

# Houndsight

Fall, 2003

An *ADOPT-A-GREYHOUND OF CENTRAL CANADA, INC*

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## NEWS & UPDATES

Christmas is coming, and we have lots of items available for that special someone, who likes greyhounds, or that special greyhound! Be sure and check out our web pages, and the unique and new items mentioned in this issue. Please remember that sales of merchandise is our biggest source of funds for paying the operating costs of our non-profit organization. 100% of all proceeds goes to support greyhound adoption.

### Survey says....

In the summer edition, we had mentioned that even though each season we have more greyhound families, attendance at the **Reunion Picnic** was down this year. We requested feedback on ways to improve, and whether to hold any future events. A "Picnic Survey", was made available on our web site, and in print.

Our web site gets over 2,000 visitors a month. Our newsletter is mailed to over 400 homes. At the time of publishing this Fall edition, we had received feedback from less than 30 respondents.

Because of the enormous amount of organization and hard work required, and since the interest just doesn't seem to be there, we will no longer be holding this event. Again, a very big **thank you**, to all those that have assisted, and attended in previous years.

### Upcoming Events....

We will again participate in the Santa paws promotion at Petsmart this December. This pet portrait event will be at both Petsmart locations in the Ottawa area. Check the web site for the days of our participation and times. As always, we will need many volunteers to allow us to participate. As in past years, a portion of the proceeds is donated back to us, by the stores, based on the volume of sales on "our" days.

If you haven't had an up-to-date family photo taken recently, come and join Santa this Christmas.



Precious in Platinum! (See page 8)

### About the greyhounds....

2003 has turned into our busiest year ever, with many families getting their first, second or even third greyhound. Congratulations to all!

Thank you to our volunteers that have accompanied us on frequent trips to Syracuse, New York to meet the arriving flights (and greyhounds) from Florida.

While a busy season of many retired racing greyhounds going into loving homes has been very encouraging and positive, our enthusiasm has been tempered by the loss some of our families have suffered these last few months.

Lynda and I realize that after placing greyhounds for ten years, some of them will inevitably be lost. We were very saddened to hear that so many of our greyhounds have died this quarter.

Deb Riordon lost "Sooner" in July, Jane Field lost "Hot Rod" in August, Elaine and Geoff Mackey lost Gabriel ("Gabe") in August, Cliff and Alison Cearn lost "Chrissy" in August and Marc Major and Pauline Lafleur lost "Rush" in September. Our heart goes out to all of you.

We also extend our condolences to Melanie and Marjo Roth of GINA on the loss of their "Lily" in August.

*Chris Seed, Editor*



## GREYHOUNDS IN THE SPOTLIGHT- GAP & PATCHES

By Debra Frazer

From the moment he arrived it was clear that Gap was the perfect dog. DG's Gap had been on the tracks for three years in Orlando, had been fostered with a family in Florida and had even done a stint as a blood donor. Clearly a guy in need of a new life. He was the classic male greyhound: a 5 year old, 75lb red brindle, very laid back, quiet, easy-going, affectionate and deeply in LOVE with his squeaky toys. In a word or two, "low maintenance."

Which wasn't to say that everything was simple those first months in the spring of 2000. He quickly decided that the x-pen was not for him – too much like the old life I'll bet. He outsmarted me at every turn, an interesting feat given that my brain is probably 10 times the size of his. I'd spend hours setting him up in the pen, carefully following all the instructions in the greyhound manual, only to have him greet me at the door – tail a'wagging – when I arrived back home. I'd shake my head and laugh all at the same time while tromping upstairs to see how he pulled off the "Great Escape" this time.

And those stairs!!!! What made me buy that 3 level townhouse? My upper body strength doubled while we both learned how a greyhound climbs stairs – a process which accelerated remarkably when I put a treat on the top step. Who knew????!! He soon became a major show-off in the stairs department, bounding down them to meet me each night, planting a wet nose kiss on my face. He's a lover not a fighter, this boy.

