

The Home Stretch

July 2004

Volume 9, Issue 4

Thanks for Greyfest 2004!

Kim Hrabe, President

I want to thank everyone for making the 2004 Greyfest another huge success! We had over 300 people attend this year's event! As most of you know Greyfest is our largest fundraising event of the year. The money raised is used to help the hounds in many ways, including fixing broken legs, spaying/neutering, dentals, vaccinations, providing collars, leashes, and muzzles to all new adopters and more. Because of your generosity we can continue our efforts to provide loving foster and forever homes for the hounds that we all love so much. It is the people who make the difference. People like you!

I want to thank all of our Board members, the Ruohomaki Family and Marty Ohana for coordinating another wonderful Greyfest. For the fifth year in a row Theresa and Mark Ruohomaki and their children took time out of their busy lives to set all of this up. It is a daunting task, from securing the date to tear down and clean up after the event. Without their help, none of this would have been possible. This year Marty Ohana was involved in the whole process from beginning to end. He has been invaluable to us in his efforts to make this year's event as successful as it was. They also lovingly pack each basket, receive each gift certificate and order, pick-up, and display every item that we raffle off at the end of the day. Teri Petrin and Sylvia Kresal arranged the attendance of all of our fantastic vendors. They spent many long hours on the phone and writing cards/letters to bring them here. Jen Jett coordinated all of the volunteers for Greyfest. She took time out from her Secretary and Adoption Representative duties to make all of the assignments and to be here to make sure everyone knew where they needed to be and

(Continued on page 5)



Read about all the fun at this year's Greyfest on page 4.

Inside this issue:

Ask Tilly, Chuck & Sometimes Dewey 3

Fun at the Fest 4

Meet & Greets and Other Events 6

Adoptions and Anniversaries 7

Volunteer Highlights

Jennifer Jett

Canine Carnival A Howlin' Good Time!

On May 22 GPA volunteers and their hounds endured rain and wind to support the Wildlife Science Center's Canine Carnival. The Canine Carnival raised funds for the wildlife sanctuary. Housed at the Center were plenty of wolves, raccoons, skunks, and various wild birds. The event drew a decent crowd despite the weather and we spoke to many people about what wonderful companions greyhounds make.

The hounds left quite an impression on the crowd themselves. First, Tipper decided to dispel the myth that greyhounds don't bark. During the boarder collie demonstration of herding ducks, Tip got quite vocal. You can imagine him yelling to the collies, "run, run, run – those ducks are obviously slow enough to catch!" Then the hounds momentarily stole the show during the wolf howl. One of the Center volunteers quieted the crowd and began howling to the wolves. Instantly, all the hounds stood, threw their heads back, and

(Continued on page 2)

The Home Stretch

GPA—Minnesota's Mission Statement

Greyhound Pets of America—Minnesota is the Minnesota chapter of a national non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to finding loving, responsible homes for retired racing greyhounds and also younger greyhounds that haven't been successful at the various tracks throughout the country. We also take great pride in educating the public that retired racers make excellent, loving pets.

The Home Stretch is the monthly publication of the Minnesota Chapter of Greyhound Pets of America. Entire contents are Copyright © 2004 Greyhound Pets of America—Minnesota. Reproduction or quotation strictly prohibited without written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. GPA-MN reserves the right to edit or withhold all articles or advertisements submitted for publication. GPA-MN does not necessarily endorse any product advertised in this newsletter

Any questions concerning content or distribution should be directed to Brian Jett at:

Newsletter@gpa.mn.org

Or mail to:

GPA-MN Newsletter
P.O. Box 49183
Minneapolis, MN 55449

(Continued from page 1)

began howling – not rooing! They howled for a good minute or more before the wolves decided some skinny dogs wouldn't outdo them. All the wolves began howling – it was truly a hair-raising experience to be surrounded by the sound of howling wolves. After the howl, several people including Center staff came by to visit the hounds and discuss the hounds' interesting reaction. One man who was standing by the German Shepherds said that "those shepherds looked down right scared when those greyhounds got going!" Yes, the hounds never disappoint when they make an appearance.

