

The Skinny

NEWSLETTER

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HEALTH

Chip Off the Ol' Dog Microchips—Useful Aid or Health Hazard for Pets?

BY BARBARA ROYAL, DVM

Summer 2010

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Greyhound Rescue

- 6 Greyhounds in the UP

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Rockin' Hounds,
Events Highlights
and Calendar,
Hound Sightings,
and Who's Your
Doggie?

First off, I will say that I put a microchip in each of my pets. Although I am a firm believer in a more natural approach in my holistic veterinary practice, I did feel that the benefits outweigh the risks here. My personal experience with microchipping was literally brought home to me in the form of a house fire. With the entire house ablaze, the firemen saved my animals from the fire by letting them out of the house. I had some comfort in knowing that they could still be identified and returned to me without their collars. It was one less stress in that crisis. Luckily, I was the one who actually found them, but I could have been less fortunate.

You don't have to experience something as dramatic as a fire for an animal to escape without a collar. They can slip a leash or run out after a child inadvertently opens a door, a contractor unknowingly leaves a gate open, or a faulty lock on a screen door doesn't click. In a worst case scenario, a traveling pet leaps out a car window miles from home and your only resort is searching, hoping, panicking. . . . In every case, I believe that your pet having an identifying microchip can keep you from full-out insanity while you wait for your lost animal to be returned home again, safe and sound.

That said, as a veterinarian and pet owner, I also worry about the increasing reports of possible tumors and inflammation associated with these chips. It is my job, above all, as a veterinarian, to "do no harm." So weighing the advantages and health risks of these tiny harbingers of good news is part of my job. I have read, with some dismay, of the tumors that are linked to these chips. I hope that we find that this is really the exception, and not the rule. [Continued on page 2]

Condolences

Heartfelt sympathies go out from Greyhounds Only to the following people who recently lost their beloved canine companions: Terri and Dan Blitek (Lulu); Kurt Boehlein and Cathy Brandstetter (Chibby); Stan Cielez (Rojo); Dalius Duncia (Honcho); Tricia Goebel (Tallinn); Pat Jason (Monty); Diane Keith (Smoke); John and Sharon Kelleher (Honey); Bill McMillan (Kimmie); Tony Rittling (Lily); Kay Robison (Bowtie Bud); and Emily Rutledge and Lynn Black (Chopper).

Chip off the Ol' Dog [Continued from page 1]

Veterinary and toxicology journals have published studies done between 1996 and 2006 that found laboratory mice and rats sometimes developed sarcomas (tumors) that encase the microchip implants. While an exact causal relationship is not fully proven, the information is unsettling. It should be noted that both rats and mice tend to develop tumors more readily than do dogs or cats. It is also distressing that there has not been more research to prove or disprove a similar finding in dogs or cats. After all, there are more than 10 million pets that have been chipped over the past fifteen years.

There have been several reported cases of dogs in which tumors were found to have, at their core, a microchip (and in one case, I believe, two microchips). This evidence, based on the geographic location of the microchip within tumor, is not without flaws. The tumors are located not only where microchips are placed but also where vets tend to give vaccines—between the shoulder blades. These growths may, in fact, be related to the already-researched vaccine-associated sarcomas (seen more often in cats, but also in dogs).

These vaccine-associated tumors are (linked with the irritation from the vaccine adjuvant, or other injected substances. An adjuvant is something that is injected with an antigen to strengthen how the immune system reacts to it.) A connection has already been made between the injection sites for vaccines and secondary inflammation and, finally, cancer growth secondary to the vaccine. It is difficult to sort out whether that may be involved in these microchip cases. It is possible that the tumor encompasses the microchip because of its location as it grows.

Tumors that have been found on dogs with microchips embedded in them include fibrosarcomas, hemangiosarcomas, and lymphomas. As far as I have read, none have been definitively linked to the microchip, but neither has the microchip been ruled out as a possible cause.

Most of the studies in rats and mice have shown low percentages of tumors that may be linked to microchips (about 1-4 percent, with the highest suggesting about 10 percent), but this potential risk is still worth taking seriously. In the handful of dog cases reported, the percentages aren't even close to these levels. They are, however, relevant and may possibly represent a larger problem. It is difficult to know how many cases go unreported due to lack of knowledge relating tumors to microchips. Perhaps such tumors are not implicated simply because microchips are believed to be biocompatible. But what proof do we have? [Continued on page 3]

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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De-Donating?

If this newsletter had a yellow label on its envelope, compliments of the post office, you are about to take money from Greyhounds Only. Because Greyhounds Only cares about all of its members and their dogs, we want to stay connected to you. But it's expensive for us when newsletters come back as undeliverable: extra envelopes, extra postage, and extra time to track you down. So if a yellow forwarding label got this newsletter to you or you are getting ready to move, PLEASE CONTACT US! Also, if you haven't had an e-mail from us in awhile, it's likely that we don't have a current, correct e-mail address for you—which means you are missing out on announcements of a wide array of events, since e-mail is often the quickest, least expensive way for us to contact our members. Please notify Joy at donjoyk@sbcglobal.net of any changes of address, e-mail, or telephone.

Editor's note: please see the enclosed insert this issues on The Skinny's going green.



Retire your knots!

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Chip off the Ol' Dog [Continued from page 2]

The real research is thin, but that may be changing. Microchip technology has also been considered for many human uses. Cancer rates and side effects from these microchips will become a hotter issue because of our own self-interest. Undoubtedly, more information will be forthcoming. Clearly it is needed. For now, I feel that the benefits of microchipping pets outweigh the risks.

