



# Greyhound Chatter

**Southeastern Greyhound Club**

**Jan. - Mar. 2002**

**Issue**

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**Publisher:** *Roger Thellen*

## **SEGA OPENS ADOPTION KENNEL**

Realizing a long-held goal, GPA-Atlanta/Southeastern Greyhound Adoption opened its adoption kennel in early January. SEGA has already hosted several groups of Greyhound "guests" there, all of whom gave the kennel their "four bark" rating.

The new kennel was made available through the generosity of Dr. Toby Carmichael, SEGC member and one of the veterinarians for the SEGA adoption program. Dr. Carmichael was building a new clinic, the Lake City Animal Hospital in Acworth, and had planned two "overflow" rooms in his boarding facility. He offered SEGA the use of the runs in the rooms, along with an adjoining room for an office and adoption center. He proposed an arrangement that is part lease and part boarding agreement, and both the SEGA Advisory Board and the SEGC Board of Directors accepted his proposal last fall.

Under the agreement, SEGA has exclusive use of 10 of the 14 runs in the two rooms. Dr. Carmichael charges half of his regular boarding rate of \$11 per night, or \$5.50 per run per night. For this fee, the clinic provides daily cleaning of the runs, food, and morning and afternoon walks for the Greyhounds. SEGA volunteers give the Greyhounds one more walk in the evening. SEGA has 24-hour access to the adoption kennel, and may use its area for any purpose -- showing Greyhounds to prospective adopters, finalizing adoptions, or holding meetings. An adjacent grooming room is available during clinic hours at no charge for bathing new arrivals. All of the equipment in the adoption kennel is brand new, and it is of course heated, air conditioned and comes complete with piped-in music and night lights!

The \$5.50 per night per run charge is incurred regardless of whether a particular run is occupied, so it behooves SEGA to keep the kennel fully occupied at all times.

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## *A Special Thanks !*



SEGA has already begun receiving generous "in kind" gifts to equip the new kennel and make it more comfortable and welcoming, both to people and Greyhounds. Roger Carol Thellen have donated a new desk, chairs, filing cabinet, stainless steel full size Greyhound statue, display case for items and goods sold through the SEGA Boutique, and other office items. Michael and Carole Wilds donated a comfortable reclining chair. Johnson City Bedding Company of Johnson City, Tennessee donated custom-made vinyl mats for the runs. The "Parker Collection" has made a long-term loan of framed Greyhound art prints for the walls in the office.

***Thank you, one and all !***

### **ADOPTION KENNEL CONTINUED.....**

Thus far, this has enabled SEGA to help more Greyhounds in a given period than ever before. In the event that it is necessary to have more than 10 Greyhounds in the kennel, the additional four runs are available at the regular rate of \$11 per night. If any of the 10 SEGA runs are not occupied and the clinic has overflow boarding needs, the SEGA runs may be used for this purpose, and a credit will be given SEGA for the use of its runs. Likewise, SEGA may use any of its unoccupied runs for boarding member volunteers' Greyhounds, and can keep the proceeds of that boarding. Lastly, the entire arrangement can be terminated by either party without penalty.

"Doing the math" underlying the kennel arrangement underscores the need for a continuing and increased emphasis on fund raising. Even under the "sweetheart" arrangement extended to SEGA by Dr. Carmichael, the kennel operation will cost SEGA \$1,650 per month. Adoption fees -- recently raised to \$225 by the Advisory Board -- cover almost exclusively the cost of normal initial veterinary care (neuter/spay, teeth cleaning, shots and heartworm test) and the collar, lead and muzzle each Greyhound goes to its new home with, so the funds for operation of the kennel must necessarily come from fund raising efforts. Those wanting to help with fund raising

may contact the Fund Raising Committee chairman, Christine Sever, at 770-645-6765 or [csever@directvinternet.com](mailto:csever@directvinternet.com). Tax deductible contributions may be sent to SEGA at 3090 Lassiter Rd., Marietta, GA 30062.

