



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

Guam Greyhounds Come to New Mexico

*(Portions of this story were extracted with permission from the Guam Greyhounds website: www.guamgreyhounds.org. This website is maintained by **Homestretch Greyhound Rescue and Adoption**.)*

On November 7th, 2008 the 32-year-old **Guam Greyhound Park**, with approximately 250 greyhounds at the race track, abruptly closed. The closing was in response to the results of a failed initiative on the November 4th ballot, which would have permitted casino-style gambling on the race track property. **John Baldwin**, owner of the race track, who had tried to get similar initiatives passed three times in the past six years, claimed the race track was losing \$100,000 a month.

On November 24th, the Guam Greyhound Park started a public giveaway of 150 of the race track's greyhounds. Dogs were given away free to anyone who came to the track. The greyhounds were not spayed or neutered. No record was kept of who got the greyhounds, how many each person took, and no legal transfer of title was made. Obviously, no standard adoption process was in place: no home check and no information about greyhound behavior or care.

Since mid-January, over 100 greyhounds have made the long trip from the island of **Guam to Los Angeles**, where they were taken to **Homestretch Greyhound Rescue and Adoption** at the home of **Barbara Davenport and Bob Smith in Fillmore, California**. This unprecedented rescue mission would not have been possible without the hard work of **Guam Animals in Need (GAIN)** – the only animal shelter and rescue on the island – and the dedication of dozens of greyhound rescue volunteers on the mainland. To date, 15 greyhound adoption groups from New Mexico to Canada have supported this effort by taking Guam greyhounds for placement into forever homes. Others have extended their generosity through sponsorships, fund raisers, and major donations.



(left to right) "Nico," Bob Smith, "Cashier," "Queen of Diamonds," Barbara Davenport at Homestretch Greyhound Rescue and Adoption in Fillmore, CA

However, there is still much work to be done. At the beginning of April, there were approximately 40 greyhounds remaining at the Guam track and GAIN was still finding the occasional stray. Although the mission has been plagued with multiple challenges, each has been overcome through the magic of people working together for a common goal.

In March, **Don** and **Suzanne Stack** of **Yuma, Arizona** joined the rescue team and provided transportation for eight greyhounds to the **Northwest** and eight to **New Mexico**.

On March 21st, Don and Suzanne were greeted by the news media when they pulled into the driveway with eight dogs for **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico**. **KOB TV 4** took an interest in the story and broadcast a terrific piece on Tuesday, March 24th. Then **KRQE News** did a piece featuring **Sherry Mangold** – GCNM volunteer and Animal Cruelty Investigator for **Animal Protection of New Mexico** – and her Guam foster, **Royal Fury**, along with Sherry's own greyhounds **Milagro**, **Freddie**, and **Winston**. The link for this story is: http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/local/central/local_krqe_albuquerque_guam_greyhounds_200903291740. You can also find the video link on our website (www.gcnm.org) under GCNM News.



Don and Suzanne Stack with the first class coach that transports the Guam dogs to adoption groups across the U.S.

As of April 15th, all Guam dogs received by GCNM have been placed in their forever homes.

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*

GCNM Reunion Back on for 2009!

Watch for an announcement in the mail.
Please contact Judy Paulsen at jpaulsen@flash.net if you would like to donate items for our raffle and silent auction
OR if you'd like to work on one of our planning committees. **WE NEED HELP FROM VOLUNTEERS** – so step up to the plate now and be counted in!

A Champion for Greyhounds

Kudos to **Greyhound Protection League (GPL)** president, **Susan Netboy**, who has been involved in the **Guam** project (see front page story) every step of the way. From arranging transportation of dogs and communicating with adoption groups, to ensuring every dog receives necessary veterinary care, Susan's life has essentially revolved around this crisis since November.

A pioneer in the field of greyhound rescue and advocacy, Susan began her campaign for greyhound welfare in the 1980s when she, along with **In Defense of Animals**, worked to obtain the release of greyhounds from the **Letterman Army Institute of Research**. After obtaining information through the **Freedom of Information Act**, it was discovered that 400 greyhounds had been sold into research. Two years later, Susan's perseverance paid off in securing the release of some, but unfortunately not all, of the greyhounds before they could be killed in experimentation. Her endeavors to protect greyhounds continued, and 12 more research facilities were investigated and exposed for using greyhounds that had not been legally signed over for research by the actual owners.

Susan's contact with owners of hundreds of racing greyhounds during her investigations into research facilities gave her an alarming insight into the casual attitude toward the welfare of the racers. Some of the owners were genuinely concerned for the fate of their racers, but the majority demonstrated little or no desire to rescue them from the doom of a research dog.

