

Houndsight

Fall, 2004

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

Newsletter

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NEWS & UPDATES

Here we are with our final newsletter for 2004. It is truly hard to believe yet another year is almost history. It has been a very busy one for Adopt-A-Greyhound (AAG), with many events and new adoptions. The outlook for 2005 seems to be one of equal potential.

Newsletter delivery...

Many of you responded that viewing or downloading this newsletter from our website would work for you. Others responded they needed paper, while others did not respond at all. So, if you got this copy in the mail, and could just download or view it, please **let us know, and give us your Email address**. If you got this issue via an Email link, and you need to get it as a paper copy, let us know that too, and we will make the change. Remember, you can always print a copy from the web page....

Greyhound in the Spotlight...

This issue sees the return of one of the most popular features of our newsletter, back in it's usual spot on page 2. If you have an AAG greyhound, and would like to share your story about *your* greyhound, people would love to read about it. It can be how you got your dog, its settling in, bumps in the road, or any special things involving you and your greyhound. Contact me by Email for more information.

Merchandise orders will slow down...

Just a reminder that Lynda and I will be heading to warmer climates, with our canine crew, at the end of November. If you need that special item for Christmas, or had put off getting your greyhound's winter coat, order now! Don't be disappointed. Orders received after the end of November, will likely not be filled until February. While we are away, someone is staying at our home, but they do not have access to all the merchandise, and they won't be completing orders. The AAG phone line and Email will continue to be monitored.



MEET NR'S MAZEROTI (See page 4)

The greyhounds still need your help...

In the summer issue, we shared how the recent hurricanes had dealt a heavy blow to the adoption kennel in Orlando. The response we received has been very heart-warming. We wanted to let you know that if you had been meaning to help, it's still not too late. Please see page 4 for the latest pictures and update.

'Tis the season for pet sitting...

As the holidays quickly approach, don't forget about the AAG greyhound pet sitting, in the greater Ottawa area. If you are looking for a spot for your greyhound, or you would like to see how another greyhound would work for your home, this is a greyt way to do it. There are nearly always more people looking for sitters, than there are homes, so think about getting involved. Then when you need the service, it will be there.

For more information, contact Patti Vanderscheer at Patti.Vanderscheer@alcatel.com

*Have a GREYT holiday season everyone.
Chris Seed, Editor*



GREYHOUND IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SPECK, COMPANION ANIMAL

BY ESTHER BECKER

When Lynda Seed introduced me to the second greyhound she had selected to join our family and our first greyhound, Moon, my first reaction was “he’s enormous”. Next, I laughed at his antics and playfulness. Speck is tall, goofy, and friendly. His appearance is striking: he’s white and black like a Holstein cow. Lynda had chosen him as a good companion for Moon who is extremely timid. Speck is the absolute opposite, a real party animal. Speck’s outgoing nature makes him popular at Petsmart Meet and Greets and with everyone in our neighbourhood, adults, teenagers, and small children. Speck is surprised at humans who *don’t* stop to pat him. He looks back at them when they walk past as if to say “What’s wrong with you?”

Speck might have retired from his career as a racer but, with his talent for making people smile, he was soon to begin a new career. I learned about the Ottawa Humane Society’s (OHS) Companion Animal Program from a colleague at work who was a member of the program. I contacted the OHS Volunteer Coordinator and, soon after, Speck and I had an appointment for a temperament assessment. For Speck, that is, not me! Speck passed easily, making friends with everyone he met even while we were waiting for his test to begin. Passing the test is essential before animals can join the Program. For example, the animals must not be alarmed by strange noises or by wheelchairs and walking aids. The next step was for me to attend an orientation session and learn more about the Program.

The Companion Animal Program has been a successful community service since 1986. It involves visits with shelter and owned animals. Volunteers take animals to facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and rehabilitation centres, so the residents can benefit from animal contact. Research shows that pets are good for people’s physical and mental well-being. The pets benefit from the human contact. Both shelter animals (adopted by people who work at OHS) and owned animals enjoy the outings and the attention they get.

