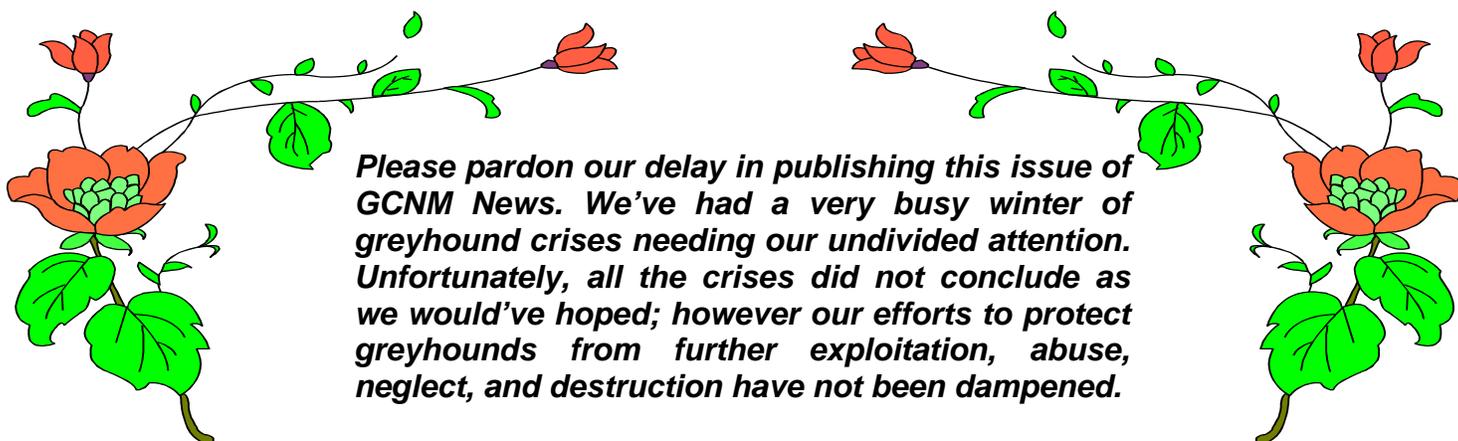




"Until man extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace..." Albert Schweitzer



Please pardon our delay in publishing this issue of GCNM News. We've had a very busy winter of greyhound crises needing our undivided attention. Unfortunately, all the crises did not conclude as we would've hoped; however our efforts to protect greyhounds from further exploitation, abuse, neglect, and destruction have not been dampened.

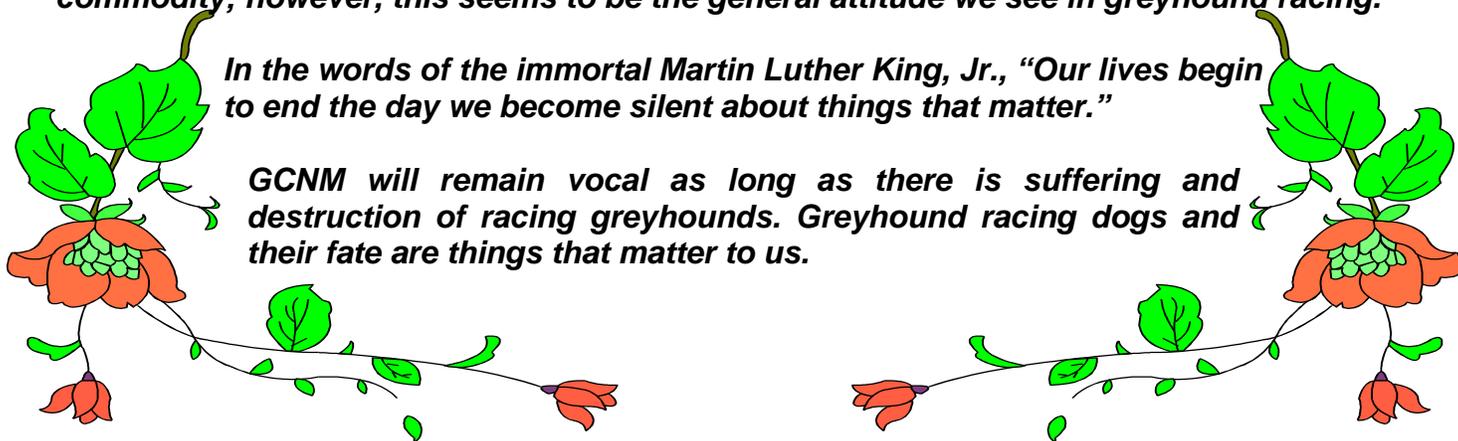
We will continue to do our best to work on behalf of all greyhounds AND their adopters. We can only hope that in the end, justice will prevail and that greyhounds everywhere will live their lives free of the cruelty, illness, and injury to which they are exposed at dog tracks, training, and breeding farms.

While not every greyhound racing industry person is callous to the emotional and physical needs of these dogs, there still remains an unacceptably high number of incidents which suggests far too many industry people are in the business purely for greed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trainers, breeders, and other industry insiders who truly love their racers and care about their ultimate destination.