Realizing the need for greyhound rescue and advocacy, Susan founded Greyhound Protection League in 1991, the first organization of its kind to speak out nationally against the atrocities committed by the greyhound racing industry. Thanks to Susan's two-decade commitment to investigating and revealing the dark side of dog racing, there is greater awareness of why greyhounds need advocates.

Another Chance at Life for “Secure Image”

A motor home with eight greyhounds pulled out of **Yuma, Arizona** on March 21st headed for **Albuquerque, New Mexico**. **Don** and **Suzanne Stack** had volunteered to transport these lucky **Guam** rescues to **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico**. GCNM volunteers, **Sherry Mangold**, **Barb Wells**, **Judy Paulsen**, **Cara Balestrieri**, and **Kathy Pallis** were on hand to welcome them to New Mexico.

All eight greyhounds were unloaded, bathed, and given plush toys, donated by greyhound adopter, **Shannon Roberson**. One greyhound in particular, named **Secure Image**, was immediately singled out as the sweetest of all! Shiny black, calm, and affectionate, Image was one of the first to be adopted.

Several days later, however, Image began showing signs of illness. She was admitted to **VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital** in critical condition, with a fever, pronounced lethargy and limping on left hind leg. All tests revealed that she had a massive systemic infection. Her rapid decline required close supervision and she couldn't have been in a better place for that. Around the clock, technicians and veterinary specialists at the **Montgomery Blvd** branch of VCA were attentive, closely observing all changes. Image's age of a mere two years was in her favor for survival, so we kept up hope.

It was determined she had a blood clot in her back leg, which was causing the pain and inability to use the leg. Her condition continued to decline, when she exhibited acute neurologic symptoms suggesting she had suffered a cervical spinal cord stroke. Unable to stand on her own, the outlook for Image began to look extremely bleak. The infection had already spread to her heart and the damage was dramatic, as determined by echocardiography.

By now, her adopter began to realize Image was not to be her greyhound. Living in **Taos, New Mexico**, it was agreed the distance was too great in the event Image suffered a setback after release from VCA. In stepped **Kent** and **Sara Mathis** to volunteer their home as foster and rehabilitation in caring for Image

if she survived. On April 1st, Image was released from VCA to begin her journey to improved health. The odds of a full recovery were uncertain, but not too daunting a task for Kent and Sara.

Within days, Image began walking unimpeded by the strokes and clots she'd experienced less than a week before. Her curious nature stoked her short strolls through the Mathis house searching for items untethered. Sara knew things were improving the day she heard a knocking noise coming from the family room. Upon investigating she discovered Image proudly sauntering along with a plastic storage bin in her mouth – colliding with everything in her path. And that was the beginning of the miraculous recovery. At every opportunity, Image absconds with magazines, toys, blankets, and other treasures she finds while meandering about in the house or yard.



Front - Dr. Phil Ries and internal medicine technician Christine Clemetson, holding Image; Back, veterinarian Dr. Amber Jennings on left and internal medicine technician, Dani Elisco



One of the Three Dog Bakery cookies presented by Dani



Image sharing the bed with her housemates



Image enjoying the easy life

The staff and veterinarians at VCA have become attached to Image and always shower her with affection upon her return visits. For a recent follow-up check, she was presented with cookies purchased by VCA technician, **Dani Elisco**, at neighboring **Three Dog Bakery**, one bearing a special message in icing (see photo).

GCNM would like to especially thank **Susan Netboy** of **Greyhound Protection League**, for coming to Image's aid in paying for the extensive veterinary care Image required throughout her ordeal. **Suzanne Stack, DVM**, has also contributed liberally to the fund for Image's care. VCA has been very generous in working with us to ease the financial burden as well.

On April 26th, Kent and Sara decided they couldn't part with Image, partly because they know it would be hard to find a home for a dog with compromised health, but mostly

because they know how much they would miss her once she left their home. Image is now a permanent part of the Mathis family of three other greyhounds and, like the others, she will be spending some time at their business, **All Sports Trophies**, greeting customers. Drop by the store and see this miracle dog!

Happy Guam Dog

Among the **Guam** dogs there were several with mild to moderate skin problems, presumably from the hot, humid climate they were exposed to after being given away at the Guam track. One that came to **GCNM**, named "**Mullah's Magic**," had lost a considerable amount of hair and her ears showed signs of severe infection, resulting in permanent scarring of both ear flaps. Refusing to let her health issues stand in the way of enjoying life, she took great pleasure in her new freedom. Fostered by GCNM volunteers, **Glenn and Barb Young**, she quickly adapted to her temporary family of four greyhounds and learned the ropes as a house dog.

