

The Skinny

NEWSLETTER



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The story of a hound's racing past, Hound Sightings, Who's Your Doggie? and more

Subscription Price:

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Checks to Greyhounds Only;
mail to Greyhounds Only, Inc.,
335 E. Geneva Rd. #173,
Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Chicagoland Family Pet Show: New Venue— New Greyhound Fans?

BY BARBARA ROYAL, DVM

Want a chance to show off your greyhound? Stock up on all the great merchandise Greyhounds Only sells? See your friends and their pooches and promote the merits of greyhound cohabitation? The Chicagoland Family Pet Show is just the place for you! This huge pet show will take place, for the first time, in 2007, at the Renaissance Convention Center in Schaumburg, from Friday, March 16, through Sunday, March 18. THIS IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF THE YEAR AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS! General admission to the show for the public is \$9.00; GO will try to get free passes for volunteers—stay tuned to your e-mail! If you can't make it to the show itself, come (sans dog) to set up on March 15 or tear down on the 18th. Got a teenager with energy who needs community service hours who can help carry out crates of merchandise? We would be grateful for his or her help too. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

› We also likely need help with pre-pet show workdays, the dates of which will be announced via e-mail, to prepare the booth and merchandise for the show. Even if you can only be there for part of the workday, we can use your help—and it's a great chance to get a sneak peak at GO's NEWEST merchandise and shoot the breeze with fellow greyhound owners.

› Watch your e-mail inbox for notices about volunteering opportunities and for other information regarding the show. You can also contact Bob, for information about the show generally, at bdpetrovic@sbcglobal.net or Jeanine, to volunteer for the show, at greyhoundsonlyvolunteer@hotmail.com or 847-275-3227 (evenings).

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Greyhounds Only, Inc.
GO, Inc., is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to rescue racing greyhounds at the ends of their careers and find homes for them.

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GREYHOUND RESCUE

Special Indeed: The Story of Val, Part I

BY SUE GAISER

Val (a.k.a. Silicon Valley) came to Greyhounds Only like every other retired racer—until he decided that he wanted nothing to do with a crate or run. He immediately did everything he could to get out, which resulted in him tearing his foot open.

› Val needed attention, so he went to his “first” foster home with Kristen Jahnke. Then, Charlie and Jan Smart were sure he’d find his perfect “forever” home with them, until their cat scared the you-know-what out of him. Chris and Star Scuderi fostered him until the right potential adoptive home came around. Val was soon adopted! We all thought that he was “home” for good.

› Three weeks later, Val unexpectedly had four grand mal seizures, and the family relin- quished him to Greyhounds Only. That’s when I got the call looking for yet another foster family for this boy. It was March 8, 2006. I said, “Is he cat-friendly?” Kristen said he was, and I replied that I’d take him. I didn’t know that my life was about to change forever!

› I had fostered seventeen dogs by that point and thought this was just another one who needed some attention. I have to admit that the “seizure thing” was a bit scary, but Val needed a home, and I was available. When Kristen brought him to me, I realized why everyone was all about Val. He was so beautiful and sweet—sort of sad, somehow. He had been moved yet again.

› I was told that Val would *not* tolerate a crate, so I put up an X-pen, because all of my fosters are crated. This worked for several weeks—until he knocked it down. Then he was crated! Sorry!

› Val went four weeks with no episodes. He was re-adopted on April 1, only to have four grand mal seizures within twelve hours of his placement. He came back to me. I was determined to not label him a “seizure dog.”

› Since Val had never had a seizure with me, I was given permission by his vet to not start phenobarbital unless his condition presented at my home. It did several weeks later. That’s when we, as an organization, knew that we had to get a clear diagnosis of Val’s condition so he would someday be adoptable.

› On June 5 and 6, Val was examined and tested by Dr. Heidi Barnes at VCA Aurora. Dr. Barnes is a canine neurologist. She evaluated Val and performed a spinal tap, MRI, and many blood tests and X-rays, finally diagnosing him with idiopathic epilepsy, far less complicated than a brain tumor or other conditions we worried about. Regular medica- tion could control this problem.

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Chicagoland Family Pet Show
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Facts and Figures to Note

SETUP TIME:
Thursday, March 15, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

SHOW TIMES:
Friday, March 16, 2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 17, 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

PARKING:
Free

BOOTH NUMBERS:
428, 430, 432, 434

MAPS WITH DIRECTIONS:
These will be e-mailed to those who are work- ing the show (or mailed if you do not have Internet access).

See you in Schaumburg for the show!

Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade

In 2006, its tenth decade, Greyhounds Only found homes for 158 grey- hounds—a more than 50 percent increase in the number placed in 2005, itself a banner year for our organization—and at the turn of 2007, another dog had already found a loving family through GO. The large number of adopters has a great deal to do with the tremendous efforts on the part of our volunteers, who have spent countless hours at events, meet and greets, and in their daily lives promoting the breed. Our numbers have also increased because of the implementation of a satellite branch of Greyhounds Only in Wisconsin at the HAWS Shelter (see below). And as ever, our inviting, informative, and stylish website continues to draw in new adopters.

› What hasn’t changed this year, despite the extraordinary number of applications we’ve processed, is the level of commitment by Greyhounds Only’s volunteers, who continue to work hard to find homes for hounds. We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. We are also especially lucky to have long-standing friends at Emerald Kennels, Westosha Animal Hospital, and Best Friends Windy City, who lend a hand to GO in innumerable ways. To this we add the assistance of Riser Animal Hospital, Family Pet Animal Hospital, VCA Berwyn, Able Animal Hospital, K-9 University, and the Barking Lot. Without their support, it is hard to imagine we could now begin celebrating our eleventh year of finding homes for dogs.

› The aforementioned, to be sure, have not been our only supporters. However, to thank each and every person who has helped make this another successful year of finding homes for dogs would take up all of the pages of this newsletter. So instead, we have asked the people who have undertaken large areas of responsibility in the running of the organization to recount what they and the other volunteers working with them have managed to accomplish over the past months.

Emily Dickow: Website

› This year the Greyhounds Only website got a beautiful makeover, thanks to Sydney Toughin’s skills at web design. We’ve also added a new hound-in-need page to focus on our special needs hounds, such as Mindy, Fancy, and Val—who needed a little extra help on their way to their permanent couches. Our online store continues to be the best way to get Greyhounds Only, Inc., merchandise delivered straight to your door! From T-shirts for humans to beds for dogs, your orders keep the Petrovic family (our merchandise gurus) busy mailing out packages year-round!

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Special Indeed: The Story of Val, Part I
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› On June 7, Val experienced his first “cluster” episode in my home. Rest assured that none of us should hope to experience this! However, the adrenaline kicks in, and you do what you can to help a very unresponsive pup feel better. The harder part was that my other four greyhounds didn’t know what to do. Their roommate was in trouble, and they didn’t understand.

› That was the night the e-mail was sent, asking for help from all of you who love our hounds. Val was in intensive care after experiencing a seven-minute seizure that could have caused brain damage. We needed funds to support him. No one knew how he would survive this episode. But he did! And many of you supported his well-being. Thank you!

› From that point forward, I’ve kept a page on our Greyhounds Only website to update Val’s progress. Please, go there to see how he’s been doing. He is the “hound in need.” While we’ve had many special needs dogs, we’ve never had a foster pup that required so much attention or continued cost. We have raised an unbelievable amount of money for Val, but his expenses continue.

› This is the first part of Val’s story. There will be more in coming issues. I want you all to know that Val is never going to leave me. While I’m not able to permanently adopt him, he’s “going nowhere.” We’ve been through too much together! He has changed my life, and he’s definitely not “just another foster.”

Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade *continued from page 3*

› Our alumni pages have continued to grow, so please—keep sending in your pictures! And please remember that memorials are always welcome on the rainbow bridge page. On a personal note, many thanks to Kristen Jahnke for her help in updating the website during my protracted move into a new home.

Sue Gaiser: Foster Program

› On behalf of Greyhounds Only, Inc.’s foster program, I would like to thank all of those who helped a track dog and many out-of-state dogs make the transition to a family dog in 2006. This is not always an easy process, and everyone involved in the foster program should be applauded. The people who do fostering welcome, teach, and love every dog they take in, only to deliver them to a strange house where someone else will love them forever. The gift that foster families give is immeasurable.

› We had a banner Foster Seminar in March 2006, even with an unexpected snowstorm. The seminar has doubled in size since the first one in 2003! We may actually need to find a new, larger facility or hold two or more seminars to accommodate the interested folks. This was our fourth annual gathering to train new foster families, bring new information to our experienced folks, and gather as a group to share with each other the joys of fostering. So often foster families can feel alone in their endeavors, but this gathering brings everyone together to share and compare. Look for the next seminar information soon. Everyone is welcome to see how great fostering really is!

› We added more than a dozen new foster families this year, most of them in December to help with a crunch situation. We also had a significant number of families that, interested in adding an additional dog, “fostered” before making the decision to add a dog permanently to their family. What a great way to “try before you buy”! This also took the burden off of our regular foster families, who could then focus on folks who are brand-new to the greyhound experience. As always, we appreciate our committed foster families, who for years have sacrificed their time, energy, and love and who have opened their homes and hearts regularly to scared and needy greyhounds. And we welcome our new foster families. We hope that you will find the work as rewarding as others have and that you will be around for quite some time.

Scoot into Summer

› This past June, Karen and Richard Miller opened their lovely home to all Greyhounds Only volunteers as a special thank-you for placing their dog Scooter in their home in late December 2005. This open house was an unexpected treat, appreciated by all who attended.

