



The Home Stretch

April—May 2008

Volume 13, Issue 2

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Upcoming Events

Stone Arch Festival: Saturday & Sunday, June 14-15, Minneapolis.

GREYFEST: Saturday, June 21—Spoooner Park, Little Canada, 11—4.

Twin Cities Pride Festival: Saturday & Sunday, June 28 & 29—Loring Park, Minneapolis.

Eagan Parade & Fun Fest: Friday, July 4.

Maple Grove Days: Thursday—Sunday, July 10-13 Parade & Business Expo.

Minnesota State Fair: Saturday, August 30 (date may change), St. Paul.

Minnesota Renaissance Festival: Saturday & Sunday, September 6th & 7th, Shakopee

To volunteer, contact Chris King at CLKING2130@aol.com

GreyFest 2008: Are you ready?

Barb Gates Schaben, GreyFest Coordinator

GreyFest is a yearly celebration to honor our hounds and raise money to help retired racers find homes.

When? Saturday, June 21, 2008
11:00AM - 4:00PM
Raffle 2:30 p.m.

Where? Spooner Park, Little Canada, MN—Directions & map inside

Why Should You Go?

Greyhounds!

There will be A LOT of them. All sizes... all colors...all loveable.

It's our biggest fundraiser of the year!

Help raise money to help other retired racers find homes. All proceeds benefit retired racers!

A chance to socialize!

See old friends and make new ones.

Shopping!

(Continued on page 2)

Greyt Events: Spring & Summer

Chris King, Speical Events Coordinator

As the days become warm and your community has its annual celebration, how about organizing a greyhound walk during the festivities. Those of you that participate in the "Gassy" walk know how much attention you get walking around Lake Harriet. One greyhound gets attention and lots of greyhounds draw a crowd!

There are so many festivals, parades and fairs during the spring and summer. Here are just a few that GPA will be participating in: June 14th and 15th is the Stone Arch Festival in Minneapolis. I'm looking for volunteers to organize a walk during this event. Then there is the Twin Cities Pride Festival, June 28th and 29th. I am exploring participating in the parade and I would like some volunteers to organize a walk in Loring Park during this event.

(Continued on page 5)

The Home Stretch

GPA—Minnesota's

Mission Statement

Greyhound Pets of America—Minnesota is the Minnesota chapter of a national non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to finding loving, responsible homes for retired racing greyhounds and also younger greyhounds that haven't been successful at the various tracks throughout the country. We also take great pride in educating the public that retired racers make excellent, loving pets.

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Brian Jett—Editor
Barb Gates
Wendie Johnson
Sylvia Kresal
Nicole Middlecamp
Susan Spiller
Ed Mall

GreyFest 2008—Continued

(Continued from page 1)

T-shirts, collars, jewelry, art... we've got vendors from around the country selling greyhound-related goodies.

Contests and Prizes!

Best costume, youngest dog, shortest male, tallest female, fastest peanut butter licker, Speed Alley (weather-permitting) and more!

Photo opportunities!

We have a photographer ready to take pictures of your hound racing down Speed Alley.

Food and drink!

We've got something for everyone, including the vegetarians.

The raffle!

We have AWESOME raffle items.

Greyhounds!

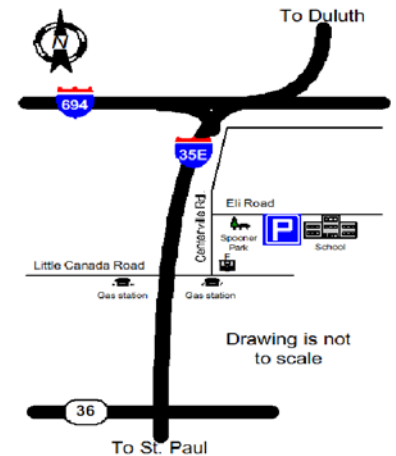
Did we mention lots and lots of greyhounds?!

Need another reason?

Because it's a GREYT time!

Want more information?

Please see www.gpa-mn.org
or call 763.785.4000



GreyFest 2008: Directions & Parking

Barb Gates, GreyFest Coordinator

Spooener Park is at 351 Eli Road in Little Canada, approximately 10 minutes north of Saint Paul, 0.3 miles from 35E and the Little Canada Road exit.

