



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

www.GPANashville.org

Email: GPANashville@gmail.com

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA - NASHVILLE | WINTER 2010

You get what you need: A greyhound love tale

BY SONJALYN RINE

Shortly after my first greyhound and best friend of eight years, Tyler Mae, passed away I knew I needed to adopt another greyhound to fill the horrible void in my home and my heart.

I scrolled through photos and pages of information on greyhound adoption sites but no one jumped out at me. Then, I received a call from a greyhound rescue that had a tiny black hound who needed an experienced owner. She was shy, strong willed and, according to her rescuer, she had a little spark. I was hooked! She needed me!

Candi Suzanne was exactly as described and more. She was very tiny and covered with scars. She walked with a limp with her head down and tail tucked; she wouldn't make eye contact. Soon after getting her home I saw her "spark." In pursuit of a rabbit, she ran head first into our wooden, three-rail fence, not once but twice,



Candi Suz sits on command for treats.

breaking through the boards.

The car ride

A couple weeks later, she was riding in the front seat of the car with me when she leaped over me and out the driver's side window. Ironically, we were coming home from the vet where she had just had stitches removed from her toe amputation.

To make matters worse, she was wearing her leash, so it was "chasing" her. She was found under a parked car with the leash hung under a tire. She was covered in blood and had NO PADS left on her feet. Her injured toe was shattered, so back to the vet we went to have the bone fragments and mutilated flesh removed.

A perfect match

This was the turning point in our relationship! This dog did not need me. She did not need my sympathy. I needed this dog! I needed her to trust me and to be confident in me as her caregiver. I needed her to need me!

We started working on confidence and obedience. We played confidence-building games like tug of war, and took long walks. We spent time every day working on commands like sit, down, bow, shake and more. We developed trust and grew closer each day.

It took six months of intensive work



By working together, Sonja Rine and Candi Suz have formed a loving, trusting bond.

but now Candi Suzanne has the person she needs. She has my love, not my sympathy. She is now confident, friendly and outgoing, and that little spark has turned into something that's uniquely Candi Suzanne. She even co-hosts Charter Main Street Cable television's "All Creatures Great and Small" television show with me, but everyone knows she's really the star.

GREYHOUND
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Greyt News

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Celebrating foster families

Fostering: the key to successful adoption

Have you thanked your greyhound's foster family for helping your dog learn to be a pet? The work of fosters is what makes our hounds such good pets and is the most important work volunteers can do to help more hounds get adopted.

Foster fun

The pleasure of watching a new hound figure out that the trackless life is all good makes the job worthwhile, Lauralyn Chrisley says. "The first couple of times you love on a foster dog they don't understand what's going on. Then, he figures out that there's nothing you want from him – you're just petting him because you want to. Then they relax, and sigh and look at you with those big eyes, and you just melt," says Chrisley who shares her home with her hound, Jesse. "It's great to watch them start getting spoiled – begging for treats, demanding more petting."

"We foster because it's fun to see new dogs react to all the new sights

and sounds away from the track," says Cathy Morris, who with her husband, Bart, has three hounds, Checkbook, Johnny and Doug. "We've fostered regularly since 2004 because we want every greyhound out there to be as settled and prepared as possible to fit into the home that adopts them."

Lessons learned

Lisa Lorenzen, whose pack includes Neko and Berk, says fostering expanded her knowledge about greyhounds generally and about her own hounds. "Fostering has taught me so much more about the breed and about my dogs," says Lorenzen. "Once I started fostering, I saw a new personality emerge from Berk that I had never seen before. I saw him become more playful and patient. Fostering also made me appreciate him even more than I thought possible."

Jim and Anne-Marie Mitchell are frequent fosterers who have made caring for convalescing broken-legged dogs something of a specialty. "We've fostered plenty of greyhounds, but the broken-legged dogs seem just a bit more special," says Mitchell whose pack includes Arvin, Lily, Wilson and Dodie, as well as their most recent convalescing foster, Heidi. "Helping injured hounds on their way to becoming a pet means a lot to us."

Make 2010 the year you open your heart and home to a foster hound.

