



THE RETIREMENT TIMES

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2007

Happy Holidays from the COGR gang!

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Special points of interest:

*Remember to mark your calendar for our 3rd Annual Reunion Picnic & Birthday Bash.

*Don't forget to volunteer to work at our upcoming reunion & auction.

*Please consider making a donation to our upcoming reunion & auction

News from our President / The Lucky Eight

After taking somewhat of a break over the summer, on October 20th COGR took in eight greyhounds from the Jefferson County Kennel Club located in Monticello, Florida. We had never taken in eight dogs at once before, normally we only had enough foster home spots open to take 2 or 3 dogs at a time. I was thrilled when I sent out a plea for foster homes and I had so many families commit to take in a foster hound. I never imagined I would receive such a greyt response from everyone!

The foster homes for eight JCKC hounds couldn't have come at a better time for the dogs. Because of a change in Florida legislation the end of June, two Florida tracks abruptly ended live racing for the season. At the Melbourne track, 325 dogs were left in the care of Greyhound Pets of America Central Florida. The remaining hounds at

that track were either moved to other tracks to race or sent back to the farm. In addition to the strain put on GPA Central Florida's group, this also created a trickledown effect at the other tracks in Florida. New hounds coming into race at the other tracks meant other less competitive hounds were graded off and needed someplace to go.

Eight hounds may not seem like such a big deal to most people, but trust me; it was a big deal to the lucky eight greyhounds that made it to that Home Depot parking lot that Saturday evening. I know it also meant the world to all the volunteers that came out that night to help those eight scared, tired, and hungry hounds start their new lives of retirement. Here are the lucky eight COGR hounds that arrived that night:

Rum River Spud – a goofy red guy that likes to “talk”.

Gumshoe Hoosier – an outgoing gorgeous red and white girl.

WWW Annie Oakley – a scared little red girl.

Mulberry Sport – an incredibly sweet brindle boy.

Pa's Zena – a cute little brindle girl.

Flying Cosmic Ray – a big sweet black and white guy.

Movin' Firebird – an adorable little brindle girl.

Momoni Deon – a stunning red brindle boy.

Thanks to all the families that stepped up to foster these guys and to all the other volunteers that came out to help bathe them and get them ready to go home. A special thanks to Jeremy and Becky who were willing to swap fosters with me when they discovered that Spud had cheated on his cat test!

Hugs to all the hounds,

Barb, Hank, Levi, Red, Olson and Elgood.

Pictures of haul can be found on page 8!

News from our friends at Melbourne

On June 30 the greyhound track at Melbourne, Florida unexpectedly announced that they were ending live greyhound racing until December 26. This left GPA Central Florida with 325 greyhounds to try to place. Dennis, Claire and their group have done a wonderful job finding homes for many of these hounds. However, Dennis believes that they will still have around 50 hounds left when the track opens for live racing once again. The group still has many shy and cat non-

friendly hounds that need a loving home. They are still in need of much help. Dennis said that their number one need at this time is money. At one point they were spending about \$600 a week for food and supplies. If you would like to help them out by making a donation, it can be mailed to: GPA Central Florida, 3525 Manassas Ave., Melbourne, Fl. 32934. Dennis added that there was a tie for their most important need and that is prayers. Dennis mentioned that this whole ex-

perience has been a "nightmare" for everyone involved, as well as a real challenge for Claire and himself. We all applaud Dennis and Claire for their dedication and hard work.



Happy Holidays!



Congratulations to Nitro

Congratulations to our own Nitro who won 1st place in the Circleville Pumpkin show on Friday, October 19. He won Best Dressed Dog (We can see why). Way to go Nitro!

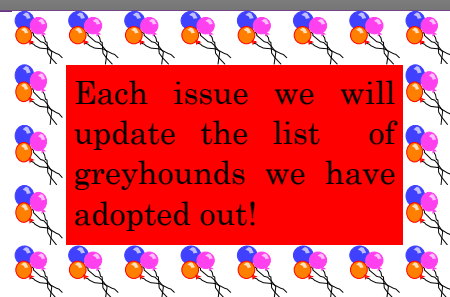


List of Greyhounds we have found loving homes for...