He and I settled into our routine pretty quickly. We went for long walks every morning and again at night in the parks in our neighborhood. I soon learned that Gap has an amazing sense of geography. Each day he has a definite destination in mind. He stands on the street corner, looks in all directions before he decides which way we'll go. And trust me, THAT'S the way we go. There aren't enough treats in the world to get him to go where he doesn't want to. He just locks all his wheels, gets a far-off look in his eyes and if you think you're going to coax



him along, you might as well give up and sell him as a statue.

Through his travels Gap has met tons of people in the neighborhood. Like any good sighthound, he recognizes his pals from up to a block away. His tail starts wagging, he gets ready to plant a wet nose on the nearest hand, and if it's one of his very special favorites there will even be some "hound-dog howling" to complete the performance. When you visit you'll know if you're a favorite – he'll go to his toy basket and bring one of his coveted squeaky toys, covered in new dog spit, and lay it at your feet. My brother Greg tops his list of favorite people. Gap has been known to try and edge Greg's girlfriend Melanie out of bed so as to get closer to his hero. It's quite a sight to see a 75 lb greyhound circling and circling around on the guest bed in hopes that one of the humans in it will just disappear, so that he can get comfortable next to his idol.

Gap is also a great travelling partner. He loves to ride in the car, visit new places and hang out with new people. He regularly attends my book club nights, has been a guest at an outdoor wedding, comes along to cottage weekends in the summer and can shop 'til he drops at PetSmart. His favorite event is Sunday night dinner at my parents place when all the aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews converge for several exhausting hours. He gets his fill of cheese, dog treats and affection. Sleeping in the grass in the backyard is his idea of heaven.

Life with Gap was definitely getting easier and I was coming to think of myself as something of a "grey" veteran. By greyhound standards I was something of an under-achiever though – imagine lasting 2 years without adopting a second dog!!! Enter Patches in September 2002, a.k.a. NR's Patchwork. She's →



also known around our house as H.M.P. – the “High Maintenance Priestess.” She too is a red brindle greyhound though much younger – only 18 months – and totally opposite in behavior to Gap. If she were human I’d bet she’d be a “Valley Girl Teenager” with a continual refrain of “la la la la la la la la la” going through her head. Not surprisingly she didn’t last long on the race track – no focus!!!!

She’s everything a female greyhound is supposed to be: she “chats” all the time (to the point that sometimes I have to lock myself in the bathroom to answer the phone when she’s “talking” to me), she showers Gap with kisses (as much as he’ll stand) but mostly she keeps us all in line – Gap, me and the two kitties. We could also call her “Mrs. Springsteen” ‘cause she’s the BOSS. She was quick to sort out her newest creature comforts and immediately took over half of my bed. (And I swear she reads my magazines while I’m gone during the day!) But despite being quite “girly” she’s also very athletic, as I discovered when I came face-to-face with her atop my kitchen counter the first week she arrived. The greyhound manual confirms that female greys are used to jumping up into their crates each day...and apparently also enjoy any butter that’s out on the counter waiting to be made into cookies!!!! Once again... who knew????!!!!

Despite her pedigree I’m sure she’s part Arctic sled dog. My 73 year old neighbor Kathy comes with us for the evening walks and is hearty (and brave) enough to take Patches. It never fails that Patches will rear up on her hind legs and tug with all her might as we get close to the neighborhood pet store. She knows that there are treats inside.

When we’re at the end of the walk and round the last block, and I say “Take us home Patches” you would swear you were watching the last mile of the Itinerod Dog Sled Race. It’s all that Kathy can do to keep her feet on the ground as Patches gets into full gear for the sprint home, which is made harder of course because of how much she’s laughing (or maybe she’s swearing in Hungarian!!!) I think we’ve come up with a new way for senior citizens to stay active...

Gap has introduced Patches to all the finer things in the neighborhood including all our buddies in the dog parks. However Patches has made it clear to all of Gap’s admirers that there’s a new sheriff in town. She’s quick to leap up and put her body

between Gap and Millie the doberman, who likes to roll around on her back at the very sight of Gap. He also has an admirer in Harley the pretty german shepherd cross who loses it around Gap and howls in a very “I love Elvis” kind of way. Patches doesn’t let that go too far. She lets fly with an ear-piercing, sharp bark and stares Harley down. I only wish Tammy Wynette were there with me to sing “Stand By Your Man.”

