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GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA - NASHVILLE | SUMMER 2009



**Danner Martin, a Junior Girl Scout, hosted a Meet & Greet in May at the Lockeland Elementary School Spring Festival. She introduced potential adopters to retired racers and took in donations of toys, blankets and towels for GPA/N hounds.**



## Love of senior hounds

BY LYNNAE VAN DOREN

My destiny with senior greyhounds began very simply. Missy, due to her owner's terminal illness, needed a new home. She traveled from Florida and quickly settled into the family. I was amazed by her resilient spirit which made her transition graceful. In the brief time she was here, I was enchanted with her spicy, sweet personality. After she passed, I knew I would continue to share my life with seniors.

Pearl and Charmin were the next. Both had raced and had second careers as mothers. Charmin is the mother of two GPA/N hounds, Noonan and Barbie. It's always good to have family close by.

Recently, 13-year-old Wild Child came to me as a foster following the death of her owner. She has some medical concerns — arthritis, worms and a heart murmur — which Dr. Carol Macherey addressed. As a result, her health and quality of life are greatly improved. At this year's Winter Gathering, I realized Wild Child wasn't really a foster and that she had found her forever home with me. Through its Senior Incentives program, GPA/N is helping with Wild Child's care and that's made it easier to adopt her.



Wild Child

### Count the blessings

Nurturing these special greys is a blessing. They understand that simple things are the best — good meals, a few cookies and soft stuffies and beds. I feel rewarded when I look into their eyes and see the appreciation and love. Pampering them ensures that the best part of their lives is the last part.

Each senior has a different story as to why they need a new home late in life. I encourage anyone who thinks they may be able to stretch the family by just one more to consider a senior.

Lynnae lives in Chapel Hill, Tenn. and shares her home with Beasley, 12; Pearl, 11; Charmin, 10; Villa 11; Wild Child, 13; and four cats.

GREYHOUND  
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# Greyt News

[www.gpanashville.org](http://www.gpanashville.org)

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## Meet GPAN's new board members



Kim Tormey — Meet & Greet



Mary Hoskins — Fostering

Please welcome GPA/N's two new board members. Mary Hoskins has assumed the role of foster coordinator, a job previously filled by Ramona Grove who resigned from the board in April. Kim Tormey is leading our many Meet & Greets, a responsibility Jan Bornstein held in conjunction with her work as Special Events coordinator.

Here's what these hardworking volunteers say about dogs, greyhounds and their work in helping find homes for them:

### KIM SAYS:

I first met and fell for greyhounds at a local community event several years ago. I love greyhounds because they're greyhounds! I'm enchanted by this breed and the stories these dogs have to tell.

When we lost our dear chow mix, Bunnie, in 2007, a spot opened up in our home for another dog. We saw Babie on the GPA/N website and that was it. My husband, Warren, and I began attending Meet and Greets and discovered we'd also "adopted" a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers that we call the "greyhound mafia." Last fall, we added Paddy to our pack.

I'm committed to GPANashville because of the people who are involved, who show up, who do the work, who make homes happen for these deserving creatures. M&Gs are dear to my heart because this is where I first met the people who are now my friends.

As the M&G coordinator I hope to see these gatherings continue to be a strong voice for our adoption program. My

personal goal is to "be there" for those who take the time from busy weekends and bring their dogs, their knowledge and their enthusiasm to get the word out.

If you'd like to be involved in M&Gs, contact Kim at [tormeykim@yahoo.com](mailto:tormeykim@yahoo.com).

### MARY SAYS:

One Saturday afternoon a few years ago, my husband, Steve, and I were shopping at PetSmart and we met our first greyhound. I immediately fell in love with these beautiful dogs. Their athleticism blows me away. I wanted to adopt a greyhound but was living in an apartment at the time and thought it would not be possible until I had a house.

A few months after we purchased our house in Murfreesboro I started researching greyhound adoption. I saw Fenton (Fenny) on the GPA/N website and knew I had to make him a member of my family. Since adopting Fenny, we've also added Beau and Basil to our pack.

I absolutely love being the foster home coordinator. I get to meet and work with some of the most amazing people. My job never has a dull moment, which I love. It starts with trips to the Birmingham and Memphis tracks, transporting dogs to Nashville, getting the dogs vetted and then placed in their foster homes. Without our foster homes this would not be possible. Our foster homes are the best there are. We all share the same goal — to find homes for retired greyhounds.

If you'd like to be involved in fostering, contact Mary at [greyhoundluv47@yahoo.com](mailto:greyhoundluv47@yahoo.com).

