



# The Home Stretch

June / July 2005

Volume 10, Issue 5

## GREYFEST

### Teresa Ruohomaki

GREYFEST was absolutely wonderful this year and proved again just how wonderful the people in GPA are. Despite the sprinkles on and off throughout the day and the torrential rains at around 3:00 pm. Everyone hung in there. GREYFEST has changed a lot through the years and I have really enjoyed my involvement as first attendee, then volunteer and then I took on the position of coordinator for the last 7 years. I have learned a lot - just ask anyone that was around for the first few. I have been blessed to work with some awesome Board Members/GPA Members over the years that helped make my position easy by taking on different tasks. Vendors, volunteer scheduling, Speed Alley, concessions, and all of the work that goes into our "awesome raffle" Of course, I have to thank my husband, Mark and four children; Andrea 16, Julia 12, Cole 10, and Sean 4. They have chipped in before, during and after the festival to help with "everything and anything" that I ask or need done.

Thank you again to everyone that has worked with me over the years - YOU ARE WONDERFUL!!! I am looking forward to just being a volunteer next year and having a bit more time to chat!



And you thought greyhounds only rode on busses . . .

## Just One

### Barb Lund

As the old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally, catching up to the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," countered the other. "How can your effort make any difference?" The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it safely in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

This is how it is for each and every greyhound we are able to foster and place in a forever home. We are able to give them a life after racing. There are still many, many greyhounds out in this world looking for a loving home to spend the rest of their years. In order to get the greyhound into a forever, we first need to get them off the track. To do this we need more foster homes.

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## Tiss on the Run

### Pat Walsh

**Saturday, 9:30 a.m.:**

I meet Barb Lund to pick up my new foster. Tiss is a tall, thin brindle male with dark ears and feet and a black curly tail. All is going well so far and he jumps right into the back of the car and then proceeded to climb right into the front seat. Barb really likes Tiss a lot. Barb asked if Tiss gets adopted out make sure that he goes to a really good family. I assured her I would do my best. He is being such a good dog I am sure there will be no problems.

Tiss and I are going back to work for a little while.

**10:45 a.m.:**

Tiss is a little anxious and keeps walking around so we leave work and head to PETCO to pick up treats. All is going well at the store and we pick up some BilJacks and Tiss gets a few extra treats from the PETCO employees. We head home. Tiss is lying down in the back seat so I unclick his leash and set it on the front seat.



**Tiss makes a striking first impression**

**11:45 a.m.:**

I pull into the garage and open the door to get out of the car. As I am doing this, I reach over to get Tiss's leash. Too late. Tiss squeezed out of the back seat and is now standing in the garage.

O.K. No problem. Tiss is a friendly boy. Tiss will come to me when I call him. Tiss, Tiss, Tiss come here. No do not walk out of the garage. Every step I take he takes two the other way.

O.K., now this is a problem. Tiss is going to run and I will have to tell Barb I lost her boy in less than 2 hours. Be cool. After all, I'm

the homo sapien here. I've got the superior intellect. Right? Tiss, Tiss come here boy. It is a stand off in the driveway. Neither one of us is moving. One step towards him and he is off walking towards the neighbors. Now I am following him as he heads towards a busy road. Ration and reason seem to be failing me. Tiss finally stops and now he is actually walking towards me. He is getting closer, soon I will be able to grab him. Confidence returning. Missed him. Confidence stands there, shaking her head at me. Tiss is now hightailing it around the neighbors house. Hopefully he will stop at the garage sale. More of that useless reasoning. I came around the house and he is already down the street. The neighbors said he shot around the house like a deer.

Oh boy. This is it. He's gone. I've lost a greyhound. Here, the Vice-President of GPA-MN and long time foster has lost a greyhound in less than two hours of taking possession. How am I going to catch him? Should I get Mango and chase him, maybe he will come if he sees another greyhound? Maybe I should cut my losses and just go write my letter of resignation from the Board and get it over with.