Mullah's Magic was adopted into a loving home where she has been renamed "**Fiona**" – **Princess Fiona**, to be more specific! The **Scicchitano** family



Enzo (Sponge Bob PJs) and Gianni Scicchitano with Princess Fiona

recognized Fiona's potential to be an affectionate, playful companion and happily welcomed her into their home, in spite of her scruffy appearance at the time. She's now a shiny, gorgeous, happy greyhound, basking in the attention of the children and adults in her new home. Thank you, Scicchitano family, for providing the final finish line for this ex-racer!

Other Guam Adoptions

Congratulations to the following for adopting a Guam dog:

Kay and Tim Reardon – Elma's Valentine, now "**Holly**"

Mary Wheeler – Pearly Puzzle, now "**Nell**"

Kent and Sara Mathis – Secure Image, now "**Immy**"

Erin Whitelaw and Dale Lotreck – Monti, now "**Monty**"

Yolanda Axness – Lady, now "**Yeltza**"

Timothy Hodgins – Royal Fury, now "**Malaya**"

Diane Semmler – Rose of Dawn, now "**Rose**"

Greyhound Dental Problems:

Chronic Ulcerative Paradental Stomatitis (CUPS)

By Judy K. Paulsen,

Founder, Greyhound Companions of New Mexico

The emphasis in dog racing is not on longevity in terms of overall health for the racers, but rather their immediate athletic performance capabilities. Long-term dental health is generally not considered a priority for a racing dog as evidenced by the majority of retired racers with advanced dental problems. The soft diet and absence of routine dental care combine to create an oral environment ripe for any number of painful conditions.

Retired racing greyhounds often have advanced periodontal and paradental

The longer a racer is kept at the track or breeding farm, the more likely s/he is to have considerable dental problems.

disease by the time they are turned over to adoption programs. *Periodontal* disease affects the gums, bone in which the teeth are rooted, ligaments, and roots of the teeth, whereas the term *paradental* refers to tissues in the mouth, such as the mucosal linings of the lips, the roof of the mouth, and the tongue. Oral complications can create a significant financial burden for adoption groups and ultimately for the adopter, especially in dogs over two years of age.

The longer a racer is kept at the track or breeding farm, the more likely s/he is to have considerable dental problems. One such condition, **Chronic**

Ulcerative Paradental Stomatitis (CUPS), is a disease caused from a hypersensitivity to bacteria contained within the plaque which coats the teeth. In the case of CUPS, this hypersensitivity translates into a disease which requires aggressive treatment. It's likely that CUPS is a highly under-diagnosed problem in dogs, especially greyhounds, since most veterinarians and adoption groups make the assumption that greyhounds just have bad teeth and the only method of coping is with traditional cleanings and medicating.



CUPS is diagnosed not just by the appearance of the gums and teeth, but more precisely by close inspection of the paradental tissues for inflammation and ulceration in areas which contact the teeth. Even moderate buildup of plaque can create inflammation in the paradental tissues in some dogs.

Biopsies of the inflamed tissues and complete blood work can result in a definitive diagnosis, although a thorough history from the adopter and physical examination of the dog's

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Cumulative effects of repeated anesthesia necessary for thorough dental cleaning can be detrimental to dogs, particularly the sensitive sight hounds.

mouth by a professional can often provide most of the information necessary to identify CUPS.

Most general veterinarians are well-versed in how to proceed with common periodontal

problems that result from poor dental care, but what about *paradental* disease – do enough veterinarians consider the prospect that there may be more to the puzzle than inadequate oral maintenance? It may be up to the adopter to inquire about the possibility that frequent cleanings may not be the best approach, especially when symptoms recur quickly after professional cleanings. Sometimes within days or weeks of a dental appointment, the dog suffering from CUPS begins to exhibit halitosis, drooling, and oral pain as demonstrated by reluctance to chew on or eat anything hard.

Although distressing for many animal guardians to consider, veterinarians familiar with CUPS agree the most effective approach is full mouth extractions.

Surprisingly, dogs with no teeth function very well and are able to eat most anything. Aesthetics should be the least of the adopter's concerns when it comes to choosing the most effective treatment for a greyhound suffering from CUPS. The ultimate goal is to create an oral environment that no longer is a haven for the growth of disease-causing bacteria.

