

GREYHOUND UPDATE



A NEWSLETTER FROM THE NATIONAL GREYHOUND ADOPTION PROGRAM
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Dewey Beach Special Edition

Greyhound Pets of America VS. National Greyhound Adoption Program Really not a War but a Philosophy

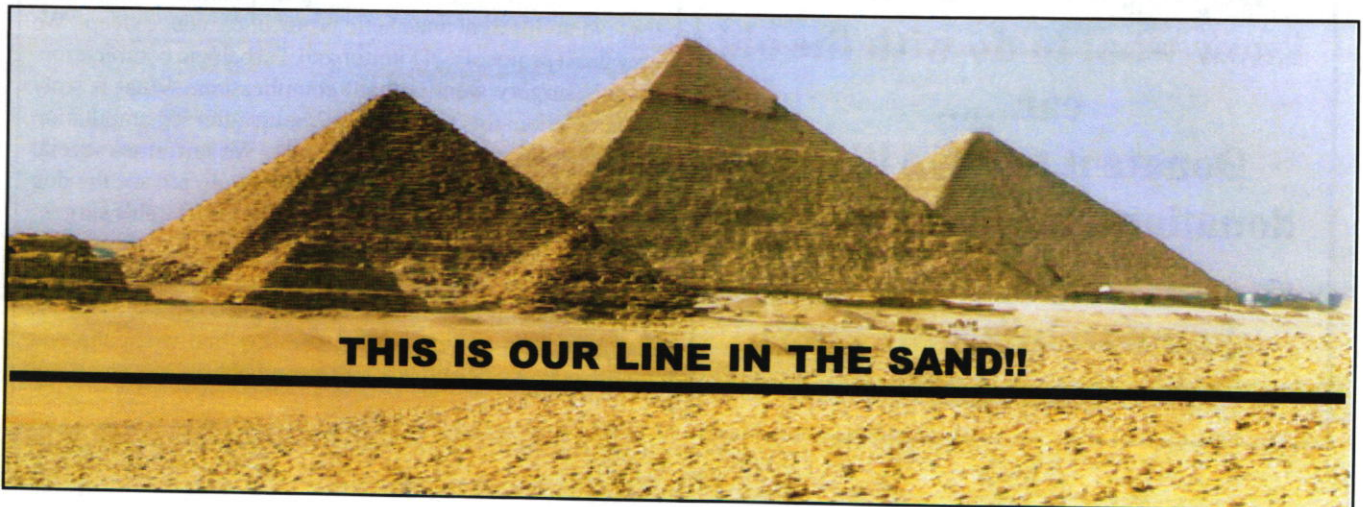
Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) has been around a long time and many of its chapters are track affiliated. They have a position about morals and ethics of greyhound racing. That position is not to take a position. What they see and don't like they put aside and let it pass. Perhaps I am getting more militant as I was in my first years of greyhound adoption in the early 90's. I really believe I am just tired of industry rhetoric about all of the effort they put forth to adopt greyhounds and what *wonderful shape* they are in when they are sent for adoption. To find homes for former racers, the truth be told thousands of volunteers across the nation make up the reality of greyhound adoption. Thousands will attend Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach, Delaware truly a reunion of survivors. There will be more greyhounds there than people.

It is my firm belief that supporting a greyhound racing industry that does not take proper care of its athletes, still sends them out with internal and external parasites, still feeds them 4D meat and still sells them for research and to foreign countries is not an industry that you should look the other way. You need only to visit some greyhound tracks and see the turnout areas, smell the stench coming off the Monticello Florida compound and see them muzzled in their cages because the kennel staff is too lazy to take them off except for feeding times. When I see this I know I in no way can support this industry. GPA is opening an adoption chapter in Juarez, Mexico. If you just take a moment to figure this out, the greyhounds will be born in the United States by American breeders. They will race here and fail. The breeders and owners will send them to Mexico for a few hundred dollars for their bodies to race. When they become losers in Mexico they will have 2 options: euthanasia or returning to the U.S. (not that the greyhound will get to choose which option it prefers). GPA is supporting this endeavor, in my view they should rather have been pressuring the National Greyhound Association (NGA) to not send greyhounds to Mexico. Together all of their chapters should have said to NGA 'If you want our volunteers to work their butts off for you and do what *you* should have been doing then don't send *our* (American) greyhounds to Mexico.' If someone else from a foreign country wishes to sell their soul - so be it! As Americans, as greyhound breeders, as greyhound owners and as greyhound adopters we should be more humane. Keep American greyhounds in America! If you cannot find homes in the States then give them a gift even if that gift is euthanasia because that is a better gift than sending them to the harsh reality of Juarez or any other foreign country. I cannot support such an organization whether it be National Greyhound Association OR Greyhound Pets of America when they take the low road and here they are certainly taking the low road. At least NGAP has drawn a line in the sand. Others can draw that same line and others cannot be the whipping boy for the racing industry.

It angers me to see greyhound adoption organizations or their spokesmen accept the support of NGA and the B.S. of how good the condition of the dogs are now compared to ten years ago. Give me a break!