## President's Column

There's a quote I like a lot — "Blessed is he who knows the love of an old dog." It's really true. Senior hounds hold a special place in my heart. They come to GPA/N from many sources. Some have been used in breeding programs. Others, like Frankie and Wild Child, came from homes where they could no longer stay. Recently, we've begun taking hounds like Doug and Wildman that were in a blood donor program.

No matter where they come from, senior hounds bring with them a grace and sense of gratitude that enriches the lives of everyone they meet. We feel so strongly about this particular group of dogs that GPA/N works to ensure that at least 10 percent of adoptions annually are dogs eight and older.

### Senior Incentives

To encourage the adoption of older hounds, in 2007, we established the Senior Incentives (SI) program. Through it, the adoption fee of \$230 is waived for adopters of dogs eight and older. SI also includes a one-time \$150 allotment for veterinary services. The stipend can be used for routine check-ups, medications, lab work, heartworm preventive, etc. The services must be performed at a vet clinic.

The real heart of SI is the Oshkosh Maximus Fund (OMF). Named for a senior hound who died while awaiting adoption, OMF allows senior adopters to apply for a grant of up to \$500 in additional financial assistance for veterinary services for their senior. The objective is to provide help with extraordinary or unexpected vet expenses that some seniors need.

There is more about the details of SI and the OMF on our website at [www.gpanashville.org](http://www.gpanashville.org). Just click on the tool bar on the left side of the splash page. Read about these programs, then visit the adoptable dogs page and look for the red Super Senior label.

Some people say, "I couldn't adopt an old hound. It hurts too much to have them die so soon." There's truth there but the fact is, none of us — dogs or people — have any guarantees. The only thing I know for sure is to love and be loved is the greatest gift of all.

Liz Trapp  
President, GPA/N

## Keep your hound safe

### Take hot weather precautions during summer

Keep fresh, cool water available 24/7. Change the water every day.

Keep walks short and limit them to the early hours of morning or in the evening. Be particularly cautious with older dogs or if your hound has been ill.

Protect your hound's tender toes by walking him in grass, not on hot pavement or asphalt.

NEVER leave your hound in the car with the windows rolled up. Even with windows open partially, the temperature inside your car can reach 100+ degrees in just a few minutes, even in the shade.

NEVER leave your hound alone in the car with the engine/AC running. What if your motor dies?

Provide a shallow kiddie pool so your hound can get in to cool down.

Use ceiling or floor fans to provide cooling air circulation for your hound.

If you take your hound for a run, do it early in the morning and don't allow him to run for more than five minutes. Afterward, mist your dog all over with water or apply cool damp cloths. Offer small amounts of water as he cools down.

### Heat stroke can kill

If your hound experiences any of these symptoms, soak him with the hose or in a kiddie pool and head straight to the vet:

- Excessive panting or drooling
- Dark purplish gums and tongue
- Rapid heart rate
- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Seizures
- Unconsciousness

## GPA/N picnic is Sept. 20

Pull out your calendar and save the date. GPA/N's annual fall picnic will be 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 20 in the large events pavilion at the rear of Centennial Park.

It's an afternoon of food, fun, games and shopping. Via the silent and live auctions, it's also GPA/N's largest moneymaker, so start setting aside a bit of cash so you can bid high and bid often. (Also, if you'd like to donate a greyhound-related item for the auction — artwork, new collars, dog beds, jewelry or t-shirts, gift certificates to local businesses — we'd love to hear from you.)

To learn more about this event, watch our website ([gpanashville.org](http://gpanashville.org)) or the adopters' Yahoo list. Interested in volunteering to help? Contact Jan Bornstein ([janbornstein@aol.com](mailto:janbornstein@aol.com)). She's our special events person and she needs all the helping hands she can get.

In the meantime, here are three other greyhound events to add to your calendar.

- **Greyhound Festival of Bluegrass**, Louisville, Ky. July 31-Aug. 2, [www.greyhoundsofshamrock.org](http://www.greyhoundsofshamrock.org)
- **Greyhounds Reach the Beach**, Dewey Beach, Del. Oct. 8-11, [www.adopt-a-greyhound.org](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org)
- **Midsouth Greyhound Adoption Option**, Southland Dog Park, West Memphis, Ark. Oct. 17, [www.midsouthgreyhound.org](http://www.midsouthgreyhound.org)

## Greyhound Teeth

### Toothsome truths reveal more than bad breath



Brushing your hound's teeth several times a week with dog toothpaste can improve his breath and reduce the chances of diseases caused by infected gums and bad teeth.

