



# THE GREYHOUND GAZETTE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: THE GREYHOUND SUPPORTERS OF THE NCR



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## Canine Water Wellness

Hydrotherapy is simply defined as a dog swimming in warm water, utilizing the qualities of the water to aid in healing and conditioning. Assisting them is a qualified person, who is knowledgeable in canine anatomy and physiology and skilled in integrating the qualities of the water to address your dog's specific needs.

Here are just some of the physical conditions that it can help with:

- Arthritis & mobility issues
- Joint & spinal injuries
- Hip & elbow dysplasia
- Pre & post surgery
- Chronic pain
- Obesity
- Paralysis & neurological conditions
- Injuries and Damage

### Why should your greyhound swim?

Greyhounds are powerful runners and depending on his/her background they may have many 'miles' under their belt. Chances are they are experiencing wear and tear from their participation in extreme sports, or they are simply going through the aging process.

Swimming allows them to move in a balanced, fluid way, without the pain that may be experienced on land. Buoyancy of the water supports and protects the body against impact and twisting. The resistance of the water helps improve muscle strength and increases cardio without additional stress on the joints. Hydrostatic pressure, provided by the pool, creates a massaging effect aiding in blood flow and the flushing of toxins.

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## GSNCR Joins The Purina Pro Club

As part of a new fundraising initiative GSNCR has partnered with Pro Plan and joined their Pro Club program.

Please help support GSNCR by saving your Weight Circles from Purina products. Purina Weight Circles can be located on the side of participating Purina brand dog food such as: Purina Pro Plan, Purina One, Purina Beneful, Purina Alpo & Purina Dog Chow.

These Weight Circles will be reimbursed with Purina to help support GSNCR's Greyhound adoption and foster program.

Once you have collected over 10 Weight Circles, please contact Mel Begin at [begin.mel@gsn-cr.ca](mailto:begin.mel@gsn-cr.ca) or mail them to GSNCR at:

GSNCR  
3 Sage Cres  
Ottawa, ON K2J 1Z7

Please note this is a Canadian program and we are only able to accept Weight Circles from Canadian dog food. Additionally, because we joined this program as a canine group, we can only accept Weight Circles from dog food.

Mel Begin

## Meet The New Arrivals!



### *Cable*

Nathan has waited many years to have a greyhound, so he and Gregg are happy and excited to welcome Cable, an 8 year old brindle boy, to their family. Don't hesitate to say hi to them whenever you see them at greyhound events.



### *Cody (Ohio)*

Leandro, Miguel, Victor and Eric have welcomed this handsome red fawn boy named Cody to their family, and they are thrilled that he fits in as if he's always been a part of it.

A Greyhound Gazette welcome also goes out to Deborah McChesney, and her greyhound Flyer.

## Art Deco Statue Raffle

The Greyhound Supporters is holding a raffle for a reproduction of a 1930's bronze and marble sculpture by French Art Deco artist Irénée Rochard who was born on January 16th 1906 in Villefranche-sur-Saône (France) and died March 29th 1984 in Paris.

This reproduction sculpture is on a marble base and the bronze hounds are silver plated. Dimensions of this magnificent sculpture are 27 1/4" wide, 17 3/4" high and 9 1/8" deep. Total weight is approximately 40 pounds so it is a very substantial piece.

Other copies of this sculpture are selling for \$2,500.00 US - more information about similar reproductions can be found [here](#) .

The number of raffle tickets will be limited to 200 and the price per ticket is \$25.00. The winning ticket will be drawn at our Planet Day Event in Ottawa on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please note that due to the value and weight of this item, any packing and shipping costs must be paid

for by the winner for any destination outside of Ottawa, Cambridge and Montreal.

For more information about purchasing a ticket please contact [begin.mel@gsncr.ca](mailto:begin.mel@gsncr.ca) .