To learn about fostering, contact Liz Trapp at ltrapp@aol.com



Lisa Lorenzen and her former foster, Ammo.



Lauralyn Chrisley's foster, Wing, loves to snuggle with Jesse, the resident hound, (photo 3), or roaching in her crate (photo 2).

President's column

Greyhound adoption is strong in Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky and Northern Alabama thanks to the hard work of GPA/N adopters and volunteers. It's impossible to say thank you often enough, but let me try — thank you everyone for helping find homes for retired racers.

Thanks are owed to our many supporters, including Mailer's Choice, which prints and mails this newsletter; to the folks at Nashville Pet Products who help GPA and our adopters by ensuring our hounds get the best food possible; and let's not forget Grassmere Animal Hospital which provides veterinary services to foster hounds at a discount.

Likewise, thanks to the many PetsMart locations where we do Meet & Greet, along with the Factory at Franklin. A special thanks goes out to the Borders in Brentwood. In addition to hosting M&Gs in December, they allow volunteers and their hounds in the store where they talk greyhound adoption while wrapping holiday gifts in exchange for donations.

The work goes on

Our adoption numbers have remained strong this year, despite cutbacks, job losses and layoffs. It's proof of the work and enthusiasm of adopters and volunteers who spread the word about what great pets greyhounds make.

Our hearts go out to adopters who have had to surrender their hounds due to the economy. We are glad we're here to take in these hounds and find new homes for them. It's the least they deserve and one of the reasons we exist.

So take a moment and give thanks for greyhound adoption and for the joy and love your hound brings into your life.

Liz Trapp
GPA/N President

Two terrific events coming up

January and February are going to be a busy months for the GPA/N greyhound world so break out your 2010 calendar and highlight these events.

Bid high, bid often

Save some of your holiday cash for GPA/N's online auction Jan 17-25. Funds raised will go to GPA/N's Angel Fund from which we pay for the care of track-injured dogs. Hosted by the folks at FishDog racing kennel, more than 75 items will be listed and the auction will be open to bidders across the Internet.

This is a great place to pick up one-of-a-kind and collectible greyhound items such as Northcoast Greyhound jewelry, vintage Derby Lane racing posters and wonderful collars. For auction info, contact Pam Neiman at pamelaneiman@bellsouth.net.

Winter Gathering welcome

An annual favorite among greyhound folks, our Winter Gathering this year will be from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21 at the Tennessee Livestock Center in Murfreesboro.

We'll have vendors selling greyhound-related merchandise, including Run With It Embroidery and Greytwear, and there'll be food, fun and the ever-favorite fun-run races. Owners and their hounds and anyone interested in greyhound adoption are welcome.

Admission is \$5 per person, \$10 per family plus \$2 per greyhound. Watch the Yahoo list and website (www.gpanashville.org) for details on early registration. For information about the Winter Gathering, contact Jan Bornstein at janbornstein@aol.com.

Greyhound mobile debut



When it comes to promoting greyhound adoption Harley Hazzard and wife, Judi (above) go all out. Their truck honors their hounds, Heart and Turtle, and encourages others to adopt retired racers. They debuted their hound mobile at the Mid-south Greyhound Adoption Reunion in October.

Look into my greyhound's eyes

BY CAROL MACHEREY, DVM

We look into our greyhound's eyes every day — those soft, winsome, brown mirrors of their souls — and fall in love all over again. The eyes, however, can be mirrors of your greyhound's health, so it's important to know a little about what they can tell you.

What's normal

Before you recognize a problem, you must know what's normal. Fortunately, since there are two eyes, you can often compare them, and if you have another hound or two, you can look at theirs. Look for changes or loss of symmetry at the eyelid margins (edges), the clear portion of the eyes, the brown iris or the white of the eye.

Two common concerns that are actually perfectly normal are shown in the top photo.

- The blue haze behind the pupil is a normal aging change called lenticular sclerosis. It's often mistaken for a blinding cataract, but does not usually affect vision.

- Brown pigment at the border of the clear and white of the eye is seen in many hounds and is normal, unless lumpy or thickened.

