



GPA Communiqué

Chapter to Shelter – Paws across the pond Spanish Galgo’s refuges

Inside this issue:

Ann Finch’s Speech	2-5
Life of a Galgo	5
Paws Across the Pond	7-8
Sports Medicine Conf.	9
Rory’s Opening Address	10
7 by 7 Update	13
Chapters / Sub Chapters	15

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Many of you had the opportunity to hear Anne Finch of Greyhounds In Need, speak at the conference in Birmingham. You heard the inspiring stories and the hard work that they are doing and the challenge facing the refuges in Spain. Many have asked how we can help in Anne’s cause.

As the world’s largest single breed adoption program, and one that is fully committed to welfare, we are offering you the opportunity to make a difference and build a relationship with one of the Spanish Galgos refuges. This is in no means mandatory and should not take

away from your current duties and goals in accomplishing GPA’s mission.

We are asking that should your chapter have some extra time, or other things, depending on the need of the refuge you are paired with, we ask that you seriously look into building this relationship and help them. If we don’t, parties that may not be into welfare such as ourselves may do so.

I think it is a worthy cause to look into and shows the leadership that GPA is willing to take to keep welfare as not only a focus of our own greyhounds, but a

worldwide effort.

If you are interested in being a sister chapter to one of the Spanish Galgos refuges, please contact Bobbie Wier at corrsec@greyhoundpets.org. She will help you connect with a refuge for you to contact as well as give you more details regarding this new endeavor.

Best regards,
Rory



The Plight of the Greyhound and Galgos of Europe

Excerpts from the speech given by Anne Finch at the Greyhound Adoption Conference, September 2003. The entire speech and photographs can be viewed on the GPA National Website (<http://www.greyhoundpets.org/news.html>)

I have been helping Greyhounds since I adopted my first, Emma, in 1986, 17 years ago. She came from the National Canine Defense League, the biggest dog rescue association in the UK, with a non-destruction policy and theirs and many other shelters with the same policy in the UK had one third greyhounds among their inmates which reflected the serious problem in the UK at the time. I started to fight the cause of these dogs politically and to help find homes for them in the UK. But as many of you probably know I have focused my attention in the last 12 years and the attention of our Charity, Greyhounds in Need which became registered in 1998, on the Greyhound problems in Spain. These are in 2 areas. Firstly, the track racing of the imported Irish greyhounds and secondly the coursing and hunting with the native bred greyhounds of Spain called Galgos.

In Ireland there are many travelers and tinkers whose way of life always includes dogs, commonly greyhounds or lurchers. A lurcher traditionally is a cross between a border collie and a greyhound supposedly to breed in brains with speed. These lurchers provide food for the pot and are gambled on. Their lives are rough; they live outside, commonly tied up under caravans or chained to cars, exposed to the wet and the cold and are fed only dried bread along with the sheepdogs and other working dogs.



On the other hand the Greyhound

racing industry is thriving in Ireland, modernistic with brand new tracks with luxurious dining and leisure facilities replacing the old down at heel cloth cap type of dog track. The Irish racing industry is in the happy position of being protected by the government and being able to plough back into their own industry their profits without losing them to the bookmakers and promoters and they are wallowing in resources at the moment being able to offer good prize money, being able to attract more dog ownership and offering encouragement to breeders and trainers and even causing a drain of greyhound racing enthusiasts to leave the UK to race in Ireland.

The UK at the moment conversely is struggling with disillusionment, meager prize money, the need to overwork themselves and the dogs to survive at all and with the growing discontentment that the profits of their labors are not going back into the industry but are lost to the bookmakers. In the UK there are about 50 tracks, 32 of them racing under rules of the National Greyhound Racing Club (the NGRC) and the rest called flapping tracks or the Independents. There is strong rivalry between the 2; the NGRC tracks accuse the flapping tracks of lack of veterinary identification and drug control of the dogs whilst the Independents shout proudly that they run a good show, with a more personal touch, serving their owners well and without, they claim, such a large problem of retired dogs as most are already privately owned and kept at homes in back gardens rather than in vast kennel blocks of 100s. There are strong opinions on either side as to which system is better on welfare.

The number of dogs in the UK facing retirement is enormous. The figures I have are that 9,000 from Ireland and 4,000 UK bred new dogs enter the industry each year in the UK which are replacing the same number that retire. We home finders all over the UK can only at best be finding homes for 20% of those dogs. So where are the others? Statistics are difficult to draw up as there is much overlap in all the areas where we look for figures and for evidence. Most trainers keep retired dogs in their kennels out of pity and duty but rarely these dogs spend their full life span there, being replaced after 2 to 3 yrs by youngsters from Ireland as space gets tight. Many are euthanized at the vets, fortunately humanely in the UK, unlike Ireland or Spain where matters are largely taken into the hands of the owner or local farmer with his shotgun.

The idea of rescuing and homing retired greyhounds began to accelerate in the 1980s in the UK firstly with pioneers such as Ann Shannon with help from The Retired Greyhound Trust which was already established in 1979 with funds from the racing industry to help pay for the care and rescue work of a few individuals willing to give up their time to help greyhounds. Ann Shannon and I homed many 100s of dogs together in those years and we involved ourselves heavily in political work increasing awareness among the public and the press and needling the industry itself to pay more attention to the plight of the dogs.