## *Xylitol Toxicity in Dogs*

*Excerpted from an article by Cheryl Yuill, DVM, MSc, CVH*

“The ASPCA estimates that two or three sticks of gum sweetened with xylitol could be toxic to a 20 pound dog”

### *What is Xylitol?*

Xylitol is a naturally occurring substance that is widely used as a sugar substitute. Chemically, it is a sugar alcohol, and in nature it is found in berries, plums, corn, oats, mushrooms, lettuce, trees, and some other hardwood trees and fruits. Products that may contain xylitol include sugar-free gum, candies, cough syrup, children's chewable vitamins, mouthwash, breath mints and toothpaste, to list a few.

### *Why is xylitol toxic to dogs?*

In both humans and dogs, the level of blood sugar is controlled by the release of insulin from the pancreas. When a dog eats something containing xylitol, the xylitol is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream, where it stimulates release of insulin from the pancreas. This rapid release of insulin results in a rapid and profound decrease in the level of blood sugar (hypoglycemia), an effect that occurs within half an hour of eating the xylitol. Hypoglycemia can be life-threatening.

### *How much xylitol is poisonous to a dog?*

Xylitol is estimated to be 100 times as toxic as chocolate to dogs. The dose that can cause hypoglycemia in the dog has been reported between 50 and 220 milligrams of xylitol per pound of body weight (100-500 mg per kg). The ASPCA estimates that two or three sticks of gum sweetened with xylitol could be toxic to a 20 pound (9.1 kg) dog. Intake of very high doses of xylitol (225-450 mg/lb or 500-1000 mg/kg body weight) has been implicated in liver failure in dogs.

### *What should I do if my dog eats something containing xylitol?*

If you suspect that your pet has eaten a xylitol-containing product, please contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center immediately.

Do not induce vomiting or give anything orally to your dog unless specifically directed to do so by your veterinarian. It is important to get treatment for your dog as quickly as possible.

Signs of hypoglycemia may include any or all of the following:

Vomiting, Weakness, Incoordination or difficulty walking or standing, Depression or lethargy, Seizures, or Coma.

In severe cases, the dog may develop seizures, internal bleeding or liver failure. Dogs that develop liver failure from xylitol poisoning may not show signs of hypoglycemia.

### *How can I prevent this problem?*

If you personally use products containing xylitol, make sure they are stored safely, out of reach of your pets. Do not share any food that may contain xylitol with your pets. Only use pet toothpaste for pets, never human toothpaste. The toxicity of xylitol for cats and other species is not documented at this time, although there has been some concern that ferrets may react to xylitol in a similar manner as dogs.

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For more info or for the full article text, please email [greyhoundgazette@gsncr.ca](mailto:greyhoundgazette@gsncr.ca)



## *Continued - Canine Water Wellness*

Swimming requires the functioning of all muscle groups thus providing an all-over, balanced workout.

Because the temperature is around 30°C the muscles warm up allowing for increased flexibility, mobility, muscle contraction and reduced muscle tension and pain. Circulation is increased, which aids in the delivery of oxygen and nutrients, detoxification, stimulation of sensory receptors and improved quality of skin and coat condition.

Many greyhounds have never had exposure to water. Swimming in a controlled environment helps ensure that your dog's first experience with water is a good one. They can become competent swimmers...and have a lot of fun in the process!

There are also emotional & mental benefits to swimming. The very essence of water calms and soothes the nervous system. Swimming can provide mental stimulation, relief from boredom and increasing an eagerness for new experiences.

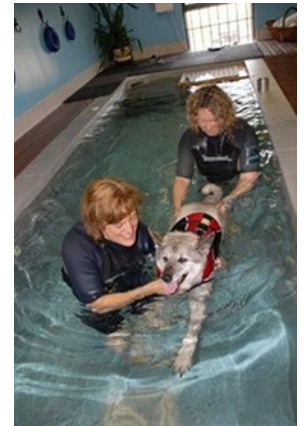
Many people take their dogs to swim in lakes and rivers which is great recreational fun. However, there are many drawbacks. For example, access to

the water can be uneven and hazardous. Also, it's impossible to control how much exercise the dog is getting, particularly in a river with a current; if your dog gets into trouble you may not be able to rescue him or her in time. Sadly, many of our rivers and lakes are no longer free of pollution and the risk of leptospirosis is high.

