



GPA Communique

Volume 10 Number 2 Summer 2001

Greyhound Pets of America National Organization <http://www.greyhoundpets.org>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA

It's nearly convention time again and I am looking forward to meeting old (and new) friends, taking care of some business, having fun and bringing home lots of new ideas. I truly hope all the chapters and subs can attend; it will be worthwhile. For any chapter or sub that has never attended and feels they cannot financially provide to send a representative, please contact me. We will work something out. I cannot stress how valuable an experience the convention can be for our members.

For chapters that will not be attending please take the time and effort to send a **proxy** to a fellow chapter or officer that you feel would vote as you would as to assure we have a quorum. This is important and easy for you to do. The agenda is listed along with all discussion amendments. You can choose to vote for all or some of the items. See proxy wording below.

Please be thinking of members (or yourself) you would like to see elected for national board or committee. This is important. It is easy to sit back and let someone else take care of it, your time, effort and energy are at a premium, all the usual reasons people don't do it, but in order to move forward with national, it is necessary. Maybe you need a change or to step back from your own chapter for a time, burnout is always a factor, so think about it. Contact Lisa Nolet at gpage@mpinet.net

And last, talk to your members about hosting a national conference. It would be great to have the next two meeting locations set by end of this meeting. It would be a good and valuable experience and a chance to show others how great and proud you are of your chapter. Think about it.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Atlanta!
Pat Toman



AGENDA

National GPA Business Meeting in Atlanta, GA
Friday, August 10, 2001 @ 10AM

1. **10:00 AM – Call to Order**
2. **Appointment of two Minute Takers**
3. **Chapter Roll Call**
4. **Acceptance of 2000 Minutes**
5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - A. IRS Forms and Non-Profits / Lee Edgington, GPA Houston
6. **Committee Reports / Discussion**
 - A. 800# (Written report)
 - B. Communications / Alane Shultz, GPA Springfield, MO.
 - C. Sub-Chapter Formation (Written report)
 - D. Nominations / Lisa Nolet, GPA Orlando
 - a) Amendment to Bylaws (page 2)
 - E. Rules / Pat Toman, GPA Northwest
 - a) Nominations and Election to Committee
 - F. Grants & Fundraising / Rory Goree, GPA Arizona
 - a) Petsmart Charities
 - G.. P&P, Bylaws / Nancy Madigan, GPA OC-GLA
 - H. Finance / Nancy Madigan, GPA OC-GLA

Old Business

1. National Spokesperson

New Business

1. National Assessment Review (page 12-13)
2. Late Tax Returns (send out for resolution)
3. Counting of Greyhounds (send out for resolution)
4. Location of 2002 and 2003 Convention
5. Election of Executive Officers
6. From the Floor
7. Adjournment 5:30

PROXY

I _____, of GPA/_____
hereby give my proxy vote at the GPA National Meeting, held
in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday, August 10, 2001 to:
_____ of GPA/_____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

Nominations Committee Report

The 2001 Convention is upon us and so are the elections. The Nominations Committee has asked all of you to do some soul searching and come up with names of people who are interested in running for a national office. Maybe we should have asked you to search a little deeper because there were very few of you who stepped forward. However, there is still time, and with the excitement of the upcoming convention, we are certain we will have a complete ballot before it is time to cast those votes. And, since the elections are being held in Georgia, you can be assured that the counting will be done swiftly and accurately!

Those who have expressed an interest in running for office as of this date are:

PRESIDENT:

Pat Toman, greyhnd@open.org

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Rory Goree, rory.s.goree@worldnet.att.net

SECRETARY:

Ellen Schneiderman, ejks@execpc.com
Mary Mansour, MaryMansour@aol.com
Paula Helton, threegreyhounds@aol.com

TREASURER:

Lee Edgington, gunfighter@ev1.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Diane Schiesser, gpage@austin.rr.com

Nominations will be made Friday afternoon at the Convention. Convention delegates will then have the opportunity to speak with the candidates before casting their votes on Saturday.

The Nominations Committee and the current Officers have discussed two possible changes in our election process, which will require amendments to the by-laws if approved.

First, our recommendation is to increase the term of office from 2 to 3 years. Since we only get together as a National Organization once a year, we felt that by increasing the term, we would allow for a more effective Term of Office by giving the Officers an extra year to implement any changes and improvements they are making.

Second, we would like to see the elections for the different offices staggered, allowing for experienced Officers to always be on the board with new members. If approved, the proposed elections, based on three-year terms, would be:

OFFICE ELECTION YEAR

President	2003, 2006, 2009, 2012
Vice President	2002, 2005, 2008, 2011
Executive Secretary	2001, 2004, 2007, 2010
Corresponding Secretary	2001, 2004, 2007, 2010
Treasurer	2002, 2005, 2008, 2011

If approved, the only positions that would be voted upon this year would be Executive Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. The other current Officers' terms would be extended until the next election date for that particular office.

Since these two proposed amendments to the By-Laws will affect this year's elections, we will vote on them Friday morning at the convention. If you are not planning on attending the convention, please let your proxy know how to vote on these issues.



Don't forget to register for the Conference being held in Atlanta Aug. 10 - 12, go to www.greyhoundadoption.org. We now have a picture of the big raffle item that will be held at the conference...just go to the link below to see!

<http://www.greyhoundadoption.org/gpa2001/raffle.htm>

The chapter that sells the most tickets gets half the proceeds!

We just added the agenda also, you can go straight there <http://www.greyhoundadoption.org/gpa2001/agenda.htm>, there will be interesting speakers and lots of very good discussion groups.

Reduced rate ended July 1st, but there is still plenty of time to sign up!

IS YOUR CHAPTER LOOKING AFTER THE SEED CORN?

In early American times, do you know what really sounded the death knell of a small farm? No?

When the farmer sold or ate all that he grew that season. Sounds great, but without The Feed Store down the road such as we have today where you can go buy some, that sell-out meant that the farmer had no seed corn for the next year. And no crop.

