



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

## This Newsletter Is Dedicated to "Fever" Paulsen

7/5/93 – 10/20/04

**"High Fever"** was brought into this world on July 5, 1993, for the purpose of competing as a racing Greyhound. When it became clear Fever had more of a desire to be a companion animal than to pursue a lure, she was given to a Texas Greyhound adoption group for placement into a home. Normally, this would be a good thing, considering the other option would have been death. But Fever's affection and devotion were not enough to afford her the life we would like to see for every retired racer. Instead, she fell into the hands of an adopter who would neglect her to the point of near-starvation.

In February 2000, Fever was surrendered to **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico (GCNM)** at the critical weight of 28 pounds (normal weight for her size is about 60-65 pounds). Shivering from the wintry morning air and barely capable of keeping her fragile, emaciated frame from toppling over, I quickly lifted her into the back of my warm van.

An ear was split and bleeding and she had ulcerations along the vertebrae of her back and tail. Dried blood from her wounded ear and what appeared to be vomit were caked on her neck and shoulders. The tip of her tail was a bloodied stump of exposed bone. Resembling a skeletal model in veterinary anatomy classes, she was a pitiful sight. Her hair was sparse and dull and her eyes were almost lifeless and barely visible as her head hung so low. The sight of her was so appalling, tears were shed by every eye laid upon her that day and for many days to come. Veterinarians shook their heads in disgust and commented that something should be done to the woman who had allowed this to happen.



*Fever Before and After*

Making slow progress, but showing definite signs of improvement, Fever began to enjoy her new life. After weeks of therapy, her newly developed muscles learned to propel her upstairs, often taking leaps of two or three steps at a time. Having been confined to a crate for 10 hours at a time in her previous adopter's home, Fever reveled in the freedom of racing about on the fenced acreage in her new home.

Nothing was off limits for this special dog in her new home. She could have sat at the table to share my meals if she'd so desired! Cards and emails flooded in from around the country, wishing her well. Her fans continued to inquire about her health over the years and her story was continually updated on our website to keep everyone informed. (Her story remains on the GCNM website at [www.gcnm.org](http://www.gcnm.org) – click on "**Fever's Story**" on the home page for details of her recovery.)

Although Fever survived the abuse, there is sadness in the fact that she was a victim of a most unconscionable crime in spite of her loyalty to the abuser. Equally disturbing is the fact that all parties who witnessed Fever's condition never stepped forward to report it to authorities. A few people defended the adopter because she surrendered Fever to GCNM, but my response is that she chose to let Fever agonize long after the neglect began.

Apparently thinking we would assume the dog was sick from natural causes, the woman gave her to us. Perhaps seeking sympathy as in cases of Munchausen's by Proxy, this woman

clearly felt we would not suspect intentional cruelty. However, the veterinarian determined Fever's only ailment was malnutrition as revealed by extensive blood work and physical examination.

Because New Mexico is a state in which animal cruelty is now recognized as a serious offense, Fever's case was accepted for prosecution by the Bernalillo County District Attorney's office. On March 15, 2002, the abuser's plea was "no contest" to "extreme cruelty to animals" – a 4th degree felony in the state of New Mexico.



*Fever Paulsen*

Miraculously surviving her brush with death in February 2000, Fever was unable to ward off the effects of numerous health problems she began developing in 2004. On October 20, 2004, Fever was euthanized during an acute episode of intense pain for which the cause could not be immediately determined. Injections for the pain failed to alleviate her suffering. Necropsy revealed a large blood

clot in a major artery. Other findings in the necropsy revealed advanced kidney disease and tumors in her adrenal glands.

Fever lived to be 11 years and 3 months old – quite a feat for having endured such ruthless neglect at the hands of the woman who adopted her in Texas. Fever's story is one example of a retired racing Greyhound that was adopted, but not into a loving home. Considering the glut of racers needing to be placed in homes when their careers end, one might wonder how many are suffering a pitiable existence...



*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."*

...Edmund Burke



## "Mulder The Great"

On September 1, 1998, a Greyhound was taken to the Roswell Animal Shelter by a breeder. Having injured a leg, the dog was of no further value to the breeder. Thankfully, a concerned shelter employee contacted **GCNM** and asked if we'd take the dog. We went to rescue him and he was placed in a loving home in Albuquerque – or so we thought.



