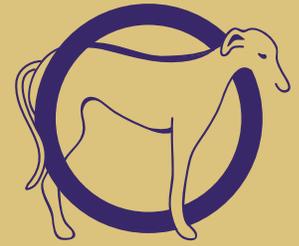


THE Skinny

on Greyhound Welfare



SPRING 2012

In the Press: Miss Zoe

BY KATRINA McRAINEY

Meet Zoe, the reigning queen of Greyhound Welfare. The object of envy from many others, she is a highly sophisticated lady. As an ex-racer, she exhibits great poise and class, but she doesn't sweat her image. Recently, she lost her former agent and our sources tell us she's looking for a new one. She knows how great she is, and will be an amazing catch for anyone that presents a good match. We caught up with the leading star on a walk to ask her a few questions:

Everyone loves your look! How would you describe your style?

I'm all about natural beauty and pristine accessories. No one should leave the house without a gorgeous collar and lead — extra long, too, so others can see my perfect gait and association with my agent. I never go far or pull on the leash. Such a distasteful habit others seem to have. I like to have my pink muzzle with me on walks, too, so if fans start asking for my autograph, I can safely ignore them. Pink is an absolute must for me, as it shows off my beautiful brindle coat.

You talk a lot about your agent. How would you describe your desired relationship with your new agent?

I have always had one or two agents at a time that I love, but between you and me, I always end up with a favorite. I can't help it. In any case, I prefer an intimate relationship with my agents so I can get ear scratches at a moment's notice, and I love having a lap to lean my tired chin on after a day full of play. Cuddles are an absolute must. I need someone I can be myself with and doesn't try to make me into something I'm not, you know? With all the going's on outside, I much prefer a more laid back environment once I'm home to enjoy the day's end. Who wouldn't? Some agents are so active and crazy busy around the house, it's exhausting to try and keep up with. I'm in retirement; I was happy to leave the fast life of racing and really appreciate consistency in my day to day life. No agent is effective without a good schedule.

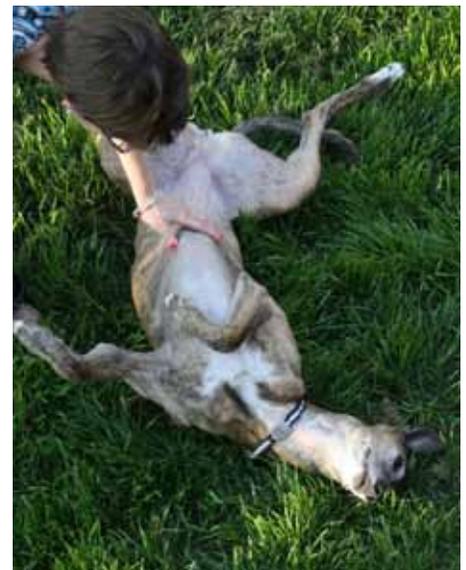
I also need someone that is willing to field the fans' questions and requests for pictures with them. I don't like being approached by others I don't know, especially when they're coming right at me, so I need an agent that is really good at keeping my walks collected and classy without any interruptions.

My popularity is such that anyone trying to share in my spotlight is unwelcome. I've worked long and hard for my fame; any good agent should

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Zoe enjoys tummy scratches from her agent.



Grapehound Wine Tour®, 2012!

The Grapehound Wine Tour®, Virginia is set

for May 11-13 this year and has lots to offer in the flowering hills of springtime Virginia! Claudia Presto of the Greyhound Gang (Kanab, Utah) will speak on several greyhound topics such as *When I am Older*, or *Why Does my Greyhound Do That?* during the weekend and will be available throughout the weekend to chat with folks about their hounds. Our 120 foot long vendor tent allows you to shop in "indoor" comfort at top name greyhound vendors like Houndstown, Long Dog Leather,

Midwest Greyhound Adoption, Sheena's Greyt Bedazzlies, Greytwear, Linda Evans Greyhound Artist, Classy Canine and many more.

And of course there's a welcome party and wine tasting all weekend! Hotel rooms cost as little as \$75 a night with no pet fees. Or just come out for the day on Saturday! Best of all, a portion of the proceeds goes to Greyhound Welfare. We even have a new Grapehounds ladies-cut T-shirt! Hope to see you there!

2011 By the Numbers

BY ELIZA SELAN

Where has the time gone? Another year behind us, and it's already April. Time sure does fly when you are having fun and working with these wonderful dogs.