Abbey
Allison
Alvin
Amanda
AJ
Amelia
Amos
Andy 1
Andy 2
Arwen
Baby 1
Benny
Bing
Blair
Boone
Bounty
Buddy
Carlos
Carol
Comet
Como
Cooper
Cooter
Cruiser
Crystal
Decker
Desi
Di
Dillon
Dream

Edie
Eleanor
Elgood
Ellie
Epic
Fenway
Gabe
Gamble
George
Ginger
Gipper
Gracie
Hazel
Herman Dean
Hoss
Howard
Ice
Isabelle
Jackson
Jasper
Jenny
Jillie
Juli
Juggler
Justice
Justine
Katie
Kay
Kelsey
Krackle

Krackle
Logan
Luvie
Mara
Marie
Melody
Mikey
Mimi Bess
MoMo
Moony
Music
Myla
Nita
Nitro
Okie
Oliver 1
Oliver 2
Olson
Omni
Oscar
Pablo
Pam 1
Pam 2
Penny
Pirate
Porter
Queenie
Rainwater
Roc
Rocky



Each issue we will
update the list of
greyhounds we have
adopted out!

Rocky
Rudy
Shannon
Shaw
Shilo
Sidney
Sneakers
Sophie
Spartan
Spike
Stash
Sunny
Sydney
Trevor
Tristan
Trooper
Webster
Whiz
Will
Winnie
Wonderbread
Yankee
Zeus

CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE OSU GREYHOUND HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

- Postamputation suramin/doxorubicin in dogs with appendicular osteosarcoma (funded by Morris Animal Foundation in 2004).

The study is no longer officially enrolling patients, but we can provide the drugs free of charge if the Greyhounds are treated at OSU. We are currently evaluating the results of the use of this novel chemotherapeutic approach in dogs (14 Greyhounds and 23 non-Greyhound dogs). At this point in time, the survival times appear to be better in Greyhounds than in non-Greyhounds.

- Changes in acute phase protein concentration after routine surgery (spay/neuter) in retired racing Greyhounds vs non-Greyhounds.

Non-Greyhound dogs respond to surgical trauma by producing acute phase proteins (APPs); because Greyhounds have lower concentrations of APPs than other dogs, we are evaluating changes in serum APPs after spay/neuter in normal Greyhounds.

- Renal lesions associated with proteinuria in retired racing Greyhounds.

We are evaluating urine protein concentration, presence and severity of microalbuminuria, and microscopic (and ultramicroscopic) kidney changes in Greyhounds. Kidney biopsies are obtained in female Greyhounds during the spay.

- Effects of blood collection for transfusion on systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial blood pressure; hematocrit; and heart rate in retired racing Greyhounds.

We are determining if there are physiologic changes in Greyhounds before and after blood donation for transfusion.

- Thromboelastography (TEG) to detect fibrinolytic abnormalities in retired racing Greyhounds with postoperative bleeding.

The TEG instrument (Haemoscope, Niles, IL) provides results, which allow evaluation of different arms of the hemostatic system. We are using the TEG to determine if "Greyhound bleeders" have one or more presurgical abnormalities that may be used to predict the development and severity of perioperative bleeding. TEG will allow us to evaluate cell/protein interaction and, specifically, the fibrinolytic system in "bleeders". Identifying a specific area will allow us to pursue that path and determine the pathogenesis of this common condition in Greyhounds.

- Artemisinin in retired racing Greyhounds with appendicular osteosarcoma.

This is part of on-going study with the oncology service investigating the use of Artemisinin, a Chinese herbal supplement used in traditional Chinese medicine. Laboratory research has shown that this drug can kill osteosarcoma cell lines in vitro. The current clinical trial will evaluate the therapeutic effects of artemisinin in tumor-bearing dogs.

