

# The Home Stretch

August 2006

Volume 11, Issue 6

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## Upcoming Events

### State Fair

Saturday, August 26th 9-3:30 p.m.

### Renaissance Festival

Saturday & Sunday, September 16th & 17th all day

### Membership Appreciation

Sunday, September 24th 4-6 p.m.

### Doggie Palooza

Saturday, September 30th contact Chris King to volunteer CLKING2130@aol.com

### Gasthof's Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

Sunday, October 22nd

### Minneapolis Kennel Club Dog Show

Saturday & Sunday, November 18th & 19th contact Chris King to volunteer CLKING2130@aol.com

### Twin Cities Pet Expo

Saturday & Sunday February 17th & 18th contact Chris King to volunteer CLKING2130@aol.com

### Arts & Crafts Sale

February 2007

## Membership Appreciation

GPA will hold the annual Membership Appreciation and general Board meeting September 24th from 4-6 p.m. This event will be held at New Brighton's Sunny Square Park Community Building.

Please join us for food, beverages, fun, and PRIZES!!! We will have wonderful raffle items as well as GPA merchandise. If you missed out getting one of the new GPA t-shirts, here's your chance to avoid paying shipping. The Celebrating Greyhounds' calendars will also be available for purchase.

This is a "human only" event as the room does not allow dogs. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Gates at 612-825-7505 or bgates@cunningham.com.

Directions from 694:

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

There will be a brief open Board meeting and introductions of nominees running for the open Board positions. **During the meeting we will be voting on altering the current GPA-MN by-laws.**

We hope to see you there!



## Heal a Hound Fund Created

GPA-MN is happy to announce its newly established "Heal a Hound Fund." This fund is dedicated to helping greyhounds with special needs. Several times a year, GPA-MN takes in hounds with different medical conditions whose are in far excess of the adoption fee. People can earmark their contributions for this fund, and GPA will have special fundraiser dedicated to it.

The first recipient will be Aruba, a female with Patent Ductus Arteriosus - a fatal heart condition. Read more about Aruba inside.

## 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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Any questions concerning content or distribution should be directed to Brian Jett at:

[Newsletter@gpa.mn.org](mailto:Newsletter@gpa.mn.org)

Or mail to:

GPA-MN Newsletter  
P.O. Box 49183  
Minneapolis, MN 55449

### Newsletter Committee

Jen Jett—Chair  
Brian Jett—Editor  
Anne Ford  
Barb Gates  
Wendi Johnson  
Sylvia Kresal  
Nicole Middlecamp  
Dan Middlecamp  
Samantha Shine  
Susan Spiller  
Susan Starr

## Stamp Out Foster Flux!

### Barb Lund, Foster Coordinator

As the Foster Coordinator, it's my responsibility to have foster families lined up to take in greyhounds - either directly from the track or from owners who cannot keep the hound(s) they have adopted from us. The position is fun, challenging as well as rewarding.

Fun because it's delightful seeing the wonderful personalities of the greyhounds coming in. Almost to the hound, they are sweet, loving, gorgeous and looking for a forever home. Fun also because I get to work with some amazingly dedicated people who know more about greyhounds than I've ever read in any one book.

Challenging because there is what I call "foster flux." Foster flux is the change in the pool of available foster homes at any given time. Without a group of families/individuals to take in the hounds, we're basically out of business.

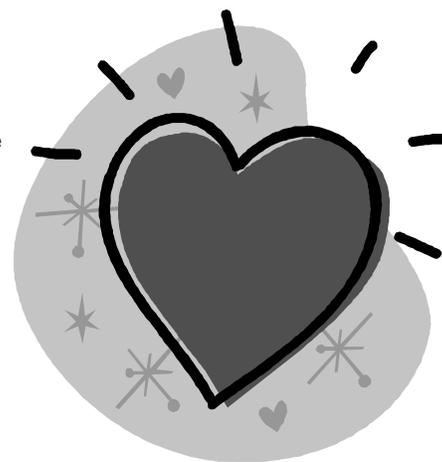
Foster needs vary. Sometimes we get a call from an owner saying they can no longer keep the hound they adopted from us. The foster home taking in this hound may have him/her for a short or long period of time. Sometimes a foster family/individual is going on vacation for a long weekend or a week or two. Since we need to have access to the hound for showing to prospective adopters, we need a temporary foster home for that period of time. Then there are the hauls where we need to take dogs in directly from that track that need to be taught how to live in a home environment. Oh, and then we have the special cases such as seniors. These hounds may or may not ever be readopted but they are so sweet and deserving of a loving home that it takes a special family to foster them long term.

