

Houndsight

Spring, 2005

An ADOPT-A-GREYHOUND OF CENTRAL CANADA, INC

Newsletter

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NEWS & UPDATES

Spring has finally sprung! Our newest greyhounds are winging their way North, as another busy greyhound adoption season gets underway.

Sorry we missed you, but...

Over the last few months, we have had two 'events' that left some requests and contacts unanswered. In February there was a lengthy power failure in the greater Ottawa area. We had a number of voice messages on our phone. All were lost. In March, Lynda and I were away for eight days, only to find 1,200 (not a typo...) Email messages waiting us upon our return. After downloading them, the hard drive in our computer seized, and all were lost. A new phone system and computer, with back-up, have been installed. Ahh, technology.

Summer picnic news...

For those of you looking to get your summer greyhound picnic fix, our friends at Niagara Greyhound Adoption will be having their event on Saturday, June 18. More info can be found on their website at WWW.XRACER.CA

Our friends at Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton-Wentworth, are holding their picnic and re-union on Saturday, August 27. More info can be found at WWW.GLOHW.ON.CA

With Springtime comes...

Mosquitoes! Although in past years these were simply a nuisance, they can now cause tragic results for both you (West Nile) and your pet (Heartworm).

The number of dogs infected with Heartworm disease grows yearly. In a survey done last year by the University of Guelph, 268 dogs in Ontario contracted the disease, up from 240 the year before. Prevention of this potentially fatal disease is quite easy. Contact your veterinarian for information.



GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA/GREATER ORLANDO
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If your dogs eat Purina...

Purina Pet Food Products, such as ProPlan, ONE, Dog Chow and Hi Pro come in bags that have a weight circle on the side. These weight circles can be very valuable to help pay the vet bills of the greyhounds in the GPA/GO kennel. (This is where the majority of AAG's greyhounds come from.) Purina has a special plan that converts weight circles into real money which is then directed to the veterinary clinic of their choice. But they need your help collecting the weight circles. Each circle is valuable and the money adds up quickly so please don't throw the bags away, until you cut off the weight circles. You can mail them to us at AAG, and we will get them to Florida, or if you go to Playgroup, just drop them off to Laura or Winston, and they will look after them.



*Chris Seed,
Editor*



GREYHOUND IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TIPPER

BY CHANTAL BEAUDRY



TIPPER AND BUNNY

Most of us greyhound owners have had the good fortune to have adopted very sociable greyhounds. My previous greyhound, Flyer, was a real social bug. He loved people and just adored being around other dogs, regardless of the breed or size. When Flyer had to leave us for doggie heaven last August, I was devastated. However, after a month, I was going stir crazy without a dog and approached Lynda to adopt another greyhound. Two weeks later, Lynda had found a dog for me - a young little female named Thumper Keys. We had wanted the total opposite from our previous dog because the memory of losing him was still fresh and we wanted to start anew.

Lynda had mentioned that Thumper was a bit shy but since they can all be a bit timid, especially coming fresh from the tracks, I didn't foresee any problems. I immediately went to the Orlando web site (the kennel where our dogs come from in Florida) to look up her picture. I took one look at her and it was love at first sight.

As I was happily waiting to hear as to when we would be expecting to receive her, I got a call from Lynda. She had been communicating with Tipper's foster mom (I had decided to change her name from Thumper to Tipper, since I didn't think that it was fair to name a dog, a greyhound of all dogs! after a rabbit). Tipper had been "diagnosed" as being a spook. Spooks are greyhounds that are afraid of everything. And I don't just mean timid - afraid. We're talking real phobias. They will not approach people, but usually shirk away from them and don't want to be petted or hugged. They are afraid of noises and will huddle in a corner just shaking. Lynda gave me the opportunity to back out of adopting Tipper as it can take a lot of time and patience to turn them around. For those of you who know Lynda's dog Flirty, she was (and still can be) a spook. Lynda, with her love, patience and expertise, was able to help her adjust. Armed with that knowledge and knowing that Lynda would be there to offer moral support if need be, I decided to still proceed with the adoption because I was so attached to her by then. I figured that I had a lot of love to give her, and that with some time and lots of patience, I could turn her around.

When time came to pick her up (around the end of November), I was amazed at how pretty (even prettier than the web pictures) and how small she was (a mere 51 pounds). She was so terrified, we couldn't even pet her, let alone get her to leave her crate. Taking the family picture was quite the adventure, trying to catch her as she wouldn't let us near her.

