

Couch Potato

UPDATE

Join Us For Our 3rd Annual PICNIC IN THE PARK

Join us on Saturday, May 2, 1998, for our 3rd Annual PICNIC IN THE PARK from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Huntington Beach Central Park. Located on Edwards Street in Huntington Beach, this is a large, beautiful park with trees and lots of shade, walking and bicycling trails that wind past ponds, waterways and groves, a playground for children and a picnic area. Adjacent to the park is Huntington Beach Dog Park. Bring your chairs and blankets and spend the day with your greyhound. Here are just some of the things for you and your greyhound to enjoy!

- Food and Drinks - Picnic lunch - Mike's Yogurt - Bake Sale
- Enter our Animal Contests - Best costume and special dog games!
- Animal entertainment -
 - Training by Tambourine
- Pet Psychic - Lydia Hiby
 - Get some insight into your dog's past or present experiences.
 - \$30 per pet for 15 minutes (\$5 will be donated back to GPA)
- Great Raffle Prizes -
 - Be sure to buy your tickets for a chance to win many great prizes.
 - Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.
- Silent Auction - place your bids for some great items.
 - Gas B-B-Q donated by Dukane - Compact Stereo System - Official hockey jersey from Canadian Team Soo Greyhounds
- AVID (American Veterinary Identification Devices)
 - \$19.50 for chip and registration
- Childrens games & face painting
- Foster Dog Exhibit - Meet greyhounds available for adoption.
- Greyhound Boutique - Shop for you and your greyhound. We'll have collars, leashes, grooming mitts, T-shirts, greyhound pens, books, greyhound jewelry, the "Renaissance Picnic" print, notecards, and much more!
- Nail clipping - only \$5 per dog!
- Teeth and gum evaluations by Dr. Wayne Kopit.
- Vendors - Doggie in the Window (books) -
 - Jessie Bunch ("Renaissance Picnic" and "Hounds of Nobility" artist)
 - Leash Luggage (doo doo bags) - Pohina (dog goodies) -
 - Pooch Pals (pet sitting) - Spud & Mabels (clothing & accessories) -
 - Sue Westcott (custom collars)

Register today for our Picnic in the Park by sending \$8 per person to:

GPA c/o Graphix
7209 Arlington Ave.
Riverside, CA 92503

Please mail checks by April 25th. See insert in this newsletter for the registration form or send your check made payable to GPA along with your name and the number of persons and dogs that will be attending. Registration on the day of the event will be \$10 per person. Registration includes a picnic lunch and a day of fun. Those that preregistered should check in at the registration table.

If you love greyhounds, this is one event you aren't going to want to miss. Fun, food, games, prizes - all for the benefit of retired racing greyhounds.

PLEASE NOTE:
Picnic date has
been changed to
SATURDAY
May 2, 1998
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for volunteers to work two hour shifts at our picnic. We'll need help setting up, manning booths and tearing down. While this picnic is a lot of fun for everyone, its main purpose is as a fund-raiser for the greyhounds. If you are able to volunteer two hours of your picnic time to ensure that our picnic is a big success or would like to find out how you can help, please call Nancy Madigan at (562) 693-3450.

PRIZES NEEDED

We need raffle prizes for our Picnic in the Park. If you would like to make a donation for our raffle which benefits GPA, please contact Nancy Madigan at (562) 693-3450. We welcome all donations, large or small, for humans or dogs, practical or funny. All funds raised through our raffle will be used for the care of retired greyhounds until they are adopted.

AMERICA'S FAMILY PET EXPO

If you love animals, here is an event you're sure to enjoy. On April 17, 18 and 19, 1998, America's Family Pet Expo will be held at the L. A. County Fair Grounds in Pomona. You'll see dogs, cats, birds, horses, goats, llamas, potbellied pigs, fish, reptiles and more. There are also vendors selling all kinds of animal related items in addition to animal shows and exhibits. Of course, you won't want to miss one of the best exhibits - our GPA Show & Tell booth with some of our own greyhounds showing what great pets ex-racing greyhounds are.

This is the perfect show to attend if you want to find out more about the personalities and needs of different animals. Have an entertaining and educational experience at America's Family Pet Expo and don't forget to stop by our booth and say hi.

(Please note: there are admission and parking fees. Animals that are on exhibit will only be admitted with special passes, so please don't bring your pets.)

ADOPTIONS

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the wonderful support we are given by individuals and businesses, these lucky ex-racing greyhounds found a home. Listed below are the families and their dogs who came together since our last newsletter:

Bob
Luna
Pepper
Raisin
Jetta
Benji
Rafiki
Cheshire
Guppy
Mako
Marlin
Wahoo
Athena
Atlas
Zephyr
Betsy Ross
Cleopatra
Jefferson
Apache
Cheyenne
Mohican
Tootsie

Erin & Karryn Cora of Mission Viejo
Susan Cora of Mission Viejo
Matt & Katie Humphrey of Newport Beach
Chuck & Jennifer DeGraffenreid of LaPalma
Andrew and Margaret Collins of Chino Hills
Sally Kerl of Laguna Hills
Carl Hathaway of Sunland
Mark Lee of Cathedral City
Carola Lueder of Dana Point
Lynn & Terry Iker of Yorba Linda
Grace Sheldon of Long Beach
Joe & Beth Jurkovic of Helendale
John, LuAnn, Anne, John S. & Laura Ahrens of Moreno Valley
Michael Sbei of Visalia
Charles Derrenbacher of Inglewood
Dorothy Dodson of Tustin
Larry & Susan Kerr of Anaheim
Howard, Norma & Alan Schlesinger of Montebello
April Morse of Cerritos
Rhonda & Steve Hoffmann of Huntington Beach
Donna Cullen of Rancho Cucamonga
Glen & Julie Stroud of Santa Ana

GOT GRIMY GREYHOUNDS?

