



"Until man extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace..." Albert Schweitzer

In this issue, **Karyn Zoldan** debuts as copy editor for the *GCNM News*. A seasoned freelance writer and editor, Karyn adopted her first greyhound in 1998 while living in Southern California. The following year she flunked foster 101 and then there were two. In 2000, she moved to Tucson. For the past three years she's been a hard-working board member for an Arizona greyhound rescue group and recently launched the website, **www.EndTucsonGreyhoundRacing.com**. Greyhound rescue makes her laugh, cry, rant, rave, love, soul search, and care more deeply than she ever thought possible.

11th Annual GCNM Reunion Breaks All Records

In spite of a brief deluge of rain in the last 45 minutes of our reunion, we managed to set new records for attendance and for funds raised. Over 200 fantastic items donated for the raffle and silent auction attracted bidders and raffle ticket buyers. Unfortunately, it all came to an abrupt halt when Mother Nature intervened to show her superiority.

This year's grand prize was won by **Janet Murray**, who over the years has been one of **GCNM's** most generous contributors. How fitting that she should win a trip for two to **Las Vegas** donated by **Sandy Levinson** of **Aquila Travel!**



Record-Breaking Silent Auction



Our primary sponsors, **PETCO Foundation** and **GREY2K USA** once again made it possible for us to bring this fun event to those who love greyhounds. Other sponsors this year – **Spectator's Sports Bar and Grill**, **Zia Surfaces**, and **Clark's Pet Emporium** – helped fund this spectacular day. **PetSmart** provided items for the doggie goodie bags presented to each attendee. The first fifty dogs to arrive received the best goodie bags – just a tip for those planning to attend next year!

Many businesses and individuals shared their enthusiasm for our cause by donating gift certificates, services, and products for our raffle and silent auction. Remember to patronize these businesses so we can show our appreciation for their support: **Aquila Travel; Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town; Western Mercantile of Tijeras; Wild Oats; New Mexico Sports & Wellness; Vitamin Cottage; Davis Hardware of Cedar Crest; High Plains Clippers; Flying A Feed Store of McIntosh; Sam's Club; Toastie Coats; The Back Porch Spa; Greyhound Protection League; Wild Birds Unlimited; Tulliver's of Santa Fe; Pet Vet Market; Southwest Veterinary Medical Center; Greytart.com; RedHotKitties.com; Kijrstin Bauer, LMT; Art of Detail (Cynthia Green, artist); Dr. Randy Hutchins, Chiropractor; Dr. Farhan Taghzadeh; The Flower Company; Eisbach Facial Plastic Surgery, P.C; Starbucks; Flying Star; Long Leash on Life; Wiggles Wags and Whiskers; Trader Joe's; Peterson Pet Provisions; KyJen**



Before the Onslaught



And First Arrivals

Company, Inc.; Voyagers K9 Apparel; Voyagers Jewelry; Black Horse Designs; Teca Tu of Santa Fe; Creative Images Photography; Steamatic Cleaners; Ah Capelli Salon and Color Studio; Three Dog Bakery; BowWow Blues.

And to these special folks, we extend heartfelt thanks for their generous donations of fabulous items that attracted even the most hesitant bidders and ticket buyers: **Vicky St. Cyr; Janet Murray; Robert Yurgae/Lin Fairchild; Dave Hagan and Marja**

Murray; Cara Balestrieri; Tomi Balestrieri; Tony Romero; Barb Wells; Judy Landon; Liz Surh; Darcy Bushnell; Del Lindsay; Gloria Shapiro; Phil Brooks/Debee Risvold; Sheridan Brown; Mary Marczek; Kathy Jackson; Thea Schneider; Lissa Hart; Rachel Canales; Don and Sandra Kelley; Mary Jacobs; Peg Rexford; Josie Hamlen; Noel Rexford; and Judy Landon.

For the charming doggie bandanas donated again this year, we thank **Janice Wrhel** of Santa Fe. A special thank-you goes out to **Mary Jacobs** of Aiken, South Carolina, for making and donating the gorgeous greyhound totes that were in high demand.

