

# Greyhound Gazette

A quarterly publication for greyhound owners and other dog lovers

Sept 1, 2009 – Issue 3



## Announces - Holiday Hounds Photo Contest

The Greyhound Gazette is looking for your best holiday photo. Whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza, we want you're cutest, funniest, or silliest greyhound photos! Send it in to be judged and who knows, you might even be the lucky winner! Winner of the Holiday Hounds Photo Contest will not only receive a gift bag courtesy of GSNCR but they will also have their winning photo published in the next issue of The Greyhound Gazette.

**TO ENTER:** Please send your photo to [mel\\_begin@hotmail.com](mailto:mel_begin@hotmail.com). Please include your name, the name of the hound(s) in the photo, and a brief description of the photo. All photos will be judged and the winner will be announced in the following edition of The Greyhound Gazette.



Harry & Carol

### RULES

- One picture per household
- Picture must contain at least one greyhound
- Submitted photo must carry a holiday theme
- Photo's must be submitted digitally
- All photos must be submitted by midnight on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009



Cleo



Dash

The Greyhound Supporters – held an orientation session on June 5, 2009. Laura outlined the new program on greyhound adoption. The volunteers were enthusiastic and had many questions. Thanks to all who attended as well as the ones who couldn't but have signed on as volunteers. If you would like to become a Volunteer, please email me [solligrey@rogers.com](mailto:solligrey@rogers.com) we look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming Meet 'n Greet's.

### **In This Issue**

Photo Contest  
Northern Greyhound Kennel  
Inspiration for GSNCR  
Picnic  
Health & Wellness  
Canine Massage  
Vendor Spotlight  
Healthy Hound Treats  
Meet 'n Greet at the Equestrian Show  
New Hounds  
Introduction  
Product Review  
Pet Bereavement  
Fundraising  
Greyhound Moments  
Pet Sitting  
Upcoming Events

### **Who we are: The Gazette Committee**

Les Arany  
Melanie Begin  
Heather Bourdon  
Carol Harkness  
Frank Shaffer

The Greyhound Supporters is thrilled to welcome the new Ottawa Residents. For stories and pictures of the families, please go to page 6.

### Introducing Northern Greyhound Adoption Kennel by Mel Begin

If there's one thing I learnt in preschool, it's that two is always better than one! If given the choice to have one or two toys to play with, one would always choose two. The same mathematical formula applies to Greyhounds. This is why our decision to upgrade from a single hound household to a multi-hound haven was fairly easy.

My current hound (Dash) is a very mellow boy and gets along well with everyone; however, I really wanted him to be a part of the adoption process so that I could bring home the most perfect match for him, as well as myself. The adoption process offered by GSNCR suited my needs well, as it allowed me too physically introduce the new hound to Dash and observe their interactions before making my final decision.

With our passports in hand and a car full of snacks we embarked on our journey to the Northern Greyhound Adoption kennel in St. Albans, Vermont. I was pleasantly surprised at the simplicity of the route. Upon our arrival at NGA we were graciously greeted by kennel manager Dorothy Westover as well as another half dozen volunteers. Smiling faces were everywhere as they all eagerly waited to see which hound would find their forever home and come back to Ottawa with us.

At this point I hadn't fully grasped what I had gotten myself into, and it wasn't until I walked through the kennel doors and saw over forty homeless greyhounds staring back at me, that I was overwhelmed with the thought of having to choose just one. Luckily, I had Laura Simmermon, GSNCR Chairman of the Board and Adoption Program at my side to share her expertise. She gently guided me towards the hounds that would best suit our family and offered kind advice when the hounds I was observing would not be an appropriate match for our household. With her help and guidance, we were able to narrow it down to two hounds. A gorgeous three year old male named Popy and a beautiful two and a half year old female named Fiona. Both dogs were great matches; they were sweet, loving, outgoing, great with kids and cats, and all around friendly greyhounds. In the end we decided we wanted a female to compliment our current male and we advised Dorothy that we wished to adopt Fiona (who quickly became Roxy).

After a small amount of paper work from both NGA & GSNCR, we paid our adoption fee to the kennel and packed up our new girl for the ride home. Since the kennel provided all her vet records including rabies vaccination, there was no difficulty crossing the border back into Canada. With just a short three and a half hour drive ahead of us, we were eager to get home and start our new life as a 2 hound family!