As drastic as it sounds to have all teeth removed from your dog, this might be the best solution for dogs suffering from CUPS or other oral diseases as well. Knowing your greyhound will be free of mouth pain and will likely no longer require medication or procedures under anesthesia just to keep the teeth clean, you'll be as relieved as your dog after s/he recovers from the extractions. After all, it is our responsibility to ensure our animal companions the most comfortable existence possible and sometimes this can result from something as basic as getting a knowledgeable veterinarian, preferably board certified in veterinary dentistry, to diagnose and treat dental problems.

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The long-term outlook is dismal for the CUPS dog, even with the use of medications and routine professional cleanings. Regular, aggressive brushing can be painful for the affected dog. Cumulative effects of repeated anesthesia necessary for thorough dental cleaning can be detrimental to dogs, particularly the sensitive sight hounds. Long-term, intermittent antibiotic and/or anti-protozoal therapy can be expensive in addition to producing health consequences for the dog.

Canine Vestibular Syndrome (Idiopathic Vestibulitis): Is It Serious?

By Judy Kody Paulsen

(This article was written with the help of Dr. Phil Ries of VCA Veterinary Care Referral Center at 9901 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Ries is a member of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He has been practicing in Albuquerque since 1995.)

Suddenly you notice your greyhound's head tilting to one side. When s/he tries to walk, there may be stumbling or falling. You may also notice a rapid movement of the eyes back and forth. Your dog has been healthy for the most part, and this has occurred suddenly and without warning at 1 o'clock in the morning. Is it time to head for the emergency animal clinic, or should you wait until morning to see if the symptoms subside?

Most people are going to head for an emergency veterinary clinic if it's outside normal business hours. Others may be fortunate enough to speak with a veterinarian over the phone before heading to the clinic. In all likelihood, you will be asked to bring your pet in for an evaluation, but there may be some reassuring words to settle your nerves and keep you within the speed limit as you head for the veterinary clinic. You might even be told it can wait until

Since in most patients marked improvement is noted within 72 hours, home care is appropriate.

morning, as it sounds like it could be “idiopathic vestibulitis.”

Idiopathic vestibulitis, also referred to as Vestibular Syndrome, is a fairly common malady in middle-aged to older dogs. A similar syndrome can

affect people. The vestibular system, including the inner ear, allows the body to maintain a sense of balance. When not operating normally, it results in severe vertigo, or loss of balance. For most people, observing their pet becoming increasingly anxious from this disorientation is very troubling. Fortunately, this “syndrome” is usually benign in nature and resolves spontaneously. While in the vast majority of cases there is no identifiable cause (i.e. it’s idiopathic), it may be triggered by an infection of the inner ear, hypothyroidism, a brain tumor, or a stroke-like episode.

A thorough neurologic exam and evaluation for an ear infection, along with a blood test for

Rest and stress avoidance are paramount for recovery.

by way of diagnostic tests that the condition is progressive and untreatable. Rest and stress avoidance are paramount for recovery.

hypothyroidism, will rule out treatable causes while assuring you that the signs are not due to a disorder of the brain. Since in most patients marked improvement is noted within 72 hours, home care is appropriate. However, in some pets, the degree of nausea that accompanies vestibulitis is so severe, that hospitalization and intravenous fluids are necessary to avoid dehydration. While the symptoms typically resolve 100% within weeks, a small percentage of affected pets will have a persistent, mild head tilt that does not affect their quality of life.

Euthanasia at the outset of symptoms should not be considered unless your veterinarian has determined

Bottom line: Observation and TLC is often the best course of action after your pet has had a thorough exam by the veterinarian. Once the initial symptoms subside, it is unusual for your pet to have a relapse of this condition.

“Holly” Loses Her Last Race

On December 14th, 2008, **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** received five greyhounds from the Tucson race track. All were enthusiastically wagging their tails, obviously happy to have arrived at their destination and ready to become companions for lucky adopters. However, one greyhound, **Holly**, was limping.

Leg injuries are common in racing greyhounds and in most cases a trip to the vet will reveal the information necessary for treating the injury. In Holly’s



Holly, resting

instance, this was not to be the case. X-rays revealed a fracture and a small puncture wound at the site of the break, but no known trauma to the leg. A cast was applied and she was sent to **Kent and Sara Mathis’** home for rehabilitation.

Thin when she arrived, Holly inexplicably continued to lose weight and show other signs of poor health. Aside from the fact that she was always wagging her

tail, she most definitely did not appear to be a healthy greyhound. Close observation and frequent visits to the veterinarian did not stem the further decline in her health. On January 9th, Sara awoke to a critically ill Holly whose condition had deteriorated rapidly overnight.