This led us to look at what was happening to the greyhounds ex-

ported to Spain and in 1991 I went there alone to see for myself if the awful rumors I had heard were true. I found the people there simple, rustic and not deliberately unkind but the conditions were appalling. The dogs were kept in dark, mosquito ridden



tumbledown old shacks crammed into roughly made wooden cages in tiers, hardly able to stretch out or if there were not enough cages, tied so closely to the wall they were unable to lie down. This is a podenco another type of sighthound found in that part of the world, who was tied up outside. Believe or not Spain models the maintenance of its racing dogs on the American system of cages but with a huge difference that they are only 1 meter square, there is no bedding, and the dogs are kept in them 23 hours a day. Almost no regulations whatever were in force in Mallorca. I watched them inject with steroids a queue of dogs lined up to go in trucks to the track, totally oblivious of the fact that this was both unethical and caused long term health problems for the dogs. There were more fleas and ticks on the dogs than hair. It took me a little while to realize that the pinkish dogs I saw was not a colour peculiar to Spain but dogs with more baldness and sores than a coat of hair. They were chronically dehydrated and there was not a straight limb in sight, but crooked toes, wrists, elbows, shoulders and hind part with hernias, badly heeled fractured hocks and strangely long folds of hanging skin from their breast bones due to pressure sores and multiple haematomas.

After Mallorca I went to the Valencia track where there were 450

Irish bitches crammed in a rat infested tumble down 2 story building in a field next to a cemetery and then to the 2 tracks in Barcelona where 1,000 Irish bitches eked their lives out. Until my reports went out in 1991 nothing was known about what was happening in Spain and no dog left there alive for a better existence. Most died there of disease and injury or of an injection of anectine (suxemethonium) given by the trainers, or were passed to gypsies in the countryside and some went to laboratories as they told me Mallorca.

As well as trying to get those tracks closed I had to find outlets for the dogs. My own Sarah was my first rescue from Barcelona. She is 15 now and the oldest survivor of those early years. Another trainer helped me get her and 2 others out by offering to buy 3 bitches for breeding. She was lucky having got out at 3 yrs old probably because she was not good at negotiating the corners with her truncated tail.

The UK is rabies free with very strict regulations regarding the imports of animals and at that time 6 months quarantine was the only way into the country. The UK has privately owned quarantine kennels all over the country with a Ministry license rigorously applied to take in dogs for 6 months prior to their release. It is very expensive which is simple to see why if you multiply 180 days by a daily boarding charge, and so we strove to find other solutions. Nowadays the British pet passport scheme is an option but only suits pet dogs as they must be retained in the foreign country for 7 months following a vaccine and virology blood test and with Spain being 1,000 miles away, boarding and paying for dogs at such a distance is a hazardous operation risking loss of control as to what is going on with the dogs and their management. We learned that the hard way. Also it was not tactful for us to bring more greyhounds into the

UK, as there are already too many unwanted greyhounds in the UK.

Hence it became my dream to find places for the greys of Spain with dog lovers in mainland Europe. These were the days without the Internet and knowing where to start, demanded imagination, courage, and a lot of cheek, and I was prepared for 90% of my hopes and attempts at harnessing some interest in Europe to be ignored. I wrote articles in numerous dog magazines abroad translated into German, French and Dutch, and found out from welfare organizations in UK who their contacts were internationally, found out the addresses of sight hound clubs and rescue associations abroad and pounced on anybody from abroad who approached us at a dog show or in my place of work who was a dog lover. I went to huge lengths to offer to meet up with any potentials and it was in those early years too that my pocket address book started to burst and the writing got smaller and smaller.

One of these contacts was an American lady called Melinie Lemay who was with the US military in Kaiserslauten Germany who contacted me offering a home for a greyhound. Neither of us dreamed at this stage where this would lead. First of all her friend wanted a dog too and so forth until 100 American families in Germany over a period of 20 months received adopted greyhounds first from the UK and then from the other side of the quarantine barrier from Spain.

I made scores of trips to the 4 tracks of Spain in the 90s taking out medicines, vet supplies, kenneling and greyhound materials and even working alongside the men showing them how to apply anti-parasitic and to deal with wounds and health matters.

Struggling with the language myself was not easy. I knew no

Spanish before starting this work and took lessons but progress was hampered by the fact that the tracks were in eastern Spain where another language was also spoken, that is the local dialect of Catalan, which the men would conveniently speak among themselves so that Castilian speakers like us could not understand them. They understood me but they could easily select what they wanted me to understand or not understand from them.

It was whilst on one of my language courses one Christmas in Salamanca in 1994 that I first came across the galgos in Spain. I visited the local dog refuge and saw many greyhounds and was very curious as to where these dogs came from. Only 1 or 2 had tattoos in their ears, which I did not recognize as Irish or English. It was a well run refuge with caring people but sparse and cold and resources were obviously nil.

It was the following year in 1995 in the offices of that organization that I was shown an amateur video of the hangings of several galgos in Granada, in the south, something which I had heard about but which was very hidden indeed being unknown even to Spain's city dwellers and tourists many of whom even now do not believe that such atrocities happen in the woods, quarries and down wells in the countryside of their own country.