Over 8,000 animals a year are returned home because of information from their microchips. I am not aware of any microchip tumor cases from my vet colleagues, or in my own fifteen years of practice, and I hope I never am. That said, I sincerely hope that the good news we hear about microchips is not silencing the data we need in order to make informed decisions for our pets.

Microchip Specifics

The microchip is similar to the magnetic strips or bar codes on every product sold in the market. The ID number and antenna for the chip are encased in a tiny glass capsule—about the size of a large grain of rice. The capsule is designed to be biocompatible and therefore, hopefully, circumvents most tissue reactions. The chip has no battery or energy source. Microchips operate on a radio frequency, and the code is read by a microchip scanner. It produces the information only when scanned with a scanner that operates on their frequency. Most scanners and chips are standardized in the United States. The owner's phone and address are found by calling the microchip company.

The microchip is injected deeply under the skin with a large needle. The needle poke is felt like any injection. With proper distraction (a really great meat treat), I have found that the very brief pain is well tolerated. It is important that animals get their microchip implanted by someone fully trained to do so. Issues of bleeding or other problems can occur if it is not placed properly.

The microchip can migrate (rarely) under the skin, but typically not far, and such migration, when it occurs, usually does not cause a problem. If it migrates too far, it may not be read by the scanner (which usually needs to be within a few inches of the microchip to find it) and

may need to be replaced. The operating life of a microchip is generally about twenty-five years and is usually guaranteed for the life of the pet.

Basics on the codes of the most commonly used microchips:

In the United States: Avid standard chips use nine-digit numbers, while Home Again and Avid EURO use ten-digit numbers, and they can all be scanned using equipment that operates on 125 or 128 kHz frequency.

Outside the United States: European Union countries use fifteen-digit chips that operate on 134.2 kHz (so for pets living or traveling to other countries a fifteen-digit chip should be used).

If you know of a microchipped pet who may have a tumor associated with their microchip, report it to Dr. Katherine Albrecht at www.anti-chips.com. This will help to document whether microchips are actually causing any harm to our pets.

Congratulations to Our New Adopters and Their Dogs

Reni and Matt Almond & Winnie
 Joyce and Michael Altman & Father
 DeAnna Arkinson & Beltway
 Jim Arnold and Annie Roca & Romeo
 DeAnne Ateca and Brian King & Tally
 Todd Atkens and Kathleen Naomi & Ruffels
 Kim and Clarence Atwood & Bamboozle
 Caroline Barnett & MiMi
 Kimberley and Allan Bassett & Beaver
 Mark and Debbie Baugus & Honey
 Mark Caughey and Kymberly Pinder & John
 Nisah and Rachel Cheatham & Gogo & Walt
 Carolyn Chilvers & Haggard
 Donald Clark & Poker
 Christopher and Lydia Cornve & Desi
 Rich and Elizabeth Czajkowskyj & Volcano
 Robert and Catherine Devlin & Sid
 Kimberly and Tim Dolecek & GoldBank
 Emmer and Willem Domerchie & Sass
 Chester and Vera Drzewiecki & Flyer
 Megan and Eric Ehn & Fresh
 Steve and Jackie Epstein & Cher
 Jey Flick & Gidget
 Joel and Kelly Forney & Mercedes
 Vicki Frederick & Tommy
 Sara and Shann Gallagher & Chopper
 Stephanie and Brian Gaudet & Goliath
 Paul Gizel & Stag
 MaryEllen and Patrick Greeley & Balance
 Linda Hermann & Paulita
 Marisol and James Izquierdo & Frontier
 Dawn and Jim Jacoby & Mickie
 Carole Jensen-Benedict & Sugar
 Farrah Kennedy and Alexander McDonald & Rubi

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These Greys Enjoy a Rock-Star Retirement

BY RACHEL SHINDELMAN

Being a greyhound has a lot in common with being an indie musician. We both play crappy venues; we run around in circles with little hope of financial gain, fame, or success; and eventually, we know we're gonna grow tired of the chase and have to find new meaning for our lives.

Adopting a greyhound definitely gave our lives new meaning. It got me thinking, were we the only ones? In search of the answer, I decided to put out an informal questionnaire to a couple of my fellow indie rockers/greyhound adopters. Below is what I learned.

First, the Participants

My husband, Nick Kraska, and I comprise the postpunk duo Post Honeymoon. As part of various bands, we've also toured the United States and Europe and put out several records and EPs.

Jay Ryan, thirty-seven, plays bass guitar in Dianogah and is the owner of the Bird Machine screen-print poster workshop. He's released four albums, toured throughout the United States and Europe, and is known around the world for his screen-printing and poster designs. He is also credited in several books featuring his work. Conan Neutron, thirty-two, fronts Victory and Associates (V&A) in Oakland, California. He has toured extensively and released four albums and five EPs over the years with noiserock band Replicator and classic-rock band Mount Vicious.

How'd you end up with a greyhound?