Taken to **VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital** within minutes of discovering her weakened state, Holly was immediately admitted for evaluation. It was soon determined that Holly was dying of kidney failure – the onset believed to be caused by **Valley Fever** (coccidioidomycosis), a fungal disease found in much of **Arizona**, parts of **California**, and **New Mexico**. Caught early enough, the disease usually responds to treatment; however, Holly had likely been sick for a long time which had gone unnoticed at **Tucson Greyhound Park** where she raced.

A racing greyhound’s health is imperiled on a daily basis during their careers. Tick-borne disease, intestinal parasites, food-borne illness, fungal disease, bacterial infections, viral infections, and injuries plague the general population of racing greyhounds. Prior to the formation of greyhound adoption groups, little was known of health threats to the racers as most were destroyed when no longer able to win money for their owners. Thanks to

concerted efforts of greyhound welfare advocates and professionals in the field of greyhound health, information is accumulating on the many health dangers to which racing greyhounds are often exposed.

With the introduction of greyhound rescue and advocacy, much has been gleaned from extending their life spans through adoption. To the dismay of greyhound welfare advocates, it has been discovered that the common living conditions of racers have created an environment that often spells trouble for the sensitive greyhound.

A recent article published in the **Tucson Weekly** (entire article can be found at <http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/kennel-no-1/Content?oid=1176193>) cites the findings of **Arizona Division of Racing** inspectors in a kennel at Tucson Greyhound Park as "...filth splattered walls, urine, blood and fecal stains on floors and walls..." among many other appalling conditions. Inspectors couldn't get out of there fast enough, especially when they saw the fleas everywhere. Track manager, **Tom Taylor**, had the usual excuses in an attempt to justify the appearance of the kennel. Taylor refused to allow reporter **Tim Vanderpool** into any of the other kennels to substantiate his claims that "Most of our kennels back there are extremely clean, I could eat off their floor."

Vague definitions within the **National Greyhound Association (NGA) Inspection Guidelines** offer little protection for racers when it comes to the standard of care and treatment tolerated by industry. Where there should be a zero tolerance for certain acts and conditions, they have left open the doors for ambiguous interpretation. The NGA Guidelines state "Grossly inhumane conditions or severe

mistreatment" are subject to "action by the NGA Board of Directors." What about inhumane conditions and mistreatment in general?

One must wonder what the NGA considers to be abuse or neglect when they have notoriously denied racing greyhounds protection by anti-cruelty laws in the state of **Kansas**, the home to NGA headquarters and the **Greyhound Hall of Fame**.

Holly's case is not unique. Racing greyhounds suffer needlessly for the sake of entertainment. Holly's last race was 27 days long and ended with the loss of her life. Until greyhound racing ends, greyhounds will continue to race for their lives and too many will lose that ultimate sprint for the finish line.

Although VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital has been very generous with rescue discounts extended to GCNM, we incurred substantial debt in pursuing answers to Holly's illness. Many who were aware of her struggle to survive donated to help us pay the tab, but we have taken on several expensive pursuits to help greyhounds in recent weeks and are desperately in need of help to continue our work.



Holly enjoying one of her last outings

Please help us help more greyhounds by making a contribution. No donation is too small! Send to GCNM, P.O. Box 22053, Albuquerque, NM 87154-2053.

Volunteers – Our Lifeblood

Foster parents, dog bathers, advocacy and adoption clinic representatives, dog transporters, home visits....we have volunteers who know how to get the job done! For years, **GCNM** has been fortunate to have one of the best support systems I've ever seen in a group dedicated to helping animals. All our volunteers deserve special recognition and we want to honor them for their unwavering support. Watch for the announcement for our awards luncheon, still in the planning stages! Big thanks to **Julie Wilkowski** for her tenacity in locating a place for our luncheon.

Speaking of Volunteers....

GCNM volunteers, **Marea Cheval-Leavitt** and **Barb Wells** took a weekday off in February to receive six greyhounds from **Arizona**. Anyone who's been present when we bring dogs in knows it's a grueling, but gratifying experience. Removing fleas and ticks, cleaning dirt-caked ears, evaluating for injuries – it takes the better part of a day by the time they've

been bathed and prepared to be delivered to their foster or forever homes. But the rewards are great for the dogs and the volunteers. It's hard to top the satisfaction of watching these dogs romping in the yard after a good shampoo and scrub!



Foster parents are a huge part of our success as a greyhound rescue program. We'd like to thank those who've stepped up to the plate on numerous occasions to take in foster dogs and help acclimate them to home life: **Roger and Judy Gumble, Sherry Mangold, Buffie and Scott Nelson, Kent and Sara Mathis, Kathy Pallis, Ed Woods, Cheryl Wright, Barb and Glenn Young, and Dave Kalb.** We are always looking for qualified foster homes, so if you'd like to help greyhounds transition from the track to their forever homes, please let us know by emailing info@gcnm.org.