Now my neighbor's sister Carla and I are running down the street. Tiss is already at the end of the block and across the street on his way to the park. He has slowed down now and is going door to door looking for someone to pet him.

My first good break in the chase: a nice lady in a truck pulls up and asks if I want to hop in the back and she will drive me down to him. I said sure and away we went. There he was still walking door to door. We were 4 houses away and gaining quickly. Luckily he is still quite a few houses away from the path to get into the park. Three houses, two houses one house away from Tiss. He is now going up the guy mowing his front yard. Please stop Tiss. Nothing doing. Tiss runs into the open garage. I hop out, thinking I've got him cornered. No such luck. Tiss walked through the garage and into the backyard.

The man notices us and shuts off his lawn mower.

"My dog just ran into your backyard is it OK if I go back there?"

"Go ahead" the nice guy said.

Please, please let there be a fence and if

## 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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Minneapolis, MN 55449*

## Tiss on the Run

there is a fence, please, please let the gate be closed. As I get to the door I see Tiss and the fence. And praise the patron saint of greyhounds, the gate is closed!

I am in the doorway and there is no other gate to the backyard. Alright. Trapped in a yard with a 3' chain link fence and I am in the doorway. I take a deep breath and give Confidence a wink. She smiles wanly at me, still a little miffed about me missing him back there. Tiss, Tiss, Tiss. Now as long as I do not spook him he should come right to me. I mean, greyhounds don't jump. Right? Oh boy. Tiss, come here Tiss, do not jump Tiss. He starts to come towards me, tail between his legs, peeing. He is so close now Tiss, Tiss come here boy- Five feet, four, three, two, one.....Zero. Here he is leaning up against me. Click and the leash is on the collar. What a relief it seems like we pulled into the garage about 20 minutes ago but in actuality it is more like 2 minutes.

Thank you to the man mowing his lawn, a very big thank you to the lady that gave me a ride and to Carla for helping in the chase.



**Thank you, St. Guinefort, for the fence and the gate!**

Tiss and I finally got back home. It was 12:14 p.m. I looked at Tiss and figured, heck, it's five o'clock somewhere. I grabbed a beer from the fridge. I didn't care what Confidence had to say about it, I deserved this one.

*Editors Note:*

*Tiss is now Arrow and has recently been adopted by Barbara Gates & Steve Schaben.. As of this printing, he has made no further escape attempts.*

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### Photo Contest!

Go to [www.milk-bone.com/famous](http://www.milk-bone.com/famous) this is very easy and takes very little time to enter!

If we get a greyhound winner - they will appear on a box of Milk-Bone brand dog biscuits. Just think how many people would see those boxes with a greyhound on it!

Ask them to remind you when it is time to vote.

## Just One

*(Continued from page 1)*

If you are able to help just one of these hounds once a year, it will make a difference - to the hound and to the family who adopts that hound. It will also make a difference in your world. Being able to give a newly retired greyhound its first taste of home life, being able to help mold them into a wonderful companion for some lucky person(s), being able to see all the wonderful variations of greyhound personalities, being able to make a difference is truly a wonderful feeling. I know, I've fostered ten dogs over the past two years and adopted four.

I challenge you to take the plunge. Take just one minute of your time and give me a call or drop me an e-mail to get information on fostering. The starfish are waiting

**Adopting one Greyhound won't change the world, but the world will surely change for that one Greyhound.**

**Mango and Marlowe do what they do best.**



## 2005 North American Adoption Conference

You can now register to attend the 2005 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference to be held in Tampa, FL at the gorgeous Wyndham Westshort Hotel starting early Friday morning September 2 and ending September 4 or 5. Remember the 5th is Labor Day.

We will be updating this site with more details.....topics of sessions, gorgeous framed original greyhound oil painting for the major raffle and other wonderful framed prints for special fundraising, agenda specifics for the GPA business meeting on Friday afternoon and more in the next month!

Greyhounds Allowed!

Greyt Tannin in Tampa Greyhound T-Shirts!

