



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

Greyhounds Not Dogs??

In a bizarre statement to a journalist, the executive director of the **National Greyhound Association** (NGA), admitted the Greyhound racing industry does not consider racing Greyhounds as "pets" and they "should not fall under pet protection laws." The NGA, the governing body for Greyhound racing, is based in **Abilene, Kansas**. Efforts of concerned Kansans to introduce legislation which would *change* the current **Kansas Pet Animal Act (S.S.A. 47-1701)** to *include Greyhounds* in the definition of "Dog," generated national attention in March this year. The story was broadcast on national networks, including CNN.

As it stands now, *under Kansas law*, **Greyhounds are excluded from being classified as dogs**, thereby making them exempt from animal cruelty statutes or other laws which protect companion animals. The current Kansas Pet Animal Act states: **"Dog" means any animal which is wholly or in part of the species *Canis familiaris* but does not include any Greyhound, as defined by K.S.A. 74-8802 and amendments thereto.** The Kansas Pet Animal Act defines "Greyhound" as **"any Greyhound breed of dog properly registered with the National Greyhound Association of Abilene, Kansas."**

The racing industry, its supporters, and associates have been doing their best to deny this law benefits them in any way. Their frenzied rhetoric in response to the nationally run story can only be interpreted as an attempt to once again manipulate the public's perception of the NGA as an organization that truly cares about the welfare of the racing Greyhound. Years of abuse and killing of Greyhounds cannot be ignored when one closely examines the meaning of a law so blatantly designed to exclude racing Greyhounds from laws designed to detect abuse or other issues which could affect the health and safety of racers.

Kevin Neuman, of Overland Park, KS, is spearheading the campaign to, "Protect Greyhounds just like collies or German shepherds, or any other breed of dog." Kevin is an officer of the national Greyhound protection organization, **GREY2K USA**, and helps rescue Greyhounds through his local group, **KC REGAP**. GREY2K USA has recently been leading efforts in states such as Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Oregon to end the cruelty of Greyhound racing.

In Kevin's testimony before the Kansas State Legislature's House Agriculture Committee, his conclusion was, "There are thousands of Kansans, and millions of people around the world, who know a Greyhound is one of the most intelligent, sensitive, calm, and loving creatures on the planet. During our ten-plus years of Greyhound advocacy, my wife and I have found our best friends to be Greyhounds. Man's best friend: a dog. Please let our best friends be dogs in Kansas."

For updates on HB 2508 please visit <http://www.greyhoundcentral.org/redefine/>.

Volunteers Needed

Call now and sign up for one or all of the following events:

- ✓ *Animal Humane Association of NM Adopt-a-Thon - May 6th, 7th, 8th*
(you can choose to volunteer for only a few hours on any day or all days!!)
- ✓ *Del Norte High School Pet Fiesta - April 23rd*
- ✓ *GCNM Yard Sale – date yet to be determined – we need someone to volunteer a good centrally-located yard/garage for us to use for one day – ANY OFFERS??*
- ✓ *GCNM Reunion/Picnic - September 25th*

Call **Sara Mathis** at **881-9034** to get your name on the list for any or all events.

WE NEED ITEMS DONATED FOR OUR YARD SALE WHICH WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE!!! Please call **Cara** at **286-2365** for information.

Calendar Photo Submissions



This year, we want to have mountains of photos from which to choose our winners to be displayed in our calendar.

Submit as many photos as you'd like, just be sure they are 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.

Greyhound Therapy Dogs Multiplying

Most people who've met a Greyhound know how affectionate and calm they can be. And they seem to sense the needs of humans in distress. As this fact is becoming more widely recognized, the ranks of Greyhounds being registered for therapy-dog classes are increasing.

2004 set a record for the number of GCNM dogs to start their careers as therapy dogs. **Zofia Pastuszyn** and "**Lampkin**" and **Chris Spring** and "**Pecos**" recently graduated and will be joining previously certified "**Winston**" and "**Freddy**," trained by **Sherry Mangold**. Soon to join the list are: **Nancy Rogers** and "**Kellogg**," **Jan Hitchens** and "**Mo**," and **Sherry Mangold's** third candidate, "**Milagro**." **Thea Schneider** and "**Phoenix**" have moved temporarily to New York

State but will rejoin the program upon their return to New Mexico in 2006.

