



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

## 2005 Reunion Coming Up!

This year's **GCNM Greyhound Picnic/Reunion** is sure to be a bigger hit than ever. Every year it gets bigger and better and this year should be no exception. **Please be sure to mark your calendars now for Sunday, September 25th, 2005. The fun starts at 11:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m., after the announcements of the raffle and silent auction winners. Location is at Bataan Memorial Park on Lomas, west of Carlisle – the park is on the north side of Lomas. There's lots of shade, but be sure to bring a blanket and a picnic lunch. Each Greyhound present will get a goodie bag, thanks to Pet Vet Market and Petco. Once again, Petco Foundation has contributed a \$500.00 cash donation to help with our expenses.**

This event is the main fund raiser we have for the Greyhounds each year, so be sure to bring plenty of cash and/or your check book (sorry, we're not set up to take credit cards). As always, we'll have plenty of Greyhound merchandise for sale and of course, you'll want to buy plenty of raffle tickets for our special prizes this year. Our "Grand Prize" will be sure to create a flurry of excitement!

Surprise awards will be given for various categories (oldest Greyhound present, Greyhound who "beat the odds" in medical crisis, Greyhound who traveled the farthest to attend reunion, and many more!)

**Carmon Deyo and Mike Dibble will have their unique assortment of jewelry on display at their booth, too! We'll have a microchipping booth again – this still remains one of the best ways to permanently ID your dog, since collars and tags don't always stay on.**



**Please join us for a fun day of socializing and showing off your Greyhounds – it's a lovely location, made even lovelier when graced with our regal hounds!**

**WE NEED DONATIONS FOR OUR RAFFLE AND AUCTION – PLEASE CALL **BARB WELLS** AT **286-6325** FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST.**

## An Angel from Henderson, Nevada

There are many “angels” looking out for the Greyhounds and other animals, but one in particular deserves special recognition for his selfless efforts. **John Hendrickson** of **Henderson, NV**, was apparently deposited here on this earth for the purpose of making life better for many dogs and people!

In January 2005, I received the following email:

*Hello,*

*My name is John Hendrickson and I live near Las Vegas, NV. One of my hobbies and passions is to transport "surplus" Greyhounds from one part of the country to another. I have two adopted greys myself.*

*What I do is called Greyhound Underground Railroad (GUR) which you probably know is where people take one leg of a multi-legged trip hauling Greyhounds from where they can't be easily placed to where they can be (more) easily placed. We do this without compensation.*

*You may already be overloaded with hounds that need to be placed, but... just in case you aren't, there's a possibility that I'll be bringing 5 or 6 greys to "somewhere" from Abilene, Kansas, sometime in April. They're from Florida and are part of a group of over 100 hounds that are no longer racing.*

*If you can't help with placing these guys, maybe you could direct me to some other group or individuals that could help these greys find a place, either fostering or permanent? I would greatly appreciate anything you can come up with. Thanks.*

*John Hendrickson*

This is how I first learned about John and his mission. One thing I must tell you is that in the above email, John talks of the GUR being a transport where “people take one leg of a multi-legged trip hauling Greyhounds....” I wanted to tell the whole story, though, as John is far too modest about his undertaking!

John traveled 7,660 miles in a convoluted pattern across the U.S. just to help some hounds and rescue groups. Now, if that's just “one leg” of a trip, I'd hate to take multiple legs!

John left his home on April 23rd, to visit his mother in Indianapolis, IN, where he arrived on April 25th. Initially, he had planned on getting some dogs from FL, but those dogs had already been taken care of. **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** had agreed to take some dogs from the Mobile, AL track. However, unlike last January, the track could not arrange for transporting these dogs to us. When alerted of this, John contacted the Mobile Adoption Center and coordinated a time to pick up four retired racers to bring to New Mexico.

John left Indianapolis, went to Mobile, picked up Kansas Rusty; Makerocketgonow; PA's Cletus; and Ubet Teddy Bear, and headed for New Mexico. Arriving on April 30th, John stayed long enough for a cup of coffee and a few photos and hopped back into his Chevy van.



