

# LOVELY LOLA fits our family

**By Suzanne Gwin**

My husband, Kevin, was a newspaper reporter in Florida when he first got interested in Greyhound adoption. Our faithful family dogs had all passed away and after doing some grieving, the subject of adopting a retired racer came up again. We attended Meet and Greets to learn more and that's where we found out we could be matched with a Greyhound, one that could become just like another member of our family.

Our five children range in age from 22 months to 13 years. At the time, our youngest was just sitting up, so we needed a Grey who could live peacefully in our busy family ... a Grey that wasn't set in its ways.

**WELCOME HOME**

Having Lola with us has been a terrific addition to our family. She's such a little girl. She gets excited and jumps around when she's ready to play. Just like the kids she loves toys and attention and being in the middle of everything with us. Nothing makes her happier.

Lola is always gentle and loving with the kids, no matter what their antics. She puts herself to bed at 7:30 every

night. In the morning, when Kevin and I wake up, her nose is right there on us, just like kids.

**LIFE WITH LOLA**

We don't have a fenced yard right now but that doesn't matter to Lola as long as she gets to go out on her daily walks with the whole family. While we're walking, the kids ride along on their bikes and circle her and she doesn't care because as far as she's concerned, it's just extra attention. She's always easy going, good on leash and well behaved with other dogs.

Recently, we had 42 people at our house and some of them were kids. Everyone fell in love with her. Her grinning is huge. She greeted everyone who came to door. Many of them had never seen a Grey, so Lola got a lot of attention and she loved it.

Lola is a wonderful family companion, though it has to be a family that is responsible and dedicated, one that's willing to

give the Grey the time and care it need. The pay off with a Grey like Lola is a sweet gentle companion, one that plops her big self down in the middle of everything and lets the kids use her as a pillow.



**Lola likes nothing better than being with her family, The Gwins (from left) Kevin, Canaan, Reese, Austin, Landry, Suzanne and Bode.**



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# Music City Roo'er www.nashvillegreys.org

## GPA/N Adoptions hit 80 in 2003

National goal: 7000 in 2007

The final numbers are in for 2003 and 80 retired Greyhounds found their forever homes in Middle Tennessee and Southern and Western Kentucky through the hard work of members of Greyhound Pets of America/Nashville.

And we're off to an even better start in 2004 Thanks to the dedication of all our volunteers and foster families, as of April 1, we've already placed 27 Greys this year.

We've recently paired up with our sister Chapter, GPA/Emerald Coast (gpaec.org) as a source for Greys. Based in Pensacola, Fla., they get retired dogs from the Ebro and Pensacola tracks. After they initially profile and vet the hounds, they deliver them to us in a van and hauler on their way to GPA groups in Louisville and St. Louis with more adoptables. The van was funded in part by GPA National, The American Greyhound Council and PetsMart Charities.

**THE BIG PICTURE**

GPA/N is part of a nationwide Greyhound adoption network with an ambitious goal — the annual adoption of 7,000 Greyhounds by 2007 through local GPA chapters. With an estimated 22,000 Greyhounds retiring every year, it's a challenge for this volunteer organization of 1,500 members. It's a goal GPA/Nashville is determined to help achieve by finding responsible homes for retired Greys. To learn more about 7X7, visit GPA National site at [www.greyhoundpets.org](http://www.greyhoundpets.org).



**Ann Bollen of GPA/Emerald Coasts unloads adoptable Greys in Nashville from the group's van which was purchased with funds donated in part by PetsMart.**

**Recent Adoptions**

- Jennifer & Evan Sanders – Jake
- Pat Madden – Duke
- Raina Coggins – Able
- Jon Dolan & Sarah Donahue – Art
- Marc Foment-Meurice & Cecile Moreau – Ulysse
- Carol Hunt – Dave
- Melody Rife – Fortune & Ben
- Jim & Fay Nation – Troy Carter
- Rob & Stephanie Mannon – Tanner
- Michael Westerfield – Solo
- Jennifer Smith – Scout
- The Routledge Family – John
- O.C. & Jane Wakefield – Melba
- Robert & Patsy Currie – Beamer
- Pam Brown – Lance
- Todd & Gina Wiser – Danny
- Chris & Nancy Kitterman – Jordy
- The Rosenthal Family – Prince
- Mike & Caryn Cozel – Biaggi
- Craker Family – Jo

