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GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA - NASHVILLE | FALL 2007

Visiting a greyhound farm



Beth Sandlin, center, with Drinda and Stephen Spillane and their son, Keegan, on the family's greyhound farm near Columbia, Mo.

This summer, Beth and David Sandlin (Hula, Homey and Gusto) got hands-on experience with the greyhound business when they visited Drinda and Steve Spillane's greyhound farm. A typical day includes multiple turnouts, preparing food which includes raw meat, feeding, training, clean up and puppy-petting sessions.

When working with the puppies, Drinda takes it one step at a time to ensure the pups won't be frightened. From birth, pups are handled, loved-on and spoiled.

Photos by David Sandin



As the hounds age, they move to different areas of the farm. In the beginning, they run together with their littermates. The most successful runners may move on to a racing kennel at a track.



Lydia Spillane, left, supervises the hounds during one of the many daily turnouts. Above, under Dirinda's watchful eye, Beth Sandlin tries her hand at goat milking. Young pups get fresh goat milk in their food.

Greyhound
Pets of America
NASHVILLE

Greyt News

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It's a wonderful greyhound life

What we do for love

New adopters are told owning a retired racer will forever change their lives. However, the deep, dark secret of greyhound adoption is the extent to which your life will change to ensure the comfort and well being of your hound. Or as Tracy Coyne (Richie and Erika) puts it, "Beware of what you will spend when you open your heart to a greyhound."

When HRH Wendy moved in with Rick and Cindy Cantrell, Rick installed a whole-house vacuum system so Wendy could nap in peace. When Carson joined the crew, they got a van only to replace it with an SUV because the dogs couldn't see out the van windows (neither could Cindy, but that's another story).

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The acquisition of a dog friendly vehicle is the first sign an adopter has crossed to the grey side. A two-seater S2000 wasn't doing the job for Pam Arzu and Lambert, Delaney, Macie and Paya, so she bought a used Explorer. Wayne and Deb Travis call their mini-van with its fold-down seats and rear heat and air, a "drivable dog bed."

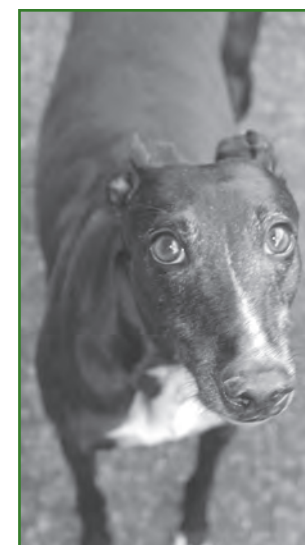
"Kelly and Cora Faye own the house, not us," says Wayne.

Of course, home is relative. Sandra and Jim Sims bought an RV so Roxy can go where they go and in comfort. Mark and Becky Orman turned their garage into a luxury dog suite and bought a fifth-wheel RV so SiouxMan, Russ, Catche and Sissy can go camping in style.

"I got rid of my 'I am woman, hear me roar' convertible for a mini-van," says Mona Grove (Frosty, Mort, Leona, Ed, Rocky and Dewey). "Then I bought a freezer so I could raw feed. Then I got rid of a boyfriend of six years because he thought three greyhounds was too many."

HOME SWEET HOME

Sandy Kemp bought Hallo and Lenny a house with a fenced yard and a room of their own. Good thing, because then she adopted Wrangles. Ann and Watson



MINI DRIVER says New York was fun but Middle Tennessee has better treats.

Chaney replaced not only a dog door but also the door into the house so Banshee and Durango could come and go with ease.

Cyndi Routledge 86ed the dining room furniture, china and crystal, to make room for crates for John, Master, Jex and Rudder. For apartment dweller, Parker Pressnell and his Manchester terrier, Zipper, adding Ava to the pack meant foregoing his own washer/dryer and converting the laundry room into a dog room.

Where David Hill goes, so goes his hound, Mini Driver. When David moved to New York City,

he scoured the Big Apple 'til he found a dog-friendly apartment. It was a revealing endeavor and all the proof his wife, Jessica needed. "David wouldn't dream of moving without Mini. I knew then that the man I'd marry was dependable and loving," says Jessica.