- Causes and mechanisms of diarrhea in retired racing Greyhounds (funded by IAMS)

In Greyhounds acute diarrhea is a common problem but the cause or mechanism of the diarrhea has yet to be clearly understood. Recently, it was shown that racing Greyhounds with or without diarrhea have a high fecal load of *E. coli* Shiga toxins 1 and 2.4 In this study, we are investigating several possible causes from infectious to physiologic mechanisms.

- Web-based health survey in retired racing Greyhounds: comparison with results of a survey in AKC Greyhounds.

The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the type and prevalence of diseases in retired racing Greyhounds and compare them with AKC registered Greyhounds. Owners completed a comprehensive online survey. The survey focused on disease prevalence, but included questions pertaining to all organ systems, behavioral problems, and racing history.

- Genetic abnormalities in Greyhounds with osteosarcoma (collaborative work with Dr. Kenine Comstock, University of Michigan).

The OSUGHWP has already and continues to submit dozens of samples from both healthy and affected dogs for this study. Please see "Links" for more information.

- The OSU Greyhound Serum, Plasma, and Urine Repository

We have recently established a repository for Greyhound samples; we are collecting serum, plasma, DNA, and urine from both healthy and sick Greyhounds evaluated at The Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital (OSU-VTH). After the samples are processed they are stored at -80°C; these samples will be used for future studies.

Manuscripts in Preparation for Publication

The following is a list of completed studies. The results of these studies are being prepared for submission or have already been submitted to peer-reviewed veterinary journals

- Clinicopathologic features of appendicular osteosarcoma in Greyhounds.
- Hemostatic abnormalities in Greyhounds with postoperative bleeding (founded by the ACVIM foundation).
- Results of a web-based health survey in retired racing Greyhounds.
- Post amputation adjuvant low-dose suramin and doxorubicin in dogs with appendicular osteosarcoma (founded by the Morris Animal Foundation).
- Serum folate and cobalamine concentrations in retired racing Greyhounds (founded by Iams).
- Plasma and salivary cortisol concentrations in healthy retired racing Greyhounds.
- Serum immunoglobulin concentration (IgG, IgA, and IgM) in retired racing Greyhounds.
- Postamputation complications in retired racing Greyhounds.
- Circadian variation in von Willebrand factor concentration in retired racing Greyhounds.

Changes in acute phase proteins after routine surgery (ovariohysterectomy or orchiectomy) in Greyhounds and non-Greyhounds.



What does The Greyhound Health and Wellness Program Do?

- Clinical research on spontaneous diseases of Greyhounds
 - Free chemotherapy for retired racers with cancer
 - Financial assistance for medical & surgical care of Greyhounds at OSU
- & much, much more.

If you would like to donate to the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program you can do so by going to www.vet.osu.edu/1872.htm.

3rd Annual Reunion & Birthday Bash



We will be having our **3rd Annual Reunion & Birthday Bash** on **May 3, 2008** at the **BRAG Facility** in Columbus. This will be a very special event because we will be celebrating our 5th Birthday. Check-In will begin at 10:30 a.m. & the event will end at 5:00 p.m. We have two very special speakers: Lee Livingood & Cyn Mobley. Lee Livingood is a dog trainer and author of "Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies" & Cyn Mobley is author

of "The Greyhound Chronicles." There will be food, drinks, greyhound contests, lots of vendors, lots of auction items & a huge Birthday Party with cake for the humans and ice cream for the hounds. We are asking that you bring your favorite photo from one of your hounds birthday party (you can bring more than one) and we will post it on our Birthday Wall. This is our major fundraiser of the year so we hope to see everyone there.

We need your help...

In order to make our Reunion & Birthday Bash a success we need help from all of you. We need several volunteers to pull off an event like this. We are also in need of items for our silent auction & money to buy supplies (paper plates, napkins, soda, food, etc...). If you would like to volunteer to work that day or if you would like to donate an item for the auction or money for supplies please email Fr. Randy at rgie-sige@allsaintsparish.net. You may also reach him at 419-863-9555. Thanks for your support!

