



# Home Stretch

July - August 2010

Volume 20, Issue 1

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## Bounce Backs are the Best!

by Michael Horrigan

Having fostered many hounds in the past I've wondered how any could ever be bounced back once adopted. Every foster hound I've ever had I certainly would have considered keeping if I could.

One of my fosters was a bounce back. A handsome black boy named Jacket, he came with a laundry list of issues: He couldn't be kenneled, he was afraid of thunderstorms; he needed to be let out during the day many times, don't ever touch his ears, sufferers from nightmares and don't ever touch him when he's asleep. Wow. No wonder he bounced, right?

But he was so cute and playful, loved tossing around a stuffed animal for attention. Loved being petted- careful of the ears! GSOD (Greyhound scream of death) if you touched them. Sure he had some issues - but they could be worked on, couldn't they?

### Ready to chip

I fell in love with this boy and this time I was going to attempt to adopt him. I was ready for a second hound, my first chipping experience. Unfortunately before I could let the Adoption Coordinator know my thoughts Jacket was scheduled for a meeting with a potential adopter. I went to the meeting sadly knowing that I might need to give him up to a good home but if for any reason it didn't work out I was going to adopt him. As luck would have it due to his occasional accident in the house and the potential adoptee's long work hours it wasn't a match made in heaven.

The first week after I had adopted Jacket he and I had an incident. I checked to make sure he was awake as he was lying down on a doggie bed and I crouched down behind him to give him some pets and loving. He whipped his head over his shoulders and snapped at me, he very nearly bit me! It was frightening - you've seen a hound snap at something, all those big teeth and they do it so quickly! I thought what kind of mistake have I made, I'm going to have to return him. Well I calmed down and gave returning Jacket a lot of thought - who would adopt him if he had an aggression issue? Maybe he just needed more time in my household as a member of his new pack I would need to be more careful.

(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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## *Bounce Backs are the Best - continued*

### Accepting touch

Over time I slowly conditioned Jacket to accept more pets and more down on the ground 'luvin'. I slowly conditioned him to accept touching and eventually stroking his ears especially if it's just a casual touch. He will still shy away from someone just holding onto it but anyone can pet his head and there's only a one percent chance that his ear will be touched the wrong way. He still occasionally has an accident in the house but it's fairly rare and when he does it it's usually in the kitchen on a throw rug. I still am careful about limiting his access to water during the day.

Now thunderstorms are still an issue and something that I use to thoroughly enjoy has been diminished while I have Jacket. He is terrified of thunderstorms, he can sense storms approaching well before I can. He gets agitated and paces and pants a lot and whines a little bit. It's not the end of the world except that it is enough that I can't sleep. He has chewed on the corner of a couple of pieces of furniture in this agitated state. Working with my vet I did try several anti-anxiety medications which didn't seem to do much. I ended up pretty much sedating him for storms so that he would sleep through them but he is so groggy afterwards and sometimes it's hard to plan or gauge the severity of storms.

After several years, and the advice of many kind and knowledgeable GPA members with similar hounds, I've learned a dose of melatonin along with some liquid Rescue Remedy will help Jacket tremendously. I also encourage him to get into my cast iron bathtub that is lined with a comforter and pillow, thanks to Katie K-9. Jacket has now learned to wake me up to get the bathtub ready and he climbs in on his own. With the help of a small lamp, Jacket usually fall asleep. It is the rare terrible storm that I have to give him any Acepromazine to sedate him.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Bounce Backs are the Best continued

After four years now Jacket is the most lovable hound, relaxed and dignified gentleman. His personality is more subtle but anyone who gets to know him grows to appreciate his demeanor. I can sit astride of him if he is lying down and give him a full hug with a kiss on his snout - he anticipates this each morning immediately upon my waking up. He is smart enough to know not to bother getting up until after I've brushed my teeth and put on my shoes. My other hound will have made half dozen trips up and down to check on my progress.

He's a black boy so his summer outside temperature preferences is rather narrow: anywhere between 60-70 degrees and overcast days are fine by him otherwise he wants to be inside with a fan blowing on him or the AC on. On hot days you would think I was killing him when I drag him around the block twice a day. Fall is his season; he has more energy and is more likely to play with his pack-mate Cadfael. Now if it's 30 below zero he will just turn around and head in the direction of home after his business is done - no need to drag this out any longer than necessary Dad!

