

Greyhound Gazette

A quarterly publication for greyhound owners and other dog lovers

December (Winter) 2010 – Issue 8



Les Arany
Heather Bourdon
Carol Harkness
Janet Sullivan

The Winners of the 2nd Hounds Photo Contest

We asked for the cutest, silliest photos of your hounds and you sent – lots of them!
We enjoyed every picture. The lolling tongues, maimed tissue boxes, and adorable faces prompted many chuckles. A very difficult choice.
Thanks to everyone who took the time to enter.

*In the end, we couldn't choose just one winner – we have four.
Please see page 2 for full coverage.*

Thanks to GSNCR and the Gazette Team for the photo contest prizes.

The Gazette Team



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are introducing a "Letters to the Editor" Section. Please send your comments to solligrey@rogers.com

The Greyhound Supporters is proud to introduce the new arrivals



We are happy to introduce Speedy, a handsome fawn boy who has just moved to Ottawa and now lives with Mom Wendy. Speedy just loves people and is happy to meet new people, so be sure to say hi when you meet him.



Raider is a handsome and calm young hound that wasted no time stealing the hearts of his new mom Kim and new dad Dan. Sam the poodle may look a little standoffish, but he gave Raider his seal of approval too!



Taco is a handsome red fawn boy that just loves to meet new people and whose tail just never stops wagging. Be sure to say to Taco or his new family, Melinda and Simon when you see them around town.



Ozzy seen here with new Dad Christopher and new Mom Jessica, is a handsome white and brindle boy with incredibly soft fur and a wonderful disposition.



Say hi to Diamond, a jewel of a greyhound that has just moved to Ottawa. Diamond is a beautiful and petite little five-year old who joins Ziggy and Rossi to make Mike's family complete.

Please also welcome to Ottawa

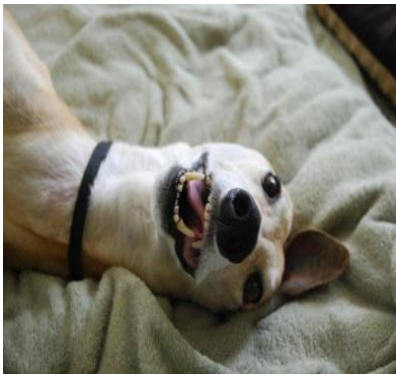


Wil, a new arrival from the **B&J Kennels** in Jacksonville Florida, Adopted by Vicky Edmunston. Here is Vicky meeting her new boy for the first time in Binghamton NY where she met Jack Thomas the volunteer who helped with the Greyhound Underground Railway (GUR)

And

Gidget, a little brindle girl just arrived from Orlando Florida, adopted by John Arens through Adopt-A-Greyhound of Eastern Ontario

The Winners of the 2nd Hounds Photo Contest – Cont'd



1st Place Winner is

CHARLIE

the tripod boy, just after his amputation.

Charlie is owned by Kyle Wittet



2nd place winner is

SNAPPY

She is doing her best to look pretty in the hopes of a treat.

Snappy is owned by Sheena Rogister



3rd place winner is

JASPER

He has made a close buddy in the small zoo I have. With over 16 animals and his docile nature, he puts up with a lot with his new best friend. A rescued cat named Megatron.

Jasper is owned by Stephanie McGrath-Stankowska



4th place winner is

MISTY

Dressed for Halloween

Misty is owned by Alissa Albert & Doug Kedrosky

Footpad Corns in Greyhounds

*Dr. Kim Holzman DVM
Algonquin Animal Hospital*



WHAT ARE CORNS?

Corns in humans are defined as small, calloused areas of skin caused by local pressure or friction irritating tissue over a bony prominence. They contain a conical core of keratin and are present on the toes.

In dogs, corns are defined as circumscribed hyperkeratosis (thickening and overgrowth of the outer layer of skin) on the paw pad that's sensitive to pressure. They are also called paw pad keratomas. They are circular, firm to hard, flat or slightly raised plaques that range in colour from whitish to black. They usually affect the center of the footpads that carry the most weight, typically the third and fourth paw pads of the front limbs. Onset is usually gradual, and the nails on the affected foot are usually less worn. They may be painless, cause mild lameness, or cause the greyhound to be completely non-weight bearing.



WHAT CAUSES THEM?

