

From Zero to 700 in 7 Years

BY BRENDA CURRIN

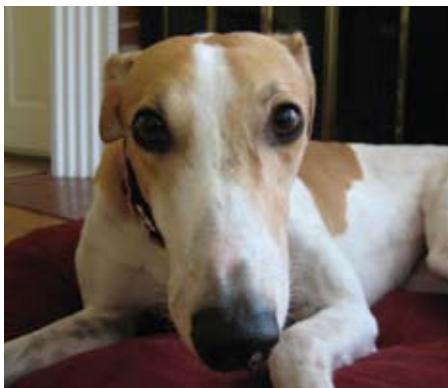
A MILESTONE PASSED QUIETLY without fanfare in early 2008. There was no balloon drop. There were no fireworks. Just one very lucky greyhound and another very happy adopter. But it was an important milestone in Greyhound Welfare's history — the 700th dog the group has taken in since it began in late 2001.

GW reached this mark in just over six years thanks to the dedication of its founder, Kopal Barnouin-Jha, and the group's team of volunteers. Greyhound Welfare may not place as many hounds as a few other rescue groups in the area, but because of its belief in fostering all of the dogs and educating new adopters, the group does its best to ensure that every placement is the right one for both the dog and the family.

Although adoptions in 2008 were down about 30 percent, likely due to the economy, GW President Meredith Dowell estimates that the group is on pace to reach the 1,000 mark by 2011.

#700 Goes Home

G's Zocor was the first hound to be taken in by GW in 2008. The two-year-old white and fawn female ran at Seabrook Greyhound Park in New Hampshire where she raced only 16 times (with one win). Somewhere along the way she injured her lip, giving her a permanent smile on her left



"Ambassadog" Maggie enjoys retirement.



Maggie is all smiles with the Ruiz family.

side. She was named Sousa by GW in January to kick off the year's musician-related foster names. Roberto and Erika Ruiz of Silver Spring, Md. started looking for a dog in early 2007 and spent nearly a year researching dogs and making sure adoption was the right move for them. Roberto's friend had a greyhound, but Erika hadn't had any experience with them. But after attending a few of the GW open houses and talking to the volunteers, Roberto and Erika realized that a greyhound would be a great fit for their family.

Once the decision to adopt a greyhound was made, they met Sousa at an open house. She was a bit of a shy hound at the time who wouldn't take a treat right from their hands. But that soon changed once Roberto and Erika officially adopted her and gave her the name Maggie. Within two weeks, Maggie was getting the hang of retirement and "it was a beautiful day when she finally took [treats] from our hand," Roberto said.

These days Maggie is a happy dog. She spends her retirement lounging in the house, going for walks everyday no matter the weather, doing zoomies in the backyard, and serving as an "ambassadog" at GW open houses at the Burtonsville Pet Barn, Bark in Olney, the Big Bad Woof and other local venues. "She has really

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learned how to enjoy her numerous toys and has them located all over the house," Roberto said. "She is a quick learner. She knows the sit, down, stay and come commands. I am currently working on playing fetch, which is coming along slowly."

Roberto and Erika now volunteer with GW and take adoptable dogs to open houses when foster parents can't make it. And they are very happy with the new member of their family. "Clearly, one of the best decisions we have made was adopting Maggie," Roberto said. "Simply put, Maggie has brought nothing but joy to us!" ■

Letter from the President

BY MEREDITH DOWELL



Meredith poses with her grey, Turbo
(photo by Balance Pet Photography)

When I was asked to write a short piece for this newsletter several weeks ago, I said, "Sure! Bring it on! Due date January 2? No problem!" At that point, I did not realize that I have not outgrown my propensity to leave things until the very last minute. So here it is, January 2, and I am just sitting down to write. I don't suppose a mere "Happy New Year" would suffice, would it? No? You are forewarned that I am being fueled by a triple venti latte. Take that as you will.