Please put this on your calendar - we are only 5 1/2 months away!

Everyone is invited to attend that is interested in finding all greyhounds available for adoption loving responsible forever homes. This includes GPA chapters, other non-profit greyhound adoption programs, greyhound support groups, people affiliated with the racing industry, state racing commission members, AGTOA members, etc.

[www.gpaconvention.org](http://www.gpaconvention.org)

## No Pain / No Fear Methods of Discipline

*Part II of "No Pain/No Fear" appeared in the May issue of the Home Stretch.*

Are there any of you here who can honestly say you have never met a Greyhound that drove you absolutely fuzzy? If you can, I probably have the one that would make you want to climb the walls in ten minutes. She is verbally and physically abusive, loud and bossy, she has given me a black eye, a split lip, a nearly broken nose. She has thrown me on the ground and then sat on top of me in front of hundreds of people. Yet, every day I worship the water on which she strides. I named her Sweetness, though I cannot for the life of me remember now, why. Yet she gives me her heart and soul every time we perform. And when I hold her in my arms, I know I would not change a single thing.

When a placement doesn't take, it is not all the adoptor's fault and it is certainly not your inability to predict whether they were of correct moral temperament, even if you did have a Ph.D. in psychology. What you need most and probably don't have is a Ph.D in Greyhounds. But there are things you can do.

Put more responsibility on the dog for his behavior. Having said that, I will remind you that of all breeds of dogs, the ex-racing Greyhound has never had to be responsible for anything in his life. His whole existence has been a dog-centered one. This breed has never been asked to do anything for itself, make any decisions or answer any questions. It has been waited on, paw and tail. The only prohibition in a racing Greyhound's life is not to get into a fight or eat certain stuff in the turn out pen.

Let us review a little. From weaning until you go away for schooling, at probably a year and a half, you eat, grow and run around with your siblings. When you go away to begin your racing career, you get your own "apartment," in a large housing development. No one is allowed in your bed but you, and when you are in there, no one can touch you, without plenty of warning.

Someone hears a vehicle drive up, or the kennel door being unlocked. The light switches are flipped on. The loud mouths in residence, and there always are some, begin to bark or howl. You are wide awake by the time the human opens your door to turn you out. A Greyhound has never been touched while he was asleep.

You eat when you are fed, usually on a strict schedule. No one asks if you are hungry or what you want to eat. You are never told not

to eat any food within your reach. No one ever touches your bowl while you are eating. You are not to be disturbed because it is important you clean your plate.

You are not asked if you have to "go outside." You are placed in a turn out pen and it isn't long before you get the idea of what you are supposed to do while you are out there. Unless you really get out of hand, you may chase, rough house and put your feet on everyone and every thing else. The only humans you know are the "waiters" who feed you, and the "restroom attendants" who turn you out to go to the bathroom. Respect people? Surely you jest.

No one comes into or goes out of your kennel without your knowledge. You are all seeing; all knowing. There are no surprises, day in and day out. The only thing it is ever hoped you will do is win, place or show, and that you don't have much control over. It is in your blood, it is in your heart, it is in your fate-- or it is not.

And when it is not, then suddenly you are expected to be a civilized person in a fur coat. But people don't realize you may not even speak English. Some of you don't even know your names, because you didn't need to. You were not asked or told to do anything as an individual; you were always part of the "condo association"; the sorority or fraternity and everyone did everything together, as a group or pack. The only time you did anything as an individual is when you schooled or raced, and even then, You Were Not Alone.

In my "mobile abode," the Greyhounds each have several unique names, but they also have a single common name: it is Everybody. We continue to do things as a group, pack or as we are affectionately known in-house, by Kathleen's Husbandit, "The Thundering Herd."

Back to those who have not been permanently homed. Suddenly, he is expected to behave himself in places he's never been taught how to act. He is expected to take responsibility for saying when he needs to go outside, to come when he is called, not to get on some or all of the furniture, and to not eat food off counters and tables. He is dropped in a world that is not his, and totally without warning, at that.