From the south

Go north on 35E. Exit on Little Canada Road.

Turn right at the top of the exit. Take a quick left onto Centerville Road. Go about 1 block. Turn right onto Eli Road. Park is 1/2 block on the right.

From the north

Go south on 35E. Exit on Little Canada Road.

Turn left at the top of the exit. Go over 35E. Turn left onto Centerville Road. Go about 1 block. Turn right onto Eli Road. Park is 1/2 block on the right.

Parking

There is a lot at the shelter. Lots of on-street parking and a school parking lot next to the park.

News from the Board: Lending a Helping Paw

Nicole Middlecamp

Lending a Helping Paw features special ways in which GPA dollars are put to use. This may range from special medical procedures to helping fellow GPA chapters in need. Lending a Helping Paw always supports our mission – to find loving and caring homes for retired racing greyhounds.

This month GPA-MN made a donation to a fellow GPA chapter that was in jeopardy of closing its doors. This chapter, which runs a boarding facility near a track, has been faced with many hardships – including a significant loss of funding – and has struggled to keep its doors open for the many hounds leaving the track. Because the urgency of the situation required immediate attention to protect the hounds, GPA-MN sent a donation of \$2,500. Among other things this money will help to pay outstanding bills and cover the cost of food and vetting to keep their doors open. Other GPA chapters pitched in by providing them with tools and resources to help them keep their doors open from this point forward.

We are proud to be in a position to help our sister chapter and to be part of an organization committed to helping each other to help the hounds.

T-SHIRT QUILT

Jude Edling is donating another fabulous greyhound t-shirt quilt for GreyFest! She needs your old greyhound shirts—any color, condition, size.

Send to:
Jude Edling
112 E. 8th St.,
Blue Earth, MN 56013

GreyFest 2008: Hound-Friendly Accommodations

Barb Gates, GreyFest Coordinator

Are you coming to GreyFest from out of town and don't want to drive home after a fun-filled day of excitement and activities? The hotels listed here are pet-friendly and are within a few miles of Spooner Park. This is only a short list - there are many other hotels in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area that are pet friendly which can be found by searching the internet or calling the hotel directly. Please note: in some cases there may be a nominal, non-refundable pet charge. When making your reservation, please be sure to let them know that your greyhound(s) will be staying with you.

Best Western Kelly Inn (Saint Paul) – 161 St Anthony Ave, **St Paul** 651-227-8711

Red Roof Inn – 1806 Wooddale Drive, **Woodbury** 651-738-7160

Best Western White Bear Country Inn –4940 Highway 61 North, **White Bear Lake** 651-429-5393

Super 8 – 1125 Red Fox Rd, **Arden Hills**, 651-484-6557

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Board Members' Contact Information:

The board wants to be accessible to the chapter members. Please contact us with concerns, questions, suggestions, or to get involved. Below are the email addresses for all the board members and the committee each is chairing. If interested in getting involved with a specific committee, contact that board member directly. More information will be published about the various committees.

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The Home Stretch

Meet & Greet 411

Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet Coordinator

A word about Meet and Greets and their wonderful hosts: There is a Meet and Greet almost every weekend somewhere for people to attend. You can find out about them by going to the GPA website or checking the calendar in the newsletter. Here are the stores that have Meet and Greets and their hosts:

- Burnsville Petco - Chris
- Duluth Petco - Kelsey
- Eden Prairie Petco - Bob and Nancy
- Fridley Petco - Jen and Brian
- Highland Park Petco - Aimee
- Mankato Pet Expo - Bryan and Nancy
- Richfield Petco - Neil and Sylvia
- St. Cloud Petco - Kate and Pat
- Urbanimal on Lyndale Avenue - Mark, Christine, Barb, and Steve
- St. Paul Urbanimal/Dog Days on Grand Avenue - Leah and Jeremy
- Woodbury Petco - Pat and Denise