Make an appointment for our
DOG WASH / FUNDRAISER
and get 'em clean
just in time for the picnic!

Sunday, April 26 - 10:00 - 5:00
6113 Warwood Rd. in Lakewood



\$15 Donation includes

Shampoo, Conditioner, Manicure, Pedicure,
Comb-Out, Ear Cleaning, and Designer Scarf!

SORRY, GREYHOUNDS ONLY!

Call Paige for Appointment and Directions

(562) 429-6363

Enter the mini-affle and
enjoy refreshments while you wait.

SPECIAL HOMES NEEDED FOR SPECIAL DOGS

Every now and then we get a greyhound that is a little more difficult to place. It may be that the greyhound is very frightened or shy, injured, or may require a little extra work to adapt to a home. However, there always seems to be a person out there who is willing to open their heart and home to one of these special greyhounds.

The dogs we are featuring in this issue are in need of one of these very special homes. Greyhounds Dorian and Kathy have a lot of love to give. We hope to find two special homes that are willing to give Dorian and Kathy that chance.

DORIAN

Dorian arrived with the group of dogs that came from the Pet Kennel in Caliente on December 13, 1997. He went to live with his foster mom Kris Shnereger. He is a reserved boy with strangers but playful in his foster home. He always greets Kris with a wagging tail. Dorian is a small white and brindle male born in April 1996.



However, Kris began to notice that Dorian always seemed to be panting and couldn't seem to take a deep breath. She decided to let Karen know about her concerns. To be on the safe side it was decided he should be looked at by a vet. Dorian was diagnosed with Laryngeal Paralysis. The flaps that protected his

windpipe so that he didn't choke on food or water when he breathed were not properly functioning. On Wednesday, March 11, 1998, Dorian underwent surgery to correct the problem. One of the flaps that covers the larynx was tied back so that he could breath and swallow properly.

When Joyce and foster mom Kris picked him up two days later, he greeted them with tail wagging. Kris notice immediately that he was breathing normally.

Dorian's life has changed. But he is going to need to live with someone that understands that while normal activity and some running is possible, he won't be allowed to do hard, strenuous running. There is also a very remote chance that the surgery would have to be repeated. Dorian is expected to live a long and normal life. If you would like to open your heart and home for Dorian, call Joyce McRorie at (562) 694-3519 for information.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

by Karen Charpie-Elton

Would you believe that one of our dedicated foster homes (in fact, the very people who print this wonderful newsletter) didn't even want a greyhound in the beginning?

It all started in 1991, when Vic Kally remembered an article he had read about greyhounds and mentioned it to his wife, Joanne. They had recently lost their Doberman to old age, and had been thinking about getting another pet so their Yorkie, Button, would have a friend. Vic thought a greyhound would be just perfect. Too hyper! was Joanne's reaction, and she didn't give greyhounds a second thought.



Vic with foster Elvis.

them to the GPA booth at the Pomona Pet Fair, where one lone greyhound lay snoozing amid the noise and commotion.

Not so hyper after all, thought Joanne, as she and Vic talked to the GPA representative and learned more about greyhounds.

Soon after, "Indiana Bones" (Indy) joined the family and became Button's best friend, and the Kally's first greyhound. Two years later, Vic and Joanne picked up a little brindle greyhound girl and were supposed to transport her to San Diego.

Vic, however, couldn't stop thinking about them. He dragged Joanne to a dog show to look at greyhounds. He called a number in the paper, which led



Joanne hugs Reveille on her adoption day.



Couch potatoes (left to right) Dreamer, Rocket and Indy

Joanne stopped by a Show and Tell, and found herself telling people, "This is Dreamer, and I think we're going to keep her." She hadn't even told Vic yet!

Seven years have now passed; Indy and Dreamer are 9 and 8 years old. They share the Kally home with Augie (a terror of a Yorkie who tells all the greyhounds who's boss) and a regular stream of foster dogs. Since they started fostering in July of 1996, Vic and Joanne have been "Mom and Dad" to Marty, Quartz, Reveille, Rocket, Valiant, Yuki, Redford, Falcon, Banbury, Tarpon, Zephyr, Elvis, Murphy, Luna, Pepper, Wahoo and Mohican.

Tell us about some of these dogs. Any favorites?

"They're all favorites, especially whatever dog we're fostering at the moment. But I have a weakness for the shy ones. The shyest dogs were Quartz and Yuki. They just wanted to stay in the bedroom all by themselves."

How could you part with them?

"It was hard! We were just beginning to gain their trust, and we had to hand them over to a new person. But we knew that this was someone who was going to love and care for them for the rest of their lives."

Have any ever been a problem?

"We did have a little problem with Tarpon—making sure he didn't hurt his tail from all the wagging, which was most of the time. He was such a charmer. So were Marty and Robert Redford (the greyhound, not the actor). If there were a contest for "Mr. Personality" it would be between those three.

