

Houndsight

Summer, 2004

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

Newsletter

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NEWS & UPDATES

For those of you who may not be aware, we are sad to advise that George Broadley died suddenly while walking his beloved greyhound "Tara" (who stood by his side until help arrived) on July 4, 2004. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Liz, and sons Chris and Colin. They generously directed that memorial donations be sent to AAG, which we deeply appreciated.

Where have we been...

No, it was not your imagination, there has been a large 'gap' between issues of Houndsight. A few things have impacted this. After 40 years in the working world, (the last 28 years working for The Co-operators), I retired at the end of 2003. As anyone who has retired knows, now I have very little time available! It has also been our busiest year yet for adoptions. With my retirement, we (AAG) also lost our source for printing this newsletter. Over the years, my Vice-President had allowed me to just purchase the paper and the odd ink cartridge (actually, toner cartridge) and I was able to go in on weekends and use the company printing equipment to publish this 8 page newsletter at very low cost. We no longer have these facilities available, and the cost to publish the newsletter went up 1,000%. I have searched around various print companies, and negotiated a price that is a little better, but still very expensive by comparison.

Last but not least, we lost our computer hard drive. We never were able to determine if it was a hardware problem, or virus, but the 'C' drive was lost. While we had a back-up of our mailing list, adopters, etc., we lost all the pictures and pending articles for Houndsight. I am not sure who had sent me articles, so if you have anything you would like us to consider, please Email them to my attention. MSWord is best, and do not do any formatting of the articles, as it all needs to be removed, to be published.

Adobe, not a Hacienda...

We have also made this issue available as an electronic file. (Check the "News Hound" section of our web page.) **Let us know** if creating Houndsight as an Adobe electronic file, and sending it out as an Email attachment, or linked to our web page, would work for you. Obviously, **we would need your Email address**. Since I already have the software to do this, it would dramatically reduce our costs. If you need more information on how to read Adobe files, contact us, and we can guide you.

Missing Families...

We also lost a number of our 'Family Photos' that had not yet been configured for our web page. For those who may not have been to our web page, this section lists, by registered name and pet name, a lot of the dogs adopted through us and has a picture of them with their new family. It is one of the most popular sections of our web pages, second only to the "How to Adopt" pages in getting the most visits. Over the years, some pictures were missed, as some folks picked up their dog at night, or in the rain. In total, there are more than 150 photos we need. If you have a good photo of you with your AAG greyhound you can Email it to us if digital, or mail it to us and we can scan it. Let us know if you need the photo returned.

The greyhounds need your help...

As many of you are aware, the majority of our greyhounds come from Florida. We work very closely with our friends at Greyhound Pets of America, Greater Orlando. I just returned from there, and as we go to press, we have 12 of our new dogs in Orlando, waiting transportation. The recent hurricanes have dealt a heavy blow to the adoption kennels. Please see page 2 on how you can help.

The adoption kennel is always in need of muzzles, 'Martingale' style collars and leads. If you have any of these, in just about any condition, send them to us, and we will be sure they get to the kennel.

Chris Seed, Editor

HURRICANE ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR THE GREYHOUNDS

It would be hard for anyone not to be aware of the hurricanes that have just recently slammed into Florida, and the devastation that has resulted. However, many of you may not be aware of just how personally these events impact AAG. We had mentioned that most of our greyhounds come through Greyhound Pets of America, Greater Orlando. When Lynda and I are in Orlando, we volunteer with this group, and we have made many good friends among the dedicated people in this organization.

The facility, located north of Orlando consists of 3 buildings: the main office, a store, kennels with attached male/female turnout pens, and fenced in yards. The kennel facility (a converted truck garage) housed 44 dogs in kennels, and 8 more in "suites". When GPA/GO leased this property, none of the buildings were inhabitable in their present shape, but had 'potential.' With no money to hire workers, it took various committed volunteers to



DESTROYED CEILING & ROOF

transform, over weeks and in some cases months, the diverse buildings. In the end, it was the former truck garage, an ugly duckling if ever there was one, that was transformed into a beautiful swan, or in this case, a first rate kennel. What had been only a dream for such a long time, had actually become a reality and the cause of much celebration.



