



The Home Stretch

June—July 2007

Volume 12, Issue 4

Inside this issue:

St. Cloud Meet & Greet	2
Art & Craft Sale	2
Senior Stories: Chancy	3
Laryngeal Paralysis	4
Hound Poetry: Barska	5
In Memoriam	7

Upcoming Events

MN State Fair: Sunday, September 2nd—morning, afternoon, & evening shifts available

- Email Jen Jett at wynthier@comcast.net to volunteer

Renaissance Festival: Saturday & Sunday, September 15th & 16th—morning, afternoon, & evening shifts available

- Email Teri Petrin at xracinggreys@msn.com

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

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

Hounds & Members Make GreyFest GREYT!

Barb Gates, President

I've now attended my third GreyFest and coordinated my second. What can I say? WOW. What a great community!

I owe many, many thanks to each of the board members for their hard work, to the volunteers for making the day easier, to the judges who tried to be objective even when it was impossible to do so, and to all the attendees for being there to help support a cause we all love.

The generosity and support was overwhelming and heart-warming. From donating raffle items to donating time to a providing a smile when it started to rain or being a good sport when your dog licked peanut butter off of your face – every one of you contributed and I thank you for that.

GreyFest truly is a special event and is a really fun day, but it's also a fundraiser to help the hounds we hold so close to our hearts. I'm happy to say that we had another successful GreyFest and that each of you made it the success it was.

I am proud to be part of an organization that works so hard and has fun doing it. Thank you all!

Check out pictures from GreyFest throughout the issue!



Kota's scopes out all the fun at GreyFest!

GPA Rocks Local Art Fair!

Susan Spiller, Ann Moe, and Holly Deering, Coordinators

First of all, I would like to thank all the greyhounds that came out to the North Arts Spring Art Fair on Saturday, June 23rd—Eleanor, Ringo, Ted, Angie, Danny, Crash, Boogie and Tipper. Thanks to their parents who accompanied them to the Fair. You were all such wonderful ambassadors for GPA. You introduced

(Continued on page 4)



Susan Spiller, Holly Deering, Aimee Finley (with Tipper), and Jude Edling (with Danny)

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
Wendi Johnson
Sylvia Kresal
Nicole Middlecamp
Dan Middlecamp
Samantha Shine

Granite & Greyhounds

Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet Coordinator

St. Cloud, Minnesota is known for its granite quarries. It also has greyhounds to help keep it on the map! For the past ten years Kate and Pat Murphy have been hosting Meet and Greets at the St. Cloud Petco which is actually located in Waite Park. Currently, they share hosting duties with Jake, a white greyhound with brindle and fawn ticking and speckled ears. He is a "mama's boy." They adopted Jake when he was 2 and have had him for 8 years. He curled up with Kate for the ride home after he was adopted. He's a little shy and would love more greyhounds to join him for the Meet and Greets.

They have had other co-hosts over the years. Their first greyhound was Bets, a big, friendly, Meet and Greet natural. Bets was good with everyone. After a year and a half they added Megan, a white and fawn hound that came from a South Dakota shelter. Megan was adopted at age 10 and was a host for three and a half years.

Summit was a dark brindle who they just lost in February. They read about him in "The Home Stretch" as a ten and a half year old who was being re-homed and never regretted their decision to add him to their family.

St. Cloud Fast Facts:

Named for Napoleon's palace outside of Paris

Population: 66,228 (2006)

Places to see: Quarry Park & Musinger and Clemens Gardens

(Continued on page 6)

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.

Scott Adams

GPA's 2nd Annual Art & Craft Sale

Susan Spiller, Coordinator

The Art and Craft sale was so successful last year that we are going to do it again! We brought in over \$2,550 from the sale of your beautiful hand made items – all the proceeds went to GPA. It will be held again at The Warren - An Artist Habitat - which is located in North Minneapolis at 4400 Osseo Road. This year the sale will be held on Saturday, November 17th from 10am until 4pm. What a great opportunity to shop for Christmas/Holiday gifts!!!

