



The Home Stretch

August—September 2007

Volume 12, Issue 5

Inside this issue:

Burnsville Meet & Greet	2
Senior Stories: Hitt & Monty	3
Hound Health: Toe-nails	4
Board Elections	4
GPA Art & Craft Sale	5
In Memoriam	7

Upcoming Events

Membership Appreciation:

Sunday, October 14th 4:00-6:00 p.m.

GPA Arts & Craft Sale: Saturday, November 17th, 10am-4pm

- Email Susan Spiller at spillgirl555@yahoo.com to volunteer and/or donate

Minneapolis Kennel Club

Show: Saturday & Sunday, November 17th & 18th at Canterbury Downs

- Email Chris King at CLKING2130@aol.com to volunteer

Twin Cities Pet Expo: Saturday & Sunday, February 16th & 17th

Membership Appreciation & General Board Meeting

Barb Gates, President

Membership Appreciation is GPA-MN's opportunity to personally thank our members for their support! It's also a chance for you to participate in our general board meeting.

When? Sunday, October 14, 2007

4:00 - 6:00PM

Where? Sunny Square Park Community Building

2200 Sunnyside Terrace

New Brighton, Minnesota

Who's Invited? You are!

As a previous adopter, financial contributor or volunteer you are an important part of our membership and we'd love to see you there!

Can I Bring My Hound?

Sorry, folks - this is a "human-only" event, as the room does not allow dogs.

Why Should You Go?

Food and drink!

We've got something for everyone, including the vegetarians.

Merchandise!

We will have wonderful raffle items as well as GPA merchandise, including t-shirts, calendars and more!

(Continued on page 2)

Greyt Events!

Chris King, Special Events Coordinator

The crisp days of fall are a welcome relief after our hot summer. During the "dog days summer," GPA was involved in some new events as well as popular old favorites. This summer we were in two parades, one in Eagan and one in Maple Grove. The greyhounds were a big hit and these parades were featured on the local TV stations. Another new event was WOOFstock in the Linden Hills neighborhood.

Our most popular events were the State Fair and Ren Fest. Jen Jett with Marlowe, Jacki, and Mulsey were featured on the "Fox 9" Morning News while we were at the Fair. This was a GREYT opportunity to reach the TV viewing public to learn more about GPA and greyhound adoption.

(Continued on page 5)

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.

The Home Stretch is the publication of the Minnesota Chapter of Greyhound Pets of America. Entire contents are Copyright © 2004 Greyhound Pets of America—Minnesota. Reproduction or quotation strictly prohibited without written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. GPA-MN reserves the right to edit or withhold all articles or advertisements submitted for publication. GPA-MN does not necessarily endorse any product advertised in this newsletter

Any questions concerning content or distribution should be directed to Jen Jett at:

Newsletter@gpa-mn.org
wynthier@comcast.net

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
Wendie Johnson
Sylvia Kresal
Nicole Middlecamp
Dan Middlecamp
Samantha Shine
Susan Spiller
Susan Starr

Chris and Jackie and Mulsey...Oh my! Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet Coordinator

Chris King and her two greyhounds, Jacki and Mulsey, are the Meet and Greet hosts at the Burnsville Petco. Jacki, a 5 year old fawn beauty, is the "veteran" and has been hosting with Chris for the past few years. Mulsey, fostered by Chris and eventually adopted by her, is a 5 year old happy go lucky brindle boy. He's been helping out since September. When asked why Chris and company do Meet and Greets she said, "I think it's a great way to let the public know about greyhound adoption and for people to meet greyhounds close up. Also, we like to do them because Petco is so supportive of us and so welcoming to us." The time commitment isn't much, "Just a couple of hours one Saturday a month. The dogs enjoy it and they know what Meet and Greet and Petco mean."

Chris pointed out that a Meet and Greet is a place where you can get together with greyhounds and their owners. The dogs get a chance to socialize and the owners can socialize as well. Every Saturday there's usually a Meet and Greet going on in your neighborhood. You can spend an hour or two with your greyhounds and friends and tell other about greyhound adoption.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Albert Schweitzer

Membership Appreciation—Continued

(Continued from page 1)

A chance to socialize!

See old friends and make new ones.

Open Board Meeting

During a brief open board meeting you can learn about the status of the organization, meet current board members and nominees running for the open board positions. ***During the meeting we will be voting on altering the current GPA-MN bylaws.***

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

Hope to see you there!

