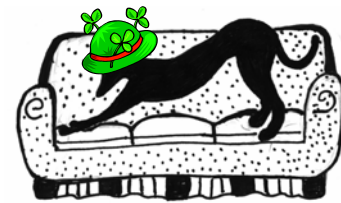


Home Stretch



Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of Greyhound Pets of America

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2 763-785-4000 newsletter@gpa.mn.org www.gpa.mn.org MARCH 2004

The Glass is Half Full

by Kate Bressler

Sometimes it's difficult to resist the urge to view that glass as being half-empty. It's just human nature to focus on the bad things that might happen.

I know how people agonize over the decision to allow general anesthesia for their Greyhound. As bad as it sounds, I am always glad it isn't me. The reason is simple; when someone at my house needs general anesthesia we're either talking about eleven-year-old Kitty or my beloved Shannon. Agreeing to put her under is an extremely difficult decision since Shannon is almost fourteen-and-a-half. It isn't worse than what everyone else goes through; it just feels more frantic.



On August 15, I noticed a lump on Shannon's rectum. The vet, Dr. James Cupp, took one look and said, "We need to take it off ASAP."

Oh my, that was not what I wanted to hear. After quickly thinking it over I made an appointment for surgery the following Monday. When I asked what he thought it could be, he said there were basically two possibilities, and that meant a 50:50 chance of cancer.

Glass half full = perianal adenoma.
Glass half empty = perianal adenocarcinoma.
Pretty poor odds — 50:50.

Another thing I learned from the vet is that if Shannon was male, it would more than likely to be an adenoma. If she were unspayed, the odds would also be better than 50:50. But she is a spayed female and that increased the odds of malignancy.

I began the vigil. I had to make it through Saturday afternoon and Sunday before she had surgery. Then there was a three-day wait for pathology results.

Shannon came through surgery just fine. Although when I came to pick her up, the way she was walking concerned the vet. She appeared to be in pain. He gave her a shot of pain medication and said if she wasn't better Tuesday morning that I should bring her back. But she was feeling better the next morning. And she felt even better Wednesday. Then it was Thursday.... Pathology Day.

It was a hectic day of press checks and blues. I called the clinic several times but the vet was busy. I didn't actually get to talk to him until about 6:30 that evening. The news was good.

The glass is half full! I tip that half-full glass to all of you reading this, "I wish everyone out there the wonderful agony of a fourteen-and-a-half year old Greyhound."

**Greyhound Pets of America – Minnesota’s
Mission Statement**

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

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Any questions concerning content or distribution should be directed to Robin Krautbauer at either:

Phone 763-785-4000

Or E-mail

Newsletter@gpa.mn.org

or

send mail to:

GPA-MN

c/o Softworks Inc.

P.O. Box 49305

Minneapolis, MN 55449



GPA-MN reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content, and potentially libelous statements.

GPA-MN reserves the right to reject publication of any submission for any reason. Letters published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of this organization on any subject.

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 let the public know about the glorious greyhound. All donations are tax deductible. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated.

To make a donation in honor of your hound’s birthday, adoption day, or in memorial please send your donation and your request in by the 15th of the month prior to the month the event falls in. Send in donations and information to:

**GPA-MN, P.O. Box 49183,
Mpls., MN 55449**

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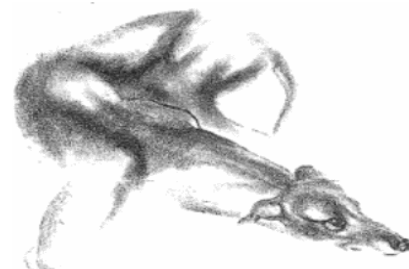
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Order from our website:

www.gpa.mn.org





Portable PVC Exercise Pen

by Jack & Amy Corrigan



Dog show and agility people have been using metal exercise pens for years. Problem is that the commercial ones are expensive. For about one half of the price of a commercial, metal exercise pen, you can construct this PVC exercise pen, which ends up being slightly bigger.

Each exercise pen consists of 6 panels. We give instructions for two basic panels: the fishnet panel and the barred panel. The fishnet panels are lighter, cheaper to make and give more complete coverage from prying hands that may want to pet the hounds. The barred panels are sturdier, heavier and easier to keep clean.

