



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

Picnic With the Greyhounds On September 26, 2004

Make plans to join us for the **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** reunion this year on **Sunday, September 26**. If you have Greyhounds or are just a fancier of them, this is the place to come spend a few hours! We have some exceptional items for our auction and raffle and **Carmon Deyo** of **Black Horse Design** will be displaying her artful jewelry and other items for sale. Carmon donates a portion of her sales to **GCNM** at the end of the day! She has also donated some lovely pieces for the auction and raffle.

Nationally famous photographer, **Joyce Fay** will be on hand to photograph Greyhounds and their people in her portable studio. Joyce's connection with animals is evident in her work. A portion of the proceeds from the photos taken will be donated to GCNM.

So, please, mark you calendars now! **Sunday, September 26, 2004, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** – **don't forget to bring picnic necessities; chairs or blankets, water for dogs, umbrella, and a picnic lunch for yourselves, too!!**



Past GCNM Reunion

Directions to the site: From I-25, go west on Alameda Blvd., past the new balloon park on the right. Watch closely on your right for Edith Blvd. – it sneaks up on you as you go over a hill and the turn lane is very short, so be sure to have your right turn signal on before you see the street – we don't want anyone to be late to the picnic!! Once you turn onto Edith – you'll be heading north – go 2 miles and you'll see the street Casey Jones Pl. on your left (west side of Edith) – turn onto the road and start looking for a parking place along the road. Casey Jones is a cul-de-sac. The house and picnic site is at 109 Casey Jones Pl. The entry gate will be conspicuously marked by a sign that says "Registration," where you'll sign in and collect your dog-goodie bags! **If you are coming from the west side, the easiest route is to get on Osuna Blvd, then go north on Edith – it is 4.7 miles to Casey Jones from that point.**

We are still in need of **RAFFLE** and **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS** for the reunion. Please call **Barb Wells** at **286-6325** or email her at **bjwells05@aol.com** as soon as possible to include your donation items on the list.

GCNM's Very Own Greyhound Calendar!

It's official now – we will be publishing a beautiful, professional-quality 2005 wall calendar as a fundraiser. We're asking everyone to get out their cameras and start composing photos – or sort through your old photos and pick some favorites to submit. We'd like to get some with a southwestern theme, but of course, the *main subject should be your Greyhound(s)!* Seasonal themes are good, too!



“Rowdy” Hepler
and Soon

Professional photos qualify, as long as you have permission from the photographer to publish the photo.

Multiple photos will be used for each month – one large and several smaller – so don't think your

chances of getting published are minimal!!

The photos must be either high-resolution digital or clear print photos (if scanning, use 300 dpi); no slides please. Unfortunately, we cannot return photos, so please don't send us the only copy of any favorite photo unless you can stay with it during the entire process of formatting, printing, etc. and take it home with you!!

The deadline for submission of photos is **August 1, 2004**. 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.

We'll be making this an annual offering if we sell enough calendars to help raise funds for the Greyhounds! Our plan is to have the calendars available for the picnic on September 26. They'll make excellent gifts for the holidays!!

Be sure to visit our website to see the GCNM Newsletter in color - go to www.gcnm.org and click on GCNM News!



First Annual Del Norte Pet Fiesta Huge Success

After months of planning, **Del Norte High School** successfully presented their first-ever **Pet Fiesta**. Saturday, April 24 was a day of celebration and education as organizers and participants joined efforts to create a fun-filled atmosphere for everyone present.



GCNM at Pet Fiesta

Appearing on the **Steve Stucker** morning news show on **KOB-TV**

Channel 4, GCNM adopter, **Cara Balestrieri-Steckel** and Greyhound, **Zeus**, joined other Del Norte faculty and students to discuss their mission for the Pet Fiesta. Due to the high attendance and success of this year's event, plans are in the works to make this an annual affair.

Kudos to Del Norte High School for recognizing the need to promote the education of the general public about animals and their rights as living beings.