The full correct word for these dogs is the galgo espanol whilst



the greyhound is the galgo ingles, or English greyhound. The galgo espanol is endogenous in Spain

probably having reached the Iberian peninsular with the Moorish occupation many centuries ago as we commonly think that greyhounds originated in the Sahara along with the saluki.

I found several galgos near Murcia. I was drawn here to this tourist area by a journalist reporting on a hanging of a galgo and I was assisted by a Spanish girl, a teacher and together we went to several villages on the outskirts of which were galgos tied to shacks and chained to the ground, most of them on this hillside and exposed to the extremes of temperatures which can descend in the winter to 10F and reach 110F in the summer.

Sadly we all have heard of the fate in the woods of many of these lovely animals at the end of the hunting season, which is from September to January. Since all of our work publicizing these atrocities worldwide, there is a little more consciousness nowadays of how barbaric this is and how other means of disposing of these dogs should be sought. Until 1995 Galgos were rarely found in refuges as they were all killed and even Spanish animal welfare workers had little or no experience of galgos and their plight.

National legislation has recently been formulated in Spain making it a punishable offence to mistreat a pet (not any dog or cat or other animal). It is one step towards protecting animals in Spain but the wording does not even cover abandoned dogs without owners, or those in shelters, or galgos or working dogs.

Preventing galgos and greyhounds from being stolen in Spain is a thankless task. Every galguero will say that he expects 40% of his galgos will be stolen each year. The strange thing is these dogs are rarely ever found. Galgos are stolen also from refuges and this is heart breaking for

the volunteers who may have given that dog so much care and rehabilitation. Some refuges will not even take galgos at all as it guarantees a break in. Why the robbers need galgos when 1000s are available all over Spain is a mystery but none of us really want to swallow the rumour that many are stolen to be used in dogfights to teach the pit-bulls agility.

To be honest I don't know what the answer is. Spain is a tough country to make changes in. Tradition and pride are the 2 top national characteristics. I have always felt that the fundamental changes must come from within Spain itself from those who feel strongly enough about these animals to influence the rest of the Spanish public, the media and the authorities who will only listen to them, not us.

Our charity together with the help of our close sister organizations, has rescued 5,000 greyhounds and galgos from Italy and Spain. I would guess another few thousands have been rescued independently by other groups. Most of this work all of us have accomplished in the last 5 years since the awareness was heightened but I ask if this is the way forward. We are on our second generation of rescues now that dogs we homed in the early middle 90s have passed on, and owners are asking for replacements, but still, the numbers of galgos needing help do not diminish.

Our mailing list which has grown from zero to 6000 and our income and expenditure which has increased 900% in the last 5 years bears testament to our rapid growth in spreading the word but coping with the feedback albeit positive, puts a huge strain on us. It is a bit like a pyramid turned upside down pivoting on more or less the same small number of people. A college friend of mine who got fed up with my refusals

The Life of a Galgo in Spain

Written originally in Spanish in September 2003
by Ana Fernandez, Volunteer in Castilla La Mancha

to go for dinner for years due to my lack of time, drove over one day with food packed in her car to drag me out to sit by the river and eat it, and something she said made me think. She compared our situation to a buddleia tree in her garden, which was so heavy with blossom that the stem split down the middle. Pruning it previously might have saved it. Doubtless we should have thought about these things before we started but our mission all along has been to reach out to as many dogs as possible, concentrating our resources on direct aid to others and possibly we have done this to the cost of the overall stability of our own charity. But we must have faith. My mythical book, whenever I find a quiet moment to write it, will be entitled, 'And Another Door Opened!'

I end by extending a deep thank you to each one of you who I know have been very moved to share and donate to our work in Europe. I have been asked to pass on to you profound thanks from those volunteers who are struggling in Spain to make a difference.

Thank you to you all.
Anne Finch,
Founder of Greyhounds in Need ,
UK



We may have to go back 40 or 50 years in order to understand what is happening to galgos in rural Spain. At that time, the galgo accompanied the peasant farmer into the fields and, while the farmer looked after his crops, his dog brought home a rabbit or a hare for his evening meal. Dogs in general and galgos in particular lived indoors with the family and were fed on scraps. The word "pet" didn't exist. Each dog had to work to "earn his keep", hunting for his master, looking after the farm animals, etc.

Families were usually large and incomes were small so dogs were considered to be mere "tools". A farmer might be proud of the fact that his galgo was a good hunter and give it fresh water when he got home and the leftovers from the family's supper; but that was as far as the relationship ever went between dog and master. If the dog became ill, most families could not afford to take it to the vet, which was almost a luxury. In any case, it was easy to get another dog through family or neighbors: nearly everybody bred dogs.

Even today, many things have not changed. We surf the Internet, watch cable TV and DVD, but we still think in the same way as our forefathers – at least, as far as galgos are concerned. I live in a village in the heart of 'La Mancha', a region populated with vineyards where hunting is still a popular 'pastime'. Hunters still breed galgos indiscriminately at home without any sort of control. There is a law protecting domestic animals, but it is hardly ever enforced and not at all in the case of galgos, who have never been regarded as pets. As far as farmers are concerned, galgos are simply 'hunting dogs'.

