhound is one with medical or severe behavioral problems or one who is 7 or more years of age. If any reader knows of people who have adopted such dogs and who don't receive *CG Magazine*, please tell them to contact Jini Foster, our Group Relations Manager, and request a copy. They should include a brief note describing their newly-adopted dog(s). Contact her at [groups@adopt-a-greyhound.org](mailto:groups@adopt-a-greyhound.org) or write to 561 Edmonds Rd., Framingham, MA 01701-10232.

## **Adoptions Editor Needed**

Still wanted: an Adoptions Editor. This position requires a person with a bit of experience in the adoptions arena, a willingness to find and work with authors to develop articles helpful to adoption volunteers, good grammar skills, and the ability to work within deadlines. Please contact Marcia Herman at [editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org](mailto:editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org).

## **ASPCA Offers Grants**

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is offering \$25,000 in grants to assist adoption/rescue groups in placing retired Greyhounds for the third year in a row. If your adoption group is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization that has been in existence more than one year and places more than 12 Greyhounds annually, you may be eligible for an emergency or capital improvement grant from The ASPCA Greyhound Rescue Fund. For more information or to obtain an application, contact Jacque Schultz at [jacques@aspca.org](mailto:jacques@aspca.org) or (212) 876-7700, ex. 4421. Please remember to leave your address and daytime phone number.

## **Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars**

Please support your local adoption group by purchasing calendars from them. Remember: the main purpose of the calendar is as a fundraiser to support adoption efforts. Photos accepted for the 2001 calendar up until approximately the end of March. Check later for exact cut-off date and mailing address.

## **In Memoriam**

This section bids "farewell" to deceased Greyhounds who were the focal point of previous articles, were pictured in *CG Magazine*, or who had a profound impact on the world of Greyhounds. We regret that because of space limitations we cannot picture other deceased Greyhounds nor can we publish written tributes and poems about them. May they all race with the angels.

### How to Get Published in *CG Magazine*

Want to submit an article, a bit of news, or a photo to *CG Magazine*? Following our Writer's and Photo Guidelines will greatly improve your chances of being published. First, your article must contain helpful information applicable to our readers. We receive many lovely tributes to individual Greyhounds, but simply cannot publish them. Second, we are always looking for Hero Hounds. For the first time in our five years of publication, this issue has none. Please tell us about your Hero Hounds! Third, we always need sharp vertical film-based photos for the front cover and photos of Greyhounds doing interesting things.

### Excerpts from our Guidelines:

*Celebrating Greyhounds*, the magazine for Greyhound adopters, owners, and friends, welcomes original, literate articles by both published and new writers that will appeal to all lovers of Greyhounds. We appreciate query letters or e-mails before authors submit articles.

Although most articles are based on our personal experiences with our Greyhounds, articles should be factual rather than opinion or anecdotal. Quote experts. Because our aim is to provide information about Greyhounds, breed history and background, health, behavior, Greyhound-related activities, and other topics of that nature, writers should be knowledgeable and credible. We are generally not interested in tributes to, or articles about, individual pet Greyhounds unless the article contains other information of interest to our readers. We publish In Memoriam to remember deceased dogs who have appeared in the magazine. We consider one fictional offering per issue. We rarely publish the interview format, poetry, and never publish articles in which the dog speaks as if it were human.

Letters for CG Readers Speak Out must be 300 words or less, opinion pieces 700 words or less, and articles approximately 1,200 to 1,500 words, although we also accept articles of greater length, at the discretion of the editor.

Photos submitted to *Celebrating Greyhounds* can no longer be returned except under special circumstances. We cannot use printouts of digital photos nor can we use Polaroid photos. We can use commercially processed photos and slides. Although we appreciate and enjoy all the photos we receive, we cannot print them all but we do keep them for use in future articles. ■



