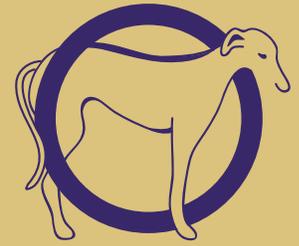


THE Skinny

on Greyhound Welfare



VOL. 2, EDITION 2, SUMMER 2010

The New England Chapter: 2004-2010

BY REBEKAH CAIN

In April of 2002, I joined a small greyhound rescue organization that had been founded that past December. Greyhound Welfare, with its approximately 20 volunteers, had begun placing dogs in February, and I had never had a dog in my house before.

Within a few days of applying to adopt an adorable black female I found online, Kopal Barnouin-Jha, GW's founder, was conducting my home visit and I was getting ready to take in my first foster dog, Kayla, who came off of a dog truck from Connecticut on April 1, 2002.

Within a few months, I was setting up open houses, helping to screen applicants and learning how to conduct home visits. In September 2002, I adopted my own greyhound, Xander, who soon became a pro at home visits and open houses.

Within a year, I ate, drank and breathed Greyhound Welfare. The vast majority of my friends were fellow volunteers, and I'd never been happier. I had friends to walk dogs with, share meals with and explore DC with. I got to know the area very well — driving all over to do multiple home visits a week. I loved going to dog hauls — getting up at 4 a.m. to drive north and meet the newest GW foster dogs. I loved recruiting new volunteers and especially loved espousing about my chosen breed to anyone who would listen (and some that didn't really want to).

My poor cat, Mocha, was quite unsure about this huge change in our lives. Not only did she have to live with Xander, but also with an ever changing crop of foster dogs. But, as a good little trooper, she adjusted.

In April 2004, I made the very tough decision to move to Boston. A job that I really wanted was waiting for me there, and I was ready for a new adventure. When talking with Kopal, she asked if I'd be interested in starting a chapter of GW after



Rebekah poses with Starlight, one of New England's first adoptees.

I moved. I was interested. She was glad, as it would ensure we stayed in touch and remained friends. The past year I'd been at her house multiple times a week, helping out with Mira, her daughter born in 2003, so it was very tough to leave them behind.

Xander, Mocha and I packed up and, with the help of Julie Sanders, then VP of GW, drove up to Boston for the big move. I arrived in Boston, and, after spending a few months getting settled, started the New England chapter in September 2004. I drove back from the annual picnic in Maryland with dog tags, collars, leashes, meds, dog food and all the supplies I needed to take in a few fosters.

As the sole volunteer, I took in the first New England Chapter foster, Flint, on September 13, 2004. Flint was a handsome brindle boy, and I was so excited to take him home and start a new chapter for GW.

Within a month, I had recruited my first foster

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home (through Craigslist) — Brandon Morpew. He was thinking of getting a dog and thought he'd start by fostering. So, on October 23, 2004, we took in our second dog from Seabrook for the NE Chapter, Starlight, a little fawn girl with a very sweet disposition.

In the meantime, I was enjoying Flint quite a bit. He was very sweet, got along well with Xander, and adjusted well to living with a cat. Then Flint got sick. I came home one day and noticed he was growing lumps and I realized that he'd slowly been becoming more lethargic. I took him

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Letter from the President

BY MEREDITH DOWELL



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

In April, 2003, having just separated from my first husband, I had plenty of time on my hands and decided to start volunteering. I had also decided about that same time that I wanted a dog, so volunteering with dogs seemed to be the way to go. After narrowing down my dog choice to greyhounds, I came upon Greyhound Welfare. I filled out a volunteer application online and was soon contacted by Rebekah Cain. I was quickly on my way to volunteering. I had no idea then how my life would change.

My first volunteer gig for GW was making all the follow-up calls to all of our adopters. We hadn't been around for very long then, so this was manageable for one person (now we have a full team). I also started driving hauls, a duty that soon became my favorite, 4:30am pick-up time at a location 25 miles north of Baltimore notwithstanding. Over the years, I did events, hauls and home visits, among other various duties. I eventually moved away from follow-up calls and became an officer in charge of dog intake, took a little time off to plan my wedding, then came back in the role of medical coordinator.

In June, 2008, I received an email from Kopal Jha, Greyhound Welfare's founder and president.

She asked me to "mind the shop" for a couple of months. I was named interim president of Greyhound Welfare and in late August, that interim status was removed and I found myself running the show full time.