JAY: *My wife found Seth while I was on tour. When I returned, she took me to meet this dog, and we both fell in love. His foster family couldn't wait to get rid of him; his hobby was collecting shoes. He has never picked up a shoe in the eight years he's been with us.*

NICK: *I knew I wanted a larger dog, and there was something about greyhounds that was just very sleek and elegant from afar. I was also intrigued with their "double lives" as world-class athletes and loving pets; I felt a kinship with us musicians who have to balance our straight day jobs with our rock-band counterpart. After doing quite a bit of homework on the breed, we went to a meet-and-greet "strictly for information gathering"—and came home with Pike.*

CONAN: *I came into Science's life on a permanent basis well after he had been adopted. He'll be five in July. Which I guess makes me a greyhound stepfather?*

[Continued on page 5]

Congratulations to Our New Adopters [Continued from page 4]

Tom Kinser and Donna Gerren & Steel

Jennifer and Steve Kirkton & Sway

Gerry Kirschbaum & Ducky

Michelle and Dylan Kramer & Happy

Vickie Kurbuck & Angela

Brynn Marie Landwehr & Comanche

Todd and Jennifer Laughman & Wombat

Claudia and Austin Learners & Mona

Lawrence and Nancy Majka & Annie

Nicole Marroquin & Boss

Myles and Melinda Martin & BowWow

Richard and Audrey Murphy & Stella

James and Deborah Orth & Bones

Brad and Jessica Osborn & Mark

Laura Ozmun & Kato

Anna and Matthew Petersen & Fame

Joe Petrovich & Phil

Marc Pierotti and Roland Weis & Sarah

Gerard and Jeannie Radek & Bert

Chris Raguse and Donna Holdrege & Terri

Todd Rhoades and Kyle Heath & Iron

Tom Richardson and Kathy Schmidhein & Kato

Anton and Kun Rittling & Bandit

Heather Robison and Dave Edwards & Craigie

Holly Ruble and Bill Block & Clonie

James Ruda and Lynn Bierhaus & Dance

Steve Schiferl & Goliath

Larry and Cecily Smith & Justine

Peg and Ralph Snodgrass & Money

Kelly and Jon Speigel & David

Cindi and Joseph Stazzone & Rose

Erin and Carolyn Stein & Diva

Jenn Stencil & Ollie

Erin Stitzel and Larry Kohut & Puppet

Drew Surinsky and Anne Stein & Cal

Alida and Bob Troche & Sela

Nellie Viner & Quasar

Bill and Susan Waskiewicz & MoMoney

Carolyn and Chuck Willard & Cody

Jeremy Williams & Sky

Kit Woodward & Electric

Thomas and Cathy Zahumersky & Myth

These Greys Enjoy a Rock-Star Retirement [Continued from page 4]

Does having a greyhound cramp your rock-n-roll lifestyle?

JAY: *Not at all.*

CONAN: *I wouldn't say so. There is more to consider, such as how much time he's left alone at the apartment at a show and whatnot . . . mostly stuff that just goes with having pets in general. As supportive as Scisci is, I can't imagine he'd be too happy at a loud rock show. He doesn't even like it when cars honk their horns.*

Where does the dog stay when you go on tour?

JAY: *With my wife and our cats.*

RACHEL: *With my parents and his ten-pound, three-legged poodle-mix cousin, Mr. Charley. He even has his own tour blog.*

Has your greyhound inspired any of your band's music or artwork?

JAY: *I don't think Seth has had a direct influence on Dianogah's music, but the band Bellini, from Sicily, wrote a song about greyhounds after meeting Seth. Seth does show up in a lot of my poster work for other bands—he's always leading a throng of running animals or peeking out of a window. Actually, he appears on the back-cover illustration of the album "Excellent Italian Greyhound" by Shellac.*

NICK: *We frequently make up songs to sing to him on our morning walks together. One of the first we had etched into the lacquer of our last record. Side A is inscribed, "Who wants to go for a doggie walk?" Side B says, "Pike wants to go on a doggie walk!" Pike also appears on a Post Honeymoon T-shirt. (See below.)*

Do you find yourself writing songs for your hound?

CONAN: *I think it's pretty fair to say that our greyhound has songs sung to him constantly. I usually change the lyrics of songs to incorporate either his name or the words "grumble dog," since he has a tendency to grumble when disturbed in his sleep. There is a limerick-style song, which would have reached Joyce-style length by now if written down, that chronicles the adventures of grumble dog and what he both does and does not like.*



RACHEL: *Pike also has an epic-style song that is continually being improvised and improved upon during his morning walks. It's about sniffing, meeting friends, being happy, and making solid doggie poops.*

Does your hound like your band's music? What does he do when you practice?

CONAN: *Science pretty much has to be in the office/music room if there's music being made. Whether it's a V&A demo, some silly soundtracky-sounding spookiness, or trying to figure out the chords for a Tom Waits song, Science takes his position nearby on the futon. Anything recorded at home has his executive-producer credit.*

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Florida Greyhounds Find New Homes in the “Great White North”

BY JESSICA STANAWAY

(Top) Hoover relaxes in his new home. (Bottom) The Florida transplants (Hoover is second from left) and their rescuers (l to r): Debra Cox, Holly Henderson, and Krisitn Green.

Cutbacks don't just affect people; dogs are also losing their jobs. The Bonita/Fort Myers Greyhound Racing Track in Bonita Springs, Florida, has reduced its schedule to run only in the winter months. This change created a unique opportunity to bring five retired greyhounds to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. “The Sault” is a community of about 14,000 people, located at the north end of Interstate 75 on the Canadian border.



A Dedicated Trio

The project was masterminded by three devoted animal lovers: Holly Henderson, manager of the Chippewa County Animal Shelter; Kristin Green, human resources director for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and Debra Cox, an employee of the county shelter and a dog trainer.