2008 was a rough year on everybody and Greyhound Welfare was no exception. We are seeing the effects of the recession — fewer adoptions, more returns, increased costs, etc. We have grieved the loss of several of our adopted hounds (and two of our foster dogs) this year; and we've had a few dogs rack up huge vet fees (I'm beginning to think that several of our local veterinary clinics should name new wings after us). We've had a lot of changes in the organization, some volunteers have moved on, others have stepped in and more changes will inevitably occur.

In 2008, in spite of the economic downturn, we managed to place about 90 dogs (several of those being senior dogs). We have brought in 68 dogs off New England and Florida tracks, which, though down from last year's number, is no small feat. Since its "official" founding, Greyhound Welfare has taken in 773 dogs. Not bad for an all foster home, all volunteer organization with no kennel.

Seven hundred seventy-three dogs is quite a lot. And though we may be sad that we couldn't place as many dogs in 2008 as we did in 2006 or 2007, we can neither stew about the horrible economy and how badly it is effecting everything nor can we rest on our 773 laurels. At writing, we have 8 dogs here in foster care still looking for their forever homes and at least 6 more slated to join us later this month. The simple fact of the matter is that greyhounds do not wait. Every day, more dogs are finishing their racing careers and need a place to call home. At Greyhound Welfare, we are fortunate to have an amazing network of volunteers, veterinarians, kennel contacts and haulers who help make that happen.

As we begin 2009, I am very thankful for the amazing people who make up the greyhound community and without whom Greyhound Welfare could not exist. I'm thankful for having a happy, healthy (and admittedly, spoiled) dog at home. And I'm thankful for you, our adopters, for opening your hearts and homes to these dogs.

Happy New Year, everybody. May 2009 be everything you hoped it would be, and more. And hey, you know you've got room for at least one more greyhound, right? ■

Greyt Bites

BY KATIE MAGOUN

Chicken Liver Brownies

Now, I know what you're thinking: "Ewww!" Trust me, this recipe is incredibly easy, and the smell is not nearly as bad as you're imagining. I promise that a few minutes of "ick" for you will guarantee pure joy and total devotion from your dog. In fact, I'm pretty sure this liver brownie recipe is directly responsible for our dog Harry's astounding success at obedience training.

Ingredients

- 1 box of corn muffin mix (look for a low sugar version, if possible)
- 1 lb of chicken livers (substitute beef, if you prefer)
- 2 whole eggs (shells included!)
- Pinch of garlic salt or powder (1/8 to 1/4 tsp for those who prefer precise measurements)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Blend all ingredients together in a blender or food processor until a smooth mixture forms. Mixture will be soupy (milkshake consistency is normal).

Pour mixture into a greased 9 x 13 inch baking pan (9 x 9 works as well). Place in the preheated oven and bake for 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven when the center is dry and the edges are nicely browned. Allow to cool and cut into bite-sized pieces. We cut half of ours into quarter-sized squares for a special treat, and the other half into smaller, dime-sized bites for training purposes.

Extra credit: Sometimes I use leftover biscuit-style dog treats to add texture to the treats. Simply crumble to near bread crumb consistency and add to the mixture once it's blended. It's a great way to use up treats that have lost their appeal or are approaching the end of their shelf life.



The Skinny on Greyhound Welfare is a quarterly publication of Greyhound Welfare.

Greyhound Welfare is a greyhound rescue and placement group serving the metropolitan Washington D.C area (Maryland, Virginia and DC) and parts of New England (Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire). Greyhound Welfare is a 100% foster home group, which means that all our greyhounds live in real homes until they are placed. This helps us teach the dogs about their new world, and learn more about the individual dogs. Knowing our dogs well helps us greatly with our placement success.

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CORNER

BY **DON SPELLMANN**
GW VICE PRESIDENT &
TRAINING TEAM COORDINATOR

Why Did You Bite Me?

