



GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA MINNESOTA

Home Stretch

Winter Recap/Spring Preview 2013

Volume 34, Issue 1

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Heal-A-Hound Success

Mark a big win for the hounds! Heal-A-Hound 2013 was a record-breaking success! Not only did the event quickly sell out of tickets, but this annual fundraiser was able to attract a record number of donations. After expenses, the proceeds from the silent auction, ticket sales, and donations nearly exceed \$7,000.00 for several deserving hounds.



Greyhound supporters of all stripes came together to stock the silent auction with a bevy of greyt gear, hound art, local business gift certificates, and handmade crafts. Snoods, winter jackets, theatre tickets, private in-home chef created dinners, comfy dog beds, craft beers, jewelry, Gopher hockey tickets and two large phalenopsis orchids were just a few of the many items up for bidding.



The Heal-A-Hound Dinner is the annual fundraising event which raises money to help finance the Heal-A-Hound Fund. The Heal-A-Hound Fund is a permanent fund dedicated to paying for the veterinary care of incoming hounds with special medical needs. GPA MN is recognized as a regional resource for providing medical care to special needs hounds. This was the 7th annual Heal-A-Hound Dinner and Auction.

Thank you to all who attended, contributed, and bid on the auction items. It is with your support that the Heal-A-Hound Fund and GPA MN are able to deliver the special medical care that our special hounds need to lead full and healthy lives. You can contribute to the Heal-A-Hound Fund year round by visiting www.gpa-mn.org.



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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Heal-A-Hound Hounds of 2013

Meet the hounds who will receive specialized medical care because of the Heal-A-Hound Fund.

Deja Blue came to GPA MN with a ruptured Achilles mechanism. Unfortunately, this is not a surgically treatable condition. Rather, Deja Blue required a custom brace to hold his leg in place to prevent further damage. Treatment of his injury also requires plasma injections to help promote healing in the injured area. GPA MN was able to provide Deja Blue with this unique and extensive care because of the Heal-A-Hound Fund.



Thunder came to GPA MN after suffering a seizure. Upon arriving, the seizures continued, including 10 in a 24 hour period. Thunder spent two days in emergency care in order to get his cluster seizures under control. The medication required to control the seizures has cost of \$2,000.00 so far. Thunder, however, is responding well to the treatment. This 2-year old has a new lease on life thanks to the Heal-A-Hound Fund.



Flash is a three year old who came to GPA MN when a rear hock fracture ended his racing career. Flash needed the help of an orthopedic surgeon to set the bone and manage pressure sore issues. He has also required rehabilitation services to fit a brace and strengthen his leg. The Heal-A-Hound Fund helped to cover his specialist visits, rehab, casts, brace and medication. It was all worth it though as Flash is now walking quite well with his forever family.



Eddie is a unique hound for GPA MN. He is only six months old! He came to GPA MN after breaking his leg. The vet advised that Eddie would need surgery to correct the injury, but the window for a successful surgery would remain open for only a few days more. With the help of Heal-A-Hound, GPA MN was able to pay for the emergency surgery. Eddie is now recovering, going to therapy, and working to strengthen his leg.

Come to "Walk the Twins Game"

Got a hound who loves baseball? Or maybe a hound who loves new and exciting places? Consider bringing him or her to the Walk the Twins Game on Sunday, April 28th. From 12pm to 1pm (an hour before gametime) we will meet outside of the stadium to meet and greet all the game attendees! Everyone loves seeing our beautiful hounds before a little baseball. For more details, contact Lori Rasmussen at ourmustang@comcast.net.

Sunday, April 28th
12pm to 1pm
Outside the Twins Stadium

GPA MN 2013 Board of Directors

Lisa Quast, President & Greyfest Coordinator president@gpa-mn.org

My involvement with GPA MN began when we brought Gracie into our family in 2003 and Hobbes in 2004. They have been followed by many fosters since then. For the past seven years I have held a variety of positions on the board, most recently serving as President of our chapter since 2009. I am also the Greyfest Coordinator and an Adoption Rep. Prior to my role as President, I held the positions of Vice President and Fundraising Coordinator during which time I worked to establish and expand the very successful Heal a Hound Dinner fundraiser, celebrating its seventh year this coming spring. At my 'day job' I am a Training Manager for Siemens Hearing Instruments. We also recently expanded our pack by 2 feet when we welcomed our son, William, in September of 2012.



