



# GPA Communiqué



**Inside this issue:**

<b>Website News</b>	2
<b>News from our Chapters</b>	3
<b>Chapter List</b>	5
<b>Calendar</b>	6
<b>Conference Information</b>	7
<b>Conference Agenda</b>	10
<b>Conference Registration</b>	11

**GPA National Officers**

**President**

*Rory Goree'*  
*Glendale, AZ*  
*Pres@greyhoundpets.org*

**Vice President**

*Alane Shultz*  
*Springfield, MO*  
*vp@greyhoundpets.org*

**Executive Secretary**

*Ellen Schneiderman*  
*Milwaukee, WI*  
*exsec@greyhoundpets.org*

**Corresponding Secretary**

*Bobbie Wier*  
*Austin, TX*  
*Corresec@greyhoundpets.org*

**Treasurer**

*Lee Edgington*  
*Houston, TX*  
*tres@greyhoundpets.org*

In 1987 our founders brought our organization to life. In 2004 we will be celebrating 60,000 greyhound adoptions. In between 1987 and 2004 lots has happened in our organization. We have grown, matured, and of course had our struggles, but through it all we managed to adopt 60,000 greyhounds into homes, and never lost site of our original mission as set forth by our founders in 1987.

This is a time not only to celebrate, but we also need to reflect on what it took to accomplish this feat and be mindful that our job is not complete. It took a lot of hard work, by thousands of volunteers who gave tirelessly of themselves to bring our mission to life and keep it going.

What is life like for many of our volunteers? Who hasn't had the days where you all of a sudden get 2 calls from folks who need to return their greyhound, and at the same time you are working on either shipping out or bringing in a load of greyhounds. Then to top it off you get a call from a foster home that is having a problem. Is this just an abnormal day? No it's the day and life of a greyhound adoption volunteer. While the volunteer is trying to figure out what to do, they suddenly realize its feeding time for the 9 plus greyhounds that they have in their own home.

## The 60k Highway Runs Through Richmond, Virginia.

Life can be very hectic in the greyhound adoption world, no matter how hard it has been, we have always found a way to get the job done.

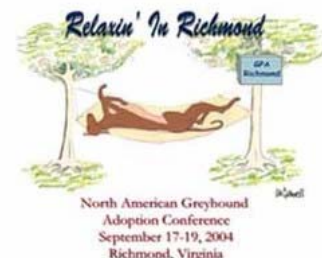
Lets celebrate our 60,000 adoptions, but remember the job is not complete, and to complete it we need our volunteers and leaders to be as strong as ever.

Don't let a day go by where you do not thank your volunteers and leaders of your group, without them we would be nothing.

Look forward to seeing many of you again in September 17th-19th in Richmond. We have many wonderful speakers lined up, a 60k celebration, and as always friends to get reacquainted with.

Thank you, and keep up the tremendous job, I know of 60,000 greyhounds that appreciate your efforts.

Rory



## New Look for GPA National Website

You may have noticed several changes to the GPA National Website over the past several weeks. The most noticeable change is the new layout and design. (Many thanks to Praveen Mutalik for giving us permission to use some of his wonderful pictures from Kanab 2004 in our new design.) Our goal is to make the webpage more user friendly and, over time, to become a great source of information about greyhounds and greyhound adoption. Your input, as always, is welcome. If you have any ideas for additions to the website please send them to [webmaster@greyhoundpets.org](mailto:webmaster@greyhoundpets.org).

What is turning out to be our most popular new feature, is the Greyhound Adoption Information form in the adoption section of the website. People interested in obtaining information about adopting a greyhound or volunteering with a local group can fill out the form and send it in online. Within a few days they will receive contact information for the group closest to them, and that group will receive the potential adopters contact information. During the month of June we received 120 information forms and an additional 100 forms during July. The response has been wonderful and several adoptions have occurred as a result of this new form.

Another new addition is the Vendor Page. We were looking for a way to thank the many vendors that give so much to

our chapters and other greyhound adoption groups and to give adoption groups an easy way to access information about what vendors are willing to do to help the adoption effort, This resulted in the Greyhound Friendly Vendor page. All vendors listed on this page in some way help the greyhound adoption effort, either through donations, wholesale pricing, consignment boxes, or auction items. The vendor page lists the name of the company, what they sell and how they help greyhounds, with links to their sites. There is also an excel spreadsheet which lists all the vendors, their contact information and donation information. In addition we have added a section for Greyhound Adoption Group Giftshops.

