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THE GREYHOUND GAZETTE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: THE GREYHOUND SUPPORTERS OF THE NCR



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Greyhound Supporters Fundraiser Raffle

This year, the fundraiser for the Greyhound Supporters is a vintage chrome art nouveau standing [greyhound ashtray](#) with amber glass insert. The total height is approximately 30 inches and total weight is 5 pounds.

The estimated value is \$100 to \$125 and the tickets are only \$10.00 each or 3 tickets for 25.00.

The winning ticket will be drawn at our annual Planet Day Event in Ottawa on Saturday, October 13th.

Note: Due to size, shape and value of this item, all packing and shipping costs must be paid for by the winner for any destination outside of Ottawa, Cambridge or Montreal.



1 Year Anniversary of the Updated Gazette!

Wish us a happy birthday! This issue marks a full year of the Greyhound Gazette with the new editorial team. We hope we have maintained the standards and value of the

first three years. If you have any suggestions or stories you'd like to share with us, please send us an email!

Greyhound.gazette@gsncr.ca

Hallowe'en Photo Contest

2012 is shaping up to year with a beautiful autumn. One of our favorite autumn celebrations is Hallowe'en, and I know many of our readers love getting the whole family involved. If you dress up your dogs or parade your pooch, send us

a picture! The winner will be published in the December issue of the Greyhound Gazette and will receive a special gift.

Send your entries to the editor at

Greyhound.gazette@gsncr.ca

Melanie Begin

Greyhound Planet Day 2012 – Big Changes are Coming!!

We are on the move! On **Saturday October 13**, come join us at the Rideau Carleton Raceway for the 2012 edition of Greyhound Planet Day. Due to renovations, Christ Church Cathedral is no longer available to the Greyhound Supporters as a suitable location. However, we have found what we hope will be a very successful venue for this popular event.

The Raceway offers a much larger space for our growing event. This has allowed us to invite more vendors to participate. We have also asked rescue groups for other breeds to attend to promote dog adoption overall. There is also plenty of free parking. Another advantage is that we will be located on the ground level, which means no stairs for the dogs to climb. Their concession stand will offer a variety of food and drink

for when you need to take a break from the activities. Or, if you feel more like a sit down lunch, try the Casino's dining hall with a varied menu including daily specials.

What hasn't changed is the spirit of this day dedicated to promoting these wonderful canines as pets. There will be lots great vendors who will be offering their wares, fun dog themed contests and raffles, including ones where you buy tickets by the "dog length".

So, mark your calendars and we will see you there.

Come join us for Greyhound Planet Day 2012

*Saturday October 13th
2012*

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rideau Carleton Raceway

Albion Road, Ottawa

- * Vendor booths*
- * Raffles*
- * Contests*
- * And More!*



Plenty of Free Parking

*Leashed Dogs of all Breeds
Welcome*

\$5.00 Family Entrance Fee

Adventures in Dogsitting

I like dogs. And cats, and horses, and bears, and whales, and tigers. You get the idea. So I dog-sit, a lot. I currently have 4 fur kids of my own: Fudge and Fyre, 10 and 7 year-old greyhounds; Phoenix a 3 year-old tabby cat; and Flint an 8 month-old calico kitten. Yes, they all have names that start with an 'f' sound but that was only by design by the time Flint came along. But I digress. Back to dog-sitting.

This past Easter weekend I received two separate requests to sit. Both were dogs who had visited in the past, so I agreed to take on both. After all, I was an experienced dog-sitter, so how bad could it be? Dixie, a 3 year-old mini schnauzer and Coco, a 1 year-old shih-tzu mix were my houseguests.

Dixie was the first to arrive, followed a couple of days later by Coco. Introductions were barely made before they were off and running. They got on like a house on fire. So much so that during the 1st hour that they were tearing around the house I wondered what I had done. I am sure the cats were thinking the very same thing as they sought perches up off the speedway. Despite being the fun police in the yard, Fudge was very blasé about all the excitement. Fyre on the other hand wasn't so sure about these little balls of fur streaking by at mach one. However, after an hour of wearing a muzzle, he was suddenly OK with it. I guess crazy dogs were the lesser of the two evils.

Dixie and Coco were evenly matched, as evidenced by the many games of tug-of-war – with stuffies, rope toys, my socks. Eventually things settled down to a dull roar, although I did have to step in when ever the barking (don't get me started on the barking) and the ganging up on the cats escalated beyond bearable levels. In the dogs' defence, though, Flint is a tease and would instigate her fair share of chases. My philosophy is when you start it, deal with it.

Meal time is another adventure with six critters. Who do you feed first, the dancing greyhound, the jumping fur balls, or the cats who will eat whatever is in the first bowl prepared, whether its intended recipient is canine or feline? I opt for the cats – at least then they get off the counter and are out of the way. Most people are surprised that I walk four dogs at once. Frankly, that is the easy part. The two little ones, who are surprisingly strong, are pulling with all their might up front to get wherever it is they think we are going, and the two big ones calmly bring up the rear. I will say though, poop size is a definite advantage with small dogs.

