



# GPA Communiqué

## Winter 2005

### A Few Words from our President My Day of Joy and Sadness

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Sometimes our day starts out and we have no idea what we are supposed to do. Sometimes on days like this I start out feeling good, if I have nothing to do, then I must have accomplished what I was suppose to, and no one is complaining so I must have done a great job.

Monday, February 7th, I went to bed feeling full of myself. Had nothing on my agenda with regards to greyhound adoptions for Tuesday. That quickly changed. Around 1:00am on February 8th, my wife Barb had just arrived home from work and had checked on the pregnant greyhound we had picked up from the track. She wasn't due to give birth, as she ate a big meal Monday night and her temperature had not changed. Apparently she did not read The Care of the Racing Greyhound. My night quickly changed from having nothing on my agenda to caring for a Mom and her 9 little ones. We figured birthing was done after the 9th one was born but at 10:30am on February 8th, our little southern belle arrived with her grand entrance, number 10. Little miss Virginia joined her mom and litter mates in the offices of GPA.

We were tired, happy, and nervous all day. The two little runts needed loads of care and attention. It was touch and go from birth till early this morning when the little ones passed away.

Why do I share this story with you? Our work is always going to be filled

with joy, and heartache, Even in the middle of heartache we can still celebrate the lives of our greyhounds. Yes we lost the two little runts, but we have a mom and 8 little ones that still need us. Personally I believe that no adoptable greyhound should die without a chance at a home. Barb and I are going to fill out the adoption paper work for these little precious greyhounds that we were blessed to have, even if for just a day, they had a home.

Rory

### GPA National Auction

Plans are in the works for a GPA National Auction to benefit the Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund. We will be sending out requests for donations soon, so be thinking about what you might like to donate. If you would like more information, would like to help with the auction, or would like to donate merchandise, please contact

- 
- Be sure and fill our your Grey- •
- hound Adopter Survey located at •
- http://adoptagreyhound. •
- speedsurvey.com •
-

# On the National Front

## North American Veterinary Conference

Greyhound Pets of America was represented at the North American Veterinary Conference with an educational booth at the Gaylord Palms Convention Center Exhibition Hall in Orlando, FL Jan. 8-11, 2005. Rory Goree and Alane Shultz attended representing GPA National along with Joan Belle Isle of Greyhound Project Inc. and Cindy Hanson, Editor of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine. Many appreciated GPA Greater Orlando volunteers along with their attention getting greyhounds provided booth support as well. We shared information about what GPA's mission is and how veterinarians and vet techs can be involved in greyhound adoption efforts. Sample issues of CG were handed out and 2005 calendar donations were made which raised \$345 for the GPA Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund Grants.

We also attended various lectures by registering for the two day 21st Annual International Canine Sports Medicine Symposium. Topics included, the kennel cough vaccine, racing injuries and rehabilitation, heat stroke, diagnosis and treatment of tick-borne diseases, bone cancer in greyhounds, how lab work differs for greyhounds and greyhounds as blood donors. A survey you might be interested in regarding bone cancer was discussed in a lecture by Dr. Guillermo Couto of Ohio State University. "Osteosarcomas (OSAs) are the most common primary bone neoplasm in dogs and the most common tumor in Greyhounds in the United Kingdom,

where it accounted for 50% of all tumors, and for 22% of the deaths in the breed ([www.gurk.demon.co.uk/ghsurvey](http://www.gurk.demon.co.uk/ghsurvey)). Cancer in general (44%), and OSA in particular (22%) were the leading cause of death in the breed." Keep in mind the Sports Canine Symposium as it is an annual event and anyone can register for it. The registration fee for this year was \$80 per person. This also allows you to visit the hundreds of vendors in the Exhibitor Hall where you can learn about new products and make possible helpful contacts. Dr. Couto has also started a Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds group. They are starting off by forming an email list to disseminate or gather information. If your vet is interested in joining this list, contact Dr. Couto at [couto.1@osu.edu](mailto:couto.1@osu.edu)

## Media Training

In January, Rory Goree, Ellen Sniderman, Liz Ardel, Helen Anderson and Noreen Reid traveled to Denver, Colorado to attend training on Media relations. The training was provided by Peggy Mackinnon, who runs a Public Relations firm in Denver.

Peggy spoke at last year's Greyhound Adoption Conference in Richmond.

Attendees plan on sharing their new found knowledge at this year's Greyhound Adoption Conference in Tampa Bay, Florida.