**John Hendrickson and Cletus, now, “Sparky”**

Someone in Elgin, TX needed help in transporting dachshunds to Barstow, CA, so on May 2nd, John packed the “doxies” into his van. But wait – there were two “lurchers” (Greyhound mixes, bred specifically to hunt coyotes) in Kansas who had flunked out as hunters and they had been waiting for a ride to Phoenix, AZ, so John headed for Kansas to get the Greyhound mixes. He arrived on May 3rd; the lurchers were liberated from a dilapidated outdoor enclosure and settled in among the fluffy pillows in back of John's van. Don't worry, the doxies were in crates at this point!

Next stop – Phoenix, AZ. On May 4th, John arrived to deliver the lurchers to a rescue group.

He arrived back at his home on May 5th, much to the delight of his two retired racers!

We hope John shows up for our annual GCNM reunion – he'd most certainly be Guest of Honor and I know the Mobile dogs would remember him after their excellent adventure with him!

Please visit John's website ([www.blueGreyhound.com](http://www.blueGreyhound.com)) for a full accounting of the trip, complete with great photos of all the dogs (and some wild turkeys, too!). A sample entry from John's website:

*The most entertaining moment of the trip was when the Mobile hounds and I were going through New Mexico just before dawn. I turned on the inside light to look at directions to our destination and.... "There arose such a clatter, I turned to see what was the matter." The tinted windows made an excellent mirror and 3 hounds*

*were standing there, shoulder to shoulder, barking at their own images, a strange dog they had never seen before. Cletus, the smart one, never got up.*

*Editor's note: Greyhound Companions of New Mexico is against the practice of using retired racing Greyhounds for the purpose of hunting or for breeding to produce hunting dogs. John's feelings about this are summed up in the following statement:*

*As far as the coyote hunters go, they have a set of values that date back to frontier times. I grew up with the same values; where animals were there to be used for a purpose, a function, and then disposed of. I changed and so can they. I think that this man [from Kansas] is now aware that his hounds mean something to others. Maybe he can be "saved." :-)*

## Fighting or Playing? Aggression in Greyhounds

*By Judy Kody Paulsen*

All dogs play....or do they? Do some not know how? Racing Greyhounds have been taught to compete all their lives. Completely neutralizing the behavior racers develop as a result of their training can be challenging, if not impossible. The consequences of ignoring this fact can be disastrous. Accepting this fact is the responsibility of every adopter.

Greyhounds are not aggressive by nature, but ex-racers have been exposed to a type of "programming" no other domestic canine has. Typical play among other dog breeds may not be compatible with the mindset of an ex-racer who might attempt to capture anything fast-moving or perhaps challenge another dog they may perceive as a competitor.

Often, adopters assume that once a retired racer has coexisted with other animals in the home setting, they will lose the desire to compete. This assumption has produced catastrophic results

when Greyhound play or prey drive escalates into violent interaction. At the track, racing Greyhounds are always muzzled when they are in a group – whether they are racing or just enjoying one of their brief turn-outs at the kennel – no exceptions are made while in the track or kennel environment.



Observing play between animals is one of the greatest rewards of having companion animals; however, in the case of ex-racers, play must be supervised closely. Play that involves sparring, chasing, snapping, and biting can be especially damaging to Greyhounds because of their thin hair and skin. In some cases, depending on the history of the dogs, play may have to be discouraged altogether. Dogs who've shown a tendency to become aggressive need other outlets for their energy. Humans must become "playmates" for their Greyhounds when evidence of accelerated rough play among the dogs is repeatedly observed.

A routine of extended walks and/or one-on-one (human/dog) play without other dogs present may have to be substituted for lounging while watching your dogs rough-house with one another. A Greyhound that shows anxiety or aggression while humans play with another dog should be segregated in an area where he/she cannot be stimulated by the sights or sounds of the play.