In 2011, we maintained a similar pace for greyhound intake and placement compared to the previous 3 years. The steady, but more modest placements over the last 4 years, compared to the earlier the boom years, parallel the ups and downs of the national economy.

57

NEW RETIREES

brought in from the track

70

TOTAL PLACEMENTS

(which included finding homes for all the dogs remaining from 2010)

15

RETURNS

(most from earlier years, including a number of seniors)

13

NEW HOMES

found for returns

2

REMAINING 2011 "MODELS" STILL AVAILABLE

(one girl and one boy)

So hurry off to www.greyhoundwelfare.org to put in your application before it's too late.

The board thanks all of you for Greyhound Welfare's continued success and for enriching the lives of so many grateful hounds--our committed adopters for opening your homes to these special hounds, and our dedicated volunteers, for all your hard work and myriad tasks completed behind the scenes. Without your love and dedication to these hounds none of this would have been possible. Please take a moment to pat yourselves on your back (and treat your hounds) in recognition of another banner year.

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

Greyhound Welfare is a greyhound rescue and placement group serving the metropolitan Washington D.C area (Maryland, Virginia and DC). 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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Katrina McRainey, MANAGING EDITOR

Paige Davis, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Additional contributions by
GW adopters and friends.

To submit story and photo ideas, please send an email to newsletter@greyhoundwelfare.org

Zoe, continued from page 1

understand the demands of famous life.

Would you consider your agents your best friends?

Absolutely, and that's what I'd like in my new domain. My environment is so important, it usually takes me a while to assess the state of my new realm. Once my agents and I agree on a schedule and we get the routine down, it's easier for me to relax. My agents have always been very patient with my assessment period, and honestly, for any famous dog, it's such an important detail.

You mentioned your racing career. Do you ever miss it?

Well, I'm not sure you can call two races a career, but I definitely don't miss the dirt and chaos everywhere. The sand would always get between my toes or hide my coat and it really cramped my style. I much prefer my super fluffy bed.

What do you like to do for exercise now?

Walking is all the rage, now, so I like to do that as much as possible. It's a wonderful opportunity to show off, if I do say so myself. I like walking in all sorts of environments to expand my fan base, too.

As I'm sure you can see, I've been blessed with quite an agile spirit. I like to hop, play and train to keep myself fit and entertained. My agents keep me in training to keep my brain razor sharp, and if biscuits are involved, oh honey, I can do just about anything! I love learning new things and I'll tell anyone all about it. I love to chat with my agents; there are always so many interesting things to discuss, especially when I'm excited. Beyond race tracks, I tend to avoid the dog parks. There can be such ungracious visitors that I just don't care for it.

So we know what you're good at and what you like to do... what's your guilty pleasure?

Stuffys. I've never met a stuffy I didn't like or couldn't conquer. I have a great collection of them as I tend to go through quite a few of them. I like to have one with me a lot, and will even take one along on a walk if my agent will let me.

Any tips for the rep hopefuls out there?

Of course! As I'm sure most would agree, everyone has their boundaries and preferences, and as long as you know mine, we will get along swimmingly. Biscuits, stuffys and affection are



Zoe's guilty pleasure — a good stuffy.

the way to my heart. Just like any new relationship, I will be reserved until I know you through and through; which is really a must when you think about it. How else will you know what to do in celebrity-driven crowds or know how to hold the leash so I look my best? Oh, and don't forget those ear massages... every sophisticated lady must have her ear massages! ■

Best Dremel Tools for Your Dog's Nails

We've gotten a couple requests for a dremel tool recommendation for your dog's nails. There are many choices out there on the market and it can be confusing to decide which to use. Features include corded, cordless, multi-speed, pet guards, large, small, I'm dizzy already. Here are some basic considerations to keep in mind:

1. Cordless models are very convenient, as you don't have to wrestle with a cord as you're also potentially wrestling with your pup.
2. Noise may be a concern — a particularly loud model will be more upsetting to your grey, especially if yours is a bit skittish.
3. The faster the dremel spins, the quicker it will grind your dog's nails, so if you're not used to using one, attend one of our trim-

ming clinics to see how it's done.

A couple recommendations for you to consider (see images, right):

Dremel 750-02 Minimite 4.8-Volt Two-Speed Cordless Rotary Tool

Oster Nail Grinder Kit

Both are available at Amazon and both have replaceable parts easily available. Remember, consider your dog's trimming tendencies to help you determine which features will help you best.