If you sell or ate all you grew, you had no future.

The not-for-profit associations, then and now, are in the same predicament.

Members (yep, that's you and me) want dues to stay low, and services to continue to get better and better. In the not-for-profit world, the member is also the owner, so guess what happens? We spend all that we "grew" to increase services, leaving no seed corn for our future.

How WILL we take in, care for, doctor and ultimately adopt out more retired racers than we did last year? How WILL we raise more public awareness of the sweet, gentle, loving nature of these big beautiful dogs?

PROFIT, that's how!

You see, not-for-profit does not mean NO profit! It simply means that the organization will plow any profits back into the organization for the benefit of all members, and that no financial benefit will inure to any individual officer or director!

Are we Americans used to that notion? Heavens, yes! Who thinks a box of Girl Scout Cookies costs \$4.50???? Or that roll of holiday wrapping paper you bought for the Little League Fund Raiser really costs \$8.50?????

It is not only OK to make a profit in a GPA chapter, it is a mission-critical imperative! It is the way we will carry the message and the mission of GPA to the world.

So mark up that tee-shirt 100%, GPA! I'll still buy it! No joke, because the tee-shirt is only part of what I'm putting my money up for! MISSION is the rest. I will buy it because I support your mission. Go out and save more big, beautiful, tired greyhounds!

Submitted by Kathleen E. Quill, CAE (Houston GPA member). Kathleen is the President of the National Association of Credit Management of South Texas and has been President of the Greater Houston Home Builders Assn. Both of these are not for profit associations.

MELBOURNE HAS A NEW TRAILER

GPA-Central, FL has been able to purchase a new trailer thanks to the hard work and support of their membership. They held a Fashion Show January 28, 2001, that was very successful. Over \$4000 was raised from this event that included a luncheon and the fashions were provided by Seasons Ticket. Special thanks goes to Renee Thompson and her staff at Seasons Ticket for all of their help. Bobbi Lasher did a fantastic job of organizing the event with the help of Claire Tyler and Traci Trudell. Greg Miles, greyhound owner and manager at the Hilton, was very instrumental in this successful event as well. Tickets were sold by Brenda Stacy and Monique Moore and they too did a greyt job! This was a big undertaking for a fundraiser and thanks goes to everyone that helped. Funding was also received from Petsmart Charities. The trailer was to arrive in mid April. It is air conditioned and holds 16 dogs.



It truly is a small world! You know the greyhound adoption groups are making progress when you go to an island, Cayman Brac, 1 mi. X 12 mi., 2000 residents, 90 mi. from Grand Cayman and at one of the two resorts on the island there is an adopted greyhound. I went there to scuba dive in April and had my "greyhound fix" by meeting Amy Wiggins, owner of 4 yr. old F Lacy. Amy does the accounting for the resort and moved there from Peoria, IL two years ago, where she adopted Lacy. In Pic, me, Alane on left and Amy and Lacy.

CHAPTER ADOPTIONS

1999 Adoptions				2000 Adoptions					
	Dogs Placed	Other Chapters	Other Agencies	Total		Dogs Placed	Other Chapters	Other Agencies	Total
Central & South Alabama	8	0	0	8	Central & South Alabama	8	0	0	8
Northern Alabama	285	60	0	345	Northern Alabama	229	0	43	272
Northwest Arkansas	15	0	0	15	Arizona	98	0	0	98
Arizona	2	0	0	2	California	140	0	0	140
California	140	0	0	140	CA-OC & GLA	132	0	0	132
CA-OC & GLA	132	0	0	132	FL-Greater Orlando	198	30	190	418
FL-Greater Orlando	198	30	190	418	FL-Daytona	64	10	331	405
FL-Daytona	64	10	331	405	Central FL	122	65	388	575
Central FL	122	65	388	575	FL-Southeast Coast	68	0	0	68
FL-Southeast Coast	68	0	0	68	Atlanta	132	0	0	132
Atlanta	132	0	0	132	Midwest - Iowa	65	0	0	35
Midwest - Iowa	65	0	0	35	Kansas	23	0	173	195
Kansas	23	0	173	195	Southern Ohio Valley	29	0	1	30
Southern Ohio Valley	29	0	1	30	Louisiana	125	0	0	125
Louisiana	125	0	0	125	Maryland	112	0	0	112
Maryland	112	0	0	112	Massachusetts	55	0	0	55
Massachusetts	55	0	0	55	Minnesota	60	0	0	60
Minnesota	60	0	0	60	Springfield, MO	51	0	0	51
Springfield, MO	51	0	0	51	Rocky Mountain	25	0	0	25
Rocky Mountain	25	0	0	25	Southern Nevada	13	0	0	13
Southern Nevada	13	0	0	13	Central New Hampshire	48	0	0	48
Central New Hampshire	48	0	0	48	Western New York	71	0	0	71
Western New York	71	0	0	71	Wheeling Downs	66	17	78	161
Wheeling Downs	66	17	78	161	Oklahoma	56	0	0	56
Oklahoma	56	0	0	56	Northwest	172	0	0	172
Northwest	172	0	0	172	Central Texas	53	4	3	60
Central Texas	53	4	3	60	Houston	181	0	0	181
Houston	181	0	0	181	North Texas	-	-	-	-
North Texas	-	-	-	-	San Antonio	80	0	0	80
San Antonio	80	0	0	80	VA-Richmond	42	0	0	42
VA-Richmond	42	0	0	42	Emerald Pacific	36	0	0	36
Emerald Pacific	36	0	0	36	Inland Empire	2	0	0	2
Inland Empire	2	0	0	2	Wisconsin	58	0	0	58
Wisconsin	58	0	0	58	Sub-Chapters				
Sub-Chapters					FL-Largo	180	0	0	180
FL-Largo	180	0	0	180	Total Adoptions for 1999 -				
Total Adoptions for 1999 -					Dogs Placed - 2769				
Dogs Placed - 2769					Other Chapters - 186				
Other Chapters - 186					Other Agencies - 1164				
Other Agencies - 1164					Grand Total - 4119				
Grand Total - 4119					Total Adoptions for 2000 -				
Total Adoptions for 2000 -					Dogs Placed - 3131				
Dogs Placed - 3131					Other Chapters - 337				
Other Chapters - 337					Other Agencies - 1216				
Other Agencies - 1216					Grand Total - 4686				
Grand Total - 4686									
					Central & South Alabama	8	0	0	8
					Northern Alabama	229	0	43	272
					Arizona	98	0	0	98
					California	140	0	0	140
					CA-OC&GLA	183	142	22	347
					FL-Greater Orlando	262	27	207	496
					FL-Daytona	34	18	408	462
					Central FL	100	119	361	580
					FL-Southeast Coast	88	0	64	152
					Atlanta	131	0	0	131
					Midwest-Iowa	90	0	0	90
					Kansas	182	0	56	238
					Southern Ohio Valley	42	0	1	43
					Louisiana	101	0	0	101
					Maryland	119	0	0	119
					Massachusetts	52	0	0	52
					Minnesota	60	0	0	60
					Springfield, MO	82	0	3	85
					Rocky Mountain	22	0	0	22
					Southern Nevada	22	0	0	22
					Central New Hampshire	48	0	0	48
					Western New York	70	0	0	70
					Wheeling Downs	43	28	47	118
					Oklahoma	60	0	0	60
					Northwest	151	0	0	151
					Central Texas	94	3	4	101
					Houston	252	0	0	252
					San Antonio	72	0	0	72
					VA-Richmond	40	0	0	40
					Emerald Pacific	22	0	0	22
					Inland Empire	0	0	0	0
					Wisconsin	98	0	0	98
					Sub-Chapters				
					FL-Largo	-	-	-	-
					Emerald Coast	-	-	-	-
					Tennessee	-	-	-	-
					Kansas City, MO	-	-	-	-
					Indiana	129	0	0	129
					Michigan	66	0	0	66
					Northern Virginia	55	0	0	55
					Indianapolis, IN	26	0	0	26