## From the Treasurer's Desk

It's my favorite time of the year again, time for all the chapters to send in their dues and End of the Year Surveys. It's really exciting to see how many Greyhounds have gone to loving homes and how much closer the Greyhound community is to finding homes for all adoptable Greyhounds. If your chapter or sub-chapter hasn't sent in your dues yet the deadline is Feb 15.

It's also my least favorite time, time to start working on the Income Tax Return. As I write this 5 chapters have already sent in their 990 form and so far only 1 has had to go back to be redone.

If you are the person in charge of filling out your chapter return, please, please, please read the instructions and double check your figures. The deadline for sending in your 990 is March 1.

It takes me about 30 minutes to check each return & plug the numbers into the Group Return so I can send it to the CPA. If all the numbers are correct it's a much easier task.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their information early. Thanks in advance to everyone who is going to beat the deadline.

Lee Edgington Treasurer

## Greyhound Pet of the Year Contest

GPA is looking for the Pet Greyhound of the Year.

Send your pictures of your greyhound, along with a 50 word or less write up on why your greyhound is the best. (Fear not if you go over 50 words, we are a forgiving bunch.) Greyhounds adopted from Non GPA's are also invited to participate.

The greyhound selected will be featured on our new poster print that will be (hopefully) released at the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference in September 2005.

To be considered for this contest all information must be received by Friday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Send photographs to:

GPA Greyhound Pet of the Year  
RooOne Studios  
C/O GPA-AZ  
P.O. Box 2365  
Glendale, AZ. 85311-2356

1. No photos submitted electronically or via CD, photos will not be returned.
2. Photos are to be submitted in printed form on commercial quality paper using professional printing or photolabs. (examples - Wolf Photo, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Ritz Photo, Osco)
3. Photos printed on home or personal printers will NOT be accepted.
4. Print size of photos should not exceed 4"x6".
5. Digital photos must be 3 megapixel or larger in size.
6. Be sure to include your black and white or color photographs, write up on why your greyhound is the best, photo approval form, your information, name, address, phone number and email address if you have one.

## GPA National Gift Shop

Be sure and check out the new gift shop on the GPA National Web page. We currently have polo shirts, denim shirts and a variety of bags available. The GPA Logo can be embroidered on all of the items as well as your chapters name. A 10% discount is available to chapters that order multiple items. All profits from the GPA Gift shop will go to the Emily Griffin Memorial Fund. Please stop by and have a look. If you can think of additional items you would like to see please let us know and we will see what we can do.

You can contact us at [GPAGiftshop@greyhoundpets.org](mailto:GPAGiftshop@greyhoundpets.org)

In addition to our giftshop, we also have an extensive listing of Greyhound Friendly Vendors on our vendor page. All listed vendors donate to greyhound adoption groups.

### PHOTO APPROVAL FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_ own the usage rights to the photograph of  
(name of individual dog) \_\_\_\_\_

and hereby grant the Greyhound Pets of America the rights to utilize this photo in the Greyhound Pet of the Year Contest.

I understand that the picture will not be returned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

# News From Our Chapters

## GPA Greater Orlando

by Laura Goodearl

On Monday, December 20th, GPA/Greater Orlando's kennel opened its doors. Excited volunteers welcomed recently retired racing hounds into the newly renovated facility. This was truly a holiday present for GPA/GO. Rebuilding efforts could not have been possible without the TREMENDOUS support, donations, prayers, and man hours from the many wonderful volunteers, and greyhound people everywhere. GPA/GO is so grateful for the generosity of local businesses and organizations that gave of their hearts and their pocketbooks.

The hurricane damage was extensive and devastating to everyone in the GPA/GO family. Many others viewed the numerous photos of the damage posted on the GPA/GO website [www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org](http://www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org). Their response and support kept local volunteers energized in their rebuilding efforts. It is said that "things happen for a reason". In the case of GPA/GO, it is true and shows as many improvements have been made to the kennel. Donations and words of encouragement were received from groups as far away as Canada and Virginia. GPA/GO is very grateful to Adopt A Greyhound of Canada, Virginia Greyhound Adoptions and Central Virginia Greyhounds. These groups donated large amounts of money and assisted in relocating many of the greyhounds available for adoption.