Sadly, thousands of greyhounds are still dying annually, and no matter how well they are looked after, greyhound racing is inherently dangerous for the dogs, and the dangers have been ignored far too long. These dogs should not be regarded as a disposable commodity; however, this seems to be the general attitude we see in greyhound racing.

In the words of the immortal Martin Luther King, Jr., "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

GCNM will remain vocal as long as there is suffering and destruction of racing greyhounds. Greyhound racing dogs and their fate are things that matter to us.



**September 24, 2006:
GCNM Picnic Tenth Anniversary!**

Please mark your calendars now for this important date! You and your greyhounds will be glad you did - as that's the day for our annual greyhound reunion/picnic. Ten years ago, we had our first reunion/picnic! What a difference a decade makes - from 30 or 40 greyhounds to over 140, we've become the New Mexico greyhound event of the year!

Once again, our event will be held at **Bataan Memorial Park** on **Lomas**, just west of Carlisle in Albuquerque, NM. We'll be celebrating from **11:00 'til 3:00**, so bring a picnic blanket and chairs and lunch for yourself. **Triangle Grocery** is donating bottled water this year, so no need to bring your own, but we do recommend you bring a container for your dog's water. The dogs will be provided with goodies once again from our generous sponsors, **PetCo**, **PetsMart**, and **Pet Vet Market**.

The goodie bags went fast last year, so be sure to arrive on time to assure you'll get one of these great bags for your greyhound. We'll have more bags available this year, but if the attendance keeps climbing like it has the last few years, we could run out again. Be there to sign up at 11:00 a.m.

Last year we broke all records: attendance, funds raised by raffle and auction items, and just plain old fun! Let's break all the records again this year. Bring your family and your greyhounds for a day of fun in gorgeous Bataan Memorial Park.

If you have anything you'd like to donate for the raffle or silent auction, please contact **Barb Wells** at **286-6325**.

Greyhound Companions of New Mexico, Inc. (GCNM) is a licensed non-profit organization concerned for the welfare of racing greyhounds. Tens of thousands of greyhounds bred for racing are destroyed annually. GCNM is supported by donations from those who feel as strongly as we do that these gentle creatures need protection from exploitation, neglect, abuse, and destruction. 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 Volunteer Goes to the Senate

On January 27th, 2006, **GCNM** adoption coordinator, **Sherry Mangold**, addressed the **New Mexico State Senate** regarding an education bill. Speaking on behalf of the **Golden Apple Foundation** and the **College of Education at University of New Mexico**, Sherry's presentation in the Senate was to the Education Committee.

The introduction of Sherry to the Senate was made by **Senator Cynthia Nava** and Sherry was "tickled" to hear the mention of greyhounds. Senator Nava's commendation on Sherry stated: *"Whereas, Sherry Mangold has retired as an Honors English Teacher at Eldorado High School in Albuquerque and now rescues greyhounds and spends her time working with her three rescued greyhounds that serve as therapy dogs in New Mexico hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice units; and Whereas, Ms. Mangold's dedication, professionalism, and accomplishments as a teacher were recognized in 1996 when she was named a Golden Apple Fellow and continues to serve the community as a therapy dog trainer; Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the State of New Mexico that congratulations and gratitude be extended to Sherry Mangold for her outstanding work for the citizens of New Mexico."*

Sherry is an exemplary citizen in so many ways, and her work with GCNM and **Southwest Canine Corps of Volunteers** therapy dog program are two of the volunteer programs for which she takes great pride. We encourage our greyhound adopters to become involved in the gratifying work of doing therapy dog visits with their greyhounds. For questions about the program, please call **Sherry** at **821-6066**.

**Beauty Inside and Out!
Mary Kay Sales Benefit GCNM**

Embrace your beauty on the outside with products from **Mary Kay**, and nurture your beauty on the inside by donating to **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico!**

Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant, **Viki Elkey**, will donate 10% of your purchases to GCNM. The Mary Kay product line includes more than 200 products in facial skin care, body care, color cosmetics, nail care, sun protection, and fragrance. Mary Kay products are cruelty-free; no animal testing is done.

You may shop online for convenience at **www.marykay.com/vikielkey** or you can schedule a complimentary, no-obligation consultation with Viki. Gift-wrapping and shipping are always free!

Viki Elkey at **891-3659** or **vikielkey@marykay.com**

Greyhound Welfare: A Popular Subject

The movement to educate the public about the plight of the racing greyhound is gathering steam. **GCNM** has long been active in imparting this information to the public and is often asked to do presentations on the subject of what kind of life racing greyhounds lead.

Kent and Sara Mathis spoke to the **Free Stylin' Hawks 4-H Club**, at the **Bernalillo County 4-H Building** on Indian School NW. Approximately 75 - 100 youths and their parents were present for the talk, and all were in awe of the gentle, friendly nature of greyhound ambassadors, **Breeze** and **Suki**, who worked the crowd during the presentation.

Kent and Sara commented on what a polite and engaged audience they encountered on that day. Kent states that the numerous intelligent questions asked after the presentation are evidence of the compassion these young adults have for animals in general.

4-H member, **Alicia Constant**, spearheaded a community service project for which GCNM was selected as a recipient of a generous donation of food and treats for our foster dogs. We salute 4-H programs for including animal welfare in their efforts to educate young adults of our community.