*"Maggie" Moore, Jumping Up to Greet a Favorite Playmate, Dale McCann*

Allowing an aggressive dog to interact with the other animals of the household *is* recommended, but **only** under calm, controlled circumstances as in walking on leash or participating in quiet time among family members (animal and human).

Never allow a Greyhound with aggressive tendencies to be present when children (or adults) are wrestling or interacting in any way that can incite nervousness or aggression in the dog. Children running and screaming are especially vulnerable to the *innate* and *induced* chasing tendencies of an ex-racer.

If there have been persistent signs of aggression in a Greyhound, that dog may need to be crated or otherwise segregated when humans are not present.

Certain sounds can fuel the prey-drive of racing Greyhounds. A voice over a PA system (similar to that of the announcer at dog races as the racers are released from the boxes to chase the lure); a high-pitched squeaking or squealing (resembling the sound of a mechanical lure screeching through the metal guide around the track); roaring, screaming crowds or applause – all can produce tension in a racing (or ex-racing) Greyhound.

Some adopters feel that denying a Greyhound the freedom of running and playing with other dogs is cruel. Previous experiences humans have had with other companion dogs may leave an impression that a game of fetch or tug-of-war is a dog's preference for interaction with their humans. To a racing Greyhound, the mere presence of a human is likely their choice of interaction as this is something to which they've only had limited exposure while at the track.

Remember, it's our responsibility to control the environment in which our dogs interact and to establish guidelines to which all family members must adhere. Once you've made the decision to adopt a retired racer, you need to accept that they are much more susceptible to injury, and special precautions must be taken to provide a secure, safe environment for them.

Having an ex-racer as a companion is a most rewarding experience, but frequent visits to the veterinarian for wound repair get expensive, not to mention the mental toll it takes on the humans and the physical toll on the dog. Greyhounds are regal and affectionate dogs and make wonderful companions, but it's up to us to acknowledge the sacrifices necessary when having a fragile canine athlete that's been bred and trained to compete. Relax, enjoy your Greyhounds; but keep them out of harm's way.

## **TRUST – A Deadly Disease**

*By Sharon Mathers*

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 are inoculations. The disease is called TRUST.

You were told before you took your dog home that it could not be trusted. The adoption group, who provided you with this precious animal, warned you, drummed it into your head. "These dogs steal off counters, destroy anything

expensive, chase cats, can take a while to housetrain, and must never be allowed off lead!"

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice, you escorted your dog to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the leash held tightly in your hand.

At home, the house was "puppy-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 of the living room to keep at least part of the house "puddle-free." All windows and doors had been properly secured and signs placed in all strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR!"

Soon, it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes nine tenths of 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 your 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 dog becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of TRUST are planted. It seems that each new day brings less destruction, less breakage. Almost before you know it, your mischievous and once-unreliable animal companion has turned into an elegant, dignified, trustworthy friend.

Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him to 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 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. And, 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 in a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. And, 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 to your home. Now, he would never think of running out of the door left open while you bring in packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out of the window or a 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 a dog or cat across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping out doors, jumping out windows, or coming when called. 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 as broken as his still beautiful body.

The disease is TRUST. Its final outcome – hit by a car.

Every morning my dog, Shah, bounced around off 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 other things.

*Editor's note: I have personal experience with this disease: one of my dogs exited from my van and, instead of running into the garage as he always had, ran into the nearby forest. He was lost into an unforgiving landscape creating confusion which interfered with his navigational skills I thought were so keen. He was never found, despite the efforts of a large, dedicated search party assisted by a scent hound.*

## GCNM Volunteer Spotlight

**Cara Balestrieri** has been a volunteer for Greyhound Companions of New Mexico since she adopted her first Greyhound in October, 2003. A Sign Language Interpreter for the Deaf, Cara is employed by Del Norte High School. She was a special education teacher until she decided her animal family required more time than her position as a teacher would allow.