Trauma Kits Available

When your greyhound gets a cut or scrape, having the right supplies on hand is key. GPA/N is now selling handy trauma kits that include non-stick pads, rolled gauze, two sizes of vet wrap, adhesive tape and bandage scissors. The kit also includes a list of items you can add to create a more complete set-up, plus a shopping list for when it's time to replace the basics.

Each kit is \$30 and comes in a sturdy, easy-to-store, zippered plastic bag. A limited number of kits are available at Meet and Greet. Or you can get one by emailing Carol Macherey, DVM, at cmacvet@comcast.net. Kits also will be available at the Sunday, Feb. 17 GPA/N Winter Gathering at the Tennessee Livestock Center in Murfreesboro.



President's Notes

RAY WONG
President, GPA-Nashville

A question I get all the time is what is Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) and why are we part of that organization.

GPA is the largest, single-breed dog adoption organization in the U.S. Our GPA affiliation gives us a national presence and a united platform from which to beat the pro-adoption drum before dog racing's ruling bodies and the dog-adopting public.

When a track closes or an emergency with greyhounds occurs, GPA speaks assertively and proactively for the welfare of the dogs. Examples include the group's work to rehome hounds when tracks close, an increasingly more frequent occurrence. GPA also supplies funds and support during crises such as Hurricane Katrina.

GPA has a fund to which chapters can apply for help with injured dogs and another that provides funds to chapters for special projects. Being one of GPA's 51 chapters entitles us to use national's registration as a tax-exempt organization. That allows us to raise money as a non-profit and enables donors to make tax-deductible donations.

Recently, GPA created a committee that's seeking bulk purchasing agreements on supplies such as heartworm medication, flea/tick preventative, crates and other items. These agreements will enable chapters like ours to take advantage of purchasing economies of scale.

So what do we have to pay for these benefits? The cost is shocking, really. In 2008, we'll pay national \$3 per adopted dog. It's a modest price to be part of an organization that celebrates every greyhound adoption as another success.

In 2008, consider showing your support for greyhound adoption nationally by donating to one of GPA's national programs or just supporting the group's general operating budget. To learn more visit national's website: www.greyhoundpets.org.

Mark your calendar for Feb. 17

GPA/N's Annual Winter Gathering is 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17 (President's Day weekend) at the Tennessee Livestock Center in Murfreesboro.

We'll have vendors, games, races, food, toenail trims and a live auction. Watch the Yahoo list and website (GPA Nashville.org) for details.



RISING STARS - Greyhounds appear in the most unexpected places such as Montgomery Bell Academy's performances of the play, *Once in a Lifetime*. Seems the director wanted on stage classy dogs that evoked the glamour of Hollywood in the 1930s. So, Jenn Krause's Astro, left and Lisa Dordal and Laurie Samuel's hound, Ladybug, made their debuts during the show's four-night run in November. Can a Tony Award be far away?

Your Greyhound's Heart

By Carol Macherey, DVM

"Your greyhound has an enlarged heart" or "Your greyhound has a murmur" are statements adopters may hear from vets. There are times that may be true, but make sure your vet understands the differences between other breeds' hearts and a greyhound's.

Greyhounds are athletes, so their hearts have evolved differently than other dogs. On an x-ray, their hearts are very large compared to other breeds of the same weight. This is normal. They have a very deep chest, and that tends to magnify their heart size. Studies have shown their heart size has a genetic basis and is not a temporary enlargement due to racing/training. Their heart is normally large throughout their life.

Some greyhounds have what is called an "athletic murmur" or a "physiologic murmur" caused by the rapid, forceful ejection of blood out of their hearts into the aorta. I hear them commonly, especially in newly retired hounds. A murmur in an otherwise active, healthy greyhound is likely to be just that.

To be certain an enlarged heart or murmur is not a medical problem, your greyhound can have an ECHO — a heart ultrasound.

Heart disease isn't common in greyhounds but it can/does happen. They can develop valve problems,

cardiomyopathy, rhythm problems, congestive heart failure just like other breeds. Symptoms of heart disease include coughing and/or panting, exercise intolerance, seizures, weight loss and sometimes poor color to their gums or tongue (purple or blue coloring). If any of these signs are present have your hound evaluated immediately.