Wasn't there ever one that you wanted to keep?

"First of all, Vic and I have an unspoken agreement. The "A" word is something we don't talk about. We

know that if one of us brought up the idea of adopting one of our fosters, the other one would say ok. But sometimes...well, you know how it is. We came closest with Rocket. He came into our home a few days before Thanksgiving 1996. Thanksgiving Day he went outside and spent over 3 hours - straight! - running around and playing in our yard! We were sure he thought he was a dalmatian (since he was black and white). The end of February came along and he was still with us. By this time he was like one of the family. He was always making us laugh and he got along great with our own dogs. It would have been so easy to keep him. But then that special family came along and we knew that Rocket would be happy with them."

What keeps you fostering?

"I guess it's knowing that I can only save one greyhound by adopting, but hundreds by fostering."



Augie takes a break

ing. There's always one more dog at the track waiting for a foster home, and if I can provide that, well...that's one more dog that can be rescued. I always try to meet the family adopting our foster dog. It's funny how often the family and the greyhound seem to be right for each other. And I love seeing the families later at GPA events or hearing how the dog is doing through notes, phone calls, or e-mail. (That's a hint to all of the families that adopted one of our fosters.)

I have a special file in which I keep everything I've ever collected about my fosters."

Once your foster is adopted, what do you do?

"We bug Karen to get us another foster as soon as possible, preferably the same day our foster is adopted. One time we agreed to "doggysit" our second foster dog, Buddy (formerly Elvis), for a few days. Buddy never enjoyed meeting new people or going to unfamiliar places, so we wondered how he would do. When he came back into our house, it was like he was never gone. I was sure he was glad to be back with us. That is, until I took him back to Tara and Laki's. When I pulled into their driveway, he got so excited, he couldn't wait to get out of the car. Maybe that's what fostering is really about: having a greyhound enjoy the visit with you, but be glad to finally be home."

Thanks Vic, Joanne, Indy, Dreamer, and Augie for being such a great foster family! As long as you'll keep fostering, we'll try to keep you supplied with a foster greyhound.

GIVE AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

As an all volunteer organization, it is only through the generosity of our many volunteers and financial supporters that we are able to operate to the large extent that we do. Our chapter of Greyhound Pets of America started in October 1995 and since then we have found homes for over 400 ex-racing greyhounds. We couldn't have done this without your help.

We know many of you give of your time and money expecting nothing in return except the personal satisfaction of giving retired racers a second chance. However, you should know that Greyhound Pets of America / California - Orange County & Greater Los Angeles Chapter is a 501(c)(3) California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation, which means that certain charitable contributions may also be used as a deduction when filing income taxes.

Charitable contributions aren't deductible if you claim the standard deduction. However, if you itemize your deductions, check with your tax preparer to find out the amount of the deduction allowed by the IRS, depending on the type of contribution.

Here are some examples of common contributions:

Cash donations: Since we are a 501(c)(3) California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation, your cash donations (this also includes checks) are allowable as a deduction. However, if you received anything in return for your donation, it is possible you may be eligible for only a partial or possibly no deduction.

Tickets to fund-raisers: If you buy a ticket to a fund-raising event, you will need to deduct the value of any benefits received.

One exception: If you give the ticket back to the charity before the event, or if you don't accept the ticket when you pay for it, you can deduct the entire cost of the ticket. Returning an unused ticket after the event doesn't count.

Charity auctions: The only time your purchase through an event such as this is allowed as a deduction is if you pay more than fair-market value.

Merchandise: The purchase of merchandise, such as collars, leashes, t-shirts, greyhounds books or jewelry, is not a deduction as long as you did not pay over fair-market value.

Raffle tickets: Raffle tickets give you a chance to win a prize, but sorry, no deduction.

Volunteer expenses: One of the most valuable contributions you can give is your time. Unfortunately, neither your time or labor is deductible. However, unreimbursed expenses you incur in performing volunteer work, such as transportation, parking fees, telephone calls, dog food for fosters or materials for Show & Tells, is deductible.

Gifts over \$250: The IRS requires anyone donating a gift of \$250 or more to have a substantiation letter from the charity before the income-tax filing deadline if using the gift as a deduction. A letter is needed for each gift of \$250 or more, not for separate gifts totaling \$250 or more. We will gladly provide you with a substantiation letter.

Proof of donations: You should be able to prove all charitable contributions through receipts, canceled checks, etc. If you plan on using the standard mileage rate if you use your car, keep mileage records.

Plan ahead! Don't wait until tax season to try to figure out what deductible contributions you made over the year. Check with your tax preparer or CPA to find out what deductions you are allowed for contributing to a qualified charitable organization.

VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT

The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 was signed into law June 18, 1997, by President Clinton. In general, the new law will exempt a volunteer of a nonprofit organization or government entity from liability when acting within their volunteer capacities.

The law, known as Public Law 105-19, became effective September 16, 1997.

GREYHOUNDS STEAL THE SHOW

On Saturday, February 21, while one group of GPA volunteers was busy bringing in the "Indian tribe" group from Mexico, two other volunteers were at University High School in Santa Monica at the Northwest Journalism Write-Off. More than 120 students from 8 different high schools competed in eight categories. Becky McKenzie and Karen Charpie-Elton were the guest speakers for the feature section of the competition, and they discussed (what else!) our greyhound rescue program. Following is the First Place Winning Article and Photo in the Feature category, written by Jatin Dua from Marshall High School.

