



Summer 2007

Greyhound Chatter

A Publication of the Southeastern Greyhound Club

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Get Ready for Greyfest 2007!

This year's Greyfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 6th, from 10am-3pm at SummerWind Farm in Newnan, Georgia. Mark your calendar now and be there!

The official logo for Greyfest has been chosen. Congratulations to Lyle Morris - his logo will grace this year's Greyfest T-shirts and other items at our CafePress site.

The day begins with a demonstration from Soaring Cindy, the Greyhound who holds the World High Jump record at 68". Cindy, Travis, and Katie (Jen Bachelor's two Greyhounds) will then give us a superb agility demonstration, ending with an opportunity for you to try your Greyhound in the agility ring, if you wish. Then, it's on to the Greyhound Contest with last year's judge, Brian Ott. So, get your Greyhound ready - start practicing, start finding that twin, and sign up at the registration desk to enter your hound in any of these categories:



This year's Greyfest logo design contest was won by Lyle Morris

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Best Kisser | Funniest Ears | Tallest |
| Best Smile | Longest Nose | Smallest |
| Best Roo | Longest Tail | Most Senior Girl |
| Best Hugger | Slimmest Waistline | Most Senior Boy |
| Prettiest Eyes | Longest Distance Traveled | |
| Softest Fur | Most Recently Adopted | |

Following the contest, we will have a very special announcement - one which you don't want to miss! Then, lunch boxes from Honey Baked Ham will be served. After lunch, it's two hours of the Blur of Fur. We will again be offering action shots of your Greyhound taken by Karl and Brook Goodhew.

We'll have vendors for your shopping pleasure, and of course, the Silent Auction will be held - visit the festival website to view the lists of auction items, updated almost daily. Other fundraising ventures this year will be Greyhound Bingo and a 3pm raffle for two round-trip airline tickets anywhere AirTran flies. Bingo squares and AirTran raffle tickets can both be purchased at the festival's fundraising site. Don't miss the games for Greyhounds and kids! And Madame Zumi is returning to Greyfest this year, to present your hound's fortune.

As you can see, it will be a fun-filled day! Plan to arrive right before 10 a.m. and stay the entire day so you can enjoy all the festivities. Pack your hound's X-pen or crate, a folding chair for yourself and any other items you need to be comfortable. Water for your hounds will be available on-site.

For lots more details and to register online, visit the official Greyfest website at www.Greyhoundadoption.org/greyfest/index.htm. The registration fee is just \$15 per person, which includes the box lunch. At the website, you can also print the registration form to complete and mail to Patti Peterson. 'See you there!!



John Parker & Merlin

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President's Message

As I write this, I am inside on a sunny summer day taking refuge in the air conditioning from the sweltering heat wave that sits over the South. The "dog days of summer" - what a misnomer that is. I don't know of any dogs, particularly Greyhounds, that truly enjoy these conditions. They seem to go into a more or less perpetual droop when they go outside, and have little desire to play or run - unless something to chase presents itself. The Greyhounds who live in our kennel and have free access to the outdoors at all times now just go outside to answer nature's call and retreat back inside without delay, to relax in the air conditioning.

It's remarkable how your weather preferences shift, depending on your interests and hobbies. In my pre-Greyhound days, I was an avid sailor and owned a sailboat on Lake Lanier. Back then I couldn't wait for summer to arrive so I could spend most weekends on the boat, sailing or swimming while anchored in a cove. Since my interests have shifted to Greyhounds and horses, I can't wait for summer to be over and for fall to usher in cooler temperatures, when my four-legged friends can enjoy running with little risk of overheating. A red letter day every year now is the first frost, when the bug population takes a nose dive and no longer takes up residence on the hounds if given the opportunity.

Like a kid in the classroom dreaming of the day when school will be out, I find myself sitting inside, longing for those cool fall days when field trials and other outdoor Greyhound events fill the schedule. Crisp mornings or cool, breezy afternoons are perfect for our exercise walks, when the Greyhounds can take off on their own to chase each other or just enjoy a lone gallop if they have seen something in the distance that *might* just be something to chase. I won't need to worry about their overheating or needing to be hosed off before we call it a day. And as we all know, a Greyhound who has been able to get a little tired from a good long run is a contented, well-behaved hound.

Heat is no reason to keep your Greyhound from exercising, and most will self-limit unless a critter they want to chase shows its face. The key is to keep the exercise period short and remain vigilant for any signs of overheating. Remember that misting a Greyhound with a spray bottle really won't provide much cooling effect - the quickest way to cool down an overheating Greyhound is to immerse him in cool (but not ice cold) water in a tub or swimming pool. The second best way is copious amounts of cool water from a freely running water hose. With just a few precautions, you can still give your Greyhound the exercise he needs to be a happy dog and to be reasonably fit.

