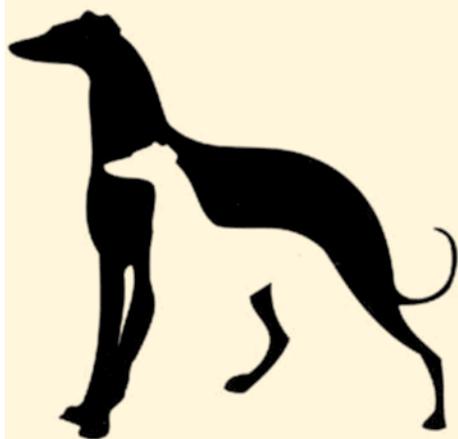


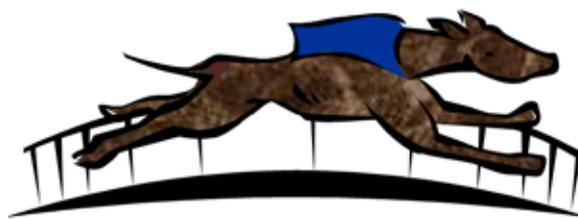
Home Stretch

May - June 2010

Volume 19, Issue 1



Greyfest 2010 - Unleashed! Saturday, June 26 by Lisa Quast



GreyFest Unleashed 2010 is just around the corner! GPA-MN's biggest fundraiser of the year, this event is loved by hounds and humans alike and promises to be a great day of fun, camaraderie, and lots and

lots of hounds! This annual event honors our hounds and helps raise money to help retired racers find homes.

We are excited to be holding this year's event at a brand new location - King's Ranch in Ramsey, MN. While the ranch is a little farther north than the previous GreyFest location, once you arrive you will immediately realize how great the ranch is and forget all about the few extra minutes you had to drive!

Off-leash

For the very first time in GreyFest history, hounds will have the opportunity to run wild and free beyond the confines of speed alley. The new King's Ranch location provides six acres of fenced and well-manicured field for their enjoyment. Please note: muzzles will be required for all breeds in the off-leash area. We'll have them for sale at the event, or you can bring your own.

Lure coursing

More exciting news – we secured a lure coursing machine for GreyFest! Since the field at King's Ranch is large enough for us to set up a course, a local coursing group has agreed to bring their coursing machine. We'll designate a period of time when the field will be dedicated to coursing. If you are not familiar with lure coursing, it's basically a stuffy on a string that gets pulled along a specified path in the field for the hounds to chase. It's a thrill for the hounds to run after the lure, and great fun to watch as well.

Inside this Issue

- Map to Greyfest
- Hannah Lost and Found - stories and pictures of her journey
- Hound on the run
- May and June Hounds of the Month
- Be the leader of your pack
- Heal a hound success
- Calendar of events

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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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Concerned about your hound's agility and ability to complete the course? No worries! We will make the path easy enough for hounds that might be a little out of practice. It will be more about the fun of the run rather than the complexity of the course.

Some of the great things GreyFest Unleashed will have to offer:

- * The ever-popular raffle drawing
- * New GPA merchandise
- * Limited Edition GF 2010 t-shirt
- * Huge off-leash area
- * Contests
- * Photo opportunities
- * Demonstration sessions
- * Lure course
- * Wonderful wares from a variety of vendors
- * Live music by "Fire on the Moon"
- * New concessions, including grilled selections
- * Indoor, climate-controlled event area
- * Convenient on-site parking

Mark your calendar to join us at GreyFest Unleashed
Saturday, June 26, 2010

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

King's Ranch, 17151 Baugh Street NW, Ramsey, MN 55303.

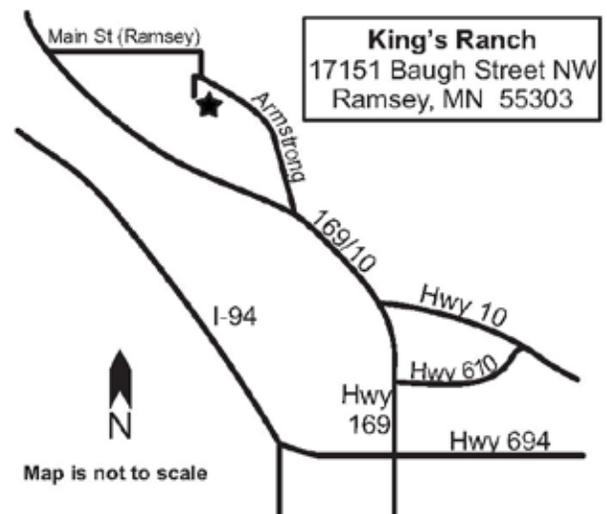
GreyFest will be held rain or shine. Make sure you pack your sunscreen and your lawn chair! If you would like to be a GreyFest vendor please contact Brian Clark at balanclark@hotmail.com. Visit gpa-mn.org for directions to the ranch.

If you would like to volunteer for the event please contact Lori Rasmussen at ourmustang@comcast.net

If you have any other questions contact GreyFest Coordinator Lisa Quast at lquast@mehsi.com

Check the website for updates on vendors and scheduled events as the date gets closer!
www.gpa-mn.org

See you at the ranch!