The program certifying the above dogs, **Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers (SCCV)**, is nationally recognized and requires more extensive training of their participants (trainers, handlers, and dogs) than most therapy dog programs. For this reason, they are allowed into virtually every hospital in Albuquerque; most nursing homes; Special Ed classrooms, Psychiatric facilities; the Juvenile Detention Center, and in the Public Library's "Read to the Dogs Program."



Chris Spring and Pecos, Sherry Mangold and Freddy, Judy Paulsen, Zofia Pastuszyn and Lampkin

If you would like more information on therapy dog training and its benefits to all involved, contact **Sherry Mangold** at **821-6066**.

2005 Reunion

Please join us on **Sunday, September 25th** to celebrate our Greyhounds and all the people who love them. The location is **Bataan Memorial Park** on Lomas, one block west of Carlisle, in Albuquerque. Bring your Greyhounds, a blanket, and a lunch and relax in one of Albuquerque's most beautiful parks. Be sure to bring cash and/or your checkbook for the raffle and silent auction (sorry, no credit cards). Help us raise funds to continue our work to protect racing Greyhounds and find loving homes for them.



Starting at 11:00 a.m. the festivities will culminate with the announcements of the winners of the auction and raffle items. I think everyone who attended last year will agree, there were some spectacular items that were well worth the money and the wait to receive them after bidding and ticket purchases had concluded.

Last year, we had 108 Greyhounds in attendance – let's make this year bigger than ever! This is our biggest fund raiser of the year and without it, we wouldn't be able to accomplish our endeavors to protect Greyhounds and keep our adopters informed of important issues surrounding these wonderful creatures.

As usual, we'll have lots of *greyt* Greyhound merchandise on sale, too! Gorgeous collars by

Silk Road Collars and our selection of **GCNM shirts**, along with other items sure to catch the Greyhound lover's eye!

Once again, **Carmon Deyo** and **Mike Dibble** will make available their exquisite **Black Horse Designs** of Greyhound jewelry, along with the other creative, artistic items they offer. *They always provide a gorgeous piece for our raffle/auction.*

Please come!! **Mark your calendars now: Sunday, September 25th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Greyhound Companions of New Mexico Annual Reunion/Picnic. Bataan Memorial Park on Lomas, west of Carlisle.**

WE NEED RAFFLE/AUCTION ITEMS AGAIN

To make our reunion/picnic another huge success, please donate any items you think would be of interest to Greyhound fanciers. eBay and various other sources are great places to find Greyhound items. The Internet is loaded with Greyhound merchandise, so please help us help the hounds and donate an item or two (or more!) for our raffle/silent auction.

Please call **Barb Wells** at **286-6325** to let her know what you'll be contributing. She can also be emailed at **ghound@sandia.net**.

Pathologic Fractures: Osteosarcoma's Painful Message

*The following story is reprinted from GRI NEWS with permission from the author:
Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama of Greyhound Rescue of Idaho*

"I'm in an emergency right now with Faun." These are the last words I wanted to hear when I got a call far from home about my dog. My nine-year-old, newly adopted Greyhound, Faun, had a diagonal fracture to the left humerus with severe swelling and possible nerve damage.

I was in Montana the night my husband called. I had just left Boise that morning with a friend who flew all the way out from Chicago to go on a

camping trip planned months in advance to Glacier National Park. It was difficult to be far away hearing the bad news about Faun.

Apparently, after my husband came home from work, he let the dogs out in the back yard as we would usually do. He heard a cry and saw Faun unable to walk on her left foreleg. Not having much experience with dogs, especially injured ones, my husband was in a panic and being new

to the area we weren't familiar with the animal hospitals. The accident occurred on a Friday night; the nearest vet wouldn't do the surgery Faun needed until Monday. We didn't want Faun to have to wait that long and it was very difficult to immobilize her leg to move her, especially since we have small cars. Finally, my husband found a vet who would do the surgery the next day.

After returning to Boise, I went to see Faun. She looked awful. She wasn't fully conscious, was breathing hard and her temperature had risen. I felt terrible seeing her like this and really started to wonder if she was going to make it. That night her temperature returned to normal. She stayed at the hospital for a week. She came home with pain medicine, antibiotics, and her leg pinned and wrapped. She was able to get up and walk a little and she was eating and drinking normally.