On October 19, 2005 the World Greyhound Racing Federation Conference will meet in Miami, Florida. This is a reunion of sorts. A reunion of all countries around the world that have greyhound racing, where almost ALL greyhounds will die. If we think it's bad in the U.S. take for example Australia where every large city has a greyhound race track and almost all of those greyhounds will die after racing. Places presumably as civilized as England and Ireland sell their losers at a weekly auction to places like Spain and elsewhere that will treat their dogs with no humility or respect and resort to things such as hanging them from trees when they are no longer of use. And of course, as we know, some countries eat dogs.

Supporting a Juarez track that already closed several years ago in the dead of winter where greyhounds were shipped across the country in a blizzard, many to arrive at NGAP, is not my idea of something that is remotely good for OUR dogs. We will never forget that arrival; a vet standing by, chicken soup to warm their bodies and tender love. Some people may not have been around when Juarez closed last time but it should have remained closed forever. Is there anything good about racing for the greyhounds? In my view it is difficult to find an answer of *anything* good.



THIS IS OUR LINE IN THE SAND!!

August 4, 2005

Dear Adoption Programs,

The greyhound industry is so lucky that thousands of people across the nation have devoted so much of their time, money and love to find homes for former racing greyhounds. Some of us take strong aggressive stands regarding racing abuse and others just choose to do adoption. Slowly over the past 15 years the advocacy community has grown as well as adoptions, but still many greyhounds will die each year because they are not winning and they have not found a loving home. All of us choose our niche. National Greyhound Adoption Program (NGAP) gets involved in many areas once it has learned of them, if we learn of the abuse we will react, if we are not told then we obviously cannot. There is an issue before us where as a community of adoption programs we can pressure the racing industry to forbid the exportation of American greyhounds to Juarez, Mexico. We should additionally pressure Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) not to give that track any credibility by opening a GPA adoption center in Juarez. I recently spoke to Gary Guccione of National Greyhound Association (NGA) who told me the program in Caliente, Mexico works very well. Groups from California once again are doing the work the industry should be doing to find homes for dogs in Caliente, Mexico. You would wonder why a breeder would stoop so low as to accept money to send dogs to Juarez. It is all about the money and not at all about the dogs. We have drawn a line in the sand; NGAP has taken the position that if GPA opens an adoption facility in Juarez we will no longer speak of them as being in a neutral position. That support is not a neutral position. We will no longer support GPA in any way, shape or form. GPA members should be ashamed of such a position and should speak out to GPA and to NGA. Independent organizations can do the same and stand up and be heard that sending greyhounds to Juarez, Mexico is not an acceptable solution to excess greyhounds. Euthanasia would be more humane. Enclosed are two recent articles from the Humane Society of the United States.

Greyhounds are Greyt as pets,
David G. Wolf , Director
National Greyhound Adoption Program

**Buying a new car....Don't
know what to do with the old
car.....
Donate it to NGAP! All
donations are tax deductible
and your
donation helps the grey-
hounds!!!**

Greyhound Pets of America

nga@ngagreyhounds.com

July 27, 2005

Dear Greyhound Pets of America,

It has come to my attention that GPA is trying to work out a plan to open an adoption program in Juarez, Mexico. Have you completely lost it?! We have enough trouble in the United States trying to deal with humane issues, why would we think for one minute to support any effort to send American greyhounds to Mexico? And worse yet support them with an adoption program? Certainly GPA may wish to overlook the many atrocities that have been on our own banks. Have we forgotten the rescue from Juarez the last time that track was closed? If Greyhound Pets of America deems this a viable proposition, it will never, ever receive support from our organization in any way, shape, or form in the future. Being close to the racing industry is one thing, this is just kissing *ss!

Greyhounds are Greyt as pets,

David G. Wolf , Director
National Greyhound Adoption Program

Sarah's Story

Sarah came to us all by herself from friends in Boca Raton, Florida. They had taken her in after the University of Florida Vet School had botched a few leg surgeries. Her left front leg always showed signs of atrophy. She was a wonderful, sweet greyhound pup, I believe less that a year old. She had come to us because she was not doing well with their little fuzzy dog. As it would turn out she didn't do so well with one of our Italian Greyhounds either, so she became available for adoption. Early on when we had her we removed a plate from her left leg. Several years after, she was adopted by the Norman Family. She broke her leg again and it was replated and as time passed her leg became more of a problem and now at age 9 she does not use that leg at all.

Sarah came to us for leg amputation. We used a somewhat different anesthetic protocol to induce sleep. We now use a protocol of Domitor and Turbalegic combination. Sarah's surgery went without complication. What is truly amazing about this story is that 2 hours after leg amputation Sarah was on her feet and able to walk. We performed several leg amputations in the past but normally do not see the dog back on its feet until sometime the next day. Sarah's surgery was on Monday and she left our facility on Friday. We saw her a week later when Sue Norman was concerned that she had become a little lethargic. As it turned out we think she just wanted to get up and go, she was fine when she was examined and her recovery was remarkable.

NEW CANINE INFLUENZA WILL IT KILL MY GREYHOUND?