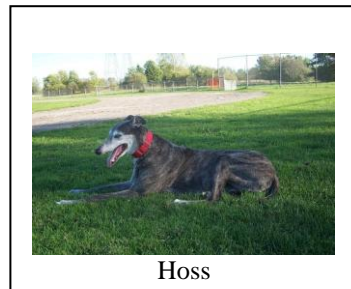


Chris, Mel, Dash & Roxy

## *The Inspiration behind the Greyhound Supporters of the NCR*

*Hoss (a.k.a. Hoss is a Option) by Laura Simmerman*

Our introduction to the world of greyhounds started in June 1998 when my son Matthew cajoled me into taking him to the grand opening of the new Merivale Road Petsmart. It was there that we met two retired racing greyhounds. Needless to say, both my son and I decided that this was the type of dog that we wanted to have in our family. Fortunately, AAG was hosting its Annual Picnic the following weekend, so we coerced my husband Winston into attending. That was the real beginning of our family's love affair with greyhounds.



Hoss

We brought home our new boy Hoss home on July 28, 1998. Hoss was about 4.5 years of age at that time and he was a large, 85 pound dark brindle. Hoss was, from the moment he came into our home, a perfect greyhound. He was gentle, quietly affectionate and a confident but laid-back alpha. There was a distinct majesty about Hoss that defied description, but I think everyone who met him appreciated it.

From the beginning, we introduced Hoss into our home "by the book". I stayed home with him for a week, following him about, but letting him explore the house at his own speed. Winston stayed home with him the second week, and then the whole family was home for another two weeks, by which time Hoss had settled in.

We were concerned about how Hoss would deal with our cats, and they with him. However, our concerns were quickly put to rest when he met Cholla, our senior cat at the time. Cholla greeted Hoss upon his initial arrival in the house by reaching up and drumming on both sides of his face. Hoss endured this for a few moments, and then pulled his head away, shook it vigorously and from that moment on - gave all of the cats the respect that they deserved. That being said, the cats did learn to give Hoss a wide berth when he was sleeping as Hoss suffered from sleep aggression. It was actually quite amusing to see what paths they would take in their efforts to ensure they didn't get too close to our slumbering giant.

We went through all of the normal aspects of having a greyhound adapt to family life. We taught Hoss how to walk up and down the stairs, we socialized him with other dogs, we helped condition him and his feet to walking on pavement for extended walks, and all of the other adjustments that he had to make - save one. Hoss never did understand the sliding glass patio door, so he trained us to keep it open whenever he went outside into the backyard. Spring, summer, fall and winter - if Hoss was in the back, the door stayed open.

Hoss was incredibly clever - amazing us on a regular basis. He quickly figured out that if he used the backyard, then he might not get a walk - so he refused to use the yard. He wanted his three walks a day, and by golly, he was going to get them. Even after the second and third hounds joined our family, Hoss got his last out all by himself - just him and me and sometimes our cat Tokai who would follow us as we walked through the neighbourhood before bed.

Hoss also trained us to never turn around on walks - he had to walk in a continuous circle. Trying to turn him around was akin to moving an immovable object, so we were forced to ensure that our walks gave him what he wanted. And we had to have a repertoire of different walks to allow for different walk lengths depending upon the weather.

Meet and Greets were one of Hoss' favourite activities. We learned to keep the Petsmart bag hidden until it was time to leave for the store because he would get so excited. And once we were there, he quickly made himself comfortable and let everyone come and fawn over him. He was an incredible ambassador for the greyhound breed - tolerating most dogs that met him and drawing to his side almost every kid that walked into the store. I will never forget the day that a little girl came over to meet Hoss, and ended up on the floor curled up against him. A short while later the little girl's mother came over and we were shocked when she told us that her daughter was afraid of dogs - but somehow that little girl instinctively knew that Hoss wouldn't hurt her and she made herself comfortable next to our big boy.