All three women are members of a local animal welfare organization, Guardian Angels for Animals, which covered the cost of bringing the dogs to the Sault, and FOCAS (Friends of Caring Animal Shelters), which funded the spaying and neutering.

The group was aware of the need for homes for retired greyhounds but had never seen one as a pet until this past winter. While Cox was visiting her daughter in Florida, she met her “granddog,” a rescued female greyhound named Rolls. She was impressed by the sweet nature of the breed, and after meeting with the president of Homes for Happy Hounds, a greyhound rescue organization in Bonita Springs, Cox proposed the idea to Henderson and Green. The rescue project was begun.

In a stroke of luck, Cox met a Florida business owner who was traveling to Michigan and who offered to transport up to five dogs to Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. The three women equipped a cargo van with crates and transported the dogs from there the rest of the way up to the Sault on January 21.

We’re Not in Florida Anymore

“Fortunately, we had a very mild winter this year, but we still were concerned about the drastic change in temperature for the dogs,” Henderson said. Green noted that they had to improvise dog blankets—repurposed sweatshirts—to keep the greys warm.

Three of the dogs were only two years old: Gable Dodo, a male, and Gable Coanda and Gable Flamingo, both females. The four-year-old dogs were both males: Gable Hover and Boc’s Jungle Boy. They ranged in weight from about 60 to 87 pounds.

The dogs were spayed or neutered and given health checks shortly after they arrived. After their surgeries, the five dogs went directly to their foster homes in order to minimize stress. Because these dogs had never been in a home situation, it was important to place them with foster families, including some with children. The foster families were amazed at how calm the greys were in a new situation. For instance, they had to adapt to a change in diet, as they had been fed raw meat when they were racing.

“A Joy in My Life”

There was a great deal of interest generated by appearances on local radio shows and by featuring the dogs on Petfinder. Potential adopters were well screened to ensure that these rescued dogs were placed in the best possible homes.

Marlin Nealen, a dental hygienist, is the proud owner of Hoover, the largest of the five dogs. Having owned only two dogs in the past, Nealen said that after seeing what a great dog Hoover is, he wishes that he’d been able to adopt a greyhound sooner.

“I had been thinking about getting a dog because my daughter was moving out to be on her own and was taking her dog. My daughter actually got Hoover for me, because she didn’t want me to be lonely,” Nealen explained. (Nealen has known Debra Cox for many years, so he passed the adopter screening by proxy.)

“The foster family had adjusted the dog’s name from Gable Hover to Hoover, and it seemed to fit him, so it stayed,” explained Nealen. “Plus I thought this boy had gone through enough change in his life without confusing him with a new name.”



Nealen’s experience with Hoover reinforces what other owners say about their greys. One of the biggest pleasures for Nealen is walking for an hour each night after work. He noted that Hoover walks on a leash “like a little soldier” and never pulls. “Hoover has barked only twice,” Nealen said, “once to get my attention, and once because I stepped on his tail.”

Hoover likes to play with Gracie, Nealen’s daughter’s dog, and is good with other dogs and cats. Although Hoover was kenneled in his racing life, Nealen is able to leave him loose in the house all day, without any worry about housebreaking accidents or chewing. People frequently stop to ask about Hoover when the two of them are out walking. Most people know that Hoover is a greyhound, but some mistake him for a Great Dane. Nealen noted that Hoover is always willing to be petted by strangers or to have his picture taken. One couple stopped their car and got out to talk with Nealen because they had two rescued greyhounds themselves. “Hoover is just a joy in my life, and it brightens my day to come home to such a loving dog,” said Nealen.

The other rescued greyhounds were adopted by people in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and in Traverse City, Michigan, as well as two more in Sault.

Weight for It . . .

BY BARBARA KARANT

The “weight” is that of the Purina chow your hound eats—or, more specifically, actually the seal that designates what the weight is—and the “it” is money for Greyhounds Only. “Say what?” you say. Well, here’s the deal: weight seals on certain bags of Purina foods can be redeemed by GO for vet checks we can send to Westosha and pay for medical procedures needed by greyhounds waiting to be adopted. Weight seals can be found on the upper right-hand side of the bag as you look at the back of the bag; please do *not* clip and send the UPC code.

Any of the following products qualify for this weight seal program:

Purina Brand Performance Formula

(12 points per pound)

Pro Plan Brand Formulas

(any flavor, 11 points per pound)

Purina O.N.E. Brand Dog Food

(11 points per pound)

Other Purina Participating Dog Foods

(8 points per pound; Purina has not been specific as to the brands)

Unfortunately they do not yet honor the wet food labels.

If your dog eats another food brand, ask other family members, friends, and coworkers to save their weight seals. Many people use Purina brand foods, and

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This issue, we asked you to tell us what your dog’s favorite or least favorite season or holiday is.

Cubs Win!

Kiba loves baseball season. He gets a treat for every home run the Cubs hit and every game they win. Just saying the words “Home run, Cubs!” makes him jump up and start the helicopter tail! He just wishes the postseason would last a little bit longer. . . . Next year is here, Kiba!

Jim and Bridgett Payseur

It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like . . .

It is Christmas—Oh, I’m Colby Schlentner, I’m a twelve-year-old brindle boy that belongs to Dave and Chris. We’ve had, over the years, numerous week-long greyhound visitors, all named Foster—why all the same name? Anyhow. . . Christmas is a special time for me. The house gets a fancy tree, which I am warned not to water. Under the tree, packages are placed that smell like my cookies and others that jingle and squeak. The best part is Christmas

Eve when my younger sister Freedom and I get to open all our gifts and the paper gets wadded up and thrown in the air so we can jump, rip, and tear—the place ends up a real mess for a moment or two, but, in her customary fashion, Chris picks it all up.