The Oster Nail Grinder



The Dremel 750-02 Minimite 4.8-Volt Two-Speed Cordless Rotary Tool

Living with Seizures; the Story of Marley

BY CONNIE BROWN

Since there have been a few emails regarding seizures on our list serve, we thought it would be helpful to have an article on seizures. The following is a recount of my own personal experience with greyhounds and seizures and the prevailing medical advice on seizures. Seizures are extremely frightening to witness, and can be life threatening for your dog.

I adopted Marley in November 21, 2005. Marley just turned 9 years old on April 1, 2012. Marley has never had any medical issues. He's never even needed a dental!

Marley's first seizure happened on October 21, 2011 at 4:20 a.m. Marley was sleeping with

me when he suddenly jumped up and headed towards the top of the bed, stumbling and staggering until he fell off the bed and landed on the floor. His legs were rigid and thrashing; eyes glazed, he was drooling, and I kept yelling at him to please stop. I was so scared. I later learned you need to be calm for the dog's sake. The seizure seemed like it lasted forever, but was only between 1-2 minutes. When Marley finally came around, he was very disoriented and unsteady on his feet. I finally got him downstairs, but he just couldn't settle; he paced and paced for about an hour before finally settling down.

When I called the emergency clinic, they said if the seizure did not last longer than 5 minutes and/or he does not have another seizure within the next couple of hours, that I could wait until his vet office opened. Thankfully, Marley did not have another seizure and I was able to have him

seen that day by his vet. Due to his fall and the minor injuries he suffered, it took Marley almost 2 full days to recover. Marley's initial blood work came back negative for anything attributable to a seizure, but his antibody test for tick borne disease was positive for Rocky Mountain Fever and Ehrlichiosis with a very low titer. He was treated with a 30 day supply of Doxycycline.

On December 18, 2011, almost 2 months to the date of his first seizure, Marley had his second seizure at 6:40 a.m. As before, Marley was sleeping with me but this time he jumped off the end of the bed and ran straight for the stairs. Luckily, Marley went into the seizure prior to reaching the steps. This seizure also lasted between 1-2 minutes, but this time I was able to remain calm. It was another hour before Marley was able to finally settle down.

I crate Marley while at work. After witnessing his first seizure, I was afraid to put him back into his wire crate for fear he would break his legs, so I set up his soft-sided crate used for travel until I could find something safer. I found a round soft-sided crate online called a playpen.

On January 30, 2012, Marley had his third seizure at 4:30 a.m. This time he was in his playpen downstairs. I didn't hear it, although Otis, my other greyhound, alerted me that something was wrong by barking. I did not actually witness Marley's seizure, however, the after-effects were the same. 15 hours later at 7:30 p.m., Marley had his fourth seizure. Marley was in his playpen with the door open. Marley fortunately bounced off the side of the playpen, knocking it onto its side (not collapsing) keeping him safe from injury. With Marley's first couple seizures, he would jump up and run when it started. The main reason I purchased the playpen was to provide Marley with a crate that had a soft side for him to bounce off as opposed to possibly hitting a wall or falling down the stairs. I cannot say enough about this playpen; it kept Marley safe twice.

I was able to get Marley seen by a neurologist the following day. While there is a long list of



Marley napping quietly (photo courtesy of Connie Brown)

Marley, continued on page 5

Marley, continued from page 4

reasons dogs have seizures, the neurologist narrowed it down after examination. Marley passed all the neurological tests; his blood work was "fantastic" but the antibody test again revealed he was positive for Rocky Mountain Fever and Ehrlichiosis with a low titer count, so an additional test was needed. Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis can cause seizures, so an additional tick panel was run at the North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine (<http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/vhc/csds/ticklab.html>). Marley was negative.

At Marley's age, a brain tumor was one of the most likely causes of seizures. I had so many questions for the neurologist, but without Marley having an MRI, a lot of my questions could not be answered. What would I do if he had a brain tumor? I opted to have the MRI done and am happy to report Marley did not have a brain tumor.

Finding the exact cause of why a dog is having seizures requires a lot of testing, some invasive, and can be very expensive. I will probably never know why Marley is having seizures (because current medical science does not know what causes epilepsy) although having the MRI and full tick panel eliminated a lot of culprits. Marley is currently on medication and doing extremely well. Did I ever think I would be writing an article about seizures? Never. Marley and I wanted to share what we learned about seizures, though, and what our experience has been.

