



# The Home Stretch

October—December 2008

Volume 13, Issue 5

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## GPA - Year in Review

### Barb Gates Schaben, President

As the end of another year approaches, I can't help but look back and take a little inventory of how things are going. I think it's been a GREYT year for GPA-MN.

We have a lot to be thankful for. There are a lot of things that go into making an organization like this successful, but what it ultimately comes down to is its people. And it was another year of people committing themselves, their time, their creativity, their funds, their homes, and more to help the hounds we all hold so close to our hearts. We've fostered, hauled dogs, hosted and attended meet-n-greets, wrapped books, baked cookies, sewed coats, attended gassy walks and other special events, helped to educate the public about how GREYT these hounds really are, and MORE!

And what were the results? GPA—MN experienced success in many areas, all working to help us place hounds into their forever homes. Read on to learn of just a few of the other accomplishments of the past year:

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Upcoming Events

**Pet Expo:** Saturday & Sunday, February 21st & 22nd at the Minneapolis Convention Center. To volunteer, please contact Lori Rasmussen at ourmustang@comcast.net or 612-298-7415.

**Chili's Greyhound Fundraiser:** Saturday, Sunday, & Monday, February 28th—March 2nd at Chili's restaurant in Roseville. When you eat at the restaurant on those days and present the coupon, 10% of your bill will be donated to GPA at no additional cost to you. For a coupon, please contact Lori Rasmussen at ourmustang@comcast.net or 612-298-7415.

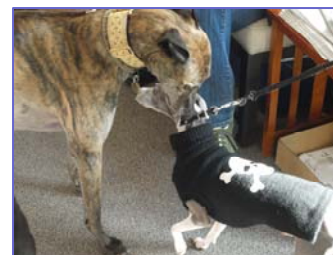
**St. Paul Women's Expo:** Saturday & Sunday, March 7th & 8th at RiverCentre. To volunteer, please contact Lori Rasmussen at ourmustang@comcast.net or 612-298-7415.

**GreyFest 2009:** Saturday June 20th at Spooner Park in Little Canada. Additional information coming soon!

## 3rd Annual GPA-MN Art & Craft Sale

### Susan Spiller, Art & Craft Sale Coordinator

Our Art and Craft Sale which was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at The Warren, was such a success due to all of our members, families, and friends who donated their beautiful creations to be sold at the sale. Also, we were successful thanks to all our members, families, and friends who came to the sale and did such a great job of shopping. Finally, our greyhound and parent front door greeters, Gary and Mark who played music for our enjoyment, and Duane Atter of The Warren



Our door greeter meets one of our many guests.



Gary and Mark entertain guests with a song.

made the day so enjoyable and successful. We especially appreciate all of Duane's help and generosity. We sold quite a bit of art that day and had lots of fun doing it. Thank you ALL!!! It's never too early to start thinking about the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Sale.

## 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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### Newsletter Committee

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

## GPA - Year in Review cont.

(Continued from page 1)

### Adoptions

- 79 hounds adopted

### Website

- Continues to be updated on a regular basis and is an incredibly important tool in connecting humans and hounds – people see us at an event or on the news and they do what the rest of us do – look for us on the web!
- Coat pattern added

### Media Coverage

- WCCO news bit
- Article in Star Tribune classified section that featured local adoption groups

### 2008 Special Events

- Land O'Lakes Kennel Club Dog Show
- Minneapolis Women's Expo
- Twin Cities Pet Expo
- Saint Paul Women's Expo

(Continued on page 3)

## Fostering in 2009 Warms More Than Your Heart!

### Brian Clark

In 2008 GPA-MN placed nearly 80 greyhounds into loving forever homes. Hopefully we will place even more in 2009! As you know, each of these wonderful hounds needs a foster home. This allows our hounds to learn the ropes of living in a home, and allows GPA to learn enough about each dog to find a well-suited home. As the number of hounds we adopt grows, the need for foster homes grows as well.

