



## When a greyhound captures your heart

By Dixie Falk

I was on my lunch break, reading the Louisville Courier Journal in 1989 when I saw an article about retired racing greyhounds. I had never seen a greyhound except on the side of a bus and I knew even less about them. I must tell you that I was in a particularly fragile state, as we had lost our Boston terrier of 12 years the previous November. I called the adoption people and on April 3, 1989, I got the call. "I have a big blond boy and his name is Luke," they told me. The next morning my son and I headed to Lexington to get a greyhound. Luke was the largest of the large, possessing the softest eyes in the world. That was the beginning of the captivity of my heart.

Not only was Luke beautiful, he was a true gentleman. His transition, after only three days away from the track, was flawless. On March 30, 1995, we lost Luke to cancer and we grieved until we thought we would not survive. I grieve to this day.

I called the adoption group to tell



**Ze with at home in Paducah, Ky. with his people, Dixie and Chuck Falk.**

them of Luke's passing. Later, I received a call about a big black boy who needed a home. Eight weeks after losing Luke, we headed to Morehead, Ky. to meet the group bringing Frazier to us. This beautiful boy had been living at the track that morning and was in our house that night. He walked in and he knew he belonged and we knew it, too. Again, a flawless transition. We were blessed to have Frazier grace our lives for 10 years, one week and one day. They were the fastest ten

years I have ever lived. We lost him this past May to liver disease and the pain is still so fresh.

I cannot remain away from greyhounds for long and I started to have the feeling that, as a tribute to Luke and Frazier, we should get another hound. My husband did not know if he was up to it but you cannot deny the power of a greyhound's face.

On July 2, 2005, a van with a greyhound decal on the side drove into my driveway. Immediately, upon walking in my house, Ze licked my entire face. It was as though he knew something. My husband was away and I was left to decide on the boy to keep. Had he been home, we may have kept two but I didn't think I should give him that big a surprise. He fell in love with this big black and white spotted boy.

When the van pulled away, Ze's Commoncents — Ze for short — stayed with us. I call him Baby Boy. Needless to say, our hearts are held hostage. Guess we will gladly live with it. What can you do?

**Spring clean, save, donate your best stuff —  
GPA/N yard sale is May 19 & 20**



**Dudly takes a break from the rigors of the Greyt Carnival at the Tennessee Livestock Center (TLC) in August. See more active hound photos on page 2. Greys and their people will have more fun and excitement at the Winter Gathering on Jan. 15 at TLC.**

## Great vendors, racing at Jan. 15 Winter Gathering

Mark your calendar for Jan. 15. That's the date for GPA/Nashville's annual Winter Gathering. In addition to games, prizes and food, seven vendors specializing in great stuff for greyhounds and their people will be there.

Set for 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Livestock Center in Murfreesboro, the Winter Gathering is an opportunity for people and their hounds to socialize and romp in the security and comfort of a heated arena. Back by popular

demand will be competitive hound sprinting with prizes for the fastest runners and other games. Oh, and toenail trimming, too.

### Vendor preview

Visit these websites to preview merchandise from vendors. A portion of sales will be given to GPA/N and used to help cover veterinary costs incurred in preparing hounds for homes:

■ Long Neck Deco – Jewelry, t-shirts, stationery, collars, dog toys, muzzles and more. ([www.longneckdeco.com](http://www.longneckdeco.com))

■ Greytwear – Clever t-shirts featuring greyhounds for the whole family. ([www.greytwear.com](http://www.greytwear.com))

■ Run with It Embroidery – All manner of greyhound-accented wear-ables. ([www.runwithitemb.com](http://www.runwithitemb.com))

■ Greyhound Magnets & Candles by Lois – Greyhound-shaped magnets and decals for your car and natural soy candles, plus collars and more. ([www.greyhoundmagnets.com](http://www.greyhoundmagnets.com))

■ Silk Road Collars – A veritable rainbow of stylish martingale/tag collars. ([www.silkroadcollars.com](http://www.silkroadcollars.com))

■ Greyt Art – Greyhound art, prints, bags, stationery, cards and more. ([www.greytart.com](http://www.greytart.com))

■ Hurricane Collars – Cool collars. Watch the website ([gpanashville.org](http://gpanashville.org)) and the Yahoo list in late December and early January for more details. As always, volunteers are needed. To lend a hand, contact Mardy Fones 297-2033 or [mafones@comcast.net](mailto:mafones@comcast.net).