Each evening after our walk and my supper he will approach me on the couch and give a small play bough. I will ignore him for a minute because I like to see him get excited, he will bark at me once or more until I say "Do you want to go outside?" We all rush off into the kitchen to be let outside. Now he didn't really need to go out he just knows there is no evening treat of some TD nuggets until we go through this ritual. He'll usually just stand on the back deck until I open the door and call them back in.

Some evenings he will surprise me by going to bed early and it's not until I go to bed that I realize he has pawed all the covers back to expose the sheets and is sound sleep on top of them - he loves to be right next to the sheets. I'll make him move over and he'll sleep a few hours with me without issue.

Give a bounce back a second chance, you'll not regret it!

## Recent adoptions

*Through May 22*

Racing name	Adopted name	Adopted by
Nimby Fast	Paul	Peggy Anne Hawkins
O Ya Cherrybomb	Dexter	Jen and Adam Shaleen
O Ya Lucky	Lucky	Sally Einhaus
O Ya Speedy Jo	Jill	Jen and John Cottew
Charlotte	Charlotte	Alan Fiene and Diane Hagen
PVW Lets Run	Abbie	Sue and Steven Bielmeier
O Ya Angel	Angel	Susannah Eckberg and Christopher Nohner

### 2010 GPA-MN Board Members

Please contact any board member with concerns, questions, suggestions, or to get involved.

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- Ann Moe - Coat Crew Coordinator
- Teri Petrin - Adoption Co-coordinator
- Linda Schmitt - Adoption Rep

# GreyFest Unleashed 2010 - Recap

Lisa Quast, President and GreyFest Coordinator

GreyFest has been a tradition for GPA-MN for 14 years. As traditions go, this one has proven to withstand the test of time and has grown stronger every year. Being so many years in the making, there are things about the event that have changed over the years. The event has been held in several different locations, including Bunker Hills, Spooner Park and this year was our first year at King's Ranch. The name has even transformed since its inception – Greyhound Picnic... Greyhound Carnival... Greyhound Festival... GreyFest.



But throughout all the iterations and transformations, the event itself remains a solid and anticipated part of GPA-MN. Many, many, MANY hours of preparation go into the planning and preparation leading up to the event. The dedication of volunteers within our group – especially the board members – allows this event to continue to be what it is: an opportunity for coming together as a group of greyhound lovers, sharing memories with old friends and making new memories and new friends.

## Spectacular event!

This year's "GreyFest Unleashed" event was spectacular! The King's Ranch venue provided us with fabulous opportunities: two huge buildings, the off-leash field area and the chance to have the lure course run in the field. Can you believe that 183 hounds chased the lure? That's a LOT of very happy hounds! Between running the lure course and sprinting across the off-leash area, I know most hounds took a day or two to recover from all the physical energy they exerted and excitement they experienced.

In addition to GreyFest being a great social opportunity for both the hounds and their people, it's also a significant fundraising venture for our group. A wonderful array of donated items are grouped into beautiful baskets and assembled for the raffle; those red, yellow and blue tickets bringing luck to the winners whose name they bear. We had so many delightful items this year! Every net dollar raised from ticket sales, food sales, and merchandise sales goes directly to the hounds. This year we netted over \$6,000! That's the highest amount I've seen raised by GreyFest



since I've been involved with the event. That's definitely going to help us find homes for LOTS of hounds!

I hope everyone who attended GreyFest had a fabulous time and acquired some fond new memories to hold onto. As another GreyFest season comes to a close, we look forward to the next one, reflecting on what worked well and focusing on opportunities for improvement. We'll pack away the baskets, ticket boxes and everything else until next year.

*(continued on page 5)*

## GreyFest Unleashed 2010 - Recap- continued

But rest assured, 12 months from now the tradition will continue and we'll do GreyFest all over again. Hope to see everyone there!

### Special thanks to:

- Nate Wattenhofer, owner of King's Ranch, for allowing us to use his property for GreyFest. Nate not only provided us with free usage of his beautiful facility, but he also played an active role in making the day run smoothly.
- Mike and Cathy Leach from Northland Amateur Racing Club for providing and running the lure machine.
- All the members and friends who contributed their time, resources and goods to help make GreyFest an ultra-successful event.
- Golden Valley Boy Scout Troop 268 for volunteering throughout the day of GreyFest and providing helpful hands wherever they were needed.