In the safe and controlled setting none of these dangers are present. The dogs swim in warm, clean water, making it easy for any dog to have a relaxing yet invigorating and fun swim.

We have swum many greyhounds and although they have their own unique style they can not only swim but they also really enjoy it! The best part about hydrotherapy is that the bond between you and your dog is strengthened. Because you participate in your dog's swimming experience your connection and trust is increased. As hydrotherapists, there is nothing better than seeing the pleasure on the dog's face and the pride in your eyes!

*Thanks to Canine Water Wellness*



## *colloidal silver*

About 3 years ago, we adopted a 9-1/2-year-old retired greyhound. She was experiencing severe gum disease, reactive lymph nodes and a plethora of other health issues. Our veterinarian recommended we do research on a product called colloidal silver and felt it would be beneficial for Cyah. And so the journey began of daily colloidal silver for Cyah. We have found so many wonderful benefits to this product. We use it for ourselves, our family members and our entire greyhound crew.

Colloidal silver is extremely small silver particles of silver suspended in water. The water is charged by setting a small electrical current through an electrolyte with 2 silver electrodes. Very small molecular particles are then drawn off of the positive electrodes, resulting in the positive charge and making colloidal silver. It is an effective anti-fungal and anti-bacterial agent.

Colloidal silver is exceptionally effective for fighting all types of germs and bacteria. As stated in "Use of

Colloids in Health and Disease" by Dr. Henry Crooks, colloidal silver is highly germicidal and is said to kill all fungus, virus, bacterium, streptococcus, staphylococcus and other pathogenic organisms. He has also stated that there has been no microbe known that is resistant to the germicidal properties of silver. Silver, unlike traditional antibiotics, leaves tissue-cell enzymes intact. Silver is known to kill over 650 pathogens that can cause problems in the body and resistant strains fail to develop.

Uses: Abrasions, acne, allergies, athlete's foot, burns, cuts, conjunctivitis, dermatitis, eczema, haemorrhoids, insect bites, nappy rash, parasitic infections, rashes, razor nicks, sunburn, warts, and wounds.

*Before trying any new treatments with your pet, it is strongly recommended that you do your own research and speak with your vet.*

Tina Kelly



## *Trust - A Deadly Disease*

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog. A hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there inoculations. The disease is called trust.

You knew before you ever took your greyhound home that it could not be trusted. The people who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. A newly retired racer may steal off counters, destroy something expensive, chase cats, and must never be allowed off his lead! When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice, you escorted your dog to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand. At home the house was "doggie proofed." Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the door to the living room. All windows and doors had been properly secured and signs placed in strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR."

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes a second after it was opened and that it really latched. "DON'T LET THE DOG OUT" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is NO!) You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and a disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever. And so the weeks and months pass, with your greyhound becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less mischief, less breakage. Almost before you know it your racer has turned into an elegant, dignified friend.

Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night? At this point you are beginning to become infected; the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind.

And then one of your friends suggests obedience. You shake your head and remind her that your dog

might run away if allowed off the lead, but you are reassured when she promises the events are held in a fenced area. And, wonder of wonders, he did not run away, but came every time you called him!

All winter long you go to weekly obedience classes. After a time you even let him run loose from the car to the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. Remember, he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that proves the rule. (And sometimes, late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.) At this point the disease has taken hold, waiting only for the right time and place to rear its ugly head.

Years pass—it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was new. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets into the garbage, but nobody is perfect.)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer.

He spies the neighbor dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping outdoors, jumping out windows, or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running—Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever—your heart is broken at the sight of his still beautiful body. The disease is trust. The final outcome, hit by a car.

Every morning my dog Shah bounced around off his lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car. Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

Sharon Mathers



“It’s up to us to make sure our pups enjoy themselves and that they aren’t exposed to undue risk.”

### *Summer Tips for Happy Dogs*

Summer weather in Ottawa can be unpredictable and intense. It’s up to us to make sure our pups enjoy themselves and that they aren’t exposed to undue risk. Three guidelines should help steer you in the right direction: Hydration, Exposure, and Health.

