



The Home Stretch

January—February 2006

Volume 11, Issue 1

Home Stretch—Back in Black...and White

Jen Jett

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I would love to tell you that the Home Stretch's hiatus was due to a really long cruise around the Caribbean or that we had won the lottery and were looking for the extra large bank to cash the extra large check. Alas, that is not the case. Reality is that the mundane but nonetheless important incidents in life kept us from the newsletter...work, one year birthdays, work, holidays, oh and there was that pesky track closing that kept us hopping. So what do you do when you're afraid to face your computer or fellow GPAers? Easy—form a committee!

Brian and I have had the great fortune to have recruited enthusiastic, creative, and hard-working volunteers to help with the production of the newsletter! We have made some changes with others being implemented later. What can you expect? We have committed to nine issues a year with a focus on articles that are entertaining as well as informative for our readers. Also we want more input from our readership. For example, have your hound's birthday remembered or submit an obituary for a friend that has crossed the bridge. Some changes are subtle—new names writing columns or articles. Others, not so much—a pull out calendar with Meet & Greets, Gotcha Days, and birthdays.

Interested in getting involved? Please do—we are a funny and creative group who would like you along for the ride. Contact Jen Jett at wynthier@comcast.net for more information! Have a comment, I'll take those too! Happy reading.

Arrow's Nose for News: Racing to the Couch - 111 by 2007

Barb Gates



Arrow sniffs out the breaking stories for GPA readers

In a typical year GPA-MN adopts out 70-80 hounds, with the past few years ranging from 62 to over 100 the year the Hudson track closed and we recovered research dogs.

Our current goal: 111 by 2007. Can we do it? Absolutely! We're a dedicated bunch and right now there are a number of additional hounds that need our help.

The past four months have been busy for us. In addition to our "normal" number of dogs we've brought in 35 that we typically wouldn't have due to the closing of the Geneva Lakes track. Twenty five from the track itself and 10 from an Iowa track that likely would have moved the dogs to Geneva Lakes, had it not closed, rather than retiring them.

What does this mean? We've already helped a lot of hounds and we've got more on the way. Fortunately for us, the incredible dedication of our volunteers has and will continue to make this possible. From drivers to foster families to adoption reps – each of you help to create a better life for the hounds that make our lives so special.

Remember . . . 111 by 2007. Thanks to all of you and here's to our continued success!

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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Dan Middlecamp
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Susan Spiller
Susan Starr

GPA-MN Board for 2006

Pat Walsh President

Pat is serving his second year on the Board and was recently elected President this year. Pat adopted his first greyhound Mango in March of 2001 and began fostering that same year.

Anyone who knows Pat, knows that he loves these wonderful dogs and works hard to make sure they will all find their forever homes.

Jen Rachac Vice President

Jen has been involved with GPA for 8 years now in a variety of rolls. This is her sixth year as a board member and will be serving as the Vice President of GPA for 2006. You can find Jen with her two fabulous hounds, Hank and Star, the third Saturday of every month from 11-1 at the Fridley Petco Meet and Greet.

Teri Petrin Treasurer

This will be Teri's fifth year serving on the board of GPA-MN. She is currently serving as Treasurer, Vendor Coordinator for the Festival and Adoption Coordinator. Teri shares her home with her husband, Jason; two daughters, Elizabeth and Gabrielle; and three hounds, Argus, Sizer and Monkey (with the occasional foster thrown in for good measure...) Teri looks forward to the coming year for the opportunity to help more hounds find their forever homes.

Jen Jett Secretary

This begins Jen's fourth year serving on the GPA-MN board. She is excited to continue her responsibilities as Secretary and as an Adoption Representative. One of her most fulfilling experiences has been as a foster. You can meet Jen, her helpful husband Brian, and two hounds, Seydi and Marlowe, at the Fridley PETCO Meet & Greet on the third Saturday of the month from 11-1.

Barb Lund

Barb has had greyhounds since 1994. She shares her home with Boone and Sweetie (her third and fourth hound respectively). They are a couple of senior charmers. By day, Barb is the Vice President at Promotion Resource Alliance, a marketing agency. By night, Barb is also GPA-MN's Foster Coordinator. In between these two activities she also enjoys traveling, gardening, entertaining, scuba diving and lounging with the hounds.

Chris King

Chris is beginning her second year of her first term on the Board. During the past year, she has assisted at the hauls, helped organize events and became an adoption representative. As part of the Board, Chris seeks to ensure that retired greyhounds find loving homes. In the coming year, Chris will be coordinating the "special events" committee. Chris looks forward to seeing each of you at the old favorites and new events.