Four legs stole the show. The doors opened and all eyes immediately focused on four, four-legged "creatures". Who were these "creatures"? They were Greyhounds. The word greyhound to most of us conjures up the image of a race track, bright lights, people cheering wildly.

"POP!" Suddenly these long-legged skinny dogs dart out of their stalls going at the speed of light (actually greyhounds can get up to speeds of 45 mph in only their third stride.)

But what happens to these dogs when they burn out, grow old or are injured? For the world of greyhound racing, like any other racing, is serious business, survival of the fittest and fastest only. This is where organizations like Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) come into the picture.

Rescuing dogs from race tracks and finding them homes where they can lead their retirement years in peace is the avocation of Karen Charpie-Elton and Becky McKenzie, both avid dog lovers and proud owners of greyhounds themselves. Both work at the local chapter of GPA, serving the areas of Orange County and Greater Los Angeles.

According to Karen, "Greyhounds are like potato chips -- you can't have just one. It's rare for people to have just one greyhound."

She owns four of these slender, skinny-headed, long-legged, pointy-nosed dogs. Interestingly, greyhounds

come in all colors except for the color gray.

The history of these dogs is even more fascinating. Originally bred in the Middle East as hunting dogs because of their extraordinary adaptations -- speed, good eye sight, streamlined body, and webbed toes (to easily run on the sandy terrain), greyhounds have been seen carved on religious buildings dating back to 6000 B.C.

In Ancient Egypt greyhounds were considered members of royalty, and if a greyhound died the entire family would go into mourning.

From being Alexander the Great's pet to being the only dog mentioned in the Bible, the greyhound enjoyed a certain sanctity and respect in ancient times.

The Middle Ages saw a decline in the greyhound's fortune. Due to the upheaval in Europe, many greyhounds even ended up on the street. But the clergy saved the glory of the greyhound, and with the increase in the power of nobility and the popularity of the hunt, greyhounds once again got back the status they once had and were established as "Hunting Dogs".

For a long period of time, commoners were not allowed to own these dogs, for they were a symbol of nobility.

The 1800's were a time when greyhounds were in a way separated into two categories: show dogs and race dogs. The American Kennel Club (AKC) bred dogs that took part in something akin to beauty contests, while the race dogs raced.

According to Karen, show dogs and race dogs are as different as P. W. Herman vs. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The first official race track was opened in California in the early

1900's.

Coming back to 1998, GPA works something like this: waking up at 5 in the morning, a number of volunteers drive down to the race track in Tijuana and pick up 13-14 dogs, drive back to Santa Ana, take them to the vet, and then prepare them in foster homes till a proper home is found.

Karen compares these race dogs to Martians who have never been in a home before and need to become adjusted slowly to things like mirrors



First place winning photo for the Journalism Write-Off. Skylar waits patiently during a speech about retired greyhounds.

and swimming pools.

Greyhounds are quiet, calm, docile, and easily adapt to surroundings; they are very tolerant, accepting all kinds of people. They are used as therapy dogs and work with all patients. They do not care about appearances. Almost sounds like the perfect human being.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The action: Your dog jumps up on you when you walk through the door.

Your reaction: "My dog loves me!"

Reality: Your dog is top dog. In dog terms, jumping up is an act of dominance. Scolding actually rewards the dog with a response. Simply ignore the dog when it jumps up to show that you call the shots. You should see a difference in a week or two.

MIXED MESSAGES

Try to put yourself in your dog's place. Think about what you are communicating to your pet and be sure you're giving him the message you want. Don't give him a "mixed message".

If your dog is barking and you tell him "No!", you're telling him that you don't want that kind of behavior. But if you pat your dog reassuringly at the same time, you're telling him that it's all right to do that. Your dog isn't sure what you mean.

Another type of mixed message is when you allow your dog to do something some times but not others. If you call your dog to join you on the couch, but scold him if he jumps on the couch by himself, the dog will be confused. He can't figure out when it's all right to do something and when it's not.

So if you're having trouble getting your dog to do what you want, see if you might be sending a mixed message. You could be the cause of your pet misbehaving. Be sure you're communicating to your pet what you really want.

OVERWEIGHT GREYHOUNDS

If you can't see your greyhound's ribs, your dog is probably overweight. Cut down on the food you feed it or switch to a light food diet. Of course more exercise will help also. Overweight greyhounds are not healthy.

"RENAISSANCE PICNIC" IS HERE

by Joyce McRorie

Joan Headland and Carol Osborne, two of the founders of Greyhound Pets of America, commissioned the first painting in what they hoped would be a series documenting the history of the greyhound. Their painting is called "Hounds of Royalty" and featured their own female, Carrie Jo. As you know, lithographs of this painting have been sold by many groups and through catalogues around the country, and very few are left.