Owning a greyhound and volunteering for a greyhound group has opened up a completely new world for me. I've attended so many greyhound events, I've lost count. I've met wonderful people, worked with tireless and dedicated volunteers and made invaluable friends. I've laughed over these wonderful dogs' silly antics and cried for each one we've lost. I've had my faith in humanity restored over and over again, whenever there is a greyhound in need. The greyhound community is truly awesome.

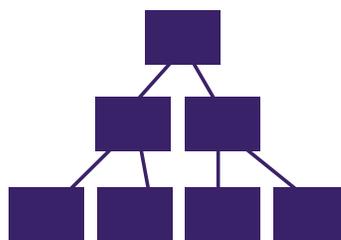
But now the time has come for me to step away from Greyhound Welfare. My work schedule and commute have made it impossible for me to dedicate the amount of time that this organization deserves. I will be stepping down as of August 1, 2010. It makes me sad – and I'm sure I will not know what to do with myself – but I strongly feel the group would be better served by someone who has more time.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers with whom I've had the privilege of working, as well as to all of our Greyhound Welfare adopters. Thank you so much for giving our dogs loving homes.

While I may be stepping back from volunteering, I cannot tear myself away from these wonderful greyhounds. I'm sure I'll continue to see many of you around on the internet, at greyhound events and at picnics. In the meantime, I wish you all the very best. ■

Greyhound Stats

To find out information about your grey, there are a couple of websites you can visit. Greyhound Data at www.greyhound-data.com is a fantastic source for pedigree info, but it isn't up-to-date on racing info. For current race info, try <http://www.trackinfo.com/greyhound-tote.jsp>. Using the dog's racing name, you can find information on the more recent dogs, but a dog off the track for six years isn't going to be there. ■



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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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GW adopters and friends.

To submit story and photo ideas, please send an email to twostickdogs@verizon.net

New England Chapter, continued from page 1

to see Dr. Harrington at Randolph Animal Hospital (who I still miss to this day) and we both agreed — sweet Flint either had cancer or a tick-borne disease. Blood was drawn and tests were sent out. Poor Flint was sent home with me with very strong antibiotics to start while we waited for all the tests. He was showered with attention and love that night — much to his confusion and delight. Flint was diagnosed with Babesia, which requires a very nasty treatment of injections. He went through the treatment very smoothly and healed up quickly. Soon, Flint went back to his bouncy wonderful self and then found a home on February 5, 2005. Flint, the first dog placed for the New England Chapter, went to live with a wonderful woman and her son. I just knew Flint would love having his own child to live with.

I've placed a lot of dogs over the years — many of them my fosters — but there was a different sense of accomplishment and joy in that placement. Flint's placement made it real — we were going to be able to find more homes for these wonderful dogs, educate more people about greyhounds, and ensure that even more dogs would have the chance at the post-retirement life that they deserved.

During our first year in New England we had grown in the number of volunteers and foster homes. But we also lost our first foster home. Starlight was a great first foster for Brandon, but



Xander expresses support for Rebekah and Kyle Straub at their wedding on June 26 in New Orleans. (photo by Jen Boyd-Morin)

after being spayed she developed some incontinence issues. Thankfully, Brandon was a trooper, doing whatever she needed, and continuing on as her foster home until she was finally adopted, by a really wonderful couple in April 2005. Brandon decided to take a break from fostering (which was totally understandable). He continued as a supporter of GW for a couple years and was always willing to help however he could.

At this point, I was getting a bit worried about how I would build a larger volunteer base. Luck-

ily, I had done a wonderful home visit in March 2005 with Jessica Wong and C. Scott Ananian, who took in a very vocal foster in March 2005. They stuck with it and continued to faithfully foster. (See box below.)

As the months went by, we built a strong group — and we also enjoyed hanging out together! Erin and Tom Nielson, Maggie Hall, Jon Lee, Ging Ging and Billy Fernandez, Sharon Gerson, Dilys

story continues on page 4

Adopting Lotte

BY JESSICA WONG

We had been fostering Baby Go, our first foster, for about two months when Rebekah Cain asked us to take a second foster. Rebekah made the haul from Seabrook and called as she got nearer. Over the phone I heard a strange sound and I wondered if there was something wrong with her car. In fact it was the heavy panting that we soon would find quite familiar.

"Reb" was a nervous dog, afraid of everything from loud noises to the trash on the sidewalk. Baby Go was like a big sister and slept by her crate at night. Finally, Reb stopped panting and showed us her playful and adorable side. I wrote up her bio, and someone wanted to drive up and adopt her. I agreed, but I knew that the hooks were already in.

