



GREYHOUND UPDATE

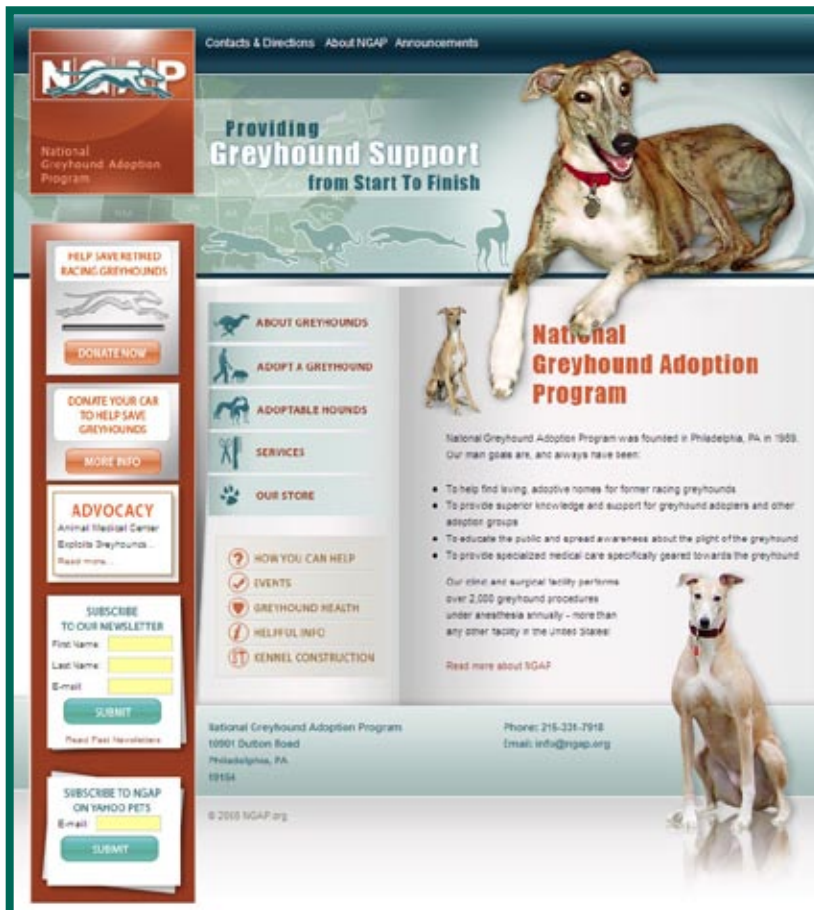
A Newsletter from National Greyhound Adoption Program, Inc.

www.NGAP.org

Fall 2008

NGAP Moves Into The 21st Century!

The National Greyhound Adoption Program is proud to announce the launch of our new, spectacular website! The site is packed with information and will continue to grow as we keep adding more. It will have considerable health and adoption information, current and past advocacy issues and interesting stories sent in from adopters. You just need to log on and explore! We're always open to suggestions on how to make it bigger and better to better serve greyhound adopters everywhere.



We've Won!.....Well Almost

As I sit here today, October 2, 2008, our quest to get all of the greyhound blood donors out of the Animal Medical Center has not quite come to fruition. Fifteen are gone, returned to Grateful Greyhounds, the adoption program that provided them to AMC. As of this date, we do not know their fate. Their attorney will not talk to us. We have not seen the dogs on their website. We do not know if they've been euthanized. They are definitely no longer at the AMC. To the best of our knowledge, three were left and the current president of the AMC had promised to get them all out. They have not fulfilled that promise.

We had suspected for some time that the greyhounds currently being used as blood donors at the AMC were probably there without the consent of their original owners. We needed to get a few of them out, read their tattoos and confirm that suspicion. After speaking to NGAP adopters and New York residents Julie & Frank Cassaras, who had just lost their greyhound to kidney failure at the AMC, and telling them about AMC's blood donor program, I knew we could pull a 'Paul Newman'. Many of us remember Paul Newman from the movie "The Sting."

Julie and her husband managed to rescue three wonderful greyhounds from the Animal Medical Center and brought them to visit us at NGAP. We recorded their tattoo numbers and contacted their owners who in turn signed off on statements that they had not given permission for their dogs to be blood donors and allowed us to file a misrepresentation claim through the State of New York. The state requires that we notify the person or persons we plan to make a claim against, so we notified both Grateful Greyhounds and the AMC.

It is my belief that the AMC did not wish to have a claim filed against them and they knew we had the evidence to back up our claim. They agreed to release their captive blood donor greyhounds and close down their blood donor program.

Aside from the fifteen dogs that were supposedly returned to Grateful Greyhounds, there are still three left and unspoken for. I am not sure of their fate as I am writing this. I hope by the time you read this, they will be free somewhere and not put to sleep. But there is another win or should I say multiple wins. We won because we were able to get undisputable evidence of misrepresentation. We now have similar evidence against a blood bank that houses 100 to 200 greyhounds in Texas. We will be filing suit against them shortly. We won because our new website gave us the opportunity for others to learn of our experiences and how to deal with a \$31 million dollar a year entity and still win. And then we won because if you now google 'pet blood donor' or 'greyhound blood donor' and maybe even a few other things, you will find our website and be able to read four years of correspondence between NGAP and AMC. Hopefully some will read it all. There is much to read. Hopefully one of their donors will read it one day and become a non-donor because what the AMC did was not right and even when they knew it was not right, they continued to keep their blood donors in the same cages, without bedding, and away from a soft bed and a hug at night. We won because we know persistence, when you have the right cause, pays off. At least some of the time. We will win if others learn from what we have done and pursue abuse, neglect and animosity. Even the AMC is not above it all. Visit our website at NGAP.org, click on 'Advocacy'.

Post Script: We have received information that, as of October 15, 2008, there are no greyhound blood donors at the Animal medical Center.



NGAP's Stance on Blood Donation

Human blood donors probably save millions of lives each year. They give lifesaving blood anonymously to people they will probably never know. Dogs and cats can do the same thing. The greyhound has long been a desirable canine candidate for blood donation. There are good reasons why they should be used and there are also good reasons why they shouldn't be used. The number one reason why greyhounds are used for blood donation is that many of them have a universal blood type. The number two reason, in my view, is because they are easy. They will get used to a routine. They will either stand or lie down and permit you to put a large needle into their jugular vein to draw a liter of blood without so much as a whimper. Their veins are easy to find. They have huge hemocrits. And, oh yes! Their blood is red, too! As long as you can put red blood into another dog and it's easy, they'll do it!

On the bad side, many or even most have been exposed to some form of tick-borne disease and although they may not show infection, they will show titers for one, and in some cases more than one, tick-borne disease. Their platelets are lower than most other breeds and according to the studies we have done, 75% of greyhounds are von Willebrand positive and 38% are carriers.

There are different ways to obtain blood from a donor. At some small practices, the vet will bring in their own dog from home (their pet) and draw an occasional unit of blood. That gets an "A".

The University of Pennsylvania probably has the best blood donor program in the United States. They have a bloodmobile, and with many people and their pets enlisted in surrounding areas, it travels around and meets these dogs to draw blood. It's good for the blood bank at the University of Pennsylvania because they get lots of blood. It's good for the dogs that are donating, because their blood is checked routinely and they also get free blood and usually a free bag of food. Best of all, each dog helped save a life and then have the opportunity to go home at night and sleep in a soft bed. University of Pennsylvania gets an "A+".

Please note that many years ago University of Pennsylvania once kept captive greyhounds as blood donors. We're not quite sure why they gave it up, but I'm sure it wasn't based on the fact that the fledging National Greyhound Adoption Program objected to their use. But in any case, not only are they on the right track, they probably lead the nation with their bloodmobile program.

The largest animal blood bank in the nation, Animal Blood Bank uses captive dogs that live in large open areas. They are all taken from animal control and humane societies. They were all destined for death. However, it is difficult to give them a rating, since I have not visited their facilities. They support what we do and send us donations annually.

Institutions that rate an "F" are those that keep captive blood donors and house them in small quarters with little or no bedding, and that do not address the dogs' health issues routinely and appropriately, and leave the dogs to urinate and defecate in their cages with maybe only an occasional walk. Many of these very institutions have millions of dollars in surpluses at their disposal each year. The Animal Medical Center is one of these institutions and the greyhounds we were able to obtain from the AMC were being held captive there due to misrepresentation. It is our belief that many of their owners had never given permission for these dogs to be used as blood donors and believed their dogs to be adopted into homes.