Homeless Animal Rescue Team Sponsors Animal Conference

Animal rescue is becoming a popular subject these days as groups and individuals work hard to eliminate animal suffering and the high rate of euthanasia plaguing most communities. **Cocker Spaniel Rescue**, in collaboration with **Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART)**, hosted the "**Animal Rescue, Faith and Facts Conference**" on April 24 at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel.

Lasting a full day, the conference was launched by **Mayor Martin Chavez's** talk on the **City of Albuquerque's** new approach to coordinating animal rescue group efforts with the **Animal Services Division**. Speakers addressed various issues concerning those of us whose lives revolve around rescuing animals from conditions of neglect and cruelty. Awards were given to **Marcy Britton** of **Justice For Animals, Inc.** and **Marguerite Bowers** of **Bomar Equine Rescue**

and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. for their tireless efforts to protect and defend animals, particularly in Valencia County, New Mexico's notoriously worst community for animal neglect and abuse. A touching speech was delivered (sometimes tearfully) by **Judy Babcock** who has first-hand experience with seeing and correcting the deplorable conditions at the Valencia County Shelter.

Other speakers included **Joyce Fay**, Professional Photographer and Rescue Ambassador; **Cameron Murphy**, Canine Behaviorist who looks at the whole dog - its physical, emotional and spiritual needs; **Sarah Moreland** of New Mexico Animal Friends; **Shawn Deasy**, Attorney at Law; **Ann Beyke**, Community Relations Director for Animal Humane Association of New Mexico; **Lee DiClemente** of Watermelon Mountain Ranch; **Cynthia McDougall**, Director, People's Anti-Cruelty Association and Albuquerque Animal Rescue; **Viki Elkey**, Animal Protection of New Mexico; **Lea Greer**, Wildlife Conservator; and **Natalie Owings** of Heart and Soul Animal Sanctuary.

A particularly enlightening and entertaining speech was given by **Dick Fagerlund**, University of New Mexico's Pest Control Manager. Dick, "**The Bug Man**," writes a column in the Albuquerque Journal discussing all-natural methods of pest control. Dick's approach to using chemicals echoes the concerns of author **Rachel Carson** in her book *Silent Spring*. Published long before it was proven that DDT and other chemicals in our environment were toxic to all living things, Carson accurately predicted the gradual poisoning of our soil, water, and air. Visit Dick, The Bug Man's website at **www.askthebugman.com** for a wealth of information on "cides" and sources for purchasing natural products that won't harm you or your animal companions. *Think about it – as Dick says, "Anything ending in 'cide' means death and can't be good; homicide, suicide, pesticide, fungicide....."*

Another HART-sponsored conference is planned for August.



Cassie's Cure: "Incontinence" Mystery Solved

by Judy Kody Paulsen

Christine Boyd adopted "**Cassie**" after she was returned by her first adoptive family in July 2001. Outgoing and energetic, Cassie was able to coax Christine's shy Greyhound, "**Betty Jo**," to play and be sociable. Cassie was the perfect dog; *until the licking started.*

Early in 2003, Cassie began licking her "girl parts" – and not just on occasion, but almost incessantly. Christine noticed Cassie's bedding was often wet, but she couldn't determine if this was from urine or saliva from licking. Then began the odyssey: Numerous veterinarians were consulted. The initial diagnosis was incontinence and a prescription was given for a common drug used for strengthening the urinary sphincter muscle. When no

improvement was noted, the pursuit for other solutions began.

Diagnosed with and treated for an assortment of ailments ranging from urinary tract infections to food allergies, Cassie continued licking and was exhibiting visible signs of discomfort as she hunched over and shivered while urinating. She also began to resist any cleansing of the area by Christine, which was part of the routine that had been prescribed early on. Her silken white hair soon began to discolor around the affected area and Christine became increasingly frustrated by the temporary or total lack of response to treatments.