## Greyhound give 'n' take

Got a toy or Kong that your hound has lost interest in? What about spare collars or leashes? Bring them for the Extras Exchange at the Jan. 15th Winter Gathering.

Turn in these unwanted or unused items and swap them for stuff that other people have brought but don't need. The remainder will be donated to Almost Home Hounds, a kennel in Nun, Colo., dedicated to helping hounds on their journey to their forever homes.

## Getting there

Directions to the Tennessee Livestock Center at Middle Tennessee State University:

From Nashville, take I-24 toward Murfreesboro. Get off at the second Church Street/Shelbyville exit. Go two stoplights to Rutherford Boulevard (Wendy's is on the corner.) Turn right. Go 5.5 miles on Rutherford Boulevard and make a left on Greenland Drive. TLC is about .5 mile on the left. Watch for the greyhound signs.



## Greys in costume for Halloween



A howling good time was had by all at the combo Meet & Greet and Halloween party at 100 Oaks PetsMart. From the left, dressed for the season were Terri Hedges and Zin; Dee Gunderson and Stan and Carol Hunt with Dave Wolf.

## 2005 a greyt year, one hound at a time

### Ray Wong

President, GPA/Nashville

There are many things to be thankful for at this time of year — the gentle lean of a greyhound, the happy dance that comes from picking up a leash, the welcoming rush of retired racers when I get home, a cold, wet nose first thing in the morning.

And there are other things, too. GPA recently broke new ground for greyhound adoption when GPA/ Lone Star Greyhounds in El Paso, Texas took charge of three hounds that had retired from the track in Juarez, Mexico. It was a positive step for the dogs and the culmination of months of work to meet customs requirements and build rela-

tionships of trust and friendship with Juarez track officials.

Just three dogs? That's all? No, not all. It's a beginning and one that's bound to blossom. From my vantage point, it's not the number of dogs that crossed the Zaragoza Bridge from Mexico into the U.S. this fall, but the fact that it occurred through cooperation and compassion. In the coming months, more dogs from Mexico will arrive and volunteers will help them to their forever homes. Yes, more dogs. There are always more dogs.

### In the spirit of the season

In small ways, every day, we all have opportunities to help greyhounds find

new lives after racing. Whether you're adopting or thinking of chipping, whether you foster, come to Meet & Greets or visit the adopters' Yahoo list, you support the work of greyhound adoption. The generosity of spirit that fuels the love of greyhounds is alive in Middle Tennessee and that is another thing for which to be grateful.

GPA Nashville family has flourished in 2005. The ongoing support, caring and commitment from all our volunteers and adopters fuel the successful placement of dogs, one greyhound at a time. From the GPAN board, we wish the best for the holiday season and a prosperous New Year for your family and our wonderful hounds.

## The Greyt Greyhound Carnival race



Retired racers found their stride at this summer's Greyt Carnival at The Tennessee Livestock Center. Photos by Rob Holmes.

## Searching for answers to cancer in greyhounds

Carol Macherey, DVM  
Grassmere Animal Hospital

One of the hardest diagnoses for a greyhound owner to hear is "cancer." There are several research projects underway to better understand this dreaded disease. One is a genetic study of greyhounds, looking for heritable links to various cancers, especially osteosarcoma.

The hope is this information could lead to improved treatment for osteosarcoma and other cancers. Also, if a genetic link is found, screening could reduce the number of carriers in the breeding population, so future hounds would be less likely to develop osteosarcoma.

### How you can help

Kenine Comstock, PhD, of the University of Michigan is collecting blood samples from greyhounds with osteosarcoma and other cancers and from healthy hounds. Study participants must be 6 or older.

As a study participant, you will probably be contacted during the following years for infor-

mation on your hound's health.

