



GPA-Nashville
P.O. Box 1042
Goodlettsville, TN 37070

www.GPANashville.org

Email: GPANashville@gmail.com

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA - NASHVILLE | SPRING 2009

KIDS AND GREYHOUNDS Keeping it sane, managing the mix for everyone

BY JAN BORNSTEIN

When I first looked into the eyes of a greyhound, I knew they were the breed for me. But were they they right for my two-year-old son, Devon? I knew in my heart that I would do anything to make bringing a greyhound into our home work.

I learned though greyhounds adapt easily, they aren't raised as pets and have never seen kids. While GPA/N's hounds all are fostered, they still have much to learn, especially about living with kids. And kids have a lot to learn about greyhounds. Here are some things that can help:

- **Educate** — Talk with children about the differences between a retired racer and their friends' golden retrievers.

- **Teach respect** — Don't allow your child to go to the hound's bed and pull on his collar. Teach your child to stand back and say the hound's name. If the dog ignores the child, teach the child to leave him be. Reassure your child that the hound loves him but needs "his time."

- **Be patient** - Your new hound needs time to adjust to kids' noises, the sounds of toys, kids' fast movements and your routines.

- **Create a safe zone** — Provide your hound with a safe place — whether it's his crate or a bed in a quiet room. When your hound goes to this place, he's off limits. If

your kids have trouble with this, use baby gates.

- **Be observant** — Learn your greyhound's body language to detect when the kid factor is too high. Signals include pacing, panting, whining, trying to get away and growling.

- **Safety first** — Never ever leave a small child alone with a dog, any dog. Too busy to watch? Move your hound to his safety zone or muzzle him. Muzzling is a safety measure for not only your little human but also for your hound.

- **Sleep smart** — If your hound sleeps crateless in your room, gate the doorway so your child can't run in in the night and step on a sleeping hound.

- **Supervise** — When your child pets the hound, be hands on and go slowly. Once the hound realizes the little human isn't a threat, he may come to your child for loving.

- **No furniture** — Hold off on letting your hound on furniture until everyone knows boundaries and limitations.

- **Overnight success** — When your child has sleepovers, babygate your hound in his safety zone.

- **Food facts** — It's just too tempting for a dog if kids, especially little kids, wander the house with food in their hands. Teach kids that once a hound has taken



Jan Bornstein's pack includes husband, Daryl and son Devon as well as hounds, Temple and Boyd and senior, JB, pictured above.

snatched food, don't try to take it back.

Greyhounds and kids can live well together. Educate yourself and your child. Be patient. Set boundaries for the child and hound. When you do, you'll have a dog-savvy child and a family-friendly hound.

GREYHOUND
Pets of America
NASHVILLE

Greyt News

www.gpanashville.org

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

Run with the Hounds

Winter Gathering, Sunday, Feb. 22

Breakout of the mid-winter blahs and come to Greyhound Pets of America/Nashville's Winter Gathering from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Tennessee Livestock Center (TLC) in Murfreesboro.

Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family, plus \$2 per greyhound. The TLC has added a \$2 per-dog charge for use of the TLC. GPA/N does not profit from this and has not increased the gate fee for this event, even though the TLC has increased the fees GPA/N and vendors pay to rent the facility.

You can skip the sign-in table and register in advance for the Winter Gathering. Just go to our website at www.gpanashville.org and use the Paypal buttons at the bottom. When you do, your badges will be waiting for you at a separate table.

Join the fun

The TLC is a spacious, heated, clean, dog-friendly venue with free parking, restrooms, seating for people, space for refreshments and activities. There's a large area where hounds can safely romp off lead, so be sure to bring muzzles. If you don't have a muzzle, we'll have them to loan and to buy. This is a greyhound-only event. Please don't bring non-greyhounds.