To the GCNM volunteers, who worked so hard to create another successful reunion and most of all give our organization a real family feel, I'd like to



Volunteer Judy Gumble

Greyhound Companions of New Mexico, Inc. (GCNM) is a licensed, non-profit organization concerned for the welfare of racing greyhounds. Thousands of greyhounds bred for racing are destroyed and suffer heinous injuries annually. Our mission is twofold in that we find adoptive homes for failed racers in addition to actively campaigning for their humane treatment. Holding the racing industry accountable for actions which threaten the safety and welfare of racing greyhounds is of paramount importance and we vow to uphold that pledge. All our work is done by volunteers. We have no paid staff.

Board of Directors:

*Judy K. Paulsen, President
Sara J. Mathis, Treasurer
Barbara J. Wells, Secretary
Robert K. Mathis*

express my deepest gratitude: **Barb Wells;**
Kent & Sara Mathis; **Heather Fredrickson;**



Winner of the Costume Contest – McSpeedy and Barrett Meigs

Cara Balestrieri;
Jeff Steckel;
Paul Paulsen;
Tammy Fiebelkorn;
Tony Romero;
Liz Surh;
Vicki Reisenbach;
Phil Brooks;
Debee Risvold;
Kay and Caitlin Reardon;
Robert Yurgae;
Lin Fairchild;
Del Lindsay;
Buffie Nelson;
Kathy and Eric Jackson;
Judy and Roger Gumble;
Elwin

Hodgins; **Sherry Mangold;** **Vicky St. Cyr;**
Pat Getz; **Tamara Bell;** **Barbara O'Connor;**
Marja Murray; **Josie Hamlen;** and **Janice Wrhel.**

Next year, we'll rent a tent to protect our precious items in the raffle and auction! Although nothing was destroyed this year, we don't want to take any chances.



Gypsy and Hannah Murray

Thank you, to all who shared this special day with us – hope to see you next year!



**Help End
 Greyhound
 Racing
 Nationwide**

info@grey2kusa.org
 www.GREY2KUSA.org

We salute the wonderful work of GCNM!



To find out how you can help, call 1.866.2GREY2K for a free brochure.

“Spirit” Beats The Odds

Many of our readers have been inquiring about the outcome of **Spirit’s** rescue. Her story was published in the last *GCNM News*, which can be found at <http://www.gcnm.org/GCNM%20News%20SpringSummer%202007%20for%20Web.pdf>.

(**Sherry Mangold** and **Elwin Hodgins** took on the task of rehabilitating Spirit. This is their story as written by Sherry Mangold.)

She weighed 32 pounds and was literally covered in ticks. Ribs and bones protruded through her coat at sharp angles. She had once been white, but now she was filthy with urine stains and months of living on the streets. Clearly, in her last days, she had been too weak to stand or move. Old scars, fresh deep abrasions, and road rashes tattooed her horribly thin frame. Yet, when anyone bent down to touch her, she smiled the greyhound smile and wagged her tail. With that, she became Spirit.

Knowing that I needed help to transport Spirit to the veterinarian, I called on my pet therapy buddy, Elwin Hodgins, who readily agreed to accompany me. Forty minutes later, Elwin carried Spirit into the **VCA Animal Hospital on Montgomery Boulevard**. She was quickly surrounded by technicians and veterinarians. Blood was drawn, IVs placed, and ticks pulled off by the hundreds. It was difficult to leave her, but we knew she was in good hands.

All of us who share our love with our dogs understand how horribly long the wait is for those blood results. Spirit’s lab report would tell us if she could be given another chance.

Her care was turned over to **Dr. Dawn Nolan**, who endured not only a steady stream of **GCNM** volunteers dropping by the clinic to

check on Spirit, but the media as well. Spirit’s story was covered on local TV news broadcasts and a \$1,000 reward was offered by **Animal Protection of New Mexico** and **GCNM** in tandem. Meanwhile, Spirit rested comfortably under the care of Dr. Nolan.

The following day, Dr. Nolan called with some good news. The blood tests showed no particular long-term problems; however, Spirit did test positive for **Tularemia** (likely contracted from eating carcasses of infected animals in her quest for food). It would be a long, hard road, but she had clearly faced much worse. Elwin and I continued to visit Spirit until her release from the hospital. Because of her weakened state, not much could be done for her at that time. Even topical treatments for fleas and ticks had to be postponed; vaccinations could not be given.