› The Millers really know how to throw a party. There were tents, baby pools, doggy rest areas, all sorts of beverages, fabulous food, and a live band. A more perfect expression of appreciation couldn’t have been found for the many volunteers who labor on countless behind-the-scenes projects.

› It was a wedding, of sorts, with all of us coming together to celebrate the new lives our greyhounds have given to us. A true love fest! A time to connect with our fellow volunteers, to share, laugh, cry, and relax, and to enjoy completely what makes us all the most happy: our greyhounds. We even did an adoption that day!

› Thank you, Karen and Richard, for a most beautiful day with our greyhound family. You are truly cherished and held dear by us all.

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Java's Story: Glimpsing a Racing Greyhound's Past

BY GRACE KARLIN

In October 2000, Java came to our condo in Chicago to join me; my husband, Paul; and our other female greyhound, Noodle. I have to admit that at first, I didn’t bond with her at all. I was so accustomed to Noodle’s shy reluctance, and these two dogs were completely unique in character, size, and shape. They even walked differently.



› The hardest thing about adopting an ex-racer is not knowing his or her background. You get an adult dog who’s well behaved from a regimented track life, but beyond that and maybe some racing statistics, most greyhound adopters know nothing about their new pets. Noodle arrived in our household at two and a half years of age as a malnourished, shy red brindle. After speaking with REGAP (Retired Greyhounds as Pets), all we knew was that she raced in Iowa. This shy creature touched my heart and blossomed into a well-behaved, well-trained pet. Compared with our first greyhound adoption experience, Java’s was the complete opposite.

STARTING THE SEARCH

We contacted REGAP about a second dog in late summer of 2000. We knew we could handle another pet and wanted to free up a slot at the kennel. We asked if there were older dogs, since it’s often hard to place them. The woman in charge of the kennel thought a dog named Melissa Gilbert would work well with an experienced greyhound owner. She recalled how passive Noodle was and thought we’d be a good match. We didn’t hesitate; this woman had a great gift in matching dogs *with people*.

› Melissa was an eight-year-old brood bitch. Interestingly, her racing owner wanted to have contact with whoever adopted the dog, but it was up to us if we wanted to share our information. My husband and I were intrigued; this contact would allow us to learn more about the racing industry. That’s how I came to know Gloria Sanders.

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Condolences

Our deepest sympathies go out to those GO friends and members who have recently lost a beloved hound: Pam Bauer (Satin); Holly Briggeman (Sadie); Ginger Bromberg (Maddie); Stan Cielez (Gatsby); Joe and Rhonda Conlan (Keota); Margie and Jim Dugan (Cargo); the Dziedzic family (Maiden); Jim and Carole Feintech (Izan); Martin and Robin Frey (Alco); the Frontczaks (Silver); Jerrie and Rich Ingersoll (Tully); Gary Kupitz and Mark Beattie (Chase); Marianne Marshall (Doc); Robert and Lisa Myers (Betty); Tom Potter and Stavros Phillips (Kimba); Nancy Seils (Paula); Jan and Charley Smart (Trevor); Steven Toushin (Desperado); Gregory Tronzo (Miss Chloe Jones); Nelly and Michel Valla (Arizona); Kathy Urzedowski (Walt); and Adam and Karen Warren (Phred).

› Also, due to a production error, condolences were inadvertently left out of the fall 2006 issue. We apologize for this oversight and extend our sympathies belatedly to Erin DeWitt and Gerry Collins (Zooey); Kathy Forde and Yvonne Zipter (Nacho); Frankie Holley (Joker); John and Sharon Kelleher (PushButton); Ron and Kathy Sackheim (Vera); Lara and Marty Sviatko (Jake); Steven Toushin (BBGun); Kathy Urzedowski (Kimmy and Stinger); and Dan and Diane Watt (Eagle).

Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade *continued from page 4*

Joy Kalligeros: New Adopters First Contact with Greyhounds Only

› Contact representatives are the Greyhounds Only volunteers who call new applicants, answer any questions applicants may have, check their references, and determine if they would be good greyhound parents. If everything checks out, the contact rep then schedules a kennel-day appointment for the applicant. The whole process can take up to three hours of phone time per applicant by the contact rep. I want to give a big thank-you to all of the reps, who fielded many dozens of applicants in 2006 and interviewed not only the applicants but also their families, veterinarians, landlords, and references.

› Then there are the adoption reps who, in addition, accompany the foster parents when newly adopted greyhounds are delivered to their new family’s front door! In rain, snow, sun, or darkness, GO’s adoption reps come with leashes, collars, squawkers, muzzles, health records, and the Greyhounds Only manual to help prepare new adopters for the new additions to their families. Big—and I mean big!—kudos to them, too.

Barbara Karant and Bob Petrovic: Selling the Greyhound Breed

› One way we let the public know about the work of Greyhounds Only—and about greyhounds as pets—is by participating in a multitude of events. Our biggest venue is the Chicagoland Family Pet Show, which has been held in March at the Arlington International Race Track in Arlington Heights. GO members have consistently turned out to help make and sell merchandise for this event and to tell passersby about what wonderful pets greyhounds make. This unswerving support, along with our polished look and the high quality of merchandise (produced by GO members), is what makes Arlington such a tremendous success for GO. This past year, as always, the event garnered adoptions and support for the organization. We are looking forward to March 2007, which will bring a change of venue for the show—and, we hope, increased adoptions and sales with it. This year, the Chicagoland Pet Show will be held at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center—see the article on page 1 for all the details of this year’s event.

› In October 2006, Greyhounds Only made its fifth appearance at the Greyhounds Reach the Beach event in Dewey Beach, Delaware. We now have repeat customers who shop with us from one year to the next, checking out what new merchandise Greyhounds Only has created. This year we introduced many products, from the “Needlenoz”—a triangular toy designed by Pat Droszt—to several new T-shirt designs, greyhound chocolates, nightshirts, baseball jerseys, jewelry, hats, collars, and harnesses. We have continued to supply the greyhound community with our famous bonerz, blankies, rover beds, and the toy that started it all: the one and only original GO bunny. As always, our unique merchandise was well received. People continue to seek us out for our original spin on almost everything greyhound. Also as usual, the weather this year at Dewey Beach was horrendous, and the vendor tent literally blew away. Our miraculous volunteers, Kathi Berman, Kay Manion, and Bob Petrovic, made an amazing recovery and found a storefront, which they turned into the first Greyhounds Only boutique. This unexpected change of venue didn’t, however, put a damper on our spirits, and despite the almost continuous rain, we managed to keep the merchandise dry and had as profitable a weekend as could be expected under the dire circumstances. We hope that more members will consider helping Greyhounds Only Reach the Beach in 2007. It is truly an experience of a lifetime for a variety of reasons!

› Closer to home, the Bucktown Arts Fest, the Old Town Art Fair, and the Wisconsin State Fair have continued to be fun and lucrative venues for Greyhounds Only for promoting

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Java’s Story *continued from page 5*

MEETING MELISSA

› On October 16, 2000, we drove to the home of the REGAP volunteers to pick up our new dog. When we arrived, Melissa was in the midst of getting a bath. The adoption coordinator told me rather enthusiastically, “This is Melissa, and she knows her name!”

› The dog didn’t look like Noodle. Noodle is stocky and muscular, and when we adopted her, she was hairless on her undercarriage and rear end. This dog was thin and sleek, with very long legs, a longer tail, and a full coat of hair. She was so slight that I was shocked she’d had litters. I never considered what a dog’s life could be like, being bred for racers. I was in awe of her.

› After Melissa’s bath, we introduced Noodle to her new sibling, and all went well. Everyone kept calling her Melissa because she responded to it; other racing greyhounds don’t usually know their name. I disliked the name and was watching her to think of *anything* else to call her.

› We started calling her Luna, because I don’t believe in giving pets human names—I prefer goofier names. That’s why Noodle is Noodle and not her racing name, RJ’s Cupid (she and her littermates were all named after Santa’s reindeer). But every time I said “Luna,” Noodle would come running over—I guess “Luna” sounded too similar to “Noodle” to a greyhound’s ears. So we had to think again. I liked Mocha, because Melissa is a gray brindle, but that sounded too “yuppie,” somehow. I took that name a step further, and we ended up with Java—as in a cup of coffee, not the tropical island.

› We brought Java home only to find out she had worms. I was so sad for her, but our vet gave her a thorough exam and said she was in great condition. The next oddity occurred when we put out her crate. Greyhound adoption groups strongly encourage the use of a crate

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Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade *continued from page 6*

greyhound rescue and finding homes for our dogs; and 2006 saw the addition of another urban art fair, the Renegade Crafts Fair in Wicker Park. The promoters and showgoers in Wicker Park welcomed Greyhounds Only with open arms, and we even had another Renegade Crafts Fair vendor create a special greeting card to benefit Greyhounds Only. The event generated adoptions that weekend despite the rain. Santa Pictures and Greyhound Planet Week have also generated funds and awareness for our illustrious hounds. And as you’ve no doubt noticed from the increasing number of e-mails you receive from Greyhounds Only, the meet-and-greet program has continued to grow, with events held at PetSmart, Petco, and Pet Supplies Plus stores throughout Chicago, Skokie, Highland Park, Downers Grove, Gurnee, and other suburbs. We have also participated in adoptathons at all those venues. Greyhounds Only was also once again represented in the Pumpkin Parade in Sycamore, Illinois, as well as the Armitage Avenue Holiday Parade. We hope to see more volunteers who want to spearhead meet and greets and activities in their neighborhoods in 2007. We are open to as many events as there are volunteers willing to spread the greyhound gospel!