The doctors said she may have damaged the radial nerve which was very close to the injury site. If this were the case, she would not be able to ever use her leg again. It was an unusual place for a bone fracture. A dog usually must suffer quite an impact to break that part of the foreleg. We thought maybe she had run into something and being older, had weak bones or possibly a previous racing injury since we knew nothing about her past.

Faun's first surgery took place on July 12. On July 30, Faun's leg bandage was removed. She still didn't walk on her leg, but she seemed to have feeling in it. X-rays were taken August 8 and August 22. The x-rays showed no sign of the bone healing back together – it looked like a "non-union." It was so disappointing. Everything else had healed well and I was expecting her bone to be fine, too. I worried about what to do. I didn't think amputation of a front leg was a good option with a large, senior dog that likes to be active. There was only one other choice left and that was to do a type of reconstructive surgery. Since Faun was still active and healthy, I

decided to go with trying another surgery although there still weren't any guarantees.

The whole time I thought about what to do with Faun, she seemed to be looking at me as if to say, "Don't give up on me." It just wasn't her time to go and I had to try one more option. I noticed that she started to progressively use her leg more, which I took as a good sign.

She was scheduled for surgery on September 18. When the day came, I asked the vet to do one more x-ray before the surgery because I felt that the bone may have improved on its own. To our relief, they said it had!



Faun after First Fracture

On October 20, Faun had the pin in her leg removed. We were so relieved and happy. We thought the hard part was over and she seemed to be slowly recovering. She was able to go for short walks and the leg was looking healthier and functional. Then in February, she started to limp again. I took her in for an x-ray to the same vet to make sure the bone setting wasn't disturbed. The vet couldn't see

anything wrong and prescribed some pain medication.

Right after she had her leg checked, I had to unexpectedly leave her to attend a funeral in Michigan. While I was gone Faun didn't improve and she had another accident. She slipped on the floor and her leg was worse. When I got back home I could tell she was in a lot of pain. I took her back to the same vet for more x-rays. They still didn't see anything wrong except tissue inflammation; again sending me home with pain killers and antibiotics. I saw no improvement.

After being encouraged by a member of the Greyhound adoption group to take Faun for a second opinion, we had her original x-rays looked at and a whole series of new x-rays done. It was discovered that she did indeed have a slight fracture, but that was the good news. That day I also found out that she had bone cancer. A cancer tumor was actually spotted by this new

vet on the emergency hospital's original x-ray from July when she mysteriously broke her leg. It was a tiny but deadly weak area in the bone. That would explain the slow bone growth. I found it quite incredible that she had any recovery period at all and had so much energy. Faun was diagnosed with bone cancer on the evening of March 12 (although it had begun its deadly invasion months earlier) and she barely made it through the weekend until I had her put down the morning of March 15. Even in all her pain on the last day, she still enthusiastically jumped into the car excited to be going for a ride. At that moment, she didn't look anything like a cancer victim except for her swollen leg.

Editor's note: Faun's fractures were what are termed "pathologic" in nature – this basically means there is underlying disease responsible for the break. This type of fracture should be suspect when there is nothing to suggest severe trauma having occurred to produce the break. Many veterinarians are aware of the high rate of osteosarcoma in Greyhounds, but it is wise to mention this to an attending vet anyway. If supplied with an accurate history which suggests there was no severe trauma to the fractured area, a vet should immediately suspect the fracture could be pathologic in nature and should consider bone cancer when evaluating x-rays and the injury site. Any Greyhound limping and especially if exhibiting swelling in the leg should be closely scrutinized for the possibility of bone cancer.

Osteosarcoma in Greyhounds: Early Diagnosis and Options

By Judy Kody Paulsen

"Doc" had been limping around the house for about a week before he was taken to see **Dr. Sandra Whaley** at **Manzano Animal Clinic** in **Albuquerque**. Adopters, **Shannon Gilbert** and **Beth Murray** thought he had strained a "wrist" while playing with their German Shepherd in the back yard. An appointment was scheduled for him when the limping did not subside within the week. An x-ray was done which showed a very suspicious bone lesion – a biopsy of the area was performed the same day. One week later, the pathology report confirmed what Dr. Whaley had suspected: Doc had osteosarcoma.