GPA PROFILE: TLC GREYHOUND ADOPTION

Kansas Prison Dogs

Ribbon likes to walk through doorways backwards. An odd characteristic in anyone, to be sure, but even more so in a greyhound dog. And, it's not something that would have been known about her had she not been placed for foster care and training in the El Dorado Correctional Facility in Kansas.

Ribbon is one of 31 greyhounds currently being cared for in Kansas prisons. The Kansas Correctional Facilities Greyhound Project is a unique partnership between TLC Greyhound Adoption, the only GPA chapter in Kansas, and the Kansas Department of Corrections. TLC provides the dogs, and all of the associated expenses, such as crates, vet care, training support, food, treats, and other supplies, and the prisons provide the inmate handlers.

Most of the dogs in the program come from greyhound farms in the Abilene, Kansas area. Some have retired from racing, others were not fast enough to make it on the track, some left racing due to injuries, and some are former brood stock. All of them are bound to be good pets, and their inmate handlers help them along the way by providing foster care and training in basic obedience and general house manners. More than 100 greyhounds have participated in the project since its inception in January 2000.



Each dog has 2 handlers who teach him/her general house manners and basic obedience. Most greyhounds leave the program knowing how to walk nicely on lead, and the sit, down, stay, and come commands. Some are even superstars — DC, one of the first 2 dogs to enter the program mastered an incredible 68 commands! Some of these greyhounds are now therapy dogs, some live in group homes and care facilities, and some have gone on to just enjoy the life of spoiled family pets. Adoptive home placements are better because of the unique insight into each hound's personality and temperament that TLC gets from the inmate handlers.

This program is a win-win-win situation. TLC Greyhound Adoption receives a much-needed source of foster care for these dogs. The

correctional facilities have found that the greyhounds are having positive changes on behavior and outlook, even among inmates not directly participating in the program. The big winners are the adoptive homes that welcome a new family member who has been well trained and cared for, has nice manners, and knows basic obedience commands.

As for Ribbon, she will continue to walk backwards through the sally ports and doorways of the El Dorado Correctional Facility until the

right permanent home comes along. Meanwhile, she is charming not only her inmate handlers, but also officers and other staff members of the facility, and creating a whole new category of greyhound lovers! For more information about TLC Greyhound Adoption and the Kansas Correctional Facilities Greyhound Project, please visit our website at www.tlcgreyhoundadoption.com



TLC's Deb Sanford with Lady and Gracie

Congrats to GPA NVA upon being voted in as a full chapter.

By Annie Roebuck, TLC Greyhound Adoption/GPA Kansas

VET'S VISIONS:

LOGDINGS FOR AILING PETS AND THEIR OWNERS

VETERINARY SCHOOL IN Columbia launching campaign for a home for weary travelers.

Columbia—Marilyn Gaffney got to know every bump and billboard along Interstate 70 between St. Louis and Columbia. As she drove out of the big city before dawn on Mondays, Gaffney whispered words of comfort to Ricci, her greyhound, her traveling companion, "my baby."

Ricci needed radiation treatment for a brain tumor, and the University of Missouri-Columbia, two hours from Gaffney's home, has the region's only radiation gear dedicated to use for animal patients.

Gaffney headed back the same morning after dropping Ricci at the hospital. The 9-year-old dog would stay in Columbia for daily treatments through Thursday afternoons, when Gaffney would return to pick her up. They spent Thursday nights in a Columbia motel room and returned for the week's final radiation treatment on Friday morning. Then it was back to St. Louis for the weekend.

Each Monday, the tiring, emotionally challenging drill started again.

"Anyone who's ever left their sweet dog at the kennel knows how hard that is and especially when the pet is sick," Gaffney said. "It's tough on both of you."

