



The Home Stretch

March—April 2006

Volume 11, Issue 2

Arrow's Nose for News: Countdown to GreyFest 2006

Barb Gates

Okay, folks... it's what we've been waiting for... THE social event of the year is just around the corner. Every year Greyhound Pets of America – Minnesota hosts GreyFest - a yearly celebration to honor our hounds and raise money to help other retired racers find homes.

WHEN?

Saturday, June 3, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. Raffle 3:00 p.m.

WHERE?

Spooner Park, Little Canada, Minnesota (about 10 minutes north of Saint Paul)

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Greyhounds! All sizes... all colors... all loveable, contests & prizes, GPA-MN's world famous raffle, demonstrations, vendors from around the country selling greyhound-related goodies, Speed Alley (weather permitting!), plenty of food and drink! And did we mention lots and lots of greyhounds!

WHY SHOULD YOU GO?

It's a chance to come together with like-minded folks who think these hounds are awesome. See old and new friends and your hound's foster family. You will help to raise funds to place retired racers into homes. You can get a REAL early start on your holiday shopping!

But most of all because it's a GREYT time!

More details will follow but mark those calendars now – it's an event that's not to be missed!

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For Happy, Healthy Hounds

Susan Spiller



February was Dental Health Month so I will try to give you information and tips on your hound's pearlys and how to keep them gleaming white. As you know, racing greyhounds are fed a soft, high bacteria diet, which contributes to the heavy amount of tartar found on their teeth. When dogs eat, a film of mucus, called plaque, forms on the teeth. If this is not removed, it hardens and turns to tartar, or calculus. If the tartar is allowed to stay on the teeth, the gums become inflamed – this is called gingivitis. Gingivitis is reversible – it can be treated and prevented with thorough plaque removal and continued plaque control. If gingivitis is untreated, it leads to periodontitis. Periodontal disease is more severe and is irreversible. Periodontal disease causes red, swollen, tender gums, receding and bleeding gums, oral pain, and bad breath. If this disease is left untreated, it can lead to tooth loss and systemic health problems affecting the heart, liver, kidneys and lungs.

Dental care is one of the most important health issues a greyhound has, and the only

(Continued on page 7)

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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Second Tuesday Social Hour

Sylvia Kresal

January 10, 2006 was the first Social Hour of the New Year. Social Hours are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Richfield PECTO from 7-8 pm. Everyone is encouraged to come with their greyhound(s) and spend an hour chatting with other greyhound owners and munching on cookies. I always try to bring cookies for the humans because, well, just because I like cookies! This month's Social Hour was very busy. Here are some of the reasons why people attend:

Nicole, Dan, and Mardi Middlecamp:

Mardi and I never miss a second Tuesday of the month social hour, and it was Dan's first one. We like to come so Mardi can be around other greyhounds on a regular basis, and so I can catch up with the other greyhound group members. It truly is a social hour, and is always a lot of fun, and let's the dogs be dogs and the grown ups have fun talking about their dogs, share stories, advice, tips on where to shop or get supplies, and really just get to catch up and get to know each other better. Dan said that he really enjoyed meeting all the dogs and thought it was a great turnout!

Karen and Harley Hawkinson:

Harley likes to see all his little friends. It's a great place to socialize.

Nancy, Brad, and Twinkles Perlich:

Because there's lots of dogs for Twinkles to visit with.

Barb Gates, Steve Schaben, and Arrow:

I like to see the people. More importantly, Arrow has a blast.

Mark Downey, Christine Sanguinet, and Eleanor:

We attend to teach Eleanor that it's good to be around other hounds.

Kari and Sparks Keller:

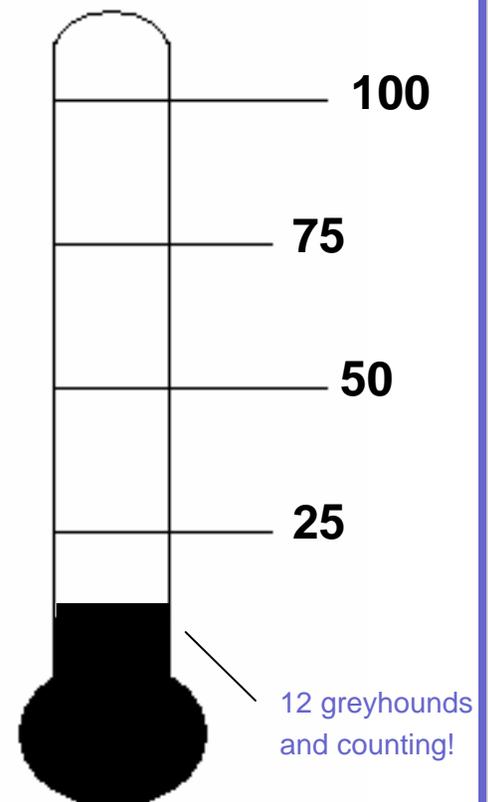
It's winter and there's not much to do outside so it's a great way to get out and get warm. Plus I would like to get to know more people from GPA and it's a great way to meet them and I know Sparks loves going!