Spirit with Elwin Hodgins and Sherry Mangold

Spirit came home with me on **March 23**. She came with a long to-do and not-to-do list. She also came with her tail wagging. Feedings every two hours eventually dwindled to every four, six, eight, and finally to a normal breakfast and dinner. As she grew stronger, more and more visits to the hospital became necessary. There was a

constant process of needles and medications. Spirit greeted it all with tail wagging. After three months of convalescence with me, I was pleased to turn Spirit over to her new home, that of Elwin Hodgins, who had continued to visit her and assist me in her daily care.

Those of us who foster greyhounds know that when each one leaves us to go to her new home, a little emptiness is left behind. But, Spirit left me joy. Every day she was with me, she made me happy. I learned some wonderful lessons from this little lady and her courageous spirit.

There is someone out there, someone responsible for all of Spirit's sufferings. Yet,

Spirit reminds us all that there is much more good than evil.

Elevated Food Dishes: Does It Matter for Greyhounds?

By Judy Paulsen

For decades, it has been common practice to feed large and giant breed dogs from elevated food dishes. Now, the subject generates debate on whether this is sound advice. Most often the reason for using raised dishes is cited as a preventative measure for serious stomach problems like "bloat."

An Internet search for "bloat" in dogs produces an abundance of articles on the subject, not to mention advertisements on why elevated food dishes **should** be used. Technically, the syndrome is called **Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus**, or **GDV** (also referred to as gastric torsion). Following cancer, GDV is the second leading cause of death in large and giant breed dogs. It is most often reported in deep-chested breeds.

Following cancer, GDV is the second leading cause of death in large and giant breed dogs.

A true case of GDV involves twisting (torsion) of the stomach which traps air, food, and water, which can cause rapid onset of shock, often followed by death. Bloat without torsion can create a great deal of discomfort in

dogs but is not as likely to result in death.

The lists of symptoms, causes, and prevention seem endless. But among many of the causes, one of the more unsettling reasons suspected for causing GDV is "feeding from an elevated dish."

One of the most comprehensive sources for information is a five-year study conducted by **Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine**. This prospective study was the largest study of canine GDV ever attempted to date. Previous retrospective studies were likely less accurate as they relied often on owner

recall well into past years. The most recently published results from the Purdue University study on GDV are in the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association* (JAAHA), May/June 2004 issue.

Authored by veterinarians recognized as experts in the field of GDV, the JAAHA article, "*Diet-Related Risk Factors for Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus in Dogs of High-Risk Breeds*," concludes that the two highest risk factors for GDV

are quantity of food given at each meal and frequency of meals. They determined through a nested case-control study

...one of the more unsettling reasons suspected for causing GDV is "feeding from an elevated dish."

that large volumes of food, especially if given once daily, produced a significantly higher rate of GDV; whereas smaller meals given two to three times daily appreciably reduced the likelihood of this often fatal condition.

Increased age and a "first-degree relative" (sire, dam, sibling, or offspring) with a history of GDV were rated the top high risk factors, along with having a lean or underweight body. Feeding from an elevated bowl appeared to raise the risk for problems as well.

Racing greyhounds are not fed from elevated dishes. Space limitations dictate that dogs be fed from a dish on the floor of each crate. Nor do dog farms, where greyhounds are raised and trained, feed their dogs from raised bowls. However, once a greyhound goes into an adoptive home, many things in the environment change. Often, adopters are told to feed their new charges from elevated dishes. This advice most likely originated from the decades-old belief that large, deep-chested dogs needed to be fed from raised bowls.

Advertisements for elevated food dishes refer to gastric problems as the reason you **should** use raised dishes for large or giant breed dogs.

In determining whether or not to elevate a greyhound's dish, it is important to consider musculoskeletal problems...

eliminate most risks of your dog experiencing GDV, even if

you continue to use elevated bowls.

In determining whether or not to elevate a greyhound's dish, it is important to consider musculoskeletal problems, which are common for retired racers who often have old injuries. Eating from raised dishes can reduce strain on the neck and back and lessen discomfort on arthritic joints, as well.