*"Mulder The Great" Silvester*

For 1 1/2 years, **Mulder** (named by the adopter's six-year-old son) basked in the blissful environment of an affectionate boy and his single mother, until it was decided by the mother that Mulder was a larger dog than what she really wanted. Mulder was surrendered back to GCNM. Somewhat depressed, Mulder settled into his foster home awaiting his next move.

In April of 2000, GCNM was contacted by **Sharon and John Silvester** who had heard of Mulder's plight. The Silvesters had two cats and a very protective Lab/Australian Shepherd cross, "**Max**." Knowing Mulder had already been rejected at least twice before, we were somewhat reluctant to introduce him into an environment where he may not be accepted by the already established (and territorial) household pets at the Silvesters.

The introduction was tense, to say the least! After what seemed like an eternity of walking up and down the street (on neutral territory) with Mulder and Max, Max begrudgingly allowed Mulder to set foot onto the Silvester property. Ever watchful, Max guarded "his" chicken coop, "his" favorite lounging spots, and – once inside the



*Mulder and Max*

## HBO Steps Up to the Plate for Retired Racing Greyhounds

**HBO** series, **Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel**, aired a segment during November and December 2004 depicting behind-the-scenes treatment of racing Greyhounds. Though at times disturbing to watch, this is one of the few programs which openly contradicts the racing

house – "his" cats. Eager to please, Mulder made every effort to comply with the rules of the house as dictated by Max's posturing. After seeing Mulder submit readily to each standard defined by Max, it was concluded that Mulder would most likely integrate into

the family with little resistance.

Almost five years later, Max and Mulder are inseparable. The Silvesters shared a story with us and we want to pass it along:

Last year Mulder was declared a hero after his bravery in fending off a marauding coyote that had jumped the fence and attempted to abscond with one of the cats. Mulder was severely injured in the fray, but he and the cat survived. The coyote escaped but likely bears the scars of his encounter with "Mulder the Great." Mulder's heroic actions earned him celebrity status among all who heard the account of his brave actions, and as far as how Sharon and John view him – in their words: "We could go on all day about Mulder and his dear, sweet qualities, but we will close by simply saying thank-you for bringing such a loyal, kind, and loving creature into our lives. We could not love him more even if we tried."

I'd guess that if Mulder could talk, he'd tell us it was worth the wait to find the home he now shares with Max, the cats,

the birds, the grandchildren, and above all, the Silvesters who adopted him after he'd been rejected by others who did not recognize his potential as a loving companion and loyal protector.

industry's claim that their concern is for the welfare of the racers.

Promotional trailers for the show on HBO stated, "*Breeders [of racing Greyhounds] in search of champion-caliber dogs produce thousands of*

*Greyhounds each year, a small percentage of which are deemed worthy of high-stakes races. When a dog is no longer profitable, there are few options for its future. Some find a home through adoption, but those who go unclaimed are destroyed. With the supply of dogs being bred far outweighing the demand, an alarming*

*number of dogs are put down each year."*

HBO should be commended for its efforts to present a side of racing that is rarely documented by TV or other media. We urge you to email messages in support of their coverage of this important issue to: **general@hbo.com**.

## "Fernando" the Puppy Patch Rescue

In April 2004, a store called **The Puppy Patch** was shut down by the **City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department**. Originally selling the puppies out of the back of a truck, these people were transporting puppies from puppy mills in several states and selling them to unsuspecting New Mexicans. Numerous complaints regarding the conditions at the store and the health of the puppies finally culminated in the confiscation of all the pups. The puppies were taken to **Albuquerque Animal Services Division** on Lomas.

**Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** was contacted by **Viki Elkey** of **Animal Protection of New Mexico**, asking if we could foster one of the confiscated puppies until legal disputes were settled. GCNM volunteers, **Rob** and **Sherry Mangold**, fostered the puppy and dubbed him "**Fernando**."



*Fernando*

Fernando, an Italian Greyhound, had been diagnosed by the Animal Services veterinarian as having a severe heart murmur. A second opinion by internal medicine veterinarian, **Dr. Phil Ries** of **VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital**, confirmed the heart condition, and it was suggested Fernando have a cardiac ultrasound for further evaluation.

Results of the ultrasound revealed the news was not good for Fernando; the diagnosis was pulmonic stenosis – a heart valve disorder. Meanwhile, the City of Albuquerque and a panel of animal welfare advocates had made the decision to transfer ownership of Fernando to GCNM. We agreed to pay all vet bills and

secure for him a qualified, permanent home.