It’s very rewarding to have people tell me how much the dogs have come along since they’ve started their retirement.

Initially Gap was the shy guy in the dog park, but now he’s king of the jungle. I’m always taken by surprise when he’s the one announcing his arrival with a big bark. Patches has really come out of her shell too. She charges up to meet new dogs – at her usual top speed. I’ve even had to apologize to people for how eager she is to “meet and greet.” I think the challenge is going to be in keeping her from running for Prime Minister! Their appearance tells the same story of confidence and contentment. They both sport that goofy greyhound smile, have shiny coats and – dare I say it – are even HAIRY!!!

We’ve become a walking ad for greyhound adoption. People stop us at least three or four times on every walk to meet the dogs and ask about them. In the summer the dog walks usually get longer by 20 minutes or so to give us time to meet our fan club! A lot of the shopkeepers have dog treats on hand and the greyhound duo make sure that we don’t miss out on any of them: the barbershop, the drycleaner, the newsstand and the coffee shop. My favorite thing is when people share their stories of greyhounds they’ve known. We hear stories of greyhounds from all over the world.

It’s great to be writing this in September. Back to school is Gap’s favorite time of the year. All those kids lined up and waiting for the bus – it’s a situation tailor-made for him. He loves to just stand in the middle of that pint sized crowd and let them all “ooh and aah” over him. I just have to say “Gap I see some kids” and he’s off at a trot to find his admirers. Patches comes along for the ride, but gets bored pretty quickly with the ankle-biters.

We will stay as long as Mrs. Springsteen says we can – after all she IS the boss!



**EXCLUSIVE!**  
**GREYHOUND SPECIALITY CARDS**



All cards are on cross-hatched stock, with a black & white greyhound head on the front. These 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" by 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" (10.7 cm by 14 cm) cards come complete with large flap, white woven envelopes. Classy, yet very affordable.

Our very popular greyhound **Christmas Cards** have a red and green poinsettia flower and the message "Warmest greetings of the season and every good wish for the coming year" in black script on the inside right.

**#225—Christmas Package of 12, only \$10**

**#224—Christmas Package of 6, only \$6**

There are not many **Condolence Cards** available that are suitable for the loss of a beloved pet. These tasteful cards have a poem on the inside left, and "Sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved pet" in black script on the inside right.

**#227—Condolence Package of 12, only \$10**

**#226—Condolence Package of 6, only \$6**

Blank **Note Cards** are also available.

**#223—Blank Package of 12, only \$10**

**#222—Blank Package of 6, only \$6**

**UNIQUE GIFTS!**

**GREYHOUND NOVELTY WATCHES**

These unique greyhound novelty watches have an electric Japanese movement and black leather band. Roman numerals on the outside gold bezel, and a small stone on the face at the 12 o'clock position. Stainless steel back. Assembled in China.



The black silhouette greyhound is in a standing position, on a gold background. Specify Men's or Women's.

**#423-Man's standing greyhound watch \$40**

**#424-Woman's standing GH watch \$40**

The racing greyhound is in a running pose, wearing the red #1 silk, on a black background. Specify Men's or Women's.

**#421-Man's racing greyhound watch \$40**

**#422-Woman's racing GH watch \$40**



**ENAMELLED  
GREYHOUND PINS**

These highly detailed enameled pins are the same ones many of the tracks sold for up to twice this price! These truly unique collector pins feature a black dog, with authentic racing silks in vibrant colours. Each pin is 1 5/8" long and 13/16" tall (about 4 cm x 2 cm) Excellent value.

**431—Complete set of 8 - \$36**

**Individual pins also available on our website, only \$5 each....**



## GLORIOUS GREYHOUNDS THROW

This custom made Throw was commissioned by Adopt-A-Greyhound. It is 100% cotton, two and one half layers, jacquard woven in the U.S.A., Preshrunk, colourfast and washable. The colours are woven in, not printed. Handsome and practical, it measures approximately, 122 cm x 173 cm (48" x 68") and fringed on all four sides. This unique piece of artwork can be used as a throw or made into a wall hanging.