Since then, she has been big sister to a parade of fosters, done home visits, and been a general ambassadog in her easy way with people, children, and other animals. She still loathes car rides, small spaces, and things that move that shouldn't be moving. She loves beds (they're all hers, by the way), attention, and all the treats she can weasel with her expectant gaze and perky ears. I can't imagine another creature quite like our cute, neurotic, and conniving snowflake we now call Lotte. ■



Lotte, sporting a red raincoat, dodges raindrops with a foster dog.

New England Chapter, continued from page 3

Burke, Emma McElfresh, LeeAnn Blalock, and many others joined the NE chapter. We had fun at holiday parties, volunteer meetings — we even had a very small picnic one year. As a chapter, I knew we'd never quite get as large as the Mid-Atlantic chapter, but I also knew we had something special.

While GW was not the largest greyhound adoption group in the Boston area, we were one of the only foster-based groups, and we put an incredible amount of time into training and educating all of our volunteers and adopters. We were building a strong reputation at the tracks as a great group to work with. We were placing dogs more rapidly, and I was more than thrilled!

Since then, there have been many more changes. I left Boston for Minneapolis in 2007 and left Greyhound Welfare in 2008. Xander is now a truly retired greyhound — no more home visits or open houses. We live in New Orleans and occasionally foster rescue pit bulls. Although I'm working with a new breed, I continue educating people about responsible dog ownership and working to alleviate common misconceptions. While I no longer answer the "are they fast" and "I bet they need a lot of exercise" questions, I answer similar ones. I miss the pointy nosed fosters — but mostly I miss the friends that I made during my six years with Greyhound Welfare, in both chapters.

While I understand the reason for the New England Chapter's closing, I must admit that it does make me deeply sad. It was inevitable once the ban on racing was passed — and that is a great reason to close a chapter — but it is always sad to see something good come to an end. I look at those 100+ dogs placed by dedicated volunteers in the Boston area — dogs whose lives were forever changed. For that, I will always be grateful. Thank you to all of the New England Chapter volunteers — to those in the early years who took a chance and joined a new group led by an intensely driven (and often over-demanding) person — to those in the later years that I didn't know personally. Thank you for all you did for our greyhounds. Thank you for showing a great face for Greyhound Welfare. The dogs thank you too. ■

Rally and Lima Bean Say Farewell to New England

BY RALLY PAGULAYAN



Rally and Lima Bean on their first day together. (photo by Rally Pagulayan)

February 4, 2007. That's the day I applied to adopt a greyhound from Greyhound Welfare. I figured that a greyhound would have a large impact on my life, but I would have never guessed that GW would too. Fast forward to today, GW is closing its New England chapter and my greyhound, Lima Bean, and I are moving to California. Looking back, I see what an important part of my life GW has played so I thought I'd say good-bye by reminiscing about my journey into the world of greys and GW.

Around here, you can adopt a greyhound from several places but all the choices only made it harder for me to decide how to adopt. I finally chose GW because it had chapters in both Maryland and Boston and since I grew up in Maryland and now lived in Boston, I decided fate was telling me to choose GW. It's funny, the things I remember. During my phone screen with Connie Brown, I remember her greyhound

barking. And when Maggie Hall did my home visit, I remember her being embarrassed that her ambassadog jumped on my couch and went to sleep. Once I was approved, I waited a month before dogs were available in New England. Then the "bean" haul, along with a couple of citrus fruits, arrived. It had Pinto, Garbanzo, Lima, Lime and Lemon, among others. I went to the next Open House with a strategy to meet every dog there to ensure there would be no impulse adopting (although I was partial to a pretty white dog named Lima). I walked into the Braintree Petco and saw what seemed like 30 greyhounds. The first dog I saw with nobody around it was that white dog, Lima, and her foster parent, Mary Ellen Schuster. My carefully constructed plan went out the window and I spent the next 45 minutes with Lima and Mary Ellen. I never met any of the other dogs. My visit to Lima's foster home went like this: Lima ignored me, unless I had food in my hand. She tried to steal kibble out of the dog food bag. Mary Ellen informed me that Lima had explosive diarrhea and had pooped all over the living room walls. And I learned that

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Rally and Lima Bean, continued from page 4

Lima was a dog whom I could NEVER let get her way. I immediately spoke for her.

My first year with Lima Bean, I focused on learning about my dog and bonding with her. We frequented GW Open Houses to socialize with greyhounds. It was at one of these where I saw Rebekah Cain's Xander and asked excitedly, "is that one of those blue greyhounds?" She replied, "no, he's black, he just has a lot of grey hairs." We attended the Greyhound Adoption Expos at Raynham and Wonderland, an overwhelming thing for a new greyhound owner, but made easier when we found familiar faces at the GW table. We attended the first (and only) GW New England Picnic in Houghton's Pond, MA and met Susan Scheide's George. That led to an invitation to George's birthday party along with Marie Richard's Flint, the first ever greyhound adopted out by the New England chapter. It was an action packed party. Lima pounced on Susan's cat, stole George's birthday stuffy and peed on Susan's carpet.