We were in the middle of planning the Renaissance Faire when Tom and I decided to commission the second in the series. It didn't take too much thought to make the decision to go with a Renaissance Picnic. Jesse Holt, the artist, suggested that we put as many greyhounds in the painting as possible and requested snap shots of as many dogs as we could send her. As a result, if

you carefully look at the copy of the painting enclosed in this newsletter, you might see Ron Stolte, Pat Lynch's husband, sitting with his arm around Willow Gray with our Max at his feet. Bambi, Dan Sullivan's lovely girl, is in the lower left foreground, joined at the right by Sean, Audry and Mel Benner's good looking male. Brian Diaz is playing tug-o-war with Velvet in the background. (The actual picture was taken by Brian's mom, Cindy, in their back yard in Anaheim.) The other revelers at the picnic are joined by the dogs of many of our volunteers. You might even see your own dog or at least one close enough to allow you to tell a little white lie to your friends when you display your lithograph. Joanie and Carol are considering commissioning a third painting in the series. Don't you think it would be a good idea to begin collecting these limited editions?

Lithographs of this 18" x 22-3/4" painting are available signed and numbered for \$120 and unsigned for \$30. All proceeds go to our chapter of Greyhound Pets of America, so send in your order right now!

To place your order, use the order form below.

Yes, I would like to place my order for the "Renaissance Picnic" lithograph.

Ship to: (Please Print) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

To Order: Make check payable to GPA and mail to:

GPA c/o Pat Lynch
1312 Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90731

For additional information, call Pat at (310) 547-9470

_____ signed & numbered lithographs at \$120 each

_____ unsigned lithographs at \$30 each

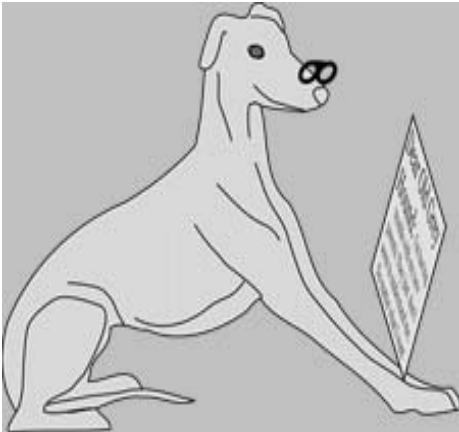
Sales tax - included in price

Shipping - \$5 for each lithograph

Total enclosed \$ _____

GREYHOUND HUMOR

ASK THE OLD GREY HOUND



Dear Old Grey Hound,
I think my new owners are schizophrenic. Sometimes they seem friendly and nice. Then they come up and wrap their arms around me and try to squeeze me to death. The racing people may have kept me cooped up in a kennel all day, but they didn't try to crush me.
Squeezed in Sequoia

Dear Squeezed,
Now, dear, that's what the humans call a "hug". It's just their way of showing affection (for some reason they don't like to use their tongue). You'll get used to it in time.

Dear Old Grey Hound,
My new mom and dad are great. But who or what are the two crazy pygmy people living with them? I don't care that they're small -- that just makes them easier to kiss. But sometimes they pull my tail and chase me and make loud noises. Don't they know I'm retired?
Harried in Houston

Dear Harried,
Those are human children, dear. They're kind of like puppies -- full of energy and devoid of sense. Your mom and dad need to watch them a little more closely and make sure they treat you with the respect you deserve.

Dear Old Grey Hound,
I'm having trouble with my new humans. Don't get me wrong, retirement is a great thing. But these people think they're in charge! We greyhounds work for 5000 years to produce humans perfectly suited to our needs, and that's the gratitude they show! I've talked to the other greyhounds in the house about a revolution, but they just say, "We'll think about it after dinner." And the cat is no help at all -- she already thinks she's in charge.
Bossed in Boston

Dear Bossed,
Yes, dear, it's a problem we all have to face. It's important for the humans in your life to THINK they're in charge -- it builds their self-esteem. So when they tell you to do something, you must APPEAR to do it. As soon as they turn their backs, you can do what you want.

GREYHOUND FLEA JOKE

What did one flea say to the other flea?
"Should we walk or take the greyhound?"

GREYHOUND V. MERCEDES

A recent Mercedes Benz radio commercial compares the speed of several dogs (including a "greyhound, 44 miles per hour") with that of the speedy new Mercedes? We're told that this may change completely the nature of car chasing. Right. The folks at Mercedes obviously don't realize that a greyhound can accelerate from 0 to 44 MPH in three strides. That poor Mercedes would need a long head start! (Not that any of us would let our greyhound chase a car, of course.)

A DOG'S LIFE

A survey was taken by the American Animal Hospital Association on owners' relationships with their dogs. 81% give their dogs holiday or birthday presents, 21% dress their dogs and 34% talk to them on the phone. Also, 63% include their dogs' "signatures" on letters, and 55% consider their relationship to their pet to be "Mom" or "Dad".



THE ORIGINAL ODD COUPLE

Best Friends - Brighton and Cowboy

GREYHOUNDS - MORE THAN JUST PETS

All greyhound owners will tell you that greyhounds are extra special dogs. Here are some greyhounds that show just how special they can be.

There was an article in the Commerce City Beacon on April 2, 1997, that told about Buggy, a four year old ex-racing greyhound that is a trained service dog for Jacquelyn Sbei. Jacquelyn has severe arthritis and Buggy is trained to balance her while she walks, assist her in getting up from the floor or sitting, and retrieve and carry objects. Buggy wears a walking harness that Jacquelyn holds to. They are together 24 hours a day.

Buggy took six months of his training as an assistance dog with Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. in Colorado before he went to live with Jacquelyn.