All my life I have witnessed and heard about terrifying cases of cruelty, and these are precisely the ones that attract public attention because they are so dramatic. Of course, there are cruel people in Spain, like everywhere else in the world, but it would be too simple to explain a problem of this size just by saying "the Spanish are cruel".

Cruelty, neglect and a total disregard for the rights of galgos are, in this case, a direct result of years and years of ignorance about these beautiful animals, and it is precisely this ignorance that we have to tackle once and for all.

Until 10 or 15 years ago, nobody in this part of Spain would have dreamt of buying "special food" for his dog or of taking it to the vet (the vet's main function was to look after cows, sheep and other animals regarded as "useful").

But today these things are becoming more and more the norm. So, when are attitudes towards galgos going to change? There are many people in Spain today fighting to improve the lives of these animals, often with invaluable support from organizations outside Spain. There are many – but there are by no means enough! Every year, at the end of the hunting season, our streets are filled with galgos – the ones that "have no further use" for hunting. Galgos are regularly crossbred with those of friends and acquaintances and, when a litter is born, the breeders take their pick: "There are seven, but I only want two..." The rest of the puppies are eliminated. Any method will do: some breeders put the dogs in plastic bags and then suffocate them with the exhaust fumes from their cars ("they don't feel a thing", the breeders claim); others put them in a cardboard box and leave them by the roadside ("maybe someone will find them and adopt them"). Or they

throw them over the wall of the local refuge or dog pound ("this lot will take care of them"). Usually, the fate in store for the "chosen few" is even worse. They are brought up on stale bread and water (which often leads to malformations of the bones making it impossible for the dogs to run) and are often deprived of the warmth of their mothers and any hint of human affection. Gradually, they will start to go out with their "master" for a day's hunting ... but they will not be able to enjoy the sunlight or the fresh air that they miss when they are locked up at home. On the contrary, they will have to imitate the other dogs by searching, running incessantly, catching their quarry and handing it over obediently to their master. If they do their job well, they will return home exhausted at the end of the day and have their reward; water, stale bread and the right to live a little longer . But if they hesitate when pursuing the hare, if they cannot catch it or are not obedient at all times, their master will lose his temper and maybe he will beat them "to teach them a lesson". Then he will load them mercilessly into the car, thinking: "Tomorrow I'll give them another try, and if that doesn't work....." The unspoken half of the sentence is the worst thing that can happen to a galgo. The next day, the scene is reenacted: the galgo does not do what is expected of him ("Stupid animal. Is that what I've been feeding him for?") and his master decides that there will be no return trip for this dog. He takes aim and, without a second thought ... A shot rings out, dry and muffled ... The galgo's eyes glaze over and now there is no more sun, nor air, nor smell of earth; but the kicks, the dry bread and the darkened room are also at an end. But the master does not always pull the trigger. Sometimes, he lacks the "guts", as his fellow hunters would say, and while the galgo runs around heedlessly, he packs the rest of the animals into the car and simply drives away. When the galgo realizes what has happened, it starts to run desperately after the car until, panting and bewildered, it is forced to give up. It starts to wander at random. At first, it is so wonderful to be free... but there is no water on our great plains and the animal is too tired to hunt. Many dogs, frightened of people, lose their way in the fields and finally lie down to die of hunger and thirst in the merciless sun. Others, sick and terrified, manage to reach a village. Nobody seems to notice them. We are so used to seeing them die in front of our very eyes that we no longer even stop to look. And they, noble and fearful, quicken their step and vanish. They hide by day and roam the streets by night. Many of them die right there in the middle of the road. Others, if they are spotted in open country during the day, will be shot by hunters (the hunters say that abandoned galgos that survive in the countryside "spoil the hunt"). Yet others will be run over and left lying by the side of the road; no-one will even bother to remove their corpses. A few will arrive, half-dead, at an animal refuge. Like many other people, I have seen these survivors. My heart bled to see their sad faces and stroke their wasted bodies exhausted after such a long journey...delicate, sweet and full of tenderness in spite of their never-ending suffering. They arrived at the refuge half-dead, almost hopeless, with multiple fractures, severe leishmaniasis, malnutrition, open wounds and parasites of every description. The pregnant females could hardly walk – they were little more than skin and bone. Nearly always, a volunteer feels overwhelmed. There is no money for veterinary care, or medicines and barely enough for food... just a living creature looking at us and timidly asking to be stroked in spite of all that it has suffered. Sometimes I have received photos of these dogs leading a new life thousands of miles from here. I can see them, still amazed at their good fortune, walking happily along a beach or being patted and kissed. I think I am a realistic person and I know that we are never going to change the attitudes of our parents and grandparents ... but we *can* try to break the vicious circle of pain and death and make this a better world for our children by teaching them, educating them and so eradicating the ignorance that surrounds our magnificent companions, the galgos. Sometimes I have thought of adopting one of the many galgos that are sent abroad, but there is a problem: my galgo would never be safe if we went out for a walk in the countryside as I do with my other dogs. Someone could steal him at any moment if he strayed too far from my side ... and I could not bear, while he was running happily in the open fields, to hear one of those shots that terrify me so much and that I can hear even now from my house as I write these lines At present, no galgo is safe from ignorance. We can save hundreds, even thousands ... but, if we do not fight the battle once and for all on the education front, we will simply be applying Band-Aids to open wounds.