Speck certainly loves the attention and has become very popular at the facilities we visit. He is the largest animal in our group, which includes a marvellous orange cat named Freddy, and four other dogs. In our group all the animals are our own. Our visits are one evening a week and we have four residences on our roster, which works out at one visit a month to each facility. At first, some people are intimidated by Speck’s size but it doesn’t take long for his alert, friendly look to bring out the smiles. Mostly, being tall is an advantage in this job. Speck is just the right height for people in bed or in wheelchairs to reach out and touch his soft fur.

Speck has made some special friends, who ask when “the big dog” is coming again. He has made special things happen. At one of the residences for the elderly, a lady who had suffered a severe stroke was given help to pat Speck. When her hand made contact with Speck’s big, cold, wet nose, she immediately drew her hand away. A small, unremarkable movement, but it was one of her few spontaneous reactions since her stroke. At another residence, a lady who could no longer communicate through speech and only repeated one word over and over again, smiled radiantly as she stroked first Freddy and then Speck. The Companion Animal visits are so very worthwhile for all of us, animals and people alike.



SPECK WITH ESTHER



KEEPING THOSE LOVING EYES CLEAR....

BY CHRIS SEED

Have you ever heard of the eye disorder *Pannus*?

Pannus, or *chronic superficial keratitis*, (believed to be an immune mediated disorder) is a condition of ongoing inflammation of the cornea. Early signs of pannus are usually seen as a greyish haze in the affected eye. Blood vessels and pigmented cells move into the normally transparent cornea (the front, centre surface of the eye). As these inflammatory changes spread across the cornea, the dog's vision is impacted. The condition gradually worsens and usually affects both eyes. With time the cornea becomes thickened and the surface may become rough and pitted. If untreated, it can cause blindness.



This disorder is seen most often in purebred and crossbred German shepherds. Although less common, it also occurs in the greyhound. Because greyhounds are not as commonplace in this area, and veterinarians may not be aware of the tendency for greyhounds to get pannus, it can go undetected.

Although this disorder primarily affects middle-aged dogs, it has been seen in greyhounds as young as two years of age. There is also an increased incidence in dogs that are exposed to high levels of ultraviolet radiation. Since the majority of our dogs come from the "Sunny South", this may put them at higher risk.

If left untreated, the blood vessels and inflammatory cells will spread over your dog's normally transparent cornea, gradually darkening and scarring it, and causing visual impairment. This can occur slowly over many months or years, or occur rapidly to involve the whole cornea within a few months. There is often little indication from the dog that there is a problem, as the condition does not appear to be painful.

Usually pannus can be well-controlled. However it is felt that treatment must be lifelong and consistent or the lesions will return and worsen. The lesions can also worsen in periods of environmental irritation, increased ultraviolet exposure, or if medication is given irregularly.

The goal of treatment is to prevent vision loss, or to return as much vision as possible if there has already been loss. This is primarily done with the use of inexpensive, anti-inflammatory drops in the eye. The drugs used in the eye drops, are often a combination that includes corticosteroids, and cyclosporin A. It is important that no medication should be administered, unless tests to exclude other diseases have been completed. Chronic or severe cases may require injections in the eye itself, or even surgical intervention.

Your veterinarian will make specific treatment recommendations based on the severity of the changes to your dog's eyes, and their response to therapy. Usually therapy begins with four (or more) treatments a day. As the size of the area affected decreases, treatments will be decreased to the lowest frequency that controls your greyhound's condition.

Once effective treatment is established, your veterinarian will want to re-examine your dog one to three times a year, or if you notice a worsening of the condition. Reoccurrence may develop in periods of environmental irritation or increased ultraviolet exposure, likely during warm, sunny weather or at times of significant snow glare.

If you suspect your dog does have *chronic superficial keratitis*, or pannus, please have your greyhound checked by your veterinarian, as soon as possible.

You should also make an eye check-up for pannus, part of your greyhound's annual visit to your Vet.



