



The Home Stretch

September 2006

Volume 11, Issue 7

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Upcoming Events

Doggie Palooza

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

Gasthof's Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

Sunday, October 22nd

Minneapolis Kennel Club Dog Show

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

Twin Cities Pet Expo

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

Arts & Crafts Sale

February 2007

Aruba: Her Heart Is Healed

Pat Walsh, President

Aruba's heart surgery was a complete success! Our sweet little Aruba, AKA Houdini Hound, had her heart fixed at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center on August 16th.

Patent Ductus Arteriosus is a birth defect where the ductus does not close off and between the heart and the aorta. Because the ductus did not close off 20% of the blood Aruba was pumping into her aorta was going right back into her heart. Her heart was 25% larger than it should have been from having to work so much harder.

Fortunately, Aruba's heart was very strong on her initial ECHO and was in no immediate danger. Our GPA vets recommend she have the procedure done at the University because of the complex nature of open-heart surgery. The University is pioneering a much less invasive surgery that does not require open heart surgery.

The University performs the surgery by making an incision on her inner thigh and inserting a catheter into her leg. This catheter contains two metal discs that were specifically designed to fit the wholes on each side of Aruba's ductus. The catheter and metal discs then made their way up into Aruba's ductus and were put into place. Once this was done the catheter was removed. A little glue closed the incision, and the surgery was finished. It was a complete success! She could have gone home that night, but they want to keep all the patients for a follow up ECHO to make sure neither disc had moved. Thankfully, neither did.

Dr Stuathammer opened the door to get Aruba; she was lying on her back with six vet techs rubbing her belly and her tail thumping off the ground. I do not think she even noticed I was on the other side of the door until the last person stopped rubbing her belly. Did she come running over when the last person stopped rubbing her belly? No, she just thumped her tail harder so I would come and pet her. Anyone who knows Aruba would expect nothing less. On our way out of the hospital, five or six others stopped to say good bye to Aruba. I felt like the invisible man.

Her prognosis is a happy, healthy and long life. She went home on antibiotics and two weeks of short walks, no running or fence jumping! That lasted less than a week. Short walks-no problem, antibiotics-no problem, no running-no problem, however, no fence

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GPA—MN's is proud to announce the launch of our new website! Please check it out and remember it is a work-in-progress!

www.gpa-mn.org

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
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News from the Board:

GPA-MN Board Nomination Statements

Luana Ball: I accepted a board assignment last spring to fill a position vacated by a board member moving out of state. I have now had the opportunity to learn more about what goes on "behind the scenes" while providing support to the board members in whatever way was needed. I feel that I can contribute creativity, energy and optimism to the work of this team.

Historically, I have been involved with greyhounds for 10 years, being one of the early members of GPA's Buddy program where I would make follow up calls to new adopters. I enjoy fostering for GPA and that wonderful feeling when your foster is settled into a loving home. I enjoy participating in various GPA events and have recently started up a Meet and Greet at the PETCO in Rochester.

I believe in the mission of GPA to promote increased awareness of the beautiful and dignified greyhound and to successfully place them in their forever homes. I hope to continue supporting these efforts as a GPA Board member.

Brian Clark: My life has been greatly enriched by the addition of my two greyhounds Crash and Boogie. I adopted Crash almost a year ago. I enjoyed him so much that I decided to adopt my second, Boogie, this past spring. I have enjoyed attending meet and greets regularly and got my first chance to volunteer last spring at the Hastings Pet Expo. I would like to continue to give back to the organization that has given me so much. In addition to two hounds that were wonderful fits for me, the organization has provided on-going support through all the wonderful and stressful times of dog ownership. I look forward to working with the board and executive officers to ensure that GPA-MN can continue to provide this wonderful service to our community and the retired greyhounds. Over the last 8 years I have worked in the consulting and software industries. I have served in customer facing roles that demanded strong technical, organizational and communication skills. In these roles, I have developed skills ranging from project and account management to data analysis and business development. I would be happy to lend these skills and my time to GPA-MN.