We started talking about "chipping" shortly after we got Hoss, but decided that our small townhouse really wasn't big enough for more hounds. However, fate stepped in and our life with an "only grey" changed in 1999 with the arrival of Bucharoo Zoo (Boo). Other greyhounds followed after that - Clover joined our family on April 3, 2000. Bocuse was the fourth greyhound who joined us permanently and he arrived on April 28, 2002. Atticus joined our family on December 13, 2003, two and a half weeks after we lost Bucharoo Zoo. Sadly, Atti left us on September 21, 2004 after being with us for a very short 9 months. Simon arrived October 17, 2004, followed soon after by Kirra on September 4, 2005 as we'd lost Clover on July 15, 2005. Bocuse left us on April 29, 2006, but My Tai arrived June 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. Chase joined us as a foster on November 3, 2006, and I brought Player home in March of 2008. Through-out all of the changes in our hound family, Hoss remained constant, accepting all of them, openly fond of some and merely tolerating others. And always the alpha in charge, something that none of the other hounds ever questioned. Even in the last year of his life when he was ill, he reprimanded Kirra by holding up her against the dining room wall when she crossed the line - something she never did again.

It was during 2003 and 2004 that I decided that I wanted to do more for the greyhound community. Although our entire family had been very active volunteers for AAG starting in 1999, I wanted to contribute more, and to the global greyhound community. Unfortunately, due to dealing with sick hounds, I postponed any action until the summer of 2005. It was during the summer of 2005 that I called together a bunch of greyhound folks in the Ottawa area and proposed the creation of a group that would reach out to help greyhounds everywhere, and we started by hosting our first International Greyhound Planet Day. That group became known as the Greyhound Supporters of the National Capital Region or the GSNCR.

Since its inception, the Greyhound Supporters has worked to provide support to greyhound-related entities everywhere, as well as working to build and support the greyhound community in the Ottawa area. And for me, it was Hoss that was the reason for all of it – just because having him as part of our family introduced us to the world of greyhounds.

In addition to hosting local greyhound events in the Ottawa area, participating in vending events in Canada and in the United States as a way to support various adoption groups, and providing post-adoptive support to greyhound families in the National Capital Region, the Greyhound Supporters has helped other adoption groups by taking in “bounced” hounds and finding them foster and/or “forever” homes. It was simply part of the ongoing evolution of its mandate that made the Greyhound Supporters decide to launch its own adoption program early in 2009. For me, each hound that we help find a “forever” home is part of Hoss’ legacy.

Hoss started to suffer from a condition that we had diagnosed in 2007 as Laryngeal Paralysis (LP) and it affected his breathing and caused other physical conditions that impacted on the strength of his hind end. He also suffered a stroke in 2007, and although he recovered from it, suffered a few more minor strokes over the next year. On May 28, 2008, Hoss lost the use of his back legs, and he wasn’t able to stand or walk without assistance. On May 30<sup>th</sup> at the age of 14, Hoss left us to start his final journey. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge from his own home, in my arms and surrounded by his entire family and some very special human and canine friends.

Hoss was a huge influence on my life and the Greyhound Supporters is an enduring legacy for which he was responsible. What also became apparent to me upon his passing was the number of people that had adopted their own greyhounds because of Hoss – because they’d met him at Petsmart or other Meet and Greet venues or on one of his many walks. The last time I was at the adoption kennel in Orlando and mentioned that I had adopted Hoss through them, people remembered him and they all had nice things to say about him. Knowing how many hounds have passed through GPA Orlando, it amazed me that they recalled a hound that they met over 10 years ago. That was Hoss.

## *We had a Picnic .....*

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> saw a great start to what will hopefully become a long tradition. GSNCR hosted their First Annual Greyhound Picnic at Dogz Canine Sports Centre in Kanata. A strong turnout meant there were plenty of people and hounds to enjoy all the great food, fun, games, contests, and prizes. The rain was not a problem; with over half a dozen shelters throughout the park, there were plenty of dry spots to take cover when the weather wasn’t co-operating.

From the wonderful bake sale (complete with homemade treats for people AND their hounds), to the entertaining games and the fabulously maintained off leash zone, there was plenty to do throughout the day. For those who wished to try their luck, there were two fully stocked raffles that took place, as well as two very successful 50/50 draws, both of which sent people home with great prizes and cash in their pockets.

The picnic started with guests arriving at around 11:00. The first hour was spent catching up with old friends and meeting new hounds. As the day continued, hounds and their owners could be seen coming and going from the off lead zone where an all day playgroup took place.