Avoid letting your dog exercise heavily before or after (particularly after) eating a meal. Feed more than once a day. Do not overfeed a thin dog to put weight on quickly. Thin, especially malnourished dogs should be fed small meals three or more times a day. Trying to bulk up dogs with copious treats and large portions of food is an invitation to disaster. Avoid diets consisting only of dry dog food.

My greyhounds will likely always eat from elevated bowls, unless they possess other high risk factors for GDV. The sight of a leggy greyhound hunched over a bowl on the floor, somewhat resembling a giraffe eating off the ground, makes **my** neck and back hurt!

To raise or not to raise – that is the question. The following are some simple rules to

Greyhound Racing Losing Steam

2007 has not been kind to the dog racing industry. According to a press release dated October 16, 2007, distributed by **Greyhound Protection League**, the seventeen year-old **Corpus Christi, Texas** track likely will close its doors on December 31, 2007.

This will be the fourth track to close this year. **Susan Netboy**, President of Greyhound Protection League, closely monitors the dog racing industry and knows that with each closing, the racers housed there must be moved. Many are given to adoption programs for placement into homes, but often, the dogs are taken back to the farms where Netboy states “their fate is entirely dependant upon the ethics of their owners.”

These ethics have been called into question over the years; most recently last year when over 100 greyhounds disappeared from the **Tucson Greyhound Park**, never to be seen again. Those dogs are presumed dead as only a few were ever located through tracking methods utilizing the lists of dogs removed

from the track and the driver's testimony of where he had taken the dogs.

“Years of experience with these situations has made us skeptical of assurances from officials that the majority of greyhounds [from each closure] will survive,” said Netboy. “Nonetheless, we intend to pressure the tracks to feed and care for all the dogs until they can all be adopted. It may cost them financially, but they owe it to the dogs who have more than paid their dues.”

Jacksonville Kennel Club in Florida was the first to fall in 2007, joined shortly thereafter by **Tampa Greyhound Park** and, most recently, **Wichita Greyhound Park in Wichita, Kansas**. Most have cited the overall decline of dog racing around the country, competition from other forms of gambling, and pressure from the animal welfare community as the primary reasons for closure. Five dog tracks closed in the previous two years. Closure of the Corpus Christi track would bring the total number of closed tracks to 28 since 1991.

“Long-term, the greyhound welfare community views these closures as a positive event,” said Netboy. “Short-term, we are haunted by images of kill-trucks and dog killing.”

For more information on Greyhound Protection League and their efforts, please visit their website at www.greyhounds.org.

Amputation Decisions

(Contributed by: Laura Silvester, Arizona)

One of the most difficult decisions a greyhound companion can be faced with is to amputate or not to amputate a limb after receiving a diagnosis of osteosarcoma. When it comes to making the decision, time is of the essence. It's a good idea to understand what lies ahead and know what to consider.

Diagnosis: Make sure you feel comfortable with the veterinary care received and that a thorough examination has been done. If x-rays are available, request to see them and get an explanation. It's important to know if the cancer has spread to the lungs or any other areas of the body, so additional tests or x-rays may be necessary. You need a thorough understanding of the situation. If you do not fully understand the information to this point, ask questions until you do.

Options: Your vet should outline all options available and the pros and cons of each. There may be a best option based on the exam results, or there may not be. Amputation can relieve pain and give your greyhound a wonderful new life. There are many success stories. But this does not mean it's appropriate in all situations. At this stage, try to stick to the facts and keep your emotions calm. Write down all options and as you learn more, make notes under each option of both the facts and your thoughts.

Gather Information: If amputation is viable, ask for recommendations about a hospital and surgeon. Check references, accreditations, and experience. Useful information can also be found online; I found the Greyhound

Companions of New Mexico website (www.gcnm.org) to be particularly helpful. You can also join a web support group/message board such as Circle of Grey (www.circleofgrey.com) to discuss your thoughts and feelings with others in the same situation. Be diligent when making decisions, and gather information in a timely manner.

With information in hand, focus on your greyhound's personal situation. The following are important things to consider.

