



GPA Communiqué

Greyhound Pets of America National Non-profit Publication
Volume 11 Number 1 Spring 2002

Inside this issue...

- 2 - Policy and Procedure Manual Changes
- 3 - More on the 7x7 Program
- 3 - A Little GPA History
- 4 - Officer and Director Procedures
- 4 - GPA Convention Sponsors
- 5 - GPA Going Strong
- 6 - Chapter Contact Information
- 7 - Convention Registration Form
- 8 - Convention Flyer
- 9 - Preventing Volunteer Burnout
- 10, 11 - GPA PROFILE: Southern Nevada
- 11 - Nominations Committee Report
- 12 - Resources
- 12, 13 - Greyhounds as Hunters
- 13 - BARGAIN HUNTER: Pet Tags

Reminders...

Please help Diane keep the officer records current by keeping her up to date on your chapter's changes. You can call her at 512-345-0481 or email her at gpage@austin.rr.com

Periodically check the National GPA website to make sure your information is current. Send your changes to Diane.

Check the Greyhound Project website (www.adopt-a-greyhound.org) for any changes. Each chapter is responsible for making their own changes. Send your changes to Deb Rosenberg at ghounddir@aol.com. This will also keep you current in the Adoption Group Directory the Greyhound Project publishes.

From the President...

NOW IS THE TIME to make your reservations and plan to attend this year's Annual Conference. This year, more than ever before, it is vital that as many of you as possible attends to help work on solutions. None of us wants to read any more sickening stories as the ones out of Alabama.

We have set a plan of action in place but it will require a lot of cooperation from you, other adoption groups and the racing industry. As a team, **we can make this work.**

Please try to attend and be part of the solution. Chapters that can afford to send their representatives should do so. This should not be considered misuse of your funds; this is putting your funds to productive use; bringing back information and ideas for you. Networking is important and this is a way to meet other groups and people; a way to share information and ideas; a way to work together; a way to solve problems.

If funding is an issue (and everyone needs money,) kick in what you can to get your rep there. Pass the hat around at a meeting; ask your members or sponsors to donate frequent flyer miles; there are ways to make it happen if you want it to. If all else fails, contact me.

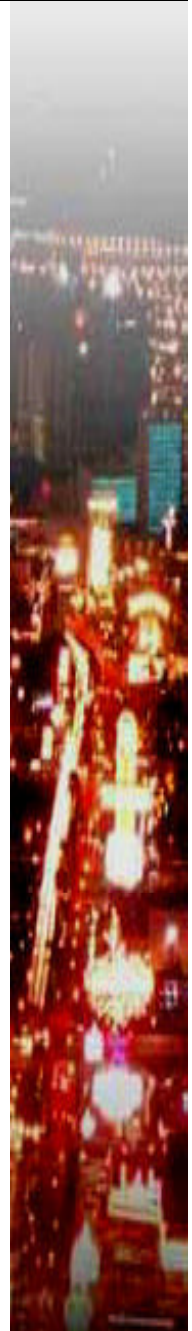
If you absolutely cannot send a representative, please sign and send a proxy to one of the executive officers or chapter of your choice. Please make the effort to participate in the solution solving and decision making of **YOUR** organization.

Pat Toman

AGENDA

**National GPA Business Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada
July 26, 2002**

- 8:00 AM - Welcome by Host Chapter
- 8:10 AM - Call to Order
- 1. Appointment of two Minute Takers
- 2. Introductions / Chapter Roll Call
- 3. Acceptance of 2001 Minutes
- 4. Treasurer's Report (Lee Edgington)
- 5. Committee Reports
 - A. 800# (Tom McRorie)
 - B. Communications (Diane Schiesser)
 - C. Subchapter Formation Committee (Joyce McRorie)
 - D. Nominations (Lisa Nolet)
 - E. Rules (Joyce McRorie / Jim Meyer)
 - F. Grants & Fundraising (Bev Doan)
 - G. P&P and Bylaws (Samantha Pray)
 - H. Finance (Tom Bonk)
 - I. PR
- 6. Old Business
- 7. New Business
 - A. P & P Changes (see page 2)
 - B. 7x7
 - C. Nominations/Elections VP and Treasurer
 - D. Location of 2003 and 2004 Convention
 - E. From the Floor
- 5:30 PM - Adjournment



Proxy Vote

I, _____, of GPA Chapter _____ hereby give my proxy vote for the GPA National Convention to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on Friday July 26, 2002 to _____ GPA Executive Officer or to _____ of GPA Chapter _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Policy & Procedure Manual Changes

P&P Amend: Delivery of the Greyhound

"Prior to delivery, the greyhound will have a veterinarian checkup, inoculations, and be spayed/neutered (or a time given the adopter to have the procedure performed.)"

Delete ("or a time given the adopter to have the procedure performed")

P&P Add: Discrimination

Greyhound Pets of America will not discriminate against or harass any applicant for adoption because of race, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status. We take affirmative action to ensure that our practices are free of such discrimination.