Christine Boyd and "Cassie"

After numerous opinions from various veterinarians, the mystery of Cassie's problem began to unfold, literally – for it was a fold of skin that was causing her problem. Close scrutiny was almost impossible due to the tautness of skin obscuring the vulvar area, not to mention Cassie's resistance to examination because of the discomfort. Urine stays trapped under the fold of skin and actually scalds and destroys the tissue, similar to the effects of a chemical burn. Many dogs with this abnormality have a concurrent urinary tract infection as well. Surgical removal of the fold of skin was suggested as the remedy for this condition.

A decision had to be made on whether to subject Cassie to surgery to correct her deteriorating condition. Evidence that Cassie's sunny disposition was being affected caused even greater consternation for Christine, and she decided to launch an Internet search for information on surgical correction of this anatomical abnormality. One particular surgical procedure was cited frequently in her research; "episioplasty." The documented vast improvement for dogs receiving this procedure seemed almost too good to be true, but warranted further research. One study suggested this condition is more prevalent in spayed females, presumably resulting from the change in hormone levels, although other studies indicate prior ovariohysterectomy (spaying) did *not* appear to be an influencing factor. Other published studies hypothesized that a history of prior corticosteroid administration can cause this condition.

It is no secret that corticosteroids are frequently used in racing Greyhounds. According to "*Care of the Racing Greyhound – A Guide for Trainers, Breeders and Veterinarians*" Blythe, Gannon and Craig; "Injected corticosteroids are often used indiscriminately and incorrectly in the therapy of injuries" in racing Greyhounds. It has long been known that steroids, even when clinically unnecessary, have been administered to racing Greyhounds in spite of the well-documented, long-term negative effects. In addition to pharmaceutical hormones, the physical and psychological pressure of training

and racing can stimulate an abnormally high production of cortisol – a *natural* hormone released in response to stress – which can eventually result in multiple organ dysfunction.

After consulting several veterinarians over the period of about a year, Christine elected to have episioplasty performed by **Dr. Andrea Speed** of **De Anza Animal Clinic**. Dr. Speed had previously evaluated Cassie in October 2003 and felt at that time surgery would be the best approach for this problem. Speed rarely sees this abnormality, and feels it is possibly more common in female racing Greyhounds since they are not allowed to "cycle" (come into "heat") normally. Female racers in heat would disrupt kennel life at the track and are routinely administered testosterone to prevent this. In Dr. Speed's extensive experience with spaying retired racers in preparation for adoption, she has frequently observed abnormal vaginal development and other problems as well.

Not having performed an episioplasty before, but confident of a positive outcome, Dr. Speed did her own research on the procedure in a veterinary surgery publication. Always willing to consider new techniques, but cautious about not getting in over her head, Speed recalls her thought after studying the literature; "I think I can do that!" Concluding that the procedure wouldn't involve a lot of dissection or avoidance of critical vessels or organs, she opted to do the surgery. Performed under a general anesthesia, and requiring about 30-45 minutes of surgical time, the procedure was described as "not difficult" by Dr. Speed and the patient was sent home with pain medication and an "E" collar to prevent licking.

Before surgery, the skin was so tightly stretched over the vulva, a full view of the unexposed tissue was not easily achieved during examinations. After surgery the full extent of the undoubtedly painful condition was glaringly obvious. Christine's training as a trauma nurse did not prepare her for the post-operative appearance of Cassie's surgical site. She said she "felt horrible" when she realized the extent



Dr. Andrea Speed

of damage to the flesh of and around the vulva from the chemical-like burns due to the pooled urine under the fold of skin for months and months. Also, the persistent licking during the months prior to surgery had excoriated the skin, creating the appearance of "hamburger meat" in the now-exposed area.

Anticipating a lengthy and painful recovery, Christine was delighted to see Cassie show almost immediate improvement in her attitude and most noticeably, the absence of licking. "Out of habit," Christine states, "Cassie would turn around and go to lick every time she lay down, but once she stuck her nose back there, it was as if she thought 'Hey, it doesn't hurt anymore, so I don't need to lick.' She would stare at the sutured area for a moment, then flop over, and go to sleep. She has left it alone ever since!"