BY BRUCE DEKING

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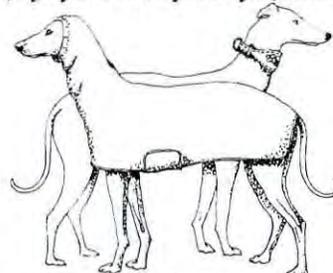
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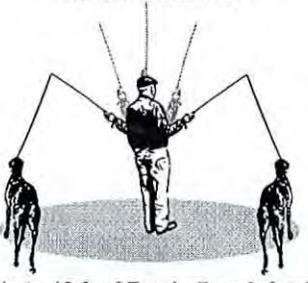
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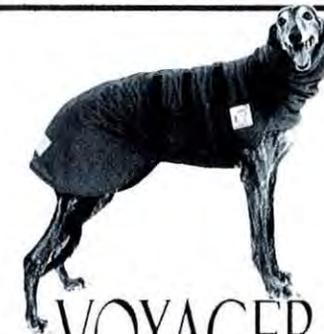
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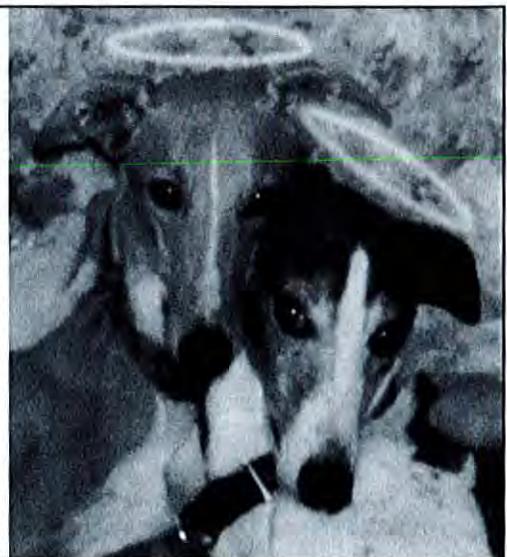
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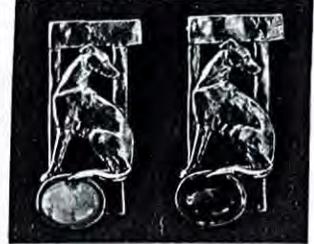
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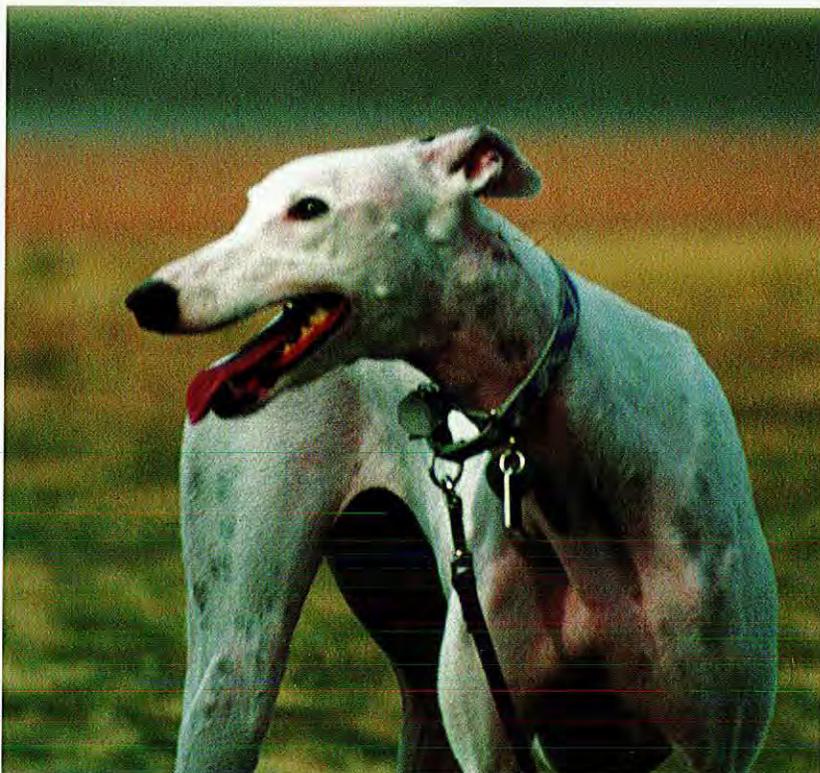
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## IN MEMORIAM



### Allie (Luv that Greta - GPA/Alpine) 2/91 - 9/00

Owned and loved by *CG* features editor Dana Provost of Las Vegas, Nevada. Allie died of vascular cancer on September 9, 2000 at the age of 9. She was a certified pet therapist and also a great Greyhound ambassador, as she loved attending events and gatherings. Because of skin cancer she had to be covered, yet she won many costume contests wearing outfits sewn by Dana. Allie appeared in the Winter 1999 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* with her canine companions Stealth and Monet. She is deeply missed by all who knew this beautiful and special little angel girl.

## YOU'RE INVITED

Sunday, December 10, 2000

### Fourth Annual Craft Show

Greyhound Friends, Inc. of New Jersey  
National Guard Armory, Rt. 70 and  
Grove Street, Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This family-oriented events features crafters of all kinds, a raffle, pictures with Santa, refreshments, Greyhounds and Greyhound items. Linda Lyman: 856-751-5134; [GHLima7@cs.com](mailto:GHLima7@cs.com)

February 3 through March 25, 2001,  
weekends and Presidents' Day only

### Arizona Renaissance Festival

The Greyhound Guild  
Route 60, about 10 miles east of Apache  
Junction, Arizona (Phoenix area)  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Greyhound Guild will promote Greyhound adoption for the sixth year at the festival. Visit Guild House and meet their most noble hounds. Marsha Roe: 602-493-1063; [gr8hound@yahoo.com](mailto:gr8hound@yahoo.com).

Saturday, February 24, 2001

### Annual Homecoming/Picnic

Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Road,  
Sarasota, Florida  
Noon to 4 p.m.

Fun, food, games, items to buy for Greyhounds and their enthusiasts, plus the Fabulous Gilley Girls. Connie Murk: 941-955-7239; [kmurk@home.com](mailto:kmurk@home.com).

April 27-29, 2001

### Greyhound Gathering - Kanab 2001

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