We affirm our value of quality adoptions for our greyhounds and seek to manage all adoptions of greyhounds in a way that does not discriminate on any particular human characteristic, and that only the quality of the home, care and treatment of the greyhound will be considered.

P&P Amend: Policy Subchapter Formation Committee

"The Subchapter Formation Committee is charged with monitoring the process by which an established chapter creates a new subchapter."

The Subchapter Formation Committee is charged with monitoring the process of establishing a new subchapter. A Subchapter Formation Committee member will be responsible for the development and guidance of each new subchapter.

P&P Amend: Dues

"Each year by February 15th, each chapter must send \$1 for each greyhound they placed during the previous year."

Each year by February 15th, each chapter must send \$1.25 for each greyhound..."

"The dues from each chapter will include those of their sponsored subchapter(s)"

Each chapter and subchapter is responsible for submitting their own dues.

P&P Amend: Rules Committee

"Members of GPA may submit to the Rules Committee a complaint....."

Members of GPA may submit to the National President who will then forward to the Rules Committee Chair.....

"The Rules Committee will have three members, elected by the directors to serve a two-year term concurrent with the national officers."

The Rules Committee will have three members, appointed by the President, to serve a three-year term concurrent with the President.

A complaint is to be submitted on the Rules Committee Complaint Form (see page 6) Anonymous complaints will be disregarded. All involved parties will have the right to view any and all submitted documents. Defendants will have ten (working) days to respond to complaint. Findings of the Rules Committee will be binding for all parties.

P&P Amend: National Assessment Review

"Each chapter will perform a self-assessment each year to be completed no later than August 30."

.... to be completed and delivered to the Assessment Committee by or at the time of the annual National Convention. Assistance in completion will be available as needed at the convention.

P&P Add: Chapter Requirements

It is very important that a representative from each chapter and subchapter attend the annual convention. A proxy may be used if no representation, but the same chapter may not use a proxy for more than two consecutive meetings. Failure to provide physical representation for two or more annual meetings may be cause for suspension/termination of chapter. Chapters will not be allowed to participate in voting issues until physical representation is made at the next annual meeting.

P&P Amend: 800 Number Fund

"Since June, 1990, funding for the GPA 800 number has been received from the American Greyhound Council. Our treasurer keeps a separate fund for the 800 number and only checks to cover the phone bills for this number, and bumper stickers advertising this number, are written from this fund."

Delete. Process has changed to all 800 number bills are submitted to AGC for reimbursement.

P&P Add: Reporting to the Treasurer

"Each year by February 15, every chapter must submit an accurate financial report to GPA's National Treasurer. (This is doubly important for the chapters which are included under the "umbrella" of the GPA National group exemption.)...."

Chapters with income over \$25,000 are required to file separately ONLY if they do not consent to be included in the group return. If chapter chooses to file separately, they will use the Group Exemption Number for their tax exempt status.

More on the 7x7 Program

You may have caught the brief mention of this program in the last Communique and are asking yourselves, what is this? Basically 7 by 7 means that GPA will be adopting out 7,000 greyhounds by the year 2007. In 2000 we adopted out as a team 3,131 so we have 5 years left to get to the 7,000 greyhounds adopted.

I have been asked several times what are you going to do about the greyhounds who do not get adopted? Why aren't you out protesting at the tracks! This got me thinking, we are an adoption group! What are we going to do about finding more homes for the greyhounds? Protesting wasn't the answer, besides that isn't our job or any part of our mission! If you remember from last year's conference, Gary Guccione made a presentation and offered to work with us. Well we took Gary up on this offer. First I sat down and came up with what would be a viable goal for us. I took the numbers of Greyhounds registered, 26,464 in the year 2000, with the total number of greyhounds adopted 18,000 and the number sent to farms, 6,000. That gives us a number of 2,464 missing. If we take our number in 2000 of 3,131, and increase it to 7,000 we cover that 2,464 and any others.

Not long ago, Lee Edgington and I did a presentation at the AGTOA conference on the program and how we can meet these goals. I'm happy to report that we did receive funding for this program.

Basically, we believe that we can meet this goal by:

- Increase chapters to 50
- Build up and support current chapters

- Work with the industry
- Work with other responsible adoption organizations

How will the above 4 items increase adoptions?

- If we add 8 more chapters, we hope that by 2007 these chapters can be responsible for 1,600 adoption increase.
- Our current normal adoption rate increase is 15%, so add 469 greyhounds adopted.
- Chapter support visits, 40% adoption increase so add 1,878. The chapters that have currently had such a visit have seen a 50% increase in adoptions with a very low rate on bounce backs. One such chapter's visit was well over six months ago and is still seeing the fruits of this visit in their adoptions.

This brings the total adoptions to 7078 from the year 2000 base of 3,131. Along with the adoption increase we should see an increase of dogs moved to other programs, yes part of the goal is to get relief to those of you overwhelmed with greyhounds. By the year 2007, all registered greyhounds that no longer qualify for racing or are no longer needed by the industry will have a home.