Carolyn Henry, a veterinary oncologist and professor at the university, has a vision to make treatment a bit easier for traveling pets and their owners. She wants to build comfortable, comforting, affordable lodging next door to the vet school for both four-legged and two-legged guests to stay during treatment.

Henry calls her vision Barkley house, named for a gentle, now-deceased Great Pyrenees dog she treated for cancer.

Barkley's owner commuted with the dog from Kansas City until she broke her leg; then she enlisted friends to travel with her pet for treatment. The owner's dedication inspired Henry.

Almost everyone has heard of the Ronald McDonald houses, a non-profit program of affordable lodging near hospitals for families enduring long-term treatment far from home.

Barkley House is a similar concept, with five overnight suites to be set aside for dog owners and one for cats and their people. "Nothing against cats, mind you – that's just the proportion we usually see," Henry says with a laugh. Owners of larger animals, such as horses, could also stay at the house.

The lodgings wouldn't just be a matter of convenience. With owners and pets so close by, veterinary students would have better opportunities to study their interactions, which could have implications beyond vet school. Henry works and shares with human cancer specialists at the university's teaching hospital. "There is a big interest in what's called the human-animal bond. These pets do become family members," Henry said.

Katie-Penagard understands.

The medical technician drove her 13-year-old black Labrador-retriever mix, Candi, from her home in Chicago to receive radiation treatment in Columbia for two tumors. During nearly one month of treatment, Penagard and her husband managed a single visit before picking up the dog to go home. On their last trip, every Columbia hotel room was booked for school events, and the Penagards stayed 30 miles away in Jefferson City.

"We aren't wealthy people and we had to work a lot of overtime and spend a lot of hours being able to afford the treatment. But this dog means the world to us," she said. "It would have meant a lot to stay with her and see others dealing with this, too."

There appears to be nothing on the scale of Barkley House anywhere in the United States. The idea came to Henry from a visit to a woman in Pullman, Wash., who converted the basement of her house to overnight quarters for owners and pets visiting the Washington State University vet school.

The University of Missouri has endorsed the use of property near the vet school to build Barkley House, but no public money is going to the project. Site development and construction will cost a projected \$2 million for the envisioned three-story building. So far, about \$20,000 has been raised.

The vet school is launching a campaign to attract private donations. And there is a donation box in the patient admission lobby.

"What we need now is a financial angel," said Gaffney, who became a booster of Barkley House after hearing Henry's idea.

Gaffney, whose greyhound endured long weekly commutes and 17 radiation treatments, said she would have stayed at Barkley house just to share her experiences with other anxious pet owners.

"Granted, this seems to be all about pets. But it's not all about pets. Maybe something they find in treating a family dog will have some application in treating a father, a mother, a sister or a brother," Gaffney said.

For more information on the envisioned Barkley House visit <http://web.missouri.edu/~news/releases/aprmay01/BarkleyHouse.html>



Theresa is a 11.5 year old senior, who was adopted by Catherine Shannon of OK. Theresa was adopted in May, the Adopt A Senior Month.

Congratulations Theresa on finding your new home!

CANINE OBESITY

I live with an easy keeper, so I know how difficult it can be to control a dog's weight. I also know that my dog's weight goes up and down in harmony with my own weight (another easy keeper), and that is another problem to be dealt with.

Canine obesity is the NUMBER ONE health problem in dogs today, as human obesity also ranks first. I have felt for some time that dogs are a good mirror of our society. We have an overabundance to choose from and to feed, and many times our emotions get wrapped up in how we eat, and how we feed our pets.

I have treated a 91# Afghan hound that should have weighed 50#. I think that is the most horrible case of sighthound obesity I have ever seen, and I felt so sorry for this dog, she could barely move. Constant panting, bluish hue to her tongue. Her heart was having to pump for *two* dogs in essence....the one she was, and the one she carried on her back. I have seen some Whippets that resemble coffee tables; they are so flat-backed with flab. I think good condition on a dog includes the following:

- 3 vertebrae can be seen, not just FELT. They do not have to be prominent, but should be visible. This is over the beginning of the lumbar region.
- The skin should be soft and pliable, not thick and leathery. As dogs get fatter (people too) they lay down fat in the skin layer. The skin of highly conditioned dogs is paper thin. Grab your own if you are brave enough....what do you feel?

- You should be able to almost see ribs at the end of the rib cage. I like to be able to see the last few ribs slightly on my heavy boy, then he is at good weight.

- Hip bones do not need to be seen, but you should be able to feel them without a lot of work

- Good muscle condition helps with all of the above.

Lean, healthy dogs are much happier. They have more energy, are less prone to musculoskeletal injury and have happier hearts. While dogs do not have the same level of problem with atherosclerosis that humans do, we also do not routinely measure blood pressure or other indicators of heart health in dogs due to the difficulty in doing so. Thin dogs do not have the fat covering in the abdomen that heavier dogs do (just ask your vets if they have ever had to do pyometra or spay surgeries in some of these older, obese labs or Rotties.....the surgery can cost them their lives due to the level of GREASE in their abdomens!!).

One of the most overweight breeds in the show ring today (in terms of body weight) in my opinion is the Labrador retriever. I do a fair number of field-bred labs in my practice, and the roly-poly short-legged little pig-resembling things I see in the show ring are sad. You could not find a rib on one of those dogs if you tried. They have sides resembling Yorkshire bacon slabs.....roll side to side as they are gaited. Thank God we have Whippets.....let's keep them lean!

This is the article by Lisa Costello, a veterinarian in Colorado

COCOA SHELL MULCH WARNING

A couple of months ago, various dog lists received information from the UK about the death of a dog who ate a few pieces of this environmentally friendly cocoa shell mulch that apparently contains the dangerous active ingredient, theobromine. Apparently it smells very much like chocolate and this can be a dog 'magnet'.

There have been reports from NJ and CA that it is available there in some Home Depots. Call your local HD and speak with the Garden Supervisor and alert them of the cocoa shell mulch and its dangers to our loved ones, before it becomes widely available.