It depicts three modern day racers (the fawn greyhound is our late girl, Trippa) in classic greyhound poses.



**Throw \$90**—Special shipping cost of \$6 each

### Matching Pillow!

Also available is a polyester fiber filled pillow, which is a miniature of our custom Throw. It has a 60/40 cotton polyester blend woven cover. This is a beautiful addition to any room. The pillow measures approximately, 41 cm x 41 cm (16.25" x 16.25") **Pillow- \$46**

**Matching Tote Bag also available. Check for this and other items on our web page!**

## GREYHOUND THEME WINTER WEAR



### SWEATSHIRTS

These high quality, heavyweight, long sleeve, custom sweatshirts are machine washable, 90% cotton and 10% polyester. Jet black "Fruit of the Loom" sewn in sleeve. Embroidered with our own unique design 3 running greyhounds and the words "Adopt-A-Greyhound" in gold lamé thread.

**810 - Small, Medium, Large, X Large Only \$40**  
**811 - XX Large Only \$43**



### DENIM SHIRTS

Custom, high quality, 7.5 oz Button Down long sleeve, single pocket shirts. Machine washable, 100% preshrunk cotton. Light "faded" blue, these nicely trimmed shirts are dressy enough for the casual office look, or as a match to your jeans. Custom three-colour golden-fawn embroidered dog and "ADOPT A GREYHOUND" lettering.

**Sm, Med, Lrg, XL \$45, 2 XL -\$50 and 3 XL -\$55**





## CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS CALENDARS

**B**ack again this year, the multi award winning *Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars!* Every year we order more of these, and every year we still sell out of them...

The 2004 **Wall Calendar** measures about 23 cm by 30.5 cm (9" x 12") and contains over one hundred full colour photographs, showing over one-hundred and fifty retired racing greyhounds from around the world. Each of the fourteen months, (December of 2003 to January, 2005), contains four photos of different greyhounds, in all kinds of poses and situations.

Once again this year, Canada is represented. We received an Email from a very proud greyhound mom, **Sandra Hall** letting us know that her 12 years young girl "**Roxanne**" will be featured in March.

Also returning this year is the new and improved **Desk Diary**. This 15cm by 21.5cm (5½" by 8½") spiral bound calendar was introduced last year, and proved so successful, it's back! This year, the over sixty photos are in full colour. All the photographs in the desk diary are different from the wall calendar, so order both!

**WALL CALENDAR.....\$15**  
**DESK DIARY.....\$20**

Special \$3 shipping costs for any number or style of calendars ordered at the same time.



## Dear Foxy!

### Greyt Advice, Dog to Dog



Hey Foxy: What's up dawg?

I have a dilemma. Sometimes a little guy visits my house; he goes by the name of Aidan, awful small, has a high-pitched yell that equals mine. He wears diapers, smelly what! His Mom uses Diaper Wipes to clean him up. Now, my Mom thinks they are just the greatest things for wiping my muddy paws. I hope it doesn't make them too soft — like a baby's you know what. Can you believe it? Next it will be Pampers. I'm too old for this nonsense — 13 in December. What's the world coming to? - Iva in Ottawa

***Dear Iva: It seems to me at 13 walking, eating, and pooping would be the greyhound lifestyle priorities. I've seen you do them and you do them outstandingly well. Pampers and Wipes are very expensive. Be patient! This too will pass. You will soon be dirty footed and smell like the rest of us. Boy are you old! — Fox***

Dear Foxy:

I'm confused. I have toy box full of stuffed toys that I love to play with — they are so soft!. I play with the cats and bird at home. When I go out I meet a lot of "mobile stuffed toys". They have lovely fur and bushy tails. I run up to play with them. They run up and hide in trees. I'm a nice girl so why won't they play with me? - Willow in Ottawa

***Dear Willow: Ever look in a mirror? While we are kind and gentle we can look awfully nasty. First impressions matter in these issues. The answer is simple. Go up to the critters butt end first. By the time they figure out what you've done you'll all be friends. — Fox***

Dear Fox:

Where are you? I went to your house and it was empty. I have no one to walk with except Smokie but now she moved and I can't find her. Help! - Reuben next door to where Foxy used to live.

