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Our Yahoo list is another important resource for new adopters. Sign up today by sending an email to:

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On our Yahoo list, you can post questions and learn from the greyhound-experiences of other adopters. When new adopters and their hounds regularly attend our weekend Meet & Greet, both benefit from the human and canine camaraderie. (The M&G schedule is on the right side of our website splash page at **GPANashville.org**).

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GPA/N is a 501(c)3 organization, so all donations are tax deductible. We have no paid staff and all resources benefit the hounds and further the cause of greyhound adoption. We depend on the generosity of people like you to help us help retired racers find.

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The First Few Days in a New Home

By The Greyhound Project, Inc.

Your new retired racing greyhound has only recently arrived in your home, and things will be strange. Initially, your greyhound will probably be confused by the new environment. As a result the dog may be tense and possibly withdrawn. Unless completely terrified, greyhounds frequently exhibit only very subtle signs of stress which may go unnoticed. It is normal for a new dog to be afraid at first.

At first your new greyhound may stare ahead and seem unresponsive. This is typical greyhound stress behavior. Remember it is undergoing stress adjusting to its new environment. Quiet and calm is the way to go. A light and gentle massage all over (paws and all) with soothing words is great for both the dog and the new owner. Keep the house pretty quiet the first day.

Your new greyhound may be very afraid the first few nights. It is used to living in a crate where it feels safe and secure and surrounded by a large number of other greyhounds. The sounds, smells, shadows of your home are all new to it. Reassure the dog with words and your physical closeness.

Make sure that the dog has an opportunity to thoroughly relieve itself before entering a new home. At some point the dog will pick a spot to lie down (on an old blanket or someplace it feels relatively safe). Let it remain quiet unless it comes to you.

Be patient and gentle, speaking soft, soothing, one-word assurances. Speak "NO" more strongly for unacceptable behavior.

If you do not want the dog in certain rooms use your hand as a traffic cop and say firmly but gently "NO," and stay that way until the dog gets the message. Consistency, repetition, and softness are the keys to successful training.

Greyhounds like comfort and will make themselves at home on the sofa or the bed if permitted. If you do not want to share every soft surface in the house with your dog, start immediately to block it from those places and show it where it is acceptable. Please be consistent; a dog cannot differentiate between when it is all right to get on the bed and when it is not, and once allowed it will be nearly impossible to reverse the behavior.

At night if you let your new greyhound into the bedroom, it will quickly settle down. Your closeness and scent are a source of security in a bewildering, new environment. Remember, however, once you have allowed the dog into the bedroom, you are committed. Like all learned behavior, your dog will respond and will expect to be allowed to continue the behavior.

If the dog is not allowed into the bedroom, please keep it nearby and develop its' confidence with soft words of assurance.

Note that the literature suggests that training is accelerated and behavior enhanced when the dog shares the Master/Mistress's bedroom. You are the alpha figure and the bedroom is your den. This Master/Mistress is also preferably the feeder.

Your greyhound may be perplexed by its reflection in mirrors, fireplace glass, French doors and the like. Let it explore, but be there to ensure safety.

On the track greyhounds live regimented, scheduled lives. Your dog will adjust more easily if you establish a schedule for feeding and walking and stick to it.

On the track, the dogs are turned out to relieve themselves four times a day. As a result your dog has not learned to ask to go out. They will learn how to let you know, but at first you need to take responsibility for establishing a schedule in place of the regular turn out your dog is use to. Time duty trips close to feeding time, usually within an hour before.

Time portion-controlled feeding. Remember that the hand that trains is the hand that feeds. Typically, your dog will start bonding at feeding times. Although others in the family may want to share in the feeding, at first it is best for one person to do the feeding.

Feed twice a day with high quality dog food. Note that an abrupt change in dog food may cause a brief period of diarrhea which can be avoided if the transition is made gradually mixing the old and new feed in decreasing proportions until the new feed is fully integrated into your dog's diet.

Generally, you should be able to feel your dog's ribs and perhaps faintly see them through its coat. Avoid overfeeding; greyhounds are not designed to carry extra weight, which can cause health problems and be harmful. If your dog needs to gain weight, it should be done gradually over several weeks.

Avoid underfeeding; it results not only in physical problems but behavior problems, as well.

A new dog may startle easily at first -- don't sneak up on your dog from behind, come from the front. Speak softly. It will always hear you unless it is asleep.

They tend to sleep deeply and need to be awakened slowly. If your dog is asleep, please do not startle it. Greyhounds may make sassy "grumps" if you startle them awake - the same way they would with a kennel mate. Over time your hound will adjust to soft intrusions.

Your dog is use to being inactive for long periods, so leaving your dog to go to work or tend to other activities is not a problem if you spend some time helping your dog to understand it has not been abandoned.

All of your dog's life has been spent surrounded by other greyhounds, so being left alone in a new house can be very unsettling. They may become very insecure if left with the run of the house when no one is around, and confining your greyhound to a

small room without a crate seems to terrify some dogs. Use of a crate while you are not at home is the best way to ensure your hounds' safety.

Although they have been confined to their crates when not involved in purposeful activities, they have also been surrounded by other dogs. Again the use of a crate for the dog while you are out can ease the transition for both the dog and the owner, and leaving a radio on during your absence can soothe an insecure dog. The kennels where your dog was raised frequently leave a radio on when there is no one around.

Greyhounds from the track are "crate trained" which means that they will not soil their crate unless they are very ill and cannot control themselves. They can make the transition from their crate to a new home with a watchful eye from you and a little patience. This means that it is in your – and your homes – best interest to keep your hound in sight at all times for the first few weeks. By doing this you will be able to correct any mistakes before they happen. If you can not commit to watching your new hound, put him in his crate until you do have the time to work on training. You must catch them in the act of elimination to be able to have correction for the misbehavior understood. NEVER hit or yell at a dog that has eliminated and you have found it after the fact – they will not understand what they have done wrong and you will harm your relationship with that dog. "Rubbing their nose in it" does NOT work.

When it is duty time, let your greyhound loose only if you have a safe, enclosed area. Otherwise, use a leash and martingale collar that the dog cannot slip over its head. Try to be as inconspicuous to the dog as possible. Often new hounds have "shy bladders" and will be reluctant to eliminate if you are stomping around the yard behind them. After your dog has relieved itself, give it lots of praise followed by its regular feeding. With this sequence of activities the dog will learn to please you, stay with you, and know that it will be rewarded for acceptable behavior.

Your greyhound is essentially a puppy at heart and a runner. Unlike other breeds, they rely mostly on sight and cannot easily find their way back as scent-oriented puppies can. Do not let it loose where it can lose sight of you or you of the dog. You will not be able to catch your greyhound if it starts to run, so do not let it loose where it can escape even unintentionally.

Greyhounds from the track do not know what traffic is, and may be easily distracted by the new sights and sounds in its new environment. Your dog's safety and its life depend on your wisdom, care, and understanding. Never allow the dog loose where it might catch sight of something to chase across traffic.

With patience, consistency, and practice, greyhounds can be taught typical obedience commands such as sit, stay, heel, down, and come. They are anxious to please, and they have a mind of their own.

The most important command, return when called, is also the most difficult to teach any dog. Good books are available on dog obedience and training classes

are available -- consult your veterinarian. Do not let your greyhound loose in an unfenced area.

Housebreaking

by Lynda Adame

House breaking is HIGH on the list of problems that adopters face, so keep in mind that this problem is MUCH easier to fix when it is caught and dealt with early.

Just because a Greyhound is potty-trained in its foster home, does not mean it will continue to be potty-trained in its new home.

The first forty-eight hours, after adoption, are the most crucial and the adopters should expect them to be the most stressful. It is during this time frame that they should commit themselves to house breaking.

Advice

The very first thing that the adopters should do, when they bring their new dog home, is to take the dog to the spot where they will expect it to go to the bathroom. Give it the chance to go potty, and begin to praise it as it goes to the bathroom. I use a high pitched voice, telling the dog "Good Potty" over and over again. It's important that the Greyhound learn, right away, where it is appropriate to potty. If the dog does not go at this time, continue taking it outside every twenty minutes until it goes. Keep the dog on a leash (while in the house) until it goes outside the first time.. We actually suggest that you do this for the first day. There are a lot of good reasons to do this besides housebreaking and bonding. It keeps the dog out of trouble; there can be no counter-surfing, no chewing the furniture, no chasing the cats, no whatever. If you see the dog getting nudgy or actually catch it in the act, you can respond immediately and take the dog out.

If the dog has been house broken for some time, and suddenly begins to go in the house, then I suggest you take the dog to the Vet and have it checked for: Urinary tract infections, spay incontinence (females), *ballinitis* (males). There's no point in trying to train a dog that has a medical condition.

If the dog tests clean at the Vets, or is a new dog, then move on to Behavior Modification:

-Keep the dog on the leash or confined with the owner (in the same room) until the dog proves reliable.

-Crate or confine the dog when you can't monitor it.

-Let the dog out on a normal schedule. First thing in the morning, again after breakfast, upon getting home, again after dinner and once again at bedtime.