After that first year, I felt I was ready to volunteer with GW so I became a foster home. My first foster was Bangles (now named Lita) and I couldn't have asked for an easier dog. I had her barely two weeks when she was adopted by Ellen Kornell. (To this day, Ellen tells me that Lita is still the most wonderful dog in the world.) Next was Costello, a lab in a greyhound's body; then Lima's doppelganger, Smokey; big, goofy, happy, and plush coated Aviator; drop dead gorgeous Brisbane; and lastly, and maybe



Rally gets lots of hugs at an adoption event.

appropriately, my most challenging foster, Missy, of the big personality. I have too many funny and wonderful stories from fostering to tell here. But I will mention one. Early on, Smokey barked incessantly when left alone. I video'ed him and posted one particularly crazy barkfest on a greyhound forum. Within hours, I got an email from the GW foster team asking me if I needed any help. Whoops, busted.

I loved representing GW in public because I got to hang out with GW people and their greys as well as, or maybe more importantly, run my mouth talking about greyhounds. Twice a month, I could count on seeing Matt and Christy Lyons and their stately cow dog, Helo, running the

Open Houses along with adoptable dogs and their foster parents. The last Raynham/Seabrook Greyhound Adoption Expo was really memorable. I experienced (got sucked in by) Eliz Palaima's energy and creativity as she strategized GW's Expo presence and forced me to become an expert at creating pawprints. Even better, we were graced by visits from Mid-Atlantic GW glitterati, Meredith Dowell, Alina Predescu, and PJ Anderer. I'll never forget Meredith standing in the "money cube" grabbing dollar bills. Whatever happened to that money?

On a more serious note, being a part of the process to find homes for greyhounds fulfilled my need to do something positive in the world. I was lucky that in several instances, I was there when a potential adopter first showed up at an Open House. And then I did that adopter's home visit. And then that approved adopter visited my foster and spoke for it. And finally, I was there for that last bittersweet day when my foster went to its forever home. It was always hard, watching this dog who I helped guide from its first confused days off the track into a comfortable and confident dog, leaving for good. But the adopter's joy, expectation and excitement always more than made up for it. My part in that dog's journey was complete and I felt good about my role. It's GW and Boston for me, they played a wonderful and important role in my life. And it's time to move on. Thanks GW. ■



New England adopters and greyhounds gather at a barbecue.

BY ALANA GROSHONG

3 D's help dogs learn stay command

It never failed at obedience class. My greyhounds and I would always be a few classes behind the teacher's agenda. For some reason they just needed more time to learn even

the basics. Fortunately, I have a long-standing relationship with my local obedience trainers and they understand that many of the hound breeds need extra time to learn some activities. For me, that meant ramping up our practices at home so I could take advantage of the challenge of doing the same thing in the classroom.

Stay was one of those commands that took longer for Axel and Abbey to learn than many other commands. Ever heard yourself crying out stay repeatedly as that greyhound comes tearing at you or whatever it thinks is fun to chase in the house? Stay can be a useful command at home and in the community. I use it throughout the day to help my dogs be courteous and safe.

When teaching or practicing any skill, there are three key things to remember. Pat Miller calls them the 3 D's – duration, distraction and distance. It is important, when training with your greyhound, to only train one D at a time because the 3 D's are skills in and of themselves. The following instructions assume a basic understanding of positive reinforcement training such as clicker work. C&T means click and treat where stated.

Where to begin. We start with no distance or distraction challenges. Have your greyhound in the down position and you standing directly in front, facing her, toes to toes. Pick a place that is comfortable for your greyhound to stay down. Hard surfaces should be avoided during training. Start every 15-30 seconds to C&T as long as your greyhound is staying down. When treating, bend down and place the treat between your greyhound's paws. Only add the verbal command stay once your greyhound has been able to stay still for a minute. Remember to only say the verbal command once. We're learning/teaching stay, not stay-stay-staaaaay!

Adding duration. Getting to the first minute can sometimes be the hardest part. After you master that first minute of down/stay, start adding duration in increments of 1 minute then C&T. Every dog has their limit of how long they can stay in down. I do not expect my greyhounds to hold a stay longer than 10 minutes without helping them to fully relax by having him lay down or go to a comfy place such as a crate/bed.

