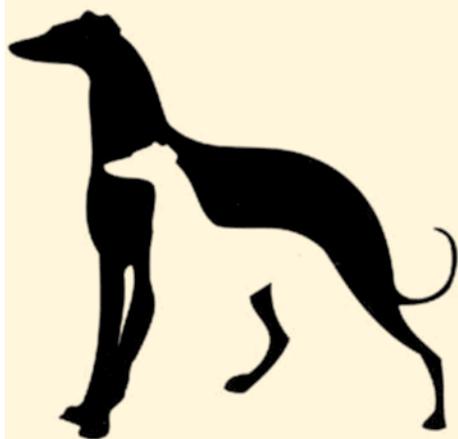


Home Stretch

March - April 2010

Volume 18, Issue 1



Inside this Issue

- Heal -a- Hound
- Sugar
- Behind the scenes of Greyfest
- March and April hounds of the month
- Sew of success!
- New GPA-MN billboard
- Inside the adoption process
- Sarah Beth Photography
- Unexpected gains
- Duffy's Delivers
- Greyhound Co-op

Greyfest 2010 - Unleashed! New Site This Year *by Lori Rasmussen*

At one of my first events as “Event Coordinator” in January of 2009, I met a guy named Nate. He originally was asking questions on how to be a foster for our group. I gave him some information and we talked for a while. He then said he has a farm in Ramsey, MN. He said if our group wanted to use it for anything, we could. I didn’t really put much thought into it, thinking “What would our group do at a farm?” My thoughts went to big red buildings and cow piles. Not a place for our regal hounds!

One day in early spring, my husband, Dan, and I decided to take a drive up to Ramsey and see the farm. We were totally shocked at what we saw! It was quite amazing with a lot of potential for our group. Nate has 6.1 acres of totally-fenced-in property, along with huge buildings for us to use. I knew I had to get the rest of the Board Members up to see it.

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.

The Home Stretch is the publication of the Minnesota Chapter of Greyhound Pets of America. Entire contents are Copyright ©2010 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 Ed Mall at: Newsletter@gpa-mn.org.

Or mail to:
GPA-MN Newsletter
P.O. Box 49183
Minneapolis, MN 55449

Newsletter Committee

Lisa Quast
Jen Cottew
Wendie Johnson
Sylvia Kresal
Ed Mall
Nicole Middlecamp
Susan Spiller

Greyfest Unleashed Continued

The Board took a road trip in the summer to see the property. Everyone was impressed and knew we had to utilize it, but how? What could we do there? Would the members be willing to drive a few extra miles to the spot?

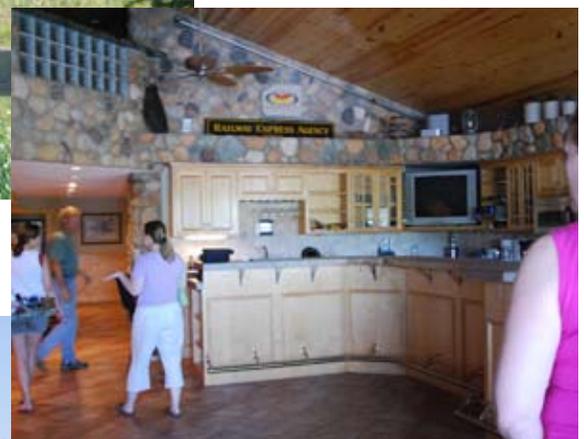
We unveiled our proposal of holding Greyfest at the farm to the members at the Membership Appreciation Dinner in October. Everyone was very complimentary and had an attitude of "Tell us where Greyfest will be held and we'll be there." I was very glad to hear that everyone was so willing to make the change. It's not always easy for a group our size to accept change of anything, much less a change in venue for our biggest event.

So, to get to my point, GREYFEST will be moving to a new site this year! It will be held on Saturday, June 26. You will find space for the dogs to run and play OFF LEASH (muzzles required though), along with all of our other Greyfest activities. The property is very easy to find. It is in Ramsey – about five miles off of Highway 10 at Armstrong Blvd. Parking is available. If anyone is coming from a distance with an RV, Nate says you are welcome to park at the farm.

The Board is very excited about this and we hope you plan on coming. It is less than 20 miles from the previous Greyfest site, and for some, might even be easier to get to. Check out the photos – you will notice the fencing is very secure. Nate owns 3 afghan hounds, who have free-range of the property.



Secure fences!