Meet & Greet: Woodbury

Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet Coordinator

Pat and Denise Walsh are the hosts of the GPA-MN Meet and Greet held monthly at the Woodbury Petco. They have been hosting for about 3 years at various locations but have been attending Meet and Greets for seven years. Seven years ago their lives were changed forever when they adopted Mango. Mango is now 10.5 and slowing down a little but he is still ready to meet any dog or person that comes by to pet him. He has the most beautiful eyes that seem to mesmerize a person. A year and a half ago, they adopted Aruba, a greyhound girl they describe as having a lot of personality. She is extremely friendly and her tail wags the whole time and she never gets tired of attention. Pat says she can spot someone who wants to pet her from a mile away. She is able to coax people in to giving her a belly rub even when they start petting her and she is standing up!

Pat and Denise host and attend Meet and Greets because they love to show off their hounds and introduce people to the breed. They don't think that a monthly time commitment of 2-3 hours a month is too much and Mango and Aruba certainly don't. They both get really excited on Saturday mornings if Pat and Denise are getting ready about 10:00. They seem to have internal time clocks.

Anyone can attend any Meet and Greets. You can stay for as long or as short a time as you want. According to Pat, the main reasons to attend Meet and Greets are: show off your hounds, socialize your hounds, get to know other greyhound owners and, most important, help promote greyhound adoption to others!

Up-North Hounds: Duluth & Lake Superior

Kelsey Minde and her hounds, Anubis and Cleo, host the Duluth Petco Meet and Greets. She first found out about greyhounds when she in the third grade. Her student teacher brought her hound into school for Earth Day and she has loved them ever since. They have been doing Meet and Greets for about a year and a half. She has had Anubis for 3.5 years and Cleo for nearly 2 years. Anubis loves the Meet and Greets and pouts terribly if everyone who comes into the store doesn't stop to pet him. Cleo is a bit shyer and just loves it when her greyhound friend, London, comes to the Meet and Greet. Kelsey says, "Once a month for a few hours is the least we can do to help get the word out about greyhounds. They are such great pets and my life hasn't been the same since I got my kids. I definitely couldn't live without them."

Word of mouth and the GPA-MN website are how people learn about the Meet and Greets. The store knows they will be there the second Sunday of every month from 11-2pm. Kelsey and her hounds do the Meet and Greets as a way to give back to GPA. "They did such a wonderful job matching our family." Anyone and everyone are invited to the Meet and Greets. A lot of people who come into the store just stop because they have never seen a greyhound in real life. After talking to the GPA-ers for about 15 minutes the visitors are really happy they stopped. There aren't as many hounds "up north" so it's nice to get as many dogs and visitors together to socialize and learn about the breed.

Kelsey has the last word here: "When I was ready to get a dog of my own I went to GPA. I love the foster program and the continuing support. My life certainly wouldn't be the same without my dogs or the friends I have made in the Greyhound Community."

Hound Health—Canine Distemper

Susan Spiller

Canine distemper is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and often, the nervous systems of puppies and dogs. Canine Distemper occurs worldwide, and once was the leading cause of death in unvaccinated puppies. Widespread vaccination programs have dramatically reduced its incidence. Canine distemper spreads through the air and through contact with infected bodily fluids, including food and water contaminated with these fluids.



Symptoms: The first sign of distemper is eye discharge that may appear watery to pus-like. Some dogs develop fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, vomiting, and in the later stages, the virus may attack the nervous system, bringing about seizures, twitching, deterioration of mental and motor abilities, and paralysis. Occasionally, the virus may cause the footpads to harden



Treatment and Prevention: If it is suspected that a dog may have distemper, then it must be isolated from other dogs and veterinary care must be sought immediately. Since there are no specific treatments for distemper, the key is prevention. Vaccines are readily available and are the best way to prevent the disease. The immunity puppies receive from their mother begins to wane around 6 to 12 weeks of age, so it is important to start vaccinations at this time. A dog must continue to receive vaccinations on a routine basis to maintain because immunity is not lifelong.

Greyt Events—continued

(Continued from page 1)

Mark your calendars for the most important event- GREY FEST – June 21!