Adding distraction. Just taking a step away from your greyhound can be distraction enough. Start with taking one step to the left or right. Immediately return to your start position, C&T. When you can comfortably take one step away, begin to add two steps working in a circle around your greyhound. Be careful not to add distance at this time. Your greyhound should turn their head to watch you but not move their body otherwise. Work at increasing your circle around your greyhound, returning to C&T every 1-2 steps at first. I then distance my C&T for going ¼ of the way around, ½ the way around, then fully circling as appropriate.

Adding distance. When adding distance, we reduce distraction and duration again. When working on your circle, start out two steps away. Return to C&T every 1-2 steps. The other way to work on distance is to do so facing your greyhound and stepping away. C&T with your return for each step you can take further away. Turning your back on your greyhound to walk away is a distraction you can add later. It is a strong distraction since most greyhounds want to follow when you turn your back. Adding duration with each step away is also something you can add later.

Additional Tips

- Stay is a calm command. Be positive in your praise but avoid excitement. Your greyhound will appreciate your calm body language as a cue for their own behavior!
- An instructor once showed me how she crossed her arms over her chest to reinforce stay. It works wonderfully as a visual cue!



- A visual cue such as a bed, carpet, or even a doorway can help your greyhound with a stay and discourage hopping up.
- Always return to your greyhound to place the treat between the paws to discourage hopping up.
- Having issues? Check to make sure you're only working on one D at a time.
- Looking for an extra challenge? If you have more than one greyhound, have them work on stay together. While holding in stay, place a favorite treat or toy on the floor as a distraction. Instead of using the down position, try a sit/stay routine. Need to add an extra special challenge? Try stepping out of view into another room, then return.

Additional Resources

[The Power of Positive Dog Training](#) by Pat Miller

[Family Friendly Dog Training](#) by Patricia McConnell



A Dog Park for Buckner

BY PAIGE DAVIS

We bought our apartment because it was located near a park. Because of the park, we adopted our greyhound, Buckner. And because of Buckner, we built a dog park.

We moved to Dorchester (Boston's largest neighborhood) in July 2005, and our lives changed completely. We installed an alarm on our home and our car, we became comfortable with dialing 911 about anything and everything, we started carrying whistles on our key chains, and we didn't walk anywhere after 10pm. Despite the crime, we were excited to get to know many of our neighbors who had moved there for the same reasons we had: diversity, proximity to downtown, ethnic restaurants, and an old-fashioned sense of community.

Shortly after our move, I read an article about how dog parks can result in positive social change and reduce crime. At that point I didn't have a dog (had never had a dog, in fact) and had never even seen a dog park.

When my husband, Tony, and I adopted 5-year-old Buckner in March 2006, we quickly tested him out in every dog park within 40 minutes of our house. He wasn't a big fan of pebble surfaces, nor was he a fan of wood chips. He was terrified at a park that hosted weekend kite-flyers, and we opted not to try him out at the (ungated) dog park that sits too close to I-93 for my comfort. We finally found a great park where Buckner seemed happy to run off-leash and socialize with other dogs. But it was tiring to load our 80-lb dog in the car, cross our fingers that the field wasn't closed for a baseball game or bad weather, and then drive 20 minutes to the park.

From 2006 until 2008, we worked to get support from the community and the City of Boston to build a dog park in Dorchester's Ronan Park. The support was relatively easy to come by, but Boston has a City Ordinance on Dog Recreation Spaces which stipulates that the City will not fund or maintain dog parks. The responsibility

rests squarely on the community. The initial estimates to build a 2500 sq. ft. dog park came to around \$30,000. This would buy us ground cover and fencing. When the Boston Parks Department saw this figure, they quickly added that we would also need to pay for excavation, drainage, and a water source. The cost jumped to \$90,000.

At this point we were about ready to give up. We had applied for grants, talked to local businesses large and small, and appealed to the community. But the money was trickling in far too slowly. Then I received a call from the Animal Rescue League of Boston. My dog park proposal had been sitting on the desk of their President for a few months, but, despite their interest in it, they too did not have the money to fund the project. Fortunately, a trustee of the Stanton Foundation (a foundation created in memory of Dr. Frank Stanton, the former president of CBS and a noted philanthropist) was concurrently researching dog parks and how they can turn around at-risk communities. When the trustee called the Animal Rescue League and asked if they had any suggestions about where she might test her research findings, my proposal was close at hand.

We spent the next year building a partnership between The Friends of Ronan Park (the community), the Animal Rescue League of Boston (who managed the grant money from the Stanton Foundation), and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (later the Boston Police Department also joined the partnership). When the final sketches were complete, the price tag for our dog park had climbed to \$230,000. The Stanton Foundation approved. The groundbreaking took place in October 2009, and we cut the ribbon on the Ronan Park Dog Recreation Space in May 2010.