Nicole Middlecamp, Vice President vicepresident@gpa-mn.org

I have been on the board since 2007 serving as the Foster Coordinator and also as the Vice President. I've been involved with GPA since 2005 when we got our party girl, Mardi Gras. I most enjoy working with the hauls and placing the hounds into foster homes. My husband Dan and I have two children under 3 - Willem and Madelyn - and 2 grey girls, Mardi Gras and Sadie. I enjoy traveling with my dogs and we all enjoy going up to the North Shore twice a year to hike and relax.



Kate Friedrichs, Treasurer treasurer@gpa-mn.org

My husband and I adopted Lotus (O Ya Glenda) from GPA in early 2012. She was a foster "failure"; as soon as we met her, we knew this was the home for her. Lotus loves playing with Syd (staghound) and antagonizing Roxy (dachshund/rat terrier). We have actively volunteered with several local dog rescue groups over the years, but I was greatly moved by GPA's mission and dedication to the welfare of these hounds. My experience in my day job is finance/accounting, and I am currently employed in the corporate finance function for a large public company here in the Twin Cities.



Michael Horrigan, Secretary secretary@gpa-mn.org

I first starting fostering in May of 2003, and I've fallen totally in love with the greyhound ever since. Over time I have become more and more involved with this organization by participating in local meet and greets and any greyhound promotional events we attend. In 2009 I ran for election to the GPA MN board. During my first year I helped organize the Lost Hound Network which allows us to help quickly reach out to as many individuals as possible to help in the search for a hound that has become loose. I have also held the public relations and media coordinator position, helping us to start advertising our core message to a larger audience.



2013 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
- Kate Friedrichs: Treasurer, Merchandise
- Michael Horrigan: Secretary, Heal a Hound, Lost Hound Network
- Curt Carter: External Relations, Heal a Hound
- Heather Everhart: External Relations Coordinator, Grant Writing
- Lori Rasmussen: Special Events, Volunteers
- Seth Tryninewski: Newsletter Coordinator

Visit our website to learn more about our board members

Additional Contributors

- Barb Gates Schaben: Adoption Coordinator, Newsletter Editor
- Teri Petrin: Adoption Representative (Chippers)
- Paula Ross: Adoption Representative
- Sylvia Kresal: Meet & Greet Coordinator
- Luana Ball: Vetting and Haul Supplies Coordinator
- Estella Eckart: Art & Craft Sale
- Kari Keller: Lost Hound Network

Curt Carter, Heal a Hound, Membership Liaison, External Relations

healahound@gpa-mn.org externalrelations@gpa-mn.org

I am a former chef, restaurateur and salesperson with a BS in Marketing. I have a lifelong love of dogs, having raised Akitas and Norwegian Elkhounds in the past. My first exposure to Greyhounds was five years ago - I began dating Jeanine who had adopted Zoe, a sweet brindle GPA MN girl. Two years ago we decided it was time to chip and adopted Elvis, a handsome and very social boy from the Florida tracks. With the addition of Elvis, I felt it was time to become more active in GPA MN. My first efforts were donating auction items incorporating my chef's skills (shrimp boils and dinner parties) to Heal a Hound and Greyfest. Over the past two years, I have been active in meet & greets, the Lost Hound Network (participating in several search efforts), and volunteered at events. I have been actively working with current board members in developing new fundraising ideas, and will use my background in this area to continue to raise money for GPA MN. I also look forward to using my marketing and promotion experience to benefit GPA MN's quest to educate the public that retired racers make excellent pets.



Heather Everhart, External Relations Coordinator externalrelations@gpa-mn.org

My family adopted Stella (MN Monthly Pet Issue Cover Girl 12/2009!) in the fall of 2008. I began my term on the board in January of 2011. I am the External Relations Coordinator, telling the story of GPA MN through marketing, development, community partnerships, and social media. I also serve as the raffle coordinator for Greyfest. Greyhounds aside, I'm an artist and work as an administrative consultant, supporting other artists and creative small businesses in their work and studio practices.