Corns have been researched at length, and many theories exist. These include the lack of fat in the toe pad in addition to the repeated force on the foot from racing, foreign bodies such as sand and splinters, chemical irritation from kennel disinfection, and viral infection with the papillomavirus.

A recent study on 24 dogs (18 greyhounds and 6 dogs of other breeds) revealed that most corns in greyhounds histologically showed no evidence of inflammation and are non-viral in origin. In other dog breeds, however, the lesions typically showed evidence of inflammation, and were caused by the papillomavirus.

DIAGNOSIS

Corns seem to be a problem almost exclusive to greyhounds. Chronic or acute lameness is the most common clinical sign. The corn must be present on the affected footpad, and palpation elicits a pain response. Other causes of lameness must be ruled out e.g. soft tissue injury, fracture or tumor.

Generally speaking, x-rays of the affected leg are unremarkable. Rarely some sort of foreign body may be seen.

When biopsied and sent for histopathology, usual diagnosis is "hyperkeratosis and epidermal hyperplasia." Once again, the papillomavirus is almost never found.

TREATMENT

The bad news is that corns are stubborn and difficult, if not impossible, to get rid of. Many methods have been used, and most do offer temporary relief for your greyhound, but need to be repeated regularly.

Technique 1: Flatten, soften and cushion

Flattening of the corn is one of the easiest things an owner can do. Rasping, Dremeling or filing the corn flat temporarily relieves painful pressure on the pad. Unfortunately the corn will reform, and the pain will return over time. Corns may need to be re-flattened every few weeks.

Softening of the corn is also useful. Any type of keratolytic or softening agent may be used, including KeraSolv, human corn softeners, and Vaseline.

In spite of evidence to the contrary, some still suspect a viral origin to the problem and have used antiviral therapy e.g. Aldara (a human wart medication) and Abreva (an OTC anti-herpes medication) to treat corns. There exists no proof that these products work, however some report success anecdotally. It is not known whether the lesions that were successfully treated with these products were viral in origin.

Footpad Corns in Greyhounds (cont'd)

Some people believe that duct tape placed over the corn can help significantly. Once again, evidence of this working is anecdotal. In humans it is believed that duct tape works by placebo effect only, but in greyhounds it may be a "part" of successful treatment (along with flattening of the corn). Duct tape should be applied over the corn only, and replaced as needed.

Cushioning of the foot using Therapaw Boots (www.therapaw.com) is extremely helpful as it protects the pads. It is important to note that Therapaws are different from other dog boots. Keeping your greyhound on soft surfaces (e.g. grass, pavement) as much as possible during treatment/recovery is also recommended.



Technique 2: Shelling or hulling out

This procedure should only be performed by a veterinarian. Instant relief is achieved.

This may be temporary or permanent, and can be repeated as often as is needed.

Often, hulling out can be performed in an awake animal, and seems to be relatively painless.

It allows for a deeper removal of the corn, without resorting to surgery.

A dental root elevator is used to work around the edges of the corn to "pop" it out.



Technique 3: Surgery

Corns can be surgically removed, and excision may be curative, but this aggressive form of treatment may have complications and healing may take several weeks to months.

Digital neurectomy involves cutting the nerve supply to the pad. This technique definitely provides permanent relief, but there may be significant post-operative complications.

Toe amputation is considered a "last resort" option as corns may occur in the remaining toes of the affected paw, and now there are fewer toes on which to redistribute the animal's weight.

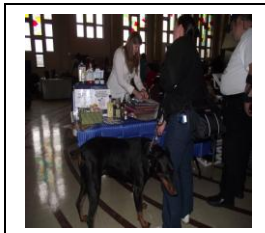
Other surgical techniques are being investigated. Auburn University is experimenting with injections of silicone into the paw pad, which provide improved cushioning. The corn is hulled out, and silicone is injected into the "pocket." Laser excision may also be curative, but no clinical trials have been performed. Finally, Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine has been used, but there is little information about this route of treatment, and an expert practitioner must be used to get the diagnosis and treatment right.

CONCLUSION

Sadly, corns are frustrating to both greyhound owners and veterinarians. They tend to be recurrent, surgical intervention is invasive and not without complications, and non-surgical maintenance may be lifelong. It's important for owners and veterinarians to work together to determine whether or not corns are the cause of the animal's lameness, and if they are, to discuss what treatment would be best for each individual pet.