Another platform for our message this year was **Sandia Prep School**. Mid-school student, **Abby Younger**, chose to write a paper entitled, "*Greyhound Racing: A Sport or Abuse?*" as an assignment for her English Literature class. Abby's teacher, **Lucy Kozikowski**, was so struck by the subject, she invited GCNM to do a presentation in conjunction with Abby's paper.

Sara Mathis and **Judy Paulsen**, accompanied by retired racer, **Breeze**, and a greyhound puppy rescued from the shelter, happily headed for **Sandia Prep School** on February 9th, 2006. It was gratifying to see the faces of these young adults, so curious about these canine athletes and their plight.

To begin the presentation, we asked the question, "How many of you are involved in sports?" Almost everyone raised their hand. Next question: "How many of you are forced to do the sport with no choice in the matter?" No hands raised. And the next question was met with querulous looks and then the sudden shock of realization as they pondered this question: "Have any of you ever had a gun held to your head because you couldn't live up to the expectations of others?"

Like the 4-H audience, this group was captivated by our message: Racing Greyhounds don't live such a glorious life and when they're no longer useful, they are either killed or adopted out into homes. The killing part is what gets everyone's attention.

While Abby was doing research for her paper, she interviewed people from both sides of the argument about racing. She was stunned by some of the responses to her questions, one of which was, "Wouldn't it be better for the dogs if they never had to race?" And one response was, "Racing is what makes these dogs such good pets!" Abby proceeded with her interviews and was repeatedly disappointed by some of the answers to her questions.

I assured Abby that the greyhound breed as a whole has wonderful characteristics, which make them good animal companions for the appropriate home. However, I did explain to her that ex-racing greyhounds may develop some not-so-desirable traits as a result of the training and racing. This fact cannot be stressed enough, especially in the litigious society in which we live.

After reviewing copious amounts of literature online and the answers to her interview questions, Abby decided for herself that racing is not a good thing. In the last paragraph of her paper, Abby states, "I believe that not all racing greyhounds are abused, but there is a big enough percentage of abused greyhounds that it should cause us to reconsider the consequences of greyhound racing."

Abby's teacher, Ms. Kozikowski, was so moved by the message of Abby's paper and our presentation, she gave the class an assignment to read the GCNM website that night and the next day's class would be devoted to discussion about racing greyhounds! Way to go Ms. K and Abby - thanks for joining the ranks of greyhound welfare advocates!



GCNM Calendars

In our second year of publishing a greyhound calendar, we are pleased to announce it's been such a great success, we're going to continue this fundraiser. Shipping calendars all over the U.S. and other countries, too, we have decided to make this an annual publication.



We need photos for the 2007 GCNM calendar!!! Please send us as many as you'd like (preferably via email to calendar@gcnm.org),

but be sure they will reproduce well. The submissions for 2006 were great; however, many were unusable due to the quality.

Please follow these criteria for your submissions: (If you want hard copy photos returned, you'll need to include a SASE.)

- ✚ High-resolution digital (640x480 pixels at very minimum) or
- ✚ Clear print photos (if scanning, use 300 dpi)
- ✚ No slides please
- ✚ Professional photos qualify, but you must have permission from the photographer to publish the photo.
- ✚ Include a caption for the photo(s) as well as your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address (if any).
- ✚ Email digital photos to calendar@gcnm.org
- ✚ Snail-mail prints and/or CDs with digital pictures to **GCNM, P. O. Box 22053, Albuquerque, NM 87154-2053.**

GCNM Volunteer Spotlight: Marja Murray and Dave Hagan

Dave Hagan got his first greyhound, **George**, from **GCNM** in July 1995. Now, almost 11 years later, Dave is still surrounded with greyhounds, although George passed on last year. Dave's involvement as a volunteer with GCNM has spanned a decade-plus and his commitment to finding homes for greyhounds is his driving force.

In early 2000, Dave met **Marja Murray**, while he was living in **California**. Marja was born and raised in Finland and moved to the U.S. in 1987. Although Marja always loved animals, she was unable to have any until she was 25, when she got a Chow-Chow. Marja's job in marketing necessitated several moves, and with each move, the dog came along. "He was my best friend!" she exclaims.

Marja saw her first greyhounds when she met Dave. Dave had two at the time, one of which had been severely abused by his first adopter. Left outside, tied to an air conditioning unit, **Greco** came to GCNM with a large, boot-shaped bruise on his chest, indicating abuse. He had a severe infection in one foot and ears that appeared to have been damaged from frostbite. Dave took one look at Greco and decided it was time for George to have a greyhound buddy!

Greco, being somewhat fearful of people, made it evident to Marja that he trusted her when he crawled up on her couch one night and wanted to cuddle with her. This was the beginning of a family.



Marja Murray and Dave Hagan with Lite, Estilo, and Sweetie

Born and raised in **New Mexico**, Dave and George (Greco had passed away in September 2001) returned to Albuquerque in April 2002, accompanied by Marja.

Attending the GCNM reunion in September 2003, Dave and Marja fell in love with greyhounds **Sweetie** and **Lite**, and took them home to become part of their family. Sweetie was recovering from a brush with death after being found abandoned with her throat slashed and covered with ticks in the desert outside **Las Cruces, NM**. Lite was just happy to be there when Marja was drawn to Sweetie at the picnic!