With the dogs safe in foster homes and the debris cleaned up, the kennel repair team went to work. They spent countless weekdays, weeknights and weekends making repairs. This team worked tireless hours cleaning and fixing everything. Their efforts clearly illustrate that rebuilding the kennel was a true labor of love. Special thanks goes to those volunteers who provided manpower, time and skill. A very special thank you goes to GPA/GO friend, George Mullins for donating new kennel crates. We also wish to thank all the Fall Fun Day vendors who donated 100% of their profits to the kennel rebuilding fund.

To show appreciation for the efforts, donations and support from all involved, GPA/GO is planning a Grand Re-Opening celebration to take place in mid-February. Everyone is encouraged to come visit, take a tour of the new facility, and more importantly witness what love, support and generosity can do.

## GPA Indianapolis

Hilary, an 8-year old grey with striking tuxedo coloring, will star in a new play her mom wrote and is directing in May. She's been hard at work learning her part which consists of sitting on stage and munching treats while the people actors exclaim how beautiful she is. In her program blog, she'll tell the world how grey it is to have a forever home, and exhort dog lovers everywhere to adopt one of her many cousins still waiting for a home.

## GPA Florida South East Coast

GPA FL/SEC recently held a fashion show and Luncheon in conjunction with the Miss Palm Beach County Pageants and the Palm Beach Kennel Club. All proceeds of the event benefited this group's adoption program.

This very successful event was a first for the FL/SEC chapter. It was held at the Harriet Himmel Theater at City Place in West Palm Beach. The event came to fruition thanks to the hard work of Barbara Masi, our group's Event Coordinator, Board Member and fellow Greyhound adopter. Barbara was approached last year by Pageant coordinator Linda DiGiacomo, herself a Greyhound adopter.

The welcome speech by chapter president Stephanie Aebersold, included an introduction of West Palm Beach Mayor Lois Frankel and Chief of Police Delsa Bush who were in attendance along with the many members, friends, and supporters of GPA FL/SEC.

A delicious lunch was provided by the PBKC restaurants and Rooney's Public House. Fashions were provided by Cache at City Place and were modeled by the Pageant contestants. The clothes were color coordinated to match the gorgeous Greyhounds which walked the runway with the models.

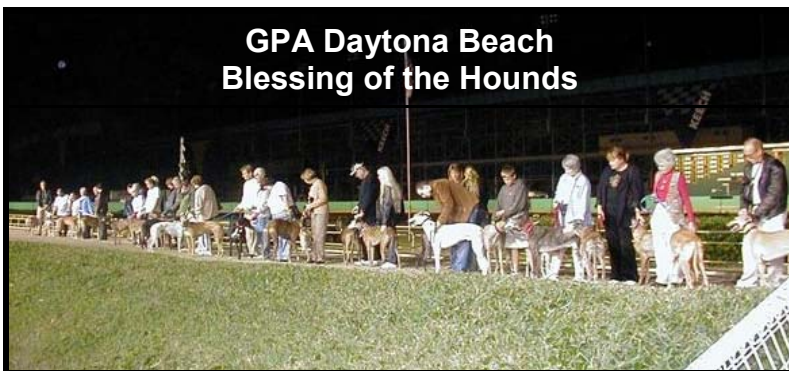
A lovely Sunday afternoon was enjoyed by all. If you would like to read more or see pictures of this event please go to the GPA FL/SEC website [www.greyhoundpetsfl.org](http://www.greyhoundpetsfl.org)

## GPA Daytona Beach

Just a quick note to let you all know that our new dog trailer arrived!

Want to thank all of you who helped make this possible. We will now be able to move dogs

when we need to and in the safest manner possible. The trailer will hold 32 dogs, has 3 A/C units on it....is really super! We received a grant from Petsmart Charities and are in



the process of purchasing 2 generators for the trailer with it. One of the units is strictly for backup and like Dennis' both will be mounted on the bed of the truck in case the primary generator breaks down (and we have all seen that happen!). Our kennel has 2 central A/C units on the roof and two back up window a/c units. God forbid, we ever have another hurricane. These generators are also capable of running our window units.

Our Annual Greyhound Blessing was 12/29. The event is held during live racing. Live racing comes to a halt after the third race and all the retired racers and their families are brought onto the track where the blessing is held. It really gives you goose bumps to witness this, makes you feel like all the ghosts from racers past are in attendance.

Afterwards the new trailer was blessed and a ribbon cutting ceremony held.

Chris  
Daytona Beach

## Haul from Caliente, Mexico to Portland Oregon

GPA Orange County/Greater LA and GPA Northwest worked together recently to transport a load of greyhounds from Caliente, Mexico to Portland, Oregon. The haul took approximately 14 hours and all of the pups were placed in their forever homes the day after they arrived.



