



The Home Stretch

October / November 2006

Volume 11, Issue 8

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Art & Craft Sale—We Need Your Talents!

Susan Spiller, Craft Sale Coordinator

The Art and Craft Sale is fast approaching and we still need your art and craft work. If you have friends who are artsy, please ask them for donations.

The sale will take place in February 2007 at Steve Schaben's Fast Frame shop on West Lake Street right next to Chuck and Don's Pet Store. There is plenty of parking and it is easy to find.

Any art or craft work is accepted; it does not have to be hound related as the sale will be open to the public. Some ideas: paintings, drawings, framed photographs, prints, note cards, bird houses, bird feeders, scarves, quilts, jewelry, pottery, stained glass, mobiles, dolls, pot holders, hand made clothing, anything handmade for a baby, toys, dog coats or sweaters, soap, candles, hats.....Go wild, be creative – the sky is the limit, have fun. Please attach a suggested sale price to your pieces and if you would like to attach a business card or your name that would be wonderful.

You can drop off your work at any of the Meet and Greets, or the homes of Anne Moe, Holly Deering, Becca Totzke, Barb Gates or Susan Spiller. If you have any questions or concerns, please call (612-529-8099) or email me spillgirl555@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

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

GPA-MN Thanks Dr. Diffell

Luana Ball, Secretary



Dr. Diffell in 2000 with his beloved Cyrus

I was pleased when I was asked to write an article in honor of Dr. Thomas G. Diffell and his wife Lisa, practice manager and lead Certified Veterinary Technician, of the Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital. GPA-MN lost a valued member of our team at the end of September when Dr. Diffell and Lisa handed the keys over to a new owner of the practice.

Dr. Diffell was referred to me by my friend, and greyhound lover, Marcy Barger, when I moved to the neighborhood. Dr. Diffell has provided my two greyhounds with excellent care over the years as well as primary vetting for several foster hounds. I have found him to be an excellent diagnostician and surgeon while also possessing a very calm and soothing manner with my greyhounds. All of the staff at the Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital are exception-

(Continued on page 2)

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:

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Wendi Johnson
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Dan Middlecamp
Samantha Shine
Susan Spiller
Susan Starr

Dr. Diffell—The Interview

(Continued from page 1)

ally capable and caring

people, and I believe that their commitment to their job is a direct reflection of the quality services and high standard of care that Dr. Diffell expects of himself and all of the BPPH employees.

On behalf of Greyhound Pets of America – MN, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude for all of the support that Dr. Diffell, Lisa, and the staff have provided our organization over the years! It is because of generous people like these that we are able to fulfill our mission in finding loving and caring homes for the retired racing greyhound.

GPA-MN wishes Dr. Diffell, and his wife Lisa, all the very best as they enjoy this new chapter of their lives! They will be missed!

Thank you to Dr. Diffell for taking the time to answer the following questions for this article.

1. What inspired you to pursue a career as a veterinarian?

In the 4th grade, I read a book called "Animal Doctor". It was very exciting and I never wanted to be anything else.

2. Could you provide an overview of your career and some history of the Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital?

We purchased the Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital in 1988. It had been an animal hospital for approximately 25 years at that time. Over the next 18 years, we were able to go through two building projects that brought the hospital to its present state as an American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) certified hospital. I've been in practice for over 34 years. The first 16+ years were on the east coast, and the last 18 years here in Minnesota.

3. Which of your many accomplishments over the course of your career are you the most proud of?

I'm proudest of having provided emergency after hours care for my clients and their pets.

4. Do you remember how and when you initially became involved with GPA-MN?

We've been caring for rescued and pet greyhounds for so long that we can't remember the circumstances of how we got started. The only thing that sticks in our minds is how enjoyable it has been.

5. Many, many greyhounds have passed through your door over the years. Are there any memories in caring for them that stand out in your mind?

My most constant memory of caring for greyhounds is their uniform quiet, non-aggressive dispositions. It is very easy care for them because of their quiet, stoic behavior.

6. Do you have any particular recommendations in caring for greyhounds that you'd like to share with our readers?

Because many of these dogs have significant dental disease, owners of greyhounds must be willing to invest time on home dental care and any necessary dental procedures such as cleaning and extractions of diseased teeth.