Chest x-rays were done to rule out the possibility that the cancer had already metastasized to a critical point which narrows the options for treatment. It is important to note that by the time osteosarcoma is diagnosed, there are already "micro lesions" elsewhere, most commonly in the lung, although these tiny invaders are often not visible on x-ray in their initial stages. Dr. Whaley told Shannon and Beth of the most common options, those being; 1) amputation followed by chemotherapy, 2) no amputation and treat with pain meds, and 3) pain meds coupled with a bone hardening drug. The benefit of the bone hardening drug would be to reduce the likelihood of a pathologic fracture if they chose not to have the limb amputated. Dr. Whaley had given them statistics of survival both with and without amputation – all of which can vary for each patient.

Shannon and Beth were split on whether or not to amputate – one wanted to, the other did not. They struggled with their options and contemplated life without Doc. One comment Dr. Whaley had made resonated deep within Shannon and Beth's minds during their discussions: Once the leg is removed, the pain subsides quickly. Dr. Whaley explained that because hip dysplasia is not common to Greyhounds, they function quite well on three legs. Often, the assumption is made that because the front legs support the greatest portion of a dog's body mass, they will be more incapacitated by losing a front leg than a back leg. However, Dr. Whaley states that eliminating the pain of the cancerous limb by amputation brings on a surprisingly rapid recovery and soon the dog is unaware of its tripod status even when a forelimb is removed.

While waiting for the results on the biopsy, Shannon and Beth spoke with several people who'd been faced with the same dilemma – some had chosen amputation, some had not. Although nine years-old, Doc was still very active and loved his romps with their German Shepherd and his walks with Shannon and Beth. His zest for life and the early diagnosis provided some encouragement when making their decision. Because Shannon and Beth were so observant and noticed the limp when it began, they were hopeful that their quick response in taking Doc to

the veterinarian would have a positive impact on his longevity.

After receiving the definitive diagnosis of osteosarcoma from the biopsy, a decision was made to go ahead with amputating the limb. **Dr. Raymond Bouloy** of **Manzano Animal Clinic** did the surgery and the procedure went smoothly.

Shannon and Beth were amazed at the speed with which Doc recovered. Dr. Whaley was right: the pain seemed to vanish rapidly. Although amputating a limb is a major surgery, the severe pain generated by a cancerous bone lesion is evidently worse than that of the recuperative phase of an amputee, especially when taking into consideration the pain from the cancer was likely present for some time prior to the dog becoming visibly symptomatic.

Doc received four chemotherapy treatments after his amputation. A common misperception is that chemotherapy eradicates the cancer, however, Dr. Whaley emphasizes that administering chemotherapy after amputation slows the *metastasis* of the already present lesions and should not be mistaken as a *cure* for the disease. There are many chemotherapy protocols and pros and cons to consider with each. Some may increase longevity, but on the other hand will induce more nausea. Others create less sickness yet are considerably more expensive. All can be administered with anti-emetics and this will increase the dog's comfort while undergoing chemotherapy.

According to Shannon and Beth, Doc's quality of life is very good; he doesn't seem to notice that he only has 3 legs! "He hasn't slowed down at all and still runs around the back yard with Greta, the German Shepherd." He's sure to make himself very visible around treat time and one of his favorite tricks is to try and steal Greta's cookies! They're all looking forward to celebrating his one year surgery anniversary on April 23rd! Thanks to Shannon and Beth's watchful eyes and the expertise of Dr. Sandra

Whaley and Dr. Ray Bouloy, Doc is enjoying an apparently pain-free life. Who knows, maybe he'll set a survival record just for the sheer joy of stealing Greta's cookies!

Points to consider:

1) Osteosarcoma is twice as likely to occur in a front limb (always seek veterinary care for a dog who develops a limp whether it's the front or the back leg, especially if the limp persists more than a few days).

2) Amputation *without* subsequent chemo treatments is usually not considered a viable option: The purpose of the amputation is to remove the source of pain and the purpose of the chemotherapy is to reduce the rate at which the disease metastasizes, thereby increasing longevity.