Barbara Gates

Barb has been involved with the GPA since she adopted Arrow in May 2005 and is now serving her first term on the Board. Barb is excited to have the opportunity to apply her background in marketing, administration and public relations to the fulfillment of the organization's goals. As chair of the PR/Media Committee Barb will do her best to get GPA-MN out there so we can continue to find happy homes for these GREYT hounds!

Mike Atwood

Mike lives in southwest Minneapolis with my wife Caroline and their two greyhounds. Guy was adopted in Colorado, while Lidia was adopted through GPA-MN. Mike wanted to get involved in GPA-MN because of the strong bond he feels to his dogs and how deserving other greyhounds are of a good home. Mike believes in the power of community organizations like GPA-MN have to affect change and really do some good.

Lisa Quast

Lisa is an engineer in the hearing-aid industry. She and her husband John have been a part of GPA for two years and adopted Gracie & Hobbes. Recently, the Quasts started fostering for GPA-MN. This year, Pat Walsh and Lisa will be working together in leading the Fundraising and Donations committees.

News from the Board

Pat Walsh, President, GPA-MN

We are starting a new column to keep everyone informed on what's going on in GPA-MN. I will start with a few basics..

Our board is made up of nine members. Of those members, four are executive officers— President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The board typically meets once a month to go over Chapter business.

I would like to focus on one of the goals we have set for ourselves and the Chapter this year. We would like to adopt out 111 greyhounds by 2007. This is a very ambitious goal for us. During the last four months of 2005, we adopted out 32 dogs. We were extremely busy and still fell short of a target of 111.

To help us achieve this goal, we have formed several committees: fundraising, donations, newsletter, events, public relations and advertising, fosters, adoption, volunteer, and festival. We need to get more people involved to accomplish our goal and find wonderful homes for 111 hounds.

The four things we need to accomplish this goal are forever homes, foster homes, funds, and hands. Hounds are no problem as we can get as many as we need. Forever homes are what we need the most help with and need to focus to accomplish our goal. We are looking for new ways to get the word out about greyhounds and generate more applications. We have many foster homes and have seen many people step up while we were helping with the Geneva Lakes track closing. That being said, we could always use a few more. We have funds, but we are always working to generate more. Finally, we would like our membership to be active. We appreciate all the time and effort our volunteers give to the organization and the hounds. If you haven't been active with GPA or it's been awhile since you've gotten involved, please consider helping us this year.

The Home Stretch will publish the contact information and committees each of the board members are chairing. If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to get involved, please get in touch with any of us.

PR/Media Committee Forming

Coming soon . . . GPA's name in lights! Hounds made famous! Paparazzi everywhere!

Okay, not really, but the PR/Media Committee IS going to get GPA's good name out there! The team of Barb Gates, Pat Walsh, Chelsea Kocina and Jen and John Cottew will work together to gain further exposure on television (local channels featuring adoption groups, for example), in newspapers and magazines (ads and articles), on the Internet (adoption sites, directory listings), out in public (things like wearing an "Adopt a Greyhound" button), and more!

We all know people tied to local papers, organizations, etc., that could open a door for us to spread more awareness. We'll be pooling our resources of contacts (we'll be asking for your input on this) and our collective skill sets to find creative ways to get the word out and hopefully have fun doing it.

The PR/Media Committee – and GPA-MN as a whole – is a great team of dedicated individuals. If you're interested in helping us out, please let us know! Together we'll get our good name (and ourselves!) out there to spread awareness, generate interest, and help the hounds!



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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.

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Teri Petrin—Adoption Chair
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Pat Walsh—Fundraising Chair
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Cold Weather & the Minnesota Greyhound

Greyhound Health and Safety



Coats and boots are the best way to protect your greyhound from the elements. Check out the polar fleece lined winter coat at Voyagers Greyhound Apparel on the web at www.k9apparel.com

Grey Fest Mark Your Calendar

The shopping, the friends, the raffle, the contests, and of course, the greyhounds! Hundreds of beautiful hounds gathered for a celebration of retirement and loving forever homes—it's got to be Grey Fest!

The date and location are set:
June 3rd, 2006 at Spooner Park in Little Canada

It's not too early to think about how to get involved. Contact Jen Rachac, Festival Coordinator, for more information.

