



The Home Stretch

August / September 2005

Volume 10, Issue 6

The Greyt Minnesota Get-Together

Membership Appreciation: Be There!

You are invited to join us at this year's Membership Bash! There will be food, fun, and prizes! This is an human only event because the meeting room does not allow dogs.

What: Membership Appreciation

When: October 9th, 4—6 p.m.

Where: Sunny Square Park Community Building in New Brighton (see directions on page 7!)

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Jen Jett

I'll admit, I was a little worried that we were going to be a little thin on greyhounds this year at the Fair. Silly, silly me! But I'll get to that momentarily.

Here's a little info on how the Fair works. GPA belongs to the Minnesota Purebred Dog Breeders Association (MPDBA). GPA works with MPDBA to coordinate a time when we can have our hounds outside the Pet Building and distribute information on adoption. One Saturday during the Fair, our greyhounds and members greet people as they enter the Pet Building. MPDBA organizes speakers and demonstrations for guests who sit around a large ring in the center of the building. On our Saturday, we have time in the ring to introduce the hounds at the Fair and educate the public. While MPDBA would prefer "more active demonstrations," the greyhounds never disappoint the crowd. This year, Al Fiene and Pat Walsh stepped up to the mic and wowed the crowd.

While this an excellent event for GPA, it is often a little tricky to get off the ground. The Fair officials have become stricter about how animals enter the grounds. This is where the coveted "parking passes" come into play. Officially, you can only enter the grounds through a special gate which is only accessible with the parking pass. For the last couple years that I have been organizing the event, MPDBA hasn't been able to tell me how many passes would be available for our group until the last minute. Last year, we got 10 (13 after I did some begging), and this year we got 16. When it comes to lining up volunteers, this is a logistical headache because I didn't know how many passes we'd get. Thus, we suggested carpooling which worked really well for some of our volunteers. This enabled us to get more hounds into the Fair than I had initially anticipated!

Our GPA volunteers really came through big! Not only did some carpool, but all braved the Fair traffic which is always a nightmare. During our second ring time we had all of the volunteers scheduled for the day in the ring with their hounds. I don't have an exact count, but it had to have been at least 15 dogs of various dispositions and coloring. The application requests are already rolling in—thank you to all that shared their time with us at the Fair!

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.

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My Fortune

Jessica Kromrey

I adopted my soul mate 6 years ago on April 16th 1999. I had always been a cat person until I saw the greyhounds at PETCO and immediately fell in love. I had heard that they were as graceful as a ballerina with their long slender bodies. This caught my interest because I was a ballerina at the time, and knowing that people often look like their pets, I knew that a greyhound would be a perfect match. The next step was talking my parents into adopting one of these gentle giants. Dad always thought that they were cool, but never thought that we could talk mom into it. After lots of begging, I finally got her to go to a meet and greet at the PETCO near us. She fell in love. We bought all the books and got the paperwork started, which all seemed like a blur because I was getting a dog! GPA arranged for us to meet an older adoptee; a regal black greyhound just off the track. I was so excited when I saw him, I could hardly breathe. I wanted him! His racing name was "Unclaimedfortune" (one word), his foster parents called him "Forty" but I called him Fortune because I claimed him. We instantly bonded.

Shortly after, we decided to get him a friend; an Italian Greyhound named Piper. He was not very happy with us at first, but soon they were inseparable, and a few months later Rusty, a Miniature Pinscher near death joined our family.

As soon as we adopted Fortune, he quickly adopted our love seat. He loved to sleep upside down with his legs up in the air. It was so comical! By morning though, he was always found on his pillow where his buddies were kenneled for the night. Fortune set the pace for our other two dogs. Whatever he did, they did.

Over the years we have enjoyed our many outings together. Fortune loved to travel in our van. He had a blanket in the very back so that he could see out the window. It usually meant a trip to PETCO and a treat.

Later on after doing some searching on the internet we discovered he had been one of twelve puppies. He also was a very winning greyhound. We met a few guys that used to bet on him at the track and couldn't believe how incredibly affectionate he was. They asked if he still raced and we said no, besides chasing our two younger dogs around our big yard and lounging around by the garden all day.