Connie Brown, volunteer with Greyhound Welfare and a first time greyhound adopter of Marley then Nikki, Leo, Pepsi, Otis and LC. Nikki, Leo and Pepsi are at the rainbow bridge. ■

THE ANATOMY OF A SEIZURE, by Julie N. Sanders

The following is a brief and basic overview of seizures in general. Our hope is to prepare you so that you can perhaps maintain a sense of calm to help your own dog through this process, should you ever have a greyhound with seizures.

There are many causes of seizures, and medically the causes of seizures are classified into 3 broad categories: intra-cranial disease, extra-cranial disease, and idiopathic epilepsy. Intra-cranial disease includes causes within the skull such as brain tumors, a malformation of the brain or skull present at birth, bleeding in the brain (as a result of trauma or a toxin) or skull, inflammatory or infectious diseases affecting the brain, and/or vascular disease, among many others. Extra-cranial diseases are results of systemic illnesses or metabolic disturbances such as toxins, hypoglycemia (low glucose), liver disease, kidney failure, electrolytes disturbances, etc. If there is no identifiable cause for seizures, this is called idiopathic epilepsy. Idiopathic epilepsy is a diagnosis of exclusion, which means all the other possible causes have been ruled out.

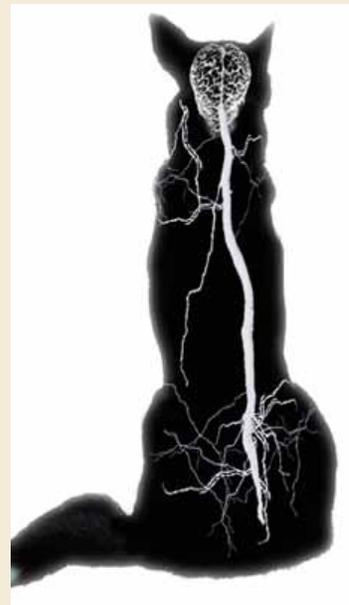
Although greyhounds are not among the more than 15 breeds with a known or strongly suspected genetic predisposition for idiopathic epilepsy, this condition has been observed sporadically in all breeds of dogs, mixed breeds, and cats. First time seizures from idiopathic epilepsy usually occur between 2 and 5 years of age. As with any condition, there are rare individuals that have a younger or older age of onset. Most often, however, seizures in younger or older animals have an underlying cause such as porto-systemic shunts (bypass of the liver by the circulatory system) or hypoglycemia in young dogs or brain tumors in older dogs. The prognosis and expected lifespan for a

dog with seizures will depend on the cause. In dogs with idiopathic epilepsy, younger age of onset correlates with greater difficulty in controlling seizures.

If your dog has a first-time seizure, you should seek veterinary attention. As the emergency hospital informed Connie, if the seizure is short and your dog recovers within an hour, you can wait until morning. Many other events often resemble or are confused with seizures such as syncope (fainting), convulsions, and

reverse sneezing. Some of these conditions that are confused with seizures (such as syncope) can be emergencies. When in doubt, seek veterinary attention. An examination by and conversation with your veterinarian will help determine if your dog is truly having seizures. After a first-time seizure, running a complete blood count and chemistry panel (blood work) to look for changes that suggest metabolic disease, intoxication/poisoning, or infection is generally recommended. If the initial blood work is normal and

the seizure was short and stopped on its own, it is often acceptable to prescribe at-home observation for further seizures. Seizures that are the result of an underlying cause will continue periodically unless the underlying cause is found and corrected/addressed. Additional diagnostics may depend on how often, how severe, and when seizures occur (at a certain time of day, after meals, during periods of excitement, or other trends). In most cases, it



Seizures, continued on page 6

is also recommended to perform readily available, non-invasive (and affordable) diagnostics such as advanced blood work (bile acids, tick PCR panels or tick titers, etc.), and abdominal/thoracic x-rays. Although an MRI is required to make a diagnosis of idiopathic epilepsy, many dogs are treated and managed presumptively without this diagnostic step, especially if they fall within the 2-5 year age range and all other diagnostics have been negative.

