

Greyhound

Update

A Newsletter From The National Greyhound Adoption Program
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1999 - Another Wonderful Year of Achievements

Each year we try to undertake projects to stretch the limits of what we do. Although the number of adoptions we do each year is high, it is hard to increase due to the ever increasing number of adoption programs across the nation. We still continue to fly greyhounds to different parts of our country and send our advocacy message with them. NGAP has flown more greyhounds than probably anyone else ever. U.S. Airways continues to fly our greyhounds and has flown between 2,500 - 3,000 greyhounds at this point. We continue to shadow greyhound racing activities and bear down on them whenever we find proveable abuse or exploitation.

This past summer a greyhound arrived at our facility that was ten years old. He had the worst teeth of any dog we had ever seen. He had come from a breeding facility and had been used for a stud. That in itself was bad enough, but the person that was responsible to care for this greyhound was a veterinarian which made this inexcusable. It was very clear what we needed to do. We filed charges against Dr. David Moses of Ocala, Florida, with the Florida Parimutuel Division, Ocala Animal Control and the State Veterinary Board. The case is still ongoing. Most adoption programs would have just swept it under the rug and not made an issue of it - not at NGAP!

The big project for 1999 was to purchase necessary equipment to perform orthopedic surgery. For many months we started accumulating some of the instruments, but we had no one to perform the surgery. Gay Latimer, our Virginia affiliate, finally got ahold of Dr. Spencer Johnston from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia and he drove up and performed our first orthopedic surgery. This year we have taken a much closer look at coagulation problems with our female greyhounds. We tested approximately 10% (about thirty) of the greyhounds we considered to be candidates to have the Von Willibrands factor. All thirty tested positive. In the year 2000 we expect to expand on these studies.

Our surgical facility has been up and running for about four years and for the last 1 ½ years we have been putting together a new surgical facility that when completed this year should be a true showpiece. Its being built from the ground up, and all of the equipment will be the most modern available. We invite everyone to come and visit!

In March we performed a leg amputation for the first time on a greyhound we suspected had a malignant tumor in its wrist. Our appraisal was correct and it is now one year later and Chelsea is doing fine.

There is no doubt in our minds that we have performed more dental procedures on greyhounds than any other facility in the country. We now use several different techniques and it is our belief that our veterinarians are highly skilled in this area.

Now as we begin our 11th year many of our greyhounds are dying. Most from cancer. Most of these cancers are shoulder related. Of course, more canines die of cancer than any other reason, but it is my belief that racing has a significant impact on earlier cancer in the greyhound breed.

The year 2000 will be another exciting year for us and we look to answer many of the questions that we don't have answers for as we continue our quest to find loving homes for our fast friends.

A GREYHOUND PRAYER

*When I die, let it be as a pet.
So that someone will remember me!*

