



The Hounds' Run



See us on the web at www.floridagreyhounds.com

Poker Run

by Claire Tyler

Wheelin & Dealin for Greyhounds - June 19

Calendar Year Summaries:

2005 26 - Local Adoptions - 144 Shipped

2004 90 - Local Adoptions 431 - Shipped

**Adoptions include return adoptions

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We are really excited about an upcoming event that GPA Central Florida is hosting. Our First Poker Run officially title "Wheelin & Dealin for Greyhounds" that will be held on June 19. This is one super way to spend Father's Day on the road enjoying getting out with friends and helping to raise money for the Greyhounds.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flier that details the event. If you have a friend who is a biking enthusiast or have a bulletin board at work, please put the flier to good use and help us get the word out.

We are putting together some really nice prizes that feature an assortment of gift certificates to local area restaurants. **First prize for best hand** will be a basket of goodies and included in it will be \$50 Certificates from Chili's and Applebee's restaurants, **Second prize (Second Best Hand)** will be an Entertainment Basket that includes \$20 Gift Certificate to the movies, and gift cards for \$50 Darden restaurants. **Worst Hand** will get gift certificates for local restaurants (Dustins, Miceli's, and Applebee's).

A special thanks to Vinny Bove for the really neat artwork. Don't you just love this Biker Greyhound!!!! We will be having t-shirts with this special logo on sale at the event.

We'd also like to thank local vendors who have allowed us to use their establishments as stops for this event. Special Thanks to Mel-

bourne Greyhound Park for the start & finish location. Thanks go to Victory Cycle in Melbourne, Malabar Mo's, Biker Skins in Satellite Beach and JD Sports



Happenings!!!

by Claire Tyler

2005 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference Registration is open for this event that will be held from September 2 -4. GPA Tampa Bay will be hosting this event at the Wyndham Westshore Hotel. Activities include a visit and lunch at Derby Lane. There are several guest speakers lined up and will be a very worthwhile event to attend. For more information, please check out www.gpaconvention.org.

PETCO & PETSMART - Because of the overwhelming support of members in the Viera area, we have extended our coverage at the Suntree Store to the First and Third weekend of each Month from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. If you live in Viera or can help out with this new venue or at PetsMart, please contact Brenda Stacy (stacyjohn@cfl.rr.com). We desperately need people to help out at PetsMart. Please consider pitching in with these community outreach programs.

Remember PETCO has a **special offer** to new Pet Adopters. If you take your adoption papers to the store, you will receive a **coupon book valued up to \$180** in savings.

Grey-Mail - GPA Central Florida has a monthly email communication that goes out to the membership to keep members informed of current events in the Chapter. Right now there are over 200 members who are on the mailing list. If you would like to be a part of this greyt-mail, please contact Claire Tyler at greymomcrt@hotmail.com. Members who change their email, please try and remember to give us the new information so you can stay current.

Celebrating Greyhounds Article - The Spring 2005 issue of Celebrating Greyhounds magazine included an article that I wrote and appeared in the Fall/Winter 2004 issue of the Hounds Run. The article "Storm Stories" was retitled for CG Magazine as "Leaving Melbourne" and chronicled our excursion of evacuating a kennel of hounds for the hurricane Francis. CG magazine is wonderful and totally dedicated to

greyhounds. It is published 4 times a year and costs \$20 to subscribe. If you don't have a subscription, you may want to check out <http://adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine/> or mail your payment to Celebrating Greyhound Magazine, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701.

WOOFSTOCK SUCCESS - Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Woofstock event. Mother Nature was not kind to us but we had about 150 brave souls who came and enjoyed a wonderful performance presented by the Gilley Girl Dancing Drill Team. The girls were all in good form and delighted the audience. The pavilion that is just south of BCC on Wickham road gave us all good protection from the elements. Folks enjoyed the hamburgers & bratwurst that was served up. We managed to clear \$3,000 from this event



Online Auction: GPA Central Florida had so many wonderful items left over from the

Woofstock event. We decided to have an online auction. This was really an attempt to clear out my spare bedroom of all the many wonderful items that had been donated.