Her first day at home was spent huddled against a wall in the living room, just shaking. Taking her for a walk was very difficult - any noise, let alone people, other dogs or even worse - children, would scare the bejeezes out of her. It was heart-wrenching because I felt so helpless for her. However, she adapted quickly to our home and rapidly wormed her way into our hearts. Within 2 days, she had manipulated my husband into letting her sleep in our bedroom instead of in her crate, which our former greyhound was never allowed to do. Three days after her arrival, she had mastered the stairs, with no help at all. Rapidly, we saw changes in her behaviour. She is extremely playful, given the fact that she is still quite young. Although she likes to be by herself at times, she also frequently seeks us out to play or just to get our attention. She is very affectionate, giving her kisses freely and accepting hugs. Now we can tell she is really happy among us. With strangers, it's a different story. If people come to our house, she will come and see who's at the door but won't greet them. She will, however, let herself be petted if she's lying down on her cushion. She is quite subdued around strangers. They don't get to appreciate her full personality and don't believe us when we tell them she's a little devil!

Outside the house is another story altogether. She loves going for walks, however she gets scared easily. People, other dogs, children (forget it!) cannot get within 3 feet of her. She just gets nervous, starts shaking and tries to run away. She does ok at Petsmart but she still gets nervous, especially if there is a lot of people, or if there are dogs barking. We are now, thanks to the nicer weather, in the process of trying to socialize her with people/dogs by taking her places and for long walks. It will be a lot of work, but I'm confident, with all the progress she has achieved already, that by this summer, she will be more comfortable around strangers and other dogs. She is definitely worth the time, love and effort. She has given us so much in return....



MICROCHIP UPDATE....

BY CHRIS SEED

We are strong believers that microchip identification in any pet provides a very secure means of identifying and reuniting pets with their owners. Microchips are about the size of a grain of rice, and contain an encoded series of numbers and letters, to identify the pet and owner. The chip is placed under the skin (between the shoulder blades) of dogs and cats, using a needle similar to what your Vet would use to give a vaccination. Across North America, Humane Societies, most veterinary clinics and rescue shelters now have scanners that, when swept across the shoulder area of a pet, identifies the information encoded in the chip.



Since 1998, AAG has microchipped all our greyhounds, using the PETNET® system. We partnered with this company as it appeared to have a quality product, and a “universal” microchip. Unfortunately at the end of 2004, Anitech Petnet suddenly ceased operations of both its online and telephone pet recovery services.

What does this mean if your greyhound has a PETNET® microchip? Well, it depends...

Apparently the database of dogs microchipped **up to December of 2002**, was sold to AVID Canada, and registered on their database. AVID states they will not charge an annual fee to clients currently registered. They will register any competitor’s microchip on their database for the one-time fee of \$26.75. Once registered, brass collar tags, identifying that the pet is now registered with AVID Canada, can be purchased for \$7.50. All recovery calls are answered 24 hours a day with a live operator. Those who wish to update or double check their information can contact AVID at 800-338-1397.

For pets that were microchipped **after January 2003**, we have taken action. We have sent the information we have on file and registered your dogs with the company we will now be using, **24PetWatch™**. They do not charge a fee, and also have a call recovery line that is staffed with a live operator, 24 hours a day. In the next few weeks, you will receive a confirmation letter from them. At that time, you will be able to go online (or call) and update any information. As mentioned, registration with **24PetWatch™** is free and can be done via phone, mail or Internet. There is also no cost to update ownership or animal information. You can contact them at 866-597-2424 or visit www.24petwatch.com Owners that had their data moved to AVID, can also register for free with 24PetWatch™.

It is imperative that you double check to be sure your greyhound is registered on a data base. A microchip will only be effective, if the information is available, and up to date.

Why has AAG decided to use the 24PetWatch™ system? We want to provide a microchip that meets the International Standards Organization (ISO) microchip standards, which are being used globally. We want to use a company that has the financial stability and capacity to be available when our clients and their greyhounds need them. 24PetWatch™ is owned by Pethealth Inc, who also offer some unique pet insurance products.

Currently Pethealth (based in Ontario) is Canada's largest provider of accident and illness insurance to owners of dogs and cats, and the second largest in North America. Since February 2003, it’s become a leading provider of pet recovery database services. They currently operate in 46 states, DC and 10 Canadian provinces.

Recently, the National Companion Animal Coalition (“NCAC”), comprised of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Kennel Club, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada, has officially recognised the Company’s 24PetWatch microchip and pet registry/recovery program. The 24PetWatch program is the first program in Canada to be officially recognised by the NCAC.



HURRICANES AND SILVER LININGS

BY LYNDA SEED

The sun shone brightly on February 19th, 2005 for the formal Grand Re-Opening of the GPA/Greater Orlando kennel facility, and it was definitely a cause for celebration.

For many of those in attendance, it was their first opportunity to see the results of the months of hard work carried out by a dedicated crew of GPA/GO volunteers. The dark days following the devastation and damage of last summer's multiple hurricanes were gone. Not only had the building that housed the adoption kennel been restored, it had seen the addition of improvements that would benefit not just the greyhounds, but the volunteers as well (including a new upgraded electrical system and automatic sprinkler system).