Probably worse yet is The Pet Blood Bank, hidden somewhere in Austin, Texas, with somewhere between 100 and 200 greyhound captives. We know of many greyhounds that have just recently been released from their location. Many of their owners had also never given permission for their greyhounds to be used as blood donors. That again is misrepresentation. We have not yet been invited to their facility to see how the dogs live or to inspect their teeth. We know from the records we received that one month the dog's teeth could be rated excellent by one handler when blood was being drawn and the next month they had been down-graded. Apparently, they were not up to date with their vaccinations either. Is this the case with the remaining greyhounds? We may learn someday.

National Greyhound Adoption Program does not object to greyhounds or other dogs being used as blood donors. Our primary concern is how they are being used and whether or not they are being well cared for or exploited. You don't have to be Albert Einstein to figure that out!

Greyhound Sunday

In an effort to bring greyhounds and their owners together for a fun afternoon, NGAP created 'Greyhound Sunday'. On the first Sunday of every month our Dutton Road facility is open from 12-4pm giving adopters the opportunity to purchase items from our store and enjoy a special event with their greyhounds. Nail clipping and ear cleaning are always available, as well as dental evaluations. New items like talking toys, fancy martingales, new apparel and greyhound items for the home are introduced.

NGAP kicked off its first Greyhound Sunday in April of this year with a 10% discount off of all store merchandise. In May, animal communicators Donna Doyle and Cindy Myers offered private sessions and everyone's dogs seemed to have a lot to tell their owners. Dog trainer Peggy Groom kept the room filled in June as she discussed and helped adopters with issues their dogs were having, from separation anxiety to counter surfing. In August, we gathered all the dirty dogs for relaxing baths. While the dogs were in the "Doggie Spa", their owners were enjoying our Chinese auction. G3 supplement was given to all who attended. The fleas invaded us in September! We were overflowing with items donated by our adopters for our indoor flea market. Not only was it a big success, but Channel 10 covered the event on both their evening and morning news broadcasts.

Greyhound Sunday has also become a great time to view the progress of our new kennel construction. We are all getting excited as the completion draws nearer.

Of course, the most important part of Greyhound Sunday is that so many people attend and enjoy an afternoon with other greyhound owners and their greyhounds are able to socialize with other greyhounds. Adopters enjoy bagels, sweets and even grilled hot dogs and baked beans and the dogs usually go home with free treats!

If you are not on our email list to receive Greyhound Sunday announcements, please contact Megan at our office at 215.331.7918 or email info@ngap.org.



New Kennel

To the right, you will see several photos showing the development and progress of our new kennel and surgical facility. Currently, a new façade is being placed around the building in combination with new commercial glass doors and automatic sliding doors.

At our new kennel, a great focus has been placed on our greyhounds' comfort. It will feature large runs/cages for each dog which measure over 4 feet by 6 feet. The cages are all made of stainless steel with raised soft cushioned floors. Each greyhound's cage will have a bed in the back. This way, the dogs will not only be able to sleep on their own bed, but will have room to move around in addition to the four times daily that they go outside to romp. Since the kennel floors are raised off the ground, we will no longer be using carpet. Every time the dogs go out, we can quickly hose down the webbed cushioning and the water will run into trench drains beneath the kennels.

There are five kennel areas that will separate new greyhounds that have just been brought in from the track from those that are available for adoption, as well as a large boarding area. The boarding area will have its own separate area for nail clipping, bathing, and dental touch-ups. Additionally, we will have a senior room where older returned greyhounds can live in comfort rather than being caged.

Each kennel area will have its own HVAC system and the temperature will be kept constant throughout the year. We have taken into account inclement weather and have provided for what we call an 'interior turnout room', where the dogs can still leave the confines of their run, move around, and relieve themselves.

Our new surgical area will feature three private exam rooms backed up to a surgical area comprised of several thousand square feet. There will be a large open area which will include four dental workstations as well as two surgical rooms, one with two surgical tables and one with one surgical table. All of the cabinetry is new and has been specifically designed for our use. All of the countertops will be granite.

Board with us, buy from our store, or bring your dog to our clinic! We invite everyone to visit our new facility. We will be announcing the grand opening shortly.



I Just Couldn't Pass It Up

A few months back I was browsing the internet and came across an auction site that said 'Cloverleaf Greyhound Park'. Cloverleaf is a greyhound track outside of Denver which closed earlier this year. They were auctioning everything off, from the pipes in the walls to the sand around the track. As I looked through the listing of over 1200 items, I came across two starting gates and I thought to myself, "Wouldn't that be neat to have those starting gates at our new kennel facility, outside with the grass and trees, as a statement of where our greyhounds have been but will never have to go back to again?"

The auction started at 10 in the morning and ran until 6 or 7 in the evening. It was a live auction as well as a webcast auction. In the beginning, some neat things were sold but they were small and so I skipped much of it because I was wondering how I would get something small back to Philadelphia. I did bid on, and won, the two starting gates and at that point, knew we would be bringing one semi-trailer back to Philadelphia. By the end of the day, I had also personally bought about 300 cages, which we could sell inexpensively to other adoption programs or on ebay and so, ultimately, it turned out to be two semi-trailer loads.

If you come to visit our kennel, you will see the starting gates. When someone gives us the right slogan to put on them, we will do just that. Shall it be "Gone and forgotten!" or "Never to be used again!" Send us your best thoughts. If you wish to bring your dog to NGAP and take a photo next to the starting gate, be our guest; we will ultimately have them refinished to give them a little more shine.

Adoption programs that are looking for industry standard, double-deck cages in groupings of four and six can contact National Greyhound Adoption Program. They are in excellent condition.



Side Effects of Root Exposure



As they age, many greyhounds will suffer from extensive root exposure, especially on their upper and lower canines. This root exposed area has a texture like sandpaper in comparison to a tooth's normal smooth enamel covering and has consequences you probably don't even realize. I have yet to read anywhere where this common problem has been noted.

The exposed root will rub against the inner gum lining of your dog's mouth causing ulcerations. Just cleaning the teeth will not correct the problem. Ideally, the tooth should be planed, desensitized and then bonded with a thin coat of composite spread over the root exposed area. The result is the same smoothness that you would have on the enamel portion of the tooth. At NGAP much of this work can be done with our Biolase MD. The laser is also used on all of the inflamed areas including the ulcerated area to kill bacteria and promote healing.

More About the Biolase MD

As many of you already know, National Greyhound Adoption Program has a state-of-the-art human dentistry laser. All lasers, as they cut, kill bacteria surrounding the area of the cut and cauterize at the same time. This is the norm. But this laser does so much more than just cutting tissue or bone; the Biolase MD is a true periodontal laser. You can take a small tip and go into the pockets under the gum, killing bacteria, destroying plaque and tartar, and creating good blood flow which will lead to reattachment of the gum.

Many people may have seen a TV commercial for Orajel, a product for sensitive teeth. Your greyhound can't tell you that it has a sensitive mouth but people teeth and dog teeth are very similar and we know that most greyhounds have some degree of root exposure. With the Biolase MD, we can desensitize that exposed root. The surface of an exposed root looks like many open pores. The tip of the MD fuses and seals these pores, thereby taking the sensitivity away, or desensitizing the tooth.

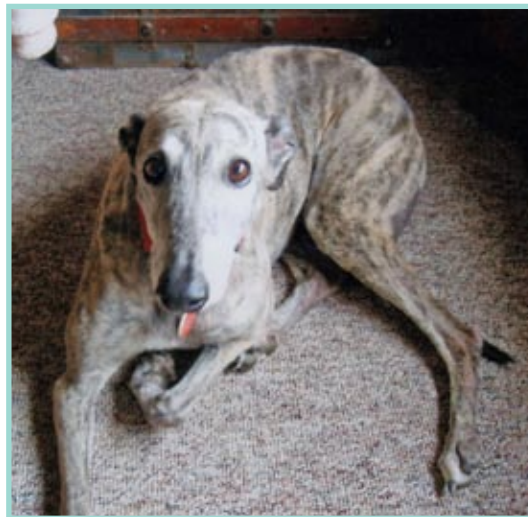
In an effort to reassure our clients that we would always have a Biolase MD laser operational, we recently acquired a second MD. So, not only are we the only veterinary facility in the world that has one Biolase, we're the only facility that has two!