Health: After amputation, there is more stress put on the remaining legs. The dog needs to be strong enough to bear this weight. If there are signs of arthritis or any other joint weaknesses, your hound could have difficulty with only three legs. If it's a front leg amputation, your hound will need to thrust his/her neck upwards in order to hop. After recovery, many dogs actually find this movement easy. But if there is any stiffness or arthritis in the neck, it can be difficult or painful. Your hound should be in good physical condition to adapt to the new way of moving.



General Silvester Recovering

Age: Age can be relative in greyhounds depending on their health, lifestyle, and background. You could have an 8-year-old who had a rough life and seems very old. Or you could have a 10-year-old that is very healthy and active and acts like a 3-year-old. Regardless of age, the young at heart have an edge to make it through recovery due to their physical and emotional strength.

The reality is that an amputation will only buy a certain amount of time, so the potential remaining life of your hound should be a consideration. Some amputations may only get three to six months of life extension, while others have gone as long as 2 to 3 years. No one will be able to give you a personal guarantee of the future, so you must resolve not to know.

Personality: If your greyhound has a lot of life spark and loves to sing and dance, s/he will most likely want to get back in the game after surgery no matter what. This personality type is extremely self-motivated and continues to work at something until it happens. They may experience less emotional stress during recovery due to their internal fire and focus. On the other hand, the passive personality may require more outside influence and motivation from you to cope with recovery. This personality could also be prone to more emotional episodes and even some depression. You will want to recognize and know that your hound may need extra emotional support. Knowing your hound's personality will help understand how s/he may react. Prepare to respond appropriately.

Time off Work: Your greyhound will need your help during the first few weeks both physically and emotionally. It is important to carefully monitor your hound to make sure the wound is healing properly and that s/he is eating, drinking, and eliminating. There may be outbursts of pain. Managing medications on schedule for infection and pain is extremely important. It's best to take off one to two weeks from work, or, if not possible, schedule your life so there is someone with your hound at all times during this period. After the first couple of weeks, your hound will be well on the way to relearning life and you will get back to a more normal schedule. Realistically, evaluate your ability to be present or arrange for care during recovery.

Finances: Although no one wants it to be a financial decision, finances must be addressed. The cost of amputation surgery can be expensive. And added to the surgery will be costs for x-rays, tests, follow-up appointments, chemotherapy, and medical supplies. Prior to making your decision, get a comprehensive estimate from your hospital and surgeon that covers everything involved. You need to know if you can manage the finances of not only the surgery, but the recovery as well.

Lifestyle: Evaluate your lifestyle to determine what would highly impact a 3-legged dog. If you live on the third floor of a condominium complex with open concrete stairs, this would be a safety issue for an amputee who could stumble occasionally. Your dog may also have a harder time balancing in a vehicle or swimming. Although dogs can rebound wonderfully from an amputation and do most everything they previously did, it's important to consider your current lifestyle and any new challenges for the amputee. Ensure that your lifestyle can support changes that an amputation could bring.

The Final Decision: You may go through all of the steps above and still not know what to do. At this point, the best thing is get quiet and spend time soul searching and connecting with your greyhound. Your heart will know. If not, go with your gut instinct. You know your hound better than anyone – calm your emotions and trust your true feelings.

Above all, remember that there is no right or wrong answer, and there is no easy path. Do not let anyone pressure you in either direction. Regardless, know that you may have moments of doubt. This is normal and happens to almost everyone. The most important thing is to stay calm, think through the information, and just do the best you can with the information you have.

Upcoming Special Events Featuring GCNM

Animal Humane Association of New Mexico's 25th Doggie Dash and Dawdle – Sunday, November 4th at **Balloon Fiesta Field** on Alameda NE. For complete information, visit www.ahanm.org.

Weem's International Artfest – GCNM will be present on **Saturday, November 10th from 10:00 until 6:00**. Find us in the **Manuel Lujan Building** on the **Expo New Mexico State Fairgrounds**. The Artfest runs from November 9th until the 11th.

Please visit the **GCNM website** often for a listing of all special events and adoption clinics: www.gcnm.org.