Caprice Niccoli-Waller, Returns Coordinator and Assistant Haul/ Foster Coordinator

I have been a contributing member of GPA since March 2010 when my family adopted Lilly, a 3.5 year-old racer and brood mama. Since that time we have regularly participated in meet & greets and GASSY walks and have volunteered at many promotional events. I began my term on the GPA Board in January 2013. When not working for greyhounds, I'm a supervising instructor at the University of Minnesota. I am also an active PTA member at my son's elementary school, serving on fund-raising committees and providing on-going assistance with school-wide and classroom activities.



Lori Rasmussen, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@gpa-mn.org

My husband Dan and I adopted our first greyhound, Vinny, right after our youngest child graduated from high school over 5 years ago... we needed to fill the void as empty-nesters. Once we had a greyhound, the next logical step was to get involved! We started by driving on a haul and fostering. Since I still had time to give, we adopted another dog, Tommy. I decided to run for the Board, since it was another way I could give back to GPA. I love planning and partying, so it was natural that I would become the Event Coordinator. I try to find new ways for us to gather together with our hounds (such as Dinner with Dogs and adding new events to our calendar, etc.) Vinny has since passed on, and Sugar is now part of our family and keeps Tommy on his toes. We have fostered close to 30 hounds, and absolutely LOVE seeing the faces of the new adopters when they get their first greyhound. It is very rewarding.



Seth Tryniewski, Newsletter Coordinator newsletter@gpa-mn.org

Our family was first introduced to greyhounds and the great work of GPA-MN when we adopted Kiowa in January 2010. It took some time, but the shy and aloof Kiowa grew into the ultimate social butterfly who loves cuddling and helping out with calf chores. Ollie Bean, and his stoic calmness, came along in September 2011 and has been catching the eyes of passerby's with his movie-star looks ever since. While originally from Pennsylvania, Minnesota has been home since moving here in 2005. I live in St. Paul with my fiancé Matthew Ladwig. You will catch us (and the hounds) splitting our time between the Twin Cities and Mattie's farm in Albert Lea. While Blake and Kiowa love their couches, these two equally love the farm with its cows, wildlife and pastures (fenced in, of course) to explore.



December Hound of the Month - Flaco

Estella Eckart



My boy Flaco was my first American family member. My husband Patrick will argue this point, but the reality is that I signed Flaco's adoption paperwork before I signed the marriage license. I always say that I fell in love with two Americans, one from Iowa and one from Minnesota. When we first saw "What you doing now" (his racing name) at Petco for the first time, my mom's comment was "My God he is so skinny". So we named him Flaco, Spanish for skinny.

Flaco was the perfect dog since day one, honestly he was so easy. Now, I have come to learn it does not work this way with every dog. I am glad he was our first experience, since he was also my first dog. His only fault was his love for human food. He was a counter surfer to the max.

He loved when we d entertain because he knew tons of food would be at his disposal. His love relationship with food started when he found a bag of marshmallows that my mom was using to make the frosting for our wedding cake. After a long day of prepping we went to bed and he would not stop winning. After several minutes of trying to figure out what was happening, I opened the door and said show me what you want... and he rushed to get more of his fantastic find. Since that day marshmallows became his favorite thing in life.

I also remember a Christmas Eve here at my house, he was able to grab the full ham from the table. The funny thing is that he did not try to hide it. He went to join the rest of the party and decided to have his ham in front of all the guests. We could not stop laughing.

Flaco was an easy going mellow boy. His best friend and sister Lotte is totally the opposite. She had the ability of getting the wild and crazy out of him. I even remember a crazy time when she jumped the fence and he just followed. After that time I learned to recognize the way they started looking at each other when they were ready to go wild. It was great to see them play. To this day I still do not know if there was an alpha here. It always seemed that if one dog was sick or not feeling well, then that dog could use the best bed, get all the attention, have extra treat..very interesting how good Lotte and Flaco were to each other.

My gentle giant was also very handsome. Never seen a cuter pair of ears. Perfectly pointy. He was a very elegant boy. I always joked that he was missing his bow tie and his cigar and that if he could talk he would have a British accent. His long and lean silhouette was always waiting for me at the top of the stairs when I would arrive from work. He never barked, but he would start howling and jumping until I would make it all the way up.

I believe Flaco made me a more compassionate and connected human being. He taught me about patience, about living in the moment and to enjoy simple things in life. Through him I also got to experience the feeling of grief and loss.