The best information we have at this point is that this new strain of influenza was first seen in January 2004 at a track in Florida. Since then it has attacked several greyhound racing compounds throughout the U.S. and has even closed some for various periods of time because so many were sick. It is believed that this flu strain has jumped over from Equine (horse flu). I personally discussed this issue with greyhound veterinarians going back to its inception. It appears that the outbreaks thus far have been in high population dog kennels where there are many dogs in close quarters. This year it has found its way into non-racing boarding compounds. There is no known preventative vaccination as of yet. The prescription medication Tamiflu, which is a human medication, is suggested to treat dogs with these influenza symptoms. The symptoms may start off as mild cough but can escalate to much more serious conditions. In any given kennel 100% of dogs are potentially infected because the virus is airborne. Of that population it is suggested the virus will kill 5-8% of the dogs. The chance of your dog getting infected is very small, as long as it is contained within primarily the racing population. Currently the most effective way of containing the virus is by track quarantine. Obviously any greyhound racing track dogs with any clinical signs should be immediately isolated. The infection can pass by a person touching one dog then another dog even if the dogs are in completely separate compounds. There are several companies looking to develop a prevention vaccine. One of those companies is Fort Dodge Animal Health. Just prior to this year's Dewey event Fort Dodge suggested they may have an initial vaccine in a year but not to expect it to be on the market for two years. The likelihood of your greyhound getting sick is very small but you must take care not to expose your dog to any symptomatic dogs. If you are exposed to any canine with symptoms it is very important to isolate your clothing and bathe immediately.

Further information will be found from time to time as we are updated on our website: www.ngap.org

September 30, 2005

Will Greyhound Virus Start Killing America's Pet Population

The New York Times and other newspapers published an article about a deadly influenza virus that in the past year and a half has struck several greyhound tracks across the U.S. where tracks quarantined all dogs not permitting any in or out while the virus is medically treated. Greyhound racing has long had a code of silence so you never knew how many got sick and never knew how many actually died because they would never tell the truth. Most state regulations are so poor that information is not available or reported.

About a year ago I criticized the racing industry's favorite vet when he said 'Let's not rush to quarantine until we are sure what exactly is wrong.' My response was that statement was foolhardy since quarantine was the only way to control any potentially deadly problem. To this date NGAP has not received dogs from any facility we would believe had suspicious illnesses. Because this virus is so easily transmitted it is inevitable that the U.S. pet population will be exposed and some will die. All adoption programs must be diligent when receiving track dogs, these dogs should be separated from the general population until it is determined that there are no health issues. The actual article can be found on the following websites:

<http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F10E14FC3C540C718EDDA00894DD404482>

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/transcripts/t050926.htm>

SHAME ON YOU GREYHOUND PROJECT!!!

I have been coming to Reach the Beach almost since the beginning, probably since the second or third year. Certainly, the featured event each year is the Brunch, which is usually sold out being packed wall to wall with people on two floors. I can say for the most part I enjoyed the speakers I may not have completely agreed with them but their being there did not offend me. However, Karen Keelan being this year's speaker offends me and in my view should offend every greyhound adopter. It is widely known that the Plainfield Track, which she was the operating manager of for many years, did not give a hoot about greyhound adoption. When it was announced the track would close even the kennel operators got the short end of the stick. They were asked to support a redevelopment project to include a track, they were not told that as soon as the project was approved by the township the track would close. Somewhere between one and two thousand greyhounds were at risk. There was a lot of Media attention. The governor of the state visited the Plainfield Track and assured everyone that no dogs would die. People called from around the country in concern. Many programs took large numbers of dogs. According to the track in short order all dogs were gone. To this day I know of no accounting that was given for every dog. I think having a speaker at Dewey Beach gives them some credibility. Karen Keelan is not credible; she is a greyhound racing spokesperson. She may make it sound like they did a wonderful job but you must understand that the governor had a gun to her head. I believe selecting her as a speaker is shameful. Shame on you Greyhound Project!!!!

**NGAP's Virginia Beach Chapter
"Woof" stock for the Greyhounds
Wildest Tie-dye shirt wins a prize!
Let's have a dog gone good time!**

Sunday - October 16, 2005

12:00PM - 4PM

Red Wing Park

General Booth Blvd

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Yard Sale - 50/50 raffle - Greyhound Store

Contests - D.J. - Food Vendor - Raffles

Loads of door prizes - Silent Auction

Free Celebration Cake

Let's have another great turnout!

Greyhounds and friends welcomed!

No small animals!

For additional info contact:

**Gay Latimer - 757-486-7956 or email
greyhound@cox.net**

Two New York Powers In The Animal World SHAME . SHAME. SHAME!