One of the battles I fought during the planning of the park was what type of ground cover to use. I had seen Buckner reject stones and reject wood chips, so I was emphatic about finding a ground cover that would hold up to high use, Boston weather, and be kind to a greyhound's sensitive feet. Unfortunately, the committee opted to use



Paige and Buckner visit the Ronan Park Dog Recreation Space.

small pea stones, which I was assured 9 out of 10 dogs would be happy with. So on ribbon-cutting day, we left Buckner (the 1 out of 10 dog) at home. Later that day when the park was quiet, we decided to test him out. To our surprise, Buckner marched right onto the stones and frolicked about for over an hour. The next day the same thing happened. The next day Tony decided to give Buckner's feet a little rest and tried to bypass the dog park during their evening walk. Buckner wouldn't have it. He stubbornly stopped and stood still at the entrance to the dog park, refusing to walk any further unless Tony took him into the dog park to play.

Buckner, our now 10-year-old greyhound, is a true ambassador of the dog park, visiting nearly every day, happily greeting new arrivals, and reaping the rewards of his parent's hard work. ■

Greyhounds Inspire Funny Comments, Questions

BY TINA CARLSEN

Editor's Note: We are all greyhound ambassadors, sharing information about our dogs on just about every outing. Knowing this, I asked Greyhound Welfare members to share some of the more interesting comments or questions they've received about their dogs. Here are the results:

PAIGE DAVIS shared this conversation her husband, Tony, had with a child in their neighborhood:

Boy: "What kind of dog is that?"

Tony: "A greyhound. He used to race."

Boy: "Is he fast?"

Tony: "Pretty fast."

Boy: "Is he as fast as a dragon?"

DON SPELLMANN said the most common question he receives is "Why do they wear shoes?" Ah, the plight of the corn dogs.

JENNY COOKE shared these comments made about her grey, Kadee, by children on separate occasions:

"Is that a baby deer?"

"Is your dog part tiger?"

"Horsie?" ... This was a neighbor's very young daughter (maybe 2 years old)

ELIZABETH PALAIMA shared this oldie but goodie: A young boy once asked her, "How much did your hyena cost?" Elizabeth said she loved this because he didn't ask, "Is that a hyena?" or "Where did you buy a hyena?"

JENNIFER MARSH was walking her grey Henry, who is white with tan and red spots, on a summer evening and passed a group of kids, one of whom asked, "Is that a German Attack Dog?"

RYAN HANSEN said while walking his three greyhounds recently, a guy said, "Wow, you don't have to worry about someone breaking into your house." He replied, "Yeah, they can be pretty vicious." What he didn't tell the guy was that unless a robber is deterred by wagging tails and face licking, he won't have any problems.

CONNIE BROWN said she's been asked often: "Is he a Great Dane?"

NICHOLE ZURGABLE, mom of Tehya, Cian and their angel Kiaba, said a little boy asked her if Kiaba was a dinosaur. Kiaba's spine stuck out and made his hair stand up all along his back. Her favorite comment was when she had a muzzle on Kiaba at an open house. A little boy said "Look, mom, he has a nose helmet on!" Nichole still calls the muzzles nose helmets.

BARBARA HANSEN shared this story. All of the grade schoolers in her neighborhood were familiar with Smokie, a black and gold brindle. A year or so later, Tanner, a fawn, joined the family. During one their walks, right around the time the neighborhood grade school was letting out, the kids saw the new addition. They were quite surprised at Smokie's new friend and asked "Is that a deer?"

TINA HAISER said a little boy once asked first if Irene was a racing dog (totally ordinary), but then asked if she was in the Olympics. She also had one guy conspiratorially insist that Irene had been bred, but that "they" just didn't tell her.

CAITLIN KEARNS shared these goodies about her 3-year-old black greyhound, Sprocket (formerly Kiowa Pull). While her sister was walking Sprocket, she stopped for a child to pet the dog. The child asked "Is this a bear?" Her sister responded "First of all, if it's a bear you shouldn't be touching it."

Caitlin said the craziest thing anyone said came from a woman in the park. Keep in mind, Sprocket is as black as night — even in bright sunlight.

Crazed woman in the park: "What kind of dog is that? A rottweiler/greyhound mix?"

Caitlin's husband: "No, she's a greyhound; retired from the track."

Woman: "That's not a purebred greyhound."

Caitlin's husband: "Of course she is, why would you say something like that?"

Woman: "Because that dog is brown."

Caitlin's husband: "She's black!"