To thank those who are fostering again this year and to help provide an incentive to those of you are considering fostering for the first time, I am offering a free, new, double-layer, fleece, turtleneck, greyhound coat to anyone who fosters for at least 4 weeks (28 days) in 2009. Typically fostering a hound is a 2-3 week commitment. By fostering just 2 dogs over the next year, you could earn a free coat. If you really don't need another coat, a coat will be donated to GPA-MN instead.

I will have several coats to choose from and will also have some basic fleeces to choose from in case I don't have one that's right for your hound. I'm also willing to use a fleece that you provide, if you want to shop for the perfect color or print.

The joy of fostering this year will warm both your heart and your hound!



One of Brian's beautiful and warm coats that is your hound's when you foster!

## GPA - Year in Review cont.

(Continued from page 2)

- Spring Art Party
- Pride Festival
- Eagan Funfest and Parade
- Maple Grove Days
- Renfest PetFest
- State Fair
- Renfest
- Linden Hills WOOFstock
- Animal Planet – Greyhound Week
- Doggie Palooza
- Buffalo Pet Expo
- Minneapolis Kennel Club

### Walk the Event

- Stone Arch festival

### Fundraisers

- Cell phone recycling
- Heal a Hound Dinner
- Art and Craft Sale
- Greyfest

### New Information for adopters

(available in the resources portion of the website)

- Owner's manual
- Tips booklet

### New GPA Merchandise

- Tees and sweatshirts
- 2009 calendar
- Cookbook

### New Gazebo

### Donation to Fellow GPA Chapter

- Sent a donation of \$2,500 to a chapter in jeopardy of closing its doors

### New Volunteers

- Boy Scouts at Greyfest, who loved it and want to help out again next year
- Girl Scouts who made coats
- Kindergartners who made blankets

It's been a great year. We've done a lot, we've gotten our name out there, and we've helped the hounds. As I thought about it I realized that we're right where we were last year – and the year before that – and the year before that.

Because what GPA-MN has always had is a group of committed volunteers – that's how we started, and it's how we've gotten to where we are today. All the technology and new t-shirts in the world won't mean a thing unless you've got the people to back it up. The people have

## A Big Thank You to PETCO!

The next time you visit PETCO, let them know how much we appreciate their participation in Greyhound Planet Week (September 13–21)! For several years, local PETCO stores have donated the proceeds from Greyhound Planet week to GPA-MN. This year, GPA-MN received nine checks totaling \$4,457!

## Volume 13, Issue 5

### Board Members & Coordinator's 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 coordinators of each committee. If you are interested in getting involved with a specific committee, contact that board member directly.

#### 2009 Board of Directors

#### Barb Gates Schaben, President

bgates@cunningham.com

#### Lisa Quast, Vice President

lquast@memsi.com

#### Mark Downey, Treasurer

mark@nervecenter.net

#### Susan Spiller, Secretary

spillgirl555@yahoo.com

#### Ed Mall

coach2\_2@hotmail.com

#### Nicole Middlecamp

Nicole.Middlecamp@target.com

#### Pete Opitz

pete\_opitz@hotmail.com

#### Lori Rasmussen

ourmustang@comcast.net

#### Pat Walsh

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com

#### 2009 Coordinators

#### Luana Ball & Teri Petrin:, Adoption

luanaball@yahoo.com

xracinggreys@msn.com

#### Nicole Middlecamp, Foster

#### Pete Opitz, Fundraising

#### Barb Gates Schaben, GreyFest

#### Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet

nskresal@comcast.net

#### Mark Downey, Merchandise

#### Ed Mall, Newsletter

#### Lisa Quast, PR/Media

#### Lori Rasmussen, Special Events

## 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 & Nancy
- Fridley Petco - Jen & Brian, Diane & Al, and Amanda & Shawn
- Highland Park Petco - Aimee
- Mankato Pet Expo - Nancy & Bryan
- Richfield Petco - Sylvia & Neil
- St. Cloud Petco - Kate & Pat
- Urbanimal on Lyndale Avenue - Mark & Christine and Barb & Steve
- St. Paul Urbanimal/Dog Days on Grand Avenue - Leah & Jeremy
- Woodbury Petco - Denise & Pat

*Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art...it has no survival value; rather is one of those things that give value to survival.*

— C. S. Lewis

## GPA - MN 2009 Board of Directors

### Barb Gates Schaben, President

As we welcome the new year and all of its possibilities I'd like to introduce you to the 2009 Board of Directors. We have three new members this year – Ed Mall, Pete Opitz, and Lori Rasmussen. We are thrilled to have them on board and look forward to working with them.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to our departing members – Luana Ball, Chris King and Barb Lund. Their spirit and dedication will be missed on the Board, but welcomed elsewhere – we'll continue to see them involved in adoptions, hauls, coat-making, special events and more. Thank you Luana, Chris and Barb!

#### Mark Downey

My wife Christine and I have been part of the GPA-MN community for about six years now. We have two hounds, Eleanor and Ringo. This year, I look forward to further strengthening the organization through membership involvement, and encourage all members to volunteer in whatever way possible - it's a very rewarding experience. I just finished my first term on the board, during which I served as Treasurer. I will continue in that role, as well as co-host the new UrbAnimal M&G, volunteer for events whenever I can, and provide a foster home for dogs coming off the track. Contact me or any of the board members about getting involved!

#### Barbara Gates Schaben

I am thrilled to begin my fourth year on the board and my third year as President. I have had the pleasure of serving in many roles, including PR/Media Chair, GreyFest Coordinator, foster mom, M&G host, and former Vice President. I believe in teamwork and do whatever needs to be done to help out. Professionally, I bring a background in marketing and administration – serving as a public face, creating and writing informational and promotional materials, and juggling and organizing a variety of projects. Personally, I bring a love for my hounds (Arrow and Rider), gratitude to GPA for bringing them to me, and a commitment to working with this wonderful team to help create as many connections and happy futures as I can. I look forward to the opportunity to continue helping out!

#### Ed Mall

I am honored to serve on the Board of GPA-MN because I truly believe in what GPA is trying to do. I am retired and have a good deal of time that I can put into projects. I belong to several Greyhound Yahoo Groups and see ideas that they have that could be adapted to GPA-MN for fundraising, etc. I also consider myself creative when it comes to new projects and methods to get things done. I have participated and continue to participate in the Greyhound Hauls by being a driver. I will use my previous experience on the newsletter subcommittee in my role as Newsletter Coordinator. My wife, Alice, and I have Jackie, our three-year-old greyhound.

#### Nicole Middlecamp

I am very excited to continue serving on the board. In the past 3.5 years since adopting Mardi Gras and Sadie the party girls, I have volunteered in many ways, including fostering, wrapping books over the holidays, volunteering at meet and greets and other greyt events, writing the "Did You Know..." column for the HomeStretch, and serving as a member of the Fundraising Committee. I currently serve as Foster Coordinator, where I work closely with the Adoption Coordinators to arrange transportation and foster homes for incoming hounds. With my background in technical design I bring critical thinking to the picture to help make visions and goals become a reality. I also bring my energy, enthusiasm, and tremendous love for dogs. I'm grateful for the opportunity to put our group's ideas to action for the benefit of greyhounds as a member of the board.

(Continued on page 5)

# GPA - MN 2009 Board of Directors cont.

(Continued from page 4)

## Pete Opitz

In being a volunteer since 2004 and a foster since 2005, I have learned much about what makes GPA-MN successful. There are many outstanding people contributing their time and talents to our organization, I am honored to work beside them. Having served on two other non-profit boards, I will quickly make a positive impact. I have the enthusiasm, experience and knowledge to be a productive member of the board of directors and look forward to serving as a board member and Fundraising Coordinator.

## Lisa Quast

I have completed three years as a GPA board member, and it has been a great experience. I have had the opportunity to serve the hounds and membership by coordinating the GreyFest raffle, the "Heal a Hound" event, as well as several other fundraising and adoption promotion ventures. I look forward to continuing my service by serving my fourth year as Vice President and contributing to the success of the GPA-MN organization.