### Interested in helping to make GreyFest GREYT?

Putting GreyFest together every year is a busy process and requires lots of planning to make it a greyt event.

If you would like to be an active part of the preparations for GreyFest (raffle, general preparations, coordination, etc.) please send a message to Lisa Quast at [lquast@memsi.com](mailto:lquast@memsi.com) to find out more about how you can become involved.



# Hanna's Back Home!

By Lori Rasmussen

In May GPA held a celebration to welcome Hannah the lost greyhound home. The gathering wasn't just for those who physically searched for Hannah, but anyone who thought about her or prayed for her safe return.

The gathering also was an opportunity to thank Virgil, the farmer who initially spotted Hannah in his barn and helped in her rescue. We also thanked Julie, the woman who actually saw Hannah lying in the ditch with the dead raccoons, and witnessed Hannah running into the swamp where she was ultimately rescued. Virgil and Julie each received half of the reward that GPA members graciously offered to help spark interest in Hannah's search.



*Hannah's owner, Barb*

Everyone brought a dish to share. There was even Frosty Paws for all of the dogs—35 in all! It was fun having GPA and Northern Lights people and dogs in attendance at the party! I'm sure the Chaska natives found our groups to be strong and united for the cause of the greyhounds. When a non-greyhound dog walked by in the alley, boy did the greyhounds let it know that he wasn't one of them and he should just keep on moving!

It was a fun day that came about because of the happy ending of the "Hannah Saga." It just goes to show what can happen with a lot of people put their minds to it!

# May Day Festival

By Lori Rasmussen

The May Day Festival was held the first weekend in May at Powderhorn Park in South Minneapolis. It was the first time our group had done this event, so we didn't know what to expect. When Dan and I went that morning to set up the tent and put out the supplies, it was amazing how many booths were there. They also have a parade where people dress up in costumes and floats on the park's small lake.

It was an extremely windy day, and after the tent was set up, Dan had to move the car from the park. I left the tent unattended and went to get water in a bowl for the dogs. While I was gone, the tent blew over, even with weights on it. When I returned, the nice neighbor in the booth next to ours was putting in stakes and tying rope to our tent to help keep it from blowing over again.

When Dan and I returned for the last shift and to take down the tent, we were barely able to walk through the crowd of people. Almost all of the literature was gone and I got a lot of feedback from the volunteers that they were extremely busy answering questions and giving out business cards and brochures and overall felt there was a lot of interest in greyhound adoption.

Hopefully some applications will come in as a result of this event. That's the reason we get to as many events as possible. When we get our name out, and people see the dogs in person, it really makes a GREYT statement for greyhound adoption.

# July Hound of the Month - Rico Borosso Henderson

By Matt, Julie, Zach, Emilie and Eli Henderson



Rico has been with our family for just seven months, but has already brought us so much joy.

## Learning the ropes

It is so fun to watch him as he discovers all the new things he can do. When he first came to be a part of our family, our whippet Ranger would always greet us with a toy in his mouth, ready for us to throw for him as soon as we got home. It took Rico a few months to catch on, but now he comes to greet us with his stuffed cat or cow in his mouth. It is a lot of fun to watch him try to play fetch in the house.



## Favorite words

Rico loves to hear the words “time for bed.” That means it is time to go get into his human brother or sister’s bed. He cuddles with them until his mom and dad go to bed, then he happily goes into the kennel for the night. We can take Rico anywhere with us and he is the center of attention. He loves all the pets and love he gets. We are so blessed to have Rico as a part of our family.

## Survey Says...

Here are the results of the last survey:

**Question:** Do you have a cat in your home? If so, how many cats and how many greyhounds?

23 people responded with a total of 32 greyhounds.

7 homes do not have any cats - which means 11 greyhounds do not have feline friends.

16 homes have a total of 35 cats and 21 greyhounds. *Wonder who the bosses are in those homes?*

### Next survey:

Going off the Greyhound topic, we’ve changed the format of our calendar from the “calendar format” to the “list format.” Which format do you prefer? Please let us know. If you have no preference, let us know that, too. (If you are not sure of the difference, go to the website and compare the calendar in the March/April edition with the one in the May/June edition).

Send your response to [newsletter@gpa-mn.org](mailto:newsletter@gpa-mn.org) for publication in the next newsletter and also, send your suggestions for the next survey. All responses are anonymous, so feel free to tell us how you really feel, we’ll never tell who you are!