Materials Needed for 6 Fishnet Panels:

- 24 1/2" PVC Ts (not threaded)
- 24 1/2" PVC elbows (not threaded)
- 11 10-foot sections of 1/2" PVC
 - 24 36-inch pieces
 - 36 12-inch pieces
- 6 3 foot x 3 foot sections of fishnet or mesh (or, thin rope to weave into a net)
- Thin rope or cord to attach net to frame
- 25 plastic cable ties (or wire or garbage ties)
- PVC cleaner and glue

Materials Needed for 6 Barred Panels:

- 84 1/2" PVC Ts (not threaded)
- 24 1/2" PVC elbows (not threaded)
- 19 10-foot sections of 1/2" PVC
 - 96 3.5-inch pieces
 - 54 36-inch pieces
- 25 plastic cable ties (or wire or garbage ties)

PVC cleaner and glue

Step 1: Shop for Parts

We found the necessary parts at a home store (like Home Depot or Hechingers), but a plumbing supply place may be less expensive. The 10-foot sections of PVC cost around \$1.30 each. The Ts and elbows were \$0.15 - \$0.40 each. We found the contractor packs of 10 to be one half the price of buying the pieces individually.

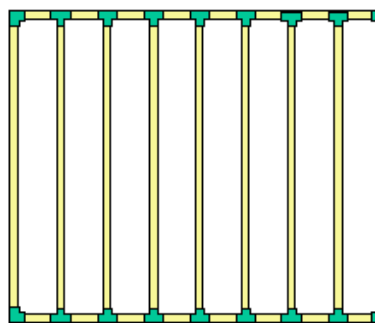
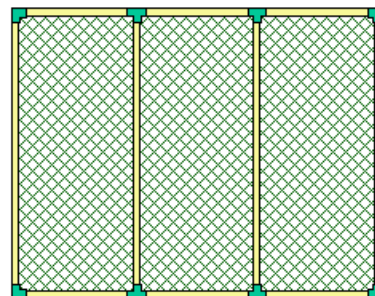
For the fishnet panels, we found a 10-foot by 10-foot decorative fishnet at an army surplus store. Alternatively, any mesh will work. Heck, you could even macrame or weave your own netting on the frame with thin rope or cord.

Step 2: Cut the PVC

Your job will be much easier if all your pieces are exactly the same size. A radial arm saw or power miter saw works great for cutting PVC, especially with a stop-block to ensure all the pieces are the same size. The hand-held PVC cutters also work well, but will be considerably more work.

Step 3: Dry Fit the Pieces

Construct the PVC panels as shown in the diagrams below to ensure you have all the necessary parts for the 6 panels. We found that attaching the fittings to all of the 36-inch sections first was best. Then attach the 36-inch sections into panels using the shorter pieces. Cut extra pieces as necessary. When you're sure you have all the necessary parts, take everything apart again.



(Continued on page 4)





Portable PVC Exercise Pen *(continued from page 3)*

Step 4: Prepare PVC for Gluing

You CANNOT skip this step. You must use the special PVC cleaner to prepare the PVC to take the glue. It comes in a metal can with a brush attached to the lid. IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA, clean about 1 inch of each end of each piece of PVC. Also clean the inside of each elbow and T.

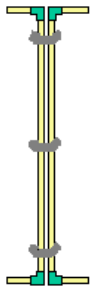
Step 5: Glue PVC

PVC glue dries VERY quickly. You have under 20 seconds to position the fitting on the pipe. You won't be able to twist after that, so be certain that your fittings are properly aligned. The safest way we found to proceed was to glue the fittings to the ends of all the 36-inch sections first, being careful to make sure the fittings on each end pointed the same way. Then go back and glue in the smaller pieces to make each panel.

Step 6: Fishnet Panels Only

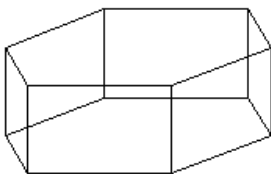
Lay the completed panel over the fishnet and cut to the proper size. Tie a cord to the frame and weave through the edges of the fishnet and over the frame to stretch and attach the net. This can take some time. Be patient with it. Alternatively, tie rope or cord to frame and macrame the netting yourself.

Step 7: Connect the Panels



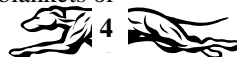
Use three plastic cable ties (or wire) to connect each of the panels to the next. Do not make the last connect to complete the circle. This will be your door. Attach a few cords or extra pieces of wire where this last connection would be made so that you will be able to secure the door in the field.

Step 8: Set Up Your Exercise Pen



Position the panels into a circle.