Make an appointment for your greyhound. If your dog could thank you it would! You will probably see a difference in how it eats and behaves without the verbalization.

Extractions for Dansby

From the Director: In every newsletter, I try to explain the importance of keeping your greyhound's teeth in good condition and convey the message that extractions are good, not bad. Everyone needs to embrace that philosophy. Below is a note from one of our adopters; embrace what they say!

~ David Wolf



We adopted Dansby when she was 3 years old. She will be 11 years old in February '09. Her teeth were already in bad shape. Her breath always smelled offensive. She had to have teeth extracted twice in the past leaving her with only 24 teeth. As her age advanced, so did her tooth decay.

We were afraid to have more teeth extracted because of her age and having to go under anesthesia at 11 ½ years. Mr. Wolf called us personally and explained in length how she needed to have more teeth removed. She was having difficulty walking and climbing stairs. We have many stairs in our home and we were worried that she would fall. We brought her in for a check-up and to get Rimadyl for comfort. Instead, Mr. Wolf strongly suggested teeth extraction and reassured us that even at her age she could handle anesthesia and would be in better health after the surgery. She did remarkably well. She is a much happier and healthier dog. She does not have any odor any more. Her gait has improved and she no longer has trouble navigating the stairs. She only has 12 teeth left out of 44. Her improvement happened within a week after surgery. She has no problem eating and still eats treats but now we buy only soft ones. Thanks, Mr. Wolf.

Sincerely,
The Millers

Pre-Dewey 2008



I have been attending almost every Dewey since it's inception and I've seen it slowly rise and now slowly fall. In the beginning it was just those people who knew how to use the computer and were on the internet. It seemed to steadily grow until the storm of 2006. Dewey Beach was hit with a true Nor'easter and the vendor tents, which populated many of the streets, were unusable. They couldn't stand, let alone be used. Probably 75% of the vendors were left with nowhere to sell their goods. Some left, some managed to vend out of their rooms, but most took losses. To my dismay the organizers felt that each of these vendors took a risk with the weather, and since it was bad and they couldn't use their tent - tough luck! No refund! I guess it's a good thing that NGAP had not scheduled to use a tent that year because I probably would have sued just for the principle of it and everyone else.

Now those that attend Dewey, due to many reasons, will find the vendors and events scattered about. There are less seminars and fewer interesting things to go to. Like last year, it will be difficult to find vendors and more and more is being sponsored, not by the Greyhound Project, but the American Greyhound Council which is really the racing industry. There are two ways to look at this, I guess; one, that this is something nice that the racing industry is doing at last, or two, they are making this humble effort to try and convince us that they are not as bad as many of us think they are. They won't change my mind. I speak to adoption people from many tracks. The conditions the dogs live under has not improved and still thousands will become invisible and die. The Greyhound Project may be willing to turn a blind eye and stay in the middle of the road but by doing this are not moving in the direction that truly helps the greyhounds and will make their lives better. They are, in a sense, being paid off by the lobbyists, just like Washington.

It is still wonderful to come and see greyhounds at the beach, knowing they are all survivors from an industry that is only doing adoption because they are forced to do it.



Post-Dewey 2008

Dewey 2008 was wonderful. We probably had the best weather in the 13 years I have attended. It was comfortable for both people and dogs. You could wear shorts during the day and put on a sweatshirt at night.

Each year, we play Russian roulette with storefront rentals. If Izzy's Plaza has seasonal tenants, we can get storefronts; but if they are year-round, we can't. This year there were no storefronts to be had, so we fell back on using our rental house at 17 McKinley Street. 17 McKinley has a large sunroom and we had used it once before as a store. At the time, the sponsors of Reach the Beach were so outraged at this that they passed an edict that no one could sell out of their houses. Were they angry at us because we were being successful at it? Far be it for me to judge. Many people liked this year's 'Hundred Dollar Club' t-shirt. You can purchase the remainders from our website.

If you look at this year's program in terms of seminars, it was probably the weakest. Apparently, the Greyhound Project has decided that they will not sponsor any of the seminars and I was told by Joan Belle Isle that anyone could sponsor a seminar as long as everyone was welcome. But not everyone *was* welcome at this year's seminars. If you didn't register for Dewey, you did not get a wristband and if you didn't have a wristband, the security guard hired for Dr. Blythe's seminars and the art exhibition would not let you enter. Of course, the security guard was only looking for wristbands as opposed to guarding the art!

There were markedly less vendors this year. The largest number of vendors was probably in 2006 when the Nor'easter hit – the only year there was ever a Nor'easter during Reach the Beach. Due to the weather, the tents could not be used, vendors were not reimbursed, and many continued to stay away, as do many greyhounds and their adopters. Without the tents being in place, vendors are spread all about and if you don't register you might have difficulty finding the vendors at the Best Western or even in Rehoboth. There was something special about coming to the tent area of years past with so many people, so many greyhounds, and so many vendors. The tents brought everyone together and bringing all of those former racers together in one place and watching as they coexisted so wonderfully was and is one of the special things about Dewey.

This year the vendors had to make their own 'vendor directory' and those involved in doing it did an excellent job.

I have always felt that if you put a bulldozer on the ground and raised those areas where the tents would be set up, there wouldn't be a water issue inside the tents. The cost for a bulldozer for the day is not that expensive and all you would be doing is moving sand, even if you had to do it every year.

If you have never been to a Dewey before, you will think it is truly greyt. If you were there five years ago, you would not recognize it as being the same event. It appeared apparent to this writer that the organizers are satisfied to let Dewey become smaller and smaller with every passing year and no longer care if it's the spectacular event it had once been. Of late, it would appear that I seem to criticize Dewey each year, but if I am in good health next year, you will find me there enjoying the meeting of so many survivors.



Greyhound Graduates

Sent to us by Tom DuBois, Cumberland County NGAP Affiliate



In September, ten greyhounds graduated from a basic obedience class which was taught at the Cumberland County 4-H Center in Rosenhayn, NJ by 4-H instructor, Linda Lemmo. Linda Lemmo is a twelve-year veteran instructor with many awards to her credit.

Although Linda has had an occasional greyhound in her regular eight-week classes, having an all-greyhound class was a first! The ten participating greyhounds were divided into two classes so that each dog would receive more individual attention. The class was a great success and lots of fun!

The benefits of joining a basic training class with your greyhound are many. For starters, you and your greyhound will get to go on a weekly outing together! It will also enhance the communication skills between you and your grey, will teach your greyhound to follow instructions, and will give you and your hound a chance to meet and socialize with other people and their canine companions.

Many thanks to Sami Abate who worked with Ms. Lemmo in setting a schedule that made this class possible. Sami also supplied the hats and sashes worn by the graduates.



Instructor's Note:

During the 12 years of teaching dog obedience classes, I have always found greyhounds that attended my classes to be intelligent, sensitive and loving. This past summer I taught two 8-week classes made up of all greyhounds and am presently teaching another class of all greyhounds. By designing my classes to be fun as well as educational, the greyhounds really enjoy learning. They do a 'greyt' job in class. The relaxed, happy environment allows their intelligence and personalities to shine through.

~Linda Lemmo, Dog Obedience Instructor

Meet & Greets

With the onset of our new website and events calendar, it is extremely easy to advertise all of our events so that we can get better participation. It is also easy for you to create your own event, whether it be at a pet store, a local community gathering, a veterinary grand opening or literally any place where people frequent that will permit us to feature our greyhounds. Anyone can sponsor an event, large or small, and we will be happy to put it on the calendar. NGAP will provide you with literature, signage or even things to sell if it is appropriate. It is time for NGAP adopters to do more than just appreciate their own greyhound. It's time to help educate others about the joys of greyhound ownership so that we can adopt out more. I promise, you'll have great time and will walk away feeling good about it!



NGAP Visits Deerfield Township Preschool

On February 3, 2008, Cumberland County NGAP volunteers Bob and Maxine Stiles and Kathy and Nancy Wilhelm visited Deerfield Township Preschool with their greyhounds, Candy, Sundance, and Alexa. Deerfield Township Preschool had turned their dramatic play area into a 'Pet Vet' and the children busied themselves pretending to give the greyhounds their shots, check their blood pressure, take their temperatures and administer medicine with their toy medical equipment. This visit coincided with the children learning about pet care and responsibility and respect for animals. The children also spent time reading to their new canine friends. As you can see from the pictures, all of the children were thrilled with their very special visitors! The children were even kind enough to write thank you letters, which are shown below.