Jen Parker with Greyhome ambassador, "Heidi" (notice Heidi's back legs)

GCNM is expanding in **New Mexico** and southern **Colorado**,

thanks to new volunteers **Jennifer Parker** in **Bayfield, Colorado**, and **Sharon Ratterman** in **Artesia, New Mexico**. Jennifer recently adopted an older greyhound she's named "**Pokey**." Sharon adopted ten-year-old "**Bella**" when she was returned by a previous adopter. They join our other area representatives **Phil and Kim Owen** in **Las Cruces** and **Susan Miner** in **Trinidad, Colorado**.



New GCNM volunteer, Sharon Ratterman with newly adopted 10-year-old Bella

And a great big THANK YOU to volunteer **Marja Murray** for all her work through the years of maintaining our website! She's the one who makes our newsletter look so great, too!

Black Horse Design Greyhound Jewelry

*As mentioned in the previous issue of **GCNM News**, we are now the exclusive distributor for the jewelry that greyhound enthusiasts can't seem to get enough of! Artist and designer, **Carmon Deyo**, has donated her entire line of greyhound jewelry to GCNM for the purpose of helping us help greyhounds. Carmon's commitment to the greyhound cause is evident through all her years of support in donating items for raffles and silent auctions benefitting greyhound adoption groups across the country. At the moment we are working to get all items featured on our website, but in the meantime, to view the jewelry, you can visit <http://www.black-horse-design.com/GreyhoundJewelry.html>. We'll be up and running soon with full production. If you'd like to be placed on the notification list, please email info@gcnm.org and we will keep you informed of our progress.*

Albuquerque Journal Article Provokes Racing Proponents

On January 23rd, 2009, the **Albuquerque Journal** published a story entitled "**Rest Home for Racers.**" This concise, informative story, authored by **Isabel Sanchez**, focused on **Greyhome**, the sanctuary currently being established in **Glorieta, NM**. During the interview with **Judy Paulsen**, founder of **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico**, the fate of greyhound, **Holly**, was discussed (see story on Holly in this issue). Holly's photo included with the article was the perfect example of why a picture is worth a thousand words.

Upon reading the article, greyhound racing proponent and head of **GPA-New Mexico Greyhound Connection**, **Candy Beck**, hastily began a campaign among racing industry supporters to condemn the depiction of greyhound racing published in the Journal. In a bizarre attempt to glorify dog racing, Ms. Beck penned a letter essentially defending the greyhound racing industry. Her over-the-top claims that racing greyhounds receive *daily individual* attention including massages, grooming, bathing, and inspections for injuries and are "generally fussed over," were enough to cause a collective gasp from the greyhound rescue community.

Stunned by such a blatant attempt for justifying the exploitative world of greyhound racing, Journal readers across the state contacted GCNM asking how Ms. Beck could possibly make such misleading statements when for decades, the health, behavior, and appearance of rescued greyhounds contradict these absurd declarations.

The **Albuquerque Journal** published a letter from **ABQDog.com** founder, **Rebecca Loring**, responding like a seasoned greyhound welfare advocate to Beck's letter. Loring's letter states, "Ms. Beck is a well-known apologist for the greyhound racing industry, which hides behind "rescue groups" like hers to tout their concern for dogs. Believing that the NGA cares about greyhounds is like believing puppy mills care about their puppies. Both groups consider dogs as property, and, as such, are concerned only as long as their property is profitable."

Loring goes on to say, "Abuses by the greyhound racing industry have been well-documented for years. The ASPCA, Humane Society of the United States, and most recently ESPN, are but a few who have highlighted the plight of the greyhound, but it's

difficult to counter the well-funded PR campaign of the racing industry, especially when racing apologists like Ms. Beck are allowed a forum to paint themselves as animal lovers.”

Preposterous claims such as Ms. Beck’s are common from greyhound racing apologists and are evidence of their desperation to manipulate the public’s perception of dog racing as a day at the doggie spa. **Greyhound Pets of America (GPA)**, the national greyhound adoption group to which Ms. Beck belongs, is infamous for working with the racing industry to improve the image of dog racing. The philosophy of GPA is to work “very closely” with the greyhound industry to ensure that “only those dogs with the highest degree of pet potential” are placed for adoption. Being this selective allows them to claim that 90% of all “**eligible**” racers are finding adoptive homes or “going back to breeding farms.” And what about those determined *ineligible*? What happens to those dogs? And *what makes them ineligible*?