While monitoring your pet at home, it is important to follow your veterinarian's advice that will generally include keeping a written seizure journal. Write down the date, time, duration, time it took to return of normal alertness and ability to walk, and describe what the seizure looked like (paddling, panting, eye movements, vocalization, and loss of bladder or bowels). It may also be helpful to note anything that immediately preceded the seizure. Many astute owners have noticed subtle changes in their dog's behavior that predict onset of seizures. Identifying an event that precedes seizures can help with determining the cause and/or getting your pet to an area where they will not injure themselves during the seizure.

If your dog is actively seizing, remain calm. For your own safety, please do not try to intervene or restrain your dog during the seizure. Your dog is not at risk for swallowing their tongue, and although seizures may look violent, the paddling and/or convulsions will not harm your pet unless these motions cause your pet to crash into or fall off furniture or down stairs. If your pet is on or near furniture or stairs, you can use a pillow or other padded object to create a barrier to prevent your dog from getting injured. Since loss of consciousness is a hallmark of seizures, as violent as this activity may appear, your dog is not aware of what is going on and will not remember the seizure itself.

While most seizures are short and self-limiting, they can become life-threatening emergencies. The following are emergencies that require immediate veterinary treatment: more than 1 seizure in any 24 hour period, seizure

activity that lasts more than 5 minutes, or failure to return to normal within 60 minutes after the seizure.

Every case is unique, and must be considered individually, but starting an anti-convulsant medication is recommended if your pet is having more than one seizure every two months, cluster seizures (more than one seizure in any 24 hour period), or an episode of status epilepticus (multiple seizures without ever returning to normal mentation). Many veterinary practitioners and neurologists also consider seizures creating distress for the owner as a legitimate reason to start therapy. If the frequency or nature of your pet's seizures are distressing to you, but your vet will not start anticonvulsant therapy, a second opinion or referral to a board certified veterinary neurologist may be helpful.

There are many anti-convulsant therapies and there are many factors that guide anti-convulsant choice. Some of the most commonly used anti-convulsants include: phenobarbital, potassium bromide, Levetiracetam (Keppra), and zonisamide. Many anti-convulsant therapies require periodic blood work to make sure the drug is remaining at a therapeutic level and not causing damage to the liver. At this time there is no scientific evidence that supports use of herbal supplements, special diets, or other home remedies as effective therapies for reducing or controlling seizures. Although most people think of "alternative" therapies as benign, they do have the potential to cause serious adverse effects. Do not start any "natural", "holistic," herbal, diet change, or other "alternative" without consulting your veterinarian. There is some literature to suggest acupuncture can decrease frequency of epileptic seizures in humans. Although we don't know if this translates to canine medicine, when done by a properly credentialed veterinarian, acupuncture will not hurt your pet. If you are inclined towards alternative medicine, this may be an option worth considering. If you are interested in trying acupuncture, discuss your desire with your vet. Most veterinarians will be able to refer you to a credible/credentialed veterinary acupuncturist (look

for certification by the Chi Institute or IVAS). Keep in mind, while acupuncture may help with epilepsy, it is not a treatment for seizures caused by other underlying diseases (such as brain tumors).

Should you choose to do some independent research, please keep a few things in mind. Internet research can be helpful, but anyone can put up their own website, and quite a bit of information on the internet is unreliable. Be sure to consider your source when weighing any information you find. If you feel you have discovered something useful or important, always discuss this with your vet before making any changes to your pet's treatment plan. Keep in mind your vet may need to schedule an appointment so that you can discuss this fully, or may need to schedule a time to call you back for an in-depth discussion. If you are not comfortable discussing your dog's treatment with your vet, consider finding a vet with whom you do feel comfortable having in-depth discussions about your pet's treatment.

The North Carolina State University is also conducting two surveys to help in the research of seizures. If you are interested in helping with the research by participating in the surveys, more information is available online: <http://cvm.ncsu.edu/epilepsyresearch/index.html>

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Julie N. Sanders, DVM is an Emergency Veterinarian who has coached many dog lovers through first-time and repeat seizure events of many causes. She is a former Volunteer with Greyhound Welfare and lives in NJ with her husband Cory and two adopted dogs, Raven and Tahlula (a greyhound mix).

TRAINING CORNER: **Welcome Home! Now What?**

BY DON SPELLMANN

Bringing home your newly found special friend and companion is the beginning of a new adventure for both of you. These major life changes present significant challenges, too, and require substantial adjustments by both of you. The same goes for moving your established hound to a new home and neighborhood.