COLLAPSED CEILING & SOAKED INSULATION

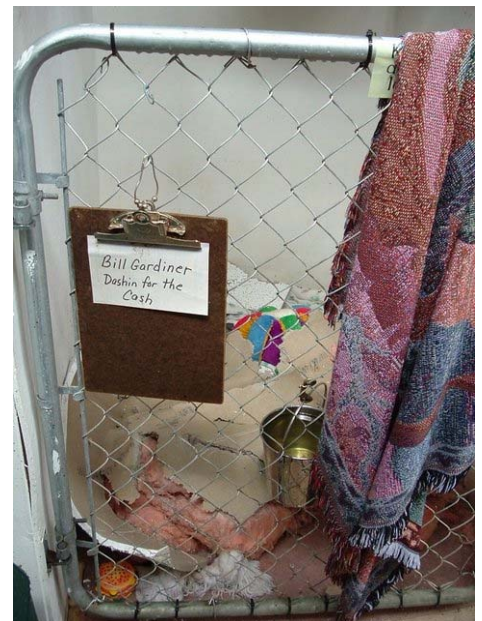
limited damage to their facilities. It tore off the office sign and both front and back canopies, and the flagpole was bent to the ground. There was also some damage to the turn-out pens, but all of the dogs had already been moved into the temporary care of GPA/GO volunteers, all of whom were also bracing for the impact of this hurricane.

By the following week, repairs done, the dogs had been able to return.

The arrival of another hurricane, Frances, only 3 weeks later, is unprecedented. It has also been devastating. **The kennel is a total loss, and likely beyond repair.** The roof was torn off, the interior of the building and its contents soaked with the torrential rains, and left in ruins. Dog food, appliances, phones, crates, computer, etc, destroyed. The attached photo's, taken by GPA/GO volunteer Danny Vanzura,

Hurricanes in central Florida are a rare occurrence, but GPA/GO had an evacuation plan, just in case. When hurricane Charlie ripped through the Orlando area, it did

limited damage to



THE 'SUITE' THAT HOUSED ONE OF OUR BOYS

give you a sense of the amount of destruction.



Continued from Page 2...

Once again, all the dogs had to be evacuated, into volunteer's homes. This time, over NINETY greyhounds made it into foster care, thanks to the greyt work of Joan Harris and Pat Jefts, who organized the kennel exodus. This in itself was no easy task, as due to the anticipated severity of this hurricane, many past volunteers had decided to evacuate themselves. Thankfully none of the greyhounds (or people) were injured.

Now there is no facility to return the dogs back to. There is the possibility that a temporary, empty kennel may be available at the Sanford/Orlando track, but it will require a lot of work, and money to make it usable. Time is of the essence in making a kennel available, as additional greyhounds need to be taken into the adoption program on an almost daily basis, when their racing careers end.



KENNEL SUPPLY AREA—FOOD, MEDICATIONS



KITCHEN AREA

To complicate things (and costs) even more, in the midst of hurricane Frances, one of the dogs slated to come to us was rushed to the emergency clinic and as the hurricane raged, underwent emergency surgery at a cost of \$2,500 (U.S.) Fortunately, the recovery is going well, according to the latest report from the foster home.

How can you help? Money... this newsletter goes out to over 450 homes. If everyone that receives it, sends us a cheque (payable to Adopt-A-Greyhound) for \$10, that would be \$4,500. Send us \$5 if that is all you can afford, or what you can, if you can afford more. We (AAG) are non-profit, but not a registered charity, so we cannot issue tax receipts. We do however have an emergency fund, and **our intent is to match every dollar donated, up to**

\$5,000. If you send us \$10, we will send GPA/GO \$20. AAG has both a Canadian and American dollars bank account, so we can handle either currency and easily exchange funds back and forth. Remember, we also accept Visa and MasterCard (but banks do take 3%), if that is easier. We are not however, set up for bank transfers or Pay Pal.

To our friends and adopters in the United States, (70 of our newsletters go to you), GPA/GO is 501c3 registered, and if you require a tax receipt, make your donation by check or money order, send it to us, payable to "Greyhound Pets of America/Greater Orlando" and we will get them to issue a tax receipt directly to you.