I want to express my gratitude to the following volunteers for bringing their dogs and sticking with it despite the weather: Pat Walsh (Mango & Summit), Aimee Finley (Tipper & Sissy), Bob & Lonni Skrentner (Coop), Robin Schaper (Pearl & Carie), and Shannon Sills (Darwin)!

Festival volunteers: You make it happen year after year!

Whether you call it the Picnic, the Festival, or Greyfest, it's a lot of fun and a ton of work to make it come together! Planning begins six months before the event with coordinating vendors, lining up the foods, tents, tables, and of course, all those wonderful raffle prizes. It's GPA's biggest fund-raiser of the year. Money raised allows the organization to continue its' mission of finding loving and responsible homes for retired racers.

Of course, all the planning and coordinating of the festival would be for naught without the many volunteers who step up to the plate and devote some of their time at the event to help out. From set-up to clean-up, there is a small army of volunteers who make sure everyone has an enjoyable day. I want to thank them for being flexible, understanding, and generous with their time! Thank you for making Greyfest a success again this year!

Up-coming volunteer opportunities: Mark you calendars!

We rely on volunteers to help spread the word about greyhounds and greyhound adoption. We generate a large number of applications from participating in events like the State Fair and dog shows. Please remember that if you volunteer, we have a few expectations of you to make the event successful.

- Arrive on time.
- Make sure your replacements arrive and understand the procedures.
- Stay in the booth until your shift ends. No one minds holding your dogs while you take a potty break; people do mind if you're off shopping and they're left holding your dogs!
- Provide accurate information – if you don't know something, ask the shift leader or take the person's contact information and tell them someone will get back to them.
- Remember, GPA IS RACING NEUTRAL! Regardless of your personal feelings, you are representing GPA and must avoid discussing the racing industry. Focus conversations on the dogs.
- Bring needed supplies based on the event (pad for dog, chair, etc.) and wear GPA or greyhound apparel.
- Be aware of your dog and your dog's needs. Be mindful of inconsiderate owners that may allow their dog to bother yours or vice versa. Also, be aware of your dog's temperament and health – if your dog is feeling well or having a bad day make arrangements for your dog so that he/she is healthy and happy.
- Have fun!

Dear Tilly, Chuck & Sometimes Dewey

I'm pretty well adjusted and, well, if I do say so myself, quite handsome and pretty much perfect, but I DO have a question about one of my brothers.

He's obviously not a greyhound and at first I thought he was a 50-lb. rabbit, but he barks, so I figured out he's probably not a rabbit. He has really curly white hair and a short tail with a POM-POM of all things, so you can see how one would mistake him for a rabbit. He also goes to a beauty salon to have his hair done and sleeps on a PINK pillow. I think he's called a "standing puddle" or something like that. So, if he's really a boy, why does he wear such a girly hairstyle and do other girly things like getting his hair done at a salon? Is this a long-term side effect from being neutered?

Your former foster brother,

Cisco (fka: Lou)

Tilly: Hi Cisco, long time no hear from. Well, I agree that it's probably not a 50-lb. rabbit (wow, that would be snacks for a month). Are you sure he's a "standing puddle"? If he isn't smart enough to get out of a puddle, then that might explain his other behavior. Chuck: Are you sure he isn't a "French puddle"? THAT would explain everything. I mean, have you ever watched those French fashion shows that Dad sometimes watches late at night on TV? Those people could con anyone into wearing or looking like anything! Your brother probably thinks it's cool to look like he does. Dewey: Cisco, a word of advice – don't try to tell your brother what he really looks like, he'd only get angry with you. The French have their own way of looking at things. Why, I remember talking to other French puddles and to hear them talk, every one of them was in the Resistance in WWII. Tilly: Dewey! You may be old, but not that old. Dewey: Well, maybe it was something I saw on the History Channel during that last thunderstorm that Dad

left the TV on all night so Chuck wouldn't be so scared. Tilly: Anyway, Cisco, I think you should just let your brother be as long as your mom and dad don't try to take you to the beauty salon.