## GPA Indianapolis

I will start off by saying I am not one who talks much about myself, but I will share my story about myself and Ivan. I have to admit my fascination with sight hounds started about 24 years ago when I saw a book which showed Greyhounds and Whippets. The interest in the breed was planted in my mind. Neither the opportunity nor the knowledge of how to adopt a hound was there when I was young. I went straight into the Marine Corps after high school and was not allowed to have any pets. Several years later after I left active duty and joined the Indiana National Guard, I met a person who had a little female greyhound. I started thinking grey again but I was not ready to adopt a dog just yet. Several years passed before the next encounter. This was the one which started it all. I ran into a lady from Fort Wayne in 2004 that had her two greys with her in Muncie. I was stricken. She gave me some information and I started doing the research.

In the spring of 2004 I was working on a printer in an office at work when I noticed a picture with two greyhounds in it. I spoke at length with Glen and he offered me a couple of books and a link to GPA Indy's website. I read the books and decided to meet the breed. I went to meet and greets in both pet stores and bookstores. I was amazed by the amount of affection they both give and crave. This was exactly what I was looking for in a dog. I met with Glen and Angie and they invited me over to see their two greys in a home environment. That was it; I submitted my application for adoption and



waited. Unfortunately, the Internet ate the application. I lost the opportunity to get the hound I thought I wanted. I found out the application was lost and promptly resubmitted. Shortly thereafter there was a drop and I went to check it out. There I found three dogs I was interested in. There was a red one, a black one, and a tall White Ticked Red male named Ivan (Ivanavinlot) who had a taped up tail. Soon after the drop, I had my home inspection. It went well. The only real concern I had was what would happen if I were mobilized. Both the home inspector and Kat Roberts assured me this would not be a problem. Now came the hard part, which of the dogs should I adopt. The red one was taken in by the foster, the black one and the white ticked red male were available. Here is what helped me make my decision. In 1992 when I joined the Indiana National Guard, I was recruited and sworn in by the unit commanding officer. His name was Ivan Denton. He was a person who I admired and respected. The name and his character made the choice

obvious.

Ivan found his forever home. Beth Hall, the foster mother was very supportive in the adoption process. I was not able to take Ivan immediately due to the timing of the July Drill for the Guard. She allowed me to come over and meet and walk Ivan several times before he got to come home. Finally the day came on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2004. I picked him up and put him in the car. He was a natural at riding in the back. This is great since I like to go on trips. I got him home and he acted as if he had been there all along. He got to meet the rest of the family shortly thereafter. Most of them questioned the reasoning behind getting a dog. This did not deter me. They did not quite know what to expect. Ivan is a big boy who stands 29 ½ inches at the shoulders. He was bigger and sleeker than they expected.

During October and November, the rumor of deployment started circulating. By early December, the rumor was confirmed and I was leaving with the advance party. I served during

Desert Shield/Desert Storm but this time was different. The problem is not serving my country. The problem is what to do with Ivan. Neither of my parents or my brother could take Ivan in. I was faced with placing him in a kennel or returning him to be adopted again. I was concerned with Ivan's best interest. I spoke with Glen, who works down the hall from me and called Kat Roberts from GPA Indy. They gave me the third option I had not considered, long term foster care. This is great considering I really want to keep Ivan. I met with three different families during the month of December. All three had their good points. Choosing was the hard part. I felt the Kasper's were the best choice and the most compatible with Ivan's current environment. He will be in their home with Dieter for the next 18 to 24 months while I am deployed. I personally want to thank the Davis', the Hanley's, and the other families for their offers to foster Ivan.

Greyhound Pets of America has a good chapter in Indianapolis. I have to admit GPA Indy and its members have been very supportive of me in my time of need. This has taken a big concern off my mind. They helped find a foster home for Ivan. GPA Indy made arrangements with Dr. Geckler to cover my vet expenses until I return and reimburse them. Another member made a donation to help defray vet expenses. The chapter is planning to hold a fund raiser and set up an account to cover the remaining vet expenses. I am grateful for all of their efforts and any of the remaining proceeds will be donated back to the organization. I am truly grateful for all of the support given. I can't think of any words which truly express my level of appreciation. A special thanks goes out to Kat Roberts, Glen and

Angie Nulty, the Kasper's, and all the other fine members of GPA Indy.