HURRICANE ASSISTANCE UPDATE

In the Summer edition, we were seeking help for our friends at Greyhound Pets of America, Greater Orlando. The kennel facility, where the majority of our greyhounds come from, was devastated by the recent hurricanes that pummelled the area. The kennel did not look like it was salvageable. Being a leased building, it would require the owner to commit to having a new roof put on, and the damaged exterior repaired. Worse still, the interior (walls, insulation, wiring, ceiling) were considered “tenant’s improvements”, and the landlord was not responsible for the extensive repair that would be required to restore those areas. Most of the kennel contents (stockpiled bags of kibble, medications, bedding, washer and dryer, computer etc.,) were so rain-soaked, they could not be saved. It was thought that a substitute kennel could be located at the Sanford-Orlando track compound, but that fell through. A dark cloud of uncertainty hung over GPA/GO, and its volunteers.



KENNEL AND PENS UNDER RENOVATION

In an effort to help our friends at GPA/GO, we had asked our readers and adopters to give what they could, and we would match the donations from the AAG emergency fund, up to \$5,000 Canadian. Your response has been one of overwhelming generosity and caring. As we go to press, it looks like we will more than meet our original goal. We are encouraging anyone who still wants to donate, to please do so. **All** of the monies raised will go towards helping the GPA/GO greyhounds. Be sure to mention the donation is for the “hurricane fund.”

Initially, it had been our plan to send all donors an individual thank-you, but it quickly became evident that to do so would be too costly (about \$300)! We felt the money would be better used assisting the dogs. **On behalf of GPA/GO, ourselves, and the greyhounds, a heartfelt thank you to all that have made this fund-raiser such a success!**

We also mentioned the wonderful job GPA/GO had done in relocating the many adoptable dogs into foster care, which brings me to a personal anecdote... As our own Florida home had sustained some damage due to hurricane Charlie, I arrived in Orlando to arrange some of the repairs, just a few days before the second hurricane, Frances, was about to strike. Once again the kennels were urgently being evacuated. I was able to take one of the greyhounds (NR’s Mazeroti), as a foster for the anticipated 48 hours, until the hurricane would pass through. However, Frances was in no hurry to arrive or leave “the City Beautiful,” and two days turned into four days. By then, there was no kennel left to move him back to. To make a long story short, after a week together “Roddy” grew attached to me, and I to him (maybe it was the walks in the eye of the hurricane, telling him to ‘hurry up!’) so... we now have a new member of our family.

I returned to Orlando at the end of October, and am pleased to report on the positive progress at the kennel facility. The landlord has had a new roof installed. Thanks to hard-working volunteers, all the interior contents had been cleared out, cleaned or discarded. The ceiling tiles, walls, insulation and drywall had been stripped away. A new electrical panel had been installed, along with much new wiring. Insulation is being added and things are progressing well. The turn-out pens have new roofing installed, and the fencing repaired. Plans are to have the kennel operational again, by the end of November. In the meantime, many wonderful volunteers have numerous fosters still in their homes, and the process of adopting out greyhounds continues. Most of the dogs we had waiting to come North have arrived here safely, and the remaining ones are expected soon.

In the Spring 2005 issue of Houndsight, we will and a total of the Hurricane Fund donations.



provide a final update on the kennel completion,

**IN LOVING MEMORY
GONE FROM OUR HOMES, BUT STILL IN OUR HEARTS
THE GREYHOUNDS WE HAVE LOST IN THE LAST YEAR**

Monica McGrath lost Becky Kaye "Becky" in December, 2003

Joye Carr lost Tyville Owen "Ty" in January, 2004

Susan Collins and Tim Deslippe lost Mudkicker Becky "Becky" in March, 2004

J-R and Melissa Brisson lost Bob O "Baco Noir" in May, 2004

BJ Tycoles lost JP's Running Loose "Cheez Whiz" in August, 2004

Chantal and Georges Beaudry lost PCF's Flyer "Flyer" in August, 2004

The Simmermon-Gomes Family lost Getaway Car "Atticus" in September, 2004

Bob and Laurie Campbell lost Grid "Senna" in October, 2004

Kristin Lejuene and Rob Jones lost PA's Real Tip "Tip" in October, 2004

Some of you may remember the wonderful novel "Swiftly", by our good friend Michael Maguire. In February Michael lost his Irish greyhound "Lucy", who was his inspiration for Degsey, the greyhound in the novel. Lucy would have been 15 in May.

A GREYHOUND ANGEL

High up in the courts of heaven today, a greyhound angel waits;
With the other angels he will not play, but he sits alone at the gates.
"For I know my master will come" says he, "and when he does, he will call for me."