## Lori Rasmussen

After adopting Vinny just over two years ago, almost immediately we started to volunteer for different events - and loved it! We have had nine fosters in our home, so far, and absolutely love it!! Since our two children are grown, it has left time in my schedule to help out the organization I feel proud to be involved with, and I look forward to serving on the board, and as Special Events Coordinator.

## Susan Spiller

My first contact with a Greyhound was about 14 years ago when a friend of mine adopted two greyhounds from the Track. It was love at first sight. I now have a delightfully happy and affectionate Jazzy who puts a smile on my face every day. I am very dedicated to promoting greyhound awareness in any way that I can. I have fostered, attend Meet and Greets and special events, write health articles for the HomeStretch, I initiated and worked on our first GPA-MN Calendar, and took over the role of Secretary. My passions in life are the Arts, so it just seemed a natural to organize the first, second and third annual GPA Art and Craft Sale, and to organize a GPA booth at the North Arts Art Fair (at which the GPA booth won a prize for "the Best Booth" two years ago) I think I must be a saver - because for the past 2-3 years I have saved all of the wonderful advice, suggestions, ideas, and information that all of our members have shared via the "list" email. Just recently I compiled all of this information into a "Tips booklet" which is now available to view and download on our GPA-MN website. I have enjoyed working with all the GPA members and I am amazed at the creativity and dedication within this group. I am very honored to be a member of the GPA -MN Board and look forward to another year of spreading the word about this delightful, gentle breed.

## Pat Walsh

I have two hounds Mango 11.5 and Aruba 6. I have been fostering for over seven years, and we have enjoyed all the hounds we have had! I have been on the board for four years and am looking forward to two more years of working with all the great members and all the hounds that will be finding their forever homes.

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## Recent Adoptions:

October, September & November

Kari Keller—*Lucky*

Andrea & Jeff Nelsen—*Mac Speedy*

Shannon Morrissey & Adam Mohler—*Cash*

Janelle & Chad Pitman—*Sissy*

Marie & Bill Kruskop—*Gus*

Chelsea & Jason Kocina—*Titan TY*

Dani & Mike Richards—*Jazlyn Willow*

Jackie Karnis & James Hemken—*Cloudy*

Linda Allen & Jason Yamamoto—*Buddy*

Lisa Malloy—*Gracie*

Dennis Nelson—*TiFi*

Jill & Kris Barber—*Nora*

Shannon Morrissey & Adam Mohler—*Sweet Dee*

Renee & Rodney Feist—*Bud*

Jackie Wilson—*Nimby*

Sue & Jim Borthwick—*Bella*

Kimberly & Kevin Gullickson—*Callie*

Carol & Mike Steenson—*Soda*

*All of the animals except for man know that the principle business of life is to enjoy it.*

—Sam Butler

*An honest man is not worse because a dog barks at him.*

— Danish Proverb

September—December  
GOTCHA Days!

**September:**

Sept. 2: Paula Docken—**Mixer**

Sept. 14: Melissa Marano  
McLean—**Kizzy**

Sept. 20: Luana Ball—**Fiddler**

Sept. 22: Janna Peterson—**Talica**

Sept. 22: Kathleen & Mark  
Lomauro—**Finn**

Sept. 23: Julie Jeatran—**Bronte**

Sept. 26: Linda Viska—**Jess**

Sept. 29: Marlene & Roger  
Harrington—**Cliff**

Sept. 29: Joan Gregoire—**Spicy**

**October:**

Oct. 5: Susan & Paul Pen-  
rose—**Tater**

Oct. 14: Jen & John Cot-  
tew—**Toby**

Oct. 29: Georganne  
Thompson—**Oliver**

**November:**

Nov. 1: Susan Moerer &  
Dana Kromer—**Stryder**

Nov. 2: Jason Miller—**Blue**

Nov. 2: Kathy & Jon Pri-  
vatt—**Gabbs**

Nov. 3: Summer & Tyson  
Allchin—**Hunter**

Nov. 3: Joan Gregoire—**Apple**

Nov. 11: Tamara & Joseph  
Wood—**Lenta**

Nov. 16: Aimee & Stuart

# February 2009

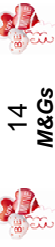


Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

GASSY Walk Sundays 2  
PM—weather permitting.  
Meet at the **Rose Gar-  
den at Lake Harriet OR**  
**Como Lakeside Pavil-  
ion.**