I am looking forward to coming home and seeing my boy as soon as is possible. Until then Ivan and all those who are supporting both him and me are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Mike is currently in training in Mississippi and will be deployed to Iraq in June. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.*

## GPA Central Florida

GPA Central Florida will be holding the Woofstock Festival and Reunion on Feb 27 from 12:00—4:00 pm at Wickam Road in Melbourne.

Activities will include The Gilley Greyhound Dancing Drill Team, The Steve Cowden Band, Canine Good Citizen Certification, vendors, caricatures, raffles, contests and more.

Admission is free and all greyhounds are welcome. For more information visit their website at [www.floridagreyhounds.com](http://www.floridagreyhounds.com)



**Goofy**

## Goofy Gets A Home

by Candy Beck GPA New Mexico

In October of 2004, the Decker's of Springer, New Mexico contacted GPA-New Mexico. The Decker family breeds and trains racing greyhounds. For our group this was a milestone, the first time we had been directly contacted by anyone within the racing community. They asked if we could find homes for 4 of their greyhounds - Jimmy, JoJo, Stuart and Goofy. I swallowed hard and said yes. We managed to find homes in good order for JoJo, Jimmy and Stuart but Goofy was a different story.

Goofy is a large and beautiful fawn brindle male. Goofy was suffering from Distemper when he arrived at the Decker's training facility. To their credit, and the love they have for greyhounds, the Deckers nursed Goofy through his illness and back to health. They called him Goofy; he was never named or registered by his owner with the NGA. The Deckers felt Goofy had some brain damage from his illness and it does appear he has some problems, but they needed room for new dogs coming in.

In October, we Jerry & Candy Beck and Mom Helen, took Goofy into foster care. Helen promptly fell in love. Goofy has done well in foster care, not marking and having only a couple of accidents, he is sweet and loving. He has been on the GPA-New Mexico website since October but no takers. We knew he would need a special home. We thought we had found that home but it fell through, much to the relief of 86 year old Helen who had cried at the thought of him leaving.

Goofy is a joy, challenged by the floors, we made him a path of dog beds to walk on, and he would very determinedly walk across them with his nose inches from the floor. Sometimes he just stands with his head down or looking up at apparently nothing at all, but the times he lays his head in your lap are the sweetest times of all.

## Pike's..On Strike

by Dennis Tyler GPA Central Florida



I often time tell people "either you are going to train the dog ....or the dog is going to train you....and a little of both is not a bad thing!" I generally do not believe in Animal psychics but this is an unusual case.

This is a story about Pike the big black 2 ½ year old boy that was trying to tell the trainer and the track people what he wanted. You see, Pike was in a nice kennel where the racers that were not competitive went right into our adoption program and what the trainer did not know is that the hounds in the kennel all "talk to each other".

Well Pike had been hearing about the adoption program from the other boys that were given a walk in the viewing stands to see all the people there who wanted to pet them and rub their ears as well as an occasional kiss.

Although he was skeptical he asked how does one get into this program and he heard all these stories about "not trying so hard" or pulling up in a race and running on three legs or even....O My

god..getting an injury. That sounded all to complex for Pike as even the trainer said that he was a "simple kind of guy". So he thought and thought and finally after almost a brain burn out came up with a really great idea....what if I just refused to run when the box came open! What a fantastic Idea and when he told all his friends they chuckled and told him "your really gonna get it if you try

that stunt!"

So Pike told them. "Look you do your thing and I'll do mine"! The rest of the boys rooded and told him that will never work. Pike just smiled and said " you have to be persistent....just watch! Pike was waiting for just the right time ...and when the trainer had him set up for a loooonger race Pike proclaimed, " That was the straw that broke the camels back!" and "the time was at hand for his bold move" Pike smirked as he walked all the way around the track to the starting box on the other side of the track, grumbling under his breath all the way.

Several times he had to remind himself what he was supposed to do but he felt that he had the guts to pull it off..thinking "I'll show them all"

Well they loaded Pike in the number one hole. He thought to himself, most of these guys would even give up their treats to get this position and that will make "my move" even more impressive. All the dogs were

loaded and the crowd was roaring as the lure started around the track toward the starting box. The announcer bellowed "THE GREYHOUNDS WERE RACING" as the box door sprung open but Pike just stood there looking with his innocent blank stare at the assistant starter. Pike thought, "What are you looking at" but never moved. The fans were furious, the trainer jumped up and down and the chief judge observed and snickered while the chart writer wrote in the book that Pike "refused to break" out of the box. Pike thought how glorious...and I finally did it! The trainer had a few choice words for Pike but as usual all he heard was bla bla.. bla bla bla.. Bla. bla bla although she did say it really loud so all could hear!