First up, your dog is much like you are – when it’s hot, they get thirsty. Dogs get rid of their heat by panting, not by sweating, so splashing a little water on your dog’s paws and belly (or using a cool-down coat) can help counter the heat.

Summer is also a time of more exposure – to the sun, the outdoors, other dogs, and bugs. Make sure dogs with thin or light coats (like greyhounds especially) are protected from the sun

with shade or sun block (talk to your vet about options).

The increased exposure can put your dog’s health at risk too, as you stand a higher chance of bumping into other animals who may not be in top health. It is also tick and mosquito season, so you need to keep a sharp eye on your dog after walking in areas that may host unfriendly bugs.

Summer is a beautiful season to spend time outdoors with your furry family members. Do your best to help your hound enjoy a healthy summer and you will enjoy many more in the years to come.

Chris Kasurak

### *The Strolling Greyhounds*

The Strolling Greyhounds is a group of greyhounds and their folks that get together twice a week on Saturday and Sunday to enjoy a nice outing, get some exercise and chat with other greyhound families. The locations alternate between east, central and west Ottawa, and the walks take place rain or shine. If you’re interested in joining the Strolling Greyhounds or would like more information, please contact Monica at one of the following:

Home: 613-599-7761 - Cell: 613-868-8390 - Email: [m.mcgrath7761@rogers.com](mailto:m.mcgrath7761@rogers.com)

### *A Magical Adoption*

Greyhound Rescue Fife in Scotland got a pleasant surprise from a new adopter. The adopter was asked all the standard interview questions, including how long the dog would be left alone for. After finding out that the adopter in question worked at home and passed the adoption interview, they told her that the adoption fee was £30. She picked a beautiful blue girl named Sapphire, wrote a cheque for £1000 and signed it: J.K. Rowling. Soon enough Sapphire was riding the Hogwarts Express into her

magical new home. Mrs. Rowling and Sapphire also share the home with her husband, their family, and a Jack Russell Terrier.



Greyhound Rescue Fife



Sapphire settling into her new retirement home

## *The Greyt8 Mission*

### *Preface*

One day in early February I saw a post on a large Greyhound chat forum about some Quebec bred greyhounds that were up for sale. The breeder, not a stranger to us, was selling the hounds at \$300 apiece. I posted a query in the thread about, perhaps, having the hounds given up to an adoption group, but the breeder was adamant - \$300 apiece.

All of a sudden I was getting messages from the greyhound community offering funds to purchase and support these hounds, were we able to arrange to go get them. A quick phone call to my partner Klaus and we were in the "greyhound hauling" business.

Once the forum moderators realized the thread was about the SALE of hounds it was quickly removed, but not before we were able to raise half the funds for the haul! The other half was raised through "blast" emails to adopters and other groups. Through the fabulous support of the greyhound community in general and a few special people we raised enough funds to pay for the hounds, the van rental and the gas for the trip.

### *The Adventure*

We picked up the Savannah van on the night of February 7<sup>th</sup>, loaded it up with ex-pens and layers of blankets and pee pads. 5 AM February 8<sup>th</sup> Klaus and our "greyt" friend Gail were good to go on their 1300 km round trip! The drive to Quebec City was uneventful, but after that they hit snow. And snow. And more snow!! They arrived in St. Anselme at 6PM after a few wrong turns, being unable to make it up a steep hill (getting pulled up by a kid in a pickup) and driving along in a near whiteout, passing a sign that said "no plowing on this road" and WHOMP into a snowbank!

But they arrived safe and sound! Loaded 8 hounds into the van and Klaus negotiated for the other two left behind. He was able to get the male but the breeder kept the female. (Which leads us to believe this may not be a one shot deal trip!). Another tedious, treacherous trip back and they arrived in Montreal at 4 AM on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

After a few hours' sleep (while I stayed in the van with the engine running, keeping an eye on the dogs) we trundled off to our vet for a quick examination and rabies shots. Even though the hounds were all 2 year old (except for the "extra one" who was 4) they had

never been inoculated! In the vet's office they got their Celestial/Weather names, their papers and a pretty clean bill of health. Back into the van and away we went to Vermont. Their arrival at the kennel was uneventful, they got settled in nicely and we went off to La Quinta next door to get some well-deserved rest.