Not wanting to split the two since they'd been in a foster home together and had formed a close bond, Marja and Dave adopted both. Adding another greyhound, **Estilo**, to their family in August 2004, they felt their family was now complete.

These are three of the luckiest greyhounds I know! Avid outdoors people, Dave and Marja often take their greyhounds along on trips. Lite has been outfitted with booties and a backpack and has

become an endurance athlete, climbing trails with Dave and Marja while Sweetie and Estilo keep one another company, since they have no aspirations of becoming anything but couch potatoes!

Dave is a software and “web” expert and Marja is a marketing manager for an engineering company here in Albuquerque. Their hobbies include hiking, rock climbing, tennis, yoga, skiing, and photography. Dave’s parents live in **Los Alamos, NM** and delight in taking care of the “grandkids” on rare occasions

when Dave and Marja cannot take them on their travels.

Marja’s skills at graphics design and her love for the greyhounds are what make our newsletter and website such a success. The GCNM annual calendar is another product of Marja’s talent and imagination. Dave pitches in as often as he can to help with just about anything involving the greyhounds. He says he’ll always have greyhounds, and I’m sure Marja doesn’t object to that!

Cat Litter Dangers

If you have cats, you probably have litter boxes and most likely, you use a commercial cat litter. Many cat litters present numerous hazards to cats, humans, and dogs (and other animals, too). Clay-based and “clumping” litters are the real culprits.

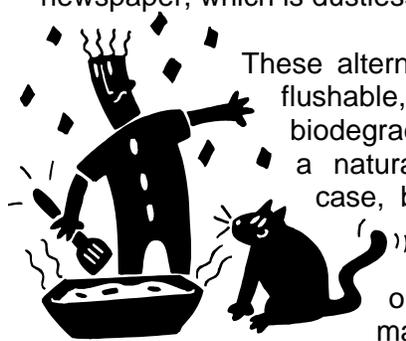
Sodium bentonite and silica are two of the most common ingredients in clumping cat litters. Both of these ingredients are considered to be health threats. The dust produced from litters containing silica can coat the lungs of humans and animals and has been identified as a carcinogen (cancer-causing agent). Sodium bentonite is a toxin and has been implicated in the poisoning deaths of animals.

Cat litter that clumps is so efficient in hardening that it could actually be used as grout! These litters swell to 15-18 times their dry size and can cause serious blockages in the intestines of animals that ingest the dry material. Dogs often will be attracted to the smell of a cat litter box and will ingest feces and/or litter material. Turning to a cement-like substance in the stomach or intestines, clumping cat litters are probably responsible for far more deaths and illness in animals than is realized.

All cat litter boxes should be inaccessible to dogs in the house (and children, too). Don’t assume your dog isn’t sneaking a bite or two from the cat box, just because you never see it. Keep the litter box up high enough so the dogs can’t get to it, or keep it behind a

closed door that has a small cat door installed, so only the cats can get into that room.

There are a number of natural, organic based cat litters on the market, and these are safe for everyone in the household. These alternative products are made of various materials, including pulverized woods and/or corncobs. One litter, called World’s Best Cat Litter (www.worldsbestcatlitter.com) is made of whole kernel corn. Others consist of pelletized newspaper, which is dustless.



These alternative cat litters are also flushable, compostable, and biodegradable, and some feature a natural odor control. In any case, be sure your dogs can’t get to the litter box. Even when using organic products, dogs may have a tendency to eat the feces, which isn’t good for them, either.

Cancer is now the number one killer of dogs and cats as determined by a study conducted by **Morris Animal Foundation**. We should be doing everything we can to protect our animals from toxins. We, as guardians for our animal companions, need to be more proactive in reducing the environmental factors that are contributing to the high incidence of cancer and other illnesses.

Greyhounds in Juarez

In our last newsletter, we discussed the debate over sending racing greyhounds to **Juarez, Mexico**, after their careers have ended in America. Already a highly charged subject, our newsletter article generated considerable criticism and denial from the national president of **Greyhound Pets of America** (GPA), **Rory Goree**. GPA is America’s largest greyhound adoption network and is closely associated with the racing industry. Mr. Goree and

the New Mexico GPA chapter started a campaign requesting GPA members nationwide email **GCNM** with objections to the article we published.

From an organization of over 10,000 members, we received a paltry 6 emails complaining of the article published in our newsletter (four of the six came from people who are in Goree’s immediate circle of associates). Others wrote to ask questions and to

emphasize that, although they are

members of GPA, they were not in favor of the state of affairs surrounding Goree and the owners of the Juarez track.

The Juarez dog track has an unsavory history; a reputation of mercilessly killing the losing racers and of sick, flea-infested racers coming from the track when it was first shut down several years ago. Greyhound welfare advocates and witnesses to the cruelty that was commonplace many years ago fear that the same practices will resume, now that the track has reopened. So it was with good cause that protests mounted over the plan to ship U.S. racers to the very track that was unable to provide humane conditions for the dogs who raced there in years past.

Thousands of greyhounds are killed every year [in America] and now there's a new threat - a second "career" in Juarez.