In an effort to get out the word about upcoming events, we have also added a Calendar page with a form that adoption groups can fill out to get their events listed on the website. If you have an event coming up please fill out the online form and send it in and we will get you on the calendar.

Keep watching for more changes in the future, we have discussed adding a GPA discussion board, GPA giftshop and we may even have a few more surprises up our sleeve.

Noreen Reid  
Webmaster, GPA National

## Vet Conference Visit Results In Donated Banners

If you're ever able to attend a national veterinary conference in your area be sure to take advantage of visiting the exhibitor hall. Every pet pharmaceutical company is there, pet food companies, pet everything companies. When I was in Orlando at the NAVC in Jan. 04 I met the PetWatch Microchip Rep and Dr. Jill Richardson with the Hartz Corp., as well as countless other company reps. Dr. Richardson came by our display and asked if their company could contribute something to help GPA chapters. The vinyl banner idea was put in the works and we hope they'll provide more in their 2005 budget for those of you that would like additional banners. If your chapter could use more banners please let me know how many.

Hartz has also donated their left over promotional pet toys etc. to greyhound groups for them to use for fundraising at the end of the different vet conferences held around the country throughout the year We'll be getting this at the Central Veterinary Conference in KC, MO Aug. 28-31 where GPA National has been donated a booth in the Bartle Hall Convention Center. We will be visiting with the 6500 vet and vet techs attending about all the ways they can participate in greyhound adoption efforts.

See [www.vetpetmed.com](http://www.vetpetmed.com) for details.

Alane

*Greyhound Pets of America Central Florida was the GLAD group for July. Good Luck on receiving lots of donations!*

## News From Our Chapters

### GPA North Texas Benefits from Greyhound Auction

Our auction with Mik from Carpe Canem started on June 29, 2004. In order to attract more people to bid on our auction I posted a link on Global Greyhounds.com. This prompted a private email from H. Hal Gill with Valor Sires Inc. asking for more information on our group, "GPA North Texas". He inquired of our view on Greyhound racing, references from people in Texas and where the money was to be used.

I instantly replied with our references. I told him that GPA required all their chapters to be neutral on the issue of racing and that the funds raised would be used to pay our vet bills.

Global Greyhounds has an auction bi-annually for stud fees with the proceeds going to adoption. Each owner of a stud names the adoption agency they would like to support. After corresponding with me and obtaining the information Mr. Gill felt was important to have, he chose to donate the proceeds from WW Apple Jax to our group.

Mr. Gill went one step further! After the auction was over he and Valor Sires Inc. decided to match the auction bid amount and donate directly to us. Mr. Gill also challenged all the other donors to do the same with their chosen group.

GPA North Texas would like to thank Global Greyhounds

for having their auction, and Valor Sires Inc. for their generosity!

Unfortunately, these auctions still did not raise enough money to pay all of the vet bills. Here in Texas, we have numerous Greyhounds that end up in shelters! To date we have taken in 21 dogs, and only 5 coming straight from their kennel. The rest have either been found running loose or come from shelters.

These dogs take a considerable amount of money and time to prepare for adoption. Of the last 6 we have taken in, 3 are heartworm and Ehrlichia positive. One dog is severely starved and infested with hookworms, he had to spend 5 days at the vets. He could not even be vaccinated or neutered when we accepted him.

Since there are only 2 members in the group that have been using personal funds for all the food, crates, vet bills, etc., any donation that we receive goes straight to the dogs.

Laura Hayek  
GPA North Texas

### Florida Greyhound Adoption Month declared by State Legislators!

For the first time in the history of the Greyhound Industry, Florida's State Legislators have declared the Month of October 2004 as the First Annual Florida Greyhound Adoption Month. At the request of Beverly Sebastian, Executive Director of the Florida based National Greyhound Foundation Inc., an Historic Event has happened in Florida. We invite you to JOIN our celebration beginning in late September.

We are inviting Greyhound Adop-

tion Groups, Greyhound Kennel Operators, Greyhound Owners and Greyhound Tracks to participate in the Greyhound Television Event of the Year. If you'd like to join us in this celebration, handle adoption referrals in your area, or get more information, please contact Beverly Sebastian at 352-628-2281 or email her at greylady@4greyhounds.org.

The event has the Goal of finding a home for all of the retiring Greyhounds in Florida this year. The Television Adopt-a-thon will benefit all participating Greyhound Adoption Non-Profit Organizations that adopt Florida Greyhounds into "forever homes" bringing joy and unconditional love into the lives of people everywhere with a retired racing Greyhound.