The ASPCA is the oldest Humane Society in our country. It has a significantly large staff and is involved in many projects to help animals. The other large power is probably the Animal Medical Center. We know their budget is 26 million dollars annually with a staff of 200 vets spread over their large complex in the center of Manhattan. We know AMC at last count had 14 greyhound blood donors. In April 2004 I visited and I did not like what I saw. I saw greyhounds walking the isles between cages for so-called exercise but still they are overweight. I saw shy dogs huddled in the back of their too small cages that held water bowls that were too big. There was no bedding just a cot, which was also too small. Of course, the set up was that the dogs were to relieve themselves in their cages so with no bedding or anything soft to lay on I expect it makes for easy clean up with a hose. Every dog I saw needed dentistry, some had advanced periodontal disease. When I asked how often they got outside for a walk the answer I received was "Never." They would occasionally send these greyhounds to the "country" to be in another too small cage with another too small exercise area not much bigger than the cage. They just had all the wrong answers but they did not care and did not appreciate my visit. When I critiqued that visit and sent a copy to the other New York Power the ASPCA they dispatched someone to look. They were not nearly as critical but asked for some changes. My suggestion to AMC was just buy blood on the open market since it would probably be better quality not being contaminated by the periodontal disease and in the long run would be cheaper. They did not respond to my concerns and hardly responded to the ASPCA and when I sent a letter a year later, of course, Dr. Hohenhaus of AMC's greyhound blood donor program did not respond. When the ASPCA called as a follow up the response was "We will not comment on any of David Wolf's concerns. Two months after my visit I spoke to AMC's president/director Dr. Guy Pigeon who, the same as a few other doctors there, has an income of about \$250,000.00 each year for a forty hour work week, I asked Dr. Pigeon how many of the dogs had had their teeth done. The answer at least was truthful that they did not have a chance to fit them into the schedule since greyhound blood donors do not rank very high at AMC. However, they can tell clients "If your dog needs blood we have our own in-house blood donors, we even have a little old lady that cares for them..." Isn't that sweet.

National Greyhound Adoption Program in June of 2004 staged a demonstration in front of the Animal Medical Center's facility, we got permission from the police department to do so and they were there in force. There were 7 demonstrators and approximately 20 police and barricades; I guess they were prepared for the worst. All of AMC's bigwig administrators were out at the sidewalk much of the day. Apparently they feared possible media. They even handed out their own little pamphlets for visitors that we were radical fanatics. Unfortunately, we have not been able to demonstrate every day to tell how appalling their greyhound treatment is. But I must add that New Yorkers must stick together, the ASPCA will not go against the Animal Medical Center. When we researched how other blood banks and other vets felt about AMC it seemed the feeling was the same. I feel they are arrogant and above all with their high budget and high-class clients. But more and more as time goes by I find that more and more people have the same opinion I do.

Oh, if NGAP only had a \$26,000,000.00 budget.

Responsible Greyhound Ownership

Unfortunately, this article will not get to those who need it most. In some cases because they do not receive our newsletter or just do not read it. I really enjoy and truly love the work I do with greyhounds, finding a real life for these dogs instead of possible euthanasia and enriching the lives of the families who take in this wonderful breed.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard we try, people will adopt a greyhound and ultimately not take correct care of it. Yes, they will feed it, let it out, play with it and even hug it, but you have to do more than that. You have to make sure your greyhound feels well especially since it cannot tell you if it doesn't feel well. So often more than anything the problem is right in the dog's mouth. If you don't pay attention to it your dog will suffer day in and day out. We know you would never let your own mouth undergo such conditions as we see in some of our adopted greyhounds.

On September 20, 2005, we received a call from Ship Bottom, NJ where an adopter received a greyhound from our organization in November of 1996. At that time the greyhound was 3 1/2 years old. The adopter needed to return the dog, Buddy, because apparently her home had become full of mold and she had to move out. Since she could not find a home to accept her and her dog she would have to return him to us. When we further questioned her she stated that a few years ago her vet told her the dog would need a few thousand dollars in work done on his teeth. A FEW YEARS AGO!

Originally, she wanted us to pick up the dog from her home. Normally we try to encourage adopters to return the dog to us themselves, but the more I spoke to this woman the more I just wanted Buddy back home with us, this way if Buddy was still treatable we could treat him and if he wasn't then we could at least give him his final gift. That evening Merci Riccardi retrieved Buddy and met up with Tony & Gale Teresczuk who then brought Buddy home to NGAP. Buddy was not taken care of. If the vet who had been seeing this dog didn't say to the adopter 'Leaving the dog in this condition is inhumane.' then he should give up his license. It is inhumane for them to keep a dog and allow it to suffer for such a long time. Responsible owners will not do that. If you are doing it you should return your dog NOW!! There are times when euthanasia is a better option than the continuous suffering some dogs must endure. Do not be like the family in Ship Bottom.

Update on Buddy one week later....

Friday, September 23, 2005, Buddy went into surgery under anesthesia. We determined that he had 11 teeth left. I suspect most just fell out. Buddy's former adopter gets the award for 'Greyhound with the worst mouth the director has ever seen in 16 years' We took out all teeth but his four canines. Five of seven teeth were simply removed with a gloved hand - the teeth were so loose and decayed, no instruments were necessary. The four canines had to be burred to remove all the plaque and tartar and each canine used a full tube of Doxyrobe treatment. Doxyrobe is injected under the skin between the tooth and gum. Normally each tube will do several teeth but we needed four. Doxyrobe kills the bacteria under the gum and will help reattachment. Most greyhounds, even 12-year-olds, will be on their feet within one hour of surgery. Buddy was not able to get up until the next day. He had fluid in his stomach indicative of heart failure. Buddy is a fighter, when I saw him on Wednesday, September 28, he was sitting up in his cage, not lying flat. We have Buddy taking 3 short walks every day to get his exercise. For now he is just hanging in there. Even if Buddy hadn't survived surgery, I would have felt better because we would not have buried him with that foul mouth, he would have passed on with some dignity.