On July 4th, I'm looking for a driver of a car, van or SUV to be a part of the Eagan Parade and Fun Fest. Also I am looking for volunteers with their hounds who want to walk with us in the parade. Maple Grove Days are July 10-13 and GPA will participate in the parade and have a booth at their Business Expo. Please volunteer with your hounds for the parade and expo.

I invite you to be a part of your community festivities. It is as easy as organizing a walk with your greyhounds. I will be happy to get you some GPA business cards. Please contact me—CLKING2130@aol.com.

I also want to thank all of the Pet Expo volunteers: Michael Horrigan, Dan Tomassetti, Tracie McDougall, Aimee Finley, Brenda Johnson, Jill Paul, Peter & Melissa Toftey, Sue Moerer, Lori & Dan Rasmussen, Diane Hagen, Al Fiene, Paula Docken, and the Lomauros.

Your help is greatly appreciated!

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Good Searching!

Many members of GPA having been using GoodSearch.com to navigate the internet. How do we know? GoodSearch sent GPA a check for \$89.31!

GoodSearch is a "search engine which donates 50 percent of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users" according to the websites. It is as good as Yahoo because it is powered by Yahoo! The money comes not from the users or organizations but the advertisers.

GoodSearch estimates that each search generates \$0.01 for the charities. They estimate an organization with 100 supporters doing two searches will generate \$730 for the organization. The good news is there is no cap on the amount of money generated for the charity.

GPA-MN is already registered on GoodSearch so all we have to do is continue to use it! They have several recommendations on how to spread the word.

1. Email friends and family—let them know about GoodSearch and how they can help GPA—MN.
2. Add the GoodSearch logo to your website, blog, or profile.
3. Make GoodSearch your homepage on your computers at home and at work (if possible).
4. Use My Space or Facebook—you can support GoodSearch there too.

Need more information, go to GoodSearch.com. Want to help GPA—MN, start using GoodSearch today!

January, February &
March
Adoptions:

- Linda Schmitt **Bella**
- Donna & Dennis Majes-
kie **Kiki**
- Megan Waterman
- Kristin**
- Bobbi Schaar & Adam
LeSarge **Jake**
- Caroline & Kent Zach-
man **Meeka**
- Robin & Bruce Kraut-
bauer **Scooter**
- Linda Viska **Emperor**
- Bob Heeschen **Lady**
- Millie & Bob Glenn **Max**
- Jude Edling **Mick**
- Christy & David Sneen
- Birdie**
- Carol & Mike Steenson
- Frosty**
- Haley & Jim VeilBout
- LuLu**
- Jen & Adam Shaleen
- Stella**
- Amy & Andrew Bacskai
- Flash**

May 2008



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

GASSY Walks are
every Sunday—
weather permitting.
Meet at 2 PM at the
Rose Garden at
Lake Harriet.

1 2 3

M&Gs
Richfield 12-2

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

M&Gs
Woodbury 11-1
Burnsville 12-2
St. Cloud 12-2
Eden Prairie 12-2

GASSY Walk 2 PM

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

M&Gs
Duluth 11-2
GASSY Walk 2 PM

Social Hour!
Richfield
7:30-8:30



M&Gs
Fridley 11-1

HAPPY MOTHER;S
DAY!

ARMED FORCES
DAY!

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

M&Gs
Pet Expo Mankato
1-4

M&Gs
St. Paul Urbanimal
12-2

GASSY Walk 2 PM

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

MEMORIAL DAY!

M&Gs
(30th)
Mpls. Urbanimal
11-2

M&Gs
Highland 11-1

GASSY Walk 2 PM



June 2008

February & March

GOTCHA Days:

- Feb. 3 Karen Miller—**Aruba**
- Feb. 6: Nancy & Bryan Rittenhouse—**Stan Lee**
- Feb. 7: Sue & Steven Biemeier—**Barska**
- Feb. 10: Nicole & Dan Middlecamp—**Sadie**
- Feb. 12: Aimee & Stuart Finley—**Marla**
- Feb. 15: Kate Zum-Berge—**Domino**
- Feb. 15: Nancy & Ed Marah—**Chase**
- Feb. 18: Sarah & Evan Erskine—**Pookie**
- Feb. 24: Stephanie & Fritz Vandover—**Rosco**
- Mar. 6: Carol Bohumil—**Monty**
- Mar. 24: Shelia & Paul Nelson—**Lily**
- Mar. 30: Kathleen Seal & Richard Gray—**Pipin**

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

M&Gs
Richfield 12-2

GASSY Walk 2 PM

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

M&Gs
Duluth 11-2

M&Gs
Burnsville 12-2
St. Cloud 12-2
Eden Prairie 12-2
FLAG DAY!