Susan Spiller

Along with the "wonderful" cold weather we have here in Minnesota, we also have some safety and health issues pertinent to greyhounds. Cold weather brings with it the threat of *hypothermia* (when your hound's body temperature falls significantly below 100.5° Fahrenheit). Taking your hound's temperature is the surest way to pinpoint hypothermia. Mild hypothermia (96° F) causes shivering which helps the hound's body generate extra heat. If your hound has mild hypothermia, move him inside and warm him with blankets. Moderate hypothermia (between 90° and 95° F) can result in mental dullness and loss of muscle coordination. Severe hypothermia (below 90° F) can cause loss of consciousness, cardiac arrest and death. If your hound is suffering from moderate to severe hypothermia take him to your veterinarian at immediately. Your veterinarian will slowly boost your hound's body temperature from inside out with warm intravenous fluids. **DO NOT** give your hound a warm water bath. This causes rapid external re-warming, which could damage the heart.

Frostbite appears as a white skin patch, but owners often don't notice it until the area reddens with inflammation as the tissue thaws. The body responds to exposure to cold temperatures by reducing blood flow to the outer parts of the body. This preserves blood flow to the vital internal organs. The diversion of blood increases the chances of frostbite in the ears, tail and toes. Ice crystals can form in the body tissues, which can result in tissue death. Watch for skin discoloration, pain and swelling, blisters, sloughing of skin and skin ulcers. If your hound has frostbite, warm water soaks (about 104° F) for at least 20 minutes, are a good idea and also call your veterinarian for treatment to prevent infection and to treat for pain. **DO NOT** place your hound in hot water. **DO NOT** rub the affected area as the friction can fur-

ther damage the tissue. In severe cases, amputation of the affected area may be required to prevent further infection and the development of gangrene.

Antifreeze has a pleasant, sweet taste and only a very small amount can be lethal. Thoroughly clean up any spills and store antifreeze in tightly closed containers in secured cabinets. It is the ethylene glycol in antifreeze that is the harmful ingredient. There are some safer antifreezes on the market that are made with propylene glycol rather than the bad ethylene glycol. However, even antifreeze without ethylene glycol is toxic in large amounts. When you are walking your hound, don't let him lick at any spots, stains or puddles on the street as they could be antifreeze spills. Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning include: confusion, lack of coordination, nausea, vomiting, seizures and possible coma. Ethylene glycol affects both the neurological and kidney functions of the hound, with the kidneys being damaged the most. If you think your hound has consumed some antifreeze, contact your veterinarian or the Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-4ANI-HELP) right away! There may be a fee for the call to the Animal Poison Control Center – but worth every penny. There is an antidote for antifreeze poisoning for dogs.

Ice Melting Products can be irritating to the skin and mouth. Signs of ingestion would include excessive drooling, depression, vomiting or electrolyte imbalances. There are pet-safe ice melt products on the market and can be purchased at pet supply stores. Also, remember that road salt is caustic and may burn your hound's footpads, as well as irritate his digestive tract if he licks his feet to clean them. A pan of warm water set inside the door to rinse your hound's feet is a simple remedy.

SPOTLIGHT: Sleepy

Pat Walsh

Sleepy is a very handsome red fawn 85 lbs. male. He is 2 1/2 years old and he is very, very friendly. He loves to bury his head in your lap for a good ear rub. He is relaxed and laid back and already knows what retired life is all about: chewing on bones and sleeping!

He is that big lovable lug that charms everyone he meets. Sleepy loves to try and crawl right into your lap like a little puppy (which isn't as comfortable as you might think at 85 lbs.!). He is always wagging his tail and thinks everybody he sees should come over to meet and pet him. He absolutely adores kids and cannot resist giving them kisses and kisses and kisses.

Sleepy's other passion, like most greyhounds, is food. He loves to eat and is always on the hunt for a scrap of food that may have found its way onto the floor. Sleepy is very good on a leash and usually walks right by your side. He prefers shorter walks to real long walks, of course.

Sleepy has had a couple seizures in the past and is currently on a low dose of medication for possible epilepsy.

Sleepy needs to go to a home with other dogs and would do best in a family setting. He would be perfect for a family with kids. He is cat safe and looking for a new family to sleep the rest of his retired life with. If you are interested in Sleepy please contact Teri Petrin at jtegpetrin@netzero.com.



Sleepy is, well, just sleepy.

SPOTLIGHT: Cutter

Beth Wallin

I first heard of Cutter a week before Christmas when word came out that there was a greyhound in need of a foster home. Cutter was at a Humane Society north of Duluth. His previous owner, who had been suffering with a terminal disease, had passed away.

I called my husband and told him about Cutter, how he was being kept at a shelter and how surely no one in Duluth (an area that favors huskies and labradors) would adopt an 11 year old greyhound. He was sympathetic, but explained that we already have two hounds, that we lived in a small home, and there is no way the kennel would be big enough. I knew he was right, but all I could think about was that big hound all alone, scared and confused, wondering why his owner had left him.