If you are interested in helping out, please let me know at rory.s.goree@worldnet.att, we need some volunteers to help out on this committee as well as other committees.

I look forward to seeing you all again in Las Vegas and I will have a more detailed presentation on the 7 by 7 program.

Rory Goree'

A Little GPA History

The history of the GPA Logo goes back to either 1988 or 1989 but at the time our PR person was Glen Allenbaugh from GPA/VA - Richmond. Glen is the person who came up with the current logo. However, we had several different suggestions from several different chapters so we had a special election/ballot for the logo.

Joan Headland was President at the time, and she developed the ballot for a special election (our Exec. Sec was not computerized at the time). What fun we had looking at all the suggested logos. Joan had solicited all of the chapters to submit suggestions and she received probably six or seven drawings which became part of the ballot. The current GPA logo won with an overwhelming majority.



The slogan "**Adoption as an Option**" was done in April of 1992. This time Joan was Vice President and volunteered to head a Committee to select a GPA Slogan. Joan and her Committee solicited all chapters and subchapters who were free to solicit to whomever they wanted to (like tracks, kennel operators, adopters friends, family etc).

A \$1 donation was asked for each submission. The number of suggested slogans was terrific. A total of 142 were received and \$142. So the Committee narrowed it down to eight slogans and these eight were placed on the ballot and all chapters had the opportunity to vote. The winner of the slogan contest (a patron at the Wheeling Downs Race Track) was awarded \$100 and GPA National got the extra \$42. That was a fun thing for all.

Submitted by Carol Osborne

Officer and Director Procedures

Simple, yet effective procedures for Officers and Board members!

For a chapter to survive and grow here are some helpful rules to follow to keep the democratic process alive and well in your organization. If these simple rules are followed, problems in your chapter should never arise with regards to voting and governing document changes.

- **The members rule through a decision-making process that they've established by a vote.** The organizations governing documents, bylaws, rules of order, sops, standing rules, embody this process. This is government by the consent of the governed.

- **Ideas come from the members and are presented to the assembly to decide upon.** Everyone gets the right to present, speak to, and vote on ideas.

- **Leaders come from the people through an election process.** When a leader's term of office ends, he or she returns to the people. A hierarchy of power doesn't exist; it is shared equally. All members have the right to be considered for office.

- **Checks and balances between leadership and the members are established in the governing documents.**

As an example of checks and balances, officers and board of directors have only the power that the governing documents assign to them. Those powers not specifically given to officers and boards in the bylaws enable members to reverse decisions made by the boards and officers. For example, if the bylaws do not say that the board or officers can set dues, and the board votes to set dues, then the members can rescind the action. Another check and balance that the bylaws give is the right of membership to remove ineffective or tyrannical leaders from office.

- **All members are equal – they have equal rights and responsibilities.**

- **The organization is run with impartiality and fairness.** Law and enactment rule the organization, not the whims of the leadership. The rules are applied equally, impartially, and fairly to all and not just a select few.

- **There is equal justice under laws; members and officers have a right to a fair trial if accused.**

- **The majority rules, but the rights of the minority and absent members are protected.** All those entitled to vote or all those who are entitled to be a part of the decision will have that right, regardless if it is already determined that their vote or ideas will not be part of the majority.

- **Everything is accomplished in the spirit of openness, not secrecy.** Members have the right to know what is going on within the organization by attending meetings, inspecting the official records, and receiving notices and reports from the committees, officers, and boards.

- **All have the right to resign from office or the organization.**

- **Each meeting follows an order of business called an agenda.**

- **Members take turns speaking.**

- **No member speaks twice about a motion until all members have had the opportunity to speak.**

- **Members keep discussion to the issues, not to personalities or other members' motives.**

Rory Goree'

GPA Convention Sponsors



DERBY LANE
St. Petersburg, Florida USA

GPA Going Strong

Back in the mid-1980s, when about the only public pet adoption effort around was Ron Walsek's Retired Greyhounds as Pets (ReGAP) in Florida, all heck was about to break loose. The industry was on the verge of opening a handful of new tracks, mostly in the Midwest. Sharp spikes were beginning to show up on the breeding and whelping charts, and the number of retired Greyhounds eligible for adoption was about to escalate proportionately.

Unfortunately, Walsek's group wasn't equipped to handle the overload—a situation that perhaps contributed to the group's increasingly unfriendly approach to the industry.

Thankfully, what emerged from this seedbed was a more middle-of-the-road group of caring folks—some involved at the time with ReGAP, and even some of them in racing—whose sole aim was to place as many Greyhounds as possible in homes as pets. So it was that Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) was born. GPA felt, that in order to maximize its effectiveness, it needed to take a political position of neutrality with regard to racing—a position it maintains to this day.

GPA remains by far the country's largest adoption program, with more than 35 chapters stretching from coast to coast. It goes without saying that there are other, non-GPA groups that do just as creditable a job in the placement of Greyhounds as pets (and the intent here is certainly not to ignore the good works of those organizations). Clearly, though, GPA has been the standard-bearer for nearly two decades now.