Because we feel it is appropriate, this article will appear in every newsletter

The Gift of Life, The Gift of Death

Each of us can truly say we've adopted a greyhound and we have extended to that greyhound the "Gift of Life". Surely, if it had not been adopted, it would have been euthanized in one way or another. We hopefully have brought as much pleasure to it's life, as it has to ours. But the time will come when it will not feel well, but it won't be able to tell you, and by the time you realize it, it's health is failing. We love our greyhounds dearly but we must consider giving them one final gift. This is the "Gift of Death" - without undue pain, without any suffering, we can bestow them with it's final gift. Quality of life is something we all desire for ourselves and our pets. When we lose that quality of life, when there is not a light at the end of the tunnel, when the hope of extended life is more to put off the pain that we would feel at our greyhounds loss, then it is time for the "Gift of Death". As difficult as it is we truly love our greyhounds we don't wish them to suffer. It is always a difficult choice. Try not to prolong life if the quality of life is not worth living. As difficult as it may seem when you are facing the need to euthanize your greyhound you can always give another the "Gift of Life", as a true memorial to the greyhound you lost.



Limping Becomes Osteosarcoma

It is a familiar chain of events, the greyhound begins limping, did it run in the backyard and pull a muscle or tendon or perhaps it just bumped into something. The limp persists for a few days. Sometimes it's a front leg and sometimes it's a back leg. We have placed very specific protocols for such events and I am sure it's similar to most vet clinics. First an exam may determine some soreness in the shoulder. The vet may take either Step 1 or Step 2 or both. Step 1 is to prescribe an NSAID (Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory pain medication), which there are several, Rimadyl is the most prescribed and the most used. Step 2 is taking an x-ray. There are times when it is done in conjunction with Step 1 and other times when it is done if the medication is not working. Some veterinary clinics will not do an x-ray because it may entail anesthesia and the cost is significant. If your dog is over 7 years old, having the x-ray done on the first visit may be appropriate. It is a matter of money and how much you can afford to spend. If your vet sees cancer or the hint of cancer in the joint or even in the leg, they will then proceed usually to do a chest x-ray. More often than not even showing cancer or Osteosarcoma in the joint you will not see it spread into the chest cavity. Our experience has been that once you see cancer in those upper leg joints your options are very limited if any at all. The options are pain medications until the dog no longer has quality of life, amputation or euthanasia now. Most adopters choose pain medications as opposed to leg amputation. I am not a big fan of leg amputation because we rarely seem to see long-term survival. Leg amputation at NGAP is \$900.00. We will keep the greyhound for up to a week. We do not do it often but we have not lost a dog in leg amputation surgery. We keep greyhounds much longer than clinics and do not charge extra for that upkeep and when the dog goes home it will get around well on three legs. Greyhounds with back leg amputations will do better than greyhounds with front leg amputations but they do well with either. Survival rates even with chemotherapy are not particularly good. Total costs, which may include chemotherapy, can be \$5,000.00-\$6,000.00. Spending money on the belief that the dog will get better usually doesn't work. Biopsies are usually not necessary. The dog will either get better or get worse. It may cost several hundred dollars to get a biopsy and you may not get results for a week. There is always a chance of spontaneous fracture. Spontaneous fracture is when the leg breaks and you cannot explain why. Something simple may have happened. In one case a child fell on a greyhound, fracturing the greyhound's leg. It never would have happened if the greyhound didn't have cancer in the joint. If you know your greyhound has cancer and you decide to wait, you have the risk of spontaneous fracture. A Litmus Test to determine if it is time to give your greyhound the "Gift of Death" is:

- Is your greyhound eating and drinking?
- Is your greyhound maintaining its weight?
- Is your greyhound peeing and pooping without stress?
- Is your greyhound wagging its tail?
- Is your greyhound getting up and down without pain?

Your dog must pass all of the questions on this test or you are surely keeping it alive out of selfishness. Please do not wait for your dog to scream or die in pain at home.

Have you moved?

Has your area code or phone number changed? Has your name changed? Has your dog passed away? Please contact us. It's very important for us to keep information on our adopters up to date.

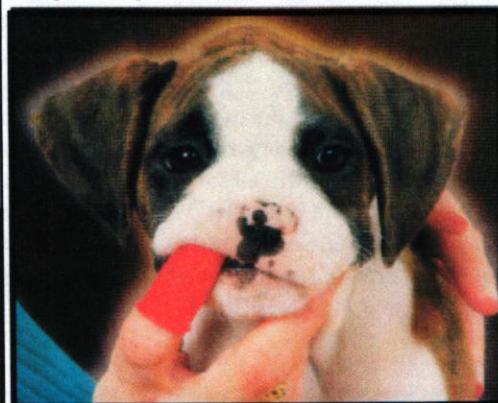
Below we have a poem written by Mary Butler about a greyhound lost and tragically found hit by a car. We never want our greyhounds to be lost and if they are, we pray that they will be found safe and alive. Unfortunately, for the dog in this poem that did not happen.

Sometime In The Morning

Go to God pretty little greyhound
Once so loved, then so lost
Alone and running, distracted and scared
Remembering, belonging, knowing someone
cared
Searching breathlessly onward to find this
somewhere
Now the heavenly skies cry their tears of pain
Upon the ground where your body was found
laid down and slain
By an angel of compassion who sadly lifted
you broken and maimed
From this most mournful moment in the
summer rain
That your memories of happiness should
bring you to this merciless end
Seems so unfair for just wanting to
belong, to be special, to be called
a devoted friend
Rest in peace pretty little greyhound for a
home with our Creator is the best one you can
be in.