As Fortune got older he started having problems with his back legs. They would slowly sink if standing too long. Bath time became a challenge. I would have to climb into the tub just to hold him up. Eventually we learned that he had a slipped disk in his lower back and neurological problems causing him to stand pigeon toed in his rear legs, and he would sometimes trip over his own feet. To correct the problem in his back he would need a Laminectomy. It would be extremely expensive with no guarantees due to his age and kidney disease. At least he wasn't in any pain. I started taking him to my chiropractor and put him on supplements with Glucosamine and Chondroitin. He was making progress and had fewer problems walking.

One day last June I discovered Fortune had many tiny red spots on his stomach and chest which looked like bug bites, but in some areas they were the size of nickels and quarters. The next day I saw a little blood on the floor where fortune was lying. When I checked it out I realized that his gums were bleeding. After rinsing with some cold ice water it had finally stopped, but the amount of blood bothered me. I called my vet and they put us in an emergency appointment. Upon examination, it was discovered that in that short period of time he was covered with bruises. My vet suspected he had Erlichia, a severe form of Lyme disease. They drew his blood, and we waited for results. The news wasn't good. He had an extremely low platelet count and we were told that he would need an immediate transfusion in order to survive. My heart was in my stomach. I didn't want to lose my baby Fortune, but the cost of a transfusion was prohibitive with no guarantees. They told us that we should consider euthanasia if he continued to deteriorate. But, Fortune kept on fighting and despite the odds he never missed a beat. We thought we were going to lose him the day I gradu-

"Many people say that a dog is man's best friend but I think that a Greyhound is more than that, I believe that they are a soul mate."

GPA—MN Recipient of PETCO's "Spring a Pet" Campaign

The PETCO Foundation's recent "Spring a Pet" campaign donated funds to GPA—MN. PETCO customers, vendors, and associates generously donated more than \$1.8 million to the Foundation who supports grassroots animal welfare groups nationally.

The fundraiser encouraged pet lovers to donate \$1, \$5, \$10, or \$20 to animal welfare causes. Each donor received a personalized cutout bunny to display in their neighborhood store or to take home as a reminder of their generosity.

This year's national giving increased 22% over last year's campaign, which collected over \$1.5 million. Each PETCO store selected an animal welfare organization like GPA—MN to be the recipient of the money raised at their location.

GPA—MN wishes to thank the PETCO Foundation, the PETCO store associates, and the customers that donated to this fundraiser. We appreciate your generosity and will use the money raised to help more retired racers cross the finish-line into their forever homes.

ated as a Veterinary Technician. But he pulled through and two days later he celebrated his eleventh birthday. Every week he got his blood drawn, the results got better and better. He was having more good days then bad and seemed to be in no pain. He was running with the other dogs and meeting me at the door after work. Despite being on five medications three to four times a day.

Suddenly, he relapsed and his condition went down hill again. It didn't look good. We were keeping him comfortable and praying for a miracle. I had told him many a times that it was O.K. to let go and that everything would be alright, but I think he knew that I wasn't ready to let him go.

His condition had worsened, I could no longer think of my pain of losing him, but instead concentrate on giving him a peaceful and pain free trip down Rainbow Bridge.

This happened on a beautiful, sunny, Sunday morning on August 21st. After a good meal and hours of lying on the lawn under the apple trees, Fortune let me know that it was his time and he peacefully fell asleep on his love seat surrounded by his family.

From adopting him when I was 15 until just turning 22, Fortune has taught me patience, determination, and how to love unconditionally along with many other life lessons.

My boyfriend and I recently got a Chihuahua and named him Tomi (toe-me).

It means Fortune in Japanese. They met just before he passed away. It's my way of Fortune living on through him. It has taken me awhile to bond with him, since I am going through the grieving process. In time my heart will heal and I will love again, but nothing will fill that big spot in my heart where Fortune's footprints lie. After going through all I did I would do it again in a heart beat. I would like to thank Dr. Thomas Diffell and the staff at Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital, Dr. Ann Fischer, and of course GPA-MN for bringing such a huge Fortune into my life.