**Cara Balestrieri and Dog Family**

Attending the Animal Humane Association's Adopt-a-thon with her mother for several years, they spent most of their time there visiting with Greyhounds. Fueled by her mother's vow to adopt a Greyhound someday, Cara had been wanting a Greyhound for years. Cara ended up being the first in her family to obtain one.

Raised in a family that always took the most pitiful animals into their home, it's no surprise that Cara's first Greyhound was a special-needs dog. Her husband, Jeff Steckel, had been wanting a Greyhound that "looked like a tiger," but didn't hesitate when they were called by GCNM and told of a black female Greyhound needing a home.

Having little socialization with humans and scared of practically everything that moved, the challenge to work with the Greyhound she named "Angel" was welcomed by Cara. This was the beginning of Cara and Jeff's fascination with sight hounds. Soon, Angel was joined by Greyhound, "Zeus" – the tiger-striped male who

prefers to sleep his way through every adoption information clinic he graces! Then came "Hitman," the toothless, old Greyhound needing a home. (Hitman has since passed away – his eulogy and photo appear in this newsletter.)

Cara acquired her first non-greyhound sight hound when she took on the challenge of an Italian Greyhound puppy that had been confiscated by

the City of Albuquerque from the Puppy Patch – a store selling puppy-mill puppies. This puppy, named Fernando, was found to have a serious heart defect, but Cara was not discouraged from adopting him, in spite of his health problem. He has since had heart surgery and is predicted to live out a long, normal life (much to the dismay of the older Greyhounds he terrorizes on a daily basis, now that he is healthy!)

As though one hyper puppy wasn't enough, Cara rescued another puppy from a group of dogs confiscated from a breeder in April, 2005. Fernando now has a partner in crime with his "baby brother," "Dale Earnhardt!" Amazingly, everyone gets along fine; it's just that the more dignified Greyhounds, Zeus and Angel, have to dodge the little ones bouncing off the walls from time to time.

Cara readily volunteers her time whenever GCNM calls for help! In addition to the monthly adoption clinics she hosts at Petco on Eubank on the first Saturday of each month, Cara has

become an integral part of the core of volunteers that devotes hundreds of hours annually to our cause. A creative person who enjoys various crafts, Cara has been busy making greeting cards, soaps, and magnets as fund raisers for her favorite cause: the Greyhounds!

In addition to the dogs, her animal family consists of cats and two very old horses (one is 30!) who need special maintenance care. There's no doubt that animals and their plight play a very important part in Cara's life. Despite being the impetus for Cara's addiction to sight hounds, her mother has yet to adopt one! I'm sure it's just a matter of time before Cara changes that!

## Photos for the Calendar

We have received very few photo submissions to be considered for next year's calendar. I know there are lots of frustrated photographers out there and even more Greyhounds wanting to ham it up for the camera, so polish up those lenses and get busy! We'd love to produce a calendar for 2006, but can't do it without your photos (or the money from sales of the calendar!)

The rules for submissions are: Submit as many photos as you'd like. Please send us either high-resolution digital (minimum 640x480 pixels for small pictures) or clear print photos (if scanning, use 300 dpi); no slides please. Professional photos qualify, as long as you have permission from the photographer to publish the photo. Remember to include a caption for the photo(s) as well as your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address (if any). Either snail-mail prints and/or CDs with digital pictures to:

GCNM

P. O. Box 22053

Albuquerque, NM 87154-2053

or email to [calendar@gcnm.org](mailto:calendar@gcnm.org)

All submissions must be received by **August 1, 2005**.

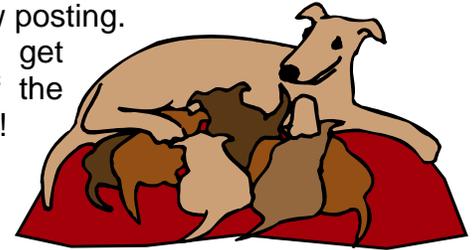
(We cannot guarantee the return of any prints mailed to us, so please don't send in your only print of any photo you value!)

## Puppies Anyone?

If you're up to the task, we have three Greyhound puppies available. All are brindle females and were whelped in March 2005. They have been handled a lot and are very well socialized. Call **505-281-7295** if you are interested.