Farm kitchen



Fence and parking

GreyFest T-Shirt Design Contest

Submit a T-shirt design idea for the upcoming "GreyFest Unleashed 2010" and your design might be featured on the limited edition t-shirts that will be sold at the event!

We will pick one lucky winner based on design concept and overall appeal. Original design submissions should feature elements and ideas relevant to the event (GreyFest Unleashed 2010) and should include the year. All design submissions must include an illustration of your idea – it can be a simple drawing, but must include all elements of your idea. Please limit designs to no more than three colors. Design submissions must be submitted by April 15. Send ideas to Lisa Quast at lquast@memsi.com.



2010 GPA-MN Board Members

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

Lisa Quast - President, GreyFest Coordinator - lquast@memsi.com

Nicole Middlecamp - VP, Haul/Foster Coordinator
nicole.middlecamp@target.com

Brian Clark - Secretary
balanclark@hotmail.com

Mark Downey - Treasurer, Merchandise
mark@nervecenter.net

Jim Borthwick - Fundraising
jborthwick@sunbeltmidwest.com

Paula Docken - Universal Support
paulaspack@comcast.net

Michael Horrigan - Media & Public Relations
mjhorrigan@gmail.com

Ed Mall - Newsletter
coach2_2@hotmail.com

Lori Rasmussen - Special Events
ourmustang@comcast.net

Additional Contributors:

- Luana Ball - Adoption Co-coordinator
- Paul Brooten & Wendie Johnson - Webmasters
- Jen Cottew - Newsletter Editor
- Barb Gates Schaben - Adoption Rep
- Sylvia Kresal - Meet & Greet Coordinator
- Ann Moe - Coat Crew Coordinator
- Teri Petrin - Adoption Co-coordinator
- Linda Schmitt - Adoption Rep

GreyFest Unleashed 2010

By Lisa Quast, GreyFest Coordinator

We have lots of exciting things in store for the upcoming GreyFest Unleashed 2010 and the GPA-MN Board is busy working out all the details. Event particulars will be published in the May-June edition of the HomeStretch, but this is what we know for sure:

What: GreyFest Unleashed 2010

Where: Kings Ranch (17151 Baugh St. NW, Ramsey, MN)

When: Saturday, June 26, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Who: GPA-MN members and hounds, as well as anyone who loves Greyhounds.

Why: This is our biggest event of the year with so many great things to offer. Off-leash (muzzled!) hound merriment! Huge raffle! New GPA merchandise! Food! Demonstrations! Vendors!

Mark your calendars. This is an event that is not to be missed!

Turn to page 4 to read about what all goes into planning Greyfest.

GreyFest - Behind the Scenes

Lisa Quast, GreyFest Coordinator

Everyone loves to attend the annual GreyFest event that GPA-MN hosts every year. But would you like to know how it goes from concept to reality? This overview just scratches the surface of the time and effort that goes into making GreyFest happen, but it will give you a little behind-the-scenes look at the preparation for the event.

January: Site availability ultimately determines the date of the event, so the sooner we can secure the venue, the more likely we are to get our preferred date.

February: The fundraising coordinator mails raffle item donation request letters to a list of about 150 companies and professional contacts who have donated to us in the past, or who have been recommended as potential donors. Some requests also are e-mailed to individual contacts through the GreyTalk forum. Donations trickle in within a few weeks and continue to arrive up until the day of the event. Vendors also are contacted early to see if they will be able to attend GreyFest.

March and April: Not much GreyFest planning happens until May.

May: A committee meets to discuss the event, such as new merchandise, activities, contests and such. An order for new merchandise is placed. Lots of e-mails are exchanged between board members to coordinate details.

June: (The week or two before the event): We divide the lists of concession groceries and “To Bring” items among board members. Most donated raffle items are received within the three weeks leading up to the event. A few days before the event, donations are assembled into baskets for the raffle and estimated values are established for all of the raffle items to determine table color assignment.

Day of the event: 8 to 11 a.m. is very busy and everyone involved pitches in to make sure everything falls into place. Board members, Boy Scouts and volunteers arrive early for set-up. One board member manages the event and coordinators are in charge of each area (raffle, vendors, volunteers, concession stand, ticket sales, merchandise sales, etc.). There is a list of things that need to get done; most tasks are pre-assigned to people and everyone helps where they are needed. Although we prepare as much of the minutiae as we can before the day arrives (ticket packets, signs, raffle box tags, etc.) there are many, many things that can only be done that day, so set up is still required for most areas - check-in table, concession stand, merchandise tent, sound system, raffle tables, signs, speed alley, just to name a few. At 11 a.m., the event starts and we get to enjoy the event as it comes to fruition. GPA member volunteers rotate throughout the day to cover the check-in table, concession stand, merchandise tent and speed alley. When the raffle drawing is complete and attendees and hounds head for home, board members, Boy Scouts and volunteers tear down tables, pack up everything that needs to be re-used again next year and clean up the event site.