From The Lancaster New Era newspaper in Lancaster, PA, we read about Brethren Village, a nursing and retirement home in Neffsville, that adopted 80 pound Rex from the National Greyhound Adoption Agency. Staff and volunteers take turns walking, feeding and watering him. He spends his day making rounds and visiting with some of the 800 residents on nursing home floors, in the assisted-living area, the Alzheimer's disease unit and the residential areas.

Wherever Rex is, people appear out of nowhere on walkers and wheelchairs. Rex likes everyone and gives them unconditional love.

WISH WE HAD. . .

Last time we put in a wish list, people sent donations like crazy! We're still getting towels and Q-tips, and probably have enough to last a year. We have run low on a couple of things, so if you have any extra, we could use:

Tick and flea shampoo (safe for puppies & kittens, of course)

Tick and flea spray (ditto the above)

Ear cleaner

Laundry detergent

NAME THAT GREYHOUND 4

by K. Charpie-Elton

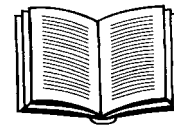


How many categories can you think of that begin with the letter "H"? Not too many, you say? That was the general consensus in the greyhound naming contest—nobody sent in names for an "H" category. I tried thinking of something and came up with "Hardware", but who wants to call their dog "Hinge", "Nail", or "Wrench"? We were luckily saved from these horrible (hey! Maybe "Horror" would have been a good category: Karloff, Werewolf,

Vampire...well, maybe not) names by the Joy Moss family, who suggested "Historic" names. Our "Historic" dogs, who entered foster homes on January 17, are Custer, Amelia Earhart, Betsy Ross, Ghandi, Jefferson, Annie Oakley, Cleopatra, Ike, and Newton. The letter "I" produced three interesting ideas: Tara Tisopolous sent in names for an "Irish" category; Bill, Diana, Corey, Emma, and Noel Wondergem and Debbie Wyckoff sent in "Indian" tribes; and Cindy Diaz and Paige Dimas suggested "Islands". This was a tough one to decide, because all the names in each category were great! The final decision was... "Indian" tribes! Seven little Indian girls were christened Sioux, Shawnee, Navajo, Pueblo, Kiowa, Mohican, and Shoshone. The "braves" are now known as Mohawk (no, he doesn't have one), Cherokee, Hopi, Cheyenne, Apache, Seminole, and Pawnee. This was a really beautiful and friendly group of dogs (but aren't they

all?), and two foster homes have already fallen in love and adopted their foster dogs.

Our March 14 group of greys is named after "Junk" food. Volunteers brought eight dogs from the track; six of them were named Licorice, Tootsie, Snickers, Cookie, Dorito, and Starburst. These six went home with foster parents. The other two spent the night with Karen and Phil, then were transported the next day to Linda Brown's "Retired Racers" group in Acton by Carol Oglesbee and Mike Gallas of the Needle Nose Crew. Talk about a team effort! Coming up next month: the letter "K", which so far has produced the categories "Kitchen utensils" and "Kid's toys". (Here, Blender! Good boy, Crayon?) If you have any other ideas, fax 'em to Karen or Nancy: (562) 496-1873 or (562) 693-3450.



THE BOOK CORNER

Childproofing Your Dog by Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson—An essential book for every family with dogs and kids.

Excerpts from Chapter 4: Dogs and toddlers should NEVER be left unsupervised. Even the kindest dog will react when cornered by a child trying to measure the depth of the canine ear with the sharp end of a pencil. It is the parents' job to keep the dog and child **S.A.F.E.**

Supervise: Keep them in your vision at all times or physically separated. And we mean at ALL times.

Anticipate: If you see your dog retreating from a child, stop that child! Anticipate problems before they happen. Do not expect your dog to tolerate something you wouldn't.

Follow through: If you say it, mean it. If you tell your child to stop bothering the dog, enforce that. All things are easier if your child and dog know that you mean what you say.

Educate: This means both the dog and the child. Teach your child by word and example that animals are to be treated with care. Do not allow hitting, teasing, or other harassment.

WHAT TO SAY AT A SHOW AND TELL

by Jim Jeffers and Joyce McRorie

A number of you have recently started helping at a Greyhound Show and Tell. Some wonder about the kinds of questions they're likely to be asked, and how they should respond. We also know of situations where a volunteer gave out incorrect information and unintentionally turned away a potential adopter. Take a few minutes to read the Q & A below, and make sure we're all on the same page!

Our group holds Show and Tells all over Southern California at pet supply stores and pet conventions (see the schedule on the back page). It's very possible that you met your first greyhound at one of these functions (the first greyhound I ever met was Skylar, a McKenzie dog, at the 1996 Pomona PetExpo). Typically we bring a number of greyhounds, some greyhound adoption literature, and come dressed in greyhound T-shirts. We answer questions people have about greyhounds and adoption, and take sign-up requests for adoption applications. Since this is often a person's first exposure to greyhounds, we want to be sure the info we give here is fair and accurate.

Q: Why should I adopt a greyhound?

A: In your answer, put the emphasis on the kind of pet greyhounds make. They are affectionate, easy-going companion dogs, quiet, clean, and friendly with strangers. They do not make good protection or guard dogs, and they must be kept indoors or be able to get indoors when they wish. Steer clear of long discussions about the racing scene: publicity about this gets us a lot of attention, but we don't want people adopting out of pity a dog they really don't like.

