

Welcome home, Ginger Creek Ozzie & Jazzy Jo



Derek Craker (above left) and his father, Steve, say Jazzy Jo's zest for life means he fits their family perfectly. The Craker's Grey, Ozzie, (right) was the family's first Greyhound love. She went to the Rainbow Bridge in 2000.



By Steve Cracker

In the 1980s, I visited the Greyhound tracks in Dubuque, Iowa and Kenosha, Wisc. The more my wife, Debby, and I learned about these wonderful dogs, the more we knew we wanted to adopt one. We finally decided to submit an application, but one Friday we visited our local animal shelter and asked if they ever had Greyhounds. In 15 years, they'd never seen one.

The following Monday, something prompted me to stop again at the shelter. In the kennel, my eyes met those of an obviously stressed Greyhound. Someone had turned her loose and the police had found her lying near death. Even at 42 pounds and with assorted health problems, an instant bond formed. I knew we had to rescue this dog.

Her racing name was Akbar Elaine but Debby named her Ginger Creek Ozzie after the then short-stop, and now manager, of the Chicago White Sox. In

the weeks that followed, Ozzie recovered and we learned about Greys, their traits and temperament.

In 1991, we were blessed with the birth of our son, Derek Jordan. While we were initially concerned about how Ozzie might react to a new baby, we found these two had a boy-and-his-faithful-companion relationship. In her years with us, Ozzie gave us twice as much as we ever gave her. God bless you, Ozzie.

After living for four years without a Greyhound, we adopted again. When GPA/N came to our house, we expected three dogs. The first two we knew about, but the third one, a guy named Jazzy Jo, stepped out of the van, walked in the house, circled in front of the fireplace and plopped down like he was right where he belonged.

While the King used to live in Memphis, he now resides in Smyrna. Many memories of Ozzie live through this character Jazzy Jo.

Music City Roo'er

www.nashvillegreys.org

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA - NASHVILLE

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Come out for GPA/N's Winter Gathering Jan. 16

Breakout of the mid-January doldrums and join Greyhound Pets of America/Nashville people and hounds at the Winter Gathering from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 16. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. This fee covers the cost of renting a large, dog-friendly space at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. (The horse barn in Shelbyville where previous Winter Gatherings have been held for free is no longer available.)

The facility at MTSU is a spacious, heated, clean venue with plenty of parking, restrooms, seating for people and space for food and activities. There's a large area where hounds can safely romp off lead, so be sure to bring muzzles. We know many families have non-Greys, but for safety's sake, please reserve this day for Greyhounds only.

Activities will include a "Musical Sit" contest, a dog version of musical chairs, as well as "Diving for Dogs" in which Greyhounds compete to see who can fish the most hot dog slices out of a shallow pool in one minute. (Sound familiar? That's because both of these were planned for the picnic in September, but were rained out.) Prizes will be awarded.



Getting there

Getting to the Tennessee Livestock Center at MTSU: From Nashville, take I-24 toward Murfreesboro. Get off at the second Church St./Shelbyville exit (81B). Go two stoplights to Rutherford Blvd. (Wendy's is on the corner.) Turn right. Go 5.4 miles. Make a left at Greenland Dr. Go about a half mile to a large parking area on the left. Livestock Center is the large blue building behind the lot. Look for the Greyhound signs.

GPA/N also will be selling Silk Road collars, a variety of fleece jackets which volunteers Shae Nida (Popeye and Glory) and Sarah Donahue (Art) have made and donated for sale, as well as other items. There also will be a snack table, so bring refreshments to share. Sodas and water will be available for a \$1 donation. Toenail trimming (hounds only, please) will be done for a \$5 donation.

Questions? Email Mardy Fones at mafones@comcast.net.



Hoola Sandlin greets admirers at Meet & Greet at The Factory in Franklin. GPA/N will be holding monthly M&Gs there starting in January. Watch our website (nashvillegreys.org) for dates and details.

Happy tail is a sad tale

By Carol Macherey, DVM

"Happy tail" sounds like a good thing, but in Greyhound medicine, it's something you want to avoid.

Our beautiful Greyhounds are blessed with long, delicate tails. When they wag them enthusiastically and they hit a wall, a cabinet, a crate – anything hard – the thin skin can be torn easily.

The result is often an unbelievable amount of blood splattered everywhere as they continue to happily wag and spray. Until you've experienced this, it's really hard to understand or appreciate the ensuing mess!