Directions from 694:

- Take the Silver Lake Road Exit, which is 2 miles west of 35W
- Head north on Silver Lake Road
- Turn right onto Gregory Drive (first right after the railroad tracks)
- Follow Gregory Drive to the small parking lot at the end of the street
- Follow the path to the Community Building

Senior Stories: Pros and Cons

Carol Bohumil

I adopted Hitt in May of 2002. When he arrived he was so confident in himself and settled in very quickly. For almost two years Hitt had been living most of the time in a kennel at the veterinarian office in South Dakota. When he arrived at my house he was so confident and mellow; he settled in quickly. He seemed content right away. I had no problems with him and it didn't take much effort on my part to take care of him at all. He seemed to know everything he needed to know about living in a house.

As time went on it was clear that Hitt was so grateful to be living with me. He seemed to just adore me...he kept one eye on me all the time. If I wasn't looking at him he would in some way remind me that he was there (by letting out a little noise of some kind). He just wanted to be sure I knew he was there. I think he felt great was very happy just knowing someone cared about him being there. Even on walks he would always keep an eye on me. He looked just like an elegant horse galloping around the yard. Hitt was happy with a soft fluffy blanket and pillow, and he loved when I fluffed the pillow for him whenever he was lying down.

Unfortunately he died of osteosarcoma in May of 2006. I had him just three years and would give anything to have had him longer (one of the cons of an older greyhound...but is any amount of time they have with you long enough?). He became good buddies with my other dog Jazzer, but he paid more attention to me than the dog.

I just adopted Monty. Monty was living in a home for five years. He was very energetic and loving when I got him. He seemed to crave a lot of attention (more than other dogs I've gotten), and I later realized that he was jealous of the other greyhound in my home, Jazzer. This was probably because he was used to being the only dog in the home. He felt displaced being taken out of his home and then going into a strange home with another dog.

Both of the seniors I have adopted from GPA have been happy and content with a walk, hugs, some attention, and a few treats. They have been such great companions to have around. I knew I would miss them when they died, but after losing a couple of dogs now I found it was much harder than I thought it would be. They do become your best friends because they are with you all the time. And they definitely have their own distinct personalities.

Recommendations when considering: just the possibility they may not be with us as long and may not have quite as much energy as the younger dogs. Not having as much energy can be good for some people.

Pros

- Little to no potty training
- Sleep through the night
- Good feeling of helping a hound that may be harder to adopt out
- Usually have less energy than track dogs

Cons

- They might not be with you as long as you would like
- May encounter health issues (but younger dogs may have these as well)

Seniors are truly special! If you are interested in adopting a one, please contact one of GPA's Adoption Representatives. As you can see, the "pros" clearly outweigh the "cons" for human and hound!

Editor's Note: If you wish to submit your Senior's story, please send it to Jen Jett.



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

Brian Clark, Vice-President

balanclark@hotmail.com

Mark Downey, Treasurer

mark@nervecenter.net

Barb Gates, President—PR/Media Chair & Festival Coordinator

bgates@cunningham.com

Chris King—Special Events Coordinator

CLKING2130@aol.com

Barb Lund—Volunteer Coordinator

blund@prawow.com

Lisa Quast—Fundraising Coordinator

lquast@memsi.com

Teri Petrin—Adoption Coordinator

xracinggreys@msn.com

Pat Walsh—Foster Coordinator

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com

The Home Stretch

How to Run for the Board

Complete the information found on page 6 of this edition of the Home Stretch.

You must be at least 18 years of age. Applications for a board position must be done by a single individual.

Give us a few sentences on why you feel it would be good to have you on our board.

Send completed form to us so that we receive it by October 7th, 2007.

We will put together a ballot that includes a list of all the applicants along with their short proposals and send it to all voting members. Available nominees will be introduced at the Membership Appreciation Meeting October 14th, 2007.

Members will have two weeks to vote for their choices by returning their completed ballots.

The Secretary and Treasurer will tally the votes and notify the new board members.

New board members will be introduced in the December 2007 Home Stretch newsletter and their term will take effect January 1st, 2008.

To be eligible to run for a Board position, you must be a Contributing Member. Contributing Members are those members who have adopted a greyhound through GPA-MN.

Hound Health—Toenails

Susan Spiller

You can tell if your greyhound's toenails are too long by standing them on a flat surface. You should be able to slide a piece of paper under their nails. If you can not do this, they are too long.