Behaviors, health problems, and serious injuries eliminate untold numbers of retired racers from being considered as pets by GPA. Rescue groups who do

Singapore Animal Welfare Advocate Blogs for Greyhounds

The plight of the racing greyhound reaches around the world and a visit to <http://the5rascals.blogspot.com/2009/01/about-greyhound-racing-adoption-and.html> is proof of this! **Singaporean, Nicole Han** has never been to the **United States**, but she is well aware of the crisis surrounding the American racing greyhound.

Sensitive to issues related to animals in general, Nicole even blogs about saving the whale shark! But you can tell her heart is with the greyhounds by the extent of research she has done. **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** is prominently featured in her blog as well as other greyhound welfare groups working to end the suffering of the racing greyhound. Visit Nicole’s blog for a concise review of greyhound information she has accumulated from various reputable sources. Thanks, Nicole, for partnering with us to educate the public on the plight of the racing greyhound.

The Greyt Oldies

By Tara and Keith Saunders

Our first greyhound adoptions were two males named **Deano** and **Tumbleweed**. Though not biological brothers they had lived together for several years. We saw their photos on the **GCNM** website and knew regardless of whether Deano had been adopted we would still take Tumbleweed as he was 10 years old. Since Tumbleweed was an old boy we realized our time with him would no doubt be short though if we could give this beautiful dog a wonderful last few years then what a gift that would be to him and us. Tumbleweed died two and a half years after we adopted him however those precious years with him were priceless. We sorely miss seeing the

offer to take them, do so at the cost of thousands of dollars on individual dogs in hopes they can be rehabilitated and placed into adoptive homes.

When will the racing industry be held accountable for the semantics upon which they so heavily depend? The truth is out there, but the racing industry and those who utilize their tactics will continue to attempt to control the public’s perception. We can change things. Please do your part to educate people about the atrocities of greyhound racing and the calculating methods they use to cover up abuses within the industry.

Join the movement to end the suffering of racing greyhounds. Support groups whose mission is to protect greyhounds from further exploitation. Adoption helps, but activism prevents further exploitation of this magnificent breed.

For more information on how you can help nationally, please visit these websites:

www.greyhounds.org
www.GREY2KUSA.org
www.greyhoundnetworknews.org

For updates on
Greyhome
Sanctuary
progress, please
visit
www.Greyhome.org

All greys deserve a chance in spite of their age. Truly the greatest gift we can give another living being is to provide solace in their latter years. Adopting a mature grey is not without risk. There were tense days as we saw our dear ones present with ailments requiring immediate veterinary care. There were also periods of euphoria as we saw Weed face down a diagnosed heart tumor with “weeks to live” with the resolve of a great champion



Kiss, Deano, Weed and Ruben

who didn't accept their opinion and flourished asymptomatic for over 18 months! In the last days and hours they comforted us and gave us the strength to know it was time. In our

experience, these greyhounds gave us more than we gave them; their old, wise souls, depth of character and humbleness touched our hearts in so many ways.

Can you offer a few good years to give to one who experienced the worst of human nature yet reaches out to love still? Is it not better to have loved and lost a grey than never to have loved at all?

We found this poem on old dogs and would like to share it. Though it is specifically about shelter dogs, we think it applies to any senior dog looking for a forever home.

One by One

One by One, they pass by my cage,
They say, “Too worn, too broken, too old of age.
Way past his time, he can't run and play.”
Then they shake their heads and go on their way.

A little old man, arthritic and sore,
It seems I am not wanted anymore.
I once had a home, I once had a bed,
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.

Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong,
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.
Whatever excuse they made in their head,
Can't justify how they left me for dead.
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,
The younger dogs get adopted away.

When I had almost come to the end of my rope,
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.
You saw through the grey, and the legs bent with age,
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.

You took me home, gave me food and a bed,
And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.
We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.

I may have lived most of my life with another,
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger.
And I promise to return all the love I can give,
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.

I may be with you for a week, or for years
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.
And when the time comes that I must leave,
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.

And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.
And I will brag to all who will hear,
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

Leslie Whalen

Dangers of Flea and Tick Products

On April 27th, 2009, an **NBC** affiliate station in Florida (**NBC-2**) aired a story about a woman whose dog experienced severe side effects after using a topically applied flea and tick product. Investigative reporting revealed this has become a serious, widespread problem.

The **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** issued a release on April 16th, 2009 warning consumers: “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is intensifying its evaluation of spot-on [typically applied to a spot between the shoulder blades] pesticide products for flea and tick control for pets due to recent increases in the number of reported incidents. Adverse reactions reported range from mild

effects such as skin irritation to more serious effects such as seizures and, in some cases, the death of pets.”