A special thanks for the assistance of Alisha Navarro from 2 Hound Design for hosting the auction for us. We had 122 items in the auction and the bidders seemed to have a wonderful time not only bidding but coming up with some very unusual alias names. Hot items were stuffed animals - Miss Piggy, Holy Cow and of all things a Cowbird & egg. It was hysterical to see what names the next bidder would put down. Miss Piggy had bids from "When Pigs Fly", "From Ham to Spam", "Bacon Bits", "Porker", "This Pig is Mine", and "This little Piggy". The greyhound community proved to be very generous to us and we managed to raise \$3,800 in the auction. It was a GREYT SUCCESS & GREYT FUN.

More Happenings!!!

Miss Piggy Personal Trainer - Here is an example of how generous members of the greyhound community are. The winner of Miss Piggy that was in the online auction wished to remain anonymous and donated her to a greyhound that was found abandoned in Texas. The greyhound "Apple Martini" was found and being fostered by a Greyhound Adoption League of Texas member. "Tini" was found grossly under weight and needing special care. She only weighed 39 pounds.

Miss Piggy was to have a real job and be the Personal Trainer to "Tini" and not only give her comfort but also help her follow the "North Beach Diet" (where everything not allowed on the South Beach Diet is OK). When we got wind of the story about "Tini" we decided to send some traveling companions and treats to help with this special greyhound. Even though Miss Piggy could be a pretty pushy porker she needed help for this assignment. We are delighted we were able to play a small part in the saga of "Apple Martini's Recovery". She has managed to gain some weight and is up to 49 pounds now. For more information on her progress, you can check out her story at www.greytalk.com

Web-Radio Show: We are pleased to announce that Greyhound Pets of America is hosting a web-radio show "Greyhounds make great pets" on Voiceamerica.com. The show will be running every Friday for another 8 weeks. The hosts are Kari Morrison Young - co-director of Arizona Adopt A Greyhound and Rory S. Goree' President - Greyhound Pets of America - National. The web-radio show will air at 2:00 PM EDT.

Each week there will be a different guest and stories about how Greyhounds Make Great Pets. Greyhound Pets has set up a web page for greyhound lovers to listen to previous shows at their convenience. Check out <http://www.greyhoundpets.org/webradio.htm>

Melbourne Greyhound Park Poker Room & Construction - MGP is in the middle of major renovations and needed hurricane repairs. The track got approval for a Card room last fall and the changes that are taking place are dramatic. The upstairs Club House is being expanded to include two smoking decks. Several of the existing tiers are being eliminated to allow for more floor space and area for 40+ poker tables.

Until the construction and renovations are complete the center of the downstairs main floor area has been modified to accommodate over 12 poker tables. Waiting lines to get a seat at the tables are common.

Greyhound racing is now a backstage event and all of the focus is on the Poker Room. There are folks playing at the tables from 12:00PM to 12:00 AM. The room can only be in operation if the greyhounds have a performance of at least 8 greyhound races during the day.

The greyhound adoption office has been moved outside again next to the Paddock area. This actually is a bigger office and has easier access to bring the hounds up for evaluations.

Matching Grants & United Way - If you work for a company that promotes making contributions to the United Way, you can request that the funds you contribute go to Greyhound Pets of America. A special thanks to **Cherri Biecker and Sharon Stewart** for helping out GPA in this way.

Several local company also have a Matching Grant or Matching Fund program where they will match an employees contribution to a designated charity. Please check with you company and see if you donations to GPA will be matched by them. This is a worthwhile venture and a possible help for our organization.

Pet Boarding Discount. The Pet Resort at 5080 Industry Drive in Melbourne is offering a 10% discount for boarding an adopted greyhound. For more information contact them at 321-259-6224



The Happy Dog's Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
The queen-size bed is soft and deep.
I sleep right in the center groove
My human being can hardly move!