Fortunately, greyhounds are accustomed to having their nails clipped several times weekly while racing. They are used to having their nails cut while standing, with you beside them facing the tail and lifting each foot on the opposite side.

Nails are best managed, especially if they are over-long, by cutting them weekly until they are back to normal.

(Continued on page 6)

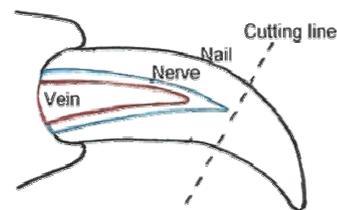


Diagram of the inside of your hound's toenails

Board Elections—Run for the Hounds!

Barb Gates, President

Every fall we have our election of new board members. Four of the nine board positions are open this year. We would like you to consider applying for one of the openings!

It has been another wonderful year for GPA-MN, all due to the tremendous job our volunteers do. Being a member of our Board of Directors is another important way you can help GPA-MN. The voting members vote the board of directors in each year. Each director has a two-year term and can succeed himself or herself. The board advises the executive officers, who themselves are board members and are voted in by the board at their first meeting.

Board members should be enthusiastic and creative, but mostly participatory. They should have a willingness to follow through with needed tasks and be visible at GPA-MN functions. Since we do most of the work through e-mail or on the telephone we are looking for those that are willing to check e-mail on a regular basis and respond to Board discussions to achieve resolution on issues that can't wait until the next board meeting. Board Members should be willing to work in a primary or assistant role in the business functions of GPA-MN (Coordinator or Executive Committee). We have board meetings once a month.

Board membership is a wonderful way to get a better feel for how GPA-MN works and have some influence on its operation. Please consider serving our organization by applying for a position on our board. We could use your help and are sure you will find it a fun and rewarding experience.

Burnsville M&G—Continued

(Continued from page 2)

can spend an hour or two with your greyhounds and friends and tell other about greyhound adoption.

Chris and Jacki and Mulsey are usually at the Burnsville Petco on the second Saturday of each month from 12-2pm. Check out the Burnsville Meet and Greet and other Meet and Greets on the GPA website under Meet and Greets.



Chris, Mulsey, Talica (foster), and Jacki represent GPA in Burnsville!

2nd Annual GPA Art & Craft Sale

Volume 12, Issue 5

Susan Spiller, Coordinator



This will be a wonderful Pre-/Christmas Holiday Sale and a very fun event for everyone, including the hounds that will participate as our grand greeters. We will have refreshments, a drawing, beautiful art to purchase and lots of good cheer.

We are ready, willing, and able to pick up your art and craft donations any time that is convenient. Please consider donating any hand made art work that you have or have made and include your name and a suggested price.



Thank you all for your help and participation in making this a profitable event for GPA and the hounds that are waiting for a loving forever home.

Please call (612-529-8099) or email (spillgirl555@yahoo.com) Susan for a pick-up.

November 17th 10a.m.—4 p.m. at The Warren in North Minneapolis

4400 Osseo Road—612-703-6909



Kaya chillin' - check out the tip of her tail poking out of the water!

Water Hounds



Schilling lays low—talk about camouflage!

Greyt Events—Continued

(Continued from page 1)

During the summer months there are so many events happening in your community and neighborhood. These are wonderful opportunities to provide the public with an opportunity to meet a greyhound and learn about greyhound adoption. Just walking through the event with your greyhound always draws a crowd. Looking ahead to next year, consider organizing or hosting a walk or event in your neighborhood or community. Our GPA members and volunteers are so important for promoting greyhound adoption. Please contact me, a board member or M&G host with your ideas!

Calling all crafters and artists, your friends and family; please donate your items for the Art and Craft Fundraiser at the Warren on November 17th. I guarantee that you will find some very special and unique gifts that will dazzle the special people on your gift giving list. Pick up something for yourself. You are special too!

After you have completed shopping at the Arts and Craft Sale, please volunteer at the GPA booth at the Minneapolis Kennel Club event, November 17th and 18th at Canterbury Downs in Shakopee. Contact Chris at CLKING2130@aol.com.

Special THANKS to the event coordinators: Lisa Quast, Jen Jett, Teri Petrin and Brain Clark.

See you at Membership Appreciation on October 14!!

Volunteer and have a GREYT TIME!

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.