But the problems don't end with a messy, extensive clean-up. You also have an injured tail that must heal. In

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Greyhound Pets of America - Nashville



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President's Corner

This December marks the fourth anniversary of the founding of the organization that became GPA/N. Back then, we were a few gals driven by our passion for Greyhounds. We had two, sometimes three foster homes that were usually doubled or tripled up, with dogs awaiting homes. We could barely pay the vet bills for the hounds we were adopting out. Often, it seemed as if it would never get easier. Now, 270+ adoptions later, we can proudly say we've come a long, long way.

Our success is shouldered by so very many. It begins with the racing owners and trainers who care for and work with their hounds, whose efforts ultimately make for healthy, well-socialized retirees who move from racing to retirement.

Then there are the vets who discount their services — general and specialized — to help us ready hounds for adoption. Let's not forget the foster caregivers, Meet & Greet volunteers, the hound transport volunteers, the home visit crews and donors of money and items in lieu of or in addition to their time. Finally, there are the adopters who open their homes and hearts to these hounds and, along the way, also become Greyhound ambassadors.

Because of the efforts of so many, GPA/N is now able to assist sister Chapters and donate funds to help repair broken legs, to help move dogs from where they are to where they are needed for adoption and to help repair and rebuild adoption facilities after natural disasters. The GPA/N family can take pride in knowing that beyond the Tennessee boarder, retired hounds are the beneficiaries of our hard work.

GPA/N has grown so very much, but underlying it all is the common thread that made us stay the course back then and makes us a success today — our collective passion for these beings with which we've chose to share our lives. Heartfelt and humble are my thank yous to each and every one of you.

Peace,

Sharron Lane and the McRoorers — Ashley, Jill, Vinnie, Cain, Gypsy, Success and Kacy. And forever in my heart — Reach, Split, Sunrise and Peggy at the Rainbow Bridge.

Support treatment for injured Greys with Jeweled Devotion

Greyhound Pets of America and Lenox, maker of fine china and figurines, have collaborated in a fundraising effort for Greyhounds. Order these ivory china hounds accented with 24 kt. gold and crystal jewels for \$58.50 and 2 1/2 % of each sale goes the Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund. All GPA chapters and subchapters can apply to this fund for help with costs incurred when treating injured Greyhounds. To learn more, go to www.nashvillegreys.org or [http://www.greyhoundpets.org/images/FSI-Jeweled d%20 Devotion.pdf](http://www.greyhoundpets.org/images/FSI-Jeweled%20Devotion.pdf). Order deadline is Jan. 31, 2005.



Keeping your Greys safe during winter, holidays

The winter months mean a change of pace for us all, including our Greyhounds. Between the cold weather, hectic schedules, an abundance of holiday goodies and our hounds' natural inquisitiveness, keeping them safe from injuries and poisonings means planning ahead.

Around the House

- Keep electrical cords tucked away and out of reach to prevent accidental electrical shocks due to chewing.
- Hang holiday decorations such as ribbons or tinsel out of reach. If eaten, they can cause intestinal obstruction.
- Never give your hound a battery-operated toy or access to batteries. They contain corrosives that can cause ulceration to the mouth, tongue and the intestinal tract.
- Supervise your hound carefully around glass and metal ornaments. When chewed or swallowed, they can cause internal lacerations.
- Place liquid potpourris out of Greyhound reach. They can cause ulceration and skin irritation.
- If using Christmas tree preservative, cover the tree stand so your Grey can't drink from it. The preservative can cause stomach upset.
- Chocolate isn't healthy for dogs, and baking chocolate, in particular, can be fatal, so keep all holiday goodies out of your hounds' reach.
- Wash away antifreeze spills and store the unused portion in a safe place. Even small amounts can be lethal.

Holiday Greenery

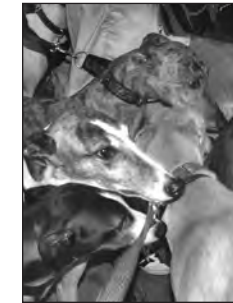
Christmas trees can confuse even a reliably house-broken hound. So, be watchful of his interest around your tree and other greenery. If need be, create a barrier or use baby gates to help him stay out of trouble. Also, anchoring your tree from a ceiling hook may prevent a toy-tossing hound from downing a tree.