3) Is a biopsy necessary if the x-ray already reveals the *typical* appearance of osteosarcoma? Dr. Whaley says, yes, for the following reasons: If another type of cancer is present and has subsequently metastasized to the bone, there is no justification for amputation. In addition, if the amputation is done purely on the radiographic evidence and it later turns out not to have been osteosarcoma but rather a similar appearing non-cancerous lesion such as fungal infection, then the amputation was avoidable.

Biopsies of areas where there is less muscle are less traumatic. The wrist biopsy is probably the least invasive since there is little tissue to penetrate for the procedure. The deeper the surgeon must go to obtain a specimen, through muscle and other tissue, the more painful the recovery will be as this tissue is inflamed to begin with.

4) This bit of information is purely observational and anecdotal, but when asked, Dr. Whaley concurred: *Arthritis vs. osteosarcoma* – can you see a difference in the type of lameness exhibited? As in humans, when an arthritis



Three-legged Doc, Lounging

sufferer first rises from being sedentary, the discomfort is more pronounced upon initial movement, but as the muscles loosen and blood circulates among the tissues most affected by arthritic changes, the movement seems to improve. Conversely, in 13 years of observing Greyhounds, it has been my observation that the ones with osteosarcoma seem to get increasingly more *uncomfortable* as they ambulate.

5) Expense is a significant consideration for most people faced with the costs involved in surgery and chemotherapy. Several thousand dollars will be the likely financial burden. If cost is a big factor, opt for pain management; and when you perceive that the pain is no longer tolerable, then consider euthanasia. Many people question their ability to make the determination of when their animal is suffering; however, keep in mind that you know your animal better than anyone. Behavioral changes such as disinterest in interacting with family; heavy, persistent panting; avoidance of using the limb – are some indicators your animal companion may be suffering excessively. Discussion among family members and consultation with your vet is paramount at this time.

6) The pathologic fracture is an unpleasant experience for the victim and the witness. Do take this into consideration as you ponder the pros and cons of pain management vs. amputation. Bone hardening drugs (similar to those used in humans to control osteoporosis) can lessen the risk of fractures at the site of the cancerous lesion – be sure to inquire about this option when discussing management with your vet if you choose not to have the amputation.

Author's note: The early detection of any cancer and determining if it has metastasized is vital in the deliberation and consultation involved in making a decision on whether to pursue surgery or other options. You know your animal companions best and are most capable of deciding which approach is appropriate. It is never easy to make a call on what to do in a case where your animal's life is on the line. Don't fall prey to guilt feelings or pressure to pursue extreme measures if you feel your animal cannot withstand the trauma nor if your finances will not allow it. But by all means, discuss your options with your vet or seek a second (or third) opinion if you are not comfortable with the information you've been given.

Getting a Second Opinion

So, you trust your veterinarian. You've been a client of hers/his for many years. For the most part, you've been pleased with the care your animals receive from this veterinarian and he/she is "So nice!" Well, even the best vets make mistakes or don't have the knowledge to treat certain conditions. Some will admit it and some won't. Some will "leave no stone unturned" during the diagnostic process, claiming they need "just one more test" to make a diagnosis. And the bills keep mounting....

You're reluctant to question your vet's expertise and you're afraid of offending anyone at this office where you've taken your animals year after year. Or maybe this is your first visit to this vet and you feel compelled to give him/her the benefit of the doubt.

If you are ever getting a "gut feeling" that something more should be done or perhaps too

much is being done with no result, it might be time to get a second opinion. Most reputable veterinarians will not hesitate to refer you to another source or at the very least, they should offer to consult with a vet who's an expert in any given specialty.

Do some research on your own. The Internet abounds with information – just do a "**Google**" search for any given disease, species, breed, veterinary specialty, etc. and you'll find plenty of resources. The Merck Veterinary Manual is online, too, at www.merckvetmanual.com – you'd be surprised at how much you can learn in your own quest for information. This research can also help you make better decisions and ask more intelligent questions when you consult with a veterinarian.

Don't be afraid to ask your vet for a referral for another opinion. A good vet won't be offended

and if anything, will support your decision, especially if your animal has not responded to current treatment. You might also get the unexpected benefit of finding a veterinarian who's exceptionally skilled AND has more reasonable fees! Don't fall into the "convenience" trap. Many people think a vet, is a vet, is a vet, and because of proximity either to their homes or offices, find themselves limiting their choice purely by location. Contrary to the rules applying to real estate values, location is not "everything" when you are looking for a qualified veterinarian!