As you and your Greyhounds endure these hot, muggy days of summer, just remember that the cool, crisp days of fall are closer now than they were in July, and dream of those nice long walks and good runs that are just around the corner. In the meantime, soak up that A/C and like your Greyhounds, stay cool!

John Parker

FAST FACT...

The cardiac output of a Greyhound increases by 5 times during a race.

In just one minute, a Greyhound's heart pumps his own body weight in blood.

Greys on the Go - Traveling with your Hound

As hot as it's been, it's hard to believe that fall is right around the corner, and with it will come the holidays in rapid succession. As many of us travel to visit friends and family throughout the season, here are some tips for traveling with your pets from the American Association of Veterinary Medicine.

- Planning and preparation are necessary when traveling with family pets. Consider whether your pet is comfortable when traveling. Find out in advance if your pet is welcome at your friend or family's house, or at hotels, parks, and campgrounds. Consider bringing along a portable kennel for use in hotel rooms or the homes of friends or relatives who are not comfortable with your pet loose when no one is home. It is unfair to other hotel guests or your hosts if your pet has separation anxiety and barks or howls when you are away.
- Be sure your pet is properly identified with a collar, current rabies tag, name tag, and/or a microchip. Carry proof of rabies and other required vaccinations, and a current health certificate with you when crossing state or international borders.
- If your pet is young, healthy, and does not have any health problems, consult your veterinarian about the use of sedatives for your pet during travel.
- When traveling by car, pack a simple pet first-aid kit that includes bandages, antiseptic cream, anti-diarrheal medication that is safe for pets, gauze squares, and the phone numbers of your veterinarian, a national poison control hotline, and a 24-hour emergency veterinary hospital in the area.
- In addition to a standard ID tag (which should be labeled with your name, home address and phone number), your pet's collar should include a travel tag with info on where you are staying while away from home. Should your pet become lost, this will allow you to be contacted locally.
- Perform a daily "health check" on your pet when away from home. In unfamiliar surroundings, your pet's appetite, energy, and disposition may change. Watch for unusual discharges from the nose and eyes, excessive scratching or biting of any body part, unusual lumps, limping, loss of appetite, abnormal elimination, or excessive water consumption. Visit a local vet if you are concerned about any physical or behavioral changes.

And here are some great websites to check out for more travel tips & information on pet-friendly accommodations:

www.petsonthego.com

www.dogtravel.com

www.petswelcome.com

www.pettravelcenter.com

www.tripswithpets.com

www.bringfido.com

www.petfriendly.com

www.hunterk9.com

All of these sites demonstrate how the travel industry has become increasingly accepting of people traveling with their pets. So, this season, consider traveling with ALL of your family members. Travel safely and have fun!

Jennifer Krebs

*Please do not
be unhappy
just because
I'm out of sight -*

*Remember that
I am with you
every morning,
noon and night.*

In Remembrance

- ♥ Will Run for Kookie AKA Kookie Monster
~ Robin Davis
- ♥ Deli
~ Elizabeth Montgomery
- ♥ Rich's Rambo
~ Keri & Jason Tomasic



Kookie

Craft: Budget-Friendly Steps for Your Vehicle

From Celebrating Greyhounds/Spring 2005 article by Chris Smith

For those of us who have senior Greyhounds or those with conditions that make jumping into a vehicle for that much-loved car ride difficult, here's a great craft project that's simple to make and easy on the wallet.

Materials Needed

- Three plastic milk crates
- Approximately 24 plastic cable ties
- Indoor/outdoor carpet, marine carpet or rubber mats

Instructions

Stack one crate on top of the other and then place the third crate next to them. Fasten all three crates together with the plastic cable ties.

Use the carpet or mats to form a runner that completely covers the top of the crates. Fold the carpet lengthwise with the cut edges together. Lay the carpet/mat across the top of the crates. (In other words, the edges of the carpet on either side of the 'steps' will have folded edges, not open ones.) Using an awl or ice pick, pierce holes in the carpet and use more cable ties to fasten the carpet to the steps.

Use plenty of ties; they are inexpensive, and you want to make the steps and the runner as sturdy as you can. Remember that there is a right way and a wrong way to close the plastic ties; make sure you close the ties in the correct side of the hole so they don't slip out when the steps are moved. This is easy to check by tugging on the ties when they are in the closed position.