Although the outlook for Fernando's future was dim, there was some positive news: GCNM volunteers, **Cara Balestrieri** and husband **Jeff Steckel**, made the difficult decision to adopt the dog they knew may not live more than a few years. Cara immediately engaged her fundraising talents and her creative side (making Greyhound greeting cards) to start raising funds for Fernando's veterinary bills.

After a second ultrasound, it was determined that although Fernando's condition was critical, surgical intervention likely would succeed in giving him a normal life. The closest veterinarians experienced in performing the procedure required for this valve abnormality are in Ft. Collins, CO. Arrangements were made at **Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital** for the surgery. On November 23, 2004, **Dr. Sarah Zimmerman** performed a "balloon valvuloplasty" on little Fernando. The results were hailed as a total success when post-operative echocardiography revealed a fully functioning valve.

After winning the hearts of the staff at the CSU cardiology department, Fernando returned home to what likely will be the remainder of a long, normal life with Cara and Jeff and their three Greyhounds, **Angel**, **Zeus**, and **Hitman**.

*(GCNM would like to thank ultrasound specialist **Naomi Burtnick** of **New Mexico Veterinary Specialty Referral Center** in Santa Fe for working with us to ensure Fernando an active, happy life in his forever home. Naomi sees patients in her office in Santa Fe and also one day a week at the **Albuquerque Animal Emergency Clinic** at **4000 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque**, on a referral basis only.)*

# Leptospirosis in New Mexico

*By Dr. Phil Ries, DVM*

What is leptospirosis? What risk does it pose for my family? Is there a safe and effective vaccine available? Before answering these questions, we need to learn about the culprit involved.

*Leptospira interrogans* is a bacterium with a worldwide distribution. Multiple varieties, or serovars, exist in nature. Until a few months ago, leptospirosis was not considered a threat in states such as New Mexico due to the dry environment. Recently, a number of positive cases have been identified in dogs that have not traveled outside of the state. Because of the significant health threat associated with infection in dogs and people, it is imperative that we learn more about this emerging disease. In this article, we will discuss those serovars known to be harmful to dogs, along with their relative impact in humans.

Previously, leptospirosis was considered a rural disease, thought to affect only farm dogs exposed to livestock. In many parts of the country, this has been found to be untrue. Dogs from strictly urban settings have been frequently diagnosed with the disorder. The emergence of new serovars, that utilize hosts other than cattle, represent a new source of infection for your pets. Skunks, opossums, raccoons, rats, mice, and other small rodents may act as “reservoir” species for leptospirosis. Once a reservoir species contaminates the soil and water with urine, the environment then acts as a source of infection. How many of your pets have potential contact with one or more of these reservoirs? My point exactly, for many of our canine companions, the risk for exposure is out there.

Once ingested, the bacteria migrate to various parts of the body, including liver, kidney, and muscle. In the first seven days post-exposure, the affected dog may show signs of lethargy, malaise, fever, muscle soreness, decreased appetite, and vomiting. About a week into their illness, signs of liver failure, kidney failure, and excessive bleeding may develop. Left untreated, the disease progresses rapidly and is often fatal. Even if the patient survives, they may suffer from chronic kidney disease, and then failure, at

an early age. Early recognition and antibiotic intervention is the key to effective treatment. If appropriate medications are started early in the disease course, the outlook for cure is extremely good. For a pet that presents with evidence of liver and/or kidney failure, aggressive medical management is needed to maximize their chances for survival. Referral to a 24-hour care facility with specialist(s) and a technical staff who are experienced in the treatment of leptospirosis is often necessary. They must have a protocol in place when managing these patients to minimize the risk of spread among the hospital staff and other patients. It's not an inexpensive endeavor; costs may range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 depending on the length of hospitalization (up to two weeks or more!). Identify early and treat appropriately, that's the goal.

What about people? Leptospirosis is categorized as a zoonotic disease, i.e., it can spread from animals to people. Most infected humans will suffer flu-like symptoms that develop between 7 and 28 days post-exposure. Signs include lethargy, malaise, muscle soreness, fever, and decreased appetite. At this stage, the infection is easily managed with antibiotics. Left untreated, some patients will develop meningitis, but will ultimately recover. A minority of infected people (10-15%) will develop a severe form of the disease that results in life threatening liver failure. Even with aggressive management, ~20% of these cases result in a fatality!