GASSY Walk 2 PM

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

M&Gs
Pet Expo Mankato
1-4

**GREYFEST
11-4**

**GASSY Walk 2 PM
HAPPY FATHER'S
DAY!**

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

GASSY Walk 2 PM

M&Gs
Highland 11-1

29 30

M&Gs
Mpls. Urbanimal
11-2


**GASSY Walks are
every Sunday—
weather permitting.
Meet at 2 PM at the
Rose Garden at Lake
Harriet.**

GASSY Walk 2 PM

April's Hound of the Month: Cassie

Greyhounds Go PINK!

Kari Keller

 Breast cancer touches so many people and so many lives each year. Many families are forever changed because of this horrid disease: either from the loss of a loved one or through the success and strength of a survivor.

Who Can Think Pink? YOU!!!!

By purchasing a shirt from Paws4aCause, you are helping breast cancer fighters and survivors all over. All proceeds will be donated to an event such as the Susan G Koman Breast Cancer Walk or Relay for Life. So not only are you getting a very cute shirt, it's for a very greyt cause. To order www.paws4acause.info.

Greyhound Radio

Greyhound owners love to talk about their hounds. And other people's hounds. And how greyt greyhounds are. We do it in the HomeStretch, on our e-mail list and in personal conversation amongst ourselves. As if that's not enough for you... there's also a web radio show dedicated to greyhounds!

Greyhounds Make Great Pets is "the radio show for greyhound lovers and their friends." Hosted by GPA National President Rory Goree, it is a platform to educate the public about adoption, obedience and training, as well the history of greyhounds and the racing industry. Their goal is to provide weekly topics that will help adoption volunteers place hounds in happy and well-matched forever homes.

Have something you're interested in hearing about? Their show depends on listener interaction, so if you've got questions you'd like answered or have topic/show ideas let them know!

For more information, or to listen to this popular show, please go to <http://www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.org>

Nancy Perlich

About two months after we lost our stoic, friendly and regal Twinkles, Barb sent me an emergency e-mail requesting assistance with foster sitting a Red Fawn female, whose foster parents were going out of town. After very little family discussion, (we were missing a hound's presence) we said "of course!" I picked Cassie up from Mary at the Petco as it was a good in between meeting spot. Mary said she was a very sweet girl...just a little bossy at times. So off I went with Cassie to meet the family.



Cassie has settled in nicely and is a well loved member of the Perlich Pack!

We started to fall in love with her slightly atypical greyhound attitude almost immediately. She was extremely playful, rooed, barked and even growled at unexpected visitors to our door.

Could she be a watch dog? She'd jump and play bow, whine (talked according to Brad) and yet most of the time would walk on the lead quite well. As the time approached to return Cassie to Mary, my husband who wasn't sure we should get another dog, had fallen hard...he loved her spunky nature. So a family discussion about adoption ensued. Of course Cassie was adopted immediately. I think Barb had this planned all along...

(Continued on page 10)

May's Hound of the Month: Jake

Bobi Schaar

When we first adopted Jake we didn't know how special he would become to our family, especially to my son Kaig. You see, Kaig has a very hard time functioning from day to day without problems. He has ADHD and right now is being tested for Autism, PDD, OCD, ODD, learning disabilities and behavioral disabilities. Everyone is pretty sure he has Autism and I have an appointment soon to find out his diagnosis with the school system.