Please—take time to enjoy the small things. They might not seem like much now but in the future they could mean everything!



Jessica and Fortune

Track Closings—A Greater Need

There has been much discussion regarding the closing of the Geneva Lakes Greyhound Track. This track is located in Delavan, Wisconsin. This is a permanent closing; GPA-MN and GPA National will be working diligently to find good homes for these dogs.

In addition, every October the Dubuque Greyhound Park & Casino closes for the season. GPA-MN helps by taking in a couple hauls each fall.

GPA-MN will need all the help it can get from its' membership to help out as many hounds as possible. Typically, we do not bring in dogs between Thanksgiving and the beginning of the year. We like to give our fosters a break. However, this year ***if we are to make a difference and save lives, we are going to need to call upon our resources within the group.***

How can you help? **Consider fostering** We will need fosters to make long and short term commitments. If you have circumstances where you will only be able to host a hound for a week or a long weekend, we can make that work. **Consider driving.** We may need to meet those delivering the dogs half way. **Consider donating money or supplies.** We may be asked to take in seniors or special needs hounds. It will also be getting chilly, we will need some coats. **Consider talking to a few more people.** We will need to find homes for the dogs. Tell people you meet there will be a greater need for adopters in the next few months. Also, if you have media contacts or public relations ideas, let us know! The bigger buzz we can create, the more hounds we can help.

Please contact us if you are able to help! Email Teri Petrin at jtegpelin@netzero.com or Jen Jett at wynthier@comcast.net and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

No Pain / No Fear Methods of Discipline

Part III of "No Pain/No Fear" appeared in the June/July issue of the Home Stretch.

Now, remember, 50% of the world is illiterate and the other 50% can't remember what they read five minutes ago. Both the dog and the new family must come to an agreement on the rules of the house. The problem on the human side, is they cannot be expected to know how to communicate what they like and do not like. Humans are extremely limited in their responses to distressing situations: curse it, beat it, kill it, nuke it or get rid of it.

All the things you do for these Greyhounds: the neutering, teeth cleaning, the worming, the tick panels, the collar and leash, the book--that's all real nice. (My first Greyhound didn't even have a rabies shot.) However, what John Q. Public wants is a dog who does not jump up on him or his family, leaves the food on the counter, walks on a lead, and does not growl when told to move over.

Is this too much to ask? From what I have gathered so far, the worst things often happen to a Greyhound after he is adopted. Those of you with access to your dogs before placement could solve these problems before hand to a large extent. Both groups could offer humane solutions to fosters or owners when they do crop up.

An adoptable Greyhound must understand what discipline is--the cause and effect part. He must understand that certain behavior, like jumping on people is NEVER to be tolerated. To let the average human have first crack at disciplining a Greyhound, when they don't even know how to raise their own young, is foolhardy at best.

First the philosophy: Pain and fear teach distrust, alienation, and prevent bonding. A dog who runs from you cannot be disciplined until you have cornered him. At that point, he will wet his pants in fear or cause you pain before he thinks you will cause him some: flight or fight. Our goal is to take the behavior we know he will never need, (which might endanger his life, like counter surfing), or that he finds rewarding, and we do not, and change the pay off, without pain or fear. We are permitted to aggravate, irritate, annoy, disturb, fluster, harass, startle, embarrass, distract, and pull a few rude surprises. Teaching a Greyhound what discipline means, is the best tool you can equip him with for his new life. Then you must equip his family so they will pick up the squirt bottle and not the belt.