We are again asking for your art and craft donations made by you, your family, or friends. They do not have to be Greyhound related. The sky is the limit - pottery, jewelry, note cards, purses, scarves, toys, bird houses, paintings, drawings, prints, framed photographs, quilts, stained glass, sculpture, candles, soaps, clothing, and the list goes on. Whatever you can dream up, we will most appreciatively accept. All of the proceeds from the sale go directly to GPA to give more hounds a chance for a wonderful life. We will again have drop-off locations for your art work: our houses, your friendly Meet and Greets, or we can pick from you.

We will be sending out more information and fliers soon. November is just around the corner so get your creativity flowing and let's make this another great event for GPA and all the hounds in waiting.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Ann Moe or Holly Deering. Susan's contact info: spillgirl555@yahoo.com or 612-529-8099.

Senior Stories: Each Day Is a Gift

Volume 12, Issue 3

Aimee Finley

A Tribute to Chancy, My Beautiful Senior Greyhound

We'd owned our first greyhound, Tipper, for two years. We'd had Sissy for one year. I had quickly become enamored of the breed, and was actively involved in volunteering for GPA-MN. One day I saw that Barb Lund had posted to the GPA-MN listserve, looking for a "permanent foster home" for a senior brindle girlie named Chancy who had been recently surrendered to the group. Chancy was thought to be 12 years old, and had a small grocery list of health problems, mostly due to woeful neglect by her previous owners. She was deemed "unadoptable" because very few new adopters would consider a sickly 12-year-old hound.



Chancy gets her "happily ever after" on her 12th birthday!

We had never planned to have three dogs. I had never really been tempted because our house is just a small two-bedroom bungalow in the city. But a sentence Teri Petrin had written in one of my first GPA newsletters kept ringing in my head: "Adding a senior hound to your home is as challenging as adding a throw rug."

My heartstrings were effectively tugged. I called my husband, who was out playing golf. He sounded mildly annoyed at my interruption, and not thrilled about my idea of adding to our pack. We agreed to discuss it later. Ninety minutes later, my phone rang. It was my husband, still on the golf course. His first words: "What's her name?" I knew he was sold, the big softie.

We arranged for Tipper and Sissy to meet Chancy at her temporary foster home. This was the final deciding factor. I wasn't worried, as Tip and Sissy always adored other greyhounds. Chancy was no exception.

She was extremely shy with adults and fearful of children. She had infected weeping open sores all over her feet between her toes and in her nailbeds. She had the worst teeth I have ever seen, literally black, mushy, infected and rotten. She had a large rash of blackheads on her belly and unusually thick fur, indicating she'd likely spent large amounts of time outdoors. And she had a raging case of tapeworms. The saddest part is that upon reading her ear tattoos, we discovered she was only ten years old! She just seemed much older because of her ailments.

Chancy was in dire need of a nice quiet loving home where she could relax and be thoroughly spoiled for the rest of her days. Our home fit the bill perfectly.

I brought Chancy home a few days later. She fit in effortlessly, like a missing puzzle piece. Tipper was overjoyed, and Sissy showed Chancy the ropes of our home life. Chancy's shyness with us melted away after a few weeks. She went from running to hide when my husband returned home from work, to being the first to greet him, tail wagging, grinning and pogo-bouncing for attention.



Chancy, the Finley's "tiger-girl" relaxes in her backyard!

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

(Continued on page 5)

The Home Stretch

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!

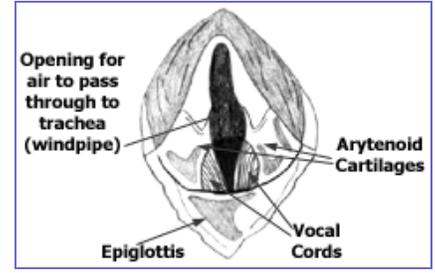
Hound Health—Laryngeal Paralysis

Susan Spiller

Laryngeal Paralysis is a condition seen commonly in older, large breed dogs. Paralysis of the larynx or "voice box," usually results in noisy breathing, voice change, excessive panting, decreased activity level, and decreased overall well-being.