On Presidents' Day, Flaco went to his forever forever home. In a matter of four weeks a very fast growing cancer took my boy away. I took a lot of time off work during his last days. Every day he had a choice of meals. I would make him chicken, salmon or beef and let him pick. We got to a point that only marshmallows or ham would make it. He loved to spoon, but he would not come to my bed; I had to go to his bed. He also loved his walks, even on his last day he would not say no to a walk. We were lucky enough that he let us know when it was his time. I miss him terribly.

For days I would call my sisters in Colombia and cry and cry until one day my youngest sister said to me: Estella you are a very spiritual person, please look beyond your grief and find the legacy of Flaco in your life. How did he make you a better person and how are you going to help others. I took her words to heart and decided to get involved with the organization and started by fostering. I wish I had done it before, but it's never too late. He was a wonderful dog and perhaps the best ambassador greyhounds as a whole could find.



January Hound of the Month - Faye and Danny

Shawn Kinney

When deciding to adopt a Greyhound, I did exactly what I wasn't supposed to do and picked a picture. So I was thrilled when the phone call came that we were matched with O Ya Faye. Faye came to live with us October 1, 2011 and she was perfect. Five of Faye's litter mates became available when we weren't quite ready for a second, so we let them pass us by. But then one day, O Ya Danny Boy came back around. I found out that Danny had had a rough start. Greg and I made the decision to bring him into our home. Dan and Faye reunited for the first time in Dan's foster parents' backyard. Dan promptly peed on Faye. This began their life together!



Dan quickly bonded to Faye and relied on her experience. They had their disagreements like siblings do, but those were few and far between. Mostly it is just deciding who gets the majority of the back seat of the car. They sleep snuggled up together and share the same food dish at supper time. Dan always seemed like he was waiting for the bottom to fall out of his bucket. He didn't really play at first and followed us everywhere. But after three months, he has finally started to come out of his shell with his sister's help. Faye got Dan to start playing and taught Dan how to be a dog in our home. Dan has discovered his favorite toy: Squeaky tennis balls! Faye is content to let him have those and prefers toys of the stuffed variety. They get to play at the dog park on nice days. If they are the only two dogs there, they chase each other and run like mad! If there are others to play with, then Faye and Dan team up and chase the other dogs. But they are always working together.



The similarities in our hounds are amazing but it is the differences that stand out. Faye is an independent and likes some alone time. Dan would never be alone if he had it his way. Not much surprises Faye. She adapts to every situation like she has done them all a million times. At Greyfest 2012, Faye was laying in the grass with the other hounds when a motorcycle started up. All the hounds, except Faye, were startled by the sound. Faye remained laying in the grass on her side until we all started laughing, then she lifted her head to let us know we were disturbing her nap. Dan would have been across the fairgrounds before you could say boo! If they were people, Dan would be considered a romantic but maybe a bit neurotic. Faye would be classified as a bit spacey, but strong and independent. But both of them are very loving and have so much heart.

These two hounds have brought so much to our lives. In return, we love to give them everything. Some might even say they are spoiled, but I have no idea what they are talking about!

Support GPA MN

GPA MN is an all-volunteer organization whose mission of finding forever homes for the world's best hounds is made possible because of supporters like you. In appreciation of your support, we have created tiered membership levels with special benefits for supporters who make significant financial contributions to GPA MN's efforts.

Please visit www.gpa-mn.org/membership-levels.html to learn how you can make a gift – either as a one time donation or as a sustaining monthly contribution – to help us continue to bring hounds home.

President's Circle Sustainer

\$100 Monthly Donation

President's Circle Member

\$1000+ Annual Donation

Thank You Gift:

President's Dinner with
GPA President & Board Members
+GPA Logo Fleece or Logo Polo Shirt
+Baseball Cap & Tote Bag

Champion's Club Sustainer

\$50 Monthly Donation

Champion's Club Member

\$500-\$999 Annual Donation

Thank You Gift:

GPA Logo Fleece or Logo Polo Shirt
+ Haul Participant: Welcome hounds to GPA MN
when they arrive on the haul
+Baseball Cap & Tote Bag

Pack Leader Sustainer

\$25 Monthly Donation

Pack Leader Member

\$250-\$499 Annual Donation

Thank You Gift:

