



The Home Stretch

June 2006

Volume 11, Issue 4

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Arrow's Nose for News: Greyhound Radio

Barb Gates

Most of us are familiar with websites like SmartGroups and Greytalk, but did you know there's a web radio show dedicated to greyhounds, too?

Greyhounds Make Great Pets is "the radio show for greyhound lovers and their friends." Hosted by GPA National President Rory Goree, it is a platform to educate the public about adoption, obedience and training, as well the history of greyhounds and the racing industry. Their goal is to provide weekly topics that will help adoption volunteers place hounds in happy and well-matched forever homes.

Recent topics have included plans to bring 126 hounds released from a track in Juarez, Mexico to GPA, and a veterinarian discussing babesia – a blood parasite carried by ticks. Have something you're interested in hearing about? Their show depends on listener interaction, so if you've got questions you'd like answered or have topic/show ideas let them know!

Previously broadcast on VoiceAmerica.com, the show is switching to its own station in mid-May. For more information, or to listen to this popular show, please go to <http://www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.org>

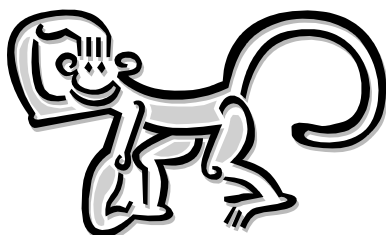
Portions of this article were taken from the Greyhounds Make Great Pets website.



COVER YOUR EARS!

THE SCREAMERS ARE COMING!

For the first time the colorful and irresistible Screaming Monkeys will be available at this years GreyFest and available for order! You'll know where to find us ---- if you can't see us I guarantee your hound will HEAR us! Own your very own for a mere \$15!



Arrow sniffs out the breaking stories for GPA readers!

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

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

GREYT Events

Chris King, Special Events Coordinator

In May, GPA participated in two new events, the **Hastings Pet Expo** and the **Humane Society Walk for Animals**. A big "Thanks" to all of you who volunteered and scratches to your hounds too.

What's coming up next? On June 3, GPA's annual festival, **Greyfest**, will be held at Spooner Park in Little Canada. It's going to be the greyest yet!

Then on June 24th and 25th, GPA will have a *double booth* at the **Twin Cities Pride Festival** at Loring Park in Minneapolis. Why is GPA renting a double booth? Last year there were 400,000 people who attended. We need to have a lot of volunteers and lots of greyhounds at this event. GPA has done this event in the past, and it has been very successful in generating adoption applications. Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

Saturday June 24th

10:00—1:30

1:30—5:00

5:00—8:00

Sunday, June 25th

10:00—1:00

1:00—4:00

4:00—6:00

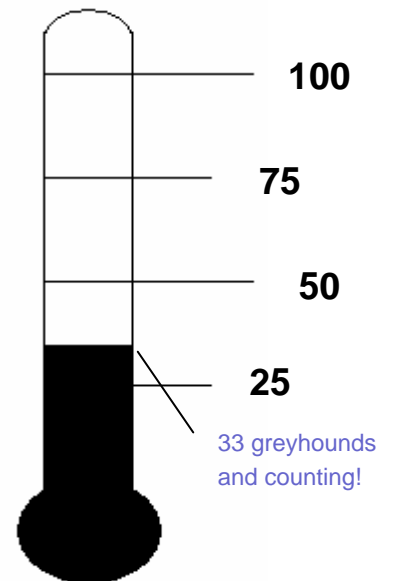
To volunteer, please email me at CLKING2130@aol.com

August and September bring two of GPA's most popular events: the **Minnesota State Fair** and the **Renaissance Festival**. More details on the dates and times will be available shortly. Jen Jett (wynthier@comcast.net) will be coordinating volunteers for the State Fair. Teri Petrin (jtegpetrin@netzero.com) will be coordinating volunteers for Ren Fest.

VOLUNTEER, you'll have a greyt time!



111 By 2007!



News from the Board: Treasury Note

Volume 11, Issue 4

Barb Gates, Vice President

As I write this column Arrow's gotcha day is just around the corner. It's hard to believe that a year has passed and even harder to remember what it was like before we got him. One year ago our yard was in better shape, we never asked our friends for their plastic bags and no one had every heard of the "squeaky toy graveyard" (our backyard). But one year ago I didn't know the fun of being leaned on by my long-nosed boy, the joy of watching a foster play for the first time, or the satisfaction that comes from educating people about greyhounds and watching their interest grow.

In the past year I've learned that GPA-MN is a diverse and dynamic group of individuals dedicated to helping find homes for these wonderful hounds. I've learned that there are countless ways - big and small - that people help, and that the balance of the time and talent come together and result in great things.

As we head into summer, typically the busy season for adoptions, we're about 25% of the way to reaching our goal of 111 by 2007. To meet our goal we need to pool our talent and resources and get our name and our hounds out there. How can you help? We have volunteer opportunities available for a variety of interests and coordinators to help facilitate the efforts. Time is variable, so let us know what you can/want to do and we'll find a way to make it work.