The fact was abundantly evident last month at GPA's annual conference in Atlanta. The three-day affair was an incredible exercise in the exchange of wisdom and experience by people within the adoption movement, as well as those not directly in the loop (such as Dr. Rob Gillette and first-aid expert Jean Bourassa, who made worthwhile presentations at the conference).

Also crystal-clear is the fact that GPA, with its many years of experience, has made an art form of preparing Greyhounds for adoption (even tough cases), fund-raising, and finding just the right home for a particular retired Greyhound.

For those who think a position of neutrality is a wishy-washy approach or the coward's way out, think again. GPA's taken more than its share of flak from the anti-racing folk (who sometimes accuse GPA of selling out to racing—even some who falsely claim neutral groups have made matters worse by prolonging the status quo). Unfortunately, GPA has even taken a few hits from racing's side as well—by those who'd prefer GPA take a more pro-industry posture.

Despite the criticisms, GPA quietly moves forward, not prone to waste any time on the political issues, in its relentless pursuit to place as many Greyhounds as possible. It's really

hard not to admire such resolve and consistency, not to mention principle.

Yes, there are GPA chapters that take a more arms-length approach to racing than others. And, not every news article featuring a GPA group will cast the industry in the exact light we'd like (with the negative spin more often than not reflecting the prejudice of the reporter, armed with Internet misinformation, than the views of the GPA chapter). The beauty of GPA's charter is that it allows such diversity, while still working within the framework of its neutrality.

One thing we know: Whenever faced with a humane issue where Greyhounds have been or are at risk and a pet adoption group is involved, it's always more reassuring when the group is from GPA. In nearly all cases, the industry will at least get fair treatment. And so will the Greyhounds.

Our message to the folks at GPA at their Atlanta conference was simple and threefold. First: Thank you for all you do in finding good homes for such a large percentage of our retired Greyhounds (more than one in every six Greyhounds placed is by a GPA chapter). Second: Thank you for giving Greyhound owners a viable outlet for their retired Greyhounds, especially those who insist or prefer on working with friendly or neutral groups. (Can you imagine how many fewer Greyhounds would have been placed in the last 18 years without GPA?) And finally, a suggestion: Let's expand our channels of communication—we folks in Greyhound racing (NGA, AGC, AGTOA, etc.) and you in pet adoption (GPA, etc). And let's begin with more frequent more open discussion at our respective meetings, starting with our foremost agencies involved with animal welfare (AGC and GPA)

Although a veteran group with many years of experience, GPA remains strong and vibrant. Many of the faces have changed over the years, but their cause and message continue to be extremely appealing to the American public. The industry must work more closely with them—and help however it can...

*As printed in **The Greyhound Review** October 2001, Reprinted with permission. Contact Gary Guccione for reprint authorization, P.O. Box 543, Abilene, KS 67410-0543, (785) 263-4660*



**Register for
the Convention**

(see pages 7 & 8, also visit www.gpaconvention.org)

Greyhound Pets of America Rules Committee Complaint Form

(Form has been condensed to fit in Communique)

Name:			
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Daytime Phone:		Evening Phone:	
Email address(s):			
<p>Members of GPA may submit a complaint that a person or organization within GPA has violated a rule in the GPA Bylaws or Policy and Procedure Manual. The Committee will not seek to mediate or rule on personal disputes, which do not involved a clear violation of a written GPA rule.</p>			
Complaint(s):			
1)			
2)			
3)			
Action you would like the Rules Committee to take:			
Contact people that can validate your complaint. Please provide name, phone numbers, and email addresses.			
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
<p>I certify that everything stated in this complaint is truthful, and everything I will discuss with the Rules Committee or National Executive Board will be accurate and true. I also acknowledge the fact that filing this complaint cannot be made anonymously and that all involved parties have the right to view this complaint and any of my documentation. I also agree that while this complaint is in process, I will not discuss any of the issues other than with the Rules Committee or National Executive Board, until a ruling is determined.</p>			
Signature		Date	
<p>This 2-page complaint may be transmitted by Email to Pres@greyhoundpets.org. A mailed copy of complaint, which includes your signature, will be sent to the President. After reviewing the complaint, the President will forward to the Rules Committee Chairperson. The Rules Committee will request the specific documentation needed and it will be your responsibility to make copies and forward to the designated Rules members.</p>			

GPA 2002 Annual Convention Registration Form
Friday, July 26 through Sunday, July 28
Deadline to register is June 25

Name 1:	
Name 2:	
Name 3:	
Name 4:	
Address:	
Phone: (day)	(night)
Email address:	
GPA Chapter/Subchapter:	
Other Affiliation:	
Arrival Date:	Time:
Departure Date:	Time:
Will you be staying at the Riviera Hotel?	
What name would you like on your name tags(s)?	