Almost everything he does is wrong. Suddenly he is a minority. Now he is just a pet. He is unemployed, in a place where people expect him to know the rules and the sched-

ule, even when there aren't any. (How many times have you heard someone say, "He won't tell me when he has to go out." What kind of schedule is that?) Have you heard the joke about the dog who says, "My name is No-No Bad Dog. What's yours?" To me that is not even funny. All the protective barriers are gone. There is no more warning before something happens. There is no more strength in numbers. He wakes up with a monster human face two inches from his. (With some people's breath, this could scare Godzilla.) Why should he not, believe that this "someone," who has crept up on him, isn't going to eat him for lunch? (I really do have to ask you ladies to consider how you would react if someone you barely knew crawled up on you while you were asleep?) No, I will not ask for any male input.

Now he is left alone, for the first time in his life, in a strange place, with no idea of what will happen or how long it will be before someone comes to him again. If he is not crated, he may go through walls, windows or over fences, desperately seeking something familiar, something with which to reconnect his life. If he does get free, he will find the familiarity, within himself: the adrenaline high, the wind in his ears, the blood pulsing and racing through his heart once again--until he crashes into a car.

Often, the first contact with his new family is punishment, something he's never had before, something he doesn't understand now, especially in the middle of the rest of the chaos. And worst of all, what are the most common human reactions to misbehavior? We live in a violent society, where the answer to any irritation is a slap, punch, kick, whip, or rub your nose in it. Under these circumstances, sometimes I think any successful adoption is a miracle.

He is, in effect, expected to have all the manners of at least a six-year old child. But, how many of you would leave an unfamiliar six-year old human alone and loose in your home for hours at a time and not expect to find who knows what when you got back? Consider that if you did, you could be brought up on charges of child abuse, neglect and endangerment. Yet, people do this to Greyhounds and this is often the reason for so many returns.

How many dogs have been returned because they did not know how to tell the adopter when they had to go out? How many for jumping on people, getting on

furniture, counter surfing, separation anxiety, or defensive actions due to being startled or hurt (a.k.a. growling or biting)? So, let's understand: Sometimes it is the dog's "fault" he cannot fit in. He is not equipped with the social skills of a six-year old human. But you can help him.

Basically, adoption programs can be divided into two types. There are those who have access to their adoptees before placement and those who do not.

If you have access to your dogs before adoption, either through a holding kennel situation or foster home program, the behavior modification and training can begin at once and extend into the new home. If the adoption program is demand and supply, most of your counseling and advice will be done over the phone and through handouts.

***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***

### Peaceful Valley Campsite

Pay \$5 for your greyhound and your family camps for free at Peaceful Valley Campsite! Contact Len and Judy Schollen for details at (507) 665-2297 or [lschollen@aol.com](mailto:lschollen@aol.com).

Thanks for your generous offer!

Cruiser and Lillie enjoy some butterscotch!



## 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](http://www.gpa.mn.org)) for more details.

### BOARDERS—CALHOUN SQUARE

Saturday, September 3 12—3 p.m.

### BURNSVILLE

Saturday, July 9 12—2 p.m.

### COON RAPIDS

Saturday, July 9 12—3 p.m.

Saturday, August 13 12—3 p.m.

### EAGAN

Saturday, July 16 12—2 p.m.

Saturday August 20 12—2 p.m.

### EDEN PRAIRIE:

Saturday, July 9 12—2 p.m.

Saturday, August 13 12—2 p.m.

### FRIDLEY:

Saturday, July 16 11—1 p.m.

Saturday, August 20 11—1 p.m.

### MANKATO—PET EXPO

Sunday, July 17 1—4 p.m.

Sunday, August 24 1—4 p.m.

### MAPLE GROVE

Saturday, May 14 9:30—11:30 a.m.

### RICHFIELD:

Saturday, July 23 12—3 p.m.

Saturday, August 27 12—3 p.m.

### RIDGEDALE

Saturday, May 7 10—12 p.m.