I've trapped her legs,
she's tucked in tight,
And here is where I pass the night.
No one disturbs me or dares intrude
Till morning comes and I want food!

I sneak up slowly and it begins
My nibbles on my human's chin.
She wakes up slowly and smiles and shouts,
"You darling beast! Just cut it out!"
But morning's here and it's time to play
I always seem to get my way.

So thank you, Lord, for giving me
This human person that I see
The one who hugs and holds me tight
and shares her bed with me at night!

- Author unknown

Purina Weight Circles



Thanks to all the members of GPA Central Florida and Greyhound groups across the country who have been saving and submitting the weight circles that are on Purina Products. Your donation of weight circles is a big help in keeping down the cost to feed the greyhounds in our kennel.

These donations are more important now than ever, since Purina has raised the cost on all their food. We also found out that Purina will no longer accept weight circles from "Treats". The circle has to be on dog food.

If you are buying Purina Products and would like to help out, just clip and save the Weight Circles that are located near the ingredients on the dog food bags. We can even accept weight circles from Purina Cat Chow. Mail all the coupons to Claire Tyler, 3525 Manassas Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32934



Special Greys Looking for Homes!!!!

We currently have several greyhounds in our kennel at the track waiting for forever homes. These greyhounds range in age from 4 to 12 years old. These greyhounds were returned because of divorces, allergic reactions or family problems. Our website, www.floridagreyhounds.com has been updated with photo's of all our Special Needs greyhounds. The senior's are listed below the shy and broken leg greyhounds. The following is a brief description of some of the greys in our care.

Whytell Bradshaw - is a 75 pound red 5 year old male. He is a handsome looking boy who was returned because of a change in the owners work schedules. Bradshaw is presently in foster care and knows some basic obedience commands. He is an outgoing boy who is not cat friendly.

SR's Bo Diddley is a calm Black male greyhound that is just turning 10. He weighs in at 75 pounds. He has a sweet disposition. He was in a home for six years and was returned along with **JB LA FEM NIKITA** because of the owners health issues.

JB La Fem Nikita is a Black female who is 7 years old. Nikkie is a feisty girl who is cat friendly. She weighs 60 pounds.

Chel's Music and Chris's Go Kart are siblings who were returned recently because of the owner having a degenerative health issue. This brother & sister are both brindle and outgoing. Chel weighs in at 60 pounds and is not cat friendly. Chris weighs in at 67 and is good with cats. Chel had separation issues in a previous adoption and really enjoys being with her brother.

If you would like more information on adoption of one of these special greys or any of the greys in our adoption kennels, please contact **Dennis Tyler at 321-242-9010**. Candidates for adoption can be seen by setting up an appointment with Dennis.



Sun'd Pet School Improving Your Pet's Life

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Behavior Training & Consulting
15 yrs experience, Lic & Ins

321-724-4302
jesus_mont@yahoo.com

A Helping Hound



Lucas Carlson, age 4, is learning about balance and determination from Balto, a retired racer retrained by Bighorn Assistance Dogs.

Four-year-old Lucas Carlson is taking unsteady steps on the ceramic tile at Aurora Mall when his arms freeze at his side and he falls forward.

The Denver boy in the blue "Thomas the Tank Engine" shirt has cerebral palsy, which affects his balance, strength and coordination. He is making the transition from a walker to crutches, and trips often.

On this trip, Lucas' mother, Michelle Carlson, walks by his side, and so does the boy's new partner: Balto, a 3-year-old greyhound who not long ago could be seen on the tracks, whipping around the rail with other purebreds in fast pursuit of a mechanical lure.

Balto is now retired and has been retrained to be a service dog with a mission to help a 4-year-old boy walk.

Lucas quietly cries and reaches for his mother's pants leg to help pull himself up. But Michelle moves the boy's hand to the harness strapped around Balto's midsection.

Native American Prayer

I give you this,
one thought to keep,
I am with you still,
I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken
in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars
that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone-
I am with you still,
in each new dawn.