Dave and Chris Schlechter

I don’t know if Annie has a favorite holiday, but she seems to know when it is Christmas. That is when she finds her Christmas stuffed toys. Out come the stuffed wreath and the Christmas reindeer—and not just any reindeer (she has two)—but the one in the Christmas fabric.

Nancy Genson

Our greyhound boy Joey’s favorite holiday is, without a doubt, Christmas. This is because he has a carb obsession (who

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Greyhounds are notoriously adaptable—but not always without some coaxing. If you’ve ever had to entice, trick, or otherwise coax your greyhound into doing something he or she wasn’t eager to do, tell us about your ingenious method in a few sentences and send via e-mail message (yvonne.zipter@gmail.com) or 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 relevant to the topic and for which we have room. The deadline is August 6.

Who's Your Doggie [Continued from page 8]

among us doesn't though?), and all the baking makes him wild for the smell of cookies and bread. We learned a valuable lesson about this when once a freshly baked loaf of gingerbread was left cooling on the counter and the entire loaf somehow ended up on the floor and in his tummy—all within one minute flat.

Pauline and Doug Woodson

Sundae loves Halloween and Christmas! She loves getting dressed up, and this year . . . she was a squirrel! She also loves running in the Christmas snow and getting new collars and toys from Santa.

Lisa Grublesky

A Little Flaky

We adopted Tyville Sting in January from GO, and we really think that he must have been a Siberian Husky in his former life. He loves to play in the snow and he'd prefer to be out without a coat while he's playing. The deeper the snow, the harder he romps! Don't get me wrong, he's been very happy that the weather is nice and he can be

Napa, the snow-eating dog

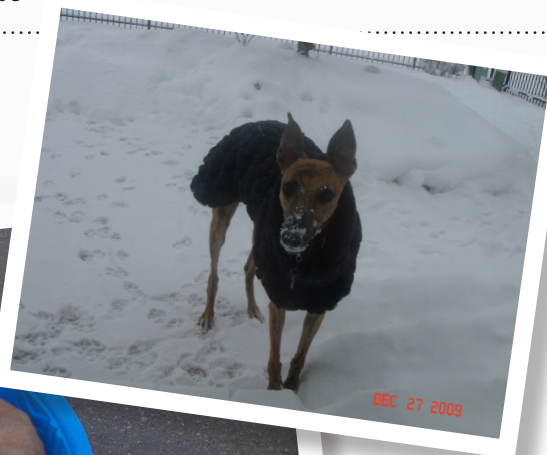
outside in the backyard longer now, but he likes to lie down in the snow just as well. Since he's mostly white, he's really hard to see in the snow!

Sara and Lou Branch

Franny is a snow-puppy! She joined my family during the summer and enjoyed our walks and visits to the dog park. As winter approached, I stocked up on a fleece-lined coat, hoodie, and booties. After the first snowfall, I bundled both of us up and cautiously led Franny outside. She kicked off the booties and scampered in the snow with bright eyes and ears and tail up. What a surprise and what a delight! It's a few years later and now both Franny and her Jack Russell sister Megan have fun in the snow, and I'm the only one wearing boots.

Susan Robbins

This past winter we nicknamed our dog, "Napa, the snow-eating dog." She loves eating snow, digging in the snow, and catching snowflakes on her tongue!



Beach bunny Kemo

Ironically she is from a track in Naples, Florida.

Michael and Leslie Kuchyt

Let's Just Celebrate Quietly . . .

Cents, our brindle girl who just turned eight, hates the Fourth of July and the weeks leading up to and post. Inconsiderate neighbors and children setting off illegal fireworks and those damned poppers that they throw on the sidewalk and make a popping sound just drive poor Cents through the roof. Panting, pacing—she just doesn't know what's up. She gets a little worked up over thunderstorms but nothing compared to the dreaded firecracker!

Tom Potter

My heart dog Bushey (RIP at the age of 13.5) was thunderphobic. So his least favorite holiday was the Fourth of July. He would jump on the bed, and it felt like a cheap motel with the vibrating bed, no quarters added.

Denise Netzel

Their worst holiday is the Fourth of July. Haley needs at least one tranquilizer, Smoke thinks his bark will scare the noise away, Buddy just wants you to be right next to him telling him it's okay, and Maggie tries to find a place to lie down and figure out what is wrong with the other three.

Diane Keith

The worst holiday for my gentleman, Jack, is Independence Day. The few days prior, when the neighborhood seems to be experimenting with their fireworks, are almost as bad as the actual day. Poor Jack can hardly withstand the noise, despite the closed windows, central air, fans, and the stereo/TV for distraction.

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Hound Sightings

BY HEDDA HOUND



Poster for Greyhounds in Gettysburg

When the collectors on the show *American Pickers* on the History Channel made a connection between cars and the greyhound logos on signs reading “Citizen 77,” Hedda was delighted. After all, car travel was still an elegant endeavor in the early 1950s. However, Hedda was more than a little miffed when she heard the signs were probably for old gasoline stations. Any greyhound with an ounce of dignity will tell you that *gas* is a sensitive issue with them.

While watching *Good Eats* on the Food Network, Hedda expects to be beguiled by something edible and not by the sight of a fellow hound. But that’s just what happened recently when a PetsMart commercial airing during the show featured a beautiful fawn and white greyhound. Now that’s a delicious dish!