7. How will your life change when you leave the Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital?

I'll be decreasing my work week from 65 hours per week to 30 hours per week. I'll be able to devote more time to taking care of my woodlot in Maine, and my hobbies of Horseback riding, gardening and hunting.

Great People + Great Auction + Great Food = Greyt Success

Lisa Quast, Donations Coordinator

Ziggy, Zaggy, Ziggy, Zaggy, Hoi! Hoi! Hoi! Our Heal a Hound fundraiser at Gasthof's was a huge success! The dinner and silent auction brought in over \$3800 for the Heal a Hound Fund. I would like to thank all the people who joined us that evening, as well as, those who invited their friends and family for an evening filled with wonderful food, drinks, and fellowship. Due to the wonderful response this event received and its overwhelming success, we hope to make this an annual event. So, if you were unable to attend this year, you can surely look forward to next year



Although Aruba's heart surgery bill has now been marked "PAID," we will retain the Heal a Hound Fund to support other incoming hounds which require extra medical attention. This fund will allow us to support those hounds in a way which we otherwise might not be able to do. If you would like to donate to the Heal a Hound Fund, please make note of this on your donation, as we will be earmarking those dollars to be specifically used for healing hounds!

Holiday Hound Safety

Susan Spiller

With the coming of the Holiday season, I thought I would talk about some things that can help prevent problems so that your Holiday is happy and healthy for one and all.

First, it is a good idea to know your vet's holiday hours. Keep emergency numbers and any special holiday requirements where they will be easily accessible. Protect your hounds from contact with or ingestion of the following: baking chocolate, mistletoe (the berry of this plant is the most toxic component especially if it is chewed), poinsettia (can cause diarrhea and vomiting), lilies, ivy (not toxic but can cause stomach upset), Christmas cactus (not toxic but can cause vomiting and diarrhea), tinsel, glow jewelry, Christmas tree water (may contain fertilizers which if ingested can cause stomach upset). The stagnant tree water can also be breeding grounds for bacteria which can lead to vomiting and diarrhea if ingested. Do not put an aspirin in the water (some folks think this will keep the tree more vigorous) because if your hound ingests the aspirin laced water this can cause serious health issues. Snow globes often contain antifreeze which is poisonous to all pets. Pine needles, when ingested, can puncture holes in a hound's intestine. Avoid bubbling lights which contain fluid that can be inhaled or ingested. Snow sprays and snow flocks can cause reactions when in-

haled. Keep sharp or breakable ornaments out of reach of your hounds.

Holiday guests and other activity can be very stressful and even frightening to your hounds. It can also trigger illness and intestinal upset. Make sure your hound has a safe place to retreat to in your house. Also, be extra alert when guests are coming and going so doors are not left open. Don't forget to also check your gates. Don't let your guests feed your hound human food. Keep your hounds away from gift packages as well as your gift wrapping areas. Ingested string, plastic, cloth and even wrapping paper can lead to intestinal blockage which can be extremely dangerous if not treated quickly.

If your pet ingests glass, broken plastic, staples or other small, sharp objects, call your vet. In the meantime, you can give your hound supplemental fiber in the form of whole wheat, or other high-fiber bread, canned pumpkin or Metamucil which can bulk up the stools and help the foreign material pass through your hound's system.

If you suspect that your hound has eaten something toxic, call your vet and/or the animal Poison Control center's 24-hour emergency hotline at 1-888-4-ani-help.

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, Secretary

luanaball@yahoo.com

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balanclark@hotmail.com

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bgates@cuningham.com

Jen Jett—Newsletter Chair

wynthier@comcast.net

Chris King—Events Chair

CLKING2130@aol.com

Barb Lund—Foster Chair

blund@prawow.com

Lisa Quast—Donations Chair

lquast@memsi.com

Teri Petrin, Treasurer & Adoption Chair

jtegpetrin@netzero.com

Pat Walsh, President & Fundraising Chair

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com

GREYT EVENTS

Barnes & Noble Holiday Wrapping Volunteer Opportunities!