***Dear Reub: The folks moved us (Jake, Angus and I) into the country about 1000 miles from any Greyhound locales, but Mom swears we will still go to functions so we will see you at PETSMART, Christmas Pictures, Walk-a-thons, and, of course, the Annual Picnic. - See you soon - Foxy***



# TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE

By Baco and Jolie (as told to Melissa Brisson)

"Welcome Houndsight readers. My name is Bonnie Prince Baco Noir and this is my sibling, Jolie."

"Oh *brother*. You know everyone just calls you Baco. Give me a break – Bonnie Prince Baco Noir. *Really*."

"Anyway, we, my sister and I, would like to relate to you our adventurous trip to Saskatchewan and grandmother's house this summer. I recall the morning we left was a trifle confusing."

"Yes, very confusing. Dad and mom went in and out of the house a dozen times or more, arms loaded with stuff. Then it was our turn. Well you can imagine our surprise when we went to jump into the backseat of the car and found a big piece of wood right down the middle of the seat. Mom had to pick me up and put me in and dad had to do the same with Baco."

"Although we did quickly learn to jump in on our own. Quite a feat I may add."

"That board thing was really annoying too. With that there, I didn't have a hope of sneaking into the front seat. I could barely lean over mom's shoulder to look out the front window."

"Did it ever occur to you, my dear sister, that that is why it was there? Do you honestly think mother and father enjoy you drooling all over them? And may I remind you that the last time you snuck up front you were sick all over the seat?"

"That is not why dad put it there. He did it because you keep growling every time I touch you or disturb your sleep."

"Well *excuse* me. But I happen to need my space. Which is something I certainly *don't get* when you sprawl out all over the seat. But enough now. I'm sure these gracious readers are not interested in our petty squabbles. I shall continue. Needless to say, the three-day journey was a bit of a challenge being confined to such a small space. The bathroom facilities along the way were barely adequate. Gas stations have little to offer in terms of a place to do your business, let alone stretch your legs. The surrounding scenery was less than pleasing to the eye"

"Oh Baco! You are *such* a Prima Donna. All you need is a pole and a spot of grass. Besides we had nice walks at the hotels and during lunch breaks. Remember that nice park by the Terry Fox Memorial outside Thunder Bay?"

"Yes. Quite right. I do recall that place. But, on the way back we were prohibited from walking there because they had just sprayed pesticides on the grass."

"I remember. Dad and mom were *so* mad. Something about it being inappropriate to use potentially cancer causing chemicals at a monument to a cancer victim." "Does seem a bit short-sighted doesn't it? But let's get back to our vacation. Any inconveniences we may have experienced were soon forgotten when we arrived at grandmother's house. There we were received royally. Complete with hugs, kisses and cuddles."

"And great belly rubs."

"Yes. I could *see* you enjoyed that. I was really quite embarrassed, Jolie. Rolling over on your back and sticking your legs up in the air like that. Have you *no* dignity? Especially as we had just met grandmother."

"And just *how else* am I to get a complete belly rub?"

"All I can say, is that I'm in complete agreement with Laura from playgroup. You're just a little tart."

"Oh yeah. Who made mom go out immediately and buy a ceramic dish because they didn't like eating out of a metal bowl?"

"That is not the same thing at all. To continue, our stay at grandmother's house was quite wonderful. Days spent lounging in the sunroom and taking long walks in new and interesting places. I would have loved to have gone for a run in those fields. They stretched on forever with no end in sight. I certainly would have gotten a good stretch. I particularly enjoyed the hike in the woods in the park and the walks along the dirt road by the lake."

"The best part of the walks though was the snacks. Crunchy on the outside, soft and chewy in the middle."

"*Oh Jolie!* Those weren't snacks. They were grasshoppers. I must say you looked most undignified jumping around the grass after them. You looked more like a jackrabbit than any relative of mine. You must learn to act more genteel as properly befits our breed."

"You know Baco. You really *must* learn to live a little on the edge. Have some fun. Take some risks. Live a little. There's more to life than sleeping and looking dignified."