**M&Gs**  
Richfield 12-2



14  
**M&Gs**

Burnsville 12-2  
St. Cloud 12-2  
Eden Prairie 12-2

**GASSY Walks 2 PM**  
**Social Hour**  
**Richfield Petco**  
7:30-8:30

**Valentine's Day**

15  
**M&Gs**  
St. Paul Urbanimals/  
Dog Days 11-1  
Pet Expo Mankato  
1-4  
**GASSY Walks 2 PM**

21

**Pet Expo—Mpls.**  
**Convention Center**



16  
**Washington's**  
**Birthday**

22  
**Pet Expo—Mpls.**  
**Convention Center**  
**M&Gs**  
Mpls. Urbanimal  
11-2  
**GASSY Walks 2 PM**

**M&Gs**  
Coon Rapids 11-1  
Fridley 11-1

23

24

25

26

27

28

**M&Gs**  
Highland 1 1-1

**GASSY Walk Sundays**  
2 PM—weather permit-  
ting. Meet at the **Rose**  
**Garden at Lake Har-**  
**riet OR Como Lake-**  
**side Pavilion.**

# March 2009



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

GASSY Walk Sundays 2 PM—weather permitting. Meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet. OR Como Lakeside Pavilion.

Women's Expo—St. Paul RiverCentre  
M&Gs  
Richfield 12-2

8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
Women's Expo—St. Paul RiverCentre  
Social Hour Richfield Petco 7:30-8:30  
M&Gs  
St. Cloud 12-2  
Eden Prairie 12-2  
Burnsville 12-2

GASSY Walks 2 PM

15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
M&Gs  
Pet Expo Mankato 1-4  
First Day of Spring!  
M&Gs  
Fridley 11-1  
Coon Rapids 11-1



GASSY Walks 2 PM

22

23 24 25 26 27 28

GASSY Walks 2 PM

M&Gs  
Highland 11-1

29

30 31

M&Gs  
Mpls. Urbanimal 11-2

GASSY Walks 2 PM

Finley—*Dazzling*

Nov. 21: Holly Newman—*Gina*

Nov. 21: Holly Newman—*Magic*

Nov. 23: Kevin Kocur & Susan Starr—*Comet*

Nov. 25: Carrie & Tom Peterson—*Polar*

**December:**

Dec. 1: Paula Menard—*Lucy*

Dec. 8: Bonnie & Joe Goldman—*Jewel*

Dec. 9: Dawn Sanders—*Abbie*

Dec. 12: Dale Cadmus—*Quick*

Dec. 16: Suzanne Cutting—*Chaser*

## 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](http://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>

## Land O Lakes Kennel Club Show

### Lori Rasmussen, Special Events Coordinator

My first "official" job as a Board member with GPA was pretty interesting. When it was determined that Nicole Middlecamp was possibly going to have her baby about the same time as the show, she handed off the duties of coordinating the event. Luckily, we have GREYT people working in this organization, who will, at a moment's notice, help and volunteer, which made the job much easier.

The event was a huge success. We had a lot of interest in the hounds and the booth visitors took virtually all of our literature. We hope to get in many applications, so that the available hounds can go to their Forever Homes as soon as possible.

There will be plenty of opportunities for volunteering in the upcoming months. We have the Pet Expo, which is held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on February 21 and 22. In March, we have the Women's Expo, held at the River Center the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. It is a good time for people and hounds alike.

As it turns out, it was a good thing that Nicole handed over the reins, since her little boy, Willem, was born the Saturday of the event.



Hounds and volunteers enjoyed meeting Pet Expo visitors!

## Start Thinking about 2010 Calendars!

### Mark Downey, Merchandising Coordinator

Now that we've sold out of our GPA-MN 2009 calendars, it's time to turn our attention to the 2010 calendar! I'm going to cover some basic specifications here with some handy tips.