-Don't give the dog free run of the house. Close off access to any room other than the one they are in and keep the dog near them. Follow it around and give it verbal corrections as needed.

I'm not saying hound the dog, but follow it and watch it, see what it's up to. Your best bet is to stop bad behaviors immediately and set the tone of what is OK for the dog.

-Watch for prolonged sniffing, squatting or leg lifting and take the dog right out to potty if they see this behavior.

If the dog always goes in the same spot, clean the area well and then feed the dog on that spot.

Two cleaning protocols:

-Soak the wet area up into a thick towel or paper towel. When no more moisture soaks through, dilute the area with some plain water and soak this up. Douse the area with Natures Miracle, place a white towel over the area, and let that dry. It takes a week or two for the enzymes to fully clean the area. If there is still a smell after a week, douse the area with more Natures Miracle™.

-1/2 cup 3% household hydrogen peroxide mixed with 1 teaspoon cloudy ammonia. Saturate spot with this mixture. Cover spot with a good thickness of white - *and I stress white* - paper toweling. Place something heavy (a gallon jug of water works great) on spot and let sit 3-4 hours. After 3-4 hours remove paper toweling and neutralize with white vinegar. This will not bleach your carpet and it works wonders. Have used it on blood, bile, potty accidents, ink, and even red liquid potpourri. Sometimes if the stain is very bad you may have to let the carpet dry out for a day or two and repeat the process but I have never tried anything that works as well on all kinds of stains.

Claudia Presto:

"Out of the 80 plus dogs through my home, about 2/3 have been males. I've only had a leg lift problem with 3 or 4 (which is 5%) past one day. (And my opinion is that those 3-4 were older, and they had more of a macho streak and needed to let others know more that they were around and in charge. As they became more secure, less macho, less testosterone etc. the leg lifting disappeared. The toughest guy went for three weeks - but it wasn't everyday.)

So here are my thoughts:

It's not about having to go to the bathroom, it's about marking a place to call their own. And any new place, any moved furniture, any piece of clothing hanging off something is potential for marking. But it is absolutely fixable.

However, YOU must be there to train them. You follow their every move the first few hours. You watch for the telltale signs of moving into position to mark territory. Boys are easy to catch, if you are watching. Keep them on leash, if you can't keep their attention on you. Put bells on them, so when they move you are alerted. As they start to get in position, you give a very loud, very definite NO, grab a collar and pull them outside. (remember you've been following them, so you're right there to do this) YOU go outside with them; you then stay with them until they pee outside and you tell them very loudly and in a happy voice, "good boy good boy".

YOU have to let the dog know what behavior you want from him. That means going outside with him, reinforcing that outside is wonderful. Watching inside, and reinforcing that inside is unacceptable. But they must be caught in the act, you must communicate clearly it is not appropriate behavior and if you do they seldom do it again. At least not when you're watching...<G>

Now to work with a dog that is sneaky and does it when you're not watching. You must be sneakier than he is!

First make sure all smells are gone - Nature Miracle™ is one product, vinegar another to dissipate smells. Put that leash or bells on him, so you know where he is, even when you're not watching. Install a doggie door. Set him up by leaving something he's peed on out, and then watch like a hawk for when he goes to re-lift his leg on it and snag him!

Send all the boys to me - They are much easier than the girls!

Happy Tail = Sad Tail: Act now to prevent injuries

BY CAROL MACHEREY, DVM

Happy tail sounds like a good thing, but in greyhound medicine, it's something to avoid.

Our beautiful greyhounds are blessed with long, delicate tails. When they wag them enthusiastically and hit the 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 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 the best 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 (reinjured every time it's wagged and bangs against something) and won't heal. That's when amputation is the only alternative.

An ounce of prevention

Happy tail is a problem that can be better avoided than treated after it happens. When you hear that tail hitting a hard surface — BANG, BANG, BANG — quickly 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 damage his tail, try to get a temporary bandage on the injury quickly, then get to your vet as soon as possible. While I've never seen a greyhound in danger from bleeding from a tail injury, it will make your home look like a crime scene.

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



Cosmo Como had to have part of his tail amputated following a bout with Happy Tail.

Corns aren't just for people, Greys get them, too

BY CAROL MACHEREY, DVM

Greyhounds are often plagued by corns, but it's a condition many veterinarians may not know about.

There are many treatments for corns. In medicine, when there are many treatments, it usually means none work well. This is true with corns. Options include:

Dremel the corn with a sanding drum or other rough attachment to flatten it level with or below the level of the pad.

Soften it with any keratolytic agent. We have some at the clinic. Dr. Scholl's makes similar



Corns indicated by circle.

products. They hurt less when they are soft.

Try duct tape or a corn pad. The trick is keeping it on. Flatten the corn first with a Dremel, then cut the pad or tape to fit over the corn.

Use a boot such as "Therapaw" (www.therapaw.net). The boot cushions the corn and can make it less painful.

Have your vet "hull" out the hard portion of the corn. It will return, but it buys some comfort.

Both traditional and laser surgery have generally been unsuccessful with recurrence likely. Auburn University is experimenting with a fat pad implant — the jury is still out.

Amputation is a last resort. Greys do fine with three toes, but what if the next toe over develops a corn? It's NOT wrong to amputate, but you must understand the risks.

Greyhounds and Kids

by Lynda Adame

It's not uncommon for a new adult dog to growl at a young child. Growling is a normal way for dogs to warn each other off of something. What you need to do is to let this dog know that the child is above the dog in the pack structure,.....hence the dog is not allowed to growl at the child.

A few things to do:

-Don't leave the dog and child alone together unsupervised. Always have their interaction monitored by an adult. (PLEASE do not let them sleep together in the same bed!)

-The dog should be instantly reprimanded, by an adult, if he is caught growling at the child.

-Have the child (if old enough) be the one to feed the dog breakfast and dinner, as well as any and all treats that the dog will get throughout the day. Have an adult monitor these sessions and restrain the dog until the child has set the bowl down and given the dog the RELEASE or BREAK command.

-The dog is to be physically moved off of any spot that the child wants, and should not ever be allowed to push the child out of the way. Make the dog wait until the child goes into or out of doors (or the car or the yard).

-Teach the dog a command (SIT, DOWN or STAY) and this will be the way the child begins to control the dog and takes a higher position. The child will issue the command before meals and treats, or randomly through the day.

-If the child needs privacy, place a baby gate in the doorway to their bedroom so the dog can't go in there unsupervised. On the converse, give the dog a special "child free" area where it can get some privacy.

-Never let the child hug or otherwise confine or corner this dog until the pack order is set, and make sure that the child doesn't startle the dog awake. Greyhounds sleep hard, and often sleep with their eyes open. Teach the child to call out the dogs name and be sure the dog is awake before approaching it. Greyhounds are used to being awakened when activity begins in the kennel and are not used to being awakened by touch.

-Young children like to smother a dog with kisses which can seem like a scary display of "in your face" dominance to a kennel dog. Add to this the fact that children are at eye level to a dog and do not know that it is important for them not to stare a new dog in the eyes. This can seem like a threat to a dog and a warning snarl or bite can ensue.

-Be sure that the child is trained along with the dog. The child should learn to respect the dogs space or bed and not to approach it while it is lying down unless an adult gives the child permission. No pulling on the dogs' ears or harassing the dog is allowed. A dog will only take so much (even a Greyhound) and if no one steps in to save it, it will take matters into its' own hands.

Advice on Greyhounds and Cats

by Lynda Adame

Just because a dog tests cat-tolerant, or lives in a foster home with cats, does NOT mean it will automatically be tolerant of cats in the new home. Greyhounds should never be encouraged to play with cats (no matter how cute it might seem). Keep the animals separated when they are not home to monitor the situation. Even a cat-tolerant Greyhound is likely to chase a cat when outdoors.

The best way to introduce a dog to your cat is:

Walk the dog into the house on lead, held with a strong grip, with a muzzle on the dog. If he lunges at the cat, give him a check (hard tug) with the lead while saying "NO!" in a stern tone. Use a squirt bottle, if needed, to help emphasize the "No Kitty" command. Give the indoor cats plenty of safe areas to get to....high spots, small openings, and a baby-gate slightly raised off the floor for a cat to scoot under. Keep a muzzle on the Greyhound until you are SURE that it understands the concept of "No Kitty".

Yvonne Dailey:

"My general rule is: Always give the cats the benefit of the doubt. In other words, when there's the slightest, teeniest, weensiest wisp of doubt in your mind as to whether the dog is cat safe, keep them apart when you're not there.

"My dogs have earned their privileges very gradually, over a period ranging from about three weeks for Lotus to a couple of days for Rosie. (It should be noted that the two I've adopted were obviously never a big problem with the cats.)

"I use the same procedure for foster dogs, too. First, they can only be in the same room with the cats when the dog is on lead (muzzled, too, if they're extra interested or I'm distracted). The lead stays on my wrist at all times. If they will reliably leave the cats alone this way, we progress to leaving them in the room with the cats when I'm in the same room, but leaving the lead attached to the collar to facilitate quick restraint if it's needed. After that, they get off-lead privileges, but I still make sure they're not unattended with the cats. From here we progress to run of the house, still while someone is home and keeping an ear out.