Pike was surprised when only 6 days later he found himself walking up the paddock again and getting dressed up with a racing blanket for another round of racing.

This time is was a "schooling race" that was mandated by the chief judge at the track.

All the other dogs in the kennel were laughing about Pikes failure to get his point across and he just snickered back that I'm not done yet!

Pike kind of hung his head and thought " I guess they just don't get it" but I'll try again to see if I can reach them on what I want to do for the rest of my life!

On the way to the starting box Pike kept looking at the track and where the dogs end up at the end of the race. With his measured gaze he started tax-

ing his brain to come up with a new formula. The distance from the box to where the dogs end up is shorter if you run clockwise than the usual way that everybody runs.....Heck anybody can run the normal direction he thought! What a great idea, he thought. No crowds this time and no announcer, as it was just a schooling race. Pike thought to himself "who's schooling who on this deal" The box opened quickly and Pike had all he could do to avoid the assistant starter from catching him but he had heard of such moves from "the boys in the kennels". One quick zig and zag later he was out and clear and without putting on his turn signal made an illegal left turn to run down the track in the wrong direction. Well everybody in and around the track held their breath and people were running all over the place but Pike just put on more speed watching the dog on the other side of the track running toward the same point. Well the "brake man" was diligent And Pike had already observed that so he did not have a worry in the world.... but then again Pike never worried about anything anyway. The "break man" stopped the lure and all the dogs came to stop safely at the same place. Pike almost laughed out loud but he thought that might sound funny with his tremendous buck-teeth ....so he refrained! The other runner said " you really did it now" to which Pike said "I sure hope so!" In fact all the way back to the kennel he repeated to himself "this is it".. "this is it" and settled down for a good meal and nice nap. The trainer was Quiet and Pike knew that was an ominous sign but he felt that he got his point across!

Then he heard that the Chief

judge issued a "no thank you" order on him which is a polite way of saying we do not want to see this dog on our track ever again! WOW that should do it...I made it and that is that!

Low and behold the next morning the boys in the kennel were all chuckling again as they heard that Pike was going to "morning schooling" to be tried in a different starting box. Pike thought they were trying a bit of trickery as a different trainer took him to the starting box and saw that he was loaded safely in the number one hole. Pike thought "O No a whole new trainer that I have to train" and "where will it end". The lure approached and the box sprang open and Pike stood proud and tall without moving a leg while thinking "so there" but then he heard his first trainer yell "try him again from a different position". Pike said to himself "OK here we go again". I guess I need to show them both. This time the box opened and Pike took about 5 steps out and stood there so all could see.... He almost shouted when they all proclaimed, "he's done". Pike strutted all the way back to the kennels thinking that some people just don't get it and then they call us "the dumb animals".

That same day the papers were signed and Pike was an official pet. He acted like he was sleeping when I came into his kennel where he slept in a top crate as he had learned to jump early in life. I thought it was funny when the trainer told me when you open his crate door he will jump out on you if you don't watch out. Well that's one door he will jump out of readily I thought!

With his collar labeled and his "adopt me" blanket securely

fastened he was ready to meet the crowds in the stands. As soon as he spotted the little 5-year-old girl walking toward him he pulled to get close to her and give her kisses. The little girl asked if he was a "pet" and Pike wanted to explode with an affirmative "yes" but just continued licking the little girl and visiting all the other people in the stands.

I returned Pike to his race kennel where he will wait to be adopted or selected for a shipment to some far off wonderful forever home. He jumped into his crate and looked me square in the eyes and somehow communicated this great story that I had to run home and write on this most unusual day!

#### *Update on Pike...*

*Evidently this is just the first chapter in Pike's story as he is slated to "go to prison" in the GPA South Carolina Prison Program for greyhounds. It is a woman's prison and he will have 4 inmates to train him so he will have a lot of love and care for the approximate month that he is in there!.....and I'm sure more to tell in the next chapter.....*



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## Medical News

### Osteosarcoma Study

Eight to ten thousand cases of osteosarcoma are reported in dogs in the United States annually, representing a very significant health concern. Sadly, in the majority of cases, metastasis and death usually follows within a few years. Osteosarcomas affect all dogs, but the disease frequency is considerably higher in large and giant breeds, including the Greyhound. It has been suggested that genetics may play an important role in this disease.