From this experience, Christine has learned, "That you just have to keep asking questions" when traditional treatments and diagnoses don't provide relief for your animal. "Yes, it is time and money consuming, but if I had given up asking all over town, Cassie would still be suffering."

Veterinarians have easy access to information from many sources and they should be willing to investigate unusual cases presented to them. Don't be afraid to ask your vet to do some homework and if he/she is not receptive to this approach in *any* situation regarding your animal companion, time to change vets.

"The surgery was a huge success!" Christine exclaims. "Now, Cassie is doing wonderfully. She is healed, dry and has normal-appearing pink skin and does not stay awake at night licking or have to clean herself the minute she urinates. She just feels better all around, not having the constant pain and irritation."

Particularly grateful to Dr. Speed and a few others who were "willing to listen to an obsessive-compulsive dog-mom and to look for solutions," Christine hopes imparting her experience will save someone a lot of money and time and hopefully prevent a lot of misery for their dog, as well.



Greyhound Rescue Spotlight: An Interview With Darren Rigg

Founder, Greyhound Adoption Center, Lakeside, California

Darren Rigg's first experience with a racing Greyhound was in 1977, when a friend introduced him to a Greyhound that had been found lying on a busy freeway, bloodied and with both ears removed. Little did Darren know this would be the beginning of a mission that now consumes a great deal of his time: rescuing racing Greyhounds and advocating for their rights.

By the mid 1980's, Greyhound adoption groups sprang up across the country as word spread about tens of thousands of Greyhounds being destroyed at the end of their racing careers. Often the life of a racer ended at the tender age of two or three. Animal lovers were eager to share their homes and lives with these affectionate dogs and suddenly the Greyhound adoption movement exploded into an industry. The frenzy to find homes for retired racing

Greyhounds pre-occupied the minds of those devoting innumerable hours to the effort. Little time was left to contemplate why these canine athletes were being slaughtered and how to stop it.

Eventually, inquiring minds began to question the diminishing returns and overwhelming inability to place every Greyhound bred for pari-mutuel racing. Many animal-rights advocates sympathetic to the plight of the racing Greyhound felt compelled to begin the arduous task of revealing the truth about Greyhound racing. A wealthy and politically powerful industry though, pari-mutuel dog racing is an imposing adversary. Coached by the best public relations firms money could buy, the **National Greyhound Association** (the governing body for pari-mutuel dog racing) began encouraging Greyhound adoption across the country.

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Darren Rigg had by now become president of a large adoption group called **Greyhound Pets of America/California**. Rigg's group implemented a national toll-free phone number to provide referrals to Greyhound adoption groups across the country. In its inception, this toll-free service offered names of nationally recognized, established Greyhound adoption groups across the U.S. The dog racing industry funded this service ostensibly in the interest of finding more homes for retired racers. But to adoption groups without ties to the racing industry, it soon became obvious that referrals were being based on something besides qualifications to find homes for retired racers. The list of referral organizations to which callers were directed, became shorter as the industry began to see the advantages of referring only to groups who made positive remarks about the racing industry.

Many discussions regarding operational policies for Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) finally culminated in 1988 with a written policy wherein it was stated GPA affiliates should not make anti-racing statements, for doing so could cost them their affiliation with GPA. By 1992 the public relations wing of GPA was pushing for inclusion of only those groups with a "pro-racing agenda." It soon became sickeningly clear to Darren Rigg that the group with which he had aligned himself and to which he had devoted so much of his time and energy was a PR machine for the dog racing industry.

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Knowing that many of the people at the helm of GPA were deeply affiliated with the industry – several of these folks owned Greyhounds racing at various tracks in the U.S. – Rigg decided it

was time to re-examine his position with GPA. Conscience alone would've led Rigg to the eventual separation from GPA, but a phone call from the racing secretary of the National Greyhound Association finalized his decision. The phone call was regarding a recent PSA (public service announcement) Rigg's GPA chapter had produced to promote Greyhound adoption. The racing secretary voiced his disapproval of the brief shot of a Greyhound being euthanized and went on to imply that funding of the toll-free number may be in jeopardy if the piece was aired to include any information regarding the killing of Greyhounds. The decision to leave GPA was cemented by a phone call from the PR firm hired by the racing industry in which the same message was repeated to Rigg: "Negative messages about dog racing should not be imparted to the public" if you wish to remain a GPA affiliate.