In each case, contacts must be made to the GPA members trained to be fosters to find available homes. The best case scenario is that the foster volunteers line up in one or two days. The hounds are placed quickly and life is good. The worst case scenario is when people aren't available and repeated requests for homes need to be made. Oftentimes, the people stepping forward already have a foster but feel strongly about getting the hounds into a safe, albeit temporary, home.

This is the problem of foster flux and where stamping it out is so important. Rather than have four or five foster homes that volunteer 90% of the time and sometimes have 2 or more fosters in their homes to have a few more new fosters homes to help, even once a year, we could help even more hounds, not stretch our foster homes too thinly and look for other challenges!

Short term or long term, please consider fostering in one form or another. If interested, please contact me ([blund@prawow.com](mailto:blund@prawow.com)) or Lisa Quast ([lquast@memsi.com](mailto:lquast@memsi.com)) and we will get a foster information packet out to you right away.

Oh, and I did say being the Foster Coordinator was rewarding. Well, it is. Working with such dedicated people, knowing we'll be able to help one more hound find his/her forever home is, truly, a fantastic feeling.



Open your heart and door to foster...It will change your life!

## News from the Board:

### GPA-MN Board Elections

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#### Pat Walsh, President

Every fall we have our election of new board members. **Five** of the nine board positions are open this year. We would like you to consider applying for one of the openings!

It has been another wonderful year for GPA-MN, all due to the tremendous job our volunteers do.

Being a member of our board of directors is another important way you can help GPA-MN. The voting members vote the board of directors in each year. Each director has a two-year term and can succeed himself or herself. The board advises the executive officers, who themselves are board members and are voted in by the board at their first meeting.

Board Members should be enthusiastic, creative, but mostly participatory. They should have a willingness to follow through with GPA-MN needed tasks and be visible at GPA-MN functions. Since we do most of the work through e-mail or on the telephone we are looking for those that are willing to check e-mail daily and respond to Board discussions to achieve resolution on issues that can't wait until the next Board Meeting. GPA-MN Board Members should be willing to work in a Primary or Assistant role in the business functions of GPA-MN (Coordinator or Executive Committee). We have board meetings once a month.

Board membership is a wonderful way to get a better feel for how GPA-MN works and have some influence on its operation. We are especially looking for some 'new' adopters to participate, as we believe they will be a valuable source of fresh ideas.

Please review the attached procedure and application and consider applying for a board position. We are sure you will find it as rewarding as we have!

To be eligible to run for a Board position, you must be a Voting Member. Voting Members include recent volunteers, financial contributors, and those adopting in the previous two calendar years. All household members 18 years and older are considered Voting Members.



Foster Friends: Sparks and Passion have a play date with former foster-sister Hannah and her buddy Deb

**"In a perfect world, every dog would have a home and every home would have a dog."**  
-Anonymous

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#### Board Members' Contact Information:

The board wants to be accessible to the chapter members. Please contact us with concerns, questions, suggestions, or to get involved. Below are the email addresses for all the board members and the committee each is chairing. If interested in getting involved with a specific committee, contact that board member directly. More information will be published about the various committees.