Baseball Cap & Tote Bag

Fast Friend Sustainer

\$10 Monthly Donation

Fast Friend Member

\$100-\$249 Annual Donation

Thank You Gift

Baseball Cap or Tote Bag

Recent Adoptions

Meri Firpo, Ivan
Kimberly and Norman Olson, Flower
Michael Horrigan, Hunk
Sherri Saunders, Morgan
Audrey Beckstrom and Gary Harkin, Haley
Curt Carter and Jeanine Krier, Priscilla
Marlo Welshons and Jim Proefrock, Hambone
Janice and Chris Becker, River
Deb and Cary Holl, Brandy
Gabriel Gryffyn and Rob Winthoff, Faline
Lena Hyatt, Rocky
Amy and John Gaspard, Flash

Randy Atkins, Hollie
Jill and Mike Paul, Karl
Judy Triplett, Thane
Robin Berry and Denise Tabet, Foxy
Judi Marie and Mitch Ringe, Hayley
Erin Madsen and Joshua Stuckey, Sunset
Adam Wig and Nicole Ferrie-Wig, Blue
Jeremy Goldman and Cara Erickson, Oshi
Dani and Mike Richards, Swinger
Jeffrey and Linda Raines, Madden
Elizabeth Jenner, Eddie

February Hound of the Month - Abby

Scott Jackson

When I purchased my home last year, one of my first priorities was to get a dog. I knew I wanted something with size, but not a breed that would be too energetic or high maintenance. When I described what I was looking for, people recommended I get a cat (no way) or a greyhound. I had never even considered the breed, and like most people I just assumed they would be really energetic and demanding.

I decided it would be only fair to see the breed for myself before deciding. I went to a meet and greet in Richfield and was pleasantly surprised. I found greyhounds to be very calm and friendly. I finally decided to go through with the application process. When Lori brought over "O Ya Kimmy Chiz" I thought two things – that's a pretty big female (she's settled in at around 75 pounds), and there's no way I'm keeping that name. A week later I welcomed Abby into my home. We spent that first weekend in front of the television watching coverage of hurricane Irene.

Abby has been a joy in my life, and I can't imagine being without her. She always gets so excited when I get home, when she sees a treat or hears the word outside or car. When she's not sleeping, she enjoys showing off her strong prey drive. It could be a small dog, rabbit, cat, or even a floating plastic bag that grabs her attention. She also gets many compliments on her striking features – a beautiful red fawn with very distinctive facial markings. We attend as many GPA events as we can, and she's always very popular. I'm very grateful to GPA for uniting us, and for their continued support after adoption.



Fall and Winter Donations to GPA MN

Robyn & Steve Etzell Abear	Meri Firpo	James Kuehn	John & Lisa Quast
Jennfier & Jason Aluni	Chad & Leslie Gale	Brent & Cori LaGree	Emilie Quast
Ameriprise Financial	Leah Gannon	Land O' Lakes Kennel	Jen & Doug Rachac
Janice Becker	Noah Goldsmith	Show Donors	Daniel & Lori Rasmussen
Audrey G. Beckstrom	GoodSearch	Nashell Loran	Judi Marie Ringe
Bradley Berrington	Greyhound Angel Network	Laura Lovell	Jeri L. Rowley
Rosalie Bloom	Gabriel Feyd Gryffyn	Laura Mack	Erik T. Runthruft
Book Wrapping Customers	Dana Halvorson	Edward & Alice Mall	Sarah Beth Photography
Suzanne Borthwick	Suzanne Harnish	George & Diane Martin	Sherrie Saunders
Jodi Brunner	Michael Harten	Barbara Matott	Linda Schmitt
Roger F. Burg	Karen Hawkinson	Meet & Greet Donors	Robin Schutt
Marla Burke	Kathryn & Gary Heller	Joseph Mikolic	Lili M. Zubar Sitka
Burnsville Petco Adoption Event	Gary & Deborah Holl	Missionfish	Bob & Lonnie Skrentner
Curt Carter	Michael Horrigan	Melinda Moran	Henry Slotnick
Edward Chapman	Amanda & Martin	Morgan Stanley	Karen Spence
Walter & Martha Cleveland	Blumenfeld Horton	Katherine Moulds	Susan Starr
Comic-Con Attendees	Janet Hughes	Jones M. Moynihan	State Fair Adoption Event
Kevin Davy	Kay Hunt	Mt. Olivet Careview Home	Carol Steenson
Jennifer de Fiebre	Elizabeth Germon & James Ignaut	Chauntae & Steven Nichols	Mary & Paul Sticha
Deluxe Corporation	Jingle Bell Walk	O. Ya Greyhounds	Samuel Sveeggen
Leah Dvorak & Cory Dingels	Kimberley Jones	Kimberly & Norman Olson	Christopher Thielen
Mark Downey	Stephen Jones	Park Midway Bank	Judith Triplett
Estella & Patrick Eckart	Victoria Jones	Jill & Michael Paul	United Health Group
Susannah Eckberg	Tracy Keeling	Ellen Ghere Paulus	Pat Walsh
Lisa & Mike Edmundson	Kari(c) Keller	PetCo Foundation	Gregory Wood
Christina Enger	Mary Kellerman	Petrins	WoofStock Customers
Cara Erickson	Kennel Club Dog Show	Michele & Christopher Peukert	Morgan Wylie
Heather Everhart	Jeanine M. Krier	Pug Rescue Event	Shannon & Greg Yardley
			Kathryn Zumberge