# August Hound of the Month - Hannah Isles

By Cathy Isles

## Dots the Hammer Becomes Hannah Banana

We first adopted Deb in October of 2006. She was a wonderful greyhound and by January of 2007, we decided to bring another greyhound into our household. I contacted Jen Jett to see what hounds were available and she told me about “Hammer” (Dots the Hammer). Hammer came off the track with an eye injury that left her blind in one eye. She also had suffered having a chicken bone lodged in her upper palate which caused erosion. Jen told me that Hammer was such a sweet greyhound and I was interested, so she arranged a visit with Kari Keller, who was fostering Hammer.

## Love at first sight

I fell in love with Hammer as she walked through the door of the Richfield Petco. In attendance for the first meeting was my husband Steve and Deb our greyhound. I could just tell that Hannah was a sweet dog. She let me give her hugs and kisses without pulling away. When she gave me a lick on the cheek, I knew she was coming home with me. I also knew that she would no longer be Hammer. We would call her Hannah.

So Hannah blended in with our family and got along with everybody, including our two cats. Her sweet temperament was welcome. Diva Deb was rambunctious and energetic whereas Hannah was mellow. Perfect!



## Getting on her feet

Later that year, Hannah suffered an injury that caused her backend to be paralyzed. It was painful to see her this way and I did consider euthanasia. But as I looked into her eye, I just thought that I had to give her a chance. So treating Hannah like I would a relative that needed care, I tended to her 24/7. I would change her “diaper” and feed her by hand. I would rotate her laying position so she wouldn’t get stiff. After three weeks, she was able to stand after I helped her up. Then after six weeks, she was able to get up by herself. I will never forget the day she did that. I had walked into the room she was in to do something and I turned and looked and she was standing! What a great feeling that was. So we got her walking a little and eventually, back out in the yard. We got our Hannah back!

Hannah now enjoys walking along with Deb throughout our town. People that know her story always stop to say ‘Hi’ and comment on how well she is doing. She can be stubborn though and only walks certain routes. We try and trick her by walking the opposite way, but she plants her feet and does not move. It is quite funny to see.

## Donations for April & May

*Through May 31*

Jennifer & Brian Jett, in honor of Grayson

Andrea Nelson

Petco Foundation

River Bluffs, Inc, in honor of Kristen Marie & Jenny

Darryl and Kathleen Zempel, in memory of Jade

# Waiting at the Bridge

Through June 15

*While our beloved hounds may no longer be with us, they remain forever in our hearts.*

Monty - Carol Bohumil  
Poe - Matt and Jessi Markham  
Sweetie - Barb Lund  
Rose (a foster) Traecy Waldschmidt  
Chuck - Sylvia and Neil Kresal  
Kieffer - Becca and Chad Nelson  
Bella - Jeff and Donna Todd  
Missy - Eric S

## Bring a Dog Into Your Life

*Author Unknown*

When you bring a dog into your life, you begin a journey - a journey that will bring you more love and devotion than you have ever known, yet also test your strength and courage.

If you allow, the journey will teach you many things about life, about yourself, and, most of all, about love. You will come away changed forever, for one soul cannot touch another without leaving its mark. Along the way, you will learn much about savoring life's simple pleasures - jumping in leaves, snoozing in the sun, the joys of puddles, and even the satisfaction of a good scratch behind the ears. If you spend much time outside, you will be taught how to truly experience every element, for no rock, leaf, or log will go unexamined, no rustling bush will be overlooked, and even the very air will be inhaled, pondered, and noted as being full of valuable information. Your pace may be slower - except when heading home to the food dish - but you will become a better naturalist, having been taught by an expert in the field.



Too many times we hike on automatic pilot, our goal being to complete the trail rather than enjoy the journey. We miss the details - the colorful mushrooms on the rotting log, the honeycomb in the old maple snag, the hawk feather caught on a twig. Once we walk as a dog does, we discover a whole new world. We stop; we browse the landscape, we kick over leaves, peek in tree holes, look up, down, all around. And we learn what any dog knows: that nature has created a marvelously complex world that is full of surprises, that each cycle of the seasons brings ever-changing wonders, each day an essence all its own.

Even from indoors you will find yourself more attuned to the world around you. You will find yourself watching summer insects collecting on a screen. (How bizarre they are! How many kinds there are!), or noting the flick and flash of fireflies through the dark. You will stop to observe the swirling dance of windblown leaves, or sniff the air after a rain. It does not matter that there is no objective in this; the point is in the doing, in not letting life's most important details slip by.