› Another innovation in 2006 was the creation of the donation coat designed by Snob Hounds (www.snobhounds.com). The first of the coats went on the dogs at the Old Town Art Fair, and they are now at every meet-and-greet venue that GO sponsors, all donated to Greyhounds Only by Snob Hounds. These coats have increased donations between 50 and 150 percent, depending on the venue. We would like to give a vote of appreciation to Snob Hounds and Laura Dion-Jones for her clever design, which is helping benefit GO so greatly.

› As at Dewey Beach, an important aspect of nearly all the local events is GO’s merchandise. This fall, we added several new photographically driven products to the GO line: if you missed them at the reunion, be sure to look for them on our website. The GO online store continues to grow in popularity, and the first week in December saw record sales of more than \$1,500.00, all of which helps with GO’s successful work on behalf of greyhounds. If you haven’t visited the site recently, take a look at what we have. And be on the lookout for additional surprises in the merchandise category at this year’s Chicagoland Family Pet Show.

› We would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all the behind-the-scenes volunteers, who sew, cut, stuff, set up, tear down, haul, build gift baskets, inventory merchandise, make and print catalogs, sticker flyers, do meet and greets, transport dogs, help at the kennel, and—phew!—so much more to help put GO “on the road” and up front in the public eye all year long. Having the best volunteers, products, and programs is what makes GO the leader in what we all do: finding forever homes for the beautiful greyhounds we all know and love. Finally, a special thank-you to Metro Sales for the use of their truck, the store, personnel, and warehouse, all of which played a huge part in the success of getting the donations from the Backer show to the reunion.

› Please excuse us if we offer our thanks, once again, to everyone who participated in all the aforementioned events. It’s just that, without you and your wonderful dogs, Greyhounds Only could not continue to thrive. The commitment you bring to the organization because of your love for your dogs has allowed us to generate more adoption applications and adoptions this year than in any previous year—again. The passion your dogs have inspired makes you the best spokespeople and, as a consequence, the greatest benefactors the new dogs in Emerald Kennels could have. They truly are the key to all of us who promote adoption.

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Java’s Story *continued from page 7*

at the start of the home acclimation period. The crate symbolizes a place of security for the dogs, similar to their home at the track. Well, Java wouldn’t go near it. I was so frustrated! We had the crate for her comfort, yet every time we turned around, Noodle would climb inside and lie down. So we put it away, and that was that.

LEARNING ABOUT JAVA’S FORMER LIFE

› I’d told REGAP that I would correspond with Java’s former owner, Gloria. We wrote letters initially, then corresponded by e-mail and spoke on the phone. From our point of view, this was a rare if not unique opportunity. Of all the greyhound owners we know, no one’s had this type of contact with their dog’s previous owners.

› When I first called Gloria, I was nervous. I knew nothing of her, only that she had owned Melissa. I wondered so many things: Why would she give her away? How many dogs had she raced? Did she love them? How many litters did Java have? Was Java good to her puppies? (She bosses around every little dog in our neighborhood like she owns the city!)

› The initial phone call clarified many things. Gloria had such a tone of kindness toward Java (she still refers to her as Melissa). She said that Java never lived in a crate—well, that explains why she wouldn’t go in it! She lived in a run, where Gloria would lie down with her and hold her. She laughed and asked if Java still liked marshmallows, which she used to feed the dogs as treats.

› This information was invaluable for me and my husband. It explained why Java was so different from Noodle at the beginning. Noodle had to learn to become a pet, while Java just walked into the household quite naturally in every way, except for not knowing how to use stairs. She was great on the lead, adapted to our high-traffic and noisy city neighborhood, and blended into our schedule with ease. She slowly became my pet, while Noodle prefers males and remained a daddy’s girl.

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Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade *continued from page 7*

› Many of the events mentioned here have become annual traditions, but we are always looking for new ways to encourage greyhound rescue: if there are local events *you* would like to see included in GO’s 2007 schedule, please feel free to spearhead them, and we will find you the support you need to make it happen. Got an idea for a fund-raiser? Let us know and we would love to help you facilitate it. Anything is possible, and with your help, 2007 is certain to be a great year.

Catalina Salley: Grants and Donations

› Greyhounds Only has had an outstanding year in greyhound adoption and in donations. We really rolled up our sleeves and worked very hard to get those more than 150 dogs into new homes. We expanded our reach and not only placed Wisconsin dogs, including those from the closed track at Geneva Lakes, but some all the way from Florida. All of this would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors. With financial support from GO members, grant makers, and the Chicago community and well beyond, we have been extremely fortunate. On behalf of Greyhounds Only, I extend a heartfelt and warm thanks to all the donors and supporters who have helped shape new lives for so many greyhounds in need in 2006. Expenses incurred for medical care, adoptions, fostering, and kenneling would not be possible without you.

› This past year, GO received several grants in excess of \$2,000. The first were two grants from the State of Wisconsin Department of Gaming totaling \$4,500. The State of Wisconsin funds assisted us with the medical care of many of the Geneva Lakes dogs, Lars Kennel dogs, and surgical treatment and specialized care of two very special dogs, Fancy (a.k.a. Frosty Girl) and Val (a.k.a. Silicon Valley). Fancy suffered a severe leg break at Dairyland, and Val suffers from extreme seizures (for more on Fancy and Val, go to www.greyhoundsonly.com and to Val’s story in this issue). Greyhounds Only was again a fortunate recipient of a grant from the NIB Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 in support of our kennel and boarding program for dogs awaiting adoption at Emerald Kennels. This gift assisted us in bringing nearly 45 percent more dogs into our adoption program this year over 2005. We also received a \$5,000 grant from the Wanda Muntwyler Foundation for Animals in support of spay/neuter and medical care for injured dogs, which are our biggest expenses, so this grant was a wonderful source of additional funds to support the hounds as they transitioned into their new lives. We also received \$2,000 from the American Greyhound Council in support of our efforts to place the Geneva Lakes dogs and the medical care of those hounds. It has been wonderful to be the recipient of these grants from these organizations and foundations who value and support our mission.

› Watch my Back-er! Greyhounds Only was chosen as the Designated Charity for the H. H. Backer fortieth Annual Christmas Show at Rosemont in 2006. This is a humongous pet industry trade show on two large floors with every conceivable vendor of dog, cat, fish, bird, and reptile goodies that you can imagine and some that you can’t! We received donations of toys, food, goods, coupons, and accessories from more than fifty companies at the show, donations that filled twelve large pallets. The Backer Show assisted us in raising over \$10,000 at our annual GO Reunion this year and provided more than 1,000 pounds of dog food for the kennel. We will continue to reap the benefits of donations that still remain to be used from the Backer Show. Thanks to the Backer volunteers, as well.

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Java’s Story *continued from page 8*

› Gloria feels that dog owners should be responsible for their dogs throughout their careers and later life. That’s why she asked REGAP to let her know who adopted Java. She talked about Java’s litters and even knew where some of the puppies had gone!

› Over time, Gloria has sent me e-mails with photos of Java’s kids and correspondence she received from their owners, along with copies of *Celebrating Greyhounds* magazine, always addressed to us and to Melissa.

› Gloria and Java have both inspired me. Gloria has taught me so much about the racing industry. Since I was unfamiliar with the ins and outs, it was incredibly helpful to know that she cared about and loved her dogs.

A LONG RETIREMENT

› At age fourteen, Java still demands to be held. She’s a cuddler! She approaches us while we read, cook, or watch a movie. She knows when her meals should be ready, and she watches my every move in the house. Java roams around to find me, since she can no longer hear. She went deaf at thirteen. She’s always with me, while Noodle’s in a quiet room alone, trying to get some sleep.

› Java has aged gracefully, despite her thinness and recent confusion with staircases. Our veterinarian reports that all of her vital signs are great. She continues to play and romp around and prefers to lie in the sun when she can find a spot. She’s still particularly protective of me and likes to pick fights with dogs, but tends not to be as aggressive when my husband has her on lead. After long vacations away, Java will walk into my chest and just stand there for almost ten minutes, as I talk to her and hug her back.

› In the end, we appreciate all that Gloria did for Java during her formative years. “Melissa” is even beside me now as I type out her name.

Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade *continued from page 8*

› We have had wonderful support from our GO donors for our many programs and funds, including medical program, kenneling program, foster program, and adoption programs. In addition, we felt the warmth and spirit of GO members and friends from those who donated to Val’s Fund, Mindy’s Fund—now defunct since Mindy has been adopted—and Fancy’s Fund through 2006. GO would also like to extend a special thanks to the following individuals in 2006: Jessie and Peter Olson, Richard Miller, Karen Farnsworth Miller, Daniel Rodgers, Dr. Kim Ogden-Avrutik, Lawrence Rose, Nicolas Drifka, and Retired Greyhound Athletes.

› Greyhounds Only also received monetary rewards through the Purina Pro Club. Our participation in the Purina Pro Club garnered vet checks for GO, by year’s end, totaling \$750 to Westosha Animal Hospital toward payment of our veterinary bills. Don’t be shy: send in those weight seals! SnobHounds (www.snobhounds.com) also donated a percentage of their sales to GO, totaling over \$950. Additional funds were donated through iGive, which gives a percentage of GO supporters’ online purchases to GO. Funds were generated, as well, through Cafepress purchases of GO items online (www.cafepress.com/greyhoundsonly). These funders are extended our most gracious gratitude for helping Greyhounds Only continue to be successful and to expand our programs. Finally, thank you for donations that have been made by individuals through various charities and matching-gift programs at the workplace, such as Abbott Labs, Allstate Giving Campaign, Hospira, and University of Chicago.