Greyhound Planet Day- Laura Simmermon

The Greyhound Supporters' 6th Annual International Planet Day was a very successful day for everyone who attended – there were people from the time the doors opened until the last raffle was over and the doors closed. Attendance continues to grow each year, and there were dogs of all sizes, from Chinese Crested to Newfoundlanders and every size in between. And there were greyhounds everywhere you looked. Brindle greyhounds, fawn greyhounds, black greyhounds, parti-coloured greyhounds, and even grey greyhounds. There was even a cat and his human that dropped in to check things out.



The vendor booths seemed to have an unending stream of visitors and there were lots of bags in the hands of folks as they left to go home. Our thanks to the many vendors, including Chilly Dogs, Hounds-R-Us, Greys Galore, Exceptionally Gifted, House of Earl, Casual Bling, Mudd Mitts, Kasco's Kollars, the League of Extraordinary Greyhounds and the Greyhound Supporters.

There was also a pretty stream of people and pooches at the canine massage booth, as visitors gave their canine companions the chance for a wonderful, relaxing massage. Treats for the humans could be found at the Bake Sale table – another popular booth during the day.

At 1:30 pm there was a very touching Blessing of the Hounds, and our thanks to Reverend Dawna Hall for her prayers and thoughtful words.

Contests and raffles are always popular features, and as a result, there were lots of hounds being measured from nose to tail for raffle tickets or to compete for contest prizes. And the raffle tables were loaded with fabulous prizes for which we thank our many donors.



Something new at this year's Planet Day was the incredible team of volunteers. We received many compliments about the many folks that donated their time and energy to help out for the day. Without the help of so many dedicated people, Planet Day simply could not happen. Our thank to all the volunteers!

No Planet Day event would be complete without the many visitors to our event – so our thanks to all of you that came out on Oct 30th. It was great to see so many folks and their hounds out for the day and I look forward to seeing everyone again at our next Planet Day which is scheduled for October 1, 2011.

What do you get when you cross – Les Arany a Greyhound and a Husky?

The answer is, an Alaskan Husky, which many believe is an ideal dog for sled racing. The Inuit often mix Greyhounds and Huskies, hoping for speedy sled dogs.

Greyhound and husky mix



Source:

http://www.donaldmarino.com/images/rip_3.png

A Siberian Husky is an actual breed, but the Alaskan Husky is not. An Alaskan Husky is a dog that has been bred and trained to be a sled dog. Often these dogs are a mix of Siberian Husky and Greyhound, or Border Collie, or some other non-Northern dog.

Team on the run



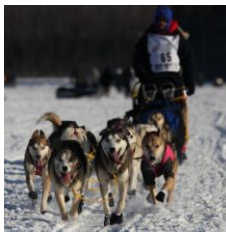
Source: <http://www.dogsledvt.com/>

The running technique on the left is genuine Greyhound.

Dogs of the Iditarod race

The Iditarod is perhaps the most famous sled race in the world. It started in 1973 and has been held annually since, in early March. The Iditarod covers over 1100 miles from Anchorage to Nome Alaska, and takes a team of 12 to 16 dogs and their musher (sled driver) more than 10 days to complete. Mushers tend to use cross-bred dogs that are powerful, fast, accustomed to the cold weather and able to run long distances.

Musher Bruce Linton, wearing bib 65, in the 2010 Iditarod race



A fine team of sled dogs

Source: <http://www.dogsledvt.com/>

Musher and dogs



Sebastian Schnuelle visits with his dogs Scruggs, Grisman and Cougar at the Takotna checkpoint, March 10, 2010 (Anchorage Daily News)

Source:

<http://www.adn.com/2010/03/10/1178024/battered-but-not-beaten-mushers.html>

The bottom line

If you want a speedy dog, for whatever purpose, introduce a Greyhound into the mix.

The House of Earl – our Vendor Spotlight – Liz Tabor

How It All Began

In 1998 we adopted our first greyhound Earl, (racing name: Gretta's Earl). It was love at first sight. A big black boy with the most beautiful golden eyes I have ever seen.

In 2000 we packed our bags, loaded up the van and headed to Delaware to attend our 1st "Greyhounds Reach the Beach". We were amazed not just by the over 3,000 greyhounds there but also by all of the beautiful greyhound collars, coats and all of the human gifts and apparel.