I stopped and picked up a bigger kennel, a fold down wire one that we could slide under a bed when we didn't need it. I got home early and rearranged the spare room so the kennel would fit, and I started sewing another coat. When Mike got home he just laughed, and asked me when we were picking him up.

Teri Petrin gave me the vet's number up near Two Harbors. I contacted Dr. Overland and learned that Cutter had been with them at the shelter for a couple of weeks. The doctor really liked him and had even thought about keeping him himself. Dr. Overland explained he had a bruised tail and was on z/d for a bad stomach. The pick up was arranged and we finally met this big, white and brindle boy with a huge bandage on his tail. He had been sedated and he looked sad and scared. Gingerly, we got him into our car and made the our way back home.

(Continued on page 6)

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Did You Know . . . ?

Nicole & Dan Middlecamp

This column's goal is to provide you with fun greyhound historical/biological facts. In this issue we focus on why your little one gets so cold in the winter.

- Greyhounds descended from the Middle East. They originated as a desert dog.
- A greyhound's body is a perfect example of aerodynamic design: long legs, narrow head, deep chest, sloping ribs, long toes, and webbed feet. Their narrow head, with very little stop between their muzzle and their forehead is less wind resistant than a square skull.
- However due to this fact their head shape design puts them at a disadvantage in cold climates: dogs with a pronounced stop between their forehead and muzzle allows for cold air to warm up in sinuses first before it goes to the skull. Since greyhounds developed as a desert dog this trait was a non factor.

- Greyhounds have a fast metabolism and fewer fat cells than other breeds. Their lack of body weight makes them lighter and move faster and is less strain on their slight frame, notably their joints. However it gives them a disadvantage in colder climates as the purpose of body fat is to provide insulation from cold and provide a food reserve. Their desert ancestors didn't have to worry about cold so they didn't have long hair or excess fat. And food had been relatively plentiful in that part of the world.

Bibliography:

Branigan, Cynthia A. *The Reign of the Greyhound*. New York, NY. Howell Book House, 1997.

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.

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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.

SPOTLIGHT: Cutter

(Continued from page 5)

All of the hounds met each other outside. Cutter was a bit overwhelmed and not comfortable with steps into the house. He was still sedated and his legs were wobbly. However, once in the house he made a bee line for a toy and grabbed a pillow and he didn't move for two hours.

He did magnificent the first night, nothing like the fosters off the track. In the morning he had so much more energy. Mike took all three hounds out for a morning walk. Cutter really loves going for walks and does a great job being on the leash.

Christmas Eve day, after finishing my shopping, I go home to let him out. I didn't notice that the bandage had fallen off his tail. He hit the wall with that happy, wagging tail again and again. It was like the Valentine's Day Massacre in our kitchen and living room! We re-wrapped his tail and kept it clean for another week but it was not healing. After some discussion, it was decided to have the tail docked.

Cutter has very soft fur, sweet soulful eyes and, of course, a very short tail. When you pet him his eyes roll into his head and his legs get weak. He spends most of his time on his pillow in front of the woodstove, but loves going for walks outside. He loves treats and what little attention he can manage to get as he is competing with our two hounds! He has put on some weight and he is a very happy boy.

Cutter needs a new forever home to live out the rest of his years. If you have ever thought about a second or third hound think of this good ol' boy. If you are interested in Cutter please contact Teri Petrin at jtepetrin@netzero.com.



Cutter needs a new forever home.

Dave's Debut

Sylvia Kresal

Tilly, the best Meet & Greet dog in the world, has gone to the bridge.

Know we can never replace her, but wanting to continue her legacy, we made room for Dave, the most relaxed two and one-half year old we have ever seen. This dog settled in right away. He adjusted to our schedule with hardly any fuss. He even gets along with Harry the cat. But, most importantly, he has helped Chuck, our other greyhound. Chuck had been pretty lonely since Tilly died. Well, we all had been. We had room in our house and our hearts and Dave just walked (or ran) right in. He's a beauty — a big red fawn boy with golden brown eyes and a waggy tail. He is a friendly leaner and loves to be petted.

But how will he do the Meet & Greets? Our Richfield M&G rolled around. We started him out at the Richfield M&G because we figured this wouldn't be so busy and he could ease into his new role as greyhound ambassador. We were wrong. It was much busier than we had expected! First, Ron Barger, a beautiful fawn in his own right came. Then Mardi Middlecamp. Boone and Sweetie Lund soon joined us. Employees, several customers and maybe potential adopters all stopped by to pet the dogs, ask questions and take literature. Lots of action. How did Dave do? It was as if he'd been born to host Meet & Greets. Everyone loved him.



Dave really wants to meet you!