By Ana Fernandez



'PAWS ACROSS THE POND'

Sept 2003

SUGGESTED ITEMS HELPFUL FOR THE WORK IN SPAIN-List for the shelters & Homing and Financing Groups abroad

COLLARS AND LEADS

- **For the shelters in Spain:** Basic, new or second-hand, for kennelling and transportation
- **For the Financing group (e.g. GIN) or the Homing Groups in mainland Europe** (e.g. Greyhounds Rescue Belgium, GIN Germany, Greyhounds Rescue Holland, Levriers en Detresse, France etc)
New, fancy (moderately priced quality is more apt), for resale and fundraising.

COATS **For shelters in Spain, from Madrid northward:**

Warm coats, homemade or second hand, waterproof (preferable) or indoor quality are much in demand. We have patterns on our website. If you are making them, please note that as these dogs spend many hours unattended in shelters and velcro is not secure enough. Firm stitching is best over the breast bone, and either buckles, or two ties sewn firmly on the middle back, one yard each and at least 2 and half inches wide, are the best fixing option.

MUZZLES

Moderately used in Spain, new or second-hand, clean and intact.

ANTIPARASITICS

Flea/tick preventative and treatment, Frontline, Drontal plus. If you could write the correct dosage (in metric), method of application and warnings in Spanish, that would save accidents and would be much appreciated.

ANTIBIOTICS: oral and parenteral

Moderately helpful, though we prefer to commend them into the hands of vets.

ANTIBIOTICS: topical creams and powders etc.

Very useful

ALLOPURINOL (Xyloric Acid) tabs.

Used widely for long-term treatment of Leishmania.

Fluids are not practical for sending. Sorry

ALL FANCY ITEMS For resale are always welcomed by **us and the homing groups** in Europe.

COPIES OF CYNTHIA's or LEE's BOOKS or any others are always welcomed **by us in UK** for resale.

CELEBRATING GREYHOUND, Calendars, Diaries , Magazines, always very welcome and useful for resale **by all of us**

CONCERNING SENDING of PARCELS FROM USA TO EUROPE

We must pay import duty on valuable goods .If the value is displayed, we pay accordingly. If you write \$20 as value and write 'greyhound rescue items for charitable use' we may get away with it Scott free. But this cannot be applied to insured items where the declared value is high. If goods are donated free of charge, then if you are sending them to us in UK you can write 'Items for charity- relief claimed' but it is still best to undervalue your contribution. Goods can be sent via courier, airmail or by sea but the latter can take at least 6-8 weeks but is useful and efficient for very big boxes.

Medicines (antibiotics, antiparasitics etc) should be sent via us in UK to forward on to 'your' refuge in Spain because medical goods from outside the EU are retained at the Spanish customs, whereas this does not happen it seems between US and UK and does not happen between EU countries.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Anne Finch



PAWS ACROSS THE POND'

SUGGESTED ITEMS HELPFUL FOR THE WORK IN SPAIN-List for the Spanish shelters

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We in the EU must pay import duty on valuable goods according to the value displayed on the customs label. Therefore, when you write the value of the goods, always underestimate (for example \$20 or less or 'No Value') Goods can be sent via courier, airmail or by sea but the latter can take at least 6-8 weeks but is useful and efficient for very big boxes. Medicines (antibiotics, antiparasitics etc) should be sent via *us in UK* to forward on to 'your' refuge in Spain because medical goods from outside the EU are retained at the Spanish customs, whereas this does not happen it seems between US and UK and does not happen between EU countries.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Anne Finch

The Twentieth Annual International Canine Sports Medicine Symposium



The Twentieth Annual International Canine Sports Medicine Symposium sponsored by the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida is being held at the Gaylord Palms Hotel, Orlando, FL Sat. & Sun., Jan. 17 & 18, 2004. Chairman, Dr. Dan Lewis, Symposium Coordinator, says, "50% of our program is dedicated to issues affecting greyhounds." Many of you may be interested in going and some of you have gone before and more than once. There are over 450 vendors and exhibitors and many speakers.

The registration fee for individuals attending the International Canine Sports Medicine Symposium, but not registered for the North American Veterinary Conference is \$80.00. This nominal fee is possible only because of the generous support of sponsors. If you are planning on attending these 2 days, you need to write, telephone or email the conference secretary Ms. Linda Lee, 352-392-4700, X 5714, email LeeL@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu, so that they can ensure they have a meeting Proceedings, name tag and adequate space for you.. Please make your

check payable to the UF Dept. of Continuing Education and make a notation on the check that it is for the Canine Sports Medicine Registration. They have limited meeting space so it is important that you pre-register. An extra copy of the Proceedings is another \$15.00. This is a huge conference & you must reserve rooms early!!!

A featured speaker is Dr. Darryl Millis, Univ. of TN. He is a leader in the field of postoperative rehabilitation and physical therapy. He is sponsored by Novartis. Another speaker, Dr. Jimi Cook, Univ. of MO, is sponsored by Nutramax.