At its January meeting, the SEGA Advisory Board established a number of guidelines for operation of the kennel. First, the Board affirmed the value of the foster home program, and set a goal of having each Greyhound that comes into the kennel go next to a foster home before being adopted. The Board recognized that that scenario may not always be possible when adoption applications come in at a fast pace, but expressed the

desire to have such a model as the overall goal of dovetailing the kennel and foster home operations. If you can foster home a new Greyhound, please contact Foster Committee chairman Joy Riley at 770-732-1607 or [joysgreys@hotmail.com](mailto:joysgreys@hotmail.com).

Second, the Board decided that meets-and-greets should remain the primary vehicle by which prospective adopters can meet Greyhounds and learn all about Greyhounds as pets. Because finalizing multiple adoptions at meets-and-greets can make things a bit chaotic, it was decided that most adoptions should be finalized either at the kennel or at the foster homes depending on where the adoptable Greyhound is residing at the time.



**ADOPTION KENNEL CONTINUED.....**

The day-to-day operation of the kennel will be overseen by SEGA's Kennel Committee, of which Roger Thellen is chairman. Volunteers are needed for evening walks of the Greyhound guests. If you are interested in volunteering in this effort, please contact Roger at 770-928-6395 or [rdthellen@attbi.com](mailto:rdthellen@attbi.com).

Another need for volunteers is in the transporting of adoptable Greyhounds from the kennel to the meets-and-greets. If you can help with transportation, please call Transportation Committee chairman Karyn Mulholland at 770-469-4875 or 404-406-7996.

The Grand Opening of the adoption kennel was

March 16. The weather cooperated, the Greys had fun and everybody had a grand time. All club members are invited to drop by the kennel anytime to pet a few Greyhounds! *(Directions to the SEGA Adoption Kennel: The GPA-Atlanta/Southeastern Greyhound Adoption Kennel is located at the Lake City Animal Hospital, 3671 Cobb Parkway NW, Acworth, Georgia.*

*To get there, take I75 north to the Exit 278, Glade Rd. Turn left off the ramp, heading west. At the second traffic light, turn right onto Lake Acworth Dr. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Cobb Parkway, going south. Lake City Animal Hospital is about one-half*

*mile up Cobb Parkway, on the right in a brick building.*



**President's Message**

*By John Parker*

Every organization has its own benchmarks that objectively demonstrate whether it is succeeding in accomplishing its mission. With the opening of the SEGA adoption kennel in January, we have passed one of those benchmarks and fulfilled one of the founding goals of our adoption group – the establishment of a kennel that is always available to take in Greyhounds in need of homes. When wearing one of my other "Greyhound hats" as our liaison to those trainers, kennels, and other adoption groups who need help placing their Greyhounds, it is most satisfying to now be able to say "yes" more often than I have to say "no." The kennel has enabled us to help so many Greyhounds in a variety of circumstances, some of whom were truly "at risk."

But while we enjoy those warm fuzzy feelings, we also have to rise to meet the many new challenges

presented by the operation of the kennel. Our goal is to provide a foster home for each Greyhound coming through the kennel so that he or she receives at least a little in-home training before going to a new family. So when you get a call from the Foster Home Committee, please say "yes."

New volunteer needs come with the kennel – hound walking, transportation to meets-and-greets, Greyhound bathing – are just a few. In addition to your time, we also need your (tax deductible) contributions, now more than ever. Sometime during the coming year, you will likely hear from the Fundraising Committee, and we hope that you will be able to say "yes" to the Greyhounds.