*Dear Candy,
Thank you for playing with us. We love you.
Come back some day.
Deerfield Twp. Preschool*

*Dear Sundance and Alexa,
Thank you for coming in our preschool. We
love you. Will you come back?
Deerfield Twp. Preschool*

Greyt Greyhound Bowl 2009

Sent to us by Tom DuBois, Cumberland County NGAP Affiliate

The Greyt Greyhound Bowl is Cumberland County NGAP's biggest fundraiser of the year. If you haven't participated in the past, you're missing out on a lot of fun and an opportunity to support NGAP so that more greyhounds will go on to find good homes!

Participants will typically meet on the designated Saturday afternoon in April to bowl. Besides having a great afternoon with your greyhound friends, there are also door prizes to be won and dinner at Connie & Tom's house afterwards.

Even if you choose not to bowl or if you are unable to bowl, you can still participate by collecting sponsors for a member who is bowling and then come out to cheer them on!

Pledge sheets for GGB 2009 will be available after New Year's and will include the exact time and date of the event.

If you would like to participate, please call Connie or Tom at 856.453.1354.

The Greyt Greyhound Bowl 2008 was a huge success and raised over \$2600.00 for NGAP. NGAP wishes to thank all who participated, with special thanks going to Joanne Bagdon who raised over \$2200.00.



Elwood Visits South Jersey Annual Picnic



Few people know that Elwood, recently voted World's Ugliest Dog, has a greyhound connection - actually a few greyhound connections! Kris Banks, one of our greyhound adopters from South Jersey, entered Elwood in the ugliest dog contest, unbeknownst to his owner. And sure enough, Elwood, who is missing a few teeth on the side of his lower jaw (not through extraction but by birth) won this spectacular accolade.

Elwood was actually named after a greyhound named Elwood that was adopted many, many years ago from NGAP by Elena Young. I know that Elwood the greyhound changed Elena's life, and now Elwood the Chinese Crested mix has changed the life of Karen Quigley, who rescued him. Elwood, being the ugliest dog in the world, has made many TV appearances and literally has a schedule of monthly appearances to attend. Elwood's owner is now Elwood's business manager! She has also written a beautifully illustrated book that you can purchase online.

As for the World's Ugliest Dog, he behaved wonderfully at the NGAP picnic. He was just hot like everyone else - you could tell because his tongue was out! He does tuck it in to moisten it from time to time.

Next year, Elwood will be returning to California to see if he can retain his crown. We wish him luck!



Picnic Coordinator Merci Riccardi manning NGAP's donation table.



Two greyhounds enjoying the air-conditioned recreation center at the park.

2008 RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our sports raffle which was drawn on June 8, 2008 at the South Jersey Volunteers 11th Annual Greyhound Picnic. First Prize was a Flyers jersey autographed by Simon Gagne, second prize was a Flyers jersey autographed by Keith Primeau, and third prize was a commemorative Eagles football autographed by Donovan McNabb. Thank you to everyone who supported NGAP by purchasing raffle tickets.

First Place: Tony Amodis of Galloway, New Jersey
Second Place: Edmund Worecki of Cinnaminson, New Jersey
Third Place: Eileen Clair, Philadelphia, PA

Volunteerism

On November 2, 2008, NGAP hosted a Greyhound Sunday all about ways that NGAP can best move forward with multiple projects that we are involved with. First and foremost in the discussion was the need for more volunteers. Every non-profit organization has the same need. As greyhound adopters, we ask you to choose an area in which you can help and give us some of your precious time for the cause of greyhound adoption. Being a large program with multiple areas of activity, our need for volunteers is even greater than many of the smaller programs in existence. Right now we are specifically looking for volunteers who can spend a few hours in the evening contacting other adopters. Please give us a call if you think you may be able to help us with this task.



It's that time of year again!
NGAP HOLIDAY SALE

FRI., DECEMBER 5: 3-6pm

SAT., DECEMBER 6: 10am-4pm

SUN., DECEMBER 7: 11am-3pm

*Dutton Road Office Location
OR stay warm inside and shop online!
www.NGAP.org*

Have You Moved? Changed Your Name?

Changed Your Phone Number?

Please be sure to notify the NGAP office if you have a change of last name, address or phone number so that we can properly update our files! Also, please be sure to update your information with the pet recovery program your dog's microchip information is registered to. The contact numbers are as follows:

AKC Companion Animal Recovery: 1-800-252-7894 www.akccar.org

HomeAgain: 1-888-HOMEAGAIN (466-3242) www.homeagain.com

**NGAP
Virginia Beach**

For those of you from, or close to, the Virginia Beach, VA area, NGAP has affiliates Sam and Gay Latimer at your service! Please feel free to contact them before you contact us if you are in need of assistance. Their website is:

www.viriniagreyhounds.com

**ATTENTION GRATEFUL GREYHOUNDS:
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIFTEEN BLOOD
DONOR DOGS RELEASED INTO YOUR CUSTODY
FROM THE ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER? THE
GREYHOUND COMMUNITY WANTS TO KNOW!**

www.gratefulgreyhoundsny.com email: greyhoundsavior@optonline.net (ph)516-735-5070



Cuthbert's Cross-Country Adventure

We moved with our greyhound Cuthbert (#6107, originally Ticket) from Lafayette Hill, PA to Santa Rosa, CA. We decided to drive with Cuthbert and our two cats. We bought a small camper van which accommodated them nicely. We stayed at La Quinta motels. It took us six nights and seven full days of driving. It was 2,900 miles. He was a great traveler and took it all in his stride. Truck stops in the plains states, High Plains of Wyoming in the snow, Salt Flats in Utah in the heat, wind in the Sierra Nevada mountains. When we arrived one of our first priorities was to find a place for him to run. Santa Rosa is 40 minutes north of San Francisco and is a beautiful town surrounded by hills and is amply supplied with beautiful parks including many dog parks. We found one close by where greyhounds often gather and he now leads the pack in racing around in there (see picture). If anyone is contemplating a trip, I highly recommend La Quinta hotels. Except for one exception they were welcoming to the animals. We did call each individual hotel ahead of time to be sure that they would accept them. The one exception was in Cheyenne. We arrived early evening, it was bitterly cold, 27° and a high wind. We had traveled 500 miles and were tired and the sour faced woman at the desk said only dogs under thirty pounds. We stood our ground as we had checked ahead and it was too cold to leave him in the van. In the end she grudgingly agreed. The next night we were in Salt Lake City at a very fancy new looking hotel and we were worried we would get the same reception but they could not have been friendlier and directed me to the 'dog garden'. This was a beautifully landscaped garden with tables to sit and enjoy a drink whilst watching the dog, off his leash for the first time on the trip (see picture).

Santa Rosa is 'doggy heaven'. There are dogs all over the place and seem to be welcome at any of the many outdoor restaurants and cafes.

We thank you for all the care and advice we have had from you over the years for Cuthbert and his predecessor Jorvik. My daughter is a vet out here so he will get good care.

Thank you again,
Wendy & Steve Chavin
Santa Rosa, CA

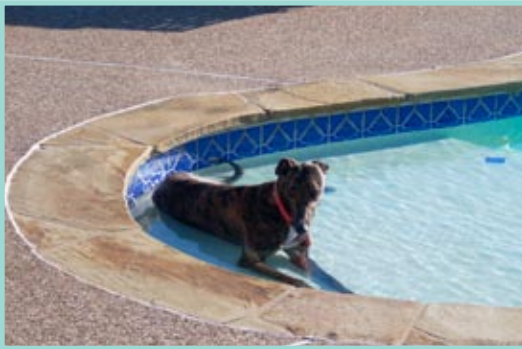


Flower Goes to Texas

Howdy y'all!

Well, we made it home to Texas yesterday afternoon. It was a long trip for poor Flower, who was carsick the entire time we were in motion. We gave her Benadryl, but it's hard to tell if it really helped or not. Even so, she was a trooper. She only threw up twice, and had the good grace to wait until she got out of the truck the first time. She had no appetite, but I tried to keep her hydrated. You could see that she wasn't really at rest until she got into her crate in the motel each evening.