When we adopted Jake, Kaig just turned 6 years old. We were very protective of Jake because we were not sure how the two would interact. We have come to find out that Jake is



A perfect pair: Jack & Kaig

(Continued on page 10)

GreyFest 2008: Vendor List

Barb Gates, GreyFest Coordinator

Silk Roads	Susan Timmerman Photos
lia sophia Jewelry	Dog & Pony Show
GreytKards	Midwest Greyhounds
Partylite	Petco
PetzLife	Voyager Coats
Bobi Shaar Dog Treats	



Blood Bank
BarkBusters
American Speak Co
Pet Chef Express
SassyHound

Dental Vaccine?

Jami Stromberg, DVM

Periodontal disease is one of the most common canine ailments, affecting 80% of dogs over the age of three. It is defined as infection and inflammation of the gums and the bone that the teeth are seated in. Left unchecked, it can lead to bad breath, painful and bleeding gums, abscessed teeth, loss of teeth, and other organ damage due to chronic shedding of bacteria into the bloodstream. Certain breeds are more susceptible to periodontal disease. This is likely due to a combination of genetic factors and chewing habits. In general, smaller breeds have a higher incidence of periodontal disease, but greyhounds are a notable exception.

There are many ways to combat periodontal disease. DAILY teethbrushing is the mainstay of good oral care, but it should also be accompanied by routine professional cleanings while under anesthesia. Additionally, there are other oral health care products, such as antibacterial-impregnated rawhides, antiseptic water additives, antibacterial gels, etc. that may be beneficial.

Recently, a new vaccine was developed to fight periodontal disease. The vaccine will stimulate the dog's immune system against the three bacteria (*Porphyromonas* species) responsible for most of the periodontal infections. *Porphyromonas* are anaerobic bacteria, which means they cannot live if exposed to oxygen, so they are found deep within the gum tissue. The vaccine is safe for dogs 7 weeks and older, and is given as an initial series of 2 vaccines, then every 6-12 months. Talk to your veterinarian today about vaccinating your greyhound against *Porphyromonas*!

Dr. Jami Stromberg and the excellent vet techs at the Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital have provided GPA-MN foster hounds with years of excellent care! They have also cared for all of my hounds in sickness and in health! Dr. Stromberg recently discussed the dental vaccine with me and I chose to have both of my boys vaccinated to help maintain their dental health. Dr. Stromberg now shares some dental advice as well as some information on the new dental vaccine for the GPA-MN readers!

Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital—5815 80th Avenue North—763-566-6000—www.bppethospital.com

WorkAbilities: Helping hands for Greyhound paws!

Luana Ball, Secretary

WorkAbilities is a social service non-profit agency that provides vocational support to adults with developmental disabilities and physical challenges. The individuals engage in a variety of contracted jobs that include hand labeling, hand collating, hand inserting, sealing, hand assembly, first class & bulk mail preparation & delivery, packaging, housekeeping, janitorial, shrink-wrapping, and shredding of documents to name a few services.

WorkAbilities has a special minimum wage certificate issued by the Dept. of Labor. This provides businesses a reduced cost for the job they need done while also providing the clients within the program a fair wage based upon their production and the level of coaching they need.

Several clients from WorkAbilities have met my greyhounds and were just thrilled when I asked if they would like to help us in our efforts! With great care and patience the clients have assembled flyers or postcards for various special events, have collated and prepared the HomeStretch as well as all of the pieces and parts to be mailed for Board elections!

It's not unusual for me to walk down the hall and hear someone yell out "When do we get to help the dogs?" or "Isn't it time to mail something for the dogs?" There is such pride in their faces when they eagerly tell me they "are done!" with a special job! They know that their efforts are helping to connect all of the people who also "help the dogs".

If you, or someone you know, has a business that could benefit from the variety of services the clients at WorkAbilities provide please contact me at 763.541.1844 ext: 106 or at lball@WorkAbilities.org.



The WorkAbilities crew with Luana's boys!

Volume 13, Issue 2

GPA-MN Resources

As an organization, we take great pride in giving our members access to information open forums where they can ask questions, make comments and just talk about greyhounds.



GPA—MN's Email list

To subscribe to the GPA-MN E-Mail Correspondence List and automatically receive a digital copy of the Home Stretch go to:

www.gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/list_gpa-mn.org

GPA—MN's Home Stretch

To request a digital copy of the newsletter *only* that you can read on your computer screen or print to read later go to:

http://gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/gpa-mn-newsletter_gpa-mn.org

To request that a paper copy of the newsletter be mailed to your home please send your name and address to info@gpa-mn.org or leave this information on the GPA-MN phone line which is 763-785-4000.