### ST. CLOUD

Saturday, July 9 11—1 p.m.

Saturday, August 13 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](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)

The last Tuesday Social before the summer hiatus will be held May 10. There will be no Social Hours during June, July, and August. They will resume September 13th. The Tuesday Social Hour is held at the Richfield PETCO from 7-8pm.

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

# Special Thanks for all the GreyFest Volunteers

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## Pat Walsh and Jen Jett—Volunteer Coordinators

We would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make GreyFest so successful! Of course it's more fun to be shopping and chatting with folks, but many people gave of their time to insure that the event went off without a hitch. We had people selling tickets and merchandise, they assisted vendors and got people signed in, they answered questions and were available to help us make adjustments when needed, they set up and tore down all the tables, and in general, just worked their butts off! We appreciate all the help and the dedication to GPA-MN. GreyFest brings together people and hounds and demonstrates the caring community we are. Thank you...and we'll see ya next year.

## Adoptions

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Kay Bortnem—Roxy  
Laurie & Terry Palmer—Prince  
Sandra Parks—Mikey  
Judy Cobb—Puckett  
Rachel Reinke—Pico  
Barbara Gates & Steve Schaben—Arrow  
LuAnn Yerks & Kelly Wolfe—Aludra  
Charlotte & Paul Huebl—Diane  
Bree & Bill Plessel—Lightening  
Deb & Mike Betz—George  
Kathleen Seal & Richard Gray—Coach  
Tom and Kim Gallogly—Cannonball  
Lou Wallis—Elvira

## Gotcha Days

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Pembroke—Anna & Richard Heinrich  
Denton—Julie Babler  
Montana—Trinity Jensen & Charleen Novak  
Marco—Victoria Thor & Martin Harris  
Susie—Gary & Toni Virta  
Darwin—Shannon Sills  
Jack—Kenny & Julie Cartwright  
Blue—Len & Judy Schollen  
Jacki—Chris King  
Cee Cee—Josh & Rhauna Bearfield  
Marv—Diane & Lee Fralish  
Mick—Erin Herdina  
Monty—Chelsey & Jason Kocina  
Caliph—Peter Opitz & Linda Shea  
Joe—Wendie Johnson & Paul Brooten  
Ellie—Judy Triplett

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Mango brings 'em in at the Canine Carnival!

### Upcoming Events

### Need Volunteers!

It's that time of year again when we start planning for our two big summer events: STATE FAIR and RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL.

We don't have the date for the State Fair (it will be either the first or second Saturday of the Fair). We'll need people for shifts. To volunteer, please contact Jen Jett at [wynthier@comcast.net](mailto:wynthier@comcast.net).

We will be at Ren Fest this year on September 10th and 11th. There will be several shifts available for the weekend. To volunteer, please contact Teri Petrin at [jtegpetrin@netzero.com](mailto:jtegpetrin@netzero.com).

Thank you for your help!

## Waiting at the Bridge

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Robin & Bruce Krautbauer—Tyler  
Jeanne Sedesky—Fletcher  
Sarah Snavelly—Sterling  
Greg & Liz Hendricks—Audrey

**My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am.**

—Unknown



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

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### **National Greyhound Association**

**Tennant Foundation** on behalf of the Bargers

**Animal Wellness Center of Maple Grove** in honor of the Hendricks

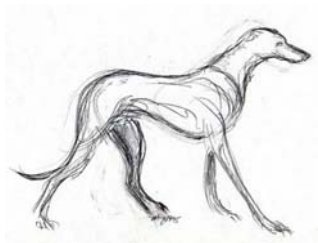
**Jim and Bev Martin** in honor of Missy's Gotcha Day

**Jill Walser** "Happy 11th birthday to my sweet boy Trevor"

**Mark and Dee Thom** in honor of Sam Shine's 50th birthday

**The Krautbauers** in memory of Bob Smith

**Ann Smith** in memory of Bob Smith



## Special Thanks

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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.