GPA—MN's Email list

To subscribe to the GPA-MN E-Mail Correspondence List and automatically receive a digital copy of the Home Stretch go to:

www.gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/list_gpa-mn.org

GPA—MN's Home Stretch

To request a digital copy of the newsletter *only* that you can read on your computer screen or print to read later go to:

http://gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/gpa-mn-newsletter_gpa-mn.org

To request that a paper copy of the newsletter be mailed to your home please send your name and address to info@gpa-mn.org or leave this information on the GPA-MN phone line which is 763-785-4000.



GPA—MN's Website

Visit our website to learn about special events, volunteer opportunities, greyhounds available for adoption and helpful links.

www.gpa-mn.org

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

Board Application

Please complete the following information and send it to GPA - MN.

- **Name**
- **Address**
- **Telephone**
- **Email**
- **Brief statement on why you feel it would be good to have you on our board**

Mail this to:

GPA-MN

PO Box 49183

Minneapolis, MN 55449

OR

Email this to:

luanaball@yahoo.com

Send completed form to us so that we receive it by October 7th, 2007.

Wanted:

Digital Cameras

Do you have a digital camera that you no longer use? If so, why not consider donating it to GPA-MN. We will provide you with a receipt documenting your tax deductible donation. It will be put to good use photographing items for online GPA-MN fundraising as well as capturing pictures of our wonderful members and their greyhounds at special events.

Email info@gpa-mn.org or call (763) 785-4000 and we'll arrange for pickup.

Thanks for your support!

Hound Health—Continued

(Continued from page 4)

Since the blood vessels in the nail grow along with the nail shell, you cannot cut long nails back completely in one session without drawing blood. To get an idea how short you can go, see if your greyhound has any white nails. Start with these as you can see the pinkish blood vessel through the translucent nail. Take off only a small bit at a time, maybe cutting five or six times until you can either see you are near the vein or the dog becomes sensitive, indicating that you are close. After you have done the white nails, you can use them to guesstimate how far to trim the black nails.

It is best to cut nails outdoors, so that if you do get bleeding, it doesn't get all over the house. To stop the bleeding you can use a styptic pencil, blood stop powders, flour or baking powder. Dry the nail first and then quickly apply the cauterizing substance before the bleeding re-starts. If none of these work well, the bleeding will stop on its own. Just let them run around outside until it does and then give them an extra biscuit or two.

Waiting at the Bridge

Loni & Bob Skrentner—Jubilee

Sheri Gray & Greyhounds, Pete & Cooper—Epic

Chris, Jen, & Maddie Fischer (Stormy at the Bridge)—Bum

Deb & John Christopherson—Misiu

Anne, Cort, Jus, & Aly & Greyhounds Turner & Tanga—Hooch

Robin & Bruce Krautbauer—Wally

Jen & John Cottew & Greyhound Patch—Classy

Kevin Kocur & Susan Starr—Jesse

In Memoriam

Audrey

Audrey crossed the Rainbow Bridge last night in her sleep. The veterinarian said it might have been an embolism or a blood clot to take her so quickly--she looked very peaceful when I found her this morning, as if she were still only sleeping. This has been a pretty rough summer for our family; our grey guy Zorro passing in June. Our big, beautiful girl was only 9 and half years old, and she lived every minute of her life with joy, passion, and love. She simply adored people, and she made friends wherever she went. She was our first greyhound, we are so thankful she was in our lives, and she will be in our hearts forever.

Amanda Horton, Marty Blumenfeld & Trevor

Minneapolis, MN

Classy

We are devastated at her sudden loss. She was the best dog ever. John, with much help from Kim Hrabe, surprised me with Classy as an anniversary gift. From the moment John Brunner brought her to our house for me to meet Classy, we were in love. She walked in the living room, cuddled next to me and put her head in my lap. She's been an amazing part of our family; she kept Patch company. She had the most beautiful, expressive eyes ever. She was definitely the diva in the house, demanding treats, attention, couch space, and lots of walks. She was very easy going and incredibly sweet. We will miss her dearly.

Jen & John Cottew & Patch

Buffalo, MN

In Memoriam—Continued

Hooch

We said goodbye to a good friend and companion today. Hooch crossed the bridge at around 9:40 today. He was 11. We fulfilled a promise we made to him not quite 7 years ago. We didn't realize we were making this promise at the time, but it was made none the less. When we welcomed him into our family, we made a promise to love and care for him. Always. (Today we loved him enough to help him cross the bridge, surrounded by the people he loved and the treats he still eagerly devoured. Those of you who knew Hooch appreciate his love for food and treats. The way he would wrap one leg around your leg, press his chest and neck to you and give you a "hug." He had a great capacity for play-bowing and then tearing around the yard doing laps. Those are the memories that bring us the greatest joy and also the greatest sorrow today. So think a moment about our silly tuxedo black boy, Hooch, of the happiness each pup brings to our lives each day, and give your pups an extra hug in his memory.