Some of you have already been filmed at Dewey Beach some at Sandy Paws, others with their greyhounds where ever we found them. If you and your greyhound would like to participate in the television show or just want additional information, please visit us at our website

<http://www.4greyhounds.org/2004GHCelebration.html>



Magic celebrated her 16th birthday on July 25th. She was adopted through Heart of Texas Greyhounds and currently resides in Houston, Texas.

## GPA CHAPTER LIST

### **GPA/Alabama**

Gail Hill  
954 Shady Grove Road  
Adamsville, AL 35005  
205-833-6654  
[gpabham@bellsouth.net](mailto:gpabham@bellsouth.net)

### **GPA/Arizona**

Rory Goree'  
P.O. Box 2356  
Glendale, AZ 85311  
602-789-6146  
[gpaaz@greyhound-rescue-az.com](mailto:gpaaz@greyhound-rescue-az.com)

### **GPA/Greyhound Adoption, CA**

Ann Sanders  
1582 Wright Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
408-749-0899  
[sassae@worldnet.att.net](mailto:sassae@worldnet.att.net)

### **GPA/CA Orange County & Greater Los Angeles**

Joyce and Tom McRorie  
1210 N. Cypress Street  
La Habra Heights, CA 90631  
562-694-3519  
[gpa@pacbell.net](mailto:gpa@pacbell.net)

### **GPA/Central Florida**

Dennis Tyler  
3525 Manassas AV.  
Melbourne, FL 32934  
321-242-9010  
[CFGPA.@cfl.rr.com](mailto:CFGPA.@cfl.rr.com)

### **GPA/Daytona Beach**

Chris Miller  
2201 W. International  
Speedway  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
386-239-DOGS (3647)  
[gpadaytona@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gpadaytona@cfl.rr.com)

### **GPA/Emerald Coast**

Ann Bollens  
PO Box 30426  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
850-968-2010  
[skipbo47@cs.com](mailto:skipbo47@cs.com)

### **GPA/TriState**

Kim Kleug  
14750 Darmstadt Rd.  
Evansville, IN 47725  
812-867-0772  
[HaveAGreytDay@aol.com](mailto:HaveAGreytDay@aol.com)

### **GPA/Midwest - Bluffs Run**

Greyhound Adoption Program  
Donna Lovely  
P.O. Box 396  
Pacific Junction, IA 51561  
712-622-8334  
[lovely@netins.net](mailto:lovely@netins.net)  
[BluffsRunAdoption](http://BluffsRunAdoption)

### **GPA/Kansas - TLC Greyhound Adoption**

Sheryl Werner  
3003 Deer Rd  
Abilene, KS 67410  
785-388-2612  
[TLC@mailbug.com](mailto:TLC@mailbug.com)

### **GPA/Louisville**

Linda Wilbert  
801 Beechwood Road  
Louisville, KY 40207  
502-896-1437  
[greytdog@bellsouth.net](mailto:greytdog@bellsouth.net)

### **GPA/Louisiana**

Judi McGovern  
106 Pine Oak Drive  
Covington, LA 70433  
985-893-0966  
[gpala@bellsouth.net](mailto:gpala@bellsouth.net)

### **GPA/Maryland**

Ethel Whitehurst  
P.O. Box 42103  
Baltimore, MD 21284-2103  
800-600-8607  
[ethelwhitehurst@comcast.net](mailto:ethelwhitehurst@comcast.net)

### **GPA/Massachusetts**

Kathy Morrill  
3 Smith Street  
Middleboro, MA 02346  
508-947-3654  
[happydog12@aol.com](mailto:happydog12@aol.com)

### **GPA/Western New York**

Joan Holley  
P.O. Box 22715  
Rochester, NY 14692-2715  
888-322-7801  
[info@gpa.org](mailto:info@gpa.org)

### **GPA/Ohio**

Nancy Meyer  
221 Huron Ave.  
Defiance, OH 43512  
419-784-2984  
[president@gpaoh.com](mailto:president@gpaoh.com)

### **GPA/Central Oklahoma**

Shelley Dobson  
3409 Arrowhead Court  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405-340-8209  
[Gr8uro@aol.com](mailto:Gr8uro@aol.com)

### **GPA/Oklahoma**

Janice Burstall  
1515 S. Nyssa Pl.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
918-461-1698  
[janice@jharrisb.com](mailto:janice@jharrisb.com)