Rigg states that his daily, direct experience as a GPA affiliate "quashed the myth of so-called 'neutrality' toward the Greyhound racing industry and over time it became quite clear that GPA wanted to play a role that might ensure industry funding." Realizing GPA's emphasis seemed to be more on projecting a positive image for the racing industry as a whole rather than concern for the welfare of individual dogs, Rigg decided it was time to sever all ties with GPA and went on to help organize an independent adoption group, **Greyhound Adoption Center**.

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Rigg is quick to defend many of the GPA chapter volunteers by saying, "Most volunteers in these groups are oblivious to the fact that they're being railroaded by the racing industry." As for the industry's claim that they want to find homes for as many dogs as possible, Rigg's reply is "It's all a PR sham..." When asked if he felt there is any way the dog-racing industry could continue to exist without endangering the

lives and welfare of the racers, he states, "Nope. As long as the driving force is money, the dogs will suffer."

In answer to, "What do you feel is the most important issue to be addressed in order to eliminate the suffering of racing Greyhounds?" Rigg's response is, "Dissuade people from supporting Greyhound racing, directly or indirectly..."

In listing his concerns in general about the dog racing industry, Rigg's response was:

1. Wholesale production of dogs.
2. Wholesale slaughter of dogs.
3. Dreadful quality of life for the dogs at so-called Greyhound training farms, at tracks, and during transit.
4. The clever, well-funded public relations efforts by the racing industry whereby the adoption movement itself is used as a defensive shield – unbeknownst to most people who participate in efforts to save Greyhounds.
5. The danger of the Greyhound industry using political measures such as those that allow other forms of racetrack gambling (i.e. slot machines, video poker, etc.) to artificially sustain a bloodsport-based industry in decline.

Rigg describes dog racing as "a relic of an era when tens of thousands of Greyhounds were considered disposable and were treated like

cattle. Now, with the possible exception of a handful of people at the very top of the heap, it is a low-budget, despicable industry that creates misery for dogs and the poorly-paid racing-kennel employees."

Darren and wife, Candy, now find great satisfaction in achieving their goal to advocate for the rights of racing Greyhounds without the pressure of conforming to requirements within an industry-affiliated adoption group. "The contradictions were too much to endure and the obvious abuse within the industry should not be a secret. The more we spoke out about the poor living conditions, substandard feeding practices, lack of medical care and the disappearance of healthy dogs, the more we grew apart from GPA's entrenched point of view."

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Greyhound Adoption Center is located at 9078 Winter Gardens Blvd., Lakeside, California. They do not accept ANY form of Greyhound industry funding. They have a website currently under construction and will soon be up with the URL of www.houndsavers.org. Their extensive catalog of Greyhound items can be obtained by calling 1-877-GR8TDOG.

We wish to extend our appreciation to Darren for his time and candor in this interview.

Reciprocal Greyhound Sitting

Several years ago, **GCNM** attempted to implement a service whereby our adopters would have access to Greyhound-savvy homes on which to rely as an alternative to boarding their Greyhound companions. At first, it appeared we had hit on a great way to relieve our adopters who feel guilty leaving their animal companions behind when they travel. The system was working as intended until it



Millie and George

became apparent that some folks forgot about the "reciprocal" part of the agreement!

GCNM would like to re-introduce the Reciprocal Greyhound Sitting Program, but doing so will require a full understanding of what makes the program work. First, we need a list of folks who are willing to take care of a Greyhound or two when adopters go out of town, but these volunteer "sitters" must feel secure in knowing someone on the list will then reciprocate by taking care of their Greyhound(s). Or, if you want to do the occasional Bed-N-Breakfast for a

Greyhound or two and have the guest's family make a monetary donation to GCNM or you in return for your services, that's fine too. The bottom line is, there has to be some form of reciprocity by those whose dogs are being spared the trauma of a boarding kennel, not to mention the expense.

