

Greyhound Update



A Newsletter From The National Greyhound Adoption Program, Inc

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2000 - Another Wonderful Year Of Achievements

National Greyhound Adoption Program each year tries to diligently stretch beyond the limits of previous years activities. At the close of 2000 we have achieved almost 4,900 adoptions since our humble beginnings in 1990. We continue to do all of those things we have done in the past. NGAP still flies more greyhounds than any other adoption program in the United States. Most of our greyhounds from Florida come from Hollydogs in Hollywood, Florida. We have also supported them with a trailer donation, dental equipment, bathing unit, carpet, food, and medications. We additionally fly greyhounds under emergency conditions from other areas of Florida, as well as, other places in the United States. Since last year our compound has grown. Now we have our own boarding kennel for greyhounds. It houses up to 40 dogs at any one time. Taking in boarders affords us additional income but even more importantly it gives us the opportunity to check on the greyhound's health and well-being. Most greyhounds boarding with us will be seen at our new surgical facility, nails will be cut, ears cleaned and receive a dental check up which may include extractions and bonding. Our new surgical unit took approximately two years to complete. The new unit affords us more room for equipment that we never had before and one additional work station for surgery and dentistry.

In the year 2000 we began a research study. We have long struggled with getting safe clotting times to perform surgery on female greyhounds. We had done sporadic testing in previous years sending blood work off for Von Willebrands testing. Initially we had been only testing greyhounds that we had predetermined as high coagulation times based on a glass slide. In March of 2000 every greyhound that came to our facility had testing done, 1) glass slide, 2) platelet counts, 3) ACT test coagulation, 4) Bocul Mucosal and 5) Von Willebrands. Von Willebrands is a bleeding disorder in humans known as hemophilia. We have tested approximately 375 greyhounds in the year 2000 and continue to test to this date. We

have determined that 77% are Von Willebrands positive and 40% are considered carriers of Von Willebrands factor. This research has never been done before on greyhounds to the extent that we are doing it. When the study is complete we expect to publish it in the appropriate veterinarian journals. This information about greyhounds was never known before this study. It is difficult to find something more significant than that study, but sometime this year we plan to do a study on how thyroid supplementation effects coagulation. At the present time we have begun thyroid supplementation for all females. We have found that within a three-week period of supplementation, coagulation times improve significantly lowering our surgical risks. We are sure that if this supplementation works on greyhounds it will also work on other canines. Lower surgical risks means a lower risk of hemorrhage either during or post-op surgery

Year 2000 has brought another dynamic procedure in dentistry for greyhounds. After NGAP's director had to have a tooth bonded at a dentist office he determined that this procedure would help our greyhound's dental health. It is not uncommon for a 2 1/2 year old greyhound to have the beginnings of periodontal disease. At our facility in Philadelphia we now bond root exposed canines and molars to stop periodontal disease progression. This is done mostly on previously adopted greyhounds. Adopters have come hundreds of miles to have us do this procedure. The results are remarkable, and at both the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, Florida and University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia we demonstrated this bonding procedure to veterinarians and received substantial interest. We consider National Greyhound Adoption Program to be on the cutting edge and will continue to strive in leadership with your support.



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