



# The Home Stretch

February 2005

Volume 10, Issue 2

## Safeguarding Your Hound



Ralph settles in with Froggy

Marcy Barger

As spring is quickly approaching we want to make sure that everyone is aware of the problems that will be coming along with the summer months. For some time now there has been information published about an illness that is getting more visibly recognized in the dog world. It is the tick borne disease (or tick fever, as the trainers refer to it). Canine *babesiosis* and canine *ehrlichiosis*. Canine *babesiosis* is a protozoan disease transmitted by ticks infected with the *babesia* organism. Canine *ehrlichiosis* is a *rickettsial* disease transmitted by ticks infected with the *erlichia* organism. Both are transmitted by the brown dog tick (the vector), and both are an infectious blood disease.

The best way to safeguard your hound is to have an initial blood test or tick panel ran by our vet. Blood is simply drawn and sent off to a lab for evaluation. More and more of our vets are offering this as routine. It's a good thing to have done. There are so many symptoms that can accompany the tick borne illness it's just a good idea to initially have the test done to make sure your hound is clear. This is a disease that can lay dormant for quite sometime before any of the symptoms start showing up. It's a good preventative and should be routine testing as the tick infestation is getting more pronounced every year.

Another thing you will want to do is to use a topical preventative on him or her. The recommended flea and tick preventative for greyhounds is Frontline Top Spot (Not Frontline Plus).

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## Volunteers

Pat Walsh, Vice President GPA-MN

All that we do for greyhounds depends on volunteer efforts. GPA-MN is a 100% volunteer organization. Many of you already share your homes with these magnificent animals. However, there are still greyhounds waiting to find their forever homes. I ask everyone to consider volunteering in some way. There are many opportunities to give back to these wonder hounds by volunteering your time. Some tasks require a great amount of time and effort and others are much less time consuming but equally important. Here is a list of current volunteer opportunities. I will update list periodically so please keep your eyes open for a chance to help. I am sure that many of you may have great ideas on how to help so please feel free to contact me with your ideas.

### Greyfest Volunteers

Greyfest 2005 is June 4th at Spooner Park in Little Canada. We need about 40 volunteers for various activities. This will be covered much more in depth in the near future. The important thing is to mark this day on your calendar.

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## 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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## Holiday Howls

### *Adopting Daphne* **A Valentine's Day Love Story** Samantha Shine

I had no idea I would end up adopting a Greyhound. For the longest time I had my heart set on an English Bulldog and met a breeder at a dog show that had the most spectacular Bulldogs I ever saw. His stud boy was a handsome year-old champion and after several months of waiting he fathered a beautiful baby girl. The breeder called me and we were breathless with excitement...until he told me he'd been offered \$4500 for her. Then I realized this breed was way out of my league financially.

I kept going to dog shows and doing research online. There were two breeds that kept coming up for me: Shiba Inus and Greyhounds. I'm not that into small dogs, so I started paying attention to Greyhounds. I remembered reading a magazine article about Greyhound adoption at least ten years ago written by Cynthia Branigan. Then I found out about GPA through a dog show, where I first met Jack, Tilly, Pete and Epic. They were laid back, quiet and absolutely gorgeous dogs. All of them wore stunning collars and were about the best-behaved dogs I had ever met! Naturally I sent for an application and started the adoption process. It seemed like forever until I got a call.

I interviewed vets and talked to people about the dogs and went to Meet & Greets. After several phone conversations I finally got onto the waiting list for a hound. Then I received a call about a girl named Evvie. She was already adopted by the time I was able to respond to the message, so I kept waiting. After a few weeks Shari (Gray, an adoption rep who has since moved with her family to Texas) phoned with two dogs she wanted me to meet. So on a Saturday morning Shari took me to John and Jodi Brunner's where I met Turner and Coleen (the Greyhound now known as Daphne).

After hearing her describe both dogs I really felt like Turner was more in line with what I was looking for. I really thought I was going to adopt him. And after meeting them he was so much more cooperative as far as walking down stairs, going potty and just clicking with me. But something about her was so compelling—than there was her beautiful brindle coat—so much like our Great Dane, Gunji. After Brian and Marty took Turner home I had a little more one-on-one time with Daphne. Something about her just got to me--I can't find the words to explain it. When Turner was leaving she got right up in his face and stuck her tongue in his mouth. Then she leaned against my leg--it was like she picked me. At that moment I knew I was adopting her.