After every GreyFest: The Board discusses feedback we received during and after the event. We talk about things that worked well, things that could be improved for future events, and include the observations in an ongoing “GreyFest Notes” document for future reference. After all is said and done, we celebrate another enjoyable GreyFest event and we look forward to the next one!

Survey Says... Results and a new question

Do you brush your hound's teeth?

Yes	No
16	1

How frequently?

Daily	3-4 times/wk	2-3 Times/Wk	Weekly	Less often
9	6	1	2	1

What do you use?

People toothbrush	Finger brush	Electric brush	Other
9	3	5	2

New Question

How many dog beds do you have in your home? Does that include the couch or human bed? How many Greyhounds do you have?

Send your response to newsletter@gpa-mn.org for publication in the next newsletter. And send your suggestions for the next survey. All responses are anonymous, so feel free to tell us about the 20 beds for the 1 greyhound!

4th Annual “HEAL A HOUND” Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction, Saturday, March 27

As part of our mission to find loving forever homes for retired racing Greyhounds, the Heal-a-Hound fund was established to provide financial support for dogs who have special medical needs and who might otherwise have little chance at adoption. Over the past three years, a number of dogs have benefited from this fun, including a young hound named Sugar in 2009. The Heal-a-Hound fund covered the cost of treating Sugar’s broken leg that required orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation. Sugar is now expected to make a full recovery and is enjoying life in her forever home. See story below.

In order to continue this important work, GPA-MN is holding its fourth annual Heal-a-Hound dinner and silent auction fund raiser on **Saturday, March 27**. The event is at DeGidio’s Restaurant, 425 West 7th St., in St. Paul. A silent auction and cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m.; an all-you-can-eat buffet consisting of DeGidio’s delicious Italian fare begins at 7:30 p.m. The silent auction includes a wide array of terrific greyhound and non-greyhound related items including, gift baskets, fine art, jewelry, gift certificates, personal services, sporting events and much more.

The success of this event depends on a great turnout, so please plan to attend what promises to be a fun and memorable evening. Invite your friends, family, co-workers or anyone you know to join you.

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased through our website: www.gpa-mn.org.

Ticket prices:

- Adults: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
- Children ages 5-12: \$12.50
- Children under age 5: Free.

If you have any questions about the event or if you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, or make a direct donation to the Heal-a-Hound fund, please feel free to contact Jim Borthwick at jimborthwick@me.com or call 952-210-7783.

Meet Sugar - The Heal-A-Hound Greyhound

by Lori Rasmussen



We get a lot of our dogs from a breeder in Iowa when they retire, and Sugar was just one of them. When she was born, she was named O Ya Sharon. She was named after the person who helps the breeder work with our group to coordinate hauls.

Sharon’s leg was badly injured on Nov. 5, 2009. The breeder asked us to take her in and fix her leg, knowing the expense would be too great for him, and he wanted it done right – since Sharon held a special spot in his heart. Our group agreed to take her in and make her our next Heal-A-Hound dog.

Ed Mall and Kari Keller made a special trip down to get her and bring her home. She stayed overnight at Ed’s house that night and he brought her to the U of M for surgery the next morning.

Continued on page 6

Meet Sugar - the Heal-A-Hound Greyhound - continued

Ed was taken with her immediately, as was the doctor that did the surgery. In fact, the first notes from the doctor said she is an excellent nice dog and will make someone a good pet.

Ed and I met at the U the day after surgery. Sugar walked out with the doctor on 3 legs and looked like she was ready for anything. She is a very happy-go-lucky girl, who was only 1 year and 10 months old. The doctor's orders were to keep her quiet. Not so easy with young greyhound!



I took her home for fostering, and decided that she was just too sweet, and decided to name her Sugar, as she looked like brown sugar to me.

Sugar needed weekly vet visits for bandage changes. She went to the U for one week, then a vet in Brooklyn Park for subsequent changes. She was a trooper and went off, wagging her tail each time they took her in the back to lay down to change her bandages. She acted like she knew just where to go, and led them in to the room. At one of the bandage changes, the vet noticed her skin was actually worn off of her leg. It was pretty awful. We could see the metal plate that they put in her leg! So, the following week, we went back to the U. They did X-rays and found that the bone was starting to fuse nicely, so they decided to take off the hard part of the splint that was rubbing off her skin.