### **GPA/Northwest**

Ed Claridge, President  
PO Box 6524  
Portland, OR 97228  
1-800-366-1472  
[president@gpa-nw.org](mailto:president@gpa-nw.org)  
[www.gpa-nw.org](http://www.gpa-nw.org)

### **GPA/Steel City Greyhounds**

Marci Anderson  
6890 Fifth Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
412-362-2470  
[info@steelcitygreyhounds.org](mailto:info@steelcitygreyhounds.org)

### **GPA/Carolina Greyhound**

Adoptions  
Dan Reese  
106 Filson Bluff Drive  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-732-2381  
[billConc@sc.rr.com](mailto:billConc@sc.rr.com)

### **GPA/Emerald Pacific (WA)**

Elli Koivu  
2902 Old Military Rd  
Tacoma, WA 98445  
253-531-3971  
[Gonegrey7@msn.com](mailto:Gonegrey7@msn.com)

### **GPA/Puget Sound**

Elizabeth Dinger  
2310 Hoyt Ave  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-339-9230  
[elizabeth@psgreyhounds.org](mailto:elizabeth@psgreyhounds.org)

### **GPA/Wisconsin**

Ellen Schneiderman  
1500 E. Brown Deer Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53217  
414-351-2052  
[ejks@execpc.com](mailto:ejks@execpc.com)

### **GPA/Wheeling**

Lou Batdorf  
P.O. Box 391  
Martins Ferry, Ohio 43935  
(304) 232-4492  
[www.gpawheeling.org](http://www.gpawheeling.org)  
[gpawheeling@aol.com](mailto:gpawheeling@aol.com)

### **GPA Sub Chpters**

#### **GPA/Wichita, KS**

LaWanda Duncan  
11867 S.W. 110th  
Augusta, KS 67010  
316-775-5110  
[gpawichita@aol.com](mailto:gpawichita@aol.com)

#### **GPA MoKan**

Bev Henson  
933 S. Leslie,  
Independence, MO 64050  
816-833-3920  
[LHenson529@aol.com](mailto:LHenson529@aol.com)

#### **GPA New Mexico**

Candy Beck  
7220 Cascada Rd.  
Albuquerque, MN 87114  
505 897-0427  
[Jbeck72726@aol.com](mailto:Jbeck72726@aol.com)

**GPA/FL—Greater Orlando**  
 1230 S Ronald Reagan Blvd  
 Longwood, FL 32750  
 (407) 332-4754  
[gpago@greyhoundpetsorlando.org](mailto:gpago@greyhoundpetsorlando.org)

**GPA/Tampa Bay**  
 Maryann Tolliver  
 8219 33rd Ave. N.  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
[lstolliver@aol.com](mailto:lstolliver@aol.com)

**GPA/FL—Southeast Coast**  
 Mace Tamse  
 8680 E. Escondito Way  
 Boca Raton, FL 33433  
 561-488-3673  
[mace.tamse@msdw.com](mailto:mace.tamse@msdw.com)

**GPA-Atlanta/SE**  
 Greyhound Adoption  
 John Parker  
 364 Country Club Road  
 Newnan, GA 30263  
 770-GREYPET  
[SEAdopt@GreyhoundAdoption.org](mailto:SEAdopt@GreyhoundAdoption.org)

**GPA-Indiana**  
 Sue Swinford  
 4414 South 100 East  
 Lafayette, IN 47909  
 765-471-1832  
[gpaind@dcwi.com](mailto:gpaind@dcwi.com)

**GPA/Indianapolis**  
 Katherine Roberts  
 6010 Hayford Way  
 Indianapolis, IN 46254  
 317-293-2502  
[Roberts359@aol.com](mailto:Roberts359@aol.com)

**GPA/Michigan**  
 Ruth Perry  
 25420 Mintdale Road  
 Sturgis, MI 49091  
 616-651-7395  
 616-651-5030  
[rpperry@voyager.net](mailto:rpperry@voyager.net)

**GPA/Minnesota**  
 Jennifer Rachac  
 P.O. Box 49183  
 Minneapolis, MN 55449  
 763-883-4000  
[info@gpa.mn.org](mailto:info@gpa.mn.org)

**GPA/Springfield, Missouri**  
 Alane Shultz  
 P.O. Box 3693  
 Springfield, MO 65808  
 417-883-8156  
 fax: 417-887-5853  
[agreyhound@mindspring.com](mailto:agreyhound@mindspring.com)