Do you think your grey would pass this cat test?

Submitted by Steve Hancock of Kansas City, KS

GPA OFFICERS, CHAPTERS & SUB-CHAPTERS

GPA Officers

Pat Toman

President
4070 32nd Place NE
Salem, OR 97303
home: 503-363-4566
fax: 503-371-2366
greyhnd@open.org

Rory S. Goree

Vice President
7146 North 58th Drive
Glendale, AZ 85301
602-510-6951
rory.s.goree@worldnet.att.net

Joyce McRorie

Executive Secretary
1210 N. Cypress Street
La Habra Heights, CA 90631
562-694-3519
gpa@pacbell.net

Alane Shultz

Corresponding Secretary
2016 S. Arlington Ter.
Springfield, MO 65804
417-883-8156
agreyhound@mindspring.com

Lee Edgington

Treasurer
6315 Greenvale Lane
Houston, TX 77066
home: 281-537-8298
fax: 281-537-0833 (call first)
leemav@thisbox.com

GPA Chapters

GPA/Central & South Alabama

Mary Mansour
Po Box 1110
Point Clear, AL 36564
334-990-3853
marymansour@aol.com

GPA/Northern Alabama

Gail Hill
954 Shady Grove Road
Adamsville, AL 35005
205-833-6654
gpabham@belsouth.net

GPA/Arizona

John Heynen
P.O. Box 2356
Glendale, AZ. 85311-2356
602-789-6146
gpaaaz@greyhound-rescue-az.com

GPA/CA – Orange County & Greater Los Angeles

Joyce McRorie
1210 N. Cypress Street
La Habra Heights, CA 90631
562-694-3519
gpa@pacbell.net

GPA/FL – Greater Orlando

Lisa Nolet
1260 S. Cty.Rd. 427
Longwood, FL 32750
407-332-4754
gpago@greyhoundpetsorlando.org

GPA/FL – Daytona Beach

Chris Miller
2028 Mango Tree Drive
Edgewater, FL 32141
904-428-3915
bmi1406548@aol.com

GPA/Central Florida

Dennis Tyler
3525 Manassas Ave.
Melbourn, L 32935
321-242-9010
cfgpa@digital.net

GPA/FL – Largo

Nancy Crist
PO Box 8071
Madeira Beach, FL 33738
727-595-7852
lstolliver@aol.com

GPA/FL – Southeast Coast

Wally Griffin
7047 Belvedere Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
561-478-3006

GPA-Atlanta / Southeastern Greyhound Adoption

John C. Parker
364 Country Club Rd.
Newnan, GA 30263
770-502-1272
FieldChmn@aol.com

GPA/Midwest

Gloria Sanders
2397 Utah Ave.
Thor, IA 50591
515-378-3183

GPA/Kansas

Deborah Sanford
323 2400th Ave.
Solomon, KS 67480
785-655-2208

GPA/Southern Ohio Valley

Geneva Ford
PO Box 72237
Louisville, KY 40272
502-995-3767
gford33@aol.com

GPA/Louisiana

Judi McGovern
106 Pine Oak Drive
Covington, LA 70433
985-893-0966
gpala@bellsouth.net

GPA/Maryland

G.P.A. MD, Inc.
PO Box 42103
Baltimore, MD 21284-2103
800-600-8607
ethelwhitehurst@home.com

GPA/Massachusetts

Kathy Morrill
5 Smith Street
Middleboro, MA 02346
508-947-3654
happydog12@aol.com

GPA/Minnesota

Bruce Krautbauer
PO Box 49183
Minneapolis, MN 55449
763-785-4000
bruce@softworksinc.net

GPA/Springfield, MO

Alane Shultz
2016 S. Arlington Terrace
Springfield, MO 65804
417-883-8156
agreyhound@mindspring.com

GPA/Rocky Mountain

Sheri Glaspey
209 Acacia Lane
Polson, MT 59860
406-849-5539
bearden@digisys.net

GPA/Southern Nevada

Bev Doan
9320 Scenic Mountain Lane
Las Vega, NV 89117
702-240-8128
greyhound@alltel.net

GPA/Central New Hampshire

Sandy Wellman
PO Box 778
Concord, NH 03302-0778
603-225-2175
swellman@conknet.com

GPA/Western New York

Joan Holley
305 Harwick Road
Rochester, NY 14609
716-288-0758
joangpa@eznet.net

GPA/Wheeling Downs

Lou Batdorf
P.O. Box 391
Martins Ferry, Ohio 43935
304-232-4492
304-232-1565
GPAWHEELING@aol.com

GPA/Oklahoma

Cheryl Holmberg
1775 E. 59th Street
Tulsa, OK 74105-7070
918-712-1775
greyhnd@aol.com

GPA/Northwest

Tina Collins
1157 SW Tobias Way
Aloha, OR 97006
503-642-3783
stregacat@home.com

GPA/Central Texas

Bob Trapp
17013 Indian Chief Drive
Leander, TX 78641
512-276-7603
RFTrapp@aol.com

GPA/TX – Houston

Roy Cox
16031 Pinyon Creek Dr.
Houston, TX 77095
281-550-1827
RFC1955@aol.com

GPA/San Antonio

Elsy Bless
PO Box 750
Helotes, TX 78023
210-695-8441
hounds@gpasa.org

GPA/VA – Richmond

Vic Maloy
PO Box 70811
Richmond, VA 23255-0811
757-231-8332
nole9300@aol.com

GPA/Northern Virginia

James Martin
PO Box 710141
Oak Hill, VA 21071
703-369-4021
jmartin@gpa-nova.org

GPA/Emerald Pacific

Ed Shadle
1817 206th St. East
Spanaway, WA 98387
253-589-1532
greyhound4@att.net

GPA/Inland Empire

Robin McKee
4910 N. Karen Rd.
Otis Orchards, WA 99027
509-927-8002

GPA/Southeast Wisconsin

Rebecca McCracken, DVM
3011 90th Street
Sturtevant, WI 53117
262-884-8838

GPA Sub- Chapters

GPA/Emerald Coast

Ed Shadle
1817 206th St. East
Spanaway, WA 98387
1-206-847-3584
edshadle@compuserve.com