Q: Can a greyhound live with my cat (small dog, bird)?

A: Yes. While some greyhounds cannot live with cats, about a third can with no difficulty at all, and perhaps another third can learn to do so with a bit of training. We test all of our greyhounds for cat tolerance, and when

possible place them in foster homes with cats. So we should be able to give you a greyhound that is already successfully living with a cat. Only a few greyhounds cannot adjust to life with a small dog or a bird, and we look for this before adopting them out.

Q: Can I leave my greyhound alone with my cat?

A: Yes, once the dog has adjusted to life with the cat. We advise a "go slow" approach to integrating a dog into a home with cats. If you follow our recommendations, everything should be fine and you will be able to leave the dog and cat alone together. Of course, it's only sensible to provide the cat with a sanctuary, someplace in the home where the greyhound can't reach it.

Q: How soon can I get a cat-tolerant greyhound?

A: It depends on our current supply of dogs. It might take a bit longer, but we can promise that you WILL get a cat-tolerant greyhound if you have a cat and are approved for adoption.

Q: Are the greyhounds mistreated at the track?

A: Our experience is that the dogs basically are treated like livestock—like cattle or pigs on a farm. Since racing is a business, the dogs often receive less attention once it's clear that their racing days are over. Our major concern is not to crusade against racetracks, but to quickly move retired racer we can into a loving home.

Q: What is the greyhound "prey drive"?

A: A lot of mistaken information is floating around about this notion. Tell them that greyhounds have been bred for centuries to hunt by sight. Some of them react quickly to movement in the distance, but if you keep your dog on a leash when out of doors, you'll be fine. Having a high prey drive is not the same thing as being aggressive, by the way. Even a greyhound that easily looks at a cat or small animal as prey usually still gets along great with people and larger dogs.

Q: Do former racing greyhounds have special medical needs?

A: Not really. If a greyhound has an injury from racing, we'll be able to let you know that before you adopt. Greyhounds are susceptible to the typical illnesses of dogs, but with few exceptions they are healthy, robust animals. (Please avoid offering medical advice of any sort at a Show and Tell, when it may be perceived as the official position of GPA).

Q: Can I adopt your foster dog?

A: I can't promise you this dog, but if you write down his name on your adoption application, we'll take it into consideration. We place a lot of dogs every month, and it may be that there's a more ideal dog for your needs, and a more ideal home for this foster dog's needs.

Q: Won't anyone talk to me?

A: Sorry, ma'am, I was chatting with my pal and didn't see you. (It can be easy to forget that we're at a Show and Tell to talk to new people about greyhound adoption, not to catch up on old times with our friends. Don't forget why you're there!)



The Greyhound Pets of America / California - Orange County & Greater Los Angeles Chapter would like to thank the following who have donated or provided discounts for veterinary services. Without their support we would not have been able to rescue as many greyhounds as we have.

Dr. Robert Rooks
All Care Animal Referral
18440 Amistad
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 963-0909

Frank Moore, DVM
Amigo Animal Hospital
13951 Milan St.
Westminster, CA 92683
(714) 894-5558

Rusty Muse, DVM
Animal Dermatology Clinic
13132 Garden Grove Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92643
(714) 971-6211

Dr. George Rex
Animal Medical Hospital
25778 East Baseline
San Bernardino, CA 92410
(909) 862-3020

Drs. Guenther & Weida
Blue Cross Veterinary Hospital
2665 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.
Long Beach, CA 90804
(562) 494-0975

Gib Benschoter, DVM
Brea Veterinary Hospital
675 S. Brea Boulevard
Brea, CA 92621
(714) 529-4988

Wayne Kopit, DVM
Brook-Ellis Pet Hospital
18452 Brookhurst
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 963-0440

Dr. John Hamil
Canyon Animal Hospital
20372 Laguna Canyon Rd.
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(714) 494-1076

Dr. William Carlsen
Carlsen Animal Hospital
11163 LaGrange Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 445-4692

Central Orange County Emergency Animal Clinic
3720 Campus Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660
(714) 261-7979

Dr. Speas
Crescenta-Cañada Pet Hospital
3502 Foothill Blvd.
La Crescenta, CA 91214
(818) 248-3963

Dr. Charles M. Mintzer
General Pet Hospital
800 N. Diamond Bar Blvd.
Diamond Bar, CA 92765
(909) 861-4116

Dr. Karla Nichols and Dr. Hewson
Grand Avenue Pet Hospital
1602 Grand
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 558-7622

Drs. Carl Palazzolo & William Ridgeway
Long Beach Animal Hospital
3816 E. Anaheim
Long Beach, CA 90804
(562) 434-9966

Drs. Austin, Carpenter & Millian
Newport Harbor Animal Hospital
125 Mesa Dr.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
(714) 631-1030

Dr. Peter Vogel
Southern California Surgical Group
17672 Cowan Avenue, Suite A100
Irvine, CA 92714
(714) 833-9020

Todd Kopit, DVM
Stanton Pet Hospital
8591 Katella Avenue
Stanton, CA 90680
(714) 828-5891

Dr. Joseph D. Szanto
Szanto Veterinary Center
13510 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
(818) 981-1899