Woman: "That dog is brown, and there is no such thing as a brown greyhound. You must have forged paperwork or something. You should talk to someone about that. Then the woman walked away."

Caitlin's husband: (Shouting after her) "But she's black! She's black! This dog is black!"

Greyt Bites

BY TINA CARLSEN

Peanut Butter Yogurt Frozen Pies

People enjoy ice cream and snowballs to help beat the heat. These low-cost frozen treats will do the trick for your needle-nosed friend.

Ingredients

- 1-32oz. container of plain or vanilla yogurt
- 1 cup of organic peanut butter

Spoon peanut butter into a microwave safe dish. Microwave until melted. Watch it to avoid burning. Blend yogurt into melted

peanut butter. Pour mixture into cupcake or muffin trays and freeze. When they're frozen, pop them out and store them in baggies in the freezer.

Yield depends on size of your treats.

Note: For dogs with peanut butter sensitivities, try sunflower seed butter, almond butter or tahini.

Greyhound Has Family Firmly “Under Her Paw”

BY ALY TIRADO

It doesn't take long to fall in love with your new family member, especially when she gives you “the look.”

Our greyhound, Bella, just has to look up at us and give us the “look”; I swear it's like Doug from the movie *Up* saying, “I love you.” If any of the following sounds familiar, you too have been captured by “the look” and should accept that your greyhound has you firmly under his or her paw.

- **Dinnertime has overtones of Iron Chef.** It started with supplementing her meals with healthy treats like canned sweet potatoes and chopped up bananas. Over time, we added a bedtime snack of a spoonful of yogurt for regularity and a touch of peanut butter for flavor and a dog cookie accent. I should have known we were in trouble when my husband was asking Bella to rate her meals — “two paws up?” Bella is very involved in food prep, requesting that only the best treats and leftovers supplement her diet (no fatty bits — some of us are retired professional athletes maintaining our figures, you know) and never saying no to an over-easy egg — slightly cooled, and the yolk broken, please.
- **Your puppy is better dressed than you are.** It started with the fleece we brought her home in. Then my husband, Dario,

discovered the world of greyhound apparel and a wardrobe for all possible weather conditions amassed. It's too embarrassing to detail, but our old neighbors were particularly found of the four-legged fleece pink penguin jammies (with matching pants for mom, of course) that she paraded around in last winter.

- **You upgrade your vehicle to provide more space for the dog.** Bella loves riding in the car and loses all walking manners if she thinks that someone is going to leave without her. We had talked about upgrading Bella's ride. It's amazing how much space a dog, dog stuff and sports gear take up on a weekend trip. When my car's bumper had an unfortunate encounter with a lingering ice drift, we bought Bella a “new to us” 4-wheel drive hybrid Ford Escape. She loves being up a bit higher to survey the world and the automatic windows that open on back roads so she can get her sniff on. During the dig of the February storms, her father kept her new wheels dug out and took her for rides around the neighborhood to survey her domain.
- **More space?** Despite being great apartment dogs, we'd been thinking our girl deserved a little yard. We took the plunge in February and conducted a



whirl-wind search and purchased our first home. Bella now happily rambles about in a townhouse. I'd like to say that our home purchase marked the end of Bella's ability to manipulate us with the flick of her tail.

- **New stuff?** Sadly, we've since purchased a new couch and she keeps stealing my spot on the end that has a chaise.

When I think about the changes in our life, I have to conclude that we shouldn't fear “the look” because it inevitably is in your best interest. Trust me, your dog is always going to offer to eat the leftovers that are ruining your diet, entice you on a walk to get you out and about, or just simply be available for an ear rub to cheer you up. (What, you didn't know they endure ear and belly rubs for your benefit?) ■

FEATURED PROJECT

Grooming Pet Nails

(reprinted from the Dremel e-Newsletter)

Grooming your pet's nails by grinding them down with a Dremel rotary tool is often easier for the groomer and more comfortable for the pet than traditional clipping methods. Because grinding is more gradual than clipping, it is easier to stop in time before reaching the quick (core of the nail containing its internal blood supply). Follow these steps to keep your pet's paws looking pristine:

Before you start, allow your pet to grow accustomed to its paws being handled with your hands, with the tool turned off.

Identify the quick in each of your pet's nails so that you avoid grinding it. Plan to grind the nail at a 45-degree angle from the bottom of your pet's paw and practice grinding on scrap material.

For small to medium dogs, insert the 430 1/4-inch sanding drum equipped with a 431 60-grit sanding band into the tool and turn it on to its low speed. If you own a larger breed dog, use the tool at high speed with the 407 1/2-inch sanding drum equipped with a 432 120-grit sanding band or 408 60-grit sanding band. Hold your pet's paw in one hand and the tool in the other, with another person securing the animal.