We allowed Flower and Duke (our black Lab) to meet on leashes on neutral turf (driveway) and then the usual wagging and sniffing ensued. Duke looks like an absolute MOOSE next to her! We then went into the back yard, let Duke loose, and walked Flower around the perimeter to show her the boundaries. (Of course it was already raining, started to thunder and then hail – but Flower didn't seem to care.) When I took her over to the pool, she walked right in! (The top “step” is actually a big, round shallow area – kind of like a baby pool.) She took a drink.



I let her off lead, and she took off, despite the yard being rather swamp-like due to the rain over the past three days. I'd forgotten how graceful greyhounds are in motion. Poor Duke wanted to follow, but having grown up from a pup with two greyhounds, simply took the shortcut back and forth at one end of the pool, while she did the big arc along the fence line. (I've always said that he must think he's the world's slowest greyhound.)

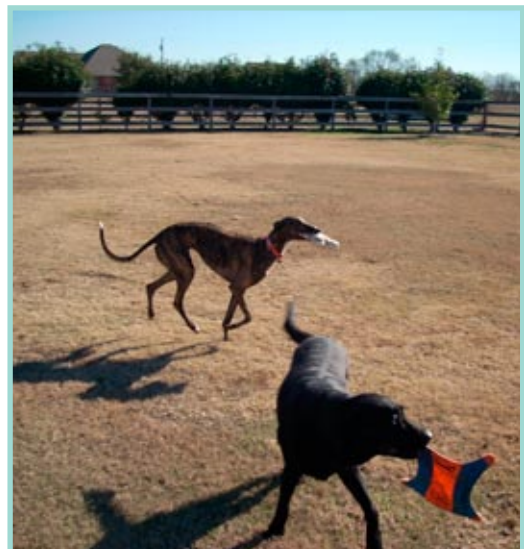
I only fed her a half-ration last night, but she ate all of it.

This morning, when I turned her out, I kept Duke inside so she could just do her business without any distractions. She found a marrow bone and started playing with it, but then Duke appeared, having let himself out the doggie door and they assumed the “play” position and proceeded to romp a bit. Then she started the run back and forth – sometimes full circle through our patio. Again, a joy to watch. When she stopped, she slogged into the pool (good because it rinsed her feet off) to have a drink. I turned around to get a towel from the outside cabinet and when I looked back she was lying in the water! Heck, the water has got to be 50 degrees, but she didn't seem to care. I only wish I had gotten a photo.

I dried her off, crated her for about 30 minutes to settle down, and then she ate a full breakfast – her first meal out of the crate and then checked out the house for awhile – lots to sniff. I'd also forgotten how much taller the hounds are than Duke. I think she's going to be just fine.

We're going to keep crating her and gradually increase supervised “house” time. I'll be sure to send the 2-week report.

Thanks for matching us up with such a sweetie.
Pat Wolf
Texas



BEAR

Hi everyone,

We wanted to let you know that we lost our boy on Thursday. He was 12 years 7 months young. I can't even begin to say how much we miss him and how badly it hurts to not see him in his favorite spots.

Bear was such an overcomer. In the fall of 2005 he had gone into distress and an x-ray showed that his spleen was enlarged. When they went in to remove it, they found an 8 1/2 pound tumor attached to it that had ruptured and was bleeding into his stomach. They removed it, that tumor tested benign, and our vets started calling Bear "the miracle dog." We knew that God had saved his life and given us more special time with him.

My daughter said that if Bear had a favorite song it would have been TobyMac's "Made To Love"... "I was made to love you, I was made just for you, made to adore you, I was made to love, and be loved by you."

That song describes him perfectly. No matter how much love we poured into him, he would pour back even more. He was happy, funny, sweet, beautiful...our special boy.

This picture has always been one of my favorites of Bear...that's the look that met me a thousand times as I would come down the hallway.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to David Wolf and Gay Latimer of NGAP for entrusting Bear to us. We loved him dearly, and he returned that love many, many times over.

Tom, Lori, Chloe, and Minnie Moore

(Bear Moore,
always in our hearts and
thoughts, 9/7/95-4/3/08)



MUSTARD (8/11/92-1/15/08)

Soulful eyes, a squeaky bark
A fuzzy neck and pointy nose
Muscled once, her legs grow weak
And looking in her eyes, she knows

When young, she basked in sun of spring
She ran the yard and played with cat
When old, she stumbled on the step
Slipped on the floor, ate on the mat

Once she ran, flew on the bed
Tangled the covers, made a nest
As time went by, she stopped the play
Took her time to watch and rest

Now gone, the house too quiet and still
The bed is made, the rug now dry
She told me it was time today
So I listened, and I said goodbye

Judith Spangenberg

The Holidays Are A Time For Giving

Please remember National Greyhound Adoption Program. Your donations help all of our greyhounds, both present and future. We are a 501(c)3, non-profit organization.

BELLE

Dear NGAP,

Enclosed is a check for membership and a memorial plaque for my recently deceased greyhound Belle. Her adoption # was 3965. She was my best friend and had a wonderful nine years with her. I couldn't ask for a better companion. She was pictured in the NGAP calendar (August) with Lilly our cat who though Belle was her mother. Thank you so much for all you do for the greyhounds. Belle was my second greyhound and maybe I'll be calling for a third when the time is right.

Deepest appreciation,

Debbie Lutz

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

For a \$50 donation National Greyhound Adoption Program will add an engraved nameplate with your deceased greyhound's name and adoption number to our Memorial Plaque. This plaque will be displayed in our new building once it is completed. Each nameplate is 3" w x 1" h and your \$50 donation will go towards our new building fund. What better way to honor the memory of your deceased pet by making it a permanent part of the organization which enabled it to have such a wonderful life and that will continue to save the lives of so many more greyhounds?

If you are interested in having your greyhound's name added to our Memorial Plaque, please send a \$50 check along with your greyhound's name and adoption number written in the memo section along with GH Memorial.



IN MEMORY OF WILEY

Dear NGAP,

I am so very sad to inform you that, after nearly 14 years on this earth, our Wiley is gone. Our family was so very lucky to have Wiley in our lives for over 10 years. During that time he brought us such incredible happiness and watched our family grow with the birth of our children. People always said jokingly that Wiley was our first child; that was an absolute truth and Wiley certainly knew it.

The pain we are experiencing right now runs so very deep but we take great pleasure in knowing that we gave Wiley an incredible life. He was spoiled beyond belief as evidenced by his collection of 25 stuffed animals and the multiple beds and blankets that were strategically placed throughout our home. While he loved these material things, they paled in comparison to the countless hours of happiness, solitude and love he gave us; we will be forever grateful.

As I think back over the years, I know that Wiley helped save many other Greys given his participation in many meet and greets and in just having people stop us on the street. His personality was larger than life and he could certainly chatter his teeth with the best of them. I know Wiley can take direct credit for three or four adoptions and I am sure that each of those adoptions brought about a similar result. As a result, Wiley's legacy will live on in the lives of many, many adopted Greys. There is no doubt in my mind that we are better people for having had Wiley and witnessing first-hand pure unconditional love. Over the years we have developed a greater respect for animals, for people and the need to take care of those (animals and people) who are unable to care for themselves.

I now question how we could ever contemplate getting another Grey given the pain we are now experiencing. The answer to this question is fairly simple. Any reasonable person would embrace ten years of incredible pleasure and joy even knowing that it will culminate with several weeks of pain, accompanied by wonderful memories. In the end it is a small price to pay.

I write this letter to inform you of Wiley's passing but to also thank everyone at NGAP who helped care for Wiley over the years. More importantly, however, I want to thank you for giving us an opportunity to adopt a family member as loyal and noble a friend as Wiley (I think the attached picture says it all). You are all to be commended for the work you do and the commitment you have made to this cause.

It is just a matter of time before we bring another shining star into our home so that we can continue Wiley's legacy.

Thank you once again.
Michael, Lynn, David and Sarah Sher

Back to Basics

When you first adopt a greyhound, NGAP gives you a list of monthly chores for you to do. It is a short list; easy to do and, unfortunately, easy to forget!

1. Ear Cleaning

During the months of November and December, 12oz. bottles of ear cleaner will be available for only \$5.00. You can pick it up at either the kennel or the office, or we can ship it to you at the \$5.00 cost, plus \$1 handling and whatever the UPS shipping charges are. These bottles usually retail for \$12.00 to \$15.00. Here's your chance to save some money and, more importantly, to keep your dogs' ears clean!