Anne, Cort, Jus, & Aly Cassens & Turner & Tanga
Minneapolis, MN

Jubilee

Today at noon, Jubilee passed away. She was a member of our house for the last 10+ years. It is so hard to say goodbye. Thanks to all of you for your best wishes and concerns over the past several weeks as Jubilee slowly told us it was time. Such a great name! May her spirit and her name brighten all of your days.

Loni & Bob Skrentner
Minneapolis, MN

Minnie

I said goodbye to my sweet little Minnie girl on Saturday, July 14th. That day, in fact the previous week, were some of the most heartbreaking days of my life as her health declined so rapidly. As time has passed my broken heart has healed some and I am able to look back on our 11 years together and smile through the tears.

My Minnie was a shy and withdrawn girl who needed some confidence when I first adopted her. Within months I watched her personality develop and what a great personality it was! Minnie was a wonderful ambassador for the retired racer. In her early years she would be front and center at Meet and Greets or other special events. She wouldn't let a person pass by until they gave her some attention. She was a pretty little thing and she knew it! As the years passed she began to step back some and let the young pups handle the work of drawing people in while she lounged and let them adore her.

I am thankful for Minnie's patience as she helped to teach so many foster hounds how to settle into retirement. As she got older she became more jealous of the female fosters so I would bring in males. She so enjoyed flirting with those boys!

I have so many wonderful memories of Minnie. I can see her strutting her stuff in her little witch cape and hat as GPA-MN walked the Anoka Halloween parade or her bright and happy eyes as she posed for a picture with Santa at a fundraiser. I can see the pain when she broke her leg so badly a few years ago or when she was attacked by an off lead dog that resulted in near death and emergency surgery. I can see her excitedly prancing around the room with a stuffie in her mouth at the mention of a walk or a car ride or a special treat! Minnie was adventurous and game for anything you offered her. She was most content though just curled up near me on the couch or soaking up the warm afternoon sun in the yard.

My Minnie was indeed one of the lucky ones – who found a forever home after retirement and who lived a long and healthy 14 years. I too am one of the lucky ones as Minnie taught me the joys of loving, and being loved by, this very special breed. I miss you my Minnie girl – you will always hold a very special place in my heart. Good bye my sweet girl – you were loved.

Luana Ball
Golden Valley, MN

Bum

We got Bum from the Hudson track when it closed. When we adopted him he was very timid and had to be let out with the females as he would be bullied by the males. In the six years he was with us he grew to be such a people person. It was great to see what a good life he came to know.

Chris, Jen, & Maddie Fischer
Minneapolis, MN

Volume 12, Issue 5



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:

*Apple Valley PETCO
Burnsville
Coon Rapids PETCO
Duluth PETCO
Eden Prairie PETCO
Fridley PETCO
Highland PETCO
Richfield PETCO
Ridgedale PETCO
Rochester PETCO
St. Cloud PETCO
W. St. Paul PETCO
Woodbury 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 racers.



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

Jennifer and Jason Aluni to GPA-MN for the hounds.

Corey & Brent LaGree to GPA-MN for the hounds.

Jill Jeatran to GPA-MN for the hounds.

Christine Sanguinet to GPA-MN for the hounds.

Christopher Fischer to GPA-MN for the hounds.

Luana Ball to GPA-MN for Heal-A-Hound.

The United Way made a matching contribution to GPA-MN to go along with **Shari S. Gray's** previous donation.

Judy Triplett to GPA-MN in honor of **Ellie**.

Claire O'Connor to GPA-MN in honor of **Tango**.

Holly Deering to GPA-MN in honor of **Susan Spiller's Birthday**.

Cindy & Max Harper to GPA-MN in honor of **Barb Gates & Steve Schaben's wedding**.

Brooklyn Park Animal Hospital to GPA-MN in memory of the **hounds euthanized since February**.

We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love. ~ Mother Theresa

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

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

Speed EZ Printing 763-545-1707

Fast Frame 612-924-9213

Barnes & Noble