At 12:30 the first set of raffles, contests, and the first 50/50 draw took place. For the next hour or so people ate their lunches and enjoyed many home baked goodies from the bake sale. Games were played in the afternoon and people got to try their skills at dressing their hounds from head to toe in people clothes. Near the end of the day a second set of raffles, contest, and a second 50/50 draw took place, leaving many of the attendees carrying around fabulous prizes to take home. As the day drew to an end and people started to leave, smiles could be seen throughout the park, it had obviously been a very successful day.



*Peter relaxing with the hounds.*



*Scott & Catherine Armstrong & Roger Reens*



*Roger with Mr. Goodbar in the Hound dressing contest*



*And the Winner is Mr. Goodbar*

The First Annual Greyhound Picnic was an exciting day for all who attended – treats were eaten, tails were wagged and everyone went home satisfied.

Special thanks to the following individuals for their donations. Manon Begin, Mel Begin, Casual Bling, Jen Cormier, Critter Cozies, Donna Deskin, GSNCR, Kasco’s Kollars, Tina Kelly, Bill & Lois Kloelze, The Pawstry Chef, Janet Shaffer, Cathy Simons, Laura Simmermon and an especially “big thank you” to Dogz Canine Sports Centre for renting out such beautifully maintained grounds.

## *Health & Wellness – by Suzanne Stack, DVM*

### *Lumbosacral Stenosis (LS)*

As our greyhounds age, quite a few of them, especially the males, become weak, wobbly, and/or painful in the rear end. Many of these are affected by lumbosacral stenosis (LS), a narrowing of the last part of the spinal canal, which causes compression of the nerve roots.

Signs are rear end pain, lameness, weakness, "shuffling," knuckling over, foot dragging, and muscle wasting. Both urinary and fecal incontinence are possible and carry a worse prognosis. Greyhounds may even lose their appetite from the pain and "waste away."

The difficulty in diagnosing LS is twofold. Many veterinarians simply do not recognize the signs. LS looks neurologic, and technically, it is. But a rare and obscure neurological disease, it is not. Beware a diagnosis of "hip dysplasia" in a greyhound - greyhound hips are by and large excellent. The second problem is that unless your greyhound is "lucky" enough to have visible arthritis on lumbosacral x-rays, the only techniques to confirm LS are pretty high tech - CT, MRI, discography, etc.

Not only can LS be difficult to "nail down," the other problem is that oral medications such as Rimadyl, Etogesic, glucosamine, aspirin, prednisone, etc. do little for LS since it is not arthritis, but rather, "doggy sciatica" i.e., pinching of the nerve roots.. It presents a sad problem. The "cure" is referral spinal surgery to free up the trapped nerve roots, not something many owners will consider in a geriatric greyhound. Many if not most greyhounds simply get worse and worse until euthanasia becomes necessary.

The good news is that there is a simple palpation technique to detect LS and a way to inject Depo-Medrol intralesionally to help it, similar to what is done in humans. It was taught to me by Dr. Mike Herron, a professor of small animal orthopedic surgery at Texas A & M for 32 years, owner of racing greyhounds, and all around "greyhound guru." You may want to clip this out for your vet to see should one of your greyhounds begin showing signs of LS.

This is an easy procedure that you do with the dog standing up, basically an intramuscular injection into the lumbosacral area. There is absolutely no danger of hitting the spinal cord or any important structures. The worst thing that can happen is that it doesn't help the dog.

## *Canine Massage – by Kimberly Swan E.M.T*

### *What is canine massage and how can it benefit your canine companion?*

Canine massage incorporates Swedish massage techniques and advanced techniques, including myofascial release. These are the same techniques used by human massage therapists. Massage is the manual manipulation of soft tissues in the body for the assessment, prevention and rehabilitation of physical dysfunction, and the augmentation of healthy conditions.

Canine massage increases relaxation, which lowers anxiety levels, diminishes nervous tension, and lowers blood pressure. The rate of respiration is slowed to promote more effective breathing, which allows a greater exchange of oxygen into the blood and carbon dioxide out of the body. It also increases blood and lymph circulation, which helps reduce swelling, edema, and muscle pain. Muscle pain may occur from a physical injury or can be the result of lack of circulation. Muscles that are always tight from nervous tension, arthritis or compensation have poor circulation and can be painful to touch. Massage is beneficial in maintaining a healthy level of muscle tonus.