Linda Cliffel, Coordinator for the Northern Consortium

› The year 2006 saw the formation of the Northern Consortium (NC)—with the full support and dedication of Greyhounds Only. The NC is the remarkable united effort of many adoption groups working together to move dogs to the north from the “Emerald Coast”—the physically isolated area of the Panhandle of Florida—with racetracks at Pensacola and Ebro. The NC began working with GPA Emerald Coast (GPAEC) in February to help them move their staggering numbers of dogs needing homes. We had hauls in March, June, and September, and the first annual “Home for the Holidays” haul this December moved fifty-six dogs in one weekend to northern groups. GO brought a total of twenty-four Florida dogs into its program this year and looks forward to adding more in 2007. Special thanks to all of the GO volunteers who helped make the Northern Consortium an unprecedented success—to those volunteers who helped transport the dogs on their trips north and to all the wonderful foster families who came forward to provide them with a new beginning.

› Ann Bollens, president of GPAEC, sends this message: “Greyhound adoption work in our area can be a heart-wrenching job. The [Northern Consortium’s] support means a lot. . . . To know that we are not alone in our efforts, that there are others who not only understand but are offering help—well, that is just an incredible feeling! You have no idea of how much this means to all of us.”

Jan and Charley Smart: Seminars and Education

› The dramatic increase in adoptions in 2006 brought a parallel increase in Seminars and Education. The Kids Class has two primary objectives: the safety and well-being of the child and the safety, well-being, and happiness of the dog. We held kids-and-dogs seminars for nearly twenty families, comprising over sixty children, parents, and grandparents. In addition, we held many ad hoc one-on-one sessions with new and potential

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Who’s Your Doggie?

This issue, we asked you to tell us about the funniest, most unique, or most peculiar thing your greyhound has ever done at a meet and greet, art fair, or other adoption-oriented event that has helped—or hindered!—the cause of greyhound adoption.



For the summer issue, please tell us, in a sentence or two, about the funniest or most valuable thing your dog has taught you and send via e-mail message (yvonne.zipter@gmail.com) or a postcard to: Yvonne Zipter, Editor, The Skinny, 4710 W. Hutchinson St., Chicago, IL 60641-1607. Be sure to tell us your dog’s name and your name(s). We will print as many as are germane to the topic and for which we have room. The deadline is May 4.

Tongue in Cheek?

I was at a meet and greet with my Cruiser a few months after he was adopted. He was quite the kisser since the first day home. I was explaining to a lady how loving he was and she squatted down in front of him. Instead of giving her a kiss on the check, like he had been doing all day long to the other people there, he French-kissed her! Not sure who was more shocked—me or the lady he did it to!

Lee Tauriello

Quiet! I Can’t Hear Myself Bark

While at a meet and greet I was talking to some prospective adopters about how greyhounds almost never bark. Asia, my very vocal girl, decided this was the moment to break out into a major bark-fest. I now say “most” greyhounds never bark!

Kim Raymond

Last summer my husband and I were volunteering at the Old Town Art Festival with our sweet, loving greyhound NaPali promoting greyhound adoption. She was drawing much attention as she charmed the hearts of festival-goers in her purple donation coat. At the very moment we were going on and on about how she never barks and how she gets along perfectly with her cat sister Sammie, a small

dog jumped up at her playfully. She barked so loud she scared away all the people that had gathered around her. We couldn’t believe such a loud bark came out of our quiet pup!

Amanda and George Kattner

Let’s Clear the Air About Greyhounds

We adopted ten-year-old Push in 2003 and were told how greyhounds love to hang around with other hounds. After a few months, we took her to the Downers Grove meet and greet, and were so excited that she would be able to interact with other hounds since she was an “only.” Poor Push was so nervous and unhappy . . . she couldn’t relax, her coat was full of dandruff (which we found was what happened every time she found herself in an uncomfortable situation), she growled at the other dogs—even other greyhounds!—and, worst of all, she became really gassy! People were backing away left and right, so, rather than sully the breed’s reputation any further, we let the otherwise sweet and gentle Push hobnob only with humans thereafter! We’re happy to report that her two daughters, Lizzie and Honey, are very social and survived their first meet and greet without incident or air freshener.

John and Sharon Kelleher

So Listen, Here’s Why You Need a Greyhound . . .

At one meet and greet in Aurora, Grace, my four-year-old female who’s always been a bit on the submissive side, was napping on her blankie, when a child with cerebral palsy entered the store in a wheelchair. Grace woke up and walked over to the young girl and placed her head on the girl’s lap, looking up at her with those big brown eyes. The child was delighted and laughed. Her mum helped her pet Grace, and she stayed on that little girl’s lap until they stopped petting her. Grace then went back to her blankie, picked up her toy, placed it on the girl’s lap, and flopped down her front feet, and with a helicopter tail, gave a little yelp; I explained she wanted to play. The mum helped the girl throw the toy. Grace picked it up and trotted back to her blankie and lay back down. I explained to them that that was just about as much activity as you’d ever see Grace do at once. The mum came back later by herself and thanked me for treating her child with such kindness. I replied that it was Grace’s idea and petted her dark brindled head as she did her “greyhound lean” on the woman. Next thing I know, that lovely lady went and bought Grace a new toy (as if she needed another one)!

Jeanne-Elise M. Heydecker

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Who’s Your Doggie? *continued from page 10*
As anyone who ever witnessed the late great Izan at Arlington would tell you, he could sell ice to an Eskimo. He was amazing. He’d pull forward ahead of all the other hounds and work to greet everyone walking by. His favorites were babies in strollers and anyone in a wheelchair, who he’d walk up to and put his head on their laps. He was one of a kind.

Jim and Carole Feintech

Let Me Show You How to Work the Crowd

At her second volunteer event, Dusty had great fun closing Saturday night of the Old Town Art Fair. While everyone was cleaning up, she continued to work the drunk stragglers, getting even more vest donations. Out of nowhere she became fascinated with a man breaking down one of our tables. She walked over to his table, waited for eye contact, and levitated to the TOP of his table—much to the astonishment of her adoption counselor and owner (she’s a broken leg dog). Once on top of the table, she wagged and got some love—then was happy to jump down and go back to work!

Kathi Berman

Our first event was the Old Town Art Fair. Rosie was a bit apprehensive and shy around people who stopped at the booth. That was, until she discovered the money coat! As soon as we put the money coat on Rosie, she became Miss Social and walked right up to fair patrons, a total turnaround! Fortunately, people didn’t mind and gladly contributed to the wonderful cause Rosie was representing.

Jim and Jennifer Pieper

HEALTH

Making Sense of Veterinary Herbs, Supplements, and Food

BY BARBARA ROYAL, DVM

You’ve got a greyhound. You say to him, “Legcelot, you’re so sensitive to medications, I’m going to try a natural herbal medication, rather than some vet product, for your problems. What do you think?” Legcelot jumps on the couch, manages a tight circle, and lies down, yawning.

› You think, *There’s so much information available online, so many things to buy.* You want to buy something for skin and hair coat problems (he’s going bald in spots), for arthritis, for loose stool, and for bad breath. There are probably a number of herbal remedies that seem appealing and useful for your dog’s problems.

› But I beseech you—be careful! “Natural” does not mean harmless. Nature makes the most potent medications and toxins. (Arsenic? Hemlock? Yes, they’re natural!) Many of my clients purchase herb combinations for their animal’s conditions but don’t know the actions of the individual ingredients. It’s not easy to get all the information. Often it’s not even listed on the bottle! But using and combining herbs is just as serious as using and combining medications. It may be even more dangerous—because often your veterinarian isn’t aware that you’re using these herbs. And he or she may not know about their possible toxicities or interactions if your animal presents with an herb-related illness.

Here are just a few examples of herbal energetics pulled from my lectures—not at all a complete list.

Taste	Energetic of Herbs
Bitter	Cold and dry, usually a strong herb—alkaloids, essential oils: terpenes, goldenseal, gentian, motherwort, wormwood, elecampane
Sour	Tend to be cool and dry and sometimes astringent: rosehips, schisandra
Pungent	Garlic, ginger, juniper berry, horseradish, cayenne, mustard—stimulant types tending to be hot and dry, except echinacea and eucalyptus (cold and dry)
Spicy	Warm and dry—essential oils: basil, thyme, rosemary
Acrid	Cold and dry—resins and alkaloids: kava, lobelia
Sweet	Warm and moist: licorice, ginseng, alfalfa
Salty	Cool and dry: seaweeds
Bland	Cool and moist: aloe, psyllium seed, slippery elm, okra
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Congratulations to Our New Adopters and Their Dogs

Joyce and Michael Altman & Susie
Anna Aufderhaar and Matthew Shafer & Brad
Natasha and David Banke & Gable
Alex and Monique Bibbs & Bruin
Audrey and David Bilmar & Razoo
Jim and Jana Brinlee & Midas
Erin Brown & Vanesa
James and Bettina Chow & Spuds
Peggy Clark & Sweetie
Linda and James Clauson & Peter
Dale and Jeanne Cowger & Rosco
Bilal and Dana Dardai & Oracle
Nick Drifka & Bart
Jim and Margie Dugan & Stoli Vanil
David Easterbrook and Richard Bough & Kap
Allan Erdman and Shari Kellogg & Pauli
Eric Estes and Linda Beck & Kay
Elaine and David Fishman & Penny
Rachel and David Gavle & Corey
Sandy Giuliani & Sienna
Marla Griffin & Dempsey
Tiffany and Steven Guskey & Bossy
Janet Hauser & Zerilo
Judy and Steve Hawkins & Kingdom
Veronica Herrero & Sarah
Gabe and Tayo Juarer & Barney
Elizabeth Jurkacek & Garth
Denise Kowalik & Hardball & Paul
James Kramer & Aaron
Barbara and Jeffrey Labahn & Quick
Marianne Lacerda & Jazzy
Tulio and Susan Llosa & Brenda
Mary Jane Mayer and Patrick Skvoretz & Jerry
Frances Mazzulla & Rambler
Richard and Karen Miller & Bow
Maureen Mills & Payday
Les and Victoria Montgomery & Lovee
Bonnie Perlstein & Kitty
Ellen Persik & Boss
Continued on page 13

HEALTH

Celebrating Life and Death: Hospice for Animals

BY CARRIE L. NUTTER-NOVAK

In primitive times, when there was a life-threatening illness, the community as a group responded—because death often posed a direct threat to the entire community. In Europe, the spread of Christianity promoted the principle of monasteries taking in the ill and disabled. In the sixth and seventh centuries, wealthy women and widows started working in the monasteries as the first medieval “nurses.” The word “hospice” is derived from the Latin word *hospes*, which means to host a guest or stranger.