Hedda will admit that she was initially jealous of Abe—a “mature” grey who deals with osteoarthritis and helps his person cope with her arthritis—for being on the cover of the May/June issue of *Arthritis Today*, because as any supermodel will tell you, a cover is a cover. But then she imagined that Abe—surely both beautiful and a comedian, like most greyhounds—would paraphrase Jack Benny: “I may not deserve this cover, but I have arthritis and I don’t deserve that either.”

And putting the “run” in runway, a certain breed of canines were the stars of the March 4 Compassion Is in Fashion event at the Liberty Hotel in Boston, where fashionistas were introduced to their canine counterparts, the greyhound. Hedda was nosed out on the story by both the *Boston Business Journal* and the *Boston Herald*, but couldn’t be happier to have this story picked up by multiple media outlets.

Saint Cheeto? Hedda knows that while Cheeto and Oliver aren’t saints—like Guinefort, the thirteenth-century greyhound who was made a saint—they are saintly for their roles as blood donors. In the May 2, *Chicago Tribune* article “Saving Lives in a Pinch,” both greyhounds were featured in photographs alongside the story of the development of canine blood banks. The article also detailed why greyhounds make such great blood donors.

Hedda isn’t sure whether the twelfth annual Greyhounds in Gettysburg event this past April can compete with the annual Greyhounds Reach the Beach gathering in Delaware each fall, but she feels quite certain that the Gettysburg greyhounds edge out the Beach hounds in terms of event imagery, as the photo at left confirms.

[Continued on page 14]

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AROUND TOWN WITH GREYHOUNDS ONLY

Second Annual Hearts and Hounds Valentines Day Gathering

BY LAURA REYNOLDS ANDERSON

On Saturday, February 13, greyhounds and their guardians gathered for an evening of food, drink, prizes, and overall good Valentine's Day fun to raise money for the hounds of Greyhounds Only. The folks at Chicago Canine Club in Burr Ridge graciously supplied their space for the event, and a wonderful space it is. Conveniently located right off the expressway, the new facility was bright and clean with outstanding staff to help us with our every need.

(Top Right) While their people enjoyed delicious foods, pups paraded their finery or frolicked in the play space. (Right) What a blast, taking my human out on the town.

(Below) Guests peruse the 50+ auction items, which were had for a steal.



Just under one hundred people, and about half as many dogs, enjoyed the festivities. Guests purchased raffle tickets for a greyhound sculpture and perused the silent auction table for amazing deals on golf outings, dog-care items, gift cards, overflowing gift baskets, jewelry, massages, and much more. Five courses of delectable edibles were served by our amazing GO volunteers. Delicious foods, both savory and sweet, could be sampled throughout the evening, which allowed people to munch while not worrying about their hands being too full to handle their dogs. Our charismatic bartender kept guests refreshed with a wide range of wine and drinks, all amid the backdrop of an amazing five-piece jazz band.

It was a night to remember, and an excellent reflection of the passion and dedication we all share for our magnificent greyhounds.

Who's Your Doggie [Continued from page 9]

The two girls, Bessie and Critter, couldn't care less but lie next to him as a support team.

Michael and Leslie Kuchyt

I Tell You It's Frightening

Tulia's least favorite season is spring storms. Lucky for her, we maintain a supply of Xanax so she can get through it.

Catalina Salley

(Non)Discriminating Tastes

Luna's favorite holiday is every weekday. She has her daily plan all organized. Luckily, I adopted a pet who pushes me out of the house so I get to work on time. She does this because she gets a Kong with peanut butter in it. If I am running late, she trails me around the house until I give her the Kong and leave the house. The look of intent on her little face makes me laugh because she is so serious and determined to get her treat. Every day it is the

[Continued on page 13]

AROUND TOWN WITH GREYHOUNDS ONLY

Food Days, Garage Sale, and Corporate Pet Adoption Days

BY MIKE HARVEY, ARLENE HARVEY, AND RICH KUBISZEWSKI

Recent events that Arlene and Mike Harvey and Rich Kubiszewski have been working on include:

Food Day to Benefit the Greyhounds (March 14, 2010)

On March 14, the three of us hosted a food day at Village Tavern in Schaumburg. The event ran the entire day, and Village Tavern donated 20 percent of each food order to GO. We had approximately forty couples participating and raised more than \$500.

Garage Sale to Benefit the Greyhounds (May 20–21, 2010)

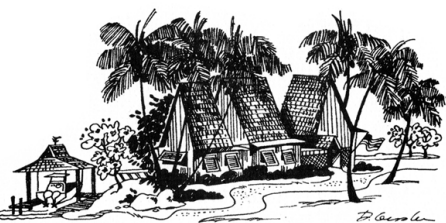
On May 20–21, the three of us facilitated a garage sale in Hoffman Estates to benefit the greyhounds. This was the first event of its kind in Hoffman Estates. We sent out hundreds of flyers to family, friends, and neighborhood residents. We also promoted the event through local newspapers, flyers in store windows, and via GO meet and greets and the GO website. In addition, there were a number of hounds at the event so people could learn about greyhounds and get up-close and personal. (See the accompanying account of this event on page 14.) [Continued on page 15]



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Who's Your Doggie [Continued from page 12]

same. I do not even need a clock because she knows when to start harassing me for her peanut butter ration!

Grace Faoro

Larry's favorite season is definitely breakfast and dinner.