Also, keep these holiday plants out of your hound's reach:

- Poinsettia and Christmas cactus
- Mistletoe, holly and ivy
- Narcissus, hyacinth and amaryllis

For additional information on poisoning and home hazards, see www.aspc.org.

Nothin' but a wet Greyhound picnic



Despite an afternoon of thunderstorms, more than 100 people and 80 hounds met in Centennial Park for the Ain't Nothin' But Greyhounds Fest in September. The annual event netted \$1,900 from the silent auction, sales and donations. These funds, like all others raised by GPA/N, are used to support adoption and vetting new hounds.

Many thanks to our guest speakers — Tonya Blankenship who did dog massage demonstrations, and Cat Martin who demonstrated Greyhound obedience.

Picnic volunteers were: Tracy Coyne, Annie Darken, Charles Drumwright, Susan Drye, Mardy Fones, Ramona Grove, Kent Hiday, Sharron Lane, Carol Macherey, Barbara Martin, Cathy & Bart Morris, Pam Neiman, Shae & Russ Nida, Becky & Mark Orman, Jana Rich, Cyndi Routledge, Beth & David Sandlin, Steve & Ginger Tessier, Liz Trapp, Joe Twilley, Ronda Winquist and Ray Wong.

Above right, Shae Nida shares lunch with Popeye and Glory. Middle right, Debby Craker shops the silent auction. Below right, dog masseuse, Tonya Blankenship demonstrates massage techniques on Dana to Fay Nation and Liz Trapp .



Despite months of bandaging, care and treatment, Randy & Glenda Paulk's hound, Slick, lost 14 inches of tail due to happy tail. Today, he sports a seven-inch tail.

Happy tail is a sad tale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the best of cases, carefully padded bandaging can return the tail tip to normal in about two weeks. In the worst cases, the tail continues to be traumatized and won't heal. That's when amputation of the affected area is the only alternative.

Happy tail is a problem that's better avoided than treated after it happens. When you hear that tail hitting a hard surface — BANG BANG BANG — quick-

Welcome new Greys, people

■ **NEW GREYS AND THEIR PEOPLE**
 Debbie Stone — Dynamic Koufax - Kojak
 Jeremy & Janet Schuster — Dias Christina - Christina, Keystone Force - Force
 Patricia Scott — Cee My Number - Jenna
 Thomas Moretto — Sandhill Danny - Danny
 Chris & Sue Janzen — CD's Jack Black - Jack
 Tom Wilson & Debi McKinney Wilson — CT's Fast Jack - Jack, Quannah Rain - Quannah
 John Via & Sherrie Hyder — Biker Bar - Marge
 Bill & Celeste Loucks — Cuckleburrr Blair - Burney
 Jamie Fohl — Big Daddy GC - Henry
 Sallie Hussey — RD's Astro - Astro
 Joyce Pruitt — Oshkosh Noble - Noble
 Ronnie & Dee Dee Bright — JK Automation - Matt
 Lori Hanning — Rapido Theo - Theo
 David Longyear — Oshkosh Dollar - Dollar
 Lucy Patterson — Majedda - Jedda
 Chrystie Howard & Alison Dunn — Versace Episode - Versace
 Kelly Townes - Bribz
 Rob & Ellen Lawrence — Bets on Tom - Tom
 Nate Price & Nikole Shipley — Silver Rain - Turkish

■ **CHIPS** (as in you can't have just one!)
 Gary & Linda Bates — Coup de Jour - Beula
 Katina Burchfield & Betsy Fernandez — Aj's Alpine Lace — Lace
 Karla Drischel — Oshkosh Martin - Prince
 Jennifer Henry & Kerry Dye — Show It To Me - Minnie
 Carol Macherey — Lorrie on Tour - Lorrie
 Joe Twilley — Rapido Buzzoff - Buzz
 David & Beth Sandlin — Down Under - Gusto
 Singer-Gabella Family — Be Greater - BG
 Lynae van Doren — Missy

Between Jan. 1- Nov. 20, 80 retired racers found permanent homes through GPA Nashville.

ly move your hound to the center of the room or outside. Don't wait — do it immediately. You NEVER want to hear the tail hitting anything.

If your Greyhound does injure its tail, try to get a temporary bandage on the end as quickly you can and see your vet as soon as possible. While I've never seen a Greyhound in danger from the bleeding, it will make your home look like a crime scene.

Remember - Happy Tail = Sad Tail
 Don't let it happen to your hound.