› The modern hospice movement began in 1967 with the opening of St. Christopher’s Hospice, and it gained popularity in the 1970s and 1980s. Hospice care is based on the belief that death and dying are a natural part of the life cycle and important experiences in people’s lives. According to hospice beliefs, the quality of life for people with terminal illnesses should be made as positive as possible. › Hospice care is holistic, meaning it supports the whole person and family, including physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and psychological needs. Hospice offers a range of services: pain control, nursing care, counseling, complementary therapies (acupuncture, chiropractic, massage, aromatherapy, etc.), spiritual care, physiotherapy, creative workshops, beauty treatments, pre- and post-bereavement support, respite care, and expressive therapies (such as music, art, and drama).

Extending hospice to animals

› Although hospice for humans has been practiced widely for more than thirty years in the United States, the concept of hospice for animals has appeared only in recent years. The Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets was named after the beloved tabby cat of Kathryn and Gianfranco Marocchino, founders of the organization. Nikki had kidney failure, and, at the time, there was no treatment available to spare her great suffering. So, her guardians made the difficult decision to euthanize her. Deeply traumatized by this experience, the Marocchinos vowed to never euthanize a pet again. › The Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets was inspired by the teachings of St. Francis, Rabbi Avraham Kuk, and the ahimsa doctrine of Eastern religions. Kathryn had trained as a hospice volunteer at Kaiser Permanente Hospital and became convinced that the hospice concept should be extended to animals. Dr. Eric Clough, a veterinarian in New Hampshire, whose wife directs a hospice program for humans, has been instrumental in his mentoring, dedication to the cause, and willingness to share his ideas with the veterinary community.

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Congratulations to Our New Adopters and Their Dogs continued from page 12
Stravos Phillips and Thomas Potter & Pretty Boy
Dawn Priory and Lee Seward & Candy
Mark and Sue Purdom & Blue
Greg Rein and Raechal Maat & Tyke
Linda and Dick Reuter & Emma
Judy and Raymond Richardson & Zoe
Ron and Kathy Sackheim & Superfine
Nancy and Phil Seils & Brewer
Chris and Alexandria Setter & Tess
Ron and Gail Sheldon & Marie & Ember
Brian and Sherry Shoops & Beau
Eileen Skisak & Smiley
Susan and William Sollie & Xcite & Lock
Anne and David Sorkin & Ray
Barbara Stajdnhar & Babe
Donald and Stephanie Swanson & Vertigo
Jennifer Swofford & Dazzle
Keith Voelz and Rachal Duggan & Paris
Sarah Warren and Juanernesto Ortiz & Deal
Matt Wieclawek and Kim Golden & Detective
Xiaoming and Amber Zhu & Wyatt

Celebrating Life and Death: Hospice for Animals continued from page 12

Gaining ground

› Hospice is gradually beginning to gain ground in veterinary circles. The American Veterinary Medical Association recently approved guidelines for hospice care for animals. Hospice care is becoming a more mainstream option for pet owners who believe that choices should be available when a pet is faced with terminal illness. › During hospice care, beloved pets can be allowed to die comfortably at home, in the company of their families, under appropriate sedation for pain control. Across the country, more and more individuals are following models set up by human hospices, letting their terminally ill or disabled pets live out their natural lives in their homes.

At Angel’s Gate

› Angel’s Gate, an animal hospice in Long Island, is the largest of its kind in the United States. It was founded by Susan Marino, a registered nurse who has worked with terminally ill children. Although some people drop off their pets at the hospice when they go to work, many of the animals residing at Angel’s Gate have been relinquished by owners who cannot emotionally or financially care for a terminally ill or disabled animal. › In addition to palliative care, the animals at Angel’s Gate receive a variety of holistic treatments. These may include acupuncture, chiropractic, flower essences, aromatherapy, essential oils, Chinese herbs, and Reiki. Many receive sessions of hydrotherapy in a heated pool. Volunteers provide the animals with socialization and touch therapy. › According to Susan, even though the residents have terminal illnesses, the house is full of vitality and life. The final stages of life are honored and celebrated as opposed to being denied or feared, and nature’s healing powers are respected along with modern medicine. Susan acknowledges that a common misconception is that in hospice care, euthanasia is never used; it does occur in rare cases. She explains that it is important to manage pain properly. › Although Susan believes that there aren’t any disadvantages to hospice, she does realize that many vets aren’t familiar with the concept, and it can put a strain on a fragile family. Someone who is considering hospice should make sure his or her vet is willing to work with them. It can be challenging to research the hospice option when one’s pet is already ill.

Caring in Chicago

› Veterinarian Julie Mayer is one of the founders of Integrative Pet Care, an innovative center in Chicago that provides physical rehabilitation as well as wellness/fitness programs and alternative therapies such as massage, acupuncture, and chiropractic to animals. She has witnessed the benefits of hospice, when the guardian, pet, and veterinarian work as a team to improve or maintain the animal’s quality of life. This appears to help both the pet and guardian with the transition from illness to death. › A disadvantage, in Dr. Mayer’s opinion, is that not all pet owners have access to facilities that offer hospice services. In addition, cost may be an obstacle, and there must be a team effort among the guardian, pet, and vet to ensure the pet isn’t suffering excessively.

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Mark of Distinction?

Recently, Greyhounds Only brought in a new dog from Florida who needed to be fostered. By all accounts we received about Tipper, he is a perfect boy—except for one thing: he has the bad habit of marking when he is around other males. Jan and Charley Smart, having recently lost their own boy, Trevor, agreed to foster the magic marker, a.k.a. Tipper. What follows is part of an e-mail exchange between Charley and GO member Catalina Salley.

CHARLEY: When we need to determine if he sprays around other males, we can come by your house and he can visit Tony.

CATALINA: You must have been TIPSy when you wrote this! There will be no tipping up the leg at my house. Too funny. I tip my hat to you in your new fostering venture.

CHARLEY: Gosh! We thought we would stop by Sunday with the new boy for a “bench-MARK.”

CATALINA: UR IN trouble now. I am not in a floodplain so my waterMARK must remain at zero. If he tries that nonsense, he will be renamed Tippedover.

CHARLEY: How could we have been so PEE brained as to assume it was behavioral rather than medical—MARK ONE UP for observant vets—who determined that Tipper actually had a bladder infection!

Hound Sightings

BY HEDDA HOUND



While jet-setting through the holiday season this year, Hedda was thumbing through the *Holland Herald*, the in-flight magazine of KLM Airlines, when she spotted a profile of the greyhound. Eager for a bit of gossip, Hedda was disappointed to see mention only of the magnificent speed of the breed and a brief discussion of its history, from Egyptian to English nobility. Also mentioned was a book titled *Man Buys Dog: A Loser’s Guide to the World of Greyhound Racing*, in which a journalist “tries to turn his dog into a champion and delves deep into the heart of this unique sport in the process.” The word “loser” was clue enough to Hedda that the book’s topic wasn’t about finding homes for ex-racers since no one’s a loser in that process.

And while in the Amsterdam airport, Hedda was pleased with the mini art exhibit there, where greyhounds were depicted in a large painting and which sensibly made note of the fact that they were considered as royalty in the past—though Hedda does have a bone to pick with them: what do they mean, *past*?

Esther Williams, eat your heart out! Esther’s got nothin’ over Daisy, the lovely greyhound featured in the brochure for Kendall De Menech’s K9H2o, an indoor aquatic facility for canines in Canada. Daisy shows off her aquatic moves to advertise the benefits of swimming as an exercise for general health care and for presurgical and postoperative recovery. Anyone know where to get a bikini for a greyhound? Hedda just might be in the market for one this summer. . . .

Hedda has long known that greyhounds are the model dog, and advertisers finally seem to be getting the picture. J-B Wholesale Pet Supplies, for instance, featured a beautiful brown and white greyhound on one of their pet beds and in one of their canine crates. And the dogbar.com site shows a cascade of their \$210 Corbu sofas with a greyhound reclining regally on the tobacco-colored Le Corbusier-inspired doggie couch. Model dogs? You bet. But Hedda doesn’t think Tyra Banks has to worry—unless someone puts a doggie bed on the runway.