Registration fee \$65.00 per person - Includes the following:

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Admission to all events and exhibit hall	Admission to all events and exhibit hall	Admission to all events and exhibit hall
7:30 am - Pre-meeting pastries, coffee & tea	7:30 am - Pre-meeting pastries, coffee & tea	7:30 am - Pre-meeting pastries, coffee & tea
10:00 am - Mid-morning break with pastries, coffee & tea	10:00 am - Mid-morning break with pastries, coffee & tea	10:00 am - Mid-morning break with pastries, coffee & tea
3:00 pm - Afternoon break - A Sundae Bar where you design your own sundae and have it made for you	3:00 pm - Cookie and Milk Break (coffee & tea available, too)	
6:00 pm - Welcome and Mingle Reception with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Sponsored by The Greyhound Project	7:00 pm - Banquet featuring and Italian buffet with includes 7 salads, 2 entrees, 4 side dishes, assorted pastries and desserts, coffee, tea, milk, juices and a cash bar	

We are selling merchandise (t-shirt, tote bag, baseball caps) with the "Pick A Winner" logo on it commemorating this year's convention. If you would like to order something in advance, please identify the number of items you would like next to that item and size, and add that to your registration fee. Your items will be available for pick-up at the convention registration desk or you can pay to have your order shipped to you if you are not attending the convention.

Greyhound Pets of America

2002 Annual Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada July 26-28

www.gpacconvention.org

Come join us for a greyt time!



Pick a Winner...
Adopt a Greyhound!

- Discussion Groups
- T-shirts
- Speakers
- Silent Auction
- Fun
- Vendors
- Live Auctions
- Raffle
- Fantastic Food
- Greyhound Fashion Show

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Linda Blythe

Care of the Racing Greyhound

Gary Guccione

National Greyhound Association

and American Greyhound Council

Lee Livingood

Retired Racing Greyhounds for

Dummies

Bob "Mad Dog" McKinnon

Return to Iowa - film

And Others

Win this magnificently framed
reproduction greyhound print
on canvas with brush stroke detailing
Raffle tickets - \$2.00 each



Print is 32x41, not framed

Preventing Volunteer Burnout

Volunteers leave for all sorts of reasons. They want to move on to new projects. Their schedules get tighter. They move. They have new responsibilities in another part of their lives.

If a volunteer leaves because he (or she) has burned out, it's more than a retention problem. The toll on the volunteer can be as great as on-the-job burnout as he deals with guilt, self-doubt, and disillusionment. Most people find it harder to blame a charity for their emotional exhaustion while they might readily blame their company or boss. Volunteers simply don't get tired of doing good, right? Sometimes the burnout arises from poor self-management by the volunteer. He has unrealistic expectations for himself and what he can accomplish. He may have overestimated the amount of time he had to offer. He may have been pressured to volunteer and is not there for his own reasons. He may not feel free to make his personal needs or concerns known.

On the other hand, you and your organization may have set him up to fail with your own unrealistic expectations or lack of support, or by manipulating him or ignoring his needs. If this is the case, then the volunteer who leaves because of burnout will be followed by others.

In either case, there are steps you can take to help him avoid burning out, leaving and feeling terrible about it.

1. Know your volunteers. Make sure you understand today's volunteers and are not operating with 19th century precepts. Volunteers in 2002 are not into self-sacrifice, even if they think they are. They volunteer for reasons of their own, the foremost of which is wanting to be "part of the solution" to a community problem.

2. Make it real. Design volunteer positions that contribute directly to your organization's mission. Steer staff away from creating "grunt work" volunteer positions. These may motivate paid staff to support your program, but it will ultimately lose you the support of volunteers.

3. Make success achievable. Everyone wants to succeed. Design projects that have clear benchmarks. Give them the tools and training they need.

4. Keep communication lines open. This means more than simply being available. It means listening. It means caring about your volunteers' ideas and feelings and not manipulating them or blowing them off.

5. Make sure they know you will take "no" for an answer. Then, they will feel more comfortable continuing to volunteer, knowing they can speak up if they are feeling overextended or overwhelmed.

6. Make sure the work environment isn't taxing. Provide

enough space to work. Keep chaos and stress to a minimum, if at all possible. Keep it organized and clean. Use color to keep it interesting. Make it accessible. Supply their physical needs: chairs, food, coffee, comfortable temperatures, restrooms, etc.

7. Provide services to help with emotional overload. Many programs address very difficult social issues. It's not hard to become discouraged or depressed. Arrange counseling for volunteers who experience emotional burnout or grief.

8. Acknowledge their work. A once-a-year banquet ain't gonna do it. Each individual volunteer needs to hear from you regarding what impact their donation of time and talent is accomplishing.

9. Be prepared to make changes. The Arnot Medical Services Self-care web site <<http://www.aomc.org/HOD2/general/stress-BURNOUT.html>> recommends, "Changes in both you and your environment can help prevent burnout. Analyze the situation. You may have more ability to change your environment than you think. Then take positive action if possible. For example, if lack of appreciation on the job is damaging morale, coworkers can make a group effort to compliment one another on their accomplishments."