No This is Not a Picture of a Greyhound

But what they are doing to this puppy is what you should do everyday. If you just took the time to run a fingerbrush under your greyhounds lip to the back it would help eliminate dental cleaning. This picture from Veterinary Practice News came with the caption: Too many veterinarians fail to routinely check patients' mouths. I have said that many times, now they have said it in their January 2005 issue of Veterinary Practice News. Actually lifting up your greyhounds lip and looking is part of our once a month obligation. Check the teeth, clean the ears, and clip the nails. That is your once a month prescription to good health.



Flip The Lip

Dealing With 4th of July Fireworks

Up to this year I must admit I never took fireworks that seriously as it relates to impacting my greyhounds. This year was different. In Pennsylvania, fireworks are now available in supermarkets, tents along the highway, and many other places. I personally am not a fan of backyard fireworks and the risk it puts on those setting them off as well as the risk it puts on others. Because of this new proliferation of fireworks in the area, I had concerns for the dogs in our kennel as well as two greys in my home that have a fear of thunderstorms. Phantom, our big blue grey, has already shown signs of this type of fear when a few people prior to the 4th of July set off some firecrackers randomly at night. He decided he did not want to go outside at night. We devised a plan for the kennel that was one of lockdown. We have control of several gates in and around the kennel compound, we just lock them down for the night, making sure no one could come close. In previous years we had some people coming to set off fireworks and put out the word to tenants in nearby buildings that if our caretakers found them setting off fireworks of any kind that they would be banned from our property. At home the plan relied on NutriCalm, which I had never used on my own dogs but have recommended for several years as the quick fix for anxiety related issues, for example: fireworks, thunderstorms, strangers in the house, a ride to the vet, and other known behaviors that upset a greyhound. Phantom, who is already on Soloxine, was given two NutriCalm caplets at 3pm and two more at 8pm on July 4th. My wife and I and the dogs sat in the den with our big-screen t.v. watching Washington's tribute to the 4th of July, New York's tribute to the 4th of July, Boston's tribute to the 4th of July and of course Sir Elton John in Philadelphia. With the volume cranked up higher than normal, I (being a little hard of hearing) heard no fireworks. Our 8 1/2 year old greyhound Pearl laid near us on a big bed and her Storm Defender cape on almost the whole time, did not shake and it was like a normal evening. Pearl, who is also on Soloxine, also received two NutriCalm caplets at 3pm. Phantom, we tried to get outside before the fireworks began, he did not want to go out. When he was inside we put on his modified version of the Storm Defender cape. He laid in the corner much more relaxed than we expected. At 11pm I opened the sliding doors to go out, walked out, heard nothing, and deemed it safe for my dogs to exit. Phantom was a little leary but came out with the other dogs. I went to bed feeling we had done well because my dogs had done well. My prevention was 3-fold: 1: Noise Distraction, 2: Medication, 3: David Wolf's version of the Storm Defender cape. Maybe these methods will work for you next year.



Was It Real Or Imagined?

Phantom, a beautiful large blue male greyhound. I sometimes wonder how greyhounds get their names and how Phantom got his, many call-names relate to a dog's behavior. He has always had anxiety issues. I would not call him a spook but he's often fearful but as time goes by, on medication, he continues to get better. With my 6 grandchildren, who either live next door or around the corner, in the beginning were afraid of Phantom just as he would often run the other way when they were around. He is getting much better with them and the grandchildren likewise gaining more trust in him. He is on thyroid supplementation for his anxiety (.8 BID) and it is my belief it helps him enormously. Phantom goes to work with me most days. He welcomes most people coming into the office. Sometimes he will not even move when pet by visitors. It seems that the people owing us money, whether they are making a delivery or they are a tenant, he gets up and barks a little but is not aggressive. I had a rare occasion recently where I went away for the weekend and my son who has a greyhound of his own took Phantom in while we were gone. Phantom has been in Jeff's home many, many times and he is not uncomfortable there. His visit was uneventful. He was there all day Saturday and Sunday, the next time I would see him would be Monday morning at the office. Phantom was a different dog; his anxiety had returned, he was even fearful of me. I have never laid a hand on him other than to give him a pet. He wanted to lay away from everyone, didn't interact, just was not the Phantom we see everyday. What would bring about this change? Maybe he was angry we had left for two days, or was it the fact that Jeff did not give him his thyroid medication. In about two days Phantom was back to normal, of course, he was now back on his Soloxine. In my view, greyhounds on thyroid supplement due to anxiety issues will regress when the supplement is taken away. So is it Real or Imagined?



Sarah's Coming Out Party

What could be better than an event to raise money for greyhound adoption than for Sarah the Galgo to have a coming out party? Elsewhere in our newsletter we wrote about Sarah's leg amputation. It was probably only about four weeks later when Sarah joined Mitzi and her adopters Ty & Pam Meredith-Rende at a fund raising event. She made a proud showing. See photos:



Thyroid Levels do not always determine a need for Supplement

My position on thyroid supplement has been very controversial to the veterinary community for many years. But as time passes, it would appear that at least some, although not admittedly agreeing to my philosophies, are using it. The conclusions I make about thyroid supplement are based on 16 years of greyhound adoptions. Probably 90% of greyhounds will test on a T4 below the normal range, the normal range being 1-4. We rarely see a 2 in greyhounds and most are below 1. The T4 Test is used as a baseline test by NGAP and it is primarily used to determine later variables of dogs that are on thyroid supplement.