- Chips**  
(You can't have just one!)
- Steve & Sue Silva – Honey
  - Robert & Leigh Dinwiddie – Majik
  - Barbara & Dan Martin – Nelson
  - Mark & Becky Orman – Cleo
  - Gabella Family – Coil



### It's Flea & Tick Time

Prevention takes a Variety of Forms

By Carol Macherey, DVM



Spring is here and along with the blue skies and warm weather come fleas and ticks. Here are the basics on some of the newer products that can safely be used on Greyhounds.

Always remember that each of our pets is an individual. When using any product, regardless of its safety claims, observe YOUR pet to be

sure that it is well tolerated. *Advantage* – Kills 98-100% of fleas within 12 hours. It spreads over the surface of the body in the oil layer of the skin. Advantage targets an area of the flea nervous system that is not shared by mammals, and, as a result, it is very safe. For it to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Fleas and Ticks

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be most effective, don't bathe your Grey two days before or after application. Advantage only kills fleas.

**Potential Problems:** Infrequently, hair loss at the site of application.

**Advantix** – A newer version of Advantage, it combines the original product with permethrin. While there has been a tendency to avoid permethrin, this product has been used safely on Greyhounds. It protects against mosquitoes and fleas and prevents tick attachment.

**Potential Problems:** Infrequent hair loss and some itching after application.

**Frontline Top Spot** – Front Line kills nearly 100% of the fleas within 18 hours and ticks within 48 hrs. This does allow the tick to attach, but kills it before any of the dangerous tick-borne diseases can be transmitted. For it to

be most effective, don't bathe your Grey two days before or after application. Kills both fleas and ticks.

**Revolution** – This is the only topical heartworm preventative, and it also claims control of ear mites, sarcoptic mange, fleas and one species of tick. It's absorbed and then secreted back into the oils of the skin.

**Potential Problems:** Flea and tick control is slow and spotty.

**OTHER CONTROLS** – To fight a tick infestation in your yard, fill a standard Ortho yard sprayer with Ivory dish washing soap and set it to two tablespoons dilution. Spray the affected area and allow to dry. Repeat every four-six weeks.

**Potential Problems:** This treatment is dangerous to birds and some beneficial insects that come in contact with the treated area.



## Hounds display green at parade

**Nashville's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade brought out about 35 Greyhounds and their people to proudly strut their stuff while also informing the community about Greyhound adoption.**

**The hounds embraced the spirit of the day by wearing their green GPA/N racing "silks" and impressing the audience with their easy going ways.**



## Greyhound Road Trips

Feel like a road trip for you and your Grey? Here's a partial list of Greyhound-focused events scheduled east of the Rockies for this year. Check out the URLs for details.

**Greyhounds in Gettysburg, Penn.**  
<http://www.trianglegreyhound.org/gig>  
April 23-25

**Greyhound America in Abilene, Kan.**  
<http://www.racethewind.org/>  
June 10-13

**Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering in Benton Harbor, Mich.**  
<http://www.glgg.org/>  
Probably in late June

**GPA National Convention in Richmond, Vir.**  
<http://www.gpaconvention.org/>  
Sept. 17-19

**Greyhounds Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach, Del.**  
<http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey/>  
October 8-11

## Fostering 101

First step in helping new Greys prepare for their forever homes

### By Pam Brewer

Being a foster parent to a retired racer is challenging and rewarding. My first was Bookem and since him, I've fostered some 20+ hounds. In the beginning, I was afraid I wouldn't be a good foster parent. I didn't know what to expect. What if I did something wrong?