#### Luana Ball

luanaball@yahoo.com

#### Barb Gates—PR/Media Chair & Festival Chair

bgates@cuningham.com

#### Jen Jett—Newsletter Chair

wynthier@comcast.net

#### Victoria Jones

Itsagreytlife@aol.com

#### Chris King—Events Chair

CLKING2130@aol.com

#### Barb Lund—Foster Chair

blund@prawow.com

#### Lisa Quast—Donations Chair

lquast@memsi.com

#### Teri Petrin—Adoption Chair

jtgetpetrin@netzero.com

#### Pat Walsh—Fundraising Chair

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com



**Greyhounds Make Great Pets**  
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[www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.org](http://www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.org)  
Every Friday 2PM Eastern Time

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**Here is how you can become a member of the board of directors of GPA-MN.**

- Verify the information on the form below, correct any information that is not accurate and fill in any other information that is required. You must be at least 18 years of age. Also, application for a board position must be done by a single individual.

- Give us a few sentences on why you feel it would be good to have you on our board.
- **Send the completed form to us at the address below so that we receive it by September 16, 2006.**
- We will put together a ballot that includes a list of all of the applicants along with their short proposals and send it to all voting members. Nominees will also be introduced at the Membership Appreciation Meeting September 24, 2006.
- Members will have two weeks to vote for their choices by returning their completed ballots.
- The Vice-President and Treasurer will tally the votes and notify the new board members.
- The new board members will be introduced in the December 2006 Home Stretch newsletter and their term would take effect January 1, 2007.

Please consider serving our organization by applying for a position on our board. We could really use your help and are sure you will find it a fun and rewarding experience.

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**Application for a position on the GPA-MN Board of Directors**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**# of voting members at this address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief statement on why you feel it would be good to have you on our board.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or email (wynthier@comcast.net) this application so that we receive it by September 16, 2006 to:

GPA-MN  
P.O. Box 49183  
Minneapolis, MN, 55449

**Thank you!**

***\*Voting Members include Recent Volunteers, Financial Contributors, and those adopting in the previous two calendar years. All household members 18 years or older are considered voting member.***



## SPOTLIGHT: Aruba

### Barb Gates, Vice President

Aruba (a.k.a. Houdini) is an outgoing little girl who's full of life. Since she was brought into GPA-MN's foster program she's proved that she's living life to the fullest - she knows what she wants and she hasn't let anything stop her - until now.

Aruba was found running in the woods near Stillwater. She has no ear tattoos, adding to the mystery of her origins. Lost and Found postings were not answered, so she was brought to us.

Fearless and looking for adventure, she earned the nickname Houdini shortly after arriving at her foster home. Aruba decided to squeeze through the slats in the deck rail in an attempt to repel a squirrel invasion and then hurdled a temporary 4-foot fence. From a standstill. Like a deer. Like it wasn't even there. Not impressive enough? She's jumped a 6-foot fence, as well.

Aruba finds a way to get what she wants. Want the block of cheese on the counter? Take it and look at them like they're crazy when they ask you about it. Want to see the people outside? Hop up on the kitchen counter and look out the window! Want out of the kennel? Bend the bars, or better yet - wedge your muzzle in the side of the kennel (which will pop the door open) and surprise your foster family by greeting them at the door!

But Aruba is more of a lover than an escape artist. She is always wagging her tail or lying on her back waiting for a belly rub—she'll even hop up into a hammock to get it. She is happiest while snuggled next to one of her family members. She hasn't let anything stop her so far, but there's something that can. Aruba has a heart condition called Patent Ductus Arteriosus, which leads to congestive heart failure. Without surgery, premature death is likely.

This little girl has won the heart of everyone she's touched since she joined the GPA-MN family. Aruba needs surgery to repair her heart so she can live a long, happy and healthy life. Help Aruba's Heart - donate to the Heal a Hound fund today.