GPA/Indianapolis, IN

Katherine Roberts
6010 Hayford Way
Indianapolis IN 46254
317-293-2502
roberts@aol.com

GPA/Tennessee

Tim & Jo Ann Marshall
12104 Broadwood Drive
Farragut, TN 37922
865-671-2749
tmarshal@conc.tds.net

GPA/Indiana

Sue Swinford
4414 S 100 East
Lafayette, IN 47909
765-474-0964
gpaind@dcwi.com

GPA/Michigan

Ruth R. Perry
25420 Mintdale Rd.
Sturgis, MI 49091
616-651-7395
rperry@voyager.net

GPA/Carolina Greyhound Adoptions, Inc.

Judy Horton
213 Meetze Ave.
Lexington, SC 29072
803-957-3866
greyheartx3@msn.com

GREYT RECIPES

Greyhound Pets of America/CA-Orange County and Greater Los Angeles is publishing its first recipe cook book! It will be due out for the holiday gift giving season. We want to include contributions from every greyhound rescue group in the country. Additionally, we are soliciting recipes from "Famous People". Kim Parkhurst is doing the art work.

The book will include your own recipes in a variety of topics including main dishes, soups & salads and desserts, with your name and affiliation included. An entire section will be devoted to recipes for your dog(s) and there will be a section on doggie first aid.

Help make this book a success by sending your favorite recipes to Julie Stroud jstroud823@aol.com or Leslie Carr Momto4legs@aol.com. You may also Fax to (562) 694-0719. Any questions, please call Julie Stroud at: (714) 835-7691 Deadline for submissions is July 28, 2001.



Tina and Star

IN POPULAR DOGS MAGAZINE

Cal Orey, author-journalist will be writing two stories on Greyhounds for Popular Dogs Issue: Greyhounds (Aug. 2001)—a magazine devoted to the breed.

His article will be entitled "Hall of Fame Greyhounds."

The Dancing Greyhounds agreed to participate after Mr. Orey made the following statement:

"My articles don't discuss racing at all. Other articles will discuss training, nutrition, grooming, alternative activities to racing There will be an article discussing the Greyhound racing controversy—but again, my articles (2) are just on Trivia and Hall of Fame Greyhounds (where your service-therapy dogs will go). The Dancing Greyhound Drill Team are a perfect fit for my article Hall of Fame Greyhounds section on noteworthy service dogs."

PICK UP OR PAY LATER

In a recent visit to the home of an elderly greyhound I was surprised to find a large amount of greyhound droppings that were not picked up for some time. At a recent medical seminar a Greyhound veterinarian speaker stated that the leading reason that dogs do contract worms (hook, round and whip) was the kennels inability to pick up droppings in the turn out pens. Studies and tests on soil proved that thousands of worm eggs were present in the soil and when the dogs licked their feet they were reinfested with these parasites.

Some people will also wash droppings into the soil

and that proves to be just as bad. Picking up the droppings and disposing of them in the trash is the only sure way to avoid this problem. Aside from being a health hazard to the greyhounds, veterinary bills can be expensive to treat such infestations.

The kennels use a shovel or large scoop with a small rake to pick up droppings and put them in a trash bag situated in a pail with a lid. This is the best way to store and dispose this waste.

Any bloody stools or stools with mucus could be a sign of worm infestation that if left untreated could progress into a life threatening problem. If you pick up your droppings and treat your dog with "Heartguard Plus," a wormer that takes care of Heartworms and most of the other worms you will rarely have a problem. Should your greyhound encounter constant diarrhea or any of the above stool problems, contact your vet for care and treatment.



Patty

From the Spring 01 Issue of GPA/Central Florida's "The Hound's Run"

A HAPPY ENDING

Everybody loves a happy ending. This is about Freeway's. Freeway, you may remember, was picked up by Animal Control, tied to a freeway underpass in deplorable condition and was rescued by the GPA OC/GLA. The message on the greyhound-list said, "He was found tied to a freeway underpass on a very short leash. His flea dermatitis (or health) is so bad that he has no fur left on his body, just black fur on his face. His eye socket was recently crushed. He won't wag his tail or respond to anyone."

I had joked that when I chipped I wanted it to be a big, black, senior, special needs boy since they are hard to place. But I also knew that whoever came along, I would love them no matter what. Imagine my surprise when I read about my "perfect dog." I had been on vacation when the message originally went out so I wasn't even sure if he still needed a home. I emailed Nancy Madigan to see if he was still available and would Sapphire, my sassy young greyhound girl, and I be a good match for him? I was so happy when she got back to me and said she thought we were a great fit. Imagine how hard it was for folks at my work to get excited when I talked about my new, black, one-eyed dog coming to live with me!" I was thrilled!

Three days later I was picking him up! His health was quite a bit better after a visit to the vet and his stay with his wonderful foster family, the Jeffers. He had put on weight, his hair was starting to grow back, and his eye turned out to be an older injury which requires drops everyday but doesn't cause him any discomfort.

My memory of meeting him for the first time is a mixture of sadness and joy. Sadness for his foster mom who wasn't ready to let him go and joy at this special boy I was about to bring into our lives. I had always loved the name Argus and thought if the name fit him and it was OK with him, he would be Argus from here on out. I loved the name Freeway, but we were starting over together. A new name seemed like a good way to start a new life.

Thanks to the wonderful care he had been getting for a few weeks, he really didn't look that bad to me. This enabled me to put his past behind all of us and focus just on moving forward. I was pleased to see that he was alert, interested in his new surroundings and interested in Sapphire. He claimed his new bed right away and I offered him a chewie which he loved and concentrated on for quite a few hours.