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# COURSING CORNER

By John Parker



The Texas Trophy, awarded each year to the most accomplished SEGC Greyhound in his or her rookie year of lure coursing, traveled north this year after being won by a Kentucky Greyhound. "Artie," Honey Boy Flyer, F.Ch, owned by Laura and Dave Renke of Walton, Kentucky, had an outstanding year, winning Best of Breed on the second day of the 2001 International Invitational in Iowa (another SEGC Greyhound, Seegold Sparkle, won Best of Breed on the first day of the I.I.) Artie ended the year as the Number 6 lure coursing Greyhound in the nation.

The Renkes met the

SEGC contingent at the International Invitational last June in Iowa, and the Greyhound camaraderie was immediate. They subsequently joined the Club, and enjoyed last summer's GPA National Conference with us. Laura was on hand at the Christmas party to accept the trophy and the congratulations of all who were on hand.

The Texas Trophy, donated by SEGC members Ernest and Catherine Carlisle, is an antique Greyhound racing trophy. Previous winners include Karyn Mulholland's Sparkle, John Parker's Merlin, and Mike and Nanci Ball's KoKo.

Congratulations, Artie --

enjoy your year with the trophy!

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2001 was another banner year for SEGC Greyhounds in lure coursing -- ten of the national Top 20 Greyhounds in the sport were owned by Club members. New members Mike and Karen

Lorenzo's Greyhounds took top honors -- "Atom," DC Winds Ariel Four Square, LCM was number 1, and "Red," FC Winds Ariel Red Hunter, LCM2 (the previous year's number 1) took the number 2 spot. "Amy," Onrush Amelia, LCM3, owned by Pam and Glen Davis, was number 5.

Number 7 was Texas

Trophy winner "Artie", owned by Laura and Dave Renke. "Rocky," Rimrock Onery, F.Ch, previous winner of the Old Mill Cup and owned by Jennifer and Val Cullen was number 11. "KoKo," Flowing Sis, F.Ch, owned by Mike and Nanci Ball, was number 12.

Karyn Mulholland's "Sparkle," Seegold Sparkle, LCM was number 15, and her "Sally," Seegold Sally, F.Ch, was number 19. New York member Tracy Rudzitis' "Niagra," Krafty Zag, F.Ch was number 16, and her "Haley," M's Maid Betty, F.Ch., was number 20.

Congratulations, hounds and humans -- run safe and have fun in 2002!

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## President's Message Continued.....

For the nuts-and-bolts information on the opening and operating of the kennel and who to contact about volunteering, have a look at the cover story in this issue of the **Chatter**. I think you will be truly amazed at what we have been able to accomplish with the kennel in the short time that it has been open.

Another benchmark we have observed in the recent past is the successful hosting of a large-scale event, the 2001 Greyhound Pets of

America National Conference. We were told by a number of veterans of these conventions (and we don't think they were just being nice) that the Atlanta convention was the best one held to date. We'll see if we can repeat this success in April, when the Club co-hosts the 25<sup>th</sup> running of the International Invitational, lure coursing's premier annual event, at beautiful Berry College in Rome. With expected participation of 400 sighthounds each day, we'll be calling

on more than just our usual cadre of Club lure coursers and those energetic Events Committee members to help us with the innumerable tasks involved in hosting a large group of people and their dogs. Please mark your calendars for April 27 - 28, and let me or any other member of the SEGC Board know if you can come help us roll out the red carpet for this big event.

*See you at the kennel and on the field!*

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**SEGC/ SEGA Webmaster Update:** *By Roger Thellen*  
[www.greyhoundadoption.org](http://www.greyhoundadoption.org)



When we moved into our kennel in January we began taking in more Greyhounds for adoption. The adoptable page and other pages with images on the website can be slow for some users. Because many users have different speed computers, and different types of internet connections, this may or may not be a problem. High speed DSL's or Broadband connections provided by

internet carriers should not experience any problems.

I currently use a compress tool software that compresses all the images so downloads will be accomplished 30% faster when loading. This should help with slow modems or computers.

Please be patient with the download time, because it is worth the wait!