We know that leptospirosis is a serious risk to both our pets and other family members. How do we diagnose it, better yet, how do we prevent it? Diagnosis is relatively straightforward; a single blood sample is sent to the lab and screened for antibodies to the different serovars. A dog usually develops antibodies within 10-14 days of infection. Thus, some dogs may have a low antibody level (i.e., titer) when first presented to the veterinary clinic. However, almost all dogs will have a high titer by the time they have shown clinical signs for a week. There are seven serovars that we screen for, each one having the potential of causing serious disease.

You may ask, "If we suspect leptospirosis and start antibiotics early, why do we need to do a blood test if they get better anyway?" Because of the zoonotic risk. Your pet on antibiotics may appear "cured," but still have the potential for shedding the organism and infecting family members, dog and human alike. Knowing that one pet is positive for leptospirosis allows you to take measures to avoid further spread of the disease. Without that knowledge, your child could contract a potentially life threatening disease. Is the risk low? Yes. But why take the risk at all?

There are several leptospira vaccines currently available. These vaccines are designed to prevent disease, not infection. At this time, only one product protects against 4 of the 7 most important serovars. The vaccine is produced by Fort Dodge Animal Health. Currently, no vaccine is available to protect against all seven varieties. Because it is such a potent stimulant of the immune system, Leptospira products have been known to result in more reactions than other vaccines. They may result in signs such as lethargy, malaise, fever, or "hives." These reactions are typically mild, short-lived, and easy to manage. This is a minor risk compared to the devastation the disease can cause. Only one manufacturer, Fort Dodge Animal Health, uses subunit technology in its vaccine production. With subunit technology, only select proteins from the surface of the bacteria are included in the vaccine in order to stimulate the patient's immune system. This is in contrast to other products, which utilize most, or all, of the organism in production of their vaccine. This new technology allows for adequate protection, while at the same time, decreasing the risk of vaccine reactions secondary to excessive stimulation of the immune system. Whether or not to vaccinate for leptospirosis is a medical decision, based on your pet's age, health, and

risk of exposure. If your pet is at high risk for natural exposure, the decision is clear, vaccinate. In low risk situations, the decision is a little tougher. You may decide to vaccinate based on the fact that your dog travels, is exposed to other dogs that travel, or because it has free run of the out of doors. The more informed you and your veterinarian, the easier it is to make an educated decision.

Because of the significant risk that leptospirosis poses to both canine and human family members, we must increase our level of awareness to avoid potentially devastating consequences. The first step is to consider the possibility that your pet has contracted Leptospirosis when they become ill with typical signs. Next, allow your veterinarian to submit blood for screening, followed by initiation of appropriate antibiotics. Until you have a definitive diagnosis, be aware of the risk to family members and avoid contact with potentially contaminated urine. Finally, if you and your veterinarian believe your pet is at risk for exposure, consider vaccination. The benefits far outweigh the risk.

*About the Author:*

*Dr. Phil Ries, DVM, is the Medical Director at VCA Veterinary Care Referral Center in Albuquerque, NM. He is a board-certified specialist in the discipline of Internal Medicine, with extensive experience in diagnostic ultrasound, rigid and flexible endoscopy, cancer diagnosis and treatment, management of critical patients, as well as other facets of internal medicine. He has resided in the Land of Enchantment for the last 10 years. Please, feel free to contact him at 505-292-5353 (ext. 140) or via email at [phil.ries@vcamail.com](mailto:phil.ries@vcamail.com), if you or your veterinarian has questions about leptospirosis or other internal medicine issues.*

## **Proposed Animal Care Ordinance to Help Protect Albuquerque's Animals**

**City Councilor Sally Mayer** is spearheading a drive to improve life for Albuquerque's animals.

Among the proposed changes, the chaining or tethering of dogs will be illegal; law enforcement officers will not have to personally witness

animal abuse in order to cite or arrest the offender; the transporting of animals in a vehicle under any circumstances where the animal may jump or fall out of the vehicle will be illegal as will leaving an animal in the bed of a truck exposed to extreme heat, cold, or rain; if an

animal is left in an enclosed vehicle and it is determined to be in immediate danger, the vehicle may be entered by city officials "by whatever means necessary" to rescue the animal.