Change is especially unfamiliar and overwhelming to greyhounds. Prior to being loaded on the big hauler for retirement living in homes across the country, their world was highly regimented. It was constant. It was small. Their time, particularly upon induction into the racing world, predominantly was spent at the same track kennel in their assigned and enclosed bunk. With clockwork precision, they had regularly timed breaks to the same fenced turnout area. Yes, they would train and race (and sometimes even travel for such). But those diversions were short, no less constant, highly regulated, and familiar. They interacted with very few people—predominantly the kennel staff and the trainer. It was all business.

Our hounds may as well have been beamed to a new planet; arriving first in their foster home, then (more sudden change) your adoptive home.

Try putting yourself in their paws, and you start to get the idea. Such an uprooting is a truly overwhelming experience for anyone and especially for the pups. Fortunately, there is a time tested and proven solution for both of you - the transition. A slow, steady transition.

Skip it at everyone's peril—you, your hound, your carpet, your favorite sweater, your chair molding, your neighbors, your sanity. Or rush the transition, and you most surely will find you and your hound thrust back to square one, with even more issues than before, the hill steeper than ever. An ounce of prevention truly is worth tons of elusive cures.

While you missed your hound's formative childhood years, adult adoption provides a fresh start to shape and mold the canine good citizen you always wanted. Your hound will be much happier when the rules and expectations are clear, and when those expectations are provided by a kind and benevolent leader (yes, that's you). Your best window to get him on the right path is within the first few weeks and months you spend with him, when he is trying to figure out the new surroundings and the new rules and routines.

Start with the Familiar

The crate. It is about the only thing in your home that bridges the divide between the former life

with the new life. The crate is familiar, it is safe, and it is secure. It keeps your hound in. And even better it keeps out the feline, the Husky, and the crawling baby. The only winner with putting the crate away early is that lonely, neglected corner of your closet or garage. You surely have better things to be storing there, or could impress your neighbors with your excess capacity. Yes, some sounds (not all pleasant) may emanate from your hound in the crate. But think back to the new puppy or kitten or baby when first arriving in your home. The sounds are just part of the adjustment to, and anxiety with, change. It will resolve with time, patience, and rewarding the quiet behavior you want (and ignoring the behavior you don't want).

Limit Their Territory

Your home, no matter how small it might seem to you, is vast in size and novelty from your hound's perspective. They lack experience with roaming freely, even in a confined space. They simply don't know what to do with themselves. Giving them too many rooms to explore too soon can be overwhelming and anxious for them. And they may well decide those strange and distant rooms are just the place to eliminate. So close off those extra rooms, and use baby gates to cordon off areas where you really don't want them (like the kitchen or the stairs).

Direct Their Movements

When your hound is out of the crate, don't leave her to her own devices. Establish the spot in your home where you want the dog to settle when out. Lead her to the spot, like a dog bed in the family room, ask for a down, praise her, and give her a treat. If she doesn't settle right away or hasn't learned down, just wait her out. Sit on the couch, pay no attention (petting will foil your plan), and use the leash to keep her from wandering. Once she goes down, deliver the jackpot. Then continue to reinforce this designation, each time you lead her out of the crate (or bring her in from a walk, as the case may be). And when your dog is ready to explore more of your home, don't let her do it on her own. Use the leash or a tether



A positive transition in action.

Training, continued on page 8

Training, continued from page 7

to direct her where you'd like her to go, and to limit her wandering perimeter.

Work for Attention

Does your hound follow you around the house, nudging or leaning into you, or even jumping up and barking, to get your attention? Or is she actually going into a sit without request? He is completely irresistible at that moment. But don't fall for it. Providing attention on demand will only lead to more demands by your hound, as well as increased anxiety, particularly when you are not home. You don't have to ignore your hound. Your attention, though, only should be delivered on your terms, in exchange for what you want, when you want it. Want to pet your hound? Ask for a sit or down first, at the time and place you choose.

It's All Yours

Your hound came to you with virtually nothing but the fur on his back. He's never owned anything, or got to keep anything. You can give him free access to everything, right from the start—your leather couch, your king size bed with plush pillows, your banquet table. Or the house rule can be no people furniture at all (at least for the first several months). The former you should expect to produce a possessive and territorial hound, protectively shielding your prized comforts from you with a moat filled with growls and teeth. The latter will establish a peaceable kingdom from the beginning, where everything remains in your control and shared (if you choose) only on your terms.