Galleria—Eden Prairie

To volunteer contact Sylvia Kresal at:

nskresal@comcast.net

Sat. 12/16 6—10 p.m.

Sun. 12/17 6—10 p.m.

Wed. 12/20 6—10 p.m.

Fri. 12/22 6—10 p.m.

Calhoun Village— Minneapolis

To volunteer contact Barb Gates at:

bgates@cunningham.com

Sat. 12/9 2—9 p.m.

Sun. 12/10 10—2 p.m.

Sat. 12/16 10—2 p.m.

Sun. 12/17 10—2 p.m.

Mon. 12/18 6—10 p.m.

Wed. 12/20 6—10 p.m.

Har Mar Mall— Roseville

To volunteer contact Jennifer Dietrich at:

jenmdietrich@gmail.com

Wed. 11/24 2—6 p.m.

Sat. 12/16 2—6 p.m.

Sun. 12/17 10—2 p.m.

Chris King, Special Event Coordinator

I want to say a big THANK YOU to Lisa Quast for organizing a very fun and successful fundraising event for the Heal a Hound Fund. What a Greyt night!

The Minneapolis Kennel Club has invited GPA to host a booth at their show on November 18th and 19th. This event will be held at the Canterbury Park Facility at 1100 S. Canterbury Rd, Shakopee, MN. Volunteer opportunities are on Sat and Sun from 9-12 and 12-3. Please contact me at CLKING2130@aol.com.

The Holidays are quickly approaching and with the Holidays come festive events! Sylvia and Neil with the Frat boys, Chuck and Dave will host their annual day after Thanksgiving M&G at the Richfield Petco. Please check the GPA website or contact Sylvia for more information.

What fun it is to wrap gifts, talk about greyhounds and get donations too. Barnes & Noble will provide the wrapping paper, scissors and tape; GPA provides the wrappers. The Barnes & Noble customers are very appreciative and very generous with their donations. There will be three Barnes & Noble locations. Please volunteer to wrap at one or more of the locations and times listed to the right.

Volunteer! Have a GREYT time and get into the Holiday Spirit!



Greyhounds Make Great Pets
The website show for greyhounds and lovers and their friends.

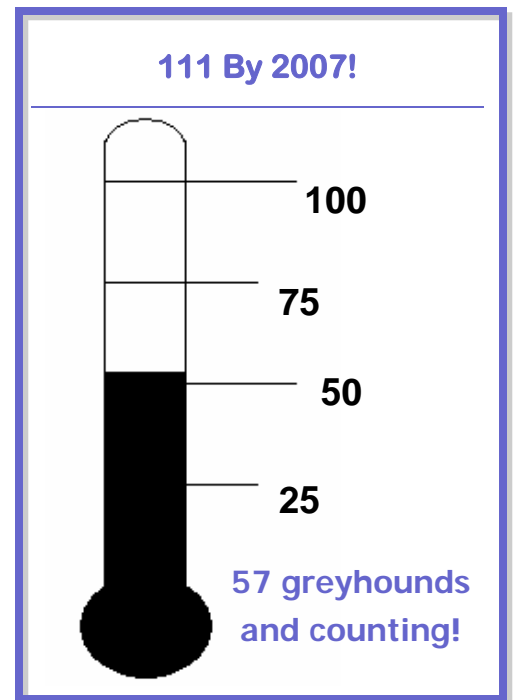
From the banks of the Nile in ancient Egypt to your local dog track, Greyhounds are an ancient and fascinating breed.

Join Rory Goree and learn more about adoption, obedience and training as well as this canine's history and the racing industry.

There is something for every dog lover whether you own one of these fast friends or not.

www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.org
Every Friday 2PM Eastern Time

Now available via podcasting!



Starting with the January issue, we will only be sending paper copies to those who contact us. To continue to receive a paper copy of the "Home Stretch" please contact, Luana Ball at (763-785-4000) or at (luanaball@yahoo.com).

Did you know...

Nicole & Dan Middlecamp

This column's goal is to provide you with fun greyhound facts. Whether it's facts you already know or new to you we hope it will be entertaining and informative. This month features more facts regarding greyhound as a breed in ancient Egypt.