**GPA/Rocky Mountain**  
 Sheri Glaspey  
 364 Elk Trail  
 Whitefish, MT 59937  
 406-862-3656  
[Sherig@digisys.net](mailto:Sherig@digisys.net)

**GPA/Southern Nevada**  
 Jan Valentino  
 P.O. Box 71803  
 Las Vegas, NV 89170-1803  
 702-392-5822  
[jmv@digisys.net](mailto:jmv@digisys.net)

**GPA/Central New Hampshire**  
 Ken Wright  
 P. O. Box 386  
 Warner, NH 03278  
 603-456-6168

**GPA/Tennessee**  
 Tim & JoAnn Marshall  
 P.O. Box 23231  
 Knoxville, TN 37933-1231  
 865-671-2749  
[tmarshal@conc.tds.net](mailto:tmarshal@conc.tds.net)

**GPA/Nashville, TN**  
 Sharron Lane  
 1016 Draughon Ave  
 Nashville, TN 37204  
 615-460-7259  
[mcrooers@hotmail.com](mailto:mcrooers@hotmail.com)

**GPA/Central Texas**  
 Glen Bridge, Jr.  
 P.O. Box 10069  
 Austin, TX 78766  
[glenbridgejr@msn.com](mailto:glenbridgejr@msn.com)  
[www.gpacentraltexas.org](http://www.gpacentraltexas.org)

**GPA/Houston**  
 Sharry MacLaren  
 P.O. Box 741176  
 Houston, TX 77274  
 281-550-1827  
[sharry@gpahouston.org](mailto:sharry@gpahouston.org)

**GPA/Northern Virginia**  
 Niels Hauffe  
 20781 Evergreen Mills Road  
 Leesburg, VA 20175  
[nhauffe@nw.com](mailto:nhauffe@nw.com)  
[www.GPA-NoVa.org](http://www.GPA-NoVa.org)

**GPA/Richmond, Virginia**  
 Helen Riley Anderson  
 P.O. Box 70811  
 Richmond, VA 23255-0811  
 804-527-3584  
[gpa@greyhoundsvirginia.com](mailto:gpa@greyhoundsvirginia.com)

**GPA Sub Chapters cont.**  
**GPA Keystone Greyhounds**  
 Dianne Shadle  
 1406 Harcourt Drive  
 Harrisburg, PA. 17110  
 717 234-1860  
[keystonegreys@earthlink.net](mailto:keystonegreys@earthlink.net)  
[www.keystonegreys.org](http://www.keystonegreys.org)  
**GPA North Texas**  
 Laura Hayek  
 P.O. Box 605  
 Alvord, TX 76225  
 Home: 940-427-2566  
[fool4mygreys@yahoo.com](mailto:fool4mygreys@yahoo.com)

**GPA/ Lone Star Greyhounds-El Paso**  
 Patricia Roberts  
 1820 Robert Wynn:  
 El Paso, TX. 79936  
 915-593-7006  
[greybabies@ix.netcom.com](mailto:greybabies@ix.netcom.com)

**GPA Charleston**  
 Mary Aquino  
 104 Wisteria Court  
 Summerville, SC 29483  
 843-343-2982  
[adoptcharelstongreys@yahoo.com](mailto:adoptcharelstongreys@yahoo.com)

**GPA Tallahassee, FL**  
 Pam Davis  
 1578 Gainey Rd.  
 Cairo, GA 39828  
 229-872-8157  
[OnRushPam@aol.com](mailto:OnRushPam@aol.com)

**GPA National Conference Proxy Vote**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of GPA Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ hereby give my proxy vote for the GPA National Convention to be held in Richmond, VA on Friday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 to \_\_\_\_\_ GPA Executive Officer or to \_\_\_\_\_ of GPA Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ .

Signed

Date

## Calendar Of Events

Event	Date	Location	Contact
Greyhounds Make Great Pets Webradio Program	Every Friday 2pm Eastern Time	VoiceAmerica.com	<a href="http://www.greyhoundpets.org/webradio.htm">http://www.greyhoundpets.org/webradio.htm</a>
GPA Houston Trip to the Races	Aug. 15 12:30pm - ?	Gulf Greyhound Park La Marque, TX	<a href="http://www.gpahouston.org">www.gpahouston.org</a>
GPA at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival GPA-MN	Sept 11 & 12 10am – 8pm	Minneapolis, MN	<a href="http://www.gpa-mn.org">www.gpa-mn.org</a>
GPA-CNHC Reunion and Fundraiser	Sept. 12 10am – 3pm	Rollins Park Concord, NH	<a href="http://www.gpa-cnhc.org">www.gpa-cnhc.org</a> <a href="mailto:k-s-wright@comcast.net">k-s-wright@comcast.net</a>
National Greyhound Adoption Conference	Sept. 17-19	Richmond, VA	<a href="http://www.gpaconvention.org">www.gpaconvention.org</a>
GPA Indianapolis Annual Picnic	Sept. 19 11am – 5pm	Indianapolis, IN	<a href="http://www.gpaindy.org">www.gpaindy.org</a> <a href="mailto:roberts359@aol.com">roberts359@aol.com</a>
GPA Northwest Annual Bow Wow Pow Wow Picnic	Sept. 25 11am – 3pm	Portland, OR	<a href="mailto:uwdawggirl@j-atkins.com">uwdawggirl@j-atkins.com</a>
Greyhounds Reach the Beach Dewey 2004	Oct. 8-11	Dewey Beach, DE	<a href="http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey">www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey</a>
10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Las Vegas Greyhound Picnic In the Park Las Vegas, NV	Oct. 16 11am – 4pm	Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.lasvegasgreyhounds.org">www.lasvegasgreyhounds.org</a> 702 392-5822
GPA Central New Hampshire Ride for the Hounds	Oct. 17	Concord, NH	<a href="mailto:Events_coordinator@gpa-cnhc.org">Events_coordinator@gpa-cnhc.org</a> 1 888 507-9597
GPA Central Texas Greyhound Jamboree	Georgetown 11am – 5pm	Austin, Texas	<a href="mailto:michele@gpacentraltexas.org">michele@gpacentraltexas.org</a>
Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption Greyt Greyhounds and Friends Fair	Oct. 30 9am-4pm	San Antonio, TX	<a href="http://www.heartoftexasgreyhounds.com">www.heartoftexasgreyhounds.com</a> <a href="mailto:paul@heartoftexasgreyhounds.com">paul@heartoftexasgreyhounds.com</a>

**North American  
Greyhound Adoption Conference  
September 17-19, 2004  
Richmond, VA  
[www.gpaconvention.org](http://www.gpaconvention.org)**

Join your hosts-GPA and GPA Richmond--at the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference. We are looking forward to seeing you all in Virginia for an outstanding conference filled with great speakers, entertaining social activities and outstanding hospitality.

### Vendor List

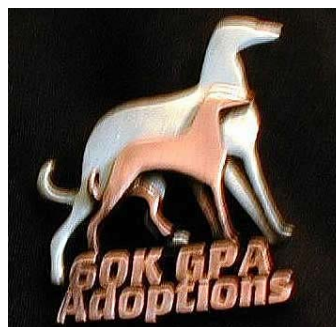
Dog Walk Designs  
The Golden Hound  
Greyhounds of Eastern MI  
Long Neck Deco  
Collar of the Month Club/Bird's Pottery  
Feathered Gems Jewelry  
Cassie's Casual Wear  
Jennifer Howard Art  
Silk Roads Collars  
Greyhound Outlet  
Greyhound Love Collectibles  
Cate & Annie Fitt Jewelry  
Distinctive Pets  
Greyhound Studies  
GreytArt.com - David French Prints  
Brass & More



**Advance T-shirt prices are \$10 for small through XL, \$13 for XXL through XXXL**  
Shirts will be available to be picked up at the conference registration desk. If you order a shirt and do plan to attend the convention, please pay \$5 for shipping and handling for up to 2 shirts.  
If we have any available on site, they will be \$13 and \$16. (but we cannot guarantee availability)  
Order online at <http://www.gpaconvention.org>

### 60K Commemorative Pin

The **60,000th GPA greyhound adoption** since 1987 will be celebrated and recognized at the 2004 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference. The 60K grey and family will be present and introduced at this meeting. A Commemorative Pin has been made and can be ordered on the GPA National Website [www.greyhoundpets.org](http://www.greyhoundpets.org)  
Pins can be picked up at the conference.



## Greyhound Adoption Conference 2004 Speaker Bios

### **AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY: CYNTHIA A. BRANIGAN**

Cynthia Branigan's involvement with the welfare and protection of animals dates back 30 years when she began working for author Cleveland Amory and his organization, The Fund for Animals. Through The Fund, she set up adoption centers across the country for over 10,000 wild burros and mustangs that the group rescued from public lands in the west. She also saved the last two Atlantic City Steel Pier diving horses and was instrumental in helping establish tougher laws to protect New York City's carriage horses.