Neil, Chuck, and Dave Kresal:

I have to come. My wife is the hostess. (long sigh from Sylvia)

Thank you to everyone who came and made it a fun event. Hope to see you at the February Second Tuesday Social Hour!

111 By 2007!



News from the Board

Jen Rachac

We heard from Pat Walsh, our President, in the last issue of *Home Stretch* about our goal of finding homes for 111 greyhounds by 2007. This is a very ambitious goal for our group and it is going to take all of us, working together, to make it a reality.

When you have a goal as large as this one is, it can be somewhat overwhelming to even think about where to start. In cases like this I try to break things down into smaller pieces. One thing I know we can all work on together, and enjoy doing, is showing off our hounds. Here's a few ways how you can get out there and show off your favorite four legged companion(s).

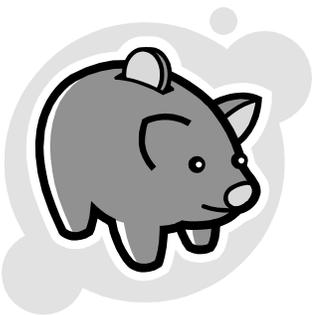
Meet and Greets: The more "feet on the street" we have, the bigger our effect. Meet and greets are a perfect example of this. When you just have a few dogs there people will look over and smile. But when you have a gaggle of greys people are magnetically attracted to the dogs and will come over to talk to you. Even if they aren't a potential adopter today, they may be in the future or they may mention greyhounds to someone else considering getting a dog.

Walks: Most of us do this anyway, but get out and walk your dogs! Let's face it – these guys are so beautiful that you are bound to get stopped occasionally while out and about. If you'd like, carry a few GPA business cards with you.

Your Veterinarian's Office: Many veterinarian offices have a small bulletin board or an area to post flyers and information. The next time you are in your vet's office, see if they have such an area. If they do, make sure there is a GPA brochure posted.

Raising awareness for greyhound adoption is something you do every time you have your greyhound out of the house. So put on some comfortable shoes and hit the road with your canine companion. The pups love the attention and it could help yet another hound find a forever home. Remember, 111 by 2007.

A May Garage Sale



The Fund Raising Committee would like everyone to start thinking Garage Sale! If you have anything just lying around collecting dust – and I am sure we all have some such items – please set them aside for a Garage Sale in May. All proceeds will go to GPA-MN. If anyone has an ideal location and would like to host this Greyt Garage Sale, please contact Pat Walsh at pat.walsh@baileynursery.com. There will be a follow-up article listing drop off locations for all of your goodies.

Thank you for your help in helping all the hounds needing forever homes.

Fostering

We can always use a few more foster homes! We appreciate all the fosters that have opened their hearts and homes to help the hounds cross the finish line into their forever homes. If you are ready to take the fostering plunge or just want a little more information before making a decision, please contact Barb Lund at blund@prawow.com.

GreyFest Volunteer

GreyFest needs you! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jen Jett at wynthier@comcast.net. We need help for set-up and tear-down, as well as, morning and afternoon shifts during GreyFest. Please help—it's easy and fun!

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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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Pat Walsh—Fundraising Chair
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Did you know . . . ?

Nicole & Dan Middlecamp

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner and in this issue we'd like to share a bit of greyhound lore from the Emerald Isle!

- Greyhounds can be seen in Celtic art from as early as A.D. 650 – 700.
- Hounds were so highly regarded in Ireland that they were written into a group of Irish laws called *Seneachus Mor* created in the middle of the fifth century and edited by Saint Patrick himself. They deemed that dogs were semi-rational beings. They were not seen just as pets, but could be included in wills and could be used to pay off debts. The beauty of it was that before any orders could be carried out, the dogs were to be notified of the decision, allowed time to make other arrangements, and given one day's stay to try and have the decision reversed.

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

A Death in the Family

Brian Jett

As many of you know, we lost our sweet Ralph last month. Jennifer and I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support.