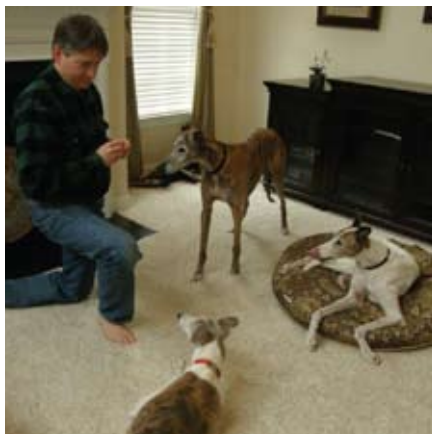
Has your greyhound ever growled at you? Bared its teeth? Snapped, lunged, or even bit you? If the answer is yes, does it mean your greyhound is aggressive, and you no longer can trust him or her? Or is it possible you did something to trigger this reaction? Most important, how do you prevent it from happening again?

Greyhounds predominantly are bred and trained to race, not to be household pets. As adults, they spend upwards of 20 hours a day in a crate at the racetrack next to other crated greyhounds. While in the crate, they are safe and secure from any disturbances. They usually only get out of the crate for turnouts in a fenced pen with other dogs, for training, or to race. They become very competitive while racing, often bumping, nipping, growling and barking at each other (hence the muzzles to protect them from injury). With rare exceptions, they spend very little time socializing with people. And, when they do interact with people, it's all about business. So, a racing greyhound's life is very regimented. They know what they are expected to do and when; they don't have the opportunity to make any decisions for themselves; and they have no belongings.

Consider what happens when we introduce this athletically trained, crate-bound, highly under-socialized, possession-free dog to a home environment. The only thing in your home that is familiar to them is the wire crate. Everything else in their new world may be brand new and require quite an adjustment for a dog that, up until this point, has gone through life with hardly any changes. All these new experiences can be quite overwhelming and make your new dog very anxious and even fearful.

Our natural tendency is to provide them with a very different environment from which they came. We don't like them being crated so much and can't wait to free them to explore their new surroundings. We buy them bones, squeaky toys, a dog bed, and their own food bowl. We'd rather they ate in the kitchen instead of the crate. We want our greyhound to snuggle up with us on

our couch and our bed. And, when they are lying quietly on the dog bed, we want to join them, petting and lying down beside them. And who could resist hugging and kissing such a sweet and docile creature?



Don with Topaz, Hampton and Journey

Call your dog to you when you want to pet or show affection.

Don't lean over or crowd your dog, and leave plenty of room for the dog to retreat.

It is possible that your new greyhound will adjust quickly to all the changes, won't mind surrendering possessions to you, and will enjoy cuddling and snuggling with you from the beginning. But, particularly if you move too quickly with the changes, it is more likely that your hound will become unsettled, anxious and fearful in your home. This unsettled state can be present even when your greyhound does not give you outward signs. For example, he may just lie there while you hug him around the neck, but the behavior may reflect his self-control rather than a lack of stress or anxiety.

Stress and anxiety in a dog often build over time, simmering just below the surface, until a confluence of events finally causes them to react in an aggressive way. The clear outward signs, such as growling, snapping, lunging, or even biting may not appear for weeks or even months. Because greyhounds are outwardly calm and stoic, signs of anxiety and stress can be hard to read with them. An aggressive re-

sponse will become much harder to anticipate if we correct our dog for growling, such as with a loud, firm "no." If your dog is growling at you, it's your warning that something's bothering him or her. By correcting a growl, you are teaching the warning out of your dog. This escalates your dog's anxiety, and increases the future likelihood of your dog responding suddenly or unexpectedly with a lunge, snap or bite.

Such a response from our dog can be so alarming that we easily draw the conclusion that the dog is aggressive. More likely, we have failed to heed his or her earlier warning signals of fear and anxiety and acted in a way that reinforced their fears. To us people, hugging and laying down next to a dog are signs of affection. But to a greyhound such actions can easily be misinterpreted as threatening.