For those of you who missed the article in our last newsletter, the following should bring you up to date: When America's racing greyhounds can no longer win on our tracks, they are either killed or sent to adoption groups for placement. Unfortunately, due to the glut of racers coming off the American tracks, adoption programs have never been able to find homes for all of them.

Thousands of greyhounds are killed every year and now there's a new threat - a second "career" in Juarez.

After 10 greyhounds died of heat stroke while being transported to Juarez from the **Tucson, AZ** racetrack, a universal plea from greyhound advocates went out on the Internet for everyone to denounce the plans to send any greyhounds to Mexico. Rather than join the ranks who opposed the shipment of racers to Juarez, Goree and his closest associates chose to make a deal with the Mexican track officials. Goree attempted to deflect criticism of the deal with a promise to "catalogue" every greyhound that went into Mexico, and guarantee the safe passage of every greyhound back into the U.S. from the Juarez track.

Juarez reopened its dog racing track almost two years ago and has been procuring greyhounds who could no longer win money in the States. The track

The Juarez dog track has an unsavory history...

owner, **Mr. Jose Maria Guardia**, has been paying

for the dogs, but who is receiving the money and how much is exchanging hands, remains a mystery.

According to the handful of GPA insiders who have been dealing with Mr. Guardia, their main concern was to get the greyhounds out of Mexico. The rest of our nation's greyhound adoption groups, however, were objecting to the plan from the start - fearing for the fate of the greyhounds once they crossed the border into Mexico.

To this date - after many requests from various parties - GPA has not produced the records to assure the rest of us that they are doing what they promised. What they have done is artfully dodge questions and put up a smokescreen around their activities. They have boasted on their clearly pro-racing websites of their involvement in the return of **three** greyhounds from Mexico.

Yes, that's right, *only three greyhounds in almost two years*. To those of us who rallied to prevent the dogs from going there in the first place, it is unconscionable that anyone should be celebrating this trickle of dogs returning from the Juarez track. Since GPA agreed to be stewards for the racers going to Juarez, the logical thing for them to be doing at this point would be to concern themselves with the welfare of the racers remaining there.

Requests to GPA officers for information regarding the dogs currently in Juarez continue to go unanswered.

Goree and his small group of supporters from New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas have been maintaining an uncharacteristically low profile recently. Requests to GPA officers for information regarding the dogs currently in Juarez continue to go unanswered. They choose to withhold information from inquirers, rather than produce the information that could absolve them of any hidden agenda in working with the Juarez dog track.

On the GPA New Mexico website, they quote the GPA/EI Paso representative as saying, "To put everyone's minds at ease... I went to the [Juarez] kennel today. No new dogs. No plans for new dogs. No crates for new dogs. No anything for new dogs. So no new dogs."

This leaves the most disturbing question of all: What has happened to all the other greyhounds that have been shipped to Juarez since they reopened?

This leaves the most disturbing question of all: What has happened to all the other greyhounds that have been shipped to Juarez since they reopened? Are they still racing? The same group of dogs cannot be repeatedly run without injury, illness, and/or death, which is why there's such a high turnover of racers at American tracks.

Celebrating the return of three greyhounds from Mexico, GPA continues to avoid the subject of how many greyhounds actually went to the Juarez track. Until Mr. Goree produces records fully documenting each and every greyhound that has been transported into Juarez from the U.S. and until every single one of them returns, there should be no accolades and no festivities.

Meanwhile, those of us who advocate for the racing greyhounds shall continue our struggle to scrutinize the actions of those who appear to be more concerned for the well-being of the dog racing industry rather than the welfare of the glut of dogs it produces. We are dismayed at the cavalier attitude of Goree and his associates in their continued stonewalling - especially considering time is of the essence if we are to save the greyhounds that have gone south, across the border.

It is important to note that not all GPA members are supporting Goree's decision to consort with the Juarez track owners. Judging by the calls and emails we have received, there are many GPA people troubled by Goree's handling of and involvement in this issue.

The Lie of Omission: How It Hurts the Greyhounds

Since our last newsletter, it's become abundantly clear that many people are confused about who's who in the greyhound rescue world. Everyone in the adoption arena proclaims they are in it to help the greyhounds. Some go so far as to deceive the public with cutesy names for their programs - names that suggest the group is strictly in it for the good of the dogs. Misperceptions abound. Time to confront the truth: There are many groups and individuals who are selling out to the racing industry and misleading the public, while they extol the virtues of their own good deeds.



There are books and magazines and plenty of websites that cash in on the public's naïveté, hoping to profit in any way possible from their supposed commitment to the welfare of the racing greyhound. Sadly, the confusion results in the manipulation of many innocent people who don't realize they are actually assisting the racing industry in marketing its sport. Those who are unknowingly duped into giving money and/or donating time to a cause that ultimately perpetuates the racing industry are understandably perturbed when they learn the truth.

The following should clear the air:

Top ten signs that a group/person is associated with the racing industry are:

10. Their website encourages the watching of dog races by providing video clips on the site.
9. They write/promote/sell publications that malign the animal rights movement. These publications deftly avoid any subject which may cast a bad light on the racing industry.
8. They speak at conventions for members of the National Greyhound Association (I can assure you they'd never invite a true advocate for greyhound welfare to speak at any racing industry conference).
7. They attempt to steer conversations toward only the good characteristics of racing greyhounds, often going so far as to say racing is what makes them such good pets.
6. Comments from the public regarding the senseless killing of healthy greyhounds are met with resignation and a quick attempt to redirect the conversation back to what good pets they make.
5. They sponsor events at racetracks which are designed to attract the interest of the uninformed.