Optionally, use tent stakes to secure the pen into the ground. Or, use sandbags to secure the pen on a hard surface. Add blankets or



pillows as you'd like. Another good idea is to use one of those outdoor canopies or market umbrellas to provide shade for your hounds.

Enhancements

The following enhancements come from Sylvia Kively of New Hampshire. She attributes them to Kevin Kively.

My husband made an ex-pen using your directions, with a few modifications I thought I'd share with you.

He used CPVC, which is smaller and lighter. To connect the sections, he drilled holes through the pipe and threaded the plastic ties through them to keep them in place. For the door, he inserted eyebolts on both panel ends, and made a rod that fits down through them to secure the door.

Toss Balls



Some hounds love chasing after items tossed for them. Here's one that's easy on your throwing arm and a blast for a hound. They take just a few minutes to make and are very inexpensive.

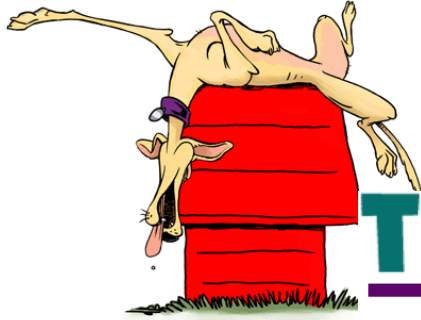
Materials Needed for 3 Toys:

- 9 feet of rope
- Can of 3 tennis balls

Instructions

1. Place one tennis ball in a clamp or vise.
2. Use a drill with a large drill bit to drill a hole through the tennis ball (one hole on each side).
3. Thread the rope through the holes.
4. Tie a simple knot very near the ball.
5. Knot or burn the ends of the rope to prevent fraying.
6. Tie a second knot near the ends of the rope.





TurboSpud.com

by k parkhurst



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 K. Parkhurst



Spud is based on a real live dog but his real live name is Trooper. His racing name was W.R.'s Z-Sam. He uses 'Spud' as his online handle to mack on hotties in the Saluki chat rooms. GPA Orange County/Los Angeles accorded our household the privilege of basking in his constant presence. Little did we know.



K. Parkhurst
 (Look for more next month!)

Meet & Greet Calendar

(www.gpa.mn.org)



Petco - Apple Valley

March 27 Saturday 12 - 3 PM

April 24 Saturday 12 - 3 PM

Petco - Coon Rapids

March 13 Saturday 12 - 3 PM

April 10th Saturday 12 - 3 PM

Petco - Eden Prairie

March 27 Saturday 12 - 2 PM

April 24 Saturday 12 - 2 PM

Petco - Fridley

March 20 Saturday 11 - 1 PM

April 17 Saturday 11 - 1 PM

Petco - Highland

March 27 Saturday 11 - 2 PM

April 24 Saturday 11 - 2 PM

Petco - Oakdale

March 20 Saturday 12 - 3 PM

Petco - Richfield

March 13 Saturday 12 - 3 PM

April 10 Saturday 12 - 3 PM

Petco - St. Cloud

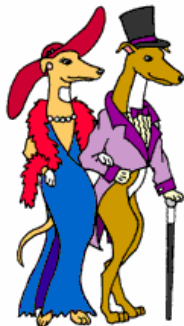
March 13 Saturday 11 - 1 PM

April 10 Saturday 11 - 1 PM

Pet Expo - Mankato

March 21 Sunday 1 - 4 PM

April 18 Sunday 1 - 4 PM



Clip Art by
Kim Parkhurst

GreyFest 2004 is fast approaching. As always we are looking forward to seeing old friends and their greyhounds and meeting many more new ones! A chance to shop, socialize and win prizes in one location with your loving hounds!! Best of all raise some money to support GPA- MN. The festival is our biggest fundraiser during the year and helps us place new retired racers into our community and the Midwest region. We have made some fun and exciting changes for the Festival this year.