Despite going to a movie to get away from the chaos, the shredded Kleenex littering the floor, and barely a moments peace, it was a fun weekend, especially the extra snuggles. All dogs are cute and deserve loving homes, but a crazy weekend of dog-sitting sure helped reinforce that greyhounds are the dog for me.

Jayne Field



Your dog can be a hero by donating blood

Every day dogs just like yours need blood for transfusions or to treat disease. With canine blood donations, veterinary surgeons can perform important and often life-saving operations.

In human medicine, blood products are available through groups such as Canadian Blood Services. Vets however must rely on their own resources. By having your dog become a blood donor, you can help vets save other pets and possibly your own dog.

Greyhounds are considered the universal blood donors of the dog world, which means that almost all dogs can accept the blood that greyhounds donate. Greyhounds also make great donors since they are so calm and can usually donate in about 20 minutes. GSNCR has therefore teamed with LifeStream to host blood donor clinics in Ottawa

Your dog can donate if it:

- Weighs 50 pounds or more.
- Is between 1 and 7 years of age.
- Is only on medication for heartworm and flea prevention, and
- Has not had veterinary intervention (including aesthetic) within the previous two weeks.

Each dog gets:

- A complete blood count profile and heartworm screening at each donation
- A copy of the blood work for their own vets.
- Free blood typing, and
- Free blood products given at no cost, for its lifetime, if it needs a blood transfusion.

Please call Laura at 613-216-8097 for any questions or see the GSNCR Web site for more information.

Dental Hygiene

We have all gone a day without brushing our teeth. Remember how scummy your mouth starts to feel after just a day? Now imagine you went two or three years without brushing. It is easy to see how plaque and tartar build up would cause pain, bad breath, infection, and gum disease. This is a reality for dogs as well and they need regular dental care to prevent problems.

After eating, the sugar in food is digested by bacteria on the teeth, who form plaque on the surface of the tooth. After 24-48 hours, the plaque hardens into tartar. A build up of tartar at the gumline can begin to work under the gum and cause inflammation and gum disease. Because this process happens so rapidly, daily brushing is one of the best preventative tools available.

To carry out a tooth brushing routine with your dog, you'll need a toothbrush, toothpaste, and some time. A soft finger toothbrush is often a good way to begin introducing your dog to the feeling of having his

mouth prodded. However, you will get better performance out of a long handled toothbrush with stiffer bristles. You can even use human toothbrushes (although it can take a while for dogs to get used to the vibrating ones!). Human toothpaste cannot be used, as dogs will swallow it and the fluoride is toxic. Many flavours of toothpaste with enzyme action is available to dogs. If the smells of beef or chicken don't appeal to you, try vanilla for a fresher scent.

The benefits of regular brushing come to you as well as your dog. Aside from decreasing their risk of infection and secondary problems, dogs benefit from longer intervals between invasive dental scaling and polishing. This is an expensive procedure which requires general anesthesia. The benefits to you are much less money spent on dental care, the chance to see and intervene with problems before they get serious, and a dog with nicer breath! If you don't already brush your dog's teeth, consider the benefits and think about beginning – for you and your dog.

GSNCR Annual Picnic

They don't call them the "dog days of summer" for nothing. Those sweltering August days when all you want to do is find some shade, hang out with some friends, and answer trivia questions. It's a good thing that the Greyhound Supporters annual picnic is there. The last Saturday in August this year was a scorcher but there were plenty of canopies and beach umbrellas to throw shade on the dozens of people and hounds who made it out.

K9Sense on Rideau road played host to the fifth annual picnic and the venue offers a large fenced area where owners tried to convince their hounds to run. Most of the hounds turned up their noses at

the idea of exercise on such a warm day and spent their time near the pools and the hose. Shelley MacWhirter of Kasco's Kollars had handmade collars for sale, Kim Swan offered massage for pups and Reiki for people, and Pat Swabey offered nail clipping. Photographer Serge Rivard took advantage of the beautiful lighting and greenery to take photos, donating half his profits to GSNCR. The trivia champions this year were Yasmin and Chris, owners of Miss Sparky Kaboom who you may remember from last issue.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped make this a memorable picnic.

Chris Kasurak



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How To Help...

The Greyhound Supporters currently accepts donations of the following.

- Canadian Tire Money
- Old Cell Phone
- Used Printer Cartridges
- Pro Plan Canine Weight Circles

Please contact info@gsncr.ca for details.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.GSNCR.CA



Help Support GSNCR by recycling!

The start of the new school year often involves exchanging old electronic items for new, refilling printers, and cleaning out the house. You can help GSNCR raise money to support adoption groups by donating these items instead of throwing them away.

GSNCR partners with Think Recycle, a cost-free fundraising program that rewards members with money and environmental incentives for the collection of unwanted electronics including cell phones, inkjet cartridges, toner cartridges and digital cameras!

GSNCR is able to work with Think Recycle because it is a charitable organization.

You can help GSNCR by donating unwanted cell phones and printer cartridges. You can

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 rais-

Upcoming Events

Join us for Greyhound Planet Day on October 13th
At the Rideau-Carleton Raceway!



A Note From The Editor

The Greyhound Gazette is for dog lovers of all kinds. Please share it with your friends. We would love to hear your stories about your hound, and we welcome any tales, recipes, or tips. If you've got something to contribute, please send it my way.