Hannah – Lost and Found



Part 1: The Search Kari Keller

Victoria Jones sent out the message on Tuesday, April, 13, saying that there was a lost hound in the Purgatory Park area, so I drove out there with Passion and walked around in the dark for about an hour. I called the number on a “Lost Hound” flyer I found. It was the number of the dog-sitter,

Matthew, who was caring for Hannah when she escaped, and he said Hannah was still on the run. Hannah’s owner, Barb Mahoney, was in the hospital for surgery when Hannah escaped.

The following day, I started a new job but I was so worried about Hannah that, after 2 hours, I told my boss I had to leave. He was cool about it. My friend Vanessa, my dogs and I walked the trails around Purgatory Park for several hours. After work on Thursday, I drove around putting up fliers from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., then continued later that day. Lots of people joined the search party, driving around, searching with their hounds, and putting up flyers in the area. Every night I sent an e-mail update to the GPA and NLGA lists to let everyone know where we had searched and put up flyers.

We received a tip on Saturday that Hannah was spotted at a school near Chaska. We raced there and searched for hours. I also sent out mass e-mails to everyone who had an e-mail address listed on city Web sites in and around Chaska, plus the teachers at the school where she was last seen. I contacted an animal communicator and Ann said she knew of an area that matched the description. I drove to that area and searched again after work. On Monday Fox 9 News interviewed Nancy Perlich while she was searching west of Chaska. Tuesday we received a call that Hannah was back in Chanhassen, though I believe that call was from a previous sighting but we still went out and search the area, just in case she actually was there.



Virgil Gestach (Hannah slept at his farm)

On Wednesday, Carol Gestach called me about 6:30 a.m., with news that Hannah had spent the night on their farm and had run out of their shed in the morning. I called everyone I could think of and only a couple of people answered, but they went out to search right away. I had to go out of town but kept checking e-mail and voicemail whenever I could. I asked Michael Horrigan to post updates to the list whenever I got a call. There were several reported sightings near the Gestach farm outside of Chaska. I was still out of town when I received a call saying Hannah was cornered near the farm, but I got a hold of my brother right away and he raced over there to help search.

2010 GPA-MN Board Members

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

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- 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

Hannah – Lost and Found, cont’d

Part 2: Timing is Everything

Jackie Stone

I arrived at the farm about 6:45 p.m., on the night Hannah was found and there were already several people there searching. The area was south of County Road 140 from Virgil Gestach’s farm on the north side where she had spent the night in one of his outbuildings on Tuesday. She apparently had been seen going into a large swampy area and the call for reinforcements went out.



The worst of the swamp area where she was last seen was awash in last year’s cattails and was not human-friendly. I managed to get about 10 feet into it before I losing my shoes in the deep muck and knee deep water and gave up, joining the others in the marsh. We had the swamp fairly well surrounded and were calling for her, and some people thought they could hear her moving around, but she didn’t come out. Virgil and his wife Carol, as well as Hannah’s owner, were there helping too.

John Cottew from Fox 9 News was there with a huge camera that had a telephoto lens and he searched through his camera from higher ground. Later someone drove an ATV down closer and a guy climbed up a ladder they’d put in the back of it so as to get a better view into the cattails, but no one could see Hannah.

I had just taken off my shoes to see if I could get through the muck barefoot when a big, heavysset guy was suddenly there behind me telling everyone that it was his property and he wanted everyone off of it NOW. Some of us tried to appeal to him, explaining the situation and pointing out Hannah’s elderly, heartbroken owner, but he was having none of it so people had no choice but to start leaving.

Just then there was a cry from the far end of the swamp that she’d been seen and, angry landowner or not, people started heading in that direction. Somebody yelled out asking if they just saw her or if they’d caught her. We were too far away to hear the reply, but could see thumbs up a few seconds later.

Talk about timing; it had to be close to 7:30 by the time Hannah came out and having been kicked off the property we wouldn’t have been able to go back. That’s the same area she ran to Tuesday morning after coming out of Gestach’s outbuilding, so it seems likely that it had become her “home base” in the area.

I’m told that she was limping when she ran into the swamp and, after she was caught, a guy carried her up the hill, but she was standing on all four legs with everyone gathered around her offering her food and water. She sure is a pretty girl and I still can’t wipe the smile off my face.

GPA is such a fantastic and caring organization. GREYT work, everybody!



Hannah – Lost and Found, cont'd

Part 3: The Pink Collar

Barb Lund

Wednesday I took some time to look for Hannah and put up flyers. No Hannah. But, you know how you get the feeling that you just-have-to-find-her-because-she-is-just-right-here-somewhere? Well, that feeling was upper most in my mind and it was incredibly frustrating to not be able to figure out where she was.

I had just gotten home from work on Thursday when the call came. “Virgil and his wife spotted Hannah and are trying to get her. Can you come out and help?” It was the start of wonderfully uplifting evening.