Also see: Four Typical Basic Motivators of Volunteers <<http://charitychannel.com/resources/Detailed/382.html>> and Avoiding — or Surviving — Burnout: You <<http://charitychannel.com/resources/Detailed/737.html>> .

Published by Nan Hawthorne is editor-in-chief of Volunteer Management Review(tm). Find out more about Nan at: <http://charitychannel.com/resources/Detailed/480.html>

Instructional Videos

For those interested in adding a skin stapler/remover to your pet first aid box, but not sure how to use them, a free video can be downloaded, thanks to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. As well as the skin stapler video, there are several others showing how to properly clean a wound, how to hold surgical instruments, etc.

These shouldn't replace seeing a vet for professional care, but if you are in the wilderness, and a couple of hours away from a vet, then a little knowledge can be a powerful tool in keeping your greyhound alive. URL site:

<http://cal.nbc.upenn.edu/surgery/800.htm>

if any difficulties, shorten the URL to <http://cal.nbc.upenn.edu/surgery> then search the links

GPA Profile: Southern Nevada

The desert is sizzling hot in July but Vegas is a very cool town to visit at any time of year. The Southern Nevada chapter is anticipating, with great excitement, hosting the July 2002 GPA Convention in Las Vegas. If you're coming, plan on "getting lucky"! We're a small chapter, but we make up for it with big enthusiasm, and even bigger heart. You'll find our volunteers to be friendly, fun, and abundantly welcoming, committed to making this conference one you'll both enjoy and benefit from. Bring along your desire to network and learn, and your unique perspective and input on current, and ongoing, greyhound and GPA related issues. Be prepared to discuss and help solve problems, meet new friends and renew old acquaintances, and shop the cream of the crop West Coast greyhound related vendors,



**Pick A Winner...
Adopt A Greyhound!**

As long as you're here, expect to be endlessly entertained, bedazzled, and amused by our desert playground. If you can, plan some extra time to check out the spectacular Las Vegas strip with all its awesome shows and attractions, try your luck in the dozens of glamorous casinos, or take in the breathtaking southwest scenery. We hope you'll remember this GPA conference, for many years to come!

Today

Since chartering in 1999 GPA/SN's growth and success has been extremely rewarding to those who worked so hard to make this chapter a reality. While we do not operate a kennel, the foster home program continues to develop and strengthen each year. Stepped up fund raising efforts have finally put the books in the black, enabling us to handle ever increasing medical expenses. Volunteer recruitment efforts have drawn a capable, committed crew, and after three years of hard work, GPA is "squarely on the map" in Las Vegas.

With the aid and cooperation of Joyce and Tom McRorie, and the GPA LA & OC group, the majority of our track dogs come from Caliente, in Mexico. While most transports happen by car, Joyce has managed to arrange for many of our dogs to be flown to Las Vegas by one of their dedicated volunteers who owns a private plane. Because our foster program is still small many of the dogs Joyce sends us are for direct placement, drawn from the LA&OC foster program. Many more of the dogs Joyce sends to us for our foster program have already been vetted, which has been a huge help. The one area our chapter continues to struggle with is in securing discounted or donated veterinary work.

Operating in Las Vegas presents some unique challenges. While greyhound racing is alive and well in the casino sports

books, dog racing is illegal in Nevada. With the closest dog tracks over 300 miles away existing public awareness about greyhounds is limited. The Las Vegas community is an inherently transient one, with an estimated 20,000 people moving in annually, and an unknown number, who got "unlucky", moving out. This makes Las Vegas good candidates for impulse adoption, and in turn, makes Las Vegas a 'dumping ground' for too many pets. Greyhounds are no exception. A disproportionate number of greyhounds, adopted in other states, and from another Vegas group, have found their way into our program. In a city of just over a million people, with dozens of individual (other) breed rescue programs operating in town actively "competing" for placements, meet and greet spaces, fund raised dollars,

and low cost veterinary services, the strain on available resources is obvious.

While "it's a dry heat", which can be deceptive, the unforgiving desert weather always needs to be considered. Desert temperatures typically exceed 90 degrees seven months of the year, and for four or five of those months high temps can soar as high as the mid-120's, with overnight lows in the 90's. Dehydration is extremely common in humans, and an even more serious consideration for dogs.

Developing and maintaining positive and cooperative relationships with all the Las Vegas groups has been a cornerstone goal of GPA/SN from the beginning. When we chartered in 1999 four other greyhound adoption groups were operating in town. Greyhounds as Pets (GAP), run by a CO kennel owner, placed in very high numbers, as did The Greyhound Gang, operating out of Utah. A Greyhound Friends for Life rep operated in Las Vegas, as did an actively marketing GPA/CA, San Diego rep. The annual GPA/SN chapter picnic has, since inception, been put forth as a common ground for all greyhound adopters and groups to put aside pro, anti and neutral politics for one glorious day, and get together as a united community to celebrate the one thing we all have in common, greyhound adoption. In 2001, nearly 300 people showed up, all strutting their hounds, making a positive statement for greyhound adoption for the TV crews who show up to report on it.