It is possible for many greyhounds to learn to enjoy (or at least tolerate) close contact, hugging, and other signs of affections from people. But you first have to teach them that these unfamiliar encounters are not threatening and will yield positive rewards. Go slowly. Call your dog to you when you want to show affection. Don't lean over or crowd your dog, and leave room for the dog to retreat. Start with brief encounters that end in a reward your dog will not be confused about — cheese, hot dog or some other delicious food treat. At first, limit your physical contact to things you know they enjoy — like gentle scratches behind their ears and along the back of their neck. Establish clear boundaries and rules of possession. Define their spot to settle in your home with a dog bed and respect their space. Watch for signs of anxiety or stress when you approach them — turning their head away from you; backing up; yawning; or shaking. And don't take actions that will reinforce their fear — correcting their warning growls by yelling no or loudly clapping your hands; bumping, pushing or dragging them; forcing them into the crate; or striking them. Use only positive reinforcement. If the dog is on the couch, don't go over and sit next to him. First get him to move by saying "off" and tossing a high-value treat away from the couch. Voilà. You have turned what would have been a stressful and anxious moment for your dog into a fun game to play. ■

GW's Founder Built on Her Experiences to Form Rescue Group

BY BRENDA CURRIN

Valley's first few days in his forever home were confusing. He was alone for the first time. He didn't have the security of his own crate. He didn't know what to do so he spent his days and nights whining and pacing around his new owner's apartment.

Valley's owner, Kopal Barnouin-Jha, was just as confused. She didn't know anything about greyhounds. Someone on an Internet bulletin board suggested that she get a greyhound from a local track in New England near where she was attending Brown University. She worked with a local rescue group and picked up Valley, a 7 ½-year-old red male hound, directly from the track. The only instruction the track handlers gave was to never let him off lead. She didn't know that the crate was his safe place. She didn't understand why Valley didn't know how to sit. Kopal was a 23-year-old graduate student who thought greyhounds were just these weird skinny dogs. "I had this dog and I didn't know what to do with him," she says.

Valley taught Kopal a lot about both greyhounds and track life. She started getting involved with adoption groups in the area, but she says "a lot of dogs went into the wrong homes, not by anyone's fault, but because no one had enough information about the dogs." So she started taking in dogs from the local tracks one at a time, cleaning them up, getting them veterinary care, and finding them proper homes.

And So It Began

After receiving her PhD in geological sciences, Kopal moved to Maryland and began volunteering with the Montgomery County SPCA, an all-foster organization. But Kopal was still interested in greyhounds. Although there were a number of rescue groups in the Mid-Atlantic area placing greyhounds in homes, none of them at the time were fostering the dogs and acclimating them to home environments before adoption.

After her experiences in New England, she knew fostering, education and post-adoption support were vital to successful placements.

In late 2001, after pondering it for more than 10 years, Kopal founded Greyhound Welfare on the principle that "every placement should be a good one." Using foster homes would allow the new group to evaluate each dog's temperament, prey drive, and energy level. "You're not going to know everything about a dog in a short time in foster care," Kopal says. But it is still more than what an adopter would learn if they got the dog directly from the track.

Kopal spearheaded the start of GW with the help of her husband Olivier Barnouin-Jha, Julie Sanders, and Terry Halleck, a greyhound owner Kopal befriended at the Montgomery County SPCA. Terry's house was the main foster home in the beginning, and although Terry and her family have moved to California, they continue to support GW through donations, Kopal says.

Kopal points out that many people have helped make the organization what it is today. She says she is most proud of "the number of people who share the vision that I had and who show me that my way of thinking was at least partially right." Now GW has a team of volunteers who help with fostering, adoptions, fundraising, and support for adopters. "I just wouldn't be able to sleep at night" if we didn't provide this support system, she explains.



Kopal's third greyhound, Maggie.

Kopal's goal from the beginning was to organize GW so that it could run itself within five years. She stepped down as president in 2007 in order to spend more time with her two children, but that didn't end her relationship with the group, its volunteers and now hundreds of adopters. She helps out where she can by dogsitting hounds while their owners are out of town, and offering advice on the *GWAdopters* and *GWVols* listservs about everything from behavior and health issues, to tips on how to get blood out of carpeting. She also has pledged to support GW financially through the home improvement company she helps run, Cleveland Park Remodeling (www.clevelandparkremodeling.com). Kopal says that the company donates a portion of the proceeds of any jobs done for GW adopters and volunteers.