Dear Tilly, Chuck & Sometimes Dewey

My mom never lets me use the TV remote. When I'm home alone, she may turn on Animal Planet for me, but she hides the remote. Even though I like some of the shows on Animal Planet, I don't think she understands that I'm far too intelligent to enjoy "America's Funniest Animals" and I would occasionally like to change the channel and watch a movie on HBO or find out the latest in doggy fashion on the Style channel. Please help me – How can I get my mom to let me keep the TV remote in my kennel?

Zoe

Tilly: Well, Zoe, perhaps she's worried that you'll want to go to a beauty salon and have your tail done into a POM-POM after watching the Style channel (see the above letter). On the other hand, maybe she's just worried that you'll order some x-rated movie from Pay-Per-View. Chuck: I would never do anything like that! I'm completely trustworthy. Dewey: Trustworthy my long nose, Chuck. You're just not smart enough to know how to use a remote. Tilly: Boys, boys, break it up! Zoe, I think for now you'd best just try to convince your mom to let you watch HBO and the Style channel with her. Besides, those little remote buttons are a bear to use.

Keep those cards and e-mails coming

Ask Tilly, Chuck & Sometimes Dewey

5401 James Avenue South Minneapolis,
MN 55419
E-mail: nkresal@mn.rr.com

GreyFest 2004 Facts

Registered Attendance:

278 people
179 dogs

Speed Alley:

Josie—2.53 seconds
Gracie—3.00 seconds
Deal—3.38 seconds

Funniest Run:

Nina—19.81 seconds

Oldest Hound

Jessica
Maggie
Debbie

Youngest Hound

Nina
Cookie
Passion

Best Costume

Hollie
Steely
Dillenger

Best Trick on Lead

Dillenger
Sporty
Sparks

Longest Hound

Ludwig—68.75 inches
Gladiator—68.25 inches

Most Spots

Lexie
Kramer
Nacho Bean

The Home Stretch

And the Winner Was . . .

Congratulations to all our winners and a big thank you to everyone who participated in our contests and raffle!

Pat Walsh won the Benda Photography package.

Teri Petrin won the Fast Jack Basket.

Luanna Ball took home the Wine Tour.

And last, but not least, the coveted Sandicast went to Barb Ball — although rumor has it that it's been spotted on Luana's deck!



But fear not! GPA-MN will be raffling another Sandicast at the Membership Appreciation Meeting on October 3, 2004. Mark your calendars!!



Fun at the Fest!

Daphne Mae (with a little help from Samantha Stiles)

Saturday, June 5 was one of my favorite days on the Greyhound Calendar. Since coming to live with my mom, I have been to 5 Greyfests and every year it gets better and better.

We had some new contests this year and I wish I could get mom to remember to bring along a costume for me! She has managed to forget this for at least two years now. I wanted to get all done up -- mom says I look extra-cute in my costume and I am inclined to agree with her!

Mom and I shopped for a new velvet collar and leash, but alas. There were no dark purple ones—the color that looks best on me. Her favorite stop is Fast Jack's and she says now she has a greyhound t-shirts in every color of the rainbow. As usual, mom bought a ton of raffle tickets and I know she tried to win me stuff. Though I didn't win anything, mom won the one thing she wanted more than anything else—an absolutely gorgeous quilt (made by Aunt Sylvia) - she hooted and hollered up a storm when she won it! I did see her stuff about thirty tickets into the box.

I got some good eats too; treats from PETCO (one of my favorite stores!) and a delicious hot dog. Most fun of all were all the tushies I got to sniff. I got to hang with TJ, my old foster-sister and that was a lot of fun. And I saw Bella, who I had to teach about retirement when she stayed with me and mom.

Since I had such a long day, I slept the whole ride home and Mom had to wake me when we got there. I was so exhausted I could hardly eat my dinner! But as I dozed off to sleep that night I started dreaming of Greyfest 2005. I can hardly wait!!!

Ann Moe and Angie

This was our first GreyFest and I just wanted to say how wonderful it was. I have had my first greyhound, Angie, for 3 months now and both she and I had a great time! The collars from Silk Road were very beautiful! It was also wonderful to see PETCO there for all the help they give GPA.

We really liked the collars for Silk Road—they were all so beautiful that we just couldn't make up our minds!

Speed Alley was fun but I had hoped to see Angie really run but there were so many distractions along the outside of the fence she never really took off. Thanks for your time.