With this simple, painless sampling, you can add to the understanding of the causes and course of cancer in all dogs, but especially greyhounds. Some of the information your vet will need:

- Registered name
- Has s/he raced?
- Ear tattoo numbers
- Date of birth
- A copy of his/her 3-generation pedigree

You or your vet can easily find this information online at <http://www.greyhound-data.com/> by knowing either the racing name or tattoos of your greyhound.

In the same way that we consider organ donation to save a human life, through this study we can each give this special gift to future generations of greyhounds.

If you would like to participate in this study, have questions or if you normally see a different vet but would like more information, please email me at [cmacvet@comcast.net](mailto:cmacvet@comcast.net).

## Thera-Paws to benefit GPA/N

Have a hound with sensitive feet or corns?

Thera-Paws could be the answer. They're padded, easy-to-put-on shoes for hounds with tender tootsies.

Through a program from the makers of these comfortable dog shoes, you can order them for \$15 per shoe including shipping. That's a dramatic discount (retail Thera-Paws prices range from \$19.25-\$20.75 plus shipping.) To make the deal sweeter, half the proceeds go to GPA/Nashville.

Visit [www.therapaws.com](http://www.therapaws.com) to learn about choosing the correct size for your hound. Then contact Cathy Morris, at [cathymorris345@comcast.net](mailto:cathymorris345@comcast.net) or 615-333-8204 to find out how to place your order.



Indy says Therapaws are comfy, durable and washable, too.

## The growing GPAN family

Between July 15 and Nov. 15, the following greyhounds joined the GPA/Nashville family:

### RECENT ADOPTERS

Amber Avara – PL's Krook - Krook  
Earl & Rami Bell – Spunky Lambert - Spunky  
Bryan & Joann Bingham – Regal Ruby - Ruby & Dana's Dynasty - Dynasty  
Kristy Boone – Barts Walter - Walter  
Calvin & Angie Conner – Go Bon Hix Hag - Hagan  
Romano Demarco – Dopey Ruckus - Dopey  
Lisa Dordal & Laurie Samuels – First Approval - Chelsy & BB's American - Lady Bug  
Lisa & Jeff Elmore – BB's Smilensally - Buffie  
Dee & John Gunderson – Lc's Mon Cher - Stan  
Mitch & Marcia Hart – Hallo Celt Copy - Pepper  
Sally Hussey – Gl's Raul - Raul  
Trudy & Steve Johnson – PTL Shivers - Shivers  
Ron & Dana McCullough – Smokie Harmony - Harmony & Rapido Buzz-Off - Buzz  
Ed & Carla McDougle – Crystal Hawk - Dash  
Philip Moyers – Chromo Sones - Chromi & Mount Rushmore - Rush  
Tom & Deb Muller – Kiowa Brief Bud - Bud  
Beau & Vicki Pacheco – Ts All Keyed Up - Keno  
Dean & Anita Scroggins – SAS Stone Cold - Stoney  
Jerry & Patty Stelmaszak – Bring on the Heat - Bruce  
Sharon & Mike Vaughn – BB's One Whistle - Mona  
Mike & Amy Vehec – Yes It's True - True & Mr. D.J. - DJ  
Jeff & Christine Vittetoe – RunRin - Rin  
Wilma Watts – Sweet Grace - Gracie

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

Randy & Lisa Alsup – Keepermacepisode - Mac  
James Houser & Suzanne Darnell – Storybook Ending - Story; Hugo Sones - Huey; & King of Ruckus - King  
Robert & Susan Holmes – Connie  
Chris & Tracy Horton – Kay  
Jennifer & Robert Loveridge – Bob's Novice - Novice  
Mark & Becky Orman – Cajun Devil - Sioux Man  
Diane LaMog – Shabang - BangBang  
Carol Macherey – LNL Triple - Triple  
Cathy & Bart Morris – Ze's Checkbook - Checkie

### NEW TO GPA NASHVILLE

Diane Lamog – Sheba, Kristina, Diamond & Gage  
Judy & Mike Losey – Arrow, Saint, Valentino, Emmy & Andy  
Randy & Britt Phillip – Bell, Bob & Dutch  
Cyndi Rennick – Bandit & Sweetie Pie  
Ken & Lisa Wiggs

Total adoptions for 2005 as of November 15 - 80