"CLEO" AWAITS TRANSPORTATION NORTH

Although the original time frame was to be back into the renovated kennels by the end of November, the actual work took longer and dogs only started to take up residence in late December. Even then the work was not entirely completed, but the finishing touches would continue until just before the grand re-opening.



"SAMBA" TRIES OUT A NEW SUITE

I was caught by surprise when asked to join GPA/GO President, Pat Jefts, and Carol and George Mullins on the stage. Pat explained to the gathered crowd that the Mullins, who own their own racing kennel, and who have had many of their greyhounds adopted through GPA/GO, had made a generous donation to the kennel rebuilding. They gave \$5,000.00 to purchase several new crate units, which were badly needed. Then, Pat Jefts announced AAG's participation in helping... during the December 12th

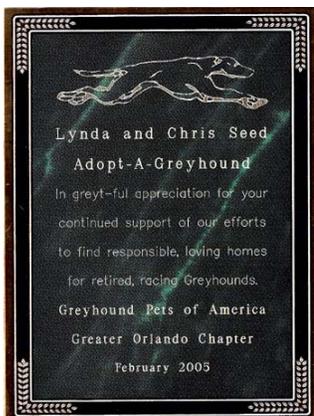
Membership meeting, we had presented a cheque in the amount of \$9,473.00(US).

The generosity of this donation was made possible due to the incredible response of AAG adopters, their friends, family, colleagues, and others who learned of this cause and felt compelled to contribute. In only a few weeks, an amazing total of \$6,178.00 had been donated. AAG had committed to match the incoming donations to a maximum of \$5,000.00, so the final figure in Canadian dollars was \$11,178.00.



SIXTEEN REASONS WHY WE GET INVOLVED!

I was very honored to be able to share in the pride of the GPA/GO volunteers attending the celebration of the newly renovated facility, and to accept a beautiful plaque presented in recognition of all our efforts in support of the greyhounds.



FIND-A-GREYHOUND SEARCH TEAM



BY JANET SHAFFER

As a new greyhound owner, my greatest fear was having my hound get loose. As the years have passed and our pack has grown that fear is still there. We take many precautions to prevent this from happening. Even then accidents can happen.

He's loose: He jumped out of the car before you can grab him. He ran out the door a visitor opened too wide. He was spooked by a bus and backed out of his collar. You dropped his leash and he saw a cat. None of it matters; you just want to get him back. He will want to come home, but won't know how to get there. He's depending on you

to find him. You can't let him down.

What you do in the first half hour will make a difference in how quickly he is recovered. If you don't find him in the first ten minutes, go home! This is a most important and most difficult step... *"You have to stop checking every street and back yard yourself, and start recruiting an army to do it for you. Most greyhounds are found within a mile or two of where they were lost, but a two mile radius is nearly 13 square miles, an impossible area to search adequately alone. You have to stop looking for your dog, and start looking for people. Everything that follows depends on it. With every hour that goes by, your chances of finding your dog, on your own, diminish. You now have to find someone who has seen your dog. You need a sighting and in order to get a sighting, you need help."*

This is where a newly formed team can help you. **Find-A-Greyhound Search Team** is available to mobilize an army of volunteers to search for your lost greyhound. They have a list of important phone numbers, access to a data base of email addresses. They will make the necessary phone calls, mobilize volunteers, print up flyers, and organize the search. They will start a topic on Greytalk.com's Greyhound Amber Alert forum to tell other possible searchers, share information, and gain advice. This forum gives searchers a venue to access vital information over the course of the search without tying up phone lines.

We have been incredibly lucky in our area to not have a greyhound go missing. With more and more of these wonderful retired racers lounging on our couches the odds increase that one can. You will still alert Adopt-A-Greyhound (489-0654) as soon as your greyhound goes missing. Then, call the Find-A-Greyhound search team member closest to your area. They will make the calls to get an organized search underway. Don't try to do this all yourself. Give your beloved hound the best chance to come home.

Find-A-Greyhound Search Team

Ottawa North:	Melissa Brisson	567-7361
Ottawa South:	Janet Shaffer	823-8516
Hunt Club:	Vicky Edmundson	521-2965
Orleans:	John Arens	837-5275
Kanata:	Wendy Siurna	592-4954



ARE YOU HOOKED ON GREYHOUNDS?

Last year we introduced two new unique greyhound coat and leash racks. These proved so popular, we ran out close to Christmas! We now have a new supply, available for immediate shipping. We also have added a third, smaller leash/coat hook, for hanging up to two items. (NOT shown to scale)



507 Coat Rack \$40 (\$32 US) Overall size
17"W by 13" (43 cm x 33 cm)



506 Leash Hook \$29 (\$23US) Overall
size 10¾"W by 7½" (27.5 cm x 19 cm)



508 Leash/Coat Hook \$24 (\$19 US)
Overall size 9¾"W by 6½" (24.75 cm
x 16.5 cm)

More information on our web page. Order by mail, or on-line using our secure web page order form.