Thank you for all your support...
Lynda & Chris Seed

(See "CONTACTING US", page 6)



CEILING/ROOF OF CRATE AREA



I AM YOUR DOG

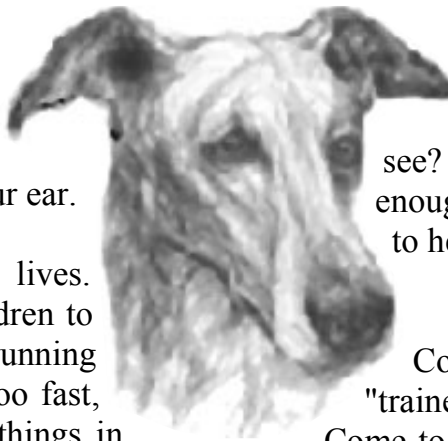
I am your dog, and I have a little something I'd like to whisper in your ear.

I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work, some have children to raise. It always seems like you are running here and running there, often much too fast, often never noticing the truly grand things in life.

Look down at me now, while you sit there at your computer. See the way my dark brown eyes look at yours? They are slightly cloudy now. That comes with age. The grey hairs are beginning to ring my soft muzzle. You smile at me; I see love in your eyes. What do you see in mine? Do you see a spirit? A soul inside, who loves you as no other could in the world? A spirit that would forgive all trespasses of prior wrong doing for just a simple moment of your time? That is all I ask. To slow down, if even for a few minutes, to be with me.

So many times you have been saddened by the words you read on that screen, of others of my kind, passing. Sometimes we die young and oh so quickly, sometimes so suddenly it wrenches your heart out of your throat. Sometimes, we age so slowly before your eyes that you may not even seem to know until the very end, when we look at you with grizzled muzzles and cataract clouded eyes.

Still the love is always there, even when we must take that long sleep, to run free in a distant land. I may not be here tomorrow; I may not be here next week. Someday you will shed the water from your eyes, that humans have when deep grief fills their souls, and you will be angry at yourself that you did not have just "one more day" with me. Because I love you so, your sorrow touches my spirit and grieves me. We have NOW, together.



So come, sit down here next to me on the floor, and look deep into my eyes. What do you see? If you look hard and deep enough we will talk, you and I, heart to heart.

Come to me not as "alpha" or as "trainer" or even "Mom or Dad".

Come to me as a living soul and stroke my fur and let us look deep into one another's eyes and talk. I may tell you something about the fun of chasing a tennis ball, or I may tell you something profound about myself, or even life in general. You decided to have me in your life because you wanted a soul to share such things with. Someone very different from you, and here I am.

I am a dog, but I am alive. I feel emotion, I feel physical senses, and I can revel in the differences of our spirits and souls. I do not think of you as a "dog on two feet" - I know what you are and who you are. You are human, in all your quirkiness, and I love you still.

Now, come sit with me, on the floor. Enter my world, and let time slow down if only for 15 minutes. Look deep into my eyes, and whisper into my ears. Speak with your heart, with your joy, and I will know your true self. We may not have tomorrow, but we do have today, and life is oh so very short. So please... come sit with me now and let us share these precious moments we have together.

Love, on behalf of canines everywhere,

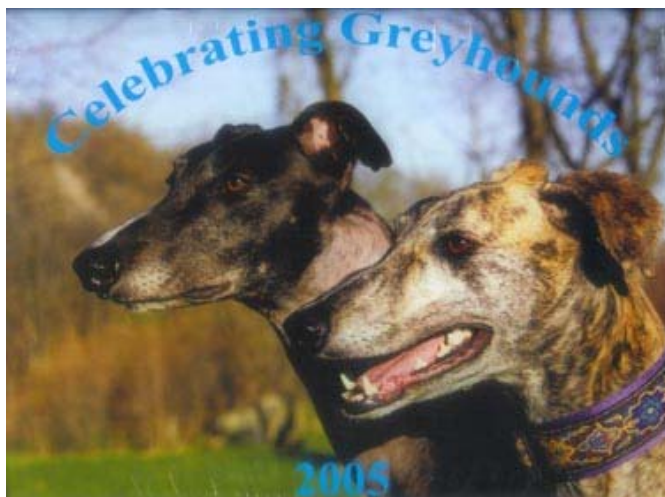
Your Dog

-Author Unknown



2005 CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS CALENDARS

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



The 2005 **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 2004 to January, 2006), contains four photos of different greyhounds, in all kinds of poses and situations.