The other angels pass him by, as they hurry toward the throne.
And he watches them with a wistful eye as he sits at the gates alone.
"But I know if I just wait patiently, that my master someday will call for me."

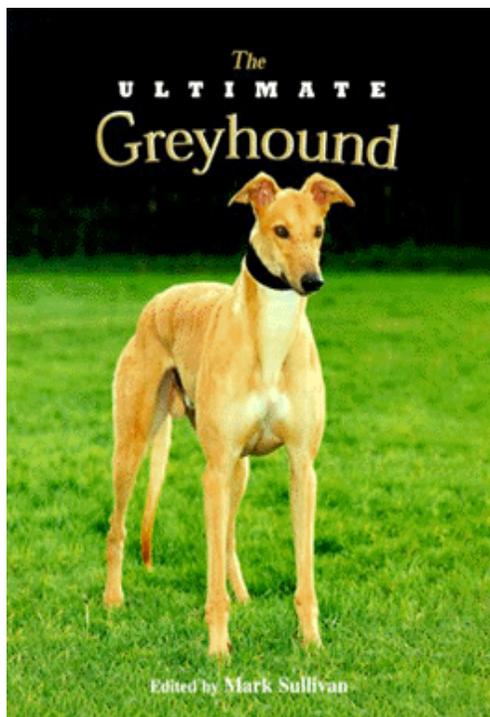
And his master, down on earth below, as he sits in his favourite chair,
forgets sometimes, and whispers low to the dog who is not there.
And the greyhound angel cocks his ears and dreams that his master's voice he hears.

And when at last his master waits outside in the dark and cold,
for the hand of death to open the door, to heaven's courts of gold,
he will hear a sound through the gathering dark,
a greyhound angel's joyful bark...

Author Unknown



LOOKING FOR THAT UNIQUE GREYHOUND GIFT?



THE ULTIMATE GREYHOUND

In **The Ultimate Greyhound**, editor Mark Sullivan has recruited a cast of specialists to examine all aspects of the greyhound. The beauty of the greyhound is celebrated with a look at paintings through the ages. In part 1, there is an in-depth study of the greyhound as the King of sighthounds, comparing it to some of the other sighthound breeds.

In part 2, the world of the racing greyhound is investigated with insights into the mental makeup of the racing dog, as well as feeding and training. Tips are shared from some of the top trainers in the UK, Ireland, North America and Australia.

Part 3 focuses on the retired racing greyhound, including extensive coverage on adopting and caring for an ex-racer, and the special help some need to become fully socialized as family companions.

Part 4 looks at the show greyhound, with an analysis and interpretation of the breed standard, and a special pictorial feature evaluating

the appearance and anatomy of the show greyhound.

Part 5 covers the health of the greyhound, and gives a comprehensive listing of disease and conditions which affect the breed, and detailed methods of treatment.

The Canadian retail for this book is \$54, but we sell it for only \$44.95, (\$30 U.S.) plus shipping.

AS WE GO TO PRESS... We only have about 10 of the 2005 Desk Calendars left at \$20 each (\$14 U.S.) and less than 100 of our wall calendars left at \$15 each (\$10 U.S.). Check the web page. Order soon!

As a butcher is shoeing a greyhound from his shop, he sees \$10 and a note in her mouth reading, "4 lamb chops, please." Amazed, he takes the money, puts a bag of chops in the greyhound's mouth, and quickly closes the shop. He follows the greyhound, watching her wait for a green light, look both ways, and trot across the street to a bus stop. The dog checks the timetable and sits on the bench.



When a bus arrives, she walks around to the front, looks at the number, then boards the bus. The butcher follows, dumb-struck.

As the bus travels out into the suburbs, the greyhound takes in the scenery. After awhile she stands on her back paws to push the "stop" button. Astonished, the butcher follows her off the bus. The greyhound runs up to a house and drops her bag on the stoop. She goes back down the path, takes a big run, and throws herself - whap! - against the door. She does this again and again. No answer. So she jumps up on a wall, walks around the garden, and beats her head against a window, jumps off, and waits at the front door.

A big guy opens the door and starts cursing and scolding the greyhound.