Massage helps to relieve muscle tension, muscle spasms and improve range of motion. Maintaining movement through stretching connective tissues helps to achieve full flexibility and helps reduce the risk of soft tissue injuries. The recovery time from an injury can be increased, as well as forming a healthier repair site in the injured tissues. Massage can help scar tissue heal in alignment with the surrounding healthy muscle fibres, this helps reduce the risk of re-injury.

### *What types of dogs will benefit from massage?*

All dogs benefit from massage as long as they are not suffering from any diseases where massage is contraindicated. It is best to consult with your veterinarian before starting a massage maintenance program.

The two groups of dogs that I feel will benefit the most from massage are active dogs and dogs with mobility issues.

Active dogs would include sports such as racing (both current and retired) agility, fly ball, working dogs, and any extremely active dogs. Mobility issues include; arthritis, hip dysplasia, muscle spasms, trigger points, old soft tissue injuries, decreased range of motion and general stiffness.

Our rescued and retired Greyhounds fit into one, if not both of these categories. They love to run their hearts out when given the opportunity. As greyhounds age they benefit from massage which helps them maintain their range of motion and keep them free from stiffness.

Helping Hands Equine and Canine Massage has been servicing the greater Ottawa area since May 2000. Kimberly Swan EMT graduated from the D'AL School of Equine Massage, a 2200hour Diploma program. She currently has her level two Reiki and is working towards becoming a Reiki Master.

Currently services are provided in the comfort of the dogs home.

*Kimberly Swan E.M.T.*

*Helping Hands Equine & Canine Massage*

*(613) 240-9716*

## Casual Bling our Vendor Spotlight – Janet Shaffer

Following a trip to Florida; I made a gift for a beautiful greyhound by the name of Rosemary. Her Mama calls her the “fun police” and when I saw a police car charm I had an idea for a necklace that would be a perfect gift for her. I made a beaded necklace, attached the charm and voila! A special business for special hounds (and aren't they all?) was born.



When asked why dog necklaces? I am a self confessed collar addict and love all the Beautiful martingales available these days. But still those long elegant necks called to me for something more.

My designs are hand crafted by me. Most are one of a kind, so each time you are getting an “original bling”. Each piece is strung on stretch cord or wire using durable beads with no sharp edges. Fasteners are attached and double checked. The fasteners are part of the design, either as a discreet claw clasp, a noticeable toggle clasp, a pretty grosgrain, organza or satin ribbon. Each necklace is planned to make a statement. All custom orders are created to reflect the personality of the hound that will wear it. I strive to make necklaces that add to the beauty of a collar not outshine it.

After a year of making and selling hound necklaces I ventured into making jewellery for humans. A repeat customer asked me to make a bracelet to match the necklace I had designed for her hound. Soon I had orders for matching sets on a regular basis.

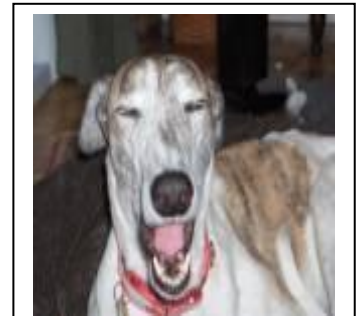
In the beginning I sold my necklaces at local home craft shows and by posting them on greyhound chat boards. In July 2004, I launched the Casual Bling website. Since then I have travelled to greyhound events as far away as Florida where I have met many wonderful greyhounds and made many friends while vending.

Of course Bling is not just for greyhounds. Necklaces and collar blings can be made in any size from the teeny tiny Chihuahua to a stately Great Dane. I've made necklaces for cats and ferrets as well.

My love of greyhounds led me to my business, which through donations to various auctions has benefitted many greyhound adoption programs with their day to day expenses.

## Healthy Hound Treats – by Katherine Armstrong

Clay's favourite food is sweet potatoes. He loves them in any form baked, steamed or mashed, however, his most favourite are the very pricey dried sweet potato treats only available at the best of stores. This recipe is my solution to indulging Clay without going completely broke. The ingredients are few and although the instructions look long it is really a simple process.



Clay

### Clay's Favourite Sweet Potato Strips

Ingredients:

- 1 large sweet potato
- 1 tbs maple syrup/honey
- 2 tbs rice or potato flour (available at Bulk Barn)

Peel sweet potato, cut into small chunks and boil or microwave in a little water until soft. Mash the sweet potato using some of the cooking liquid to make a smooth puree. Mix in the maple syrup or honey (this helps to make the strips chewy). Add the flour and mix until smooth. You can use more flour if you feel the mixture is too sticky.