In Memoriam

**A TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS WE
HAVE RECENTLY LOST**

CANINE FRIENDS:

COPYCAT &
PAL CLOVIS (CHLOE)
BELOVED PETS OF
JUDY SELLERS

DESTINE FOR POWER
(DUSTY)
BELOVED PET OF
AL & CAROLYN THOMAS

RAMSES (SABERS ODD'S)
BELOVED PET OF
RICK & BOBBIE LASHER

HUMAN FRIENDS

JIM MEYER
GPA OHIO

GEORGE DEARBORN
FATHER OF SANDIE BAPTISTE

Stevie K and Viola's Toto Story

by Dennis Tyler

Stevie K is a Fawn boy of 73 pounds and his sister Viola's Toto, a black little girl of 60 pounds. They were brought into our program at the end of the 2004 season at Melbourne. Stevie had run at Melbourne but Toto ran well at Naples, Florida until she broke her right rear leg in a race there to end her career.

Through happenstance Toto was brought to Melbourne along with many other hounds from a kennel that was running both Naples and Melbourne and she was reunited with her brother. They were both 3 years old.

Our hopes were raised for both to go to the same home when a young lady who wanted to adopt came to our kennel. She had been looking to have two greyhounds and had been through the ordeals of a broken leg herself so we thought she was perfect. One of our representatives did a home visit and found everything in order with a nice fenced in back yard and a large house for the two of them to spend the rest of their days.

Finally the date came and they both went home for a long weekend. In the follow up calls all seemed to be OK. About 3 weeks later we got a call from a neighbor about 3 blocks away who said that she found this little black female in her yard and brought her into her house. We identified Toto with our numbered tag that was on her collar. She was returned shortly to her original owner. We interviewed the owner and she said that the fence was left open by some workman and we advised her to call us immediately if either one gets out again.

About a month later we got a call when we were on a shipment with 40 greyhounds and it seems that both hounds "got out" again. We could only advise where they were to go and the neighbor took them back. This time the adopter said that she had a problem with part of the fence but that it had been fixed.

Then three weeks later Stevie was found about a mile from his home. This time I drove the 25 miles to pick up Stevie and wait for a call from the adopter.....it never came and I was now concerned about Toto. A couple of weeks passed when we finally got a call from the owner stating that she wanted to return a dog.....it was Toto and we were thrilled as I was not sure what our next step would be to get her back from a home that did not care if they were running loose.

I immediately asked her to bring her down to our kennel. When Toto came back she was covered in ticks but looked good otherwise. I was reluctant to say anything for fear that I would tell this woman what I really thought about her care of the greyhounds. She never asked or made any statements about Stevie! Sometimes I say, "If it weren't for the people this would not be a bad business" Just meaning the bad ones of course!!

Toto got cleaned up and we put frontline on her to kill the ticks. In a few weeks both looked great and they both would go out in the yard together.

About a month later I had several phone conversations with a young lady that was having a hard time with the loss of her wonderful greyhound to cancer about 6 months prior. She was just now coming to grips with the concept of getting another greyhound.

I finally got her to come and look at the hounds we had available and the number at that time was small. She wanted a large male that was not brindle as her previous hound was brindle and big. Now this new adopter said, "Don't think of me a strange but I pray that my previous greyhound will help me pick out the new hound with a SIGN! She said "just give me a sign so I will know that this is the right hound for me!"

I showed her a large red male named "Mo" that usually had a lot of personality and went right up to most people. For some reason he did not pay her a lot of attention and that was unusual for him. I brought out a few more black boys but nothing clicked and there was no "sign". She then asked if I had any other red or fawn boys to show her. I told her that I had a nice fawn boy but our hopes were that he could go into a home with his sister who was black. She asked to see them and when I brought them out both were all over this lady like long lost friends. So she asked me how old were these two and I told her that they were going to be 3 this month. I left her briefly to check my records and when I returned I told her that "today is their third birthday". The woman looked at me in an odd way with a tear in her eye and proclaimed, "THAT'S THE SIGN".