*continued on page 10*

## Bring a Dog Into Your Life - continued

You will find yourself doing silly things that your dog-less friends might not understand: spending thirty minutes in the pet store aisle looking for the dog food brand your dog must have, buying dog birthday treats, or driving around the block an extra time because your dog enjoys the ride. You will roll in the snow, wrestle with chewie toys, bounce little rubber balls till your eyes cross, and even run around the house trailing your bathrobe tie - with a dog in hot pursuit - all in the name of love. You may find dog biscuits in your pocket or purse, and feel the need to explain that old plastic shopping bags are conveniently positioned by every house entrance for pick-up duty in the yard.

You will learn the true measure of love - the steadfast, undying kind that says, "It doesn't matter where we are or what we do, or how life treats us as long as we are together." Respect this always. It is the most precious gift any living soul can give another. You will not find it often among the human race. And you will learn humility. The look in my dog's eyes often made me feel ashamed. Such joy and love at my presence. She saw not some flawed human who could be cross and stubborn, moody or rude, but only her wonderful companion. Or maybe she saw those things and dismissed them as mere human foibles, not worth considering, and so chose to love me anyway.

If you pay attention and learn well, when the journey is done, you will be not just a better person, but the person your dog always knew you to be - the one she was proud to call beloved friend.

I must caution you that this journey is not without pain. Like all paths of true love, the pain is part of loving. For as surely as the sun sets, one day your dear companion will follow a trail you cannot yet go down. And you will have to find the strength and love to let them go. A pet's time on earth is far too short - especially for those who love them. We borrow them, really, just for a while, and during these brief years they are generous enough to give us all their love, every inch of their spirit and heart, until one day there is nothing left. The puppy that only yesterday was racing around the yard is all too soon old and frail and sleeping in the sun, waking up stiff and lame, the muzzle now gray. Deep down, we somehow always knew that this journey would end. We knew that if we gave our hearts they would be broken. But give them we must, for it is all they ask in return. When the time comes, and the road curves ahead to a place we cannot see, we give one final gift and let them run on ahead - young and whole once more.

"Godspeed, good friend," we say, until our journey comes full circle and our paths cross again.



# To Bequeath or Not to Bequeath....

By Michael Horrigan

How many of you have completed a will? Every adult who owns any assets, a home or property should have one. If you have a family it is all the more important to get this task completed sooner rather than later. A will is just one document you should complete in planning your estate; there also are health care directives, living trusts and others that you should consider but it's the will and planned giving that I want to focus on.

Many organizations grow stronger through a gift that is specified in someone's will. We are accustomed to hearing about large organizations like the University of Minnesota being left a large gift or endowment of several million dollars. It is gifts like these that help assure an organization will continue to exist and thrive into the future.

GPA-MN is no different from any large organization in that being remembered in our member's estate planning and wills can assure we will continue to thrive well into the future. You may even specify how your bequest is to be used - perhaps if you adopted a hound who had benefited from the Heal a Hound Fund you wish to help make that fund stronger so that more hounds needing additional veterinary procedures or surgeries can be helped. You needn't have millions of dollars saved to make an impact to our group; smaller gifts of a few hundred or a few thousand dollars can make a difference to many, many hounds.

In addition, or as an alternative, you can make GPA-MN a beneficiary of life insurance or a retirement account. Such a provision does not require making or changing a will and can be accomplished by simply requesting a form from the insurance company or the custodian of an IRA or other retirement account.

If you wish to name GPA-MN in your will to bequeath cash or property, your will can include the following language:

I give, devise and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ [insert dollar amount, item of property or percentage of residual estate], to Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota Chapter, a non-profit corporation whose mailing address is: PO Box 49183 Minneapolis, MN 55449, (763) 785-4000.

Although the end of life can be very sad and emotional, planning can help make your intentions clear and help your family settle your estate as quick and simply as possible without questions as to what your intentions and wishes were.

## Oya Greyhounds at Greyfest 2010



# Foster Super Heros

By Nicole Middlecamp

In the upcoming newsletters I will be sharing some foster stories from this past year, recognizing the amazing “super heroes” we have within GPA-MN. In addition to the families I highlight, I want to say a big thank you to all foster families for all that they do! As an organization we can’t do this without you!