"My approach is a little different from some since I don't care if the dogs and cats are 'friends'. I'd rather have dog-cat apartheid in my house than take a chance on a dead cat. (My cats aren't interested anyhow, the snobs!) That means all I have to teach the dogs is to leave the cats alone, instead of having to train them to play or interact with cats."

Katie Traxel:

"I made a big mistake initially in not controlling the first meeting of Blue and Byrne. Blue (Greyhound) was off-leash, though muzzled, and rushed the cat. Byrne (cat) ran and Blue chased. From that point on he was fascinated by this creature that put in such rare appearances. On the advice of friends, I got squirt bottles. Every time Blue would

look at

Byrne with interest, (ears up, eyes fixated), he'd get a 'Blue, no kitty' and a squirt, until he averted his head. I confess that initially I put a few drops of ammonia in the water to make it truly aversive, since plain water had no effect. Within a week he'd avert his head most of the time with just words. I used this consistently, even when he was crated at night. Byrne learned that if he was crated it was safe to come around and that helped training.

"About a month into this, I took Blue up to Ellen's and he caught her cat. That taught me that he still was unsafe with cats that didn't avoid him. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but I came very close to giving up and returning him at that point. Gradually Byrne started coming out more and Blue would look at her. If he fixated, (ears up, tense, eyes fixed) he got, 'no kitty' and was expected to avert his head. I backed this up with the spray bottle. When he'd avert, he'd get praised and hugged. Molly Hughs at one point suggested training him to associate the cat with something good, even to the point of setting up situations where someone carries the cat in and then the dog gets rewarded. I think that's a good idea and could work in a household with more than one person to wrangle the animals.

"Anyway, things gradually got better with consistent and persistent training. Byrne helped a lot by learning to avoid the jangling of tags indicating that Blue was on the move, and coming around when it was quiet. I made sure that Byrne had numerous safe, warm hiding/escape spots so there was never any real danger of Blue cornering her. Amy Hanna was very helpful in reminding me to consistently reward the desired behavior and not just yell at him to get the desired result. Blue isn't really food motivated, but a hug or short petting session is a big reward to him. On a couple of occasions early on there were a few 'chase the kitty' sessions where Blue couldn't help himself and I wasn't in the immediate area. I responded with your 'big, in the face-talking to' reprimand and slapped his muzzle on him. Both of those got his attention I think and helped the process.

"To some extent, I think he had to see Byrne enough to take her somewhat for granted, which is the point we've almost reached now. He's lost his fascination for her, and that just takes repeated, safe exposure. Byrne's still cautious also, not relaxing her guard around him. Most of the time he just looks at her now, no fixation. She can walk with 2 feet of him, sniff at his bowl while he's eating, etc. Some of his restraint undoubtedly is due to my presence also, but he's learning. The big test came last week when I had him at my cousin's house with her two cats and he didn't try to chase them. He wanted to check them out, but he wasn't fixated. I guess, maybe he's learning. I'm not sure he's really what I would consider truly 'cat-safe' yet, and may never be as safe as Penguin, but he continues to improve, so there's hope. I guess I never gave up on him because there was always progress. BTW, I use the 'no kitty' outdoors consistently also. He's much more persistent there, but will eventually avert even with a squirrel in view.

"BTW, Blue was never cat-tested. I met him at the trainer's kennel, said I wanted him and didn't officially adopt him through GPA. If I had gone through the channels I'm sure he would have been listed as cat-unsafe and placed in a cat-free home.

"I was really unprepared for the intensity of an 'unsafe' dog. Penguin from day one looked at Byrne as a potential playmate and did the play bow to her. Blue was very different and very scary for a while there."

Physiological Aspects of Separation Anxiety in Dogs

Lynda Adame

Will you be home soon?

One of the most common complaints heard from the owners of companion dogs is that their dogs engage in disruptive behavior when left alone.¹ This disruptive behavior, commonly referred to as separation anxiety, is actually a distress response to separation from the person or companions to whom the dog is attached. Ex-racing hounds that are placed in homes as lone dogs often exhibit separation anxiety. This can be explained by understanding their unique past and realizing that they have never been alone or out of the company of other hounds before. Combine this with the fact that they may have never been inside a real home with humans that actually want to love and pet them, and you have a dog that could become anxious when left alone.

Separation anxiety behaviors are exhibited by male and female dogs with equal frequency and are not breed or age related (except at the time of weaning). One of the key differentiating features between other behavioral disorders and separation anxiety is that the dog engages in separation responses within a short time after being left alone — often within minutes. These behaviors typically peak within five to thirty minutes of being left, and then gradually decline. The disruptive behaviors associated with separation anxiety are commonly broken down into the following categories: Elimination behaviors; Destructive behaviors; and Excessive vocalization.²

Realize and accept that the dog is not being disruptive on purpose.

Dogs don't understand complicated human emotions like spite or revenge; they are simply responding to the stress they are feeling by acting out behaviorally and physiologically.

There is a fascinating sequence of events that take place inside a dog in response to stress. The sequence starts with the dog interpreting the situation as "stressful" in the cerebral cortex and then passing this information down to the limbic system via nerve impulses. The limbic system, the part of the brain where emotional responses are made, creates a physical display to suit the emotional response as well as physiological changes in the body. These physical adjustments — rapid, bounding heart rate, prolonged rapid panting, eye pupils large and dilated, extensive drooling and salivation, adrenaline release to increase blood pressure, and loose fluid bowel motion — occur automatically, with no conscious effort on the part of the hound.³

Punishing is not the key.

Because the dog is not doing this on purpose, punishment is not the key. Punishment used incorrectly can result in negative side effects that actually magnify separation anxiety. For example, a dog will not associate punishment with separation anxiety if it is punished at the spot of misbehavior after the owner returns; instead, the dog might learn to anticipate punishment when the owner returns and exhibit fearful submissive behavior which the owner interprets as guilt.

The goal is to gradually acclimate the dog to being alone.

Initially you should set up many short separations from the dog that last less time than it takes the dog to demonstrate the anxiety response. For some dogs, this period (initially) may only be one or two seconds long, and you might only go to another room in the house. As you have successes, gradually increase the duration of the separation periods. Present the dog with a safety cue when leaving. This cue should be a consistent statement (“Be Good. I’ll Be Right Back”) or action (leaving a TV or radio on). Leave the dog with something to occupy it like the Buster Cube or a hollowed out bone stuffed with peanut butter or a jerky strip. The Buster Cube is a toy that holds 1 and a 1/4 cups of dog kibble inside its compartments and releases small amounts of the kibble as the dog works the cube and rolls it a certain way. Studies have demonstrated that dogs respond better to departures when the lengths are varied (e.g., alone one minute, two minutes, one minute, three minutes, two minutes, four minutes, one minute, four minutes, one minute, four minutes, three minutes. ad infinitum.⁴ A dog that can tolerate being alone for an hour can usually tolerate being alone for an entire day.

Confining a dog with separation anxiety may work, but the experts feel that the confinement of a crate can add to the panic and stress of the dogs. Crates are not recommended in the treatment of separation anxiety, but confining the dog to your bedroom with a baby gate can provide a soothing secure environment for the dog.

Drug Therapy

Drug therapy is the new frontier in treating separation anxiety. PLEASE be extremely careful when using any anti-anxiety medication on a hound or any sighthound because of their unique liver metabolism. Dr. Harry Newman, a sighthound-experienced veterinarian who works with adoption groups in the Buffalo, New York area provided this information: “In hounds as in other dogs, I strongly urge owners to try behavior modification techniques and only resort to anti-anxiety medication as last resort. I recommend running a complete blood panel prior to starting these drugs and a repeat panel one to two weeks after starting them. I closely monitor liver enzymes as well as all the other organ functions. Some of the current drugs used are Prozac, Amytriptylline, Buspirone, and Inderal. This type of therapy is new and there is not much data out on reactions observed in hounds.” Regardless of the drug or the dose regimen used, owners should be warned of the range of side effects, and it must be stressed that these drugs should be used temporarily⁵

The Lone Dog

The subject of separation anxiety comes up frequently on the many greyhound e-mail lists and seems to afflict lone dogs. There is one cure to separation anxiety that has worked near miracles for the owners on that list and that is the addition of a second dog into the household, preferably another hound.

1 Victoria Voith, DVM, PhD, and Peter Borchelt, PhD, Separation Anxiety in Dogs, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Continuing Education Article #4, 42 Vol. 7 , No. 1, January, 1985

2 Ibid

3 Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD, James R. Gannon, BVSc, FACVSc, and A. Morrie Craig, PhD, Care of the Racing hound (Portland, Oregon, Graphic Arts Center and the American hound Council, Inc., pp 48-54, 1994)

4 Lynn McElroy, DVM, Separation Anxiety in Dogs, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Continuing Education Article #2, 391, Vol. 10, No. 6, July 1989

5 Ibid

_____ is due for a Rabies shot on _____, and his/her booster for Distemper/Parvo on _____.

Vaccines — Understanding what your hound really needs

By Carol Macherey, DVM

The latest vaccine recommendations were published in 2006. They are endorsed by national veterinary organizations and are being taught to vet students in vet schools across the country. Some practices find it hard to change, though, so some practices continue to recommend more vaccines, and more frequent vaccinations, than are needed for most dogs.