Tilly would have been proud. We sure were.

Daphne with mom, Samantha Shine

This month is in honor of Valentine's Day. I wanted to write about love. Since I got adopted in July, 1999, I have learned a lot about love and it's a subject that's near and dear to my heart. My mom claims that everything she knows about love, she learned from me. But mom has taught me a lot, too.

We will do anything for those we love. She proves this when she makes coats for other hounds in need and when she volunteers at GreyFest (every year she says she's going to "sit this one out", but I know better!). She proves it when she gets all our holiday decorating and shopping out of the way early so she can get the Borders wrapping-fundraiser organized. This year mom decided to make cookies too, but the last days before Christmas were too busy for her to keep this up! She had some of our neighbors come by to let me out for potty while she wrapped her 'lil heart out. And whenever Maria asked mom to come in a few hours early, she did.

This week my mom has had some health problems and I was kind of worried when she went out with Auntie Korbi in the middle of the night. She made sure I got to go potty in the yard before she left and after she came back. In the morning she just wanted to sleep, but I whined for my walk, so she got dressed and put my boots, sweater and coat on and off we went. We slept until almost 2:00 in the afternoon after we got back!

No matter what, mom always makes sure I have great stuff to eat: cottage cheese, yogurt and freshly grated parmesan cheese (I sure love my dairy!). Whenever mom eats steak or chicken, I'm sure to get some too. If there are extra veggies, they go right into my bowl, same for extra salad—my favorite dressings are blue cheese and vinaigrette! On my Gotcha Day and Birthday and Valentine's I always get steak and mushrooms and some nice broccoli. Did I mention the Frosty Paws for dessert?

Sometimes I like to sleep with my mom but she moves around a lot when she sleeps, so if it bothers me I step down and sleep in my bed. Mom got me an extra-large bone-shaped pillow that doubles as a toy, so I can play with it if I'm not sleeping. I also have two big blankies to nest with—not that I need them as my bed is soft and fleecy. I almost always have treats stashed there and like to savor them while I am resting up for my next round of mischief. The old girl sure grumbles about the extra vacuuming but she keeps the goodies coming! Today I got to take a nap with mom in the afternoon because she will be working all night. That means an extra-long walk when she comes home in the morning and then we sleep all afternoon!

So all you beautiful Greyhounds, you need to remember to give your humans lots of smooches for Valentines Day. They aren't the brightest bulbs in the package (but that's why they have us!), but they DO adore us and we gotta show 'em some love.

Happy Valentines Day from Daphne and her mom.

Waiting at the Bridge

Marcy & Michael Barger—Star
Sylvia & Neil Kresal—Tilly

"If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons."

- James Thurber



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America - Minnesota

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Address Service Requested

Donations

Neil and Sylvia Kresal made a donation to GPA-MN in loving memory of their sweet **Tilly**—"Queen of the Meet and Greets". 8/24/93 – 11/09/05. Tilly was loved and will be missed by all that knew her.

Polly Henderson made a donation to GPA-MN in loving memory of a wonderful Greyhound – **Scout**. Scout was owned and loved by Polly's dear friends **Randy and Lori Berglin** from North Branch, MN.

Barb Ball made a donation to GPA-MN for the Greys, in honor of her daughter, **Luana Ball** "who works so hard fostering and helping find homes for these beautiful dogs", and also for her Grand-dogs – **Minnie** and **Sammy**. Barb sends us all her appreciation, and asks for us to "Keep up your good work. You're making a difference."

Victoria Jones made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of her awesome girl **Annie's** 9th birthday on October 16th. "Her first nine were fine.... The next will be divine!!" So, sound the trumpets and start the parade in honor of Annie the Grey!!!!

Len and Judy Schollen for the incoming hounds from Geneva Lakes

Steve and Cathy Isles—in memory of our friend's basset hound, **Wilbur**, who crossed the bridge

Brian and Nancy Rittenhouse

The PETCO Foundation

Jim and Bev Martin

Janet Hughes

Stephen and Catherine Isles

Tyler Copeland

Jill Walser

Marcy Barger

Angela and Anthony Balzarini-Leonhart

Nathaniel Gray

Susan and David Wilson – for the hounds

Bonnie Immerfall

Barb Lund

Bob Heeschen – in honor of **Cooley's** 11th Birthday

Stephen and Susan Traxler -In memory of **Sally Ann Carlson**

Bob and Cathleen Taylor – In memory of **Goldie, Buddy** and **Maggie**

Kari Keller – In memory of Kari's father who loved **Passion** and **Sparks**, as much as they loved him.

Craig Sylvester – In honor of **Jodi Brunner**