The Greyt Minnesota Get Together: Greyfest at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds!

GREYFEST JUNE 8 2013 MN STATE FAIR



Greyfest is GPA MN's biggest event of the year!

Loved by hounds and humans alike, Greyfest is always a great day of fun, camaraderie, and tons of hounds!!! This annual event honors our retired hounds and helps us raise funds to support our mission of finding forever homes for retired racing greyhounds.

Where will Greyfest be this year?

This year Greyfest is returning to the MN State Fair Grounds. The Empire Commons building (aka "The Dairy Building") provides a great indoor space for us to come together and enjoy everything that Greyfest has to offer. There is also ample outdoor space for enjoying the weather outside if you so desire. The fair grounds are centrally located, parking is free, and getting to the Empire Commons building is a snap.

What is Greyfest about?

Socializing! Great Vendors! The Raffle! The day includes socializing with friends (both the human and the hound varieties), opportunities to purchase great merchandise from a wide variety of vendors, delicious food, contests, photo opportunities, and the always popular HUGE Raffle Drawing featuring great greyhound and non-greyhound items like gift certificates, beautiful baskets of goodies, art, and more!

Who can come to Greyfest?

While Greyfest is an event that features a huge number of greyhounds, we welcome everyone to join the festivities even if you don't have a greyhound. Best of all: Admission is FREE!

Speed Alley is back!

Your hounds can do a straight-line run approximately 150 feet down Speed Alley and we'll be capturing their speed by radar gun. Each run is \$3 per hound. Fastest 3 receive trophies!

Sarah Beth Photography will also be on hand to capture images of the hounds running down Speed Alley, and the photos will be available for purchase after the event, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting GPA MN.

Where can I get more details?

Check the website as the date approaches for more details about Greyfest 2013. There will also be a special section in upcoming newsletter with additional Greyfest details.

March Hound of the Month - Bootsie

Diane Martin

On Friday morning, January 11, around 4:00am, our hound Bootsie wanted to go out to go potty. My husband George heard her first... that's how we work it! I fell back asleep and thought I was dreaming... I heard this horrible howl. Next thing I know, George is calling me to the door, he was holding Bootsie and said "I think she broke her leg!" We helped her over to the sofa. George sat down and helped her stand while I called the emergency vet to say we were coming over (I should go back and mention that the day before it had rained almost all day and then over night it got down to freezing).



She likes to go around the yard once or twice after she does her business. We investigated the area later in the morning and discovered she had been chasing a rabbit! There was fur all over the fence, but no rabbit. We're not sure exactly how she went down, but with the new glaze over her grassy path, she broke her back left leg (and did a really good job of it, I might add).

We met with the surgeon around 7:30am and he showed us the x-ray on his laptop. He opened the conversation by saying, "Well folks, this is a really big deal!" She fractured her left proximal tibia, fibula and tibial tuberosity. That's like her knee and the tendons below it!!