Santa Paws at Long Leash on Life

Come get your pet's picture taken on December 1st with **Santa Paws at Long Leash on Life!** The best **Santa** in town will be decked out to greet you and your pets at Long Leash on Life, located at **9800 Montgomery Blvd NE, #13**. Located in the shopping center just east of Eubank, on the south side of Montgomery; if you haven't been in this store, you'll be delighted to see the wonderful selection of premium dog foods; fantastic toys, and tons of ideas for Holiday gifts.

All proceeds from Santa Paws Photos go to **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico**. Look for the tent in the parking lot! Join us from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for the photos!

GCNM 2008 Calendars



Our best calendar ever! Order yours today - \$12.00 each or one free with the purchase of 10. Call All Sports Trophies to place your order: 1-505-268-2436 or toll free out of state 1-800-749-2436. These make great gifts!

100% of the profit goes to the greyhounds! (Sorry, no credit cards.)

GCNM Needs a CPA

Anybody out there willing to donate their professional accounting skills for the good of the greyhounds? We have been researching getting a facility where we could keep and care for multiple greyhounds. But we need professional advice on how to best accomplish this with our limited resources.

We have some ideas, but need guidance. Please call **Judy** at **505-281-7295** if you can be of assistance in this department.

Group Greyhound Walks

Something new for greyhounds and their people! **San Diego, CA** greyhound adopters have been showing off their greyhounds and getting their exercise at the same time. Adoption groups had the idea to gather in public areas to stroll with their greyhounds and give the public a chance to meet the dogs and learn about the adoption program at the same time. Some suggestions for our area are: Old Town Plaza in Albuquerque, The Santa Fe Plaza, Downtown Growers' Market (Albuquerque), Los Ranchos Growers' Market, various public parks.

Anyone interested in joining these walks (or if you have suggestions for other areas) should contact

Josie Hamlen (Albuquerque area organizer) by email jh@nmcounsel.com or cell phone 505-259-3991 or, for the Santa Fe area, **Janice Wrhel** at greylover1@netzero.net or 505-466-3483 or cell 505-603-0964.

If you are interested in organizing walks in your area, please contact **Judy Paulsen** at **505-281-7925** or email jpaulsen@flash.net.

This will be a nice break from the usual standing at a table doing an adoption clinic. What a great combination: fresh air, good company, and greyhounds!

A loyal donor to Greyhound Companions of New Mexico has made it possible for us to produce our top-notch newsletter, by providing the funds to upgrade from black and white to color. We'd like to use recycled paper, however the expense is even greater. Would anyone like to help us out in that department? Call Judy with suggestions at 281-7295, or if you just want to help with printing expenses so we can continue to impart our message to help the greyhounds and the people who love them.

Tales From Greyruin Manor

The latest adventures of Gambo the Greyhound, and his people, Leona and Tosh
By Leona Rude

Air to His Throne

“What is that smell?” Tosh grimaced.

Fresh-smashed garlic up one nostril, a cotton ball soaked in cat urine up the other and he might catch faint whiffs. “Your olfactory senses haven’t worked in 27 years!”

On the top step of the back stairs inside the garage he dumped Gambo’s 52-inch round mattress and two comforters on the landing leading to the kitchen. I had just entered the garage, lugging Gambo’s 4-foot duffel, mini lunch carrier and 6-pack ice chest. Owner of said paraphernalia meandered ahead of me, holding up progress, making sure no one had disturbed his domain while he’d enjoyed a four-day weekend in the Black Hills.

“You might want to stay close to that overhead door and fresh air.” Tosh’s warning tone and his ability to smell made me think this odor must be a doozy. I urged Gambo along. He finally took the hint and my nose suddenly agreed with Tosh.

“Yuck! Something’s putrefying!” I gagged.

Gambo, unaffected by essence of rot, shinnied between me and a padded pooch quilt to make tracks for his “throne.” That once white old tragedy is now grungy, a soot-colored, two-person overstuffed chair. Its matching couch and loveseat have been residing in the county dump for years. Every time we try to evict it, Gambo wallows in his self pity, smothers us in guilt and won’t leave his throne. His Greytness loves that ratty, threadbare, beat up old holder of fond memories and delicious (to him) odors.

I checked the basement. Relief! No smell but powder-fresh fabric softener. I grabbed two

cans of room deodorizer, sprayed them liberally ahead like approaching a vampire with a cross.