This is just a sampling of the positive effects the new ordinance will have on our animal friends. Please help us support these innovative and humane changes by watching for the date this

new ordinance will be introduced to the City Council. Declare your endorsement for this new ordinance with your presence on the evening of the vote. For information on when this groundbreaking ordinance will be introduced, go to [www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov) and click on "**Council**" to see agendas, postings, and what's new. Councilor Sally Mayer is always happy to answer questions, too – her email address is [smayer@cabq.gov](mailto:smayer@cabq.gov).

### At Rowland's State Fur Day, Visiting the GCNM Booth:



*Mayor Chavez*



*KOB TV 4 Celebrity, Steve Stucker*

### And Having Fun at the Doggie Dash and Dawdle:



## Google Chooses GCNM

**Greyhound Companions of New Mexico's** website is Google's top choice out of 108,000 sources for information on Greyhound behavior. If you go to Google and type in "Greyhound behavior," our site pops up first and then numerous times throughout the many pages on this subject! For the best information on Greyhound behavior and health, no need to buy a book – just go to [www.gcnm.org](http://www.gcnm.org) for forty-plus pages of our articles – click on "**Adopting A Greyhound**" on the home page, then when that section comes up, scroll down to the last paragraph, and click on **adoption information and application** to print out the brochure.

## Supporting Ban on Cockfighting Could Help Greyhounds in Long Run

There is no pari-mutuel dog racing in New Mexico. At least not yet...

Would New Mexico reject a proposal to introduce **dog racing** into our state? Although most New Mexicans object to cockfighting, it's still legal in some counties. One of only two states that still allow cockfighting, it's chilling to think dog racing could join such "blood sports" as legal entertainment in our enchanted state.

A recent survey conducted for the **Albuquerque Journal** found that in every demographic polled, the majority of New Mexicans disapprove of cockfighting. This would suggest that most of us are not in favor of entertainment that results in the killing and/or suffering of animals.

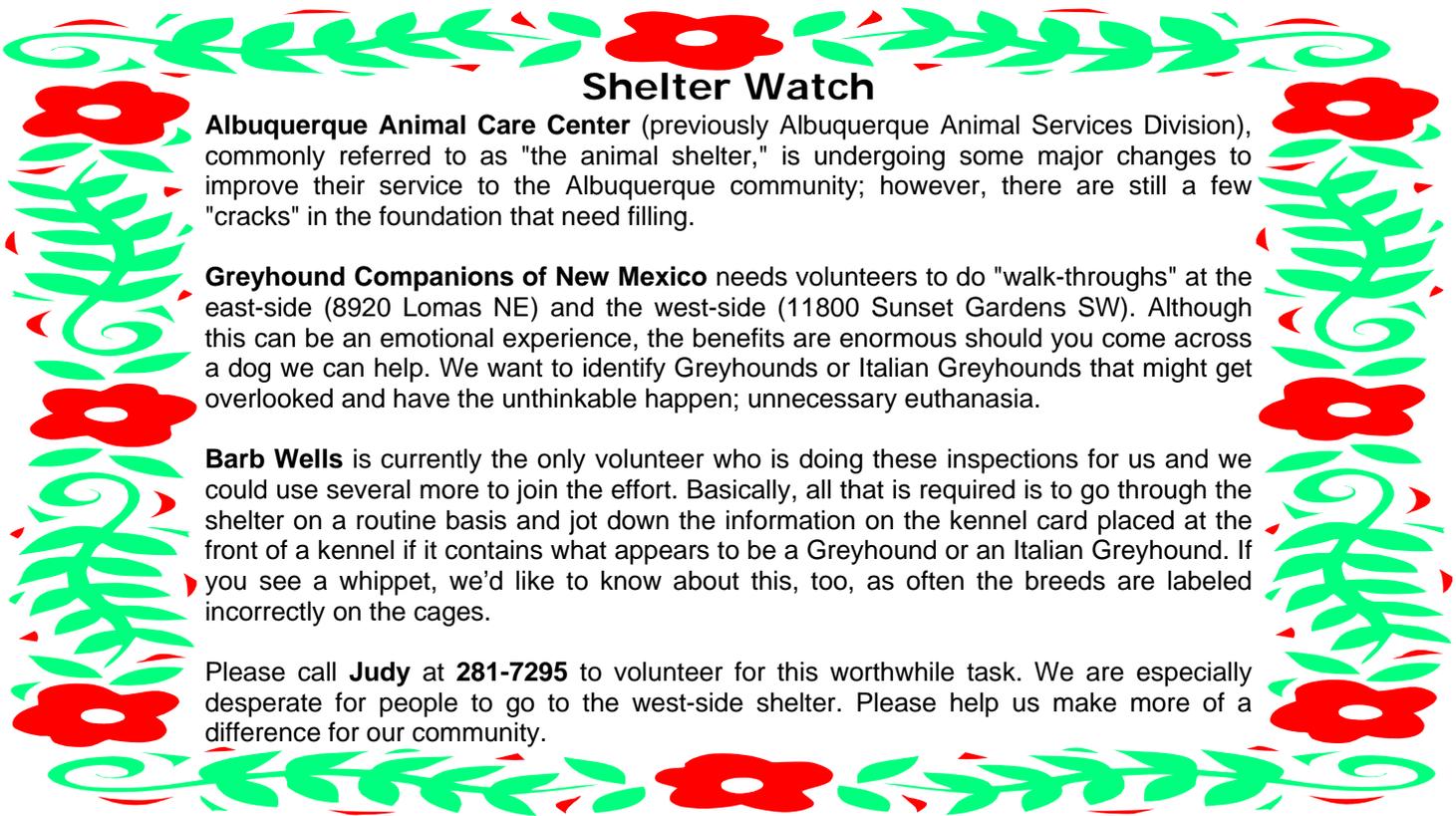
Greyhound racing has a grim history of abuse and destruction of tens of thousands of dogs who are exploited for the sake of "entertainment." Building a broader coalition to promote awareness of animal welfare issues could ultimately prevent the suffering inherent in blood sports such as cockfighting and dog racing (*a high percentage of racing Greyhounds*