Also, it's been my experience that greyhounds have a more delicate immune system than most other breeds, and are more susceptible to immune mediated problems - SLO (toe nails fall off), pemphigus (skin issues including nasal pad changes), pannus (inflammation of the cornea), blood dyscrasias such as becoming sensitized to their own platelets or red blood cells, etc.

We still have a lot to learn about immunity, and vaccines may not be a factor in all those problems, but common sense would suggest that it is prudent to give just what your hound needs for protection, and to give them at the newly recommended intervals.

Know the facts

This is the link to the complete vaccine report - waaaaay more than you want to know.

www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/VaccineGuidelines06Revised.pdf

But, check out pages 4-9. PrintNote the vaccines are divided into "Core", "Non-core" and "Not recommended" in the far right column.

- **Core** means all dogs need this protection (not the same as annual shots, though).
- **Non-core** means some, but NOT all, dogs need this protection, determined by the dog's lifestyle and location.
- **Not recommended** means...not recommended.

The relevant summary is this:

- **Distemper/Parvo** - Core vaccine - Given every three years to adults
- **Rabies** - Core vaccine - given according to municipal law.
- **Bordetella** - Non-core vaccine - Given to "at risk" populations only... usually dogs boarding.
- **Lyme** - Non-core - For dogs with high risk of exposure in endemic areas - Middle TN is not endemic...yet.
- **Leptospirosis** - Non-core - May be of merit, highest incidence of vaccine reactions, disease present in this area.
- **Giardia** - Not recommended.

Be an informed consumer

The vast majority of greyhounds need annual rabies and distemper/parvo every 3 years. Period. A few who board at kennels will need Bordetella. Before you accept vaccination for ANYTHING else, PLEASE be sure it is needed. You have the right to ask questions...why does my greyhound need this? You have the right to say no. This is a healthy issue for your greyhound – please, stay informed and **participate in the health care decisions for your hound.**

Reducing Adaptation Anxiety In the Retired Racer

By Judy Kody Paulsen

Bringing home a new dog presents a multitude of training challenges. A retired racing Greyhound has a unique background that needs particular consideration during the introduction to its adoptive home.

Your adoptive Greyhounds have led a very structured life that presented very few changes on a day-to-day basis. Familiarizing them properly with a different routine can make the initial adjustment much less stressful for you and your new pet.

Remember that they have been in the company of other dogs since birth. They have essentially never been left alone and they could depend on seeing one or more humans at least four times a day, like clockwork. Greyhounds should be "weaned" gradually from this predictable environment, especially if brought into a home with no other pets where the family is gone most of the day. A retired racer can be taught to accept being alone provided each family member, during the adjustment period, is patient and doesn't try to rush the process. Each dog responds differently, but in most instances they will learn to patiently await your return and suffer little or no anxiety.

Your Greyhound should be brought home when someone will be present to supervise the adaptation for at least two or three days. When you arrive home with your new Greyhound, make every attempt to stay with the dog the rest of that day and night. During this period, you can concentrate on introducing the dog to the house and the area it is to use for relieving itself. The following morning, leave the house (dog inside, preferably in the crate that you were instructed to use) for 10 to 15 minutes. Take a walk around the block, then return. That afternoon, repeat the same procedure, only stay away about an hour. The next day try two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. The first day the family leaves for work/school, someone should return home at lunch. Repeat this for the next two or three days, continually reassuring your pet that you will be back. Hopefully, by the end of the week, your Greyhound will understand that someone will always return home. This helps alleviate the dog's fear that it has been abandoned whenever you leave the house.

Having more than one dog (be absolutely certain that they have been introduced properly) reduces the likelihood of anxiety when the dogs are left alone. Leaving a radio on helps, as this is a common practice in many Greyhound kennels. Always "childproof" your house before leaving your dog(s) inside, especially now, if the crate is no longer necessary. Don't leave closet doors ajar and be sure no food is within reach on any counters. Put shoes away and remove any articles that may be conceived as "toys." Do leave a blanket or dog bed on the floor where the dog normally sleeps, or leave the crate door open. Some greyhounds like the accessibility of their crate even when they are accustomed to their new home.

Remember, the learning process can be very easy for some dogs, and not so easy for others, so be patient and you will be rewarded with a loyal, loving companion.

An Obedient Dog is a Happy Dog

..... or why and how I encourage all dog owner's to complete at least basic obedience

By Audrey A. Schneider

People who visit our home at meal time often remark at how funny it is to watch four dogs scurry quickly on the word 'places' to each one's own section of the kitchen and plop into a sit. It is not unheard of for those who know greyhounds to exhibit amazement at the fact that two of the four dogs are, indeed, greyhounds.

I'm often asked where my belief in the comment that I used as the title of this article comes from. It has to do with numerous experiences over the years a few of which I would like to share. Three of our canine gang are over seventy pounds and of the two greyhounds one is a bouncy, happy-go-lucky, bowl'em over type. Don's Mom joined us for Christmas and all the dogs were thrilled to see her (they know Grandma will share a bit of food now and then). At 80 years old there is no way that my crew can greet her at their most excited! So, when I hear Don drive in with her, I immediately get everyone settled in the living room in long downs so we can get the two leggeds settled.

Then the boys are encouraged to be social. The other time this is really beneficial is if you have a child or person coming to your house who is not really sure they like big dogs.

The joy of watching some friends young son get to know the gang and grow from sitting very tentatively as far back on the couch as he could to quite happily traipsing amongst them was incredible. This time the technique I used was everyone in a long down and then I released them one by one for introductions (note: we haven't had much practice at the one by one release so the scene a fly on the wall would have observed was at best "how, how, how do I let Stretch know he can move while convincing three others not to" which resulted in a series quiet Stretch ok, ok, Chris stay, ok, stay, Imp stay, Chris stay; you get the drift).

Another member of our gang is a 40 pound mixed breed who was a nipper, not house broken, and terrified of thunder / fireworks. The nipping was decreased significantly as he learned more self confidence (to the best of my knowledge he has not even attempted such behavior after he had been with us for around 6-9 months). The house breaking was helped because I could use long downs or go lay downs to keep him in my area until such time that he understood that inside is NOT, NOT, NOT outside. That took less than a month. Thunder and fireworks are still a problem though. The good news is he's not destructive, the bad is that he still tends to be a basket case; but we've now got the trembling, crying down to a manageable (it's really hard for me to watch a terrified animal and not reassure it) because his job at the sound of thunder / fireworks is to go to one of two places in the house and do a long down.

The theory behind the last (courtesy of Job Michael Evans) is that it is the dogs job is to concentrate on the long down, the humans are not reinforcing the fear by fussing, and as far as Impy is concerned it is Mom's job is to keep the loud noise away. I know this sounds odd, but I can assure you that I now of a vast number of dogs that this has significantly helped.

To round out the longer stories: if you are pleased with your dog's behavior you will end up in a self perpetuating "happy cycle", there will be very few places that your dog won't be welcomed with you, and, last but not least, when you are carrying 25 pounds of hot spaghetti sauce to the basement you will be certain that you won't get tripped!

Teaching greyhounds functional obedience (i.e.: the critters in our home aren't competitive show dogs so the style is sometimes lacking but the implementation usually works pretty well) is not all that difficult and there are two approaches you can take. If you have trained a dog before I highly recommend you buy, or borrow from the library, "Play Training Your Dog" by Patricia Gail Burnham. Although the cover sports the traditional golden retriever all the pictures within are of her greyhounds! It is a delight to read and very easy to implement. Although this book is targeted at people who plan to show their dogs it is really easy to extract tricks to use with the Greyhound.

If you've never trained a dog before take yourself and your hound to a class. This is to train you as much as it is to train the dog. I will never regret the time I took to learn how to interact effectively with my first dog and from there extensive reading has allowed me to hone my technique as my family has extended. The only caveat here is that you should probably go observe the teacher for at least one class without your dog. There are some really hard handed instructors out there. If you do not like the interactions you see between the instructor and the people / dogs in the room get out immediately a seek alternate instruction. Take the time to ask other Greyhound owners in your vicinity for recommendations because on the whole greyhounds tend to require a much lower correction level than many dogs seen in dog classes.

Lastly I would like to remark that the easiest way to have obedience be a joy for both you and your Greyhound is to build it into everyday life once the Greyhound has mastered each skill. A long down while you eat dinner prevents noses from joining you at the table. A sit while you check ears or toenails works just as well as the dog standing. A down or sit stay while preparing the greyhounds food will guarantee a reward when you give the ok to eat!

Happy training to all!

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Nothing in Life is Free

by Lynda Adame

By popular demand I am posting the NILIF behavior modification technique that I had prescribed to me by my veterinary behaviorist. Any mistakes in this are mine, not hers ... and no, I am not familiar with who originally developed the method.

This method is a non-confrontational way of reducing/controlling/preventing dominance or dominance aggression in dogs. One thing that I like about NILIF is that it's adaptable to ANY dog.