GPA—MN's Website

Visit our website to learn about special events, volunteer opportunities, greyhounds available for adoption and helpful links.

www.gpa-mn.org

PETFINDER.COM

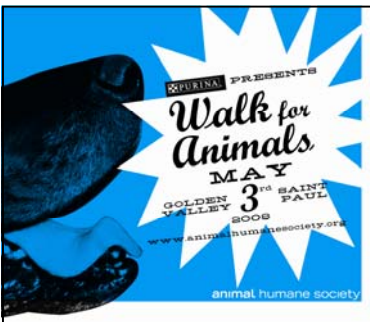
Petfinder.com is where we keep information and pictures of all our greyhounds that are currently available for adoption. If you are interested in adopting another hound, or know someone who might be, have them check it out. Just visit www.petfinder.com and under the breed category, select greyhound. Easy as that!

The Home Stretch

Animal Human Society's Annual Walk for Animals

Jill Paul

Animals in Minnesota love the first Saturday in May. It's when they strut their stuff for Animal Humane Society's (AHS) 34th Annual Walk for Animals. More than 10,000 people and 4,000 animals are expected at this year's event to surpass the \$1 million raised last year. Funds raised aid in their efforts with animal overpopulation, cruelty investigations, educational programs and care and placement for more than 36,000 animals brought into their five facilities each year. The community doesn't need to hit the pavement for pledges. Once again, they can develop personal pledge pages to raise funds online. Pages are being built every day at www.animalhumanesociety.org. This is a great event for all ages, people and pets alike. Additional fun can be had listening to live entertainment and taking part in fun and games, free food, prizes and more.



Cassie—April's Hound of the Month

(Continued from page 8)

To work on Cassie's "a bit bossy attitude" with other dogs, who only want to sniff her face; we enrolled in Jen & Andrea's dog training classes, three sessions worth! The first class was a bit overwhelming to Cassie, too many dogs' butts to sniff and not very food motivated to train. Today she is 95% obedient to all of her commands in the house, outside the house with distractions is another story...but getting better. She still loves to bark and growl at the deer on our morning walks, but the pulling after animals (specifically squirrels) has stopped. The socialization at the classes, especially after class, was very helpful.



Cassie shows off her "skills" with mom, Nancy

Today she is a full member of our family, a playful, sweet-talker...and our watch dog (except when a silent robber entered the house at 1 a.m. this past summer). Cassie was sound asleep in our bedroom. She also has continued in Twinkles tradition as co-hostess to the Eden Prairie Meet & Greets with me, Bob, and Cooper. Cassie loves to have many greyhounds and others visit the M&G, she simply asks that they greet her the correct way: dogs need to be sniffed the rear first and people can just come on over and give me pets...I love gentle pets

EP Meet & Greets are held the second Saturday of every month from 12-2 p.m. Check out the GPA website for further details.

Jake—May's Hound of the Month

(Continued from page 8)



Jake leaves footprints on his family's heart.

very important to Kaig. We think that Jake knows that Kaig is different and has problems. Whenever Kaig has a bad day or a hard day or is really upset or crying – Jake knows something is wrong. Jake will not leave Kaig's side when something like that happens. Wherever Kaig is, Jake is right there nuzzling him and loving him. If Kaig is sleeping in the living room or laying on the floor and watching T.V., you will always find Jake snuggling next to him.

We bought Jake numerous toys that he will rarely play with unless Kaig gives them to him. It's almost like Jake knows that he needs to take the toy or treat from Kaig, if Jake did not take it, Kaig will feel hurt and neglected by him. Jake is special to all of us in the family, but he seems to feel that Kaig needs him and he is always there for him.

Jake has become a therapeutic hound for Kaig. Jake's positive socialization and unconditional love towards Kaig, has given Kaig the courage and self esteem to try harder in his human socialization and interaction as well. Jake has our hearts covered and overlapped with his paw prints forever.