Our group of scientists has initiated a project to identify the genetic risk factors for osteosarcoma. We expect that this study should lead to considerable improvements in treatment of osteosarcoma. In addition, our findings will allow the development of genetic tests for osteosarcoma that could be used to eliminate carriers from breeding populations, eventually reducing the frequency of this devastating cancer.

We are collecting blood samples from Greyhounds affected with osteosarcoma. In addition, we are collecting blood samples from healthy Greyhounds who are over 6 years old and have never been diagnosed with cancer. To participate in the study, you can simply request a collection kit from us, draw a blood sample using the tubes provided, and then send the sample back to us along with a copy of the dog's pedigree. (\* For retired greyhounds, this pedigree can be found at [www.greyhound-data.com](http://www.greyhound-data.com))

Dogs can be at any stage of treatment to be eligible for the study. The only requirements for participation are a 3-generation pedigree for all dogs and a pathology report for osteosarcoma-affected dogs.

We would greatly appreciate your help with this study.

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### Five Tips for Pet Dental Care

1. Have your veterinarian examine your pet's teeth and gums during annual visits. If plaque and tartar build up is evident your veterinarian may recommend a professional dental cleaning.
2. Brush your pet's teeth regularly. Studies show that brushing is the best method of removing and preventing plaque build up.
3. Rawhide dog treats have been used for many years to satisfy a dog's natural chewing needs. The abrasive action of rawhide chewing helps reduce plaque and calculus. Studies have shown that rawhide has helped decrease (by up to 25%) plaque build up in dogs.
4. Chew toys should have raised tips that massage gums and help decrease plaque buildup. Chew toys should also provide the necessary chewing exercise to strengthen gums and are a great way to relieve boredom, frustration or anxiety.
5. Check your pet often for bad breath, bleeding or irritated gums, tarter buildup or oral pain. Seek veterinary assistance right away if you notice any problems.



## Old Dogs Dan Learn New Tricks with Right Lifestyle

Perhaps people can learn some new tricks from old dogs in warding off the mental decline that comes with aging. Those tricks include good diet, exercise and plenty of mental stimulation.

A study — in which old beagles learn to win a shell game — suggests that aging humans might benefit from improved diets and habits, too, because dogs and people experience remarkably similar cognitive declines as they get older.

Some studies have suggested that people can ward off, or at least delay, the mental effects of aging by eating a diet rich in antioxidants and other compounds found in fruits and vegetables. Other studies have found that exercise and mental stimulation also may have a protective effect.

But the beagle study is unique in looking at diet and behavior together.

"What I think is interesting about this study and somewhat different is the combination," said Molly Wagster, a program director at the National Institute on Aging. "The combination effect is better than either thing alone."

The study divided 48 beagles between the ages of 8 and 11 into four groups. One group got a twice-weekly workout, a regular rotation of toys, lived in a kennel with a roommate and "went to school" to learn how to find hidden treats. Another group ate a diet rich in antioxidants but enjoyed none of the lifestyle benefits of the first



The cover of House & Garden Magazine (Jan 05) featured Joe, a retired racer that belongs to designer Bobbie McAlpine of Nashville, TN.

group. A third group got both the antioxidant diet and the lifestyle benefits. And the last group got no special treatment. The experiment is described in the January issue of *Neurobiology of Aging*.

After two years of living in their different groups, all of the dogs were taught a trick that required them to find a treat under either a black or white box. All 48 dogs eventually learned that black (or white) meant a

treat. The researchers then switched boxes.

All 12 of the dogs in the group with an enriched diet and high-stimulation environment learned the new trick. Eight out of 12 dogs that ate an enriched diet alone figured it out, and eight out of 10 in the high-stimulation group solved the puzzle. In the last group, only two out of eight dogs picked up on the color reversal.

## Greyhounds in the News

### Dogs Take Bite from Boy's Bills

COUNCIL BLUFFS - Five-year-old Cole Jipsen of rural Griswold, Iowa, doesn't just have people pulling for him in his fight against leukemia. He has two dogs - prize-winning greyhounds, to be exact - running for him.

The owners of two kennels that race at Bluffs Run Greyhound Park have donated the dogs to Cole and his family to help raise money to cover the cost of his medical care.