1. Avoid circumstances that elicit the aggression -- at least temporarily. Later you'll be able to work on desensitization, but only after you've gotten the dog's cooperation, not resistance.
2. Maintain an aloof attitude toward the dog. This is accomplished quite easily by crating the dog (or isolating it from the family in a small area with a baby-gate). This crating will be 90% or more of the time for a few weeks. This seemed to make Gypsy much more willing to do ANYTHING I wanted her to when she was out -- she was so thrilled to have ANY attention that she was beside herself.
3. Two-three times a day for 3-5 minutes maximum practice QUICK sits and downs for food. (If you don't know how to train this, go to a class.) You are working for speed and attitude here -- so reward correct behavior generously with praise and food. If your dog has fear problems, ignore or minimize the need for corrections. Don't make these training sessions a chore -- they should be fast and fun, not a battle. When the dog is IMMEDIATELY and CONSISTENTLY and with ANTICIPATION obeying the commands, she is ready for the meat of the NILIF program.
4. At first, privileges are still restricted, but you'll gradually be able to add privileges. Don't rush things -- if you have a bad day, just go back to the prior level where things were successful and start over. Don't go from confinement/isolation to full house privileges in a day - - keep doors shut, start with limited amount of "free time". (This step is my modification to the program, but it worked for me, so I recommend it.) Gypsy got 20 minutes her first day -- twice.

5. NILIF -- Nothing in life is free. This means the dog must PERFORM to get anything it wants. For Gypsy, because we were trying to reduce dominance that was already present, I chose to use the "down" command because it requires her to throw herself into the most submissive posture available. I have since started peppering "sits" into the program, just to keep her paying attention -- but the dominance problem is long gone, so I'm less concerned with how submissive she is. "Wanna cookie?" -- Nothing in life is free, so the dog must "down" on command for the cookie. (BTW -- when you start introducing NILIF, carry food AT ALL TIMES -- you're still rewarding the dog for submitting - this is NONCONFRONTATIONAL. Reward for a LONG time, then wean off food sporadically, but still praise the behavior.) "Wanna go outside?" - Dog must "down". "Wanna drink of water?" -- That's right. You're catching on.

The dog gets NO freebies. She must *earn* everything -- food (you should see her slam her body on the floor for dinner!), play, petting, water, going out, going for a "r-i-d-e", getting "T-R-E-A-T-S", coming inside. Gypsy even has to "earn" the right to work on the agility equipment ... partly because I think it helps her attitude ("Ohboyohboyohboy, Alpha-mom made me down, I must be about to do something Good"), and partly because she's so excited to be there that she needs the extra control.

BTW -- there are other non-confrontational ways to establish dominance. Ignore a dog when it tries to initiate play -- and as soon as it gives up, you initiate the game yourself. Alpha dogs decide when the pack plays, and when it hunts. And I *do* like the idea of teaching a puppy or a dog to roll on its back and accept petting ... but it doesn't have to be a battle.

I support this method wholeheartedly. Gypsy would be dead by now if I hadn't found out about it. And whether it works because it changes their behavior and not attitude, or because of the isolation in the beginning or the improved obedience -- I don't really care. It worked for me. I hope it helps a few other people too. I consider it just one more "tool" in my training and behavior modification "toolbox" -- it's not a magic bullet for all problems. I'll happily share it with anyone else who cares. And lots of those who don't. ☺

"Wanna cookie? Nothing in life is free."

-Lynda Oleksuk
(akitainu@bev.net)

Trust - A Deadly Disease

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog. A hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there inoculations. The disease is called trust.

You knew before you ever took your Greyhound home that it could not be trusted. The people who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. A newly rescued racer may steal off counters, destroy something expensive, chase cats, and must never be allowed off his lead!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice, you escorted your dog to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand. At home the house was "doggie proofed." Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the door to the living room. All windows and doors had been properly secured and signs placed in strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR"

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes a second after it was opened and that it really latched. "DON'T LET THE DOG OUT" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is NO!) You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and a disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your Greyhound becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less mischief, less breakage. Almost before you know it your racer has turned into an elegant, dignified friend.

Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night? At this point you are beginning to become infected, the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind.

And then one of your friends suggests obedience. You shake your head and remind her that your dog might run away if allowed off the lead, but you are reassured when she promises the events are held in a fenced area. And, wonder of wonders, he did not run away, but came every time you called him!

All winter long you go to weekly obedience classes. After a time you even let him run loose from the car to the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. Remember, he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that proves the rule. (And sometimes, late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.) At this point the disease has taken hold, waiting only for the right time and place to rear its ugly head.

Years pass--it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was new. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets into the garbage, but nobody is perfect.)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer.

He spies the neighbor dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping outdoors, jumping out windows, or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running--

Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever--your heart is broken at the sight of his still beautiful body. The disease is trust. The final outcome... hit by a car.

Every morning my dog Shah bounced around off his lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car. Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

I would like to offer two additional accounts about the dangers of an unfenced area.

This first account is really a basic tragic accident, due to an improperly fitting collar. The owners actually had the dog on a lead, but unfortunately were using only a flat buckle collar on the dog. The dog became frightened at something, and just backed out of her collar. She took off away from them at top speed. Before they could manage to even get close to catching up to her, she had run out onto a road, and was instantly killed by a car. This is one of the reasons we advise using a halter while walking your Greyhound in an unfenced area.

The second account involves too much trust and a lack of common sense. The owners lived somewhat out in the country. Their home was surrounded by woods and they were well off any major roadway. They had their new Greyhound about three weeks, when I got the phone call that I hate the most, "Our Greyhound is lost!" I knew these owners did not have a fenced yard, but they had sworn they would keep the dog on a lead when taken outdoors. Upon further questioning, I discovered that they quit using the lead after about the first week. The weather had gotten cold, and so early in the mornings they would simply turn her out the back door, wait for her to "do her business," then call her back in. "she ALWAYS came when she was called," the woman lamented to me. They felt it was safe enough to allow her off the lead for just short bits of time, as they didn't live near a high traffic road, and she had never ventured into the woods before. Unfortunately, the little Greyhound DID bound off into the woods this particular morning. Perhaps she heard a squirrel rustling in some nearby leaves, or smelled a rabbit, but whatever the reason, she had taken off into the woods, and they could not find her. Our hopes of finding her safe and sound faded a little more with each passing day, and no sign of the pretty little female Greyhound.

After several weeks, our worst fears were confirmed. We got a call from a very nice man, who had been walking through the woods with his son when they discovered the still, cold body of a small, dead Greyhound. He got our number off her collar ID tag. She was found many, many miles from her home.

Why did she run off this time when she had been so reliable before? Why didn't she come racing back as she always had when her family called for her? Who knows? What we do know is that ultimately dogs will be dogs. No matter how much or how long you train and teach your dog, there may come a point where their instincts will win over learned behavior. Please don't be fooled into a false sense of security with your Greyhound. Take

the time, make that little extra effort, to ensure your Greyhound will be safe. Remember, they are depending on you.

How Safe is an Off-Lead Run?

By Patricia Gail Burnham

Three years ago a young couple had come up to me at a dog show to ask about greyhounds. They wanted to know what greyhounds were like and where they could obtain a puppy. Six months later they introduced me to their six month old puppy, a pretty fawn and white parti-color bitch with intelligent eyes. They lived in a nearby college town, and several years later I ran into them and Chloe on the street there. She had grown into a friendly and attractive adult.

Then, this spring I was raising my first litter of puppies in eight years, and the couple phoned to ask if they could come to see the puppies. They visited several times and when I asked how Chloe was, they said that she had been killed by a car two weeks earlier. There was a park near her house where they had taken her all her life to run with the neighborhood dogs. But there was a street on one side of it, and an open field on the far side of the street. And one night there was a jack rabbit in that open field. Chloe saw it, chased it and ran directly into the path of a car. She was killed instantly. What the couple was doing in visiting was getting a puppy fix to counteract their grief.

After a few visits they asked me how much training a greyhound would need in order for it to come back to the owner when called, even if it was chasing game. The answer was simple. There is no amount of training that will enable an owner to call back a greyhound when it is pursuing game. The closest I ever came to having that kind of control was with the original Sunny and Tiger. They started their obedience training when they were three months old and were trained daily for two years. They completed their Companion Dog titles at seven months of age and their Utility Dog Titles before they were two years old. When they were puppies I had adopted a cat, which they had grown up with and which made them less sensitive to the lure of stray cats in the street. I lived on a small lot and would daily jog with them on leash, and would also let them chase each other in fairly protected parks. I have not had this kind of voice control over any of my later generations of dogs.

You have to expect that a greyhound that sees cats, squirrels, ground squirrels, rabbits or jack rabbits (and sometimes loose dogs as well) will chase those animals. And will chase them without paying any attention to cars, barbed wire fences, and other hazards. You can teach a greyhound how to cross barbed wire fences without getting hurt. But you cannot teach a greyhound how to cross streets at a full run without getting killed.