*Roger*

**You feed the Rabbit!**

Rusty needs your input for future issues. Please take a moment to shoot Rusty an email on the following topics:

1. List your favorite parks or trails that are particularly dog friendly and fun.
2. Name outstanding veterinarians who are especially Greyhound savvy (and their location).
3. List any restaurants that allow your hound to hang out on the deck with you while you eat.

And of course Rusty and his gang are always looking for articles for the newsletter. So if you think you have something you would like to share, just write it up and shoot it to the rabbit.

**Coursing Corner**

**Continued.....**

SEGC kicked off its 2002 lure coursing season February 9 and 10 with a "road show" in Aiken, South Carolina, running the Southern Turf Classic on Saturday and the Run For Rescue on Sunday. All Best of Breed winners on Saturday will vie for the Lucy - Foxy Cup, donated by Lee and Kathi Edwards and David and Beth Alley in honor of two of SEGC's finest ever coursing Greyhounds.

The Run For Rescue on Sunday is a fund raiser for the SEGA adoption program, and features the Rescue Trophy, a statue of a Greyhound at rest, which was the Club's first perpetual trophy.

The Aiken trials were the Club's only spring trials, so that we could get ready

to co-host the ASFA International Invitational in April. SEGC coursing will resume October 19 - 20 with the Old Mill Stakes in Cartersville and will end for the year with the Fullerton Cup, to be run November 16 - 17 at Pinetop Farm in Thomson, Georgia.

**We hope to see you at one -- or all -- of the trials !**

*John*



## A “Romp” in the Park

By Craig Cerreta



Greyhounds and their owners love to romp, but what is a romp? And should you try it?

Most romps are informal play gatherings held on football or soccer fields on Sunday mornings. The main purpose is to let the hounds stretch out and have some fun. There are a couple of regular groups every weekend. The club even does one or two a year down on John Parker's horse farm. Weekend romps may be as small a handful of dogs or as large as a dozen or more.

What fun! All those Greys running and playing. What could be better? That is, as long as nobody gets hurt.

Romps can be some of the best fun you will have, or one of the worst experiences of your life. Exercising a little caution and a lot of common sense will help ensure you and your hounds stay on the fun side of things.

### Rules of the romp:

1. Only use fields that are 100% fenced with no open exits. Greys will search for and find openings even a few inches wide.
2. Post human guards at each gate or opening. Even if it is fenced, non-greyhound people will not think twice about opening a gate to go in. We witnessed this at a romp in Alpharetta just a couple of months ago. A soccer player opened the gate and three Greys were out and running up the road in a heart beat.
3. Never let your Greys romp on a field where other humans are playing or walking (this includes you). Your Greys run at excessive speeds and they don't

pay much attention to where they are going. They can easily run into a human and cause serious injury.

4. Never let more than 3 or 4 Greys loose on the field at one time. This is the tough one. Owners love to see a group of dogs running like a pack. You are taking a serious risk:

- Too many dogs result in dogs running in multiple directions. They will collide, and one or more will be permanently injured (as happened to my Adam).
- Remember they are competitive by nature. If they can't beat the dog next to them they may start a fight with him. Your sweet little Grey can turn into a tough street fighter to get a win. The more dogs, the more risk.

5. Always, but always muzzle every Grey on the field. It is not mean. It is safe. I have seen serious unintended injuries where one dog's tooth caught another dog by accident. The result can be torn muscles and dozens of stitches. Use muzzles.

6. If a dog gets injured, run to him as fast as you can. Don't walk, don't wait. Run! Remember, dogs are pack animals. They attack the weak and injured even with muzzles on. It only takes a few seconds to go from a simple broken leg to massive injuries. It is highly unlikely you will be attacked or get injured as you protect the injured dog.

Don't take this advice lightly. It comes from personal experience and years of pain that resulted from my first romp. Too many dogs and 15 seconds was all it took to break Adam's back in a head on collision that has caused years of pain, rehabilitation, and thousands of dollars in vet bills.