4. They tend to sugar-coat any subjects regarding racing or the conditions in which the racers are kept.
3. Health and behavioral problems are rarely, if ever, attributed to the training and racing environment (*this is true particularly of veterinarians who work closely with the industry*, as it is in their best interest to downplay any negatives associated with racing since that's from where part or all of their compensation comes).
2. They rely heavily on stories of greyhounds whose lives were transformed by adoption, thereby avoiding the subject of the thousands that die every year.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke

And the #1 sign you are dealing with a pro-racing group/person:

Their favorite comment is, “We’re neutral on the racing issue and want to avoid politics.” (This statement is akin to saying you’re neutral on such issues as domestic abuse or sweatshops employing young children against their will.)

Which brings me to a quote by Edmund Burke: *“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”*

Keep in mind that any group/person associating with the industry in any way is being compensated in some form by the dog racing industry. If you wish to help the greyhounds by getting at the root of the problem, don’t be manipulated by tactics based on avoidance of the most important issue at hand: Why should any healthy racing greyhounds have to die?

Without those of us who address the adverse conditions that affect the health, behavior, and ultimately, the lives of racing greyhounds, the greyhounds would have no voice. To conceal the facts about the darker side of racing is to allow the killing and abuse to

continue. Those who are busy polishing the image of dog racing often criticize those of us whose only concern is for the dogs.

So, who should be getting help here, the people who exploit the dogs or the people who protect them? Let your conscience be your guide when you write your checks or make purchases that supposedly benefit the greyhounds - for there are many wolves out there in sheep’s clothing. If you really want to know where someone stands on the issue of dog racing, ask them to commit to either a “yes” or a “no” when asked if they are against racing. Neutrality is not an option when there are lives at stake.

Santa Fe GCNM Activities

The GCNM representatives in Santa Fe have had a busy year. Team leaders **Pat Getz** and **Kathy Pallis** have been doing radio shows and adoption information clinics and generating lots of attention. Along with our other Santa Fe representatives, **Janice Wrhel, Jason Dickman, Dan and Sandra Kelly, Pearl Pinkerton**, and a few others that pitch in, the clinics have been successful platforms for our message.

Actress **Ali McGraw** stopped by one of the adoption clinics and said if she weren’t headed for New York to star in a play, she’d consider adopting a greyhound from us! Ali has long been an outspoken advocate for animal rights and has appeared at NM legislative sessions on behalf of animal-related bills. Ali has several animal companions and she says they go everywhere with her - even to New York!

Radio host **Mary-Charlotte Domandi** welcomed Pat and Kathy on her show, **Santa Fe Radio Café, KSFR**, and did an on-air telephone interview with **Susan Netboy** of **Greyhound Protection League** in

California. No mincing of words here! Mary Charlotte addressed issues that many shows try to gloss over.

Pat Getz then appeared on another radio show, as the interest in greyhounds and their plight mounted in Santa Fe. The radio show is called **"Taking Care of Business"** with **Simon Brackley, Chamber of Commerce of Santa Fe**. The title of their segment was *"Fascinating Greyhounds."* Located at **1260AM**, station **KTRC** broadcast the show on January 31st. Another fine job of educating the public, Pat reached out with her message that, although racing greyhounds make great pets, there is a dark side to their existence.

Please watch our website for dates of adoption information clinics in Santa Fe. If you’d like to help out, please call **Pat at 473-9419** or **Kathy at 466-4481**.

Information on all our clinics is posted on our website at www.gcnm.org - click on GCNM News for a list of events and adoption clinics.

Doggie Door Door Company

If you are looking to install a doggie door or replace your current one, you need to visit this new store! Located at **1720 Juan Tabo NE** in **Albuquerque**, it's got an incredible selection of pet doors. They even do installations!

Doggie doors are a great solution to behavioral problems in dogs. Curing everything from boredom to accidents in the house, these doors have been a lifesaver for anyone who works long hours. Never have to rush home again to let the dog out - get your doggie door today! Call **505-292-1138** for store hours.



If You're a Federal Employee...

Greyhound Companions of New Mexico has just completed the necessary paperwork to be included in the **Combined Federal Campaign** (CFC) to assist charities. We won't know for a couple of months if we've qualified, but chances are pretty good we will, since we likely fit all the criteria. Filling out the

application was no easy feat, but if we get approved, it will be well worth the effort.

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

As the world's largest and most successful annual workplace giving campaign, each year, more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally help raise millions of dollars. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal, and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations throughout the world.

To learn more about how you can donate to GCNM through the CFC, please visit their website at www.opm.gov/cfc.

We hope to be added to their list of approved charities by the time the 2006 campaign begins on September 1st.

Dog Parks: Are They a Good Idea?

What a great way to have fun with your dog - let him run loose in a fenced park with other dogs and socialize. But there is a down side to these dog parks. As these parks proliferate, so too, do the reports of dogfights and various injuries.