Catalina Salley

Grayson seems to love all the holidays. Her family is big on celebrating the large and small holidays, and she loves to dress up and pose for photos and also loves to open presents! Most recently, she participated in a dog Easter egg hunt, complete with a photo with a large bunny, and on the day of this writing, Cinco de Mayo, she will be sporting a festive south-of-the-border outfit!

Carrie Nutter-Novak

Hot Town, Summer in the City

Ross does not appear to like the summer months. He drags along on his walks and acts as if every step costs him a Herculean effort. He pants pathetically. I get all upset, thinking he's getting so old (age eight). By the time we get all the way around the block, I'm practically in tears at the thought of losing him. Then we come inside, he has a drink of water, and starts spinning around in one direction, then the other, then jumping on and off the bed over and over, throwing his toys all over the place, running in circles around the dining room table, skidding to a stop, looking wildly around, and starting the whole thing over again. So I guess he still has a little energy left after all, eh?

Jill Horwich

Kemo's favorite season is summer. While at daycare, he loves to alternate between taking naps in the kiddie pool and taking naps in the sun to dry out. He also loves going to the dog beach.

Rita Nanda

AROUND TOWN WITH GREYHOUNDS ONLY

Greyhound Health and Wellness Seminar

BY JAN SMART

Education has been one of the founding tenets of the Greyhound Alliance, providing training and understanding to greyhound adopters and caregivers. We are proud to announce that we are sponsoring the seminar Greyhound Health and Wellness on Saturday, August 14, 2010, featuring C. Guillermo Cuoto, DVM, from the Ohio State University.

Dr. Cuoto is professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Comprehensive Cancer Center, and chief of the Oncology/Hematology Service. Dr. Cuoto will present valuable medical and surgical information for greyhound adopters and for veterinarians involved in the care of greyhounds. Topics will include idiosyncrasies in greyhound lab work and imaging (X-rays and ultrasound), anesthesia, and bone cancer as well as the services available through the Ohio State Health and Wellness Program.

Mark your calendars and make your reservations!

August 14, 2010
1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Lincoln Center
935 Maple
Downers Grove, IL
Cost: \$35 per person

For information, contact Jan Smart at jan@greyhoundalliance.org.

OSU (Ohio State University) Greyhound Health and Wellness Program (GHWP) is primarily an outreach and teaching effort that incorporates basic elements of shelter medicine, including free consultation for greyhound owners and veterinarians, a website with current greyhound health information, a listserv for veterinarians for retired racers, and an annual scientific conference in this area, educational programs, free chemotherapy for retired racers with cancer (if interested, e-mail us at greyosu@osu.edu), and financial assistance (through development funds and research grants) for greyhound medical and surgical care at the OSU VTH.

AROUND TOWN WITH GREYHOUNDS ONLY

Garage Sale to Benefit the Greyhounds

BY MIKE HARVEY

On May 21–22, 2010, Greyhounds Only volunteers Rich Kubiszewski, Arlene Harvey, and myself hosted the first Hoffman Estates Garage Sale to benefit the greyhounds. The goal of the sale was to raise money and, more important, to promote the Greyhounds Only organization and provide a venue in which people could come out and meet the hounds. About four or five weeks prior to the sale, we solicited items for donation from Greyhounds Only members and supporters of Hadley School for the Blind, as well as from friends, family, and the local community. Many thanks to Rich Kubiszewski, who made countless trips to pick up items and deliver them to Hoffman Estates, where Arlene and I then organized, priced, and prepared the items for the tables.

On the day of the event, the following hounds were there to represent GO: Sounder, Lady, Bob, HeMan, and Bandit. Through posters, e-mails, community signs, newspaper advertising, and support of the local community/businesses, we had a phenomenal turnout. Hundreds of shoppers/visitors came out to meet the hounds and show their support. We brought in over \$1,300.00 in sales, as well as a dedicated couple looking to adopt a GO hound. (Great news!) Many families brought their children to meet the hounds up close. Our volunteer hounds took turns switching on the charm and giving hugs and kisses to everyone. Many people there had never touched or been close to a greyhound before. They took brochures and looked through the book of adoptable hounds.

This first greyhounds' garage sale in Hoffman Estates was a huge success, and we hope to do this again next year on a larger and more profitable scale. We want to thank all of the Greyhounds Only and Hadley School for the Blind members that donated the hundreds of items for the sale. In addition, we are grateful to the families in Hoffman Estates who not only donated items but also helped us spread the news about the sale and hand out flyers. Rich, Arlene, and I are committed to getting the word out about greyhounds so that our kennel hounds can eventually find permanent/loving homes.

Hound Sightings [Continued on page 10]

When the subject of dogs on a hunt comes up, Hedda, being the blue-blood that she is, imagines a genteel romp in the woods followed by tea and biscuits. So when she saw the *New York Times* article, on April 26, "Coyote vs. Greyhound: The Battle Lines Are Drawn," she was more than a little horrified to read about greyhounds in Oklahoma being bred to chase down coyotes "for sport"—and running into barbed wire and other obstacles in the process. Hedda will admit to succumbing to youthful indiscretions concerning raising the heart rate of a rabbit or two in her day, but was glad to see Cynthia Branigan suggest, in her letter to the sports editor about this article, that of the alternatives available today to the breed's hunting origins, "Life as a pet is perhaps the most humane alternative of all."