Donations can be sent in care of Heal a Hound:

GPA-MN PO Box 49183, Minneapolis, MN 55449



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### 2006 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference

September 8th—10th in San Diego, CA. Hosted by GPA-CA OC/GLA

For more information, to register, or to see fundraiser items go to:  
[gpaconvention.org](http://gpaconvention.org)

### GPA-MN Resources

As an organization, we take great pride in giving our members access to information open forums where they can ask questions, make comments and just talk about greyhounds. We would like to take this opportunity briefly focus on two of these:

#### SMARTGROUPS

All new adopters are asked if they would like to join our Smartgroups, an online forum where members can post questions or concerns on a variety of topics about their new hound. But veteran members also find Smartgroups to be very useful and informative, as well as place they can help new adopters out. If you are not a member but would like to be, please contact Jen Jett at [wynthier@comcast.net](mailto:wynthier@comcast.net)

#### PETFINDER.COM

Petfinder.com is where we keep information and pictures of all our greyhounds that are currently available for adoption. If you are interested in adopting another hound, or know someone who might be, have them check it out. Just visit [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) and under the breed category, select greyhound. Easy as that!

## The Home Stretch

### Ode to Sadie

From the start fast friends we  
Went for walks happily  
You so graceful and delightful  
enriched my life, made me gleeful  
Such a sweet and lovely girl  
So much time you've been my world  
Happy to see me at every entrance  
Joyous love for you grew immensely  
Long walks took to meet new friends  
I wish now that there been no end  
But all good things do as such  
Know my sweet I miss you much  
Chase all the geese you please  
I'm glad knowing you're at ease

-Jake Dunham

Heal a Hound Fund:

Aruba's Surgery



## GREYT EVENTS: Fall fun

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### Chris King, Special Events Coordinator

As you enjoy the last days of summer and as fall approaches there are many greyt events to volunteer for. I know many of you already have your costumes ready for Ren Fest on Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Terri at [jtegpetrin@netzero.com](mailto:jtegpetrin@netzero.com) to volunteer for this popular and fun event.

On Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, GPA will have a booth at TCDog Doggie Palooza in St. Louis Park from 10-4. Last year, this event was in Burnsville and we had a greyt turnout. This year will be even bigger with more dog friendly activities, and demonstrations. Volunteers are needed from 10-1 and 1-4. Please contact me at CLKING2130@aol.com.

The Minneapolis Kennel Club event will be on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Looking ahead into 2007 will be the Twin Cities Pet Expo on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>. More volunteer information to come.

Have a Greyt Time and VOLUNTEER!

Don't forget Membership Appreciation on September 24<sup>th</sup> and our 1<sup>st</sup> annual dinner and silent auction at Gasthof's on October 22. See you there!

## Rochester Pet Meet & Greet

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### Luana Ball

Help celebrate the **Rochester PetCo's Greyhound Days** by taking a little road trip on **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**! GPA-MN will be hosting a Meet and Greet at PetCo in Rochester from **12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**. PetCo has dedicated a whole week to greyhounds and will be conducting fundraisers with all proceeds going to GPA-MN! Let's show them our appreciation by giving them a greyt turnout for this event! Treats for people and hounds provided!

4200 Hwy 52 N., Rochester, MN 55901

507-292-9030

Directions: Crosstown 62 East to Hwy 55 East to Hwy 52 South. Once you reach Rochester take the 41<sup>st</sup> St. exit and go Left and then take another Left onto the Frontage Road and look for the PetCo sign! Distance: Approximately 80 miles from Minneapolis; a little more than an hour depending on where you are starting from and how heavy your foot is!

Help me in the quest to tap into a new market of Forever Homes for our greyhounds!

## Waiting at the Bridge

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Deb & John Christopherson—Cami

Ina Dunham—Sadie

Nancy & Ed Marah—Rooster

Molly Zweigle—Bob

Robin & Bruce Schaper—Pearl

# Skin & Coat Care

Susan Spiller

Because your Greyhound has a smooth thin coat, they shed very little and that can be eliminated with daily grooming. A rubber palm curry brush, a soft brush or even a damp cloth will work nicely. All you need to do is to go over the coat once or twice – your goal is to loosen dirt and impart a good sheen to the hair. Petting and massaging your hound will also remove loose hair. A Greyhound’s coat may change as it adjusts to his new home. This is caused by an environmental and dietary change. Spaying/neutering can also cause some hair loss. People who are allergic to dogs are usually pleasantly surprised by the little or no reaction to a Greyhound.