Mark Downey: My experience with GPA includes fostering, volunteering at various events like Grey Fest and the State Fair, and hosting a monthly Meet & Greet along with my wife Christine, our hounds Eleanor and Ringo, and Barb Gates and her hound Arrow at Chuck & Don's in Calhoun Village. Working with GPA has been very rewarding so far, so I would like to extend my experience by serving on the Board. I've run my own business for 22 years. My work involves finding unique solutions for my clients, often by coordinating resources from all corners of the globe. It requires dedication and organization, and has taught me patience and negotiation skills, and how to be creative in my thinking process. I believe these skills

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GPA-MN is launching our new website! As of January 2007, you will no longer receive the *Home Stretch* in your mailbox. It will be available at our new site. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy, please contact Jen at 763-784-9328!



“Heal a Hound” Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction at Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit

You are cordially invited to join Greyhound Pets of America - MN for an all-you-can-eat fundraising buffet of the best German food in town. Those of you who have been there know that an evening at the Gasthof is a night to be remembered. Those of you who haven't, what are you waiting for? Great food, a lively atmosphere in a traditional German setting... And of course there will be music by the strolling accordionists! Ziggy zaggy, ziggy zaggy, hoi hoi hoi! Best of all, you are supporting a great cause!

Along with the buffet we will be hosting a silent auction which will include some beautiful hound-related items as well as a wide variety of items with universal appeal. Items include a getaway to Bluefin Bay Resort, Christopher Robin Designs jewelry, a gorgeous greyhound sculpture, fine art, gift certificates, and much more!

Delicious Buffet!

Sunday, October 22nd, 2006
\$25 per person (50% goes to GPA-MN)

Silent Auction!

Dinner Seating Times: 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Silent auction runs from 4:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

All funds raised will support the "Heal a Hound" fund, currently benefiting Aruba's heart. This event is for humans only (no hounds) but invite your friends and family to experience what is sure to be a fun and memorable evening and a one-of-a-kind Twin Cities dining experience!

Buffet Menu:

½ Liter Beer or Glass of Wine | Pork Loin with Mushroom & Onion | Rouladen | Sauerbraten | Chicken with Wine Sauce | Weiner Schnitzel | Veal Cordon Bleu | Geschnitzeltes | Pasta with Shrimp and Parmesan Sauce | Spatzle | Mashed Potatoes | Dumplings | German Fried Potatoes | Vegetables | German Salads | Black Forest Cake | Strawberry Cake | Apple Strudel



Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit is located at:
2300 University Ave. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-781-3860
www.gasthofzg.com



Help the Children's Polish Orphanage "Pacim" – bring your gently used children's clothing (up to age 21), school supplies and toiletries to the Gasthof on the night of the event. Items will be sent to 25 various orphanages in Poland.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Lisa Quast at 612-743-8968 or LQuast@memsi.com.



Gasthof Fundraiser Registration Form

Name on the reservation:	
Number attending:	Contact phone:
Dinner seating time (circle one): 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.	
Special requests (high chair, wheelchair access, etc):	
I cannot attend, but please accept my donation to the "Heal a Hound" fund for Aruba's Heart.	

Please send registration and payment to:

GPA-MN Gasthof Event
c/o Lisa Quast
6553 Meadowlark Lane North
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Checks payable to GPA-MN



Meet & Greet Spotlight: Coon Rapids PETCO

Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet Coordinator

Say "CHEESE!" Greyhound Photo Contest!

Get those photos of your greyhound together and enter to win the Greyhound Pet Photo Contest. Winners will receive a prize package and be a part of the national telecast of Greyhound Night of Stars.



Rules: Photo size should be 4" x 6" or 5" x 7" only. Greyhounds name(s), owner's name(s), and address and phone should be included on back of photo or on a separate sheet of paper. You may also submit a short story about the photo.

All entries must be received by October 21, 2006.

Send photos to:

The Publicity Office, Palm
Beach Kennel Club

1111 N. Congress Ave., West
Palm Beach, FL 33409

For more information or ques-
tions call: 561-683-2222 ext.
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My husband and I fostered Walker in the spring of 2000. He was a big friendly, gorgeous brindle greyhound and it was hard to see him go. Lucky for us he was adopted by Alicia Reynolds-Minear and her husband who already had adopted Poof in October 1999. It was lucky for us and lucky for GPA-MN because Alicia began hosting the Coon Rapids PETCO Meet and Greet in 2000 and we have been there to visit often.