There'll be games and prizes, a live auction, shopping from vendors selling greyhound-specific merchandise, plus food and toenail trims for \$5 per dog. As always, there will be a fun run for the hounds who will compete based on radar-gun tracked speed and a toy exchange, so be sure to bring the toys your hound is no longer playing with and swap for new ones.

Shop 'til ya drop

GPA/N will be selling Silk Road martingale-style collars and a variety of fleece greyhound jackets. Other vendors include GreytArt, See Spot Eat, Run with It Embroidery and Pets Rule, so be sure to bring your checkbook.



Competitive mini-races are just one of the fun activities at GPA/N's Feb. 22 Winter Gathering at the Tennessee Livestock Center in Murfreesboro.

There'll also be a snack table, so bring a favorite snack to share. Soda, water and coffee will be provided.

Questions? Email Jan Bornstein at janbornstein@aol.com

Helping hands needed

Every GPA/N event runs on the power of its volunteers, so step up and volunteer to help make Winter Gathering 2009 a success. Event coordinator, Jan Bornstein, is looking for folks to help set up, to staff the sign in booth, manage the food table, work with vendors and help with the foster dogs. Most importantly, we need people to stick around at the end of the WGO9 to help teardown.

To get on the WGO9 team, email Jan at janbornstein@aol.com.

GPA/N Winter Gathering Directions

- Take I-24 to Murfreesboro Exit 80. Turn left on New Salem Rd/TN-99 and go .4 miles to Middle Tennessee State Blvd. Turn right on Middle Tennessee State University Blvd. and go .35 miles to the intersection of MTSU Blvd. and Greenland. Turn right on Greenland. The Tennessee Livestock Center will be about a half mile down on the right. Watch for the large parking lot and the greyhound signs. The building is set back from the street.

President's Column

There's never a shortage of retired racers looking for homes. Some kennel owners do what they can to "pet out" dogs whose careers are over. But when a racing kennel closes, it's a whole 'nother ballgame, one that demands action, resources and commitment.

In December, we had a full house of available dogs when the FishDog Kennel at the Birmingham Track announced it was closing and 35+ dogs needed places to go.

We've taken hounds from FishDog for several years. They're the folks who organized our successful on-line auction last fall. They frequently give us donations. They want to do right by their dogs and they managed to place all but 12 before the kennel closed for good.

Road Trip

In January, three teams of two volunteers each drove to Birmingham to pick up these dogs. We left Nashville at 7 a.m. and the last hound was bathed and in a run by 6 p.m. or so. Long day.

The costs of dealing with a kennel closure are high. There's boarding until dogs are vetted, plus the cost of vetting — shots, neuters/spays, dentals, microchips, worming, lab work, collars, leashes and tags.

Then there's the cost of feeding these hounds in foster homes while they wait for adoption. Foster homes are the real heroes in this story, taking in fresh-from-the-track dogs and helping them learn to be pets.

One Dog at a Time

For now, 12 more hounds are safe. This is the work we do and this is how our money is spent. The work is unrelenting...doing Meet & Greets, helping foster families and getting food to them, assessing applications, going on home visits and following-up with new adopters to ease their transition.

Then there are the lost dog hunts, promoting adoption, recruiting foster families, planning and working special events and keeping up with the endless paperwork that's part of operating a non-profit. Is it worth it? Look into your hounds' eyes and ask them. The answer is there.

Liz Trapp
President, GPA/Nashville

BY THE NUMBERS GPA/N's 2008 financials

BY KENT HIDAY, GPA/N TREASURER

The fact that almost everything costs more in 2008 and that people are cutting spending is no surprise. Just like you, GPA/N has seen costs increase across the board. Here are some examples:

Adoption expenses such as the cost of bathing, feeding and boarding foster dogs and equipping them with appropriate collars, leashes and muzzles were \$11,317.59 in 2007 and \$12,732.13 in 2008. Gas for transporting dogs from kennels and taking dogs on home visits went from \$2,391.31 in 2007 to \$3,181.68 in 2008.