Dr. Cook is an authority in arthroscopy and management of joint injuries, particularly cartilage lesions. He will give a lecture on the diagnosis and treatment of shoulder conditions in sporting and working dogs.

The GPA 7 X 7 Committee was not able to obtain booth space. It is costly and there is a waiting list. However, we are going to be allowed to have a display table at the registration table with two volunteers and two greyhounds rotating in and out every two hours. We're excited about that in hopes of recruiting more vets and vet techs to help with greyhound adoption efforts!

For more information visit their website at <http://www.tnavc.org/>

Nutro Commends Rescue Efforts

Nutro donates to many organizations that are holding events such as raffles and auctions. These organizations receive a voucher for a 20 lb. bag, for any Nutro product of their choice. Requests for vouchers can be made twice a year.

All requests need to be mailed in writing on the original letterhead of your organization. No requests will be accepted via fax or e-mail. Please specify the name of the event and the date it will be held.

Requests for vouchers/donations please mail to:

Nutro Products, Inc.
Attn: Donations Department
445 Wilson Way
City of Industry, CA 91744

Any requests for corporate sponsorships should be directed to the above address Attn:Marketing Sponsorships, for review."

Natural Balance Donation Program

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GPA National President Rory Goree Opening Address— 2003 Greyhound Adoption Conference

If you have ever visited the Greyhound hall of fame in Abilene Kansas, you are probably aware of President Eisenhower's museum right across the street!

I have something in common with Eisenhower: Public speaking is not my forte. While addressing an audience former president Eisenhower told the following story:

"A neighboring farmer had a cow that he wanted to sell. We went over to visit the farmer and asked him about the cow's pedigree.

The old farmer didn't know what pedigree meant, so we asked him about the cow's butterfat production. He told us he didn't have any idea what it was. Finally we asked him if he knew how many pounds of milk the cow produced each year.

The farmer said, I don't know, but she's an honest cow, and she'll give you all the milk she has.

President Eisenhower went on to say, I'm like that cow. I'm honest and I'll give you everything I have."

That is the other thing I have in common with Eisenhower, when it comes to doing my job for Greyhounds and Greyhound Pets of America, I will always be honest with you and give you everything I have!

I would like to thank all the people who have worked on GPA committees this year, all of our

chapters, volunteers and our officers.

Our future does not get better by hope, it gets better by planning and to plan for the future, we need goals.

Last year we implemented the 7x7 program, a plan based on our goal to see that every adoptable greyhound finds a loving home by 2007.

We made great strides this year toward reaching that goal: New chapters have come on board, a new trailer was purchased for hauls out of Melbourne and Daytona, and we saw a 4% growth in our adoptions from the previous year!

We will achieve the goal of the 7x7 plan, not by merely hoping, but by planning, growing and working together. Our 7x7 plan has risks and costs, but the risk and expense of inaction is far greater.

During this weekend you will have the opportunity to hear from some wonderful speakers on a variety of topics. You will also have a chance to get some hands on training in greyhound temperament testing. It should be our collective goal to ensure that the right greyhound finds the right home the first time, and this training will help you do that!

A few years ago I attended a work related training course. At the start of the class the instructor went around the room and asked each of us to introduce

ourselves and state what we hope to learn. Most of us stated the obvious: Things that were listed on the course description.

I remember one gentleman, sitting in the back stated, you know, we all signed up because of what was listed in the training guide, but I'm really looking forward to the diamond in the rough! He said that many times the diamond in the rough, the unexpected gem of information usually came not from the instructor but one of the classmates during open discussions or break time. As I look out here today, I see a lot of glitter!

Use this weekend to network with the other greyhound lovers here and I hope you'll also come across a diamond or two.

As you look around this room, you will notice that we have people from all sides of the street here today. We have GPA folks, we have people from other adoption programs, people from other animal welfare programs, and we also have people in attendance from the racing industry.

None of you would be here if you didn't have a common concern: the welfare of the greyhound and the placement of the greyhound into loving forever homes!

During the years I have been involved with greyhound adoption there seems to be one damaging effort that has plagued us! I call this effort "greyhound warfare" and it is characterized by the following:

Groups not talking to each other, name calling, debating on the internet, allowing trivial matters to upset us, groups splitting apart, and of course the uncontrolled use of innuendos, false statements and flat out lies!

You may remember the old saying "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me!" While it may be true for us, the statement isn't true for the greyhounds.

That is why I call it "greyhound warfare": when we fight, the greyhound suffers, when we lie, the greyhound suffers, we chose to bicker amongst ourselves, and the greyhound suffers!

The battlefields of greyhound warfare are littered with too many greyhounds that never got a chance! Our ego's can be mended, once lost; a greyhound's life cannot be retrieved.

We must refuse to pick at the weak spots of others! Many of you have heard the expression "henpecked". It comes from the fact that when a turkey is wounded and has a spot of blood on its feathers, the other turkeys will peck at that spot until they literally peck the wounded turkey to death. OF BLOOD ON ITS FEATHERS.

How many of us go home at night feeling pecked to death? In the midst of personal or professional difficulties we have all been criticized, badgered, and pecked to the point of distraction!