The butcher runs up and screams at the guy, "What the heck are you doing? This dog's a genius!" The owner responds, "Genius? Hah. It's the second time this week she's



GREYHOUNDS, IN VICTORIAN TIMES....

BY MONICA MCGRATH

Speaking with Lynda one day in August, she mentioned an interesting email she had received from a lady from Friends of the Farm, the fundraising group for the Central Experimental Farm, here in Ottawa. Her son had just recently adopted one of our greyhounds and she was totally enamoured with the breed! She knew we did Meet and Greets and wondered if we would be interested in participating in the Victorian Tea being held at the Arboretum, on Sunday August 8. The volunteers dress up in period costumes, but it was optional. I told Lynda I thought it sounded like a lot of fun, wandering among the tables on the lawns of the Arboretum under the trees. Her concern, it was such short notice. I told her my sister, Marion and I, would love to do it, and of course, we would dress up!

A couple of days later on a very rainy day, I hopped the bus at lunch and headed to the Orpheus Musical Theatre Society to try on costumes. After numerous changes, I picked two wonderful costumes, including bonnets... No corsets, thank heaven!!



MONICA AND MARION WITH KATY AND TAZE

After a costume fitting on Saturday, we were ready for our debut at the Victorian Tea on Sunday. One little glitch, the day of the Tea was a forty percent chance of rain. The invitation read "In case of rain, the event would be held in the La Terasse Café in the Sir John Carling Building on the Central Experimental Farm", indoors, where no dogs are allowed.

We had a choice, cancel or set up at the roofed entrance of the building. What a perfect place to greet all that attended!! If worse came to worst, we could put the pooches in the van and move our table inside. Thankfully, for the most part the weather co-operated and all that happened was it got quite windy. Luckily, Chris had anchored the canopy to the pillar and we just had to push it back in place from time to time, as the wind slowly moved it over the raised flowerbeds behind us.

We met a lot of interesting people at this very successful annual event, and saw some wonderful costumes. A number of the people we met travel to Florida for the winter and had been to the dog races. They were thrilled to meet greyhounds up close and were very interested in learning more about them. Regular attendees thought the greyhounds were a wonderful addition to the occasion.

What better place to be for our 'Hounds of the Nobility' than at a Victorian Tea!

Once again our ambassadogs generated many smiles, many questions, and peaked genuine interest. 'Friends of the Farm' volunteers were delighted we were able to participate. The greyhounds were the talk of the Tea.

We had so much fun and, of course, so did Taze and Katy. With all the fuss and attention, they thought the event was for them!



Dear Foxy! **Greyt Advice, Dog to Dog**

Dear Foxy:

I understand you are all knowledgeable about this geographical region – Dad said so! I just arrived here from Hurricane Central (aka Orlando). So far this is a pretty neat place but it is sooooo cold in the morning and a guy just has to go out. Flirty says I haven't seen any thing yet. Is she just pulling my chain? Roddy at Greyhound Adoption Central.

Dear Roddy: Flirty is half right and half wrong. It gets really cold here. She has that right, though how would she know? Winter coats are a necessity and even boots for some of us – but not for you my boy! You are heading back to Orlando while it is cold here. Flirty forgot that part! And then you return back to North Gower when Florida is too hot. If that doesn't work for you it would sure work for me – so you can come here to winter over with the “Boys” and I'll head off to the balmy south with Chris, Lynda and the menagerie. - Foxy

Dear Foxy:

I have heard a lot of “stuff” about you. Imagine how pleased I was when Mom said we would stop at your kennel on the way to the Vet. Imagine this - I weigh 3 pounds – when I arrived chez you, I was most unceremoniously scooted off to an X-Pen in the garage – never to see a single Greyhound. Do you really need security from a 3 pound rabbit? Well, the Vet was really nice. Patches the Lop

Dear Patches: There are some issues around small animals in the presence of Greys. That would not have been an issue here as I'm too old to give an enthusiastic chase and the boys aren't interested in chasing anything (check how much chasing they did at the track). I am sorry. Maybe we'll meet at the Vet's. Why do you go the Vet's? - Foxy

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Shipping costs are \$5 for one item, \$6 for two items and \$7 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**