Our coordinators are here to help. If you're thinking about fostering but don't know what's involved contact Barb Lund. Interested in hosting a new M&G? Let Sylvia Kresal - our friendly M&G coordinator - know. Want to share your experience with fundraising? Pat Walsh is your man. If you're thinking of attending an event (Pet Expo, RenFest, etc.) Chris King will talk you through what to expect and get you on the schedule. If you've got an idea of how to get our name in the news, drop me a line. Finally, if you want to help but don't know what you want to do or who to talk to, contact me - I'll talk you through some options and connect you with the right person.

One year ago I hadn't yet had the pleasure of getting to know the folks that make up GPA-MN. Today I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a thoughtful, talented group. Together we can accomplish our goal... 111 by 2007!

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

jtegetrin@netzero.com

Pat Walsh—Fundraising Chair

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com



Summer is here! And with GreyFest, the State Fair and the Renaissance Festival all on the way, there's more than one reason to celebrate!

Passion shows her festive side at last year's State Fair.



Smart, Stylish, and Sporty

GPA-MN is launching new t-shirts at Greyfest this year! The t-shirts come in two designs and three colors.

Who doesn't love a black t-shirt? The design wraps on the bottom with simple logo on front.

Ladies, looking for a cute ladies cut t-shirt? Lilac is one of the summer's hot colors. This t-shirt features the GPA logo on right pocket.

Thinking ahead to fall? The burnt orange GPA logo t-shirt will be a hit for men, women, and kids!

Check out the new designs at Greyfest. Purchase there and avoid the wait and shipping charges.

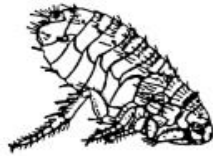
Fleas and Ticks

Susan Spiller

The flea and tick season has arrived, so let's get our hounds prepared. Greyhounds are very sensitive to many pesticides, so owners must be careful in regard to what flea and tick products are used. Two safe products to use on Greyhounds are Advantage and Frontline.

Advantage destroys fleas by impairing the nervous system of the flea. Your pet does not have to be bitten in order for Advantage to work. It kills adult fleas before they have a chance to lay eggs, thus breaking the flea life cycle. Frontline has an additional benefit of killing both fleas and ticks. Frontline comes in

a spray and as a "topspot." Frontline is a growth regulator – it blocks the central nervous system of fleas and ticks.



To rid your homes and pets of fleas, the life cycle of the flea must be broken. If you treat your flea problem only one time, you have wasted your time and money. You may have killed the adult fleas the first time, but the babies left by them will soon be adults and your problem starts all over again. A pair of fleas can produce 20,000 fleas in three months!

Tips for ridding your home of fleas:
Vacuum your house – all furniture, bedding (human and animal), drapery, carpeting as often as possible. Burn the vacuum bag or submerge it in soapy water to destroy the fleas. Shampoo your dog often – keep in mind that fleas love dry skin. Pert Plus and Skin-So-Soft are good flea killing shampoos. Throw any bedding that your hound may have used in the dryer on high temperature – daily. Take the lint out of the trap and

throw it outside. Use a flea comb on your hound – do this outside. Flea traps can be used, which are glue boards with a Night Light built in.

Ticks can cause diseases, such as Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis. Babesiosis is a tick-borne disease of the blood that results in anemia with pale gums, fever, yellowish color to the mucus membrane of the mouth, eye and vagina (in females), weakness, depression and a reluctance to eat. Heavy tick and Babesia infestation can cause shock and death. Ehrlichiosis results in fever, reluctance to eat, discharge from the eyes and nose, a tendency to bruise or bleed easily, enlargement of the lymph nodes, difficulty in breathing

Tick removal:

Smother the tick in Vaseline, and as it suffocates, it will pull out of



the dog's skin. Heat a paperclip or tweezes and hold the heated end against the tick's body, which will cause the tick to pull out. After the tick has pulled out of the dog's skin, flush the area with water, then sterilize the area with alcohol or Betadine, and apply a topical antibacterial like Bacitracin/Polysporin. If it gets infected – contact your vet. *Do not squeeze or pull the tick off your hound, as the squeezing of the tick can cause it to leak more of the lyme bacteria or any other bacteria into your hound.* Tick Nippers are available and these will not cut or squeeze the tick. There is a 20x lens mounted on the handle as well for your viewing pleasure.

In this case, it seems an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Get your hound on flea and tick preventatives as the season is here!

CASH BACK OFFER

Thought cash back offers were only for cars? Well, not anymore!

Lupient Chevrolet has generously offered to send a \$50 check to any one who adopts a greyhound from GPA-MN between April 1st and June 30th

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.

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's still looking for his forever

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

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 and under the breed category, select greyhound. Easy as that!

The Home Stretch



PETCO.com
Where the pets go online.

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:

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Brooklyn Park PETCO
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Roseville PETCO
St. Cloud PETCO
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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.