You can see that the Greyhounds shown in this calendar, are among the very fortunate ones that have made the transition from retired racers, to become pets and companions. Retired racing greyhounds need people to open their hearts, and homes to them, as they end their athletic career. **All the proceeds from the sale of our merchandise, including these calendars, supports our ongoing efforts to find loving 'forever' homes for these majestic creatures.**

Hats off to the Greyhound Project for another year of winning calendars, and very likely another best seller!

Don't be disappointed, order early!

WALL CALENDAR.....\$15

Special \$3 shipping costs for any number or style of calendars ordered at the same time. You can order by mail, fax, phone, or on our secure

DESK DIARY.....\$20

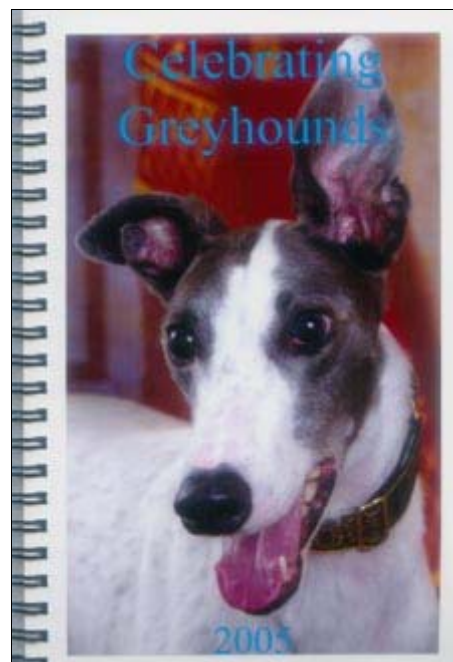
web page order form.

Returning as well for 2005, is the improved, full colour **Desk Diary Calendar**. From the same people that brought you the award winning wall calendar, The Greyhound Project, Inc. This fifty-four week (December, 2004 to January, 2006) desk diary is 15cm wide by 21.5cm tall (5½ inches wide by 8½ inches tall), with a week per page on the right, and a colour greyhound photo on the left. Each week features a new photo. It is spiral bound, to allow it to lay flat, opened on a desk. More than 57 colour photos, featuring over 80 greyhounds.

This amazing calendar was introduced in 2003, and proved so successful, it sold out! It's back again for 2005, better than ever!

All the photographs in the desk diary are different from the wall calendar, so order both, and save on the shipping.

Christmas is coming!



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

Dear Foxy:

This is Onyx. I just got a new family here. We live in the bush. Mandy is the family boss. The poor poodles are at the bottom of the order. The rest of us line up sort of. Anyway, Mandy says my baby brother lives with you. Is that true? Could you walk him over here for a visit? Onyx (somewhere where we live but nobody else does)

Dear Onyx: Yep, your little baby brother, Jet, lives at my house. He is a hand full. He hasn't got the routine of being a PET down yet. Takes an hour to eat and runs all over the inside and outside. He's embarrassing but we try to be patient. I'm not walking him anywhere - Never mind 100 miles. Get your new Mom to bring you to SuperPet when my family is there. For sure my Mom will bring Jet. You know Rita!! – your sister – my Mom found her in the Pacific Northwest. That's at Detroit where you get Northwest Airlines to Florida. You could walk there- Foxy

Dear Foxy:

You think you know everything. That might be true but take a look at Clover and me. So very beautiful. The boys fall at our feet to do our bidding. You have to work!! Cleo in Ottawa

Right Cleo! What do they do for you? Got me. You have the Valley Girl Syndrome. The Ottawa Valley Girl Syndrome! - Foxy

WINTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

With winter comes a rush of winter coat orders, and some disappointed greyhounds as we run out of certain colours or sizes. All are now in stock, so order early. We also have many new items (like our leash and coat hooks) that make greyt gifts. A number of jewellery items are in short supply, and have been discontinued, so hurry! We also have only 4 of our 'outdoor' greyhound statues left. We had bought all the importer had, so we won't be getting anymore.



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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**



Greyhound therapy