BY CAROL MACHEREY, DVM

### My vet keeps telling me to have my greyhound's teeth cleaned. Why?

There's a strong link between significant dental disease and chronic progressive diseases elsewhere in the body. Bacteria from the dog's mouth have been cultured in their kidneys, liver, heart valves and even their spine. Individually, each micro-abscess isn't especially important but, over time, the scar tissue replaces more and more functional tissue. The result is that by their senior years, dogs can become ill from diseases that might actually originate from their bad teeth.

### How do I know if my greyhound needs a dental?

First, lift your grey's lips and look at ALL the teeth. The back teeth tend to be more of a problem and are harder to see, so make sure you look way back. Look first for tartar — ideally a tooth should be white and free of surface tartar. If you see lots of build-up, see your vet. Also, look at the gums. If the gums are especially red at the tooth/gum line, see your vet. Healthy gums are uniformly pink.

### Can I use human toothpaste to brush my hound's teeth?

NO! People spit out toothpaste but dogs swallow it. Human toothpaste is not intended to be swallowed — it might make your hound sick to his stomach. Doggie toothpaste can be swallowed and comes in delicious flavors like chicken!

### My hound has bad breath but his teeth seem clean? What's causing the bad breath?

The reasons for bad breath are:

- Bad teeth — Tartar, fractured teeth, food residue.
- Gum disease — Red, inflamed gums, ulcers on the gums or tongue, infected wounds.
- Indigestion — Your hound may eat his food and like it, but it may not like him. Poor digestion of food ingredients can lead to stomach gas that is burped into the mouth causing an unpleasant odor. Change foods and see if that helps.

### What's the best way to keep my greyhound's teeth clean?

Brushing is fine, but few people keep it up. I'm a big believer in dogs gnawing to scrape off their own tartar. Find something your greyhound enjoys chewing — natural treats like tracheas, U.S.-made rawhide, bully sticks, RAW bones (never cooked) are just some of the possibilities. Consistent gnawing — at least four times a week; daily is even better — does wonders for most dog's mouths. Never leave your dog alone while he's chewing because of the risk of choking.

## New Adoptions

Between Feb. 22 and May 15, the following hounds found their forever homes with GPA/N.

### NEW ADOPTIONS

Joy & Rick Wilson — Myokie Clint - Clint  
Shirley Hudson — Cute as a Button - Allie  
Jennie Kellams — Lena's Grace - Lena  
Linda & Henry Hulburt — Simple Chic - Chic  
Sara & Wade Woodruff — Killer Joe - Frasier  
Lori & David White —  
BB's Tommy Franks - Tommy  
The Hartmann Family — Blur of Fur - Cooper  
Gloria Griffin — Reactivated Mind - Rubbie  
Casey West — WV's Anstead - Anstead  
Nancy & Ed Brown —  
Kiowa Slow Dance - Pacer  
Sheri & Tom Tigue — Andisten Halia - Andi  
Jim & Joan White —  
Fuzzy Face Breeze - Breeze  
Michael & Jennifer Krog —  
Sweet Grace - Grace  
Lauralyn Chrisley — Jessie Jay - JJ  
Laurie & Tom Kush — South Beach Fun - SoBe  
Paul Pena — JJ Giddy Up - Giddy  
Richard Long & Jennifer Crunk —  
WWW Pros vs. Joes - PJ  
Sid & Lynn Taylor —  
Cabry Sling Shot - Sling Shot

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

Thornton Family — Dion's Sunset - Bella  
Donna & Bryan Jones —  
Hey Pete Rambo - Pete  
Ramona Grove — Barbie Doll - Barbie  
Wayne & Deb Travis — Hey Zane - Zane  
Tracy & Jim Kelly — Hey Franko - Franko  
Lou Lewis — DD Da Dog - Dash  
Liza & Paul Downey — CV's Easy Lana - Lana  
Terri & Dave Hedges — RK's Riviera - River  
Lynnae Van Doren — MN's Wild Child  
Jim & Fay Nations — Miz Zipsea - Zippy  
Sarah Gerhardtstein — Rooftop Ike T - Ike  
Rob Holmes — Mystical Maiden - Maiden  
Margot & Terry Dermody — Zizi Gal - Zizi  
Tammy Flemming —  
Great Pretender - Pretender  
Carol Macherey — Rooftop Sting - Sting  
Liz Trapp — JJ's Killer Chic - Chic  
Mary & Steve Hoskins — Blue Basil - Basil  
Sandra & Jim Sims — BD's Frazier - Laser  
Al & Amy Schmidt — Rocco Oakes - Rocco  
Pam Stephens — Charmin Dave - Dave

Thanks to our adopters, so far in 2009, 44 greyhounds were placed through GPA/N.