Mark your calendars for Saturday June 5, 2004. 11am to 4pm. At Spooner Park in Little Canada, MN. We have some new vendors coming and many of our favorites are returning! A couple of the vendors are only planning on being there from 12:00n - 2:00pm so please be aware of this change. We are planning on offering some services and demo's this year: nail clipping, micro chipping; we are working out the details of a few demonstrations/ information sessions. Now on to my favorite part of the festival. THE RAFFLE! There will be a slight change in the ticket prices this year that we are very excited about!! Our "Grand Prize" BLUE tickets will now be \$2.00 each. YELLOW tickets will continue to be \$1.00 each and RED Tickets will still be .50 cents each. Remember that you can use these tickets for all of your raffle boxes and for food purchases. HINT- bring your address labels and place them on your tickets to save a lot of time and writing. Remember to have someone pick up your prizes for you if you cannot stay there until the drawing. (3-4pm) Or we will have many, many raffle prizes that are gift certificates that can be mailed to your home. For those of you that have asked already I am planning on having a Life Size Greyhound statue from Sandicast as one of your prizes this year! We will continue to offer some great food items to munch on as you are socializing, shopping and having a fun time. We will have KRISPIE KREME for the first time ever as part of our fundraiser! We will have Speed Alley again and some other fun contests for your hound to compete in. The TROPHIES are beautiful!!

If you have a donation for the festival please contact Marty Reynolds / Raffle Coordinator -greyhoundguys@msn.com.

If you would like to help volunteer at the festival please contact Jen Jett / Volunteer Coordinator- greyheart@comcast.net.

General festival / raffle questions contact Teresa Ruohomaki / Festival Coordinator heyousir@visi.com or call 651-483-5997

Get Togethers - GASSY Walk: (Minneapolis) Meet near the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet at 2 pm for a stroll around the lake. Every Sunday (weather permitting). Please contact Sylvia and Neil Kresal for more information or directions. nkresal@mn.rr.com

RROO: (Fargo, North Dakota)

Saturdays 2pm. People will meet at the West parking lot of the Downtown YMCA. Please contact Kathleen Millard for more information or directions. kmillardeoel@email.msn.com

Every 2nd Monday: GPA Get Together at Richfield Petco: Bring your hounds and join us at Richfield Petco from 7pm - 8pm. Get together with other GPA adopters and volunteers and their hounds. Find out what's going on in GPA, get involved, or just hang out. Please contact Sylvia Kresal for more information. nkresal@mn.rr.com





Healthy hound treats

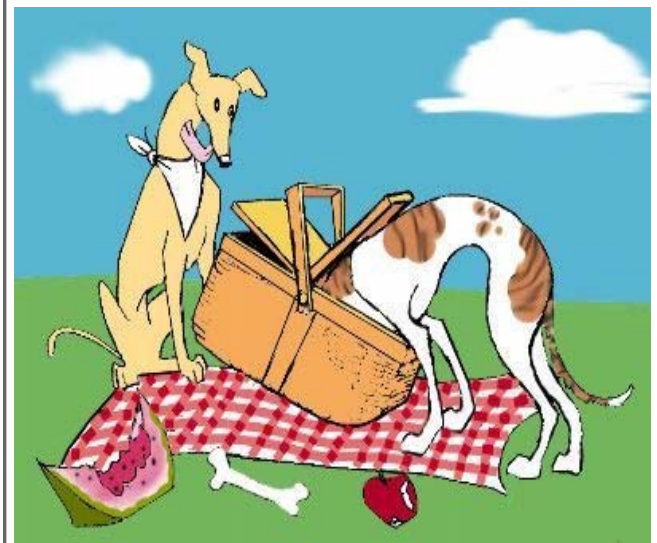
Dogs love treats. But we may be tossing them too many unhealthy biscuits, according to recent statistics released by the American Pet Products Manufacturer Association. Results of a national survey of veterinarians indicates 16 percent of all dogs—and 17 percent of large dogs—are overweight, a condition that can lead to serious orthopedic problems down the road. To keep hounds healthy and in good form, check their weight regularly, never substitute treats for meals, and when you do offer an edible reward, be sure to choose wisely. Use our guide below to find healthy alternatives at your favorite natural products store.

Best Bites			
Treats	What to look for	Notable brands	Caveats
Animal parts (for example, freeze-dried beef liver, pig's ears, bones)	Check for the organic label to ensure you're buying products free from antibiotic and hormone contamination.	Healthy Choice, Nature's Variety	Cooked bones are more brittle and can splinter, so choose raw varieties.
Biscuits	Find a treat that you would eat—or one you'd feed to your children. Look for whole-wheat types with natural preservatives (such as vitamins C and E or rosemary), and avoid sugar.	California Natural, Old Mother Hubbard, Pet-Guard, Solid Gold, Wellness, Wysong	Dogs who are wheat-sensitive should be fed only gluten-free biscuits.
Soft chews	Find ones with added glucosamine (for joint health) and antioxidants; excellent for a pet with an active lifestyle.	Zuke's (HipAction and PowerBones)	Be mindful of the recommended servings on the package and, if you're on a rigorous hike, always have lots of water available.