Be sure to browse our website from time to time just to see what dogs we have waiting for homes. Go to [www.gcnm.org](http://www.gcnm.org) and click on "Adopting a Greyhound" for photos of available dogs we are now posting.

Hopefully we'll get some photos of the puppies up soon!



## Cleaning Tip For Carpet and Upholstery

Okay, so we've all had moments when we glowered at our dogs and said, "Just one more mess, and you're going to be looking for a new home!" But then that mournful look melts your heart and your frustration level begins to subside... "If I could only find a cleaner that really works, this wouldn't be such a big deal," you reason with yourself.

**Sara Mathis says she's finally found the miracle product! It's called Resolve Dual Power cleaner. She says the "Dual Power" is the secret, so be sure to read the container. It's readily available at many grocery and super stores, but Sara found the best price at Wal-Mart. And Sara knows cleaners – she's tried them all. Oxyclean used to be her cleaner of choice until she discovered this in the aisle at Wal-Mart and decided to give it a try.**



So try some on those stubborn spots on your carpet and let us know what your experience reveals!

## Production Company Invites GCNM to Participate in PBS Project



GCNM has been contacted by Optomen Productions asking for help in acquiring home video footage to be included in the PBS series, *Nature*. The documentary will examine the belief that animals can sense coming storms and natural disasters well before humans.

The show, which will broadcast later this fall on PBS stations, was inspired by intriguing reports of elephants and other animals acting strangely prior to the tsunami hitting Southeast Asia last December. The program will take an in-depth look at the scientific explanations of these behaviors. They currently have professional crews filming in Sri Lanka and Thailand who will soon travel throughout Africa. However, they would also like to incorporate some home footage. This is where GCNM comes in!

The commitment would be minimal and the arrangement would be fairly straightforward: If there is a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning in your area, and if you have a home video camera, we're hoping you can simply keep an eye on your animals, shoot some material if you notice anything alarming or unusual, then lend the footage to the production company.

### What to film:

Here are a few suggestions they provided to ensure they will be able to incorporate any footage submitted:

- Hold the camera as still as possible. If possible, place the camera on a table or tripod. We may not be able to use footage which moves, tracks, or zooms too frequently or too rapidly.
- Exterior shots are preferable. If you can film your animals in a way that also shows the weather conditions, that would be ideal.
- Be sure to note the location, date, time, and weather conditions. For example, if there was a tornado or severe storm warning issued in your area, be sure to note that by voice on camera.

- Keep the camera rolling. A few minutes of footage is more usable than a few seconds, as it allows us to select the best shots.
- If possible, record the audio as well. If you can lessen any background sounds like the TV/radio or people talking, that would be preferable.
- Get a few different shots: ideally, a wide shot showing the animals and the surroundings along with a few shots closer-up just on the animals and their behavior. Again, try not to move the camera too much – frame the shot, then keep it rolling for a minute, then move or re-frame the shot, then keep taping it for a minute. Avoid zooming in and out too much.
- In general, the more light that can be incorporated, the better. Exterior shots should be fine.

How to send footage: The contact person over the next few months is Erica Staufenberg and she can be reached by phone at 212-431-4361 or preferably by email at [erica.staufenberg@optomenusa.com](mailto:erica.staufenberg@optomenusa.com).

Because they are only recruiting a small group of people with an interest in animal behavior, they will send emails updating everyone on the progress about once a month over the next five months. The emails will include a brief update on the progress of the film as well as any updates as far as footage that people have sent in.

PBS/Optomen Productions is located in New York, NY. They are very excited about this project and we at GCNM are pleased to have been contacted by them to participate. Many of our readers have animals besides Greyhounds, so we're hoping there are at least a few out there who might be able to provide footage for this fascinating subject.

GCNM would like to hear from any of you who decide to take part in this project, so please let us know by emailing Judy at [jpaulsen@flash.net](mailto:jpaulsen@flash.net).