The following Friday couldn't arrive fast enough. I was ready to burst from excitement. At about 6 or 7 o'clock Shari brought her to my house and I nearly cried tears of joy. My little girl was home at last and the rest, as they say, is history!

Dear EZ,

Happy Valentines Day to a handsome boy!  
If I hadn't met you and your gentle way,  
I wouldn't have fallen in love with  
Greyhounds.  
Monty and I are forever greyful.  
Love always,  
Chelsea

Hank & Star:

HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY!  
- Seydi & Marlowe

(Continued from page 1)

## **Foster Homes**

This is definitely one of the most rewarding, challenging, and fun opportunities available. It is also a position we are always looking for more volunteers. This involves taking a dog home straight from the track or a dog that has been previously adopted and returned to GPA. As a foster, you would be responsible for teaching dogs about stairs, windows, hardwood floors and everything else a track dog needs to know. You will also be responsible for taking the dog to be vetted and to adoption meetings. We have a very supportive foster coordinator and adoption representatives to help our fosters be successful.

## **Meet & Greet Hosts**

Meet & Greet hosts are responsible for setting up and running the monthly Meet & Greets held at the various PETCO stores. Hosts are required to attend the Meet & Greet for their location. We also do co-hosting, where two people or families can alternate the duties if they need to. Sylvia Kresal is our friendly Meet & Greet Coordinator and she can answer any of your questions about being a host.

## **Meet and Greet Attendees**

This is not a position you have to volunteer for in advance. You just have to show up with your greyhounds. This is a great opportunity to socialize your hounds and yourselves with other greyhound owners. This is

also vitally important to show off to people what great family members these hounds make. Most people who adopt a greyhound from us do so because of meeting the dogs here at the Meet & Greets.

## **Article Writers for The Home Stretch**

Express yourself! *The Home Stretch* is always looking for articles and stories about your greyhounds and greyhound life. Though we may not always use them all of them, we appreciate receiving them! Send us pictures, jokes, stories, or anything else relating to greyhounds.

## **Newsletter Production Assistants**

Brain and Jen Jett put the whole newsletter together, writing, editing, proofreading as well as the layout. On top of that, they also fold, stamp, label and mail them all out. The production portion of the newsletter alone takes the two of them about 4 hours to do. If a few people would volunteer to help out, it could get done a lot faster.

## **Coat Makers**

In the winter we send all dogs home with coats. All of our coats are made by volunteers. If you are handy with sewing needle and thread, please let us know if you would like to volunteer to make a coat or two. Please feel free to contact me with any opportunities that might be of interest to you.

Pat Walsh

[Walt13@comcast.net](mailto:Walt13@comcast.net)



## **The Greyhounds**

By Barb Lund

Born of the wind  
to command the zephyrs  
with grace and intelligence.

Regally they survey the world  
before them with a gaze as  
sharp as a sword.  
Their calm demeanor belying a  
ferocious speed.

Acknowledging kindness and love  
with a lick on the hand and  
a head on the knee,  
these gentle souls gaze fondly at  
the ones they love.

*For Chick and Amanda*

## **Greyfest 2005—June 4th 11a.m. — 4p.m.**

### **Jen Jett, Secretary**

If greyhounds had PDAs or any other sort of calendar at their disposal, June 4th would be circled in red. GPA-MN's annual Greyfest is the biggest day of celebration in the local greyhound world! Now, veterans of past Greyfests know what all the fuss is about, but those who have recently adopted may think that we're blowing this out of proportion. Don't disappoint yourself or your hound—mark your calendar NOW!

What can you expect to find at Greyfest? Glad you asked! Greyfest is a shoppers paradise—especially if you're looking for good deals on greyhound merchandise. We have wonderful vendors, both local and national, that come year after year. If you're looking for coats, collars, or clothes—Greyfest won't disappoint! Maybe you're into games of chance. GPA also has a wonderful raffle event that begins promptly at 3 p.m. Table after table is full of items large and small, greyhound and non-greyhound! Hungry? There is plenty to eat and drink at Greyfest, so bring your appetite! You like greyhounds? Who doesn't! This event is a greyt opportunity to show off your hound(s). Speed Alley is a perennial favorite. We set-up a run where your dog can relive his or her glory days on the track or treat it like a catwalk and strut for the adoring public—either way, big fun is had by all.



*Seydi and Marlowe share the bed!*

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*Some of you may remember Dallas. He was "bounced back" to GPA after he had spent seven years living with his first family. There had been an accident and Dallas was severely injured by another dog. Jennifer and I agreed to take him into our home. When I first saw him, my heart broke, he was skinny and scared and his stitches were hard to look at. We nicknamed him "Frankenhound."*

*But he was so gentle and sweet, and he would look at us with timid eyes that just wanted to be loved. I remember spending hours on the floor next to him, scratching his ears and nuzzling him.*

*Dallas stayed with us for sometime, longer than most fosters should, and we grew very close to him. I told Jennifer one day that I doubted we could find a good forever home for him because in my opinion no one would ever be good enough for him.*

*I'm glad to say I was wrong. Al and Diane came to our house to meet Dallas and, like us, they were smitten by his tenderness and his charm. They wanted to give him the best home possible and I knew that Dallas was going to be just fine in his new forever home.*

*Al and Diane stayed in contact with us, and I remember running into Dallas at last year's Greyfest. He looked so happy and healthy and I just hugged him and kissed him and hoped he remembered me.*

*That's why, when Diane called to tell us that Dallas had passed away, my heart broke all over again. Dallas was a very special dog and he touched so many in the short time he was with us. Though he had had some tough times, I know he was happy and loved and, in the end, that's all any of us can ask for.*

*Goodbye Dallas, and thank you.  
Brian Jett*

## Dear Dallas,

It is strange still to be able to walk across the living room floor without having to allow for your comfortably sprawled legs, or you curled up on your cushion in that seemingly impossible compact ball or in that weird grasshopper pose that didn't look comfortable at all . . . Hips poking straight up, front legs stretched out as you laid on your green pillow—your Christmas gift from Al and I.

That pillow is upstairs now, in the spare bedroom, along with your everyday leash and collar, your S collar the tags we could hear jingling early in the mornings when you would get up for your first long stretch of the day. Your blue dress collar is up there too. The one with the matching leash that you so quickly learned that meant that you were going somewhere special when it was put around your neck. Once it was to meet my boss who wanted to meet a fellow runner, usually it was to visit with bunches of people who might be prospective adopters who would pet and fuss over you (which was great), but even better it meant a chance to visit and play with your fellow hounds—your "homies" as Al called them. In fact, you were the hound who seemed to stand the longest as the Meet & Greets we attended before you finally retired to your blanket for a break. The GASSY walks gave you the chance to make even more friends and as you did, Al and I did. Together we were better ambassadors when we went to dogs and pet shows where GPA would have its booth. Thank you.

You were a couch potato here at home, we were warned about that. But when Al took down your leash from its hook by the door in the evenings after dinner, or after a play rehearsal or performance, you were tail wagging ready. You were not above giving him a good goose with your nose (a nose just made for such a poke) if he moved a little too slowly.

You would bark along with the alarm clock in the morning and announce the arrival of the paper, you had your breakfast the same time as Karl the cat did—before Al and I did. You spent your days in your crate listening to KQRS and you were very ready to get out at the end of the work day. Even if it meant putting up with Karl who would sniff your feet, lick your ear, avoid you or generally get in your space. When he did that the only way we knew would be if we heard a low grumbly growl—sometimes we wouldn't even see you pick up your head off the floor.

You came to us the first Saturday in May of 2004 and you left us the Friday in January 2005. You weren't even 11 years old yet. You left so soon. We were delighted by your beautiful eyes and expressive face, your sweet disposition and intelligence, and your gentle, stoic nature.

Your life had some tough times we know and we hope that your time with us was happy, comfortable, loving and fun. That is what we wanted for you.

You brought Al and I a great deal of joy and the pleasure of meeting many new, wonderful people and going to new places with you and we miss you terribly. Karl is still walking around the house looking for you, even if he won't admit it. He even went behind the bed this morning.

When the time comes for us to bring a new dog into our home we want you to know that we want that dog to be a greyhound because of our experience with you. We also want you to know that that hound can never replace you in our hearts, our hearts and our memories.

*Al Fiene and Diane Hagen*



(Continued from page 1)

If your hound is going to be outdoors for any length of time, walking through woods up at a cabin or lake, or if you are just a nature lover and always take your hound with you, it's a good idea to keep them protected with the preventative all during the flea and tick season.

These are two easy, simple ways to protect your friend from an illness that could possibly be devastating to both you and them.

Another thing to keep in mind now is that the heartworm season will be upon us again starting in May. Remember to take your hounds in for that yearly heartworm test and get them started on the preventative before the skeeters get here!

Keep those pups safe and guarded against all the tiny creatures that can cause them so much harm.

## How to Train Your Human:

*It's only been 17 months since Homer Hank retired from racing. But this 4 year old has become an expert in the field of training Humans. Read an excerpt below of his upcoming book.*

Homer Hank, a.k.a. Hank E. Pants

### Chapter One: Outside Time

Every Grey loves the greyt outdoors. For whatever reason, God decided to give use (among other things) grace, speed, beauty, and rabbits, but not opposable thumbs. Opening a patio door has always been a challenge to Greys, but this is why God also gave us Humans. The trick is teaching your Human to let you out whenever you want. First, use the obvious. Stand by the patio door and look at your Human. If your Human doesn't move, paw at the door and look at him/her again. You may hear the Human vocalize at this point using the common Human phrase "Hank, go lay down". Ignore this. Paw the door again, but this time whine. If this still fails to elicit the desired response, urinate. With persistence your Human will quickly learn to obey your command springing into action when you go to the door. Don't let this training go to waste. Once back inside, wait 5 minutes and repeat.

Training your Human to let you outside should also occur at various times during the day. This reinforces the lessons you are teaching them and allows for immediate satisfaction on your part. Humans have a terrible memory, so use every opportunity to train your Human. For example, in our household at least one Human wakes up around 2AM and makes their way into the bathroom just to make sure it's still there. Research into what goes on in the bathroom is typically blocked by a closed door or interrupted by another common Human phrase "Go on, Hank!" Again, ignore Human vocalizations whenever possible.

This nocturnal foray to the bathroom provides an excellent opportunity to allow your Human to practice their new skill. First, allow the Human to lie down, cover themselves with their blanket and relax. A relaxed Human is typically more responsive to training than a stressed, distracted Human. When the Human becomes sufficiently relaxed, indicated by deep breathing or possibly even snoring, signal your intent to begin training by shaking the tags on your collar for 10-15 seconds. Then take a long drink of water from the dish in the corner. With your now clean mouth, gently wake your Human by rearranging his/her face with your tongue. Then move to the doorway of the bedroom and look back at your Human. Again, ignore any vocalizations you may hear, especially if

### Symptoms of Ehrlichiosis:

- Weakness
- Cough
- Labored breathing
- Fatigue
- Pneumonia
- Intermittent fever
- Arthritis
- Muscle wasting
- Discharge from nose or eyes
- Depression
- Weight loss
- Anorexia
- Increased thirst and urination
- Incontinence
- Sensitivity of the skin
- Head tremors
- Disorientation
- Seizures
- Neck or back pain
- Bleeding tendencies
- Pallor due to anemia
- Retinal hemorrhages
- Bleeding into the skin
- Rash
- Nose bleeds
- Spontaneous bleeding
- Abdominal tenderness
- Swelling of the legs
- Swollen lymph nodes

### Symptoms of Babesiosis :

- Anorexia
- Inability to put on weight
- Weakness
- Depression
- Muscle wasting-particularly noticeable above the eye and along the spine
- Lethargy
- Intermittent fever
- Jaundice - characterized by dark urine
- Blood in the urine
- Abdominal swelling
- Swollen limbs
- Pus like mucous in the eyes or nose
- Mouth ulcers
- Enlarged spleen
- Central nervous system abnormalities
- Seizures
- Involuntary head palsy
- Bleeding of the capillaries into the skin causing blood spots or a rash
- Massive, unexplained bruising
- Prolonged or spontaneous bleeding - particularly related to surgical procedures
- Renal and kidney involvement - incontinence, increased thirst, increased urination
- Unresponsive diarrhea

(Continued on page 6)

## 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*  
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*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 March

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

### COON RAPIDS

Saturday, February 12 12—3 p.m.

Saturday, March 12 12—3 p.m.

### EAGAN

Saturday, February 19 12—2 p.m.

Saturday, March 19 12—2 p.m.

### EDEN PRAIRIE:

Saturday, February 12 12—2 p.m.

Saturday, March 12 12—2 p.m.

### FRIDLEY:

Saturday, February 19 11—1 p.m.

Saturday, March 19 11—1 p.m.

### HIGHLAND

Saturday, February 26 9—11 a.m.

Saturday, March 26 9—11 a.m.

### MANKATO—PET EXPO

Sunday, February 20 12—3 p.m.

Sunday, March 20 12—3 p.m.

### MAPLE GROVE

Saturday, February 19 9—11 a.m.

Saturday, March 19 9—11 a.m.

### MAPLEWOOD

Saturday, February 12 12—2 p.m.

### RICHFIELD:

Saturday, February 26 12—3 p.m.

Saturday, March 26 12—3 p.m.

### RIDGEDALE

Saturday, February 12 10—2 p.m.

Saturday, March 12 10—2 p.m.

### ST. CLOUD

Saturday, February 12 11—1 p.m.

Saturday, March 12 11—1 p.m.

### BORDERS AT CALHOUN SQUARE

Saturday, March 5 12—3 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](mailto: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](mailto:kmillardeoel@email.msn.com)

### GPA Social Hour (Richfield)

Bring your hound and socialize with other members of GPA on the second Tuesday of every month. Tuesday Social Hour held at the Richfield PETCO from 7-8pm.

[nkresal@mn.rr.com](mailto:nkresal@mn.rr.com)

## Train Your Human

*(Continued from page 5)*

these vocalizations sound threatening. Instead, return to your Human and lick his/her face again. If this does not elicit a response, loudly run downstairs and bark to your Human from the living room. When your Human comes down the stairs reward him/her with general happiness and tail wagging and run to the patio door. Again, repeat these steps until it becomes second nature for the Human to let you outside on your terms.

In the next chapter I will explain how growling at a closet door can instill confidence in your Human.

(Continued from page 3)

What do you need to know?

1. Bring cash or checks—some vendors may accept credit cards but GPA doesn't for raffle tickets or merchandise.
2. Bring your hound—you are responsible to keep your dog on leash at all times. If they poop, you scoop.
3. You must be present to win or have someone claim your raffle prize for you. If not, we draw again! Remember, the raffle begins at 3 p.m.
4. Raffle tickets are .50 (red), \$1.00 (yellow), and \$2.00 (blue). The color of the table cloth indicates the ticket amount.
5. Get involved and volunteer—there are lots of opportunities and you can hold onto your dog while you work a short shift. Contact Pat Walsh (Walt13@comcast.net) or Jen Jett (wynthier@comcast.net).
6. It's a blast for your whole family! Non-greyhounds that behave are welcome and receive honorary "greyhound" status for the day.



*Gill spends some quality time with Elmo!*

## **On Sale Now! 2005 Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar**

Do you still need a calendar? There are only a few 2005 CG wall calendars left so hurry up and order yours! Starting February 1st, the wall calendars will be 50% off.

Also check out the new sweat-shirt designs and lanyards!

All available on line at [www.gpa.mn.org](http://www.gpa.mn.org)!

## **Lenox Jeweled Devotion Greyhound Sculpture**

**Now Available!**

Looking for a special gift for that greyhound lover or are you looking to spoil yourself? The next page features information about purchasing a Lenox Jeweled Devotion Greyhound Sculpture. Greyhound Pets of America has authorized this and will receive a portion of the profits. This exquisite pair was unveiled at the National Convention and generated much buzz! For more information go to [www.lenox.com](http://www.lenox.com) and search under greyhound.

## **Adoptions**

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Kristen & John Ryan—Kim  
Chris Topic—Aludra  
Lori & Tony Dean—Ed  
Randy & Rose Cole—Nimby  
Robert & Deborah Jesseman—Termite  
Lisa & Bruce Harrod—Slammer

## **Gotcha Days**

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Ron—Marcy & Mike Barger  
Rainbow—Connie & David Nelson  
Coz—LuAnn Yerks & Kelly Wolfe  
Dakota—Sheri & Mike Baker  
Gill—Denise & David Swenson  
Lidia—Caroline & Michael Atwood

## **Waiting at the Bridge**

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Dallas—Diane Hagen & Alan Fiene

*"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

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*Address Service Requested*

## Donations

Victoria Mulder—Annie's Gotcha Day

Michelle Kalantari—In memory of Dharma

Jen & Brian Jett—In memory of Dallas

Connie Isaak

## Next Issue:

St. Patty's Day is coming and the **Home Stretch** is sending out a call for greyhound limericks! Break out your shamrocks and your Blarney Stones, 'cause there's a little bit of the Irish in all of us, even the hounds!



## 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

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### 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.