Adam is still with us, though he has never been able to run again. I still go to romps with my other Greys, but I exercise caution and common sense. I resist the urge to go with the crowd when they cross the safety line. I think through what is happening in front of me. I think safely for my dog since he can't do it for himself.

Don't learn the hard way. Learn from someone who did.

**Craig Cerreta**





## The Canine Good Citizen Test

By Jennifer Lawson

The Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Test is a fun and beneficial certification program giving dogs and their owners a chance to demonstrate basic obedience and manners in everyday situations. In addition, dogs that have passed the CGC Test are more readily accepted for therapy work in hospitals and nursing homes. The test, endorsed by American Kennel Club (AKC),

is open to all dogs, both mixed breeds and purebreds. This spring SEGC will offer the CGC Test to greyhounds, so I would like to encourage you to start practicing now.

First off, the test is very relaxed. Show ring perfection and precision are not required. Talking to and praising the dog throughout the test is acceptable, but you cannot use treats. Cues and com-

mands can be repeated. The focus is control and presence. The test evaluates if your dog is both safe and a pleasure to be around. Below I will describe each test and hopefully inspire you to start practicing now. The test may or may not flow in the following order.

1. **Accepting a friendly stranger** – The evaluator will approach, introduce him or herself, and shake hands with you. The dog may either sit or

stand quietly at your side.

2. **Sitting politely for petting** – The evaluator will pet the dog's head and body while the dog sits quietly. The dog is allowed to stand and respond in a friendly manner once the petting begins.

3. **Appearance and grooming** – The evaluator will softly brush the dog, pick up each front foot, and gently examine the ears. The dog is not required to maintain a particular position.

## SEGC Greyhound Pet Therapy Program

For more information, contact *Jennifer Twillman* at [JenniferTwillmann@hotmail.com](mailto:JenniferTwillmann@hotmail.com)

***“You and your Greyhound will enjoy the visit”***

### A.G. Rhodes Nursing Home

900 Wylie Rd., SE  
Marietta, Ga.  
Second Saturday - 10:30 a.m.

### Presbyterian Village

2000 East-West Connector  
Austell, Ga.  
Second Thursday - 7:00 p.m.  
(Beth Kuhn)

### Arbor Terrace Care Residence

425 Winn Way  
Decatur, Ga.  
Third Saturday - 11:00 a.m.  
(Suzanne Palmer)

### Marietta Health Center Nursing Home

South Cobb Dr. & Austell Rd.  
4th Saturday - 2:00 p.m.  
(Helen Sutton)

### Manor Care Health Services

2722 N. Decatur Rd.  
Decatur, Ga.  
Third Saturday at 9:30 am .  
(Suzanne Palmer)

### Corner Stone Terrace Assisted Living & Alzheimer's Home

Johnson Ferry & Roswell Rd.  
2nd Saturday - 2:30 p.m.  
(Helen Sutton)