COGR Reunion & Birthday Bash

May 3, 2008

10:30 am Check-In

11:00 am Silent Auction Begins

11:30 am—1:00 pm Speaker: Lee Livingood

1:00 pm Lunch

1:30 pm—2:30 pm Speaker: Cyn Mobley

2:30 pm—3:30 pm Speakers: Dr. Couto's assistants

3:30 pm—4:15 pm Greyhound Contests

4:15 pm—4:45 pm Birthday Bash

4:50 pm End of Silent Auction

5:00 pm Departure

Dewey Reach The Beach

The first week of October 6 of us from COGR packed up our cars and headed off to Dewey & Rehoboth Beach, Delaware for the annual *Greyhounds Reach The Beach*. Each year greyhounds lovers converge with their hounds to these two beautiful spots for education, shopping, socializing & most importantly, fun. This year the weather was



unseasonably hot but there was a cool breeze blowing in from the ocean. We had a great time with our hounds as well as with each other. Next year let's strive to get a larger group to attend. Mark your calendars now for Columbus Day weekend (or make a whole week of it). Come experience Dewey - Don't miss out on all the fun!



You are invited to join us at the Petsmart at 6010 Sawmill Rd. on the third Saturdays of the month from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. for our Meet & Greets. This is a great opportunity for us to show our friendly, gentle & graceful greyhounds to the public in order to promote adoption.

Featured Sponsors

Cozy Coats & More

If you are looking for a great coat for your hound look no further. Cozy Coats & More makes beautiful greyhound coats made of polar fleece and lined in flannel with a matching fleece snood. Not only that but owner Mary Ann Abeska makes coats for foster dogs and donates a lot of her products to help out other groups. We thank her for her support in our efforts!



Aid 4 Greys

Aid 4 Greys is a non-profit corporation that helps Greyhound Rescue Groups everywhere. They sell top quality, yet affordable collars and toys for your hound, including the world famous "Mother Bunny" Bunnies & AnyWear Martingale Collars and Tag Collars. This is a great place to shop because every dollar of profit goes to help the hounds. Please support them!

Pictures from Latest Haul



Dental Health Awareness

By Jean MacDonald

Notes from Someone Deeply Entrenched in the Battle Against Dental Disease



You look deep into your beloved greyhound's big brown eyes and tell him how glad you are to share your life with such a noble creature. Then he smiles. His breath literally knocks you out of your chair. You are not alone.

Veterinarians agree that dental disease is a leading problem in all breeds of dogs and cats, and can steal years from our pets' lives. The bacteria that builds up in their mouths is constantly being swallowed, and can eventually cause major damage to internal organs like the liver or kidneys.

If you are following your veterinarian's recommendations, you are already brushing your pet's teeth two to three times a week with a "pet toothpaste" and expecting his teeth and gums to remain healthy. But this is not always the case.

It takes 24 hours for plaque to turn into tartar. Brushing daily is the only

solution for dogs that have shown their predisposition to dental disease. Even so, I check my dogs' teeth weekly. Generally, the yellow build-up starts at the gum line (where the gums meet the tooth.) Gently massaging the tooth with a damp cloth should rub off plaque. Tartar is harder and sticks to the tooth like a cement. It can sometimes be scraped off with a fingernail, but tiny scratches will allow more to build up faster in the future. Always rub the tooth with a damp cloth after scraping, to try to "polish" some of the scratches.

If you are fighting this battle and dental disease is still winning, there are more options. Feeding your pet a high quality food has many benefits, and one of them is that they make foods that help pets' teeth too! Iams has a high quality line of food called Eukanuba. All their food labeled Eukanuba has little "micro-toothbrushers" built in to help keep plaque from building up. Hills Science Diet and Purina have dental care diets that are larger chunks of food. When your dog bites into the food, it scrapes plaque from the tooth. This is also good if you have trouble getting your "chow hound" to take the time to chew! Your veterinarian is sure to carry rawhide treats that are soaked in enzymes. When chewed, these enzymes help the natural enzymes in your pet's mouth break down bacteria and keep more plaque from forming. One a day is like brushing your pet's teeth once a week.