"Now by 'living on the edge' are you referring to running around grandmother's house like a mad dog, mistaking the dining room table as the inside of a race track, and throwing your toys precariously up in the air coming dangerously close to knocking things off tables. Or are you referring to your taste testing escapades. Neither one is a particularly lady-like way to conduct yourself in someone else's home and I'll have no part of it. Thank you very much."

"Well you can play the gentleman all you want. You just don't know what you're missing. Stilton Pate. Caramel Pecan Tart. Brandy. My mouth waters just thinking of them."

"Not to mention half of the rum cake you devoured. Really! How *could* you? After mother had spent two days glazing that cake. Although I suppose it's better than the customary pieces of bark you gnaw on out of our backyard at home. But let me remind you that these antics of yours far from please mother and father. Hmmm, let me think. What was it mother said to grandmother after the rum cake incident? Oh yes, I remember. Something along the lines of the next person who tells her how cute you are, she's handing them your leash."

"Oh, I know. But she doesn't really mean it. I just flash her my sad greyhound eyes and all is forgiven. I know they both love me. They can't help it. I'm just too darn cute."

"Yes. I am doomed to sharing my existence with you. At any rate, it was a jolly good time. I hope we make a return visit."

"That would be really nice, but I wouldn't count on it happening soon. I don't think dad was too happy about the three-day drive each way. Remember when we got back, he said it would be twenty years before he did that again."

"True. Well, Jolie, I think I've expended enough energy for one day. Time for another nap before supper. Good nap little one."

"Good nap Bonnie Prince."



## Looking for a unique gift?



This is a heavy "art-deco" style enamelled brooch. Measures about 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" (6.76 cm) long. Black greyhound, gold highlights with a red silk and eye. Carded and individually boxed.

Our supplier had only 24 of these, so order early. They are not displayed on our web page, but are on the order form as item "99 Broach" Only.....\$20



### TO CONTACT US:

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info@adopt-a-greyhound.com

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(613) 489-0654

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www.adopt-a-greyhound.com

**By mail:**

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RR#3, North Gower  
Ontario, Canada  
K0A 2T0

Shipping costs are \$4 for one item, \$5 for two items and \$6 for three or more items, unless otherwise noted. Cheques, MasterCard & Visa are welcome. Use our secure online order form on our web page.

Make cheques payable to: **Adopt-A-Greyhound**



A sad greyhound was telling his troubles to his friend. "I'm depressed. I think negative thoughts. I'm always bored and always tired." "Why not go see a psychiatrist?" suggested the friend. "Well, I would," said the greyhound, "except that I'm not allowed on the couch...."



## Almost Winter Coat Time!

Does it get cold in Canada during the winter? You bet, so we have co-designed our exclusive greyhound coats with *Chilly Dogs*<sup>TM</sup>, a top Canadian manufacturer. These are one of the best winter coats we have seen for fit, materials and workmanship. The water and wind proof shell protects the dog, while the Yukon Fleece liner, chest and collar, keep the dog warm. The exclusive adjustable stomach panel is held secure with oversize Velcro closures, for a snug, streamlined fit. Yukon Fleece, is designed with air cells that shed moisture and retain heat.

These coats have reflective 3M piping around the neck and back, to make your greyhound more visible at night.

All edges of these lightweight, yet very warm coats are fully bound. Machine washable in cold water, they will retain both their good looks and shape for years to come.

Every year when the first snow falls, we get a 'run' on the coats, but right now all standard sizes are available in all colours. A matching Head Muff with adjustable face opening and leash slot to protect the head and ears against frost-bite on those extremely cold days is also available.

**NEW!** We have just introduced our latest colour, "Platinum". This monochromatic coat has a Platinum Silver shell, with a Black embroidered *Chilly Dogs* logo, and Silver Yukon Fleece liner, chest and collar. This looks very smart, particularly on solid colour dogs. Also available are Burgundy with Silver, Black with Silver and Hunter Green with Tan.

Suggested retail for these coats is \$120, but we still sell them for **only \$95**. The Head Muff is only \$15. Contact us, or see our web page for ordering instructions.