What's abnormal

Once you know "normal," you'll quickly spot any change. These are just a few of the eye problems I see in greyhounds:

- Pannus — A severe inflammation of the clear cornea, that starts at the outside edge but can progress across the entire eye and cause blindness. If caught early, it's usually treatable.

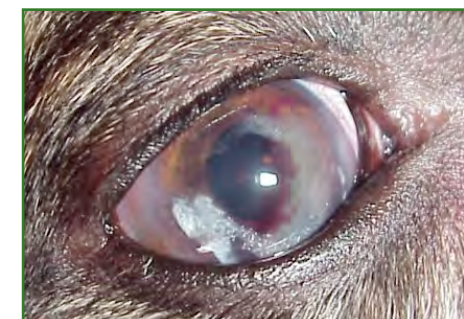
- Corneal Ulcers - Scratches or erosions on the surface of the clear part of the eye, symptoms usually start suddenly, and can be quite painful. If you see your hound flinching/closing his eye and this persists for more than an hour or two, see your vet quickly.

- Eyelid Growths - These can range from innocent cysts to sties or real tumors. If you see a mass or irregularity along the eyelid margin, get it checked.

- Deeper Problems within the Eye — The delicate tissues of the eyes can sometimes reflect illnesses in other



Brownish discoloration in the white of the eye is normal. The clouding of the lens is a natural part of aging and doesn't indicate a cataract.



Pannus is an inflammation of the cornea and is sometimes seen in greyhounds. Typically, it starts at the outer edge (photo 2). If left untreated, it can affect the whole cornea and lead to blindness (photo 3).

parts of the body. It's possible to have an infection or a cancer, for example, in the abdomen, but see an inflammation within the eye. Vague changes within the eye may need a more thorough evaluation of other areas.

- The lens — Cataracts aren't common, but can occur.

This is far from a complete list of possible problems, but if you look at your hound's eyes and see something new, it's safest to have it checked.

Welcome new hounds

Between Aug. 16 and Dec. 1, the following hounds found their forever homes with GPA/N.

Robb & Elaine McDowell — Run Emmari Run & Mahogany Dog - Emma & Stewie
John & Azar Pepper — Kassard B - Kassard
Darcie Clemens — Nina Natasha - Belle
Ron Salcedo — Libbys Image - Libby
Glenna Kramer & Brandon Panaro — Make It Matter - Maggie
Dindy & Phil Hornbeak — Dominator's Baby - Ava

Tony & Lisa Wynn — Tequila Lee - Tequila
Sherry & David Bryant — Cabry
SlingShot - Brian

Cynthia Moore — Trace Evidence - Trudy
Holly & Rich Fickes — D Ortiz - Ortiz
Don & Kim Srygley — Epicurious - Tim
Vincent Peppe & Martha Splain — Barts Objective - Ody

Mary King — Mizzou Rah - Zoe
Kelly Hall — Showem My Motto - Motto
Eric Anderson & Jennifer Engle — Mulberry Seemerun - LaLa

John & Lisa Miller — HDM Janice - Janice
Shelle & Steve Jones — JR's Phoenix - Riley
Kathy & Brian Glapa - First Down - Grissom
Benjamin Miller — Bad Lady - Grace
Jamie & Robert Decker — Starr Ten Titan - Titan

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

Jan & Daryl Bornstein — Dea Dove - Dea
Ruth & Paul Hemphill — Flying Ferdinand - Frankie

Karen Ryan — Bambina Blue Eyes & PH
Thunder - Bambina & Thunder
Elaine & Robert Stone — Craigie
Teno ssee - Tenossee

Kerry Dye & Jennifer Henry — Silent Device - Duke

Suzanne Darnell & Kent Latha — Crafty
Birmingham - Crafty

Beth & Doug Petch — Starz Kindred - Kindred
Holly & Robert Ramsey — Dave's Bad Girl - Halley

Judi Maxson — Kicken Karen - Karen
Sheryl Naron — Hallow Bet Dutch - Dusty
Bobby & Sharon Anglin — Tom S Black
Ice - Ice

New to GPA/N

Scott Brandon & Patricia Tolbert - Rocket and Roco

In 2009, GPA/N found homes for 117 retired greyhounds, up from 108 in 2008.