Naturally, our largest cost is preparing dogs to be adopted. This includes routine vetting and supplies for all new dogs and re-vetting of returned dogs. It also includes specialized, intensive treatment for track-injured dogs like Ike, Pecan, Best Man, Rocks, Komiko and Kesley. In 2007, those costs were \$37,381.50; in 2008, \$50,222.94. To reduce these costs, we're looking for alternative vendors.

The Good News

We're fortunate that our adoptions are only down about 10 percent from 2007. Compared to other groups nationwide, that modest decrease is good news. And adoptions of dogs eight and

older have held to a steady 10 percent which was our target when we created the Senior Incentives program in 2006.

Thanks to our adopters and others who support finding homes for retired racers, donations have been gratifying. For instance:

- Four adopters bolstered our depleted Angel Fund from which we pay for the care of track-injured dogs with a \$2,000 each in donations.

- Giftwrap volunteers at the Brentwood Borders netted just over \$2,700 for the Angel Fund between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- The volunteers who staffed booths selling Vanderbilt merchandise at home football games brought in \$1,700.

- Through PetsMart program to support adoption of homeless dogs, GPA/N received \$1,335.

- The former owners of racing dogs donated \$5,016.95 to our program.

- Our on-line auction brought in \$5,266.

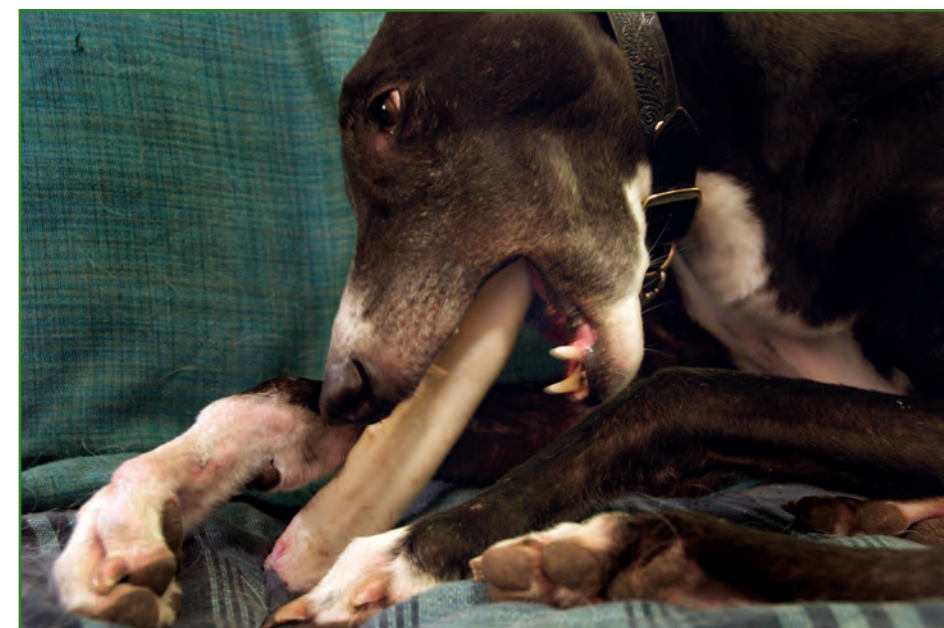
Like everyone, we're hoping 2009 is a better adoption year, one that leads to an increase in adoptions. In the meantime, many thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers in helping to find homes for some of the 20,000 racers who retire from racing each year.



Fostering is fun

The love and care foster families provide retired hounds is one of the most important things adopters can do to help greyhounds prepare to be good pets and to find homes. When you foster for GPA/N, we provide the food, crate and bedding for foster dogs as well as vet care. You get the satisfaction of helping a hound get a good start on his new life. It doesn't get any better.

Interested in learning more about fostering? Contact Liz Trapp at ltrapp44@aol.com.



Gnawing on rawhide chews or raw bones is a good way for your hound to remove tartar from his teeth.