Always have a clear history of your animal's symptoms and previous treatment. Know what medications they've taken and have the meds with you, if possible. Have x-rays and all other treatment information from previous vets before you go for your next opinion. The more information you have and the better prepared you are to provide details of your animal's health and symptoms, the more likely you are to get results that may aid in your animal's diagnosis and treatment.

Contact Greyhound adoption groups in your area for referrals. Get more than one vet's name if possible. The more a vet knows about Greyhounds, the better. Don't be afraid to bring copies of information you have obtained from other sources (online information or articles you have read). It's possible your vet is unaware of

some of the more recent findings on Greyhound health. There is a plethora of research being done on Greyhounds. Many facilities and individuals are investing copious amounts of time and money on Greyhound-related diseases and injuries.

Beware the vet who, when asked if he/she has any experience with Greyhounds, replies, "Oh, I've worked on lots of Greyhounds – we were trained on them in vet school!" The training to which they are referring may well be the common practice of "terminal" experiments where they are used primarily as anatomical models and practicing surgical techniques while anesthetized, then they are not revived. This type of training in no way translates to diagnosing and treating the unique ailments with which Greyhounds can present.

Don't let your concern for your own image in the eyes of the vet or the staff interfere with your pursuit of answers, especially if your instinct is telling you it's time for a change. Your own observations of your animals are the best indicators of whether or not something is wrong. Don't allow your concerns to be dismissed by a vet when you know for a fact that something is "not right" with your animal companions. You are the only voice they have, so be a good observer and advocate – just as you would for any member of your family.

Alabama Dogs

On February 5th, 2005, **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** (that's us!) welcomed 10 Greyhounds from a long haul. Coming all the way from **Mobile, AL**, the dogs were amazingly frisky after the 22-hour trip. Jumping from the compartments on the hauling truck, each seemed enthusiastic to start their new lives in the Land of Enchantment!

After each had stretched their legs and sniffed out every nook and cranny at **Judy Paulsen's** house in the East Mountains, they were taken into the grooming room for their baths. Volunteers **Judy Gumble** and **Barb Wells** made sure each one was groomed to perfection, while **Roger Gumble** expertly recorded the experience on his digital camera.



Phone calls were made to the anxious adopters and foster parents, and a steady stream of vehicles arrived to claim their Greyhounds.

All ten of these beautiful, happy hounds have now been placed in permanent homes. If you are wondering why these dogs had to come so far to find homes, there apparently were no "takers" when Mobile Greyhound Park Adoption Center went online to plead for help in placing the Greyhounds because their kennel was overflowing. They called us to see if we could help out and the rest is history!

GCNM Volunteer Spotlight

Barb Wells has been a volunteer for GCNM for almost five years. Contributing hundreds of hours of her time last year, she has become one of the main lifelines for our adoption program.

Growing up in a small Massachusetts town, Barb had always been a sucker for animals – dogs, cats, birds, anything needing some TLC. She began her avocation as an animal rescuer at a very young age, bringing in strays in addition to caring for her own companion animals.

After graduating with a major in chemistry and a minor in biology, Barb moved to St. Petersburg, FL, to become a polymer chemist for **Lockheed Martin**. Volunteering for “Turtle Watch,” a marine wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center in Clearwater, FL, Barb was able to satisfy her passion for helping animals. While in St. Petersburg, Barb also became keenly aware of the plight of the racing Greyhound – Florida being the state with the largest number of Greyhound racing tracks and breeding farms.

In 1994 Barb was transferred to New Mexico to work at Lockheed Martin’s **Sandia Laboratories** facility. While on a business trip to Phoenix, AZ, she saw a large advertisement in the airport encouraging passers-by to call a 1-800 number for information on adopting a Greyhound. At the time there was a national advertising campaign aimed at educating the public about retired racers – **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** was the New Mexico organization to which callers were being referred. Thus began Barb’s association with GCNM. How fortunate we were for her to have made that call!