Because the steps are lightweight, it is a good idea to brace them with your foot as your dog boards the vehicle, so they don't move.

Calling all hound lovers!
Do you have something you want to share?
If you'd like to submit a craft or recipe,
article or photo to be featured in an upcoming
edition of The Greyhound Chatter, send an
e-mail to the Managing Editor at
jenkrebs@comcast.net.



Hounds Helping Out - The BARKS Program

One of the most rewarding activities our retired Greyhounds and their adoptive owners can enjoy in SEGC is the pet therapy program at area nursing and assisted living homes. Pet therapy comes in other forms as well, and a program called BARKS - Bonding, Animals, Reading, Kids & Safety - is a great example.

The program, in which volunteers bring their dogs to school for reading sessions with children who need extra help, is one of several projects part of Helping PAWS International, a pet-assisted therapy organization based in Raleigh, North Carolina. The organization was founded in September of 2000, following a discussion among a few Greyhound owners about pet therapy and what wonderful pet therapists their gentle, loving retired Greyhounds would make.

BARKS, which is run in a small number of schools in Florida, Texas, Ohio and New Zealand, currently has 115 dog-and-owner teams. For thirty minutes once a week, a child settles into a quiet spot and reads to a dog, under the premise of teaching the dog to peruse the book. Reading becomes about the dog, not about the child, easing the pressure and embarrassment the child feels about reading. For the reading sessions, the dogs are trained to pick a book out of a pile, bring it to the child, hold it flat in front of them, and even turn the pages. All the child has to do is read.

While the majority of the PAWS pet therapists are retired racing Greyhounds, all breeds can be accepted into the program. PAWS co-founder Jeani Gray says she has a waiting list of schools that would like to have the BARKS program, if she had enough volunteers to commit to six months of training and the weekly sessions with the kids.

Besides the reading program, PAWS also goes into nursing homes and hospitals and helps with physical, speech and occupational therapy. PAWS began with Greyhounds because they're especially gentle and, Gray says, "Just the right height for people in wheelchairs and hospital beds."

Excerpt from an article written by Martha Quillin - McClatchy Newspapers



Helping out the Hounds - SEGA Adoption News

Thanks to the constant and selfless efforts of our SEGA volunteers, here are some exciting statistics on the success of our adoption program.

- 16 adoptions in June
- 11 adoptions in July
- 9 adoptions in August
- 94 adoptions year to date!

Get involved! There are so many great opportunities to be a part of SEGA's success story.

- Fostering - Fostering is always one of our most critical need areas, and entails welcoming a hound into your home on a temporary basis to help start its acclimation to its new life as a family pet.
- SEGA Hound Walking - While the Greyhounds await their adoption, we help care for them during their stay in the adoption kennel at Lake City Animal Hospital in Acworth, which includes an evening "turn out" or walking.
- Meet & Greets - one of our most public-facing roles as an organization, this encompasses setting up and manning a table in front of a pet store or at an event. It helps build public awareness for the breed, shows foster dogs, and helps place Greyhounds with individual adopters.
- Hound Hauls & Dog Bathing - Volunteers can help by taking part in our periodic 'Hound Hauls'. This effort brings retired racers from the tracks to our adoption kennel in Acworth. Upon arrival, it's bath time!
- Fundraising Events & Donations - As any non-profit organization will tell you, it takes a lot of money to keep our "business" running. Every penny and every minute spent volunteering and helping SEGA is much appreciated!

Lure Coursing Corner

The Club's lure coursing program has been on hiatus for the summer. As we wait for the heat to leave and the coolness of fall to take its place, this seems a good time to print an old piece written some twenty years ago by lure coursing enthusiast Ruth Reynolds of Florida. It's entitled "The Last Word":

I wake up. The creaking, squeaking sound of my crate being jostled as my Master drives through the field to our parking place gives a clue to the day's agenda. The engine dies down.

Master opens the van door to get out. I just stretch and flex my feet like a cat, take a deep breath and go back to sleep. There's still plenty of waiting.

My deep sleep is interrupted when Master opens the van door to get me out. I yawn and stretch, and a shake ripples through my body, starting from my head, down my torso, all the way to the tip of my tail. Master skips gingerly to the side.

Someone holding a clipboard calls my name. For a few brief seconds, I'm back in the show ring, trotting first this way and than that, past watchful and interested eyes.

A motor starts up, cutting through the silence like a knife, and my heart sings as I hear the familiar zip, zip, zip. There's nothing quite like hearing the sound of dinner moving rapidly across and around the grass that still has morning's dew on it.