Someone at *Best Friends* magazine knows quality when they see it: their animal photos section recently featured three greyhound beauties. There is no truth to the rumor that Hedda moonlights at *Best Friends*. . . .

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Help, My Baby Is a Teenager

BY BEVERLY STEWART

Well okay, my two-legged baby, daughter Jody, turned forty last year; the “baby” referred to in the title is actually my furry four-legged hound, Andretti, who turned the big thirteen August 24, 2006. Who would have thought, back in August of 1998 when we first met at Emerald Greyhounds in Wisconsin, that Andretti and I would develop a relationship that has taken us from Illinois to Michigan and completely bonded me to this beautiful dog and wonderful breed.



Andretti at 13

› Andretti is my first greyhound and what a great introduction to the breed he has been. Linda La Foone, one of the founders of Greyhounds Only, suggested him for me after I submitted my application to adopt. When I arrived at the kennel, she had a few other hounds to show me.

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Bev with Andretti at age 5

Help, My Baby Is a Teenager

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She wanted to give me a choice. I remember knowing in my heart that Andretti was for me the second I looked into his baby browns, which was difficult to do because he was a bit aloof and wouldn’t look at me directly! I chatted to him as I walked him around the kennel grounds, all the while being completely ignored by him.

› I made another visit to the kennel and then Linda took him home to foster through Labor Day weekend. My family, the previously mentioned daughter, plus son-in-law Noel and two energetic grandsons, Jordan and Nicholas, were coming from Michigan to visit over the holiday. Linda and I thought it best to postpone the adoption until calmer conditions existed for introducing my new greyhound to his forever home. A few days after my family left, Linda brought Andretti to my home in Schaumburg. Even though I had had dogs all my life, I admit to being a bit in awe of Andretti. After all, he was five years old and had been out earning a living the past few years, not to mention that he was handsome with a regal bearing. I was smitten from the start. His initial aloofness toward me was quickly replaced by “greyhound glue,” which has kept us stuck together in a mutual admiration society.

› Andretti led me into the world of greyhound volunteering, first with Greyhounds Only in Illinois and continuing with Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan. Not only did this enable me to learn more about the breed, but I met great people and dogs and participated in events like the Chicago AIDS Walk, play dates at Windy City Canine, and meet and greets in both states. Andretti even attended my thirty-fifth high school reunion and was included in the group picture! My hound quietly shared me with several foster dogs during the last year I lived in Schaumburg. I often wondered what he thought when I brought a foster home for a week, then took it away and returned later, alone. I decided that he was probably glad to have them gone, content to be an only child once again.

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Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade *continued from page 9*

adopters who were either first-time dog owners or who were particularly interested in greyhound traits, training, and the transition from the kennel into the home.

Kristen Jahnke: Kennel Days

› Kennel Day is an important part of any new adopter’s Greyhounds Only experience. It is highly anticipated by new adopters, and volunteers work to make it a special time for each family. This past year, kennel volunteers made introductions and helped get our record-setting 158 dogs adopted in 2006. Even more amazing, many new adopters have already come back for their second (and third!) greyhounds.

› In addition to our regular kennel outings, in 2006 GO teamed up with Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) and had a massive kennel clean-up day. Volunteers from both groups worked on one of the hottest days of the year to cut carpet, clean crates, groom dogs, scrub floors, and much more. It was a large undertaking, and as usual, everyone stepped up to the plate to make it an absolute success. Thank you to everyone that helped out with the clean-up day. Next time we’ll make sure to do it in cooler weather—that’s a promise.

› I’d like personally to thank all the kennel volunteers; you are an amazing group of people, who care so much for the dogs. You’ve come forward when most needed and you brave the cold, snow, rain, and beating sun to get dogs into their forever homes. You are all wonderful people and there is no one else I’d rather spend every other Saturday with.

› Last (but certainly not least) the biggest thank-you comes from the hounds. You’ve helped put them in homes where they are loved and spoiled, and you’ve even helped the more “difficult” dogs find their forever homes. You’ve noticed when they’re not feeling good, given countless baths (and gotten yourself “bathed” in the process), trimmed nails, made emergency vet runs, and forgiven those enthusiastic pups that would rather drag you than walk. From all the hounds, thank you, thank you, thank you! (And they’d like to know when the treats are coming.)

Linda Hay: Hooray for Meet and Greets!

› If you have never been to a meet and greet, attending one should be on your New Year’s resolution list. For the uninitiated, a group of greyhound owners go to a local pet store and act as living ambassadors for the breed. Your dog or dogs get to hang out in the pet store, enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells they love, and get nuzzled, cuddled, petted, scratched, and sniffed by other dogs while their owners get to be a part of a greyhound-loving pack. Not only is it fun, but it gives the owners a chance to, without interruption, brag about their dogs and the breed. Going to a meet and greet reminds the owners that there are lots of people who have a lot of misconceptions about the breed. People, on seeing a group of greyhounds firsthand, can personally experience the kind, gentle nature of the breed.

› The dogs are in their element at the meet and greets. They often get treats while working, maybe catch a little shut-eye at some point, and get the latest greyhound gossip from the other dogs. Tails are wagging, ears are perked up—and they are exhausted when they come home.

› While meet and greets are fun for the owners and dogs that attend, they serve a more important purpose: raising awareness of the breed and, in so doing, ultimately helping get more greyhounds adopted. Meet and greets also serve to help raise money for the group—which is to say, they help raise money for the dogs.

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Help, My Baby Is a Teenager

continued from page 16

› Even though Andretti was older when we found each other, and a fairly laid-back fellow, he has been a good sport as we two have maneuvered through life these past eight years. This included a move from Illinois to Michigan. He had made the trip back and forth a number of times as I traveled to my home state to visit family. But on November 16, 2001, we piled in the car with Tess the Cat and headed to Michigan one last time. There he adapted to living with my daughter and family until I was settled into a job and we got our own house. The family included a golden retriever as well as two cats. Andretti fared much better with his animal cousins than poor Tess the Cat. In August of 2003, Andretti, Tess, and I moved into our new home, which included a greyhound’s dream, a fenced-in yard big enough to run around in or just hang out sniffing the breeze.

› Never one to let grass grow underfoot, Andretti has ridden in a pontoon boat and an elevator, visited the bank, oil change garage, car dealership, and Mail Boxes Etc. He has slept in motels, gone camping in a tent, and accompanied me to work on the odd Saturday morning. He loves strolling with me through the summer art fairs and craft shows in our town. Last year my mother moved to an independent living retirement apartment. I visit her frequently and Andretti usually accompanies me. The other residents and staff love to see him and he enjoys the pets and attention lavished on him.

We continue to do local Meet and Greets and he sometimes spends time with his greyhound buddies Porsche, Halley, and Sierra Paul, who live a short drive away. I’m grateful that Andretti has enjoyed a healthy and long life. Every time I arrive home from work and hear that “roo, roo” greeting me from the kitchen window, I thank the stars that aligned to put us together. I’m hopeful we will enjoy more good years to come. Happy birthday, Andretti baby!

Hound Sightings *continued from page 14*

It’s about time the theater went to the dogs, if you ask Hedda: the comedy *Transference* at the Mercury Theater on Southport tells the story of an attorney who believes he is a whippet. Hedda found the actor’s portrayal of a dog credible and was delighted that the playwright had the good sense to mention greyhounds as the only dog quicker than a whippet.



Everything is going to be OK.

**Loving husband.
Devoted father.
Dedicated attorney.**

**So, why does he think
he’s a whippet?**

When Hedda first saw what looks to be the silhouette of a greyhound jumping through a hoop in the icon for Firedog, a technology service, she was miffed at being portrayed as a hoop jumper—a brownnose. But then she realized Firedog had probably put a different spin on the hoop, simply wanting to give a nod to the greyhound’s agility.

.....

No one knows better than Hedda how much real estate a sprinting greyhound can cover, but she was still surprised to open the *Chicago Tribune’s* real estate section last October and find a greyhound there. Star, the greyhound, had helped its owner to open Happy Hounds, a canine business in Yorkville. Hedda approves, since Happy Hounds has yummy treats.

.....

The weekend section of an issue of the *Sun-Times* sometime this past September wisely opted to choose an ink drawing of a greyhound to represent Juan Perdiguero’s work. This did not surprise Hedda since if you sensibly shorten the artist’s name, it reads *Perro*, or Spanish for “dog.”

.....

Hedda’s praise of Heartland Animal Shelter is heartfelt for their choice of representatives for the “Howl-o-ween” event/parade on their website because among them was, of course, a greyhound.

.....

First there was the band The Greyhounds, and now there’s Earl Greyhound, a suitably regal name for a reportedly Led Zeppelin–like trio of musicians that played at the Double Door not too long ago. Hedda wonders whether it’s the greyhound’s speed that inspires bands to adopt the breed’s name or their renowned rooing that enamors musicians with them.

.....

Hedda winced to see the link from the Fourth Symposium of Veterinary Medicine and Physical Rehabilitation’s website to the American Greyhound Council, remembering an old racing injury. Hedda only hopes the link brought more adopters to the cause.

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Safeguard Your Hound When You’re Out of Town

BY SUE GAISER

› While the peak vacation time is winding down, many of us travel year-round and rely on friends or family to care for our hounds while we’re gone. A recent incident prompted this article. A properly tagged Greyhounds Only dog was found, and a Good Samaritan called the emergency number and the family’s cell phone number. Unfortunately, the family was out of town and out of range. This pup had escaped a family member’s yard, and they didn’t know who to call for help. There was a happy ending, but here are some suggestions to safeguard your hound and caretakers from this situation.