How To Feed Your Senior Dog

Dogs age more quickly than people do. For example, an 80-pound dog at the age of 1 year is the equivalent of a human teenager, and at 14 years is the equivalent of an 80-year-old. As dogs age, their metabolic rates and activity levels decrease. Consequently, many older dogs require diets that are lower in fat and slightly higher in fiber and that provide healthy levels of high-quality protein, fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals.

High-quality protein in sufficient amounts helps maintain muscle and bodily functions. Slightly higher fiber levels help with regularity, minimizing the risk of constipation. Slightly decreased sodium levels help reduce the risk of hypertension. Complete vitamin and mineral supplementation supplies all the essential nutrients, ensuring adequate levels even if loss occurs through increased urination. Consult with your vet for a specific diet and supplement plan for your aging dog.





Greyhound Limericks

O'Danny Boy

There once was a greyhound named Danny,
 Who refused to sit on his fanny.
 He'd cockroach and roo
 A fine how-do-yuo-do,
 then lay like a Sphinx most uncanny.

O'GPA

Greys fawn, red, black, parti and brindle
 A flame in my heart, they do kindle.
 There's a home for these guys
 Of each color and size.
 So the homeless hound numbers will dwindle.

By Jude McEdling & Danny



Chick

There is a sweet greyhound named Chick
 Who has learned to do so many tricks
 No one had ever
 Seen one as clever
 I'm so glad I'm the one that she picked!

Boone

There is a laddie named Boone
 Who really roos out of tune
 "By gosh and bygorrah
 Ye can hear him to tomorra"
 Said John O'Casey Mulroone.

Sweetie

There is a fawn girl named Sweetie
 Who loves everything to eatie.
 While cruising the counter
 Some salmon encountered.
 Now mom doesn't have her treatie.

By Barb McLund

There were once greyhounds three
 Who lived lives of luxury.
 They had couches to spare
 And toys everywhere.

How happy were Chuck, Tilly, and Dewey!

~

"My dear," said Tilly to Chuck

"As number one you're really out of luck.

"Mom and dad like me best

"Cause I'm better than the rest.

"So, at the bottom of the pack you are stuck!"

~

"It's true," grumped a greyhound named Dewey

"Some people think I am screwy.

"When I go to bed

"I like to bury my head

"So I don't hear a cat that is mewey!"

"It's St. Paddy's Day," said Tilly, Dewey, and Chuck.

"So if you really want good luck

"You can kiss us --we're Irish

"And ever so stylish

"And we promise to not run amok."

Sylvia O'Kresal



Daphne Mae Shine was a loser at the track

Now she lives at my house

Where she lies

Upon her back

Samantha McShine and Daphne



There once was a greyhound named Elf

Whose racing days were put on a shelf.

To our family she came,

Giving all dogs a good name,

'Til she ate the pound of bacon herself.

Becky O'Thyken





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St. Cloud Petco

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The 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.

Petco's continued support over the years has done **SO MUCH** toward allowing *Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota* to continue their work with the hounds we all love.

GPA-MN THANKS THE PETCO STORES A THOUSAND TIMES OVER!

*Petco Stores Are Our
Greyhound Guardian
Angels!*



Donate, Please Don't Wait!

There are many hounds waiting for a home all their own. Your gifts whether monetarily, of time, or in whatever way possible you GIVE, helps so many greyhounds find their way into loving arms and are greatly appreciated. Our hope is that you understand that you touch **MANY** lives. Not only the lives of the hounds but also of the families who love them. Thank you to all who have done so much. However, our task continues as there are still so many hounds in waiting who need so much help. It is up to people like us to make sure we can reach out to as many as possible. It is truly wondrous all the things we do and how much we all care.



Please continue to open your hearts, your homes and your arms once again to the hounds.

Please make YOUR donation to:
Greyhound Pets of America - MN!

Don't Wait - Please Donate!

GPA - Minnesota

P. O. Box 49183

Minneapolis, MN 55449

OR you can also make donations via Paypal by going to our website: www.gpa.mn.org

Do this by clicking on 'GPA Store', choose a category and the option to make a donation is at the bottom of each page! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!





Magic Doggie Cookies

Read the whole recipe before beginning.