Play Together

Toys are for sharing, and games are best played together. Don't just leave your hound sitting alone in a pile of squeaky toys. Make the time interactive, challenging, and fun for both of you. Nothing draws the attention of your hound more than seeing you play excitedly with a toy. The price to get your premium toy is surrendering the toy she has, or doing a down, or simply waiting politely.

Respect Their Space

Your hound's zone at the track kennel was exclusive, safe and free of physical intrusions. So

expect her to misinterpret movements that may seem to you like natural signs of caring, attention and affection to your new addition. These may include approaching her while she's sitting on her bed; leaning over her to kiss her on the top of her head; reaching into the back of the crate to retrieve the empty Kong; or bending over to pet her while she's asleep at your feet. Your most innocent and well-intentioned acts are likely very foreign to your track-raised hound, and may be seen by her as startling, threatening, and perilous. Don't be at all surprised if your invasive actions earn you something very different than a kiss back on the lips—a growl, a snap, even a bite. So begin your new relationship slowly and patiently, with full understanding of her past life experiences. Call your hound to you first when you want to show attention and affection. Call her name and make sure she's awake before approaching. Teach her that your approach only means good things, by tossing treats at her bed as you stand or pass by at a distance, then walk away. Repeat. Over and over. Provide nothing but good associations, continually and positively reinforced by you, with a completely unambiguous payoff they understand every time—food.

Exercise, Exercise, Exercise

Develop your regular walking and exercise routine with your hound right from the start. He will always be better behaved, and more likely to settle than roam indoors, and rest peacefully in the crate, when he's burned off that energy (and anxiety) with several good walks a day. Just like breakfast being the most important meal of the day, the long morning walk is the best way to start and will set the right tone for the rest of the day. Skip or abbreviate it, and you will find extra and unplanned chores from the moment you get home from work. And while you're out on that walk, practice the same management you deploy indoors. Keep their attention focused on you instead of the abundant and overwhelming stimuli all about. Remember that nothing beats food for obtaining and keeping your dog's attention. And set the direction and pace. Yes, give them plenty of time to sniff and do their business. But keep the overall outing structured and controlled by you.

Plenty of Time to Meet the Other Kids

Got children, or other pets? Want them all to get along famously with your new hound? If you take introductions slowly, and only in the small doses that your hound (and the others) are ready for, the relationship will start on the right foot and progress on a positive course from there. You already have all the tools you need to safely and effectively manage the process—a crate, a leash, a muzzle, and closed doors. Just be sure to stir it all together with patience and total supervision. Alternatively, if your hound is free to roam and discovers right out of the gate how much fun is chasing the cat, guess what's going to happen every time thenceforth he spots the feline? Yep, we're off to the races. If you're lucky, no unexpected vet bills will ensue (whether administered by your hound or your feline), just upended furniture and marred floors. And a very inauspicious start to a lifelong cohabitation. You also know, if left to their own choices, what young children will do around a new dog. They will move suddenly and unpredictably—in direction and velocity—scream and screech, smack instead of pet, reach and lean over instead of putting out the back side of a closed fist to sniff. Both hound and child are looking for, and depend on, your direction. The boundaries and rules of engagement are your responsibility and obligation to set. And only you are equipped to get them right. A peaceable kingdom depends upon it.

This transition business all may sound incredibly elaborate and even over the top. All you bought in to was adopting a rescue and adding a furry friend. But the choice really is one of paying a little more now, up front, to get the results you want, or paying a great deal more later, with much less certain or reliable results. If you lay a proper foundation in the beginning, with a slow and steady transition, you and your hound (and your entire household) will be much happier for it. Do it for both of you.

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Greyhound Welfare's Featured Friends

Thanks to everyone who emailed us photos!

Get out those cameras and watch your email for announcements about our next issue!



Apple (courtesy of Deborah Alban)



Cooper (courtesy of Kevin & Noel Foley)



Blazette (courtesy of Laurie and Jim Little)



Zookie (courtesy of Victoria)

Greyhound Welfare's Featured Friends



Cloud (courtesy of Nichole Zurgable)



Cross (courtesy of Steve and Jenni Nash)



Dash (courtesy of Anthony Wilson)



Jazzy (courtesy of David Ehrlich)



Leo (courtesy of Connie Brown)



Ramona (courtesy of Eric Williams)