On days when you don't have time to brush, there are good oral rinses that will do some of the work for you. Ask your Vet if they carry VET Oral Rinse, Hexarinse, or Nolvadent. If gum disease is already a problem, your Vet may recommend "pulse-

dosing." This means giving your pet specific antibiotics for a week every month to protect from the harmful bacteria they are swallowing.

This year a new vaccine came onto the market that targets the 4 main bacteria in your pet's mouth responsible for dental disease. It does not prevent tartar build-up, but it does help to prevent bone loss. This translates into fewer extractions when your pet does need a dental cleaning.

If your pet's teeth already have tartar built up, a professional cleaning is probably in order. If your veterinarian is recommending a teeth cleaning, ask whether they can apply OraVet or Pro V Seal afterward. This helps keep plaque from sticking to the teeth, and makes brushing quick and easy. (I personally have found I can now brush 3 times a week and have the same results I used to only see with daily brushing!) Keep in mind that OraVet and/or Pro V Seal will be applied on a regular basis at home too. It's like swabbing a soft wax onto your pet's teeth every 3 to 8 days.

Ultimately, as dog's best friend, we would rather give them a treat than hound them anyway. Have you tried giving your greyhound some pet toothpaste on your finger at the same time every day? After gradual seducing, my dogs now line up to get their teeth brushed. It really is bonding time for them and they remind me if I try to forget!!

There is a lot we can do as owners and friends to ensure that *our* best friends stay healthy. Starting with a fresh mouth, a minute a day on each pet can make all the difference. And aren't fresh kisses the best?

Good Luck!

'Tis the Season to Be Safe!

By Susan Bertram, DVM

From www.dogchannel.com

The following 15 tips will protect your pet from holiday hazards:

1. Anticipate guest arrivals and confine your dog to prevent escape out the open door, running away or in front of a car.

2. Reduce stress by maintaining your dog's regular feeding and exercise routine and setting aside a quiet room where it can escape from holiday parties. Too much excitement may cause stomach upset or trigger a preexisting illness.

3. Place mystery packages out of reach. Dogs often chew apart packages containing food that could make them sick. "Food is the No. 1 holiday hazard for dogs," said Amy Marder, VMD. "Greasy, fatty stuff we eat can cause mass havoc on an animal's intestines."

4. Tell guests to avoid giving treats from the dinner table. Poultry skin, fat, trimmings, rich gravies and buttery sauces can cause severe vomiting, bloody diarrhea and even life-threatening inflammation of the pancreas. An ounce of a 20-to-40 proof alcoholic beverage can put a small dog in a coma.

5. Stow chocolate candy, baking-chips and especially baker's chocolate out of reach. "Chocolate is the most common toxicity we treat during the holidays," Dr. Proulx said. Eating even small amounts causes vomiting and diarrhea. Large amounts can cause abnormal heart rhythms and nervous system malfunctions, even death.

6. Secure garbage in bins with dog-proof lids or behind locked doors. Dogs may chew up holiday throwaways such as meat scraps, bones, paper, foil or plastic flavored with food, and even gift wrapping and ribbon, which can absorb food flavors. Ingesting these items can result in vomiting, diarrhea or intestinal perforation or obstruction.

7. Read labels on products such as tree water preservatives and artificial snow, and buy only those labeled non-toxic.

8. Put away toys after children open them. Small plastic and rubber balls are common causes of choking and intestinal blockage in dogs. Ingested plastic or cloth toys must be removed surgically.

9. Consider a small living or cut tree that can be positioned on a tabletop, making it harder for your dog to reach decorations or knock over the tree. Secure larger trees to a wall to prevent tipping, and use a screen around the base to block access to electrical cords and gifts.

10. Avoid using edible decorations such as popcorn or gumdrop garlands, candy canes. They can cause stomach upset.

11. Fasten all decorations securely and arrange breakable ornaments toward the top of the tree. Dogs may chew them and suffer cuts in the mouth. Tinsel and angel hair can cause digestive tract obstructions. "Bubbling" lights, filled with methylene chloride, can be mildly toxic.