Aggressive dogs are not always the cause of fights. Occasionally, play can escalate into a fight when one starts getting overzealous in nipping, pawing, or rolling on top of other dogs. Greyhounds - especially retired racers - have been the cause of many an incident.

Our website gets frequent "hits" on the subject of greyhound behavior. A recent email we received emphasizes the importance of being responsible with your greyhounds when out in open parks where other dogs and people are playing. Retired racing greyhounds have a particularly keen prey drive as a result of intense training to compete in races, in addition to an instinctual desire to hunt. The damage they can inflict upon other dogs is often underestimated - and the injuries a greyhound can sustain because of thin hair and skin can be devastating, not to mention life-threatening.

Our animal companions rely on us to keep them out of harm's way and we need to use common sense if we are to keep ourselves out of legal trouble. The following is an email we recently received regarding the subject of greyhounds and dog parks:

Dear GCNM,

I was directed to your web site by a Google search for "greyhound aggression." I need to tell you about an incident that nearly ended in tragedy, and ask you to spread the warning.

I live in Nashville, TN. The other day, I took my 4 month-old Sealyham terrier puppy, "Champ," to our local dog park and was relieved to find only 3 other dogs there that day - a Golden Labrador puppy about the same age as mine, and 2 rescued retired racing greyhounds.

My puppy walked up to one of the greyhounds, they touched noses, tails wagging, then the greyhound ran off. Champ and I went over to the other puppy and his "people." The two pups started to play, with my dog dominating. The Golden's owner laughingly said, "Now my dog won't nip me when we go home, he's getting a lesson in submission!" Just as I prepared to step in and end the play before it got too rough, both greyhounds arrived from the other end of the 4 acre fenced park and jumped on top of the two puppies. Somebody growled, then the greyhounds grabbed Champ by the throat and hindquarters and started trying to rip him apart.

I screamed and kicked at the greyhounds and got the puppy away from them. The greyhounds then jumped on

me, knocked me down, and got my puppy again. The greyhounds' owner and I somehow managed to get the puppy again, and I held Champ over my head. The dogs continued to lunge at me until their owner could finally grab their collars. Both the greyhound owner and I received several superficial bites and my sleeves were torn.

Incredibly, my puppy survived with only minor injuries: an abrasion just below his rectum and a bruised trachea. He spent the night at the vet's office for observation. The greyhounds' owner feels terrible - he was stunned by his dogs' behavior and has offered to pay Champ's vet bills.

Clearly, the sight and/or sounds of the puppies' rough play triggered the greyhounds' prey drive. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE warn people not to let these beautiful, otherwise gentle creatures run loose around other dogs! I would appreciate it so much if you would pass this on to other greyhound rescue organization.

Sincerely,
Patty Harbison

And the following was my reply:

Dear Patty,

I am so sorry to hear of the incident that almost resulted in the death or mutilation of your dog. This is definitely a problem with retired racing greyhounds, which is exactly why our site is so comprehensive when it comes to information about greyhound behavior. If you read all the articles on our site that address aggression in greyhounds (and several of them do), you'll see that I repeatedly forewarn our readers/adopters about these tendencies in retired racers. There is also a warning in there about letting them loose around small, squealing children. Be sure to read the article entitled "Why Muzzle a Greyhound."

The problem is not the dogs, it's the owners who don't take heed of the warnings. I still have people say to me, "But my greyhound has never shown a tendency for aggression!" My response is, "Muzzle him/her anyway!" No ifs, ands, or buts about it, these dogs should never be allowed to interact with other dogs that are running loose anywhere - it is an invitation to disaster. Anyone who has a retired racer should be aware of this and this lesson should come from the program from where they adopt the dog. Unfortunately, many adoption programs don't educate their adopters, and even if they did, you'll still have the ones who swear they had no idea their retired racer was capable of hurting anything.

These dogs should only go into homes with responsible people who understand they have adopted a dog like no other on this earth. Racers are trained to respond to anything that heightens an already keen prey drive. Many lawsuits have sprung from the popularity of retired racers as pets and the passive attitudes of those who handle them. It is a sad but true fact: These dogs are wonderful pets when proper precautions are taken to avoid incidents like the one you describe - but they are also powerful, efficient hunters that can basically kill or maim anything but a cheetah. Even greyhounds, who've never shown a particular interest in chasing anything after their racing careers end, can have episodes of what is similar to PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) in humans, where certain stimuli can trigger an unexpected response. I discuss this in my articles, too. I provide the information on our site, but cannot make people read it or heed it.

Many greyhound adoption groups nationwide are using my articles for educating their adopters, but there are still groups out there who are concerned only with the number of greyhounds they place and they will glorify the retired racer as an ideal pet rather than properly inform the adopters of potential hazards. In these cases, the liability falls squarely on the shoulders of the adoption group. We also publish a quarterly newsletter that goes out nationwide. Because our website is rated #1 on Google (and Yahoo) when you type in "greyhound behavior" or multiple other keywords, our information is available to anyone who cares to learn more about these unique dogs. I have yet to find a way to make people read the entire site or for them to retain the information or take it seriously.