Greyhounds Strut Their Stuff

Luana Ball



The Greys take a break at the Humane Society's Walk for Animals

Passion, Sparks, and foster boy Duke, Sugar, Minnie and Sammy, as well as the many that stopped by for a visit either before or after their walk. The greys were marvelous ambassadors taking turns standing in the middle of the traffic flow in front of our booth or snoozing contentedly under the canopy. Either way, they drew attention and interest from the crowd - as well as snarfing up a few dropped hot dogs or potato chips!

Countless people spent a considerable amount of time learning about greyhounds and GPA-MN's mission with many asking for additional information! We also sold over a dozen Screaming Monkeys with all proceeds benefiting GPA-MN as well!

We plan to add this event to our growing list of venues where we can share the good word of the greyhound! Hope to see you there next year!

GPA-MN had the opportunity to host a booth at the 32nd Annual Humane Society Walk for Animals on Saturday, May 6th at the shelter in Golden Valley. This is the largest event of its kind in the country! 8,000 people and over 4,000 pets gathered on this sunny spring day to celebrate the human-animal bond.

This was GPA-MN's first appearance at the event and we were rewarded with a steady flow of people, through what they call the Flealess Market, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. The true hosts of this event were the greyhounds with those who staffed the event -



Sammy shows what an animal he is in his leopard print collar

Waiting at the Bridge

Bruce & Robin Krautbauer—Roni & Trixie

Carol Bohumil—Hitt

"You think dogs will not be in heaven? I tell you, they will be there long before any of us."
-Robert Louis Stevenson

Susan Spiller

We are planning on having an Art and Craft sale in the fall and I wanted to let you all know so you can get your creative juices flowing and start creating!!!!!! Any kind of artwork is acceptable and it does not have to be greyhound related as this sale will be open to the public. You can donate hand made paintings, drawings, note cards, jewelry, pottery, ornaments, knitted pieces, quilts, wood craft, artificial flower arrangements, dish garden. If anyone has artistic friends that would like to donate a piece or two that would be great.

All proceeds will go to GPA-MN. We will have a couple of drop-off houses and designated meet and greets to bring your creations to. More information will follow. Here is a chance for everyone to contribute. If you have any questions, comments, additions, ideas, please call or email me. Thank you!!

Contact me at 612-529-8099 or spillgirl555@yahoo.com



Eye Care: Pannus

Anne Ford

Seeing a grayish haze appear and settle across the left eye of my greyhound I sought information from other greyhound owners then the web. Eventually, my concern led me to Dr. Sillerud, an ophthalmology veterinarian, who diagnosed the grayish haze as *pannus* and associated corneal dystrophy OS.

"*Pannus* is a syndrome that causes blood vessels, pigment, and scar tissue to grow in and on the surface of the eye. Beginning in young to middle-aged adult dogs, the disease is seen more commonly in certain breeds including the German Shepherd and shepherd crossbreed, Greyhound, and Dachshund, although it can occur in any breed.

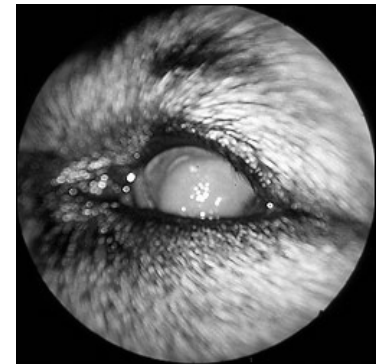
The cause of pannus is unknown but UV light, altitude and breed are thought to be involved. Without treatment, pannus will eventually cover both corneas and cause marked visual disturbance. A similar problem can affect the third eyelids, and is referred to as plasmoma. The third eyelids will appear thickened and reddened as inflammatory cells invade the tissue with loss of the normal dark pigmented appearance.

Both of these conditions are controllable, but not curable, with topical medications. Life-long therapy is required to keep the eyes visual and comfortable."

Pannus is easily and frequently missed by vets, many suggesting the eye or spot be watched. When pannus goes untreated the eye continues to suffer damage and secondary and tertiary diseases can occur.

Treatment for us consists of a neo-poly-dex ointment twice a day in each eye which suppresses the autoimmune response. In less than a weeks time the grayish haze was diminished to a speck. After the initial treatment, ointment in the eye twice a day, the protocol was reduced to once a day for six weeks. A follow-up check showed that the Pannus continued to recede in both eyes and the new protocol is ointment every other day with a recheck in a year. Although treatment will be lifelong, my greyhound's vision will be intact.

Portions reprinted with permission from Companion Animal Eye Center, Ltd. C.L. Sillerud, DVM



Example of sever pannus in a dog.



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

Cathy & Steven Isles made a donation to GPA-MN in memory of our friend's two springer spaniels.

Mark Downey & Christine Sanguinet made a donation to GPA-MN through the National Greyhound Association.

Tennant Foundation matched **Michaels Barger** donation to GPA-MN.

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

Bob & Heidi Neumiller made a donation in honor of **Larry** and **Teri Petrin** for working with them on their adoption.

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, 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

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