If your Greyhound is kept indoors most of the year with artificial lighting, then expect fur shedding year round. Also, the spring season will bring about an extra major shedding event. During this spring shedding season, your Greyhound should be brushed with vigor once a day. It is also normal to have more hair shed after bathing your hound, and dead hairs are easy to dislodge when the coat is almost dry.

Greyhounds do not have to be bathed often to keep their coat clean and smooth. They have little or no odor when clean. Unless they roll in something foul, or have a flea problem, brushing should be sufficient. Too many baths tends to dry the skin and cause flakiness and itchy irritation. Dog shampoo is the best product to use when bathing your hound. Do not use human shampoo as it can lead to scaling and irritation.



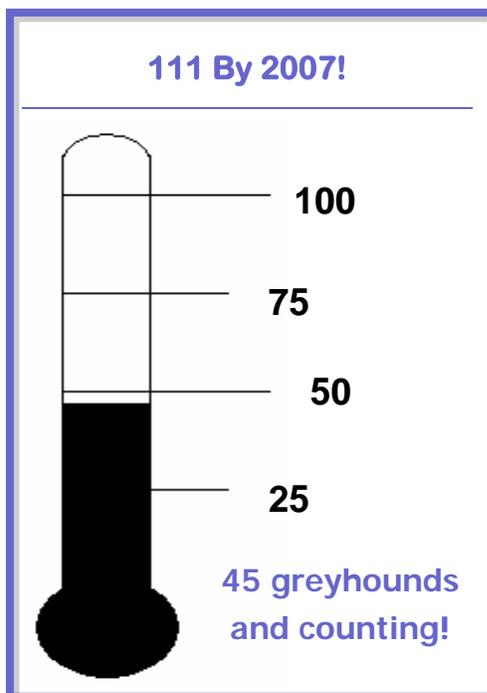
## How to clean your hound of SKUNK SPRAY –

1. Be sure to look at your hound’s eyes to check for skunk spray saturation. It won’t make him blind, but it is very painful. Wash out the eyes with the same solution people would use to provide relief.

2. Wash your hound thoroughly – outside - the smell will remain in your house for weeks if you wash your hound inside. Be sure to wear rubber or latex gloves. Use a pet shampoo and repeat the wash 2-3 times.

Pour on the tomato juice!!! After your hound is washed and totally dry, pour the tomato juice on and rub it thoroughly within the coat. Let it soak for about 30 minutes or as long as you can keep your hound still. BEWARE: If you have a white hound, then be prepared for a pinkish looking animal roaming the house for a while.

Not to worry – this will fade.



Greyhound Pets of America—  
Minnesota

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"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:

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- Brooklyn Park PETCO*
- Burnsville*
- Coon Rapids PETCO*
- Eagan PETCO*
- Eden Prairie PETCO*
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- Oakdale PETCO*
- Richfield PETCO*
- Ridgedale PETCO*
- Rochester 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



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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**Allianz Life's** charitable giving program made a donation to GPA-MN for their employee **Alicia Reynolds-Minear**

**Greg & Desiree Kamman** made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of **Omar's** Gotcha Day.

**Judy Triplett** made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of **Elle**.

**Victoria Jones** made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of her hounds **Ramon & Annie**.

**Erika Goodell** designated GPA to receive a donation from **Rescue Pet Store**

**Jim & Bev Martin** made a donation to GPA-MN in for **Aruba**.

**Rodney & Vickie Reisnouer and Heather** made a donation to GPA-MN in for **Aruba**.

**Kay Bortnem** made a donation to GPA-MN in for **Aruba**.

**Jill Walser and Trevor & Bella** made a donation to GPA-MN in for **Aruba**.

## 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, St. Cloud and Rochester

PetSmart Charities Spay & Neuter Grant

Pet Expo—Mankato, MN 507-625-2505

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

Blaine Area Pet Hospital 763-754-2131

Lupient Chevrolet of Bloomington 952-884-3333

Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet 612-926-8161

Sir Speedy Printing Center 763-545-1707

Fast Frame 612-924-9213

Barnes & Noble

Borders Book Sellers