If you, like Hedda, have had enough snarky comments about "bad greyhound teeth" to last the lifetime of this breed, you'll be as delighted as she was to learn that Comet, a retired racer, won Petrodex toothpaste's Superstar Smiles Photo Contest, beating out nearly 2,000 other dogs. And he didn't need to have human teeth Photoshopped in, like those creepy dogs on the Dentabone TV commercials—those pearly whites are all his own!

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Food Days, Garage Sale, and Corporate pet Adoption Days [

Continued from page 12]

Corporate Sears Pet Adoption Day (June 2010)

Last year, Mike and Arlene Harvey were able to secure a place for Greyhounds Only at the Sears Pet Adoption Day at its corporate headquarters in Hoffman Estates. This was the first time that greyhounds were spotlighted at the facility. Sears and Pedigree were so impressed with Rich and the hounds that Sears/Pedigree donated \$2,800 to GO. Wow! Now, Arlene is working with Sears again to reserve a space at this event for GO and the hounds. Although an actual date has not yet been published, we believe it will be in June. Rich and Mike will be staffing the GO booth and will be bringing our greyhounds, Lady, Sounder, Bob, and HeMan.

Another Food Day Scheduled

GO has decided to combine all food days into one event. Once the dates for this event are announced, Rich, Arlene, and Mike will once again work with Village Tavern in Schaumburg to gain their participation.

Weight For It... [Continued from page 8]

once they hear about our participation in the program they are happy to save weight circles to help the hounds.

Put a jar out to collect the weight seals at your office, your child's school, or even at your vet if they'll allow it. It is a great way to help the dogs with little effort.

So gather up your weight seals, put them in an envelope, and mail them to Barbara Karant (1748 W. Cortland, Chicago, IL 60622) or to Yvonna Mills (229 North Avenue, Antioch, IL 60002). And thanks for your participation in this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara at bkarant@interaccess.com.

AROUND TOWN WITH GREYHOUNDS ONLY

New Ideas for Greyhounds Only

BY LARRY MEINERS

Here are some ideas I am interested in:

1. Meet and greet at Bash on Wabash, presented by the Greater South Loop Association. The South Loop's premier outdoor event marks its sixth year by celebrating the cultural diversity of Chicago's fastest-growing community this Labor Day weekend, September 4–5. The Bash on Wabash—Sweet Corn, Chicago, is located in the heart of the south loop on Wabash Avenue between 13th Street and 14th Place. The Bash on Wabash promises to be an unforgettable experience. 11:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.
 2. A golf outing for GO. This would probably occur on a Saturday in August.
 3. A Musician's Flea Market for GO, with booth and entry fees (minus location costs) donated to GO. This is a collectors' and musicians' market to buy and trade musical instruments and services. One day only on a Sunday. Looking for a convenient location with free parking and exhibitor tables. Targeting August 15 or 22.
- Anyone interested in sharing ideas regarding these proposed events or interested in attending the golf outing, please e-mail me at lameiners@aol.com so I can gauge interest. Thank you.

These Greys Enjoy a Rock-Star Retirement

[Continued from page 5]

NICK: *Pike's a great companion in the studio. We've found he loves mixing and hanging out in the control room. But he's not so fond of tracking or when we practice and it's loud. He's pretty content to ignore us!*

If your grey were a rock musician, who would he be?

JAY: *Ringo.*

CONAN: *David Bowie. Very sleek, Ziggy-style makeup and eyeliner. And much like in the movie Labyrinth, visible package.*

NICK: *[Solo artist] John Vanderslice. They're both the warmest, most earnest personalities you'll ever meet.*

To find out more about the artistic endeavors of these musicians, please consult the following websites: for Jay Ryan, <http://www.dianogah.com/> and <http://www.thebirdmachine.com/>; for Conan Neutron, <http://www.victoryandassociates.net/>; and for Rachel Shindelman and Nick Kraska, <http://posthoneymoon.com/>.



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AROUND TOWN WITH GREYHOUNDS ONLY

Rich Kubiszewski Honored at Luncheon for Hadley School for the Blind

BY MIKE HARVEY

Last year, Greyhounds Only hounds and guardians participated in the third annual Hounds for Hadley event, for which I sponsored the entry fees." It was a super success, and all of Hadley and many of the residents in Winnetka, Evanston, and surrounding areas are still talking about the greyhounds and the GO booth at the event. In addition, Rich, along with other GO participants, collected pledges totaling \$1,500.00—a fantastic effort! A lot of the work is attributed to Rich himself—and because of this, Rich was honored at our May 6 Volunteer Lunch. Each year, Hadley recognizes those individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to promote/support Hadley's mission. Only a handful of individuals earn this honor and recognition. This is a great achievement, and I hope that Hadley and GO can continue with what seems to be a beneficial partnership to spread the word about two very worthwhile nonprofits.

AROUND TOWN WITH GREYHOUNDS ONLY

Upcoming Irish Eyes Guest Bartending Event

BY CARRIE NUTTER-NOVAK

Save the date of Thursday, September 30, 2010, for the annual Irish Eyes Guest Bartending Event. This fundraiser is an opportunity for volunteers to act as guest bartenders and raise gratuities for GO. The event will take place in the evening at Irish Eyes, an Irish pub in the Lincoln Park area. More information will follow. In the meantime, please contact Carrie with questions or to express interest in volunteering: codycheq@aol.com.

Have an event you facilitated, an upcoming event you wish to promote, or an event idea for Greyhounds Only? Please submit submissions to Carrie at codycheq@aol.com. The deadline for the next issue will be August 1. Thank you.