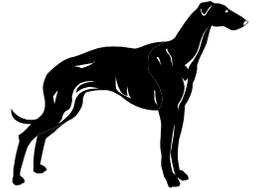


Suppertime at the Aspinwalls

Although it is true that most Greyhound-lovers enjoy the company of Greyhound guests on a

temporary and occasional basis, the reciprocal program we initiated was not just for entertainment of the gracious folks who agree to care for them!

So, shall we try again to make this work? It really is a wonderful arrangement as long as everyone understands the concept. If you want to sign up, please email Judy Paulsen at info@gcnm.org to get your name on the list. There is no set donation amount if you choose to make a monetary exchange for services – we leave it up to you to determine what's fair.



Retractable Leads: A Deadly Invention

by Judy Kody Paulsen

The retractable lead: How did this dangerous device ever become so popular? Good marketing, bad idea – consisting of a plastic handle enclosing a spool upon which a cord coils or uncoils, depending upon the whim of the person in charge of the control button – and at the end of the cord is an innocent dog roaming under minimal control. They're dangerous for people and deadly for the pets allowed to wander aimlessly at the distant end of the cord. Innocent bystanders have been encircled with cords as pets play a game of "ring around the rosie" and runners, walkers, and skaters have fallen flat when a meandering pet's "handler" mindlessly allows the animal to skitter about on the fully extended tether.

Would you put a two-year old child on one of these? Imagine the disasters awaiting an infant allowed to venture that far away from its guardian. Then envision the power of a full-grown dog idly walking along whose attention is suddenly drawn to something of interest. If the handler is lucky or strong enough to control an unexpected lunge, there's hope of grasping the handle firmly enough to stay with the canine missile. But if that hard plastic handle is dropped, you are likely to find a dead or severely wounded animal at the conclusion of the chase.

Particularly vulnerable to the dangers of the retractable lead is an animal that spooks easily or is shy. The sharp crack of a dropped or fumbled retractable-lead handle hitting a hard surface is enough to frighten even the most secure animal right out of his skin. You may as well be firing a pistol above your dog's head, because the report is about equal to that of a small-caliber firearm. If the dog is fortunate enough to survive such an incident, you'll be lucky to ever get him back on a leash again or for that matter, even out the door to go for a walk.

The excessively long cord is a hazard. Fully extended, this cord can become entangled in countless objects and can strangle your animal or others and can strip the hide from a leg that haplessly encounters this poorly visible tripping device. People and animals with visual handicaps cannot see this cord readily, especially when all they see is an animal rounding the bend with no apparent handler. And what about your dog's surprise when he races around a corner into....whatever. There are all kinds of surprises lurking when retractable leads are being used, not the least of which could be a lawsuit.

KENNEL WARNING

If you have a PetMate wire kennel, please go to the website www.kennelsafety.com and read the sobering stories of how dogs have been maimed and killed as a result of confinement in these crates.

Please return these crates for a refund and be sure to take copies of the information from the above website with you.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Judy and Roger Gumble (and Connie, Farrah, Mindy, and Judy)

Judy and **Roger Gumble** moved to Albuquerque from Tucson, AZ in 1989. Both worked for Hughes Aircraft Missile Group while in Tucson. Roger had been raised around animals on a farm in central Illinois and as a child had a wonderful Australian Shepherd which helped herd the sheep and cows. Judy's animals as a child were always poodles since her sister was allergic to other breeds.

By 1998 the Gumbles' animal family was dwindling as old age took its toll on the mixed-breed rescues they had. After learning about **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** on the Internet, the Gumbles completed an application to adopt a retired racing Greyhound. Never having had a dog this large, they were willing to make the necessary modifications (larger doggie door) to accommodate their new canine family member. They didn't have to wait long for their first Greyhound, as an urgent situation in Colorado required immediate removal of a Greyhound from an abusive trainer. Not having much time for consideration of the circumstances surrounding taking in an abused dog, the Gumbles eagerly accepted their new charge.