Continual or untimely pecking can immobilize and destroy the healthiest of people as well as those who are already bleeding!

It is time for people who claim they are concerned about greyhound welfare to stop pecking. It

is time to stop making false accusations about those on the other side of the street! It is time to start working together and building relationships.

Not all of us are from the same mold. Every one of us has a different upbringing, different education and faced different challenges in life. We all have different strong suits. The time you can dedicate to greyhounds is different from the time that I can dedicate.

Why is it that our perceived differences generally create problems when there is one commonality among us all, the welfare of the greyhounds?

Remember this: No matter which side of the fence we are on, we will all be judged by only one thing, the end result!

What do you want your result to be, welfare or warfare?

The Jesuits have a business practice I believe is important for me to discuss with you. Simply put: Do not be a weasel! Let those you serve, know those items about which you are not flexible.

I have a couple of items about which I am absolutely not flexible. In other words items about which I won't be a weasel!

I firmly believe that if we are adopting greyhounds into loving caring homes, we should also be responsible enough to take that greyhound back into our program if the adopters need to return the greyhound!

No ifs and or butts about it! If we adopted the greyhound, we need to bring him back if need

be! If we won't take back one of our own when they most need us, why are we even in business! My belief is that we should be an organization that is there for the life of the greyhound!

To help you make better placements – some of the training that is available this weekend will be hands on greyhound temperament testing.

Next year – I promise to tackle the more challenging issue – greyhound adopter temperament testing. If we can cut down on bounce backs that means more greyhounds will find homes.

I will also not be a weasel on spay and neuter policies. There is absolutely no excuse for any responsible adoption/rescue group to place even one unaltered animal into an adoptive home.

We have a real travesty in this country! That is the millions and millions of puppies and kittens that are making their way into shelters. It is estimated by the Humane Society that 6-8 million dogs and cats end up in pounds and shelters each year. Out of that horrifying number only 3-4 million find homes!

If we are going to be responsible, we should ensure not one of our dogs is the cause of an unwanted litter.

I personally have two un-tattooed greyhounds, the result of backyard breeders! That's two ex-racers that didn't get adopted because of unplanned puppies! We must rise above those that continue to fill our pounds and shelters! We must

firmly commit to never, ever adopting an unaltered greyhound.

Today, Greyhound Pets of America will be holding its annual business meeting. I hope I've made it clear those issues on which I will not be a weasel, but another important item to discuss is what we need to accomplish during this meeting. Instead of just going through the motions and completing our legal obligation of holding an annual meeting, let's use this time to ensure that we continue to evaluate and better ourselves. Let's use this time to ensure we have the tools, policies and procedures which will allow your officers to serve you efficiently. Let's use this time to ensure that you have the tools and procedures to allow you to most effectively meet the goals of GPA and fulfill our mission.

Sixteen years ago, the founders of GPA created a framework that has allowed our organization to flourish. While some of the faces have changed, our focus and mission have remained solid... Let us today, attend to our business in a manner that keeps that framework intact. Let us reaffirm our commitment

to the Focus and Mission of GPA!

Our mission of finding loving home for greyhounds is something that should remain unchanged. Our founders did not envision us to be a political group, but rather an adoption agency! The day we lose focus of adoption as our mission, is the day our foundation crumbles!

This past year, we lost a very dear friend and the greyhounds lost a friend that was always there for them: Emily Griffin, sick dogs, lame dogs, it didn't matter! Emily always set an example of what our mission is about! During the course of the year, many of us had discussions about injured greyhounds. We agreed that a system needed to be put into place allowing us to assist our chapters with the financial burden of dealing with major injuries! We also agreed that the year would not end without something being done! When Wally Griffin called saying he wanted to work on an injury fund in the memory of Emily, the wheels were set into motion. Wally has put together some policy and procedure ideas for us to discuss during our meeting! Thank you Emily and Wally for helping so many dogs, and reminding us why we do what we

do. Wally, Emily's memory will not be part of our history – It will be part of our future!

You the members of GPA deserve our help – you deserve our time. You are the ones working tirelessly to meet the objectives of our mission. We, your elected officers, will do everything in our power to help you succeed.

It has been an honor to serve and represent you this past year, and we your officers thank you for that trust.

As you go into this weekend – grab that knowledge – hunt down that diamond – build that relationship – come Monday – Use it to make a difference! Use it for welfare, not warfare.

Success is not a reward to be enjoyed, but a trust to be administered. The success that we start building today is really the trust that the future greyhound lovers will be administering. Let's give them a trust we can all be proud of!

Thank you,

Rory S. Goree – President
Greyhound Pets of America

Award Presented to Joan Belle Isle at the Greyhound Adoption Conference

During the Friday night Wine and Cheese Party at the National Greyhound Conference, Joan Belle Isle, president of the Greyhound Project, was presented with a certificate of honorary membership in Greyhound Pets of America. Joan has been involved in greyhound adoption for 15 years and was one of the original founders of the Greyhound Project.