She had surgery later that day, they grafted bone from her shoulder as well, and now has pins and rods in her leg and she has a metal contraption that goes through her leg holding it together for 8 to 12 weeks. We haven't seen that part yet because it's always covered with bandages. The day after her surgery, we went to see her. She was pretty doped up so I'm not sure if she even knew it was us. Later that day, she was going to get her bandage changed and they say she started "flaying" and tore loose a couple of the pins inside so... on Monday they went back in and fixed those!

Also, the original surgery on the skinny bone didn't take so they tried to fix that again. Not very successful. Somewhere down the road, that will be looked at again.

In the mean time, the main part is healing nicely. We had her in this last Tuesday the 22nd for a bandage check and a couple of the pins were protruding so they kept her a few hours to fix that up. Now, she doesn't have the bandage all around her leg, it's just over the metal thingy. We can see the whole incision, it looks to be healing nicely. She was in the hospital for 4 days. Now that she's home, we live a whole new lifestyle. She can't be left alone because she's only walking on the 3 good legs for the most part. We have her confined to our dining room. We brought in our spare twin mattress and we take turns sleeping in there with her so we can hear her at night. George made a sling with handles on it to put under her tummy so we can help guide her when she goes out to go potty. We put her coat, her boots and her sling on every time! Of course, it couldn't be a colder winter, could it? Unfortunately for us, once she gets outside, she doesn't want to come back in!!

She misses her daily walks with George for a couple miles everyday! She's still on a few meds every day. For the first week and a half, I got up at midnight and 2:00am to give her meds. We don't go anywhere together at this time because one of us always has to be home with her. But we don't mind, we love her to pieces!! (no pun intended) Plus, it was her 5th birthday on Thursday and she got presents and cards from friends... as well as the get-well cards and presents. You'd think she was a movie star or something... or maybe she is!!

It's going to be a long journey for Bootsie...and us. If we could just help explain to her why she can't go anywhere!! I don't know if anyone else has back yard with an incline like ours but there's almost no way to stop a hound from running once they start! I hope no one else has to go through this with any of their pets, but I will tell you... it's quite the bonding experience! We've included a few pictures. Hopefully you all will have a safe and fun winter... it's not anywhere near over!

April Hound of the Month - Lily

Caprice Niccoli-Waller

Lilly's story is also our story. For you to fully understand the value of our lives together, I must tell you about what came before. It was January 2010, and my husband and I and our 5 year-old son were wandering through the noisy and fragrant throngs of man and canine at the annual Land-O-Lakes Dog Show at River Center. We had come to look at whippets and mingle with their breeders in the hopes of securing a puppy. Our family had just emerged from an 8-year relationship with an adopted dog for whom our many years of companionship and training had not succeeded in helping him past his mistrust and aggression to everyone other than my husband and me. The sad conclusion to our lives together, after our son was twice bitten, was re-homing. We were disappointed, guilt-ridden, heart-broken and afraid to take in another rescue.



Our family was doing its homework this time. We had taken books out of the library and searched online, looking for dog breeds that matched what we had to offer and what we desired. Ten years earlier I had encountered a group of greyhounds at a meet and greet and was so struck by their beauty and gentle nature that I was still talking about them a decade later. But greyhounds were mostly available through adoption as adults and we were afraid to try this route again. So, there I was standing by the dog-show performance ring watching whippets and hoping that raising a dog and child together would bring a happy ending. My concentration was suddenly broken by, Mom, Mom! You have to come see! They have your favorite dogs here! My son was referring to the retired greyhounds at the GPA booth.



We visited, we petted, we were leaned on, we were told about the fostering program and matching of dog to adopting family, we fell in love, we filled out an application, we read more books, we pined, we stalked meet-and-greets and web videos, and finally in February... we met Lilly (then My Sweet Face). She eagerly pulled her foster dad up our front steps, dying to get through the front door to explore (a trait both endearing and enduring to this day). Her coat was winter thick, white as snow, and smooth as butter. She was courteous to us all, but her heart was clearly stolen by our son. She wagged her tail at him and kept a concerned eye on him when he left the room. When he reappeared brandishing a cardboard sword and whooping like a banshee, she was calm as can be. She had recently left her own puppies; she had seen it all before and to prove it, she lay down and took a nap.