Moon 1994-2005

Moon, hound silent
Like the night
Shadow brindled
Spirit bright

Like a planet in orbit
A hound of habit
Once trained to the routine
Of a mechanical rabbit

As the moon is constant
So with a hound
Forever he is faithful
His trust is profound

As soft night fades
Slowly, each star pales
Eyes tell of pain
He cannot speak what ails

Brave to the end
He raises his paw -
Goodbye, and thank you
You could not have done more

Look up in the evening
At a shape in the sky
A greyhound named Moon
Will often run by

Esther Becker
February 19, 2005 ©

Editor's note:
Esther Becker lost her sweet brindle boy,
"Tennessee Moon" on February 17, 2005



SPEEDY GOES TO SCHOOL....

BY JENNIFER SNELL

There is nothing more shocking than to see animals such as our beloved Greyhound's being mistreated, or abandoned. For this reason I jumped at the opportunity to teach a young generation about kindness towards animals. The Kindness Club Foundation Inc, is an organization whose sole purpose is to teach children from the age of kindergarten to grade eight the importance of respecting, and loving all of Gods creatures.



SPEEDY AND SMOKEY CHECK OUT THE SNOW

Speedy our Greyhound and Smokey our Husky have accompanied me to elementary schools in the Orleans area as partner teachers with the Kindness Club Program. This is a free program promoting attitudes of kindness, respect and empathy through humane education. The program aims to help children develop an awareness of their feelings and needs, and the feelings and needs of animals. Children learn responsible pet care and that pets are members of our families.

In the classroom children are offered the opportunity, under careful supervision, to approach a dog, and experience first hand unconditional love.

For those who know Speedy, I believe you would agree he is rather shy. In the beginning, I was concerned that he would be too shy to participate in the program. Speedy's debut in the classroom took place on a particularly cold January day. Not liking Ottawa winters, Speedy did not 'relieve' himself before going into the school. The good news is that I was given the opportunity to demonstrate responsible pet ownership in handling the situation. With this 'business' out of the way, Speedy took a seat next to me and charmed the students and teachers with his excellent skills as an ambassadog.

Several students shed tears when stories were shared on the subject of euthanasia and the suffering some animals experience at the hands of humans. It was heart warming to see Speedy's ears stand on end and for his eyes to embrace the students at this difficult time. Needless to say, Speedy was able to provide an example of how dogs share their kind, respectful and empathetic ways with humans, thus the kindness message.

For most, this was the first time they had experienced having a dog in their classroom. The diversion from routine was most apparent in the enthusiastic yet kind and respectful welcome extended to Speedy. Although Speedy remained cautiously aloof during the standard petting time, he easily engaged the students with his beautiful brown eyes and dignified stance. Based on the applause Speedy received at the end of the class, I had no doubt the students' enjoyed having him to share his own message of kindness.

If you are interested in learning more about the Kindness Club Foundation Inc, the Program for Elementary Schools, or to arrange a school visit in the greater Ottawa area, please call me (613-835-4201) and I will be pleased to share the details.



Dear Foxy! Greyt Advice, Dog to Dog

Dear Foxy:

Isn't Spring grand? Check out the mud... I'm a mess coming into the house - and my Mom is brutal washing my feet. Do you have a humane paw cleaning device? Vern in Ottawa

Well Vern you should check Jet out. Never was so much mud ever dragged into the house. Mum pulls out a pail and scrubs the crap off the poor little lad – and the floor too. Minutes later he has to go out do his duty - running laps in the yard. Love the little guy. Vern, you are doing pretty good and besides summer is coming: Foxy

Dear Foxy:

Mom thinks I have a behaviour issue. I like to dig craters in the back yard. So? How can that be a behaviour problem? It's Aeration! Hoss in Barrhaven

Hi Hoss! We have a similar issue. His name is Jake! The Cavern dog! He used to dig troughs. Now he's changed his habit and sticks his head into the juniper tree to keep track of the resident chickadees and their household. It's better and neater and Mom is happy. Give it a try: Fox

Dear Foxy:

I stayed at your house while my Mom was away for a weekend. I know where your food is. And where the treat container is. High food prey that's me. Can I Visit your kitchen? No! You're kidding! Imagine the three of us boys against little old you: Tony down the street

Tony there is **no chance...** My brothers are with me (right boys?). You are a loner: Foxy

CONTACTING US:

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Web page:

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By mail:

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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. You can order by mail, phone or use our secure online order form on our web page.

Make cheques payable to:
Adopt-A-Greyhound



off the mark

by Mark Parisi