Alicia's love of greyhounds began many years ago when she and her husband went to the Pet Fair in Anoka looking for a golden retriever or a yellow lab. Her husband suggested looking at greyhounds and the rest is history. "I said they were too active a dog but I met them and liked them and did research and fell in love with the breed before I even got a greyhound. We went to a Meet and Greet to meet them and fell in love with them. Now, I am so glad I don't have a lab or a golden retriever."



**Alicia, Poof and Walker are
ready to greet you!**

Besides hosting Meet and Greets, Alicia and her greyhound gang love to garden. Poof enjoys cukes, tomatoes, and pea pods. She also picks her own grapes from the grape vines in the fall. Walker will only take garden vegetables if he's given it and has seen Poof eat it. "Walker doesn't like to try new things so it's good to have an adventurous alpha dog like Poof."

Alicia hosts Meet and Greets for many reasons. "I'm very shy about myself but I love doing Meet and Greets. It's easy to talk about the dogs. I like to be out with the dogs and to get the word out. I get excited when people come in who have never seen a greyhound. I like to dispel the myths of greyhounds being active and high strung. I love it when people come in with greyhounds they've just adopted, especially if they've come to a Meet and Greet that I've done."

Adopters Shawn and Amanda Heller visited her Meet and Greet in November 2005. They came for another visit in March of 2006 and again in April when they introduced their new hound Enzo to Alicia, Walker, and Poof.

All of the Meet and Greet hosts enjoy meeting adopters and their hounds. You can attend any Meet and Greet you want and stay for as little or as long as you want. If you go to the Coon Rapids PETCO, Walker and Poof will be waiting to greet you!

(Continued from page 1)

jumping-big problem. She jumped over our six-foot wood fence and took her own short walk around the neighborhood.

Despite her adventure, Aruba is doing great right now. She still loves her belly rubbed and any other attention she can get. She also loves to go for walks and chasing squirrels out of her backyard. She is getting better at being in her crate and is a great ambassador for greyhounds. She hammed it up at the State Fair and also steals the show at our Meet & Greet in Maplewood. Aruba is such a bundle of energy that she needs a lot of personal time to walk and run around in the backyard. She is becoming more playful but still would prefer to chase you around rather than throw a stuffie, but her interest in toys is growing.

GPA-MN began Heal a Hound, a permanent fund, to offset the expenses of Aruba's surgery. Money earmarked for this fund ensures that GPA-MN will continue to take in special needs hounds that many other groups can not afford. Keep your eyes out for upcoming events like Gasthof's dinner and live auction with all donations going to the Heal a Hound fund. We are also planning an Ebay auction with all kinds of cool things!

(Continued from page 2)

would be an asset to the Board, and I would like to use them to help further the GPA cause any way I can.

Chris King: I will be completing my first, two year term on the board at the end of this year. I've worked with many talented people and each one brings a specialty to the function of the GPA-MN board. I want to continue my role as a GPA board member. I'm involved as an adoption representative and work with the adoption coordinator to assist in greyhound adoption. When greyhounds arrive from the track, I assist with their care in preparation to go to the foster home. I currently have a senior foster and provide foster care to a second greyhound as needed. I find that fostering a senior and special needs greyhound is very rewarding. Also, I am the special events coordinator. In this role I organize events and collaborate with other coordinators and volunteers to provide community based and GPA events for fund raising and educational opportunities. I look forward to exploring new opportunities to promote greyhound adoption. I am committed to finding greyhounds loving forever homes.

Barb Lund: I have had four greyhounds in my world. Currently, I'm sharing my home with two seniors – Boone who will be 11 in December and Sweetie who is 11-1/2. For the past two years I have served on the Board as Foster Coordinator. It has been a challenging and rewarding time. I feel we have made great strides in raising awareness of fostering and in increasing the foster family participation. If you reelect me to the Board, I will continue my efforts to increase participation in GPA programs and increase awareness of greyhounds to increase adoptions.

Nicole Middlecamp: In the last year and a half after adopting Mardi Gras, she has brought so much joy and love to our home, that she inspires me to contribute my dedication, passion, and support. Through volunteering and participating on sub-committees I have had a chance to be involved and learn a lot about the wonderful things GPA-MN does for greyhounds. All of this has motivated me to do more and make more of an impact and I would like the opportunity to join the board to help increase Greyhound rescue efforts, adoption, and care.