A Happy Ending

Kopal's second greyhound further emphasized the importance of fostering and being educated about these dogs before adoption. Cyrano came to her directly from the track and was in bad shape. He'd been kept in a wooden crate filled with newspaper. Not only was he so dirty that she thought this dark brindle male was a black greyhound, he had no fur on his back (from rubbing on the top of the box), opens sores all over his body and no pads on his feet. Even she admits that she doesn't know what possessed her to adopt this dog who would run at her fence over and over whenever he was out in the yard. Thankfully she was knowledgeable enough to work with Cyrano, who in the wrong home wouldn't have had such a happy ending.

"One can, and should, do better by these dogs," Kopal says. "For me, it is always about the dog." ■



Kopal, Greyhound Welfare's founder, stepped down as president in 2007 in order to spend more time with her two children, Mira and Niko, but that didn't end her relationship with the group.

Personalize a Pet First Aid Kit to Meet Your Grey's Needs

BY TINA CARLSEN

As a new year begins, many people think about steps they can take to make the coming year even better. Becoming more organized is one area in life that many people want to improve.

An organization project that will pay off for greyhound owners sooner or later is creating a personalized pet first aid kit.

Putting together a pet first aid kit takes some time, but when an emergency happens, having one place to go for everything helps lessen the stress of the situation and can help make your pet more comfortable or even save your pet's life.

Entire pet first aid kits can be purchased, however pet owners should not assume they include all necessary items. A list of American Red Cross recommended items accompanies this article.

Most items can be purchased by visiting a couple of stores. Starting your search at a large pet supply store and a large department store can save shopping time. Other items such as printed photos of your pet and a list of veterinary phone numbers can be accomplished on a home computer. When creating your list of vet phone numbers, be sure to include numbers of places you're likely to visit with your pet. If you're hiking with your grey in Great Falls, your list won't do you any good during an emergency if you only have phone numbers for vets near your home in Baltimore.

Some people may choose to create a small kit for their car, with larger kits at home. Think about



Keeping your First Aid Kit in a small backpack makes it easy to grab and go.

your lifestyle before you begin. If you go on hikes or visit dog parks, the kit should be easy to grab and go. In that case, a small backpack may be best. Other ideas include using a small toolbox or other box or bag.

Completing the kit isn't the end of this organization project. Using it and keeping it stocked and current are equally important. Some items, such as hydrogen peroxide and first aid cream have expiration dates. You may also have a grey with special needs. Be sure to ask your veterinarian for other recommended items for your personalized kit.

For more information about pet first aid and CPR, check with your local American Red Cross office for classes near you. ■



Having photos of your dog, such as this one of Whitney Markham and Nir Shalitel's Ozo, is important if your dog should get lost during an emergency.

Pet First Aid Kit Contents

- Gauze sponges (a variety of sizes)
- Roll gauze, 2-inch width
- Roll bandages (the type that stretches and clings)
- Adhesive tape
- Sterile pads (non-adherent)
- Latex gloves
- Small scissors
- Materials to make a splint (sticks, newspaper, etc)
- Nylon leash
- Muzzle
- Compact thermal blanket
- Pediatric rectal thermometer
- Water-based sterile lubricant
- 3% hydrogen peroxide (watch expiration date)
- Rubbing alcohol
- Epsom salts
- Baby dose syringe or eye dropper
- Sterile eye lubricant
- Styptic powder
- Needle-nose pliers
- Penlight
- Clean cloth
- Pocket first aid book
- Current pet photo
- List of emergency vet clinics to include 24-hour centers
- National Animal Poison Control Center number (1-800-548-2423)

Bailey lives out her last years with peace and love with GW foster family

BY KATIE MAGOUN



Bailey's story has much to teach us about love and selflessness.

At eight years old, a new chapter of Bailey's life began. Bailey embarked on this new phase of her life in October, but to really understand her story, it's necessary to go back to 2004, when she first entered retirement. You see, Bailey (then known as Tanya by GW) was placed in a forever home in Germantown, Maryland. As is typical among the GW volunteers, there was much rejoicing as another deserving hound found a comfy couch.