When the GAP organization closed its doors in Las Vegas last year, leaving their adopters in somewhat of a lurch, GPA/SN stepped up to the plate and picked up the slack. We provide their adopters ongoing educational and advisory support and their many bounces have, and continue to be, accommodated solely by GPA/SN, which has created a dramatic increase in SN's senior and/or neglected dog population. Southern Nevada's commitment in this situation is internally evident.

The drain on financial resources, and the strain on the foster homes program will be ongoing, for many years to come.

Despite many obstacles, the vision to build a GPA chapter in Las Vegas was borne of the dreams and determination of a scant few people who's commitment, creativity and tireless efforts made the dream succeed.

The original GPA Las Vegas sub-chapter evolved over time, starting with Dana Provost, a placement rep working for GPA California (San Diego), who handled Las Vegas greyhound adoptions. A sub-chapter was formed in Las Vegas in the early 1990's by GPA California (now the Greyhound Adoption Center), apparently primarily to expand its territory for reasons we can only speculate upon. Sharon Surber, a dedicated volunteer for the San Diego chapter, was appointed sub-chapter advisor. The initial sub-chapter board, whose purpose quickly became unclear, was initially comprised of a few Las Vegas adopters. After a short period the majority of those board members resigned, and the parent chapter installed Dana Provost as sub-chapter president. Dana resigned in 1997, and vice-president Francine Lundstrom assumed the position.

Among other problems, approved Las Vegas applicants were waiting up to five months to get their dogs from San Diego, and we were not permitted to develop a foster program or in any way handle dogs, except for direct placement from the San Diego kennel. In late 1997, Ms. Lundstrom and three other board members also resigned in frustration, and the presidency fell to then vice-president, Bev Doan. The remaining board members held an emergency meeting to discuss the ongoing and numerous problems Las Vegas had experienced with the parent chapter, and to reassess it's function and purpose. A motion was made to either disband, or to apply for full chapter status. It was unanimously decided, although the parent chapter had sternly warned against it, and long discouraged any consideration or discussion of the idea, to do the latter.

Following a difficult period to win it's freedom, and with the support and encouragement of several National board members, including then President Wally Griffin, and incoming President Pat Toman. GPA Southern Nevada was overwhelmingly elected to full chapter status, with only a single descending vote. Experienced input and guidance from many chapter presidents like Carol Osborn, Joyce McRorie and Lisa Nolette was very helpful in getting us on our feet. At the request of the newly formed SN board Joyce McRorie, of GPA/CA, OC & GLA stepped in to become mentor, supporter and friend to the new group. With the generous assistance and good-natured cooperation of she and her group, Southern Nevada placed 22 dogs in good, loving homes in its first year, more than it had placed in the previous five years combined.

With its newly defined roll and and purpose, in it's first year the chapter was fortunate to attract some terrific, skilled and committed volunteers dedicated to building the group into a solid chapter. A foster program was established, new placement

reps were trained, fund raising and marketing efforts were stepped up, dog transports were coordinated, and cooperative relationships with shelters, other Las Vegas greyhound and other breed adoption groups were developed. A web site was created, a quarterly newsletter generated, and new show and tell venues were identified and cultivated. Supported by the Gilley's as headliners, the chapter's first official picnic was the largest and most successful one ever held in Las Vegas, helping to fill the treasury by drawing greyhound adopters from every organization in town.

In Memoriam

Joyce Smith - 1926 - 2001

The history of GPA/SN cannot be written without including a tribute to Joyce Smith, a one-of a-kind treasure, who passed away on Oct. 24, 2001. Joyce served on the sub-chapter board, almost from its start, and as a founding member, on the chapter board. Although she was quite ill Joyce worked on GPA chapter business until just weeks before she died. In her eight years of dedicated service to GPA, Joyce found no job too small, no errand too unimportant. While her official title was Director, she referred to herself as the 'go-fer' and never sought 'glory', or expected recognition, praise, or gratitude. Her only agenda was to help the hounds. Joyce's spirit lives on, through our work. GPA, the greyhounds and the many people who loved her feel her loss deeply.

Bev Doan

Nominations Committee Report

With the 2002 Convention quickly approaching, it's time to look for nominees for the two positions being elected this year. At the 2001 Convention in Atlanta, the Bylaws were amended to allow for staggered 3-year terms for each of the elected positions. We voted for Corresponding Secretary and Executive Secretary at last year's convention, this year we will hold the elections for Vice President and Treasurer, and next year we will hold the election for President.

If you, or someone you know is interested in running for the position of Vice President or Treasurer, please contact me right away at gpago@greyhoundpetsorlando.org or (407)332-4754.