› If you use the same caretaker regularly, have an extra tag made with his or her information on it, just like yours. Simply add it to the collar when you’re away.

› Prepare a document for your caretaker that includes both GO, Inc., emergency numbers and another name of someone who could “take over” should there be an unexpected emergency and your dog needs to be moved. I personally write a “permission letter” that not only has the above information, but includes the authority to have my pets seen

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Making Sense of Veterinary Herbs, Supplements, and Food *continued from page 11*

To choose the herbs, know your dog

› Choosing an herbal formula for a patient should not be a shopping list, as in, liver disease equals using every herb known to help liver function. The choice must be based on the patient’s overall condition, prioritizing needs and symptoms. Recognizing genetic traits and phenotype of the animal is essential in formulating herbal remedies. If possible, it may help to consider what the genetic makeup provides, versus what it needs to acquire from its environment.

› Sighthounds have an energy that I usually liken to cats. They are highly sensitive to medications and full of short-burst energy. They sleep all day, and they can make you laugh (wait, all animals seem to do that!). They tend to wear their heart on their sleeve, but can be stoic about musculoskeletal pain. This kind of information is a good place to start, but it’s only a beginning.

› The real point is that health problems require a full look at all the components of the problem. Then we must attempt to find the root of the disease in order to combat it from multiple directions. Single herbs may be helpful to alleviate symptoms, but for an adequate cure, a full assessment of the animal is essential. For example, nervous, panting, hot, jumpy Guinnevet with allergies would not necessarily get the same herbal formula as quiet, sleepy, cool King-Pawthur with allergies. In fact, I probably wouldn’t even prescribe the same food. The needs of these animals are quite different.

Useful Herbs and Possible Combinations	
<i>Remember: have a holistic veterinarian prescribe individualized formulas.</i>	
Constipation	Cascara, ginger, and licorice
Urinary tract Dz (esp. cats)	Stone root, gravel root, hydrangea, corn silk
Lick granulomas	Aloe vera
Most cancers	Turmeric, Reishi mushroom, milk thistle, hoxsey (Lymphosarcomas and leukemias are different.)
Mammary cancer	Rosemary
Otitis	Calendula, thuja, garlic. Clean with astringent ear-wash, or 1/2 vinegar, 1/2 water.
Cognitive/age	Ginkgo, hawthorne berry, folate, vitamin E
Diabetes	Gymneme, fenugreek, ginseng
Anti-inflammatory	Licorice, yucca
Antibiotic	Oregon grape
Sedatives	Valerian, skullcap, passionflower
Diuretic	Dandelion leaf
Pruritis	Nettles (also useful for hives, itchy bug bites)
<i>Other notes:</i> – <i>Neem: useful diluted in topicals as an anti-parasitic, but can be toxic—careful!</i> – <i>Tea tree oil/some essential oils: toxic in cats and small dogs, useful diluted</i> – <i>Chinese herb yunnan pai yao: stops bleeding</i>	

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Safeguard Your Hound When You’re Out of Town

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and treated in case of illness or injury. The document also covers euthanasia if deemed necessary by the vet, caretaker, and at least one other “greyhound friend,” named in the document. Make the document look as formal as possible so that if it’s needed, it will be taken seriously by the vet and your wishes will be granted in your absence. Don’t forget to sign it, date it, and provide any phone numbers where you can be reached.

› I did this for my two-legged children (well, not the euthanasia part), but my four-legged children deserve the same care and preparation when I’m traveling. Please feel free to contact me for my document’s template. I’d be glad to share it! Send an e-mail to GreytGOFoster@comcast.net.



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Making Sense of Veterinary Herbs, Supplements, and Food *continued from page 18*

› In herbal medicine, food and medicine are not separate. Plants and animals evolved together over millions of years. The relationships are much more complex and subtle than the simple predator-prey relationship. It’s useful to know the actions of all herbs, foods, supplements, topicals, etc., and why they are used.

Four ways to assess

› Often it’s as simple as assessing a patient in the four basic categories used in Western herbal medicine: hot versus cold and excess versus deficiency. This information helps me to choose wisely among the many herbal remedies, supplements, and foods available.

› Although I recommend a veterinary evaluation, owners should be aware of their animal’s basic type and think about the herbs they’re already giving. The basic signs I may look for to assess an animal are as follows:

Type	What You May See
Hot	Seeks cool surfaces, pants, dark pink/red gums/tongue, energetic, maybe paces, skin usually warm, rapid pulse, thirst, hunger, aggression, red skin lesions, pustules, halitosis/odors, worse at night
Cold	Seeks warmth, pale gums/tongue, lower energy, maybe flaky skin with no redness, slow pulse, lethargic, worse in the morning and with cold or damp weather
Excess	Overweight, maybe oily skin or lumps/growths, foul discharges, straining to defecate
Deficiency	Weight loss, small tongue, thin rapid pulse, weakness

› In Western herbal medicine, we also assess the energetics of herbs to determine their best use. (This also applies to foods.) For example, you probably shouldn’t add oil to a hot animal. It will only exacerbate the condition. This even applies to omega fatty acids in fish oils, which are commonly given for skin conditions. Aloe vera would be a better choice because of its help with skin and its cooling properties.

› Some herbs help conditions but should be decreased in dose or discontinued once the condition resolves or the animal’s signs change. The goal is to provide what’s needed for the body to heal; herbs aren’t necessarily a chronic treatment.

› Often the taste of an herb can give you a clue to its energetics—and what effect it will have on an animal. For example, aloe is cool; therefore, it helps a hot animal become cooler. But doses must be carefully determined. Again, the reasonably innocent and easily available herb aloe can be given safely in small doses orally, but it can, even in moderate doses, cause severe gastric distress and diarrhea in some animals.

› Many strong herbs grow near other herbs that help modify or dull their toxicity. Plants growing near each other have a history of being eaten together by animals for mutually beneficial reasons. It’s not always best to isolate one useful component of a system without knowing the strength of its action alone or in combination with other herbs. For example, I may want to use Oregon grape to help with a urinary tract infection for my

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Hound Sightings *continued from page 17*

On Page-a-Day’s 365 Dogs Calendar for 2006, greyhounds and huskies were both mentioned, on the October 5 page, as “champion racers”—greyhounds for sprinting and huskies for distance running—but only the husky was featured in the photo. Hedda is appalled at the oversight and has half a mind to send in her own photo, in all modesty, of course, for their next calendar. The Dog Days 2007 calendar got a little closer, at least, featuring either a whippet or an Italian grey for the month of May. Hedda forgives this near miss, though, since photographer David Sutton is donating the proceeds from the sale of the calendars to benefit animal welfare organizations.

A tear came to Hedda’s eye when she came across the “Mutts” cartoon reprinted here. Hedda prefers you not let the word get out that she’s a bit sentimental underneath her gRUFF exterior.

Greyhound Only’s Grayson, adopted by Carrie Nutter, appears on the “Parade of Dogs” calendar put together by Mindy, Grayson’s dog walker, as a holiday surprise for her clients. Hedda wishes her own walker would take a hint. . . .

Hedda is impressed that the North Shore Veterinary Clinic in Skokie not only does specialty vet work but also has good taste in interior decorating: they have added a black-and-white photo by David Sutton of a person and either a greyhound or an Italian greyhound.

Dogbar.com often features the work of artists who use animal imagery in their work. Currently, they are showing work by Rachelle Oatman. When you enter the site, there is a large mural of dogs standing and sitting, wearing human attire—one of whom is a greyhound—and when you go to the art gallery page, one of the individual portraits is of a greyhound in a choker necklace and white-and-black checked, belted blazer or coat—showing two bulging breasts and cleavage on the greyhound. Hedda is as human as the next greyhound, but there are limits. . . .

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Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade
continued from page 23
Treasurer Annual Report
› As GO grows so does the need for increased financial awareness. Therefore in March, Patrick Harmon and Lauren Sicherman were elected as treasurer and vice treasurer, respectively, to GO’s board.
› The new treasury team set four goals for GO’s finances beginning in 2006 and beyond:
1. *Fiscal clarity to the board*—whereby monthly financial reporting with monetary metrics has been instituted where all board members take an active role in the financial health of GO.
2. *Increased capital availability*—whereby the deposit process and expense payments have been streamlined through new procedures, including a centralized mailing address.
3. *Complete government adherence*—whereby all government filing requirements are published to the board and are strictly complied with.
4. *Expense confinement*—whereby the small portion of not-dog-specific expenses (postage, office supplies, etc.) are reduced where possible.
› GO’s extraordinary success in adopting a record number of dogs in 2006 is directly related to all our volunteers, donors, and customers of GO merchandise. GO’s online shopping venture debuted this year, and results have been very promising. The collection and use of these funds by GO has been expedited through electronic payment with PayPal.
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Making Sense of Veterinary Herbs, Supplements, and Food *continued from page 19*
pet, D’ogtagnon, but I need to add something soothing for the bladder as well. Choices can include gravelroot, corn silk, or others, but these decisions are made based on the four properties revealed in my physical exam of the patient.