Being a family pet is no easy job, but you can increase the odds of him not getting pink

slipped. Remember two things. Not all methods have the same effect. I cannot use the juice bottle on Chubby; she has never tasted something she didn't like. I cannot use the slightest neck scruff on Waco, because she cries big crocodile tears at the top of her lungs. Next, and most important: You must counsel your adoptees that these methods are not to be used by children. Children have no business disciplining anything. Some of these tools will give absolute power and you remember that absolute power corrupts absolutely. I have seen it turn even the mildest child into a raging tyrant. I do have an opinion about humans, regardless of age, who receive punishment from a Greyhound. The ones who get bitten are the ones who break a Greyhound's rules. There is no such thing as an unprovoked bite from a sane, sound of body and temperament Greyhound. If you are adopting out freaks, spooks or dogs in chronic pain, in the hopes of Saving Them All, I have nothing to say to you. The question is, who understands what counts as provocation? Not only does it vary from dog to dog, but it just might be the timid one rather than the big know-it-all, who has the most rules--who is the most easily provoked. Often what constitutes provocation is not even perceived as such. One thing every Greyhound should be tested for is nipping. Nipping is not the same as aggressive biting, but few people know or care about the difference; it must be stopped. Put him on a leash and prance around for about 50 feet while squealing, giggling and waving your arms. Hey, every-one of mine, save Mouse Tail, took the "bait", which meant I got pinched in the pants for behaving like fun prey. I immediately and dispassionately dispensed the neck scruff and off we went again. Some learned the first time, none took more than four times.

Ready for the nuts and bolts? Sorry, one more story. A GPA chapter head greeted us somberly the day before our performance. She asked that I accompany her to a meeting of foster families. "I'm getting dogs returned for simple behavior problems and I want you to help me read them the riot act about fixing these things while they still have the dog." Before the meeting started, I turned to the closest person and asked, "How is your foster doing?"

"Oh, he's just wonderful! He likes to jump on me but that's just his way of showing he loves me." is NOT, is NOT, and it doesn't matter anyway! Jumping on people

is dangerous and unacceptable to most novice humans. Most of all, it is dangerous to the dog and his future. Know how to cure jumping in one second? Put your foot on the leash.

There are three ways the average person will respond to being jumped on: 1. Knee him in the chest. 2. Stomp his back toes. 3. Return the dog/get rid of it. Whether you have a foster program in place, or you are dealing with an irate owner on the phone, impress upon the first group, they are doing the dog harm *not* good. To the owner, tell him the problem can be alleviated in three days with a little diligence and a few "nuts and bolts." The most important thing you can do at this point is have answers (that's plural.)

There are methods for handling such common problems as jumping up, nipping, counter surfing, moving over when asked, getting on furniture you don't want him to, begging at the table, barking, roughhousing, harassing the cat, or eating your rhododendron. Each of these methods have the following in common:

1. *They are inexpensive.* So have plenty of them around, located in strategic places.
2. *They should solve the problem after no more than six applications.* If they don't, someone is using it incorrectly or it is not the appropriate tool for this Greyhound.
3. *There are several that are silent.* You should be too. That means, don't say a word, just DO IT!



Webhounds

Brian Jett

It's a big Internet out there!

I am sure many of you have googled for greyhounds and found a whole world of web sites—from cool blogs to prints to hard to find greyhound lunch boxes! If you have any sites you'd like to share with the rest of us, please send the links to me at Newsletter@gpa.mn.org and I'll feature them in coming issues of *The Home Stretch*.

To start us off, I found this really nice print from **Cheri Sorensen Art Studios** (<http://www.artbycheri.com/index.html>)—she also has prints of all kinds of animals, but I'm a little partial to this one!



Greyhound Pets of America Seminar: "No Fear/No Pain Methods of Discipline" by K. L. Gilley—delivered in Council Bluffs, Iowa on October 10, 1998

Check out Cheri Sorensen Art Studios at <http://www.artbycheri.com/Dogs.html> for this cool greyhound print!

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 thru July & August

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

BOARDERS—CALHOUN SQUARE

Saturday, December 3 12—3 p.m.

BROOKLYN PARK

Sunday, September 18 11—2 p.m.

BURNSVILLE

Saturday, September 10 12—2 p.m.

Saturday, October 8 12—2 p.m.

COON RAPIDS

Saturday, September 10 12—3 p.m.

Saturday, October 15 12—3 p.m.

EAGAN

Saturday, September 17 12—2 p.m.

EDEN PRAIRIE:

Saturday, September 17 12—2 p.m.

Sunday, September 18 12—2 p.m.