Though technically a foster, Ralph came into our home over a year ago. He was 12 years old then. He was an abandoned greyhound, starving and filthy. His teeth were rotting in his mouth and large abscesses were growing around the gums. He was all but blind and maybe a little deaf too. And he was scared. Jennifer and I took him into our home, thinking we'd make his last month or so as comfortable as possible before he passed away.

Little did we know that it would be Ralph that made our lives all the richer and for this we will always love and cherish him. He was here when Jennifer gave birth to Jack, he watched over him and protected him. He never asked for anything, never jumped up for attention, or whined or begged, but he was always there, just in case you needed him. He was a good dog, by every measure of the word.

He had surprised us all. He was stronger than we had ever imagined. He was a survivor. He was family. Jennifer and I would like to thank GPA-MN for all that it has done for us and for Ralph, as well as bringing him into our lives.



Rather than mourn the absence of the flame,

Let us celebrate how brightly it burned.

SPOTLIGHT: Cruiser

Luana Ball

I would like you to meet Cruiser --- a very sweet and handsome brindle boy looking for a new forever home! Cruiser's beautiful face and trusting eyes are full of more expression than I've ever seen in a greyhound!

He is a peaceful and charming guy whose true mission is to just be near his people - preferably curled up next to you on the couch or very nearby on a special soft spot. He enjoys walking and is a dream on lead. He loves to play with stuffed toys and to romp around the room or yard like a youngster. Cruiser even does adorable spins when excited! He is currently crated - with absolutely no difficulty - during my workday but only because I don't want him and my other two greys to get into any mischief! Cruiser cannot share a home with cats. Cruiser just turned 9 years old and shows the elegance and dignity seen in an older hound but is also so very cute and playful!



Cruiser needs a place a rest

Cruiser offers the best of both worlds! Won't you consider opening up your heart and home to this boy? For more information please contact Teri Petrin at jtegpetrin@netzero.com.

SPOTLIGHT: Cutter

Beth Wallin

Cutter has very soft fur, sweet soulful eyes and, of course, a very short tail (it had to be docked, see last issue of the *Home Stretch* for more details). 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.

Cutter needs a new cat-free 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 jtegpetrin@netzero.com.

SPOTLIGHT: Larry

Lisa Quast

Playful, curious, 2-1/2 year old brindle boy seeks a home where I can spend my days wagging my tail and giving wet sloppy kisses to show how much I love you. I live for ear scratches, belly rubs, and any other sort of affection you are willing to give. I am very intelligent, and I know several commands, my favorite being "sit." I love treats, and I would like to go through obedience training because I love learning, and will do lots of things to convince you that I deserve treats. In fact, if I hear the clanging of a treat jar or rustling of something in your hand which I think might be treats, I will sit and thump my tail in anticipation. I enjoy walks, and I don't mind spending extended time in my crate. I am friendly with other dogs, and I get very excited by furry things that are smaller than my head (though I'm not allowed to be around them because I tried to snack on a cat once). I would love to meet you, become part of your family, and help to make your life more complete. For more information please contact Teri Petrin at jtegpetrin@netzero.com.



Larry is looking for love

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



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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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.

Highland Park PECTO Meet & Greet

Sylvia Kresal

Aimee Finley began hosting Meet and Greets at the Highland Park PECTO in the fall of 2003. She began with her greyhound Tipper, but he was soon joined by Sissy and Chancy. Aimee and her fantastic trio host the Meet and Greets because it was “something I could do to give back to the group that gave me my Tipper. I think the dogs enjoy getting out and seeing more greyhounds. It makes them more sociable.”

The once a month time commitment is manageable for them and they also like to visit other Meets and Greets whenever possible. “The dogs would go very day if they could,” she says.

Aimee and her hounds encourage everyone to attend Meet and Greets – come for 5 minutes or 2 hours, whatever works. It’s a great way for old adopters and new adopters to connect with each other and it gives the hounds a chance to socialize with an adoring public and with each other. “The more dogs, the more attention we get. It shows how well all the greyhounds get along.”

The January Meet and Greet was attended by Neil, Sylvia, Chuck and Dave Kresal, Keith, Michelle and Gobi Moore, Bob and Cooley Heeschen, and Kari, Sparks, and Passion Keller.

Thank you, Aimee, for making this possible!!



Aimee tries to keep the leashes the straight as the greyhounds Meet & Greet!

Twin Cities Public Television: Volunteer!

Chris King

Have you ever wondered where Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) finds the people who answer the phones during their pledge drive? They are volunteers who are there to assist TPT and get exposure for their organization.

GPA will be answering phones during the TPT pledge drive on March 8th and March 19th from 6:30 -10:30PM. This is a GREYT opportunity for us to make ourselves more visible (literally!) Wear your greyhound “gear” (No white shirts, please. White does not come across well on camera.) We will display our banner and they will let us have 2-3 greyhounds in the studio!