Greyhound, "**Gracie**" was a bit of a challenge at first and she was terrified of being left alone. One evening while returning from dinner, the Gumbles noticed a kid walking a Greyhound in their neighborhood – upon closer inspection, they realized it was Gracie! In her panic when left alone for the first time, Gracie apparently mustered up the strength to climb the wall and

escape. The next day, another layer of block was added to the wall! In spite of Gracie's other little flaws, like her insatiable appetite for valuable antique furniture, the Gumbles never considered surrendering Gracie. They only worked harder to make her part of the family and to instill in her the confidence of a normally secure animal companion. Gracie passed away a few years ago, but the Gumbles were hooked and had already begun expanding their Greyhound family.



The Gumbles and Dogs

In 1999, Greyhound, "**Connie**" was adopted and a short time later, her littermate, "**Farrah**" joined the family, too. In 2001, the Gumbles made a trip to Colorado to transport a group of Greyhounds back to Albuquerque for GCNM. While at the kennel picking up the retired racers slated for the trip to NM, they were smitten with a racer named "**Judy**." True to the saying: "Greyhounds are like potato chips, it's hard to have just one," the Gumble Greyhound family expanded! Other modifications had to be made to lessen the injury factor that is so high in these thin-skinned, short-haired dogs, like the removal of several rose bushes and placing barriers around others. These small changes significantly reduced the number of injuries to the Greyhounds.

Our gratitude goes out to the Gumble family for their abundance of affection and generosity in helping the Greyhounds. The Gumbles never hesitate to take in foster dogs. In their words "These dogs are very special and more-than-return the love they are given!"

Dogs, Dogs, and More Dogs from Colorado

Whew, what a busy spring for **GCNM**! Lots of adoptions and lots of trips to Colorado to bring dogs down to New Mexico to begin their retirement! **Barb Wells, Rob and Sherry Mangold, Tom and Nancy DeFeo, Kent Mathis,** and yours truly, **Judy Paulsen,** have been chauffeuring retired racers and helping them get settled into their new homes. A special thank you goes out to Barb Wells' daughter, Melissa Benedetti, for rushing to the Denver Dog track to pick up Almond Joy on very short notice.



Bath Party at DeFeo's

One such expedition recently culminated in the lovely setting of the DeFeo's back yard as adopters and fosters assisted in washing seven newly-arrived Greyhounds. The cool bath and warm weather in a paradise-like environment encouraged romping and playfulness these Greyhounds had likely never experienced before.

Thank you to everyone who's making it possible for us to transport and place these wonderful dogs into new homes! Above all, the dogs are most appreciative.



Almond Joy



Hi, my name is Almond Joy, but my foster mom, Ann Perkins calls me AJ, which I like a whole lot better! I broke my leg while

I was racing and had a cast on it for a while. Now that I'm not confined in a crate all day, I am learning to use the leg again. I really love this retirement thing, and it shows - I am a very happy, playful boy. I am three years old and would love a forever home. Please call Judy at 281-7295 - you'll be glad you did - I really am a special one!!

GCNM Rescues Italians (Greyhounds, that is!)

It's now official, **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** has become the depository for used Italian Greyhounds. Over the years, we've taken and placed several, but lately it seems as though surrendering Italian Greyhounds has become an epidemic.

"Rita" has been in two homes, but it's because she has bad luck, not because she's a bad dog. She's very well behaved. Extremely affectionate and bonds instantly to whomever will offer a home and some love. She is blue and white and is approximately 8 years old. Call 281-7295 if you'd like to share your home with Rita. She gets along great with cats and other dogs!



"Rita"

Email Judy at info@gcnm.org for information on the "Puppy Patch" Italian Greyhound puppy we have. It's one of the dogs confiscated in the big "bust" of the puppy mill store in April. Due to media coverage, hundreds of phone calls were received about the puppies, but this little guy needs a special home.