Bailey's story might have concluded "happily ever after" from then on, but sadly, it was only the beginning. Her owner was no longer able to care for her and she was given away to a friend (unbeknownst to GW), and a few misadventures later, she ended up on the doorstep of a volunteer for GPA Maryland in Baltimore. The volunteer called to ask if Bailey was originally placed by GW, and her ear tattoos confirmed it. It seems she was found wandering, lost, north of Baltimore. And there was more bad news. Bailey has cancer.

After some sleuthing, the volunteers at GW managed to locate Bailey's owner, who admitted that he could no longer care for the sick dog. So, four years after her original placement, and with much effort from the volunteer team, Bailey became a GW foster once again. This time is different. Given that she is terminally ill, Bailey cannot be adopted out to a new family.

So begins the last chapter of Bailey's life, and by all accounts, it is a completely happy time. She has been given a second chance at a warm house, a comfy bed and a family to love her; and love her they do. Her foster mom, Denise Temporado, adores her, calling her a "dream of a dog," and "an absolute joy to have around." She does laps around her new yard, barking at the goofy antics of Denise's two other greys, Daisy and Buddy, and the other foster pups. She's discovered the joy of pouncing on stuffies, and the quiet peace to be found lounging on the oversized dog bed. When faced with the inevitable, her foster mom explains that "as long as she is comfortable and enjoying life, she is being loved and spoiled at our home."

Bailey hasn't been the only one to benefit from this arrangement. Denise's mother, Sheila, lives next door to her. Sheila recently had a stroke and

Nickname: Bailey

GW Name: Tanya

Racing Name: Tellaba

Sex: Female

Whelped: April 2000

Color: Brindle

Likes:

comfy dog beds, sunny outdoor play-time, pouncing on stuffies, barking at goofy foster dogs

Dislikes:

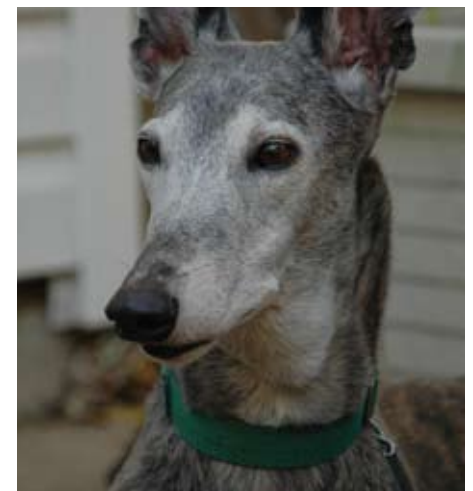
the dark, loud noises, rain

Favorite spot:

foster mom's oversized dog bed

often says that caring for the dogs is what keeps her going. She goes to Denise's home several times a day to let the dogs out or to spend time being entertained by them. Denise said that Bailey holds a special place in her mom's heart. "She places her hand on the tumor every day and says a prayer for her," she says.

Bailey's story, and that of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to help her, has much to teach us about love and selflessness. After almost nine years, Bailey is finally home. ■



After almost nine years, Bailey is finally home.

January 2009 Photo Contest Winners: Holiday Photos

Thanks to everyone who emailed or posted photos as part of our first photo contest. For all of the Greyt Holiday Photo contest entries, visit Yahoo! Groups GW Adopter site. Look in the photos folder, *Newsletter January 2009*. Get out those cameras and watch your email for announcements about upcoming photo contests!



First Place Winner: Clara-belle (black & white), Liberty (fawn), Dreamie (brindle) and Johnny the Yorkie (photo courtesy of Marge and Tom Rosso)



Runner Up: Mimosa
(photo courtesy of Dave and Stacy Schloer)



Runner Up: Kili
(photo courtesy of Jessica and Eric O'Brien)



Second Place Winner: Chloe the cat with Harlow
(photo courtesy of Audrey Guillemot and Christian Donnelly)



Runner Up: Chase and Cookie
(photo courtesy of Liza Cioccarri)

January 2009 Photo Contest Outtakes