The point and shoot digital cameras that most of us use are great for most things, but need a little more consideration when submitting for things that undergo a printing process like our calendar does. If you would like the technical but important information about submissions, please contact me at [mark@nervecenter.net](mailto:mark@nervecenter.net).

Here are a few tips that may help get your hound into a future edition of the GPA-MN calendar! Also, please note that the instructions for submitting photos are different from last year.

#### TIPS

1. Keep lighting and focus in mind when taking your pictures. Easy to forget in the excitement of capturing a cute moment!
2. If you are using a flash, avoid pictures where the flash is reflected in the subject's eyes.
3. Please don't submit pictures that have time/date stamps on them unless they can be easily cropped.
4. We try to use seasonally appropriate photos on each month – summery for July, wintery for January. Holiday themed photos are swell, but they don't apply to too many months. Capture the moments all year round!
5. We try to include GPA-MN-themed photos and promote our events and activities where we can. GreyFest photos for June, State Fair for September - if you're there, don't forget

# Patches—Therapy Dog of the North

Volume 13, Issue 5

## Jim Martin

The journey of Patches becoming a Licensed Therapy Dog started in our vet's office. During Patches' yearly check-up, we were approached by Christina Kaskiw, the Director of St. John Ambulance Volunteer Services, who happened to be there as well. She was quite taken with Patches' laid back demeanour and suggested that she would make a wonderful Therapy Dog. Ms. Kaskiw invited me to contact her office; Patches and I would be included in the next group of Therapy Dog trainees.

I contacted her and was advised that the next informational seminar would be in April of 2007. This was a

"humans only" meeting where we would be given a background of what being a Therapy Dog entailed and all the paperwork. Patches was the only greyhound to be asked to participate in this group, and to my knowledge, is still the only greyhound Therapy Dog in Manitoba. All the information was taken home and studied.

The majority of the training involved Patches being at ease in a seniors' setting. Some of the tests were to remain calm in crowds, around seniors in wheel chairs, people on crutches, and in a medical setting. One test in particular that I was not sure how Patches would react was to loud noises. In hospitals, items are always being dropped and alarms constantly sounding.

Patches passed all the required tests with ease and was presented with her Licence and Therapy Dog Scarf. In September of 2008 we received our visiting assignment. This assignment consisted of twice monthly visits to Concordia Hospital which is one of our largest hos-

## "Dewey" go...or don't we?

### Lori Rasmussen, Special Events Coordinator

We heard about the gathering in Dewey Beach, Delaware, for greyhounds and their owners. We didn't really know what it was about or what to expect. In March, around Vinny's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, we decided to do something fun with him since everything he does is for us. I called the hotels from the list on the website and found most were already booked. It seems like we got the last two rooms in town.

As a little history, this year was the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the gathering. It started with a handful of greyhound owners deciding to get together on the beach before winter set in. It has grown to include the neighboring town, Rehoboth Beach.

They expected in excess of 1500 hounds this year. The towns are awesome—opening up to the greyhounds and their owners. It was quite a sight seeing the tired greys lying all over the floor in one of the Irish Pubs in town! Some of the stores in Dewey are actually closed, since we are there technically during the off-season. Most are still open in Rehoboth—which has a very nice boardwalk and candy stores!

Here is our experience...We split the 20-hour drive, staying at a great hotel that allows dogs on the west side of Cleveland. We stayed at the same hotel both ways.

Once we "Reached the Beach," the slogan for the gathering, we checked into our motel. Unfortunately, we got a room on the third floor of a place with only wooden steps that go up along the outside of the building. Vinny didn't like the steps, so Dan had to carry him up to our room. This was not an easy task, since Vinny weighs 95 pounds! We talked to the office and thankfully, they had an open room on the ground floor.

Once settled into the room, we went to the ocean. It was about 90 yards from our door. It was getting dark by then, but we were able to do a little splashing before calling it a night.



Vinny calls it a night at 7:30!



Lori, Vinny, & Dan meet at the beach!

## 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:

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### 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](http://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](http://www.petfinder.com) and under the breed category, select greyhound. Easy as that!