Barb’s first retired racer, “**Bev**,” was somewhat on the shy side, but quickly adapted to family life and convinced Barb it was time for another Greyhound. It was decided this time, Barb and her husband-to-be, Tony, wanted to give a home to a special-needs Greyhound. Not long after

they notified us of this, we had been contacted by a rescue program in Texas that a female Greyhound had been abandoned on the side of the highway in Plainview, TX. We quickly made arrangements to transport this Greyhound to Albuquerque.



“Bev,” “Emily,” Barb, “Chamisa” & “Roxy”

Emaciated, lame from a poorly healed broken hock and a dislocated front toe, this Greyhound was desperate for attention and veterinary care. Barb’s childhood penchant for taking in strays and nursing them back to health was fully engaged when she saw the pathetic, crippled sight of this fawn-colored

desperate soul. A large tumor protruded from her side and it soon became evident the dislocated toe would need amputation and the tumor should be excised. Undaunted by the task of post-operative care and the possibility of other health problems, Barb welcomed newly-dubbed, “**Emily**” into her family.

And then there’s “**Roxy!**” Barb had always wondered what it would be like to raise a Greyhound puppy. She speculated, “Would they be different if not exposed to track life?” Roxy was the product of what’s termed in the racing industry as an “oops litter.” An accidental breeding (often between littermates) wherein the dogs are not qualified to be registered with the NGA. “Roxy was fun to raise,” states Barb, “and not quite the terror I had heard Greyhound puppies could be. Roxy has never known anything but love and total acceptance.” Barb enrolled Roxy in obedience training, which turned her into a mannerly and wonderful addition to their Greyhound family.

Barb conducts numerous adoption information clinics for GCNM and has become the overseer of the tedious chore of soliciting, categorizing, and organizing the many items donated for our reunion raffle/auction each year. If Barb were paid for all the hours she spends each year helping GCNM, she could quit her other job! Her

only compensation as a volunteer is knowing she's making a difference for lots of Greyhounds.

Barb, you are a champion and we thank you for your selfless dedication to the Greyhound cause!

Little Orphan Annie

On March 8th, 2005, I received a phone call from a concerned citizen at the East Side Animal Care Center on Lomas. This citizen identified herself as **Jeanie Emery** and told me of a tiny, frightened Italian Greyhound (IG) at the shelter that didn't look well. Jeanie said she had attended our Greyhound reunion last year with Greyhound adopter, **Liz Surh**, and learned that we also did Italian Greyhound rescue. She thought of us as soon as she saw the IG at the shelter.



I dropped everything and headed for the Albuquerque Animal Care Center to take a look at this little IG. This dog had just arrived and was listed as a "stray." She was trembling and frightened and did not respond to encouragement to come to the front of her enclosure.

I asked for help from **Ernie Alexander** (the personable manager who's interviewed on TV all the time!) to ask if I could get into the enclosure to see the dog. She moved quickly away from me and cowered in the corner, but she soon succumbed and let me pick her up.

The stench was unbelievable – by far the worst I've ever smelled coming from a dog's mouth. Her tongue hung limply out the side of her mouth and her eyes were practically lifeless. Ernie suggested I take her home and foster her until it was determined whether anyone was going to claim her since she was declared a stray.

It was obvious this dog had been used for breeding, but unfortunately her efforts to provide her owner with puppies to sell did not afford her the care she deserved. Graying in the face with eyes peering out of her emaciated, boney skull, she was a pitiful sight. I took her immediately to **De Anza Animal Clinic** for evaluation.

Diagnosed with mandibular myositis, a paralysis of the muscles in the jaw, access to her mouth

for inspection of her teeth and gums was limited. Veterinarian, **Dr. Kelly Durst**, encountered quite a challenge intubating the little dog for anesthesia. Her teeth presented little resistance for extraction since they were so loose and there was little bone to hold them in place. As a result of chronic, severe infection of the gums (gingivitis), the ligament which holds the two lower mandibles together had deteriorated along with the bone. The lower jaw bones separated and sutures had to be inserted to stabilize the jaw.