In Memoriam

Curious George

6/28/03—1/17/08

George came to me in November 2007 as a special needs foster. This sweet boy had patches of dry flaky skin with red areas where his fur had fallen out. His eyes were puffy and he was lethargic. George had already been through a battery of tests with no diagnosis. He was on antibiotics and steroids.

George met his housemates and quickly settled in on his bed. He was very quiet and when he saw another dog outside he would make a very soft greyhound whimper. He liked to snuggle against the lining of my coat when I came home or we were going outside. His gait was very slow, but at times he would take a few trotting steps. There were a couple of times when he was feeling better, he picked up a squeaky toy and carried it down the hall.

When I got George, I knew that he was very ill, so I called Pat Walsh, the Foster Coordinator and requested that he make an appointment for George at the Cottage Grove Animal Hospital ASAP. The vets thought that George had many of the symptoms of a tick-borne disease, but he tested negative twice. Tests did reveal that he had giardia and he was anemic. The vet recommended that George be bathed with "Selsun Blue" shampoo to calm his skin condition. He tolerated his baths and you could tell that he felt better afterwards. George had some hot spots on his front legs so he donned a long sleeved shirt to prevent linking. I found that a button down shirt put on backwards worked best. He gingerly walked, but he looked so cute in his button down shirt.

George was brave throughout the many trips to the vet and various tests that he endured. One evening, George was standing at his food dish to eat and his front legs began to shake. He was trying to eat his food, but collapsed. I was able to pick him up and help him to his bed. After a short rest, he heard the water running in the kitchen and came out for a drink of water. I called Dr. Peg following two of these occurrences and she wanted to test him for Addison's disease. I arrived at the vet and in the lobby they have a guinea pig in a cage. George went over to the guinea pig and they touched noses, George wagged his tail and made his quiet greyhound whimper. I left George at the vet for his test and went to work.

That afternoon when I returned to pick up George, the receptionist said that Dr. Peg wanted to talk to me. I knew that George was not doing well, but I always hoped that the vets could find a cure. Dr. Peg came into the room and matter-of-factly told me that George was rapidly deteriorating. He was incontinent of bowel, he was on IV fluids and other medications, but his gums were very pale. I went back to the kennel where he was resting and he looked at me, but did not get up. Dr. Peg assisted him out of the kennel and attempted to stand him up. His front paws flexed forward at the ankles and the vet tech had to reposition them so that George could stand on the pads of his paws. Dr. Peg said that his systems were shutting down and he was probably septic. George was telling us that it was time to let him go.

We took him to a private room and laid him on a blanket. I had his bed in the car, so I ran out to the car to bring it in. We moved him onto his bed. I took off my coat, the one that he always liked to rub his face on, placed the coat on my lap with George's head resting on it. I told Georgie that I loved him and it was OK. Gently and peacefully, we let Georgie go to the Rainbow Bridge. He was now happy, free and playing with the other Rainbow kids.

I was so grateful to have been able to care for Georgie for two months. He touched my heart and the hearts of those who knew him. Dr. Peg and Dr. Mike at Cottage Grove worked diligently to try to save George. Also Pat Walsh assisted with George's care. Thank you for all you did!

George's treatment and care was part of the Heal-A-Hound Fund. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Volume 13, Issue 2



Greyhound Pets of America—
Minnesota

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GPA-MN would like to thank both the PETCO Foundation, and the dedicated men and women of the local PETCO stores who go the extra mile and help us in finding loving homes for retired racers.

Waiting at the Bridge

Waldo—Martha & Walter Cleveland

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If you have a hound that has crossed The Bridge, please call (763-784-9328) or email (wynthier@comcast.net) Jen Jett if you would like your hound remem-

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Greyhound Pets of
America - Minnesota

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Judith Triplett in honor of *Ellie*.

Rose Voigt for the hounds.

Barb Lund for the hounds.

Rescue Pet Store for the hounds.

Pet Expo attendees for the hounds.

Northcoast Greyhounds/Robin Krautbauer for the hounds.

United Way's matching **Shari S. Gray's** donation for the hounds.

Since you get more joy out of giving to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

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