Since she had one of our greyhounds before she was cleared to get another and both Stevie and Toto went home to celebrate their birthday in their new forever home!



Greyhounds and children

Greyhounds are gentle, quiet and sweet natured. Be careful to not fall on the greyhound or disturb him while he is asleep or while he is eating.

Be gentle and never tug on the greyhound's ears or tail, never play roughly with him and never to scream and shout around him.

Events

During the summer & hotter months GPA will be limiting the showing of greyhounds to events that are only held indoors

July 16-17 15th Annual Canine Festival - Merritt Square Mall - We have cordially been invited to attend this event hosted by the Brevard Kennel Club. This is a great opportunity to educate the public about the desirability of greyhounds as pets. We will be needing volunteers for Saturday from 10:00 - 5 and Sunday 12:00 - 6:00. Please contact Brenda Stacy at stacyjohn@cfl.rr.com (722-1867) or Claire Tyler at greymomcrt@cfl.rr.com (242-8282)

Beachside Candles

Custom Made Greyhound Candles

by Rachael Roloff

<http://beachsidecandles.tripod.com>

beachsidecandles@cfl.rr.com

321-501-1143

Quality candles made to order with your choice of scents & style. Candles are made with your favorite greyhound picture on them. Check out the volitive candle holders. A portion of the proceeds from greyhound candle sales goes to GPA

Genie's Story

The following story submitted by Neena Derf was the 1st place winner in the GPA Woolstock Essay Contest.



The day that GPA volunteers introduced us to 11 year old, newly retired Genie, we not only found our best friend, but my husband, Tim's true angel.

We were not looking to adopt a dog six years ago, when we attended a local arts and crafts fair. As a matter of fact, it was the furthest idea in our minds, as we were caring for our 15 year old black lab, Samantha. She was in very poor health, and required a lot of time and effort in her care....but, she still wagged her tail, loved to snuggle...Samantha was very much loved.

The local GPA volunteers had set up a tent at the event to promote adoptions. There she was....GENIE! I remember so clearly, how she so patiently and proudly stood, as we were told her story. We found out that she was eleven years old, newly retired after five years of running, and five years of breeding. The gals told us that it was difficult to place the older pups, but they so desperately needed good homes. She was so sweet, and left a deep impression!

Genie remained on Tim's mind...so much, that at lunch he told me that we NEEDED to bring Genie home! I was reluctant. We were losing Samantha...how hard would it be to take in another little being that we'd learn to love, and then lose her in two years! Guess that beautiful little girl with the bright brown eyes, shiny coat, and winning smile won our hearts!

We made a deal, we would take Genie home, but just as a trial. The first week was a test! Genie ate furniture, the wires out of the garage door opener....she was afraid...she was WILD....she had worms!!! I wasn't certain how this was going to work out!

The following Saturday, we were to take her to PetSmart, where the greyhound group had a meet & greet. We were to get meds for Genie, her new collar & leash, and sign papers. As we drove into the parking lot, Genie began to cry. We had more than a difficult time getting her to go inside of the store; she absolutely put the brakes on! This was the place that she was brought, week after week, desperately trying to find a home! She thought that we were giving her back, and decided that she'd prefer to stay with us! I can't explain what happened that day, but it was the turning point. Genie had become a perfect angel from that minute on! She knew that she was home!

Bouncy, spunky, Genie helped extend Samantha's life for another 8 months....and last year, she proved to be a true life saver!

I had taken Genie to the vet for her annual shots on Sunday afternoon. That night, at about 3:30 A.M., she came into the bedroom and woke me up. She NEVER does that! I thought she was sick from the shots, and got up to take her out. To my shock, I found my husband, passed out at the other end of the house. He had an internal bleeding problem, and had hemorrhaged to the point that he was ten minutes from death. Yes, I would have slept through it, if it weren't for our miracle girl, Genie!