Judy Kody Paulsen, Founder
Greyhound Companions of New Mexico
www.gcnm.org



Champ Harbison

Patty and I have since exchanged several emails. Champ is doing well, but will be doing playtime in his own yard from now on!

This is only one of many emails I receive annually regarding tragic situations involving retired racing greyhounds. These dogs are wonderful companions, but must be viewed as a liability if you insist upon letting them run un-muzzled with other dogs or children.



"Zoe" - John and Jean Wubker gave Zoe the best two years of her life before her passing. Her first adopter returned Zoe to GCNM at the age of ten. Undaunted by her age, the Wubkers took her into their home. In spite of having kidney disease, Zoe survived to see her 12th birthday and a couple months beyond. Thankfully, Zoe had the opportunity to know unconditional love in the Wubker home, before leaving this earth. In Jean and John's words: "She was a real sweet little

girl, always ready for petting and love. She had a comical habit of looking at you with one ear up and the other down; it never failed to get a smile or laugh out of us. We only had the pleasure of her company for the final two years of her life but we'll never forget her.



Zoe Wubker



Lovey Rude

through the doggie door like an arrow, at the sight of an unsuspecting bird or grazing bunny...or the skunk that she proudly brought into George's bedroom! Often, you'd find humans on the floor while Lovey maintained her spot on the couch. To Lovey, George says, "Thanks for ten years of being my best friend through thick and thin. Because you taught me how much love I have for greyhounds, there will be others that follow, but there will never be another to fill your 'doggie booties'."

"Lace" - Vicki Reisenbach lost Lace to osteosarcoma, seven months after her leg had been amputated. Lace was 11 years old when she succumbed to the cancer. She had a wonderful seven years with Vicki and her other animal companions and will be greatly missed.

"Jeff" - Susan, Richard, and Candace Haas said goodbye to Jeff in September 2005. He died at the age of ten. A poem written by Candace in honor of Jeff stated "He was the best dog anyone would have ever wanted.....He was the King."



Jeff Haas



Max Moskowitz

"Max" - The Moskowitz family adopted Max in 1998. He was a stunning blue fawn and was a loving companion to Dave and Karen until he passed away as a result of osteosarcoma at the age of 11. In addition to being remarkably handsome, Max was a kind, gentle soul and had many admirers who will always remember him.

"Shanda" - Just a few months shy of her 14th birthday, Shanda's age was taking its toll. Getting progressively weak in her hindquarters, she had become unstable and finally collapsed while out on her daily stroll with **Scott and Carla Slezak**, her family of 7 years. In view of her age and other health problems she had been having, the Slezaks knew it was time to say goodbye. She was a loyal family member and traveled frequently with the Slezaks. Her absence is felt by all who knew her.

Del Lindsay wrote the following in memory of **"George:"**
"From the day George entered my home and life in September 1997 and I found him admiring himself in the bathroom mirror while standing upright at the vanity after turning on the faucet, he provided nothing but endless joy. George started as a foster dog but that only lasted an hour and a half as he carved a place in my heart with his gentle

*playful way. Over the last year George endured and beat a soft tissue sarcoma and a chemotherapy that went terribly wrong and gravely injured him prior to his repair at **Colorado State University (CSU)**. In February, while at CSU, George was diagnosed with osteosarcoma which would be fatal. On March 24, 2006, while enjoying the remainder of his life at home, George suffered an acute and massive stomach hemorrhage and was rushed to the **Urgent Care Veterinary Hospital**. George fought valiantly for his life, but, after all he had endured, it was felt it would be best for George to let my best friend go. With much compassion and care, **Dr. Mindy Eyrich** ended George's struggle and he died in my arms. George was 12 ¾ years old when he died. It was my privilege and pleasure to have loved and cared for George, he enriched my life tremendously by his presence. George is gone and will be dearly missed but his very gentle and tolerant spirit will live forever in my heart and memory."*

Del says all his greyhounds are or have been special, but George was one in a million.

"Connie" - Roger and Judy Gumble lost Connie to a long illness on December 28, 2005. Connie had been doing adoption clinics many years with Roger and Judy and their other greyhounds. She made a lot of friends over her 7 ½ years as an ambassador and she will be missed by all who met and knew her. Connie was only 8 ½ years old.



George Lindsay



Connie Gumble

"Buffy" - At the tender age of 5 ½, Buffy suffered a stroke resulting from a tumor. **Allen and Mary Bracey** were blessed with Buffy's charm for a short 16 months before her passing. Initially, a shy, reserved girl, Buffy blossomed into an outgoing, playful companion for the Braceys and their other dog, Bailey. Learning to "sing" with the Braceys, Buffy delighted in awakening them, often at 2:00 a.m., just to get the chorus going! She "owned" the leather sofa, thereby living up to the name so often used to refer to retired racers: Couch Potato! The Braceys are in the process of adopting another greyhound in memory of Buffy.



Buffy Bracey

"Comet" - Mary Tilton and son, **Kirk Grubbs**, made a startling and grievous discovery on February 7, 2006, when they discovered Comet had died in his sleep. It is presumed his heart stopped beating as he had no signs of illness or injury. He was only two years old. Although Mary and Kirk only had Comet for a short five months, they had grown very attached to this calm, handsome, gentle greyhound. He is greatly missed.



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