Upon arrival home I realized none of these products were available in Canada, my how times have changed. I began my quest for products and so The House of Earl was born. In November 2003 we were offered a year's rental of a small space in a friend's retail store. In January 2005 we opened our website and our online store.



Jewelry



Muzzles



P.J.'S



P.J.'S

Our many greyhound products include, kennel muzzles, Australian muzzles, Wiggle Wags and Whiskers Harnesses, collars (martingale, buckle, tag), custom made coats and Pj's - 2 & 4 legged or no legs at all (sweater style), tag clip and tag charms. For the hound lover we have jewellery, greyhound travel bags, tote bags, greyhound wellies, decals, magnets, note cards and so much more! We are always adding more products - many of them made by The House of Earl.

What are the benefits of ordering from The House of Earl?

1. We are a Canadian company and any product we can produce ourselves we will do that.
2. When purchasing any item not available in Canada we take care of all extra fees for you such as: Customs, duties, brokerage fees and any additional taxes charged when the product enters Canada from the US or any other country. This makes a difference of pennies on the price you pay to The House of Earl.
3. By purchasing from The House of Earl you are supporting the Economics of our beautiful country
4. Your orders allow us to help all the rescues we support with donations

We are proud to say we are supporters of many greyhound rescues worldwide and all breed rescues as well as cat, horse and donkey rescue and local Human Society's!

If you know of a rescue that would benefit from a donation from The House of Earl please have them contact us.

If you are looking for a certain product, have any questions, would like to place an order or just say Hi please send us an email.

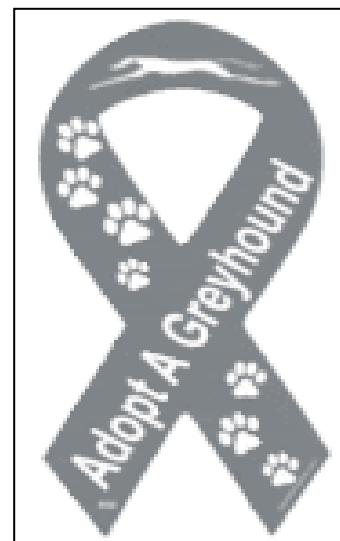
Our website is being updated at present but please check back for new products.

We want to thank you for your support and business.

Liz Tabor
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Gretta's Earl
05/13/95 - 08/31/07



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In Memoriam – for the Greyhounds lost in 2010

“Bailey” - Buffet Bob Leclair

*December 17, 2009
Loved by Dave & Jan Radke*

“Raider” - Red Tiger

*February 23, 2010
Loved by Donna, Neil, Kyle & Rebecca Borsa*

“Flirty” - Systems Gertie

*March 25, 2010
Loved by Chris & Lynda Seed*

“Dicey” - Eins Black Dice

*July 28, 2010
Loved by John, Margot, Allison & Brad Arens and missed by Troy*

“Chino” - Chino Martinez

*August 3, 2010
Loved by Wendy Post*

“Al” - Algoreism

*August 23, 2010
Loved by Julie Bousseau*

“Squishy” - Deco Bellstar

*September 30, 2010
Loved by Jill, Warren, Mitchell & Jack McBeath, dearly missed by Venus.*

“Zodiac” - Emerald Zodiac

*November 9, 2010
Loved by Ann-Marie Petr and missed by Freddy.*

“Commander” - Easy’s Command

*November 22, 2010
Loved by Janet, Pat, Eilish and Owen Sullivan, missed by Casey.*

Healthy Hound Treats – Carol Harkness

Peanut Butter Treats

1 1/4 c. water
1 1/4 c. peanut butter
2 c. whole wheat flour
1 c. all purpose flour
1 1/4 tbsp. baking powder

Heat oven to 400C. Mix water and P.B. in large bowl. Combine dry ingredients, then gradually add to wet bowl. Knead dough adding bit of water if dough too dry. Roll onto floured surface, cut treats with cookie cutters. Bake 15 minutes, cool before storing.

With Cleo's paw print of Approval

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

The next edition of the Gazette is scheduled for March 1, 2011. If you have any suggestions for articles or would like to submit one please send it to solligrey@rogers.com no later than February 15, 2011.

Enjoy

Your Gazette team.

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