A fair percentage of greyhounds fall into the following clinical behaviors:

- Low esteem
- Poor interaction with people and other dogs
- Shyness
- Spooked
- Fear of thunderstorms
- Fear of tile floors
- And some even glue themselves to the back of their cage

Physical signs are of being:

- Lethargic
- Overweight
- Hair loss

We have found that using higher medical dosages is when truly beneficial effects kick in. Soloxine (the Brand) thyroid supplement comes in doses .2 - .8, we only use .6, .7, & .8 one pill two times a day. In some cases can be a pill and a half. We have recognized significant changes in behavior of dogs showing the above listed clinical and physical signs.

Now there is some agreement to this philosophy. In the publication "Your Dog" published by Tuft's Veterinary University, this month's article on thyroid supplement speaks about a dog owned by Barbara Langston, a Bearded Collie named Bailey that was skittish, withdrawn, aloof, and not the loving, good-natured dog Barbara had hoped for. To make a long story short, Bailey was placed on thyroid supplement for a considerable period of time. Quoting the "Your Dog" article Barbara Langston's words were "About 10 days after we began medication, we saw a huge difference, she became much more responsive to us, and for the first time she looked us in the eye. Her behavior has improved, her thunderstorm phobia has abated to manageable levels, and we can now take her on walks and enjoy visits from friends and family." Barbara credits the medication, stating: "We wouldn't be without it for anything in the world."

Tuft's is currently engaged in a double blind study with dogs that are aggressive to see if thyroid supplement will help reduce aggression. We have approached them on a study specifically dealing with the conditions mentioned by Barbara Langston's dog. Who knows, maybe they are catching on!

Clinical Study of Canine Bone Cancer Pain Medication

The University of Penn is currently involved in a clinical study for dogs with bone cancer. The information about this study is listed below but basically dogs already diagnosed with bone cancer are put on a Rimadyl treatment in addition to that they are given an anti-convulsive medication. Some dogs are not given the anti-convulsive medication but rather a placebo. I believe the purpose is to determine whether those on the additional medication will feel better longer before they die. This study in no way cures anything. Ultimately, you will have to determine when to put your dog to sleep. I am not sure if I am unquestionably in favor of this additional medication prolonging your greyhound's life and masking how it actually feels may not be what we want to do. If we have given our greyhounds a good life, ultimately we want to give them a final gift without needlessly prolonging their lives.

University of Penn Study
Information for Interested Veterinarians and Owners

A Randomized Controlled Trial of the Effect of PHA-xxx and Rimadyl® versus Rimadyl alone on Chronic Pain due to Bone Cancer in Dogs

Here are details about the trial we are currently running to determine if a combination of drugs will provide superior pain relief as compared to standard treatment with Rimadyl.

Eligible Animals

Any dog with radiographic (x-ray) evidence of a bone tumor in either the fore or hind limb may be eligible for the trial. The owners must have opted to not amputate the limb and the dog must have been tried on an analgesic/anti-inflammatory for at least a week with discomfort persisting.

The Drug

The drug PHA-xxx is a drug that has been used extra-label in dogs for many years and has shown promise as an analgesic.

Trial Procedures

The trial involves 3 trips to Ryan-VHUP over 3 weeks. The owners will bring their dog in on day 1 for evaluation and if they decide they want to include the dog in the trial, they will fill out some questionnaires while we draw blood from the dog and we will dispense 10 days of Rimadyl to all dogs. They will return 10 days later and we will dispense another 10 days of Rimadyl to all dogs. At this visit ½ the dogs will be dispensed PHA-xxx and ½ will get placebo in addition to the Rimadyl. The dogs will return for the final time 10 days later for blood work and the owners will fill out questionnaires. At the end of this visit the owners of all dogs will be offered PHA-xxx and Rimadyl free of charge for the remainder of the dog's life.

Risks

PHA-xxx has been used in dogs at the doses used in this study with the most commonly reported side effect being drowsiness at higher doses.

Costs

All cost associated with the trial (drugs, blood work, office visits, etc.) are provided free of charge. In addition, after the 3 week trial period, we will provide PHA-xxx and Rimadyl, free of charge to all dogs for the rest of their lives. If there is a side effect of the PHA-xxx that requires treatment, we will cover those costs.

Time Commitment

Each of the 3 visits to Ryan-VHUP should take less than 30 minutes.

If Owners Are Interested

If an owner is interested in the study, we can phone them directly to give them further details and answer any questions. Just call at 215-573-0302 or email at mdigreg@vet.upenn.edu with the contact information and we will contact you within 1-2 business days.