# In Memory of:

*(My apologies to those who wrote poignant eulogies for their beloved Greyhounds. We have attempted to memorialize each Greyhound with condensed versions of the adopter's emotions without minimizing their loss.)*

**"Harley"** - special companion to Pearl and Beau Pinkerton, died in January at the age of 10 from osteosarcoma. Possessing wonderful qualities, Harley's passing has left a large void in the Pinkertons' lives and is sorely missed. In Pearl's words, "I miss you my beautiful, handsome boy - you truly were the love of my life. Goodbye my special friend, you will always live in my heart and memories."



**Harley Pinkerton**

**"Joe"** - Dan Feinmark's 13 year-old loving, handsome, dark brindle boy died following neurologic complications on 1-24-05. Dan's first Greyhound, Care Bear, preceded the passing of Joe. Dan has since adopted two more Greyhounds.

**"Sweety"** - Ted and Jean Benn's Greyhound who came by her name honestly, passed away just prior to her 15th birthday. GCNM is grateful for the donation from the Bennis in memory of their "bouncing brindle girl."

**"Eddie"** - Ginny Burgess' shy boy was euthanized at the age of eight, after suffering a second leg fracture,



**Eddie Burgess**

which was determined to be a result of osteosarcoma. Substantial metastases left no options but to free Eddie from his pain. Ginny

described Eddie as a six-year gift and blessing to her life. Thank you, Ginny, for the contribution in Eddie's memory.

**"Jasmyn"** - the Bennett family's sweet-natured Greyhound and companion to their other Greyhound, Shylow, passed away on December 29th from multiple organ failure. The Bennetts adopted another Greyhound



**Jasmyn Bennett**

in memory of Jasmyn and to ease their grief and that of Shylow, who had bonded so closely with Jasmyn. The Bennetts miss their "Jazzie Gal" but she will be in their hearts forever.

**"Dylan"** - RoseAnn and Perry Chapman's 11 year-old Greyhound suffered a severe fracture to his femur and was euthanized in March. Extensive discussions with their veterinarian regarding the likelihood the fracture was from an osteosarcoma lesion, and considering the severity of the fracture, the agonizing decision to let him go was made. He was preceded in death by their other Greyhound, Flo-Jo.



**RoseAnn and Perry Chapman with Dylan**

**“Cairo”** - loving companion of Anne and Richard Ryder lost his battle with osteosarcoma just shy of his 13th



**Cairo Ryder**

birthday. “He was the perfect ambassador for retired Greyhounds, embodying a gentle spirit and gracious heart. He was lively and curious and loving throughout his life with us and he inspired loyalty and love in return.”

**“Bailey”** - Lissa Hart’s companion Greyhound for eight years was euthanized on May 25th, just before her 13th birthday to free her from the debilitating effects of osteosarcoma.

**“Connie”** - The Lovelace family shared their home with Connie for almost 10 years before she was euthanized at the age of 12. Connie was diagnosed with osteosarcoma following a



**Connie Lovelace**

severe fracture of a hind leg. Chest x-rays revealed the cancer had metastasized to the lungs. Jim’s wife, Maria, always said Connie thought the sun rose

and set on Jim, but he says it was the other way around.

**“Perry”** - Liz Surh’s big, happy boy was euthanized on April 21st at the young age of 7 ½. Perry had been limping intermittently, but always appeared to recover after romping with Liz’s other Greyhound, Strider.



**Perry Freeman**

Noticing the limp seemed to be more persistent, Liz took Perry to the vet and it was discovered he had advanced osteosarcoma. Not wanting Perry to suffer any longer, and knowing the cancer had spread, Liz kindly let him go to join his buddy, Lee Freeman, Liz’s late husband, who loved the Greyhounds.

**“Hopi”** - Tom and Nancy DeFeo’s precious blue brindle girl succumbed to a progressively debilitating disease on May 28th. Enjoying a sublime existence for many years with the DeFeo’s, Hopi lounged in lush grass and accompanied Tom and Nancy on numerous trips. Using the custom ramp Tom constructed, Hopi would emerge from the vehicle like a queen descending from her throne!