Pat Walsh: I have been involved with GPA for 5 1/2 years when we adopted our greyhound Mango. We have fostered many, many hounds and we also host a M&G

Recommended Reading: After Hurricane Katrina

Rory Goree, National GPA President

A terrific new book about dog rescue has recently been published, and it's a must have for the greyhound library. *Rescued: Saving Animals from Disaster* by Allen & Linda Anderson shares life changing stories and practical suggestions.

Rescued tells the inspiring stories of dedicated organizations and heroic volunteers who saved animals and reunited them with loved ones after Hurricane Katrina. This book will prepare you to quickly and safely evacuate with animals in any emergency.

Rory Goree, President of GPA-National, is interviewed about greyhounds. A photo of Rory with his greyhound Beauty, foster Beamer, and puppies (who Rory helped birth) accompany his section of the book.

The authors of *Rescued* will be guests on an upcoming broadcast of "Greyhounds Make Great Pets" in September.

Rescued will be available at The GPA Store booth at the North American Greyhound Adoption conference in San Diego on Sept 8-10 and in Dewey Beach. You may also purchase it at the GPA on-line store at www.greyhoundpets.org.

GPA-MN Resources

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

GPA-MN'S NEW WEBSITE

GPA-MN is proud to announce the launch of our new website! You can find our M&G calendar, old and current issues of the *Home Stretch*, the GPA store, adoption, fostering, and volunteer information. Please visit but remember it is still under construction! The address change is a small one—a "dot" to a "dash." Check it out today!
www.gpa-mn.org

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.

Heal a Hound Fund:

Aruba's Surgery



GREYT EVENTS:

Chris King, Special Events Coordinator

The National Greyhound Adoption Conference was held in San Diego, California on September 8-10. The conference was hosted by GPA-CA Orange County and Greater Los Angeles. Pat Walsh and I attended; I want to briefly share some of the events and information from the conference.

Rory Goree, National President of GPA, gave the opening address and stated how important we all are as volunteers. Since GPA began in 1987 over 70,000 greyhounds have been adopted. Cythnia Branigan, author of Adopting the Racing Greyhound, spoke on "Desperate House Hounds." Cindy Hanson, Editor-in Chief, of "Celebrating Greyhounds" magazine spoke on the "Gracious Art of Internet Writing."

Also, there were sessions presented by veterinarians on megaesophagus, cancer in greyhounds and when to take your greyhound to the emergency room. There were many other interesting and informative sessions. A silent and live auction raised money for special needs greyhounds. Our Minnesota donation brought in \$500.00. Thank-you! During the wine and cheese party, one of the vendors presented a greyhound fashion show of coats and accessories for all seasons.

We took a day trip to Tijuana, Mexico to the Caliente Greyhound Park where we toured the track, the kennels and brought treats for the hounds. Also in the park was an exotic animal zoo. The track management was very gracious. GPA-CA has a wonderful relationship with the Caliente track and gets all of the retired racers from there. It was a fabulous conference!

Here are several upcoming events that you can attend and volunteer for. The TC Dog Doggie Palooza is on September 30 from 10-4 in St. Louis Park. This is a large dog friendly event with demonstrations, vendors, and doggie activities. Please contact me at CLKING2130@aol.com to volunteer at the GPA booth from 10-1 or 1-4. I will contact you with more specific info on location and directions.

For those of you who are new greyhound families, volunteering offers people who are thinking about greyhound adoption or who have never seen a greyhound the opportunity to learn about greyhounds from YOU and your hound. You get to show off your greyhound and tell people about how wonderful your greyhound is. Also, it's a fun way to get to know other greyhound families and socialize your hound too. It's a win-win for everyone!

Tell your family, friends and neighbors about the 1st Annual GPA Dinner and Silent Auction at Gasthof zur Gemutlichkeit restaurant on October 22. This is a two legged event, but is sure to be fun with great German food and all proceeds going to the newly created "Heal a Hound Fund."

It time to start thinking about holiday book wrapping. Barnes and Noble provides the wrapping paper, scissor, and tape and GPA volunteers wrap books that the shoppers have purchased. The shoppers give a donation to GPA for wrapping their items. Contact Sylvia at nkresal@mn.rr.com or Jennifer at jenifr2@earthlink.net for more information on locations, dates, and times for book wrapping.

Volunteer for greyt events! Greyhounds are waiting for their forever home!