*are trained on live lure, resulting in the mutilation and death of yet more animals).*

On **February 9th**, we'll have the opportunity to demonstrate solidarity against cockfighting and for animals in general. Come learn what we can do to lobby for animal welfare. **Animal Protection Voters (APV)** – the political arm of **Animal Protection of New Mexico** – works year-round to make positive changes in animal welfare issues, both locally and federally. APV has designated February 9th as a day of activities designed to allow "like-minded New Mexicans" an opportunity to learn more about what they can do to become a powerful voice for animals. ***Please come and show your support for our animal friends.***

The location for the **Animal Protection Day** gathering on February 9th is the State Capitol building in Santa Fe. A schedule of events will be available in January. For more information on this important event, contact **Danielle Bays** at **505-954-4262** or email **danielle@apvnm.org**. To make a contribution to Animal Protection Voters, mail to

P. O. Box 11651, Albuquerque, NM 87192.



### Shelter Watch

**Albuquerque Animal Care Center** (previously Albuquerque Animal Services Division), commonly referred to as "the animal shelter," is undergoing some major changes to improve their service to the Albuquerque community; however, there are still a few "cracks" in the foundation that need filling.

**Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** needs volunteers to do "walk-throughs" at the east-side (8920 Lomas NE) and the west-side (11800 Sunset Gardens SW). Although this can be an emotional experience, the benefits are enormous should you come across a dog we can help. We want to identify Greyhounds or Italian Greyhounds that might get overlooked and have the unthinkable happen; unnecessary euthanasia.

**Barb Wells** is currently the only volunteer who is doing these inspections for us and we could use several more to join the effort. Basically, all that is required is to go through the shelter on a routine basis and jot down the information on the kennel card placed at the front of a kennel if it contains what appears to be a Greyhound or an Italian Greyhound. If you see a whippet, we'd like to know about this, too, as often the breeds are labeled incorrectly on the cages.

Please call **Judy** at **281-7295** to volunteer for this worthwhile task. We are especially desperate for people to go to the west-side shelter. Please help us make more of a difference for our community.

## GCNM Educational Outreach Efforts

Educating the public on the plight of the racing Greyhound creates an excellent opportunity for **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** volunteers to discuss other aspects of animal cruelty as well. Aware of GCNM's endeavors to increase consciousness of animal welfare issues as a whole, various organizations include us on their agenda as spokespeople for responsible attitudes towards animals.

**Sara Mathis** was recently invited to speak at **The Boys Reintegration Center**.

This facility assists in preparing young men to integrate back into society after incarceration at juvenile correctional facilities in New Mexico. **Tamara Ward**, Community and Social Services Coordinator for the Center, sees parallels in racing Greyhounds and troubled youths and felt Sara's presentation would have a positive impact. Ms. Ward makes an insightful connection between teens who commit crimes and racing Greyhounds – a misperception that is responsible for the waste of too many humans and too many Greyhounds: If you're not perfect, you are useless.