What about foods?
› Foods can be hot or cold as well. Different meats (e.g., fish: cold, beef: hot) may provide different energetics for an animal. I find that greyhounds do well on raw-meat diets, but the rule is that there is no rule for every dog. It’s an individual issue.
› There are no good tests to see if an animal will do well on a food except trying it. But I have a few tips:

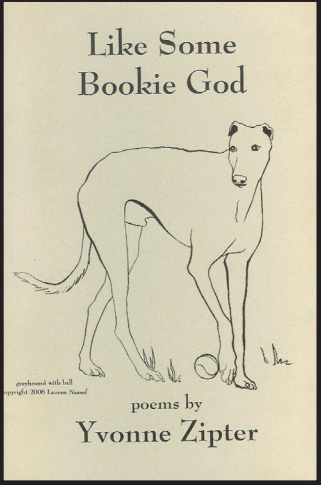
- **With few exceptions, I avoid corn and wheat in greyhound diets.** This is a combination of (1) thinking of greyhounds as energetically similar to cats, which do well on an Atkins-like diet (or “Catkins diet,” as we call it) and (2) learning that greyhounds that stop eating grains tend to do much better overall.
- **For all of us who worry about greyhounds and dental disease: dry food is not necessarily better for the teeth.** And depending on the product, it often can be worse! In order to make each kibble stick together, many companies use glutens and sticky carbohydrates, which also stick to the teeth. Voila—tartar buildup! In general, canned food is more easily licked off the teeth. The easy way to tell is to check Shakespaw’s mouth about 10 minutes after he eats. Teeth pretty and clean? You’re doing well. (Maybe do a quick brush anyway, as long as you’re checking...)
- **If indicated, raw diet can really make a difference in problem animals.** But it can be expensive, and it’s not for every pet. Some animals need processed food because they are deficient and can’t properly digest raw foods. But if treated to balance the deficiency, they may then do well on raw. You should consider other risk factors, such as immune deficiencies, or whether there are small children in the house who could get into a bowl of raw meat on the floor. Another note: I often discourage owners from making their own raw foods. The people who sell meats to us don’t expect us to feed it raw, whereas raw-food processing plants take precautions to avoid contamination.

› Why am I telling you all this? I strongly believe that we must be more cautious with herbs, especially in greyhounds, our sensitive friends. It’s important to understand the value of a full veterinary herbal consult. Matching the herbs to the dog isn’t always an obvious process, and the best results come from completely understanding the condition(s) of your pet.
› Remember, the dog’s wild ancestors spent much of their time searching for the proper nutrients and foods to maintain health. I know my pets spend a great deal of time searching for proper ways to use more of the couch. So I have to think about all of these complicated things for them. They’re too busy ignoring it all.

He glides
beside me, each filament
of his ropy body tuned,
from his years on the racetrack,
to the presence of small game.

excerpt from “Running Before Dawn with the Dog”

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Celebrating Life and Death: Hospice for Animals *continued from page 13*

Chequers’ story: Hospice at home

› I experienced the difficult decision of how to handle a pet’s illness when my canine, Chequers, was diagnosed with a tumor in her bladder. Chequers was a trooper and battled the disease for more than two years before experiencing severe pain. When her condition worsened, our vet suggested euthanasia. At that point, I, like many pet guardians, felt that it was the only feasible choice for an animal suffering from a terminal illness.

› I actually scheduled the appointment, but the day before, something told me to cancel it. After serious deliberation, I chose to do hospice for Chequers in my home. I’m an occupational therapist, so I drew on the skills I use on my human patients. When Chequers became too weak to walk on her own, I modified a gait belt to assist her with ambulation. I performed passive range of motion on her joints to keep them as flexible as possible and to help promote circulation and decrease atrophy. I modified her environment so she would have soft bedding and changed her positioning frequently to prevent bed sores. In addition, I massaged her to increase circulation, reduce edema, and promote relaxation, and I used calming scents and soft lighting to relax her.

› Although Chequers was diagnosed with cancer, she enjoyed a great quality of life with her loving family until she became very weak and appeared to experience pain. Toward the end of her life, pain medications and subcutaneous fluids were administered along with special nutrition, in addition to the above treatments, to make her as comfortable as possible.

Celebrating life

› Hospice may not have been the decision for all pet owners in my situation. But we have to listen to our hearts, and for me, hospice appeared to be the right choice on behalf of my dog. That’s why I strongly feel that individuals need to know there’s another choice.

› Hospice allows one to die in dignity. It can benefit both the spiritual and mental health of the pet and its guardian. Hospice may not be the appropriate choice in all cases; each guardian must make the decision that best suits his or her pet’s circumstances. But, in many cases, hospice is the most beneficial scenario. It celebrates life and makes the last days more positive.

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Hound Sightings *continued from page 20*

Olé! Hedda was enchanted by her Spanish cousins—making love to the camera, as they say in Hollywood—in a photograph taken at a dog show in Vigo, northern Spain in the fourth image in the multimedia presentation at <http://www.msnbc.com/modules/interactive.aspx?type=ss&launch=14878027,2&pg=1>. Hedda is left pondering how you wag your tail in Spanish.

And it is a good thing Hedda is paper trained—trained to read newspapers, that is—because there have been several good greyhound stories in the past few months. In December 2006, the Myrtle Beach *Sun News* reported that Amazing Gracie, a retired racer, saved a man’s life by insistently pulling her people toward an open garage door, where they found Ronnie Principato, who had been retrieving Christmas lights from the garage attic at his home when he passed out. Grace’s people found Principato in a pool of blood and called 911.

Less dramatic reports of greyhounds appeared in the January 7 and 11 issues of the *South Bend Tribune*, which both had almost full-page spreads about greyhound adoption events held in public libraries in Michigan. Hedda stopped in her tracks, though, when she read about a family that had a greyhound, Bolt, who lived to the age of eighteen and whose Elkhart business, Bolt Limited, a document management business, was named for. Hedda thinks libraries are a perfect venue for meet and greets, when you think about it: copies of *Greyhounds for Dummies* and *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* are likely close at hand.

Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade *continued from page 16*

› In 2006, Greyhounds Only held more than thirty meet and greets, and raised close to \$3,000 from these events. While all GO events are great fun and often raise funds, the meet and greet is the backbone of the organization owing to the regularity with which it raises money and allows broad exposure of GO and the breed to the general public. The numbers are a testament to the dedication of those who help organize and plan these events. These dedicated people and their efforts are what make it so effortless for those who attend. The events are not without behind-the-scenes planning, coordinating, and time commitments from those who organize them.

› In 2007, we hope to hold even more meet and greets—and to raise even more money. Help us accomplish these goals by attending a meet and greet and enjoying the opportunity to show off your wonderful hounds for a great cause.

Jennifer Smieja: GO/HAWS Partnership

› The partnership between GO and the Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS) of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, is now going full speed ahead. The shelter is housing two greyhounds at a time for GO, using myself (mom of Fabled Univision, a.k.a. Diesel) and Carol Sumbry as adoption representatives. The adoption procedure is very similar to that followed by someone approaching GO directly: (1) applications are received at HAWS, (2) prospects are contacted and interviewed by Jennifer or Carol, (3) home visits are scheduled, dog intros and family classes are arranged as needed, (4) fostering is done by one of several area GO-trained homes, and (5) adoptions are completed.

› HAWS has a complete vet clinic on site for spay/neuter surgeries, dentals, or additional medical treatment (charging special rescue rates for GO). The shelter is amid a large market of untapped and available homes—and a growing population in Waukesha County. HAWS is also conveniently open seven days a week, with viewing hours daily after 1:00 p.m.

› Supervised by me, a full-time HAWS employee, many energetic GO volunteers conduct Saturday afternoon and Wednesday evening meet and greets in the HAWS lobby, to answer questions about the breed and to give information and adoption applications. Several enterprising volunteers have also branched out to secure space for monthly meet and greets at a local Petco store. We are working to establish a schedule with the PetSmart location closest to HAWS. Each new adopter has joined the willing volunteer ranks!

› This partnership program began in mid-June, with placement of the first dog, Bart (a.k.a., Tucker), in early July. The total number of dogs placed through this program now stands at eleven, with another adoption pending.

› The HAWS’ staff has really embraced the program—getting to know the antics of the breed and appreciating their laid-back nature. For the caretakers, the hounds are a welcome bit of diversity from the usual “clientele” of labs, shepherds, and assorted mixes. We are thankful for this opportunity and excited about the success to date.

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Greyhounds Only: Racing into a New Decade
continued from page 21

› This year was exceptional with donations, adoption fees, and merchandise sales keeping pace with ongoing dog expenses such as kennel, medication, and veterinary bills. All donations are very important—including the \$1 tucked into the greyhound coat at the Old Town Art Fair. There was one individual donation this year that deserves special thanks and mention. The Barbara Baker Trust donated 224 shares of Progress Energy stock that has a current market value of over \$10,000. The stock donation along with others in past years provides another revenue stream through dividends that continues to grow. Please remember this is a great and easy way to support GO.

› As GO moves into 2007, we are positioned well financially to continue our ongoing greyhound adoption and rescue goals. However, as always we will continue to rely on your generous support for 100 percent of GO's operating budget.

Yvonne Zipfer: A Big Thanks from "The Skinny"

› Part of what makes *The Skinny* a "good read" are the wonderful topic suggestions that GO members make and the items they send in for "Hound Sightings" and for "Who's Your Doggie?" I owe a debt of gratitude to all of them, as well as to the people who have so generously taken the time to write the articles and other items for *The Skinny* (and with no monetary compensation!); to Julia Archer, who does all the design and layout work and without whom *The Skinny*—even with all the good material—would be just another do-it-yourself desktop rag instead of the gorgeous thing that it is; Barbara Karant, who never ceases looking for good additions to the newsletter; Amy VanStee, who has taken a huge load off my shoulders by doing the lion's share of the copyediting; and to the always cheerful and hardworking newsletter committee, who never complains, even as we continue to add more and more people to our mailing list.



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