ASK THE VET

Answers to common questions

BY CAROL MACHEREY, DVM

■ What is the dose for fish oil?

Fish oil is a very good coat supplement as well as an excellent anti-inflammatory, and is great for the heart and kidneys. Dose it at 1,000 mg (one capsule) per 15 pounds, so a 60-pound greyhound gets two capsules, twice a day.

■ Do I need to bathe my greyhound?

A normal greyhound coat needs very little bathing. Once or twice a year is enough to remove oils and dead hair. Use a gentle shampoo like one containing oatmeal; avoid flea shampoos with chemicals.

■ What's the best way to take care of my hounds' teeth?

Allow daily gnawing of something that keeps him busy for five-ten minutes such as rawhide, raw bones or other firm treats. The gnawing action helps to "brush" or scrape their teeth naturally.

■ What can I do when my greyhound gets diarrhea?

If your greyhound feels fine and isn't vomiting, skip at least one meal, give water freely and start Imodium (see dose below). When the diarrhea seems to have

stopped, feed a bland food like veterinary ID or Eukanuba Low Residue or Science Diet for Sensitive Stomachs. Or fix bland meals — lean chicken, cottage cheese, rice, yogurt are all possible foods. If the diarrhea persists, see your vet.

■ What are some safe over-the-counter medicines for greyhounds?

Imodium for diarrhea — Dose as for an adult human. Can be used for up to two days in combination with the diet restriction already described.

Aspirin for mild to moderate orthopedic pain — Usually a five-grain, coated aspirin like Bufferin is well tolerated when given every 12 hours for two-three days, not longer. If the pain persists, see your vet.

Pepcid AC for acid stomach and some nausea — Give one regular 10-mg. Pepcid every 12 hours.

Benadryl for sudden allergic reactions — Using 25-mg. tablets, a small hound can take two-three tablets; larger hound, three-four tablets.

If your hound dislikes gnawing or can't chew, try brushing with a doggie (not human) toothpaste. A build-up of tartar or marked redness to the gums warrants a visit to your vet.

New Adoptions

Between Dec. 1, 2008 and Feb. 1, 2009, the following hounds found their forever homes with GPA/N

NEW ADOPTIONS

- April & Lee Floyd — Gift Fiddle - Fiddle
- Patricia & George Jones — Blur of Fur - Cooper
- Margot & Terry Dermody — Be Seein Ya
- Chaudoin Family — Surf - Switzler Surfup
- Nick Tausek and Chelsea Conlin — Sooner Storm - Storm
- James & Martha Nichols — Only Shadow - Shadow
- Temple Family — Luvn Pam - Sam
- Joanne Patterson — Sooner Showman - Showman
- Bonnie Bomar — Hey Fredrick - Fred

CHIPS (As in you can't have just one!)

- Ryan & Stephanie Schritenthal — Paisley Star - Paisley
- Brad Emerson & Parker Presnell — TNJ Pecan - Pecan
- Carol Macherey — RK Roarinsuccess - Success
- Josh Moore — Make It Matter - Maggie

In 2008, GPA/N found homes for **108 greyhounds.**

Take your hound on a road trip

Looking for inexpensive vacations? Consider taking your hounds to events hosted by other greyhound groups. Here are possibilities:

- Sandy Paws, Jekyll Island, Ga. March 12-14, www.sandpaws.org
- GPA/EC's Greyhound Howliday Defuniak Springs, Fla. March 27-29, www.gpaec.com
- Greyhounds in Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Penn. April 24-26, www.trianglegreyhounds.org
- Mountain Hounds, Gatlinburg, Tenn. May 28-31, www.gfnmountainhounds.com
- Greyhound America, Abilene, Kan. June 4-7, www.racethewind.org/
- Greyhound Festival of Bluegrass, Louisville, Ky., July 31-Aug. 2 www.greyhoundsofshamrock.org