2. Nail Clipping

Nail clipping can become an easy task if you are able to do it yourself and get into a regular monthly routine. Clippers and styptic powder (*Quick Stop, Kwik Stop, etc.*) are available at every pet store and should last you for the life of your dog. Don't be afraid to cut into the quick. That's what the styptic powder is for; it will stop the bleeding. Cutting the quick is the best way to keep your greyhounds nails at an appropriate length. I sometimes suggest the deli slicing technique, where you clip off a little bit until you either nick the quick, or see it. If you nick it slightly, that's the best chance of getting your greyhounds nails to recede. Then you can avoid coming to NGAP for an extreme cutback!

3. Lip Lifting

It's so easy for your greyhound's teeth to build up tartar and plaque but sometimes you won't even realize it until the odor knocks you down. If you take the time each month to pull your greyhounds lip up, you can check it's molars and canines and see if buildup is beginning. If you see tartar build-up in the early stages and if you live close to NGAP, you can always come in for a touch-up. If you see significant buildup, know that it won't be long until your dog will experience gum loss, periodontal disease, and root exposure. These things are easy to avoid by lifting your dog's lip monthly.

4. Grooming

If you regularly complete Steps 1, 2 & 3, you are ready to move on to grooming! Brushing your dog at least once a month will keep you from being embarrassed when you take your dog to Meet & Greets and family functions and having fur fly everywhere when he is petted! Brushing will take the loose hair out and keep your greyhound clean. Bathing your greyhound should be done at least three or four times a year which really shouldn't be too much trouble. Of course, if your greyhound rolls in the mud or in rabbit poop, more frequent bathing is recommended! Follow Steps 1 through 4; we know your greyhound will look better, smell cleaner and, although it won't be able to tell you, it will feel better, too!

Thank You!

I want to say thank you for the help your members gave me when Chanel was lost. I really appreciate all of the help.

Michael Marcantonio



She Loves Me

By Frank Soto

I'm crowing all the time now. To think that after 79 years I could still have a child. Mind-boggling, Yes!

First off, I wouldn't want to mislead the reader. Let's be clear about this...I am owned by a bitch. She is a rescue racing greyhound, not yet two years old, and very demanding. I do for her not the other way around. How could it be otherwise? Just look at those big, brown orbs, the Cyrano de Bergerac nose, the long limbs and graceful canter.

The demands on my time, my thoughts and my energy are as nothing because Suki loves me, she needs me and therefore, ours is a truly symbiotic relationship.

Suki was adopted to Nestor Soto and his father, Frank Soto in June of 2008.

Senior Savior

Dear NGAP,

Just wanted to pass on a picture of Maggie and the newest addition to our family, Pattie (11 year old grey #6557) adopted in October 2007 (*top right*). Both girls are doing great and you would hardly know that Pattie is 11. Enclosed please find pictures of Maggie and Pattie walking, and the girls visiting the ocean! Thank you for bringing them into my life!

Sadly Pattie passed on a mere four months after being adopted. Angie, once again, graciously adopted one of our greyt seniors as a companion for her dog Maggie!

Just to let you all know, Maggie (you would never recognize her now) was so shy when she first came home she would not even go outside - period! You now can't keep her inside. She LOVES long walks that we do daily!! And yes, her self esteem has picked right up!! She now stands near the treat jar and looks at me for a treat!!!

Hestia, our newest member, a 12-year-old returned greyhound, looks great. She has put on weight, and has discovered she likes to listen to NPR during the day...who knew!! For a 12-year-old she walks with us on our long strolls and LOVES to run around in the fenced in park!!! She can play with the best/youngest of them!! And what an eater!!!!(*bottom right*)

We are planning on having many lazy weekends full of long walks and probably a trip to walk/run at Valley Forge!!! I am sad to see that Harry, Hestia's friend whom she lived with, has not been adopted yet. I hope he finds a home soon! I pray for all of your greyhounds but especially the seniors!!! They are the best!!!! Thanks again, the girls say hello!!!

Angie Koenecker



Angie with Pattie & Maggie



Angie with Hestia & Maggie

iGIVE.COM

If you are one of many people who do most of their shopping online, whether all year round or just around the holidays, please consider shopping through iGive.com. With each online purchase you make, National Greyhound Adoption Program receives a percentage of your sale. Signing up with iGive.com is fast and easy and will never cost you a thing! Select National Greyhound Adoption Program as your cause and start earning donations for us! * Participating online stores include Target, 1.800.Petmeds, Barnes & Noble, Babies'R'Us (great for those baby shower registries!), Toys'R'Us Gap, Amazon, Staples, Best Buy, Circuit City, Sears, Macy's, Boscov's, Old Navy and many, many more! You really must check out their store listings! National Greyhound Adoption Program relies heavily on private donations and every little bit counts! Please visit www.iGive.com to sign up today.

JOIN NGAP'S NEW YAHOO! GROUP!

All NGAP adopters and supporters are invited to join our new Yahoo! Group. This is a site for sharing knowledge and providing support to and by owners of retired racing greyhounds and for posting events and important information!

The link is as follows:

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/National-GreyhoundAdoptionProgram-NGAP/>

OR

search Yahoo! Groups for:

NationalGreyhoundAdoptionProgram-NGAP

Warning To All Dog Owners - Xylitol



Erwin C. Nielsen/Painet Inc., Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Popular Science Skunk Deodorizing Recipe

Popular Science (Aug '95) published a scientific study they did comparing various home remedies to alleviate the noxious scent of skunk. Tomato juice baths are worthless and will dye your animal pink; and while Massengil as a home remedy is a bit more effective (it uses hydrogen peroxide), it doesn't have the strength to do the job right and poor Rover will still spend several nights exiled to the back yard while the scent wears off. The following recipe won, hands down and according to testimonials, is effective within 20 minutes.

In a bucket, mix:

- 1 quart of FRESH hydrogen peroxide (available at your local drugstore or grocery store in the health care aisle)**
- 1/4 cup of baking soda**
- 1 teaspoon liquid soap**

The mixture will bubble. Thoroughly wet the victim in this mixture, taking care to keep it out of the eyes. Wash the dog with the mixture as if it were shampoo while it is bubbling. Rinse the dog and repeat. Be careful not to contaminate the rinse water.

The soap breaks down the oil in which the odor is suspended, and the hydrogen peroxide and baking soda neutralize the scent. Do not pre-mix the solution or store this potion in a bottle (the bubbling would cause it to explode). This is also safe for use on carpets.

One day, I arrived home from work, fed Chloe, our 24 Lb. dachshund, just as I normally do. Ten minutes later I walked into the den just in time to see her head inside the pocket of Katie's friend's purse. She had a guilty look on her face so I looked closer and saw a small package of sugar-free gum. It contained xylitol. I remembered that I had recently read that sugar-free gum can be deadly for dogs so I jumped on line and looked to see if xylitol was the ingredient. I found the first website below and it was the one.

Next, I called our vet. She said to bring her in immediately. Unfortunately, it was still rush hour and it took me almost 1/2 hour to get there. Meanwhile, since this was her first case, our vet found another website to figure out the treatment. She took Chloe and said they would induce her to vomit, give her a charcoal drink to absorb the toxin (even though they don't think it works) then they would start an IV with dextrose. The xylitol causes dogs to secrete insulin so their blood sugar drops very quickly. The second thing that happens is liver failure. If that happens, even with aggressive treatment, it can be difficult to save them. The vet told us she would call us.

Almost two hours later, the vet called and said that contents of her stomach contained 2-3 gum wrappers and that her blood sugar had dropped from 90 to 59 in 30 minutes. She wanted us to take Chloe to another hospital that has a critical care unit operating around the clock. We picked her up and took her there. They had us call the ASPCA poison control for a case number and for a donation, their doctors would direct Chloe's doctor on treatment. They would continue the IV, monitor her blood every other hour and then in 2 days test her liver function. She ended up with a central line in her jugular vein since the one in her leg collapsed, just as our regular vet had feared.

Chloe spent almost the entire weekend in the critical care hospital. After her blood sugar was stabilized, she came home yesterday. They ran all the tests again before they released her and so far, no sign of liver damage. Had I not seen her head in the purse, she probably would have died and we wouldn't even have known why.