The report goes on to say “**Health Canada** has identified similar concerns about the use of spot-on flea and tick products.” EPA and Health Canada are planning a meeting “shortly” with spot-on product manufacturers to address the issue.

While perusing the EPA 5,237-page tome on reported cases of reactions to certain products, I noticed numerous ingredients in particular appear to be suspect. Several products show up repeatedly, page after page, and they are some of

the most popular and commonly recommended products. This information is available at http://www.nbc-2.com/News/documents/090427_Pyrethrin-PyrethroidIncidents.pdf.

Pyrethrin, a natural extract from chrysanthemum flowers, is one of the most widely used ingredients in insecticides for all sorts of applications. Synthetic pyrethrins are called pyrethroids and there are many of them on the market, most bearing a name derived from the word Pyrethrin. One might make the assumption that a “natural” product is superior to anything synthetic; however, this is simply not the case.

Regardless of what the labels say, most insecticides are dangerous to some extent. Beware of fraudulent claims by manufacturers and remember that “natural” doesn’t necessarily mean SAFE!

Below is a report that came to us recently from our adopters, **Keith and Tara Saunders**:

*I bought and used **SentryPro XFC** on my four greyhounds last night. One of them immediately started dry coughing. Three were drooling within the hour and one developed a twitch-like response in his left hind leg – like an uncontrollable scratching or kicking motion. Two became extremely restless and would not settle. We washed all four dogs thoroughly and the symptoms subsided. All had very red skin where the product was*

applied. I Googled the product and found two sites with hundreds of comments from other dog owners who experienced similar affects, or many times worse. To read these comments yourself, Google “problems with sentrypro xfc” or simply “sentrypro xfc.”

*(Although I believe all the current spot-on products present some safety concerns, the one I use **only when I have to** is Frontline Top Spot. The only time I use this product is when we receive greyhounds that have visible fleas and/or ticks and we need to get rid of them quickly. We never recommend flea collars of any type be used on greyhounds). JKP*

Pill Tip

Need to get that pill down the throat, but your dog has figured out that’s exactly what you have in mind? There are lots of little tips, but one that really works is Velveeta Cheese. Wrapping a pill in this palatable, pliable cheese makes pill time at the house a whole lot easier. Try it – you’ll see!

DON’T FORGET TO PROTECT YOUR GREYHOUNDS FROM HEAT THIS SUMMER! Refer to **GCNM News Spring/Summer 2007** issue for article or go online to: <http://www.gcnm.org/heatstroke.html> for information on how HEAT KILLS!

NMDOGGO.COM – “Where Your Dog’s Business is Our Business”

If you’re like us, your pets have become family members. When you can’t be home for them, whether because of work, vacation or other obligations, you want them to be cared for with the same love and attention you give them. That’s exactly what we do at NMDOGGO.COM.

Having adopted a beloved greyhound from Greyhound Companions of New Mexico and having had the wonderful opportunity to care for other greyhounds rescued by GCNM, we are particularly fond of our greyhound clients!

We provide dog walks, feeding, transport, yard work, pet waste removal services, house sitting and more. Twenty years of experience in pet care and a dedication to the well-being of animals led to NMDOGGO.COM. We are a family team dedicated to providing high quality, fully insured services for you and your pets at affordable prices.

Our website www.nmdoggo.com features our services and products (such as well-priced toys from some of our dogs’ favorite companies: Kong, West Paw, and Jolly Pet). NMDOGGO.COM is an authorized distributor for DOGIPOT Pet Station systems with OXO-BIODEGRADABLE litter pickup bags that make it easy for people walking their dogs to clean up on the go. We install DOGIPOT Pet Stations for commercial properties, neighborhoods and parks.

Call Marea (505-688-3011) and/or Daniel Leavitt (505-615-3736) anytime for love-your-dog needs and peace of mind!

Condolences:



“Roxy”	2002-2008	Barb Wells and Tony Romero
“Ellie”	2001-2008	Carmon Deyo and Mike Dibble
“Sophie”	1994-2008	Tim and Kay Reardon
“Buddy”	1995-2008	Judy and Chuck McLaughlin
“Kayla”	? - 2008	Robert Goodfellow
“Nellie”	? - 2008	Robert Goodfellow
“Anni”	1994-2008	Rachelle Wright



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GCNM NEWS is published by:
Greyhound Companions of New Mexico
www.gcnm.org

Editor: **Judy Paulsen**
Layout: **Marja Murray**

**If you want to help the Greyhounds,
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