People stop us and tell us that Genie's so lucky that we "RESCUED" her. I tell them that she has been OUR GIFT....we didn't rescue her...SHE RESCUED my Tim! She is loved more than words can say! Today, at age 17, she amazes all...energetic, bright-eyed, loving, smart gorgeous! Genie's a true ambassador for greyhound adoptions, and proof positive that older greyhounds deserve loving homes too! We are the luckiest people on earth to have our Genie! Many Thanks to GPA!!!!

CG Photo Contest for Seniors

Have you ever imagined your greyhound on the cover of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine? Well, here's your chance to make that dream come true!

We're looking for a photograph of a beautiful SENIOR greyhound to feature on the cover of our Fall 2005 issue. If you'd like to submit a photograph for consideration, here's the scoop:

About the dog:

1. Your greyhound must be at least ten years old.
2. We love all of the Bridge dogs, but please send only photos of greyhounds that are still among the living.

About the photo:

1. We're looking for an image that is clear and sharp and captures the unique spirit of the beautiful senior greyhound.
2. Photo must be professionally printed on photo paper.
3. No photos by e-mail or CD, please. (If you have an electronic file, take it to a professional photo printer--Walmart or Target will do--and have it printed on photo paper.)
4. Please put your name, address, telephone number, and the name and age of the dog(s) on the back of the photo in non-smearing ink (e.g., a Sharpie pen).
5. Send the photo(s) to Cindy Hanson, Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112.
6. Don't send your entry marked "signature required." (I have a full-time job and usually pick up mail at the PO box when the service window is closed, so I may not have an opportunity to sign for and pick up your entry.)
6. Photos will not be returned.

7. ENTRIES MUST BE POST-MARKED BY JUNE 15, 2005.

8. No crabbing about the rules.

This special issue will be devoted to senior greyhounds, so even if your greyhound doesn't make the cover, chances are good that his or her picture will appear elsewhere in the magazine.

If you have any questions, e-mail me at hansonca96@comcast.net.

Plainfield Track Closing

Recently several of the rescue lists have posted stories about 500 greyhounds in Plainfield being in Jeopardy because of the track closing. We are pleased to pass on the following information

May 21, 2005, 6:03 PM EDT

PLAINFIELD, Conn. -- The dozens of greyhounds displaced when the Plainfield dog track abruptly shut down earlier this month now have new homes, Gov. M. Jodi Rell said Saturday.

As of Friday, there were 203 dogs still at the track. About half will be adopted as pets and the rest are moving to other race tracks, the governor said. All of the dogs are expected to leave Plainfield by the end of the month.

"Public concern over the plight of the dogs at the track has been extraordinary and played a big role in helping to resolve this issue in a positive way," she said.

In all, nearly 350 dogs will be adopted as pets, the governor said. The track announced last month it was closing to make way for a domed auto race track. Since then, officials say they have been deluged with requests to adopt the dogs. At the time there were about 1,200 dogs at the track, which officially shut down May 14 after three decades of operation.

Rell says the state Agriculture Department of division of Special Revenue will continue to monitor the situation to make sure the dogs are treated properly. The governor praised the cooperation of the track officials during the transition and thanked pet owners who came forward to adopt a greyhound.

"As a dog owner myself, I have been concerned about the welfare of these gracious animals," Rell said. The governor expressed her concerns to track owners earlier this month in a letter that sought their promise the dogs would be cared for until homes could be found.

Some of the adopted greyhounds have found homes out of state. A Pittsburgh-based adoption group, for example, is finding homes for 11 of the dogs.

"Usually, we get them when they are retiring. This is totally unprecedented," said David Anderson of Steel City Greyhounds. "Greyhounds are wonderful pets. When they retire, they really take it seriously. You don't need a lot of space for them. They call them the 45-mile-an-hour couch potato."