The only way to keep them safe is to keep them on leash, to only let them run off leash in areas that are totally fenced, or are so far from the nearest road that the dog cannot reach it. Some beach areas are this isolated. And there is a meadow in the Sierra Mountains that we like to stop at on the way to the Reno shows.

Even your front yard can be a risky place. A local obedience judge had two of her obedience trained Whippets killed in front of her house when she let them out of her car off lead so that they could go into her house. All they had to do was cross the porch. There was a cat hidden near the porch and the dogs chased it into the street.

With that lesson in mind I regularly put nine year old Sheena on leash to cross my yard from the car to the front door. She wasn't exactly an obedience natural, taking three years to earn her Companion Dog title, and I trained her for a couple of years at the open level before deciding she was getting too old to do the jumps required by that class.

She had been through a lot of training, but that didn't help last Sunday night when I was walking her from the car to the front door with her leash in one hand, and a bag of groceries in the other. There was a cat sitting near our porch and she went for it, snatching the leash out of my hand and totally ignoring my calls to "Come." As she and the cat vanished into the dark they were heading for Madison Avenue, a very busy four lane expressway, five houses away. And while I was chasing her, several cars passed on my own street. It was a moment of absolute panic. She is my favorite dog and we have been through a lot together. She has slept curled up against my chest for her entire life. I didn't want her to end her life lying dead on Madison Avenue. But then my neighbor called out that she was behind me.

Having lost the cat, she was responding to my calls and came up to me. She had dead weeds caught on her face between her eyes and her nose. And her pads were torn from the asphalt. She was very pleased with herself. The leash was still attached. I wilted with relief and took her home. Sometimes we get lucky.

I have had greyhounds for twenty-five years and have never had a dog killed by a car. Partially that is due to my not trusting them off leash for a moment. What I do trust is that they will chase any cat, squirrel, rabbit, or dog that they see. So their running is limited to lure courses, and my fenced yard. When I lived on too small a lot for them to run, I used to walk them to the middle of a nearby golf course after dark and run them in the center of a fairway, releasing one or two at a time and keeping the others with me. The released dogs would run circles until they were tired and would then come in to be traded for a new pair. At night the area was squirrel and rabbit free and cats were infrequent. So were cars. Slick did retrieve an irate Muscovy duck from a nearby pond once but that was the only game we encountered.

The stories of first time greyhound owners who trusted them off leash, only to have them killed by cars, are tragically frequent. The first law of greyhound care is that a greyhound in pursuit of prey will not obey your call to return to you. There has to be a better way to communicate this to new greyhound owners than to have them suffer the pain of having their first dog killed. One of the joys of owning a greyhound is to watch them run but one of challenges of owning them is to find ways for them to run safely.

Feeding a Retired Greyhound

By Joan Martin

Dogs, including Greyhounds, are not solely meat eaters, and require a balanced diet. At times a dog may go off its feed for any number of reasons. It could be due to heat, stress, palatability of the food or bad diet.

Don't be alarmed unless it is prolonged. If it lasts more than a few days, consult a veterinarian.

The best indication of a dog's general well-being is its weight and coat condition. Several factors need to be considered in deciding the best weight for any individual Greyhound.

A highly conditioned dog will have more muscle mass, which is both denser and heavier, than the same size dog that is out of condition. Age, exercise, stress caused by both heat and cold, and general health all influence the best weight for an individual dog. Consult a qualified veterinarian, preferably one familiar with sight-hounds, about the ideal weight of a Greyhound and try to maintain it. Most often, staying right within 2lbs of their racing weight will be best.

A few additional tips for managing a Greyhound's weight include:

1. Many dogs respond better to portion-controlled feeding twice a day. Smaller meals fed more frequently are generally recommended for large chested dogs that may be susceptible to bloat.
2. Dog treats add calories. If trying to put weight on a dog, fine; but be careful the treats do not become a substitute for regular feeding. Include treats in the calorie count along with all other food.
3. Vitamin supplements may not be necessary, but they will not likely harm a dog either. The best policy is to consult a qualified veterinarian.
4. Total caloric intake to maintain a good weight for a Greyhound will be influenced by the dog's age, the amount of regular exercise, in some areas, the time of year.
5. A dog recovering from an injury or severe illness will need more calories than an otherwise healthy dog.

A healthy Greyhound at the correct weight, will not look emaciated, but will still look sleek (and probably a tad thin to the untrained eye), said Sue Riegel, The Michigan Greyhound Quarterly.

Look for the following in a Greyhound that is "just right:"

1. A few vertebrae visible
2. One or two ribs showing (just slightly)
3. Hip bones showing (just slightly)

Bear in mind these are just guidelines, not hard and fast rules. Vertebrae and ribs may disappear very quickly in some Greyhounds as they reach optimum weight, but you should be able to see just a hint of the hip bones, Riegel writes. If you can't see them at all, your dog is getting to be a little too "Well fed." If you can't even feel them, your Greyhound is becoming obese.

From Speaking of Greyhounds, [The Greyhound Project, Inc.](#)

Dental Home Care

Fraser Hale, DVM, FAVD, DipAVDC

With your own teeth, what your dentist and hygienist do is only a small, though essential, part of your oral hygiene program. **You** are responsible for the daily brushing, rinsing and flossing that are required to slow the constant progression of periodontal disease. The same is true for your pet. You are responsible for every aspect of your pet's daily care and care of the teeth becomes more important as we expect our pets to live longer and longer.

Brushing your pet's teeth is the main component of home-care. The purpose is to remove plaque before it becomes tartar. Plaque is a slime comprised of bacteria, saliva and food particles which adheres to the teeth and fills the pocket between the tooth and gum. Left undisturbed, plaque rapidly collects minerals from the saliva to form the rock-like brown deposits known as tartar or calculus. By brushing daily, you remove plaque and so tartar builds up slower. As with all things, the results will depend on the effort you give it.

The first step has already been done - A veterinarian has performed a thorough oral examination. Any teeth that had extensive disease beyond the point of being salvageable were extracted, and all the remaining teeth are clean and healthy. It is now up to you to keep them that way. As mentioned before, this is done by brushing your pet's teeth daily. A program is outlined below which will help you get started with this highly rewarding habit.

Bear in mind that these are guidelines, not hard rules. Each animal is different and so the program may need to be modified to your pet's needs. Some owners can start brushing their pet's teeth on the first day whereas with others, it may take weeks of gradual effort to build up to brushing. Be patient because if you try to progress too rapidly, you might make your pet mouth-shy making it very difficult to proceed. If handled properly, many animals come to truly enjoy their home-care and the extra time you spend each day with your pet will increase the bond between you.

Guidelines For Dental Home-Care

1. The first step is to work with your pet's mouth. With a little patience your pet will soon accept your attention. **Make it fun** for both of you. Use a lot of love and especially praise to gain their confidence. Try to have your practice sessions at the same time each day so your pet gets into a routine. Late in the evening often works well, as everyone involved is generally in a quiet mood then. If your pet is highly motivated by food, try just before dinner with the meal acting as a reward for co-operating.
2. Start by handling the muzzle and tickling the lips and soon you will be able to rub the teeth and gums with your finger. Put a few drops of water, flavored with garlic or garlic salt in the mouth daily. They will soon look forward to this treat.
3. Next, use a washcloth or piece of pantyhose, wrapped around the end of your finger and flavored as above, to gently rub the teeth.
4. Finally, use a soft toothbrush to brush the teeth. There are several veterinary brushes available and many human brushes are well suited to animal use as well. Hold the brush at a 45 degree angle to the tooth and brush back and forth or from gum to tip. Brushing the tongue side of the teeth is less critical. Use the garlic water or tuna juice. **Make it a game.**
5. There is an ever growing selection of veterinary tooth washes, pastes and gels. Your veterinarian can help you select the one best suited to your situation. These products all increase the effectiveness of your home-care program but remember, **it's the brushing which does most of the cleaning.** Brushing at least three times weekly is recommended (daily is much better). Human tooth paste is to be avoided as it will cause stomach upset if swallowed.

Toxins and Your Dog – Substances That Can Be Poisonous to Dogs

By Jenna Stregowski, RVT

Your dog's world is full of new scents, sights and adventure. Along with these new experiences come plenty of dangers, too. These potential hazards are enough to make a dog owner completely paranoid. Fortunately, there are things you can do to help keep your dog healthy and safe. First, learn what substances and materials are most likely to poison your dog. Then, take measures to avoid exposure to your dog. Most important, be prepared to act appropriately if your dog does become exposed to a toxin or poison. Time is of the essence!

Hazards from Pharmaceuticals and More

There are some human medications that are safe for dogs, but many others can be seriously harmful to your dog. Even some veterinary drugs can be toxic if not used properly. Before medicating your dog, always contact your veterinarian for instructions. An accidental overdose can prove fatal depending on the substance. Also, remember that your dog might be curious and quite crafty when it comes to opening pill bottles. Keep ALL drugs, vitamins, herbs and supplements out of reach. Go to <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/>

Poisonous Plants and Flowers

Many types of plants and flowers can be poisonous to your dog. Effects range from mild to severe depending on the type of plant and the quantity consumed. Some plants will only cause slight stomach upset, while others can cause seizures, coma or even death. Learn about the plants in your yard and neighborhood that are dangerous and be sure your dog does not have access to them. Ideally, toxic plants on your own property should be removed. Houseplants are a bit easier to control - simply do not keep toxic plants inside your home and you have removed the risk. If you are planning to get new plants or flowers, research them ahead of time to learn whether or not they are toxic.