*Sara Mathis at BRC*

Sara's talk focused on care and concern for all living things. The fact that Greyhound racing is legal doesn't mean it is a responsible thing to do and this applies to many other life-situations as well. Along with her natural talent for connecting with these youths, Sara uses statistics and posters to effectively impart her message.

**Animal Humane Association of New Mexico** also conducts its own educational projects which are aimed at educating our young citizens about the importance of humane treatment of animals. Their **Junior Humane Association** and **Camp Luv-A-Pet** programs have both made great strides in delivering important messages on animal care and the far-reaching effects of animal abuse. Greyhound Companions of New Mexico is honored to be invited each year to help make this message heard. The boys and girls (and sometimes their parents, too!) are eager to hear our talks and always have intelligent questions and concerns.

We take great pride in participating in our community's efforts to implement and enforce laws to protect animals by educating children and adults. Compassion and the courage to act in the face of injustice can promote personal contentment and self-esteem. Through a message of empathy, GCNM has made a positive impact on a large audience.

## Sandia National Laboratories and Other Corporations Acknowledge GCNM

**Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** is honored to be one of the charities designated in **Sandia National Labs Corporate Giving Program**. GCNM's status as a certified non-profit program qualifies us for contributions to our efforts to help Greyhounds. For information on making donations to GCNM through SNL's program, using the Sandia internal computer network, go to "Your Rewards/Benefits" and look for ECP/LEAP. If you need help with this, GCNM representative and SNL employee, **Barb Wells**, can assist you – email her at [bjwells@sandia.gov](mailto:bjwells@sandia.gov).

Through **The United Way**, employees of many companies can request scheduled contributions be made to agencies which have been approved for the Corporate Giving Program. Greyhound Companions of New Mexico is an approved organization for The United Way campaign. Employees of The United Way "corporate cornerstone companies" can request one of three methods to make their donations to GCNM: Payroll deduction pledges, cash pledges or "bill direct," credit card and stock pledges.

Some of the companies participating in The United Way community support program are: General Mills, Wells Fargo Bank, Intel Corp.,

PNM, Presbyterian Health Plan, Bank of America, and Sandia National Laboratories.

**Check at your place of employment – it's possible your inquiry could be the impetus for helping more Greyhounds and extending the reach of our message about their plight. If your company already has a corporate giving program, please consider designating Greyhound Companions of New Mexico as a recipient for contributions. Many companies also will "match" the donations of their employees to non-profit agencies who qualify. We will be happy to complete any paperwork necessary in order to initiate and expedite the process.** Call Judy at 505-281-7295 if you have questions.

## Dress Up Your Greyhound!

**All Sports Trophies** at 2939 Monte Vista NE in Albuquerque has a great selection of the items we sell to raise funds to help the Greyhounds – clothes for Greyhound lovers and fashions for Greyhounds (and their other canine friends, too!)

We don't wear the same clothes everyday, so why should our dogs? Come to All Sports Trophies and see our expanded collection of **Silk Road Collars**. We have harnesses, leashes, license plates, calendars, reflector tags for collars, and other items, too. Visit our website at [www.gcnm.org](http://www.gcnm.org) and click on "**GCNM Store**." Call All Sports at 268-2436 for directions to the store.



## Condolences

**Claire Simpson** adopted "**Cassidy**" in January 1998. Cassidy had been hit by a car in Clovis, NM, in December 1997. Normally, it would be considered a tragedy when an animal is run over, but in Cassidy's case, it was the beginning of a new life. Wearing no identification and no reports having been filed for a lost dog fitting his description, Cassidy was considered a stray. Under normal circumstances, a stray with such extensive injuries would have been euthanized, but the person who hit and then rescued Cassidy wasn't willing to accept that solution for his suffering. Instead, she began making phone calls to see if anyone could pay his expenses and then hopefully find him a home.



*"Cassidy" (middle) with Claire and "Damon" Simpson*

Not having the finances to pay for his care, the young lady contacted **Greyhound Companions of New Mexico** for suggestions. We immediately started collecting donations to pay for the surgery to reconstruct the hip of the injured Greyhound. After surgery and post-operative care, the dog was released to GCNM for placement into a home. Upon our arrival to fetch this "Greyhound," it was discovered he

was not a Greyhound after all. He was a whippet! Nonetheless, we paid the vet bills and headed back for Albuquerque.