Keeping Cool in the Pool at GreyFest 2004

Fun at the Fest!

Volume 9, Issue 4

(Continued from page 1)

what their jobs were. Jen Rachac purchased all of our food and drinks. She transported, set-up, and took time making sure that everything ran smoothly in our kitchen. Carie Peterson was at our GPA table coordinating the volunteers there and making sure that all of you were happy with your purchases! We have a very active, involved Board! Without all of them we wouldn't be here. Thank you! I applaud every one for a fantastic job.



I also want to thank all of you who attended with your hounds! I hope you had fun participating in Speed Alley, the contests and visiting all of our wonderful vendors. Our vendors donate part of the proceeds to GPA-MN as well as some of their wonderful merchandise every year. So if you bought a book, had a massage, or purchased a T-shirt, jewelry, or note cards, your money helped a hound! Without you GPA could not continue to find loving homes for our hounds. You make it all possible!

We also depend on our vendors. Many of them come year after year to meet you and sell their merchandise. I want to thank all of them for attending the 2004 Greyfest. They are wonderful to us and we appreciate them traveling to Minnesota each year to be at Greyfest.

Last but NOT least, I want to thank all of the volunteers who took the time to help with set-up, tear down, answering questions, selling tickets, food sales, and all of the other duties of our active volunteers. Many of the same people volunteer year after year and some were new this year. We had some great announcers this year. This is a rather intimidating job. I am glad that there are those of you that excel in it! Thank you for sharing your day and making the day so successful: Brian Jett, Doug Rachac, Jason Petrin, John and Jodi Brunner, Brian Ohana, Pat & Denise Walsh, Robyn Abear, Aimee Finley, Molly Finnegan, Neal Kresal, Luana Ball, Bob and Lonni Skrentner, Alicia Reynolds-Minear, Christina Enger, Barb Lund, the Blomquist family, John & Lisa Quast, Michelle Soshea, Jen Jones, Kendra & Johnathan Marut, Tim Larson, Alyssa Cassens, Jennifer Kelly, Mark Downey & Christine Sanguinet, Kate Duncan, Al Fiene, and Samantha Shine.

I am very honored to be the President of GPA-MN. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you through the adoption process and at events. As President I want to again take this opportunity to thank all of the members of GPA-MN for your continued support. We are lucky to have such a caring "family" of greyhound lovers here in Minnesota. You show me daily through e-mails on our e-mail list, donations, cards, hugs, volunteering (Meet and Greets, events, etc...) and phone calls how supportive you are of one another and the hounds. So pat yourselves on the back, stay active in the organization and give those hounds a hug!

Sincerely,
Kim Hrabe

Special Thanks to All Our Vendors

- Fast Jack
- Silk Road Collars
- Sarah Snavely
- Uniquely Yours Beads
- Alpha Academy
- Jacquelin Gabrini
- University of Minnesota Blood Donor Program
- Kathleen Millard
- PetCo
- Patch and Lilly's Favorites
- Cryptic Creations
- Michael Leek



*Dear GPA-MN,
Thank you once again for inviting us to GreyFest. We look forward to this event each year and sincerely enjoy each volunteer! You have a great group of people representing your organization! Hope all of you have a great summer and many thanks for all you do for the greyhounds!!
Sincerely, Scott & Kim
Fast Jack*

The Home Stretch



Greyhound Pets of America—Minnesota

Would Like to Say:
"THANK YOU"

To Our PETCO Sponsors

With their help, many retired racers have found and will continue to find loving and caring homes.

Participating PETCO Stores:

- Apple Valley PETCO
- Brooklyn Park PETCO
- Coon Rapids PETCO
- Eagan PETCO
- Eden Prairie PETCO
- Fridley PETCO
- Highland PETCO
- Maplewood PETCO
- Oakdale PETCO
- Richfield PETCO
- Ridgedale PETCO
- Roseville PETCO
- St. Cloud PETCO
- W. St. Paul PETCO

PETCO stores in Minnesota have supported our organization in "EVERY" way possible. Their help financially through their various fundraising efforts has been invaluable to our organization.