Go to <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/>

Toxic and Harmful Foods

It has long been said by veterinary professionals and other dog experts that "people food" can be harmful to dogs. However, many dog owners continue to feed table scraps and other random foods to their dogs. The truth is, some foods ARE safe for dogs. Under the guidance of a veterinarian (especially a nutritionist), dogs can thrive on a homemade diet consisting of various people foods. However, there are certain foods that are considered unhealthy, and that are several food that are downright poisonous. Learn which foods to avoid before you cook for your dog or share those leftovers. It can help your dog avoid serious illness and save you a trip to the emergency room.

Go to <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/>

Dangerous Chemicals

Today's modern lifestyle involves the use of many chemicals. With substances such as cleaning agents, insecticides, fertilizers and much more - potential danger looms all around. Exposure to chemicals can harm your dog in different ways. Your dog may ingest harmful chemicals, inhale toxic fumes, or come into direct skin contact with caustic substances. The best way to protect your dog is to examine your home environment. Can the chemical products you use be swapped for non-hazardous, natural products? For the chemicals hazards you cannot eliminate, be sure to keep your dog safe from exposure.

Go to <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/>

Other Environmental Hazards

In addition to the above toxins, there are several potential things in nature that can cause toxicity. These are often related to other creatures - bee or wasp stings and fire ant bites can cause allergic reactions while some spider and snake bites can be highly toxic. Other environmental hazards include mushrooms and contaminated water. The key to prevention is to keep your dog in your sight at all times. Do not allow your dog to roam free, and keep an eye on the area around you while walking your dog. Dogs will be dogs, and curious noses are bound to explore - but it only takes a moment for that to turn into a dangerous situation.

What to Do If Poisoning Occurs

Prevention is key. Do your best to eliminate all sources of toxicity. However, exposure to toxins is still possible. It is important to recognize the signs of toxicity and act immediately. Know when to call the vet. However, if you are in doubt - *call your vet anyway*. He or she can advise you on the next step, such as whether or not to induce vomiting. Try to gather as much information as possible regarding the potential poison (as time allows). Obtain the packaging from the toxin and a sample of the ingested material if available.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of toxin exposure, keep a list of important phone numbers in a visible, easily accessible location. Be sure pet sitters and other people who might be in your home are aware of the location of the list.

The following phone numbers should be included:

Your primary veterinarian _____

One or more nearby 24-hour veterinary emergency clinics _____

ASPCA Poison Control: 888-426-4435 (\$50 fee)

Animal Poison Hotline: 888-232-8870 (\$35 fee)

Pet Poison Hotline: 800-213-6680 (\$35 fee)

An emergency contact number for you and your dog's co-owner (if applicable). _____

GPA/N chapter 615-915-7016

GPA National (in case you are traveling) 800-366-1472

What's in those Blood Tests

By Suzanne Stack, D.V.M.

When your veterinarian sends your greyhound's blood to a lab he is most commonly asking the lab to run a CBC (Complete Blood Count). This common analysis covers these items:

- RBC = Red Blood Cells
- Hgb = Hemoglobin
- PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume/Hematocrit
- WBC = White Blood Cells

Platelets

For a more in-depth look, usually to determine kidney/liver functions, the veterinarian may also ask for a "Chem Panel". This will give them information about:

- T.P. = Total Protein Globulin
- Creatinine
- T4 (Thyroid)

Greyhound bloodwork has enough differences from "other dog" bloodwork to sometimes make it deceptively "normal" or "abnormal" if one isn't familiar with these differences. The salient differences are discussed below.

Greyhounds:

RBC: 7.4-9.0
Hgb: 19.0-21.5
PCV: 55-65

Other Breeds:

RBC: 5.5-8.5
Hgb: 12.0-18.0
PCV: 37-55

Greyhounds have significantly more red blood cells than other breeds. This elevates parameters for RBC, hemoglobin, and PCV/HCT, and is the reason greyhounds are so desirable as blood donors. Most veterinarians are aware of this difference.

Never accept a diagnosis of polycythemia — a once-in-a-lifetime-rare diagnosis of pathologic red cell overproduction — in a greyhound.

Conversely, never interpret a greyhound PCV in the 30's-40's as being normal just because it is for other dogs. A greyhound with a PCV in the 30's-40's is an anemic greyhound

WBC

Greyhound: 3.5-6.5
Other dog: 6.0-17.0

Other greyhound CBC changes are less well known. The greyhound's normally low WBC has caused more than one healthy greyhound to undergo a bone marrow biopsy in search of "cancer" or some other cause of the "low WBC."

Platelets

Greyhound: 80,000-200,000

Other dog: 150,000-400,000

Likewise, greyhound platelet numbers are lower on average than other breeds, which might be mistakenly interpreted as a problem. It is thought that greyhound WBCs, platelets, and total protein may be lower to physiologically "make room" in the bloodstream for the increased red cell load.

Compounding these normally low WBC and platelet numbers is the fact that Ehrlichia, a common blood parasite of greyhounds, can lower WBC and platelet counts. So if there is any doubt as to whether the WBC / platelet counts are normal, an Ehrlichia titer is always in order. The other classic changes with Ehrlichia are lowered PCV and elevated total protein. But bear in mind that every greyhound will not have every change, and Ehrlichia greyhounds can have normal CBCs.

T.P. & Globulin

Greyhound TP: 4.5-6.

Greyhound Globulin: 2.1-3.2

Other dog TP: 5.4-7.8

Other dog Globulin: 2.8-4.2

Greyhound total proteins tend to run on the low end of normal — T.P.s in the 5.0's and 6.0's are the norm. While the albumin fraction of T.P. is the same as other dogs, the globulin component is lower.

Creatinine

Greyhound: .8-1.6

Other dogs: .0-1.0

Greyhound creatinines run higher than other breeds as a function of their large lean muscle mass. A study at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine found that 80% of retired greyhounds they sampled had creatinine values above the standard reference range for "other dogs." As a lone finding, an "elevated creatinine" is not indicative of impending kidney failure. If the BUN and urinalysis are normal, so is the "elevated" creatinine.

T4

Greyhound: .5-3.6 (avg 1.47 +/- .63)

Other dogs: 1.52-3.60

These figures are from a University of Florida study of thyroid function in 221 greyhounds — 97 racers, 99 broods, and 25 studs — so it included both racers and "retired." While greyhound thyroid levels are a whole chapter unto themselves, a good rule of thumb is that greyhound T4s run about half that of other breeds.

Urinalysis

And lastly, the good news — greyhound urinalysis is the same as other breeds. It is normal for males to have small to moderate amounts of bilirubin in the urine.

Common Hound Myths

Suzanne Stack, DVM

OLDER GREYHOUNDS NEED LOW PROTEIN "SENIOR" DIETS.

With greyhounds, we're usually trying to keep weight on the oldsters, not off them. Low protein diets may cause muscle wasting and weight loss.

GREYHOUNDS WITH HIGH CREATININES ARE GOING INTO KIDNEY FAILURE AND NEED LOW PROTEIN "KIDNEY" DIETS.

Increased creatinine does not equal kidney disease if the BUN and urine concentration are normal. A 2000 Auburn study found that greyhound creatinines normally run up to 1.6X "other dog" creatinine.

GREYHOUNDS WITH DIARRHEA SHOULD BE SWITCHED TO HIGH FIBER FOOD (I.E. W/D).

This approach often backfires with greyhounds, who do better on meat based diets. Grain based diets or the simple switch from racing diets to kibble are often the cause of diarrhea.

BARF (BONES AND RAW FOOD) DIET IS DANGEROUS, NOT ADEQUATE, ETC.

If you're willing to do the research and "cooking," BARF is superior nutrition. Other benefits - clean teeth, firm stools, may help with allergies.

ALABAMA ROT ONLY HAPPENS TO TRACK GREYHOUNDS FROM EATING THE RAW 4D MEAT.

The strain of e. coli that causes Alabama Rot is found in everything from apples to alfalfa sprouts.

FEED SEVERAL SMALL MEALS DAILY / FEED FROM RAISED FEEDERS / MAKE HIM EAT SLOW / TO PREVENT BLOAT.

Bloat is mostly genetic and much more common in show (AKC) greyhound lines. Racers gobble one meal daily from a bowl on the floor and rarely bloat.

LEAVE HIM IN THE HOSPITAL UNTIL HE EATS.

Greyhounds are sensitive dogs. Unless they're doing something for him there that you can't do at home, he'll likely eat better at home where he's happy and you can bribe him with tempting cookery. Take him in for daily rechecks if needed.

THE FECAL IS NEGATIVE - HE DOESN'T HAVE WORMS.

Fecals are often negative, especially for whipworms.

If a greyhound has had diarrhea ever since he came off the track, de-worm with Panacur before doing further diagnostics. Don't have the \$1,000 case of whipworms.