Dr. L. L. Novy & Associates
Valley Veterinary Clinic
845 Los Angeles Avenue
Simi Valley, CA 93065
(805) 526-0917
(818) 884-1533

Dr. O'Dair
VCA Golden Cove Animal Hospital
31236 Palos Verdes Dr. West
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 377-7804

Dr. Ronald Morein
VCA Lakewood Animal Hospital
17801 Lakewood Blvd.
Bellflower, CA 90706
(562) 633-8126

Drs. Casale, Burke, Glasser, Margolis, Greenlee, and Sechner
VCA Rossmoor El Dorado Animal Hospital
10832 Los Alamitos Blvd.
Los Alamitos, CA
(562) 598-8621

VETCO Huntington Beach Hospital
19050 Brookhurst
Huntington Beach, CA 92646
(714) 378-8520

VETCO Pasadena Hospital
845 S. Arroya Parkway
Pasadena, CA 91105
(818) 577-2785

VETCO Riverside Hospital
3384 Tyler Street
Riverside, CA 92503
(909) 688-8886

VETCO San Diego Hospital
3994-A Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92117
(619) 483-4145



GPA would also like to thank the following businesses for their help in our efforts to find homes for ex-racing greyhounds.

"Get-A-Pet" Photo Adoption Magazine
(888) 511-PETS
Watch for our ad in this magazine available at selected pet stores and vets.

GRAPHIX Printing & Design
7209-C Arlington Ave.
Riverside, CA 92503
(909) 351-8193

Nature's Recipe Pet Foods
(800) 843-4008

Superior Mini Storage
1600 Superior Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
(714) 631-3930



And last but not least, thank you to Pam Madigan for the use of her Midtown Cafe (1923 E. Broadway, Long Beach - 310-435-8471) for our Valentine Benefit Dinner, the many people that donated raffle prizes for the dinner, and El Nino for finally allowing us to have our Valentine dinner in March after having to postpone twice due to rain.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For additional information, call Becky at (714) 997-3072

Events subject to change - Please call to verify.

DATE	SHOW & TELL - PetCo (Last Sun. of every month)	TIME
Mar. 29	13942 Newport Ave., Tustin	11 - 3
	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	
Mar. 29	537 Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach	12 - 3
	SHOW & TELL - PetCo (Every other month)	
	10690 Los Alamitos Blvd., Los Alamitos	
Apr. 4	SHOW & TELL - PetSmart	10 - 2
	11945 Central Ave., Chino	
Apr. 4?	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	11 - 3
	1425 Montebello Blvd., Montebello	
Apr. 4	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	
	1815 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa	
Apr. 11	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	
	9111 Valley View, Cypress	
Apr. 11	SHOW & TELL - PetSmart	10 - 2
	9561 Chapman, Garden Grove	
Apr. 11	SHOW & TELL - Great American Pet Expo	12 - 4
	Pomona Fair Grounds	
Apr. 12	SHOW & TELL - PetCo (Last Sun. of every month)	10 - 4
	13942 Newport Ave., Tustin	
Apr. 17, 18, 19	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	
	Lakewood	
Apr. 26	DOG WASH / FUNDRAISER	
	see page 2 for details	
Apr. 26	NEW DATE!! - 3rd Annual PICNIC IN THE PARK	
	Huntington Beach Central Park	
Apr. 26	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	6 - 10
	1815 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa	
May 2	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	
	9111 Valley View, Cypress	
May 9	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	12 - 3
	1425 Montebello Blvd., Montebello	
May 9	SHOW & TELL - PetSmart	10 - 2
	11945 Central Ave., Chino	
May 9	SHOW & TELL - PetSmart	11 - 3
	9561 Chapman, Garden Grove	
May 9	SHOW & TELL - PetSmart	10 - 2
	2550 Cherry Ave., Signal Hill	
May 9	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	10 - 2
	Lakewood - Is this right city?	
May 10	SHOW & TELL - PetCo	12 noon - ?
	7585 Colima Rd., City of Industry	
May 17	SHOW & TELL - Get-A-Pet Adoption Day	
	for local Animal Shelters & various Rescue Organizations	
May 17	(sponsored by "Get-A-Pet" Photo Adoption Magazine Los Alamitos Race Track)	10 - 4

Visit the
Fast Friends home page

the web site of

Greyhound Pets of America
CA / Orange County & Greater Los Angeles
at:

<http://www.fastfriends.org>



United Way

Give a helping hand
to ex-racing
greyhounds.

Specify that your United Way payroll deductions be contributed to the Orange County & Greater Los Angeles Chapter of GPA. Our United Way number is #52324. Thank you for your support.

UPDATE is a bi-monthly publication of Greyhound Pets of America / California - Orange County & Greater Los Angeles providing information on what is happening within our organization and of upcoming events.

GPA/CA-OC&GLA is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to finding loving homes for former racing greyhounds from dog tracks across the country. We attempt to raise public awareness that these ex-racers make excellent pets and are available to qualified homes. Anyone interested in adopting a greyhound, making a donation, or offering their time or talents can contact us at (562) 694-3519 or (310) 669-4918 or at our mailing address of 1210 North Cypress Street, La Habra Heights, CA 90631.

**Greyhound
Pets of
America**



CA - Orange Co. and Greater Los Angeles
1210 North Cypress Street
La Habra Heights, CA 90631

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED