



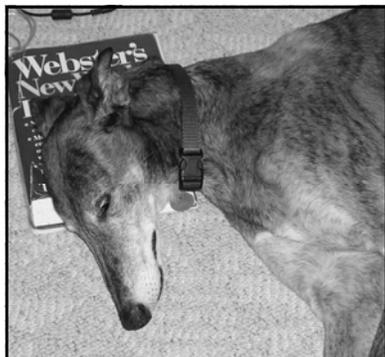
The Home Stretch

January 2005

Volume 10, Issue 1

2005-2006 GPA-MN Board of Directors

Congratulations to the new 2005—2006 GPA-MN Board of Directors. The term is a two year commitment and members take on various responsibilities in the management and day-to-day administration of the organization. Here are the members.



Ralph learning by osmosis!

JEN RACHAC—PRESIDENT

I have been involved with GPA for 7 years now in a variety of rolls. This is my fifth year as a board member and will be serving as the President of GPA for 2005. You can find me with my two fabulous hounds, Hank and Star, the third Saturday of every month from 11-1 at the Fridley PETCO Meet & Greet.

PAT WALSH—VICE PRESIDENT

I was elected to the board this past fall during the elections. I have also been elected as Vice President of the Minnesota chapter of GPA. I am really looking forward to the new responsibilities and challenges of being a board member and an officer for GPA. My wife and I adopted our hound Mango almost four years ago. We started to foster about two months after that and we have fostered 17 hounds since that time. I have enjoyed the time I have spent with each foster. I have also learned something a little different from each foster about Greyhounds. We also have volunteered at all the events except RenFest, maybe this year. We will also be starting to host a Meet & Greet at Maplewood in February. My other pets include a Red Tailed Boa Constrictor and saltwater fish. I have know quite of few of the volunteers for GPA and am looking forward to meeting the rest of you.

TERI PETRIN—TREASURER

This is my fourth year serving on the GPA-MN board. I look forward to a new year and the opportunity to help more hounds find their forever home. This year I will continue serving as Treasurer, but I have moved from Foster coordinator to Adoption Coordinator. You can usually find me at home with my husband, Jason, our two daughters, Elizabeth (3) and Gabrielle (10 mos.), and the greys: Argus (10.5), Sizer (7.5) and Roscoe - our resident foster.

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Thank You to Out-Going Board Members

Being a board member requires dedication and commitment. This year, we had three board members complete their terms: Sylvia Kresal, Michelle and Thrond Toftely. GPA very much appreciates all that they have done and continue to do for the organization.

Sylvia served as the vice-president and coordinated the GPA merchandise table at the Festival. On the board, she brought enthusiasm, follow-through, and creative thinking to all activities and events that she participated in. Sylvia continues her role as Meet & Greet Coordinator and can be spotted at the GASSY walks—weather permitting.

Michelle served as the Special Events Coordinator and helped in planning the Membership Appreciation meetings. She brought fresh ideas and spirit to the board. Michelle was influen-

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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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Newsletter@gpa.mn.org

Or mail to:

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Minneapolis, MN 55449

GPA-MN Board Members

JEN JETT—SECRETARY

This begins my third year serving on the GPA-MN board. I am excited to continue my responsibilities as Secretary and as an Adoption Representative. One of the most fulfilling GPA experiences has been as a foster. We thoroughly enjoy sharing our home with hounds waiting for their forever home. Also, I co-host the Fridley PETCO Meet & Greet with my two hounds, Seydi and Marlowe and ever-helpful husband, Brian.

JENNIFER KELLY

I first became involved with GPA-MN through fostering. Over the past year and a half we (myself and my two non-Greyhounds Benjamin + Gizmo) have welcomed several fosters into our home to help them make the adjustment from track life to "home" life - and have truly enjoyed witnessing their transformation, and then adoption to their forever homes. I will also be an active adoption representative, interviewing applicants, and matching them with Greys who are the most compatible for their homes and lifestyles. And finally, I will be helping with various fundraisers, and working with other members to coordinate and work at special events.

I am very excited to be a new member on the GPA-MN Board, as I believe in the purpose and work of this organization, and am thrilled to be serving our Greyhound community.

Coordinators

GPA has many volunteers who coordinate various aspects of the management and administration of the organization. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the coordinator.

- Adoption Coordinator: Teri Petrin
jtegpetrin@netzero.com
- Foster Coordinator: Barb Lund
blund@prawow.com
- Meet & Greet Coordinator: Sylvia Kresal
nkresal@mn.rr.com
- Newsletter Editor: Brian Jett
brianjett@comcast.net
- Merchandise Coordinator: Robyn Aabear
fundraising@gpa.mn.org

BARB LUND

Hello to all you hound lovers! First off, thanks for electing me to the Board. It looks like its going to be an exciting time. One of my duties is to be the new Foster Coordinator. Teri Petrin and I met to go over the position. Sounds like we have a great group of volunteers. If any of the rest of you are interested in volunteering to help get a hound into his/her forever home, let me know and I'll go over what it takes. After fostering a fair number of hounds over the past two years, I have to say it's a very rewarding experience and highly endorse it.

So, who am I? I have been involved with greyhounds for a little over a decade. I adopted my first two greyhounds, Chick and Amanda, from St. Croix Meadows. Both are waiting for me at the Bridge. I have two others, Boone and Sweetie, that are just as delightful. If I'm not walking or feeding them, giving them skritches or laughing at the amazing things they do, I am diligently at work at a sales promotion and marketing agency overseeing our accounts and making sure all our clients are happy. While that keeps me fairly busy, I also like to putter in my garden in the summer and do a fair amount of traveling as my schedule permits.

CHRIS KING

Jacki, my grey, and I are new to GPA and have had a greyt time meeting so many of you and Jacki's new friends too. I've been to several M & Gs, the monthly social hour, book wrappings and the Land O' Lakes Kennel Club event. I will be coordinating the Land O' Lakes Kennel Club event in 2005. I look forward to working with the Board to provide opportunities for the public to meet us and our special hounds, as well as finding "forever homes" for retired greyhounds. As a new Board member, I look forward to volunteering and coordinating GPA events during the year and becoming a foster home for greyhounds waiting for loving homes. I invite new greyhound owners to participate and volunteer in GPA events. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Memories of Kim

Dear GPA Family;

I know many of us have shared stories of Kim Hrabe and what an extraordinary person she was. Our grief is very fresh and the reality may not have fully set in yet. With all that said, I would like to share a brief story about Kim and our Greyhound, Chaz.

My husband and I lost both of our special girls in 2003 (Lena and Lilly), and in January of 2004, we decided it was time to open our home and hearts to another companion. We weren't sure of which direction to turn. I contacted GPA-MN about adopting a greyhound and was soon called by Shannon and Kim. Kim had a male greyhound that was very sweet (Chaz - formerly known as Chad), but had been through a very traumatic time evidently. He had severely fractured his right rear leg, just below the hock, prior to being picked up by GPA and Kim. At the time I was contacted by Kim, Chaz had been in her home for some 2 months. Kim had told me that if she could, she would have kept Chaz. So naturally, I was honored that Kim felt comfortable enough to meet us and see what we thought of Chaz. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! And we have been in love with him ever since. It was difficult for Kim to give him up, I felt so bad at the time. All I could do was reassure her that Chaz was getting a great home. Kim and I shared emails and photos, I always wanted to keep her posted on his progress. I came to know Kim as a person who simply wanted to give every greyhound she encountered the very best of what life has to offer. And I believe she did just that!

Chaz probably wouldn't be the boy he is today if it weren't for Kim. He is a very compassionate soul and Kim gave him all her love and TLC. Even Chaz is mourning. I believe he knew Kim had passed before I did. When I found out, I fell to the



Chaz lounging at home.

floor and wept. Instantly, Chaz came over and stood next to me as he leaned in and gave me his shoulder to cry on, as if trying to give me a hug. I feel deep down inside that him and I wept together - as one.

It's hard to believe Kim is gone. To her family, our deepest and most sincere condolences. Kim's legacy will live on forever in the hearts and minds of every person and every greyhound she touched.

The Petry Family
(Dave, Tracy, Chaz, Beyla, Ske and Ellie)

A Special Thank You

This fall GPA-MN suffered a heartbreaking loss with the tragic death of Kim Hrabe. Kim's family had memorials sent to GPA. We would like to thank Martin, Jennifer, and Hannah Hrabe for their generosity. GPA received many cards, donations, and warm wishes both locally and nationally. Kim's memory lives on in the work she did for greyhounds and the many lives she touched while volunteering.

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Memorials for Kim Hrabe

Barb Lund
Luana Ball
Nancy Perlich Carie Peterson
Charles Lucas
Aria Communications
Chris and Trina Johnson
Larry and Ina Dunham
Steel City Greyhounds
Carla Myers
Gretchen Meyer
Alice Gibson
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital

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 and search under greyhound.

Jacki's Big Day

Jacki
(transcribed by Chris King)

This was my first big event since going to my "forever home". I got all dressed up with a new collar and was excited to get out of the car when I arrived. I walked up a ramp, stopped and entered a small room. The door closed and the room was moving, so I planted all fours. When the door opened I was relieved to see lots of dogs, all sizes, shapes and colors. I was so excited to see all my friends there! This wasn't like a Meet & Greet at all. There were bushy dogs with blue eyes on one side of us and reddish dogs on the other side. One of the bushy dogs jumped up in front of my face and I growled at him to let him know that I don't like to play like that. I spent the afternoon with Angie and a lot of people came to see us. There's nothing better than getting a rub, pet or a scratch, except for maybe treats! Every one was so nice.

Towards the end of the afternoon, I wanted to take a walk and see what all of the hoop-la was about. There was a lot to see. There were many different kinds of beds, collars, leashes and food. The most unusual thing that I saw was dogs with there Moms or Dads running around a track. Some times they followed each other and sometimes they ran alone. A person would point at them until there was only one left and they were the winner. Boy, they sure didn't run very fast.

Well, I had a greyt time and I was so glad to get in the car and sleep all the way home.

Greyhounds Hit the Land O' Lakes Dog Show

Pat Walsh

The Land O' Lakes Dogs show was held on January 8 & 9 of this month. We arrived early in the morning on the 9th and there must have been 200 people already at show. Denise and I had brought our hound Mango to the show. We worked the GPA-MN booth with Dana Halvorson and her daughter Keisa along with their hounds Kass and, the hardest working hound around, Jammy. The booth was sandwiched between the Huskies and the Golden Retrievers. Even so, the greyhounds received the most attention despite the fact that they were not nearly as playful or energetic as the Huskies and Goldens.

Speaking of energetic, Jammy (3 years) was not going to out done by her middle aged co-workers Kass (6 years) and Mango (7 years). She showed them just how good she was at the fine art of relaxing. If anyone wanted to know what greyhounds are like at home all

we had to do was point at her. Kass was definitely the greeter, he loved the attention as much as anybody and he was pretty darn good at getting people to pet him. Not only did he reel them in, but Kass is the master of the "lean," a maneuver designed to captivate his audience. Mango was also very friendly but more interested in the other dogs and the squeaky toys. During our time at the show, we did pretty well. We spoke to at least 3 or 4 potential applicants. We also had a lot of interest from people who had never met the breed. All in all, the response was very positive from everyone who stopped by to pet the hounds and Kass, Jammy and Mango did a great job of representing the breed.

I would like to thank Denise, Dana and Keisa and everyone else who helped out with this event. This was a great opportunity for the hounds and I strongly encourage others to volunteer for upcoming events like this.

Holiday Howls

Though not technically a Christmas present, Caliph received a baby brother (i.e. a new puppy).

- Pete Opitz



Caliph and his Christmas present.

After celebrating Hanukkah, a friend gave Daphne a Christmas stocking . . . which I proceeded to fill with a designer (Nicole Miller) treat bag that hooks onto belt or pants and a beautiful Persian lamb collar (to wear with her custom-made leather jacket).

- Sam Shine

Monty received a squeaky toy bust of George Bush from his "grandma" (the packaging said "you can't get even, but your dog can!")

- Chelsea Kocina

Boone made a resolution that he was going to save a little space on the loveseat for mom so he could snuggle up with her. So far, he's doing incredibly well keeping his resolution.

Sweetie decided to join mom in her resolution to lose a few pounds and get back that sleek, svelte racing form (Sweetie, not mom!) So far, Sweetie is having just about as much trouble sticking to a diet as mom. Oh well, we'll keep trying.

- Barb Lund

Gracie and Hobbes were the lucky recipients of these over-the-top gifts from their aunt (John's sister) Bonnie, who has fallen head over heels for her greyhound relatives. No more sleeping on the floor for these lucky hounds!

- Lisa & John Quast



Gracie & Hobbes enjoying the good life!

Out-Going Board Members

(Continued from page 1)

tial by helping the novices understand the hows and whys of web site planning and implementation. She also helped GPA secure a new vet for foster dogs for which we are very grateful.

Thrond shared his legal expertise with the board, and it was utilized by helping us understand our rights and responsibilities. He was also helpful in making thoughtful decisions about the web site. Thrond also loaned his services with planning the Festival and Membership Appreciation. Thrond and Michelle continue to serve GPA as fosters.

The PETCO Foundation Supports GPA-MN

Jen Jett

In our house, we now have to spell PETCO or else Seydi's ears perk up because she thinks that she's going for a R-I-D-E. Seydi and Marlowe aren't the only hounds who love PETCO. Most hounds who regularly attend Meet & Greets recognize the people in the blue shirts and willingly sit for their treats. It's no secret that staff at the local PETCOs treat the greyhounds very well. But did you know that PETCO has a special relationship with GPA-MN?

The PETCO Foundation's mission is to "support community organizations and efforts that enhance the lives of companion animals while strengthening the bond between people and pets." Our Meet & Greet hosts have developed positive relationships with the stores they volunteer at; as result, we have been chosen to as a Charitable Partner for several

of their fundraisers. GPA-MN and the hounds we help have greatly benefited from PETCO and their patron's generosity.

On several occasions, local PETCOs have designated GPA-MN as their Charitable Partner for their fundraising campaigns. In the fall, we partnered up for the Round Up/ Spay Today 2004 as well as Greyhound Planet Day. Several stores over the holidays donated a portion or all of their Tree of Hope donations to us. GPA has also been the recipient of the Spring-a-Pet campaign.

These rather sizable donations have allowed us to bring in seniors and special needs hounds who often require additional care from the veterinarian. Next time your at PETCO, tell them you're a GPA adopter and appreciate their generosity. Also, if you are interested in volunteering, consider becoming a Meet & Greet host!

The Foster Hounds Are Getting Warmer!

Marcy Barger

Once again we would like to thank the talented seamstresses of our group for providing our pups with all the beautiful coats that have been coming in. A huge thank you goes out to Garland Lundquist, Jude Edling, Samantha Shine, Renee Williams, Alicia Novotny, Michelle Kalantari, Lisa Quast, and Judy Schollen for providing the warmth these skinny little bodies need. They will be happy and toasty warm on these long, cold days in Minnesota.

I'd also like to thank Aimee Finley for providing the pattern for making the coats. If I have missed anyone, please let me know.

Keep up the good work ladies. There's always a foster dog or two coming down the pike just waiting to be fitted with that special coat the sweethearts of GPA-MN provide for them.

Thank you so much everyone. Beautiful work!

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GreyFest 2005

June 4th, 2005

Mark your calendars—GreyFest 2005 is coming! June 4th 2005 at Spooner Park in Little Canada. Planning is underway, so if you have something to donate or would like to volunteer, please email Jen Jett at wynthier@comcast.net.

Old Greyhound T-shirt wanted!

If you're cleaning out your closet and have old, too big, too small, too pitted, or too many t-shirts, please consider donating them. Jude Edling is working on a quilt for the raffle! You may send donation to:

Jude Edling 112 E. 8th Street,
Blue Earth, MN 56013

An example of the t-shirt quilt can be found at www.blueearthchamber.com and click on the 2004 Quilt & Woodcarver's show. Quilts 74-76 are t-shirt quilts.

Thanks Jude for doing this—you do beautiful work!



Ralph shows off his new winter coat.

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 December

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

COON RAPIDS

Saturday, February 12 12—3 p.m.

EAGAN

Saturday, February 19 12—2 p.m.

EDEN PRAIRIE:

Saturday, February 12 12—3 p.m.

FRIDLEY:

Saturday, February 19 11—1 p.m.

MAPLE GROVE

Saturday, February 19 9—11 a.m.

RICHFIELD:

Saturday, January 22 12—3 p.m.

Saturday, February 26 12—3 p.m.

RIDGEDALE

Saturday, February 12 10—2 p.m.

BORDERS AT CALHOUN SQUARE

Saturday, February 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

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 on the second Monday of every month for the Second Monday Social Hour held at the Richfield PETCO from 7-8pm.

nkresal@mn.rr.com

Twin Cities Pet Expo (Minneapolis)

Volunteers are needed for the Twin Cities Pet Expo February 26th and 27th at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Pet Expo is a wonderful family event that generates LOTS of interest in adoptions. Some of the events you can catch at the Expo are: flyball teams, dancing with dogs, dock dogs, hedgehog Olympics, and lovable pooch contest. Only volunteers can attend the show with their dogs!

If you are interested in volunteering, the shift times are: Saturday 9-12:30, 12:30-3:30, and 3:30-7, Sunday 9-12, 12-3, and 3-6. Please contact Jen Kelly at jkelly17@mn.rr.com or 612.236.4457 or Barb Lund at blund@prawow.com or 612.867.5366. Parking tip: there is a church across the street from the Convention Center with a ramp. See if there is availability.

Special Thanks to All Our Volunteers

Recently, GPA participated in two important events: the Minneapolis Kennel Club Show and the Land O' Lakes Dog Show. These events generate a lot of interest in greyhound adoption not only locally but throughout the state. We cannot participate in these event without volunteers who brave the elements and trek with gear and hounds to help spread the word. We very much appreciate everyone who donates their time to help the hounds!

Sylvia Kresal

GPA-MN would like to thank the following people for their help with book wrapping for donations for the 2004 holiday season.

Sylvia Kresal, Lonni Skretner, Debbie Greenstone, Jennifer Kelly, Chris King, Michelle Soshea, Becky Thyken, Lori Kjeseth, Michelle Kalantari, Samantha Shine, Nancy Perlich, Kate Duncan, Dana Halvorson, Keisa Halvorson, Lyle Eckert, Karissa Eckert, Robyn Abear, Anne Ford, Laura Ford, Vickie Reissouer, Jennifer Cottew, Jennifer Dietrich, Mark Dietrich, Aimee Finley, Susan Spiller, Jude Edling, Sheila Wick, Marvel Hildebrandt. Because of so many volunteers we were able to be at several stores several times: Barnes and Noble in the Galleria, Borders in Calhoun Square, Barnes and Noble in Calhoun Village, Barnes and Noble in Har Mar Mall, Barnes and Noble in Roseville Marketplace, and Barnes and Noble in Mankato.

Thank you all for another great year. A special thank you to Jennifer Dietrich, Samantha Shine, Jude Edling, and Sylvia Kresal for organizing the wrapping at the stores. You all are the best and are very much appreciated by GPA and the hounds you help.

Cookie Day at the Richfield PETCO!

Thanks to Samantha Shine for the great pictures!



Adoptions

Guy—Patrick Eckert & Estella Mora

Albert—Meg Moynihan

Kim—Matthew Roed & Jennifer Theis

Jorgen—Timothy & Jennifer Irwin

Anubis—Kelsey Minde & Kevin Haynes

Hoax—Kenny & Julie Cartwright

Jasper—Beth Rutledge

Xena—Nancy Jones

Trevor—Brad Carberry

Gotcha Days

Prince to Paul DesCombaz & Kelly Falch
12/5/2003

Cherokee to Suzanne Cutting 12/22/2003

Annie to Victoria Mulder 12/28/2003

Chaz to Tracy & Dave Petry 1/10/2004

Classy to Mark Downey &
Christine Sanguinet 1/24/2004

Putsta to Caroline & Kent Zachman
1/24/2004

Alexander to Emily & Brett Berg 1/25/2004

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!

Waiting at the Bridge

Icee—Luann Yerks

Rocky—Gretchen & Steve Meyer

Nacho—Beth & Mike Wallin

Shasta—Robin & Bruce Krautbauer

"The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. . . .He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. . . .

When all other friends desert, he remains."

- George C. Vest



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

Allianz Life Insurance on behalf of Alicia Reynolds-Minear

Bonnie Immerfall - for the hounds

Marcy and Michael Barger

Promotion Resource Alliance on behalf of Barb Lund

Audrey Beckstrom in honor of Jada's 4th birthday

Barb Lund in memory of Chick Lund

Jon and Dana Halvorson

Susan and David Wilson - for the hounds

SitStay GoOut, Inc

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.