## The Home Stretch

Thank you Jen &  
Brian!

Barb Gates Schaben

Many thanks to Jen and Brian Jett, they have put together the HomeStretch for the past several years. Your efforts have kept us informed, amused and inspired – and connected to each other!

The HomeStretch is a tremendous resource to adopters, new and old. Thank you for making it what it is today... you guys are GREYT!!!

### A Parting Message from Jen & Brian Jett

For the last couple of years, Brian and I have been the editors of the Home Stretch. We have compiled the articles, edited, and written the content. It's been a pleasure! We have been blessed to get to know many greyhounds and their owners through this endeavor.

The issues we published that we remember the most both touched us personally. It was terribly difficult to work on the issue honoring Kim Hrabe after her death. Kim was a close friend of ours; we felt her with us as we worked on that issue. The other issue that is particularly memorable was when we had to write the in memoriam for our Ralph. He was an amazing friend and we were honored to share our life with him even though it was for a brief time.

Our pack has expanded recently with the birth of our second son, Grayson. A newborn, four year old, three greys and handful of cats is keeping us on our toes. Therefore, it is time to pass the torch and see the Home Stretch take a new turn. We are very excited to receive the first issue. However, we are not going anywhere and look forward to continuing to help GPA in new ways! Thank you for the opportunity and memories!

## 2010 Calendar cont.

(Continued from page 8)

your camera!

6. Don't futz with color, brightness and contrast settings unless you really know what you're doing. The effects are multiplied when printed on paper as compared to viewing on your monitor, so if done incorrectly minor adjustments can make the printed image look very pixelly and washed out (and therefore not usable!).
7. Remember that the large monthly pictures and the cover shots are landscape (horizontal). Luckily, that's the most natural way to hold a camera, so most are taken that way!

### SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please email them to me at mark@nervecenter.net. We got a lot of submissions for 2009, and expect more for 2010. Due to the large volume of the submissions, we ask that you please narrow your submissions down to 1—3 of your very best shots. Please don't email more than 10MB at a time. If you have several large images, please email one at a time. If your images are larger than 10MB, contact me about sending them another way (such as via my FTP server, or on a disc).
2. Include a subject line such as "Photo for GPA-MN calendar" - something that makes it clear that the attachment is intended for calendar consideration.
3. Include the hound's (or hounds') name(s), spelled the way you want them to appear.
4. Include the adopters' names, spelled the way you want them to appear. That means you and any co-adopter.
5. Include a few words about the context of the picture, or some words of interest about the hound(s) in the picture.

## Dewey cont.

(Continued from page 9)



Greyhounds rule Dewey Beach!

Each morning, the greyhounds gather on the beach for a morning walk. What a sight seeing hundreds, if not thousands, of greyhounds at one time. Breathtaking!

It is best to register before you go (it was \$40 per person this year). This provides you a wristband to get into certain venues. There is an itinerary of what is going on each day. There are seminars given by experts, a walking tour for first timers, book signings, and book launches. In Rehoboth, they fence in a football field so the dogs can run off-leash (but bring your muzzles for this). There is a "Blessing of the Hounds" where the dogs that are present 'roo' after the

prayer. There is an ice cream social where Frosty Paws are served, and there's a bell ceremony to remember greyhounds that have passed away. And there is shopping galore! Anything greyhound related you would want—from hats, clothes, art work, and collars. Vendors set up everywhere and tempt to part you from your money.

Nighttime in Dewey Beach comes early for Vinny. He was such a trooper the entire time. After walking, shopping, and sniffing all day, he decides he is NOT moving at all after 7:00 p.m.!

The only real disappointing thing we found was that there were two items on the itinerary where dogs were not allowed to attend. We didn't feel comfortable leaving Vinny alone in our room. One was the brunch on Sunday morning. The dogs were allowed in most stores and restaurants, though.