Ms. Branigan adopted her first Greyhound, King, in 1987 and was inspired by him to found Make Peace With Animals, a non-profit, all-volunteer, animal protection group based in New Hope, Pennsylvania. One of their special missions is the adoption of retired racing Greyhounds and, to date, over 4,500 of these dogs have found homes through the organization.

Ms. Branigan is the author of two books on Greyhounds, both published by Howell Book House, NY. The first, Adopting The Racing Greyhound, has sold over 100,000 copies worldwide since 1992 and is now in its updated Third Edition. It is regarded as "The Bible" for anyone considering ownership of a former racing dog. The second, The Reign of the Greyhound: A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs, traces the breed, the oldest of the purebreds, from 6000 B.C. to the present. It won top prize, Best General Interest Book, in 1998 from the Dog Writers' Association of America and is now in its expanded Second Edition. For Ringpress Publishers, Ltd. of England she edited the book, Living With A Greyhound (2002) and, in 1994, wrote the chapter on adoption for The Complete Book of Greyhounds. Ms. Branigan is an award-winning journalist who has written for such publications as The New York Times and New Jersey Monthly. Her television appearances include Animal Planet, Good Morning America and Good Day Philadelphia.

Ms. Branigan holds a Bachelor's Degree in English and is now pursuing graduate studies in history at the University of Pennsylvania. She shares a home in New Hope, Pennsylvania with her husband, Charles Rissel, three cats, and seven adopted dogs: four ex-racing Greyhounds, an Italian Greyhound, an Afghan Hound and a mixed breed. Ms Branigan is a popular lecturer on the adoption of Greyhounds and the humane treatment of all animals.

### **BIOGRAPHY: GARY GUCCIONE**

A native of Butte, Mt., Gary Guccione was introduced to Greyhound racing in his youth, working as a paddock helper and assistant in his father's kennel at the old Butte track in the 1950s. During his education at the School of Journalism, University Of Montana, he worked summers in a variety of capacities—including chartwriter, publicity director and associate judge—at the Black Hills Track in Rapid City, S.D. In 1971, he joined the staff at the National Greyhound Association in Abilene, Ks., serving as assistant secretary and managing editor of the **Greyhound Review**. In 1982, he was appointed NGA secretary-treasurer, Keeper of the Stud Book, executive director and executive editor of the **Greyhound Review**. He has served on a variety of industry committees, including the Greyhound Hall Of Fame Board of Directors, the Hall Of Fame Selection Committee and the American Greyhound Council, Inc., which he also currently serves as its coordinator. He has authored hundreds of articles on Greyhound bloodlines, culminating in the publication of seven books on the subject. He resides with his wife Terri in Abilene with the last of their seven children. They have four grandchildren.

### **BIOGRAPHY: LEE LIVINGOOD**

Like most dog lovers, Lee Livingood has been owned by a dog since the day she was born. She's been training companion animals for more than forty years and has been living with and working with adult shelter and rehomed dogs for thirty-five years. Livingood is a companion animal behavior specialist and consults on companion animal behavior and on screening, placement, and rehoming of adult dogs. She is the author of the highly acclaimed Running with the Big Dogs: The Gentle Art of Turning Your Retired Racing Greyhound into Your Best Friend and Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies, the 2001 Dog Writers Association of America Maxwell Award winner as best single breed book.

Top behaviorists, trainers, and adoption groups have praised her books and call them "must read" books for Greyhound adopters and all dog owners. She writes on dog behavior and learning for Celebrating Greyhounds and other dog-related publications. She is a contributor to the Bengal Bulletin and other cat publications.

Livingood is a professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. She teaches companion dog classes in the Harrisburg area and offers special needs classes to help expectant parents prepare their dogs for living with children, classes for children to promote dog safety and humane interactions, and classes to meet the special needs of retired racing Greyhounds. She also conducts a training program to help owners with dogs that have issues with other dogs.

In addition to her class schedule she lectures on introducing dogs and babies for Babies R Us and travels throughout the US and Canada speaking and conducting workshops on various elements of dog training and behavior.

Before turning her life-long passion for companion animals and writing into a second career, Livingood spent twenty years as a program administrator, lobbyist, and US Senate staffer. She graduated Franklin and Marshall College with a major in Community Organization.

She shares her life with her very tolerant husband, two retired racing Greyhounds, a Galgo Espanol, a mixed breed dog, and two Bengal cats.