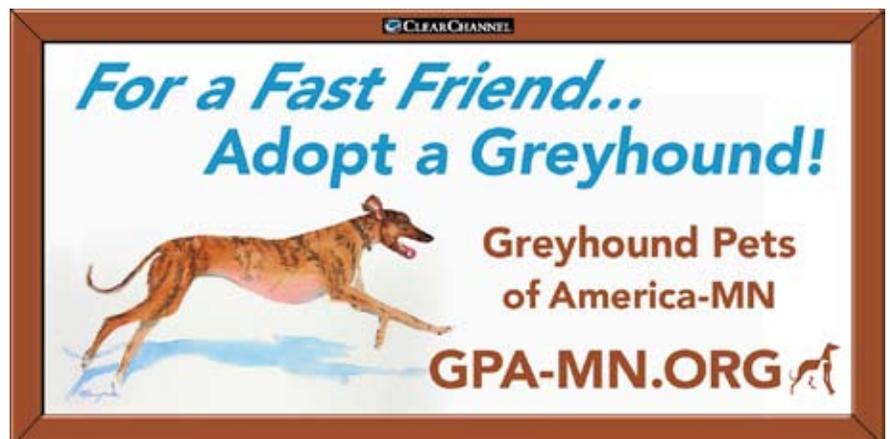
What a remarkable girl! The following week, we went to the U, and they removed all bandages! She is now bandage-free and her leg looks remarkable. You can still see where the plate is in her leg – but you can't see the plate itself! She is starting to use the leg a little more each day.

As of this writing, she will have one more check at the U, and hopefully, it will be her last. Then she will go on to get spayed and we will adopt her! We would like to encourage you to attend the Heal-A-Hound dinner in March, so we can get more wonderful dogs like Sugar into our program and find them loving, forever homes!

A new GPA-MN Billboard goes up in March *Susan Spiller*

For our next billboard, Robin Berry (Mom to Stella and Smooth) graciously offered to do a painting of a greyhound. The painting is wonderful and will be a real eye catcher. We have so much talent within our membership and it is so nice to take advantage of that whenever possible.

Clear Channel offers us a very low rate because we are a non-profit organization. In exchange, they decide when and where it goes up. They have billboards all over the metro, so it could be anywhere.



As soon as I find out when and where it is located, I will let you all know via the E-List. I hope many of you will go see the billboard as it is always much more impressive when you see it in its setting.

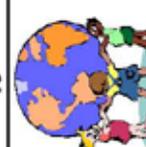
March

2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Gassy Walk Sundays at 2PM - Weather permitting Meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or Como Lakeside Pavillion	1	2	3	4	5	M&G's Richfield 12-2 Woodbury 11-1 Pet Expo - Mpls 6
Gassy Walk 2 p.m. Gassy Walk Too 2 p.m. Pet Expo	8	9	10	11	12	M&G's Eden Prairie 12-2 13
Daylight Saving begins Gassy Walk 2 pm Gassy Walk Too 2pm M&G's Duluth 1-3 14	15	16	17  St Patrick's Day	18	19 	First day of Spring M&G's Coon Rapids 11-1 Fridley 11-1 Chaska 11-1 20
Gassy Walk 2 PM Gassy Walk Too 2pm M&G's Mankato 1-4 St Paul Urbanimals 11-1 21	22	23	24	25	26	M&G's Highland 11-1 27
Palm Sunday Gassy Walk 2 PM Gassy Walk Too 2pm Mpls M&G's Urbanimals 11-1 28	29 Passover begins	30	31			

April

2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Gassy Walk Sundays at 2PM - Weather permitting Meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or Como Lakeside Pavillion				April Fools Day 1	 Good Friday 2	M&G's Richfield 1-4 Woodbury 11-1 Ridgedale 11-1 3
 EASTER Gassy Walk 2 PM Gassy Walk Too 2pm 4	5	6	7	8  Income Tax Filing Deadline 15	9	M&G's Eden Prairie 12-2 Burnsville 12-2 St. Paul Women's Expo 10
Gassy Walk 2 pm Gassy Walk Too 2pm Duluth M&G's 1-3 Women's Expo St Paul 11	12	13	14	15  Earth Day 22	16	M&G's Coon Rapids 11-1 Fridley 11-1 Chaska 11-1 17
Gassy Walk 2 PM Gassy Walk Too 2pm M&G's Mankato 1-4 St Paul Urbanimals 11-1 18	19	20	21	22	23	M&G's Highland 11-1 24
Gassy Walk 2 PM Gassy Walk Too 2pm M&G's Urbanimal 11-1 25	26	27	28	29	 Arbor Day 30	

March Hound of the Month - Sparks Keller

By Kari Keller

Think back to the first time you met a greyhound and how you felt. My first time was at the MN State Fair 8 years ago. I don't remember all the hounds that I met that day but I fell in love with them. When I got home that night, I applied to be a foster mom. Then I waited and waited - finally I called and left a message (yes, I was that impatient and excited). I got a call back and Marcy set up a home visit. Now I think back and wonder how she ever approved us as foster parents - we knew nothing!

The end of October we were asked to pick up a bounce. We arrived at the Fridley Petco and nervously waited to meet our first foster. The family arrived with a car load of stuff and a beautiful black hound. It was love at first sight. The first few days were pretty rough. He wasn't used to going potty on a leash so we'd go outside numerous times and he'd have lots of accidents in the house. He also didn't want to be crated so there were many sleepless nights listening to him cry. Every day he taught us something new and kept us on our feet. Sparks knew he was in his forever home and wasn't ever going to leave. We failed fostering.

Sparks turns 12 on March 23. He's starting to walk slower and lose his balance but will still run around the yard like a puppy in the fresh snow. He wants more attention in his old age. He used to be a loner but now he's my shadow. He wants to sleep next to me every night and will whimper at the end of the bed if the spot next to me is taken by another hound. Most nights he loves to lie next to me and get belly rubs. He gives me a dirty look when I stop. Sometimes I stop just to get that look from him. Then I give him a kiss on the nose and tell him I love him.

It's hard to imagine what my life will be like after Sparks goes to the Rainbow Bridge. He's the reason I love greyhounds so much. He's taught me so much about loving unconditionally. I never thought I'd love an animal as much as I do him.
Mommy loves you Sparks and Happy 12th Birthday.



Photos courtesy of Rick Ulku

Donations received Dec. 2009 - Jan. 2010

- From the Jean E. and BC Hart Family Donor Advised Fund (via Saint Paul Foundation) in memory of Walter Cleveland and on behalf of Martha Cleveland
- Anonymous Book Wrapping Donations
- Anonymous Meet & Greet Donations
- O. Ya Greyhounds
- Cynthia White, in honor of Blackjack
- Barbara Scouler, in honor of Victoria Jones
- Trissie Sanguinet, in honor of Christine Sanguinet
- Jennifer & Jason Aluni
- Lori Rasmussen via Network For Good
- Meg Moynihan via Network For Good
- Christina Enger via Network For Good, in honor of Bomber
- Christine Sanguinet via Network For Good
- Mark Lomauro via Network For Good
- Mark Downey via Network For Good
- Elaine Skrentner via Network For Good, in memory of Jubilee and Jodie
- Michael Horrigan via Network For Good

continued on page 10

April Hound of the Month - Lauth Vereide

Written by Mom, Christie

Luath, formerly Rooftop Grandpa, came to us as a foster. He stole my heart as soon as we got him home. He acted like he had lived with us for awhile already; I think he knew he was home.

When we first brought him home, he walked around a little in the backyard and then just flopped on his side in the grass. He greeted the neighbor's dogs at the fence. They were very excited to meet the newcomer, so I petted him for reassurance. He turned his head up and gave me a lick on the cheek. I was hooked!

When we brought Wylie home, Luath was so good to him right from the beginning. Wylie was scared and unsure of himself at first and Luath walked right over and licked him. Before we got Wylie, Luath also helped us teach a foster about retired life. It was so much easier to train the foster about steps, etc. with Luath leading the way. He has really enriched our lives and we can't imagine a life without him.



Waiting at the Bridge

Through Feb. 15

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

Carlos – Brenda and Rod Lightner
Arthur – Jill Paul
Vinny – Lori and Dan Rasmussen
Dave – Sylvia and Neil Kresal
Carie – Robyn Schaper

Zeke – John and Colleen Coleman
Marco – Victoria Thor
Brick – Cara White and Rob Curtis
Roscoe – Shannon and Mark Dmytryzyn

Donations received Dec. 2009 - Jan. 2010 continued

- Marcy Barger via Network For Good, in memory of Razz, Abby, BaBa, Chris and Star
- Jennifer Plombon via Network For Good
- Victoria Jones via Network For Good, in memory of Annie and Ramon, and in honor of Java and Cadet
- Karen Hawkinson via Network For Good
- Jill Paul via Network For Good
- Ed Mall via Network For Good
- Carol Steenson via Network For Good
- Susan Moerer via Network For Good
- John Quast via Network For Good
- Christine Sanguinet, in honor of Jay & Tracy Sanguinet
- Christine Sanguinet, in honor of the Hopp family
- Marvin Jones, in honor of Victoria Jones
- Robert Vereide, in honor of Jim and Chris Vereide
- LJ Anderson
- Jennifer Gates, in honor of Barbara Gates Schaben
- Stephen Jones, in honor of Victoria Jones
- Brent & Cori LaGree
- Shannon Tremmel
- Bonnie Satterberg, in honor of Emilie Quast
- Janet Hughes
- Carie Peterson
- Lisa A. Johansen
- Susan and David Wilson
- Land O'Lakes Kennel Show donors
- Voyagers K9 Apparel
- GiveMN
- PetCo Foundation (Photos With Santa)
- Molly Susee, in memory of Zico
- United Health Group, matching a pledge from Pete Opitz

“The Great Grey Sew-Off” Foster Coat Sewing Event

By Lisa Quast

Our first-ever foster coat sewing event was a tremendous success! More than 20 sewers from GPA-MN gathered at the Associated Sewing store in St. Paul to volunteer their creative expertise to benefit the hounds. The afternoon was a whirlwind of cutting, pinning, sewing and Velcro-ing. Everyone contributed their skills and creative talents to the effort and by the end of the afternoon FORTY foster coats were created! All of the participants agreed that we should hold another such event in the future, so stay tuned for the next opportunity to help keep our foster hounds warm and cozy!



**Foster Coat Sewing Event
January 2010**



Thank you to all of the inspired participants:

The Carpenters
 Brian Clark
 Sue Elliot
 Leah Gannon
 Marlene Harrington
 Julie Henderson
 Michael Horrigan
 Dawn Killen-Courtney
 Alice Mall
 Anne Moe

Meg Moynihan
 Alicia Novotny
 Lisa Quast
 Lori Rasmussen
 Ruth Romanoser
 Danielle Sabella
 Bonnie Satterberg
 Judy Triplett
 Cara White
 Morgan Wylie



Repair Coupon

Mechanical machines

Clean, oil, inspect wiring, inspect tension, de-lint, check electrical—ALL makes and models of mechanical sewing machines. Computerized machines extra

\$19⁹⁵ reg \$35

Coupon must be present Expires March 31, 2010
 Associated Sewing Supply, Inc

GPA

Recent adoptions

Through Feb. 15

Racing name	Adopted name	Adopted by
Bingo Joe	Joe	Liz & Greg Hendricks
O Ya Cheeseburger	Cheeseburger	Luana Ball
Kiowa Bosshodges	Kiowa	Michael Matheny
O Ya Jeff Gordon	Jeff	Carolyn & Craig Pickering
O Ya Osage	Sage	Cand Sunderland & Scott Vadnais
Three Days Grace	Gracie	Carrie & Jon Ness
Bones	Eja	Jim & Christie Vereide
Kiowa Dream Dorn	Kai	Matt Ladwig & Seth Tryninewski
Jays Leann	Lily	Laura Dexter & Peter McCoy
O Ya Doc Riley	Doc	Liz & Thomas Hunter
Bow Honey Bee	Daytona	Carie & Bob Johnson
KNK Iowaciara	Ciara	Brandon Sweet & Theresa Wolter
O Ya Princess	Grey D	Richard Davis
MJG Fender Bender	Bender	Heather Rindy & Jeffery Konigsbauer

Processing an Adoption Application

Luana Ball, Adoption Coordinator

People interested in adopting a greyhound are directed to our Adoption Information packet which outlines the application process. The packet and the Adoption Application are available on our Web site. When an Adoption Application is received, it is first routed to the Adoption Coordinator who determines if the pre-application requirements are completed. The two main pre-application requirements are attendance at one of our Meet and Greets or Special Events where GPA members are present, and we also ask that the applicant read one of two recommended books on the retired racing greyhound. We do not adopt to families with children under age 5. If there are children between ages 5 – 8 we ask applicants also to read about how to promote a respectful relationship between the child and hound.

When the pre-application requirements are completed the application is assigned to one of our Adoption Representatives who will then be in contact with them to set up a time for a phone interview.

GPA-MN provides Adoption Representatives with an interview outline that guides them in exploring the applicant's knowledge of greyhound safety and health, how to help the hound adjust to domestic life, preventing and addressing behavioral issues they may encounter, etc. The adoption interview usually lasts about an hour depending on how prepared the applicant is.

If the Adoption Representative approves the applicant based upon the interview they will then contact the applicant's vet to ensure that routine and recommended medical care has been provided and that there are no outstanding bills. They then contact the two personal references that an applicant lists and will ask if they have any concerns or recommendations to share. If an applicant rents their home, we also talk with the owner to be sure they approve of the tenant adopting a greyhound.

The Adoption Representative lets the Adoption Coordinator know when the applicant is fully approved. They will provide additional information on the applicant's daily routine, activity level, other pets personalities, etc. that will be helpful when looking at hound and human matches. Information about all applicants is maintained on the Adoption Application Status Report (fondly referred to as the ASSR).

Continued on page 13

Processing an Adoption Application - continued

A greyhound haul is coordinated when there are several applications approved AND we have foster homes ready to welcome a foster hound. After the hounds are brought in, the Foster Coordinator asks for information on their personalities, interactions with humans, kids, other pets, concerns the foster may have, etc. After about two weeks in foster care the Adoption Coordinator and the Foster Coordinator begin looking at potential hound and human matches based upon the information gathered. The first consideration is the hound's prey drive and how they tested with a cat. We also look at whether an applicant is open to an older hound or one with special needs.

Adoption Representatives then contact the applicant and share information about the hound we've selected for them. A showing is coordinated at the applicant's home whenever possible. This is especially important when there are cats or other pets. We feel a home visit gives the applicant and us, better insight into how the hound may fit in. It also allows us to demonstrate how to promote safe and respectful interactions between the hound and other pets, how to work on stairs, kenneling, etc.

If the stars align for everyone – GPA Adoption Representative, the foster AND the applicants – we'll move to "close the deal" and begin going over all of the Adoption information and documents.

Thanks for taking the time to read about the GPA-MN adoption application process. Should you have any comments or questions please direct them to: adoptioninfo@gpa-mn.org. Please remember that we can't find forever homes for the retired greyhound without TWO very important and essential things happening:

Foster homes: We can have 10 adoption applications waiting but we can't help any of them adopt a hound unless we have fosters willing to open their hearts and homes to a hound in need! If you are interested in learning more about fostering please contact Nicole Middlecamp at fostering@gpa-mn.org or 612.203.1140.

Awareness: Promote greyhound adoption!
Show off your hounds at GASSY walks, Meet and Greet, special events – spread the good word of the greyhound!

Duffy's Petfood Delivery - Delivers more than just food!



We have a greyt opportunity for GPA to make some EASY money!

We have a link on our website (gpa-mn.org), in the lower, left-hand corner for Duffy's Petfood Delivery. If you usually order your dog food through Duffy's, and you now do it through our Web site, we get five percent of every order! There is no additional cost to you.

If you have never used Duffy's, they are a pet food company that delivers TO YOUR DOOR, for no additional charge. They have many brands of food to choose from. If they don't have your brand, you can contact them to see if they will carry it for you. They also deliver cat food, cat litter, softener salt, bird seed, etc. Check it out. They also have birthday cakes for the dogs, as well as really good treats (according to our dogs)!

Please remember, you MUST click through our Web site for us to get the money. It brings you to the exact same website that it always has. But go to GPA's website FIRST.

Sarah Beth Photography's "Rescue of the Month"

Recently GPA-MN hound Stella was featured on the cover of the December 2009 issue of MN Monthly magazine. The photographer who captured Stella's image, Sarah Ernhart of Sarah Beth Photography, has generously designated GPA-MN as her "Rescue of the Month" for February 2010. She has set aside 10% of all her pet sitting fees from the month of February and that amount will be donated to our organization. Our adoption program also was featured on Sarah's blog (sarahbethphotography.com) along with the stunning photos that Sarah took of foster hounds Bender and Ciara.



During our feature month of February, all adopters who brought home a new hound in February received a coupon for 50% off their pet photo session fee.

Sarah has also extended an offer to our current membership and new adopters through December 2010. A \$25 discount can be applied to your pet photo session by printing the coupon from this newsletter and bringing it to your photo session.

Special thanks to Sarah for naming GPA-MN her Rescue of the Month for February!



**\$25
OFF**

thank you for adopting!

Greyhound Pets of America - MN
valid on pet sessions completed before 12-31-10

www.sarahbethphotography.com
distinctive pet photography

Unexpected Gains

By Julie Erickson

In October of 2008, more than two years after adopting my first grey, I volunteered to take over hosting Meet & Greets at the Coon Rapids Petco. I wanted to help GPA and figured volunteering just two hours a month wouldn't be so bad. At the time, I had no idea there was much to gain; not just for GPA, but for me too.

First of all, I did not expect the Petco staff to be so consistently helpful and kind. Upon arrival, we are always greeted. Members of the staff show a genuine interest in the hounds and are quick to offer a bowl of water, extra chair and the occasional nummy. They even relay messages to me from families coming to talk about adoption. I knew there would always be someone willing to help if I asked, but I never expected the outpouring of kindness that we feel from the staff each time we visit.



My hounds, Rind and Wrangler, have enjoyed their new job from day one. I assumed they would love the extra attention, hugs and treats. However, I didn't realize that being apart of Meet & Greets would make them even more gracious and proud. When we setup at Petco, the hounds show their very best behavior. Lots of strangers touch them, little kids feed them treats, and older kids walk them around. Rind and Wrangler work their charm on dog lovers of all ages. Even on really busy days when lots of people are touching them and the occasional loud,

obnoxious dog comes through; my hounds maintain their calm dispositions. It seems as if they feel a sense of purpose. They give their all and represent retired racers in a fine way. When their shift is over, Rind and Wrangler leave tired, but content.

Before I started hosting Meet & Greets, I did not know that talking about greyhounds would make me feel so good. Sharing with others why greyhounds are such amazing pets has filled my heart with joy. As you may know, many people have little or no exposure to greyhounds and don't know their calm, peaceful dispositions. I love clearing up all of the misconceptions and worries that fill potential adoptees' minds. I love watching visitors' faces when they touch the hounds and realize what lovers they are. The more I teach others about the dogs, the more knowledgeable I feel too.

Even though Meet & Greets are only once a month, the experience has brought me closer to both my spouse and my hounds too. Matt, my husband, started coming to Meet & Greets with me in December. Lately, the GPA table has been really busy, so I am thankful to have help. It makes me smile to see that he loves answering questions about the hounds as much as I do. We help each other remember important details. We can finish each other's ideas. And the bond we share with our hounds, Rind and Wrangler, is growing too. Even though hosting a Meet & Greet isn't really about our dogs, talking about greyhounds makes us feel lucky to have such wonderful companions with us everyday.

Giving up two hours a month to host a Meet & Greet is a big deal. It is difficult to put into words all that I have gained. Now that I know how rewarding volunteering for GPA can be, I get involved as much as I can. If you haven't volunteered for a GPA event yet, I encourage you to give one a try. You'll be surprised by all of the unexpected gains that come along with giving up just a few hours of your 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 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

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

To request 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 Web site

Visit our Web site 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 available for adoption. Visit www.petfinder.com and under the breed category, select greyhound.



Greyhound Pets of America - Minnesota

P.O. Box 49183
Minneapolis, MN 55449

763-785-4000

newsletter@gpa-mn.org

www.gpa-mn.org

Greyhound Co-op - Want to Join? by Miranda Brandon

I am looking to get a new group started for those of you interested in forming a dogsitting co-op and playgroup for our greys.

I don't know about the rest of you, but when I leave town and can't take my little gal, Valen, it stresses both of us out. I take her to a doggie daycare, which isn't cheap, and they tell me all she does is lie around and watch the other dogs. I figure what's the point of leaving her there if she isn't playing or enjoying herself? Then I thought – "Hey, what if there was a group of awesome greyhound owners who meet up and did cool stuff together and could, on occasion, provide a comfier and more relaxing home-like environment for a grey or two when their humans were away?" How greyt could this be!



Anyone interested? This group would cover Minneapolis/St. Paul. Play dates could happen at dog parks and walks around scenic areas could be sprinkled in. I created a Facebook account for the social group. Just go onto Facebook and search for "Valen Brandon." We can use this page to get to know one another and plan get-togethers. For those of you who are not on Facebook, you can just send me an email at: spookymountainmonster@gmail.com. I will compile a list of all interested and e-mail everyone when play dates and things are happening. Please share a bit about yourself and hound when you e-mail or join us on Facebook. Photos would be great too!

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

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