## Angie’s Super Heros

The first “super heroes” I want to introduce, surround the foster dog Angie, race name S Go Neat Freak, and the events from January/February of this year. Her foster family heroes I’d like to introduce were Jennifer and Jason Aluni.

Angie was the Aluni’s first foster dog. They cared for her for three weeks until she was adopted into her first home. However, just four days after her adoption, the adoption reps, discovered Angie was very distraught in her new home. So distraught that she chewed and chewed (wood furniture and wire kennel) until she broke four teeth and lost five pounds. The adopter decided to return her to our care.

As the Foster Coordinator, I got word from the Adoption Reps that Angie needed to be returned and treated. We all knew we needed to act fast. I called Jenny to see if they would be willing to take her back. They adamantly said yes, and once I explained her condition they said they would leave their house that minute to go pick her up.

I coordinated with the adopter and the Aluni’s to meet half-way between homes. (This is where the super part of my story comes in.) The drive was 60 miles one way, 120 miles round trip for the Aluni’s, and on top of it, there was a snow storm in effect, with poor driving conditions. SNOW STORM! In addition, they scheduled an emergency vet appointment with Cottage Grove Animal hospital the very next morning to have her teeth examined. The vet, Dr. Sarah Whatley recommended immediate extraction. The dental procedure was a success and Angie was on her road to recovery!

After those four short days we realized Angie now had a lot more anxiety, and needed extra TLC in order to get her adoption ready. The Aluni’s were able to get her to overcome some of her anxieties and now she is able to be in a kennel again if needed and is well adjusted. Thanks to their love and kindness she was ready to be adopted and was welcomed into her forever home in June!

## September Volunteer Opportunities

With applications to adopt greyhounds slow right now, visibility is important. GPA is participating in several fun events this fall and could use more volunteers.

### Minnesota State Fair

**Saturday, Sept. 4**

Shifts: 7:30 a.m. to noon, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 3:30 to 8 p.m.

Volunteers must buy own fair ticket; limited free parking.

Contact: Brian Clark at [balanclark@hotmail.com](mailto:balanclark@hotmail.com).

### Renaissance Festival

**Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 – 12**

Shifts: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 to 7 p.m. each day

You do not need to dress up.

Volunteers receive \$5 off of admission.

Contact: Paula Docken at [paulagrace5@hotmail.com](mailto:paulagrace5@hotmail.com)

### Linden Hills Woofstock

**Saturday, Sept. 11**, Linden Hills neighborhood, south Minneapolis.

Shifts: 10 a.m. to noon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 1 to 3 p.m.

Contact: Lori Rasmussen at [ourmustang@comcast.net](mailto:ourmustang@comcast.net).

## July 2010 Calendar of Events

Gassy Walk Sundays at 2 p.m. Weather permitting, meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or the Como Lakeside Pavilion at 10 a.m.

### July 3

Meet & Greets

- Richfield 12-2 p.m.
- Woodbury 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### July 4

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

### July 10

Walk your Dog Around Anoka  
Riverfest

Meet & Greets

- Eden Prairie 12-2 p.m.
- Burnsville 12-2 p.m.

### July 11

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

Meet & Greet

- Duluth 1-3 p.m.

### July 14

Dinner with Dogs - Maverick's Wood-  
fire Grill

### July 16 thru July 24

Minneapolis Aquatennial

### July 17

Meet & Greets

- Coon Rapids 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Fridley 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Chaska 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### July 18

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

Meet & Greets

- Mankato 1-4
- Urbananimal - St Paul, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### July 24

Dog Days of Summer - Burnsville

### July 25

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

Meet & Greets

- Urbananimals, Minneapolis, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### July 31

Meet & Greets

- Highland 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## August 2010 Calendar of Events

Gassy Walk Sundays at 2 p.m. Weather permitting, meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or the Como Lakeside Pavilion at 10 a.m.

### August 1

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

### August 6

Walk your hound at Uptown Art Fair

### August 7

Walk your Hound at Powderhorn,  
Uptown or Loring Park Fairs

Meet & Greets

- Richfield 12-2
- Woodbury 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### August 8

Walk your Hound at Powderhorn,  
Uptown or Loring Park Fairs

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

Meet & Greet - Duluth 1-3 p.m.

### August 12

Dinner with Dogs - Riverboat Grill,  
St Paul

### August 14

Meet & Greet - Eden Prairie 12-2 p.m.