I slept on the floor with him for the first 3 nights. Aside from some crying during the first night, he did great. By the end of the first week with me, I was getting little tap dances when I came home from work. By the end of the second week, I was getting the whirly dog. Sapphire's zest for life has done a great deal in bringing him out of his shell. He loves going to the dog park and chasing her when she chases the ball. He bounces, jumps, play bows, whirly dogs, scoots, and goes bonkers in general when he gets to go to the park. Oh, and he loves to dig but we try to keep that to a minimum!

He loves riding in the car, getting treats, going for walks, and cockroaching. Not only has his hair all grown back but you would never know he had any missing. He is quite hairy actually, even his tummy, with a thick silky, soft fur that is one of his best features. His weight is great and in fact we have begun that battle of making sure he doesn't get fat. At his last check up he weighed in at 88 pounds (oops, where did those last 2 ribs go)! He carries himself with a lot more confidence and is just the sweetest, best behaved boy ever. He has never had a single accident in the house.

No one relaxes better than him. He rolls over onto his back, one arm straight up, one bent. He relaxes so much his lips pull away from his teeth, his mouth drops open, and his tongue lolls out of his mouth. It is quite a site to behold!

He got into some chocolate at Christmas and gave me a scare but he was fine. In fact, it gave him a real sweet tooth and anytime he hears paper crackle he comes running over to get some! I have banned chocolate from my house. He seems to really appreciate anything I do for him. This includes cleaning ears, brushing teeth, clipping toenails, putting on his coat.

He is very affectionate. He loves it when I give him a big 'ole bear hug. He leaaaaans into it and sighs. Just last night he crawled up on the couch for the first time. As he settled in with his head in my lap I think I was being told that he knows he is staying forever.

He and I have many people to thank. Tom and Joyce for bringing him into their fold rather than let Animal Control put him to sleep, Jeff for picking him up, Lori for his first bath and telling him he was handsome, the Jeffers for bringing him into their home, nursing him back to health, and showing him unconditional love. And finally, my family, who have supported me and loved him like he is their own.

ISN'T IT CRATE?

Please answer this multiple-choice question:

A dog crate (cage) is:

- A cruel and inhumane method of torture and confinement that should be forbidden in the adoption contract.
- A cure-all for greyhound behavior problems.
- Somewhere in-between a and b.

If you answered "c," you are correct.

We suggest using crates as tools for certain situations such as:

- For dogs newly adopted from the track. When you think about the adjustments we ask these dogs to make, it's amazing so many of them do so well. We often compare adoption from the dog's point of view as being plucked up by aliens and set down on a new planet. For the first time in their lives they may be alone, without other dogs around. We bring them into our homes with furniture, carpeting, slick floors, people, and noise, and it's all new to them. What creature wouldn't be overwhelmed? The crate provides a refuge on this alien planet; a quiet den similar in size and construction to the crates at the race kennel. With a soft bed, a crate provides a comfortable, limited space. The dog doesn't have to feel "responsible" for the whole house. Since most greyhounds will not eliminate where they sleep and eat, a crate reinforces good housebreaking habits. Crating a new dog gives you peace of mind when you have to leave him home alone; you can feel comfortable knowing nothing will get chewed and he will be safe. If you have other pets, you can separate the newcomer until you're sure everyone is friendly. Crates are temporary tools. Most greyhounds can be weaned out of them within a couple of months of adoption.
- For dogs with persistent, intractable anxiety when being left alone, some dogs never really get comfortable being home without you. They get nervous and anxious and manifest those feelings by eliminating inappropriately, chewing, or acting out other difficult behaviors. Sometimes having another greyhound in the house helps, but other times the dog is only comfortable without you when he's in a safe place—his crate. These dogs may be contentedly crated their whole lives.
- For a large pack of dogs. If you become hopelessly addicted to greyhounds and are lucky enough to have the resources to have many, crates are a way to manage the group and protect everyone. Dogs behave differently in a pack than they do in twos and threes. Crating some or all of the individuals in the pack gives security to all.

Crate training. Many greyhounds accept a crate willingly, recognizing its resemblance to their track home. Some resist, especially as they associate the crate with your departure. These tips may help:

- Feed the dog in the crate.
- Save one especially tasty treat for when he goes in the crate.
- Be persistent. If your dog doesn't willingly trot into the crate, take him by the collar and with a firm but gentle push on his rear end, to help him move into the crate.
- Reward entering the crate with an enthusiastic "good dog" and lots of petting.
- Never use the crate as a punishment or crate a dog in anger. He may associate the place with a mood.

Don't expect your dog to crate happily the first few days, but soon crating should get easier.

Do not crate your dog if:

- You're angry at the dog.
- You have one of the rare dogs who gets even more stressed in the crate than out. If you come home to bleeding gums and a saliva-soaked dog, you need to explore other options.
- Your crate isn't big enough. The dog should be able to stand up, lie down, and turn around comfortably. For greyhounds, we recommend a crate that is 40-inches long, 36-inches high, and 30-inches wide.
- You simply don't have the time or inclination to give your dog the attention and exercise he needs and crating keeps him out of your hair. In that case, you may want to consider why you have a dog.

Type of crate. We recommend starting out with a wire crate since it most closely mimics the crates at the race kennel, but some dogs prefer an airline kennel that has less open space and may make them feel more secure.

Crate placement and safety.

- You may want to remove your dog's martingale (humane choke) collar while crated to prevent the tags from getting caught in the crate and restricting or choking him.
- Don't put the crate near drapes, the cords connected to window blinds, or other hanging or protruding objects. Dogs can suck them into their crates and cause damage.
- Don't crate your dog in the basement or spare room where you never spend any time. The dog will feel most comfortable crated in a room where he spends time with you—the bedroom, family room, or kitchen.

Crates are tools for helping you and your dog live a happy, safe life. Like all tools, how well they work depends primarily on the person wielding them.