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Scoop sweet potato mixture onto parchment and lay a sheet of wax paper over top. You can use a little flour to prevent the wax paper from sticking. Use a rolling pin to roll mixture between papers until ¼ inch thick. Carefully remove the wax paper. After removing the wax paper score the mixture with knife into dog size strips. The strips do not need to be separated for baking.

Heat oven to its lowest temperature setting (mine is 170 degrees). Place pan in the oven and bake for 2 to 3 hours. Start checking the strips after 1½ hours and when they have firmed up you can flip them over to speed up the baking time. Once they have reached a chewy texture they are ready. They should feel leathery.

Let cool and enjoy. Place in a zip lock bag in the fridge for longer storage. That is if your hound doesn't eat them all first.

Note: Sweet potatoes are low fat, rich in vitamins and minerals and are high in dietary fiber – since they are this good for you maybe you should ask your dog to share.

# The 2009 National Capital Show Jumping Tournament

## Nepean Equestrian Park

Where have all the stray and lost dogs gone.

GS-NCR was invited to take an active part in the August 2009 National Capital Show Jumping Tournament at the Nepean Equestrian Park here in Ottawa. The involvement of the GS-NCR was to manage a "lost and found" for stray dogs, and to provide a safe haven for family pets (dogs of course) while the family took in the various jumping activities. The event was to take place over ten days during a two week period, and promised to be well attended and very busy. The promoters were kind enough to waive the fees for normal exhibitor space as the Greyhound Supporters' operational space would be on grounds provided by the Equestrian Park, but in its own canopies and tents, just beside the exhibitor area in the Park. Operating a lost and found, and a safe haven would not be a free service, but rather performed at a cost, providing the GS-NCR with the opportunity to raise funds for its many initiatives and causes.



Not expecting to see a deluge of money into the Greyhound Supporters' coffers, the GS-NCR saw its involvement mainly as a way to sensitize a different group of people to the availability of the retired racing greyhound as a viable family pet, as an opportunity to market a different line of pet products that would not be the norm among Equestrian families, and to provide a service to performers and attendees alike.

The Tournament attracted families from all across Canada and the United States of America, and during the ten days of riding activities saw athletes from age ten to seventy participating in the various levels of competition. Side attractions included exhibitions of a wide range of horse trailers, farm, horse and paddock equipment and facilities, and clothing for athletes as well as pet products for horses. Jack Russell Terriers, the favourite dog of the "equestrian set", also had their day of fun and coursing.

For the GS-NCR, the Tournament did not go exactly as planned. No strays disrupted the events, no family pets needed to be cared for, and no lost pets were reported. Our tents, however, were visited by a large number of interested visitors, thanks to those greyhounds that represented the organization daily, and some valuable contacts were established.

In addition, the Greyhound Supporters' site boasted a wading pool that was replenished daily, and which saw a steady stream of four-legged visitors during the very hot days of the tournament during the first week. Unfortunately, the change in the weather with the wind and the rain played havoc with our services, schedule and equipment during the final week.



In the final analysis, our involvement was successful in some ways, but the results of the event will have to be reviewed before deciding on participation in future equestrian events, especially given the number of hours donated by so many families members (people and greyhound alike) who attended the booth and undertook impromptu "meet and greets" all over the Park.

The GS-NCR is indebted to all the volunteers who managed the booth on behalf of the organization. They were on site for nine hours every day during the ten days of the Tournament.

Many thanks to

Scott Armstrong, Melanie Begin, Heather & Andy Bourdon, Jayne Field, Winston Gomes, Carol Harkness, Chris Kasurak, Shelley McWhirter, Kate Roberts, Peter Rooney, Frank & Janet Shaffer, Laura Simmermon, Matthew Simmermon-Gomes, Wendy & Chelsea Siurna and Kim Weir.

### The Greyhound Supporters is thrilled to welcome the following new Ottawa residents

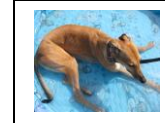
**Rowan and Caley** are seen here with their new family, Matthew, Arianna, Sharon and Alexander. Rowan is a handsome brindle boy who is very attached to Alexander and is also quite happy to spend time with Caley as she's a little bit shy. Both hounds have settled in nicely in their new home and even the cats are happy to have greyhounds in the house again.