Over the years, I've learned many lessons. No. 1 is you must be the leader of the pack. Period. You set the rules, you reprimand and you also give out hugs for good behavior. The freer reign a foster has in your house the harder it will be for him to adapt to his forever home.

**Housebreaking** — Upon arrival, take him out. If he does his business, praise him. If he doesn't, take him out every 15 minutes until he does. Thereafter, take him out every hour or so and always within an hour of eating, first thing in the morning and before bed. If you catch him "in the act" scold him loudly and take him out. Use a crate or tether him to you until he gets it.

**Walk Through** — Upon arrival in your home, walk the foster through the house on a leash so he gets a sense of the different rooms, flooring, etc. Then walk him to the windows and mirrors. Tap them as he looks out or at himself. (They usually get a bit excited looking at themselves).

**Muzzles** — These are a must if you have another



**Pam Brewer's recent foster, Biaggi, discovers stuffies and the wonderful world of being a companion dog.**

dog, especially a small one, or cat or small children. Your foster should wear it except when crated.

**Crate** — In his permanent home, your foster may have to be crated all day. So, all fosters should learn to spend time in a crate. Some will go right in, others need a push. For whining, use a spray bottle. Turning on the radio to keep him company can help or providing a Kong dabbled with peanut butter.

**Stair Struck** — With the dog on the lead, gently lift each leg onto a stair step until you get to the top. Use the same techniques when loading and unloading from vehicles. PATIENCE and positive reinforcement help.

**No Furniture** — He may go to a permanent home where furniture sitting isn't allowed, so teach him his bed is his couch.

If you have other dogs, how you interact with the foster is key. A foster must understand his place so as not to disrupt the established hierarchy. This is critical if you already have an alpha dog.

## GPA/N SPRING EVENTS

### Recycled hounds at Earth Day

In lieu of our usual Saturday Meet and Greet, our booth will be set up all day in Centennial Park on April 17 so we can help celebrate Earth Day with our recycled hounds. Last year was our third appearance at this event and it's where Barbara Martin first met our group. Not much later, Astro found his forever home with the Martins.

We hope to have similar good luck this year. We'll be looking for Greys and their people to staff the booth throughout the day. (Times will be announced on the list.)

### North to Clarksville

GPA/Nashville's presence at the April 24 and 25 American Kennel Club All-Breed Dog Show in Clarksville will be a first for us. We'll be setting up our booth at the Clarksville/Montgomery County Fairgrounds for this two-day event and staffing it in shifts similar to Meet and Greet. (It's a chance for the Greys and their people in the northern corner of the state and Kentucky to join in the fun without driving all the way to Nashville.)

It's also an opportunity for our Greyhounds to strut their serene and soulful stuff and for us to guide people to retired racers who are looking for a couch to occupy. Watch the list for sign up times and directions. For additional information, contact Mardy Fones, 297-2033.

### Yard sale ahead

Yes, it's that time of year again when GPA/Nashville members empty out their closets, attics, cabinets and basements and provide merchandise for the annual yard sale. Last year, we raised \$1,800 and could have sold more if we hadn't been rained out.

The date is 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, May 14 and 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 15 at the home of Carol Macherey, 5940 Abbot Dr., Nashville. For information or merchandise pick up call Sharron Lane, 418-7216, or Pam Neiman, 308-0688. Remember — GPA Nashville is a 501(c)3 corporation, so donations are tax deductible.

### Greyhound day at Sounds Stadium

GPA/Nashville Greyhounds and their people will be at the Sounds Stadium at 2 p.m. May 16, when the Sounds play the Portland Beavers. Bring your Grey, your family and your poop bags, buy your tickets and join us for an afternoon of fun as we raise awareness about Greyhound adoption. Watch the list for details.

### Again in Centennial Park

On Saturday, June 5 we'll set up our booth in Centennial Park to raise awareness about Greyhounds as a part of Nashville Pride Day. Watch the list for sign-ups or call Sharron Lane, 418-7216.