What started as boot camp --- training, confining, strict routine --- (I had not just read the books I had studied them) eventually dissolved into lounging, snacking, massaging, and wherever and for as long as you please sleeping. In other words, our home was transformed from boot camp to spa. Lilly prefers her dry food enhanced and likes to sleep late. She is a morning canine, waking cheerfully and, though never cross, needing a little more space at night. She puts herself to bed, but does not sleep until her bedtime cookie has arrived. She loves outings and visitors, greeting people with facial sniffing that most find too intimate. Fresh snow makes her frolic. For yellow snow, our elegant princess will bury her entire snout and savagely snort. She greets us after partings whether long or brief, with joyous tail wagging, circle running, and a startling drop to the floor for a pet. She sleeps by us, follows us, and travels up north with us. She has bonded us to her and more closely to each other. We can hardly remember when we existed without her.

March 2013 Calendar of Events

Gassy Walk Sundays at 2 pm. Weather permitting, meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or the Como Lakeside Pavilion at 2 pm.

March 2

Meet & Greets:

- Coon Rapids 11 am to 1 pm
- Richfield 12 pm to 2 pm

March 3

Gassy Walks 2 pm

March 9

Meet & Greets

- Eden Prairie 12 pm to 2 pm
- Burnsville 12 pm to 2 pm
- Woodbury 11 am to 1 pm

March 10

Meet & Greets

- St. Paul Pet Supply 11 am to 1 pm

Gassy Walks 2 pm

March 16

Meet & Greets:

- Fridley 11 am to 1 pm
- Chaska 12 pm to 2 pm

March 17

Gassy Walks 2 pm

Meet & Greets

- Mankato Pet Expo 1 pm to 4 pm

March 23

Twin Cities Pet Expo 9 am to 6 pm

Meet & Greets

- Highland Park 11 am to 1 pm
- Maplewood 12 pm to 2 pm

March 24

Twin Cities Pet Expo 10 am to 5 pm

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

March 31

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

April 2013 Calendar of Events

Gassy Walk Sundays at 2 pm. Weather permitting, meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or the Como Lakeside Pavilion at 2 pm.

April 6

Meet & Greets:

- Coon Rapids 11 am to 1 pm
- Richfield 12 pm to 2 pm

April 7

Gassy Walks 2 pm

April 13

Meet & Greets

- Eden Prairie 12 pm to 2 pm
- Burnsville 12 pm to 2 pm
- Woodbury 11 am to 1 pm

April 14

Gassy Walks 2 pm

April 20

Meet & Greets:

- Fridley 11 am to 1 pm
- Chaska 12 pm to 2 pm

April 21

Gassy Walks 2 pm

April 27

Meet & Greets

- Highland Park 11 am to 1 pm
- Maplewood 12 pm to 2 pm

April 28

Walk The Twins Game 12 pm to 1 pm

Gassy Walks 2 pm

Meet & Greets

- Urbanimal Mpls 11 am to 1 pm

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

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 are 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 or leave this information on the GPA MN phone line which is 763.785.4000.



Greyhound Pets of America Minnesota

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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
- Richfield
- St. Cloud
- Woodbury

Pet Expo Mankato

Urbanimal Minneapolis

Saint Paul Pet Supply

Our Participating GPA MN Vets:

Blaine Area Pet Hospital, 763-754-2131
Brookdale Animal Hospital, 763-560-6906
Brooklyn Park Animal Hospital, 763-566-6000
Chanhassen Veterinary Clinic, 952-934-8862
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital, 651-768-0200
Grand Avenue Veterinary Center, 651-224-3038
Minnesota Valley Pet Hospital, 507-345-5900
Rivertown Animal Hospital, 651-430-2229
Twin Cities Animal Rehab Clinic, 952-224-9354

Waiting at the Bridge

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

Jazzie – Dani Richards and Family
Copperkettle Ron - Barger Family
Jacki - Chris King
Gracie - John and Lisa Quast
Angie the White - Ann Moe
Gordon - Jill and Mike Paul
Ginger - Judy Triplett
Alimony - Aimee and Stuart finley
Kodi - Nancy and Bryan Rittenhouse
Zoe - Jeanine Krier and Curt Carter
Cash - Shannon Morrissey and Adam Moehler
Crash - Brian Clark