GPA-MN would like to thank both the PETCO Foundation, and the dedicated men and women of the local PETCO stores who go the extra mile and help us in finding loving homes for retired racers.

Meet & Greet Schedule for July

All Meet & Greets are held at neighborhood PETCO stores. See our web site (www.gpa.mn.org) for more details.

COON RAPIDS:

Saturday, July 10 12—3 p.m.

EAGAN

Saturday, July 17 12—3 p.m.

EDEN PRAIRIE:

Saturday, July 10 12—2 p.m.

FRIDLEY:

Saturday, July 10 11—1 p.m.

HIGHLAND:

Saturday, June 26 11—2 p.m.

MANKATO

Sunday, July 18 1—4 p.m.

OAKDALE

Saturday, July 17 12—2 p.m.

RICHFIELD:

Saturday, July 10 12—3 p.m.

RIDGEDALE:

Thursday, July 15 6—8 p.m.

ST. CLOUD

Saturday, July 10 11—1 p.m.

Events

GASSY Walk (Minneapolis)

Bring your greyhound out each and every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. near the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet (weather permitting) and take a stroll around the lake. This is a great opportunity for both you and your hound to socialize and get out and enjoy the day. For more information, contact Sylvia and Neil Kresal.

nkresal@mn.rr.com

RROO (Fargo, ND)

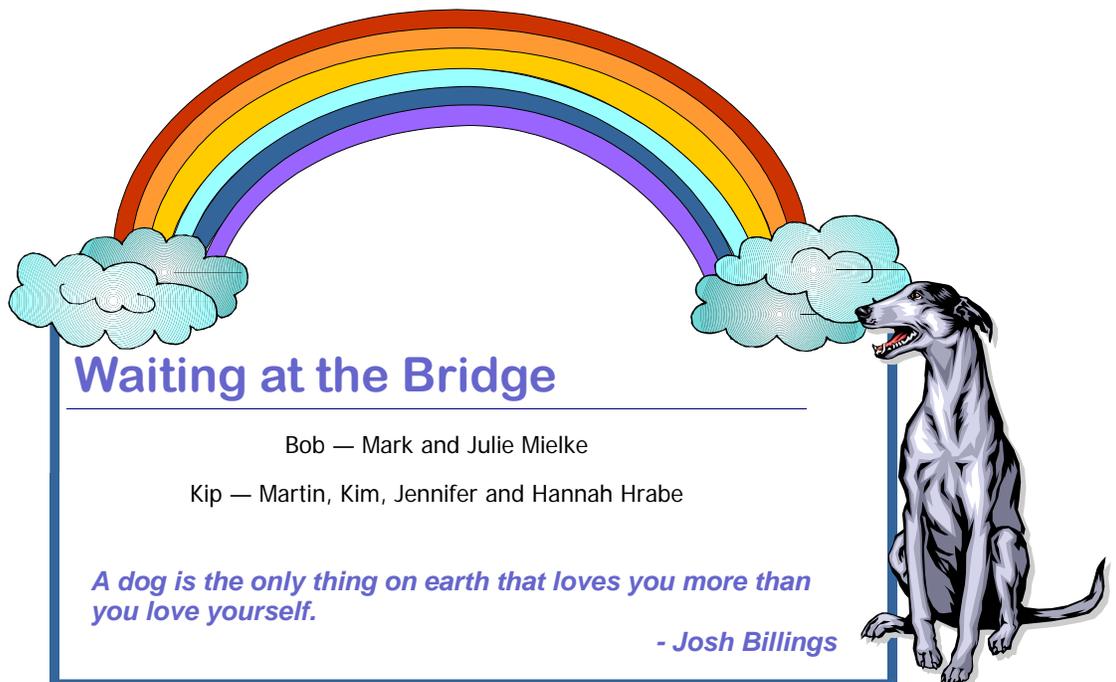
Meet each Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the west parking lot of the downtown YMCA. For more information, contact Kathleen Millard.

kmillardeoel@email.msn.com

GPA Get-Together (Richfield)

Bring your hound and join us at the Richfield PETCO on May 10 from 7:00—8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Sylvia and Neil Kresal.

nkresal@mn.rr.com



Waiting at the Bridge

Bob — Mark and Julie Mielke

Kip — Martin, Kim, Jennifer and Hannah Hrabe

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself.