If you’re feeling a little nervous about being on TV, relax, TPT makes it very easy for you. There will be a brief training session to teach you everything you need to know about taking the pledges. It’s a four hour shift, but you only take calls during the televised pledge breaks. The rest of the time you’ll be in the green room eating the food that they provide. Parking is free. Barb Gates, GPA’s PR Coordinator says, “It’s a BLAST!”

We need 20 volunteers for each evening. Your friends, family and colleagues are welcome to volunteer. Wear your greyhound gear. If you are bringing a friend who needs a GPA/ greyhound shirt, let me know.

This is going to be a fun event and great exposure for GPA!

Email Chris King at CLKING2130@aol.com Include the date you are available 3/8 or 3/19, if you are bringing someone and if you need a T-shirt.

The Greyhound Project collects photos for the Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar all year long. Photos for the 2007 calendar will be selected in early April. Photos that come in after the selections are made will be held for the next year.

Prints of any size are acceptable, though it is generally better not to try to enlarge a smaller print. The original is usually clearer and easier to work with, and the calendar staff will have greater success at producing the enlargements than you will.

If you have digital images, they must be taken in high resolution in order to be acceptable for printing. Please send us a print of the image as well as a copy of the image on a CD. On the back of the printed picture, indicate that it is also on CD, and include the file name.

Please label the back of each photograph and CD you send including your name, address, the names of the dogs, and the name of the adoption group or other source of the dog.

If you have photos that were taken by someone else, please obtain their written permission to allow Celebrating Greyhounds to use the photos. If the photo was taken at a nursing home or therapy program of some sort, please obtain permission from the program.

The photos for the calendar are selected by a group of Greyhound adopters who are looking for the images that 'speak' to them. Send your Calendar photos to:

The Greyhound Project, Inc.
Attn: Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar
P.O. Box 5239
Framingham, MA 01701



Could Becky & Bill Pinegar's hound Teddy be the next Mr. October? Only one way to find out!

For Happy, Healthy Hounds

(Continued from page 1)

issue that an adopter has almost full control over. Brushing your hound's teeth every day is highly recommended. Brushing teeth once a week has almost no benefits. Use either a finger brush or a soft child's toothbrush and toothpaste made especially for dogs, or you can make a paste of baking soda. Human toothpaste is not good for them. Sometimes a crunchy snack prior to brushing will do some of the teeth cleaning work. Other teeth cleaning helpers are dry dog food, hard dog biscuits, rawhide chews and dental chews. Some people give their hounds raw carrots to gnaw on. This way the hounds clean their teeth, massage their gums, and get their vitamins all at once. There is a website with wonderful pictures on how to brush your hound's teeth. The site is about Italian Greyhounds but nice to see a visual of teeth brushing and some before and after pictures - www.cigrescue.org/dental

Once a month, inspect your hound's canines and molars. They are supposed to be white – if you see brown, tan, yellow or green, you are seeing tartar.

Be sure to have your vet examine the teeth thoroughly on a yearly basis. There are some vets who will do a standing dental – scaling the teeth without anesthesia – in an office visit.

An added bonus to daily dental care is that you will not only strengthen the bond you have with your hound, but you will soon learn to detect signs of unhealthy gums which could be an indication of other and more serious impending health problems. It is very likely that your hound may never need a standing or anesthesia dental if brushing is done thoroughly and daily.

Waiting at the Bridge

Brian & Jen Jett—Ralph
Kevin Kocur—Tommy

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



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Address Service Requested

Donations

Deb & John Christopherson Cami & Misiur made a donation to GPA-MN in memory of **Star Barger** a wonderful foster sister.

Diane Hagen & Al Fiene made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of a **Abbey's** adoption anniversary.

Mark Downey and Christine Sanguinet made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of **Barb Gate's** birthday—Happy Birthday, Barb!

Victoria Jones made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of her handsome hound **Ramon's** 4th birthday on February 27th.

Also, **Victoria** celebrated **Annie's** Gotcha Day in December.

Brian & Jen Jett made a donation to GPA-MN in loving memory of **Ralph**—it was a good run!

The Antioch Company Charitable Programs matched **Nathaniel Gray's** donation to GPA-MN.

Michael Horrigan made a donation to GPA-MN in honor **Karita's** passing on February 7th, 2006.

Special Thanks

GPA-MN would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their support and financial aid:

PETCO Stores — throughout the Twin Cities and St. Cloud

PetSmart Charities Spay & Neuter Grant

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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

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