Claire Simpson had heard the story of the "Greyhound" who'd been hit by a car and would require physical therapy and close supervision. This did not discourage her from wanting to give him a home. Named Cassidy, for the outlaw "Hop-along Cassidy," Claire integrated her new charge into her home of one retired racer and three cats.

On October 30, 2004, Cassidy succumbed to cancer. The following eulogy was written by Claire:

"When he enters the Pearly Gates he will be at the height of his powers, slim, unscarred except for

the almost imperceptible one from his hip surgery. He will prance in his beautiful high-stepping gait...a wonderful sight to see. I will miss that sight. He was a brigand, stealing anything I left on the counters. He would fix me with his beautiful eyes until I would stop my unimportant tasks and do as instructed. Go, Cassidy and try that on Saint Peter. Tell me if it works. I have you in my heart forever."

On December 6, 2004, the **Shimshak** family of Bayonne, NJ, lost their beloved "AJ" after a long bout with kidney disease. In Joe Shimshak's words: "Everyone who met AJ loved him instantly...even "non-dog people." AJ wouldn't hurt a fly – he truly was the Gentle Giant. All he needed to be happy in life was a bowl of food, a walk in the park, a romp in the snow, and a ride in the car. His first few years were spent literally racing for his life and now he's racing through the gates of Heaven to be with his brother, Bandit. Rest in Peace lil' buddy...you'll be in our hearts forever. Until we meet again...."



"AJ" Shimshak

Sadly, **Trisha Harrison's** name appears in this section of our newsletter for a second time this year. Her sweet boy, "**Dorcus**" was euthanized on October 7th after a grave illness. Although Dorcus was a gentle, affectionate soul, he was left behind on numerous occasions when adoption groups would go to the track to choose dogs. Older than the others and maybe not as handsome, Dorcus was visibly forlorn each time the adoption truck pulled away with more of his kennel mates. Dorcus silently waited his turn. Struck by the story of Dorcus, Trisha wanted to adopt him to join her two female Greyhounds. Well worth the wait, Dorcus proudly marched into his new home on September 24, 1998, where he was christened King of the House!

Two months shy of his 14th birthday, Dorcus left this earth to join Ursula and Cher.

Trisha has vowed her continued support of Greyhound Companions of New Mexico in honor of all three of her now departed Greyhounds. Generous donations in memory of Cher, Ursula, and Dorcus are testimony to Trisha's dedication to helping end the suffering of Greyhounds.

**Ginny Burgess** adopted "**Eddie**" in November 1998. Eddie's story is another moving example of dogs that get left behind because they aren't perfect. According to the trainer, Eddie had

been traumatized at a previous racing kennel and was so fearful now of humans that he resisted coming out of his crate, even at turnout time. No longer useful as a racer,



"Eddie" Burgess

Eddie's days were numbered unless someone would agree to work with his shyness. Ginny, having the patience of a Saint, wanted to give Eddie a home. Later adopting two more "special-needs" Greyhounds from GCNM, Ginny worked at socializing Eddie. Going for walks was his favorite part of the day. Eventually allowing strangers to approach and pet him, Eddie's new life engendered trust. Diagnosed with bone cancer at the early age of 8, the decision was made to euthanize him when it was determined the cancer had already spread. We want to thank Ginny for the generous donation in memory of Eddie.

**Risa and Doug Case** lost their big brindle, "**Ralph**," to cancer on September 25, 2004. Ralph was 13 1/2 years old when he passed away. Loyal companion and family member for 12 years, Ralph was lucky to have been adopted as a youngster. He is greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



"Sissy" Matthews

**Peg and Rick Matthews** did everything within their power to extend the life of their precious "**Sissy**." On December 1, 2004, the Matthews were present as was their other Greyhound, Brenda,

when Sissy was given the injection to free her from suffering. Sissy had been diagnosed with immune mediated hemolytic anemia and though she showed signs of a rally periodically during the last several months of her life, she finally succumbed to the ravaging effects of this disease. Thank you, Peg and Rick, for the generous memorial contribution and for your devotion to Sissy and Brenda and all the Greyhounds we endeavor to protect.



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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,  
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**GCNM**  
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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](mailto:info@gcnm.org) or write to GCNM, P.O. Box 22053, Albuquerque, NM 87154-2053 with your new information.

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