National Greyhound Adoption Program

Main Office - 10901 Dutton Road - Philadelphia, PA 19154

Kennel/Clinic - 4800 Wingate Street - Philadelphia, PA 19136

Main Office (215) 331-7918 Fax (215) 331-1947 Kennel/Clinic (215) 331-3625

email- ngap@ix.netcom.com

website - www.ngap.org

Annual Membership

National Greyhound Adoption Program has grown over the years and continues to grow. We have adopted over 5900 greyhounds since we began in 1990. This could not have been accomplished without the use of our onsite full service kennel, boarding and surgical facility. We are about to embark on a venture that will allow us to rescue even more greyhounds and have them live in comfort until an adoptive home can be found. We continue to expand our horizons regarding their post operative medical issues. Your donations help us help the greyhounds! Please Support Us!!

Subscriber (Annual) \$25.00__

Sponsor (Annual) \$50.00__

Donor (Annual) \$75.00__

Benefactor (Annual) \$100.00__

Life Member & Benefactor \$1000.00__

We Need Volunteers! Please let us know if you can help in any of the following areas:

- Transportation of dogs (vet, airport, etc)
- Walking dogs at the kennel
- Fund Raising
- Other (explain)_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Home Phone (____)_____ Cellphone (____)_____

Email address_____

Credit Card#_____ Expiration date_____

Please complete and return this form along with your check made payable to NGAP to the main office address. We also accept all major credit cards. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Limited Edition - "Jeweled Devotion"

Beautiful Lenox Greyhounds sporting jeweled collars around their necks. They come as a pair. Authenticity certificate included. \$55.00 - if shipped from NGAP office please add \$7.00 for shipping and handling (pictured on back cover)

How Greyhounds Celebrate Birthdays

This is a greyt birthday card found exclusively at NGAP. This 5x7 multi color birthday card depicts greyhounds as we know them so well. This is a perfect card for your greyhound friends or even just a friend that knows you have a greyhound. \$1.25 per card or 6 cards for \$5.00, add \$1.00 shipping from NGAP office. (pictured on back cover)

Miss Magic's Greyhound Puzzle Book

About a year ago Pat Thomas came to me with an idea that she would create a greyhound puzzle book with crossword games, name games and word games. She said she would do this for Dewey Beach 2005. My response was 'Sure Pat, that's a greyt idea.' The director is used to saying similar words frequently where people do nothing. Pat is an extraordinary person and did something. She created a puzzle book of 115 pages 8.5" x 11" with 12 crossword puzzles with over 350 greyhound history traits and advice. Just by doing Miss Magic's crossword puzzles you will learn so much about your greyhound and greyhounds in general. There are 21 puzzles of word games and 5 name games and it's all about greyhounds! It's just fantastic, it will keep you busy for hours and makes a wonderful gift. It is attractively bound and will be available at Reach the Beach at Dewey for \$15.00 or from the NGAP office for \$20.00. (pictured on back cover)

Christmas Card from the Museum of Modern Art - "Holiday Stroll"

For the first time ever the Museum of Modern Art has a Christmas card featuring a greyhound for 2005. Attached to the collar are 2 holly leaves that actually dangle around. Made of extra heavy stock these cards are beautifully packaged and include green envelopes to match. Created by NGAP adopter LeeAnn Jaffee. \$16.00 per box of 8 cards, \$3.00 shipping per box from the NGAP office. (pictured on back cover)

Carlos & Paco at Christmas time

Carlos & Paco are 2 of the 13 Galgo Puppies conceived in Spain, born in Philadelphia and raised by Gerda Wolf before adoption. They were 10 months old when this picture was taken. These cards are 8 for \$10.00, \$3.00 shipping per box from the NGAP office. Inside reads: 'Have a Greyt Holiday Season' (pictured on back cover)

Our most Spectacular BED

This picture doesn't do this bed justice. NGAP has long made high-quality beds. We have a limited quantity of round and rectangular beds that are truly fur-like. Our office is filled with beds including our Greyt 6-footer, but this is now the favorite bed by Iceman and Phantom by far. I recently saw a fur bed at TJ Max probably for a 20lb dog at \$140.00. This is truly a bargain at \$100.00, we will have to quote on shipping from the NGAP office. (pictured on back cover)

Greyhound Lover's Address Book

Imported from England, this is a book of fantastic greyhound pictures, was just published and is only available at NGAP!! This book is spectacular in so many ways. \$20.00 at Dewey, \$25.00 shipped from the NGAP office. (pictured on back cover)

Lady Tipper Gore

Lady Tipper Gore was actually a Male greyhound. He was light brindle in color and when adopted weighed approximately 79 pounds. Fortunately, he was given the name Tipper so you would not think he was at all affiliated with our former Vice President's wife. Tipper was very special in his own way, he was truly a greyhound star and he won many awards year after year in Key West, Florida. Each Halloween Key West has a huge party and competition for animals to get dressed up in a multitude of costumes. This was not an ordinary costume competition, each animal had its own production number and the owners of the contestants would often spend thousands of dollars to prepare their pet for this big event. Tipper was adopted by Elizabeth Catana in November 1993. In a visit to Key West I saw Tipper several years ago in his new Florida home. Tipper had come from Florida from Jee Kennels to Philadelphia where he was adopted and then returned to Florida to live most of his life in Key West he recently passed away at 14 1/2 years old. Tipper had retired from Halloween competitions a few years back, so he actually retired twice in his lifetime.



Tipper as Dolly Parton

New Exclusive Items Only At NGAP!

(Description of each item appears on the reverse side of this page)