This time, this time I vow, I'll catch that low-flying feast and enjoy the meal I was meant to have.

Someone shouts, "test dog!" and as I've seen so many times before, a lone dog and his master march out onto the field. My dinner moves out in front of the dog and he is let go to chase it. I just wish that once I could get the first dibs. Luckily for me, Test Dog does not overtake the prey, giving me the chance I've come here for.

A piece of cloth is tied around my loin, and I tense as I hear my name called. Master walks me up to a pre-determined spot. I see my prey lying still upon the ground. It wouldn't be fair to pursue it until it moves, but still I lean toward it – every nerve and every muscle, every thought, conscious and innate, all say the same thing to me – "Get it!"

Nature speaks to me in the same way it has so many times before. The feelings of excitement and anticipation, so new and yet so familiar. I long to be set free to do the work I was born for.

Master leans over and whispers "Get it for me!"

Silly Master, don't you know?

It's not for you I go.

It's for the love of pursuit.

That challenge that instinct makes me accept.

The things people hold dear are in another world.

I know only this dimension.

My love is the chase.

It is written upon my soul.

My ancestors were proud, fierce hunters. Even now, out in this field with all these cars and people, I know no different. Suddenly, everything else ceases to exist as the prey runs away from me. My heart races. Everything in me longs to run with the wind. Master throws back his head and digs his heels into the ground as I bolt and try to escape his grasp. Master finally lets go.

And the last word I heard was "Tally-ho!"

The first "Tally-ho!" of the fall season will be called at the Club's 11th running of the Fullerton Cup, October 20 – 21 at the beautiful Bear Creek Farm in Moreland, Georgia, site of last March's Run For Rescue trial. Everyone is invited to come out and watch the hounds run! Hospitality coordinator Linda Sheffield will be organizing the fundraising lunches to benefit SEGA, so we hope you will pitch in and help the Greyhounds by contributing to one of our delicious field lunches. See you in October!

John Parker

Dr. Toby Discusses Seizures



Toby Carmichael, DVM

1. Besides epilepsy, what other illnesses or conditions can cause seizures?

Entire chapters are written on the causes of seizures. For the sake of discussion, let's break them into two groups – normal brain waves and abnormal brain waves. Normal brain wave seizures can come from heart disease, toxins, metabolic problems and some primary neurological conditions. More commonly, seizures have abnormal brain waves. This category includes primary brain problems, trauma, tumors, infection, metabolism problems, and the most common, idiopathic epilepsy. 'Idiopathic' means we don't know the cause. Once all other causes are ruled out, we call the seizures 'idiopathic'.

2. What are the signs and symptoms of a seizure? What is the range of symptoms - from 'fly snapping' and other behaviors to 'grand mal' seizures?

Seizure symptoms can include subtle changes in motor movement (i.e. muscles not working like they should), chewing body parts, abnormal behavior (growling or howling), and staring off into space. Other symptoms involve more movement, with muscles being constantly rigid and jerking motions.

3. Are Greyhounds prone to having seizures? What other breeds seem to have a pre-disposition?

Greyhounds are not really listed in my references as being a pre-disposed breed. German Shepherds, Keeshonds, Cocker Spaniels, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Saint Bernards are just a few breeds listed.

4. What are some of the medical treatments for seizures?

Once the seizures have been worked up and have been labeled as idiopathic, Phenobarbital is the most commonly used medication. Potassium Bromide (KBr) is the next most commonly used drug. There are many other medications that can be used in refractory cases. These drugs can be very expensive, especially when treating large dogs. If the dog presents at a veterinarian's office during a seizure, Diazepam is usually administered. If a dog has severe seizures while at home, rectal Diazepam can be used.

5. As Phenobarbital is the most often used treatment, what are the most common side effects?

Initially, sedation and being 'drunk' for about two weeks are the two biggest side effects we see. (This may be a problem if dealing with a big dog that needs help getting up.) I have treated two dogs that actually became very aggressive after Phenobarbital therapy was started. Liver disease would be the next concern. Liver damage can be alleviated by giving supplements like Gluta DMG by Vetri-Science, which helps the liver repair itself.

6. Are there other, more natural treatments that an owner might consider for trying to lessen a dog's frequency or severity of seizures, such as diet or vitamin supplements?

We have to be very careful with the all-natural approach. If the dog is having serious seizures, medication is the best treatment. Once the seizures are under control, working with a veterinarian that specializes in alternative medicine would be my recommendation. You'll need to consult with someone that is aware of the interactions of supplements and medicine before starting any additional remedies. Several epileptic Labradors have been weaned off medication with a hypoallergenic diet. But don't change medication dosing until you've spoken with your vet.