Unique characteristics of a greyhound heart includes:

■ Heart rate at rest - 60-90 beats/ minute;

70-160 for other breeds

■ The greyhound heart is 1.18-1.73% of their body weight. Other breeds' hearts are .77%; human athletes only .5%.

■ A 66-pound greyhound heart is the same size as a 154-pound human's.

■ At peak performance, a greyhound's heart beats 310-340 beats/ minute, a human athlete's at 170.

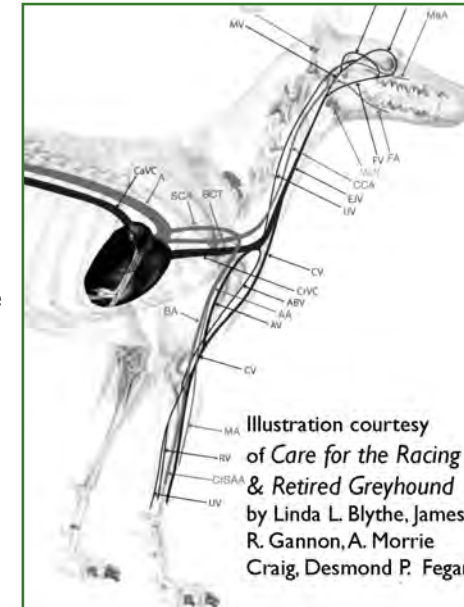


Illustration courtesy of Care for the Racing & Retired Greyhound by Linda L. Blythe, James R. Gannon, A. Morrie Craig, Desmond P. Fegan

HAVE A HEART Greyhounds have a very deep chest, and that tends to magnify their heart size.



WRAP IT UP Shelly Madison and her hound, Katie, were among the volunteers who helped raise more than \$4,000 by wrapping gifts at the Brentwood Borders during the holidays. The money goes to GPA/N's Angel Fund which pays for care for injured greyhounds.

GPA/N welcomes new adopters, hounds

■ NEW ADOPTERS

Chris Alexander — Royal Hound - Royal & Poofster - Raven
Mari Ann & David Hood — JJ Sundancer - Sundancer & JJ Roxie - Roxie
Jennifer Lasne — Mr. Gordon - Gordon
Robert Clark & Meredith McCarville — Jade's Peggy Sue - Peggy Sue
Scott & Kim Buell — Dodging Granny - Granny
Bill & Angie Riggs — Hunter's Bandero - Bandero
Andy Chelton — Hey Danny - Danny
Kim & Warren Tormey — Babie
Toni Gabriele & Paul Rippee — Flying Amstel - Amstel
Elanie & Robert Stone — Miz Dawn Jay - Dawn Jay
Amy & Albert Schmid — Miami Picture - Miami
Steve Finkle — Cores Correction Cores & Daydreamer — Day
Dyan & Terry Strickler — LA Wind - Wind
Molly Handler — Celtic Ash - Ash
Rixceny & Matt Smith — KGB Kats Abilene - Abner
Elizabeth & Kelly LeNeave — Bd's Mimi - Mimi
Melissa Chambers — Hulkster - Hulk
Baxter Rogers — Rambo's a Rollin - Oban

■ CHIPS (As in you can't have just one!)

Karla Drischel — SHK Loose Change - Lucy
W. Scott Coffey — LPs Anna Clair - Brandy, PP Fantastic - Taboo and Homestead - Scooter
Ed & Bonita Kimbrell — Myokie Isoke - Isoke
Ann & Watson Chaney — Cleo N Durango - Durango
Julie & Rick Lynch — Hey Lonnie - Lonnie
Mark & Becky Orman — Bacs Sissy Girl - Sissy & Bd's Slam Dunk - Catche
Wayne & Debbie Travis — Hey Kelly J - Kelly
Ramona Grove — Ed Wil - Ed
Pam Arzu — Oshkosh Papaya - Paya
Vicki & Bill Bullard — Hey Buddy - Buddy
Stephanie, Stokey and Maria Borque — Pin Oak Frank - Frank
Steve & Ginger Tessier — Dolly Oats - Zoey

■ New to GPA/N

Ginny French — Jumper

As of Dec. 1, 2007, 116 greyhounds have found their forever homes through GPA/N.