### *The Hounds*

Sirius, Titan, Thunder, Tornado, Eclipse, Cloud, Solstice and Storm - all 2 years old, and Io - 4 years old, had never seen a leash, a muzzle, a crate, other greyhounds or lots of people! They were scared, shaken up, disoriented and confused for a good few days. They eventually figured out turn out times, (although Io still has a stubborn streak), leash walking, (although Cloud and Solstice like to bounce and spin at the end of their leashes) and are making (and will make for the 2 left behind) great pets! Thunder and Storm are in Montreal, Solstice, Cloud, Sirius and Titan are in Alberta and Tornado is in VT. The remaining two (Io and Eclipse) are listed as adoptable at NGA but may have homes in Alberta as well.

### *The End (or is it?)*

Was it worth it? You bet! To take part in something like that was a fabulous experience! Despite all the hardship we'd do it again in a heartbeat! Although I've heard rumors that the breeder now lives in Ontario - maybe GSNCR will have to do the next "Greyt8 Rescue"!



Donna Deskin

# GSNCR

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.GSNCR.CA](http://WWW.GSNCR.CA)



## *Beat The Heat - Summer Snacks For The Hounds*

### **Frozen Bananas**

- Line a cookie sheet with wax paper
- Peel 6 to 12 bananas
- Cut in half widthwise
- Place 2 inches apart on the cookie sheet and freeze overnight
- Transfer the frozen bananas to a freezer bag and store for up to 6 months

TIP: Check your local grocers for discounted bruised or ripened bananas, these work just as well and are half the cost!

### **Pumpkin Ice Cubes**

Instead of using water, fill your ice cube trays with 100% pure canned pumpkin (be sure that you don't use pumpkin pie filling)

TIP: If you are looking for variety, try plain yogurt, cottage cheese, or chicken stock ice cubes.

Chris Kasurak

## *About The Greyhound Supporters of the NCR*

The Greyhound Supporters of the National Capital Region (GSNCR) was established in the summer of 2005. We are a "not-for-profit" group comprised of individuals interested in the health and welfare of retired racing greyhounds.

Our primary objective is to facilitate the adoption of retired racers into loving

homes and provide on-going support to the local greyhound community. We also work towards raising public awareness about retired racing greyhounds and raising funds for canine-related causes established to improve the health and physical well being of racing greyhounds globally.

Laura Simmermon

## *Upcoming Events*

- 05 Jun 11 - Greyhound BBQ & Fundraiser (Cambridge)
- 12 Jun 11 - GSNCR Participates in B.A.R.K.'S Walkathon (Ottawa)
- 18 Jun 11 - GSNCR Canine Massage Workshop (Ottawa)
- 25 Jun 11 - NGA Picnic and Reunion (St. Albans, Vermont)
- 25 Jun 11 - GSNCR Visits Metcalfe Farmer's Market (Ottawa)
- 23/24 Jul 11 - GSNCR Participates in Take The Plunge Event (Ottawa)
- 07 Aug 11 - GiNA Greyt Wines Event (St. Catharines)
- 20 Aug 11 - GSNCR's Annual Picnic (Ottawa)
- 01 Oct 11 - International Greyhound Planet Day (Ottawa)

For a detailed listing of all these events, and additional contact info on events, please email [greyhoundgazette@gsncr.ca](mailto:greyhoundgazette@gsncr.ca)

## *A Note From The Editor*

The Greyhound Gazette is for dog lovers of all kinds. Please share it with your friends.

I would love to hear your stories about your hound, and The Greyhound Gazette welcome any tales, recipes, or tips. If you've got something to contribute, please contact me at [greyhoundgazette@gsncr.ca](mailto:greyhoundgazette@gsncr.ca)

Chris Kasurak