- Anubis, an ancient Egyptian God, was one of the most prominent gods and was depicted of having the head of a dog and body of a man. Symbolically he was simply represented in the form of a greyhound.
- In ancient Egypt only the birth of a son was greater than a birth of a greyhound.
- Since greyhounds were so highly regarded in Egypt, and often believed to be gods reincarnated, when a greyhound died, its family members mourned by shaving their heads, fasting, and wailing.

Greyhounds were so valued that they were never sold, instead given as gifts to honored traveling guests from other lands.

Sneak peek for the next issue of *Did you know?...what anatomically sets the greyhound apart and contributes to their speed?*

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

Meet & Greet: Ridgedale PETCO

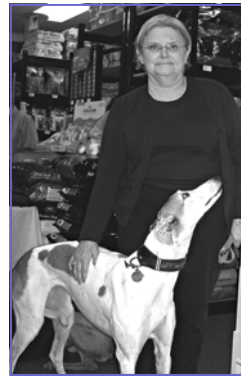
Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet Coordinator

The Ridgedale PETCO Meet & Greet is hosted by Karen Miller and her glorious greyhound Missy! They have been hosts for approximately four to five years. Karen's journey to be a Meet & Greet host began many years ago when she and her family were watching a Saturday night TV show called "The Crusaders" a show about greyhound rescue. Her daughter was especially impressed and wanted to rescue a greyhound. Karen replied, "No, we already have a dog" and thought the issue was over. Sometime later Karen and her kids went to Ireland. They happened to see a man walking greyhounds and stopped to talk to him. Shortly after their return home, they saw an article in the newspaper about St. Croix Meadows adoption program. Karen figured that was enough hints so they went and adopted Goody. Their little dog, Gabby (named after Gabby Hayes) picked Goody out.

A few years later Jessica was added to the family. She had great ears and a great personality. When Goody died in 2000, Jessica was not okay as an only dog. Enter Missy – she loves Meet & Greets, is very friendly, and likes to meet all dogs especially greyhounds. These two girls were a winning combination until September 12th when Jessica died at 15 years of age.

Karen and Missy are carrying on the Miller Family tradition of hosting Meet & Greets. Karen likes hosting because she enjoys talking about greyhounds and educating people as to what greyhounds are really like. Missy loves having her human and greyhound friends come, and it's also a good chance to get her nails trimmed.

If you're in the neighborhood of the Ridgedale PETCO store during the Meet & Greet times - please, come in, bring your hound, and stay as long as you like.



Karen & Missy are looking for you!

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

2007 CG Calendars are
here!

We have limited numbers of the wall and desk calendars available for purchase.

You can send a check (made out to GPA-MN) to: **Teri Petrin, 8863 St. Croix Rd. Woodbury, MN 55125.**

Please include a note with your check outlining how many of each you would like and a telephone number where you can be reached.

Prices are as follows:

\$12.00 for a wall calendar

\$15.00 for a desk calendar

Please add the following shipping charges:

\$3.00 for the 1st calendar

\$4.25 for 2 calendars

\$1.00 for each additional calendar

If you have any questions, please email Teri at:

jtepetrin@netzero.com.

PETFINDER.COM—Adoption Goes Hi-Tech

Pat Walsh, President

Petfinder.com is the oldest and largest searchable directory of adoptable pets on the Web. During its third year, Petfinder.com drew interest from **The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)**, which was America's first animal welfare organization. In 2000, **Yahoo!**, which named Petfinder.com a "cool site" shortly after its launch, recognized the site for a second time with a request for feeds for its new Yahoo! Pets site. Also in early 2000, **America On Line** honored Petfinder.com by prominently featuring it on its Pets channel. In June of 2000, Petfinder.com was named one of the 300 best websites by **Forbes** magazine, and in October, Petfinder.com was named one of the top 100 sites by **Family PC** magazine. Why the recognition? It is easy and affordability! Petfinder.com is free for adoption groups and those in search of an animal companion. Animal shelters and rescue groups can register to join Petfinder.com online and can start entering pets the same day.

Presently, Petfinder itself is being "adopted" by the Animal Planet family. By acquiring Petfinder.com, Animal Planet and Discovery Communications, Inc. will allow pets in need of a new home to muster the power of the leading global real-world media and entertainment company. This venture will further Petfinder.com's mission in ways never before dreamed of.