Under the agreement, the family owns the dogs and will receive half of all purse money the two dogs win during their careers at Bluffs Run. The Bryon Legg and Plum Creek Kennels will continue to maintain the dogs.

Bryon Legg of Bryon Legg Kennel said donating a dog was the kennel owners' way of helping the family.

"The purse money at Bluffs Run for the low-bred dogs is real good, so this is an opportunity to help that family," he said. David Robinette of Plum Creek Kennel said he and Legg decided on the donation not only to raise money for Cole but also to draw attention to his plight and encourage others to help.

Robinette said the dogs have been good to him. "It's the least I can do to help a family out that has had a little bit tougher luck than I've had," he said.

The kennel owners, who are friends, have small-town connections with the Jipsens. All live in rural Griswold, and Cole's grandfather is a neighbor of

Legg's. Also involved is Mike Muhlbauer of Griswold, a friend and partner of Legg's.

Kevin Jipsen, Cole's father, said the family is grateful to everyone who cares about their son. "They'll never know how much we appreciate the help everyone has given us," he said.

Cole was diagnosed Nov. 8 after his mother, Amber, noticed something wasn't right. He currently is in remission. He just finished his third round of chemotherapy and has two rounds to go.

"It was a shocker, that's for sure," said Kevin Jipsen, who farms part-time and works as Griswold's water superintendent. Cole has two younger brothers, ages 3 and 1.

The hardest thing for Cole is that he hasn't been able to get outside to play, his dad said. Cole can't go to preschool or play much with other children because of his weakened immune system. "That upsets him," Jipsen said.

Legg said each kennel chose its top pup to run for Cole. Greyhounds typically have a career of about four years.

Speedy Blue of the Legg Kennel has won his first two races and collected a total of \$2,420 since November. Jipsen's Dream, from Plum Creek Kennel, has won his first race and brought home \$1,914 this year. Rory DeSantiago, Bluffs Run's racing director, said people associated with the track often take up collections to help colleagues with needs. But this is the first time he has heard of anyone donating dogs.



Jipsen's Dream, and Speedy Blue, have been donated to the family of 5-year-old Cole Jipsen of Griswold, Iowa. Cole has leukemia, and half the dogs' winnings at Bluffs Run Greyhound Park will be donated to the family to help cover his medical costs

## Calendar of Events

Greyhounds Make Great Pets Webradio Program	Every Friday 2pm Eastern Time	VoiceAmerica.com	<a href="http://www.greyhoundpets.org/webradio.htm">www.greyhoundpets.org/webradio.htm</a>
Woofstock Festival and Reunion Melbourne, FL	February 27	GPA Central Florida	<a href="http://www.floridagreyhounds.com">www.floridagreyhounds.com</a>
Sandy Paws Jekyll Island, Georgia	March 3-6		<a href="http://www.sandypaws.org">www.sandypaws.org</a>
Greyhounds in Gettysburg Gettysburg, PA	April 22-24	Triangle Greyhound Society	<a href="http://www.trianglegreyhound.org">www.trianglegreyhound.org</a>
Lee Livingood Workshop Austin, TX	April 30	GPA Central Texas	<a href="http://www.gpacentraltexas.org">www.gpacentraltexas.org</a>
Greyhound America Abilene, KS	June 2-5	Race the Wind	<a href="http://www.racethewind.org">www.racethewind.org</a>
GreyFest 2005 Little Canada, MN	June 4	GPA Minnesota	<a href="http://www.gpa.mn.org">www.gpa.mn.org</a>
2005 Greyhound Gala and Auction Orlando, FL	June 4	GPA Greater Orlando	<a href="http://www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org">www.greyhoundpetsorlando.org</a>
Ain't Nothin but Greyhounds Picnic Murfreesboro, TN	Aug. 14	GPA Nashville	<a href="http://www.nashvillegreys.org">www.nashvillegreys.org</a>
National Greyhound Adoption Conference Tampa Bay, FL	September 2 – 4	Greyhound Pets of America	<a href="http://www.greyhoundpets.org">www.greyhoundpets.org</a>
Dewey Beach Dewey Beach, DE	October 7 – 9	The Greyhound Project	<a href="http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org">www.adopt-a-greyhound.org</a>

### Event Submission

Would you like to see your chapter's events listed in our Communiqué and on our website? Please send information to [noreen@greyhoundpets.org](mailto:noreen@greyhoundpets.org) and we will see that it gets posted. We would also love to receive pictures and updates on events to include in the Communiqué. Those can also be sent to Noreen.  
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