Waiting at the Bridge

Aimee & Stuart Finley—Sissy

Teri & Jason Petrin—Argus

The Staff at Maplewood Pet Care Clinic—Sniper

Karen Miller—Jessica

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made.
-M. Acklam

Eye Care for Our Hounds

Susan Spiller

Greyhound eyes are wonderful things to see – they really are windows into the dog’s soul. But sometimes we see things that we don’t expect to see there; at the slightest sign of an eye problem, take your hound to the vet. Do not wait to see if it gets worse because it usually will. On a regular basis, take notice of your greyhound’s eyes – check for redness, itchiness, squinting, or mucus discharge. It is even recommended that you check the pupils to see if they move in reaction to light or if they differ in movement to the other eye.

Three types of discharge:

1. Thick mucus discharge usually indicates a problem that should be looked at by a vet.
2. Clear watery discharge could be a symptom of allergies, a small object lodged in the eye, or a tear drainage problem.
3. If you see a LOT of water drainage over the eye and into the face then it could be a result of a clogged tear drainage duct.

Pannus is an eye condition that involves the clear outer cornea of the eye. It is usually first discovered as a sort of cloudiness of the cornea, possibly with tears. Over a period of a few weeks, this will progress until a thin web of blood vessels spreads inward toward the center of the cornea. If you let Pannus progress beyond this point, then your greyhound’s vision could be seriously impaired. Both eyes are affected, though the diseased regions may be asymmetric. The cause of Pannus is not very well understood and it can be treated if caught in time. Ultraviolet light affects pannus, so the condition will likely worsen in the summertime when the sunshine is strongest – this is especially relevant in higher altitudes.

The treatment for Pannus is steroid ointment in the eye to get rid of the blood vessels. Before putting the ointment in the eye, be sure the vet checks for active ulcers in the eyes. *This is very important!* If there is an active ulcer, it must be treated before the steroid treatment for Pannus is initiated. If this is not done, it could lead to blindness. Unfortunately there is no cure for Pannus – we can just try to control it.



Greyhound Pets of America—
Minnesota

Would Like to Say:
“THANK YOU”

To Our PETCO Sponsors

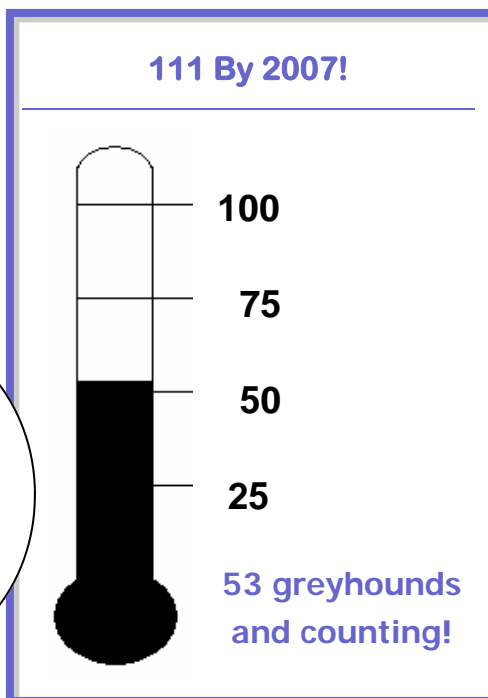
With their help, many retired racers have found and will continue to find loving and caring homes.

Participating PETCO Stores:

- Apple Valley PETCO
- Brooklyn Park PETCO
- Burnsville PETCO
- Coon Rapids PETCO
- Eden Prairie PETCO
- Fridley PETCO
- 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 finding loving homes for retired





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

Marcy & Michael Barger made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

A matching contribution from **The Antioch Company** for a donation to GPA-MN by **Nathaniel Gray**.

Brad & Nancy Perlich made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Kari Keller made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

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

Daniel & Jane Tomassetti made a donation to GPA-MN for **Aruba**.

Cathy Thyen made a donation to GPA-MN in honor of *Presley's* Gotcha Day.

Animal Wellness Center of Maple Grove made a donation to GPA-MN in loving memory of **Pearl Schaper**.

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

Lupient Chevrolet of Bloomington 952-884-3333

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

Sir Speedy Printing Center 763-545-1707

Fast Frame 612-924-9213

Barnes & Noble

Borders Book Sellers