### Sunrise Assisted Living @ Ivey Ridge

2950 Old Alabama Rd.  
Alpharetta, Ga. 30022  
First Sunday at 1:30 pm .  
(Jennifer Twillmann)

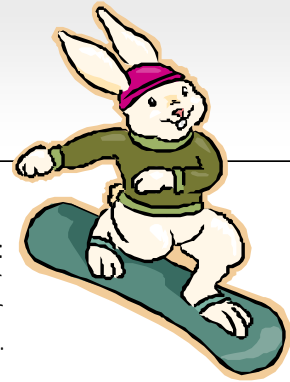


## The Canine Good Citizen Test Continued.....

4. **Walking through a crowd** – You and the dog will closely pass 3 or more people.
5. **Reaction to another dog** – You and the dog will be approached by another handler and a well-behaved dog. You and the handler will shake hands and then continue moving in opposite directions.
6. **Reaction to distractions** – You and the dog will be presented with two distractions, one visual and one sound. For example, a visual distraction can include a person in a wheelchair, with crutches, or riding a bike. A sound distraction can be the dropping of a large book, chair being knocked over, or shaking a steel bucket full of chains.
7. **Supervised separation** – The dog is left with an evaluator and you move out of sight for 3 minutes. The evaluator will hold your dog's leash, but otherwise will not interact with your dog. The dog may show mild agitation, but must remain calm and not continuously vocalize.
8. **Walking on a loose leash** - You will walk the dog in asset pattern including a left turn, right turn, halt, and an about turn on loose leash. You must be able gently guide your dog along the plotted course without the dog pulling heavily on the leash.

*continued on page 9.*

## Here comes Rusty !



**Dear Rusty** – What are some common household hazards that could hurt my Grey?

*Dear Grey Parent* – You humans can not even think for yourself! It is right in front of your face: the paper shredder in your home office. Not everybody has one, but those who do had better watch out. Your Grey's tongue can easily trigger the automatic paper feeder that pulls the paper through the shredder. The tongue is destroyed. It has happened before and it will happen again. Unplug your shredder or make sure the setting is NOT on auto. And do it fast.

**Dear Rusty** – I want to get my Grey a retractable leash so he can stretch out 20 feet or so on our walks. Why did the people at the adoption group tell me not to use one?

*Dear Grey Parent* – HUMANS! When your Grey sees a RABBIT (or Cat) he can accelerate so fast in just 20 feet that one of several things is going to happen when he reaches the end of the leash: (1) he rips the lead out of your hand and he catches the poor little rabbit L; (2) you hold on tight and he pulls you to the ground or yanks your shoulder out of place J; (3) or he breaks his neck from the sudden snap of the lead L; he yanks the big plastic handle out of your hand and the sound of it hitting the ground scares him so much he takes off running scared. HUMANS, DO NOT USE A RETRACTABLE LEAD!!!!

### Rusty's Carrot Tip of the Month

If your hound **eats something that could hurt him**, call the National Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 (open 24 hours) immediately (fast, fast, fast). Depending on what he ate, they may tell you to get him to the vet ASAP, or they may tell you to induce vomiting. Some things cause additional damage when they vomit (certain cleaners), so don't assume. Call the center.

You can force the dog to vomit by pouring a small amount of hydrogen peroxide down the throat. OK, it sounds terrible, and it should. That is why the dog will vomit. You can also try salt, or salt paste, if you don't use hydrogen peroxide. And of course, take your dog to the vet immediately after you have forced them to vomit.

Send your questions to Rusty at [rustytherabbit@yahoo.com](mailto:rustytherabbit@yahoo.com)



*Southeastern Greyhound Club*

## Greyt Fun At The Romps!!!!

Come join a playful run for fun at one of our informal weekend "romps".

### **Newton Park in Alpharetta:**

Old Alabama Rd near Haynes Bridge Rd (fenced in soccer field)

Sunday mornings 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

contact Jennifer Twillmann for more info: [jennifertwillmann@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifertwillmann@hotmail.com)

### **Briarlake Elementary School:**

LaVista Rd and Briarlake Rd (about two miles inside I-285 LaVista Rd exit)

Sunday morning -- 9:00 a.m.

contact Catherine McGovern for more info: [greytsmiles@yahoo.com](mailto:greytsmiles@yahoo.com)

### **Please note:**

- times will change as it gets colder
- other breeds are NOT encouraged
- limited to 3 Greyhounds running together at a time
- all Greyhounds must wear muzzles while romping

Stay for about 45 minutes to an hour. I think as it starts to get colder in the mornings, we may move the time to a little later in the day to stay warm. All dogs are muzzled, and from past experience, we have realized some of the dogs don't take to kindly to "foreigners." We usually have anywhere from 8 to 10 dogs. Also, there is usually someone there with a digital camera that snaps some greyt pictures.