Some of their activities include the Adoption Resource Directory, the Adopt A Greyhound airport advertising campaign, the Celebrating Greyhounds calendars and magazine, the annual Greyhounds Reach the Beach gathering at Dewey Beach and the Greyhound Cancer Research Fund at the Morris Animal Foundation. In 2002 The Greyhound Project was asked to represent

the Greyhound adoption community on the Massachusetts Greyhound Welfare Council.



GPA 7 X 7 Committee Update

Congratulations to Skip Bollens, Tonya Bader and Maryann Tolliver on our 7 X 7 Committee! Skip was the 1st place winner in our incentive contest we held from Jan. 1 - Aug. 31, 2003. He won a gorgeous framed signed and numbered Lorena Pugh Greyhounds print and Tonya Bader and Maryann Tolliver were only 1 point shy of Skip. So we came up with a 2nd place gorgeously framed signed and numbered Hounds of Royalty print. Winners were announced and presented their prizes at the Wine & Cheese Reception Fri. evening, Sept. 5 at the Rime Garden Inn Suites in Birmingham at the GPA national meeting.

Our committee also enjoyed a casual dining gathering on Thurs. evening in Birmingham at Logan's Roadhouse restaurant. We had lots of fun and greyt company!

On Sun., Sept. 21 we just ran our Uncle Sam Greyhound ad to recruit adoption help in the Waco Tribune Herald, the Corpus Christi Caller Times and the Paducah, KY Sun. It was 2 columns wide by 4 inches high and ran in the local section. At this time we've had a few calls to the contacts listed on our committee. These will be followed up with flyers to the local vets in these areas seeking greyhound adopters in these areas to do more in adoption promotions there.

Our slogan for 2004 is "Think Outside the Box". Dennis Tyler, GPA C FL, contributed this with a wonderful photo of greyhounds breaking out of the box at the start of a race. Dennis had T-Shirts made with this photo and slogan for our committee and handed them out in Birmingham.

We'll be using this for some ad work as well. We hope to have some articles in some major publications this year as

well, such as AARP or maybe some airline publications with help by our new PR Director, Michele Truhlik of GPA - C TX. We're excited to have Michele on board with us this year and know she'll be a greyt asset. We're making plans and preparations for our display table we're being allowed to have at the Jan. 17-18, 2004 International Canine Sports Medicine Symposium Registration area in Orlando, FL. This will be a greyt opportunity to provide vets and vet techs with more greyhound adoption information and encourage more of them to participate and be active in greyhound adoption efforts.



Pictures from the Greyhound Adoption Conference Birmingham, Alabama 2003



To view more pictures visit the GPA National Website
www.greyhoundpets.org

Cooperation in Greyhound Adoption

By Alane Shultz

IF YOU HAVE THE TIME or someone in your group does, communicating with other adoption programs can broaden your greyhound adoption opportunities and extend your adoption family and community. The "Greyhound Adoption Community" has been around for about 20 years now. With that evolution many dedicated, devoted and responsible adoption programs have surfaced. You can always find references for these groups and individuals and should when starting a working relationship with them. And in turn, they should with you and your program.

In mid July Rory Goree and myself were contacted about a previous NGA member needing some assistance in placing 1 greyhound mom with her 7 greyhound daughters. This owner had gone through a divorce and these seven 2 1/2 year old females had never been used for racing after all. These girls had quality time and attention as puppies and over the last 15 months not as much time had been spent with them. The mother is very social. However, the owner made an effort to ask for help on placing these girls into an adoption program. This also happened to be in an area saturated with greyhounds and tracks nearby. Several groups could not help on this in the area due to their commitments on taking other greyhounds. However with perseverance and persistence we located a couple of groups that would be willing to work with us. The girls all turned out to be social as we

were told, not greyt on a leash but they'll learn and we provided some financial assistance for a couple of girls that turned out to be heart-worm positive.

Thanks to Adopt A Greyhound of Atlanta and Regal Greyhounds for their cooperation and help on these girls.

The "Greyhound Adoption Community" in the US is made up of many good non-profit adoption programs that can work together to benefit greyhounds. Many groups that have been around a long time all have common goals and objectives, common adoption criteria and commonly set high standards of adopter quality. Stay focused and keep doing what's best for the greyhounds. Never lose site of helping as many greyhounds as you can responsibly. As Rory would say, Welfare, not Warfare!



GPA Houston Garden Party and Pet Spa A Greyt Success

The event not to be missed in Houston this year was Garden Party-Grey Spa held at the historic Parador in the Museum District of Houston, Texas. The party was a huge success and everyone that attended seemed to have a greyt time. In addition to GPA Houston adopters, special invitations were sent out to individuals who adopted from Gulf Greyhound Park Adoption Program.

One hundred and five hounds got their special spa treatment. Many had their pictures taken in the beautiful garden setting.

Veterinarians were present to answer question for new and old adopters along with a Pet Pyschic to share the inner most thoughts of our hounds.

Merchandise was in abundance and the shopping frenzy was something to see.

Other activities included a Silent Auction, agility and obedience demonstrations and lots of great food and drink.

GPA Houston would like to thank all of the vendors that contributed to this event and our wonderful volunteers who spend the day bathing dogs, maning the merchandise tables and on clean up patrol.

Thanks to them, we were able to raise close to \$10,000 which will help many of the hounds of Texas find their forever homes.

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