When I got to the farm, I headed to where everyone was gathered by the marsh. Nancy Perlich explained how Hannah had moved from the field to the forest to the marsh where Brad was now slogging around trying to get Hannah moving to the outer perimeters where we were all waiting. Up to his armpits in marsh water, he would periodically stop, thinking he had heard her. Unfortunately, it was just another searcher in the water.

Brad finally came out totally drenched and missing his flip-flops. But, alas, still no Hannah. Since we had the marsh pretty well surrounded, we felt confident she was still in there somewhere. I had some warm hiking shoes in the car that would stay on my feet and keep me warm, so I trucked on up the hill and got my shoes on. By the time I headed back down the hill, they had the ladder on the bed of the ATV and were looking through the TV cam to see if they could see anything. We had a brief discussion about how great it would be to find Hannah in time for the evening news. The sun was still high enough so it certainly seemed doable.

I headed to where Hannah had last been seen going into the swamp and I said “I’m going in.” So, into the marsh I went, along with a couple other folks including Kari Keller’s brother who was just awesome. I started by standing on an elevated area of the marsh, in hopes of seeing any tracks she may have left. No Hannah in sight. So, starting at the point I was at, I began lifting the reeds hoping to catch a glimpse of the little girl. And, as the fates would have it, I turned to my left and saw a slash of dirty pink under some reeds. First thought: it’s Hannah! Second thought: it’s probably just a bag. I lifted up the reeds and my heart literally jumped into my throat. THERE SHE WAS! She was standing in chest-high water trying to be so still so no one would find her but she was shivering up a storm. I leaned down and whispered to her, “You’re safe, little girl.”



I then stood up and yelled, “I’ve found her!” I picked Hannah up so she wouldn’t be in the cold water anymore and held her close. Julie, one of the local residents, was coming over to break a path through the reeds to get out. I started carrying Hannah but, even though she’s not a heavy girl, slogging through the water with her was not easy and I handed her off to Kari’s brother. My heart was pounding – not just from carrying her out but from the absolute amazing thrill of having found her. Hannah was finally safe thanks to the efforts of some pretty terrific people.



Hannah – Lost and Found, cont’d

Epilogue

Lisa Quast

Hannah was admitted to the emergency vet where she stayed overnight. Aside from losing a few pounds and bearing a plethora of ticks and bug bites, Hannah is in remarkably good shape. Hannah’s owner, Barb Mahoney is thankful to be reunited with her little girl, and is eternally grateful for everyone who helped to find Hannah.

Special thanks to John Cottew for capturing Hannah’s story on film. That evening John and the folks at Fox 9 News worked double time and had the story ready for the 10 o’clock broadcast. It was a heartwarming finale to the 9-day search saga. Thank you, as well, to all of the people who searched, made phone calls, printed and posted flyers, sent e-mails, provided moral support, positive thoughts and prayers. You never gave up, and never lost hope. It’s almost as if finding her was a foregone conclusion - just a matter of time. Your dedication is a testament to the truly amazing community we have! It’s an honor to be a part of this community!

SEARCH STATISTICS

Number of searchers: More than 40

Hours spent searching: At least 221

Miles driven: 3,095

Flyers printed/posted/passed out: 715

Calls: 297

Emails sent out: Nearly 1,000

Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption

Everyone associated with Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption would like to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to the entire greyhound world, but especially Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota, for their outstanding efforts in finding and returning Hannah to her relieved and ecstatic owner Barb Mahoney.

As an organization, your tireless group of volunteers demonstrated perseverance and determination that will not soon be forgotten. Our prayers were answered with the eventual happy ending, and in the future we look forward to other opportunities to work hand-in-hand with GPA and its extraordinary group of volunteers.

Sincerely, NLGA

Hound on The Run!

Luana Ball

First things first - identification

Your hound MUST have ID on them.

1. Personal ID with home address and preferably two phone numbers.
2. Don’t waste precious space on a small tag by putting your dogs name on it. If someone is close enough to your hound to read the tag, the dog’s name isn’t important.
3. GPA ID tag provided at time of adoption.
4. Rabies tag with vet clinic address and phone; most clinics provide this.

Tags get worn and dirty and information can’t be read. Check all tags frequently and clean or replace as needed. Consider micro chipping your hound. This is good BUT people who find the dog aren’t going to have scanners on them and vet clinics may be closed.

Current and readable tags are your No. 1 best option.

This article, along with a flyer you can download, are available on gpa.mn.org on the “Lost Hound” page.

(Continued on page 7)

Hound on the run - cont'd

Walk and drive the neighborhood and surrounding community

If you are nearby when the hound escapes, yell something that will catch the hound's attention like "car ride," or "treat." Walk or run in the opposite direction. Don't run towards the dog, as they may think you are playing and run farther and faster. Grab a squeaky toy from the house to entice them or carry a plastic squeaker in your pocket.

Set up a search unit

1. Send out search units of two-to-three people in all directions. Greyhounds have a tendency to run in circles. Just because they headed one direction doesn't mean they haven't doubled back in the opposite direction.
2. Each search unit should take an area about 1/2 mile square. Stay in your area. The hound might not be there the first five times you go down the street, but very well may be there your next trip.
3. Ideally, each search unit will have a cell phone, a collar and lead, some dog treats and a flashlight if night is approaching. If you can take a dog along too, especially a greyhound, it may help the scared hound feel more comfortable and draw them in.
4. Check alleys, outside restaurants, cafes, supermarkets and any place where the dog may be able to find food. Check cemeteries and parks in the area. Both places can offer shelter and trash to search for food.
5. If you spot the hound and you sense he is spooked (even a friendly dog can get scared after being loose), walk away from him or lay down on the ground and call him gently. Sudden movements may send him running again. Offer 'stinky' food that may be very appealing to a hungry dog. Consider setting up a kennel familiar to them in the area where last seen.
6. If you don't find the dog, make sure you leave food and water outside your home. Leave a familiar blanket or bed outside so he will know this is home should he find his way back. If he likes riding in the car, leave the car door open overnight: you may have a surprise waiting for you in the morning.
7. Keep your outside lights on and leave a garage door or gate open in case the hound returns to the area looking for home. Set your alarm and check outside every hour.

Get the word out

Information needed:

- Location: city and street with nearby cross streets and the direction the hound was headed. Include any easy to identify neighborhood markers, businesses, etc.
- Time: When was your hound last seen?
- Description: Gender and color and any identifying characteristics (collar color, unique markings, etc.)
- Identification on your dog. Personal ID tag, GPA tag, rabies tag, etc.
- Personality: Is the hound friendly and outgoing, or shy and spooky.
- Contact information: Who is leading the search? Name, phone numbers and or e-mail address.

Call

- GPA phone line - leave detailed message on the GPA Phone line 763-785-4000.
- Vet clinics, in the area and your personal vet, especially if hound has a rabies tag from that clinic.
- Non-emergency police
- Animal emergency hospitals
- Animal shelters
- Animal control

Internet and e-mail

GPA E-List Post a message on the GPA e-List with all of the pertinent information. This will quickly alert members who may be in the area and can assist in the search. Ask other greyhound adoption programs to help spread the word and assist if possible.

(Continued on page 8)

Hound on the run - cont'd

- **GreyTalk** - You'll either need to be a subscriber (it's free) to post information about a missing greyhound (Amber Alert) or you can post a request on the GPA E-List and ask a GreyTalk member to post for you. <http://forum.greytalk.com/index.php/forum/24-greyhound-amber-alert/>
- **Animal Humane Society** - animalhumanesociety.org/lostandfound. Free online lost and found bulletin board. You can post information, a photo and check the found section to see if your hound has been found.
- **PetFinder** - Petfinder.com - go to Classifieds. You can post lost pets by state and check found pets.
- **Craigslist** - Craigslist.org - post a listing in the "lost and found" section.
- **Online search tools** - Findtoto.com, Fidofinder.com, Petrescue.com
- **Facebook and Twitter postings**
- **E-mail Distribution Groups:** City offices, schools, Chamber of Commerce

Prepare and post fliers

You can download an editable flyer on the GPA-MN website on the "Lost Hound" page, which you can modify with your information and your hound's picture and print copies for posting. You also can tape a picture of your hound. Tape a picture of your hound to a piece of paper, or draw/download a greyhound silhouette, and using a thick black marker write down the important contact information. Drive to your local copy shop and print off a large supply. Staple to wood posts or use a strong packaging tape. Ask for help from friends and neighbors - whoever you can. If each of your children's friends spend 15 minutes putting up posters and telling everyone they know - that's a lot covered in a short amount of time. Consider including a reward. Maintain a map of the search area and highlight areas covered with flyers.

GreyTalk.com

There are fliers created for distribution and printing/posting on GreyTalk though you need to subscribe or ask someone who is subscribed to access and print for you.

PetID Poster - petid.com

PetId offers this service free to anyone who has lost a pet, regardless if they subscribe to their service or not. Enter the information requested and they will create a PDF file that is downloaded to your computer. You can then print and or send to others. There also is a search tool on their site to help you find shelters and vets in your area.

Distribute and post on street posts and signs in your neighborhood, nearby parks, dog walking paths, community boards at grocery stores, pet stores, vet clinics, schools, churches, gas stations, nursing homes - any place where there are people. Ask permission first if applicable. Consider posting information in your community newspaper.

Prevention

- Locking all gates to your yard.
- Install strong tight hinges on the gates so they automatically spring shut.
- Do a visual check of all gates not locked before letting the hounds out.
- Periodically check your fencing for areas in need of repair.
- When a visitor is at the door have another person hold the greyhound or if alone, kennel the hound or block them in a safe area.
- Install a lock on storm doors or install a hook and eye so the door doesn't open should a hound jump up and accidentally open the door.
- Do not leave windows open far enough for a greyhound to jump through the screen.
- Check your hound's humane choke regularly to ensure a snug fit. Collars can loosen over time.
- Use a harness for a hound who spooks easily.
- Load hounds into and out of a vehicle through the side door versus the hatchback. Flip the seat down to make it easier for them.
- Review tips to prevent hound escape with caregivers in your absence. Be sure they have contact information for GPA-MN so members can help in the search. Don't give up should you find yourself with a hound on the run! Spread the word, connect, reach out... remain positive and focused. They are counting on you to bring them home.

May Hound of the Month - Eja Vereide (AKA Wylie)

By Mom Christie Vereide and Dad Jim Vereide



Eja just turned 2 years old, but still thinks he is a puppy sometimes. He loves to play and will try to get us involved by flipping a toy our way. He looks at me with those big, sad eyes that say “Mom, aren’t you going to throw it back?” He has to be involved in and investigate everything that is going on. Then of course as long as he is already by us, he expects head pats. He knows all he has to do is look at us with those big brown eyes and we can’t resist. He loves to cuddle and would be a lap dog if he could somehow squeeze himself into a tight enough ball. He loves to be with his people, he would rather do that than anything else. He is very special to us and we are so glad that he has come into our life.



June Hound of the Month - Daytona Johnson

By Carie Johnson

I remember going to a Meet and Greet and seeing all the greyhounds and how sweet they all were. They were all so unique in their own way. Some were lazy and mellow and others were goofy and hyper. That is when I knew a greyhound was meant to be our newest family member!

After we applied we waited anxiously to get that call. I received an e-mail stating a group came in from a track that had closed and yes, one of them would be ours. I checked Petfinder.com daily to look at the GPA hounds wondering who was our baby. Is it her? Oh she is so cute! Is it him? Oh he looks so fun! Daily I would look, sometimes several times and just stare. Finally after only a couple weeks we were matched with 4 year old Honey Bee was our baby!!



Our initial meeting was perfect and we knew the moment we saw her she was it, she was our greyhound! She was a bit shy but wouldn’t leave our sides once we started to pet and kiss her. She was perfect! The first couple weeks were very interesting. Trying to get to know her, feeling her out for what she liked and didn’t like, introducing her to our backyard, getting her used to our other dog, meeting friends and family, showing her glass doors and so much more. And of course it didn’t take her long at all to figure out how to jump up on the couches and beds. As the days went on it was so much joy to see her personality shine through. One day she would pick up a toy and try to play with it, the next she had 15 toys out. She would sleep with us one night then with our son the next. And to see her run is something I’m not sure we’ll ever gets used to. We love to see her lying in the sun with stuffed animals and I don’t think we’ll ever see her without saying “Oh Daytona you are so cute!” She loves attention and attention is what we give her. Everyone she meets she walks up to for a pet and then won’t leave their side. But that isn’t a problem, those beautiful brown eyes makes all hearts melt!



Daytona is perfect, absolutely perfect. She has been with us since Jan. 31 and I feel she was always meant to be a part of our family! Working out of my house she, and our 5 year old Cockapoo named Friday, are my favorite co-workers! They make everyday fun!

Waiting at the Bridge

Through March 15

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

Anubis - Kelsey and Ross Anderson

Release - Krista and Don Evans

Abbey - Al Fiene

Smash - Bryan Rittenhouse

Barska - Susan and Steve Bielmeier

Charlie, a foster - Adam Mohler and
Shannon Morrissey

In the Beginning (Unknown author)

On the first day, God created the Greyhound.

On the second day, God created man to serve the Greyhound.

On the third day, God created the animals of the Earth to serve as potential food for the Greyhound.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the Greyhound.

On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that the Greyhound could or could not retrieve it.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the Greyhound healthy and the man broke. (AMEN!!!)

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but he had to walk the Greyhound.

On the eighth day, God believeth that He was done, but Lo! The Garden of Eden was full of Greyhound poop and craters. Adam & Eve, having been banished from the garden, no longer dwelleth therein to serve the Greyhound, so it came to pass that He had to clean the mess up Himself. And God was displeased.

On the ninth day, God sayeth unto the Heavens, "Who hath dominion here, me or the Greyhound?"

On the tenth day, God came upon the Greyhound cockroached on His throne and abideth there unmoving, despite all His beseeching. And so it came to pass that God had his answer. He then sayeth unto Moses, "Fine! You're in charge now. Here's my ten commandments. You deal with the Greyhound! I'm retiring to Miami Beach!"

And Moses convinced the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of bondage in Egypt and journey to the Promised Land. God sayeth unto Moses, "The Promised Land shall be yours, but you must take the Greyhound with you. And so it came to pass that the Israelites wandered for 40 years in the wilderness, waiting for the Greyhound to go potty, mark every bush and sniff every blade of grass in its domain.

And the Greyhound was fruitful and multiplied. The people were taken by the comeliness and manner of the Greyhound, but they were sorely distressed. "Lord" they cried out, "The Greyhound is an attractive and sweet creature, but there are so many, what shall we do?"

And God sayeth unto the people, "Ye are a cursed people and shall be known as adopters! Thy yards shall be barren of grass. Thy dwellings shall overflow with dog beds, squeaky toys and Greyhound kitsch. Thy carpets shall be forever stained. Thy vet bills shalt be large and thy lives forever ordered around by the Greyhound. And thy minds shall be muddled, as thou shalt treat thy Greyhounds as thy do your human offspring."

And Adopters begat Fosters. And Fosters begat Adoption Groups. And Adoption Groups begat Discussion Lists. And Discussion Lists begat Gatherings. And Gatherings begat Vendors. And Vendors begat a wardrobe for the Greyhound. And the Greyhound was spoiled.

God looked down on this and was pleased.

Fourth Annual Heal-A-Hound Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction A Huge Record Setting Success

By Jim Borthwick

Thanks to the generosity of the many who contributed time, donated valuable items to the silent auction and those who attended and bid on those items, this year's Heal-A-Hound (HAH) event was a HUGE record-setting success. Net proceeds of \$5,700 went into the Heal-A-Hound fund, making it possible to help deserving greyhounds with special medical needs that might otherwise have little chance of adoption.



In 2009, the HAH fund covered the significant medical costs of treating Sugar, a young female with a badly broken leg. Sugar is making a full recovery and living the good life in her adoptive home, but without the existence of this special fund, the result might have been quite different. So, again a big thank you to all who had a hand in making this event such a great success. Without question there will be other deserving greyhounds that will benefit as a result. And remember, you can make a donation for the Heal-A-Hound fund any time throughout the year.

Survey Says...

- Here are the results of the last survey: *How many dog beds do you have in your home? Does that include the couch or human bed? How many Greyhounds do you have?*
- * 41 families responded.
- * Together, they own 70 greyhounds and have 214 beds. That's an average of 3.06 beds per dog.
- * In addition, 22 of the homes allow the dogs to use the couches and 19 allow the dogs on the human beds.
- Our dogs aren't spoiled, are they?

Next issue survey

- Do you have a cat in your home? If so, how many cats and how many greyhounds?
- 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.

This was received in response to the Survey in the last issue. It's well worth the read

Is There A Floor Under Those Beds?

By Julie J

I have two greyhounds, Thunder and Lily-Lois-Lotus-Marie, and we are creative with beds. Thunder circles and circles in his and sometimes takes hold of an edge. Lily goes to town scratching and pulling and pawing until the bed is unrecognizable and usually has a donut hole depression in it to lie in. Thunder loves covers and Lily always kicks them off.

Oh! The beds. Sometimes they all lay out flat and cover almost the entire floor from office to sun porch. Other times we stack beds to make them cushier. We always have soft fleece blankets on top of the beds and as covers... do these count as beds?

There is always a 'musical beds' going on because Thunder knows he deserves the bed Lily is sleeping on and Lily knows Thunder has the softer bed that she really wants. So they switch beds, and switch again. They used to use the couch and love seat for beds, but we got new ones! Oh no! The new couch is looked upon with much suspicion. It is not as soft and squishy as the old one, but it is sometimes slept upon. Oops, no new love seat, there is a recliner instead...?!?! "What in doggie-blazes is that?!", the hounds seem to ask. When I use the recliner they come up to me in a very concerned manner, "Mommy, you ok?" Thunder still joins me on my bed sometime close to morning.

Oh! The number of beds (not counting mine)... hmm. one, two, three square ones. One, two round ones. One foam one... six! We have six doggie beds. Variety is the spice of greyhound napping life.

Recent adoptions

Through April 15

Racing name	Adopted name	Adopted by
O Ya Sharon	Sugar	Lori & Dan Rasmussen
O Ya Peaches	Peaches	Elizabeth Jenner
Coal Car Cutie	Cutie	Gregory Prunty
Superior Molly	Molly	Theresa & Scott Eskro
Flying Pressel	Elvis	Jeanine Krier
Superior Thomas	Tommy	Michelle & Chris Peukert
My Sweet Face	Lilly	Caprice Niccoli-Waller & Niels Waller
Alkay Kiowa Joe	Kaiden	Linda Schmitt

Being the Leader of Your Pack

by Marcy Barger

You have decided to adopt a greyhound, one of the oldest breeds of dog known to us. Their gentle nature and quiet demeanor has made your decision quite easy. He or she will be your loving and loyal pet for many years to come.

Most greyhounds have had the benefit of a very regimented lifestyle. They are taught from the minute they are born to follow their leader, whether it be a track trainer, the workers at the kennels, or whoever is in charge of their well being. It is their life. They know no other way. Someone is always in charge of what they can and cannot do. They do well with this lifestyle.

As new adopters, we want to do everything we can for our new friend to make them feel welcome and comfortable in our homes. We buy them new toys, beds, blankets and everything else we think will make them happy.

This is all fine and swell, but the first and most important thing you can do to make them feel comfortable is to establish your and their place within their new pack. You are the pack leader right from the beginning. You and anyone else in your home (grownups and children) have to be established as pack leaders right from the start. This will enable the dog to know right away where his or her place is going to be.

Any dog, at any time, will continually try to move up in its pack. It may be very subtle to you. You may not even know it's happening, but to them it's very distinguished. If you don't show them leadership, they will try to take over the position. To them someone always has to be in charge, whether it be you or them. They always need leadership of some sort and will try to fulfill that role if you fail to show them the way.

Set your goal

Being the pack leader isn't hard to do. Set your goal right from the start. Go into it knowing that you will provide your new friend everything it needs for a peaceful co-existence. He or she in turn will learn to respect your wishes and accept you as the new pack leader.

Start as soon as that new leash is handed to you. Bring your new pup into the house - you going in first of course. You being the leader will always go in or out of a door first. This is their first lesson.

You being the leader will always do everything first. Leaders in the wild are in charge at all times. They eat first, they choose their sleeping places first, they decide when to move and where to go first, etc. The alpha is the ruler over all. They lead gently, but with a hidden force. The followers know that they will be quickly reprimanded if this policy is challenged in any way. It's also important that all of the people in the household follow the same principles. If one person is doing this and another is doing something else, the dog will naturally be confused and react accordingly.

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Being the Leader of Your Pack cont'd

It's always a good idea to bring your newly adopted hound to a beginner's obedience class. It not only shows you how to teach the basic commands that may prove vital in an emergency, but also enables you to bond with your new friend, get to know them and how they will react to your directions under the guidance of a qualified teacher.

Now I will get down to my main reason for writing this article. By now, being a newly adopted greyhound owner, you have tried to read all the helpful information that you could to make this transition from track to home as easy as possible for both you and your new hound. You have more than likely read about sleep aggression in dogs - not only greys, but all dogs in general can exhibit this behavior. Sometimes it will happen right away. Other times you may not see it for years and other times you may never witness this from your dog at all.

Sleep aggression

Sleep aggression has been classified as a 'condition' by many. It is not a 'condition.' It is simply the 'fight or flight' reaction that is a basic instinct in all animals (humans included). If you startle a sleeping grey (some do sleep with their eyes open) you risk being exposed to a fast growl or a snap. It won't be their fault, it will be yours for not respecting their space. Retired racing greyhounds have never been awakened by touch. They are always awakened by the barking of the other dogs, a kennel trainer coming in the morning or even by a loud passing car, but NEVER by touch. By the time someone gets to their crate, they are fully awake and aware of what is going on around them. They are not sound asleep and awakened by the foreign touch of the human that wants to please and be close to them and love them. The human gets scared. They think that they have adopted an aggressive dog!

This couldn't be further from the truth. Your greyhound doesn't want to hurt you, it's just being exposed to something that has never happened before and its gut reaction is to lash out at the offending thing that scared it. That offending thing was its dearly beloved human that has tried so hard to make them happy. You being the human have to try and help them. You have to give your new friend time to adjust to the many changes it's had its life in just such a short time. Let them become familiar with the sounds of the house and all the different things they are going to encounter.

Once again, be their pack leader and show them the way.

Another familiar problem that arises is when we, as the loving humans, want to let our greyhounds be as comfortable as they can be so we just go ahead and let them crawl up onto the couch, or (heaven forbid) our own personal beds.

This in fact happened to us one night. Our oldest girl was lying on our couch in the TV room. My husband went in to sit down by her and she let out a pretty ferocious sounding growl. He was mortified. How could this sweet little girl we've had for so many years actually growl at him? Well of course she did. She didn't want anyone else on her coveted couch and she was going to let them know it. She had claimed it as her own and wanted no one else to use it. She was trying to be alpha in her own little way. We solved that problem quickly. She was ordered off that couch and never let on it again. Funny thing, I never heard another growl out of her after that day.

If you're hesitant about trying to get your hound off furniture after they've growled or snapped at you simply go and get their leash, snap it on and say "Ok, let's go." They'll think they're going for a walk or ride and hop right off. Never reach down and grab their collar to get them off. This can be a sign of aggression on your part. Aggression fosters aggression and it just may backfire on you. It will be up to you whether you will want them to be let on furniture from then on. You're in charge. You're the pack leader. You will have to make that decision.

Buy your newly adopted pup a nice soft dog bed and it will be as happy as a clam just laying at your feet and you won't have to worry about a snap or a growl. When your dog is lying on its bed, don't go up to it quietly. Make noise so they know you are there and around their space. Call their name, clap your hands, just make any noise that will arouse them so they aren't frightened by a sudden scary movement. Be respectful of his new bed. That's "his" space - His quiet place to go.

I don't know how many times a new adopter has called me crying because their beloved grey has just growled or snapped at them. My first question is always "Where were they when this happened?" The answer is always the same: On the couch. On my bed. He was just lying on his bed and I knelt down to pet him (this is probably the most common). The old adage that bodes so well on this - "Let sleeping dogs lie." Don't get down to their level and stick your face right up to theirs. If there's one

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Being the Leader of Your Pack cont'd

thing that will intimidate a dog faster than anything, it is invading their own personal space. If you want some affection from your dog, simply call it to you and then show it all the loving you want.

If, at some point in time, your hound starts to display this type of behavior, it more than likely means that your pack order is out of balance and you need to regain your leadership status. This was your dog testing you, trying in his or her own way to see if the pack dynamics has changed and just maybe they could move up in rank.

Go back to the basics right now. Work on the simple training exercises that you began with. Start from scratch, so to say. Remind them that nothing in life is free and you are the one that provides that good life for them. They have to re-build their respect for you. This is not to say that they've lost respect for you completely, they now just have to be reminded of it. I have always found that one of the most beneficial basic commands you can teach is the sit, and yes greyhounds can be taught to sit and once they know how and start doing it, you'll have a sitting fool on your hands. It works well in so many situations.



- Sit before being leashed to go out.
- Sit before going out the door (after you, of course).
- Sit before eating.
- Sit before going up or down stairs.
- Sit before just about anything.

It's an easy command that can be used anywhere and anytime and will constantly reinforce your leadership role. Show them who's in charge once again, but do it gently. Aggression with a greyhound will backfire on you and do no good whatsoever to solve the problem. Greyhounds are a gentle breed and therefore need gentle, positive training. Steady, strong reinforcement.

If kids are involved, it's important to have them involved as well but never left alone. Kids can begin by learning how to give treats or simple commands depending on their age. To improve their chances of being seen as an alpha they can stand on a stool to make themselves "bigger." Kids and dogs should never engage in tug-o-war. This is a game that should NEVER be played period as it opens up the door for the dog to question: "Can I be alpha?" Kids should also not be running/chasing the dog as that's a puppy play behavior and the dog will view it as an opportunity to assert himself over the child.

Never hesitate to use the muzzle when trying to recondition them. Using the muzzle is NOT a punishment - it's a life jacket for the dog! The muzzle sometimes will act as a calming feature to them too. If you are nervous about another growl or snap, just put the muzzle on. It will give you more confidence when trying to work through a problem and the more confidence you have, the more confidence they will have and your corrections will go more smoothly.

Another thing to keep in mind is your body language. Dogs can read your body language perfectly. A lot of times, they even know what you want before a word is put into place and that word won't even need to be used because your hound is so tuned to you. Body language speaks a million words to a dog. If you're nervous or hesitant about dealing with a situation with your dog, it will instantly pick up on your reservations and the problem will not be solved. It will be confused because you're not showing them the strong leadership that they need to learn. Calm, assertive behavior is what they will follow best.

Try to have patience when dealing with any behavioral problem that may arise. There is always a reason and more than likely can be dealt with and worked through without any trauma to the dog or owner. Get into your dogs head. Get to know what they like and dislike. Try to look at their lives from a dog's perspective. Keep in mind that a dog is always learning. Every day they will learn something. It's up to us to teach them well and do all we can to help them learn. It's our job as their pack leader to try and do everything we can to help them lead a healthy, balanced life.

We chose them, and they go willingly with us. They trust that we will protect them and keep them safe and show them the way. You chose a greyhound. You chose well.

I would like to thank my friends Debbie Greenstone and Jen Jett for their input in the writing of this article. They have owned many dogs and have helped many times over with their unending knowledge of the canine breed.

Donations received Feb - March

- Petco
- River Bluffs, Inc.
- O. Ya Greyhounds, in honor of Angel and Speedy Jo
- Highland Meet & Greet
- Sarah Beth Photography
- Peggy Anne Hawkins, in memory of Jackie Wilson
- Jennifer Otto
- Julie Quinn
- Dayna Asche, in honor of Deb Nederhiser and family
- Pet Expo Attendees
- Lori Eilers, in memory of Deb Nederhiser
- Cynthia White, for Blackjack/Gamble
- Dana Kromer & Sue Moerer
- Tyler Sheley, in honor of the wedding of Chuck Koepplin and Lori Anderson
- Victoria Jones, in memory of Grayson Jett
- Ed and Alice Mall, in memory of Grayson Jett
- Heather Lindy
- Dan and Lori Rasmussen, in memory of Grayson Jett
- Susan Starr, in memory of Grayson Jett
- Carol Steenson, to the Heal-A-Hound Fund

May 2010 Calendar of Events

Gassy walks take place every Sunday, weather permitting. Meet at the Lake Harriet Rose Garden at 2 p.m. or the Como Lakeside Pavilion at 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 16

Gassy Walk 2 p.m.

Gassy Walk Too 10 a.m.

Meet & Greet - Mankato, 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 22

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

Petco National Adoption Weekend Richfield Petco 12 to 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 23

Gassy Walk 2 p.m.

Gassy Walk Too 10 a.m.

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

May 30

Gassy Walk 2 p.m.

Gassy Walk Too 10 a.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

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

June 2010 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, June 2

Dinner with your dog,
Sea Salt Restaurant,
South Minneapolis

Saturday, June 5

Meet & Greets
• Richfield, 12 to 2 p.m.
• Woodbury, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 6

Gassy Walk 2 p.m.
Gassy Walk Too 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 12

Meet & Greets
• Eden Prairie, 12 to 2 p.m.
• Burnsville, 12 to 2 p.m.

Sunday, June 13

Gassy Walk 2 p.m.
Gassy Walk Too 10 a.m.
Meet & Greet - Duluth, 1 to 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 19

Stone Arch Festival
Tater Daze
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.

Sunday, June 20

Fathers' Day
Gassy Walk 2 p.m.
Gassy Walk Too 10 a.m.
Meet & Greet - Mankato, 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 26

GREYFEST - Unleashed

Sunday, June 27

Pride Festival
Gassy Walk 2 p.m.
Gassy Walk Too 10 a.m.
Meet & Greet -
Urbananimals, Minneapolis,
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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