"Dewey" go back again next year? We already have our reservations! The website to check it all out is [www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey)

## Patches—Therapy Dog of the North cont.

(Continued from page 9)

pitals. We were introduced to Magda Zmitrowicz and Sheree Yableck who work for Volunteer Services. We were given two wards to visit, an Alzheimer's ward and a Rehabilitation ward. Each visit involves contact with 10 to 15 people on each ward. The patients all love Patches and look forward to her visit. I am always asked, "Will you bring her back again?" Some of the patients have treats for her which she enjoys immensely! She is the "bright light" of the day for many of these people. She is now proudly known as the Therapy Dog of the North.

### In Memoriam

Amy

1995—2008

Our precious Amy crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on Friday, November 28, 2008 (the day after Thanksgiving). She had been slowing down over the last few months, slowly eating less and not wanting to walk as much as before. We took her to the doctor on November 11th, he took blood tests and put her on medication for the kidney disease that had progressed over the years. She had already dropped from 59 pounds to 49 on that visit. He wanted to do another blood test in three weeks. By the time Thanksgiving rolled around, we knew we needed to take her in again. She went in on Friday at 2:30. She had lost another 5 pounds. They took more blood tests and x-rays and after a couple hours, called us and told us that all the levels they had tested had skyrocketed in just those two short weeks.



We made the only choice left, we came back at 5:30, bearing gifts of peanut butter (the only thing she was still eating willingly and a peanut butter filled doggie cookies. We spent some time with ...how many different ways can you tell your pet you love them...and then invited the doctor in. I don't know about most hounds, but Amy wouldn't sit unless there was a good reason to so, she fell into our arms as she crossed over the bridge.

Of course, now we're left with the task of decorating the house for Christmas with no one snooping in all the boxes or stepping on breakable items! She has truly left her spirit in every corner of our house. I'm not quite sure how we'll get through it, but we already know that as those decorations come down, we'll be busy looking to adopt another beautiful greyhound. We like to think they've adopted us...not the other way around. Amy was our first greyhound, she was almost 4 when she arrived (we had a birthday party for her that year) and she 13 when she left us. She had us for almost 9 1/2 years! Our lives have been enriched forever.

**Diane & George Martin**

*Ask the beasts and they will teach you the beauty of this earth.*

— St. Francis of Assisi

## Waiting at the Bridge

Amy—Diane & George Martin

Boone—Barb Lund

Volume 13, Issue 5



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PETCO stores in Minnesota have supported our organization in "EVERY" way possible. Their help financially through their various fundraising efforts has been invaluable to our organization.

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.



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America - Minnesota

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www.gpa-mn.org

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## Donations

**Luana Ball** for the hounds.

**Christopher Fischer** for the hounds.

**Shannon Tremmel** for the hounds.

**Allison J. Malloy** for the hounds.

**Carol Bohumil** for the hounds.

**Lisa A. Johansen** for the hounds.

**Shanna Barrett** for the hounds.

**Tracy Baubie** for the hounds.

**O. Ya Greyhounds** for the hounds.\*

**Carol Steenson** for the **Heal-A-Hound Foundation**.\*

**Jude Edling / A Grace of Hounds** made a **Heal-A-Hound** donation in honor of **Danny, Molly, Monte, and all our beloved companions who have left us in the last year.**

**Janet Hughes** in honor of **Rosie.**

**Stephen Jones** in honor of **Victoria Jones, Annie & Ramon.**

**Rob Hopp** in honor of **Christine Sanguinet & Mark Downey.**

**Trissie Sanguinet** in honor of **Christine Sanguinet & Mark Downey.**

**Jones M. Moynihan** in honor of **the work of the Board.**

**Diane Siegal** in memory of **Casey.**

**Diane & George Martin** in memory of **Amy.**

**Anonymous** donations for the hounds from the **attendee of Doggie Palooza, Membership Appreciation, Kennel Club Show & Book Wrapping.**

**Anonymous** donations for the hounds from the **attendee of various Meet & Greets.**

**Anonymous** donations for the hounds from the **users of Good-search.com.**

**Petco Foundation** for the hounds.\*

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

\* major donation over \$500

*The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.*

— Ghandi

## Special Thanks

**GPA-MN would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their support and financial aid:**

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