“Holster your weaponry,” Tosh said, meeting me on the landing. He had two painter’s masks and a couple of heavy bath towels. Snapping masks on our faces, he then wound towels around our heads and necks. In muffled tones he said, “We look like a team searching for hazardous waste.”

Whatever this pollutant is has to be something or someone dead.



Gambo on His Throne

We trudged past the throne and its occupant to bloodhound the back rooms. Heavy permeation of room spray cleared them for a few minutes. After crisscrossing the office, kitchen, and dining room about a hundred times, our noses kept bringing us back to king guileless, ruling loftily from his place of extreme importance. At least, to the majestic one it was valuable.

When a greyhound has done something wrong, they have a way of snitching on themselves. Gambo turned his head sideways, ignored me and got that look.

“It’s him,” I yelled. “Not him, as in stinking, but him as in what, or who, ever he hid in that chair for four long hot days, buried in his bedding.” In our absence we set the air-conditioner just below roast in deference to our utility bill.

Now came the difficult part: Dislodging a 75-pound comfort-lover from his favorite haven. Tosh began, “Come, my liege.” Gambo rolled his eyes. Sweeter, “Come on, good boy.” In desperation, “Gambo, come. Go bye-bye.” That did it. The mighty spoiled one raised his head, actually moved. Tosh quickly rattled car

keys. "Let's go." He leaped past Tosh and headed for the door.

Meanwhile, back at ruler's roost I gingerly plucked at padding and covers Gambo has accumulated. I donned plastic gloves, lest I find the dearly departed, while rummaging through Tut's treasures.

Tosh returned. "He's in the car."

We located the something or someone and I scooped it into a plastic bag which I quickly sealed. We headed for a decent re-burial. On the way out grabbed shovel, cardboard box and two shop coats to protect us from mud spatters.

"We'll need to camouflage the grave so he won't locate the area and retrieve the goods later," Tosh warned. "Then we need to find and fill the original hole." Near the back of our lot his flashlight illuminated earlier archaeological digs.

He probably dug up the goods just before we left.

We filled the gaping maw and covered it with rocks to dissuade our honorable culprit from redistributing his wealth.

After the hole was filled and camouflage in place, Tosh started a second earth cavity for graveside rites, the next phase in our nocturnal activity. We laid the cardboard box, complete with unknown contents down deep to rest. I got a sand cherry bush we hadn't yet had time to plant. It would throw the marauding nose off track. Roots were tamped in with fresh dirt. Old leaves, then large stones obliterated exposed soil from a certain grave robber.

"We need to say words over the—uh—departed. Just in case..." Tosh mumbled. We scattered a few withered rose petals from a late-blooming bush around the sand cherry and said rest in peace.

Next morning Joe, our Texas neighbor, called. "Didn't notice what time ya got home last night, but ya musta got up early 'cause I see ya finally planted that cherry bush. Hey, ya missed all the action. We had a bunch of them Hazmat people out here lookin' for somethin' special, the way they was workin'. Musta found it right close to where ya put that bush. Leastways, that's where they quit lookin'. Be careful out there diggin' next time. Ya might run into somethin' ya don't want to see."

After Joe hung up, Tosh muttered, "Or smell!"

This Newsletter is Dedicated to the Memory of:

"Earl" - Judy Holle and Roger Case
"Matt" - Jan Karcher
"Alice" - Pat and Tina Gilmore
"Dante" - Heather Fredrickson
"Purdy" - M. Eliza Stewart
"Smudge" - Barb and Glenn Young
"Muppet" - Barb and Glenn Young
"Zippy" - Susan Stiff and Jen Novak
"Dexter" - Luisa Casso

"Fire" - Mike and Cyndi Mueller
"Kismet" - Susan Stiff and Jen Novak
"Estilo" - Dave Hagan and Marja Murray
"Comet" - Jon and Rachel Miller
"Nell" - Jon and Rachel Miller.
"Captain" - Randy and Jennifer Self
"Stormy" - Tony and Cherie Lynn
"Paso Fino" - Kent and Sara Mathis

(Eleven of the above
greyhounds died from cancer)



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Address Changes...

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