- Josh Billings

Here are some exciting and fun up-coming events. Please contact Jen Jett if you would like more information or if you would like to volunteer!

State Fair: Have a corn dog with your dog! People attending the “great Minnesota get-together” love to see and pet the greyhounds. This is an outdoor event (dress for the weather) that goes on rain or shine. We sit outside the Pet Building and have a huge Meet & Greet – and we’re a hit! The State Fair **does not** allow people to walk around with their pets, so you’ll need to plan your visit to the poultry barn for another day. The State Fair runs from August 26th through Labor Day. We will have two shifts on Saturday, August 28th from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Our demonstration times are at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please let me know which shift you prefer when volunteering.

Minnesota Renaissance Festival: Travel back in time to the 16th century where your hound would have truly lived like a king! Another popular summer event where you and your hound can play dress-up; you are **required** to be in costume. If you don’t have a costume, never fear, the festival will provide one for you! You just need to provide me with a size. This year, we’ll be participating during the weekend of the **Royal Ale Festival**, September 11th & 12th. Teri Petrin is coordinating this event — please contact her to volunteer at petrin@worldnet.att.net.

Minneapolis Kennel Club Dog Show: Change in date and location will make many past volunteers happy! This year, it will be held at Canterbury Park in Shakopee on November 6th and 7th. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact me and I’ll put you on the list. Thanks for your support! Email Jen Jett at wynthier@comcast.net with questions or to volunteer!

Adoptions

Darwin to Shannon Sills 4/23/04
Susie to Gary and Toni Virta 4/24/04
Lovey (aka Lucky) to Janna Peterson
4/27/04
Sable to Tom Strait 5/16/04
Summit to Kate and Pat Murphy
5/24/04
Blue to Judy and Len Schollen 6/22/04
Jacki to Chris King 6/25/04
Cee Cee to Josh & Rhauan Bearfield
6/25/04

Gotcha Days

Sprite to Amy Treeful and Ben Silbergitt
5/1/03
Drysdale to Micheal Horrigan 5/6/03
Dylan to Steve and Elaine Machovsky
5/14/03
Billet to Claire Kaiser 5/15/03
Gamble to Elizabeth Major and David
James 6/5/03
Dillinger to Scott and Christine Dorff
6/5/03
Taheng to John and Kendra Barton
6/6/03
Hitt to Carol Bohumil 6/7/03
Foxy to David and Marilyn Poirier
6/14/03
Jada to Audry Beckstrom 6/20/03
Lucy to Darcy and Nancy Quinn 6/21/03



Greyhound Pets of
America - Minnesota

P.O. Box 49183
Minneapolis, MN 55449

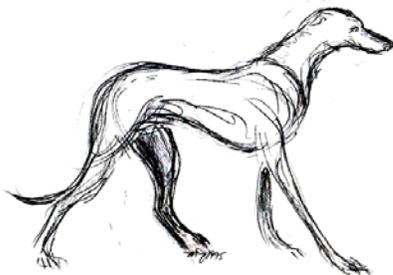
763-785-4000

newsletter@gpa.mn.org
www.gpa.mn.org

Address Service Requested

Donations

PETCO Foundation
Barbara & Chester Jacobson
In appreciation from "The Princess"
Jim & Bev Martin
In honor of Missy's Gotcha Day
Lynn & Steven Carnes
Lili Zubar Sitka



Special Thanks

GPA-MN would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their support and financial aid:

PETCO Stores — throughout the Twin Cities and St. Cloud
Pet Expo — Mankato, Minnesota
Softworks, Inc. 763-780-9371
Brooklyn Park Animal Hospital 763-566-6000
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital 651-768-0200
Maplewood Pet Care Clinic, P.A. 651-770-8373
Alta Veterinary 612-285-6550
Chanhassen Vet Clinic 612-934-8862
Barnes & Noble
Borders Book Sellers

Donations and Sponsors

As a national, non-profit organization, donations and sponsors are greatly needed to help keep costs down and enable us to continue to help place retired racers in good homes. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated.