

# GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA MINNESOTA

# Home Stretch

January-February 2012

Volume 29, Issue 1

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## Fresh for 2012

Lisa Quast, President

The new year is a great time for new beginnings. A fresh start. We've been busy making lots of upgrades and improvements to things that represent our organization. To usher in 2012 we have several new beginnings to share with you.

### New Website

While the website can still be found at [www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org), we've completely re-invented it. There are many new resources, new ways for adopters to get acquainted with greyhounds, and new ways for everyone to connect with GPA MN. Take some time to peruse the new site and see what we've done.

### New GPA MN Forum

To support the growing number of participants in our greyhound community and to establish an online place for our community to call home, we are discontinuing the eList and will be moving to a brand new online Forum. You can read more about the new forum later in this edition of the Home Stretch. We'll explain where you can find it and how it works.

### New GPA Today Mailer

To keep you informed of things going on with GPA MN, we have established a new service called "GPA Today" that will deliver occasional email messages related to events and information related to GPA MN. If you are currently subscribed to the discontinued GPA eList, you will be automatically subscribed to GPA Today. If you're not currently subscribed, visit our new website to subscribe under Follow Us.

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## Recent Adoptions

Shawn and Greg Yardley, Faye  
Ceree George, Henry  
Jeanne Sterner, Annie  
Matt and Sarah Kirkwood, Darlin  
Leo and Denise Pusateri, Chesney and Conan  
Nathan Bauer, O Ya Dig It  
Jessica Jacobs, Madge  
John Muellner, Sting  
Tracy and Maraline Keeling, Pearl  
Christine Seppanen and Jeff Johnson, Sophie  
Mark and Ben Thorn, Walter

# 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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Lisa Quast

Barb Gates Schaben

Sylvia Kresal

Nicole Middlecamp

Susan Spiller

## Fresh for 2012 (cont.)

### How do all of these changes benefit GPA?

While we are still the same strong and continuously growing organization, dedicated to the same mission of finding homes for retired hounds, our upgraded identity provides a number of positive outcomes. It allows us maintain a strong and polished presence in the greater community. It gives adopters confidence in our brand, and optimism about our adoption community. It provides new platforms for GPA to stay in touch with adopters, and for adopters to collaborate with each other.

We embrace this fresh start on 2012 as an opportunity to enhance our group and inspire growth. If you have questions about the upgrades or would like to share feedback on our new identity or new platforms, please feel free to contact me at [president@gpa-mn.org](mailto:president@gpa-mn.org).

## Cookie Day 2011

Sylvia Kresal (your friendly Cookie Day Coordinator)

For the last 11 years GPA has celebrated the day after Thanksgiving with COOKIE DAY! It is held at the Richfield Petco. I ask people to bake and donate a dozen or so cookies. There are usually about five or six bakers and they always donate more than a dozen cookies. And not just cookies. Bakers have also baked quick breads, brownies, shortbread, bars, teacakes, and gooey type treats covered with chocolate. And the sugar cookies - always lots of sugar cookies! Plain and frosted! We pass them out to anyone who comes into the Petco store if they want one. The intent is not to get a bunch of donations for GPA but to get people to stop and think about greyhounds. And to pet a greyhound. And to kiss a greyhound if one is so inclined. You never know what ideas can come from getting a cookie from our greyhound group for some people down the road. I'm hoping they come up with the idea of adopting a greyhound!



If any cookies are left over we leave a big plate of them for the Petco employees because the Richfield store and their staff have been wonderfully generous to GPA. They often name us as their charity for various fund raisers that they have, they allow us to conduct our adoptions in the store, we have our monthly Meet and Greet there, and we often bring the greyhound "haul" there for the hounds to go into our foster homes. They are very generous and the cookies are a "thank you". It is really a glorified Meet and Greet with cookies. This year we had approximately 25 hounds there with their various leash holders. It was busy!

Thank you to Richfield Petco, thank you to the folks and hounds who came and thank you to our bakers: Lori and Dan Rasmussen, Muriel Otto, Tracy and Maraline Keeling, Caprice, Niels, and Quinn Nicoli-Waller, and Al Fiene!!

# Greyhounds on TV!

GPA MN and our wonderful dogs have gotten a lot of press recently! We've been lucky enough to have multiple television appearances to show off the greytness of the breed!

On December 5, foster dog Ginny was featured on the local television show, *Twin Cities Live*. Ali Jarvis, owner of sidewalkdog.com, does a piece on the show each month showing all things dog-related. She asked GPA for an available hound to go on the show with her to be featured as the show's dog of the month. Since Ginny is super adorable, and super sweet, she was the dog picked for the task.



Following her successful appearance, we were lucky enough to get THREE more TV appearances based on our participation in the Land O' Lakes Kennel Club show.

- On January 4 KARE 11 News featured foster dog Kool to help promote the show.
- On January 7 KSTP Channel 5 News featured foster dog Nimh to help promote the show.
- On January 8 Fox 9 News featured Chico, Morgan, and Cindy at the show.

Thank to everyone who participated and helped show the locals just how greyt these hounds are!

## October and November Donations to GPA MN

State Fair Adoption Event, "Help The Hounds" Donation  
Susan Spiller, "Help The Hounds" Donation  
John and Lisa Quast, "Help The Hounds" Donation  
O Ya Greyhounds Donation, in honor of Sting, Pearl, Dig It  
Jennifer Jones  
United Health Group, Indirect Public Support  
Janet Hughes, in honor of Rosie  
Robyn Abear and Steve Etzell, in memory of Kacy Ace  
Lillian Craton, in honor of the Wilson-Ferguson wedding  
Cathy Murphy, in honor of the Wilson-Ferguson wedding  
Richard Hezlep, in honor of the Wilson-Ferguson wedding  
Mark Downey, "Help The Hounds" Donation  
Meet & Greet Donors, Meet & Greet Donations  
Minneapolis Kennel Club, "Help The Hounds" Donation  
GoodSearch, Third-Party Contribution  
Missionfish, Third-Party Contribution

## 2012 GPA MN Board Members

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

- Lisa Quast: President, GreyFest Coordinator
- Nicole Middlecamp: Vice President, Foster Coordinator, Haul Coordinator
- Mark Downey: Treasurer, Merchandise
- Michael Horrigan: Secretary, Heal a Hound, Lost Hound Network
- Curt Carter: External Relations, Heal a Hound
- Brian Clark: Board Member
- Heather Everhart: External Relations Coordinator, Grant Writing
- Lori Rasmussen: Special Events, Volunteers

*Visit our website to learn more about our board members*

## Additional Contributors

- Barb Gates Schaben: Adoption Coordinator, Newsletter Editor
- Teri Petrin: Adoption Representative (Chippers)
- Linda Schmitt: Adoption Representative
- Sylvia Kresal: Meet & Greet Coordinator
- Ann Moe: Coat Crew Coordinator
- Susan Spiller: Art & Craft Sale
- Kari Keller: Lost Hound Network

## Number of Hounds Adopted

• 54

## Enhanced Publicity

- GPA Yard Signs
- Lavender Magazine Ads
- New Brochures
- Retractable Signs

## Notable Milestones

- 15 years: Greylfest
- 15 years: Mankato M&G, hosted by Bryan and Nancy Rittenhouse
- 11 years: Cookie Day, hosted by Neil and Sylvia Kresal

## New at Greylfest

- Grey Oaks Photo Studio
- Limited Edition Posters
- Ringspun T-Shirts
- Sarah Beth Photography Lure Run Photos

## Special Fundraising Events

- 5th Annual Heal a Hound
- 6th Annual Art & Craft Sale
- Give MN "Give to the Max" Day
- Groupon.com

## Lost Hound Network

- Helped recover lost hounds that might not have otherwise been found.

## Special Events and Walks

- Anoka Halloween Parade
- Barnes & Noble Book Wrapping
- Brooklyn Park Tater Daze Canine Crawl
- Dinner with Dogs (Sea Salt, Psycho Suzi's, Tiger Sushi, Maverick's)
- Great MN Pet-Together at the Fair Grounds
- Jude Edling's "Quilted Meet & Greet" at Upper Midwest Woodcarvers & Quilt Expo
- Linden Hills Woofstock
- Maple Grove Days
- May Day Festival at Powderhorn Park
- MN State Fair Saturday Ring Time
- Mount Olivet Care Center
- Paw-a-Ween with MN Pug Rescue
- Pet Expo
- Pride Festival
- Pictures with Santa at Petco
- Stone Arch Festival
- Twin Cities Live
- Twins Plaza

# 2011 Year in Review

Lisa Quast, President

The beginning of a new year is an occasion for looking forward as well as looking back. By taking time to reflect on the past year and consider the milestones that we achieved, we not only appreciate everything that brought us prosperity and success, but also have a chance to make forward-thinking decisions about how to make this year even better for our organization.

As our organization continues to grow and develop, the board works diligently to keep up with everything that goes along with that. Maintaining the core of what we are and what we represent is an ongoing responsibility that we face with everything we do. At the heart of our activities, we are all here to help the hounds. Whether it's planning or attending a fundraiser, recommending or taking part in a walking event, or planting a seed in someone's mind at a publicity event like the State Fair, the activities that we support and participate in make it possible for us to continue as a successful organization.

Many of the things we do are seed-planting activities. This means the results are not necessarily immediate, and it might take months or years for someone to make the decision to adopt a greyhound. But by getting into the public eye and letting the beauty and grace of our greyhounds speak volumes on what great pets they are, we are planting the seed of possibility and working toward our mission of finding homes for hounds.

While it's important for us to stay true to our mission, it's also important for us to be forward-thinking and maintain a fresh approach. It's about finding innovative and effective ways to get the word out to people who may open their home to a greyhound and help us to make successful, life-long placements.



This past year we innovated in a number of ways. We created some eye-catching 6-foot retractable posters to use at events. Our sleek new tri-fold brochures were printed for handing out to potential adopters. Yard signs were made available to adopters and the signs have been advertising adoption on streets throughout the Twin Cities. We also got involved with a number of new events like walking on the plaza before Twins games and we participated in joint events with Northern Lights and MN Pug Rescue. These new prospects give us increased exposure and relationships that we can build on for the future.

We mark the passing year with recognition of what we have achieved. As the new year begins, we aspire to recognize the opportunities that 2012 has to offer, and make the most of each and every one. Thank you all for your endless support. We hope you will join us on the continued journey into 2012!



# January Hound of the Month - Aruba Walsh

Pat Walsh

I received a call about a stray greyhound on a farm in Stillwater. When I went to pick her up I was surprised it really was a greyhound. She jumped right in the back seat and laid down. That should have been a tip off to what I would later know as her inability to walk past an open car door without jumping in and climbing into the driver's seat. The reason she was hanging around the farm was they had two male dogs and she was in heat. Anne Cassens was her first foster mom. Turner and Hoochie were in for a treat. Aruba was not saying no to Turner and this led to her first nicknames... the hussy, trollop and a few others not good for print. That was fine until she came down stairs with the cat in her mouth... unharmed but we needed to move her before the kitty got hurt - that was how she ended up as my foster.



Her next nicknames were houdini hound and escape artist. She could get out of crates and could go over gates and get out of rooms to trying to contain her.

When it came time to get her spayed. Dr. Peg called to say her heart sounded a little off and wanted to call an expert to check it out. She was diagnosed with Patent Ductus Arteriosus; she had two holes in her heart. She received a new surgery being performed at the U of M. They went through a small incision in her leg and implanted metal disks to close the holes. She was the 15th dog in the country to have this surgery and the last one in the trial group. She was the first recipient of the Heal a Hound Fund and also one of the factors in creating the Fund. The surgery was a success and her only restriction was she was not supposed to jump the fence. That lasted the first day and she was up and over... our 6' wooden fence. When Aruba would jump the fence you would run through the house to go catch her and she would be sitting on the front step waiting to come in. The only reason to jump the fence was... because she could.

Aruba was still a foster at this time and it became apparent it was time to adopt her! She has not jumped the fence in years. Well-placed shrubs and ropes strung along the top of the fence may have helped. She did dig a 5' trench to go under the fence and jumped thru the window screen one day and spent a day at the park. She is extremely motivated and will stop at nothing to get what she wants!



Now on to what really makes Aruba special... as if that was not enough. She is the sweetest, friendliest, happiest hound you will meet. She loves attention and treats and belly rubs and treats and hunting squirrels and treats. She is a master of manipulation at meet and greets. She can find the people who will give her a belly rubs. She goes out to greet them and slowly backs up and as they follow her she ends up on her back and will hook the arm if they try and stop petting her. She can read the word Petco because follows all the employees until they feed her. She just sits, wags her tails, and shakes hands until they give her a treat!!

It would be hard to talk about Aruba without talking about her trademark... her wagging tail. She uses her tail for many reasons... if she thinks you can see her she will wag her tail to make sure you know you can pet her. If she thinks you cannot see her but can hear her she will thump her tail on anything to make noise to make sure you know she is there and can pet her.

What makes her most special is when a new hound owner comes back from the meet and greet and says the reason we adopted a greyhound was because of Aruba. She got my wife to give her a belly rub and kept hooking her hand when she tried to stop that sealed the deal. Such a special hound!!



# 6th Annual Heal a Hound Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction

The fun-filled evening will open with the silent auction and cocktail hour running from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dinner buffet and desserts immediately following. The silent auction will include some terrific items for your bidding pleasure, including gift baskets, fine art, jewelry, gift certificates, and much more. We will have both greyhound and non-greyhound items, so invite your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, or anyone you know.

This is sure to be a fun and memorable evening. We hope to see you there! *PLEASE NOTE:* For humans only. Sorry, but we are not allowed to have hounds at this event.

If you have any questions about the event or if you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please feel free to contact Michael Horrigan at [healahound@gpa-mn.org](mailto:healahound@gpa-mn.org). Please see <http://gpa-mn.org/heal-a-hound-dinner.html> for more details!



Saturday, February 18th,  
2012

6:00 p.m. - Silent Auction and  
Cocktail Hour  
7:30 p.m. - Silent Auction Ends,  
Dinner Begins

Rose Vine Hall @ Grumpy's  
Roseville  
2801 Snelling Ave  
Roseville, MN 55113

## Charitable Contributions



In addition to helping GPA when you support the organization, you can also save tax dollars through deductions. Make sure to check with your tax advisor on your specific tax return, but in general, you can deduct for many things when you give to GPA.

Any money given directly to a 501(c) 3 organization such as GPA, your church, the Red Cross, etc., is deductible at 100%. So, if you donate \$100, you get a \$100 deduction off of your taxes for that tax year as a charitable contribution.

If you volunteer to help GPA at an event, such as Greyfest, Woofstock, gift wrapping, etc., you may deduct your mileage to and from the event. The IRS allows a standard mileage rate each year (in 2010 it was 14 cents per mile), but you must keep track of your mileage for each trip. I keep a small notebook in the car for this purpose. You can also deduct mileage if you bring your foster to the vet or to an adoption showing. If you host a Meet &

Greet, you are volunteering for GPA, and therefore get the mileage deduction. You cannot deduct mileage for attending Greyfest or a Meet & Greet. You must be a scheduled volunteer for the event to receive the deduction.

Other deductions can be found when purchasing silent auction items—but only if you pay more than the item is worth. If you were to purchase a pair of Twins tickets for \$200 at Heal a Hound in a fierce bidding war, and the face value of the pair of tickets is \$100, you may deduct the \$100 that is in excess of their face value. Unfortunately, you cannot deduct for purchasing raffle tickets, such as those bought at Greyfest. Games of chance are not tax deductible.

You also have a deduction when making items for the art & craft sale, but you can only deduct the amount of the materials used to make the project—not your time to make it. Your time is considered volunteering for the organization, and is not deductible.

Please use this only as a guideline, but know that when you help out volunteering for GPA or any other non-profit organization, you can also help yourself save some tax dollars.

If you are interested in getting any additional information, please contact your tax advisor or you can get a copy of IRS Publication 526 called “Charitable Contributions”, or download it for free at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

# February Hound of the Month - Louis Younk

David Younk

We adopted Louis in 2008. His racing name was R's Lucky Ace, but he didn't respond to the name so we rechristened him Louisville Ace Frehley's Comet Jensen. He really seems much more pleased with this. Louis is an outgoing, energetic hound who loves meeting new dogs and people.

He lives with David, Rebecca and Willa Younk, along with Max and Cree (the cat-safe test kitties) in the Victory neighborhood of Minneapolis where every day he goes on long walks on the Memorial Parkway. There are lots of other greyhounds in the neighborhood, and his buddy Helo (@helo\_the\_dog) is just a few doors down. Louis spends most of his day on the sofa in the front room. He is gaining weight from cleaning up the food children drop on the floor. Louis gives back by being a foster brother to GPA MN hounds. He shows them how to handle stairs, smooth floors, and how to eat really fast.

## Likes:

Leaning, Pig's Ears, Napping

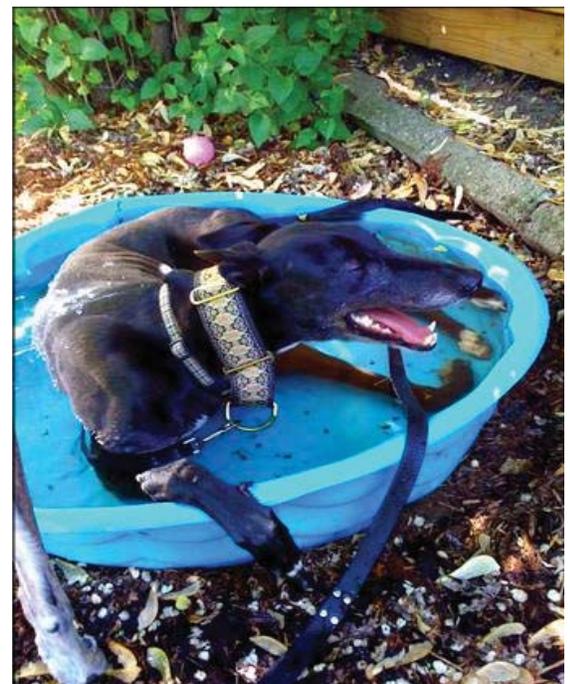
## Dislikes:

Coats, Boots, Car Rides

## Special Talents:

Can hear his master's car from one mile away, has NEVER dropped a treat

*Follow his adventures on Twitter @louisthegrey*



# The New GPA MN Forum

To support the growing number of participants in our greyhound community and to establish an online place for our community to call home, we are discontinuing the eList and will be moving to a brand new online Forum.

Some of you may be familiar with forums, as they are hosted by nearly every community that has an online presence. For those of you who are not familiar, an internet forum, also called a message board, is an online discussion site where people can hold conversations by way of posted messages. The messages are grouped according to their subject and you can post new messages and respond to messages posted by other members. A message board keeps conversations together and lets readers and contributors see the continuous chain of responses for a particular topic.

The forum will take the place of our current eList and will provide a structured and continuous neighborhood where we can stay in touch with each other in much the same way as we have with the eList.



## Benefits of Moving to the Forum

- Everyone will have complete control over what content they receive and what conversations they wish to participate in.
- Members can be as active as they wish by reading or participating in as much or as little they choose. You can subscribe to general areas or individual topic strings to receive instant notification of new topics are posted when someone responds to a post. You can also choose get digested messages on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.
- The forum is a permanent archive of topics discussed and will be completely searchable. Have a question about your hound? You can search to find conversation strings and answers to any conversation topic or question that has been posted on the Forum. You'll have easy access to the wealth of information contained within the forum postings.

## How a Forum is Organized

- Within the main Forum there are a set of pre-defined sub-forums that are assigned a specific topic. We invite you to post your questions or comments according to the most relevant topic.
- Within each sub-forum are an unlimited number of threads. A thread is a string of postings or messages that all relate to the same original message. When you reply directly to a posted message, it becomes part of that message thread.
- If you wish to send a new message with a new topic, you can create a new thread within the most relevant sub-forum. People can then respond directly to your message and all the corresponding messages remain tied together as a thread.

We hope you enjoy this new platform and find it to be a great community enhancement!

### How to Join the Forum

The best way to experience the forum is to visit the site and see what it's all about. You must register before you are allowed to post, but it's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

- 1 – Visit <http://forum.gpa-mn.org> to complete registration and select a screen name.
- 2 – Choose whether you want to receive an email notification when someone posts to the forum. You can choose to receive notifications for postings to any or all of the sub-forums, either as individual messages or digest style.
- 3 – Join in the community conversation fun!

If you ever have questions about how to use our Forum, check out the Forum FAQ.

# January 2012 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 2 p.m.

## January 1

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

## January 7

Meet & Greets:

- Coon Rapids 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Richfield 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

## January 8

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

## January 14

Meet & Greets

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

## January 15

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

Meet & Greet:

- Mankato 1 to 4 p.m.

## January 21

Meet & Greets:

- Highland 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Chaska 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- Fridley 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## January 22

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

## January 28

Meet & Greets

- Maplewood 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

## January 29

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

Meet & Greets

- Urbananimal Mpls 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

# February 2012 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 2 p.m.

## February 4

Meet & Greets

- Coon Rapids 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Richfield 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

## February 5

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

## February 8

Dinner with Dogs

## February 11

Meet & Greets

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

## February 12

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

MN Swarm Game 2 p.m.

## February 18

Meet & Greets

- Fridley 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - Chaska 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- Heal a Hound Dinner 6 p.m.



## February 19

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

Meet & Greet

- Mankato 1 to 4 p.m.

## February 25

Meet & Greets

- Highland 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Maplewood 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

## February 26

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

Meet & Greets

- Urbananimal Mpls 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 Website

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

## GPA MN's Forum

The forum will take the place of our current eList. To join, visit <http://forum.gpa-mn.org> to complete registration and select a screen name.

## GPA Today

If you are currently subscribed to the discontinued GPA eList, you will be automatically subscribed to GPA Today. If you're not currently subscribed, visit our new website to subscribe under Follow Us.

## 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://www.gpa-mn.org/newsletter.html>.

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.

Greyfest Save the Date: Saturday, June 9th 2012



## Greyhound Pets of America Minnesota

P.O. Box 18312 | Minneapolis, MN 55418  
763-785-4000 | [newsletter@gpa-mn.org](mailto:newsletter@gpa-mn.org)  
[www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org)

 [facebook.com/gpamn](https://www.facebook.com/gpamn)

 [twitter.com/gpamn](https://twitter.com/gpamn)

## Special Thanks

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

### Meet & Greet Locations:

#### PETCO Stores

- Burnsville
- Chaska
- Coon Rapids
- Eden Prairie
- Fridley
- Highland Park
- Maplewood
- St. Cloud
- Woodbury

#### Pet Expo Mankato

Urbanimal Minneapolis

Urbanimal Saint Paul

### Our Participating GPA MN Vets:

Blaine Area Pet Hospital, 763-754-2131  
Brooklyn Park Animal Hospital, 763-566-6000  
Chanhassen Veterinary Clinic, 952-934-8862  
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital, 651-768-0200  
Minnesota Valley Pet Hospital, 507-345-5900  
Rivertown Animal Hospital, 651-430-2229

## Waiting at the Bridge

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

Indy, Shannon and Mark Dmytryszyn