SELF ASSESSMENT GOALS

GPA National Assessment Review Goal:

To ensure that Greyhound Pets of America on all levels is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, as well as policy and procedures of GPA in order to help ensure the not for profit status of the organization.

Policy and Procedure:

Each chapter will perform a self-assessment each year to be completed no later than August 30. Three members should perform this assessment to include one board member, one non-board member and one board or non-board member. Materials to be reviewed are:

- By-laws
- Copy of policy and procedure manuals
- Current list of board members
- Minutes from last two board meetings
- Minutes from last members meetings
- Copy of last three months payments and billing statements
- Copy of last three months receipts of income.
- Last three months banking statements

After completion the self-assessment will be presented to the Chapter's board and a summary statement will be mailed to the National Assessment Committee, no later than September 30.

The National Assessment Committee will contact any Chapter or Sub-Chapter that fails to return a summary statement to assist them with the report.

Failure to comply will result in referral to the Rules Committee.

The National Assessment Committee will review all self-assessments and report to National Board no later than October 30. Upon completion of report to National Board, the Assessment Committee will select four chapters for a compliance review.

Chapters, and Sub-chapters will have 30 days to respond to questions and materials requested by the Assessment Committee. After the Assessment Committee has received material from Chapters or Sub-Chapters, the committee will have 30 days to perform a fact-finding phase but by no later than November 30.

Upon completion of fact-finding phase, the committee will have 15 days, no later than December 15, to report findings and recommendations to the Chapter, Sub-Chapter and National Board.

Each year after all reporting has been completed; the Assessment Committee may appoint an outside source to review financial statements.

The National Assessment Committee will consist of the National V.P, and Treasurer, and two members to be appointed by the President. Members may not be from the same chapters as the National VP or Treasurer and no two members may be from the same chapter.

This will be voted on at the National Conference, if passed it will be in effect in 2001.

WEBSITES & RESOURCES

<http://www.dollarpets.com> - GREYT prices on doggie toys

<http://www.pgreys.org/catalog/clothing.htm> - "Greyhound: The Ultimate Survivor" T-Shirt

<http://www.4imprint.com> - get your logo printed on practically anything from 4imprint

Patricia Bates, CPA

c/o Frankel, Lodgen, Lacher, Golditch & Sardi
16530 Ventura Blvd, Suite 305
Encino, CA 91436

Gary Guccione - nga@jc.net

American Greyhound Council
P.O. Box 543
Abilene, KS 67410

Kathleen & Gil Gilley - ghdance@aol.com

Dancing Greyhound Drill Team
3590 Roundbottom Road, Suite F120466
Cincinnati, OH 45244-3026

Joan Belle Isle - joanb2@ix.netcom.com

The Greyhound Project, Inc.
295 Tremont Street
Newton, MA 02458

Marcia Herman

Celebrating Greyhounds
P.O. Box 358
Marblehead, MA 01945-0358

Jacque Schultz - www.aspca.org

Greyhound Rescue Fund
ASPCA
424 E. 92nd St.
NY, NY 10128-6804
212-876-7700

SELF ASSESSMENT CHECK SHEET

Chapter and Sub-Chapter Self Assessment Check Sheet

1. Locate and review policy and procedures manual, both local and national. Located / Not Located
2. Do the corporate records include:
 - a) Articles of incorporations and all amendments Yes / No
 - b) By-laws and amendments Yes / No
 - c) All corporate minutes and resolutions of directors and officers Yes / No
 - d) Current list of names and addresses of officers and directors Yes / No
 - e) Insurance policies in corporate name Yes / No
2. Do by-laws state a parliamentary procedure? Yes / No
3. Do by-laws have a method for conducting voting at meetings? Yes / No
4. Do by-laws state a termination procedure for officers, directors and members? Yes / No
5. Do by-laws state descriptions of all officer positions currently in organizations? Yes / No
6. Are the by-laws appropriate to meet the needs of your chapter? Yes / No
7. Are all board positions and their duties documented in the by-laws?
8. Review insurance coverage. (Liability and Auto)
 - a) Is it up-to-date? Yes / No
 - b) Is the coverage appropriate for your organization? Yes / No
9. Have all state and federal annual reports been filed for the last year? Yes / No
10. Locate minutes.
 - a) Do minutes state the date, time and location of meeting? Yes / No
 - b) Do minutes state officers, directors present at meeting? Yes / No
 - c) Do minutes state additional persons who may be present? Yes / No
 - d) Has the board approved the minutes? Yes / No
 - e) Do the minutes have a treasures report? Yes / No

Comments:

Example of Comments:

After performing the self-assessment, we discovered that not all-current board positions have been described in the by-laws. It is our recommendation to the board of directors that a committee be formed to update or write new by-laws.

Over All Assessment:

Example of Over All Assessment:

A self-assessment was performed on GPA-BIGDOG. It is our belief after this assessment that GPA-BIGDOG is:

1. Observing all Corporate formalities
2. Maintaining proper records
3. Operating with a clear picture of accountability and organization
4. Board members and Officers are acting in good faith

Signed: _____ Date _____
Signed: _____ Date _____
Signed: _____ Date _____

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GPA Communique is designed by:

Diane Schiesser
6508 Shadow Valley Drive
Austin, TX 78731
Tel: (512) 345-0481
Fax: (801) 365-7061
Email: gpago@austin.rr.com

Material for publication should be sent to:

Alane Shultz, Corresponding Secretary
2016 S. Arlington Terrace
Springfield, MO 65804
Tel: (417) 833-8156
Fax: (417) 877-5853
Email: agreyhound@mindspring.com

Be sure your group sends Alane your chapter's newsletter so we can share many things of interest with all of GPA!

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Horizon Graphics
13800 Dragline Drive
Austin, TX 78728
Tel: (512) 989-0006



GPA Communique
Greyhound Pets of America
2016 South Arlington Terrace
Springfield, MO 65804