See you in Las Vegas!
Lisa Nolet

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Greyhounds as Hunters

A greyhound "...should follow its master and do all his commands, being sweet, joyous, willing and gracious in all its doings except towards wild beasts, to whom it should be terrible, spiteful and hostile." This was written in the "Regesta Imperii", which dates between 1198-1272, to describe our glorious greyhounds. Our greyhounds? The first part certainly seems accurate, but how can our sweet and loving greyhounds be described as "terrible" or "spiteful" or "hostile"?

I'm sure many people who listen to us carry on about greyhound adoption must think we're just a little fanatical about some of the things we insist on. After all, they're only dogs, aren't they? Dogs can be trained. And after you've had your dog for a while you get to know what they will and won't do in different situations, don't you? The stories about greyhounds being vicious or mean are obviously untrue. You can look at these sweet, loving animals and know that there's not a mean bone in their body, right?

As representatives for these glorious greyhounds, we hope each and every home that adopts a greyhound understands why we insist they are leashed when they are not in an enclosed area, why we cringe at the thought of a greyhound running loose in a play park with other breed dogs, and why the ability to get along with the house cat has no bearing on whether or not they will treat an outdoor cat (or any small animal) the same way.

As we all know, greyhounds have a long history as a hunting dog. But what some may not know is the greyhound was originally intended for hunting large game, such as deer and antelope. Today, especially in western regions of the United States, greyhounds are still used as hunting dogs. Recently, several discussions about greyhounds hunting coyotes were held on the Greyhound-L. Perhaps, some of these stories might explain just why we are adamant about keeping our greys on a leash and under control, especially around other animals.

Michelle Sandlin wrote:

"I have an inquiry to all of you greyfolk. I had my grey out and about and the local school principal stopped me to inquire about my dog. He then told me the most bizarre tale which I will relay to you, and I can only hope he was mistaken about the breed-but any breed would be icky to think about. Anyway, here goes-he was telling me about a hunting buddy of his in northern missouri who was looking into a new way of hunting or hunting more effectively and decided to adopt the classic hunter-greyhounds. This principal told me his friend adopted 2 pretty young male dogs, out of K.C. he thought-and trained them to hunt. Not that I was doubting the possibility of that, but the method that he next described threw me for a loop. He trained these dogs to ride in the back of his pickup and when they spotted a coyote (that's what the guy hunts) to take off after it. Now the reason he really likes the greys is that traditional hounds cannot catch a coyote and usually run it back in a circle to the hunter to shoot. This guy lets his greys go and the principal said he witnessed these two greys not only catch the coyote but rip it to shreds when they caught it."

Unfortunately, this is a very common practice and one that has been used for over 100 years to control the coyote population. Ken Strawbridge posted to the list, explaining,

"It is important to realize that this is not sport hunting. Coyotes are predators and their numbers will increase to consume the available food

supply. Farmers and ranchers have to control predator populations or their livestock herds will literally be destroyed. Coyotes are said to kill more than they eat.”

Michael Sheldon posted, adding greyhound history that explains some of this behavior:

“What you have heard is quite probably true. Those of us with high prey-drive hounds certainly would not doubt it. Greyhounds are what I call “primary hunters”, they do not chase so someone else can kill the prey, they chase it down and kill it themselves. Like all other predatory beasts, they kill by biting and tearing their prey. It is not pretty, but it is the way nature works.

“Contrary to popular opinion, greyhounds were *not* bred for hunting small game like rabbits and hares. Greyhounds were kept for hunting larger quarry such as antelope, deer, stag, elk, wolves, boar, and sometimes bear depending on the size of the hound. It was only in the late-medieval to renaissance that they began to be used for coursing hares, that being due to extreme restrictions on hunting other game.

“The greyhound has a 6000-year history as a hunting hound. The same qualities

that made it such a good hunter, are those that make it a good racer. From my observations, the greyhound’s genetics are uncommonly strong. Greyhounds that are cross-bred tend to not only look like greyhounds, but act like them, even over great periods of time. Greyhound behaviour seems to have changed not at all over hundreds of years.”

Well, maybe we’re not so crazy after all. Our greyhounds can certainly be trained and many of them do get along great with the house cat or the little white toy poodle that looks remarkably like the racing lure. But what about the neighbor’s kitty that happens to be crossing the street when your sweet, cat-friendly greyhound slips out the front door? Remember, leashes do not only make good sense...they are the law. (As one of our volunteers puts it: Unleashed = Unloved.) And, if you want to bring your greyhounds to play groups to run with other dogs, consider what might happen if the 6,000 year-old instinct kicks in. (Or, heaven forbid, another dog attacks your thin skinned, short-haired, no body fat greyhound.) Perhaps a safe place where muzzled greyhounds can run together would make more sense. Please, use the precautions that we’ve recommended. The skills of this efficient hunter in action can be pretty gruesome to watch

Article compiled by Lisa Nolet (GPA/Greater Orlando) from posts on the Greyhound List. As printed in March-April 2002 Issue of GO Greyhounds, GPA Greater Orlando Publication.



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