Three vets told me this weekend, that they were amazed that I even knew about it since they are first learning about it too. Please tell everyone you know about xylitol and dogs. It may save another life.

Vacuuming Sucks for Fleas

Reprinted from *Veterinary Practice News/February 2008*



Vacuuming fleas kills the parasites in all stages of their lives, researchers at Ohio State University say.

Researchers studied the cat flea, the most common type of flea to latch onto family pets and plague pet owners. The study revealed that 96 percent of adult fleas and 100 percent of younger fleas are destroyed after passing through a vacuum.

After such definitive results, scientists repeated the experiment several times to ensure that the numbers were accurate; further trials mimicked the initial results.

“No matter what vacuum a flea gets sucked into, it’s probably a one-way trip,” said Glen Needham, associate professor of entomology at the university and co-author of the study.

Needham theorized that a vacuum’s brushes damage the waxy outer layer of the fleas, the layer that allows the bugs to remain hydrated. Without it, fleas most likely dry up and die, he said.

“We didn’t do a post-mortem, so we don’t know for sure,” he said. “But it appears that the physical abuse they took caused them to perish.”

To further test which portion of the vacuuming process kills fleas, researchers placed fleas in a vacuum bag to test for toxicity; but only 5 percent of adult fleas died. And when simply placed in circulating air, just 3 percent of adult fleas perished.

Each round of experiments tested 100 adult fleas as well as 50 in the pupae stage and 50 in the larvae stage on tightly woven carpet. Researchers conducted the experiments on adult fleas six times, three times on the pupae stage fleas and once on the larvae stage fleas, which resulted in an average of 96 percent of adult fleas killed and 100 percent younger fleas.

“For a while, fleas owned us, but now they’re on the run,” Needham said.

“There are all kinds of ways to manage the problem, but how people feel about insecticides and how much money they want to spend factors into what they’re going to do for flea control. Vacuuming is a great strategy because it involves no chemicals and physically removes the problem.”

Trick for Removing Dog Hair from Your Car

(source unknown)

To remove pet hair from your car’s carpet, put on a pair of latex gloves (readily available in boxes of 100 from pharmacies and hardware/home improvement stores) and then rub your hand over the carpet. The static electricity caused by the latex glove will help bring the pet hair up to the surface of the carpet for easy removal by hand or vacuum. A curry brush (the kind used for horses), dog/cat wire-rake type brush, or rubber brush can all be used for getting the loosened hair up without a vacuum cleaner.

Buying a new car? Don’t know what to do with the old one? Donate it to NGAP! All donations are tax deductible and your donations help the greyhounds! We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Your Pet's Final Day



When you adopted your greyhound you extended to him the “Gift of Life”. You hope that you have brought to your pet’s life as much pleasure as he has brought to yours.

As a pet owner you will face the time when your active and playful pet slows down. Modifying his diet and exercise can help. Medications and other treatments can be used to help keep your companion comfortable and manage any discomfort he may experience.

Eventually your pet will develop health issues that become increasingly harder to control. Quality of life is something we desire for ourselves and our pet. As a loving pet owner it is your responsibility to make the decision when his illness can no longer be controlled. Don’t let your pet suffer when you know there is no chance he will get better. Facing when to make the decision to say goodbye is very difficult, but loving a pet also means knowing the appropriate time to rid him of his suffering and pain. You can bestow your greyhound with this final gift - the “Gift of Death”.

When the time comes to euthanize your pet, talk to your veterinarian to make sure you know what to expect. Schedule an appointment so that you have whatever time you need to be with your pet. If you feel your pet will be stressed or fearful, ask for a sedative that you can give your pet at home before bringing him to your veterinarian’s office.

You will want to be at your pet’s side during his final moments; you owe him that even though it is an incredibly difficult and very emotional experience. If possible, bring a friend or family member with you. Euthanasia takes only a few moments. Your pet will take a deep breath and then fade into unconsciousness, taking a few more breaths and making some unconscious movements. Spend as much time as you may need with your pet after he has died.

Many pet owners keep their pet’s collar for remembrance. Others ask that a special toy or blanket be with their pet during burial or cremation. Do whatever is right for you in the final closure stage of losing your pet.

You must make the decision whether to bury or cremate your pet’s body. If you select burial, the site must be prepared. You can bury your pet in your backyard or at a designated pet cemetery. You can simply bury your pet in a blanket or there are biodegradable caskets or polystyrene caskets and vaults for an air and water tight seal. If you elect to cremate your pet’s body and wish his ashes (cremains) to be returned to you then you will have to request a private cremation. You will then have the option to keep the cremains in a container, bury the cremains, or scatter the ashes in your pet’s favorite spot. There are biodegradable cremain containers for burial with garden stones that are placed on the site. Wooden boxes or ceramic, stone, or metal urns are available for ashes if you wish to keep your pet’s cremains. If you select a communal cremation then your pet’s ashes can not be separated and therefore will not be available for you to have.

Take the time to grieve and mourn your pet’s loss for as long as you feel you need. Don’t be embarrassed to find a support group to help you through this difficult time. Our pets are our family members.



NGAP Crematorium

National Greyhound Adoption Program has made a substantial investment to have a crematory on the premises at our new kennel facility. This has been a project that has been ongoing for about five years, since the initial planning of the kennel. The crematory was purchased at a good price directly from the North American Veterinary Conference. It took us about three years before we were in a position to have it delivered and then another two years before we had a crane available to attach the stack.

NGAP's All Pets Crematory of Philadelphia became fully operational earlier this year. In order to maximize its utility, we have created a new website, www.pets-crematory.com. This website makes the crematory available to all pet owners, not just greyhound owners, with pets up to a maximum weight of 200 pounds. We offer both communal and private cremation. You can be assured that your pet's final journey will be done with respect and dignity.

For detailed information on our crematory, go to www.ngap.org, click 'Services' and then click 'Pets Crematorium', or go directly to the crematory website at www.pets-crematory.com.

Anyone with questions regarding pet cremation can call our office.



The Gift of Life, The Gift of Death

Those of us who have adopted a greyhound have undoubtedly 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. It is our greatest hope that we have brought as much pleasure to its life, as it has to ours. However, the time will come when your pet will not feel well, but it will not be able to tell you. By the time you realize it, its health will most likely be failing. Quality of life is something we all desire for ourselves and our pets. When we lose that quality of life, when there is no longer a light at the end of the tunnel, when the hope of extended life is more to put off the pain that we ourselves would feel over the loss of our greyhound, then it is time to give your beloved friend the final gift - the "Gift of Death." To prolong the life of your greyhound when the quality of life is not worth living is unfair to the pet who has given you so much happiness and love. Without any undue pain or suffering, you can bestow your greyhound with this final gift. It is always a difficult choice, but as a true memorial to the greyhound you have lost, you can always give another greyhound the "Gift of Life" and start the circle anew.



John McCain gets an Earful

For those of you that do not know Lisa Fritz, she is one of our very active volunteers in Philadelphia who raises money on a weekly basis for us at flea markets with her greyhound, Lady Fritz. One Tuesday, there was considerable commotion across the street from where Lisa works and it turned out that John McCain was visiting. Lisa hastily gathered Lady Fritz up and off they went across the street. She managed to get through the secret service protecting him and said “Senator McCain, do you realize in your great state of Arizona, that you have greyhound racing? And that 20,000 of these wonderful dogs are killed each year? I would appreciate it if you would consider ending greyhound racing.” He didn’t quite know what to say. He shook her hand and she asked him to pet the dog, which he did. Unfortunately, we do not have a good photo showing it, but Lisa had a blast. Way to go Lisa!



Lady Fritz

SHOP NGAP’s WEB STORES!

NGAP has a full array of greyhound merchandise available in our website store.

Visit our website at:

www.NGAP.org

and click on ‘Our Store’.

We also have merchandise available in our ebay store for a set price, as well as merchandise for auction. Please visit our ebay store at:

http://stores.ebay.com/NGAP-Store



Photo courtesy of Mike Feltenberger

Fast Dogs, Fast Cars!

Check out this race car sent to us by Chad Sinon of BPG Racing/Chad Sinon Motorsports (www.bpgracing.com). If you look closely, you’ll spot the NGAP logo on the inside panel! Chad, his wife Lauren and their family have two adopted greyhounds from NGAP, Hurricane and Typhoon, pictured below.