Art by Mik Wilkins



Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line 2 jellyroll pans (these are larger than cookie sheets and have 1 inch sides) with wax paper, cut to fit the bottom only. Place the wax paper in the pan & then spray the wax paper with a cooking spray. Set aside & prepare dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 pounds raw liver (I use chicken liver)
- 7 cups of regular flour
- 4 cups oatmeal (grind to a fine crumble in a food processor)
- 8 Teaspoons of chicken bouillon
- 1/2 to 1 cup of HOT water (to dissolve bouillon)
- 8 eggs, beaten
- 6 Teaspoons of garlic POWDER (not salt)

Dissolve the bouillon in the hot water & set aside.

In a LARGE bowl combine the following:

1. Process the liver until it is mush (or chop very, very finely).
2. Add the beaten eggs
3. Add the garlic powder
4. Add the dissolved bouillon

Stir this mixture until well blended. Add to the wet mixture a little at a time: 1. Flour, 2. Finely ground oatmeal.

If you add the flour/oatmeal all at once, the mixture may ball up into a lump! After the whole glop is thoroughly mixed, spread it out evenly into the prepared jelly roll pans. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or till baked clear through to the center. Let the baked goodies cool in the pan a bit, then loosen the dough around the edges, turn the pan upside down onto a bread board, remove the wax paper, and cut into bite-sized squares. I then place the cookies into zip-lock storage bags and put them in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. These cookies freeze very well also.

Hints: It is not necessary to food process the oatmeal, but I like it fine so the cookies are less crumbly. Play around with the amount of garlic and bouillon (my Beards like lots of both), but be careful of the liquids--you don't want the mix to be soupy.



NCGS Motto: "Guilt Free Shopping Here: If you don't spend it, we can't give it away!"

100% of profits are contributed to Greyhounds in need and to the groups who care for them.

<http://www.northcoastgreyhounds.com/>

GREYT GIFTS



Sarah Regan Snavelly
fine dog art



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silkroadcollars.com

dog-art.com



Special Donations:

Network for Good: To Penny and James
Chris and Jennifer Fischer
Susan and David Wilson
Voyagers Greyhound Apparel
(coat sale proceeds)

Memorials/Anniversary Donations:

Brian and Nancy Rittenhouse: in memory of
Rusty (2/6/03) and in honor of EZ's Gotcha Day.

Jon Helgerson and Dana Halverson:
in honor of Kass's gotcha day

John Bartucz:
in honor of Mazmut's gotcha day.

"Heartfelt thanks for your generous donations!"

Adoptions

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

- Gill by Denise & Dave Swenson
- Dakota by Sharri & Michael Baker
- Lidia by Kathryn and Jared Anderson
- Coz by LuAnn Yerks
- Rainbo by Connie and Dave Nelson
- Ron by Marcy and Mike Barger



Gotcha Day Anniversaries

- Congratulations to all!
- Kallie to Matt and Kelly Carlson
- Tip to Aimee and Stuart Finley
- Steely to Neal and Twyla Anderson
- Ruby to Karissa and Lyle Eckert

*'Just this side of heaven is a place called
Rainbow Bridge.'*



Recent Bridge Kids:

Boomer - Sherri and Mike Baker

Tweeter- Dave and Denise Swenson

Bets - Kate and Pat Murphy & family

Our heartfelt condolences go out to these families.

"The Greatest Gift In Life Is To Know Love."



GPA-MN Family Photo Album



Roni tries to nap with her Grandpa while Monty kitty
'butts' in! Photo by Robin Krautbauer



Greyhound Pets of America – Minnesota
P.O. Box 49183
Minneapolis, MN 55449

Phone 763-785-4000

Address Service Requested



Happy St. Patrick's Day

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA - MN



To Continue Receiving the Newsletter

Some people received a postcard included with their newsletter last month. If you didn't receive one, you should find one included in this issue. If you had problems returning the postcard or if you did NOT include your name and address on your returned postcard, please contact Jen Jett at 763-784-9328 or via E-mail at: wynthier@comcast.net. We are sending out the postcards in an effort to reduce printing and postage costs. Some people no longer wish to receive hard copies of the newsletter because they view or print it in color from the GPA-MN web site <www.gpa.mn.org>. If you are interested in continuing to receive the newsletter by mail, you will need to return a postcard or contact Jen Jett. Should you choose not to receive the newsletter, you will still receive GPA-MN informational mailings.



Greyhound Pets of America/Minnesota would like to thank the following for their support and financial aid:

- PetCos** - in the Twin Cities Area and St. Cloud
- Pet Expo** - Mankato, MN
- Softworks, Inc.** 763-780-9731
- 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
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