Condolences

On April 12, **Carmon Deyo** and her husband, **Mike**, were stunned by the sudden and unexpected loss of their wonderful Greyhound companion, "**Birdy**." The following eulogy was written by Carmon:

I adopted Birdy when he was only 18 months old and already labeled



"Birdy" Deyo

irretrievably shy. He lived in a crate in the back room of his foster home and seldom came out. I didn't even know he was there until my second visit when he quietly crept out and laid his head in my hand. I don't know why Birdy chose me, but my heart was taken on the spot.

I was told Birdy would never adjust to my traveling lifestyle, or crowds, or men or just about anything most dogs love; but I knew he deserved a chance at a real life. Birdy did struggle the first few years and I made many adjustments to accommodate his fears. Gradually, he bloomed in confidence and his endless ability to give love to humans and other animals. When my second Greyhound Mikey turned out to be epileptic, Birdy stood guard over him during seizures and would carefully walk beside Mikey and balance him during periods of unsteadiness. When we adopted fragile 12-year-old Cody, who could barely see, Birdy became his eyes. Birdy adored my husband Mike, and loved traveling to events where more people could admire and pet him. He earned the nickname of "Princess Birdy" since he was so pretty, most people thought he was a girl.

Birdy was only eight when he left us on April 12. It was much too soon and completely unexpected. One minute he was running and playing, the next he was dying in our arms from some unknown internal cause. We buried him in a corner of our orchard, not far from our black horse, Star. He is greeted by the first morning sun in the place he loved as much as he loved us, and where his spirit can always run fast and free.

Judy Holle and Roger Case wrote the following eulogy for their beloved "**Nube:**"

Nube Azul left her track name of Suzi Q in the dust as she raced toward life. She was our grey Grande Dame who taught all she met to live life to the fullest, turn your nose into the future, always smile at the world, and know you are entitled to dog treats. She was mistress and welcoming hostess of the house, caretaker, loyal loving friend, attentive listener, toast princess, pizza addict, business partner, and mom to other Greyhounds and cats of her home. Always concerned about us, she left us quickly with dignity not allowing us to endure the prolonged agony of a decision already made. One day she was racing with the wind and her Greyhound buddies, Earle and Heart.



"Nube Azul"

Three weeks later what we had thought might be a slow healing shoulder muscle pull from her run was diagnosed as a fast growing osteosarcoma with high probability that it had spread to her lungs. We discussed quality of life issues with our compassionate veterinarian-friend, Dennis Elliott. She left us peacefully that day in our arms at age 14. Yes, we miss her radiant smile, nose nuzzles, and her boundless delight. We also rejoice in her life, memories, and the joy and comfort she brought to us and so many. Thank you, Nube for being a part of our lives! Run Nube, run!

Ray and Mary Zouhar lost their handsome, gentle, "**Santo,**" on May 12, 2004 to multiple organ failure. Santo had one blissful year to share his affections with the Zouhars. Unfortunately, he'd had limited attention from his original adopter and was found roaming the streets in northeast Albuquerque in March 2003. His adopter wasn't even aware that Santo had been missing for an entire day and night. From an atmosphere of neglect to the utopia of sharing daily walks and other delights of retirement with the Zouhars, Santo died having finally experienced the love that many racing Greyhounds will never know. Santo was a regal creature and was loved by all who had the honor of knowing him.



"Santo" Zouhar

Trish Skowronek's "Gracie" passed away on May 3, 2004. Trish has assisted with various Greyhound placement efforts and is also involved in Beagle rescue.

Kris and James Drake's lovable, affable "**Sophie**" passed away after suffering the effects of a neurological disorder. Sophie would've been 14 years old this year. She was wonderful with cats, kids and the elderly. She made many friends in her eight years with the Drakes and will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to meet her.



"Sophie" Drake with Buds the Cat



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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.

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

Editor: **Judy Paulsen**
Layout: **One Two Pause, LLP** (www.12pause.com)

**If you want to help the Greyhounds,
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