Two tissue folds located on either side of the wind-pipe opening are affected by this paralysis. The function of the folds is to open and close in response to breathing and swallowing. When the condition occurs, a dog's airway is narrower than it should be, which is especially hard on an animal when it needs more air (during exercise or excitement). The body needs more air, but it can't get it, so an animal pants and breaths even harder.

(Continued on page 6)



Normal larynx from PetEducation.com

Spring Art Fair—Continued

(Continued from page 1)

greyhounds to a lot of folks who have never seen a live greyhound before. When we had greyhounds at the booth, a large crowd gathered to pet or just admire your hounds. We had several people that were very interested in possible adoption. Thank you to all the people who donated their works of art for us to sell at the Fair. We looked so good that the Judges found it necessary to award the GPA booth with the "Best Booth" award. GPA ROCKS!

We got a beautiful Ribbon, our organization announced and our booth fee for next year is FREE!!! Way to Go GPA. So, thank you to everyone in GPA for all your art donations, your support and continuing efforts to raise awareness in new areas for all the hounds that have and will grace our lives.



And the winner is...GPA!



GreyFest: Vinny hangin' in the pool!



GreyFest: Buck's photo finish at Speed Alley!



A special thanks to Ann and Holly for a truly wonderful team effort. We had a fun day and enjoyed meeting so many nice people and selling your art work. It was a pleasure.

The three coordinators: Holly Deering, Ann Moe, and Susan Spiller.

Thank you, ladies!

Barska: Inspirational!

Susan Bielmeire

Just wanted to let you know what an awesome dog we have. Barska is doing well! I saw this poem that Mackenzie (9 years old) wrote on her classroom door today and thought you might like it:

*Barska,
Brindle long
Loving, hugging, butting,
Filling the world
with love,

My Shmookems!*



Barska and his new family including poet, Mackenzie!

Chancy's Tribute—Continued

(Continued from page 3)

I decided that this "Permanent Foster" idea, nice as it was, would simply not do. Chancy deserved to be properly adopted. I sent in my adoption fee as a donation, and agreed to cover her medical expenses from there forward. It did take several months to get Chancy's medical issues under control. Now that Chancy is well cared for, she is often mistaken for being much younger than she is. I wouldn't deceive anyone as to the added expense. But the privilege of watching Chancy blossom into a joyful loving dog in our home is worth it. Senior hounds truly do seem so very grateful for even the most minor of luxuries: a soft clean bed, fresh food and water, slow walks in the parks on sunny days, and the occasional gratuitous car-ride. Every penny invested is returned a thousand fold in love and devotion.

Chancy has been in our lives for over 20 months now, and she is twelve years old (for real, this time). I don't know how many days, months, or years we have with our brave, gentle tiger-dog, but each one is a gift I will cherish forever.

We unexpectedly lost Sissy to cancer last August at age ten. We did not plan to adopt a third hound again. At least not right away. In December we heard about another senior girlie who sadly lost her home. Her name is Marla...

Editor's Note: Next issue will feature another senior article by Carol Bohumil. If you wish to submit your Senior's story, please send it to Jen Jett.

Volume 12, Issue 3

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

Recipe of the Month

Chicken Pops!

1. 1 can chicken broth (fat & salt free is best)
2. 1 can of water.
3. Fill 6 plastic cups (5 1/2 oz. size) half full with broth.
4. Fill to top with water.
5. Freeze

Susan Spiller



GreyFest: Kota flies down Speed Alley!



GreyFest: Release the HOUNDS!

Hound Health—Continued

(Continued from page 4)

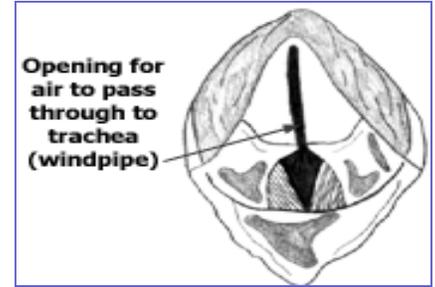
The larynx may have a great deal of swelling associated with this, which even further narrows the airway. If it is severe enough, the dog can pass out from lack of oxygen.