Letting the tool do the work, make passes against each nail on two paws at a time. The spinning drum should not be kept against the nail for longer than three seconds at a time, and alternating nails allows each of them to cool before they are ground a second time.

If needed, make additional passes over each of your pet's nails to grind them shorter. ■

Special Events Committee Rolls Out Summer and Fall Plans

BY KRISTYN WILCOX

Greyhound Welfare's special events committee is small, but mighty, and we're so excited that *The Skinny* is here to be our vehicle to connect with the dedicated volunteers and adopters of GW about upcoming events.

The special events committee was started in the summer of 2009 as a way for GW to collect and mobilize some fresh ideas and turn them into events outside and in addition to the vital meet and greet venues. The team is rolling out the summer and fall 2010 line up, and we hope to see you and your hounds there!



- **Aug. 28th - Wags 'N' Whiskers Street Festival.** The Village of Shirlington is bringing back their annual pet-focused street festival and our team is thrilled to take part in this truly unique event. Shirlington Village closes down its streets and opens its doors to host a whole day of fun, music and pet themed events. We will be there in style to show off the hounds, provide information on greyhounds and talk about volunteering and/or adopting with Greyhound Welfare. We'd love to see you there! The event is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Campbell Street in Shirlington, Va.
- **Sept. 2nd - Doggie Happy Hour at Barkley Square in Alexandria, Va.** This is the big one! Del Ray's September "First Thursday" is always the most popular, and Greyhound Welfare and Barkley Square will bring a dog-themed beer and wine event together to support the greyhounds while we party (think Dogfishhead and Flying Dog Beer and JimJim wines). Bring your pooch and kick back with some friends while enjoying the festival and supporting GW. September's theme is "A Taste of Del Ray."
- **Sept. 11th - DC Greyhound Walk.** In June 2010, a great group of greys and their owners gathered at the National Cathedral to tour the beautiful grounds of the Cathedral and walk down Embassy Row. This 'walk' was so much fun and was more like a drifting meet and greet! Though it has been too hot to continue the fun since then, we will be meeting again on Sept. 11th for a walk around the monuments at 9 a.m., on the National Mall, for our morning constitutional and show off our amazing hounds. Check the GW Events website or the Running Hounds yahoo group for updates!
- **Sept. 19th - Woodrow Wilson Half Marathon Celebration at the National Harbor!** Barkley Square has graciously invited Greyhound Welfare to take part in the celebration at the conclusion of the Half Marathon. Greyhound Welfare will have a booth at the celebration, and we plan to have a donation-based masseuse to massage out those post race aches to raise money for GW! Check for updates on the GW website, GreyhoundWelfare.org/events.
- **October DC Greyhound Walk.** We will be planning an October "DC Walk" after the Dewey Beach weekend and will be touring the beautiful Roosevelt Island park. -- a quiet place for those city adverse hounds and a great way to swap Dewey memories, photos, catch up on the latest Dewey events – and of course, show off the new bling! This event is always open to anyone who is a greyhound owner or a greyhound lover. Look for more information on Greyhound Welfare's website under the Events section and the Running Hounds and Adopters/Volunteer yahoo groups.

The committee is co-coordinated by Nichole Westin and Kristyn Wilcox with life support provided by Krista Gillich and Emily Cole and all of their inspirational greys: Enza, Laddie, Oliver and Olly. If you have any questions or ideas regarding GW special events, we'd love to hear from you. We can be contacted via the Adopters or Volunteer yahoo groups!

Summer 2010 Photo Contest Winners: Summertime!

Thanks to everyone who emailed or posted photos as part of our photo contest. For all of the photo contest entries, visit Yahoo! Groups GW Adopter site. Look in the photos folder, *Newsletter Summer 2010*. Get out those cameras and watch your email for announcements about upcoming photo contests!



First Place Winner: Tigger and Roo (photo courtesy of Robin Kenney)



Third Place Winner: Tabby and Princess (owned by Agnieszka and Bryan Christian and Michelle and Eric Williams)



Second Place Winner: Lima Bean (photo courtesy of Rally Pagulayan)



Honorable Mention: Helo and Flyer (photo courtesy of Christy Lyons)

Summer 2010 Photo Contest Outtakes



Beckett
(photo courtesy of Elizabeth Palaima)



Kili
(photo courtesy of Jessica O'Brien)



Ramona (photo courtesy of Eric and Michelle Williams)



Tabasco (photo courtesy of Agnieszka and Bryan Christian)