**Most greyhounds
can live harmoniously with cats.**

Greyhound Pet of the Year Contest

GPA is looking for the Pet Greyhound of the Year. Send your pictures of your greyhound, along with a 50 word or less write up on why your greyhound is the best. (Fear not if you go over 50 words, we are a forgiving bunch.) Greyhounds adopted from Non GPA's are also invited to participate.*****please post this message to all other greyhound lists you're on.

The greyhound selected will be featured on our new poster print that will be (hopefully) released at the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference in September 2005.

To be considered for this contest all information must be received by Friday June 17th, 2005.

Send photographs to:
GPA Greyhound Pet of the Year
C/O Rory S. Goree'
7229 North 58th Drive
Glendale, AZ. 85301

1. No photos submitted electronically or via CD, photos will not be returned.
2. Photos are to be submitted in printed form on commercial quality paper using professional printing or photolabs. (examples - Wolf Photo, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Ritz Photo, Osco)
3. Photos printed on home or personal printers will NOT be accepted.
4. Print size of photos should not exceed 4"x6".
5. Digital photos must be 3 megapixel or larger in size.

Be sure to include your black and white or color photographs, write up on why your greyhound is the best, your information, name, address, phone number and email address if you have one.

Also we will need you to sign the following letter:

PHOTO APPROVAL FORM

I, _____ own the usage rights to the photograph of

(name of individual dog) _____

and hereby grant the Greyhound Pets of America the rights to utilize this photo in the Greyhound Pet of the Year Contest.

I understand that the picture will not be returned.

Signature

Date

Health Corner

It's always mosquito season in Florida!

By Brenda Stacy

Heartworms are deadly to our pets. They are transmitted by mosquitoes. There is no off season for mosquitoes in Florida. They love high temperatures, high humidity, and a water source. FLORIDA!

Heartworms (*Dirofilaria immitis*) (for the rest of this article HW) are a roundworm parasite. The larval stage is passed from infected animals to healthy animals by mosquitoes. The larva goes into the tissues and matures. After about 100 days, it travels through the smaller pulmonary arteries in the heart or lungs. The adult HW can grow to be 12 inches in length.

Once in the heart they start reproducing and produce microfilaria (baby HWs) (anywhere from 85 to 120 days after reaching the heart. The microfilaria is what your vet is looking for on the blood smear taken annually. There is also an ELISA test that can detect the antigens produced by the adult worms. Even if you give HW treatment monthly, you still need to do an **annual test. Repeating**, you still need to get the test! Some times medicine doesn't work the way you expect, nothing is 100% guaranteed. Sometimes dogs don't swallow it and doG forbid, we forget to give the medicine. Remember!!! It only takes one mosquito at just the right time to infect your pet.

The usual HW medicines are Heartguard 30, Heartguard Plus, and Inteceptor. These are all given monthly. The medicine stays in the body only 36 hours (yes, hours) before being eliminated. The drugs are designed to kill larva that are less than 45 days old.

A greyhound may be infected up to **9-10 months without symptoms**. HWs cause inflammation of the blood vessels and partial blockage of blood flow. Eventually, the blockage is severe enough to limit the amount of blood to the tissues. The greyhound may develop a cough, and may collapse after exercise. The right side of the heart may enlarge and result in fluid accumulation of the lungs, liver and kidneys. The severity of clinical signs depends on the degree of infestation. An increase in symptoms may result from the death of the adult worms as they die, deteriorate and fragment. The fragments add to the blockage. This may cause increased coughing, difficulty breathing, bloody sputum and finally heart failure leading to death.

The treatment of HWs must be supervised by a veterinarian. The American HW Society (yes, it really is) guidelines for treatment currently recommends Melarsomine Dihydrochloride given via deep intramuscular injection into the epaxial lumbar muscle.

Two injections separated by 24 hour intervals for dogs at low risk of thromboembolic (blood clot) complications. For dogs at greater risk, a gradual 2 stage process is recommended. A treatment course of 3 total injections, one dose initially followed by a 2 dose treatment in 4-6 weeks. They also recommend a prophylactic dose of ivermectin 1 to 6 months prior to treatment. Antigen testing should be repeated 6 months post treatment.