DOGS NEED BOOSTER VACCINES EVERY YEAR.

AVMA recommendations are now to only vaccinate every 3 years.

YEARLY DENTALS ARE THE BEST WAY TO KEEP YOUR GREYHOUND'S TEETH HEALTHY.

Brushing at least every other day is the best way to keep your greyhound's teeth healthy. BARF, chewies, turkey necks - all is preferable to knocking off tartar once yearly while the dog spends the other 9-10 months with dental disease. Dentals should be done when needed, but should not be the mainstay of dental care.

DO ALL YOU CAN TO SAVE BAD TEETH - YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM.

Bad teeth hurt - get them out of there! Bad teeth form a nidus for infection which can damage kidneys and heart valves. Dogs with bad teeth often feel like new dogs once they're extracted.

HIS HEART IS ENLARGED.

The greyhound heart is normally much bigger than the heart of other dogs. - There is a huge left ventricular hypertrophy (thickening of wall) - same with marathon runners. An ultrasound can differentiate normal from diseased if in doubt.

HIS HEART RATE IS ABNORMALLY SLOW.

The greyhound's heart rate is slower than other dogs - again, due to athleticism. 60-90 is normal at rest, it may be faster if excited (like at the vet's office).

HIS BLOOD PRESSURE IS HIGH.

Greyhounds often run blood pressures on the high end of normal (160,170,180). They can be higher if excited - again, an important consideration at the vet's office.

HE NEEDS A COMPLETE CARDIAC WORKUP FOR THIS HEART MURMUR.

Low grade murmurs (I & II) are common in greyhounds - they are almost always benign. Take a chest x-ray if concerned (where you will see a "big heart!").

YOUR GREYHOUND HAS POLYCYTHEMIA.

Greyhounds have a higher HCT or PCV than other dogs, normally in the 50's - 60's. HCT or PCV can easily go into the 70's if they're dehydrated. Actual polycythemia vera is a very rare disease.

HER PLATELETS ARE ABNORMALLY LOW.

Greyhounds can normally run low platelets - all the way down to 80,000 - 110,000. Ehrlichia can lower platelets (also lowers WBC and HCT/PCV) - titer if in doubt.

WE NEED A BONE MARROW BIOPSY TO SEE IF THIS LOW WBC IS CANCER.

Greyhounds normally run lower WBCs (3,000 - 10,000) than other dogs (7,500 - 15,000). An Auburn study of 50 retired racers (March 2000 Compendium) found a range of 1,800-14,600.

HE CAN'T HAVE A TBD (TICK BORNE DISEASE), WE DON'T HAVE THOSE AROUND HERE.

Greyhounds have a disproportionate incidence of TBDs due to their years on dog farms and in racing kennels, sharing ticks with greyhounds from all over the country. Ehrlichia can take 5-7 years following a tick bite to show symptoms.

THAT EHRLICHIA TITER IS TOO LOW TO TREAT.

Treat any ehrlichia titer - the severity of signs does not always correlate with titer. The alternative is waiting for a bleedout - there is too much to lose. Veterinarians working with adopted greyhounds should maintain a high index of suspicion for ehrlichia.

IMIZOL IS DANGEROUS.

Imizol is safe but not familiar to many veterinarians. Imizol is labeled to kill babesia but also kills ehrlichia.

BALD BUTTS ARE BECAUSE THEY'RE HYPOTHYROID.

The cause of bald thigh syndrome is unknown. Bald thighs are seen with both low and high thyroid levels.

A LOW T4 MEANS SHE NEEDS TO BE ON THYROID SUPPLEMENT.

Greyhounds normally run lower T4s than other breeds (about half is a good rule of thumb). They should not be on supplement unless there are clinical signs - too many greyhounds are needlessly on lifelong supplement. Use half of the normal dog dose. Sick dogs commonly have low T4s ("sick euthyroid") - the dog is not hypothyroid.

BALD BUTTS ARE FROM LAYING IN CRATES AT THE TRACK.

Greyhounds that have never been crated or to the track have bald butts.

HE HAS A TOENAIL FUNGUS.

SLO (symmetrical lupoid onychodystrophy) aka "pemphigus" is the autoimmune condition that causes greyhounds to lose multiple nails. Treat as directed in Care of the Racing Greyhound.

THIS FEMALE IS THE FIRST HERMAPHRODITE I'VE EVER SEEN! / THIS FEMALE HAS CANCER.

That red "button" at the vulva is clitoral hypertrophy from testosterone given at the track to keep females out of heat.

SKIN HEMANGIOSARCOMAS IN GREYHOUNDS ARE HIGHLY MALIGNANT.

Skin hemangiosarcomas in "glabrous" (ventrally "nude" breeds such as greyhounds and Italian greyhounds) are solar induced and have a lower potential for metastasis.

I DON'T WANT TO AMPUTATE (OR EUTHANIZE) FOR BONE CANCER. I'LL JUST MAKE HIM COMFORTABLE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE (OR . . . AMPUTATION IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD).

Bone cancer is a constant, throbbing pain - the most intractable pain in veterinary medicine. The pain is not well controlled with meds - if it was, veterinarians wouldn't recommend amputation. Amputation is done simply to get the dog out of pain, it **will not** increase survival time. Only adding chemo will make him live longer. If not amputated, be generous with pain meds and be ready to euthanize. Be kind. Do ANYTHING to alleviate the pain.

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE RIMADYL, DERAMAXX, ETC. FOR BONE CANCER - IT MIGHT DAMAGE HIS LIVER.

Don't become hung up on the possibility of side effects - bone cancer does not have a long term. Give what it takes to keep him from hurting. Combine meds (NSAIDs, narcotics, Ultram, Fosamax, etc.). Be kind. Do ANYTHING to alleviate the pain.

SHE'S NOT IN PAIN - SHE JUST LIMPS, HAS NEVER CRIED OUT.

If she does not put the foot down, it hurts! Poor appetite, panting, shaking, can't get comfortable, stops participating, and mostly, "that look in her eye" - all are signs of pain. Pathologic fractures (the bone breaks at the weak spot) are excruciatingly painful - euthanize before this can happen.

DOGS CAN'T TAKE TYLENOL.

Tylenol /codeine is one of the most common pain meds given to bone cancer/amputation patients.

THAT HIND END WEAKNESS IS PROBABLY HIP DYSPLASIA.

Hip dysplasia is rare in greyhounds. Hind end problems are most likely lumbosacral stenosis in older greyhounds.

WE SENT THE X-RAYS TO A RADIOLOGIST & HE CAN'T FIND A REASON WHY SHE'S LIMPING EITHER.

Many things that cause limping aren't seen on x-rays (soft tissue, neuro, **corns**). A good orthopedic exam is key - an orthopedic surgeon is a good bet for finding obscure lamenesses.

HOW TO READ THE FORM

POST	Date	D.S.	Tk.	Time	Wt	PPOM	2d	3d	FIN	ART	Odds	COMMENT	Grade	Odds	2d	3d	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
2	09-30-15	1599	F	32:00	66	4	2	2	3 3/4	22:25	21.40	Lost Place, Late	AA	LRChaska, Mjesti, R. Pocco	5							
	09-29-15	1599	F	31:84	66	6	3	3	3 3/4	32:04	0:00	No Trouble, Inside	AA	Modakhyryn, FatC, Daby, Mjesti	8							
	09-27-15	1599	F	32:03	66	7	2	2	8 1/2	33:03	0:00	Wide East, Inside	AA	Pke, Frases, LRAlmg, Ely, Pocco	8							
	09-19-15	1599	F	32:01	66	2	4	6	4 1/2	32:04	0:70	Easy Control, Ins	AA	Vorlizzare, W, W, Betty, Taq, Isom	8							
	09-11-15	1599	F	32:60	66	1	1	3	4 1/2	31:26	2:50	Lost A Thriller, Ins	AA	Custom, D, B, C, Carcat, LR, S, C, Lose	8							
	09-05-15	1599	F	31:28	66	8	5	2	3 1/2	31:80	0:00	Caught Late, Md	AA	LRAlmg, Ely, Greys, D, D, R, Pat, C, Carcat	8							

1. Set weight - greyhound must weigh-in within 1 1/2 pounds of their Set Weight.
2. Race Info - race number and type of wagering offered.
3. Racing Record - number of (starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th).
The second line is the greyhound's record at previous track.
The last line is the greyhound's season purse totals.
4. Date of Race & Performance - (A=Afternoon, E=Evening, S=Schooling).
5. Distance of Race.
6. Track Condition - F=Fast (normal), W=Wet (standing water), S=Slow (muddy).
7. Winning Time.
8. Racing Weight.
9. Post Position - number dog is wearing in race/start box position.
10. Position at different points - after the break, at the first call, and top of the stretch.
11. Finish Position & Lengths - margin of victory or defeat in lengths.
12. Greyhound's Race Time.
13. Previous Odds to \$1.00.
14. Chart Writer's Comments.
15. Grade of Race - M=Maiden, D, C, B, A, AA.
16. Top Three Finishing Greyhounds.
17. Number of Greyhounds in This Race.

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