Petfinder.com is now 10,000 adoption groups strong. When Petfinder.com started with 13 organizations, they had no idea there were 10,000 groups out there in animal welfare land. Ten years old, 10 million adoptions facilitated and 10,000 groups posting is where they are at now.

Listing with Petfinder.com has proven to be a successful vehicle for greyhound adoption. GPA-MN started using Petfinder.com with pictures of our hounds exclusively in August of 2005. Our first hound listed was WJS Billie Cowher AKA Deanna back on August 4th of 2005. We just listed number 100 – JD Von Raschke (AKA Baron). Since August 2005, GPA-MN has listed 108 hounds resulting in 96 adoptions and counting! By the time you read this, GPA-MN will have adopted out our 100th hound listed on Petfinder!

There are a number of powerful tools that for both adoption groups and adopters. GPA-MN receives weekly updates on the number of hits each hound gets. We have seen a gradual increase in the total number of hits we have gotten since we started listing. The very first week Flyer got 72 hits; the distinction of highest number of hits for a one week period goes to Jill/Janet with 144. Please check out this great website. You can view our available hounds by going through our website www.gpa-mn.org or going straight to www.petfinder.com.

"A dog can express more with his tail in minutes than a human can express with his tongue in hours"
-Author Unknown

Waiting at the Bridge

Victoria Jones—Ramon

Teri & Jason Petrin—Sizer

Mike & Marcy Barger—Chris

Walter & Martha Cleveland—Sugar

Brian & Marty Ohana—Baylor

Dick & Jan Lewis—Ben

Barb Hommes—Duke

Home-Away-From-Home: Kennels

Anne Ford

The following are boarding locations from the Smart Groups website that fellow GPA-MN members have used. GPA-MN does not endorse or verify the reliability of the following boarding facilities.

Animal Inn Boarding Kennels & Suites, Lake Elmo 651-777-0255
www.animalinnboardingkennel.com

Auntie Ruth's Furry Friends Home Away From Home, Hopkins 952-936-9000
www.auntieruth.com

Bloomington Veterinary Hospital, Bloomington 952-884-3228 www.bloomingtonvet.com

Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital, Brooklyn Park 763-566-6000 www.bppethospital.com

Country Kennels, St. Mayer 952-657-2575

Kolstad's K-9 Acres, Minnetonka 952-934-3884

Krismyth Kennels, Hutchinson 320-234-7812

Maplewood Pet Care Clinic, Maplewood 651-770-
Waggin' Tail Ranch, Elk River 763-241-3883

More to come...



Donations

Therese & James Falconbridge made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Sue & David Wilson made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Judy Triplett made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Sylvia & Neil Falconbridge made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Chris King made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Diane Hagen made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Mark Downey & Christine Sanguinet made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Jeanne Anderson Dahl made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Jen & Doug Rachac made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of **The Board**.

Roxanne & Cullen Keily made a donation to GPA-MN for **The Hounds**.

Jordanna Pickering made a donation to GPA-MN for **The Hounds**.

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

The Petco Foundation made a donation to GPA-MN on behalf of their patrons' Round-Up donations.

Bob Heeschen made a donation in honor of **Cooley's** birthday.

Bev & Jim Martin made a donation in honor of **Missy's** birthday.

Dick & Jan Lewis made a donation in honor of **Ben** who is waiting at the Bridge "**Ben** will always be in our hearts."

Aimee & Stuart Finley made a donation in memory of **Sissy**.

Kathleen Franklin made a donation in memory of **Sissy**.

Teri & Jason Petrin made a donation in memory of **Argus & Sizer**.

Teri & Jason Petrin made a donation in memory of **Kim Hrabe**.

Volume 11, Issue 8



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

Burnsville

Coon Rapids PETCO

Eagan PETCO

Eden Prairie PETCO

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Highland PETCO

Maplewood PETCO

Maple Grove PETCO

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



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

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Pet Expo—Mankato, MN

Softworks, Inc.

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Cottage Grove Animal Hospital

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651-768-0200

651-770-8373

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763-545-1707

612-924-9213