While sometimes associated with hypothyroidism, or other neuromuscular diseases, often the cause of Laryngeal Paralysis remains unknown.

Medical treatments are only palliative and all are aimed at reducing swelling, or just calming the dog down.

If it gets to the point of being debilitating, surgery may be the next step. Some dogs respond very well to surgery while others are prone to inhalation pneumonia.

This can be a very frustrating condition. The goal of all treatment is to keep the dog as comfortable as possible.



Laryngeal Paralysis from PetEducation.com

If a dog will not come to you after looking you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience.

Woodrow Wilson

St. Cloud M&G

(Continued from page 2)

When asked why they continue to do Meet and Greets after so long they say: "We love meeting people. We like the opportunity to educate and talk to people about the breed because the only view some people have about greyhounds is what they see and read in the media. The Meet and Greets give us a chance to get out with our dogs and socialize them. It gives us something to look forward to each month and it is something for us to do as a family." Kate also adds: "I love these dogs with all my heart. I will keep doing the Meet and Greets as long as there are beautiful sweet dogs needing loving homes."



Granite quarry, St. Cloud, 1930. MHS visual resources, HD6.2 pg23

Kate, Pat, and Jake would like to invite people to join them at their Meet and Greets because they are fun and Jake loves the company. Anyone who wants to come is welcome. They are always the second Saturday of each month, at Waite Park, from 12 to 2pm.

Waiting at the Bridge

Kendra & Jonathan Marut—Braki

Michelle Enos & Family—Mo

Amanda & Marty Horton—Zorro

Deb & John Christopherson—Misiu

Jill Walser & Sylvia & Neil Kresal—Belle

Jodi & John Brunner—Trudi

Luana Ball—Minnie

In Memoriam

Trudi

(1991 – 2007)

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that our lovely Trudi has crossed the bridge. For those of you that didn't know her, she was a Senior Grey that was found in Duluth. She was adopted by a good family in Minneapolis. When they found that she had a tumor on her lower jaw, they had the front half of her lower jaw removed. The surgery was a success; she was cancer free.

We took her in three years ago after the family could not keep her anymore, and since then she has been a very special part of our family. She would walk around like an old lady, and then you would call her and she would prance like a two year old. Because of her jaw she drooled a lot – mostly Jodi! My son nicknamed her "Sloppy," for that reason and for the ways she ate – a lot of food ended up around the bowl. But that was never an issue for her.

She had a look that said "I love you" and always a nose kiss for you anytime. Trudi lived a full life – 16 years! And for us at least, her last three were the best. She will be missed terribly.

John and Jodi Brunner
Minneapolis, MN

Bev & Jim Martin recently lost Missy. They wrote a touching tribute and included this picture of Missy. Unfortunately, the newsletter



Jim, Bev, and Patches at GreyFest

went to print without including the photo. So, we're including it here along with a picture of their new girl, Patches. The Martin's met her at GreyFest and took her home.

We wish them the very best!

The Martin Girls: Missy (at the Bridge) and Patches



Volume 12, Issue 3



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 Lister to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

Donna Hale to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

Haley Seaberg to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

Susan Timmerman to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

Bev & Jim Martin to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

Jill Walser to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

Toni Canfield to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

The Petco Foundation to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

iGive.com to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

Promotion Resource Alliance, Inc. to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

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

Bev & Jim Martin to GPA-MN in honor of **Patches' Gotcha Day**.

O. Ya Greyhounds to GPA-MN in honor of **Kristie, Digger, & Foxy**.

Bev & Jim Martin to GPA-MN in memory of **Missy**.

Bob Heeschen to GPA-MN in memory of **Coolley**.

Bev & Jim Martin to GPA-MN for the **Heal-A-Hound Fund**.

Goodness is the only investment that never fails. ~ Henry David Thoreau

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