#### **BIOGRAPHY: CINDY HANSON**

Cindy Hanson is the Editor-in-Chief of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. She took on that role beginning with the Winter 2001 issue. Before that, she was the Adoptions editor and a Copy Editor for CG. She lives in Minnesota and has volunteered for several local adoption groups, including St. Croix Meadows Adopt-a-Greyhound (before and during the track's closing); Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption, as a co-founder and their first Vice President; and GPA/Minnesota, from which she adopted her first greyhounds in 1996.

#### **BIOGRAPHY: CINDY VICTOR**

Cindy Victor is the author of seven novels, most recently *Leo: A Greyhound's Tale*, written for adults and older children. Other works include *A Heart for the Hermit Kingdom*, a romance of nineteenth-century Korea, and *Covenant with Death*, a suspense novel set in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Her short stories have appeared in a number of literary reviews. Currently, she writes an arts column for her local newspaper, is a freelance dog writer, and is hard at work on *Leo in China: A Greyhound's 2<sup>nd</sup> Tale*.

A Minneapolis native, Victor grew up in Los Angeles and lived many other places before moving back to her home state, in 1994. She now lives in Woodbury, a suburb of St. Paul, with her husband, Gary, and their two Greyhounds, Earl and Sequel. The Victors discovered Greyhounds while waiting at the University of Minnesota Small Animal Hospital to learn the fate of their German Shepherd Dog, Charlie. Six donor Greyhounds peered through a window at them, and they looked back.

Having volunteered at St. Croix Meadows Adopt-a-Greyhound (now closed) in Hudson, WI, Victor supports both Twin Cities adoption groups — GPA-MN and Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption, and is an active volunteer at the Woodbury facility of the Humane Society for Companion Animals.

## 2004 North American Greyhound Conference Agenda

### FRIDAY

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM K Alferio – Introduction - Icebreaker / Video
- 9:15 – 9:45 AM Rory – Our Identity
- 10:00 – 11:00 AM Lee Livingood – Home visit training - the other side of the leash – Evaluating the Adopter
- 11:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch on your own
- 1:00 – 6:00 PM Business Meeting

#### Breakouts:

Dog Services – what to look for when boarding  
Dog walk  
Joan Bell Isle  
Susan Arruda & Lee Livingood- Placement Coordinators Round Table

6:30 – 7:30 PM Wine & Cheese Reception – Cindy Hansen – Greyhound Project

7:30 PM Dinner on your own

### SATURDAY

8:00 – 9:00 AM Vendor Areas Open

9:00 – 10:00 AM Cynthia Brannigan - talk with book signing

10:15 – 11:15 AM Robyn Star – Fundraising and Capital Campaign

11:15 – 1:30 PM Lunch on your own

1:30 – 2:00 PM Gary Guccione – NGA update

2:00 – 3:00 PM Steve Escobar – First Aid

3:30 – 4:15 PM Cindy Victor – talk with Leo's Adventures book signing

4:15 – 5:00 PM Ellen Sneiderman & Kristen Kerr – Greyhounds & children

6:30 – 10:00 PM Reception & Dinner at the Richmond SPCA

### SUNDAY

9:00 - 9:30 AM Peggy Mackinnon - Public Relations

9:30 - 10:30 AM K Alferio - Advertising & Promotions

11:00 - 11:30 AM Gary Guccione, Rory S. Goree' - Racing factors and GPA Q&A

11:30 AM Wrap up and Thank You

**North American Greyhound Adoption Conference**  
**September 17 - 19, 2004**  
**The Sheraton Richmond West**  
**Richmond, Virginia**

- **Registration Fee \$75**, (after Sept. 1 \$90) **Saturday Only Fee \$60**  
The full registration fee includes a reception on Friday night, dinner on Saturday night, all breaks, meetings, and networking activities. The Saturday only fee includes all Saturday activities including the dinner
- Please register by filling out the form below and mailing it to:

GPA Richmond VA  
PO Box 70811  
Richmond, VA 23255

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Check if Saturday only \_\_\_\_

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Check if Saturday only \_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

GPA Chapter/Sub Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Other Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel?                      Yes                      No

What name (s) would you like on your name tag?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**T-Shirts Orders**

Advance T-shirt prices are \$10 for small through XL, \$13 for XXL through XXXL  
Shirts will be available to be picked up at the conference registration desk. If you order a shirt and do not plan to attend the convention, please pay \$5 for shipping and handling for up to 2 shirts.

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See you in Richmond!

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38 North Walden Elms Circle  
The Woodlands, Tx 77382  
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