**Nitro** really came out of his shell once he arrived as a foster hound in the Stewart home, so much so that he was formally adopted a few months later. Although he's a bit of a counter surfer – Bruce, Janet and Lochran enjoy Nitro's goofy antics and loving demeanor.



**Roxy** is a beautiful red fawn girl with a gorgeously exotic face and she's seen here with her new family – Melanie, Chris and Dash. Although she's still settling in, her new Mom has discovered that Roxy loves to spend time cooling off in wading pools. Smart girl!



Also new to the Ottawa Area, please welcome, Suzanne with Zoe, Joanne & Martin with Kansas, Tracy with Tigger, Kathy & Grant with Kari, Paul & Mel with Empress, Pat with Milo, Heather with Boise, Tara del Costa with Archer. Paula with Rebel. Joanne & Brad with Duggy

Please say Hi to these new hounds and their families should you meet them at Playgroup, Walk 'n Talk, or simply just out for a stroll.

We apologize if we have missed anyone. If you know of hounds that haven't been included please send their information to [solligrey@rogers.com](mailto:solligrey@rogers.com) and we will make sure they are included in the next issue.

## *Missing Link - is this issues Product Review by Melanie Begin*

Not all dog foods are created equal, which is why The Missing Link® Canine PLUS™ Formula with added joint support will help boost the performance of your hound's diet. The Missing Link® Canine PLUS™ Formula is not a vitamin or mineral supplement. It is formulated using whole food and food concentrates, and there is no danger of "over supplementation," as there is with other vitamin and mineral products (as this is a common concern with feeding nutritional additives to dog food). Missing Link® Canine PLUS™ Formula increases vital nutrients such as omega 3 and 6 fatty acids, dietary fiber, phyto (plant) nutrients, and vegetarian glucosamine for added joint support.

When it was decided that we were adopting a hound, we instantly began researching dogs foods, and every time we would speak with someone The Missing Link® Canine PLUS™ Formula would be recommended as a nutritional additive to whatever food we chose. Initially, I shied away from the product (due to its high price); however, I eventually caved and found myself buying my first bag of The Missing Link® Canine PLUS™ Formula before we even brought our hound home for the first time.

Over the last year of feeding The Missing Link® Canine PLUS™ Formula to my hound, I have seen bald thighs fill in, a thin coat turn thick, and a digestive track that works flawlessly twice a day! I learnt very quickly that The Missing Link® Canine PLUS™ Formula is well worth its price (between \$32.99 - \$34.99 for a 1 lb bag – about a 1½ – 2 months supply in a single hound home).

## *So Long, Old Friend – by Carol Harkness*

Some say rescued greyhounds are lucky to find their way into our hearts and homes. I say we are the lucky ones. Ask anyone who has shared their love and life with one of these gentle, old souls.

It comes as no surprise then that when their lives end ours are saddened and we are left with a gaping hole once occupied by a loving, loyal and trusted companion, our beautiful greyhound.

Grieving for a loved one is an inevitable and important part of life. It can take time and is different for everyone. Fortunately it has been recognized that living with grief is a complex process and some find it beneficial to seek information to aid in the journey. For years now there have been bereavement groups that help individuals understand and share their experiences. There are now several groups in Ottawa to assist with grieving for a beloved pet.

I had the opportunity to attend "When a Pet Dies" put on by Tubman Funeral Homes. There was a grief expert sharing information that validated that the effects of losing a pet can be similar to the loss of other family members, which seemed to be a relief to some attending. Also attending were 2 other pet loss groups in the city:

Tubman Funeral Homes 613-722-6559 or [tubmanfuneralhomes.com](http://tubmanfuneralhomes.com)

The Pet Loss Support group of Ottawa-Carleton, email [oc-plsg@geocities.com](mailto:oc-plsg@geocities.com) or [www.geocities.com/Heartland/Bluffs/2625](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Bluffs/2625)

Pet Loss Support Group, contact Heather Speaker 613-692-9212

Whether our memorial is a verbal, pictorial, garden planting or another fitting tribute, it is important to remember a cherished old friend.

## *In Memoriam*

We are planning to acknowledge our precious greyhounds we have lost this year. We will publish these names in the December issue. For those who wish to acknowledge the passing of their beloved hounds please forward the retired name, the racing name, date of passing and the names of the humans they owned to Carol Harkness [cch5051@yahoo.com](mailto:cch5051@yahoo.com) All hounds passing from Jan. 1st, 2009 will be included.