HW prevention is simple, relatively safe and effective. Heartguard 30, Heartguard Plus (Ivermectin) and Interceptor (Milbemycin oxime) are effective against larval stages of HW plus roundworms, whipworms, lungworms and mites. They also help control hookworms. Heartguard Plus also contains pyrantal pamoate to kill hook and roundworms.

Complaints by pet owners focus mainly on cost. Shop around but stick to known brands. Many products from other countries are not all they claim to be. If purchased through your vet, Merle will pay for HW treatment if your dog gets HWs while on Heartguard.

This information has been carefully plagiarized from the following sources.

Care of the Racing Greyhound by Linda L Blythe, James R. Gannon. A Morrie Craig. 1994

The American Heartworm Society
www.heartwoemsociety.org

Dr Suzanne Stack www.Greythealth.com
Also a greyt source for information on Osteosarcoma in greyhounds

Dr. Linda Saturn Merial Pharmaceutical Company

Greyt Scentsations
Presented by GPA Central Florida
for discriminating hounds of all shapes & sizes

Offering a full line of
Scent-sational products
(Greyhound soaps, Shampoo, Bath Salts,
Carpet Sprinkles, Potpourri, and Candles)
call 321-242-8282 for info



100% of proceeds go to GPA

Membership Application**2005 Membership Is Due**

Greyhound Pets of America needs your support to help without many expenses. The fee associated with adopting the greyhounds does not always cover our actual expenses. GPA Central Florida depends on donations to cover all emergency veterinary expenses, foster home supplies and many other costs incurred that are not met by adoption fees. Please consider becoming member. As a member you will receive our newsletter and be informed of events that are happening in our are.

GPA is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the placement of retired racing greyhounds. A copy of the Florida Registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 800-435-7352 within the state. "Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State."

Please take a few minutes to fill in and mail this application to:

Greyhound Pets of America, Central Florida
3525 Manassas Ave, Melbourne, Fl., 32934

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail _____

Type of Membership: General

Family \$20

General Sponsor \$25

Donor \$50 receives GPA T-shirt. Check size: M L XL XXL

Activity Sponsor

Frontline Application for 6 greyhounds - \$30

Broken Leg Treatment sponsor

(member will receive bio on greyhounds and progress reports)

Donor to cover cost of x-rays - \$75

Donor to cover cost to Feed recovering greyhound for 6- 8 weeks - \$60

Donor to cover surgery \$200 - \$1,700

Special Testing or Treatment Sponsor

(member will receive bio on greyhounds who need special testing or help)

Donor for Detail Thyroid Testing - \$50

Donor for Thyroid Medications - \$75

Donor for Tick Titer testing - \$90

Donor for Returned Elder Greyhound Dental - \$100

Donor for Heartworm treatment - \$250

We need volunteers! Interested in becoming more involved in GPA/CF? Want more information on how you can help?

YES NO

Let us know!

Poker Run - Wheelin & Dealin for Greyhounds - June 19

Continued from page 1

Bar & Grill in Rockledge.

This event can only be a success if we get your support. This is a big undertaking for us and we will need volunteers at the different bike stops and registration. We need members on hand to help deal out winning cards and also to have greyhound ambassadors to greet the bikers. Please consider giving us a helping hand with this. Please take sometime and contact Lorie Stewart at 779-9289 or email her a zoomer@cfl.rr.com

**I can't wait to get some road time
and be out with friends.**

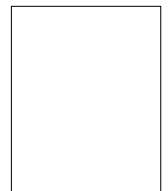
**See you at Wheelin & Dealing for
Greyhounds on June 19**

**Registration starts at 8:30 Am
Kickstands up at 9:30 AM**



**Wow this is a new
way to hit 45 mph!!!!**

Greyhound Pets of America
Central Florida Chapter
3525 Manassas Ave
Melbourne, Fl, 32934



**Don't forget to let us know when you
have a Change of Address or email**