**Hopi DeFeo**

“Hopi was twelve when she left us. The very moment she went over ‘the bridge,’ her eyes told us she knew it was time: they grew uncommonly bright and a sense of peace filled the room.”

**“Shana”** - Bill and Janet Murray’s Greyhound-mix was euthanized on June 4th after a progressive neurological disorder rendered her limbs useless. Shana was well-known for winning the “best trick” competition for several years at the GCNM annual reunion. She was basically a wild dog when given to GCNM at the age of three months. Shana’s minimal interaction with humans presented an



**Shana and Joy Murray**

Photo by Joyce Fay

incredible challenge, but undaunted, Janet devoted herself to socializing and training her to produce a gregarious, smart companion. The loss of Shana was a devastating blow to the Murrays and all who knew her.

The Murray's whippet, "Joy," (shown in photo), passed away on June 16th. She was almost 16 years old. The loss of Shana had a devastating impact on her already fragile health as she had congestive heart failure. The Murrays say they will eventually adopt again, but for now they fill their time with the wonderful memories of their dear, departed companions.

"Farrah" - Roger and Judy Gumble's charming ambassador for Greyhound adoption was euthanized on June 10th, following a brief but insidious illness. At monthly PETsMART adoption clinics, Farrah won the hearts of many and was the impetus for many new adoptions. Roger and Judy have two other retired racers and conduct the PETsMART



Farrah Gumble

clinics (on Eubank) on the second Saturday of each month. Farrah's calm, sweet temperament will be greatly missed.

"Hitman" - Cara Balestrieri and Jeff Steckel adopted Hitman as their third Greyhound in April, 2004. Shortly after being adopted, Hitman was diagnosed with an eye disease which can cause blindness. Cara and Jeff religiously applied drops to try and preserve his vision. When their first Italian Greyhound puppy was brought home, Hitman patiently would stand while the pup jumped over him and ran between his legs. Soon, Hitman was discovered snuggling with the pup for naps. Hitman became a favorite of the neighbors when they met him on his walks with Cara. After



Hitman Balestrieri-Steckel

being diagnosed with advanced cancer, Cara and Jeff knew that letting him suffer was not an option they could consider. He is greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a wonderful ambassador at many adoption clinics.



**GCNM invites submissions of articles – anecdotal stories or technical – for consideration to publish in the GCNM News. GCNM reserves the right to make final decisions on editing. Whenever possible, we will publish entire articles submitted, but some changes may be necessary for space considerations.**

*Setting It Straight: In our last GCNM News a misperception may have occurred as a result of the wording in one sentence of our story titled "Greyhounds Not Dogs?" We regret that proper credit was not given to the person responsible for introducing the first two bills before the New Hampshire legislature to end Greyhound racing in that state: Scotti Devens of Save The Greyhound Dogs! Scotti's turbulent but successful journey into the world of advocating for racing Greyhounds will be profiled in our Fall GCNM News.*

*GCNM is grateful to the many dedicated souls who've sacrificed so much of their time and lives in the effort to end the suffering of the racing Greyhound. We would like to take this opportunity to give credit to Joan Eiding of Greyhound Network News and Susan Netboy of Greyhound Protection League for pioneering the endeavor to which those of us at GCNM are also committed.*



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Greyhound Companions of New Mexico is a licensed non-profit organization concerned for the welfare of the retired racing Greyhound. Tens of thousands of Greyhounds are needlessly destroyed annually; we strive to educate the public of the plight of the retired racer and to find loving adoptive homes for these affectionate canine athletes.

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**Address Changes...**

Please keep us informed of any address changes so we may keep our mailing list current and avoid excessive charges for returned mail. Contact us by phone at 505-281-7295, or email at [info@gcnm.org](mailto:info@gcnm.org) or write to GCNM, P.O. Box 22053, Albuquerque, NM 87154-2053 with your new information.

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