'Bring Your Children to Work Day' at Johnson & Johnson



Centocor, a Division of Johnson & Johnson located in Horsham, PA, held its annual "Bring Your Children to Work Day" on April 24, 2008. They called the NGAP office and asked that we bring greyhounds and talk to two separate groups of children about how wonderful they are. The photo shows a group of about forty children, but the Director, David Wolf, lectured a total of about seventy. Everyone enjoyed themselves - the Director, volunteers Roland Proulx and Caroline Vogt, greyhound ambassadors Puffy and Sabrina and each of the children who were able to interact with them! Each child was given a specially prepared customized sticker saying that they petted a greyhound. One group received an air freshener to take home while the other group received wristbands. NGAP would like to extend a sincere thank you to Johnson & Johnson for allowing us this wonderful opportunity to spread the word about greyhound adoption!

NGAP is Looking for People Who Adopted Their Greyhounds from Hemopet and The Pet Blood Bank

If you have adopted a greyhound from either Hemopet in California or The Pet Blood Bank in Texas you already know that your greyhound was a blood donor. It is our belief that many of the greyhounds in these two blood banks have been placed there without the express permission of their registered greyhound owner and that these owners were told that their greyhounds were going to be adopted into homes. This is called 'misrepresentation' and is against the law in most states. Charges can be brought against the blood banks as well as the adoption programs providing the blood banks with greyhounds.

Unfortunately, blood banks do not necessarily do what they say what they will do, which is, instead of keeping greyhounds for a short period of time under excellent conditions, they keep them for a long period of time under unacceptable conditions. If you have read our position regarding greyhound blood donors, it is quite clear.

If you believe you have adopted a greyhound that fits into this category and you believe in our philosophy to try and get better treatment for greyhounds after racing, please contact us. We will need good tattoo numbers from your greyhound's left and right ears, hopefully a photo, and the circumstances under which you adopted the greyhound. With that information, we could begin the investigative work necessary to determine if a misrepresentation has occurred.

More and more blood banks are turning to outsourcing rather than keeping captive donors. This is, of course, the ideal scenario. Please contact us if you wish to help.



According to National Statistics

The United States Government tells us that the American population is gaining too much weight. We as greyhound adopters can take on that challenge to start reversing that course by simply walking our dogs. The more you walk, the better your health will be and, as it turns out, the better your greyhounds health will be, too! Older greyhounds especially need more exercise. They need to get their heart rate up and keep their bodies moving. And the best part is, they enjoy it! Of course, once you get into the rhythm of daily walks, your dog won't let you skip a day! If you don't do it, they will let you know. Expect to be bumped around at that walk time each morning and/or night as a reminder. Take this to heart - for your heart and your greyhound's as well!

Behavior Group Discourages Punishment

Reprinted from Veterinary Practice News/February 2008



Citing the popularity of dominance-based dog training television show such as “The Dog Whisperer” and a resurgence of punishment-based dog-training techniques, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior has decided that punishment is to be used only with great care and under specific circumstances.

The group says that the standard of care for veterinarians is that punishment (such as choke chains, pinch collars and electronic collars) is not to be used as a first-line or early-use treatment for behavior problems. The guidance is contained in the group’s new “Position Statement and Guidelines on the Use of Punishment for Dealing with Behavior Problems in Animals.”

“A major problem with using punishment is that it suppresses behavior temporarily but does not necessarily modify the underlying cause of the behavior,” said John Ciribassi, DVM, Dipl. ACVB, president of the group. “As a result, it may make animals worse in the long run. For example, a fear-aggressive dog may become more fearful of people, making future aggression more likely.”

Punishment may also interfere with the bond that exists between the owner and animal.

“We can have a problem with the pet not trusting the owner because it is unable to consistently anticipate what the owner is going to do in any given situation,” he said.

“This occurs because people tend to punish inconsistently and because punishment is often a consequence of the owner’s anger, which leads to its use well after the bad behavior has occurred and in an overly intense level over a prolonged period.”

The behavior group recommends that training should focus on reinforcing desired behavior, removing the re-enforcer for inappropriate behaviors and addressing the emotional state and environmental conditions driving the undesirable behavior.

“Punishment should only be used when the above approach has failed despite an adequate effort as part of a larger training or behavior modification program that incorporates reinforcement of appropriate behaviors and works to change the underlying cause of the problem behavior,” the position statement reads.

Veterinary behaviorists and Ph.D. behaviorists tend to focus on positive reinforcement combined with negative punishment. This means they remove the rewards for the undesirable behavior and then reward the appropriate behavior.

For example, if a dog greets by jumping, behaviorists remove their attention (negative punishment) when the dog jumps, and when the dog sits or stands calmly, they reward the dog (positive reinforcement).

For the full position statement and guidelines, visit www.avsabonline.org.



Bad Habits

Letting your dog get away with bad habits just doesn't work in the long run. I received a call today from a long-time adopter that permitted his dog to be somewhat territorial regarding his space. And now, those circumstances have come back to bite him. That same dog that was permitted to growl and snap for many years now has a small child roaming around in its territory. What are the options? First, you have to muzzle the dog because you must protect your child. Second, you must begin retraining your dog, after 8 years of this behavior, so that this issue will go away. Of course, the third option is ultimately to return the dog that's been in your home for 8 years, penalizing him because he was not properly trained from the first day. That dog, when returned, will have to learn a new environment, new people and faces, and a new schedule. I am confident he can, but he had a bad habit and was permitted to have that bad habit which was wrong.

Everyone should remember that if you have a problem with your greyhound, seek our help first - don't wait!



Ten Commandments for Pet Owners

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want from me. Do not break my spirit with your temper, though I will always forgive you. Your patience will teach me more effectively.
3. Please have me spayed or neutered.
4. Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for your kindness than mine. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. After all, you have your job, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you.
5. Speak to me often. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me. Your voice is the sweetest sound I ever hear, as you must know by my enthusiasm whenever I hear your footsteps.
6. Take me in when it's cold and wet. I'm a domestic animal and am no longer accustomed to the bitter 'elements.' I ask for little more than your gentle hands petting me. Keep my bowl filled with water. Feed me good food so I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding. By your side, I stand ready, willing and able to share my life with you, for that is what I live for. I'll never forget how well you've treated me.
7. Don't hit me. Remember, I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I chose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart may be getting weak.
9. Take care of me when I grow old. For you will grow old too.
10. When I am old, or when I no longer enjoy good health, please do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having fun. Just see to it that my trusting life is taken gently. And be with me on that difficult journey when it's time to say goodbye. Never say, "I just can't bear to watch." Everything is easier for me when you are there. I will leave this earth knowing with my last breath that my fate was always safest in your hands. I LOVE YOU. -Your Best Friend

JOIN NGAP'S EMAIL LIST!

Email is the cheapest and fastest way for NGAP to keep in touch with its adopters and supporters. If you would like to be kept in the loop about NGAP's current events, announcements, and greyt volunteer opportunities, please join our email list! Just fill out the form below and return it to our office or just email us at info@ngap.org with the words **ADD ME TO YOUR LIST** in the subject line!

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

State: _____

Email Address: _____

Return To:

**National Greyhound Adoption Program
10901 Dutton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154**

2009 Celebrating Greyhound Calendars Are Here!

2009 Celebrating Greyhound Calendars are now available at NGAP! Wall calendars are \$10.00 each, desk calendars are \$15.00 each and both are available for purchase at our office location, Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm. Calendars can also be purchased by visiting our website store, www.ngap.org, from our ebay store, www.stores.ebay.com/ngap-store, or by calling our office at **215.331.7918**. Appropriate shipping and handling charges will be applied to all calendars shipped from our facility.



NGAP NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

My tax deductible contribution is enclosed for (circle one):

Single Annual: \$15.00 Family Annual: \$25.00 Sponsor: \$50.00

Donor: \$100.00 Benefactor: \$1,000.00 Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Greyhound Owner: Yes___ No___

**Please call about volunteering with NGAP!
Thank you for your donation!**

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

National Greyhound Adoption Program Office
10901 Dutton Road . Philadelphia, PA 19154
Ph. 215.331.7918 Fx. 215.331.1947
info@ngap.org www.ngap.org



National Greyhound Adoption Program
Kennel/Clinic
4800 Wingate Street . Philadelphia, PA 19136
Ph. 215.331.3625 Fx. 215.331.1947