As a result of a neurological condition which only allows one side of the tongue to function, she was unable to lick or lap through the front of her mouth. Toothless, having an uncooperative tongue and a mouth restricted to such a small opening, she had a taxing combination of handicaps. Malnourished and a very enthusiastic eater, there was a risk she could separate the sutured lower jaw as she plunged her nose and mouth into a feeding dish. Molding canned food into tiny, tubular shapes, I hand fed her four times a day to encourage weight gain on her skeletal frame. She resembled a baby bird; watching intently as I prepared each morsel – awaiting its delivery into her mouth.

I began calling her Annie. Affectionate and desperate to please, she would cling to my shoulders like a child when carried. She buried her head under my chin when strangers approached – apparently fearing she might not be returned to my embrace.

Annie was euthanized on April 7th after she began vomiting profuse amounts of blood. Diagnosis and treatment options were severely limited by her debilitating oral condition. Necropsy revealed multiple findings suggesting the effects of long-term, severe bacterial infection were responsible for Annie's condition and ultimate demise. Neglect by irresponsible

people who used Annie for breeding, then discarded her, was what killed her.

At least she had one blissful month before she died....



GCNM Website Has a New Look (www.gcnm.org)



Take a look at our updated website – we have new photos! Look to see who you recognize – your Greyhound(s) might even be on there! Each category at the top of the home page has a photo when you place the cursor

on it, then when you click on the category and go to the page, there are rotating photos in the upper left-hand corner – watch closely!!

Now's a good time to do your homework, too!! **Read all articles again** if you really want to answer questions accurately when you are out and about with your dogs. The sight of a regal Greyhound almost always initiates conversations about them. This is your opportunity to inform the public about the plight of the racing Greyhound. In addition to all the articles under "Greyhound Behavior and Health," you'll want to read all the information on "Public Awareness" – then you'll really be armed for most inquiries.

Remember, our newsletters are online, too! You can scroll back several issues if you've lost or never received your copy. The dates for all our adoption information clinics and various other events are posted in the GCNM News section, too!

Our website isn't just for newbies!! It's a good place to spend some time doing your homework and to do some shopping from home, too! Sign on today: www.gcnm.org.



If you enjoy receiving and reading GCNM News, please consider a donation to help with our expenses. Our costs have increased considerably, but we feel it is such an essential part of our undertaking to educate Greyhound fanciers about these incredible animals and their plight.

Please help by sending donations to:
GCNM
P. O. Box 22053
Albuquerque, NM 87154



Getting Your Greyhound's Attention

Michelle Hudak, who recently adopted "**Fred**" from us, has a tip we want to pass on to all our adopters. Michelle's mother-in-law, who adopted two Greyhounds in Illinois, says many adopters "swear by these." They're commonly referred to as "squawkers" and are listed as "predator calls" in various hunting supply catalogs. If your Greyhound bolts away from you and you happen to have one of these on hand, it's supposed to get their attention quickly since these squawkers are used at the tracks in training the racers.

One Internet website which has them available is **ghgear@wideopenwest.com**. They are generally priced between \$17.00 and \$20.00. Of course, you'll have to remember to always have the squawker with you or in an easily accessible location should other family members need to use it.

These are not meant to be toys! These are tools used to heighten the prey drive of racers-in-training and should not be used for play, especially with children or small animals in the vicinity.



Sandia National Labs Corporate Community Service Awards

Sandia Laboratories/Lockheed Martin has yet another way to help their employees' favorite charities: The **Sandia Volunteer Program** and the **Lockheed Martin/Sandia National Laboratories Community Service Awards**. Employees of Sandia National Laboratories who volunteer 100, 250, or 500 hours annually to *one* non-profit program are eligible to designate that charity (if qualified, as is GCNM) as the recipient of an award of \$1.00 per hour of volunteer service by the employee (the maximum number of hours is 1000).

For more information on this generous, creative plan, contact **Amy Tapia** at **284-5207** or email her at **astapia@sandia.gov**.

Please check with your employer to see if similar programs are offered at your place of employment.

Conspicuously absent in this newsletter is the Condolences section. My apologies to all who lost their beloved Greyhounds since our last publication, but they will be eulogized in our next newsletter due to lack of space available in this issue.



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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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If you want to help the Greyhounds,
send donations to:

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P.O. Box 22053
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Remember, no donation is too small!

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 or write to GCNM, P.O. Box 22053, Albuquerque, NM 87154-2053 with your new information.

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