12. Return paper, ribbons and yarn to their storage places after gift wrapping. Bored, anxious or merely curious dogs may choke on them.

13. Place holiday plants out of reach. Poinsettia can cause mild symptoms of drooling, oral pain or vomiting. Mistletoe can cause vomiting, diarrhea, labored breathing, shock and even death from cardiovascular collapse. Vacuum often. Eating the needles of both real and artificial trees can cause intestinal blockage.

14. Display candles on high shelves, and use fireplace screens to avoid singed whiskers and painful burns.

15. Tuck cords out of reach. Bored dogs and teething pups often get electrocuted when they chew them.



How can you help out Central Ohio Greyhound Rescue?

Sponsor a Greyhound

For various reasons, a greyhound may stay in foster care for an extended period of time. Donate \$10, \$15, \$25 (or more) a month to sponsor one of the COGR foster greyhounds. Minimum sponsorship is \$10 per month (or \$120 for one year), payable by check. To become a sponsor, visit our website & fill out the *Sponsorship Form*. You may choose the greyhound you would like to sponsor or we would be happy to choose the greyhound that needs you the most. Be an angel for one of our hounds!

Volunteer

Another great way to help out COGR is by volunteering your time. We need people to help out at our Meet & Greets on the 3rd Saturdays of the Month. We also need many volunteers for our 3rd Annual Reunion Bash. Help is also needed picking up dogs on hauls & making trips to the vet. And most importantly, we are in need of loving foster homes where we can place the hounds while they await adoption. Please consider becoming a “foster parent” and help these wonderful hounds to learn the facts of home life!

DONATIONS

Cash donations are also always needed and appreciated. And at the same time, they are tax deductible. You are welcome to donate vet supplies, treats & dog beds as well. Your donation will aid us in our mission in finding loving homes for these loving hounds!



You can send COGR a much appreciated donation of dog food for the greyhounds in our foster care without ever leaving home! Plus...your donation of dog food will also generate a \$5 donation from Nature's Select to COGR. Just place your order online through *Nature's Select of Columbus* <http://www.naturesselectcolumbus.com> and have the donated dog food delivered to our main address (see back page of newsletter) and designate COGR as the group you would like to have receive the \$5 donation. It's easy and convenient for you and your generosity will help change the life of a retired racing greyhound.

Central Ohio Greyhound Rescue

2844 Brownlee Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43209
614-239-0943
www.centralohiogreyhound.org

COGR BOARD MEMBERS

President: Barb Fields
Vice President: Dave Denniston
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Foster Home Coordinator: Julie Dzielawa
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Board Member: Jean MacDonald
Board Member: Nancy Fenner

Welcome!

Central Ohio Greyhound Rescue was incorporated in June 2003. We are a nonprofit all volunteer 501 (c) (3) organization that relies solely on fundraising and donations to continue our work.

Our goal is to promote greyhound adoption in the Central Ohio area.

Between the track and their new homes our local greyhounds live in foster homes where "foster parents" help them learn the facts of home life and become familiar with the personality of each dog.

COGR attempts to match dog's temperaments to the lifestyles of the prospective adopters as much as possible. Our goal is to make permanent lifelong placements for our greyhounds where both the adopter and dogs are happy and to provide ongoing support to our greyhounds and adopters after the adoption.

In addition to our own Columbus foster greyhounds, COGR is also working together with Greyhounds Adopting Families out of West Virginia to assist them in placing some of their retired racers as well as [GPA Tampa Bay](#).

COGR will only place dogs in the Central Ohio area.

In Memory of those who have gone to Rainbow Bridge...

Baby 2
Camaro
Cat
Clennie
Dash
Dusty
Emmett
Gracie
Guiness



Cat

Jack
Noah
Randy
Ransom
SJ Jones
Tommy
Ty
Wardy
Zinger

All future Newsletters will be posted online so be sure to check out our website often!