## *A Fundraising Opportunity*

"GS-NCR" is planning a new fund-raiser; to sell plastic bags designed for cleaning-up after your Greyhound and other canine family members. The bags are 15 inches long and during winter months, can easily be used if wearing light-weight gloves. They are of clear plastic affording quick inspection. The average cloth doggy-bag holder will carry between 10-25 bags. The bags come in rolls of 2,000 which will last from about 1.5 years for one dog, or four months if you have five to six greyhounds. At \$20.00 for each roll of 2000 bags, they cost less than one cent each. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to [poopbags@greyken.com](mailto:poopbags@greyken.com).



## *Greyhound Moments by Les Arany*

I think that greyhounds are turbo charged. Maybe it's the high performance food they received while racing, but there is something about them that generates gas. Gas; which is close to being an environmental hazard of major proportions. Imagine the scenario of not one, but two dogs suddenly letting go one of those clouds of blue gas, accompanied by the most innocent look known to mankind. "Who? Me?". One evening, while watching TV, the gas leak suddenly engulfed the family room. I scrambled to leave the couch, the house and the neighbourhood, when a loud banging on the patio door from outside stopped me dead in my tracks. It was a skunk demanding the recipe.

## *The Pet-Sitting Exchange by Al McIntosh*

The Ottawa-area greyhound pet-sitting exchange is available to all greyhounds and their families located in the Ottawa Area. There is no charge for this service--it is an exchange: pet-sitting for pet-sitting, and not necessarily for the same family that takes your dog in. Anyone who is interested in taking in an extra hound or two every now and then in exchange for having a greyhound-knowledgeable family look after your hound from time to time is encouraged to take advantage of this mailing list. Requests are typically for weekends, but occasionally requests for longer periods are made during the vacation months and holidays.

### *All members agree to the following:*

- All greyhounds **MUST** be in a fully-enclosed fence if running loose otherwise on lead at all times.
- Dogs should not go into a grey-sitting household with children younger than six years.
- Refer to Lost greyhound Contacts in case a greyhound in your care is lost.

For those of you interested in participating in the exchange, you must first join Google groups and apply for membership at <http://groups.google.ca/group/ottawagreysitting>.

## *Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars.*

September 13/09 - [Ottawa Humane Society Wiggle Waggle Walkathon](#)

September 14/09 - [Canadian Guide Dogs For the Blind - Paws for a Cause](#)

### *International Greyhound Planet Day*

Please join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> International Greyhound Planet Day which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, 420 Sparks Street (between Bronson and Lyon).

Do some shopping at the various vendor booths, hang out and have some fun. If you get hungry, we'll have hot dogs, drinks and bake sale items. We'll also have fabulous raffle prizes, contests for your doggy friends, lots of information booths to check out, and much, much more.

Everyone and their canine companions (leashed) are welcome to this event.

Funds raised will go to support newly launched adoption program of the Greyhound Supporters as we help find loving forever homes for these retired athletes

### *What is International Greyhound Planet Day?*

The Greyhound, one of the most ancient of breeds, has had a remarkably colourful history, starting with its role as a supreme hunting dog, its changing role as a coursing dog, to its current status as track racing dog, show dog and loving companion. The greyhound is possibly the forerunner of a breed of canines belonging to the "sight-hound" family, and is undoubtedly the best known of the breed.

Greyhound Planet day is a time chosen each year to honor the greyhound and its relatives (galgos, lurchers, etc.) throughout the world. The purpose of this international event is to raise the public's awareness of the wonder and magic of greyhounds as pets, educate others on the current status of greyhounds around the world and to honor those greyhounds who have already left us.

Visit our website at [www.gsncr.ca](http://www.gsncr.ca) for regular information updates.

If you have any questions, or just want to get involved, contact Laura Simmermon at 613-216-8097 or via email at [info@gsncr.ca](mailto:info@gsncr.ca). We hope to see you on November 14th.

*The Gazette Committee* encourages readers to share this newsletter with dog lovers of all kinds.

The next edition of the Gazette is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any suggestions for articles or would like to submit one please send it to [solligrey@rogers.com](mailto:solligrey@rogers.com) before November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Enjoy

Your Gazette team.