### August 15

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

Meet & Greet - Mankato 1-4

### August 21

Meet & Greets

- Coon Rapids 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Fridley 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Chaska 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### August 22

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

Meet & Greet - Urbananimals - St Paul  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### August 28

GPA-MN at the State Fair

Meet & Greet - Highland 11 a.m. to 1  
p.m.

### August 29

Gassy Walks: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m

Meet & Greet - Urbananimals,  
Minneapolis, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## 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 E-mail 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](http://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-mnnewsletter\\_gpa-mn.org](http://gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/gpa-mnnewsletter_gpa-mn.org)

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

### GPA—MN's Web site

Visit our Web site to learn about special events, volunteer opportunities, greyhounds available for adoption and helpful links. [www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org)

### PETFINDER.COM

Petfinder.com is where we keep information and pictures of all our greyhounds that are available for adoption. Visit [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) and under the breed category, select greyhound.

# Hound Health: Heatstroke

Summer is in full swing, and the warm weather means more outdoor activities to share with your hound and, therefore, more time spent outdoors. But there are hidden dangers for our dogs in these lazy, sultry days. One of the most serious summer emergencies is heatstroke, which can cause permanent damage to your hound's internal organs or even death.

## What causes heatstroke?

Heatstroke occurs when your dog's body temperature gets too high. This can happen when an owner leaves a hound in a parked car (even with open windows, temperatures in a car can climb to lethal degrees within minutes) or leaves a dog outside without shade on a hot day, or a when hound is exercised too much when it's hot. It can also happen when an owner is simply unaware that greyhounds are especially vulnerable to the effects of heat.

**A hound is in the danger zone when its body temperature is higher than 105 degrees Fahrenheit.**

Very humid, hot days can be a serious contributor to heatstroke. High humidity slows down the evaporation of sweat, or in your dog's case, moisture released by panting, which are the major methods for cooling. So two days with the same outdoor temperature will seem quite different if the humidity varies, with the high-humidity day feeling warmer.

## How to avoid heatstroke

Whenever your hound will be exposed to summer weather, be aware of how quickly heat and humidity can affect them and stay in the shade as much as possible. High heat indexes in a weather forecast are a good indicator of the impact the heat will have on anyone who is exposed to the elements. Even the color of your dog's fur can be a contributing factor to heatstroke. Black and darker brindle hounds will get hotter faster because their dark coats absorb more heat. It's just like when you wear a black shirt versus a white shirt - darker colors absorb more heat. But that doesn't mean light colored dogs are immune to the effects of heat and humidity. Any dog can be hit hard by sticky summer weather.

Canines are especially susceptible to the effects of heat and humidity because their cooling systems are not as efficient as ours. When humans sweat, the moisture released on the skin's surface cools as it evaporates and in this way, humans can lose excess heat from their body. Unlike a human sweat system, a dog's body can only cool itself mainly through an evaporation system that involves the dog's tongue. Although a dog's body does have sweat glands located on the pads on a dog's feet and ears, the dog's body is cooled off mainly through its tongue. As a part of its cooling system, the dog cools its body by cooling the fluids in its mouth by providing a steady stream of air against the tongue. This cools the blood vessels in the dog's head area. Although a dog's cooling system is adequate for its needs in a normal situation, a dog may suffer from heatstroke when faced with too much heat.

A dog's body needs lots of water so that its cooling system will run efficiently from the inside. A dog that does not receive enough water to drink is prone to illness caused by the heat. The more water that a dog has available, the better the dog can cool its body. Water is also a good external cooling mechanism. Providing your dog with access to a pool, sprinkler, or other water source will help to keep them cool from the outside as well.

## Know the signs

A dog that needs to be cooled will start to pant more than usual. But, in some conditions, panting is not enough to adequately lower their temperature. Any of the following signs may indicate that your dog is overheated:

- excessive panting and drooling
- vomiting and/or diarrhea
- an elevated heart rate
- notable lethargy or just odd behavior
- seizures
- very red gums
- collapse
- unconsciousness.

*Continued on page 15*

# Heatstroke continued

## What to do

If you notice any of these symptoms on a hot day, act quickly. The best way to find out if your hound is suffering from heatstroke is to take your dog's rectal temperature. Of course, some people may not feel up to this but relying on external signs alone may lead to a false diagnosis. It's important to get a temperature as quickly as possible, because cooling occurs somewhat slowly. If you choose not to take your dog's rectal temperature, call your veterinarian right away. When the body temperature is higher than 105 degrees Fahrenheit for your hound it is in the danger zone. (Normal body temperatures for dogs range from 100 degrees to 102 degrees.)



## Cooling down

If you suspect heatstroke, take immediate steps to cool down your pet and call your vet.

- Keep your hound as still and quiet as possible.
- Move them to a cooler spot or inside an air-conditioned house.
- Apply cool water (not cold). You can submerge your hound in a sink, bathtub or wading pool for a minute or so at a time. If you're unable to lift your dog, you may want to hose them down with cool (not cold) water with a garden hose.
- Cold towels on your dog's head and feet can help.
- You can also try swabbing their foot pads with rubbing alcohol. Their pads are a cooling mechanism and the rapid evaporation of the alcohol will help to cool them.

After attempting one or more cooling processes then retake the temperature. Your goal is to get the hound's temperature down to 104 in the first 10 to 15 minutes. Then get to a veterinary hospital as soon as possible. Even if you've succeeded in lowering the temperature, serious conditions can result from heatstroke that may appear only after several hours, such as brain swelling, seizures, kidney failure, blood clotting abnormalities, shock, coma or even death.

## Get Crafty! 5th Annual GPA-MN Art & Craft Sale

Our 5th Annual Art and Craft Sale will be held at The Warren the entire month of November. The grand opening day celebration (date tbd) will feature food, music, greyhound guest greeters and door prizes. All proceeds from the sale go directly to GPA-MN to further our mission of finding loving, forever homes for retired racing greyhounds.

We would really appreciate your help as we are in need of your art and craft works to sell at this event. We'd like the shelves and walls full of arts and crafts for the entire month. Any kind of art or craft is appreciated - paintings, drawings, prints, jewelry, pottery, woodwork, stained glass, purses, knitwear, candles, bird-houses, garden art etc.

We will once again have our "pick up girls" to make it easy for you. They will come to your house to pick up your art and craft donations. If you have items, contact Susan Spiller at [spillgirl555@yahoo.com](mailto:spillgirl555@yahoo.com).

### Craft Idea Sources

If you're looking for ideas, you can do a Google search for "easy craft ideas" to find a plethora of web sites dedicated to patterns, instructions, and ideas to get the creative juices flowing. Here are a few sites to get you started:

- [AllFreeCrafts.com](http://AllFreeCrafts.com)
- [CraftBits.com](http://CraftBits.com)
- [EasyCraftProjects.com](http://EasyCraftProjects.com)
- [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com)
- [Make-Stuff.com](http://Make-Stuff.com)



## Greyhound Pets of America - Minnesota

P.O. Box 49183  
Minneapolis, MN 55449

763-785-4000

newsletter@gpa-mn.org

www.gpa-mn.org

## Fun Greyhound Facts

- Capable of running up to 45 miles per hour, greyhounds are considered the fastest dog breed and the third fastest land mammal, after the antelope and cheetah.
- Greyhounds are the oldest, purebred dog, dating back to the Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt. Paintings in the great Pyramids depicted greyhounds.
- Greyhounds come in 19 different primary colors and in over 55 different color combinations
- In England at one time, it was forbidden for 'commoners' to even own a greyhound
- The first Greyhound came to Australia with Captain Cook in 1770.
- Greyhounds came to the New World in 1493 on Columbus' second expedition.
- In Homer's Odyssey, Odysseus' loyal dog Argus is a greyhound.
- Greyhounds are the only breed of dog mentioned in the Bible (Proverbs 30:29-31 KJV).
- President Abraham Lincoln had a greyhound on his family coat-of-arms.

## Special Thanks

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

### Our Meet & Greet Locations:

PETCO Stores [www.petco.com](http://www.petco.com)

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • Coon Rapids   | • St. Cloud           |
| • Duluth        | • Woodbury            |
| • Eden Prairie  | Pet Expo Mankato      |
| • Fridley       | Urbanimal Minneapolis |
| • Highland Park | 612-879-0709          |
| • Ridgedale     | Urbanimal St. Paul    |
| • Richfield     | 651-696-1817          |

### Our Participating GPA Vets:

Blaine Area Pet Hospital 763-754-2131  
Brooklyn Park Animal Hospital 763-566-6000  
Chanhassen Vet Clinic 952-934-8862  
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital 651-768-0200  
Maplewood Pet Care Clinic, P.A. 651-770-8373