7. What can/should an owner of a dog that has seizures do to prevent injury during a seizure?

First, protect themselves. I cannot tell you the number of people that get bitten while comforting their seizing dog. Second, keeping the dog on the floor lessens the chance of injuries. Most dogs come out of a seizure unable to see or respond normally, so make sure the dog is not going to fall down the stairs or encounter a similar hazard.

8. Is it usually the case that seizures escalate in frequency and severity as time goes on?

This is definitely the case. Each seizure will damage a little more of the brain, lowering the seizure threshold. If your dog has had a seizure in the past, make sure you tell your vet prior to them starting any new medications. Medication is started when seizures happen more than once per month (as owners are not with their dog 24/7, we know more seizures are happening than the number witnessed). The other criteria for medication are cluster seizures (having a seizure and coming out, then having another seizure) and seizures lasting longer than 5 minutes. We have to be very aware of time during a seizure - watching a seizure for 30 seconds can seem like 10 minutes.

Calendar Highlights: September - November

September

- Saturday, September 8: Yappy Hour at the Iron Horse Tavern in Norcross - 5 to 8pm
- Sunday, September 9: Flealess Market at the Lake City Animal Clinic in Acworth - 8am to 1pm . All sales benefit SEGA!
- September 16 - 23: Greyhound Planet Week at Atlanta-area Petco's
- Wednesday, September 19: Monthly Club Meeting at Fuddruckers in Marietta - 7:30pm
- Saturday, September 22: Wine Tasting at The Wine Cellars in Smyrna - 6 to 8pm

October

- Saturday, October 6: Greyfest at SummerWind Farm in Newnan - 10am to 3pm
- Wednesday, October 17: Monthly Club Meeting at Fuddruckers in Marietta - 7:30pm
- Saturday and Sunday, October 20 - 21: The Fullerton Cup at Bear Creek Farm in Moreland - 10am to 5pm. Lure coursing at its finest!

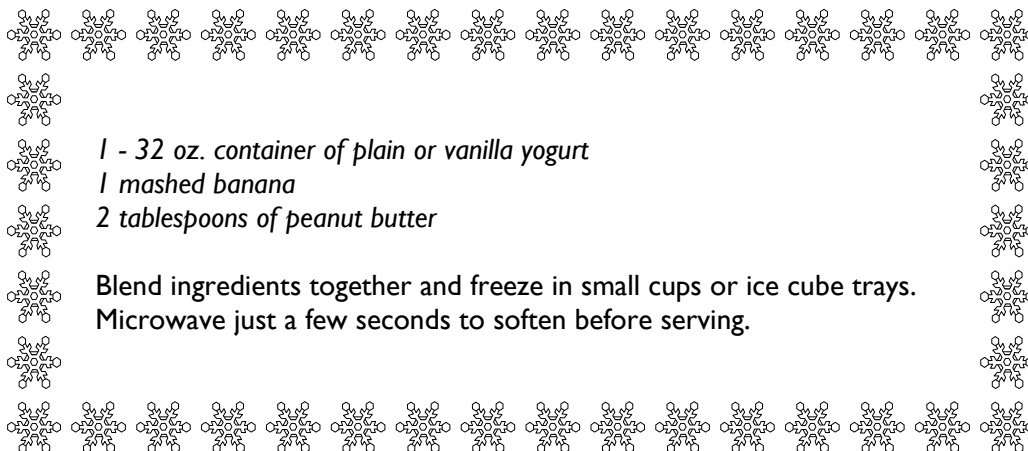
November

- Saturday, November 3: The Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens - 9am to 5pm. One of the most exciting Meet & Greets all year!
- Wednesday, November 21: Monthly Club Meeting at Fuddruckers in Marietta - 7:30pm

And don't forget the Greyhound Gala on December 1st!

Lots more to come... watch the Club's online calendar fill as more events are added for all of the activities the Club has to offer. The calendar is also regularly updated with scheduled Meet & Greets and Pet Therapy events.

WWW.GREYHOUNDADOPTION.ORG



1 - 32 oz. container of plain or vanilla yogurt
1 mashed banana
2 tablespoons of peanut butter

Blend ingredients together and freeze in small cups or ice cube trays.
Microwave just a few seconds to soften before serving.

*Frosty Paws
Frozen Treats*

Recipe courtesy of
GPAEC & Friends in
'Greyt Eats & Treats'