FRIDLEY:

Saturday, September 17 11—1 p.m.

Saturday, October 15 11—1 p.m.

HIGHLAND:

Saturday, September 17 11—1 p.m.

Saturday, October 29 11—1 p.m.

MANKATO—PET EXPO

Sunday, September 18 1—4 p.m.

Sunday, October 16 1—4 p.m.

RICHFIELD:

Saturday, September 24 12—3 p.m.

Saturday, October 22 12—3 p.m.

RIDGEDALE

Saturday, September 17 10—1 p.m.

Sunday, September 18 2—4 p.m.

Saturday, October 15 10—12 p.m.

ST. CLOUD

Saturday, September 10 11—1 p.m.

Saturday, October 8 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

GPA Social Hour (Richfield)

The Social Hour resumes this month! Come socialize with your hounds on Tuesday, September 13th. The Tuesday Social Hour is held the second Tuesday of the month at the Richfield PETCO from 7-8pm.

nkresal@mn.rr.com

Minneapolis Kennel Club Show (Shakopee)

GPA will have a booth November 12—13th at the Kennel Club Show. It will be held at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pat Walsh.

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com

Twin Cities Pet Expo (Minneapolis)

GPA will have a booth February 18—19, 2006 at the Twin Cities Pet Expo. It will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. More information about volunteering will be coming.

Directions to Sunny Square Park—Membership Appreciation

From Highway 694

- Take the Silver Lake Road exit which is 2 miles west of 35W
- Head north on Silver Lake Road
- Turn right onto Gregory Drive (first right after the railroad tracks)
- Follow Gregory Drive to the small parking lot at the end of the street
- Take the short path to the Community Building

For more info email wynthier@comcast.net

Adoptions

Lou Wallis—Willow
Karen Hawkinson—Guy
Becky & Bill Pinegar—Teddy
Michael & Leesa Schmid—Hailey
Kathy McCarthy—Jacket
Michelle & Gene Enos—Moe
Holly Newman—Thunder
Desiree & Greg Kamman—Omar
Teri Qualley—Flyer
Karen Paulsen—Cruiser
Michael & Leah McCue—Sassy
Bo Sherman & Laura Dove—Hero
Carissa Tomlinson & Darren Jensen—
Nadine

Gotcha Days

Donna—Kay Wasylyszyn & Shawn Wenzel
8-11-2004
Don—Sheila & Chuck Wick
8-28-2004
Mandy—Christina Hummel & Rory Fischer
9-5-2004
Addie—Amber Arrison
9-12-2004

Volume 10, Issue 6

GPA—MN Board of Directors Elections

GPA—MN has three open positions with one current board member re-running for the position. If you are interested in running for the board, please contact one of the current board members for more information.

Current Board Members

Jen Rachac, President

jen.rachac@medtronic.com

Pat Walsh, Vice-President

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com

Teri Petrin, Treasurer

jtegpetrin@netzero.com

Jen Jett, Secretary

wynthier@comcast.net

Jen Kelly

JKelly@animalhumanesociety.org

Chris King

CLKING2130@aol.com

Barb Lund

blund@prawow.com

Waiting at the Bridge

Robin & Bruce Krautbauer—Cosy
Jessica Kromrey
Mary & Benedict Ho—Toby
The Worden Family—Doughboy
Susan Spiller—TJ

**"No man can be condemned for owning a dog. As long as he has a dog, he has a friend;
and the poorer he gets, the better friend he has."
- Will Rogers**



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

- Hopkins Middle School Animal Career Class—Thanks for bringing your dogs and speaking to our class.
- Victoria Mulder—in honor of all the hounds.
- Judy Triplett—in honor of Ellie, a great companion.

To donate to hounds in need from Hurricane Katrina

GPA National will be accepting donations to help greyhound families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. These funds will be added to the \$5000 raised at the National Greyhound Conference and dispersed to those most in need. You can go to www.greyhoundpets.org and contribute directly or send a check to the GPA—MN PO Box indicating you want the money used for Hurricane Katrina relief.



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 952-934-8862

Prairie Village Pet Hospital 952-934-0335

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.